

# Women Against Military Madness

## Newsletter

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Women Against Military Madness



### #GazaUnderAttack COVERAGE IN THIS ISSUE

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## Divide et Impera: Iraq and ISIS

by Mary Beaudoin

The strategy of “divide et impera” (Latin for “divide and reign”), also referred to as “divide and rule,” has been employed throughout history by those with imperial ambitions. Despite claims to the contrary, in its quest for power and control of the world’s resources, the U.S. and its allies have sought to tear apart any unified resistance to its plans. Today, in the Middle East, the U.S. (with the UK now relegated to the position of junior partner) continues the tactic that the British had used during the nineteenth century.

There is a familiar ring to what World War I British intelligence and military strategist T. E. Lawrence wrote in a report in 1916 called “The Politics of Mecca.”:

*If we can only arrange that this political change shall be a violent one, we will have abolished the threat of Islam, by dividing it against itself, in its very heart. There will be a Khalifa in Turkey and*

*a Khalifa in Arabia in theological warfare...[1]*

On August 14, 2014, Sami Rasouli, a resident of Najaf and founder of the Muslim Peacemaker Teams, a grassroots peace organization in Iraq, e-mailed:

*Dividing Iraq is going as it's planned—unfortunately within: a hard time of pain and suffering Iraqi people are going through. [2]*

Adding to the pain and suffering for the people of Iraq is the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), the latest manifestation of shape-shifting terrorists who keep the Western war machine in business as they pop up mysteriously, and with high drama, in strategic and resource-rich areas around the globe.

Supposedly they acted independently, rampaging across Iraq in jihad to reclaim the

*continued on page 4*

**Right:** Prince Faisal, a Bedouin (front, center), and British military strategist T.E. Lawrence, legendary as Lawrence of Arabia (behind, to his right), fought together to split up the Ottoman Empire in WWI. However, during and after the war, the British and French took control of the Middle East with the Sykes-Picot agreement. Arab rebellions were put down. Eventually, Prince Faisal came to rule Iraq under British control and push toward independence.





# 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 Japan: Can Pacifism Survive in the Pacific?

by Polly Mann

On June 30, 2014, several thousand people in Tokyo protested against their government's proposal to allow its military a larger international role by reinterpreting the country's war-renouncing constitution—the biggest change in Japan's security policy since World War II. Japan had decided to deploy 100 soldiers and radar in the spring of this year, to its westernmost outpost—the island of Yonaguni in the Okinawa island group, a mere 93 miles from China. The deployment was considered justified as a mission of the Japan Self-Defense Force established in 1954.

But because Yonaguni is closer to China's shores than Japan's main islands—a mere 93 miles—it increased tensions between the two countries. Why do it then? In December of 2013, Japan's National Defense Program Guidelines expressed "great concern" over China's rapid military buildup. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe argues that China's military budget has become 30 times greater in

the last decade whereas Japan's has remained relatively flat for the last 20 years.\*

However, Article 9 of the present Japanese constitution, enacted in 1947 in the wake of World War II, states that the Japanese people would "forever" renounce war as a "sovereign right" as well as the "use of force" as a means of settling international disputes. The Japanese people liked Article 9. An April, 2013, poll in the liberal-left *Asahi* newspaper reported that 63 percent of the respondents opposed the prime minister's plan for remilitarizing. Opposition has taken novel forms. One group, Women Who Don't Have Sex With Men Who Love War, has even vowed to withhold sex from any husband backing a revision of the constitution.

But true to form, the U.S. government takes a positive attitude toward the proposal of remilitarizing its ally Japan. Meanwhile, the threat of China has been cited by Japanese officials as a reason to modify the constitution.



Bridge in the Lyndale Peace Park, Minneapolis, incorporates inlaid Minnesota granite and relic stones from the 1945 U.S. bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Photo: Homesmsp.com

China's official news agency, Xinhua, claimed that modifying the nation's pacifist identity serves to endanger the lives of *China's* citizens. As for the 1,500 Japanese inhabitants of Yonaguni, they have mixed feelings about having military stationed there. "Opinion is split down the middle," said Tetsuo Funamichi, the head of the island's branch of the Japan Agricultural Association.

The present constitution, enacted in 1947 in the wake of World War II, demanded Japan's unconditional surrender. The Allies sought not only reparations but also fundamental changes in the nature of Japan's political system. The wording suggests that neither General Douglas MacArthur, the supreme commander for the Allied Powers, nor his superiors in Washington intended to impose a new political system on Japan unilaterally. Instead, they wished to encourage Japan's new leaders to initiate democratic reforms on their own. Under the treaty both parties accepted an obligation to assist each other in case of an armed conflict. The peace treaty between Japan and the Allied Powers, known as the Treaty of San Francisco, was signed in 1951.

However, all has not always been rosy between the two countries since then. In 1971, the United States imposed a 10 percent surcharge on Japanese imports that hindered Japan's exports to the U.S. and strained relations between the two countries. This was further exacerbated by a reevaluation of the Japanese yen in December of that year.

**Additionally, the U.S. has recently made efforts to induce Japan to contribute more to its own defense** and to regional security, although in the years after World War II, the U.S. established military bases on the four main islands of Japan and in Okinawa Prefecture. At the same time the Japanese sought greater independence from the U.S., and subsequently the island of Okinawa was returned to Japan. But as of June 2014, there were a reported eight U.S. Marine Corps bases in Okinawa, six Air Force bases, three U.S. Army facilities, and one U.S. Air Force base.

Today the Japanese government does not specify an enemy when discussing its defense strategy but it makes no secret that it perceives China generally as a threat. Reuters reported that Japanese and Chinese navy and coastguard ships have played "cat and mouse" around some small disputed islands (known as the Diaoyu in China and the Senkaku in Japan) in the East China Sea since Japan announced it had nationalized the formerly privately owned territory in 2012. There have been 415 incidents between Japanese fighter jets and Chinese planes reported in 2013, up 36 percent from the previous year according to the Japanese Defense Ministry. This was the rationale Prime Minister Abe used to raise Japan's military spending last year for the first time in 11 years.

In the meantime the Nobel Peace Prize Committee had nominated Article 9 (the original) of the Japanese constitution that stated that the Japanese people would "forever" renounce war as a "sovereign right" and the "threat or use of force as a means of settling international disputes." If Japan received the award, do you suppose that a conference composed of Japanese and Chinese designated legislators could possibly meet and come up with a plan that could be submitted to the affected people of Yonaguni that could mean peaceful relations instead of heightened militarization?

**The culture of Yonaguni**—as of all of the Okinawa Prefecture in which it lies—already has some cultural characteristics emblematic of China in its textiles, lacquerware, potteries, performing arts, and customs, reflecting its proximity to China and trade conducted between the countries in previous centuries. If Japan and China could rebuild their relationship now, there would be economic and other advantages; language schools where both Japanese and Chinese could be taught; medical facilities for both Japanese and Chinese, and elections for city offices, including police, where candidates were both Japanese and Chinese; cooking classes where both Japanese and Chinese dishes could be taught. The world needs a new model. Where better to begin than Yonaguni?

*\* Japan does, however, have some armaments which it had been using for peacekeeping, rescue and other nonaggressive operations—by the late 1970s the Japanese armaments industry had developed and produced a range of modern equipment, including aircraft, tanks, artillery, and major surface and underwater naval equipment. But expenditures were limited to 1 percent of the Japanese GDP.*

*Polly Mann is a co-founder of Women Against Military Madness and a regular contributor, as well as a columnist in the newsletter.*

**Change in WAMM Newsletter Publication Schedule**  
After a summer hiatus, we are resuming newsletter publication with Fall I.

### WAMM THANKS

- Sarah Martin in memory of Clyde Smith
- Marie and John Braun in memory of Clyde Smith
- Sally Kundert in memory of Clyde Smith
- Sharon Rice Vaughan in memory of Clyde Smith
- Janet Meany and family in memory of Clyde Smith
- Diane Haugesag in memory of Clyde Smith
- Catherine Abbott in memory of Nicolas Eloff and Clyde Smith
- Vanessa Lawrow in memory of Clyde Smith
- Carol Walker in memory of Clyde Smith
- JoAnn Maus in memory of Clyde Smith
- Lynne Lokken in memory of Clyde Smith
- Michael and Kay McCarthy in memory of Clyde Smith
- Lucia Wilkes Smith in memory of Clyde Smith
- Connie Bell in memory of Clyde Smith
- Mary Beaudoin in memory of Clyde Smith



...see page 10



## Divide et Impera: How's It Working?

*continued from page 1*

Sunni Muslim world and carve out an Islamic caliphate from parts of Syria and Iraq, and they did it all with superhuman speed, establishing and securing it for themselves and eliminating anyone they didn't like—which seems to be anyone who is not them. And voilà—the Islamic State, abbreviation: IS.

### *“Nobody in Iraq believes ISIS represents Sunni Islam...”*

“Nobody in Iraq believes ISIS represents Sunni Islam,” said Sami Rasouli when he was in Minneapolis in July: “They do not act like Muslims. They have attracted some misguided youth in Iraq and religious extremists who think they are [in the] right, but ISIS is foreign and funded by foreigners. ISIS is composed of fighters recruited from the Muslim and Arab world. They come from Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Libya, Afghanistan, and as far away as Europe and Chechnya. The average Iraqi believes they are what was previously called ‘al-Qaeda.’ They have come to complete the division of Iraq.”

Sami Rasouli's belief coincides with what is described by many Middle East observers: these masked marauders are condottieri, a professional mercenary army—expertly trained, well financed and equipped—a creation of the men in the shadows. *Asia Times'* “Roving Eye” columnist Pepe Escobar described their border crossing as “legendary” for “performing the miracle of being untrackable by the NSA satellite maze.” Their coordination and choreography were so obvious that he compares them to a catwalk in an Italian fashion show. [3] The arms they bore and the fleet of matching white Toyota trucks in which they rode boldly into Iraq are identical to those supplied to the so-called (murderously comparable) “vetted, moderate” rebels in Syria, from whence they came.[4] Their paymasters for the Iraqi mission are said to be Saudi, long the silent-partner financiers of choice for Al Qaeda types recruited as foot soldiers in order to advance the agenda of the U.S. and its allies.[5] According to Thierry Meyssan of Voltaire Network

of Independent Journalists, the new emir of IS “has received new weapons from Ukraine, where Saudi Arabia has acquired a weapons factory, and via Turkey, which has created a special rail line alongside a military airport to supply the ISIL [ISIS/IS].”[6]

Petr Lvov of *New Eastern Outlook* gives context to the U.S. agenda: “It is evident that there is a battle for restructuring the oil and gas market in the world and it is currently being waged by the White House through the conflicts in Ukraine and Iraq. To maintain its hegemony, the United States, which imports only 3% of its oil from Iraq, needs to ensure control over all exports from this region as well as over the consumption for its competitors: Europe, China, Japan and India.”[7]

**Breaking Iraq into three fragments will make it easier for the United States to ensure control.** This is the cause of strife in Iraq. Sami Rasouli came to the U.S. in July to deliver a plaintive message about this in person: “I am here to tell you: don't try to solve the problem of Iraq. Solve the problem of the U.S.: we want the foreigners to leave.”

He reminds his audiences of grassroots peace and justice people: “We did not have these sectarian divisions before the Occupation.” Ethnic and religious groups used to live in relative harmony in a pluralist, secular society: “I am Shi'ite. I married a Sunni. Today, it is hard to be like this in Iraq. My son has a Sunni name—Omar—and he is questioned about it by his schoolmates.”

And it's mind-boggling, but he says the current situation is this: “The U.S. is funding them [Al Qaeda types] in Syria and bombing them in Iraq.”

The whole situation is made more terrible by the fact that the U.S. has supplied weapons to *both* sides—ISIS and the Iraqi government. Aside from the Saudis, the U.S. hand is shown in this by the statements of the highest-ranking government officials openly stating on several occasions that the U.S. was supplying weapons to rebels in Syria, where ISIS originated. President Obama himself expressed the idea that the weapons could get into the wrong hands and the mayhem

could spread.[8] The U.S. has also been delivering weapons, “advisors,” and aerial vehicles to the Iraqi government.

Did the U.S. actually know that when ISIS branched off and came to Iraq, it would go so far as to advance toward Kurdish territory? Analysts differ about whether the scenario was planned that way, whether they went off script, or whether they were just allowed to grow strong in Syria and be unleashed in Iraq as a project of the Saudis to which the U.S. and its allies turned a blind eye. Whatever the exact scenario, they have demonstrated an uncanny ability to gain control of strategic locations. And as it was always the U.S. plan to divide Iraq, they provide a convenient reason for the U.S. to be in Iraq so that it can protect people (highly-selective R2P humanitarian intervention)—and Kurdish oil—from them. Once they had served their purpose, the imperial project regarded ISIS fighters as expendable, and began bombing them. But there are more of them and we are told to expect more bombing.

**What's going on in Iraq has every appearance of being the latest version of the “creative chaos”** that goes along with “the birth pangs of the New Middle East,” as former National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice famously described the deadly assault on southern Lebanon by Israel eight years earlier. Also appearing to fit the plan: when Iraqis were resisting the U.S. occupation, the destruction of mosques and death squads (the Salvador Option) in 2006/2007 fomented sectarian violence by pitting Sunni and Shi'ite against each other. [9]

At the same time, Joseph Biden—then Senator Biden—in a May 1, 2006, *New York Times* op ed proposed creating “a united Iraq by decentralizing it, giving each ethno-religious group—Kurd, Sunni Arab and Shiite Arab—room to run its own affairs, while leaving the central government in charge of common interests.” A man with a plan, Biden was awarded the powerful chairmanship of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee the next year. The central government in

charge of the “common interests” of Iraq—that is, those of the U.S. and oil companies—continues to be run (at least for now) out of the heavily fortified U.S. embassy in Baghdad, the largest in the world.

Ten years earlier, in 1996, Richard Perle (aka Prince of Darkness) and other neocons had developed “A Clean Break: A New Strategy for Securing the Realm,” which was a master plan for restructuring the Middle East. It proposed destabilizing Syria and removing Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq. It also called for “upholding the right of hot pursuit for self-defense into all Palestinian areas.” It was preceded by the Yinon plan in 1982, “A Strategy for Israel in the Nineteen Eighties,” which called for the fragmentation of the Middle East along ethnic and religious lines:

*The dissolution of Syria and Iraq later on into ethnically or religiously unique areas such as in Lebanon, is Israel's primary target on the Eastern front in the long run...*

*Every kind of inter-Arab confrontation will assist us in the short run and shorten the way to the more important aim of breaking up Iraq into denominations as in Syria and Lebanon. In Iraq, a division into provinces along ethnic/religious lines as in Syria during Ottoman times is possible. So three (or more) states will exist around the three major cities: Basra, Baghdad and Mosul, and Shi'ite areas in the south will separate from the Sunni and Kurdish north.*

“**The neocons are getting everything they want,**” says Sami Rasouli. The Kurdish north was already broken off from Iraq and has been operating as a largely autonomous region, openly declaring its alignment with Israel, which received its first shipment of Kurdish crude on June 20. Oil tankers have arrived in U.S. ports. U.S. and Israeli advisors and trainers are established in Kurdistan and it has its own military, the Peshmerga, which they have trained. Now NATO partners France, the UK, and Germany, in addition to the U.S., rush weapons to supply them against the threat of ISIS, which has shown a keen interest in oil wells.

Sami Rasouli says that another reason

why the U.S. is in Kurdistan is that the latter shares a 1,300 km (807 mile) border with Iran. Iraqi foreign policy is the domain of the U.S, he remarks, but Iran has been conducting Iraqi domestic policy. The U.S., Gulf oil partners and Israel are concerned about Iranian influence in Iraq and want to prevent it. Their ultimate goal is control of Iran, the largest, most cohesive, and most powerful of the Middle Eastern countries. Off its coast lie enormous deposits of oil and gas, coveted by the world.

The elimination of Palestine, and the breaking apart of Syria, Lebanon, and Iran, as well as of Iraq, would create “the New Middle East” for New World Order (NWO) control allowing the resources of the entire region to be open for exploitation.

**But it doesn't have to happen that way.** Formidable military power tries to enforce the plan, but people stand in solidarity, opposed to the horrific effects of weapons and the injustice of oppression. People throughout the world became outraged at the massacre of innocent people in Gaza this summer. The attempted fragmentation of the Middle East by the U.S. together with its NATO allies, Israel, and Gulf Cooperation Council partners, has been exposed more and more. A generation of young people with family origins in the Middle East, Africa, and elsewhere stood up. Groups of Jewish people in Tel Aviv, as well as in the West, were some of the most vocal protesters of the actions of Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's right-wing government, saying that it doesn't represent them and their values. Defenders of justice of all ages and ethnicities filled the streets of the U.S., Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Russia, South America, and Australia, activated by a sense of compassion and united in their belief in everyone's common humanity.

It will be hard to divide them now.

*Mary Beaudoin is editor of the Women Against Military Madness newsletter.*

## ENDNOTES

1. T.E. Lawrence became legendary as Lawrence of Arabia during WWI for allying the British with Arab rebels—specifically, the Bedouin tribes of the Hijaz, western Arabia—in order to defeat the Ottoman Empire, under whose rule they chaffed. Anderson, Scott, “The True History of Lawrence of Arabia,” *Yale*, 2014, *Smithsonian Magazine*; Barr, James, *A Line in the Sand*, WW. Norton & Co., 2013; Hourani, Albert, *A History of the Arab People*, The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1991
2. e-mail to the writer of this article
3. Escobar, Pepe, “Burn, men in black, burn,” *Asia Times*, [asiatimes.com](http://asiatimes.com), June 20, 2017.
4. Cartulucci, Tony, “Implausible Deniability – West's ISIS Terror Hordes in Iraq,” August 8, 2014, Land Destroyer Report, [landdestroyer.blogspot.com](http://landdestroyer.blogspot.com)
5. Well documented in many places. A few examples: “Does Saudi Arabia Fund Terrorism?” *The Middle East Quarterly*, Spring 2006, Vol. XIII, No. 2, pp. 63-64, reviewed and analyzed U.S. government documents from various agencies. Also: video of Hillary Clinton in what is unidentified, but appears to be a congressional hearing or meeting, saying: “And it was President Reagan in partnership with the Congress led by Democrats who said, ‘You know what? It sounds like a pretty good idea. Let's deal with the ISI [Pakistani Inter-intelligence Service] and let's go recruit these mujahideen. That's great! Let's get some to come from Saudi Arabia and other places importing their Wahabi brand of Islam so that we can go beat the Soviet Union...’” “Behind the Truth,” originally uploaded Dec. 28, 2011. Also original upload on April 28, 2009 Youtube.com.
6. “Iraq under attack by US, France, Saudi Arabia,” *Voltaire Network*, June 11, 2014, [voltaire.net.org](http://voltaire.net.org)
7. Lavro, Petr, “Where America's true goals lie in the Middle East,” *New Eastern Outlook*, <http://journal-neo.org>, June 26, 2014
8. “The problem with ISIS is the fact that they're destabilizing the country [Iraq]. That could spill over into some of our, you know, allies like Jordan and that they are engaged in wars in Syria where—in that vacuum that's been created—they could amass more arms, more resources.” President Barack Obama, interview with Norah O'Donnell, CBS *Face the Nation*, June 22, 2014
9. Jamail, Dahr, “Iraq Dispatches,” archived at [dahrjamaill.net](http://dahrjamaill.net); “John Pilger detects the Salvador Option,” May 8, 2006, *New Statesman*, [newstatesman.com](http://newstatesman.com)



# #GAZAUNDERATTACK

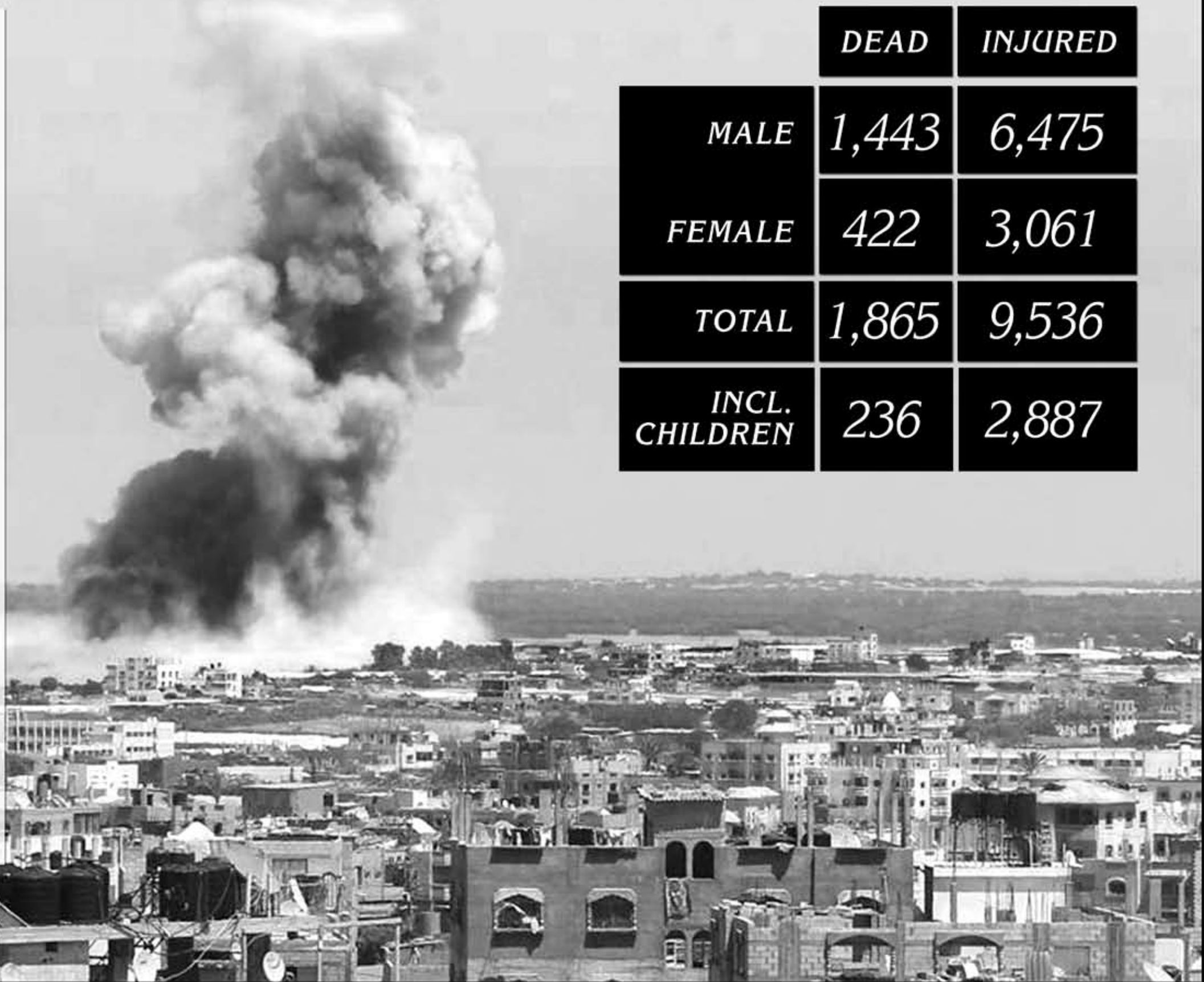
Twelve years ago—on 22 July 2002—Israel announced that it had carried out a “targeted killing” of HAMAS leader Salah Shehadeh. An Israeli F-16 dropped a one-ton bomb on Shehadeh’s apartment building in Gaza, levelling a surrounding area about the size of half a city block. Fourteen other Palestinians were killed—including nine children—and more than one hundred and fifty others were injured. Scores more were left homeless.

During Israel’s three-week-long 2008-2009 assault on Gaza—which culminated in a UN investigation—over 1,400 Palestinians were killed and over 5,000 injured. The first month of the current Gaza assault (see chart on right) surpassed that figure. As of August 24, 2014—just over two weeks later—the death toll has reached 2,122 people (including 507 children), with over 10,621 injured (including over 3,224 children).

Israel’s story remains the same. What has changed is that social media is empowering a new generation of young Palestinian witnesses to war to share their stories in real time to a networked world, dismantling Israel’s lies with crowd-sourced on-the-ground reporting. Follow the #GazaUnderAttack hashtag on Twitter.com.

## THE FIRST MONTH

	<i>DEAD</i>	<i>INJURED</i>
<i>MALE</i>	1,443	6,475
<i>FEMALE</i>	422	3,061
<i>TOTAL</i>	1,865	9,536
<i>INCL. CHILDREN</i>	236	2,887





# Gaza Tweets

Sent during the July and August 2014 Israeli bombardment. Individual tweeters self-identify in their descriptions.



**Above:** Necessity is the mother of invention. Gazans “jump-start” their phones from a motor vehicle battery during the war. Israel destroyed its only power plant. (Via @drsaeedkanafany)

**Using U.S. Weapons on Gaza**  
In 2013, the United States sent Israel at least \$196 million in parts for military airplanes and helicopters, a category that includes F-16 fighter jets and Apache helicopters, both of which Israel is currently using to attack Gaza homes, offices and farmland. Between January and May 2014, the United States had already exported \$92 million in parts for military airplanes and helicopters.

—Ken Klippenstein and Paul Gottinger, analysis of revelations in a U.S. Census Bureau report, *truthout.org*, July 23, 2014

## It's Genocide

“It has been going on all night and day, every day and everywhere, coming from the sea, from the air and from land canons...We are now facing a real genocide in Gaza. As the day begins in Gaza, hundreds of ordinary people in need of regular health care are unable to reach health care centres. Meanwhile hundreds of wounded people, mostly women and children, if they can be taken to hospitals at all would find doctors and other medical staff working in dire and dangerous environments, under constant pressure, and with severe shortages of drugs and other necessary medical supplies.”

—Dr. Mona El Farra, Middle East Children's Alliance (lost 9 family members to bombs) Gaza City, July 12, Day 5 of the attack

## Giving Time for War Crime

“This morning, it's nothing short of a massacre, a deliberate massacre...shelled by the strongest army in the region and they are defenseless... They are hemmed in by land, by air, by sea and then if they try to dig tunnels as a way out — what do you expect? ... you are giving Israel the time and the means to continue with these massacres and these war crimes.”

—Hanan Ashrawi, executive committee member, Palestinian Liberation organization (PLO), ABC's “This Week,” July 20, 2014

## @Farah\_Gazan



*I'm the modern Anne Frank, Gaza-Palestine, 16 years old.*

*7,800 tweets, 208,000 followers.*

HUGE MASSIVE BOMBS NOW #Gaza #GazaUnderAttack #AJAGAZA

7:00 AM - 28 Jul 2014

When u need 2 have hundreds of protests just 2 tell the world that BOMBING CHILDREN IS NOT OKAY. That's when u know that HUMANITY DIED #Gaza

8:59 AM - 28 Jul 2014

The bomb was on a part if Al-Shifa' Hospital, this means it was on the opposite of my house #Gaza #AJAGAZA #GazaUnderAttack

9:13 AM - 28 Jul 2014

This is in my area. I can't stop crying. I might die tonight #Gaza #GazaUnderAttack #ICC4Israel #AJAGAZA”

4:59 PM - 28 Jul 2014

We are sitting in darkness bc the power is off, flares r lightening up the area just like it's midday, we're just hearin bombs, drones, f16s #Gaza

5:07 PM - 28 Jul 2014



## @ImPalestine

*Mohammed Suliman: Raised in Gaza; a non-white Mohametan, in need of enlightenment; the uncivilised, barbaric, backward and inferior Other. LSE alumnus; a future walking lie. 6,700 tweets, 40,000 followers.*

I have lived in Gaza for almost all of my life. War is not something new to us. These, however, are the scariest moments we have ever lived.

5:10 PM - 28 Jul 2014

The newest airstrike next to me targeted a civilian building which belongs to Al Shurafa family. Several families live there. No warning.

6:15 PM - 28 Jul 2014

We've been without electricity for two full days. Managed to secure some fuel to run the generator for a couple hours before I'm off again.

12:14 PM - 30 Jul 2014

Hamas killed zero Israeli children. Israel defended itself murdering 300 Palestinian children. What self-defense. Stop talking about Hamas.

12:51 PM - 30 Jul 2014



## @BelalMD12

*Belal Dabour is a Palestinian doctor living in #Gaza. A night owl and a book worm. belal90md@gmail.com 28,000 tweets, 81,000 followers.*

I woke up to find that Israel has bombed my university. They've also killed another 50 Palestinians overnight! #Gaza pic.twitter.com/lsRACivKnn

12:03 AM - 2 Aug 2014

For a month I haven't smelt or even seen a flower, but I've seen and my nose is filled with the smell of a dozen charred corpses.

1:41 PM - 2 Aug 2014



## @DrBasselAbuward

*Doctor at Al-Shifa Hospital, Human rights activist, Palestinian from Gaza. doctor.bassel@hotmail.com 48,000 tweets, 43,000 followers.*

Israel is creating a generation of disabled adults... and for these kids, there is no one left to care for them: pic.twitter.com/2kIjOitPVY

11:15 AM - 3 Aug 2014

## Who Refused to Make Peace?

The new government also pledged to adopt the three basic principles demanded by members of the International Quartet (UN, US, Europe, Russia): non-violence, recognition of Israel, and adherence to past agreements. Tragically, Israel rejected this opportunity for peace and has until now succeeded in preventing the new government's deployment in Gaza.

—from a statement by Former Irish President Mary Robinson and US President Jimmy Carter, published by The Guardian, August 5, 2014



## The Root of the Issue:

A bronze sculpture by Khalil Bendib of an uprooted olive tree commemorates the tragic dispossession of Palestinian land that continues to this day. In public parks in Geneva, New York, and on the Midtown Greenway bike trail, Minneapolis, Minnesota, the latter through the efforts of Nick and Mary Eoloff, adoptive parents of Israeli nuclear whistleblower Mordechai Vanunu.

## RESOURCES

Browse WAMM Middle East Committee resources at: [WomenAgainstMilitaryMadness.org](http://WomenAgainstMilitaryMadness.org)

Palestinian Center for Human Rights—Gaza: [PCHRGaza.org](http://PCHRGaza.org)

Palestinian Ministry of Health: <http://www.moh.ps/?lang=1>

+972 Magazine: [972mag.com](http://972mag.com)

Gaza Scoops: [Gaza.scoop.ps](http://Gaza.scoop.ps)



# 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) e.g. charitable purposes.

## Ongoing WAMM Vigils for Peace

**Vigil to End War**  
Every Wednesday, 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. 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.

**Weekly Vigil: Justice for Palestine and Palestinians!**  
Every Friday, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., corner of Summit And Snelling Avenues, St. Paul. End the siege of Gaza! End the Occupation! End U.S. aid to Israel!. Sponsored by WAMM Middle East Committee.

**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

## Ongoing WAMM Committee Meetings

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

**The WAMM Book Club**  
Saturdays, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Afro Deli, 1939 S 5th Street, Minneapolis. Third Saturday of the month. FFI: Call 612-827-5364.

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

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

**Middle East Committee** Second Monday of each month, 10:00 a.m. at WAMM, 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Suite 3, Minneapolis. FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364

**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 South. 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

**Pax Salons** Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 943 West Seventh St. (St. Paul Gallery), St. Paul. Please come. Topics vary. Call for details. Small donations accepted. FFI: 227-3228 or justcomm.org/pax-salon

**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 second or third Saturday. Refreshments 9:30 a.m., Program 10:00 a.m. Location may vary. See "Video: Dr. Mads Gilbert" under Special Events on this page. FFI: 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. Sponsored by: Interfaith Coalition for Immigration, Advocates for Human Rights. FFI: Email interfaithonimmigration@gmail.com

## Special Events

**Gaza: BDS at Minnesota State Board of Investment** Tuesday, September 9, 9:00 a.m., in Room 112, Minnesota State Capitol. Rally after on Capitol grounds. Make it difficult for Board to ignore the Gaza massacres! Pack the room, halls. Hold signs showing human rights abuses that we, as Minnesotans, U.S. citizens, pay for. Signs provided, or bring own: sticks not allowed. After SBI meeting, rally on Capitol grounds (Capitol renovations restricts space for rally, so stay tuned for location). FFI: mn.breakthebonds.org

**Video: Solidarity with Gaza, Dr. Mads Gilbert.** 9:30 Coffee, refreshments. 10:00 a.m. Saturday, September 13. Presentation and discussion. Southdale Hennepin County Library, 7001 York Ave. South, Edina. The Norwegian emergency surgeon/medical professor on his return from the al-Shifa Hospital, Gaza, where he volunteered during the Operation Protective Edge massacre.

**Community March for Palestine!** Saturday, Sept. 13, 1:00 p.m. at Loring Park, 1382 Willow Street, Minneapolis. 32 years ago marked the Sabra and Shatilla massacre. This summer was another massive attack on Palestinian civilians. Demand an end to U.S. military aid to Israel, continue grassroots movement to support a free Palestine. Sponsored by: the Anti-War Committee. Endorsed by WAMM, many others FFI: Facebook or call 612-827-5364.

**Open House: Creative Peacemaking** Sun., Sept. 13, 7:00 p.m. at Simone Weil House of the Mennonite Worker, 2420 11th Avenue South, Minneapolis. Open House, blessing/dedication of the Center's space in the Phillips Neighborhood. Join others to help bless this space. Sponsored by: The Gene Stolzhus Center for Creative Peacemaking. FFI: Contact Mark VanSteenwyk at the Mennonite Worker: markvans@gmail.com

**WAMM Annual Silent Auction & Celebration** Sunday, Oct. 5, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. (bidding closes 7:00 p.m.) at St. Joan of Arc Church, 4537 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis. Live auction! Live fun! Free Parking. Sliding scale fee at door: \$10-\$30 Reserve a table for 8 in advance, \$25 per person. Complimentary buffet 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Bid, win exciting variety of items: restaurant gift certificates, gourmet dinners, health and wellness services, vacation homes, expanded raffle, more! Supervised children's activities. FFI: 612.827.5364

**Bus from Twin Cities to Close School of Americas SOA** Watch Vigil November 21 to 23 in Columbus, Georgia. FFI: bus reservations, costs, etc.: Ward Brennan phone 612-869-5108 or Wayne Wittman 651-695-5297

Additional events listed at [WomenAgainstMilitaryMadness.org](http://WomenAgainstMilitaryMadness.org) or call the WAMM office: **612-827-5364**

For Minnesota Alliance of Peacemaker events, see: [mapm.org](http://mapm.org)

## WAMM Membership

\_\_\_ \$15-39 Low Income/Student membership

\_\_\_ \$40-59 Annual membership

\_\_\_ \$60-199 Household membership

\_\_\_ \$200-349 Sustainer (amount above membership)

\_\_\_ \$350+ Major Donor (amount above membership)

\_\_\_ This is a new membership. \_\_\_ This is a membership renewal \_\_\_ This is a gift membership

\_\_\_ Check enclosed. \_\_\_ Please charge my VISA Mastercard \_\_\_ Total amount enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_

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Email \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Make checks payable to WAMM, 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407

## Pledge for Peace

(WAMM will send a coupon book)

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Monthly

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly

\_\_\_ I want to volunteer for WAMM

## WAMM Committees

- **Issues Committees:**
- Book Club
- Counter Recruitment
- End War Committee: Acting Against War and the Threats of War
- Immigration
- Media
- Middle East
- St. Joan of Arc/ WAMM Peacemakers
- Ground All Drones Committee
- Tackling Torture at the Top
- WAMM Occupy

## Administrative and Other Committees:

- Coordinating
- Finance
- Fundraising
- New Member
- Newsletter
- Personnel
- Program/New Issues
- Silent Auction

## WAMM Board

- Meredith Aby
- Marie Braun, Treasurer
- Diane Haugesag
- Sally Kundert, Co-chair
- Vanessa Lawrow
- Polly Mann
- Sarah Martin
- JoAnn Maus
- Brigid McDonald
- BethAnne Nelson
- Coleen Rowley
- Margaret Sarfehjooy
- Lucia Wilkes Smith, Secretary
- Sharon Rice Vaughan, Co-Chair
- Carol Walker

## BREAKING NEWS



## Crimes Against Civilians

- As this WAMM Newsletter went to press, on Saturday, August 23, Israeli F-16s demolished the 15-story/60-unit Al-Zafer apartment building in Gaza, claiming the building was used as a "HAMAS command center".
- Twenty-two Palestinians were wounded—11 of them children—and over 44 Palestinian families were left homeless. There were around 60 other Israeli strikes on Gaza the same day.



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Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407  
(612) 827-5364 FAX: (612) 827-6433  
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**GAZA, GAZA, DON'T YOU CRY!  
OUR HEARTS FOR YOU  
WILL NEVER DIE!  
YOUR SOULS KEEP RISING  
TO THE SKY!**

*—chant by Sabry Wazwaz*

## Weekly Vigil: Justice for Palestine & Palestinians!

Every Friday, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.  
Corner of Summit & Snelling Avenues,  
St. Paul.

- End the siege of Gaza!
- End the Occupation!
- End U.S. aid to Israel!

Sponsored by WAMM Middle East Committee.

