

REFUSING TO KILL IS NOT A CRIME

www.refusingtokill.net UPDATE JUNE 2009

REFUSENIKS STAND UP AND WIN Watada - No court martial!

Lt **Ehren Watada** cannot be court martialled again! In 2006, because he refused to go to Iraq, he faced seven years in jail. His 2008 court martial ended in a mistrial. The Army attempted to prosecute him again, but on 6 May, the Justice Department compelled the Army to drop its case. It is a key victory, including for an international support campaign. Lt. Watada's lawyers are pressing for his release from the Army now that the Army's legal case has evaporated. See details [here](#).

Other refuseniks in the US, Canada, Turkey have also won significant victories:

- Kurdish **Halli Savda** declared his conscientious objection in 2004, was jailed repeatedly and was finally freed from the Turkish army in 2008. Threatened again with prison for supporting Israeli refuseniks, he is still free. Interview in *The Guardian*.
- Turkish CO **Mehmet Bal** has been discharged after years of refusal, prison and torture.
- A refugee in Canada since 2007, US soldier and mother of four **Kimberley Rivera** won the right to appeal an imminent deportation. Her hearing is 12 July. In the same period, the *Canadian Parliament* adopted another motion supporting US refuseniks. Fellow resister **Joshua Key** won a second refugee hearing on 3 June, where he presented evidence of Geneva Convention violations during house raids in Iraq. (See [War Resisters Support Campaign](#))



Lt Watada, first officer to refuse war in Iraq



Halli Savda



Kimberley Rivera, 1st US woman soldier to desert to Canada

Iraqi refusal & resistance



Hanaa Ibrahim

Hanaa Ibrahim (Women's Will Association of Iraq) said that in April 2004, a division of Iraqi soldiers were ordered by the US to attack Fallujah. Instead they shot in the air, in salute to the people of Fallujah's resistance, and left the city.



Troy, sisters Ebony & Martina who campaigns for him

Refusing to Be Killed

Campaigns against the [death penalty](#) and miscarriages of justice in the US took a new turn on 19 May when people took action in 80 US cities and 20 internationally to defend **Troy Davis**. In jail since 1991, Troy is demanding that witnesses who recanted their statements should testify again. Read his sister Martina's article in *The Guardian*. Troy's current stay of execution has expired – a fourth execution date could be set soon. [Ask the Governor](#) of Georgia to commute his death sentence. [Urge the District Attorney](#) to re-open his case.

Mumia Abu Jamal



Internationally known journalist

and "voice of the voiceless". Railroaded for killing a police officer in 1981 in a trial drenched in racism. On death row for over 25 years, his recent Supreme Court appeal has been denied, contradicting the appeal court's own precedents. Prosecutors have petitioned for his execution. [Write to him](#).

Osiris Abu Ameer



Convicted of murder in 1991 for the deaths of

an off-duty police officer and woman in a bar. In a Philadelphia district notorious for police corruption and racism, his trial was marked by police intimidation, an unfair judge, tainted jury and ineffective lawyers. Fighting for a new trial to prove his innocence, he awaits a court decision by Aug on a trial that could take him off death row. [Write to him](#).



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