

# Women Against Military Madness

## Newsletter

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Women Against Military Madness

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### The Wild, Wild West Bank: Settler Violence

by Liza Burr

*As the world focuses on Syria, settlers continue to colonize Palestinian land. Violence against Palestinians is perpetrated as a form of ethnic cleansing while the U.S., Israel's biggest supporter, turns a blind eye.*

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In an article published in the June/July 2013 issue of the *Washington Report on Middle East Affairs*, news editor Delinda Hanley states that “Israeli society as a whole is becoming more racist,” and that “it should come as no surprise that a settler state based on the rule of one ethnic group would be steeped in racist, religiously exclusive public policies.”<sup>1</sup> Hanley’s cogent words summarize the national context for the phenomenon of Israeli settler violence against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank since late 2011.<sup>2</sup> The international context is provided by international law, specifically the Fourth Geneva Convention; the establishment of any and all Israeli settlements (a euphemism for “colonies”) in the West Bank violates Article 49 that forbids an occupying power from moving its own population onto the land it occupies.

The inevitable result is described in a fact sheet issued by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in November 2011: “The root cause of the settler violence phenomenon is Israel’s decades-long policy of illegally facilitating the settling of its citizens inside occupied Palestinian territory.”

Tragically, the trend is toward greater settler violence. Yousef Munayyer of the Palestine Center reported that there had been a “noticeable increase in settler violence” since 2006. The Palestine Center published a paper on Israeli settler violence on February 14, 2012, entitled “When Settlers Attack,” which calculates more than 3,700 violent incidents between 2004 and 2011. Incidents are said to occur on an almost daily basis. According to the UN OCHA, “the number of settler attacks resulting in Palestinian casualties and property damage increased . . . by over 144 percent” from 2009 to 2011. Among violent actions by settlers, it lists “physical assaults, harassment, takeover of and damage to private property, [blocking] access to grazing and agricultural land,” as well as injuring animals and land. Settlers poison wells, send their waste down onto lower-lying Palestinian villages, uproot olive trees, burn fields and structures, and stone children.<sup>3</sup> OCHA warns that “nearly 250,000 Palestinians” located in “80 communities [are] vulnerable to settler violence”; 76,000 of these “are at high risk.”

As part of their strategy, settlers who practice violence toward Palestinians have adopted what they call a “price tag” policy. As explained by the Israeli human rights organization B’Tselem, this policy (implemented “in recent years”) uses the “price tag” label to justify settler aggression by presenting such aggression as retaliation for “actions by Israeli authorities that are perceived [to harm] the settlement enterprise.” In other words, any Israeli government action construed as opposing settlements will exact a price by producing more settler violence. Settler attacks may even

*continued on page 4*



*Palestinians attempt to put out fire in an olive grove near the West Bank village of Burin, near Nablus, 3 June. Palestinian witnesses said settlers from Yitzhar settlement set fire to an olive grove, scorching several acres of trees.*

*Photo: Nedal Eshtayah / APA images*

# WAMM Newsletter

The statements and opinions reflected in this newsletter are the views of the author and not necessarily official positions of WAMM. We encourage a diversity of opinion to represent the range of perspectives that coexist under the banner of WAMM's mission statement.

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Women Against Military Madness is a nonviolent, feminist organization that works in solidarity with others to create a system of social equality, self-determination and justice through education, action and the empowerment of women. WAMM's purpose is to dismantle systems of militarism, economic exploitation and global oppression.

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## PM News Uncovered

by Polly Mann

In October 2012, the WAMM newsletter published an article by Lori Wallach of Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch about a secret trade agreement that, if passed, would have a tremendous impact on the U.S. and other countries and "reach directly into the lives of individuals." The administration is hoping to have it concluded by the end of this year so I think it's time to raise awareness again. But the agreement is so secretive that Congress is still not even allowed negotiation observer status, which, according to Global Trade Watch, "is astounding given that the U.S. Constitution provides Congress [with] exclusive authority over trade policy."<sup>1</sup> Parts of the agreement, have, none the less, been leaked. Even so the corporate media apparently has little interest in probing the implications of the agreement.

However, progressive populist Jim Hightower has been paying attention. A recent issue of his newsletter, *Hightower Lowdown*,<sup>2</sup> contains a 4-page article about The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), proposed by President Obama's trade officials. There is plenty of reason to believe that readers of the WAMM newsletter will oppose the TPP from what he describes. Hightower said we need to spread the word and I've taken the liberty of recapping his recap. So here it is.

The TPP could be compared to NAFTA. Remember NAFTA? It was going to make us all more prosperous. However, thousands of factories closed, thousands of jobs went overseas, Mexican farmers lost out big time and hundreds of towns and cities, including Detroit went down the tube. The following are some of the more salient issues about the newer Transpacific Partnership:

**Food Safety.** Any regulations more stringent than "international standards" could be ruled as "illegal trade barriers" and U.S. standards could be weakened.

**Fracking.** The U.S. Dept. of Energy would lose its authority to regulate exports of natural gas to any TPP nation. Unregulated natural gas with its damaging fracking process could be exported to member nations without environmental and economic impact review.

**Jobs.** U.S. corporations could move jobs from the U.S. to low-wage nations.

**Drug Prices.** The big pharmaceutical companies would be given more years of monopoly pricing on their patents and would be able to block distribution of cheaper generic drugs.

**Banksters.** TPP would prohibit transaction

taxes (such as the proposed Robin Hood tax) and would restrict "firewall" reforms that separate consumer banking from risky investment banking; this would roll back reforms adopted to fix extreme bank-deregulation that caused Wall Street's 2007 crash and it would provide an escape from national rules limiting the size of "too-big-to-fall" behemoths.

**Internet Freedom.** Corporate-created content would be given copyright protection for 120 years! It would also provide a police force to monitor "user activity" and conceivably cut off access. Consumers could be assessed mandatory fines for non-commercial, small-scale copying.

**A Corporatocracy.** There is no expiration date on the agreement and no provision enabling modification.

**Investor-State Dispute Resolution.** In such a court corporations would be able to sue TPP governments over environmental, health, consumer, zoning, or any other public policies that corporations claim are undermining their TPP rights or their "expected future profits." Cases would be decided behind closed doors by three-person international tribunals of private attorneys who most often would have a strong corporate bias. They would not be accountable to any electorate and their decisions are final and without appeal.

**Icing On the Cake.** Even before TPP is imposed, corporations are demanding \$14 billion for cases brought under free trade agreement. Among those suing governments in investor-state tribunals are:

- Philip Morris attacking Australia's and Uruguay's cigarette labeling policies
- Chevron, for gross toxic contamination in the Ecuadorian Amazon
- Eli Lilly, demanding Canada's patent laws provide its drugs monopoly protection
- several European investments firms, assaulting Egypt's minimum wage laws

**Why Has the U.S. public been kept in the dark about TPP?** Because the corporate and political powers have hoped to keep the issue private. TPP negotiations began in 2008 by the second George Bush. Obama's top trade representative, Rob Kirk, stated that secrecy was necessary because the deal's details would "outrage Americans and spook Congress

continued on page 3



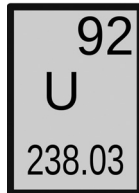
# Bad Chemistry: the U.S. and Weapons

An open letter to Mr. Kerry

September 3, 2013

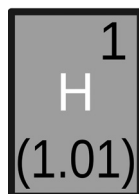
Dear Mr. Kerry:

Just heard you saying that “we cannot be spectators to slaughter.” Indeed very ironic that the U.S. was a spectator when white phosphorus was used by Israel against the Palestinians in Gaza during Operation Cast Lead at the end of December 2008. Furthermore, the U.S. used white phosphorus during its invasion of Iraq.



“When your house is of glass you do not throw stones at other people’s homes.”

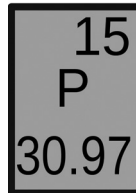
I should think that you out of all people who were so keen to get the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations started so that peace will eventually prevail in the region, will try to deter an attack on Syria and not enflame it. Have not the Syrian people suffered



enough without a further strike when you cannot even guarantee where and how it will end? Have you not had enough losses of your young people in Iraq, Afghanistan?

We urge you to forget about your ego as a world police, and step down with dignity. Britain your great ally could be your model since it has clearly broken the leash of being your poodle.

Wise people and smart politicians learn from their mistakes, so we hope wisdom will prevail so as to avoid another human catastrophe.



—Samia Khoury

*A concerned Palestinian grandmother and retired community volunteer after many years of involvement with the YWCA, Rawdat El-School school and Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Centre in Jerusalem, Samia Khoury continues to serve on the Board of Birzeit University, the first Palestinian University in the Palestinian Territories.*

## News Uncovered, continued from page 2

from rubber stamping it.” U.S. Rep. Alan Grayson, who has been a vocal transparency advocate, says that it was kept secret because “it puts corporate interests ahead of American interests.” In 2010 all nations involved signed a formal pledge to keep details of the deliberations from the public.

Corporations have put a “ton of money” behind TPP’s passage. At the same time there is a grassroots movement and knowledgeable organizations are working against passage. Public Citizen’s Global Trade Watch has been taking a lead. Some pundits contend TPP is so convoluted that the average person can’t understand it. However, Hightower points out that populist forces now opposing TPP have won many such brawls in the past, such as:

- stopping Clinton’s demand for fast track authority in 1998
- sidetracking the Multilateral Agreement on Investment in 1998
- derailing an expansion of the World Trade Organization in 1999
- defeating the Free Trade Area of the Americas (14-nation expansion of NAFA) in 1999
- halting trade deals such as AFTA (Andean countries), NAFTA-style deals with APEC

(Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation), and SACU (Southern African Customs Union), Malaysia and Thailand.

Back in June, Senator Elizabeth Warren voiced her opposition to President Obama’s selection of Michael Froman as the top international trade representative to succeed Rob Kirk because of her concern over the lack of transparency in matters relating to TPP. “I have heard the argument that transparency would undermine the Trade Representative’s policy to complete the trade agreement because public opposition would be significant,” Warren explained. “In other words, if people knew what was going on, they would stop it. This argument is *exactly backwards*. If transparency would lead to widespread public opposition to a trade agreement, then that trade agreement should not be the policy of the United States.”

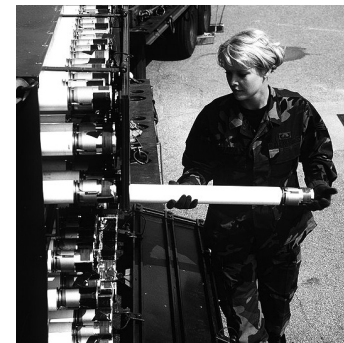
It looks like it’s up to us to start asking questions.

### Endnotes

1 Wallach, Lori and Beachy, Ben. August 5, 2013. “Covert Partnership has huge destructive potential,” Opinion: *Bangkok Post*

2 August 2013, Volume 15, Number 5

*Polly Mann is a co-founder of Women Against Military Madness and a regular contributor and columnist for the WAMM newsletter.*



A U.S. Air Force woman, 51st Maintenance Squad, loads white phosphorous rockets at Osan Air Base, Kyong, Republic of Korea (South Korea) in 1996. The Chemical Weapons Convention was to go into force in 1997.

Photo: U.S. Air Force



Detail from *Psyche*, painting by John William Waterhouse, 1903

### Stop This Fracking Business

Enbridge, the Canadian oil corporation, has a 285-mile tar sands pipeline across northern Minnesota crossing the Mississippi headwaters, and also crossing water flowing north to Hudson Bay and east out the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway. Enbridge requested an increase of 27 percent to 570,000 barrels per day in a pipeline. Most goes for export. Call Washington.

**Looking the Other Way**

And while we're on the subject of war, what happened to those magnificent Palestinian-Israeli negotiations that John Kerry was boasting about? While we express our anguish at the hideous gassings in Syria, the land of Palestine continues to be gobbled up. Israel's Likudist policy – to negotiate for peace until there is no Palestine left – continues apace . . .

—Robert Fisk, *The Independent*, August 30, 2013

**Being Wiped Off the Map?**

The West Bank city of Hebron was known in its heyday as a vibrant hub of Palestinian commerce and trade. Today, however, the city's name invokes images of apartheid, structural violence, and stark poverty. Our visit to Hebron was widely described among ICAHD campers as the most disturbing portion of our trip; the daily realities of life in the city are often beyond belief.

—*Rebuilding Camp blog, Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions*

**Building Hope**

The Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions launched its tenth annual Rebuilding Camp on Sunday, July 1st. More than 30 volunteers from around the world joined Palestinians and Israelis in the West Bank town of Anata to rebuild a Palestinian home demolished five times by Israel.

—*Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions*

**Shifting Power**

Before we talk about democracy in Syria, we must respect the fact that the vast majority of people on earth insist that Western governments respect their own citizens' will instead of trying to smother them or shape them with propaganda or bypass them to serve the Israel lobby. Before we talk about democracy in Syria, we must end apartheid in Israel . . . liberate oppressors and oppressed alike and create a better world for all.

—Mazin Qumsiyeh, *Human Rights newsletter*

**Settler Violence,**  
*continued from page 1*

target Israeli security forces, in addition to targeting Palestinians.

However, the Israeli authorities have been accused by the Israeli civil organization Yesh Din, Volunteers for Human Rights, which published a report on July 24, 2013, of enabling “Jewish terrorism” on the West Bank by not prosecuting it. Less than 10 percent of cases known to Yesh Din, which fall under the jurisdiction of the Israeli Judea and Samaria/ West Bank District Police, lead to indictments. But Yesh Din holds the Israeli military (IDF), rather than the police, ultimately responsible for failing “to defend the Palestinian population from Jewish marauders.” They emphasize that such protection by the IDF of the occupied population is obligatory not only under international law but also as a result of Israeli High Court of Justice decisions.

If the lawless behavior of Israeli settlers toward Palestinians is understood as a component of the Israeli government’s actual long-term ethnic cleansing program vis-à-vis the Palestinians, this helps to account for the overall complicity by Israeli authorities (both police and army) with Israeli settler violence.

While recognition of the government-military endorsement of settler violence is essential, to me the heart of the matter is the physical and psychological impact on West Bank Palestinians of this warrior behavior from their more fanatical, outlaw settler neighbors, whose campaign to remove them from their land is motivated by extremist, racist, and exclusivist ideology. These Palestinians have already endured more than 46 years of oppressive, illegal Israeli military occupation. Accounts by two Palestinian women of their personal experience of settler violence published in the Spring 2013 issue of *Cornerstone*, a Sabeel<sup>4</sup> publication, leave a deep impression.

The first account is by Fatima, age 38, who drove with her husband and three children on a Saturday in late February 2013 to plant almond trees and tend their land outside of Qusra, the village where they live not far from the city of Nablus north of Ramallah. After working all morning they were drinking tea in the shed on their land when five Israeli settlers from the settlement of Esh Kodesh appeared with guns, shouting and swearing. Fatima and her husband left the shed to try to deal with the intrusion, but before they could return to their children, Fatima reported that one of the settlers positioned “about 50 meters away . . . started shooting in our direction.” She writes,



*Israeli settlers*

*Photo: International Middle East Media Center*

“I was terrified and thought I was going to be killed on the spot.” No Israeli soldiers were anywhere to be seen. Fatima and her husband managed to reach their car, which was parked a few meters away, without being shot. However, the settlers threw stones at close range as they drove away. Their children “miraculously . . . escaped” from the shed on their own, and there were no physical injuries; yet Fatima has clearly suffered from PTSD. It was later discovered that the settlers had uprooted trees and damaged the shed. This was not an isolated incident; indeed she says “it happens all the time.”

The second account, by Khadra, age 43, is of an incident in which a Palestinian youth was shot in the head by a settler from the hilltop settlement of Yitzhar at the village of Asira Al-Qibliyeh, also in the Nablus area. This incident likewise took place on a Saturday, May 19, 2012, which happens to be the Jewish Sabbath. Attacks by “radical settlers” from Yitzhar on the villagers are frequent, according to Khadra. This time a group of armed settlers walked toward the village, unarmed village men walked out to stop the settlers, stones were thrown back and forth, and then several settlers began shooting with their weapons. This “very tense,” unequal confrontation lasted for two hours. When they finally appeared, the Israeli soldiers “did almost nothing. Then [the soldiers] shot tear gas and everybody started to clear the area.” Khadra concludes: “I could not sleep that night. It is a disturbing feeling to know we are completely on our own; nobody is there to help or protect us.”

Perhaps the most concentrated and shocking example of settler violence toward Palestinians under occupation is the situation in the Palestinian city of Hebron on the West Bank south of Bethlehem. In the 1990s, after the Oslo agreement of 1993, Israel divided Hebron into two parts: H1 under the Palestinian Authority, and H2 under the Israeli Defense Force

*continued on page 5*



**Settler Violence,**  
continued from page 4

(IDF). In addition to “approximately 30,000 Palestinians,” H2 houses from 400 to 800 Israeli settlers, guarded by about 1,500 Israeli soldiers. The settlers aggress against their Palestinian neighbors by harassing children on their way to or from school, throwing objects such as rocks, breaking into homes, writing graffiti on house walls (“kill all Arabs,” “gas the Arabs,” “exterminate the Muslims,” etc.), and more: In one incident “settlers brought dogs to attack children playing in a field,” and in another “a settler attempted to run over” a boy of 15 “with a minibus.” Instead of stopping these horrific attacks and arresting the perpetrators, the IDF soldiers impose curfews on the Palestinians and otherwise restrict their movement, arrest and detain Palestinian youth—even children—and unleash violence themselves, with such weapons as M4 rifles and grenades. Journalist Sarah Lazare writes that Hebron “has become ground zero for an ethnic cleansing campaign waged by settlers with the complicity of the Israeli army.”<sup>5</sup>

From a safe distance, settler violence could be considered “the icing on the cake” of the deeply entrenched structural violence represented by Israel’s colonial settlements. The settlements are now home to at least 600,000 Israelis, the majority of them enticed by government subsidies.<sup>6</sup> As Israeli-Palestinian “peace talks” resumed in the middle of August, Israel announced the phased release of 104 Palestinian prisoners (from a total of around 4,500 prisoners), but at the same time allowed the addition of approximately 2,000 new housing units to seven Jewish-only settlements: three of them in illegally annexed East Jerusalem, and four in the occupied West Bank. Needless to say, colonies and peace do not go well together. The Palestinian position preceding the talks had been that no negotiations could proceed if Israeli settlement expansion continued. Given the extreme power differential between the two parties and the U.S. government’s unqualified support for the stronger party, the Israeli government knew that it could impose its will with impunity regardless of Palestinian wishes.

One recommended step for readers to take is to tell Congress and Secretary of State John Kerry by letter, e-mail, and phone that Americans firmly oppose Israeli settlement construction, settler violence, and ethnic cleansing, and that the U.S. government must stop its billions of dollars of aid paid annually to Israel if these egregious actions—which completely contradict a just peace—continue.

*Liza Burr has visited Palestine/Israel numerous times since 1970, and is a member of the WAMM Middle East Committee.*

**Endnotes**

- 1 p. 39.
- 2 Settlers have also attacked Palestinian targets inside Israel. See the article by Jonathan Cook in the December 2011 issue of *Washington Report on Middle East Affairs*.
- 3 Sr. Florence Steichen, past president of Middle East Peace Now, in a talk given on August 8, 2013, at St. Catherine University’s Summer Chautauqua.
- 4 Sabeel identifies itself as “an ecumenical grassroots liberation theology movement among Palestinian Christians.”
- 5 Most of this paragraph is indebted to Lazare’s article, “Palestinians in Hebron: ‘To Be Here Is a Form of Resistance,’” published on April 27, 2013, by *Truthout*.
- 6 Just Foreign Policy (in an e-mail dated August 17, 2013) highlighted the ongoing eviction movement by Israeli settlers against Palestinian residents of Sheikh Jarrah in East Jerusalem. And on July 14, 2013, the website of ICAHD (the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions) reported on continuing settler persecution of the Jaber family in the Hebron area since at least 2000: “In short, settler violence is NEVER investigated and settlers are NEVER arrested, even if the police are on the scene of the crime. The goal: to terrorize the Palestinians to leave their land, which would then be grabbed up by settlers in the name of the state of Israel. If anyone tries to tell you that Israel does not engage in ethnic cleansing or that what it does is for reasons of ‘security,’ take them to the Jaber family.”

**Fragmentation of Land on the West Bank**

“Everybody has to move, run and grab as many hilltops as they can ... Everything we don’t grab will go to them.”  
Ariel Sharon, 1998

“We’ll make a pastrami sandwich of them. We’ll insert a strip of Jewish settlement, in between the Palestinians, and then another strip of Jewish settlement, right across the West Bank, so that in 25 years time, neither the United Nations, nor the United States, nobody, will be able to tear it apart.”  
Ariel Sharon, 1973  
to Winston Churchill III



**RESOURCES**

**WAMM Middle East Committee**

- The web site of the WAMM Middle East Committee provides news, reports, articles, commentary, map links, events.
- Take a 6-minute Middle East Quiz and discover what you know or don’t know. Go to [www.womenagainstmilitarymadness.org](http://www.womenagainstmilitarymadness.org) and click on the link.

**Applied Research Institute and Land Research Center, Jerusalem**

- Monitoring Israeli colonization activities in the Palestinian Territories. Funded by the European Union. Aims at inspecting and scrutinizing Israeli colonizing activities in the Palestinian West Bank and Gaza.
- [www.arij.org](http://www.arij.org)

**Seizing the Mandate: Boycotting Products from Illegal Settlements**

- The United Methodist Kairos Reponse. Lists of products.
- Clearly explained background on issues relating to Palestine.
- See Boycott at <https://www.kairosresponse.org>

**Buyer Beware of Bubbles**

- The Interfaith Boycott Coalition is a project of the 400-member organization of the U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation of Palestine. The coalition asks people not to purchase SodaStream devices.
- They are manufactured by an Israeli corporation in an illegal settlement, on stolen Palestinian land in the West Bank and sold at Target and other stores.
- [Sodastreamboycott.org](http://Sodastreamboycott.org)

**Minnesota Break the Bonds**

- We are Palestinians, Jews, Christians, Muslims, students, professionals, parents, community members and allies working together to bring Palestine-centric education to Minnesota in order to promote justice and human rights.
- [Mnbreakthebonds.org](http://Mnbreakthebonds.org)

Map card with quotes: Friends of Sabeel [www.fosna.org](http://www.fosna.org)

# Report on High North Space Conference

by Bruce Gagnon

## Cold, Hard Fact

Virtually all warfare on the planet today is directed by military space satellites. The U.S. currently has more than 100 active military satellites. Ground stations around the globe, including at the North and South poles, download images from the satellites that are used by the military for spying and offensive operations. The massively expensive space control system helps deliver death from the sky as drones kill innocents in Afghanistan, Pakistan and on the African continent. Cut-backs in social programs are made in order to pay for this space-directed war. Keep space for peace.

—space4peace.org

Full poster, including this image, available to download at [space4peace.org](http://space4peace.org)

Here are some observations from the Global Network's 21st annual space conference held June 27-29, 2013 in Kiruna, Sweden.

The event was attended by people from Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Germany, England, Russia, US, Mexico and Japan.

Kiruna is a city of about 20,000 people in the High North and has the largest underground iron ore mine in the world. During WW II the Nazi's never occupied Sweden but instead took the iron ore from Kiruna to Germany to build their war machine.

Just outside of Kiruna is the Esrange Space Center where images are downloaded from satellites in polar orbits. The information from the satellites is used for both civilian and military purposes.

Norwegian journalist Bard Wormdal, who wrote *The Satellite War*, reported that Norway practices a "double standard" as it violates the Svalbard and Antarctic Treaties, which forbid military operations of any kind from these north and south polar locations. In both cases Norway has downlink satellite stations at these two points and provide the U.S. and NATO with imagery that is used for military operations. The Norwegian government still denies this even after the publication of Wormdal's book which provides conclusive evidence of these treaty violations.

Russian conference participant Vladimir Kozin told us that when Obama recently spoke in Berlin about the need for cuts in nuclear weapons the Pentagon at the very same moment was releasing a new plan to upgrade existing U.S. nuclear weapons based in Europe.

Kozin stated that the Russian government feels strongly that the U.S. "missile defense" program (now being expanded with NATO to surround Russia) undercuts Russian strategic defense capability and makes hopes for nuclear disarmament virtually impossible. In Obama's Berlin speech he did not mention *one word* about missile defense, Kozin recalled.

The new European Union "Galileo" military/civilian satellite system (like the U.S. GPS) will be used to explore for oil and natural gas drilling in the melting Arctic Ocean.

Activists from Finland showed the conference a map of the large drone testing area that has been established in their country. The 11,000 square kilometer test area is only 30 kilometers from the Russian border. In 2005 drones that were used in Afghanistan were tested at the range. Finnish corporate controlled media, as in Sweden and Norway, are conducting major anti-Russian propaganda that is pumping up tension in the region.

Again and again during the conference links were made between climate change and expanding militarism. There was agreement that we should all be demanding the conversion of the military industrial complex so that our resources can be used to deal with climate change.

In Darmstadt, Germany U.S. military downlink radars were removed some years ago but it was only recently learned that, at that same location, there still exists a military war fighting computer center.

Following the recent disclosures about the NSA by the whistleblower Edward Snowden, the UK government told their media that they are not allowed to mention the NSA surveillance program and the Menwith Hill (U.S. NSA spy base) in Yorkshire in the same story.

Particular thanks go to Women for Peace and especially those in Kiruna who worked so hard to make it a great conference.

Bruce Gagnon is the coordinator of the Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space. [www.space4peace.org](http://www.space4peace.org)





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third annual

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and **Mary PREUS**

of *Minnesota Community SINGS*

with *WAMM's*

*resident songwriter*

**Brigid McDONALD**



**Sunday**  
**November 17** 2013  
**2:30pm**

at Minnesota Music Cafe  
449 Payne Ave., St. Paul, MN 55130  
near Swede Hollow/Dayton's Bluff

it's a **WAMM fundraiser**  
**\$15 adults • \$5 kids • \$25 family**

*food and drinks available for purchase*

**SPECIAL BONUS:**  
**PEACE SONGWRITING CONTEST**

Send a new verse for the tune "Do Your Ears Hang Low?" to  
wammsongs@gmail.com by **November 8th**. WAMM songwriter

**Brigid McDonald**

will wield a magical & wondrous wand  
in selecting the finalists.

**Minnesota Community SINGS**

www.mnsings.com  
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Assignment:  
Bring a Friend ... All voices welcome!

**Women Against Military Madness**

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612-827-5364

# October 2013 WAMM Calendar

Please note that WAMM's provision of information on other group's events is not meant to convey or endorse any action contrary to public policy that would be inconsistent with exempt purposes under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) i.e., charitable purposes.

## Ongoing WAMM Vigils for Peace

### Vigil to End War:

Every Wednesday, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. (Changes to 4:30 to 5:30 on Nov. 1) on the Lake Street/Marshall Avenue Bridge spanning the Mississippi River between Minneapolis and St. Paul. FFI: Call 612-522-1861 or WAMM 612-827-5364.

### Vigil to End the Occupation of Palestine:

Every Friday, 4:15 to 5:30 p.m. at Summit and Snelling Avenues, St. Paul. FFI: Call WAMM, 612-827-5364.

**Peace Vigil:** Every Tuesday, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. on the Eastside of the Franklin Avenue Bridge, Minneapolis. Sponsored by: Prospect Hill Neighbors for Peace. FFI: 612-379-7398

### Grandmothers for Peace Vigils

50th St. and Halifax (1 block w. of France) 4:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. FFI: Marian Wright, 612-927-7607

*For information on additional peace vigils in Minnesota and Wisconsin, call the WAMM office at 612-827-5364.*

## Ongoing WAMM Committee Meetings

**Board Meeting:** Third Tuesday of each month, 6:00 p.m. at WAMM, 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Suite 3, Minneapolis. FFI: Call WAMM, 612-827-5364.

**The WAMM Book Club.** Third Saturday of each month, 10:00 a.m., AFRO Deli: 1939 S. 5th St. Minneapolis (Riverside and 20th Avenue). Meet in the rear left room, behind the Deli. FFI: Suzan Koch: suzykoch@comcast.net

**End War Committee:** Acting Against War and the Threats of War. First Monday of each month, 5:30 p.m. FFI: Call Marie 612-827-5364

**Ground All Drones.** First Thursdays of every month, 4:30 to 6:00 p.m., 4200 Cedar Ave., Minneapolis. FFI: 612-827-5364

**Middle East Committee:** Second Monday of each month, 9:30 a.m. at WAMM, 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Suite 3, Minneapolis. FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364

**Media Committee:** FFI: Email the committee, wammmedia@gmail.com.

**WAMM Occupy:** FFI: Call WAMM, 612-827-5364.

### St. Joan of Arc/WAMM

**Peacemakers:** Fourth Tuesday of each month, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Church, Parish Center, 4537 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis. FFI: Barbara, 612-722-4444

**Tackling Torture at the Top (T3):** Second Wednesday of each month, 10:00 a.m. at 4200 Cedar Avenue, Minneapolis.

## Ongoing Events

**Committee to Stop FBI Repression.** Stand with the people subpoenaed in a witch hunt, defend civil liberties. Learn what you can do. All who stand up and act for justice and solidarity are welcome. FFI: See stopfbi.net and mnStopFBI.wordpress.com, or call (612) 379-3585.

**People of Faith Peacemakers Breakfast:** Second and fourth Wednesdays, 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. at African Development Center, Riverside and 20th Avenues. A resource and support group for those concerned about peace with justice from a faith perspective. FFI: www.justviewpoint.org or call 763-784-5177

### Grandmothers for Peace:

First Wednesday 12:45 p.m. at Edina Public Library, 5280 Grandview Square, Edina. Program around justice issue that helps us to understand our role in changing unjust systems. FFI: 952-929-1566

**Tea Time Conversational Salons:** Most Tuesdays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Mad Hatter's Teahouse, 943 West Seventh St., St. Paul. Salons are open to all. Suggested donations \$3-\$5 include tea, treats. FFI: 651-227-2511 or 651-227-3228.

### Third Thursday Global Issues

**Forum:** 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Hennepin Ave. United Methodist Church, Groveland at Lyndale Ave., Minneapolis. FFI: globalsolutionsmn.org

### Middle East Peace Now:

Usually 2nd or 3rd Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Refreshments, 10:00 a.m. Program. Location may vary. FFI: www.mepn.org

### Dignity, Not Detention Vigil:

Every first Sunday, 2:30 to 3:00 p.m. at 425 Grove Street (Ramsey County Law Enforcement Center). Vigil for civil immigrant detainees in jail at request of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Sponsored by: Interfaith Coalition for Immigration, Advocates for Human Rights and others. FFI: Email interfaithonimmigration@gmail.com

## Special Events

**Malalai Joya: War, Women and Drones.** Tuesday, October 15 Augsburg College, Minneapolis. Frequently called "the bravest woman in Afghanistan." On U.S. tour. An outspoken critic of the war, staunch advocate of Afghan women. Sponsored by: WAMM End War Committee and the Twin Cities Peace Campaign. FFI 612-522-1861.

**Our Vanishing Liberties: Drones, NSA and Executive Overreach.** Monday, October 21, 6:00 p.m. (displays) 7:00 p.m. (presentation) Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, 511 Groveland Avenue, Minneapolis. Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers' Annual Meeting. Keynote: *The Progressive* editor Mathew Rothschild. Tickets \$5.00. Sponsored by: Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers. FFI: 612-522-1861.

**WAMM Benefit Ten Thousand Villages Shopping Night.** Friday, November 5, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. 867 Grand Avenue, St. Paul. Fair trade, not free trade shopping. Artisan-crafted décor, personal accessories and gifts from around the globe. Buy holiday gifts for friends and relatives, and honor artisans around the globe. 20% of the evening sales donated to WAMM. FFI: www.stpaul.tenthousandvillages.com

**¡Celebremos la Resistencia! Converge on Fort Benning, Georgia: Take the Bus with Us!** November 22-24, 2013. Join thousands of teachers, farmers, students, unionists, veterans, queer folk, environmentalists, migrants—as we converge at the gates of the School of the Americas (SOA; also known as the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, WHINSEC), where we continue to reaffirm life and our creativity in the face of Empire. For years Veterans for Peace, Chapter 27 organized buses, and now WAMM is co-sponsoring a bus with them to Georgia. FFI, registration for this amazing experience email Mary McNellis vfpsoaw@yahoo.com or call the WAMM office, 612-827-5364.

*Additional upcoming events are listed at [www.worldwidewamm.org](http://www.worldwidewamm.org), or you may call the WAMM office for more information: 612-827-5364. Other peace and justice events can be found on Minnesota Alliance for Peacemakers at [www.mapm.org](http://www.mapm.org).*



# Dirty Wars: the Book

“We have killed an amazing number of people . . . none has proven to have been a real threat.”

—General Stanley McChrystal

The killing of vast numbers of civilian noncombatants is just one of the regrettable developments of the Global War on Terror conducted by the U.S. government in response to the 9-11 attacks. The new book *Dirty Wars: The World Is a Battlefield* by national-security correspondent Jeremy Scahill of *The Nation* magazine gives the most incisive account yet of what has resulted from a worldwide conflict that is far from over.

The goal of reorganizing the Middle East—beginning with the removal of Saddam Hussein—was concocted by Dick Cheney, Don Rumsfeld, and their neocon cohorts years before the 9-11 attacks, which provided a rationale for the U.S. to invade Afghanistan and then Iraq. The failure of conventional forces to fulfill their mission of pacifying Iraq led to reliance on the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC), elite units of Army Rangers, Navy SEALs, and Delta Force warriors, who operated outside the normal command structure, and answered only to Rumsfeld and his inner circle in the executive branch without oversight by the State Department or Congress.

When Iraq descended into chaos and civil war in 2005-2006, JSOC units became the tip of the spear as their missions eliminated thousands of insurgents. Public perception is that an eventual stalemate had been drawn out of a loss in Iraq, for which General David Petraeus and his counterinsurgency strategy have been given most of the credit. Scahill fills in the picture by his accounts of the secretive raids organized by McChrystal and Admiral William McRaven.

However, the world had now been turned into a battlefield; al Qaeda set up bases in Pakistan, Yemen, and Somalia. “Draining the swamp” now required additional JSOC missions in these and several other countries. Scahill provides a wealth of information on operations in Yemen and Somalia, including the failed proxy war by an invasion from Ethiopia in 2006, which resulted in the rise of al Shahab, an al Qaeda affiliate.

An additional weapon was brought to the war on terror by the use of weaponized drones. When Barack Obama became president in 2008, he repudiated the Iraq War but escalated troop levels in Afghanistan, even though most al Qaeda operatives had left the country. Drone attacks into Pakistan steadily increased

as the Obama administration built the infrastructure for a U.S. assassination program.

The ultimate assassination came on May 2, 2011, when a team of elite Navy SEALs secretly choppered into the compound of Osama bin Laden in Abbottabad, Pakistan, and killed him. Scahill’s account of this famous raid is riveting and also clarifies some details that have been misrepresented.

As a narrative thread, every few chapters Scahill describes how Anwar al-Awlaki, an American citizen who was radicalized by 9-11 and subsequent U.S. attacks on Muslims, became a target for assassination by drone, especially after he went to Yemen and preached jihad against America. Awlaki’s father, Nasser, who had come to the U.S. on a Fulbright scholarship in 1966 to study agricultural economics at New Mexico State University, wrote a personal letter to Obama protesting the targeting of his son, citing protections of the U.S. Constitution. But Obama and JSOC were determined to get Awlaki. After several misses, a drone killed Awlaki and two others on September 30, 2011. Two weeks later, Awlaki’s 16-year-old son, Abdulrahman, was killed by a drone along with several members of his family at a picnic, even though the boy was also a U.S. citizen and wasn’t involved in terrorist activity.

These killings, along with hundreds of civilian fatalities from drone strikes in Pakistan, have caused a storm of protest around the world, but the administration held fast to its position that the world is the battlefield.

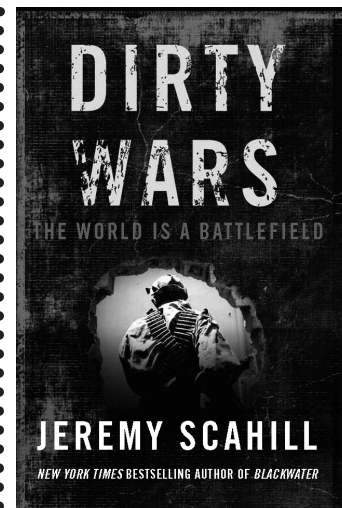
It employed what it referred to as “signature strikes.” Any male age 18 and older who was in a place deemed a battlefield area and was exhibiting certain kinds of behavior was considered a terrorist and an imminent threat to the U.S. unless proven innocent; there was no opportunity to prove innocence to a drone operator calling a strike from thousands of miles away, so that would mean the only opportunity to prove innocence would be after the targeted person was dead.

Now a whole slew of *suspected* terrorists have been eliminated by JSOC operations. Drones and JSOC teams, under the direction of McRaven, are operating in more than a hundred countries around the world. But are we winning and are we any safer? Scahill points out that the potential for blowback from all the civilian casualties is enormous and asks the question, “How does a war like this ever end?”

*Dirty Wars* is extensively researched (80 pages

*continued on page 5*

by Jay Kvale



*Dirty Wars* by Jeremy Scahill.

Available through MayDay Bookstore, Minneapolis.

## Stop the Spying & the Dying!

Ground All Drones is a committee of Women Against Military Madness (WAMM) created to address the use of drones, particularly armed drones. Drones are developed worldwide, not only by the U.S. but by other nations as well. In the U.S. unarmed surveillance drones could be used to spy on citizens, a clear violation of our Fourth Amendment Rights. The current focus of this committee is on the armed drones being used to kill innocent civilians. <http://groundalldrone.blogspot.com/> You can also find us on facebook: WAMM Ground All Drones.

## WAMM THANKS

Serena Ronnie in memory of Gwen Dahlquist

## Islamophobia and the Politics of Empire

Deepa Kumar



*Islamophobia and the Politics of Empire* by Deepa Kumar. Available at MayDay Bookstore, Minneapolis.



Deepa Kumar is an associate professor of media studies and Middle East studies at Rutgers University and has published commentary in media outlets throughout the world. Her commentary and articles at "Empire Bytes: Beyond the Soundbytes of Impirical Culture" [empirebytes.com](http://empirebytes.com)

## RESOURCE

### Legislating Fear

"Legislating Fear: Islamophobia and Its Impact on the United States 2013 Report," based on 2011-2012, now available from the Washington, D.C. office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). To obtain copies of this report, please write to [info@cair.com](mailto:info@cair.com) and state the subject "Islamophobia Report 2011-2012."

# Islam: Common Myths Deconstructed

by Polly Mann

The excellent 200-page book, *Islamophobia and the Politics of Empire* by Deepa Kumar (Haymarket Books 2012) could be described as a succinct primer for those of us who have given little thought as to why there is such mistrust of Middle Easterners among Americans. This fear was exacerbated by the Twin Trade Towers bombing of 9/11 and subsequently, the word "terrorist" became connected with Middle Easterners in the minds of many Americans. This book brings together past history and current events as it examines the prevalent myths about Islam that have produced such fear in this country. A summary of the myths and the reality follow:

**Islam is a monolithic belief.** A common misperception is that all Middle Easterners are Arabs and all Arabs are adherents of Islam; people also think there are no variations in the way the religion is practiced. Kumar makes a comparison of Christianity with Islam. As there are Baptists, Methodists, Seventh Day Adventists and scores of groups professing Christianity and Orthodox and Fundamentalist Jews so there are different varieties of Islam of which there are two main categories: Sunni and Shi'a. The Sufi Islam practiced in India is quite different from the Shi'a Islam practiced in Pakistan. They could be compared to Catholic and Protestant Christians.

**Islam is a sexist religion.** As the British in the 1800s denounced sexism in Islam, they worked to deny British women the right to vote. Discussion of the rights of women continue in Islamic society as in Christian and Judaic society. Some scholars argue that Islam is not inherently misogynistic and point to the egalitarian passages in the Koran that suggest equality between men and women. Equality for women is a tenet of most religions today—the fact that equality has not yet been fully achieved is a condition of all.

**The "Muslim Mind" is incapable of reason and rationality.** There are many excellent books and articles, listed in Kumar's footnotes, that tear to shreds the concept of biologically defined races and the spurious connection between biology and intellectual capacity. The European Renaissance could not have occurred without the contributions of Muslim thinkers and scientists.

**Islam is an inherently violent religion.** This virulent myth is strong today, helped, of course, by 9/11. Author Amitabh Pal, Managing Editor of *The Progressive* magazine explored

this myth in his book, "*Islam*" Means Peace: *Understanding the Muslim Principle of Non-violence Today* with examples of non-violence from the Koran. The bloody history of early Christianity with attention given to the Crusades is cited as a correlative of Islamic violence. The reader is reminded that after the Sultan Saladin retook Jerusalem from the Crusaders, he forbade acts of violence against them.

**Muslims are incapable of democracy and self-rule.** This is the false basis for much of Western policy with regard to the Middle East. Again and again Western nations have interfered in the internal affairs of Middle Eastern nations looking to avail themselves of their natural resources, such as oil and minerals, while claiming to be "bringing democracy."

Today the worldwide Occupy movement is reminding people about the humanity we all share and how the greedy capitalist system is, in its essence, violent and how we can work together to bring about a peaceful world. When we are aware of the things that divide us such as Islamophobia we are more capable of making that dream a reality.

*Polly Mann is a co-founder of Women Against Military Madness and a regular contributor and columnist for the WAMM newsletter.*

## Dirty Wars,

*continued from page 9*

of notes) and written in straightforward prose. Scahill's book is essential reading for understanding our recent history and the dilemma we face now that the world is a battlefield.

*Jay Kvale is a member of the WAMM End War Committee and Twin Cities Peace Campaign.*



## WAMM Membership

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## For Knowledge Outside of College

### *Back to School Special: WAMM membership for Students \$20*

*Give a student (or if you are a student, give yourself one!)*

While you are immersed in your studies, here's a way to keep up with the wider world, with information that's easy to access, but isn't necessarily at your fingertips. WAMM Membership includes eight issues per year of the Women Against Military Madness newsletter with original articles examining root causes of war and injustice, WAMM cofounder Polly Mann's column, resources, protests, rallies, actions and other upcoming events. As a WAMM member you're part of an organization working for a world without war.

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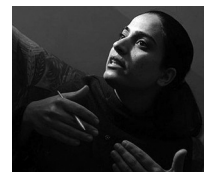
**shadows grow long  
but we still see the light  
we know what's wrong  
what's left is what's right**

# **WOMEN, WAR AND DRONES: AN AFGHAN WOMAN SPEAKS OUT**

*Twelve years into the U.S. war.  
An evening with "the bravest woman in Afghanistan."*

***Tuesday, October 15 • 7:00 p.m.  
Augsburg College • Foss Center, 625 22nd Avenue South, Minneapolis***

Malalai Joya has been called "the bravest Women in Afghanistan." At the age of 25 as a member of the Afghan Parliament, she stood up and denounced her country's powerful U.S./NATO backed warlords at a constitutional assembly in Kabul. Today she continues to be a staunch defender of human rights, a powerful voice for Afghan women, and an outspoken opponent of the U.S. war and occupation of her country. She is the recipient of numerous international awards for her work.



*Malalai Joya*

**Organized by WAMM End War Committee and Twin Cities Peace Campaign.**

Co-sponsors: Department of Political Science, the Anne Peterson Women's Resource Center and the Sabo Center for Citizenship and Learning at Augsburg College, U of M Women's Student Activist Collective, Anti-War Committee, Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers, Minnesota Peace Action Coalition, Veterans for Peace and others.