

Iowa Occupation Project

A Campaign of Sustained Nonviolent Civil disobedience to End the Iraq War



NEWS RELEASE

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ROMNEY AND OBAMA HEADQUARTERS OCCUPIED BY ACTIVISTS IN DES MOINES

Twelve people were arrested today for occupying the campaign headquarters of two leading presidential candidates. Members of SODaPOP (Seasons of Discontent: a Presidential Occupation Project) arrived at the campaign offices of Senator Barack Obama and Governor Mitt Romney early this afternoon.

Four were arrested in the Romney headquarters. They are: Chris Gaunt, 51, Grinnell, IA, Ed Bloomer, 63, Des Moines, Janice Sevre-Duszynska, 57, Nicholasville, KY, Suzanne Sheridan, 31, Chicago, IL.

Shortly after SODaPOP members arrived, Obama staff locked the doors to the office and ordered press reporters, volunteers, and visitors to leave at that time. Members of the press were not allowed to photograph, to witness or report any portion of the actions inside or the arrests that were ultimately made. Arrested in Obama headquarters were Vicki Andrews, 63, Grand Rapids, MI, Diane Haugesag, 48, Minneapolis, MN, David Hovde, 37, Evanston, IL, Dan Pearson, 26, Chicago, IL, Tom Roddy, 76, Evanston, IL, Brian Terrell, 50, Maloy, IA, John Tuzcu, 23, Des Moines, IA, Kathy Kelly, 55, Chicago, IL

All 12 who were arrested are being held overnight in the Polk County Jail and are scheduled to be arraigned Thursday morning.

In a news release issued earlier by the Des Moines Catholic Worker, Kelly, co-director of VCNV, was quoted as saying, "We're very respectful of the Iowa caucus process and the long history behind it but we feel quite strongly that the issues of this war must be inserted into the process of narrowing down the candidates for the presidential election."

Kelly was also arrested on Monday during a similar occupation at the Des Moines headquarters of Gov. Mike Huckabee.

Photos of the occupation may be uploaded with permission at:

Obama Occupation, photos by Michael Gillespie

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/monashaw/sets/72157603610988784/>

Romney Occupation, photos by Mauro Heck

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/monashaw/sets/72157603610860184/>

Read the following relevant news stores below.

<http://www.atlanticfreepress.com/content/view/3169/81/>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uselections08/story/0,,2234538,00.html>