

MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS | April 18, 2012 | 1 COMMENT

Treason or truth? Documentary goes behind the scenes in Baghdad



While American soldiers patrolled Baghdad, a New Paltz, N.Y. mom was chronicling the scene up-close. Photo credit: U.S. Army



Video: [Bordering on Treason trailer](#)

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On her first journey to Iraq in 2003, photojournalist [Lorna Tychostup](http://lornatychostup.com/) (<http://lornatychostup.com/>) was part of a three-person delegation. War was quaking in the air, and she and two other Hudson Valley activists, feeling that the case being made for that war was in need of a reality check, boarded a flight to Baghdad calling themselves the Hudson Valley Peace Brigade.

"What if your wife or your mother told you that she was headed to Iraq for two weeks?" a scathing Sean Hannity asked his viewers, accusing the women of "left-wing propaganda." Hannity's condescension would pale in comparison to another Fox reporter accusing her of villainy "bordering on treason."

"I'm going to Iraq to see the people," Tychostup told Hannity, and see the people she did, taking taxis everywhere, embedding herself among ordinary people from all walks of life on multiple extended stays. Her reporting in [Chronogram magazine](http://www.chronogram.com) (<http://www.chronogram.com>), where she served as senior editor, would eventually give the lie to Hannity's characterization of her motives: she was fired by liberal radio station WBAI after reporting that some Iraqis actually liked President Bush.

Along the way, Tychostup earned her MS from New York University's School for Global Affairs; her photography and presentations have gained national and international exposure. Award-winning filmmaker [Trish Dalton](http://www.trishdalton.com) (<http://www.trishdalton.com>) has been inspired by Tychostup's work to create [Bordering On Treason](http://borderingontreason.com/) (<http://borderingontreason.com/>), a documentary work partially funded by the New York State Council for the Arts.

"I became heavily, personally invested in the film. I became intimately involved in Lorna's life and developed an affinity with her," says Dalton of Tychostup, whose story she filmed "from invasion to withdrawal. She inspired me to keep looking at the war and at her. I realized that in order to

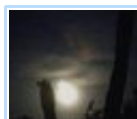
tell her story, I had to wait patiently and allow it to take shape over time."

The film, which juxtaposes real-time footage of Tychostup among the Iraqis with mainstream news coverage, is in the rough cut stage; Dalton has created an [Indiegogo campaign](http://www.indiegogo.com/Bordering-on-Treason?c=home), (<http://www.indiegogo.com/Bordering-on-Treason?c=home>) ending Saturday, May 5, in hopes of some help with the fine-tuning process with award-winning editor Milton Ginsberg. A well-received preview was screened on March 9, 2012 at "La Luna", a Theatre Under the Stars experience for attendees at [We Move Forward 2012](http://www.wemoveforward2012.com/), (<http://www.wemoveforward2012.com/>) an International Women's Day Conference held on Isla Mujeres, Mexico.



Anne Pyburn Craig, Hudson Valley/Catskills Examiner
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