

# Defend counter-recruitment student activists in New York City

CCNY DEFENSE CAMPAIGN



Nick Bergreen, Hadas Thier, and Justino Rodriguez

SIGNATORIES TO THE LETTER INCLUDE:\*

## CHRIS HARRISON

CCNY undergrad, member of Iraq Veterans Against the War, co-founder of Peace Out

## HOWARD ZINN

Author of *A People's History of the U.S.*

## MIKE DAVIS

Author of *Planet of Slums* and *City of Quartz*

## TARIQ ALI

Antiwar activist and author of *Bush in Babylon*

## CHARLES BARRON

New York City council member and chair of the council's Higher Education Committee

\*organizations listed for id purposes only

IVAW member Chris Harrison speaks at a New York press conference to defend the CCNY students, March 10



Mail signed letters to CCNY Defense Campaign, c/o Hadas Thier, 140 Bradhurst Ave, #1k, NY, NY 10039. For more information, email [cityfreespeech@earthlink.net](mailto:cityfreespeech@earthlink.net).

Three students at City College of New York (CCNY) were arrested and brutalized Wednesday, March 9, for peacefully protesting the presence of military recruiters at City College's "career fair."

They were charged with misdemeanor counts of assaulting an officer, resisting arrest, and disturbing the peace, among other things. Nick Bergreen and Justino Rodriguez suffered injuries at the hands of police. Their court date is set for April 5.

To add insult to injury, CCNY suspended all three students, and then two days later, Carol Lang, a CCNY staff member, was arrested in connection with the protest, also charged with assault, and suspended for 30 days without pay.

Across the U.S., college and high school students are challenging the presence of military recruiters on their campuses with the message that they won't be cannon fodder in the U.S. war on Iraq.

"Recruiters are targeting a community that they feel is desperate enough to enlist as a 'job opportunity' at the same time that our school is raising tuition and slashing financial aid packages," said Thier.

It's outrageous that the U.S. is fighting a war in Iraq in the name of "democracy" while CCNY is denying students their basic right to free speech and assembly on its campus.

Please add your name to the letter of protest below to stand up for the right of students to exercise their basic right to protest.

## Dear CCNY President Gregory Williams,

We, the undersigned, are outraged that freedom of speech for faculty, staff, and students of the City College of New York was so blatantly attacked in early March.

We were dismayed to learn that three students were attacked and arrested by campus security guards for exercising their constitutionally protected right to assemble and to protest.

We were further outraged to learn that you swiftly moved — without evidence, due process, or a discussion with the arrested students — to suspend the students and to arrest another protester after the fact. This guilty-until-proven-innocent approach sends a chilling message: security forces have free reign on campus.

We demand that you defend the CCNY students and staff member, drop all disciplinary proceedings against those involved in the protest, and launch an investigation into the actions of campus security.

## Signed,

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title/position/rank \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email/phone \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_