

# Letter to Russian Soldiers

## Дорогие солдаты и офицеры!

Мы обращаемся к вам как бывшие солдаты и ветераны войн США во Вьетнаме и Ираке. Многие из нас публично выступали против и отказывались участвовать в этих войнах. Некоторые из нас понесли наказание и отбывали сроки заключения за наши акты сопротивления, но мы не могли с чистой совестью участвовать в том, что мы считали несправедливыми агрессивными войнами против народов Вьетнама и Ирака.

Вам приказано участвовать в агрессивной войне против народа Украины. Ни один солдат не должен участвовать в такой несправедливой миссии.

Мы признаем, что со стороны Запада были провокации, в том числе в плане расширения НАТО, против чего многие из нас также выступают, но нет никакого правового оправдания в соответствии с Уставом ООН для военных действий правительства России против Украины.

Международный суд ООН в Гааге приказал России прекратить вторжение, сославшись на отсутствие доказательств, оправдывающих нападение.

Полученные вами приказы о вторжении и нападении на народ Украины нарушают международное право.

**Мы призываем вас прислушаться к своей совести и последовать по пути справедливости и правды.**

**Мы солидарны с вами и со всеми солдатами и офицерами, которые поддерживают дело мира.**

## Dear fellow soldiers and officers:

We write as former soldiers and veterans of U.S. wars in Vietnam and Iraq. Many of us publicly protested and refused to participate in those wars. Some of us were punished or imprisoned for our dissent and acts of resistance, but we could not in good conscience support what we considered unjust wars of aggression against the peoples of Vietnam and Iraq.

You have been ordered to participate in a war of aggression against the people of Ukraine. No soldier or officer should be required to fight in such an unjust mission.

We recognize that there have been provocations from the West, including the expansion of NATO, which many of us oppose, but there is no legal justification under the UN Charter for the military actions of the Russian government against Ukraine.

The International Court of Justice at the Hague has ordered Russia to halt its invasion, citing the lack of evidence to justify the attack.

The orders you have received to invade and attack the people of Ukraine are in violation of international law.

**We urge you to listen to your conscience and follow the path of justice and truth.**

**We stand in solidarity with you and all fellow soldiers and officers who support the cause of peace.**

## Signed:

**Jan Barry, US Army, 1962-65**, Vietnam, December 1962–October 1963, co-founder Vietnam Veterans Against the War

**Ross Caputi, US Marine Corps, 2003-2006**, Iraq, June 2004 - January 2005, 1st Battalion 8th Marines, Fallujah

**Scott Camil, US Marine Corps, 1965-69**, Vietnam, March 1966–November 1967

**David Cortright, US Army, 1968-1971**, filed lawsuit against the Army over the right to dissent

**Rory Fanning, US Army Ranger**, two deployments to Afghanistan, resisted Iraq War

**Terry Fitzgibbon, US Navy, USS Cardinal**, Bahrain, 2004

**Matt Hoh, US Marine Corps, Iraq, 2004-2005, 2006-2007**, former State Department official

**J.J. Johnson, US Army**, refused service in Vietnam 1966, imprisoned at Ft. Leavenworth, one of the "Ft. Hood Three."

**John Kent, US Naval Academy, US Navy, 1964-1971**, Gulf of Tonkin 1967, pilot who turned in his wings and refused to return to Vietnam

**Steve Kinnaman, US Army, 1966**, deserted to Sweden 1967

**Adrienne Kinne, US Army, 1994-2004**, former President, Veterans For Peace

**William Males, U.S. Army, 1968**, deserted to Sweden 1969

**Walter Ralston, US Army, 1966-1969**, deserted to Sweden

**Garett Reppenhagen, US Army 2001-2005**, Iraq 2004-2005, Executive Director, Veterans For Peace

**Susan Schnall, US Navy nurse**, led an antiwar march of active duty service members in San Francisco in 1968, court martialled, President, Veterans For Peace

**Lewis Simon, U.S. Army, Army Security Agency, 1968**, deserted to Sweden 1969

**Ehren Watada, US Army**, six years, refused to deploy to Iraq, 2006

**Ann Wright, US Army, 1967-1996**, US diplomat who resigned in 2003 in opposition to the US war on Iraq



*Children of medical workers in a hospital in Mariupol, March 4 2022. (AP Photo/Evgeniy Maloletka)*