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Thousands Worldwide Demand Troops Pull Out of Iraq

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By Grant McCool

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Thousands of antiwar protesters poured into streets around the globe on Saturday's anniversary of the Iraq war to demand the withdrawal of U.S.-led troops.

From Sydney to Tokyo, Madrid, London, New York and San Francisco, protesters condemned U.S. policy in Iraq and said they did not believe Iraqis are better off or the world safer because of the war.

Journalists estimated that at least a million people streamed through Rome, in probably the biggest single protest.

In London, two anti-war protesters evaded security to climb the landmark Big Ben clock tower at the Houses of Parliament, unfurling a banner reading "Time for Truth."

About 25,000 demonstrators streamed through central London, many carrying "Wanted" posters bearing the faces of Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair, his main war ally.

In most places, the demonstrators numbered tens of thousands, compared with hundreds of thousands who marched in big cities in Feb. 15, 2003, to try and prevent the conflict.

In New York, scene of the Sept. 11, 2001, hijacked plane strikes by Islamic militants, tens of thousands voiced opposition to President Bush, who is running for reelection in November.

"Hey Hey, Ho Ho, George Bush has got to go," marchers chanted at a Manhattan rally organized by the United For Peace and Justice coalition of left-leaning groups.

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"The thing they all object to is Bush," said demonstrator, Reeves Hamilton, 30. "It doesn't make sense to bomb countries that have nothing to do with Sept. 11."

He said he supported troops going into Afghanistan to fight al Qaeda militants responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks, but not the invasion of Iraq, which Bush ordered to rid the country of its purported weapons of mass destruction. [Continued ...](#)

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