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Subject: Eyewitness to Empire: Speaking Tour II /Press Release

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PRESS RELEASE: *Student Back from Iraq Available to Speak*

KHURY PETERSEN-SMITH visited Iraq at the beginning of January as part of a peace delegation organized by United for Peace and Justice, Global Exchange and Occupation Watch. A member of the Campus Antiwar Network, Khury spent a week in Baghdad, where he talked to families whose loved ones have been detained or killed in the U.S. occupation--as well as students, professors, labor leaders, doctors, lawyers, U.S. soldiers and others.

Amidst the lies that the U.S. is putting forth, from the links with Al-Queda, or Weapons of Mass Destruction, or that war and occupation were for "liberation," the exact opposite is true. 70% unemployment exists, while Baghdad is crumbling from the devastating bombing and 12 years of sanctions. Khury said "Instead of reconstruction, this is what people in Baghdad see every day: incredible destruction." Indeed, cluster bombs, used to kill and maim as many people as possible, were used in highly populated areas.

Understanding the United States motives in the region and the consequences on regular people, Khury gives a compelling first-hand account of why the U.S. should end the occupation. He said "The problem is that the U.S. occupation places obstacles in their way at every turn, and these confront Iraqis every day. People who have tried to avoid conflict, or who have given the U.S. the benefit of the doubt, feel betrayed and confronted by the occupiers on a daily basis."

With this unique perspective of being able to travel Iraq in early 2004 and talk with actual people whose voices are not being heard, Khury sheds light into dark areas not explored by the U.S. media. He is available to speak on campuses throughout the Spring, on the second Campus Antiwar Network's speaking tour, *Eyewitness to Empire* in advance of the March 20th national demonstrations.

As Khury said in a recent interview: "It's important that the world know there are people in the US- the country that prosecuted the war - actually opposed it. Opposed to because of humanitarian reasons, understanding how catastrophic it is, for Iraqis. But also opposed to it because for us, this war is not in our interest. I was proud to tell Iraqis that people in the US against the occupation are doing what we can, where we are, to put pressure on the government to end it." (Interview with Sunny Miller, Traprock Peace Center)

Email canspeakingtour2@yahoo.com, or call 802-363-4699 to schedule Khury speaking at your campus. Check <http://www.campusantiwar.net> for a growing schedule of the tour

Please listen/read an interview of Khury with Traprock Peace Center, <http://www.traprockpeace.org> - a longtime supporter of CAN.