

# Prysner Of Conscience

## *Iraq Veteran Mike Prysner*

Since completing a 12-month deployment to Iraq Michael Prysner has been actively campaigning against that war...and the war in Afghanistan...with Iraq Veterans Against The War ([IVAW](#)) and now with "[March Forward!](#)"

A video of one of his speeches was [posted on YouTube](#) on Dec 24 2009.

This transcript was started at **0700 hrs** December 31, at which time the video had been **viewed 107,000 times** in six days. By **1100 hours**, it had been viewed **111,333 times**. By **0800 January 01 2010** it had reached **127,271 views**. That's over **20,000 views in 25 hours**. This is a full transcript with screen captures from that video.

---

**I tried hard to be proud of my service but all I could feel was shame.**

The racism could no longer mask the reality of the occupation.

These were people who were human beings.

I've since been plagued by guilt every time I see an elderly man like the one who couldn't walk who we rolled out of his stretcher and told the Iraqi police to take him away.

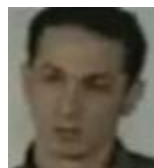


I feel guilt every time I see a mother with her children, like the one who cried hysterically and screamed that we were worse than Saddam as we forced her from her home.



I feel guilt every time I see a young girl like the one I grabbed by the arm and dragged into the street.

We were told we were fighting terrorists.



The real terrorist was me.

**And the real terrorism is this occupation.**



**Racism within the military has long been an important tool to justify the destruction and occupation of another country.**



It has long been used to justify the killing subjugation and torture of another people. Racism is a vital weapon employed by this government.



It is a more important weapon than a rifle, a tank, a bomber or a battle ship.



It is more destructive than an artillery shell, or a bunker buster, or a tomahawk missile.

While those weapons are created and owned by this government they are harmless without people willing to use them.



*Those who send us to war do not have to pull a trigger or lob a mortar round.*

**They do not have to fight the war.**

*They merely have to sell the war.*

They need a public who is willing to send their soldiers into harm's way.

They need soldiers who are willing to kill and be killed without question.




They can spend millions on a single bomb but that bomb only becomes a weapon when the ranks in the military are willing to follow orders to use it.

They can send every last soldier anywhere on earth, but there will only be a war if soldiers are willing to fight.

And the ruling class, the **billionaires** care only about expanding their wealth, controlling the world economy.



Understand that their power lies only in their ability to convince us that war, oppression, and exploitation is in our interest.

<p>They understand that <b>their wealth</b> is dependent on their ability to convince the working class to <b>die</b> to control the market of another country.</p>		<p>And convincing us to <b>kill and die</b> is based on their ability to make us think that we are somehow superior.</p>
---	---	--

Soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, have **nothing** to gain from this occupation.

The vast majority of the people living in the US have **nothing** to gain from this occupation.

In fact not only do we have nothing to gain, but we suffer more because of it.



We lose limbs, incur trauma, and **give our lives** while our families have to watch flag-draped coffins going into the earth.





**The millions in this country without health care, jobs or access to education must watch this government squander over \$450 million dollars a day on this occupation.** (Applause)

Poor and working people in this country are **sent to kill** poor and working people in another country, **to make the rich, richer.**



Without racism, soldiers would realize that they have more in common with the Iraqi people than they do with the **billionaires** who **send us to war.**

(standing ovation)

**I threw families on to the street in Iraq only to come home and find families thrown onto the street in this country, in this tragic, and unnecessary, foreclosure crisis.**

**We need to wake up and realize that our real enemies are not in some distant land.**

They are not people whose names we don't know and cultures we don't understand.

**The enemy is people we know very well and people we can identify.**

The enemy is a system that wages war when it is profitable.

**The enemy is the CEOs who lay us off from our job when it's profitable.**

The enemy is the insurance companies who deny us health care when it's profitable.

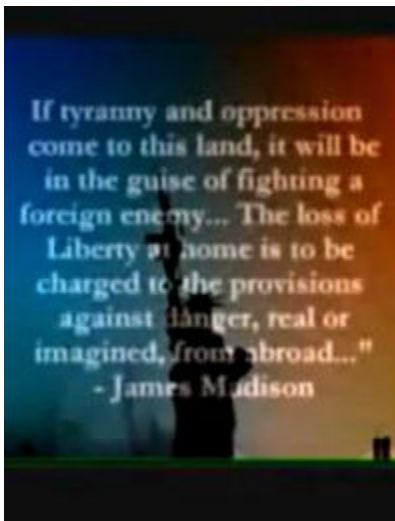
**It's the banks who take away our homes when it's profitable.**



**Our enemy is not 5000 miles away.**

**They are right here at home.**

If we organize (indistinct) our sisters and brothers, we can stop this war, we can stop this government and create a better world.



**"If tyranny and oppression come to this land, it will be in the guise of fighting a foreign enemy...The loss of liberty at home is to be charged to the provisions against danger, real or imagined, from abroad..." - James Madison.**

[If it has not been taken down yet, the video can be viewed here](#)

[Or here](#)

[Truthout.org has an article here.](#)

**Footnote: You have a choice. Save a copy and pass this on as an email attachment...or....**