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Women Against Military Madness

Returning from Afghanistan, Steve Clemens brings a message from the Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers, "We cannot remain silent to our conscience in firmly disagreeing with the current Afghan government/ Taliban/U.S./ NATO militarized approach to our country's problems."

Also in this issue:

Other activists on the move: walking, bicycling, vigiling.

When America's Longest War Ends, Will Peace Be Possible?

by Steve Clemens

Having just returned from an international peace delegation trip to Afghanistan, I have a particular fascination in the renewed public debate about the war in the aftermath of the extra-judicial assassination of Osama bin Laden. Some anti-war proponents are quick to point out public opinion polls that indicate that a majority of Americans no longer support what was previously considered "the Good War." However, I don't think our nation's foreign policy should be predicated primarily on public opinion because it has so often been readily manipulated by the corporate owners of much of the media—and can change again overnight if another terrorist event strikes on U.S. soil.

Instead, we need to ask what is in the best interest of the Afghan people? Is the aim of the U.S. really an operation of "enduring freedom," the grandiose epithet President Bush gave to his act of war in response to the 9/11 tragedy? Is the present war, now approaching its 10th anniversary, really about providing the kind of "freedom" Afghans want?

The International Peace Delegation, led and coordinated by Kathy Kelly and Voices for Creative Nonviolence, met with the Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers (AYPV), young people from the Bamiyan Province. They were mentored by Hakim, a medical doctor from Singapore who is steeped in Gandhian nonviolent strategy. He had accompanied the Afghan refugees from their camps in Pakistan back to their home province



Young women plant fruit trees in a Kabul schoolyard renamed "Friendship Garden." The tree planting is a project of Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers.

several years ago and has employed various strategies to work for peace and reconciliation amidst the war-torn survivors.

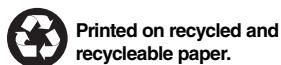
One attempt, leading a semester-long workshop for 65 college students ended with the students reluctantly concluding "peace is not possible" in Afghanistan. This was primarily because they felt the decades-long tensions among the various ethnic and religious divisions were too prevalent. Hakim's next strategy was to invite students to live together for a semester, blending the ethnic and

continued on page 2

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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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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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MINNESOTA

Will Peace Be Possible?, from front cover

religious diversity in an attempt to build community. After some struggles and challenges, both within and without, Hakim decided to begin that reconciliation process with even younger people, asking tribal elders and tribal youth councils for young people he could mentor and educate.

They suggested the young people, both boys and girls, young men and women, who then worked together to build a Peace Park in Bamiyan, in the Central Highlands of Afghanistan, about 100 miles from Kabul—an area known for its great scenic beauty, as well as the seventh century stone Buddahs which the Taliban destroyed in 2001. The youth conducted several “International Day of Listening” events over cellphone and internet connections using Skype technology, and marched nonviolently in the streets of Kabul pleading for an end to the war, the occupation, the violence. They met with U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Karl Eikenberry, a retired Lt. General who had commanded U.S. forces in this war, and handed him a letter, asking him to pass it on to our president.

In their letter to President Obama the AYPVs wrote:

We are tired of war and we share with brothers and sisters everywhere a common aspiration to live in peace. We face great problems indeed but we also have courage because the magnificent Afghan outdoors surrounds us and we have within us an even greater desire for creative, non-violent solutions. We cannot remain silent to our conscience in firmly disagreeing with the current Afghan government/Taliban/U.S./NATO militarized approach to our country's problems . . .



Afghan Youth Peace volunteers (from the left) Mohammed, Abdulai and Steve plant one of 55 fruit trees, symbolizing growing peace, instead of war.



Young Afghans, united in an inter-ethnic group, march to the United Nations embassy in Kabul. Their banners say: “The Citizens of Afghanistan say NO to war.”

We desire reconciliation. It's time to struggle for a reconciliation of civil hearts instead of fueling a clash or confrontation of civilizations. We wish to converse as equal, fellow human beings, without the need for guns and bombs. We desire to patiently build our nation. So, while we appreciate your friendship and partnership, we desire just as much to trek on our own paths, build our own parks and choose which of our own mountains to climb. We desire the dignity of working with our own hands and walking with our own legs. We ask for assistance that builds factories, industries, roads and an economy that would help us to stand on our own. We desire justice and truth. So, we ask for your support in denying space to corruption, fraud, lies and deceptions and in quenching the abusive greed for power and money that are destroying our society and humanity as much as violence and war are. . . .

So please, we ask that the world shifts her engagement with our sovereign country to a civilian approach. We should have as many civil forums, as many civil negotiations, as many civil discussions and as many civil occasions for relationship-building as are imaginatively possible. We believe that these civil efforts cannot be accomplished through either our local military or any foreign military because humankind cannot build relations with weapons. . . .

We desire the security that other peaceful nations have. The Taliban had wreaked havoc in this valley too. And killed many of us. Our people fled from them across this very Hindu Kush mountain range. We do not accept their violent actions just as we do not accept the violent solutions the world has been counting on. We have become a

continued on page 3

Will Peace Be Possible?, from page 2

terror to one another, in our inconsiderate actions and in our cowardly silence, and this must stop.

We hope to continue the 10 years of security in Bamiyan by refusing violence and by refusing to take revenge. And we wish to refuse the insurgents any further excuse to hurt us because of a foreign presence; brothers killing brothers, friends killing friends, humans killing one another.


Thus, while we understand the U.S./NATO coalition's concern with security, we desire just as much that they would leave us . . . and leave us soon. We want all violence and fighting to end. We want the Taliban, all Afghan warlords including the many warlords holding power in our present government, all regional powerbrokers, and the U.S./NATO forces to cease their operations, and to be brought to account for the killings they each are responsible for. We need to travel this history and this future on our own.

Humanity has taken too long and lost too many in failing to implement non-violent, civil ways to resolve human conflict. We human beings can do better than repeatedly resorting to force and war to address human hurts and needs. Stop the killings, stop killing one another, stop killing the people. Stop killing us. (conclusion)

Toward the end of May, to my knowledge, Ambassador Eikenberry has not responded.

The "freedom" that these Afghans told us they want is what most of us want: freedom from a foreign military occupation coupled with the resources to rebuild their society in such a way as to embrace diversity while respecting common humanity and finding nonviolent methods to resolve conflict. It is my opinion, as well as the rules of the international community, that our nation must pay reparations for the rebuilding of the destroyed infrastructure—but that must happen at the direction and control of Afghans rather than as another colonial or imperial project. We all want freedom from fear; continued war and occupation only breed more of it.

For the sake of my new Afghan friends, for the sake of our own nation and its imperiled democracy, for the sake of the world at large, **END THIS WAR!**

For more information about the AYPV, see: www.ourjourneytosmile.com 

Steve Clemens is a member of WAMM and a peace and justice activist in the Twin Cities. He traveled to Afghanistan as part of an International Peace Delegation led by Voices for Creative Nonviolence from March 18-25, 2011. He serves on the boards of the Iraqi & American Reconciliation Project and Pax Christi, Twin Cities area. He is a member of the Community of St. Martin and the Alliant ACTION vigil group. He has written more extensively on his trip to Afghanistan on his blog: www.mennonista.blogspot.com



Expectations of Mother and Child

In a comparison of 164 countries, the best country for mothers and children is Norway. Life expectancy for mothers is 83 and one child in 175 dies before age five. The worst country is Afghanistan. Life expectancy for mothers is 45 and one in five children does not reach age five. The United States ranks 31 for mothers and children together; children's well being was, by itself, ranked 34.

— Save the Children
"12th Annual Mother's Index,"
based on mother's and
children's health, educational
and economic status

**Stop Political Persecution!
Grand the Federal Grand Jury!**

Grand juries are set-ups to arrive at foregone conclusions. They are rubber stamps for the prosecution. If they participate, the subpoenaed are not even allowed attorneys in the room with them.

FBI raids continued with a raid on the home of long-time Chicano activist Carlos Montes in Los Angeles. On May 27, protesters about FBI raids and subpoenas challenged Attorney General Eric Holder in Minneapolis.

"He can disagree all he wants, but people around the country believe these attacks need to end because they're killing our free speech rights, our ability to question our government, and our ability to speak out."

— Tracy Molm's response to Attorney General Eric Holder's telling her he has to disagree with her on which activities are protected under the First Amendment. Tracy was re-subpoenaed to testify before a Federal Grand Jury, along with Sarah Martin and Ahn Pham, in an attack on international solidarity and antiwar activists.

More info and what you can do to defend our friends and our civil liberties: see calendar page 6, as well as stopfbi.net or call (612) 379-3585.

QUIZ: WHICH UNDERPERFORMER IS GETTING ADDITIONAL U.S. AID?

a)



b)



Adam Zyglis, Buffalo News, Buffalo, New York



WORD UP!

God and Guns on Our Side

From the Halls of Montezuma
To the shores of Tripoli
We fight our country's battles
In the air, on land, and sea;
First to fight for right and freedom
And to keep our honor clean;
We are proud to claim the title
Of United States Marine.

Our flag's unfurled to every breeze
From dawn to setting sun;
We have fought in every clime
and place
Where we could take a gun.
In the snow of far-off Northern
lands
And in sunny tropic scenes;
You will find us always on the
job—
The United States Marines.

Here's health to you and to our
Corps
Which we are proud to serve;
In many a strife we've fought for
life
And never lost our nerve.
If the Army and the Navy
Ever look on Heaven's scenes,
They will find the streets are
guarded
By United States Marines.

—“The Marine’s Hymn,” song
of U.S. Marine Corps, the oldest
official U.S. military song (from
1918) includes Tripoli
as a target.

Changing the Dominant Paradigm

Activists are on the move! Walking, cycling, vigiling, traveling, protesting, lobbying, petitioning, writing, calling, speaking, challenging, meeting, greeting, organizing. The justice and peace advocates in this newsletter, and others like them, are resisting war and occupation, oppression and repression, with persistence, energy, courage and creativity.

On “Humanitarian” Military Intervention

by Anne Winkler-Morey

Based on a speech at a forum, sponsored by May-Day Books, given at the University of Minnesota May 4, 2011.

Elites who benefit from war don't fight them, and those men and women who do would never pick up a gun to protect the interests of some 19th century railroad tycoon or 21st century oil company or weapons manufacturer. So there must be a trumped up humanitarian justification. Sometimes that humanitarianism is couched in bigotry: the enemies are in need of a different god, or are less capable of governance. Nevertheless, the people are led to believe they are doing good.

A quick review of history of the humanitarian propaganda used to sell U.S. militarism:

1600s-20th century: The “Indian Wars.” These were “manifest.” God willed that the United States spread from sea to shining sea and save Native Americans souls, dead or alive. What is more humanitarian than saving someone from eternal damnation?

1846-48: U.S. Mexican war was to “Overthrow a tyrant.” Mexican President Santanna was tyrant enough. Nevertheless that had nothing to do with U.S. desire to grab half of Mexico's land and get access to ports on the Pacific Ocean.

1898: The war in Cuba that resulted in the United States inheriting a Caribbean and Pacific empire from Spain was “the splendid little war” (I just read a few days ago someone use that same phrase ironically for the war in Libya). The author of the 1899 best seller *Our War for Cuba's Freedom* argued it was the first altruistic conflagration in the history of mankind. (An ad in the *New York Times* in late April, put out by the NGO “Global Citizens”* made the same argument about Libya, 2011.) Like Mexico, the Spanish empire was indeed tyrannical. But, to encapsulate the sentiments of Jose Marti, U.S. intervention was taking Cuba “from the frying pan into the fire.” Cubans could defeat the dying Spanish Empire. But, as Marti said, “Once the U.S. is in, who will get her out?”

1914-1918: In WWI all sides argued they were fighting to defeat a tyrant—and all sides were right. The U.S. argued theirs was an anti-imperialist struggle and a “war to end all wars.” The vibrant pacifist and actual anti-imperialist movements of the time were usurped to justify a truly insane and deadly war between imperialists squabbling over territory. During this period the United States invaded and/or occupied Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, and Puerto Rico.

1930s -1990: Before, during, and after WWII, “the war to defeat fascism,” the United States coddled and trained tyrants, fascist and otherwise, in order

to “defeat communism.” Anti-communism worked for a while as a humanitarian ideology, but Americans grew wary of it after Vietnam.

1980s: To overcome this “Vietnam Syndrome” covert tactics were perfected to hide wars and interventions from the U. S. public. Most of the Caribbean region interventions (Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala) were covert. The 1983 invasion of Grenada, however, was overt. It took place a moment after an internal coup and so it was billed, not as an effort to overthrow the popular Maurice Bishop, but to “restore democracy.”

1989-1991: After the Panama invasion “against a madman” and the Persian Gulf War, successfully sold as an anti-imperialist war (opposing the intervention of a large nation—Iraq—against a small neighbor—Kuwait), Bush Sr. declared the Vietnam Syndrome dead.

1990s: Interventions in Haiti and Bosnia were about “nation building,” “avoiding a bloodbath” and “against ethnic cleansing.” In Haiti it appears that the United States heavy hand was involved in the 1991 removal, 1994 reinstatement and 2004 removal of President Aristide, based on his willingness and lack thereof, to comply with neo-liberal measures imposed on him by the Bush One, Clinton and Bush Two administrations. Nation building?

21st Century: Let us not forget that the wars on Afghanistan and Iraq in 2001 and 2003 were sold as efforts to “take down a tyrant” and “save the world from weapons of mass destruction.”

There is no evidence that the Obama administration is set on changing the course of our country's foreign relations history—not in the Middle East where tyrants like Mubarak are friends until they are no longer able to hold onto power, and wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan still rage, and Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain are still major aid recipients; not in Latin America, where just days ago Obama refused to apologize for the U.S. sponsored coup overthrowing Allende and installing the brutal dictator Pinochet in 1973.

Any entity that uses bombs as the instrument for carrying out humanitarianism must be rejected. The emperor wears no clothes. Bombs are not humanitarian. They kill people. Period.

We, too, can capitalize on humanitarianism. I've noticed that the gung ho veterans in my classes tend to share that extra dose of humanitarianism that WAMM members have. We need to think about how to talk to people of all political stripes who in

continued on page 9

ackling torture At the opening and the First Unitarian Society present

AN ART EXHIBITION

June 19 July 24

CONVINCING AGAINST

TORTURE

torture makes victims of us all

First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis
900 Mount Curve Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55403

Always open every day except Saturdays, call 612-377-6608 for hours

Opening reception and program, Sunday, June 19 11:30 am - 2:00pm

in recognition of the U.N.'s International Day In Support of Victims of Torture, June 26th

Closing reception and program, Sunday, July 24 11:30 am - 2:00pm

Exhibitors: Mohler Terri Stark

James Evershed, Kirk Peterso, Heidi Maasour

Leili T. Pritschet, Sandra Barhouse

Co-Sponsored by

Amnesty International, Twin Cities Chapters

The Center For Victims Of Torture

Women Against Military Madness

June 2011 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 the War on Iraq:

Every Wednesday, 5:00 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 Outside of Weapons Merchant Alliant Techsystems: Every Wednesday, 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. at 7480 Flying Cloud Drive, Eden Prairie. "Who Profit\$? Who Dies?" Sponsored by: Alliant ACTION. FFI and directions: call 612-701-6963 or visit www.alliantaction.org.

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.

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 the Sabathani Community Center, 310 East 38th Street, Minneapolis. FFI: Call WAMM, 612-827-5364.

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

Iraq Committee: First Monday of each month, 5:30 p.m. FFI: Call Marie, 612-522-1861.

Middle East Committee: Second Monday of each month, 9:30 a.m. at the Sabathani Community Center, 310 East 38th Street, Minneapolis. FFI: Call WAMM, 612-827-5364.

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

St. Joan of Arc/WAMM Peacemakers: Note change: now meeting on the 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 and fourth Wednesdays of each month, 10:00 a.m. at (Note change of location) Afro Deli and Coffee, 1939 5th Street South (Riverside and 20th Avenue), Minneapolis.

Ongoing Events

Committee to Stop FBI Repression. Every other Thursday, 7:00 p.m., Walker Church, 304 16th Ave. South, Minneapolis. 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., new location: African Development Center, on 20th Avenue, across from St. Martin's Table. 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., 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. 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., 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., Rondo Community Outreach Library, 461 North Dale Street, St. Paul. MN 9/11 Truth meets to educate and discuss the events of 9/11/2001. FFI: Visit www.mn911truth.org.

Active Nonviolence Training: Train in the principles and practice of active nonviolence. An interactive session (non-lecture and non-reading) in social change analysis, community-building and project planning to strengthen our group for action. Certificates for participants. Trainers from Creating a Culture of Peace (CCP) which moved its national headquarters to Minnesota. Sponsored by: CCP. FFI and to register: Visit www.creatingacultureofpeace.org.

Special Events

Grand Jury Indictment Emergency Action: If the Federal Grand Jury indicts Sarah Martin, Ahn Pham or Tracy Molm, or if other activists are re-subpoenaed, there will be an emergency action held at 4:30 p.m. at the U.S. Federal Building, 4th St & 4th Ave, Downtown Minneapolis. Watch for action alerts. FFI: See stopfbi.net and mnStopFBI.wordpress.com, or call (612) 379-3585.

Art Exhibit: Canvas(ing) Against Torture Now through Sunday, July 24. Call for Hours (612-377-6608) First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis, 900 Mount Curve Avenue, Minneapolis. June is UN International Month In Support of Victims of Torture. Tackling Torture at the Top (T3) Committee organized an art exhibit about torture and how it affects all of us. Artists: Jane Evershed, Ann Mohler, Terri Stark, Kirk Anderson, Hend Al-Mansour, Leili T. Pritschet, Sandra Barnhouse. See flyer this newsletter. Sponsored by: T3 and the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis. Co-Sponsored by: Amnesty International Twin Cities Chapters, the Center for Victims of Torture and WAMM.

Walk with WAMM: Twin Cities GLBT Pride Parade Sunday, June 26 at 11:00 a.m. Gather at 3rd Street and Hennepin Avenue and follow Hennepin Avenue to Loring Park, Minneapolis. Join fellow members, volunteers, interns, and staff, and walk with WAMM in the annual Twin Cities GLBT Pride Parade. Wear your WAMM gear (shirts, visors, buttons). The Twin Cities GLBT Pride Festival in Loring Park takes place the weekend of June 25 and 26 and features five stages of live entertainment, three food courts, fireworks, history pavilion and more. Festival and Parade Sponsored by: Twin Cities Pride. FFI: Visit www.tcpride.org. FFI on WAMM's Participation: Call WAMM, 612-827-5364.

Ninth Annual Peacestock 2011. Friday, July 8-Saturday, July 10. Hager City, Wisconsin. Music, speakers, and community for peace in an idyllic location near the Mississippi, just one hour's drive from the Twin Cities of Minnesota. Guest speakers Pentagon whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg, former congresswoman and US Palestinian rights activist Cynthia McKinney and Ray McGovern, former CIA analyst and founder of the Veteran Intelligence Professional for Sanity. Sponsored by Veterans for Peace, Chapter 115.

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.

Immigration Reform: Just a Dream?

by Rose Grengs

Every first Sunday of the month a group of supporters, sponsored by the Interfaith Coalition on Immigration, gather in front of the Ramsey County Detention Center, just east of downtown St. Paul, to hold a vigil of support for the detained immigrants inside. Their message is simple: Immigrants are human; they deserve dignity. Our government needs to stop breaking up families, deporting hard working people, and treating immigrants like criminals. We need a change from enforcement-only policies to fixing our broken immigration system.

Is this message being heard amidst the chaotic anti-immigrant roar in the nation today? It's hard to say, but as a WAMM member and long-time Pete Seeger fan, I believe that we shall overcome some day and that this can be accomplished through the power of action and continued work. The following is a brief overview of the current state of immigration policy in our state and country as of today.

Minnesota: During this past state legislative session, anything that remotely had to do with immigrants was cut, slashed and punched. For example, bills were passed that made dramatic cuts in Medical Assistance for many immigrants and refugees, prohibited cities from enacting ordinances opting out of using police officers as immigration officials, mandated the implementation of the "Secure Communities" program (the sharing of citizenship data with the federal government), and restricted funding to organizations that provide free or low-cost legal services to immigrants. There is even more. For a good discussion on the impact of state's new immigration legislation, see <http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/>.

The DREAM Act: Every year thousands of undocumented students graduate from U.S. high schools with no future to look forward to (390,000 last year). The federal DREAM Act (acronym for Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors), was reintroduced in the U.S. Senate in early May. If passed, it would give the opportunity to apply for permanent resident status to certain undocumented kids who came to the U.S. as children and attended high school, as well as planned to have or already have attended two years of college or served two years in the military. The bill would possibly be paired with more enforcement measures to win support in the current congress. But in reality, it has little chance of success.

Executive Action: As Congress is too mired in politics to reform our broken immigration system, plenty of voices are demanding executive action. Yet, President Obama continues to walk a fine line on the issue. On one hand he says he supports immigration reform, but on the other, declares



Photo by Rose Grengs.

On the first Sunday of every month, supporters gather in front of the Ramsey County Detention Center, just east of downtown St. Paul, to hold a vigil of support for the detained immigrants inside.

that his "hands are tied" in doing anything about it. Many disagree and are calling for stronger leadership and action.

Are President Obama's hands tied as he insists? Legal experts have issued a memo defining how much executive power the president has when it comes to immigration. (Read more at <http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/>.) He can, for example, exercise discretion in deciding which individual cases to prosecute, grant deferred action to classes of immigrants, grant Deferred Enforced Departure to groups of foreign nationals, and authorize humanitarian parole on a "case-by-case" basis. He can also issue signing statements, which is a way all Administrations can shape regulations and administration policy determinations. While these measures are extraordinary, they have all been used by presidents in the past, and use of them now could show leadership on the part of Obama who has thus far not used his executive power to block deportation of eligible students as defined in the DREAM Act.

Of these measures, deferred action is the one that many people, organizations and advocates are most calling for the president to use as a way of demonstrating that he is serious about immigration reform and to balance his heretofore enforcement-heavy policy of record high levels of deportations. What is deferred action? While deferred action is not a specific status, it is a mechanism by which the government gives some cases lower priority and doesn't act on them. The major benefit to recipients of deferred action, aside from not being deported, is that they can be granted employment authorization.

In April, 22 Senators, including Majority Leader Harry Reid, sent a letter to President Obama asking him to grant "deferred action" to DREAM Act-eligible students. This would be a

continued on page 8

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 Kunderd. Dementia and general care. County funds or private. 612-866-4637.

Marla Kennedy, M.A., L.M.F.T.

Licensed marriage and family therapist, parent educator, speaker on parenting for peace and justice. Call 651-645-3303

Not a Group Home

I've had 30 years experience providing long-term, loving care for severely developmentally disabled people in my own family home. I now have an opening for an individual 18+. Must be ambulatory and not aggressive. My family includes: myself, Nancy Hauer, a WAMM member for over 20 years; Joyce, my partner for 12 years; our 9 year old daughter, whom we adopted together; and my adult foster daughter, who has been with me for 30 years. I am licensed for adult foster care and DD wavered services. Nancy Hauer 651-426-4917.

Herbs from Basil to Real French Tarragon

Come to see us for a full line of locally-grown herb plants. Every Saturday, downtown St. Paul Farmers' Market, 5th and Wall. Melon Patch Herbs, Myrl and Dan Moran. 763-389-5156



WORD UP!

Conflict of Interest

Someone like Obama effectively discredits any progressive policy alternatives among the general public who rely on the corporate media for information, since his reactionary corporatist policies are portrayed as the progressive alternative. It is like having a lawyer to represent you who is being paid by the other side to discredit your case.

—Jordan Kushner, civil rights lawyer and activist

This is Not What Democracy Looks Like

PATRIOT Act provisions have been extended to include roving wiretaps, surveillance of non-citizens, and examination of business records. Senator Ron Wyden of Oregon has expressed grave concern that this allows the government to go even further, employing secrecy to reinterpret public laws and statutes.

PM Real People on the Move Against Corporate Control

by Polly Mann

Years and years ago I read about Vinoba Bhave, the so-called “Walking Saint of India” who has been compared to Mahatma Gandhi. He went from one Indian farm to another begging for a small portion of each farmer’s land to be given a would-be farmer who had none. I was reminded of Vinoba Bhave when I met the Monahan brothers, Laird and Robin, walked across the country on what I consider an equally important mission.

They spoke to a small group of us in a break-out session of a meeting of the Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers which is composed of activists from various peace, ecology and church groups. Attendants at the meeting were instructed to meet with others in one of several “break-out” groups that had been set up around various peace issues. My group was to discuss how to build a peaceful revolution.

As soon as our group heard the self-introduction of the Monahan Brothers there was a clamor to hear about them. We’ve met priests demonstrating at nuclear sites and Grandmothers for Peace trying to enlist in the military, but two well-dressed, soft-spoken, somewhat older men on a personal mission was something else. Like the majority of Americans they want to see an end to war and they convinced us that their particular campaign can be a tangible first step.

We discussed who desires and profits from never-ending war. All agreed that it was primarily the munitions makers—corporations that are now accorded the same rights and privileges as individuals. They can contribute as much as they choose to political candidates from the vast sums of money at their disposal. And to whom do you suppose they give their money? Of course to those politicians who vote to fund the mightiest military machine the world has ever known. Every minute of every day, the U.S. government spends \$2.1 million on the military. According to New Priorities Campaign, U.S. military spending on the whole totals \$711 billion per year. We know that at the same time funds used to provide services for public servants, education, the homeless, the poor, the disabled and the ill are being reduced or eliminated. Today, there are campaigns calling for the impeachment of the five Supreme Court justices responsible for the decision.

The brothers described the specific focus of Move to Amend, the campaign they support. It calls for a constitutional amendment that would deny personhood to corporations. I’m not sure if I actually heard a huge sigh of relief from the Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers on hearing this information, but I think so. For me, it sounded so reasonable, so do-able and at the same time, so

simple. I’m leafletting my condominium and intend to ask for endorsement from groups I belong to. I’m going to call my state legislators. But why should I stop with just my own? I’ve got to call a meeting of the committee. There’s just so much to be done.

Newcomers to the campaign can begin by reading up on it. The website is www.movetoamend.org. There is also a great resource, a paper entitled, “You Can Be An Agent of Change,” available by contacting Move to Amend at mnmovetoamend@gmail.com. Of course, even with the passage of the desired constitutional amendment, we know how tough the going will be but that majority of us wanting peace should be able to manage it. ♡

Polly Mann is a co-founder of WAMM and continues to be active with the organization. She serves on the WAMM Board. Her writing can be also be found on the WAMM Middle Middle East Committee site, accessible through worldwidewamm.org and the WAMMToday blog.”

Immigration Reform, continued from page 7

good first step.

It is highly unlikely that anything close to comprehensive immigration reform will be seen soon. But, the little voices in front of the Ramsey County Detention Center are only part of a ripple that could start to shape a vision for the future for the millions of people directly affected by the broken immigration system. **If you would like more information about immigration reform or a speaker for your organization, contact Rose Grengs at r.grengs@comcast.net.** ♡

Rose M. Grengs is a WAMM member, mother, grandmother, immigration lawyer and advocate. She is retired from her private law practice, but continues to represent low-income clients as a volunteer and is actively involved in trying to change and improve immigration laws.

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Military Intervention, *continued from page 4*

their core are humanitarians like the rest of us.

We need to talk about real humanitarian alternatives. Unions like the ILWU, the longshoremen's union, use work stoppages to protest attacks on workers across the globe. Consumers use boycotts as we did in resisting apartheid South Africa and in Arizona, more recently. The courageous people in the international solidarity movement, Witness for Peace, and the Non-violent Peace Force send people to war-torn regions to stand before tanks and broker peace and justice. You don't have to be a hero. Anyone with a buck can support these organizations engaged in real humanitarianism.

But, as the health professionals say, "First do no harm." Our first responsibility as U.S. humanitarians is to stop U.S. military madness. **W**

***Editor's Note:** Not to be confused with several organizations with the similar names such as Citizens for Global Solutions, an organization with the mission of reforming the UN; Global Research, a progressive resource center; Global Exchange founded by Code Pink's Medea Benjamin.

Anne Winkler-Morey is an historian and long time WAMM member. She is currently on a 14-month bicycle tour of the United States talking to people about peace and justice and raising money for WAMM. See back of this newsletter.

List of Countries the U.S. Has Bombed Since WWII

(*May be incomplete.*)

- | | |
|---|--|
| Korea and China
1950-53 (Korean War) | Somalia 1993, 2007 |
| Guatemala 1954, 1960 | Bosnia 1994, 1995 |
| Indonesia 1958 | Sudan 1998 |
| Cuba 1959-1961 | Afghanistan 1998 |
| Vietnam 1961-73 | Yugoslavia 1999 |
| Congo 1964 | Afghanistan 2001-ongoing |
| Laos 1964-73 | Iraq 2003 (second war on Iraq—more recently predator drones) |
| Guatemala 1967-69 | Pakistan 2007-ongoing |
| Cambodia 1969-70 | Palestine (collaborated in Operation Cast Lead on Gaza 2008/2009 by rushing bombs to Israel) |
| Grenada 1983 | Yemen 2002, 2009 |
| Lebanon 1983, 1984 (Lebanese and Syrian targets) | Libya 1986, 2011 |
| El Salvador 1980s | |
| Nicaragua 1980s | |
| Iran 1987 | |
| Panama 1989 | |
| Iraq 1991 (1st Gulf War); 1991-2003 (U.S./UK "No Fly Zone") | |
| Kuwait 1991 | |

WAMM THANKS

Lionel Davis in memory of Edith R. Davis.

Mary Lou and Gene Ott in memory of Steve Hamilton.

Everyone who participated in the Fourth Annual WAMM Walk Against Weapons. Thanks to those who volunteered, those who walked and those who donated.



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HOW'S THE WAR ECONOMY WORKING FOR YOU?

Pedaling Across the Country to Raise Access for All

WAMM members Anne and Dave Winkler-Morey are two educators in their fifties who are embarking on a 417-day cycling trip around the United States June 18, 2011 to August 5, 2012 to engage in discussions about how to achieve the kind of society people want. They were inspired by a study that found 92% of Americans desire a society that is profoundly more egalitarian than we have now, with no appreciable difference between Republicans, Democrats and independents on this issue.

Anne is a PhD. who teaches college-level history and Dave is a middle school social worker. They are especially interested in having an excellent education system, pre-K through college, accessible to all, that reflects the diversity of experiences and backgrounds of our nation's children. They want to hear about how people across the country are working to build a more just society.

Their trip is self-supported; Anne and Dave are carrying what they need with them.

They are raising money for Women Against Military Madness and two college access programs. Mail donations to 310 East 38th St., Suite 222, Minneapolis, MN 55409. To view a map of their journey and follow their progress, read their daily blog and essays, and see interviews with the people they meet along the way, find their "Pedal Story" at <https://sites.google.com/site/pedalstory/home> 

Anne Winkler-Morey is on cycling trip, with husband David, to raise issues of justice and money for WAMM.

