



*Camilo  
Mejia*

**“BY PUTTING MY WEAPON DOWN I CHOSE TO REASSERT MYSELF AS A HUMAN BEING.”**

In 2003, after spending six months in Iraq and Jordan, Camilo Mejia became the first U.S. combat veteran to publicly refuse to deploy back to Iraq. In March 2004 he turned himself in and applied for conscientious objection. Mejia was convicted of desertion by the U.S. Military and sentenced to a year in prison. Since his release in February of 2005, he has devoted his time to speaking out against the war in Iraq.