

Anti-war protests echo through streets of Chicago

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Chants and drum beats echoed as State Street was virtually taken over by anti-war protesters. They marched towards President Obama's election office in the Prudential building after holding a rally at Michigan Avenue and Congress Parkway October 8.

Midwest Regional March for Peace and Justice, a coalition of 50-plus groups, put together the protest march on the 10th anniversary of U.S. invasion in Afghanistan. They demanded jobs, healthcare and an end to the wars abroad.

A large number of police escorted the protesters who carried posters and chanted, "What do we want, troops out. When do we want it: now;" "We need money for poor, not for war;" "We are the 99 percent" and other slogans.

Protesters also carried placards with "End the war, tax the rich;" "Wage war on financial terrorism;" "Jobs, health care, education, not war and occupation;" "Peace in Palestine" and other sayings.

"We want jobs and money for health care. We don't want to be occupying other countries for oil," said Stephanie Beecham.



She is a member of ANSWER Coalition. Her group is part of the coalition that put together the march.

The government is cutting budget saying there's no money. But they are spending millions and millions of dollars on wars and occupation of other countries, protesters said.

"We need to stand up, organize and fight back," said Beecham while collecting donations from supporters at her booth.

Victoria Ross, an anti-war supporter, said U.S. troops engaged in combat missions abroad should be called home because most U.S. wars are undeclared, thus unconstitutional.

Ross, who is in sales and marketing, does not believe the U.S. invaded Afghanistan to ensure domestic safety at home. She said we invaded other countries to support the interests of corporations. Supporting democracy is not a factor.

"How can we really be promoting democracy with bombs and with killing

people?" Ross said.

A handbill distributed at the rally asked people to look up www.counterpunch.org, www.blackagendareport.org, www.chicagoindymedia.org and www.ICJPE.org. It said these sites have information far superior to that found in the mainstream media.

"I'm sick of keeping my mouth shut. I'm sick of not saying what I believe," said a student from Harper College, Palatine. He converts text books and audio for blind students in his college. The young man chanted slogans with his fist up in the air and invited people on sidewalks join the rally. He called himself a 'free thinker' but declined to give his name for security reasons.

But he said these are exciting times because of the revolutions taking place worldwide. "Now is the time to say what we got to say."

Midwest Regional coalition planned another rally on Oct. 16 against the forthcoming G8 and NATO summits in Chicago.

Popular Chicago tutor & mentor conference set for November 4

Prepared Materials

The Tutor/Mentor Institute and Tutor/Mentor Connection present the semi-annual Tutor/Mentor Leadership and Networking Conference on Friday, November 4. Now in its 18th year, the event to help disadvantaged youth runs from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. at the Metcalfe Federal Building, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., 3rd floor, Chicago, and includes

continental breakfast and box lunch.

Advance registration is required at www.TutorMentorConference.org. Attendance fee is \$80 per person; reduced scholarship fee is \$20 per person (upon request); and the group rate fee (3 or more) is \$50 per person. A government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license, is required for admittance on the day of the conference.

With its strong emphasis on network-

ing opportunities, this conference brings together tutoring and mentoring leaders, adult volunteers, organizers, social service providers, educators, donors and other stakeholders from metropolitan Chicago and the Midwest region. A full day of workshops and expert keynote speakers address such practical topics as starting up youth mentoring programs, fundraising fundamentals, and more!