

bring these issues to the light of day before Cardinal George and the congregation by standing, speaking against the occupation and Cardinal George's meeting with President Bush, and then lying down in the aisle and discharging the fake blood on themselves to mimic the dead in Iraq.

This was their intent, as their press release indicated. It seems that some of the stage blood got on ushers and parishioners seated nearby as well as the carpet. Meanwhile, an interested party has offered to pay for the damages

The Holy Name Six, as they have come to be called, dramatically reminded the nation of the murder and mayhem continually being carried out in our name. They did so as the Bush administration prepares to ask the congress for yet more war funding in excess of \$150 Billion.

What will it take to stir this nation to the moral outrage necessary to end this crime? And, we must ask, who are the real criminals?

ACTIONS

1. Sign the petition to urge the Archdiocese of Chicago and the State's Attorney to recognize right from wrong and drop the charges against the Holy Name Six:

http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/Holy_Name_6/index.html

2. Call the Catholic Archdiocese, even

if you are not a Catholic, and urge the Cardinal to drop the charges AND speak out against the occupation.

312-751- 8200

3. View the video of their action:

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=1vrlQF-PbxQ&feature=related>

4. To find out how to help, write holyname6@riseup.net

Local contact:

8th Day Center for Justice



205 W. Monroe St.

Chicago IL 60606

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www.8thdaycenter.org

SUPPORT THE HOLY NAME SIX

Three days into the sixth year of the occupation of Iraq, six young people challenged the continuation of the immoral and illegal invasion and occupation.

It was a routine Easter service in one of the most prestigious Catholic churches in Chicago. Moments into Cardinal George's homily, voices called out, "The sixth commandment says thou shalt not kill...and yet more than a million Iraqis have been killed during the ...invasion of Iraq." In an aisle stood six young peace activists, who go under the name of Catholic Schoolgirls Against the War. Another activist shouted out, "On January 7, Cardinal George met for lunch with George W. Bush."

As they were quickly surrounded by ushers and church security, another protester let out a scream and collapsed to the floor in fake "blood," beginning a very short-lived die-in on the church floor. They were quickly hustled out, chanting "even the pope calls for peace." They were charged with felony destruction to property and battery, with possible jail time of up to 5 years if convicted. They are all currently out on bonds that range from \$25,000 to \$35,000, after funds were raised from

those supporting the action.

The whole event lasted less than a minute. But as the protest was broadcast on the network news, it became a source of intense controversy in the city. The message coming through in the press was primarily a negative one. "It was shocking," said a man whose pants and jacket had some spots of the fake blood used by the protesters. "You should all be ashamed of yourselves," lectured one parishioner, while another accused the activists of scaring children. Cardinal George, who had first told the congregation that "we can be grateful to those who interrupted this holiday," later denounced the action to the press as "an act of violence." Even some anti-war activists considered the act well intentioned but counter-productive.

"Remarkable," was how Kathy Kelly, three times Noble Peace Prize nominee, coordinator of Voices for Creative Nonviolence and activist with Catholic Worker Movement, described the action. "I'm kind of humbled by it really. I've been part of different groupings of people who've been experimenting with 30-day fasts, and cross country walks, and assembling peace teams in the war zones as the bombs were falling in various parts of Iraq, and nothing I've ever seen has accomplished so much outreach, if you will, and discussion as this 50-second activity inside Holy Name Cathedral....

"I think the reason that so many people have said anything is because this is clearly something that the corporate media decided to report on. And so it's a story that's gone far and wide. And I think that I've mainly been in touch with people who've taken it to heart, as an occasion for some thoughtful consideration, and to ask some real questions—**why are people in our country so readily disturbed by stage blood that sullies clothing and carpets and yet, really not so readily disturbed by the reality of bodies broken because of bombing and bullets, and inadequate health care now in Iraq today?**

“Terrific bloodletting and bloodshed and suffering and bereavement and misery and impoverishment has gone on, and it hasn't really awakened so much emotion in people, as the fact of within 50 seconds of stage blood squeezed out of a tube...by young people who felt that they simply couldn't sit by without trying to do something, and so had decided to use the time [of] Easter Sunday, when they knew Christians would be gathering and celebrating inside the cathedral, as a time to really ask people to take a closer look at what was happening in terms of blood being shed in Iraq,” Kelly concluded

Before you judge their action, consider the following:

Prior to the US invasion of Iraq in 2003, Pope John Paul called the invasion immoral and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said it was illegal.

On February 15, 2003 a month before the invasion an estimated 30 million people in 800 cities in 60 countries demonstrated against President Bush's upcoming war. Mr. Bush dismissed this unprecedented global mobilization by calling the protesters “focus groups”.

Five years later:

- The WMD claims and Iraqi ties to 9/11 and bin Laden exposed as lies
- Civil liberties shredded in the U.S.
- 4,000 dead U.S. soldiers
- 30,000 seriously wounded and the number mentally scarred probably in the hundreds of thousands
- Nobel Prize winning economist Joseph Stiglitz estimating the cost of the invasion and occupation being in excess of \$3 trillion
- An estimated 1 million dead Iraqis
- Untold numbers of Iraqis wounded and mentally scarred
- Iraqi infrastructure destroyed
- Rampant sectarian violence in a country that had none before the war
- 70% unemployment in Iraq, widespread disease and shortages of basic necessities
- U.S. preparing for war against Iran

So, six brave young persons choose Easter Sunday Mass to dramatically