

What Coalition?

The US and Britain cannot find “the willing” to lead

The State Department has claimed that in the war on Iraq the US leads a coalition of 45 other nations.¹ This is a transparent sham:

- 15 of that 45 were **unwilling to be named**.
- 21 of the rest were sending **NO troops**. This includes Spain!
- 7 were sending token numbers (**less than 300** at most).

That leaves Australia (2,000 troops), the UK (45,000) and the US (315,000). That’s not a coalition, it’s a small gang.

Among the 15 unnamed must have been Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Djibouti where US forces are based. **None of them would sign on in public**. Kuwait eventually came on board, but Israel was still not on the list three days later, when the White House claimed 46 public allies (see below).

Also absent were NATO allies Canada, Belgium, and Norway (not just France and Germany) as well as such Central and South American countries as Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico. Not to mention China, Russia, India and Pakistan, just for a start.

The original list of those willing to be named, annotated:

Country	Troops	Comment
Afghanistan		Bush failed to request any rebuilding money in the budget. ²
Albania	70	for noncombatant roles only
Australia	2,000	76% oppose joining a US-led attack without UN approval. ³
Azerbaijan		positioning itself for resolution of South Caucasus conflicts
Bulgaria	few	for noncombatant roles only ⁵
Colombia		major US-financed drug war in progress
Czech Rep.	few	“a chemical-biological warfare support unit” ⁴
Denmark	few	a submarine (for the desert?) and a small destroyer. ⁵
El Salvador		On which side is their bread buttered?
Eritrea		seeking US support in a dispute with Ethiopia (q.v.) ⁴
Estonia		“seeking US financial or military support” ⁴
Ethiopia		seeking US support in a dispute with Eritrea (q.v.) ⁴

continued overleaf

STOP THIS WAR

What Coalition?

The US and Britain cannot find “the willing” to lead

The State Department has claimed that in the war on Iraq the US leads a coalition of 45 other nations.¹ This is a transparent sham:

- 15 of that 45 were **unwilling to be named**.
- 21 of the rest were sending **NO troops**. This includes Spain!
- 7 were sending token numbers (**less than 300** at most).

That leaves Australia (2,000 troops), the UK (45,000) and the US (315,000). That’s not a coalition, it’s a small gang.

Among the 15 unnamed must have been Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Djibouti where US forces are based. **None of them would sign on in public**. Kuwait eventually came on board, but Israel was still not on the list three days later, when the White House claimed 46 public allies (see below).

Also absent were NATO allies Canada, Belgium, and Norway (not just France and Germany) as well as such Central and South American countries as Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico. Not to mention China, Russia, India and Pakistan, just for a start.

The original list of those willing to be named, annotated:

Country	Troops	Comment
Afghanistan		Bush failed to request any rebuilding money in the budget. ²
Albania	70	for noncombatant roles only
Australia	2,000	76% oppose joining a US-led attack without UN approval. ³
Azerbaijan		positioning itself for resolution of South Caucasus conflicts
Bulgaria	few	for noncombatant roles only ⁵
Colombia		major US-financed drug war in progress
Czech Rep.	few	“a chemical-biological warfare support unit” ⁴
Denmark	few	a submarine (for the desert?) and a small destroyer. ⁵
El Salvador		On which side is their bread buttered?
Eritrea		seeking US support in a dispute with Ethiopia (q.v.) ⁴
Estonia		“seeking US financial or military support” ⁴
Ethiopia		seeking US support in a dispute with Eritrea (q.v.) ⁴

continued overleaf

STOP THIS WAR

Country	Troops	Comment
Georgia		“already involved in the war on terrorism” ⁴
Hungary		“allowed Iraqi opposition to train on its territory” ⁵
Italy		“Only 34% view the US positively, compared to 70% in 2002.” ⁴
Japan		“restricting support to post-Saddam reconstruction” ⁶
Latvia		“seeking US financial or military support” ⁴
Lithuania		“seeking US financial or military support” ⁴
Macedonia		wants US support in the Balkans
Netherlands		Anti-missile batteries to Turkey. ⁵ 89% of the people against action without UN approval; 72% against even with it ⁷
Nicaragua		wouldn't want their harbor mined again
Philippines		“already involved in the war on terrorism” ⁴
Poland	200	Noncombatants. ⁵ Support for US down from 80% to 50%. ⁴
Romania	278	“non-combat experts in demining and in chemical and biological decontamination, and military police” ⁶
Slovakia	few	Noncombatants only. ⁵ 75% against war without UN backing ⁸
South Korea		postwar reconstruction only; ⁵ a little busy with the North
Spain		“Spain will not participate in any attack or offensive missions.” ¹ Only 14% “have a favourable image” of the US. ⁴
Turkey		The Parliament turned down a huge (up to \$26 bn) bribe to let US troops in but is allowing overflights.
UK	45,000	Blurred vision ⁴
US	315,000	130,000 in Kuwait by the start of war, 95,000 in Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, etc, and 90,000 on their way ⁹
Uzbekistan		“a major beneficiary of U.S. assistance” ¹⁰

The later additions are an equally motley crew:

Costa Rica	Kuwait	Palau	Singapore
Dominican Rep.	Marshall Islands	Panama	Solomon Islands
Honduras	Micronesia	Portugal	Uganda
Iceland	Mongolia	Rwanda	

Angola was added to the list one day but dropped on the next; the White House would not comment.¹¹ The official list claims to represent 1.17 bn people and 46 states; world population is 6.36 bn and the UN has 191 members.¹²

Sources: ¹AP 3/18/03 ²BBC 2/13/03 ³The Australian 2/4/03 ⁴BBC 03/18/03 ⁵London Times 3/20/03 ⁶Guardian 3/19/03 ⁷AFP 1/27/03 ⁸Sydney Morning Herald 1/30/03 ⁹New York Times 3/16/03 ¹⁰Washington Post 12/04/02 ¹¹AFP 3/21/03 ¹²whitehouse.gov, world-gazetteer.com, un.org

For more info, see <http://www.mbeaw.org> and links there. For Bay Area organizations and activities, <http://bapd.org>. In Santa Cruz, <http://www.rcnv.org>.

This flyer revised 3/23/03 by Pete Shanks, fly@wordsontheweb.com. Volunteer labor.

STOP THIS WAR

Country	Troops	Comment
Georgia		“already involved in the war on terrorism” ⁴
Hungary		“allowed Iraqi opposition to train on its territory” ⁵
Italy		“Only 34% view the US positively, compared to 70% in 2002.” ⁴
Japan		“restricting support to post-Saddam reconstruction” ⁶
Latvia		“seeking US financial or military support” ⁴
Lithuania		“seeking US financial or military support” ⁴
Macedonia		wants US support in the Balkans
Netherlands		Anti-missile batteries to Turkey. ⁵ 89% of the people against action without UN approval; 72% against even with it ⁷
Nicaragua		wouldn't want their harbor mined again
Philippines		“already involved in the war on terrorism” ⁴
Poland	200	Noncombatants. ⁵ Support for US down from 80% to 50%. ⁴
Romania	278	“non-combat experts in demining and in chemical and biological decontamination, and military police” ⁶
Slovakia	few	Noncombatants only. ⁵ 75% against war without UN backing ⁸
South Korea		postwar reconstruction only; ⁵ a little busy with the North
Spain		“Spain will not participate in any attack or offensive missions.” ¹ Only 14% “have a favourable image” of the US. ⁴
Turkey		The Parliament turned down a huge (up to \$26 bn) bribe to let US troops in but is allowing overflights.
UK	45,000	Blurred vision ⁴
US	315,000	130,000 in Kuwait by the start of war, 95,000 in Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, etc, and 90,000 on their way ⁹
Uzbekistan		“a major beneficiary of U.S. assistance” ¹⁰

The later additions are an equally motley crew:

Costa Rica	Kuwait	Palau	Singapore
Dominican Rep.	Marshall Islands	Panama	Solomon Islands
Honduras	Micronesia	Portugal	Uganda
Iceland	Mongolia	Rwanda	

Angola was added to the list one day but dropped on the next; the White House would not comment.¹¹ The official list claims to represent 1.17 bn people and 46 states; world population is 6.36 bn and the UN has 191 members.¹²

Sources: ¹AP 3/18/03 ²BBC 2/13/03 ³The Australian 2/4/03 ⁴BBC 03/18/03 ⁵London Times 3/20/03 ⁶Guardian 3/19/03 ⁷AFP 1/27/03 ⁸Sydney Morning Herald 1/30/03 ⁹New York Times 3/16/03 ¹⁰Washington Post 12/04/02 ¹¹AFP 3/21/03 ¹²whitehouse.gov, world-gazetteer.com, un.org

For more info, see <http://www.mbeaw.org> and links there. For Bay Area organizations and activities, <http://bapd.org>. In Santa Cruz, <http://www.rcnv.org>.

This flyer revised 3/23/03 by Pete Shanks, fly@wordsontheweb.com. Volunteer labor.

STOP THIS WAR