

Women Against Military Madness

Newsletter

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Bad Chemistry, Toxic Horror, and Haunting Consequences

by Margaret Sarfehjooy

Iran suffered the devastating consequences of eight years of war with Iraq and was the first country in the world to experience extensive chemical weapons attacks after the First World War. That terrible suffering gave us a new understanding of the cruelty of war, the terror of weapons of mass destruction, and the importance of peace. Until the day when all people on Earth can live in peace, we will continuously send messages of peace to the world.¹

As I read this inscription on a plaque at the Tehran Peace Museum, my welcoming and knowledgeable guide, Elaheh, led me through the various exhibits that highlighted the horrors suffered by Iranians from Saddam's chemical weapons attacks during the Iran-Iraq War. One display showed the multitude of medications needed for the victims who are still

suffering—medications that are now difficult to obtain because of U.S.-imposed sanctions.

The Iran-Iraq War began in September 1980 when Iraq invaded Iran. During this war, chemical weapons used by Saddam Hussein killed and injured tens of thousands of Iranians, and even Iraqis.

According to the Society for Chemical Weapons Victims Support, about one million Iranian soldiers and civilians were exposed to chemical weapons and at least 100,000 were hospitalized because of severe injuries. The majority of those who survived developed long-term health effects including blood, lung, and skin complications. Currently, over 65,000 survivors suffer from exposure-related illnesses and seek medical treatment regularly. Many are still hospitalized with severe, chronic conditions.²

As I looked at more displays, including children's artwork for peace, my guide described the workshops and conferences the Peace Museum hosts on the culture of peace, reconciliation, international humanitarian law, disarmament, and peace advocacy. One of the main goals of the Tehran Peace Museum is to raise awareness about the consequences of war to prevent a repeat of such disasters as those suffered by Iranians as a result of Saddam's chemical weapons.

The U.S. (and other countries) played a key role in Saddam's chemical weapons program. As *The Washington Post's* Bob Woodward reported in 1982, the CIA began giving Iraq intelligence which it used to "calibrate" its mustard gas attacks against Iranian troops.³ Death from mustard gas is gruesome; so is survival. It hideously disfigures skin, sears lungs and mucous membranes, and often blinds. There is no antidote. According to the *New York Times*, large quantities of thiodiglycol (used to make mustard gas) were shipped to Iraq from Alcolac International of Baltimore and Nu Kraft Mercantile Corp,

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*Dr. Frankenstein studies
the chemical processes that
led to the creation of a monster
in a 1931 Universal Studio
horror film based on the classic
novel by Mary Shelley.*

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 The New Jim Crow Part One of a Three-Part Book Review

by Polly Mann

I consider Michelle Alexander's book, subtitled "Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness," the most important book dealing with race relations that's been published since Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* in 1865. According to many, even with its flaws in the depiction of African Americans, Stowe's book helped lay the groundwork for the abolition of slavery. Yet racism has not gone away. But I am convinced that if enough white people read Michelle Alexander's book, it could make a severe dint in racism. A professor of law and a civil rights advocate, Alexander has written a stunning book with statistics verifying almost every statement.

In his foreword to the book, the eminent Dr. Cornel West says: "There is no doubt that if young white people were incarcerated at the same rates as young black people, the issue would be a national emergency. But it is also true that if young black middle- and upper-class people were incarcerated at the same rate as young black poor people, black leaders would focus much more on the prison-industrial complex . . . The social movement fanned and fueled by this historic book is a democratic awakening that says we do care, that the racial caste system must be dismantled, that we need a revolution in our warped priorities, a transfer of power from oligarchs to the people—and that we are willing to love and die to make it so!"

Today's racism, called "Jim Crow," has taken an inhuman and sinister form—"mass incarceration" which affects people of color—Hispanic, Asian, and African Americans—and young men principally. The means is illegal drug usage, manufacture, or sale. Although white people also use drugs under similar circumstances and in similar amounts as people of color, the penalties are different,

says Alexander: "The United States has a comprehensive and well-disguised system of racialized control, unparalleled in world history that functions in a manner strikingly similar to Jim Crow. . . Today it is perfectly legal to discriminate against criminals in nearly all the ways it was once legal to discriminate against African Americans. We have not ended racial caste in America, we have merely redesigned it."

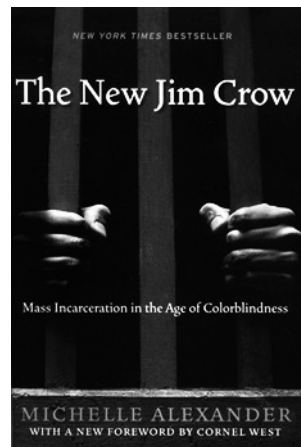
For example, in searching neighborhoods for drugs, police typically look in black communities although drugs are used by about the same percentage of the population in white as well as in black communities. A recent study revealed that 15 percent of the New Jersey drivers on the Turnpike were racial minorities, yet 42 percent of all stops and 74 percent of all arrests were racial minorities. Maryland studies showed that although African Americans constituted only 17 percent of drivers along a specified highway, 70 percent of those stopped and searched were racial minorities. Both studies showed that whites were more likely to be carrying illegal drugs than minorities.

The *New York Times* reported in 2008 that the New York Police Department stopped 545,000 people, and 80 percent of those were African Americans. On the whole, stop-and-frisk arrests are not productive, and less than 1 percent of motorists stopped resulted in guns being found.

A 2000 study of the National Institute on Drug Abuse reported that white students use powdered cocaine at seven times the rate of black students, use crack cocaine at eight times the rate of black students and use heroin at seven times the rate of black students. Still law enforcement, at all levels, concentrates on black communities.

Vagrancy laws and other laws defining activities such as "mischief" and "insulting gestures" as crimes have been enforced vigorously against blacks. The aggressive enforcement of these criminal offenses opened up an enormous market for convict leasing, in which prisoners are contracted out as laborers to the highest bidder. Review to be continued in the next Women Against Military Madness newsletter.

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



The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander (*The New Press*, 2010)

Does Your University Have a Military Industrial (In)security Complex?

by Nick Theis

Placid as they seem, universities in the U. S. of A. are military appendages. Here at the University of Minnesota that relationship is not always obvious, but it is no exception.

At times it has even been a hidden and protected secret: for instance, CIA mind-control experiments here in the '50s and '60s, when Dr. Amedeo Marrazzi (a former Air Force scientist) gave large doses of LSD to unwilling subjects, including his own research assistant, whose experimental LSD trip resulted in 6 months of psychiatric therapy.¹

Outdated LSD experiments, as tragic, unethical, and sometimes absurd as they were, are just one chapter in an often invisible military-academic partnership that permeates Minnesota's oldest and biggest public university. Indeed, a "military-industrial-U of M complex" exists today and is probably more robust and overt than it ever has been.

I began to notice this on campus last November when the UMN chapter of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) and the local Veterans for Peace (VFP) group showed a film on campus about the notorious School of the Americas (SOA or WHINSEC).² SDS and VFP were coincidentally screening their film right next door to an Air Force ROTC recruiting session. How awfully ironic! In some states the ROTC actually offers summer trips for its students to attend WHINSEC training sessions at the School of the Americas.

Military recruiting is at the root of this university, and is the root of its relationship to the military. The same act that allowed the U of M to establish itself as a so-called "land-grant university," the 1862 Morrill Act, also laid the groundwork for what was to later become the Reserve Officer Training Corps (the ROTC).

Today, the Secretary of Defense can actually deny a university federal funding if that school chooses to ban military recruiting efforts or denies ROTC access on campus. This provision is afforded by the 1996 Solomon Amendment that President Clinton signed into law, which, in terms of funding at least, means important medical, agricultural, and engineering research at the U of M (and elsewhere) depends on military recruitment and access.

The Morrill Act of 1862 and its ramifications are an early link between the University of Minnesota (and other federally funded universities) and their military underwriters. Indeed, it was that same year Governor Alexander Ramsey infamously stated, "The Sioux Indians of Minnesota must be exterminated or driven forever beyond the border of the state," and recommended to President Lincoln the mass execution of 303 Dakota prisoners in Mankato (in the end 38 Dakota men were hung in what is still the largest mass execution in U.S. history).

Governor Ramsey was also the first president of the University of Minnesota's Board of Regents (he was president in 1860,³ after the legislature reorganized the university structure and appointed him, nearly a decade after the U.S.-Dakota War). Interestingly, in 1879

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**WAMM
(Not So Silent)
Auction
October 5**



WORD UP!

War Costs Students

Every U.S. student could have a four-year scholarship to their state university. Instead we spent \$812 billion dollars on the war on Iraq.

—National Priorities Project
www.nationalpriorities.org

RESOURCE

Students for a Democratic Society: FFI: national SDS at: newsds.org Check Facebook or google for information on your campus. In Minneapolis: wmnsds.wordpress.com; also on Twitter and Facebook

Students and community members protested pro-war former National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice speaking at the University of Minnesota.





Toxic Legacy

It is widely acknowledged that the prevalence of CP [cerebral palsy] in Hawija is much greater after 2003 than it was before and that this is related to Hawija's proximity to the former Forward Operating Base McHenry (now closed) which somehow caused some kind of environmental contamination; that is Minamata Disease which occurred in Minamata in the South of Japan in the late 1950s and 1960s. Minamata Disease was caused by methyl mercury which is extremely toxic for the developing brains of fetuses and very young children.

—Dr. Thomas Fasy,
"Hawija," a report on child
CP cases in Iraq, April, 2014

Bad Chemistry, *continued from page 1*

Brooklyn.⁴ A 1994 U.S. Senate report revealed that U.S. companies were licensed by the Commerce Department to export a witch's brew of biological and chemical materials, including bacillus anthracis (which causes anthrax) and clostridium botulinum (the source of botulism).⁵

Fully aware that Saddam was using chemical weapons against Iran, presidential envoy Donald Rumsfeld met with Saddam in 1983 to pave the way to normalize U.S.-Iraqi relations, thus ensuring that the shipments from the U.S. (and the Iran/Iraq War) would continue. As far as the U.S. and Israel were concerned, prolonging the war was in their "best interests"—two unlikable regimes were destroying each other. In 1985, Reagan began to supply Iran with weapons systems, delivered by the Israelis. This was the root of the Iran-Contra Affair. Henry Kissinger said, "I hope they kill each other. Too bad they can't both lose."⁶

The war finally ended after eight years with Resolution 598, a U.N.-brokered cease-fire that was accepted by both sides. More than one million people were dead and both countries deeply scarred. It is important to note that *Iran did not use chemical weapons against Iraq and has never used chemical weapons.* By the mid-1990s, significant quantities of Iraq's nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons programs had been destroyed or rendered harmless under UN supervision. However, the use of chemical weapons in war did not end. Enter the U.S.

Not only did the U.S. aid the use of chemical weapons by Iraq during the Iran-Iraq war, it also used depleted-uranium (DU) ammunition on a large scale during its 1991 and 2003 invasions of Iraq. The use of DU by the U.S. has not only been the cause of many cases of Gulf War syndrome suffered by U.S. veterans, but also of thousands of instances of birth defects, cancer, and other diseases—causing a large-scale public health disaster

and the highest rate of genetic damage in any population ever studied—suffered by Iraqis in areas subjected to frequent and intense attacks by U.S. and allied occupation forces.⁷

U.S. bombs filled with depleted uranium used against people in Iraq are now beginning to show their harmful effects on the health of Iraqis. Dust particles that carry toxic depleted uranium are finding their way into southwestern Iran from neighboring Iraq. Many Iraqis in the region are now suffering from eye infections, chronic lung and chest pains, and other illnesses.⁸

The U.S. military used white phosphorus, a chemical compound whose use in civilian areas constitutes a war crime, during its 2004 attacks on Fallujah in Iraq, just as Israel dropped white phosphorus (made in the U.S.) on civilian areas in its 2008-2009 massacre in Gaza.⁹ White phosphorus is a horrific incendiary chemical weapon that melts human flesh right down to the bone.

When Will the U.S. Be Rid of Chemical Weapons?

The United States has still not destroyed all of its massive supply of deadly nerve agents. As a ratifier of the Chemical Weapons Convention treaty, the U.S. agreed in 1997 to destroy its chemical weapons stocks within 10 years, with the possibility of a five-year extension. Yet, with the latest possible deadline of 2012 now passed, U.S. officials say that they can't destroy all of their arsenals until 2023.¹⁰

The U.S. government keeps approximately 2,611 tons of mustard gas in a facility in Colorado, and 524 tons of a spectrum of chemical weapons—including deadly nerve agent sarin—in a facility in Kentucky, despite commitments to have already destroyed its chemical arsenals by now.¹¹

The U.S. and Russia are the only two countries in the world known to maintain a stockpile of the deadly smallpox virus. Smallpox has been eliminated from the human population, but Kathleen Sebelius, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services (who retired in June, 2014), said that it would be premature for the U.S. to destroy its stores of the deadly virus.¹² Leading scientists ask why humanity should keep vials of a deadly virus that it went to such pains to eradicate and which could trigger a horrific epidemic in the event of an accidental release. (Ironically, the only people in history to use smallpox as a weapon are the Americans, who gave blankets laced with smallpox in the 1760s to the Native

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Photo: Erfan Eskamaei
Two young girls look at children's drawings created to convey the message: "Peace and Friendship for all the people around the world."

Bad Chemistry,

continued from page 4

Americans, killing thousands. This tactic was repeated by the U.S. Army in the Indian Wars of the mid- and late-19th century.)¹³

U.S. Chemical Weapons and the Biodefense Industry

The hysteria generated by the anthrax-in-our-mailboxes scare in 2001 was a key element in driving us to war with Iraq and created another massive growth industry—"biodefense." Even though it was discovered that the anthrax attack, the only bio-weapons attack in the U.S., originated in U.S. laboratories, the public was led to believe that the anthrax attacks represented a second wave of Middle East-based terrorism. Backed by \$55 billion, U.S. government policy has caused a massive expansion of high-biosecurity labs and has encouraged universities and private sources to build them.¹⁴

A *New York Times* article, "Safety Rules Can't Keep Up with the Biotech Industry," reported: Whether handling deadly pathogens for biowarfare research, harnessing viruses to do humankind's bidding or genetically transforming cells to give them powers not found in nature, the estimated 232,000 employees in the nation's most sophisticated biotechnology labs work amid imponderable hazards. And some critics say the modern biolab often has fewer federal safety regulations than a typical blue-collar factory.¹⁵

While many critics also worry that the creation of deadly pathogens in government-funded "germ labs" will encourage our adversaries to develop similar programs, might this also encourage warmongers in the U.S.? Page 60 of the Project for the New American Century (PNAC) 2000 report states: ¹⁶

Advanced forms of biological warfare that can "target" specific genotypes may transform biological warfare from the realm of terror to a politically useful tool. (PNAC was established in 1997 by leading neoconservatives to advocate aggressive U.S. foreign policy.)

With the U.S. history of selling and using chemical weapons, stockpiling deadly viruses, and creating new ones, what is our role, as U.S. citizens, in trying to create a culture of peace? I remember the Tehran Peace Museum and their display of much-needed medications for the victims of chemical warfare, deadly chemicals that the U.S. and their allies supplied, and Iran's inability to buy these medications because of U.S.-imposed



Photo: Erfan Eskamaei

Outreach at The Tehran Peace Museum promotes a culture of peace for children, university students and adults.

sanctions. Dr. Shahriar Khateri, co-founder of the Tehran Peace Museum, wrote: My mind goes to the U.S. presidential debates . . . President Barack Obama and Gov. Mitt Romney were in a race to promise the most "crippling" sanctions on Iran. And all I wish to do is to ask them: Maybe the "international community" has said it is "legal" to cripple a population to this extent. But is it moral? Is it right?¹⁷

Margaret Sarfehjooy is the co-chair of the WAMM Middle East Committee and serves on the Board of Women Against Military Madness. She recently visited Iran and the Tehran Peace Museum.

Peace Museums

The Tehran Peace Museum, referenced in this article, belongs to an international network of peace museums, peace gardens and other peace related sites that share the desire to build a global culture of peace. From the website of the Tehran Peace Museum (tehranpeacemuseum.org): Peace Museums are a relatively new idea. War, on the other hand, has enjoyed glorification through monuments, literature, art, and war museums for centuries. Against the backdrop of these relatively one-sided accounts, the idea arose of comprehensively recording the details of warfare—its depravity, the acute human costs associated with war, the totality of warfare that extends beyond the images of glory and valor—in the setting of a formally organized museum. The motivation for such an endeavor was and still is the faith that "making people aware of the reality of war [is] tantamount to educating them for peace."

Endnotes

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The Philippines: As the U.S. Gives the Military More Money and Troops

by Gary King

Torture: It's Official

Amnesty International has serious concerns about the widespread use of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in the Philippines. State security forces including law enforcement officers continue to torture suspects and prisoners. Justice is out of reach for the vast majority of people who are tortured. And perpetrators are almost never held to account.

— May 13, 2014, from “Stop Torture Country Briefing,” *Torture in the Philippines report*

A Threat to Peace and Stability

Human rights lawyers have vowed to contest in international courts the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement or EDCA between the United States and the Philippines, saying both countries could be held liable for threatening the peace and stability in the region. They support the call of Filipino lawyers from the National Union of Peoples' Lawyers, or NUPL, for actions against the EDCA, according to lawyer Edre Olalia, NUPL secretary general . . .

Calling Peace and Law Advocates

We will continue to gather as many support from peace advocates and lawyers groups against the latest US initiative to escalate its presence in the Philippines. It is the US that provides material and moral support for the militarist approach to the conflict, making the calvary of the Filipino people even more tormenting.

—“Lawyers vow to sue PH, U.S. over bases bid,” reporting on 18th Assembly of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL), Brussels, Belgium, Manila Standard Today, April 21, 2014

August 2014 was no exception to the stream of extrajudicial murders under President Aquino: seven community leaders gunned down, usually by masked men on motorcycles, with final shots to the head, following military unit surveillance, harassments and threats. These include two typhoon relief workers and peasant leaders noted for criticizing poor government relief efforts, two leaders of protests against expansion of agribusiness palm oil plantations, a Datu (Lumad elder) who would not sign away permission for a mine, a person leading land disputes with a former congressman, and a leader of Bayan Muna which supports the peasant farmers. The understudies of General Palparan continue the terror, hopelessness and insecurity of civilians.

—“Ruthless legacy: seven activists killed in August,” September 3, 2014, Bulatlat.com: journalism for the people

Lawyer murdered by law officers

As I left the Philippines on February 19 of this year, I learned that a friend was murdered, my sixth acquaintance who was killed extrajudicially by security forces. Attorney Noel Archival, a Free Legal Assistance lawyer who had been a long-time advocate for activists and the poor was returning home from a court hearing in Dumaguete City, Negros. He perhaps did not know he was being stalked around town by men in four vehicles. Leaving town, his SUV was followed by these vehicles, chased and trapped, and then an M-16 ended his life and that of his two companions, and gravely wounded the driver.

Within two days, the vehicles' license plates were known due to Municipal Hall security cameras and others around town, and there were sketches of some of his assassins. The cars were traced to a police impound lot—the location where they had been borrowed. At least one was returned—with a document about the attorney's work in the glove box. Assassins in the Philippines are not paid enough to be clever.

A month later, the names of five officers of the Highway Patrol Group 7 were broadcast by national media to show that the case was virtually solved. However, a lawyer representing the suspected officers objected on the grounds that one of them might actually become a state witness, and also on the

grounds that the locations of all of the suspects were unknown. The National Bureau of Investigation was publicly, perhaps languidly, wondering if they had left the country.

In December of 2013, Noel had filed administrative and criminal charges against two of the suspects, 11 other police officers and their superior for “... dishonesty, grave misconduct and falsification of a public document...” to allegedly mislead a court in Cebu City regarding the license plate of a client. He challenged them to arrest him if he had done anything wrong. Well, they have other ways to make problems disappear. My other lawyer friends have discussed this case, and ask who gave the order for death, and note that many people think that the greatest amount of car-nappings might be done by the Highway Patrol Group itself.

So it continues—the likely impunity in the Philippines when government employees commit crimes.

Impunity for army, paramilitary and private armies

Impunity is still the rule also and especially for the sins of the Philippine army, its paramilitary groups, and private armies. Executive Order 546, started by prior President Arroyo to deputize militias to help the Philippine police fight insurgencies, continues, even though the current President Benigno S. Aquino promised to rescind it. Trials in the record-setting 2009 massacre of 33 journalists and family members of a political candidate in Maguindanao, Mindanao, continue to sputter. Amnesty International notes that four witnesses in the cases against over 190 suspects, were not only murdered after giving testimony, but also dismembered. (This while only half of the suspects are held in jail.) The killings were committed by a private army, after Philippine National Police set up a roadblock, and turned the victims over to the private army of the Ampatuan clan. That private army had very modern weapons, even mortars and grenades, supplied by the Philippine government.

Blessing the mines at the expense of people and mountains

In May of 2013, President Aquino gave a State of the Nation speech. He vowed to safeguard

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The Philippines, *continued from page 6*

mining operations from attacks by insurgents sympathetic to the indigenous mountain people, collectively called Lumad, who generally opposed total (yes, total) removal of mountain tops to get at the minerals within. Aquino believes there are almost \$1 trillion worth of minerals to be extracted. The companies that do this are 49% foreign owned, with the rest owned by wealthy Filipino families. The government is only entitled to 2% of the proceeds. It actually collects only 0.7%, due to inefficiencies and corruption. (Information shared by attorney Cheryl Daytec, who worked with Women Against Military Madness in Minneapolis in 2012-13 when she was studying human rights law of the University of Minnesota.)

Why should the government bend laws and allow very great environmental destruction when its take is so small? The average annual return on mining investments is 39%. Of course, the Lumad get nothing and have their villages and lands devastated.

In June, Bishop Modesto Villasanta of the United Church of Christ of the Philippines, from Mindanao visited Minnesota, and he accompanied people from Amnesty International, the Philippine Study Group of Minnesota and the Ecumenical Advocacy Network on the Philippines to meet with staff at the offices of U.S. congressional representatives Betty McCollum and Keith Ellison. The bishop noted, with great irony, that he had gone to Hibbing in northern Minnesota and freely visited mines, which are a great tourist attraction. He dare not do that in the Philippines. Mines there have layers of armed security, privately employed, who do not allow pictures or visitors. (The Philippines has one of the highest rates of killing of investigative journalists in the world.)

He told about a minority religious leader, who was approached by local paramilitary men and asked to sign a document about mining. The religious leader said he could not, because he had just come from a church meeting that cautioned against private deals that promote mining. He would need to get approvals. He was never able to ask for the approvals because

Gary King and Cheryl Daytec spoke about the need to resist U.S. militarization and drones at the University of the Philippines Law School. Drone warfare violates international law and their use may constitute war crimes.

he was shot to death at his home in front of his children. Nothing has been done to arrest his murderer, who still is free. (From a talk by Bishop Modesto Villasanta, to the Philippine Study Group of Minnesota and United Church of Christ Minnesota Conference, Maplewood, MN, June 20, 2014)

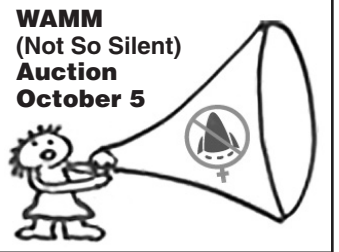
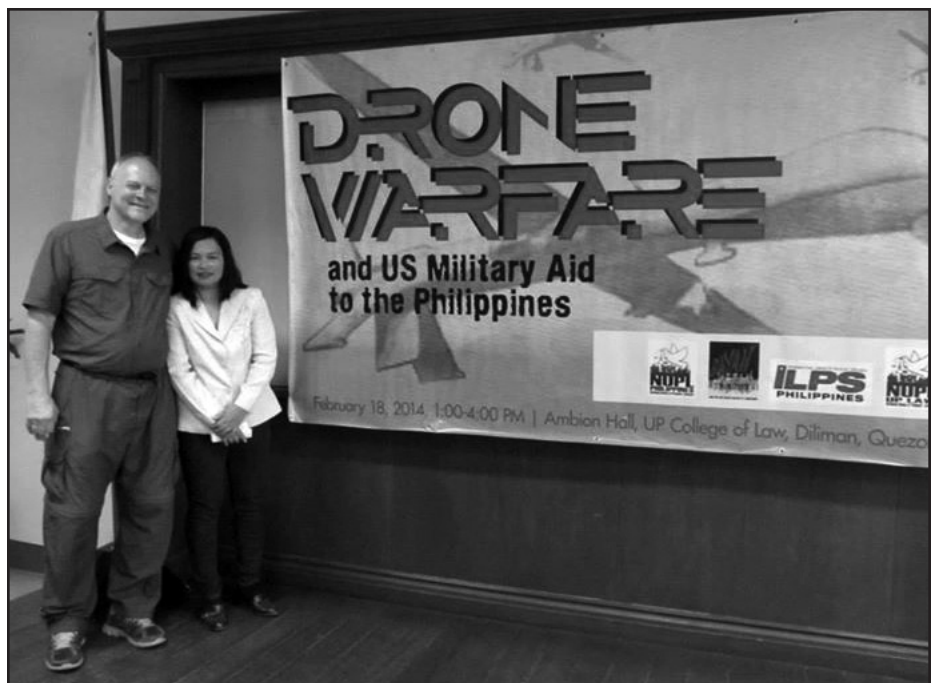
Many Lumad leaders have been murdered, increasingly under President Aquino. Tribal leaders are aware of the displacement of communities and severe environmental damages that are typical of large-scale mining in the Philippines. When communities seek redress, leaders are vilified, called “communists”, and too often murdered. The Philippine government offers no protection. There is impunity for the Philippine army, paramilitaries and private armies when they commit such human rights crimes.

Many reports are available, even the yearly U.S. State Department Report on the Philippines. Yet since 2013, the incidences of extrajudicial killings attributed to the Philippine army, paramilitaries, and national police have increased: So far in 2014, the rate is about seven extrajudicial killings per month, and another seven attempted killings.

The U.S. pivot to Asia

Ten percent of Foreign Military Assistance has been withheld from the Philippines by the U.S. for five years, due to lack of progress in investigations and prosecutions of killings, no meaningful training about human rights, and actual promotions of officers alleged to

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RESOURCES

The Ecumenical Advocacy Network on the Philippines (EANP)

- A national ecumenical network of individuals, organizations, and groups advocating restrictions to military aid appropriations to the Philippine government until there is compliance with national and international standards of human rights.
- Links, news, updates, information, action. eanp.org

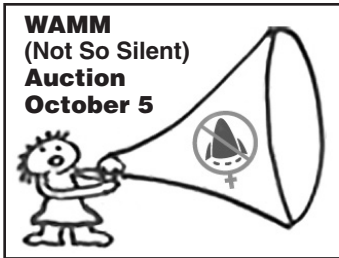
In the Twin Cities:

- **Philippine Study Group of Minnesota:** psgm.org

- **Amnesty International, Group 37:** twincitiesamnesty.org

WAMM Committee Tackling Torture at the Top (T3):

- Second Wednesday of each month, 10:00 a.m., 4200 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis



The Philippines,
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be human rights violators. In addition, this year, assistance is slated to rise 60% as the U.S. makes a “pivot to Asia.” Secretary of State John Kerry and President Obama have been pushing to park extra (beyond the 600 U.S. Army in Mindanao since 9/11) U.S. troops and special forces, as well as drones, ships, and airplanes in the Philippines, as the U.S. wants to move 10% of its naval fleet from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, to confront China and its recent island claims. Our military must do something to earn its pay if Middle East wars de-escalate.

When Obama visited the Philippines at the end of April, a ten-page Enhanced Defense

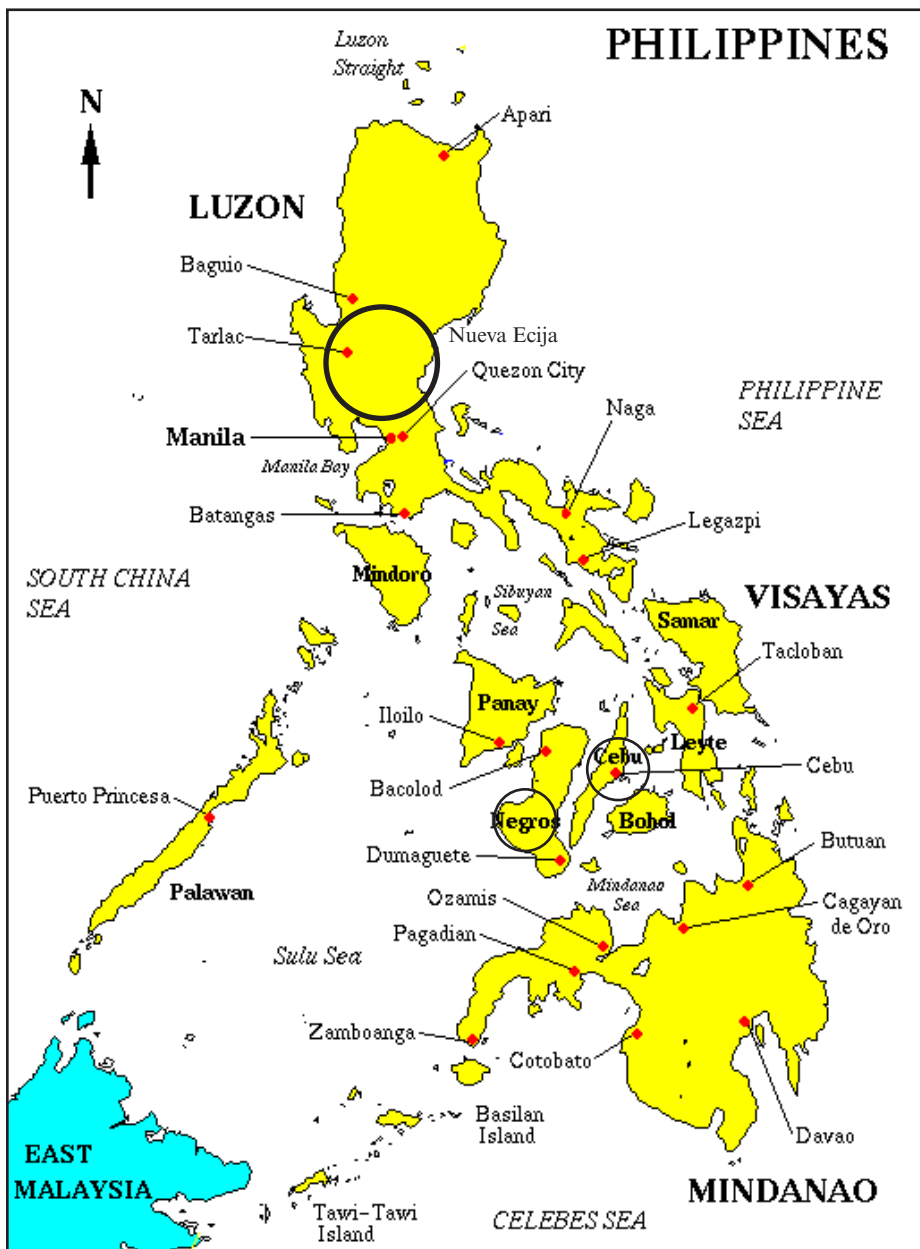
Cooperation Agreement between the U.S. and the Philippines was signed with President Aquino. All items were about what the U.S. wanted; none promised benefit to the Philippines. Legality is questionable, since it was not approved by either nation’s Senate. As part of this agreement, U.S. military personnel will be “embedded” in Philippine military bases—so they don’t have to handle messy base security. Recently, Philippine Army Chief General Emmanuel Bautista announced the list of locations of the first three bases the Philippines will offer to the U.S. It includes Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija, north of Manila. This is an army base implicated in disappearances, torture and extrajudicial killings, including the kidnapping, prolonged sexual slavery and murder of two University of Philippines female graduate students. (One retired general, Jovito Palparan, has been finally charged with kidnapping, along with two officers, but he eluded capture for more than two years, until a month ago). Other generals in Mindanao now have imitated his crimes against Lumad leaders in mining areas, as they, too, want promotions.

Nominally much of U.S. aid, including obsolete ships and planes, will go to the almost non-existent Philippine Navy and Air Force so that they can bravely intimidate China. Other military hardware that may go to the Philippine Army includes guns, mortars, etc., and this will allow them to continue selling or giving old weapons to private armies.

Once again, the U.S. supports and grooms another Third World country for its geopolitical objectives.

Gary King, Ph.D., is a retired neuroscientist and the leader of Amnesty International Chapter 37, Minneapolis, and a member of the WAMM committee, Tackling Torture at the Top (T3.) He and his wife Glen King, a retired public-school math teacher, who was born in Cebu, Philippines, are active in numerous Filipino groups in Minnesota, including the Philippine Study Group of Minnesota (763-571-7696).

Map: Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN. Circled areas are mentioned in this article.



WAMM Calendar

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

Ongoing WAMM Vigils for Peace

Vigil to End War

Every Wednesday, 5:00 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 WAMM 612-827-5364.

Vigil to End the Occupation of Palestine

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

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

Grandmothers for Peace Vigils

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

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

Ongoing WAMM Committee Meetings

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

The WAMM Book Club

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. at WAMM, 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis. 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. 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 St. (St. Paul Gallery), St. Paul. Please come. Topics vary. Call for details. Small donations accepted. FFI: 227-3228

Third Thursday Global Issues

Forum 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. 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. 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

WAMM (not so silent) Silent

Auction Sunday, October 5, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., bidding closes at 7:00 p.m., St. Joan of Arc Church, 4537 Third Ave. South, Minneapolis. Free parking, childcare, complimentary buffet. (Suggested admission: \$10-\$30.) See details on back of this newsletter. FFI: 612-827-5364 or wamm@mtn.org

Fly Kites Not Drones: Keep

Space for Peace Week event Saturday, October 11, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Meet at Roberts Bird Sanctuary Shelter, adjacent to Lyndale Park Peace Garden, just north of Lake Harriet, Minneapolis. Decorate and fly kites in nearby Rose Garden, distribute stickers and No Killer Drone flyers. Kites provided. FFI: 612-827-5364 or email: groundalldrone@gmail.com or wamm@mtn.org Sponsored by WAMM Ground All Drones Committee.

SDS National Convention

(for students everywhere): October 11-12, 9th Annual SDS Convention (2014) will be at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. Connect with what is going on at colleges and universities throughout the U.S., how students can effect change. Registration, FFI: Facebook: SDS 9th Annual National Convention

"Kerry and Gaza, What Next?"

Dr. Jeff Halper Sunday, October 19, Refreshments 1:30 p.m., Presentation, discussion: 2:00-3:30 p.m., Carondelet Village (just east of St. Catherine's University), 525 Fairview Ave. (enter either door), St. Paul. In Auditorium, second floor. A Hibbing, MN native and Macalester College graduate, Dr. Halper is director of Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (in Occupied Palestine). He participated in Free Gaza movement to break the siege, int'l support; Bertrand Russell Tribunal on Palestine; is a Nobel Peace Prize nominee. Sponsored by WAMM Middle East Committee, Middle East Peace Now, Carondelet Village Peacemakers. FFI: Florence Steichen 651-695-5321. Dr. Halper will present in other Twin Cities area locations. FFI: mepn.org

Engaging for Justice: Solidarity with the Palestinian People

Saturday, November 8, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., United Methodist Church, 1401 Maple St., Northfield, MN 55057. Keynote speakers: Daoud Nassar, Palestinian Christian, director of the Tent of Nations, and Jeff Halper, director of Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions. All-day workshops: Nakba, Int'l Law, Gaza, BDS, church engagement, natural resources, etc. Sponsored by Northfielders for Justice in Palestine/Israel. FFI: info@njpmn.org or Jenny Hartley at jdhartley1@aol.com

Give to the Max Day Thursday, November 13. Donate to WAMM online on GiveMN's annual Give to the Max Day to support our work for a just and peaceful world. Maximize your donation; also makes you eligible for prizes. Details to follow in email calendar. FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364 or Visit <https://givemn.org/organization/Women-Against-Military-Madness>

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

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



Attend SDS National Convention: at U of M October 11-12 The 9th Annual SDS Convention (2014) will be held at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. Learn more about, connect with what is going on at colleges and universities throughout the U.S. and how students can effect change. To register, see Facebook: SDS 9th Annual National Convention

Join a Student Organization! Meet other activists, get involved and effect change on your campus through SDS or another student organization. In Minneapolis: SDS meets Thursdays, 7:00 p.m., 115 Blegen Hall, U of M.

Give the Media the Message! Write commentaries and letters to the editors of campus, community and city newspapers. In Minneapolis: Join *The Wake*, wakemag.org, an entirely student-run newspaper. *Minnesota Daily* at mndaily.com; *Twin Cities Daily Planet* at tcdailyplanet.net, *Southside Pride* at southsidepride.com, *Star Tribune* at startribune.com, *Pioneer Press* at twincities.com.

Take it to the Top: If you're a student and want to talk to your university's administration, check your u website. In Minneapolis: President Kaler holds 10-minute office hours for groups of three students at a time once a month. October 24, 2:30-3:30 p.m., November 20, 4:00-5:00 p.m., December 8, 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Sign up 30 minutes prior in Room 213, Morrill Hall. www1.umn.edu/president/the-office

Does Your University . . .

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Ramsey was appointed U.S. Secretary of War. If this anecdote means anything, it is that the mass execution and “ethnic cleansing” that occurred in the Saint Anthony Falls area about 150 years ago produced the necessary historical conditions for the establishment of a University of Minnesota, Alexander Ramsey being a leader in both undertakings.

The relationship between the U of M and the military is not, to be clear, some idiomatic detail of the late 19th century. Last spring, leaders at the university invited Condoleezza Rice, for a modest fee of \$150,000, plus the cost of a private jet, to come to Northrop Auditorium to lecture on civil rights. Of course the University of Minnesota didn't pay these expenses (its neocon benefactors did).

Rice's invitation was perplexing and inappropriate, and prompted wide outrage. In lying to the public about the existence of WMDs in Iraq, Dr. Rice's infamous quote, “We do not want the smoking gun to be a mushroom cloud,” while not as direct as Ramsey's, ultimately stated the same thing: “What we do want is war.” To be sure, this is the same person who, weeks before she appeared at the U of M, warned Americans not to become “war weary” regarding the situation in Ukraine.⁴

And while the appearance of celebrity war-criminal politicians on campus builds the University's résumé, it does so at the cost of legitimizing the insanity of war on a massive scale. Why give —let alone pay—Condoleezza Rice—or anyone else with such a criminal record—an opportunity to spread more lies? As John Lennon once said, “I'm sick and tired of hearing things from uptight, shortsighted, narrow-minded hypocrites!”

Many of us were shocked to learn about Rice's invitation, but what was far more shocking than Rice's involvement with the universities was our university's leaders' involvement with global politics and the military. Not until we began to investigate the situation did we realize that the dean of the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, Eric Schwartz, who approved Rice's invitation and ultimately had the power to cancel it, served as the second highest ranking official at the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, in Geneva, *during the invasion of Iraq!*⁵ If anyone at this university understands the laws of war, or the illegality of what Rice did, it ought to be Schwartz.

But Schwartz is not unique: many of our

highest-level university administrators are working either simultaneously for the university and in Washington, or have been riding the “revolving door” for decades.

Take the highest administrative position: our university's president, Eric Kaler, who has had a seat at the Department of Homeland Security's Academic Advisory Council (HSAAC) since 2012, when Janet Napolitano (former Secretary of DHS and current president of the University of California) appointed him.⁶

Dual senior leadership positions like President Kaler's may help explain why the U of M participates in programs like BORDERS, based at the University of Arizona, and run by the National Center for Border Security and Immigration (part of DHS), which has a direct partnership with three think tanks and 13 other universities. And then there is Homeland Security's National Center for Food Protection and Defense led by—guess who? The University of Minnesota.

I do not mean to suggest that the U of M is engineering a U.S.-Canada border wall for the DHS, or that there is NSA spyware in our corn (although they are developing civilized farmer drones), but rather that the military is establishing a much greater influence over the universities than ever before, and through them many industries (such as agriculture) that were once free from military interference, for the most part, are today becoming overtly militarized.

The usual military-academic enterprises, like DARPA—the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency—still funds a wide array of projects in the hard science at the U, ranging from software development to drones research (yes, there is drones research here). But more recently, military funding has entered the social sciences: in 2008 the Department of Defense began the MINERVA Research Initiative, which pumps millions of dollars annually into universities to study the causes of mass civil unrest (to put this in perspective: the CIA creates unrest, the DoD studies it—excellent use of taxpayer money, eh?).⁷

As the relationship between the military and our universities deepens, so does military might, and the dependence of our universities on it; as the relationship is intensified, it is also normalized. One of the stated goals of Homeland Security's Office of University Programs is to “foster a homeland security culture within the academic community through research and education programs.”

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- Tackling Torture at the Top
- WAMM Occupy

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Does Your University . . . ,

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This goal seem to be materializing, at least at the U of M: in a warning to students about violating the University's Student Conduct Code, President Kaler wrote recently: "In this era of social media, no one is anonymous." He was, of course, warning the student body about participating in Dinkytown hockey riots, but this mentality has been extended to even peaceful protest at the U.⁸

As a result of the ever-expanding DHS-DoD-CIA-ROTC imperialist agenda, academic freedom at universities across the country is diminishing. Research is directed down narrower and narrower avenues. Student activism is squelched. Surveillance culture is expanded. To some, this relationship may seem unimportant or conspiratorial; they might argue "it has always been this way." Indeed, it always has—but it does not always have to be.

Nick Theis is a recent graduate of the University of Minnesota, where he studied neuroscience and Ojibwe language and organized with the UMN chapter of the Students for a Democratic Society. He is also co-author of the comic book Quantum Evil, which is loosely inspired by events at the University of Minnesota (quantumevil.tumblr.com).

Endnotes:

- 1 C. Ross. 2006. *The CIA Doctors: Human Rights Violations by American Psychiatrists*. See Chapter 17: Mary Ray.
- 2 The School of the Americas is a military school located at Fort Benning, Georgia, and was renamed the "Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation" (WHINSEC or WHISC) in 2001 to confuse the public. At the SOA the U.S. military trains Latin American troops, both military and paramilitary. SOA graduates have been tied to some of the most heinous crimes and coups in the region's history. For more info see soaw.org.
- 3 C. W. Hall. 1896. *The University of Minnesota: An Historical Sketch*. Page 5.
- 4 "Condoleezza Rice: U.S. can't afford to be war weary," Blake, Aaron. Post Politics, *Washington Post*.
- 5 According to the Humphrey School of Public Affairs website: <http://www.hhh.umn.edu/people/eschwartz/> Schwartz held this position in 2003 and 2004.
- 6 <http://discover.umn.edu/news/vision-leadership/president-kaler-appointed-homeland-security-academic-advisory-council>
- 7 For the full story, see: "The University & Security State: DHS Joins Pentagon and CIA on Campus," Gasser, Michael, Solidarity, May 13, 2014 solidarity-us.org
- 8 See, for instance: "Protesters at U ribbon-cutting could face discipline," Lerner, Maura. May 1, 2014. *Star Tribune*.

WAMM THANKS

Loretta Farrell in memory of Bernice Knaeble

Patty Guerrero in memory of Nick Eoloff, Clyde Smith, and Andy Driscoll

Katie and Dyke Williams in memory of Clyde Smith

Kathryn Zoff-Siewert in memory of Dorothy and Elmer Zoff

**WAMM
(Not So Silent)
Auction
October 5**





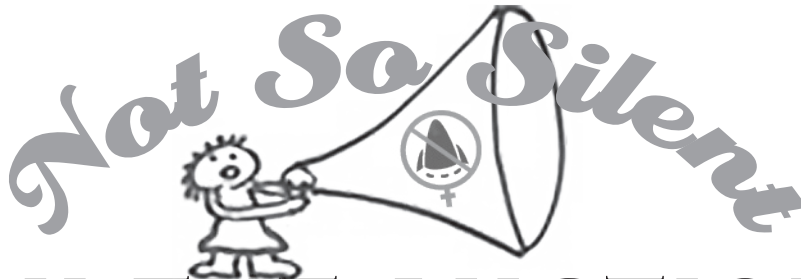
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