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## **17 Arrested Seeking End to Iraq War**

Rush-hour rally in Financial District spotlights torture

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Seventeen anti-war demonstrators were arrested during a rush-hour protest Monday in San Francisco's Financial District to commemorate the third anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq and to call for an end to U.S.-sponsored torture.

More than 100 demonstrators attended the peaceful rally at the corner of Market and Montgomery streets, several holding yard-long photos of detainees tortured by U.S. soldiers at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, while others toted red placards shaped like stop signs that read, "Stop the Torture" and "Stop the War."

The demonstration was sponsored by a new anti-war organization, Act Against Torture, many of whose members organized the civil disobedience actions that shut down the Financial District the day after the U.S. invasion in 2003 and led to more than 1,000 arrests.

Under a light drizzle Monday morning, many of those same demonstrators and some new ones expressed frustration that years of marches, political lobbying and other activism have done little to curtail the U.S. involvement in Iraq. Monday's demonstration took place near the San Francisco office of Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., as protesters called for her to lead the charge to shut down Abu Ghraib and the U.S.-operated prison in Guantanamo Bay.

"The war in Iraq has created this system that depends on violence and brutality to maintain control," said Sasha Wright, an organizer with Act Against Torture. "So while the U.S. talks about spreading democracy, it is actually suppressing dissent around the world."

More than a dozen demonstrators, some dressed in orange prison jumpsuits and others chained to each other, moved into the intersection shortly after 8 a.m. A couple of demonstrators stewed inside a replica of a jail cell.

Within minutes, more than three dozen San Francisco police officers dressed in riot gear began arresting 17 demonstrators for blocking an intersection and failing to obey a police officer, said police spokesman Sgt. Neville Gittens. Traffic returned to normal within 45 minutes.

Demonstrators watching from the sidewalk said the protest showed that many are frustrated that the nation's decision-makers have not changed course in Iraq.

"Enough is enough," said Lauren Enteen, a 25-year-old San Francisco community health worker. "I don't feel that our government represents our views. People need to know this is where our tax dollars are going."

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