

w^orldwide wamm

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Women Against Military Madness

*Let's be clear—
we're already at
war on Iran. And
the drumbeat for
a military attack
increases daily.
Yet rarely is
there any consid-
eration for the
consequences and
the fact that never
before in history
has a bomb with
depleted uranium
been dropped on
a nuclear site.*

Consequences of War on Iran

by Margaret Sarfehjooy

The prime minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, is threatening a preemptive attack against Iran. Right-wing U.S. lobby groups, affiliated with the rightwing of Israel, have been pressuring Congress for years to pass laws to hurt the Iranian people. Now Congress is being pressured to join Israel in an attack on Iran. We must ask ourselves to consider the very serious and devastating consequences.

First, Let's Be Clear: We're Already at War.

Iranians don't just hear verbal threats from the U.S., its Western allies, and Israel, such as that they must "tighten the noose" "cripple Iran" and create "forced deprivation"; Iranians experience the reality that these threats have resulted in.

That's because the U.S. and Israel have been waging a cyber war against Iran. The Stuxnet virus shut down a considerable portion of Iran's civilian nuclear program, and infected infrastructure activities, including power plants, oil rigs, and water supplies.¹

Also causing severe internal damage, the U.S. has for a number of years now funded, trained, and backed terrorist groups such as Jundullah, which has been bombing Iranian targets, including military installations and civilians at Iranian mosques. In addition, the U.S. State Department recently took the organization MEK (the People's Mujahedin of Iran) off its terrorist list to make overt arming and funding of the group more possible.² The assassination of five Iranian nuclear scientists in the past two years has been attributed to the Israeli intelligence service, Mossad.³

Outside Iran's borders, the U.S. has surrounded the country with its military bases. Since late spring, F-22 and F-15C warplanes have moved into two separate bases in the Persian Gulf to bolster the combat jets already in the region and carrier strike groups in the area.⁴ The U.S. currently has thousands of military personnel and several military bases on an area of about 40



Patriarchy on the Move. Oil on canvas by Jane Evershed. See Jane's Gallery at evershed.com

percent of Kuwait's land.⁵ Israel has become a de facto U.S. military outpost with U.S. and Israeli command structures closely integrated.⁶

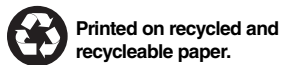
Sanctions Are an Act of War. The crippling sanctions on Iran have resulted in deaths caused by shortages of medicine, according to an official from the Tehran Province Thalassemia Association. Kidney dialysis and transplant patients are also suffering the effects of the shortages, with the

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310 East 38th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55409 • 612-827-5364 • wamm@mtn.org • www.worldwidewamm.org



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.



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.

Newsletter Editor

Mary Beaudoin

Newsletter Committee

Polly Mann, Carol Masters, Patty Guerrero

Proofreader

Iize Mueller

Layout

Ginny Sutton



WAMM Staff

Kim Doss-Smith, Director
Vanessa Lawrow, Office manager

WAMM Office

4200 Cedar Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55409
612-827-5364 (phone)
612-827-6433 (fax)
wamm@mtn.org (e-mail)
www.worldwidewamm.org (web)

WAMM Office Hours

Mon-Fri: 10:00 am-5:00 pm

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MINNESOTA

Consequences of War, continued from page 1

impact expected to get worse in the coming months.⁷ Last August, the Iranian Hemophilia Society announced that “the lives of tens of thousands of children are being endangered by the lack of proper drugs caused by international economic sanctions.”⁸

Do we want the children of Iran to suffer the same consequences as the children of Iraq and Gaza? A 2011 report by professor Omar Dewachi found that nearly a quarter of Iraqi children under five have stunted growth as a result of chronic malnutrition.⁹ When Norwegian Dr. Mads Gilbert, hosted by Women Against Military Madness, came to Minnesota, he spoke about growth-stunting consequences of the sanctions and blockade on Gaza, something experienced by one out of every three children in Gaza:

[Growth stunting] also affects brain development and the ability to learn. This is a direct consequence of malnutrition.

Remember, this is not caused by drought or natural disasters, but a deliberate, man-made lack of food and water, imposed, planned, and executed in the most detailed way by the Israeli government.¹⁰

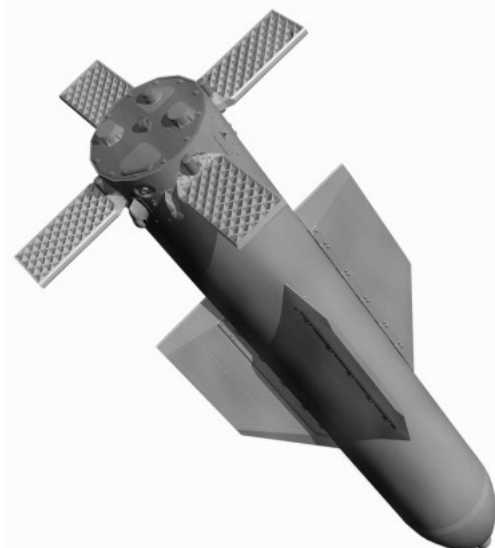
When we hear, “Let the sanctions work,” we must realize that sanctions anywhere are a weapon of war and that children suffer the most. How can we forget the 500,000 children who died as a result of U.S.-imposed sanctions on Iraq?

What Would Happen if Iran Was Attacked

Militarily? General Martin Dempsey, who heads the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the *National Journal* that a war on Iran “would be really destabilizing” and that the U.S. should not be complicit in any attack against Iran.¹¹ Former National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski has said a war on Iran could drag out for years and would have economic consequences devastating for the average American.¹² Former Defense Secretary Robert Gates warned recently that a U.S. or Israeli attack on Iran would have disastrous consequences.¹³

Some Israeli officials have also warned about the dangers of a war on Iran. Former Israeli Mossad Chief Efraim Halevy stated that a war on Iran would not be a war of weeks or months, but a generations-long war. Iran commands the eighth largest active duty military in the world, as well as highly trained special forces.¹⁴

Consequences of a Military Attack: We have to remember the devastating effects of depleted uranium (DU) on the civilians of Iraq, Afghanistan, and on our own veterans. When depleted uranium munitions impact a target, the



The first of the 37,000-pound Massive Ordnance Penetrators (bunker busters) was delivered to the U.S. Air Force one year ago. Their development was fast tracked at Boeing's top secret Phantom Works facility and they are "Ready to Go."

uranium coating of these weapons becomes a powder that easily contaminates the surrounding air, soil, and water. Depleted uranium is both chemically toxic and highly radioactive.¹⁵

The U.S. bombed Fallujah twice with DU munitions, and now there are so many babies being born with deformities—as many as one in six—that doctors in Fallujah are advising women not to have children.¹⁶ The Gulf War Veterans Association reports that at least 300,000 Gulf War I vets have developed incapacitating illnesses.¹⁷

And now Boeing has developed a bigger and better bomb with depleted uranium—a 37,000-pound bunker-buster called the MOP (Massive Ordnance Penetrator), which it delivered to the U.S. Air Force one year ago. These bombs are “Ready to Go”, designed to blast through up to 200 feet of concrete, able to attack Iran’s nuclear sites.¹⁸

Israel has already received 55 U.S.-made bunker-busting bombs.¹⁹ Although the U.S. does not admit to using depleted uranium, international scientists like Dr. Arun Shrivastava, who have researched the use of DU extensively, warn that “the U.S. and NATO forces have indiscriminately used DU bombs and bullets, they continue to use these weapons in all war zones, and the Pentagon is planning to use the GBU-57A/B which is also known as the Massive Ordnance Penetrator designed to penetrate 60 meters of concrete.”²⁰

One key site that would almost certainly be targeted in a bombing campaign, the uranium-conver-

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**New re-designed
WAMM website:
www.worldwidewamm.org**

PM Eyes on the Prize

by Polly Mann

Recently I received an invitation to the ceremony to be held for the presentation of the annual award of the Vincent L. Hawkinson Foundation for Peace and Justice. This year the selection committee must have had an easy task choosing Steve Clemens, who again and again has not only spoken out and demonstrated his concern for world peace but has served time in prison for civil disobedience to further the cause. John and Marie Braun, tireless organizers and workers for peace, received the 2012 Minnesota Fellowship of Reconciliation Peacemaker/s Award this November. In both of these cases, their work is well known by those who honor them locally, and that got me to thinking about peace prizes awarded internationally.

The Nobel Peace Prize: The most prestigious award today is the Nobel Peace Prize, set up by Swedish Alfred Nobel, who died in 1896. Some say it was to compensate for the wealth Nobel accumulated in the manufacture of arms. According to Nobel's will the prize, amounting to approximately one million dollars, was to be awarded the person who "shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses." It's interesting to note that this description, however, certainly did not apply to some of the awardees, notably U.S. President Ronald Reagan; U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger; Prime Minister of Israel Yitzhak Rabin; President of South Korea Syngman Rhee, and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

The Gandhi Peace Award: This annual award is bestowed by the peace education organization, Promoting Enduring Peace, on individuals for "contributions made in the promotion of international peace and good will." It is intended for those "whose lives and works exemplify the principle that international peace, socioeconomic justice, and global environmental harmony are independent and inseparable and essential to the survival of civilization." Winners of the prize have been journalist Amy Goodman; Coretta Scott King, widow of the late Rev. Martin Luther King; Eleanor Roosevelt, the First Lady when Franklin Roosevelt was president; South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu; and the Grameen Bank, which developed a program financing commercial enterprises for very poor women in India.

The FOR Annual Pfeffer Peace Award: The Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) annually bestows the International Pfeffer Peace Award to those around the world working for peace, justice, and reconciliation. (In addition, FOR recognizes peace activists in the United States and through local chapters. See first paragraph.)

The International Children's Peace Prize: Awarded every year since 2005 by the Dutch organization, KidsRight, it recognizes a child who "has made a difference in countering problems which affect children around the world." This year's recipient is 13-year-old Kesz from the Philippines, who has been a voice for the rights of street children.

The 2011 recipient, Malala Yousafzai from Pakistan, now 14, an advocate for girls' education, was the subject of headlines around the globe last month when, tragically, she was shot in the head by the Taliban. (She is struggling with recovery now.)

The World Peace Prize: This prize was established in 1989 by the international Evangelical missionary, World Peace Corps Mission, to operate under interreligious collaborations. It is awarded periodically to individuals whom it judges to have contributed to world peace by preventing regional conflicts or world war. Among its awardees are recipients as varied as heads of state U.S. President Reagan, Israel Prime Minister Rabin, Egyptian President Mubarak, and leaders of South Korea, Palau, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Ethiopia, as well as (posthumously) Mahatma Gandhi.

The Right Livelihood Award: Established in 1980, it is known as the "alternative Nobel Prize." Usually divided among four recipients, it is widely recognized as the world's premier award for personal courage and social transformation, enabling recipients to reach out to an international audience that might not have heard of them. Among

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Women Against Military Madness wishes everyone Peace on Earth this holiday season and works for it year round.

Send your holiday donation to:
4200 Cedar Ave. S.,
Minneapolis, MN 55409

WAMM is a 501c(3) charitable organization. Your donation is tax deductible.

War is Peace:
(At left) NATO Secretary General congratulates the European Union for winning Nobel Peace Prize: "From the outset, NATO and the European Union have shared common values and helped shape the new Europe. The European Union is a unique and essential partner for NATO. I look forward to strengthening our strategic partnership further, as agreed by our two organizations, to promote peace, stability and security."

— NATO's web site,
http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/news_90816.htm,
October 12, 2012

The Purposeful Creation of Islamophobia

WORD UP!

They're Not Like "Us"

Pseudo-speciation: Term used by [psychologist] Erik Erikson to describe the propensity of members of one human community to [regard and] treat members of another as if they belonged to a nonhuman species.

— *glossary*, p. 246, of Anthony Stevens's *The Roots of War and Terror* (London and New York: Continuum, 2004)

RESOURCES

Islamophobia and the Politics of Empire

Book by Deepa Kumar examines the historic relationship between Islamophobia and the agenda of empire-building up through the present. (Haymarket Books, Chicago, Illinois 2012.)

Deepa Kumar blog

Soundbytes of Imperial Culture at empirebytes.com

Challenging Islamophobia

The Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) offers ways to challenge Islamophobia. CAIR is a grassroots membership organization whose mission is to enhance understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding. See mncair.com or call 612-206-3360

What is Islamophobia? Fifteen years ago, in 1997, the Runnymede Trust, a British think tank, identified eight components of Islamophobia. By this definition, Islamophobia is an attitude toward Islam that views it as “a monolithic bloc, static and unresponsive to change”; as separate from other cultures and espousing values not shared by them; as “inferior to the West . . . barbaric, irrational, primitive, and sexist”; as “violent, aggressive, threatening, supportive of terrorism, and engaged in a ‘clash of civilizations’” with the West; and as a “political ideology” in the form of “political Islam,” sometimes with a military edge. Furthermore, from an Islamophobic perspective, any Islamic critique of the West need not be taken seriously, the discriminatory and exclusivist treatment of Muslims is inherently justified, and Islamophobic hostility is accepted as “natural or normal.” More succinctly, today, in the United States, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) defines Islamophobia as the “closed-minded prejudice” of “people who have decided that Islam has no place in [U.S.] society.”

Islamophobia has a much longer history in Europe than in the U.S., but there is now ample evidence that Islamophobia is a flourishing industry in this country (see *The Islamophobia Industry: How the Right Manufactures Fear of Muslims*, by Nathan Lean; London: Pluto Press, 2012). Poll statistics indicate a mentality in the U.S. that is heavily influenced by Islamophobia; for example, between October 2001 and 2010, polls taken by the Washington Post and ABC News found a 10 percent increase in the number of non-Muslim Americans with a negative view of Muslims (from 39 percent to 49 percent), and a *Time Magazine* poll taken in 2010 indicated that 62 percent of non-Muslim Americans (well over half) had “never met a Muslim.” Currently Muslims account for only about one percent of the U.S. population; yet 13 percent of the victims of hate crimes based on religion (or religious identity) in

the U.S. are Muslims, and 20 percent of those who report experiences of discrimination based on religion are Muslims. Two recent egregious examples of U.S. hate phenomena directed at Muslims are the Islamophobic film *The Innocence of Muslims*, a recent focus of attention in the media and the Muslim world, and the currently running Islamophobic public advertisements placed in mass transit locations in New York City, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C., which read: “In any war between the civilized man and the savage, support the civilized man. Support Israel. Defeat Jihad.” These ads are sponsored by an organization called American Freedom Defense Initiative, claiming to be pro-Israel. Both phenomena have been the subject of many opinion pieces in the media that, while decrying their message, simultaneously defend them on First Amendment grounds.

Conversely, however, there has been little defense of Muslims in most of the U.S. media. The leftist weekly magazine *The Nation* has proved an exception to this rule, titling its July 2/9, 2012, issue “Islamophobia: Anatomy of an American Panic.” The issue includes an article on the New York Police Department tri-state surveillance campaign against Muslims and one on FBI sting operations reinforced by high-pressure informant recruitment among Muslims in the U.S. Perceiving “radicalization” wherever it looks, the NYPD program has succeeded in “criminalizing an entire community.” As a result, Muslim religious practice, especially prayer (one of the five ritual pillars of Islam), has become suspect. A similar effect has been felt in Minneapolis by the Somali community, which is also subject to FBI surveillance. Thus not only are hate crimes against Muslim persons and mosques on the rise, but state-sponsored discrimination against Muslims and Islam is also prominent. Another key facet of such

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Photo: American Freedom Defense Initiative
Racism on Wheels: When transit systems in U.S. cities refused to run these ads, Pam Geller of American Freedom Defense Initiative sued them in court.



November 2012 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, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. on the Lake Street/Marshall Avenue Bridge spanning the Mississippi River between Minneapolis and St. Paul. FFI: Call 612-522-1861 or WAMM 612-827-5364.

Vigil to End the Occupation of Palestine:

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

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

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

Ongoing WAMM Committee Meetings

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

Book Club: Third Saturday of each month, 10:00 a.m. FFI and Location: Contact Suzy, 651-451-8627 or suzykoch@comcast.net.

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

Ground All Drones. First Thursdays of every month, 4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m. at Cedar Center, 4200 Cedar Ave., Minneapolis

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

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

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

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

Tackling Torture at the Top (T3): Second Wednesday of each month, 10:00 a.m. at Afro Deli and Coffee, 1939 5th Street South (Riverside and 20th 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 new location: African Development Center, Riverside and 20th Avenues. A resource and support group for those concerned about peace with justice from a faith perspective. FFI: www.justviewpoint.org or call 763-784-5177

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

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

Third Thursday Global Issues

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

Middle East Peace Now:

Usually 2nd or 3rd Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Refreshments, 10:00 a.m. Program. Location may vary. FFI: Call 651-696-1642 or see www.mepn.org

MN 9/11 Truth: Second Tuesday of each month, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 285 North Dale Street, St. Paul. Meets to educate and discuss the events of 9/11/2001. FFI: www.mn911truth.org.

Dignity, Not Detention Vigil: Every first Sunday, 2:30 to 3:00 p.m. at 425 Grove Street (Ramsey County Law Enforcement Center). Vigil for civil immigrant detainees in jail at request of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Sponsored by: Interfaith Coalition for Immigration, Advocates for Human Rights and others. FFI: Email interfaithonimmigration@gmail.com

Special Events

The Effect of U.S. Sanctions on Iraq, Iran and North Korea. Thursday, November 29, 7:00 p.m., Macalester Plymouth United Church, in the Social Hall (on the south side of the church), 1658 Lincoln Ave., St. Paul. Free parking. A panel presentation featuring Christine Hong, PhD., Korean Policy Institute Fellow, Los Angeles, CA; Omid Mohseni, PhD., recently returned from Iran; Marie Braun, peace activist in Iraq during the Sanctions Period. Sponsored by Middle East Committee of Women Against Military Madness, Macalester Plymouth Peacemakers, Merriam Park Neighbors for Peace and *Korean Quarterly*. Free and open to the public.

Benefit WAMM Shopping Night at Ten Thousand Villages, 867 Grand Avenue, St. Paul. Friday, November 30, 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Fair-trade retailer of artisan-crafted home decor, personal accessories, gift items from across the globe. 20% of the evening's sales will be donated to WAMM. FFI: back page of this newsletter. Sponsored by: Ten Thousand Villages and WAMM. FFI: www.stpaul.tenthousandvillages.com.

Ten Million Candle Vigil to End the War on Afghanistan:

Monday, December 10, 5:30 p.m. Summit and Snelling Avenues, St. Paul. Please note change of location. For details see article on page 9. Also: sign the petition to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, "2 Million Friends Call on the UN for a Ceasefire in Afghanistan" See www.2millionfriends.org FFI: 612-827-5364

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

Missed the 2012 WAMM Silent Auction?

Not to worry, there are still a few items left. Remaining items will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis, at or above the original minimum bid price. To find out what items remain, please visit the WAMM website at www.worldwidewamm.org or call the office at 612-827-5364.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Not a Nursing Home

Sheridan House provides 24-hour care for five elderly in a home setting. Private rooms, loveable dog, fellowship and community. Licensed. Operated by WAMM member Sally Kunderdt. Dementia and general care. County funds or private. 612-866-4637.

THE EFFECTS OF U.S. SANCTIONS ON IRAQ, IRAN AND NORTH KOREA

a panel presentation featuring:

Marie Braun, peace activist in Iraq during the Sanctions Period

Omid Mohseni, PhD., recently returned to from Iran

Christine Hong, PhD, Korean Policy Institute Fellow, Los Angeles, California

Thursday, November 29 at 7:00 p.m.

Macalester Plymouth United Church in the Social Hall
(on the south side of the church), 1658 Lincoln Ave., St. Paul

Though sanctions have been thought of as a civilized alternative to war, they actually have profound effects on the ability of people to meet their human needs. Hear what these knowledgeable speakers have to say.

Free parking: lot adjacent to the building and also in connecting Macalester Campus lots located to the south and west

Sponsored by Macalester-Plymouth United Church Peacemakers, Women Against Military Madness (Middle East Committee), Merriam Park Neighbors for Peace and *Korean Quarterly*.

Work for peace on earth—and pass it on.

GIVE SOMEONE (OR YOURSELF) A WAMM MEMBERSHIP \$20

holiday special (half off a regular membership)

Women Against Military Madness is making it easier on your finances this holiday season by offering a WAMM gift membership at 50% off the usual membership.

When you give someone a WAMM membership, you are doing something to support real work moving toward peace. Includes eight issues of our newsletter, *Worldwide WAMM*, with original articles examining root causes of war and injustice, foreign and domestic policies, Polly Mann's column, resources, actions and upcoming events. Gift recipients will receive a card in the mail, indicating a gift from you. You may include additional gift memberships on another piece of paper.

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Phone/s: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mail form to WAMM, 4200 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55409. If paying by check, enclose check for \$20 for each gift membership.



discrimination is the Islamophobic campaign to pass legislation at the state level that interferes with Muslim practice.

Two notable statements made in Jack Shaheen's article on Islamophobia in the American media, published in the issue of *The Nation* cited above, are (1) that the post-9/11 media representation of Muslims as terrorists has enabled their "profiling, imprisonment, extradition, torture, and even death" with no significant public backlash; and (2) that similarly, the media representation of Islam as the new global menace after Communism "primes American audiences [public opinion] for U.S. military aggression" in the Muslim world. In other words, on both the individual and collective levels, Islamophobia serves to legitimate criminal action against Muslims. Again in the Islamophobia issue of *The Nation*, an article by Laila Lalami concludes that "we have in America today two systems of citizenship: one for Muslims and one for non-Muslims." Is it going too far to call this the latest version of American apartheid? In a recent talk that I attended, a CAIR representative described the Islamophobic agenda as the disenfranchisement of Muslims and perhaps the reinvigoration of anti-Muslim Jim Crow laws.

Two reports available online, one called "Fear, Inc." by the Center for American Progress, and the other, "Same Hate, New Target" by CAIR, provide an overview of the "Islamophobic network," including individuals and their organizations such as Pamela Geller and Stop the Islamization of America; former and current members of Congress such as Newt Gingrich; and "the grandfather of Islamophobia in America" Daniel Pipes, head of the "right-wing think tank" the Middle East Forum. The authors of "Fear, Inc." write that "a small group of foundations and wealthy donors are the lifeblood of the Islamophobia network in America." The proponents and supporters of Islamophobia can be classified for the most part as right-wing Christians (the majority) or right-wing Jews, though obviously not all members of either category can be classified as such.

An Israeli connection to Islamophobia in the U.S. is apparent, for instance, in the mass transit ads quoted above. In his *Nation* article in the Islamophobia issue, journalist Max Blumenthal identifies major "pro-Israel" donor and vice president of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs Nina Rosenwald as a leading funder, via the William Rosenwald Family Fund, of the "rapidly emerging alliance between the pro-Israel mainstream and the Islamophobic fringe [sic]." Prominent among her beneficiaries is Daniel Pipes (see above), who has explicitly promoted

"aggressive U.S. and Israeli military action in the Middle East, including the razing of entire Palestinian villages." Blumenthal quotes Henry Siegman, president of the U.S./Middle East Project and former executive director of the American Jewish Congress, who has labeled Israel "the only apartheid regime in the Western world," as remarking with concern that "Islamophobia has gained many followers in the Jewish establishment and at this point has infected American Jewish life."

In her recently published *Palestine in Israeli School Books*, the Israeli scholar Nurit Peled-Elhanan argues that the goal of Israeli public education, in the absence of any official peace education in Israel, is to make Israeli children "good soldiers of the occupation." Her book is a study of how Palestinians (about half the population of Israel and the occupied territories put together) are represented in mainstream Israeli textbooks used in Israeli public schools. According to Peled-Elhanan, the presentation of Palestinians (referred to as "Arabs") in Israeli textbooks is homogeneous and racist; they are terrorists, refugees, primitive farmers, alien invaders, in sum a demographic threat to be controlled by the dominant Jewish-Israeli majority, which is to be maintained at all costs. Jewish-Israeli domination of (all) the land, including the occupied territories, is justified by means of biblical phrases. Evil done to "them" is considered acceptable if it spares "us" evil. Thus the racism inculcated in these textbooks is acted out on the ground by the military, which the children will join once they reach adulthood. With some exceptions, military service is mandatory for male and female Israeli citizens once they become 18.

The official Israeli attitude toward the Palestinians in their midst, as demonstrated in these textbooks, is analogous to the Islamophobic American attitude toward the Muslims in their midst. It seems that there is an unholy alliance between powerful right-wing interests here and in Israel that has targeted Muslims not, in fact, for religious reasons but rather for political-economic and geopolitical reasons. This involves the appropriation of land and water and the achievement of regional supremacy by Israel, and control of energy resources and global supremacy by the U.S.

Liza Burr holds a Ph.D. in the study of religion and teaches The World of Islam at Metropolitan State University. She has visited Israel/Palestine a number of times since 1970, and is a member of the Middle East Committee of WAMM.

RESOURCES

Free the Holy Land Five

The conviction of the Holy Land Five is currently one of the most egregious miscarriages of justice and blatant examples of racism against Muslims to be used in the service of a political agenda. Five prominent Muslim-American charity leaders, unconnected to terrorism, are serving harsh prison sentences of 15 to 65 years, punished for sending much-needed charity to Palestinians. A movement to free them now goes to the public. More information: freedomtogive.com

WAMM THANKS

Thanks to all of the businesses and individuals who contributed to WAMM's 2012 Silent Auction Benefit.

WAMM encourages you to patronize all the generous businesses, stores, restaurants and services that donated to the WAMM Silent Auction. They can be found online at www.worldwidewamm.org

RESOURCES

CASMI

<http://www.campaigniran.org>

Fellowship of Reconciliation
forusa.org

Asia Times

<http://www.atimes.com/>

Antiwar

<http://www.antiwar.com/>

WORD UP!

Casual Conversation

Literally on a daily basis, political and media figures in both the U.S. and Israel openly threaten to attack Iran and debate how the attack should happen with a casualness that most people use to contemplate what to have for lunch.

— *Glen Greenwald*,
Salon.com, February 14, 2012

Consequences of War, *continued from page 2*

sion facility at Isfahan, houses 371 metric tons of uranium hexafluoride; toxic plumes released from a strike would reach the city center within an hour, killing or injuring as many as 70,000 and exposing over 300,000 to radioactive material, a study conducted by the University of Utah's Hinckley Institute of Politics found.²¹

Any strike on the Bushehr Nuclear Reactor will cause the immediate death of thousands of people living in or adjacent to the site, and thousands of subsequent cancer deaths or even up to hundreds of thousands depending on the population density along the contamination plume, according to a report by the Center for International and Strategic Studies.²²

Here is one alarming fact that we must consider: Never before in history has a bomb with depleted uranium been dropped over a nuclear site. If the depleted uranium in the bombs comes into contact with radioactive nuclear materials in the targeted nuclear sites, the potential for disaster would be magnified many times over, causing the release of radioactive materials into the biosphere of Central Asia (and by eventual extension, the entire Earth).

The cost in lives, injuries, and long-term dangers to the health of civilians, including genetic damage to unborn future generations from toxins and radioactive materials in the depleted uranium bombs dropped and nuclear materials leaked is incalculable.²³

We can't wait until after the fact. The time to stop a war is before it starts, and the time is now.

Margaret Sarfehjooy is the co-chair of the Middle East Committee of Women Against Military Madness.

Footnotes:

1 <http://dispatchesfromtheedgeblog.wordpress.com/2012/07/13/iran-sanctions-war-by-other-means/>

2 <http://irancoverage.com/2008/07/08/seymour-hersh-us-training-jundullah-and-mek-for-bombing-preparation/>

3 http://www.fpip.org/articles/iran_sanctions_war_by_other_means

4 http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/03/world/middleeast/us-adds-forces-in-persian-gulf-a-signal-to-iran.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

5 <http://presstv.com/detail/223803.html>

6 <http://www.globalresearch.ca/israeli-threats-to-wage-war-on-iran-and-the-u-s-elections>

7 http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/sanctions-take-toll-on-irans-sick/2012/09/04/ce07ee2c-f6b2-11e1-8253-3f495ae70650_story.html (Thalassemia is a blood disorder originating in the Middle East)

8 <http://www.globalresearch.ca/violation-of-human-rights-devastating-impacts-of-iran-sanctions-regime/>

9 http://costsofwar.org/sites/default/files/articles/19/attachments/dewachi_displacement%20and%20public%20health_Berman_Iraqi%20Refugees.pdf

10 <http://electronicintifada.net/content/every-third-child-gaza-stunted-hunger-interview-renowned-doctor-mads-gilbert/11363>

11 http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/02/15/iran-nuclear-threat-us-military_n_1277566.html

12 <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2012/09/201291194236970294.html>

13 <http://hamptonroads.com/2012/10/exdefense-chief-says-hit-iran-would-be-disastrous>

14 <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2012/09/201291194236970294.html>

15 <http://endoftheamericandream.com/archives/depleted-uranium-one-of-the-greatest-environmental-horrors-in-the-history-of-the-world>

16 <http://readersupportednews.org/news-section2/306-10/8617-du-white-phosphorus-and-the-story-of-fallujah>

17 http://www.gulfwarvets.com/du_greatest_environmental_horrors.htm

18 <http://rt.com/news/massive-ordnance-penetrator-bomb-bunker-buster-144/>

19 <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/julian-borger-global-security-blog/2011/sep/27/iran-nuclear-weapons>

20 <http://www.outsidethebeltway.com/attack-on-iranian-nuclear-program-could-lead-to-up-to-70000-civilian-casualties/>

21 <http://consortiumnews.com/2012/08/23/the-human-cost-of-war-on-iran/>

22 http://www.alternet.org/story/154377/what_no_one_is_saying%3A_the_horrors_that_would_be_unleashed_by_a_strike_on_iran?page=0%2C1&paging=off

23 <http://www.globalresearch.ca/depleted-uranium-contamination-a-crime-against-humanity/?print=1>

Learn about the potential health affects of depleted uranium munitions on American soldiers who've served and the civilians in the areas used. Get the facts. Earn your free degree. dU101.org

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learn

Seeking Two Million Friends Vigil to End the War on Afghanistan

by the Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers (AYPV)

Monday, December 10, 2012 • International Human Rights Day
• 5:30 p.m. CST

Summit & Snelling Avenues, St. Paul, in Afghanistan
and around the world

Is it possible to find two million friends? We call on the world community to join the people of Afghanistan in lighting two million candles, symbolizing our collective grief for the two million victims of war in Afghanistan and our determination to work together for peace in Afghanistan and a life without wars.

In accord with the 1948 UN Charter to “remove the scourge of war from future generations,” we request the United Nations and all armed groups involved in the conflict to negotiate for a multilateral ceasefire, and to redirect their war funds to reconstructing the socio-economic, humanitarian and educational services in Afghanistan.

We organized ourselves as the Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers in order to share the suffering of fellow human beings in our land and to express our longing for friendship, peace and non-violence to the world.

We wish to share the pain of the victims of war and their survivors and by doing so to develop a loathing for war and violence.

(Full text of letter: <http://www.2millionfriends.org/>)

Sponsored by Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers, and locally by Women Against Military Madness-End War Committee and Merriam Park Neighbors for Peace

- **WAMM Committees**
- **Issues Committees:**
- Book Club
- Counter Recruitment
- End War Committee: Acting Against War and the Threats of War
- Immigration
- Media
- Middle East
- St. Joan of Arc/WAMM Peacemakers
- Ground All Drones
- Tackling Torture at the Top
- WAMM Occupy
- **Administrative and Other Committees:**
- Coordinating
- Finance
- Fundraising
- New Member
- Newsletter
- Personnel
- Program/New Issues
- Silent Auction
- **WAMM Board**
- Pepperwolf, Co-Chair
- Meredith Aby
- Terry Burke
- Alycia Dahlen, Treasurer
- Kathy Hollander
- Jeanne Hynes
- Polly Mann
- Sarah Martin
- Sue Ann Martinson
- JoAnn Maus
- Brigid McDonald
- Coleen Rowley
- Margaret Sarfehjooy
- Lucia Wilkes Smith, Secretary
- Sharon Rice Vaughan
- Carol Walker, Co-Chair

Eyes on the Prize, continued from page 3

the 2010 and 2011 recipients, whose names would be known to very few Americans, were individuals from Nigeria, Brazil, Nepal, Israel, Chad, China, Ethiopia, and India.

In spite of the fact that other peace prizes may have some recognition, the Nobel Peace Prize remains the most renowned, but not for the right reasons. In 2010, journalist Diana Johnstone, based in France, remarked, “Many observers recognize that the Nobel Peace Prize is a political prize and a morally bankrupt one at that: do something that accords with mainstream Western elite thinking about what ‘advances peace’ and you may get the prize. Continue, for as long as you can, a war that kills thousands or even millions of civilians . . . and you may still get the prize.” On the European Union receiving the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize, activist and writer David Swanson commented, “Now they’ve outdone themselves in their movement in the other direction . . . Far from doing the best work to abolish or reduce standing armies, Europe has joined with the United States in developing an armed global force aggressively

imposing its will on the world.” (<http://warisacrime.org/blog/1568>)

Considering how far removed international awards can be from furthering the cause of peace, I spent some days pondering the question of whether there should be any annual national peace awards. I finally came upon the solution: There should be one awarded to a religious body—that is, the American church—that did the most for world peace. My reasoning is that today churches (with few exceptions) do very, very little about this. Perhaps the awarding of such a prize might inspire them, with their great outreach and influence, to put more energy and time into the much-needed field of peace, which is supposed to be the foundation on which they rest.

Polly Mann is a co-founder of Women Against Military Madness and is still active in the organization. As she is too modest to say it herself, we will say it for her in the interests of full disclosure: Polly has been the recipient of both the Vincent L. Hawkinson Award, the Minnesota Fellowship of Reconciliation Peacemaker Award, and numerous other peace and justice awards.

WAMM THANKS

- Duane Addison in honor of Lois Swenson
- Catherine Mamer in honor of Rita and Brigid McDonald’s birthdays
- Marlys Weber in honor of Rita and Brigid McDonald’s birthdays
- Lucia Wilkes Smith in honor of Rita and Brigid McDonald’s birthdays
- Mary Hasbrouck in honor of Rita and Brigid McDonald’s birthdays
- Margaret Casey in honor of Rita and Brigid McDonald’s birthdays
- Barb Demavivas in honor of Rita and Brigid McDonald’s birthdays
- Gail Hayden in honor of Rita and Brigid McDonald’s birthdays



4200 Cedar Avenue South, Suite 3
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55409
(612) 827-5364 FAX: (612) 827-6433
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FFI: www.stpaul.tenthousandvillages.com



www.worldwidewamm.org