

Christian Peacemaker Tom Fox remembered *Fellow activists freed Thursday morning*

Tori Moffitt

Senior Writer

Tom Fox, a peace activist and member of the Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT), was found March 10 near a railway line in Dawoudi, a mixed Sunni-Shiite area in Iraq. He had been killed by the terrorist group "The Swords of Righteousness Brigade," being held captive since Nov. 26, 2005.

Three other members were taken hostage with Fox, and the terrorists said that the remaining activists would be executed if Iraqi prisoners were not released from U.S. and Iraqi prisons.

After hearing of Fox's abduction, his daughter, Guilford alumna Katherine Fox, said on ABC's Nightline that she wanted to remind the terrorists that her father opposed the U.S. occupation of Iraq and had campaigned against it. She went on to say, "the work that he is there to do is the same work that they would like to see done."

Before Fox went to Iraq he signed a CPT "statement of conviction." It said, "We, members of CPT in Iraq, are aware of the many risks both Iraqis and Internationals currently face. However, we are convinced at this time that the risks, while significant, do not outweigh our purpose

in remaining."

Max Carter, Campus Ministry Coordinator, was acquainted with Fox through Guilford and the National Quaker Youth Conference.

"People are certainly confused or unsettled by the reality of so gentle and loving a person as Tom not apparently being able to 'answer that of God' in his captors,"

Carter said.

Carter spoke about the panel discussion held on March 15 in Founders hall to address any questions students had about Fox's death. He said that "the atmosphere was one of hushed listening and taking in different perspectives as means of helping address each person's internal questions."

While in Iraq, Fox protested for the Iraqi

people and attempted to bring them peace and justice.

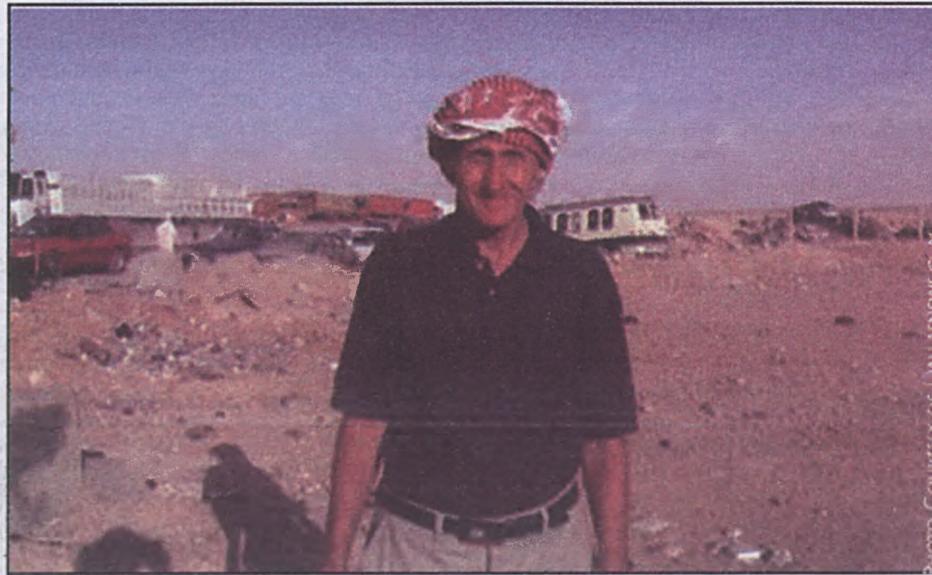
He had also demonstrated in the West Bank town of Jayyus against Israel's construction of a separation barrier with the Palestinians.

"Tom used to sit in front of the (Israeli) bulldozers to block them," said Mayor Shawka Shamha in the Washington Post. "Hearing news that he was killed makes me very sad."

Fox worked with the families of Iraqi prisoners and was usually the only link between them and their incarcerated loved ones. His US ties allowed him to escort shipments of medicine to clinics and hospitals, and he was able to form the Islamic Peacemaker Team.

While in Iraq, Fox posted to a blog on Electronic Iraq entitled "Waiting in the Light" where he was able to reflect on his experiences. In some of these excerpts, which can be found on the CPT Web site, he speaks about his personal struggles with "doing good work and staying sane in the face of suffering." He also speaks about the kidnapping and murder of fellow aid worker Margaret Hassan in October 2004.

After Hassan's death, Fox's team in



Tom Fox's body was discovered nearly four months after his abduction

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Guilford students protest third anniversary of Iraq war

Josh Cohen

Staff Writer

On March 19, a group of Guilford students organized by senior Kyle Brebner took a trip to Fayetteville, NC to take part in the annual anti-war rally sponsored by the NC Peace and Justice Coalition. Will Johnson, senior and president of the Amnesty International Club, was one of those students. In the following interview he talks about his experience at the protest, dealing with counter-demonstrators, and his hopes for the protest's future.

What was this event about?

This was a march and rally to mark the third anniversary of the U.S. war in Iraq.

Who attended?

Seven Guilford students and a number of Guilford Alumni were there. As far as speakers go, there was a woman from Iraq, a former

CIA analyst; several military families and parents spoke out against the war. Chuck Fager, who runs the Quaker House in Fayetteville, a group that provides information to military people who want to get out of the military for moral and ethical reasons, spoke about Tom Fox.

I heard there was an anti-war protest going on at the same time. What was that about?

I've been to this event three years now. Every year there is a counter-demonstration. It's run by a group called "The New Republicans." It's mostly people that support the war and George Bush's policies. I believe that the anti-war protesters are very supportive of the troops. The anti-war protesters do not seem to get this. They think that because we're against the war we're undermining the troops that are fighting.

Is it true that they were

yelling profanity and racial slurs?

I didn't hear anything like that. The only thing I saw was that while our speakers spoke, the counter-demonstrators tried to drown them out with loudspeakers. This was particularly obvious during the Iraqi woman's speech - the counter demonstrators were very loud. Other than that I just tried to ignore the counter-demonstrators. I wasn't trying to rile them up and I didn't let them get me riled up.

Were there any altercations with the police?

There was a very significant police presence at the rally. There were checkpoints at the end of the march. These checkpoints were at designated entrances to the park where the rally was being held. People's bags were searched through before they were allowed into the rally. Some people were upset with the heavy

police presence and the searches, but it didn't pose much of a problem.

Was the protest successful?

I feel like it was successful in various ways. We know that the rally isn't going to have an immediate impact on our government's policies, but it had other positive affects. The protest serves as a good place for networking. It brings together important groups from different communities. Overall the protest is an important reminder that we have not forgotten that the war is going on.

Is there anything you'd like to see change at future rallies?

I feel like overall it has been a very positive experience. The organizers do a good job bringing in a diverse group of speakers; they are of mixed backgrounds, genders and races so there are many perspectives available. One improvement this year was that

the organizers had people sit at the rally according to their geographic locale. We sat with other people from the Triad region, which helped me meet other activists from the area.

Are there any more upcoming events?

First, I'd like to thank Kyle Brebner for organizing the trip down to Fayetteville. The Amnesty International club is organizing the "Student Week of Action," which will happen from April 3-10. April 10 is the main event. Scott Langley, who works for Amnesty International North Carolina, will present a photo documentary on the death penalty.

The NC Peace and Justice Coalition is holding its founding convention about a month from now at New Garden Friends Meeting house. More information is available at www.ncpeacejustice.org. ☸