

A PETITION TO CHAPEL HILL TOWN COUNCIL

On Dec. 15 we were arrested, taken to jail and fingerprinted for standing in front of the Army recruiting office holding small signs saying "Keep your hands off our grandchildren. No recruiting." This happened in Chapel Hill.

There is always tension between freedom of speech and authority. Since 9/11 there have been unprecedented attacks on our Bill of Rights, including freedom of assembly and right to protest. The tension has been compounded by an unpopular war sold to Congress and the American people by lies.

In Chapel Hill, we see a new repression of dissent spreading to the Chapel Hill police. Before the arrest, we were standing quietly with our signs. We were not blocking access to the ceremony. We were not creating a disturbance. We ask that town council consider clear guidelines for the use of the power of arrest in keeping with the Bill of Rights and the freedom of speech.

Barry and Janie Freeman,
Chapel Hill 918-3421. Feb. 26, 07