The statement below will be run as a signature ad in the Columbia Daily Tribune &/or the Columbia Missourian on August 6. Below the statement and the names we will list contact info for the sponsors, event info and Web resources. We invite you to add your name. Suggested donations of $3-$25 to help defray the cost are not required but are needed and encouraged.

MAKE PEACE OUR PRIORITY: END THE IRAQ WAR. NO WAR WITH IRAN. ELIMINATE NUCLEAR THREATS.

We are tired of endless war. We, the undersigned, recognize that the human costs—in life and limb—as well as the costs to our economy and environment, are unacceptable. Thus, we are speaking out. We call on our government to:

1) **End the occupation and war in Iraq**,
2) Pursue a foreign policy that **avoids aggression against Iran** or other nations, and
3) Make concrete strides to **eliminate the threat of nuclear annihilation**.

As we observe the 63rd anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, on August 6 and 9, respectively, we must learn from history. We recall with sadness the more than 200,000 people killed in those two bombings. We recognize that nuclear weapons are not legitimate instruments of foreign policy; they are devices so destructive and murderous that their use, production, testing and deployment must be outlawed forever. Furthermore, Pentagon plans for a whole new generation of nuclear weapons must be rejected.

We recognize the need to take seriously the words of President Dwight Eisenhower who, in his farewell address, warned against the growing influence of the "military-industrial complex" and reminded us that "Disarmament, with mutual honor and confidence, is a continuing imperative."

Today, nearly 50 years later, we live in a nation that has failed to heed his words. We spend more than three-quarters of a trillion dollars per year on war and preparation for war. Our nation, with just 4.5 percent of the world's people, accounts for half of the planet's annual military expenditures. We maintain bases in more than 130 nations and claim the right to intervene at will anywhere in the world under the ruse of "fighting terror."

Meanwhile politicians cling to the misguided notion that we have a "national interest" in controlling the oil-rich Persian Gulf region. They plan to keep U.S. troops there for many years to come, perpetuating a war that should never have begun. Their claims that this is somehow in Iraq's interest are ludicrous. Opinion polls consistently show the overwhelming majority of Iraqis want the U.S. occupation ended.

Let us come together to deliver a loud, clear message: Peace is our priority. A peace economy holds the potential for sustainable development and prosperity. Ongoing war and a new arms race enrich a handful of powerful corporations and leave the rest of us poorer and less secure.

None of us wants to see Iran, or any nation, acquire nuclear weapons. However, to eliminate the nuclear threat, we must take the Non-Proliferation Treaty seriously. This agreement not only requires non-nuclear nations to refrain from seeking these weapons, but also requires the states possessing such weapons—including the United States—to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.

We urge our government not to attack Iran; to withdraw all U.S. forces from Iraq as soon as possible; to reinvest national resources in meeting real human needs; and to genuinely work toward achieving the mutual, verifiable and universal elimination of all nuclear weapons.

Printed Name (As will appear in paper) Legibly please!	Signature	Full Address or E-mail Address	Phone (to call only if we can't read your name)	Donation $3 - $25 (Optional)

This signature ad is organized by the Columbia Peace Coalition. Please return signatures as soon as possible and **no later than July 25** to the Peace Nook, 804-C E. B'way, Columbia, MO 65201. Make contributions (tax-deductible) payable to Mid-Missouri Peaceworks. For more info., call 573-875-0539.