

Women Against Military Madness

Newsletter

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The Iran Agreement and the Impossible, Irrelevant, and Irrational Opposition

by William O. Beeman

Editor's Introduction: A tremendous amount of pressure was exerted and resources spent on trying to influence the U.S. Congress to oppose the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) agreement between the P5+1 (China, France, Russia, the UK, the United States, plus Germany) and Iran dealing with Iran's nuclear program. According to *National Public Radio*, since mid-July, the lobbying group J Street had 125 meetings with lawmakers and planned ads for five states in favor of the agreement. But opposing the agreement, Citizens for a Nuclear Free Iran, supported by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), spent tens of millions of dollars on lobbying and TV ads in 23 states. They had 400 meetings in congressional offices in the last week of July alone.¹

However, by early September, those opposed to the JCPOA were unable to persuade

enough members of Congress to reject the agreement, meaning that it is expected to go forward and that the crippling economic sanctions Iran has had to endure will be lifted. It is unfortunate that even Administration officials and legislators, who are in support of the agreement, have continued to assert the false premise that Iran has a nuclear weapons program and presents a danger if not tightly monitored—though that's as expected, because convincing people of this has been central to negotiating such an agreement in the first place.

It may come as no surprise then that those who reject the JCPOA have already drafted a Plan B, determined to continue their opposition. Ben Cardin, a U.S. senator from Maryland, is going to introduce the "Iran Policy Oversight Act of 2015," which changes the intent and requirements in the JCOPA in order to "strengthen" it, according to Jim Lobe, Washington bureau chief for *Inter Press Service*, who obtained a copy of the draft. Lobe describes it as having AIPAC's fingerprints all over it and being so hostile to Iran that it threatens to sink the agreement.²

William Beeman: It's worth examining, beyond their opposition, what the actual positions were of those in Congress who rejected the JCPOA. (This includes Senator Chuck Schumer, as well as Ben Cardin, both members of the President's own political party.) Some simply rejected the agreement; some even rejected it before the text had been released to the public. Others announced that they had no alternative other than rejection. When pressed, however, a few members of Congress have said that they rejected it because they believed that the United States could forge a "better deal" with Iran.

This position is magical thinking. It assumed that there is an actual mechanism for renegotiation, and that a whole raft of negotiating points could still be open to force

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Magic Tricks: "The greatest performers have always been able to make audience members not only suspend their disbelief but suspend their inquisitive nature to find out how it was done until after they have absorbed the entire performance because they're so caught up in the magic, so caught up in the mystery that they're not thinking how did you do that..."

—"Heroes of Magic,"
a TV-documentary from the UK featuring footage of famous magicians, aired in the year 2000



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 Yes, There Is A Woman Against War in Washington, D.C.

by Polly Mann

U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Lee has a strong track record of voting against war, death, and destruction. In 2002, the International Peace Bureau recognized her for the Seán MacBride Peace Prize. But ironically, in the U.S. she was herself a target of death threats. The National Journal reported: “There was a time when Rep. Barbara Lee was accused of treason and got so many death threats for her antiwar politics she needed around-the-clock police protection.” (*The National Journal*, September 9, 2013)

This past June of 2015, the American Baptist Home Mission Societies awarded Barbara Lee its Edwin T. Dahlberg Peace and Justice Award, the American Baptist Churches USA's highest recognition, for her “courageous national leadership in the U.S. Congress as well as compassionate Christian witness with and for individuals marginalized in the nation and around the world.” The awarders emphasized her efforts at domestic justice and global peace, rather than her specific opposition to wars, yet it is significant that she was chosen because they could not have missed the clear antiwar positions she has taken. As the *National Journal* commented: “Times are changing. Now, a decade and two unpopular wars later, the congresswoman who cast the only vote against the war in Afghanistan has moved from the fringe to the forefront, becoming a preeminent voice in the president's own party against his effort to bomb Syria.”

Still, Lee is not the purist antiwar activists would wish. While advocating for nonmilitary solutions, she has, on occasion in the past, repeated false premises about WMD in Syria and Iran, and she called for the stepping down of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi and other foreign leaders of nations targeted for takeover by the U.S. expanding empire—actions that would result in destabilizing functioning societies, something that cannot in any way be excused.

Nevertheless, Barbara Lee has continued to be a voice representing her antiwar-prone constituency, the East Bay area of northern California, and to argue against bombing and military “solutions.” She has advocated long and hard for ending America's state of perpetual war and for reining in the military-industrial complex, and she has had the courage to vote against her own political party on these issues. In 1999, Lee voted against authorizing air strikes in Yugoslavia and in favor of a plan to completely withdraw U.S. troops. She was the only member of



U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Lee
Photo: Barbara Lee website

either house of Congress to vote against Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) following 9/11—authorization which quickly led to the U.S. war on Afghanistan. In 2002, she voted against the Iraq War Resolution. In 2009, she was one of 36 representatives who refused to condemn the UN's Goldstone Report, which revealed the Israeli targeting of civilians in Gaza in 2008/2009 (the U.S. had rushed weapons for use by Israel). In 2013, she introduced the Drones Accountability Act in Congress. In 2015, she introduced legislation demanding that Congress has a constitutional obligation to debate and authorize use of military force and define exact parameters in its offensive measures against ISIL in Iraq and Syria.

For years now, we have seen a handful of powerful women in Washington proving that they are as aggressive as any man and sometimes even more aggressive as players on the world stage pushing the U.S. to go to war. Isn't it time to listen to a woman like Barbara Lee who advocates against going to war?

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

The Idealist at the Grassroots

by Newsletter Staff

Kathy Kelly is a remarkable woman opposed to military madness who operates outside the political constraints of Congress. She doesn't even pay taxes so as not to be complicit in foreign policy to which she objects. The constraints she faces in her work are, instead, the inertia of the U.S. public in the face of the military madness that she has not only witnessed but experienced firsthand in many visits to foreign lands that have been overt and covert targets of U.S. sanctions, sieges, and weapons.

The word “idealist” has many interpretations but most generally refers to someone guided more by ideals than practical considerations. Given the current political environment and the disengagement of much of the American public from their government's foreign or domestic policy, Kelly's vision certainly falls within that definition. And those not interested in improving circumstances dismiss such idealism as naïve.

But Kelly is far from naïve: she has frequently positioned herself in the eye of the storm to try to stop war and advocate for its victims and potential victims, bringing their stories back to the source from which war originated. She lived in Gaza in 2009 while bombs fell from Israel's Operation Cast Lead (the U.S. rushed weapons for Israel's use), sailed on the Audacity of Hope in an attempt to break the siege of Gaza in 2011, and returned in 2012 to meet the survivors of Israel's Operation Pillar of Defense attacks. She was familiar with the effects of a siege from her experience living in Iraq during the Sanctions Period, when so many needed items were forbidden entrance to Iraq that 500,000 children died under those conditions of deprivation. During that time, her Chicago-based organization, Voices in the Wilderness (later renamed Voices for Creative Nonviolence), put together 70 delegations that openly defied the sanctions to bring medicines to children.



Kathy Kelly Photo: Voices for Creative Nonviolence vcnv.org

In 2003, she experienced the “Shock and Awe” campaign in Iraq and, more recently, the ongoing war in Afghanistan, where she was the frequent, long-term guest of the young Afghan Peace Volunteers, helping facilitate their outreach to the world. She was sentenced to prison for planting corn on missile silo sites in protest of the U.S. killing of innocent people with drones, and for trespassing at the Ft. Benning military training school, the School of Americas (SOA/WHINSEC). She emerged from prison with more stories—showing concern for the prison population and the system of injustice that incarcerates so many women.

Ever the realist but hopeful about the ability of others to act on ideals as well, Kathy Kelly said: “It's hard to look in the mirror and see lost opportunities to be peacemakers. But we can become rehabilitated, as a society, transformed from a menacing, fearsome empire in decline into a society that earnestly wants to align with people dedicated to building peaceable societies.”



On September 21, 2015, the International Day of Peace, the Afghan Peace Volunteers launches #Enough!, a global campaign to abolish war encouraging all members of the human family to sign The People's Agreement to Abolish War. APV says, “It's not a petition, because we feel that we don't need permission to live without war, especially from the elite who are the ones who keep waging wars.”

Photo: ourjourneytosmile.org

RESOURCE

Voices for Creative Nonviolence

Voices is committed to strategic campaigns and experiments in truth engaging in active nonviolent resistance. Such resistance must take into account that war-making is both military and economic. vcnv.org

ACTION

Global Day of Listening on International Peace Day September 21

5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Afghanistan time. Global Days of Listening is active listening throughout the year with people around the globe conversing about each other's paths of action toward a peaceful world. You can listen and type into the conversation on the livestream page, or hear previous Days of Listening! More info: globaldaysoflistening.org

Vigil to End War: Wednesdays 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Lake St./ Marshall Avenue Bridge. See calendar page for details.

Dissent, Activism, and Civil Liberties in the 1970s and Today: An Exploration

by Sue Ann Martinson

Part I The '70s: The Burglary, Hoover's Secret FBI and the Antiwar Movement, COINTELPRO

"Never once did I hear anybody, including myself, raise the question: Is this course of action which we have agreed upon lawful, is it legal, is it ethical or moral?"

—William Sullivan, head of the FBI's Domestic Intelligence Division under FBI director J. Edgar Hoover¹

Betty Medsger's *The Burglary: The Discovery of J. Edgar Hoover's Secret FBI* is the story of the Citizens Commission to Investigate the FBI, the courageous activists who broke into an FBI office on March 8, 1971, in the small town of Media, Pennsylvania, 12 miles from Philadelphia. Medsger tells the story of the break-in and of those involved, at the same time examining the results of the break-in, Hoover's secret FBI, and the controversies raised that foreshadow the issues we now face.

Hoover's Secret FBI and the Antiwar Movement

In her book, Medsger explains that Hoover's primary focuses in his secret FBI were anticommunism and anti-dissent, including students, especially black students, on college campuses where much antiwar activity had taken place during the Vietnam War.

After Hoover became FBI director in 1924, year after year he asked Congress for and was granted money to fight communism. However, in 1970, he changed his tactics.

William Davidon, who put together the Citizens' Committee, had asked himself, "Is the FBI suppressing dissent?" Davidon was influenced by Catholic activists and had participated in some of their actions; he was dedicated to nonviolent activism. But Hoover was determined to discredit them.

In 1970, in his annual budget request to Congress, Hoover manufactured blatant lies about the Catholic resistance:

This is a militant group self-described as being composed of Catholic priests and nuns, teachers, students and former students who have manifested opposition to the war in Vietnam by acts of violence. . . . The principal leaders of this group are Philip and Daniel Berrigan. . . . This group plans to blow up underground electrical conduits and steam pipes serving the Washington, D.C., area . . . The plotters are also concocting a scheme to kidnap a highly placed Government official.²

COINTELPRO

One of the most important finds of the Media, PA, break-in was the discovery of COINTELPRO, an acronym on one of the documents taken from the FBI offices. Carl Stern, a reporter for *NBC*, in a broadcast on December 6, 1973, released information he had discovered about COINTELPRO that revealed a long-running FBI surveillance program in which agents tried to infiltrate and disrupt dissident political groups, including civil rights and antiwar organizations.³

The results of the Media, PA, break-in, especially the discovery of COINTELPRO, were influential in investigations by the Church Committee, formed in Congress in 1975, to examine intelligence activities.⁴

Part II The Red Scare, the Black "Threat," Criminalizing Dissent Post 9/11, What to Do?

We celebrate violence in the name of security and violate every precept of human justice through an appeal to fear. This speaks clearly to a form of political repression and a toxic value system.

—Henry A. Giroux, "The Racist Killing Fields in the US: The Death of Sandra Bland" *truthout.org* (July 19, 2015)⁵

The Red Scare

Hoover was a part of the anticommunist propaganda culture America was steeped in during the decades of the '40s, '50s and into the '60s. The planting of anticommunism in the minds of the American people was deliberate. Psychological warfare was part of the World War II effort and continued to be a major weapon during the years of the Cold War, practiced by the U.S. not only around the world but domestically as well.⁶



Red Scare vintage film poster, fair.org

In the late '40s and early '50s Joseph McCarthy and the McCarthy hearings⁷ and the House Un-American Activities Committee⁸ were part of the anticommunist paranoia as they conducted the infamous interviews of Hollywood figures and blacklisted not only Hollywood stars and writers, but also singer/songwriter Pete Seeger and Minnesota writer Meridel LeSueur.

In his book *Wages of Rebellion*, Chris Hedges writes: "Our radical movements, repressed and ruthlessly dismantled in the name of anticommunism, were the real engines of equality and social justice." He refers to "abolitionists, African Americans, suffragists, workers and antiwar and civil rights activists," many of whom paid with their blood.⁹

The Black "Threat" Then and Now

In her role as a reporter at *The Washington Post*, Betty Medsger received a copy of a memorandum from the Citizens Commission with dual subject headings, "Black Student

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Dissent,

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Groups on College Campuses” and “Racial Matters,” dated November 4, 1970, and signed by J. Edgar Hoover that stated: “Initiate inquiries immediately. . . . Increased campus disorders involving black students pose a definite threat to the Nation’s stability and security. . . .” Medsger adds: “It was clear from these documents that black students were regarded as potentially violent and therefore appropriate subjects to be watched and to have their actions recorded in FBI files.”¹⁰

Since then the deaths of so many African Americans at the hands of the police have come to light, resulting in rebellions in Ferguson, Missouri; New York City; Baltimore, and nationwide (most have been peaceful on the part of the demonstrators). The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has been targeting people of color.¹¹ Black Lives Matter Minneapolis was infiltrated¹² and its perceived leaders charged after a demonstration at the Mall of America.¹³

Black Lives Matter, along with Idle No More with its focus on Indigenous rights, were both begun by women of color, and are primary radical movements today that are, to borrow Hedges’ words, “real engines of equality and social justice.”

Criminalizing Dissent Post 9/11

In 2010, antiwar activists¹⁴, members of the Antiwar Committee and Freedom Road Socialists, were raided and subpoenaed to appear before a grand jury by the FBI. Records were removed from the Antiwar Committee’s office in Minneapolis, and personal papers and items, computers, and cell phones were taken from activists’ homes, in spite of the fact that the activities of these groups have always been nonviolent. The sweep also included activists from the Chicago and Michigan area. All of these activists, unwilling to name others, have refused to testify before a grand jury. To date no action has been taken against them.

Other examples of criminalizing dissent are the RNC8 (a group of antiwar protesters)¹⁵, charged with terrorism during the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, MN, in 2008. (Charges against them were found not to have substance and were eventually dropped.) More recently, charges were leveled against Black Lives Matter organizers for a demonstration at the Mall of America.

Attacks from Within and the “isms”

A small percentage of people around the country appear to still be living in the “red scare” past, decrying communism and socialism and taunting those who may identify as socialists or communists, once again touting the “red menace” mentality by attacking individuals and organizations for their philosophy and politics in an attempt to create a toxic atmosphere among peace/antiwar activists. At times there has even been the need for activists to focus time and energy defending against attacks against individuals and groups in what appear to be attempts to split justice and peace groups internally and prevent them from acting in coalition with one another. Attacks have focused on the antiwar activists targeted by the FBI and those affiliated with them in the struggle for justice and peace.

Capitalism Now

Along with communism and socialism, the other prominent “ism” is capitalism. Both communism, which is basically a

political system, and socialism, an economic system, are near opposites of capitalism.¹⁶ Chris Hedges has much to say about capitalism, which like socialism is an economic rather than political system, but has become political through corporations exercising control over the government. Hedges states that capitalism is a dying system, as Marx had predicted.¹⁷ Marx’s analysis of the capitalistic system has long been ignored in this country because of the unrelenting paranoiac drive of anticommunism. In *Wages of Rebellion* Hedges documents capitalism on steroids and shows how the current surveillance system is the cornerstone of capitalistic corporate control.¹⁸

Beyond the “Isms”: What Then Are We to Do?

The answer may be simpler than it might first appear. We are surrounded by the Machiavellian machinations of the FBI, Homeland Security, and the NSA, all of whose perspectives are supported by the corporate mainstream media.

Yet even with all the oppression and in spite of it, all around the country people are using peaceful methods including legal challenges, lobbying politicians, internet organizing, and demonstrations against racism, perpetual war, illegal surveillance, police brutality, economic inequality, climate change, fracking and toxic oil pipelines, and contamination of our food by GMOs, to name some areas of resistance.

These actions for justice and peace, carried out with passion and love, are living demonstrations of moral indignation against a morally bankrupt system and of taking a stand in action in accordance with what should be our constitutional civil rights and civil liberties.

Activists in the pro-peace/antiwar movement know that stands against perpetual war and climate change are inextricably linked, not only because the mighty machine of the U.S. military/industrial complex pollutes, but because the wars being fought, although covered in propagandistic rhetoric, are geopolitical wars about resources, especially oil, but increasingly water as well. NATO is the armed police force of the multinational corporations. No more transparent illustration of the geopolitical battles for resources (but certainly not the only example) is the flagrant presence of Chevron in the Ukraine.¹⁹

The police act as the armed forces of corporations in this country and other countries, as well, when they attempt to suppress nonviolent dissent and activism. Sometimes activists engage in small actions and at other times there are large demonstrations. Sometimes activism takes the form of civil disobedience. As Hedges says, “Rebellion against this global oligarchic elite percolates across the planet.”

Keystone XL activist Tom Weis succinctly states, “There comes a time when we must stand for the future of our children, and for all life on earth. That time is here. That time is now.”²⁰

Sue Ann Martinson is a longtime activist and WAMM member, a writer, and an editor who has an interest in civil liberties. She edits the blog RiseUpTimes.org.

See the film: 1971, based on the book *The Burglary: The Discovery of J. Edgar Hoover’s Secret FBI*. Following the film, Sue Ann Martinson hosts a Skype with author Betty Metzger. Details page 7.

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U.S. Get Out of the Philippines!

We cannot fall under the trap that the U.S. military is here to protect us from China. The U.S. has its own interests in coming to the Philippines that do not align with our interest of upholding Philippine sovereignty. The Philippine Senate reached a landmark decision in 1992 and voted no to renewing the Bases Treaty, essentially shutting down Subic Naval and Clark Air Force Bases because U.S. military bases operating in the Philippines were an affront to our sovereignty and territorial integrity. Those reasons still stand today.

—Philippine Congressman Neri Colmenares of Bayan Muna Party at the U.S. Hands Off Subic Bay Press Conference and White House Action, in front of the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, July 20, 2015



Photo: Hawaii Independence Info
Independence movements continue to exist in Hawaii and include protests against environmental and cultural degradation and occupation by the U.S. military.

Hypocrisy

by Don Irish. Mary Beaudoin and Tom Dooley contributed

The U.S. cried foul against the Russian Federation when Crimea, the peninsula region of Ukraine on the Black Sea, voted to rejoin Russia. Crimea had been part of Russia for centuries and the population of Crimea is largely ethnic Russian. Yet outsiders—the U.S. and European allies—have characterized the union of Crimea with Russia as Russian aggression. On April 22 of last year, the *New York Times* reported that U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden, upon flying into Kiev, declared that “no nation has the right to simply grab land from another.”

This leads to the question: Did the U.S. consult Alaskan residents—indigenous people, and those Russians who were living there in coastal areas—when it bought that peninsula in 1867, from Russia? (We can question how Russia, under Czar Alexander II, claimed to own Alaska in the first place so that it was empowered to sell it, but then we also need to ask if the U.S. is in possession of stolen property, which, when applied to an individual, is considered a felony.) Alaska was joined to the United States as the first noncontiguous state in 1959.

In fact, the United States came into being through such “purchases” from other empires, land grabs, and wars.

In 1803, the nascent United States bought from France a vast expanse of land, stretching north from Louisiana to near the Canadian border and west of the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountain range in what is known as the Louisiana Purchase. Indigenous tribes were killed or displaced by the U.S. military in order to expand the nation’s holdings, making a few men extremely rich while waves of poor immigrants were brought in to repopulate the land, grow food, and provide a labor force.

Declaring “manifest destiny,” the U.S. annexed the northern half of Mexico which it defeated in the Mexican-American War, 1846 to 1848. This was land that is now California, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Texas, and includes parts of Wyoming and Colorado, something not lost on a South African observer who commented in a letter to *The Economist*:

The American flag is habitually burnt publically around the world by anti-imperialists. The Stars and Stripes flies over the states of California and Texas and others which America took by force from Mexico 150 years ago. Cities and towns have Spanish names. Mexicans still call these states ‘the occupied territories’. America has not yet decolonized and

continues to act in a brutal, imperialist fashion in many parts of the world. But what can one expect from a nation whose creation involved the genocide of one race and the extinction of another? (David Short, Johannesburg, *The Economist*, Letter to the editor, May 26, 2001. Provided by Veterans for Peace/WAMM member Tom Dooley)

Judging by the militarization of the southwest border, the U.S. feels it necessary to continue enforcing its claim to the land.

Then there are the islands. Hawaii came under United States control when it sent U.S. soldiers to secure the queen’s “leaving” in 1893. This gave the U.S. a stake well into the Pacific Ocean and benefited plantation owners who came from outside. Hawaii was made a state in 1959, but by then the indigenous population had long been decimated from disease and outnumbered by immigrants moving in, and the choices provided on the ballot were limited. However, independence movements, led by indigenous people, are alive there today.

Other islands, in the Pacific and Caribbean, were taken without consent of the residents, but not given the privileges that states in the Union enjoy. These islands have served to further the U.S. claims in those bodies of water and have acted as tax havens for U.S. corporations, regardless of the effects on the native populations. Puerto Rico’s economy became dependent on its tax haven status and, once taken away, its economy was destroyed as businesses moved out. Puerto Rico was also used as a bombing range for U.S. war games and weapons testing, dumping, and burning. There was a people’s victory in that, after four years of nonviolent resistance, the Navy was forced to close its base there. However, the military left behind a toxic legacy from munitions, and a radar system and communication area continue to remain on the island.

Aside from the taking over of territory, U.S. hypocrisy shows itself in the insistence that leaders in other countries be tried before the International Criminal Court (ICC) for war crimes, while the U.S. refuses to join the ICC itself, thereby avoiding accountability for U.S. citizens who commit war crimes.

The U.S. frequently levels the charge of human rights abuses against other nation states, but ignores its own—among them the killing of citizens by police, the death penalty, a prison population of more than two million, the highest

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WAMM Monday Night at the Movies Presents *1971, the Film*

Date and time: October 12 at 7:00 p.m.

**Location: 4200 Cedar Avenue South,
Minneapolis (entrance on 42nd Avenue)**

Betty Medsger, author of the book *The Burglary: The Discovery of J. Edgar Hoover's Secret FBI*, on which the film is based, will participate via Skype in the discussion following the film. The film tells the true story about eight ordinary citizens who broke into an FBI office in the year 1971, took hundreds of secret files, and shared them with the public by sending them to the media. They revealed the FBI's vast and illegal regime of spying and intimidation of Americans, which included spying on antiwar activists and African-American students, as well as others who were exercising their First Amendment rights. Betty Medsger, a reporter at *The Washington Post* at the time, was the first in the media with the courage to expose what was in the files to the American public.

The film's director, Joanna Hamilton, expresses hope "that people today will be reminded of what it means to be an engaged citizen, and how vigilance is needed to sustain democracy."

For more about the book and the concerns it raises, see the article "Dissent, Activism, and Civil Liberties: An Exploration" by Sue Ann Martinson in this issue.

FFI: 612-827-5364
womenagainstmilitarymadness.org



Today's engaged citizens Meredith Aby-Keirstead, Anne Keirstead, Audrey. Photo: Kim DeFranco

Hypocrisy,

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in the world, composed disproportionately of people of color. Then there is the crazy double standard applied to Iran and the repetition of the mantra, "Iran must not have a nuclear weapon." While Iran has been proven to have no nuclear weapons or nuclear weapons program, sanctions were put in place against the nation to prevent it from having something it doesn't have. At the same time the U.S. has 7,100 nuclear weapons, according to Arms Control estimates, and is modernizing its nuclear weapons arsenal and expanding its tactical nuclear weapons into Europe.

How has information been suppressed so that many Americans have failed to grasp their true history? We know that corporate owned mass media reflects the power structure of our times. But education is also an issue. While many educators do their best, our education systems have been at times particularly politicized and tainted with propaganda, even at the level of higher education. When Don Irish began teaching sociology at Washington State University, he shared with his students information he had access to at the time that had been withheld or misreported about World War II events in regard to Japan. One of his

students reported this to a political science professor, who told the university president, who then demanded that Irish resign from his position. Fortunately, he was able to continue his academic career elsewhere and expand both his scholarship and activism. But he sees that earlier experience as an example of "news secrecies" that have been especially perpetuated in certain periods throughout our culture, allowing politics to dominate over the truth.

We are seeing the same thing on campuses today with regard to the Middle East, with professors fired and students repressed, especially in regard to Palestine.

Additional sources: *People's History of the United States*, Zinn, Howard (HarperCollins, 2005); *From a Native Daughter: Colonialism and Sovereignty in Hawaii*, Trask, Haunani-Kay, University of Hawaii Press, 1993/revised 1999; "Puerto Rico's Economic 'Death Spiral' Tied to Legacy of Colonialism," Gonzalez, Juan, *Democracy Now*, August 5, 2015; "U.S. Opposition to the International Criminal Court," Global Policy Watch, globalpolicywatch.org; International Centre for Prison Studies; "2015 Estimated Global Nuclear Warhead Inventories," Arms Control Association, armscontrol.org

ACTION

Stop Politicized Witch Hunts
Civil liberties always have to be defended. Info about cases, what you can do: FFI: Calendar page 10, and stopfbi.net

WORD UP!

Oh Say Can You See in 2015?
On August 25, 2015, the National Freedom of Information Coalition, and the New York-based Media Law Resource Center, joined this year by Investigative Reporters and Editors, announced that they will be attempting to identify current trends in the transparency of government institutions. Troubled by a downward trend in transparency in recent years, 8,000 members from news media, law, and government watchdog groups will receive a 24-question survey regarding their requests and access to information from government institutions. Results in October. FFI: nfoic.org

WAMM THANKS

In Memory of Gillian Furst:
Pippa Carlson
Mary Jane Smetanka
Richard and Debra Parker
Maryann Nieberle Weidt
Alice Rice

**The Art of Illusion:
a Public Performance**

Prior to this agreement, even during the additional-protocol inspections, the IAEA reported no material evidence of cheating by Iran. Nevertheless, the U.S. expressed suspicions that Iran was cheating, in order to sell the public on measures and threats against Iran.

—“On the U.S.-Iran Agreement of 2015,” *Simin Royanian, Women for Peace and Justice in Iran, which advocates against outside interference in Iran’s sovereignty, August 5, 2015, Women4peace.org*

Expose the Fantasy

Iran must vigorously denounce any coupling of the agreement with war and also debunk the flawed argument that the deal has stopped an ‘Iran bomb.’ The JCPOA has simply provided further assurance about the inherent peacefulness of Iran’s nuclear program, which is a far cry from the dubious assumption of the Iran nuclear alarmists . . .

—“White House’s Bad Means for a Good End (Iran’s View),” *Kaveh Afrasiabi, August 8, 2015, campaigniran.org/casmii*

Who’s the Threat?

The President recently authorized a massive arms resupply package, featuring penetrating munitions and air-to-air missiles [for Israel]. And we hope soon to conclude a new memorandum of understanding—a military assistance plan that will guide our intensive security cooperation through the next decade... [for Saudi Arabia]: We’re determined that our Gulf friends will have the political and the military support that they need, and to that end, we are working with them to develop a ballistic missile defense for the Arabian Peninsula, provide special operations training, authorize urgently required arms transfers, strengthen cyber security, engage in large-scale military exercises . . .

—*U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, excerpts from speech, “Remarks on Nuclear Agreement with Iran,” September 2, 2015, delivered at the National Constitutional Center, Philadelphia, PA., state.gov/secretary/remarks/2015/09*

The Iran Agreement,

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Iran into additional concessions. In fact, however, these additional concessions desired by the opposition were impossible, irrelevant, or utterly irrational.

Impossible concessions

One concession these legislators claimed that they could achieve was to force Iran to completely dismantle its nuclear development program. This is a complete impossibility. Iran is a signatory to the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) along with the United States and 188 other world nations. The NPT grants all non-nuclear-weapons signatories the “inalienable right” to peaceful development of nuclear technology. It also requires nuclear weapons signatories like the United States to protect those rights for other nations. Iran will not give up its forty-year, multibillion dollar nuclear technology program—a program that was originally instigated by the United States. Nor can it be forced to do this.

Others thought that they could force Iran to have “no-warning” inspections of any and all sites in Iran of which anyone is suspicious—including military bases, research laboratories, and college offices. They have fixated on the idea that it could take 24 days for inspections under the JCPOA to take place.

In fact the 24-day period is established in treaty law, and is only an upper limit. The JCPOA calls on Iran to accept the Additional Protocol to the NPT. This protocol, now in force for over 100 world nations, allows inspectors to request access to suspected sites. The Iranian government must grant this access within a short period. If there is a dispute, the request goes into “arbitration.” The 24-day period is the maximum time that could be expended before access is granted. In practice the time would be much shorter. Moreover, this only covers sites that contain no nuclear material. Any site with nuclear material is already under 24/7 inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as a part of the original NPT. No nation on earth would agree to allow inspectors to “raid” any facility they wished with no notice. It would be a ceding of national sovereignty.

Members of the U.S. Congress opposed to the agreement also believed that somehow they could get the other P5+1 nations: the UK, France, Russia, China, and Germany, as well as Iran, to return to the negotiation table to forge a new agreement. After two years

of hard negotiation the other P5+1 nations are satisfied with the agreement. They see no reason to return to negotiations or to sustain the economic sanctions against Iran. Getting them to agree to meet again is utter wishful thinking. Germany and France have already sent trade missions to Iran. So have Italy and Japan. Switzerland has removed all economic sanctions. The United Nations Security Council will soon lift the United Nations sanctions. U.S. legislators thinking that they will start these negotiations and get the other nations to maintain economic sanctions is pure fantasy.

These legislators also said that they could prevent Iran from receiving its own sequestered money. This money was embargoed for the duration of the sanctions. When the sanctions are lifted, Iran gets access to its own funds once more. This is written into the sanctions agreement. It cannot be undone.

Irrelevant demands

Some members of Congress believed that they could negotiate in “Christmas Tree” fashion—just as they do by adding irrelevant legislation in with their own appropriations bills—in renewed negotiations with Iran. Suggestions such as requiring Iran to release political prisoners, to improve its human rights record, to cease support for Syria, to stop funding Hezbollah and Hamas, and to recognize the State of Israel are common demands.

None of these demands are in any way relevant to the JCPOA, which deals exclusively with Iran’s nuclear program. The P5+1 nations negotiated this, and while some of these side issues were mentioned in the course of negotiations, they could not be part of the treaty, because they had nothing to do with Iran’s nuclear development.

Moreover, America’s P5+1 allies view this position on the part of U.S. legislators to be completely insane. It would take a long time for other nations in the industrialized world to trust America again. If the agreement were rejected (given that the United States instigated the talks) the United States would sustain a severe blow in power, leadership, and prestige.

Irrational issues

Legislators opposed to the agreement regularly brought up issues such as Iran’s existential threat to Israel, the possibility that Iran could launch an atomic attack on the United States, and Iran’s “hegemony” in the Middle East region as reasons for not supporting the JCPOA.

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The threat to Israel is particularly irrational. Thirty-nine former Israeli military and intelligence officials signed a letter of support for the JCPOA. Israel, with 200+ undeclared nuclear weapons compared to Iran's zero number of nuclear weapons, is under no threat from Iran. As for the other opponents of the JCPOA, such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE, they already spend many times as much on weaponry as is in Iran's defense budget.

The idea of rejecting the JCPOA because of what Iran might do in the future despite any evidence represents fantastical thinking that, once more, has no relevance to the actual Iranian nuclear program. Besides, they are based utterly on fear mongering and fantasy scenarios that have no possibility of occurring. Even if they were remotely possible, rejecting the JCPOA would not be the way to stop them. The JCPOA curtails Iran's possible nuclear weapons development for 10-15 years, and in some of its provisions, forever. A rejection of the JCPOA would have allowed Iranian activities to go forward as they have in the past. If one believes in these doomsday scenarios, then rejecting the JCPOA would hasten, not curtail their realization.

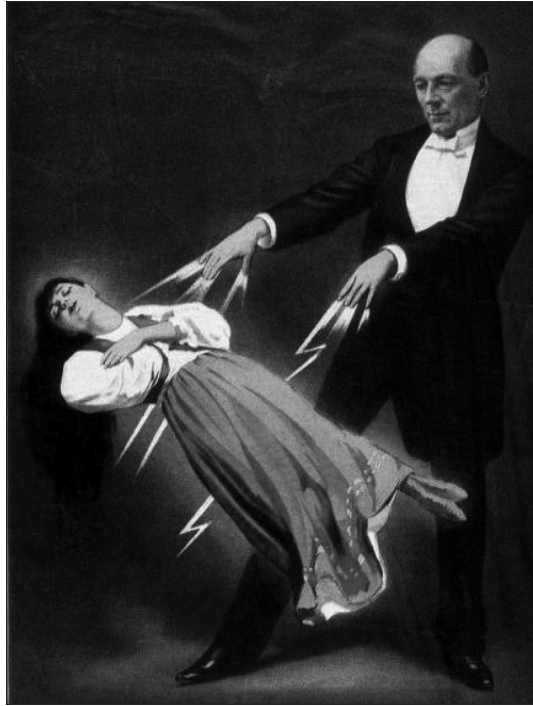
It is worth reminding ourselves that there is no evidence anywhere that Iran had, has or will have a nuclear weapons program, making these irrational fears even more fantastic.

William Beeman, professor and chair of the Anthropology Department at the University of Minnesota, is an internationally known expert on the Middle East and the Islamic World, particularly Iran, the Gulf Region, and Central Asia. He has lived and conducted research in Iran for more than 40 years. He is the author of "The Great Satan" vs. the "Mad Mullahs": How the United States and Iran Demonize Each Other (University of Chicago Press, 2008)

Endnotes

1 "Lobbyists Spending Millions to Sway the Undecided on Iran Deal," Alisa Chang, August 6, 2015, *National Public Radio*.

2 "AIPAC's Plan B?" Jim Lobe, September 3, 2015, *lobelog.com*; "Poison Pills Plentiful in Cardin Bill," Jim Lobe, September 5, 2015, *lobelog.com*



Magical thinking: *the irrational belief that one can bring about a circumstance or event by thinking about it or wishing for it.*

—*Medical Dictionary for the Health Professions and Nursing, Farlex Partner Medical Dictionary 2012, accessed 2015*

WORD UP!

Oil Slick Tricks

What is the basis of U.S. hostility to Iran? It stems from Iran's nationalization of its oil. . . . Ever since 1979, the U.S. has used every excuse and attempted every trick to change the regime in Iran either through revolt, threat of military attack or subversion of the current system to the will of the U.S. and its supporters in Iran (the pro-globalization, capitalist class). Iran has never threatened to attack the U.S. or its 'interests'. In fact, during the war on Afghanistan, Iran declared neutrality. Al-Qaida and the Taliban were and are determined enemies of Iran. Although Iran was opposed to U.S. military occupation of Iraq, it has supported the government established by the U.S. in Iraq. On the other hand, the most important ally of the U.S. in the Middle East (after Israel) is Saudi Arabia, the founder and supporter of Al-Qaida, ISIS, and the Taliban.

—*"On the U.S.-Iran Agreement of 2015," Simin Royanian, Women for Peace and Justice in Iran, which advocates for Iranian sovereignty without outside interference, August 5, 2015, Women4peace.org*

Travel Expenses

Mondoweiss reported in early August that AIPAC's education wing was taking all but three freshmen House Representatives on a visit to Israel in hopes of sabotaging the U.S. government's negotiations with Iran. . . . In August 2013, AIPAC paid for a congressional trip to Israel. The organization paid around \$18,000 for each congressperson who went. Assuming these costs remain the same today, AIPAC will be shelling out another \$1 million to send U.S. lawmakers to Israel.

—*"AIPAC spending estimated \$40 million to oppose Iran Deal," Mondoweiss, August 14, 2015, mondoweiss.net*

WAMM Calendar

Please note that WAMM's provision of information on other groups' 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. Time from now through Nov.: 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Lake Street/Marshall Avenue Bridge, signs available at St. Paul side. Also brief circle up for announcements after the vigil on St. Paul side. FFI: Call WAMM at 612-827-5364.

Vigil to End the Occupation of Palestine

4:30 to 5:30 p.m. every Friday, corner of Summit Avenue and Snelling Avenue, St. Paul. FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364.

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

Grandmothers for Peace Vigils 50th Street and Halifax (1 block w. of France) Wednesdays, 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, Minneapolis. FFI: Call WAMM, 612-827-5364.

The WAMM Book Club

10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Afro Deli, 1939 South 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. at WAMM, 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis. FFI: Call Marie 612-827-5364

Ground All Drones Committee First Thursdays of every month, Now begins 15 min. later: 4:45 to 6:00 p.m., 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis. FFI: 612-827-5364

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

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 South, 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.

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 612-333-4772.

Grandmothers for Peace First Wednesday 12:45 p.m. at Edina Public Library, 5280 Grandview Square, Edina. Programs around justice issues that help 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 Street (St. Paul Gallery), St. Paul. Please come. Topics vary. Call for details. Small donations accepted. FFI: 227-3228

WAMM Second Monday at the Movies Second Monday of every month, 7:00 p.m. 4200 Cedar Ave. South, Minneapolis. Projected on big screen. Free admission, popcorn. All welcome. Discussion follows film. FFI: 612-827-5364 and wamm@mtn.org

Middle East Peace Now Usually second or third Saturday. Refreshments 9:30 a.m., Program 10:00 a.m. Location may vary. 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 or call Michele 612-341-3302 (x117)

Special Events

Vigil to End Drone Warfare Sunday, Sept. 20, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., outside Camp Ripley, 15000 Highway 115, n. of Little Falls, MN. FFI, ride info: WAMM : 612-827-5364

September Starry Night - WAMM's 31st Annual Silent Auction Sunday, September 27, 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., St. Joan of Arc Church, 4537 Third Ave., Minneapolis. Delicious buffet, desserts, hundreds of items to bid on. See details back page. FFI: 612-827-5364

Stop the U.S. Wars Abroad and At Home! October 2-11, UNAC Conference calls for national actions during this time period. Called by United National Antiwar Coalition. FFI: United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC) unaceace.org

Keep Space for Peace Week October 3-10 International Week of Protest to Stop the Militarization of Space space4peace.org

Showing of the Film 1971 Monday, October 12, 2015, at 7:00 p.m., 4200 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis (entrance on 42nd Avenue). Skype with Betty Metzger. Sponsored by WAMM Second Monday at the Movies. Details: Page 7

All Out for Cincinnati! Justice for Rasmea Odeh Wednesday, October 14, U.S. 6th District Court of Appeals, 100 East Fifth St., Cincinnati, Ohio. Rally, 8:00 a.m. EST in front of the courthouse. 9:00 a.m. EST fill the courtroom as defense and prosecution present oral arguments. Stand with Rasmea Odeh, award-winning community leader and naturalized citizen whose constitutional rights were violated in a highly politicized trial, forbidding evidence of her torture and PTSD. FFI: justice4rasmea.org and stopfbi.net

Voices for Peace

"50 Years of Peace Music" Sunday, October 18, 4:00 p.m., Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, 420 Cedar Lake Road, Minneapolis. Suggested donation \$10/\$5 kids under 12. Proceeds benefit Women Against Military Madness and Vets for Peace-Chapter 27

SOA Watch Vigil November 20-22, Gates of Ft. Benning, Georgia, military base housing notorious School of the Americas (SOA/WHINSEC). Resist empire, militarization, commemorate murder victims. Powerful speakers, musicians, street theater, solemn funeral procession. March to Stewart Detention Center. FFI: soaw.org In the Twin Cities, email vipsoaw@yahoo.com, or phone Wayne Wittman: 651-695-5297

Additional events listed at **WomenAgainstMilitaryMadness.org** or call the WAMM office: **612-827-5364.**

For Minnesota Alliance of Peacemaker events, see: **mapm.org**

Note: Bylines for Summer II, 2015 issue: The article "Stand Up for Truth: the European Tour of a Band of American Whistleblowers" was summarized by Mary Beaudoin from video transcripts, and edited and reviewed for accuracy by Coleen Rowley. The correct spelling for the photo and writer of the article, "Painting Hope and Joy in the Movement," is Meredith Aby-Keirstead.

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Issues Committees:

- Book Club
- End War Committee: Acting Against War and the Threats of War Middle East
- Monday Movie Committee
- St. Joan of Arc/WAMM Peacemakers
- Ground All Drones Committee
- Tackling Torture at the Top

Administrative and Other Committees:

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

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- Polly Mann
- Sarah Martin
- JoAnn Maus
- Brigid McDonald
- Pepperwolf
- Margaret Sarfehjooy
- Lucia Wilkes Smith, Secretary
- Carol Walker

Endnotes

- 1 Betty Medsger, *The Burglary: The Discovery of J. Edgar Hoover's Secret FBI* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf 2014), ix.
- 2 Medsger, *The Burglary*, 32
- 3 Michael Isikoff, "NBC Reporter Recalls Exposing FBI Spying." Web. *NBCNews*, January 8, 2014 <<http://www.nbcnews.com/news/investigations/nbc-reporter-recalls-exposing-fbi-spying-n5901>>
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- 5 Henry A. Giroux, "The Racist Killing Fields in the US: The Death of Sandra Bland." Web. *truthout.org*, July 19, 2015
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- 7 "McCarthyism," Web. *USHistory.org*, *U.S. History Online Textbook*. Accessed August 15, 2015. Copyright 2015 <<http://www.ushistory.org/us/53a.asp>>.
- 8 "House Un-American Activities Committee," Web. George Washington University <<http://www.gwu.edu/~erpapers/teaching/glossary/huac.cfm>>
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- 19 Robert Parry, "A Family Business of Perpetual War," *Consortium News*. Web. March 20, 2015.
- 20 Hedges, *Wages of Rebellion*, 209-10. In protest of the pipeline, Tom Weis rode his bright yellow "rocket trike" for ten weeks and 2,150 miles along the proposed Keystone XL pipeline route.



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