



"4th of July – Troops Home Fast"

Solidarity with the hunger strike by Cindy Sheehan and other activists in the United States

Rome, Piazza Navona
Tuesday, July 4, 2006, from 6-8pm

A historic hunger strike will be launched in front of the White House in Washington D.C. on the 4th of July, Independence Day in the United States.

The "Troops Home Fast" hunger strike, spearheaded by Codepink, calls for the immediate withdrawal of the troops from Iraq and serves to commemorate the dead and wounded. Cindy Sheehan, whose son was killed in Iraq, will participate, along with activists, Iraq war veterans and military families. Also among the participants, Lieutenant Ehren Watada, who recently became the first U.S. military officer to publicly refuse to deploy to Iraq together with his mother, Carolyn Ho.

Over 2700 citizens, as well as celebrities, congress members, veterans, musician, writers and religious leaders, will join the "Troops Home Fast" initiative with a symbolic hunger strike of one day on the 4th of July. Solidarity events are planned for numerous cities and towns across the U.S.

Citizens of countries throughout the world have signed up to participate in the hunger strike and additional events are planned in several countries, including Ireland, Germany, and Ecuador, and in Italy, in Florence and Rome.

In the Italian capital, the group U.S. Citizens for Peace and Justice will show their solidarity with the "Troops Home Fast". Members of the group will participate in the one-day hunger strike on July 4th and will also be in Piazza Navona to inform both tourists and Romans on various campaigns and initiatives in the U.S.

In addition to the "Troops Home Fast", in Piazza Navona information will be provided on the "Declaration of Peace", a campaign promoted by a broad coalition of peace and justice organizations in the U.S, in which peace will be declared by engaging in non violent actions throughout the U.S. and internationally from September 21-28, if the objectives, including withdrawal of U.S. troops and all coalition forces, closure of U.S. military bases, return of Iraqi control over its oil and reparations and reconstruction to address the destruction caused by the U.S. war and thirteen years of sanctions, are not met by September 21, 2006, International Peace Day.

Given the large presence of tourists from the United States in Rome, in Piazza Navona signatures will also be collected for the "Voters for Peace" campaign, with a pledge to "not vote for or support any candidate for Congress or President who does not make a speedy end to the war in Iraq, and preventing any future war of aggression, a public position in his or her campaign "

For information on the initiatives in the U.S., see the following web sites:

Troops Home Fast: www.troopshomefast.org
Declaration of Peace: www.declarationofpeace.org

Voters for Peace: www.votersforpeace.us
Lieutenant Ehren Watada: www.thankyouult.org