



# MotherSpeak UPDATE

ISSUE 3

SPRING 2007

**W**elcome to the third issue of MotherSpeak Update. After a brief visit to Lebanon and Syria we have lots to share. And, if you have updates to share with us, email to [motherspeak@motherspeak.org](mailto:motherspeak@motherspeak.org), subject line: MS Update. Or visit: [www.motherspeak.org](http://www.motherspeak.org).

## Profile: mother & sons

### SOUTHERN LEBANON

**Z**uhre Dayab's son, Mohammed, was killed in his south Lebanon village during the 35-day war between Israel and Hizbullah in 2006. He leaves behind a wife and four small children and a legacy as a martyr for the Arab cause.

Zuhre Dayab is unabashedly proud of the contribution she and her son made to her people, village, and community.

Her advice to American mothers: "Don't send your sons to the Middle East where they will be killed."



Zuhre Dayab with a picture of her son killed in the summer, 2006, war.

## Contents

- Profile: mother & sons ..... 1
- Resisters & Resistance ..... 2
- MotherSpeak on the Move: ..... 2  
Raising Sand Radio
- Get Involved: ..... 2  
Campaign for victims of Agent Orange  
Sponsor an Iraqi refugee family

This is a common sentiment here. Anyone actually listening to ordinary mothers, fathers, uncles, aunts, and children in the entire Middle East quickly understands how steeped the region is in resistance to Israel and its ally, the U.S.

I Zuhre and her daughter laughed when these words were translated from Arabic into English and I repeated them. Then we laughed together at the rational, simple humanity of this solution. When I first met Zuhre I thought she was shy and sad. After laughing with her, I realized that this was my projection as a mother upon a situation that I was personalizing. Zuhre is satisfied with the contributions – her children's lives -- she can make towards peace and understanding in this part of the world; she is thus free to enjoy laughter.

Another of Zuhre's sons told me, "Next time you come here my mother will be holding a photo of me as a martyr."

When I protested he said, "What else can I do about the situation? If we sacrifice now future generations can be free. During the summer my best friend was badly burned in a bomb attack. I took him away from the battle on my motorcycle."

I asked, "Did he survive?"

"Actually he was mostly dead when I took him away. His skin was black from burns and it was falling off his body in strips. I removed him so that the dogs wouldn't eat his body."

Mothers and the good people of America, lets us heed Zuhre's words and refuse our children to die or to kill in these lands.

[Read the full article >](http://www.motherspeak.org/articles/dont_send_your_sons2.php)  
([www.motherspeak.org/articles/dont\\_send\\_your\\_sons2.php](http://www.motherspeak.org/articles/dont_send_your_sons2.php))

## Resisters & Resistance

### GERMANY

**A**gustín Aguayo, a 35-year-old Army medic and conscientious objector, was convicted of desertion and missing movement on March 6, 2007 in a U.S. military court in Germany. While he faced seven years in prison, Agustín received eight months in the brig for following his conscience and refusing to participate in war. He had been imprisoned pending trial since September and was released on April 18.

Agustín is on an Army base in Germany and is expected home in Los Angeles soon.

[Learn more >](#)

([www.couragetoresist.org](http://www.couragetoresist.org))

### FT. HOOD, TEXAS

**T**om" turned himself in at Ft. Sill, OK, after being AWOL for 9 months. He was Returned to Unit (RTU) at Ft. Hood mid-April. Since then he has waited for: (1) a uniform (2) blankets for his bed; sheets would be nice too ... (3) evidence that the military has even noticed that he's back.. for example, a date by which time he can expect to be back home providing for his wife and child. He's stuck in a Kafka-esque limbo where asking for pertinent information encourages ridicule, insults or simply being ignored. So he waits. So do his wife and small son.

Friday nights on base are, apparently, wild. The soldiers get mightily drunk and engage in fist fights.

Recently the wife of soldier recently deployed to Iraq came to the base to visit with her husband's five friends. They drank alcohol together, the party got out of hand, and the woman was raped by her husband's five friends. Tom doesn't know if charges are pending. Given that this woman will need fortitude and for the derision she will earn if she charges these men for rape, it is likely she will suffer in silence and hope no one tells her husband.

## MotherSpeak on the Move

### RAISING SAND RADIO



**R**aising Sand Radio airs every Monday from 2 - 3 p.m. (Pacific) at FM 90.1 on KZSU Stanford University Radio. All shows are also available streaming online and archived.

Recent shows include:

- War and the environment
- Fastest growing refugee crisis in world
- Peace: more than the absence of war
- Vietnam - then and now
- The world of war tax resistance

[Learn more on Raising Sand Blog](#)

(<http://raisingsand.blogspot.com>)

## Get Involved

**Learn about the public appeal of international lawyers concerning the responsibility ... for the sprayings of agent orange/dioxin.**

**D**uring a period of ten years, to prevent the forest and undergrowth from concealing the hiding places and deployment of the adversary, to destroy harvests, and to incite the rural population to flee the countryside, the U.S. Air Force sprayed 72 million liters of herbicides on a total area of nearly two million hectares of forest and rice fields. These herbicides included 41,635,000 liters of "Agent Orange" which contained dioxin, a substance one million times more toxic than the most powerful natural poison known at the time, and whose harmful effects are such that, during the Second World War, President Roosevelt prohibited the U.S. Army from using it, and concerning which U.S. Senator Nelson in August 1970 declared in Congress: "It is not impossible that our country has dropped a delayed-action bomb that will reverberate on the affected populations with consequences that will only be possible to evaluate in a distant future."

[Learn more >](#)

([http://vn-](http://vn-agentorange.org/Appeal_IntlJurists.html)

[agentorange.org/Appeal\\_IntlJurists.html](http://vn-agentorange.org/Appeal_IntlJurists.html))

**Are you interested in joining MotherSpeak in sponsoring Iraq refugee families who have abandoned their homes due to overwhelming violence in their country?**

A mother writes:

"I am disconcerted about the situation we have created in Iraq. Protests didn't work, voting hasn't worked and I feel helpless.

Do you have contacts in Iraq who might accept and distribute gifts, thoughts, and/or letters, from mothers in the U.S? I could certainly gather a group of mothers with my same sentiments....we just don't know how to help?"

If you, too, are interested in sponsoring a family or sponsoring a clinic providing care to Iraqi refugees, email

[motherspeak@motherspeak.org](mailto:motherspeak@motherspeak.org),

Subject: Sponsor.

© MotherSpeak Update is a product of MotherSpeak: [www.motherspeak.org](http://www.motherspeak.org).