

Onslaught of war brings protests to nation's streets

Bombs raining on Baghdad drew thousands of protesters to streets in scores of U.S. cities. Some came in anger, some in sadness. Some burned the flag, some clung to candles in prayer.

Two of the largest and most unruly demonstrations came in San Francisco and New York, where crowds estimated at about 5,000 each lighted bonfires, marched, chanted and carried protest signs with messages like "War Gives Us Gas Pains."

In New York, demonstrators rallied outside the United Nations and marched to Times Square. Some clashed with police, leading to a several arrests.

"I came out to join this because it is so sad," said Salah Saidi, 30, of Yemen, a Manhattan store clerk. "Not only for me and my family but for all of us."

Early today, a car slammed into a group of New York protesters on the Brooklyn Bridge, injuring at least seven people, two critically, said police spokeswoman Sgt. Tina Mohrmann. Witnesses said one person fell over the side of the bridge and landed in a construction site.

"Peace, not violence," the San Francisco protesters shouted at a few rowdy demonstrators in their midst who set a highway patrol car ablaze, causing it to explode. The San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge was closed briefly for the third day by masses of activists who blocked the way.

Seventeen-year-old Ryan Calwell of Seattle was one of those who set fire to an American flag in San Francisco. "Right now, the flag symbolizes the government, not the people," he said.

In Washington, across from the White House, hundreds of protesters gathered. A sign read: "Don't Bag Our Boys."

Honolulu police arrested about 15 people after about 150 flag-burning protesters blocked a downtown roadway during afternoon rush hour. Some wrestled with police after ar-

ests began. Similar protests were staged in such cities as Boston, St. Louis, Chicago, Nashville, Tenn., Indianapolis. In Portland, Ore., several thousand marched.

At the Federal Building in Providence, R.I., an effigy of Bush was burned inside a 55-gallon oil drum to protest what many call the motive behind

U.S. intervention in the petroleum-rich Gulf.

"Burn the guns, not the people," about 150 protesters chanted while throwing cardboard cutouts of machine guns onto the flames.

Bush also was burned in effigy in Austin, Texas, where a dummy labeled "Rambo Bush" was torched before a crowd of more than 1,000.

"I think we've got to give them hell," shouted Jason Hoffman to about 150 protesters at a Federal Building vigil in Des Moines, Iowa.

In Philadelphia, 200 people demonstrated at the Liberty Bell.

"We don't want to bring our country out of a recession by sacrificing of our young peo-

ple," said Lance Haver, 35, of Philadelphia.

Peace protesters turned up in small towns as well. In Donaldsville, La., 500 gathered at a candlelight vigil to lament the outbreak of war.

"Everybody was upset. We have some families with two children over there," said Connie Landry of Donaldsville. "We started off with a prayer."

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