

# Citizen FM



## Citizen Free Media March 2003 – Issue 2

Dear Readers,

Citizen FM is a free, staffless, micro-news-magazine. It depends on readers for submission and distribution.

Send submissions to:

[joincitizenfm@yahoo.com](mailto:joincitizenfm@yahoo.com)

If you receive Citizen, email the PDF attachment freely.

Dear Citizen,

Wow! Thank you for Citizen FM. I have not yet finished reading it, but thank you. Such a thoughtful and well put together piece. (And with a great name.)

I keep going back and forth between being enraged at the Bush Admin., doing my part to oppose it and then I get so sick of it that I need to remove myself and forget it and live my life.

I've been doing that for the last week, until I got Citizen FM. Thanks...you got me to

call a few offices and tell them my thoughts and write some letters.

Liz

## Storm!

The weather reports predicted a harsh winter storm centered on New York, but it was a storm of protest that actually came that day. On Saturday, February 15, 2003, huge masses of people, largely quiet, serene – and above all non-violent – walked around the streets of New York. Many of them held up signs and there were as many reasons the war and Bush as there were signs. I was amazed. “Can there really be this many reasons?” Can this many different voices really be united behind a common statement? Yes! And that statement was “NO TO WAR.” It is interesting to note that few people ever arrived at the rally point and many never a single speech. Those spots in sight of the podium filled hours before the rally officially started. But it didn't matter. People came to be seen and to make a statement that had seldom been echoed in the news. Interestingly, I didn't see a single corporate TV crew the whole day – but I did see thousands of other individuals covering it

for the non-corporate independent media.

What they would have seen, had they been there, was the largest public demonstration in our nation's history. Official estimates put the number at 500,000 on New York's 1<sup>st</sup> avenue, but this ignores the true dimensions of the crowd. Streets were filled with people for 30 blocks in the North-South direction and 5 blocks in the East-West direction. (Read indymedia coverage at <http://f15.nycimc.org/>) None of us from Penn State were even counted in the official estimate, because we never made it any closer than 2 blocks from the rally point. No march was necessary, because everyone was everywhere, and in the end we just stood where we were.

Most arrests ensued from Police efforts to move crowds off the streets and onto sidewalks. Only, there were simply too many people to fit on the sidewalks and the compression raised objections. Some yelled “We can't move! Stop pushing!” at cops, and the shouting that ensued between protestors and cops ended in being taken off. This was part of an ineffective police plan to divide groups into segments of under 100 people.

All told, Manhattan was just a microcosm of what was happening around the

world on that day. The ten million voices worldwide made February 15<sup>th</sup> the largest single day of anti-war demonstrations in recorded human history.

In the US this occurred without mainstream press coverage. Most people I talked to didn't even know there was a protest. Still more alarming is that only 0.1% of the world's population participated. If it takes only one person per thousand speaking out together across the world, imagine the good we could accomplish if we raised that fraction to 1%? Just one percent of the world can change everything. One percent can bring this country to a standstill. One percent suddenly feels a lot like a majority because it is too large to be ignored.

All this is encouraging. I hope we take note: democracy is a self-correcting system. When leaders propose unwise and widely unpopular measures, people can rescind their authority by disruptive presence. This day will build momentum to the next march on Washington on March 1<sup>st</sup> (see [www.iacenter.org](http://www.iacenter.org)).

Marc Maxson

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## Change of heart begins with one voice

Whoever said that one voice speaking out can't make a difference has never tried speaking out alone.

My first involvement with the war issue was a conversation with a lone dissenter. One day I was walking downtown and a woman on the corner was shouting about the hoards of civilizations we are killing in Afghanistan and passing out facts on the atrocity. I question her coldly, skeptically, not divulging my own views so that she could make her best plea. She did.

I took her paper and as I was leaving, told her I respected her for being willing to stand alone in a small conservative town. I did not announce my support or opposition. That paper and her arguments seemed to make sense as I walked and thought. And I was open to the possibility that the war was wrong. Indeed I had a very different idea about handling the war on terror – one that centered around rewarding democracies not bombing autocracies – but still I did not speak out. I sympathized, but was unmoved.

Later, when the issue came up again and again, I considered the views of the minority voice and agreed to read their primary sources. Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence. But more often that not, that extraordinary

evidence was available if I just know where to look. Indeed, many “smoking guns” were in government-authored documents distributed freely to promote a public policy or forced open to the public through the freedom of information act. Other lines of evidence were found in think-tank publications that government leaders helped write. These documents appear to guide the administration's foreign policy. I came to this conclusion because the Bush administration's actions mirror the recommendations in the document, and the leaders implementing those policies created the think-tank or contributed to it. We can see those policies being followed in the news, or at least the news we are given. But all this information left me feeling overwhelmed. And this again gave me an excuse to do nothing.

But finally, people in the community who seemingly had the least to gain from speaking out began to do just that. One week I went to church and the old people had just returned from protesting war. “What's going on here?” I asked. These people with mortgages and kids in college, 401K's and economic malaise chose to worry about war instead. Mind you, I had been opposed to war myself for some time now and spoke plainly about it with others, but I was not yet

“committed” to make this war my concern. But the grannies found time, and so I decided that day that although I dislike the idea of public demonstration, it was less bitter tasting than the feeling of this war continuing because many people who felt as I do decided to let it remain “Bush’s war” and not “America’s War”.

I began to write. I wrote 400 emails on the subject over the next month. I request information from everyone and I got essays that really emboldened my resolve. I learned that Granny D, a 91 year old woman, had marched across the US in 2001 for campaign finance reform. In September of 2001 she had expanded her focus to include opposing the upcoming war in Afghanistan. She and others like her did not attract media attention.

Something had to be done. And for once in my life, instead of letting the thought end there, I did something.

I organized a news magazine and emailed it to everyone I knew. Many of them emailed it to someone else, feedback was supportive and submissions piled in. One person told me her story – and guess

what – it was my story. She was a fence supporter until my words finally got her to speak in a complete sentence: “Someone must do something. I will do something!”

The fog of apathy is lifting. The cacophony is starting. We are looking behind the media curtain. People are beginning the process I went through. Let me remind you of that process:

I heard the lone dissenter’s voice and did not walk away.

I heard the book-smart people and read their documents.

I saw the least likely supporters and understood.

I recognized the problem and worked to solve it.

Marc Maxson

### Protesting Against a War on Iraq

Hundreds of thousands of people in cities around the world protested Saturday against military action on Iraq.



#### General crowd estimates

Rome	1 million	Glasgow, Scotland	30,000
London	750,000	Copenhagen, Denmark	25,000
Madrid, Spain	660,000	Montreal	20,000
Berlin	300,000-500,000	Toronto	15,000
Paris	100,000	Vienna, Austria	15,000
Dublin, Ireland	80,000	Toulouse, France	10,000
Amsterdam, Netherlands	70,000	Capetown, South Africa	5,000
Oslo, Norway	60,000	Tokyo	5,000
Seville, Spain	60,000	Johannesburg, South Africa	4,000
Brussels, Belgium	50,000	Dhaka, Bangladesh	2,000
Bern, Switzerland	40,000	Kiev, Ukraine	2,000
Stockholm, Sweden	35,000	Tel Aviv, Israel	2,000

Above: Photo from Moscow Times (2-18-03)

This day of anti-war protest joined Muslims and Christians in a unified march in the former Yugoslavia, Protestants and Catholics in Ireland, and Jews and Muslims in Israel/Palestine. Places where groups have been divided are now united by their opposition for this war.

## Indymedia

<http://www.indymedia.org/>

Mission Statement: “Indymedia is a collective of independent media organizations and hundreds of journalists offering grassroots, non-corporate coverage. Indymedia is a democratic media outlet for the creation of radical, accurate, and passionate tellings of truth.”

• Rome: 2.5 million

- Madrid: 2 million
- London: 1.5 million
- Barcelona: 1 million
- Paris: 800,000
- New York City: 500,000 (on First Avenue alone)
- Read the observer blotter at <http://f15.nycimc.org/> for the NYC protest.
- Berlin: 500,000
- Seville: 250,000
- Melbourne: 200,000
- Athens: 200,000
- Oviedo, Spain: 200,000
- Montreal: 150,000

- Dublin: 100,000+
- Los Angeles: 100,000
- Brussels: 100,000
- Lisbon: 100,000
- Las Palmas, Spain: 100,000
- Cadiz, Spain: 100,000
- Amsterdam: 80,000
- Toronto: 80,000
- Stockholm: 80,000
- Los Angeles: 75-100,000
- Glasgow: 60,000+
- Oslo: 60,000
- Seattle: 55,000
- Mexico City: 50,000
- Montevideo: 50,000

- Stuttgart, Germany: 50,000
- Thessaloniki, Greece: 40,000
- Copenhagen: 35-40,000
- Berne, Switzerland: 40,000
- Sao Paulo: 30,000
- Girona, Spain: 30,000
- Vancouver: 30,000
- Goteborg, Sweden: 30,000
- Tokyo: 25,000
- Budapest: 20,000
- Newcastle, Australia: 20,000
- Vienna: 20,000
- Lyon: 20,000
- Perth, Australia: 20,000
- Irunea, Basque Country: 20,000
- Montpellier, France: 15-20,000
- Luxemburg: 15-20,000
- Buenos Aires: 15,000
- Rio de Janeiro: 15,000
- Helsinki: 15,000
- Canberra, Australia: 10-15,000
- Trondheim, Norway: 11,000
- Kolkata, India: 10,000
- Johannesburg: 10,000
- Minneapolis: 10,000
- Zagreb, Croatia: 10,000
- San Diego: 10,000
- Philadelphia: 10,000
- Edmonton, Canada: 10,000
- Auckland: 8-10,000
- Tel Aviv: 1500
- Adelaide, Bellingin, Bregenz: 1500
- Bratislava, Cape Town: 5000
- Christchurch, Dunedin, Durban: 3000
- Iraklio: 4000
- Maine, Patras: 3500
- Prague: 1000
- Quito: 250

Rethimno: 2000  
 Rhodes: 2000  
 Santiago: 3000  
 Taipei, Tampere: 2000  
 Tudela: 5000  
 Turku: 5000  
 Volos: 3000

**The guardian**

<http://www.observer.co.uk/iraq/story/0,12239,896511,00.html>

**ABC News**

[http://abcnews.go.com/wire/World/ap20030216\\_63.html](http://abcnews.go.com/wire/World/ap20030216_63.html)

**CTV**

[http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/1045316947607\\_33/?hub=CTVNewsAt11](http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/1045316947607_33/?hub=CTVNewsAt11)

**CNN**

<http://www.cnn.com/2003/US/02/15/sprj.iq.protests.main/index.html>

Ireland:  
<http://u.tv/newsroom/indepth.asp?pt=n&id=28973>  
 Belfast-born Nobel Peace Prize winner Mairead Maguire had a simple message for those waving their banners and placards.  
 ``War has had its day,`` she declared. Her voiced strained with emotion, she read from a letter written by four US veterans of the last Gulf war.  
 ``We were ordered to kill fleeing Iraqis,`` the troops said in their correspondence.  
 ``We bulldozed trenches and buried people alive.``

**Friday, Feb 14, 2003:**

[http://www.indymedia.org/front.php3?article\\_id=237737&group=webcast](http://www.indymedia.org/front.php3?article_id=237737&group=webcast)

melbourne 200000  
 sydney 250000  
 Adelaide 100000  
 Brisbane 100000  
 Perth 20000  
 NewCastle 20000  
 Hobart 10000  
 Canberra 10000

**Saturday Feb 15, 2003:**

[http://brisbane.indymedia.org/front.php3?article\\_id=4427&group=webcast](http://brisbane.indymedia.org/front.php3?article_id=4427&group=webcast)

Jakarta 100000  
 Portugal 100000  
 Netherlands 100000  
 Ireland 100000 \*(both sides of the Ireland conflict)  
 Belfast 30000  
 Athens 200000  
 Thessaloniki 40000  
 Istanbul 5000 (most anti-war leaders arrested and detained before the rally)  
 Ankara, Izmit, Adana, Mersin, Manisa, Zonguldak, Mugla, Izmir: "tens of thousands"  
 Zagreb (Coatia) 10000  
 Budapest 3000, "largest peace demonstration ever", banned by the state  
 Prague 1000  
 Warsaw 3000, "largest anti-war protest ever"

**Submissions:**

From Hethur McKinley-

<http://www.china-embassy.org/eng/26488.html>

From the Chinese Government: Commentary on the Human Rights Record of the United States in 2001(03/11/02)

Excerpts: "The United States has the biggest prison population in the world."

"Right now, the richest 1 percent of the Americans own 40 percent of the national wealth. In contrast, the share is a mere 16 percent for 80 percent of the American population."

"[USA] arms exports account for 36 percent of the world total."

A World Health Organisation investigation of the effect of violence on health has confirmed that the level of international violence has been steadily increasing and "overall a total of 72 million people are believed to have lost their lives during the 20th century due to conflict, with an additional 52 million lives lost through genocides. More and more of these victims are civilians. As the Cambridge group observed, "conflict escalates after the use of collective force, as violence becomes more common and legitimated from of political or social action".

## Reasons to oppose the Iraq war:

Moral – 200,000 civilian deaths is too high a price to pay in order to remove one dictator from power.

Ethical – Preemptive, unprovoked attack on Iraq sends a message to the dictators of the world that declarations of war need not be supported by logic, only by the tacit approval of the American government.

Shortsighted – the Bush administration has not discussed any exit strategy, nor have they suggested that they will establish a democracy or invest in the reconstruction of Iraq. Instead, they will most likely install a puppet leader as they did in Afghanistan that is first and foremost, a protector of American interests. This is well outlined in government policy documents. (See <http://unitedforpeace.org/article.php?id=606>, <http://unitedforpeace.org/article.php?id=362>)

Political – Unlike the first Gulf War, this war's purpose is to increase America's control of world oil reserves. The previous Gulf War sought to maintain a balance of oil reserves.

Terrorist Threat – Attacking Iraq is likely to inflame the peoples of

moderate Arab nations who see the sovereign rights of a country trampled. It will increase recruitment of anti-American terrorists, and intensify efforts to attack America. If Saddam does have any weapons of mass destruction, he will probably use them in his defense.

Geopolitical – Attacking Iraq will send a message to moderate Arab nations that we will not tolerate any resistance to our demands. They will gravitate towards Al Qaeda's view of America.

Economic – This war generates a budget deficit in a recession and is designed to distract attention from our economy. Additionally, it is engineered to create demand for more American-made weapons. Our economy should not depend on war-production.

Ineffective means – Consider the relative success of violent vs. non-violent means to “regime change”:

Ghandi – defeated the British empire with his IDEAS in 40 years.

Nelson Mandela – defeated Apartheid with his IDEAS in 30 years.

Jesus – defeated the known world (converted the Roman empire to Christianity) with his IDEAS in 300 years.

Martin Luther King – defeated segregation in 10 years

The COLD WAR – allegedly defeated the Soviets, but took 50 years. This was a semi-non-violent approach. Really the Soviets lost for economic reasons and the Americans are also about to loose as they become the “evil empire” that the soviets appeared to be.

World War Two – changed the world in under 10 years, but at a cost of destroying most of the known world. Is this the best that we can hope for?

Failed Wars:

Korean War – Korea still divided with 2 million deaths from starvation.

Vietnam War

World War I – Led to World War II.

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Suggested readings from Chris Martinez:

The U.S. Conspiracy to Initiate the War Against Iraq  
<http://educate-yourself.org/cn/conspiracytowarwithiraq31jan02.shtml>

Gulf War inhumanities:  
<http://www.progressive.org/0801issue/nagy0901.html>

Powell's "evidence" for war:  
<http://www.fpiif.org/commentary/2003/0302powell.html>

Military/Industrial collusion:  
<http://unitedforpeace.org/article.php?id=362>

9-11 (Did the Bush administration allow it to happen?):  
<http://www.adoptcynthiamckinney.com/911/index.html>

Read Second Patriot Act  
<http://www.infowars.com/pdfs/patriot2-hi.pdf>  
<http://www.infowars.com/pdfs/patriot2-low.pdf>

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Requests for copies or submissions:  
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