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**From an Army Nurse
Working at Walter Reed Army Medical Center
Washington D.C.
7 February 2004**

An e-mail I received from someone working as a nurse in a military hospital in the US. He/she believes the reports about the number of soldiers killed in given incidents, but points out that the many many desperately [hurt] soldiers go unreported.

--Jo Wilding

I am an Army Nurse Corps Captain stationed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, in Washington D.C., and I feel compelled to share with anyone who will listen what I have seen. You see, when OIF troops are evac'd out of Germany, the huge majority are brought here to WRAMC by the Air Force flight nurses and docs.

I do not have access to any of the numbers of how many wounded and what types of injuries, etc, but I can honestly tell you that the OIF wounded occupy more than half of our two major intensive care units (SICU and MICU) at any given time. At times, we get so full and are expecting more to arrive, that we have to hound the docs to transfer somebody out of our unit to a ward upstairs so we have some beds for these soldiers.

Most of these wounded soldiers come in to our unit on a ventilator breathing for them, with severe wounds caused by IEDs (improvised roadside bombs) or AK-47 GSW (gun shot wounds). Many, many soldiers have already lost arms, limbs, or eyes before they even get to us, and many have received dozens of units of blood before they left Germany.

I am very proud that I am privileged to take care of these brave men and women, but it breaks my heart to realize that their incredible loss that they and their loved ones will have to deal with for the rest of their life seems to have not been for the good of our country. Rather, their pain and sorrow has merely allowed a few greedy souls to make a power grab for more wealth and control.

One of my dear friends has tried to convince me that this is all part of God's plan, and the death and pain is for some greater purpose that our leaders are not telling us yet. I wish I could believe her. It would make my job and daily life much easier, but I cannot buy it.

I apologize to the reader for my tangential thought processes, but this never ending situation is getting to many military nurses.

Anyway, the following is my main point in reaching out to you. As you might be aware, the press is being tightly controlled and what is being reported from a medical standpoint is only a fraction of the true reality. Yes, I do believe the daily number of killed that CNN and whoever report is accurate.

What I am saying is that the walking wounded are being sorely ignored. Don't believe me? Walter Reed is an open base, not a tightly controlled fort. Just have a valid ID and consent to a vehicle search. Then park, and walk inside. You will see so many 20-something mostly men missing arms, legs, and eyes.

The blinders covering your eyes will be ripped away as you see the poor families making their daily walk from the Malogne house to the wards and units to see their son's or husbands. It is so sad to see young wives and fiancée's cry over their honey who was in Iraq less than one month before losing both legs and have several abdominal surgeries which leaves his belly crisscrossed with staples, and now he is fighting for his life from the infection that the injuries have caused.

And that is just one example of what I saw this week. I will spare you any more wrenching true stories. God help our men and women in uniform. Please do something to end this madness.

See Also:

- Military Families Speak Out (www.mfso.org)
- Bring Them Home Now! (www.bringthemhomenow.org)
- GI Rights Hotline - 800-394-9544 (girights.objector.org)
- War Resisters League (www.warresisters.org)
- Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors (www.objector.org)
- Conscientious Objection - MoveOn Bulletin, by Susan Thompson and Leah Appet, *moveon.org*, 16 October 2002

[The moveon CO bulletin] fails to mention the need for a struggle to renew and support legislation drafted in the 90s to expand and protect the rights of military objectors (who were severely abused during the first Gulf War) and to establish the right to so-called "selective objection" to particular wars or even battles and orders within a war. One method of war tax resistance besides an escrow is to directly allocate a check for the amount of tax due to a government program you can support and get a receipt, which you add to your tax statement. This one has never gone to court. I think they fear it might spread.

--John Judge, 12 October 2002

- Response to moveon.org's Conscientious Objection Alert, by Sam Diener, Educators for Social Responsibility, 17 October 2002
- by John Judge:
 - Countering the Military Invasion of DC High Schools, June 2001
 - No Child Left Alone, 9 Dec 2002
 - Reinstate a Military Draft?, 3 Jan 2003
 - A debate on recruitment, 17 Nov 2002
 - Letter to Rangel on the draft, 27 Sep 2003