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**S.A. marchers join worldwide protests  
Hundreds parade through downtown to Milam Park**

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Joining millions around the globe who oppose a U.S.-led **war** against **Iraq**, more than 1,000 people turned out Saturday to **march** through downtown San Antonio and protest an action they call unnecessary and indefensible.

"No one can claim that killing thousands of people is anything less than evil, whether in New York or Baghdad," said Charlie Jackson of Texans for Peace. "(President Bush) is the commander-in-chief of the military, but you and I are free citizens and we are not required to follow him wherever he should go."

The **march** began at HemisFair Park and wound along Alamo Street to Crockett, ending at Milam Park.

Many marchers held signs that blasted the Bush administration and proclaimed peace as the ultimate goal.

Children in strollers and dogs on leashes joined the crowd, which included people of many ages, cultures and races.

They joined world citizens in Rome, London, Barcelona, Kiev, Seoul, Canberra and other cities who say there isn't enough evidence to pursue **war**.

"The administration's argument for **war** is extremely weak, but Bush has gotten himself into a corner and now he has to go to **war**," said Gloria Flores, who has a son and a daughter in the Marines.

Along the route, some people in cars honked in support while others yelled negative comments or simply shook their heads at the demonstrators. Many bystanders appeared to support Bush and his push for **war** against **Iraq**.

"I think the biggest mistake would be to not do anything at all," said a hot dog vendor who declined to give his name. "Are we going to wait for another 9-11?"

One of his customers, John Jones, said he respects the right of the **war** protesters to **march** through town, but added that they have a strong military to thank for it.

"The only reason they have a right to do that is because good Americans went over there and died for that right," Jones said. "That they're marching shows they care nothing for their government."

Some uniformed Air Force personnel who declined to give their names expressed disdain for the marchers and said they will continue to fight for freedom despite the marchers' ingratitude.

But protesters were quick to point out that they condemn the administration, not the military.

Susan Ives, a former Army officer who fought during the Gulf **War**, said the armed forces are as much a victim of the Bush administration's policies as civilians.

"My brothers and my sisters in the military, I salute you, but with every ounce of

breath I have, I will do everything I can to stop this **war**."

Nicole Betters, of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, said Muslims and Arabs unite with the rest of the world in denouncing what could be a very costly **war** for the American public.

"Our commander-in-chief would never send his own children to do this work," Betters said. "And he'd never go himself."

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