FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, December 11, 2009

CONTACT
Laurie Dobson  207 604-8988
contact@enduswars.org

Available for interview: Speakers at the Dec. 12 rally in DC against President Obama’s troop escalation plan

- List includes Dennis Kucinich, Cynthia McKinney, Ralph Nader, Mike Gravel, Chris Hedges, many others

WASHINGTON, DC – The December 12 anti-escalation rally in Lafayette Park across from the White House will feature a list of prominent speakers, many of them available for interview before and after the event.

Among the confirmed speakers are several military veterans, Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio), Cynthia McKinney (2008 Green presidential nominee, former Georgia Rep.), Ralph Nader, former Sen. Mike Gravel (D-Alaska), Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Chris Hedges, and Rev. Graylan Hagler.

Reporters are invited to cover the rally, which takes place 11 am to 4 pm on Saturday, December 12 in Lafayette Park, Washington, DC. The rally, titled “No You Can’t!”, has been organized by the End US Wars coalition (http://www.enduswars.org). The rally will challenge President Obama’s plans for more than 30,000 new US troops to be sent to Afghanistan, which he formally announced in a televised address on Tuesday, December 1.

Many of the speakers in the list below are available for broadcast, print, and online interview. (Organizations are mentioned for affiliation purposes.) To contact one or more speakers, call Laurie Dobson at 207 604-8988.

Scheduled Speakers for the Dec. 12 rally (http://www.enduswars.org/guide)

- **Dennis Kucinich**  US Representative (D-Ohio) and former presidential candidate, http://www.kucinich.house.gov
- **Cynthia McKinney**  2008 Green Party candidate for President, former six-term Democratic Congress woman from Georgia, http://dignity.ning.com
- **Kathy Kelly**  Center for Creative Nonviolence, thrice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, founding member of Voices in the Wilderness, http://vitw.org http://users.erols.com/ccnv
- **Chris Hedges**  Pulitzer Prize winning author & journalist, most recent book *Empire of Illusion: The End of Literacy and the Triumph of Spectacle*
- **David Swanson**  AfterDowningStreet.org, author of *Daybreak: Undoing the Imperial Presidency and Forming a More Perfect Union*, http://www.afterdowningstreet.org
- **Gael Murphy**  CODEPINK, http://www.codepink4peace.org
- **Coy McKinney**  peace activist, http://www.everythingology.com
Laurie Dobson, who will moderate the program, is a long-time peace activist, writer, land planner, community organizer and a 2008 independent candidate in Maine for the U.S. Senate. Music will be provided by Jordan Page, Head-Roc, Emma’s Revolution, and Precise Science.

Along with the rally on December 12, a social event featuring some of the speakers will take place Friday, December 11, from 8 to 10 pm at Busboys & Poets, 14th and V Streets NW in Washington, DC. The film “Rethink Afghanistan” will be screened.

For updates on the rally, visit the End US Wars web site (http://www.enduswars.org).

— End —