

THE WORLD CAN'T WAIT DRIVE OUT THE BUSH REGIME!

STATEMENT FROM

Bill Mitchell

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I AM BILL MITCHELL, father of Sgt. Mike Mitchell. My only son was killed in Sadr City, Iraq on 04/04/04. This was the most tragic event to ever hit me and it has completely altered the course of my life. I was with millions of people from all around the world protesting this illegal, immoral and unnecessary war in the months before the war began. I was in my home town of San Luis Obispo on the one year anniversary of the war carrying a sign that said "Bring My Son Home Now."

Well, two weeks later, my son was coming back to California in a flag-draped coffin. Mike had been in Iraq for 11 months as part of the stabilization force. His bags were packed and he was scheduled to depart for Kuwait on April 6th. He was two weeks away from returning to his fiancée in Germany and three months away from his wedding day. I had no choice after Mike's death but to stand up and speak out against the atrocities of this administration. Mike was dead but I saw more and more being killed in Iraq as the insurgency began to take hold. Every death took me back to the moment I found out about Mike. As I started to see the number of death dramatically increase, I knew that I had to do everything in my power so that others families did not have to experience what was happening to our family as we grieved Mike's untimely death.

I JOINED MILITARY FAMILIES SPEAK OUT and started to meet others who had been touched by our nation's war of aggression against the sovereign country of Iraq. Several of us Gold Star Families saw the power we had in our speaking about the true cost of this war. We formed Gold Star Families for Peace in January, 2005 to work

together to bring our troops home now and to make sure they are taken care of when they get home.

I SUPPORT THE "WORLD CAN'T WAIT" CAMPAIGN as we work together to make our world a better place for the people. I am not able to speak at your events in Los Angeles this week as I am off to Washington DC. I will be participating in events there to more clearly relate what the real "State of the Union" is. Obviously, ending this war is my main focus but many other problems in our society can be attributed to the war and the high cost of our nation's imperialistic policies. Over \$250 billion has been spent in Iraq and I surely do not feel "safer." And we continue to cut the budget for education, social services, and veteran's benefits. The disaster in the Gulf States from the hurricanes should have alerted all Americans that our priorities are in the wrong areas. Our mainstream media is not reporting the truth. Corporations have entirely too much power within our country and many are profiting handsomely as innocent people are being detained, tortured and killed. And now the American people are being spied upon by our own government.

THEY SAY MY SON and the other brave troops died for our freedom and liberty yet all I have seen since 9/11 is a decline in our freedom and liberty. As more information comes out about the lies and deception from this administration, it is imperative that the people must make their voices heard. I will continue to work with and support "World Can't Wait" as we bring more and more Americans out into the streets to say: "I'm mad as hell; and I'm not going to take it anymore."

**For identification purposes only*