The Daily Collegian
New England's Largest College Daily online

Iraq vet speaks out

Former soldier discusses desertion

Matt Rocheleau, Collegian Staff

Issue date: 11/7/08 **Section:** News

After the talks, Mejía signed copies of his memoir, "Road from ar Ramadi: the Private Rebellion of Staff Sergeant Camilo," which he has been promoting on his national "Resisting Empire" tour.

"I would find myself riding in the back of a truck through the dusty streets of war-torn ar Ramadi," said a passage from the memoir. "I was supposed to be giving all my attention to watching out for the insurgents...But then I would catch sight of the children running to the front gates of their homes to watch our vehicles rolling by and they would remind me of the children I had seen back in Nicaragua." Mejía lived in Nicaragua before moving to the U.S. with his family in 1991.

Zurima Cisneros, a junior sociology major at UMass, bought a copy of Mejía's book.

"I thought it was very inspirational," she said. "It's really significant for people to be hearing about what it means to speak independently and conscientiously. It takes a lot of power from within."

Greenfield resident Beth Adams agreed.

"I admire his courage and conviction to walk this risky life of non-violence," Adams said.

Mejía serves as the board chair of Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW), who aim to give a voice to active duty service people and veterans who are against the War on Terror, but feel pressured to stay silent.

The event featured introductions by IVAW member Mike VanValkenburg and UMass history professor and author Christian Appy.

More information on Mejía's tour, sponsored nationally by Haymarket Books, Center for Economic Research and Social Change, Iraq Veterans Against the War, Alternet.org and Nation Books is available at Resistingempire.org.

Matt Rocheleau can be reached at mrochele@student.umass.edu.

POLL

What kind of dog should president-elect Barack Obama get for his family?

- Bichon Frise
- Chinese Crested
- Miniature Schnauzer
- Poodle
- Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier

Submit Vote
View Results

24 Hour News

Article Tools

Share: Facebook Blogger del.icio.us digg newsvine
Subscribe: My Yahoo! Google

The Massachusetts Daily Collegian has an 'open door' policy with regards to reader comments. In the interest of facilitating an open discourse, comments are not screened or edited for spelling, mechanics or content. Comments on our website cannot be verified by The Collegian and in no way represent the opinions of The Massachusetts Daily Collegian or its staff.

Be the first to comment on this story

Name: (required)
Email: (required)
NOTE: Email address will not be published

Website:

Notify me of followup comments via e-mail

Type your comment below (html not allowed)

I am not posting spam. I understand posting spam or other comments that are unrelated to this article will cause my comment to be flagged for deletion and possibly cause my IP address to be permanently banned from this server.

Post

News

Atwood captivates the FAC
Experts predict snowy winter
Iraq vet speaks out
Teach for America recruits grads-to-be for employment

Arts & Living

Shakespeare troupe to play UMass
'Zach & Miri' make a so-so
American Ale to yield tart results

Editorial / Opinion

Bigotry preventing change
Feeding the hungry with a meal plan
Speech deja vu
Gay marriage: a divorce between church and state

Sports

Men's Soccer: Minutemen reach for tourney
Men's Soccer: DeNormandie comes up big
Two guys, one column
Field Hockey: Orlando earns Atlantic 10 POY
Women's Basketball: Minutewomen to host Bishop's University
Swimming & Diving: UMass goes for third-straight sweep

Features

Merry-go-round reminder of years past

Multimedia

SLIDESHOW: Election at UMass

National College Advertising and Marketing | Privacy Policy (8/15/07) | Terms of Use (4/28/08)
Content Submission Agreement (8/23/07) | Copyright Compliance Policy (8/25/07) | RSS Terms of Use

© **The Daily Collegian**

Powered by **College Publisher**

College Publisher powered by and NETWORKS