

PUBLIC MEETING

Justice for Iraqi Detainees

With Peggy Gish
Christian Peacemaker Teams Iraq

Friday 19th November 2004 7.00 pm
All Hallows Church, Regent Terrace, Leeds LS6 1NP



*'The purpose of CPT's work concerning the problems
of detainees is not to try to make the occupation a
little better. It is to witness and respond to the
suffering it causes'*

Peggy Gish

Meeting sponsored by All Hallows Church, Christian Peacemaker Teams (UK)
and Voices in the Wilderness (UK)

PUBLIC MEETING

Detention and Torture Continue

Despite the so-called 'handover' of sovereignty on 28 June the US continues to detain roughly 5000 Iraqis. It is also creating a long-term detention facility at Camp Bucca, near the Kuwaiti border, and has stated that it intends to continue exercising powers of internment, contrary to international law. According to a February 2004 Red Cross report, military intelligence officers estimate that 'between 70 percent and 90 percent of the persons deprived of their liberty in Iraq had been arrested by mistake' (*New York Times*, 30 May).

Meanwhile, according to Pulitzer-prizewinning investigative journalist Seymour Hersh – who broke the story of the Abu Ghraib torture photos in May – the 'Special Access Programme' which 'encouraged [the] physical coercion and sexual humiliation of Iraqi prisoners' was 'reconstituted' mid-June with '[t]he same rules of engagement' (*New Yorker*, 24 May; *Chain of Command*, p.65).

Christian Peacemaker Teams

The CPT – a project of the Brethren, Quaker and Mennonite Churches – have been working on the ground in Iraq since October 2002 and have been focusing on the issue of detainees there since July 2003.

Peggy Gish

Peggy Gish is a mother, grandmother, farmer, and long-time peace and social justice activist from southern Ohio. She has served as a social worker in rural Indiana and inner-city Chicago, as co-director of the Appalachian Peace and Justice Network, as a conflict management trainer, and a community mediator. Gish is a member of New Covenant Fellowship, a communal church affiliated with the Church of the Brethren. Since 1995, Gish has been involved with Christian Peacemaker Teams in the West Bank and Iraq.