

*The triumph of the Egyptian and Tunisian revolutions and the domino effects that they have created across the Muslim world are a setback for Western imperial policies.*

*Editor's Update: Threatening the vulnerable region, U.S./NATO powers have sent warships to the coast of oil-rich Libya. Air strikes are contemplated and military advisors are already said to have been on the ground.*

## Another Wave of Decolonization in the Muslim World

### The Spark: The Economy of Injustice

How is it that Mohammed BouAzizi, the young Tunisian vegetable vendor who immolated himself, created a spark that ignited the Tunisian uprising that would spread across the Muslim world? BouAzizi held a university degree, but the state did not offer any prospect of a decent life for him. As a last resort—and this is a story that repeats itself across the Muslim world—BouAzizi fell back on one of the most traditional forms of economic subsistence, one that has sustained communities around the world for hundreds of years. He bought vegetables from farmers and sold them in the local marketplace—part of an informal economy that exists outside the official state and market economies.

Those who rely on this informal economy to feed their families are often hassled across the Muslim world by state authorities who, at the behest of capitalist institutions (IMF-World Bank), deem this form of economic subsistence illegal. In my home country of Morocco, these humble, hard-working, and often educated individuals frequently face police insults and confiscation of their scales and their produce, and are subject to an extortion and bribery system that fills the pockets of corrupt policemen. Because he was harassed and spat upon by the police while he was selling his vegetables, Mohammed BouAzizi set himself on fire. His grisly act is a damning denunciation of the capitalist economic system that uses corrupt leaders and their state apparatus to criminalize the most basic forms of economic subsistence and basic survival. With their humble resources, traditional economic systems are far more humane and compassionate and offer more reliable safety nets than the capitalist market economy could ever squeeze out of its untold wealth.

by Fouzi Slisli



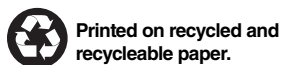
Photo credit: Fethi Belaid

*A young protester holds a sign that reads "Freedom for Wissam Saghir," a journalist arrested in the media crackdown in Tunisia. Even media blackouts could not prevent a revolt against the western-imposed economic policies and autocratic regimes that had maintained power through various forms of violence and corruption.*

### Western Media Coverage: Tunisia versus Iran

BouAziz's story found resonance throughout Tunisia as it spread through the use of social media like Facebook and Twitter. In spite of the odds, Tunisian protests evolved creatively into an uprising told in the first person, through the work of citizen journalists, circumventing the media blackout imposed by President Ben Ali's regime—

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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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**Another Wave . . . , continued from front cover**

a blackout fortified by the deafening silence in Western media and opinion. Mainstream media, its critics, and analysts are still catching up.

Many observers noted the difference in Western attitudes to the protests in Iran after the 2009 elections; at the behest of the U.S. State Department, Twitter postponed maintenance work to allow Iranian protesters to circumvent their government blackout. The personal video clips and reports uploaded on Facebook and Twitter were then given continuous coverage on CNN, BBC, *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, and *Le Monde*. In contrast, until the first week of January, the Tunisian uprising was covered mostly with 800-word stories picked up from news agencies. Mainstream media largely ignored the personal reports and videos posted by Tunisians on Facebook and Twitter.

No Western leaders came out in support of Tunisians' right to choose their own leaders, as Obama and Clinton did from day one of the Iranian protests. France even openly offered Tunisian President Ben Ali policing services. That is not surprising, since the Tunisian uprising was no color revolution. Unlike Iranian protests, it had no support from the National Endowment for

Democracy. The Tunisian uprising was spontaneous and genuine—so spontaneous that even after it deposed the despot, it still lacks a leadership and remains today an easy prey for the wolves.

Western political institutions and public opinion were just as wrong on Iran as they were on Tunisia. In Iran, the West willfully promoted instability in a well-functioning Muslim country. Western and Zionist interests took precedence over the stability and safety of 80 million Iranians. In Tunisia, the West attempted to maintain Ben Ali's repulsive police state and his ruling mafia in place, and again Western interests took precedence over the rights, aspirations, and property of a Muslim nation. The West lost in both cases. Both Iran and Tunisia wrested their country out of the claws of American and Israeli dominance, at least for now.

**Decolonization Spreads like Wild Fire**

From the beginning, it was clear that the Tunisian revolt would have a ripple effect across Muslim world. A week after the overthrow of Ben Ali, Egyptian civil society called for a "Friday of Protest and Rage" against the regime of Hosni Mubarak that had ruled them with an iron fist for

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*Photo credit: Reuters/Dylan Martinez*

*Jubilant protesters celebrate inside Tahrir Square after the announcement of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's resignation in Cairo February 11, 2011. Women were important participants in protests and played active roles in organizing.*



# PM Drones: Death by Remote Control

by Polly Mann

Drones, known in the aerospace industry as unmanned aerial vehicles, or UAVs were born, as with most military hardware, in secret and were in use before the average American knew anything about their existence. They have been under development for decades in the United States. The CIA acknowledges that it developed a dragon-fly-sized UAV known as the "Insectohopter" for laser-guided spy operations in the 1970s. The military first used drone technology during the U.S. war against the democratically elected government of Nicaragua in the early 1980s.

Drones have been and are being used in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The estimated deaths from U.S. drone strikes in Pakistan from 2004 to 2011 is estimated at from 1,372 to 2,125. Civilian deaths in 2004 were estimated at 25% and in 2010 at 6%. On February 20 of this year, the Washington Post reported: "Drone attacks in Pakistan killed at least 581 militants last year, according to independent estimates. The number of those militants noteworthy enough to appear on a U.S. list of most-wanted terrorists: two." Casualty figures for drone use in Afghanistan are not available. The U.S. has announced it plans to use a new drone there that can "see everything."

Other branches of government are also interested in drones. A small pilotless vehicle, capable of hovering and "staring," is expected soon to be in the skies over the Florida Everglades. If use of the drone wins U.S. Federal Aviation Administration approval, the Miami-Dade Police Department will start flying the 14-pound drone over urban areas with an eye toward full-fledged employment in crime fighting. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency has been flying drones over the Arizona desert and southwest border with Mexico since 2006 and will soon deploy one in North Dakota to patrol the Canadian border as well.

Drone missions are executed by military crews. One such operation is at Creech Air Force base, 45 miles north of Las Vegas and about 7,500 miles away from the targeted battlefield in Iraq or Afghanistan. The planes aren't launched at Creech Air Force Base. They take off from runways in the country of origin, controlled by an "on the ground" pilot, nearby. But for the pilots at Creech Air Force base, the fight is on a video screen. Alongside each one of them is a crew member who operates the plane's onboard camera, and a behind-the-scenes team of intelligence analysts. In one mission, a truck full of insurgents in Afghanistan was being tracked. When the ground commander gave the order, a Hellfire missile was fired, hitting its target. The trigger is pulled in Nevada, inside cramped, single-wide

Photo credit: U.S. Air Force

Classified as a "hunter-killer," the Reaper is a drone that bears mounted missiles.



trailers and small offices where 250 pilots work in shifts around the clock. But once many of the UAVs are airborne, teams inside Creech Air Force base and other U. S. sites begin to control them.

The use of drones is heavily debated. Investigative journalist Tim Shorrock\* says that corporations direct the program and that people are leaving their national security and counterterrorism jobs for positions where they are basically doing the same jobs they once held at the CIA, the NSA and other agencies, to work at for-profit corporations at double or triple the salary. It's privatization of the highest order, in which our collective memory and experience in intelligence—our crown jewels of spying, so to speak—are owned by corporate America. Yet, there is essentially no government oversight of this private sector at the heart of our intelligence empire. And the lines between public and private have become so blurred as to be nonexistent.

As the drone attacks have expanded, they have attracted increasing criticism from human rights organizations and international legal scholars some of whom claim aspects of the program violate international law and risk generating a backlash in Pakistan and other countries where the strikes are carried out. At a recent meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, New York University law professor and the UN's special rapporteur on extra judicial killings, Phillip Anston, said recently that the escalating campaign of CIA drone strikes against suspect militants in Pakistan has made the United States "the most prolific user of targeted killings" in the world today. On January 15, 2011 a group of about 70 people led by anti-war activist Cindy Sheehan rallied near CIA Headquarters in Langley, Virginia to protest the use of drones. She called the use of drones "cowardly" and "immoral." A member of the group was a 26-year old Navy veteran who wore a T-shirt that read, "A drone attack is an execution without a trial." On January 27 of this year, Jim Haber, coordinator of the Nevada Desert Experience; Fr. John Dear, a Jesuit priest; Kathy Kelly, co-founder of Voices for Creative Non-Violence and 11 others were found guilty of trespassing at Creech Air Force where they were protesting the use of drones. Kelly said that it was "criminal for

## WORD UP!

### Hearts and Minds

"She fears another attack. Neither she nor her daughters had ever heard of the 9/11 attack on the U.S. . . . Above all they want to live without the constant fear of war."

—peace activist Kathy Kelly about an Afghanistan woman, October 2010

"The world says they are helping us . . . How? By dropping bombs?" "War destroys people. . . It destroys our livelihood. It damages our minds."

—what some Afghan men told Kathy Kelly, speaking through a translator, October 2010

### Raising Her Voice

"The war's only purpose has been to perpetuate the occupation, install military bases and safeguard the takeover of a region that has substantial natural resources. Obama is just like Bush, if not worse, because he is escalating the war and bringing it to Pakistan. The American government is maintaining a dangerous situation in order to stay as long as possible in Afghanistan so it can more easily watch over neighbouring countries like Iran, Pakistan, Russia, Uzbekistan."

— Malalai Joya, interview, "Malalai Joya Is an Angry Woman," *L'Humanite* in English, Feb. 28, 2010

Hear **Malalai Joya** speak. See back page of newsletter .

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## WORD UP!

### Sound Familiar?

The only people for whom Egyptian neo-liberalism worked “by the book” were the most vulnerable members of society, and their experience with neo-liberalism was not a pretty picture. Organized labor was fiercely suppressed. The public education and the health care systems were gutted by a combination of neglect and privatization. Much of the population suffered stagnant or falling wages relative to inflation. Official unemployment was estimated at approximately 9.4% last year (and much higher for the youth who spearheaded the January 25th Revolution) . . .

For the wealthy, the rules were very different. Egypt did not so much shrink its public sector, as neoliberal doctrine would have it, as it reallocated public resources for the benefit of a small and already affluent elite.

—Abu Atris (pseudonym for an Egyptian writer), Opinion piece, “A Revolution Against Neo-Liberalism,” *Al Jazeera*, Feb. 24, 2011

### Another Wave . . . , continued from page 2

30 years. The protest started after Friday prayers, and in the first few hours it was obvious that the level of anger and determination of the Egyptians was far stronger than the loyalty of Mubarak’s police, estimated to be one million strong. The people who have been beaten, tortured, humiliated, and raped in Egypt’s feared police stations shed their fear and confronted Mubarak’s crowd control units with bare chests. Memorable were those images of unarmed Egyptians chasing the heavily armed riot police in Cairo, Alexandria, and Sinai.

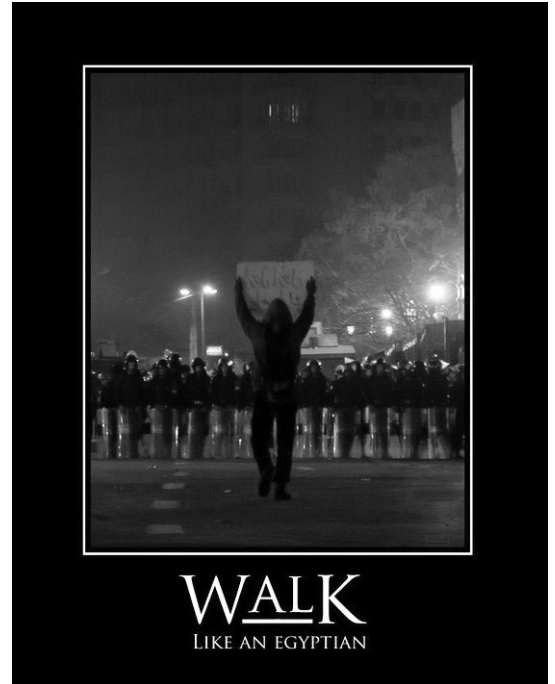
In a few days of peaceful demonstrations, Egyptians showed Mubarak’s police state to be a rotten paper tiger. He called in the army, whose top echelons are his protégés and allies of the United States. But as in Tunisia, the junior officers and the foot soldiers refused to open fire on their own people. The world held its breath for two weeks while Egyptians occupied the famous Midan Tahrir in Cairo around the clock and, by day, organized demonstrations that numbered in the millions.

In the two weeks of standoff, Mubarak treated the world to a series of appalling and criminal tricks clearly designed to spread chaos and insecurity in the land and give the Egyptians a sense that life without Mubarak would devolve into crime and lawlessness. He ordered the withdrawal of his police force, already defeated and broken, and sent paid thugs who looted and assaulted people and committed wanton crimes. It was shocking to see the state spreading lawlessness and crime to instill in its own people a need for this corrupt state.

### People Organize Themselves Peaceably and Help One Another

Many who know the extent to which Egyptian society has been brutalized and impoverished in the last three decades feared that the cynical and calculated retreat of the state would leave Egyptians unable to sustain the social cohesion and keep the peace by themselves. Great was their surprise when the youth of Egypt took the initiative and organized neighborhood committees and security teams to protect public property, banks, and museums. Volunteer groups swiftly formed, and we saw lawyers organizing traffic, teachers doing neighborhood watch, and doctors and nurses open street clinics. Egyptians of all walks of life mobilized. They demonstrated in the millions and cleaned up after themselves. They donated time, skills, care, food, money, and medicine. They organized garbage collection and recycling.

The space they organized was not merely a civic space in the Western sense of the word, where people are united by common political interests, it was a space of genuine brotherhood and sisterhood, in which people cared for each other,



*From North Africa and the Mideast to North America and the Midwest, this “Walk Like an Egyptian” image has become iconic in the stand against oppression.*

looked after each other, and protected each other as they do their own families. They were, in doing so, a resounding illustration of Prophet Muhammad’s injunction that the Muslim Ummah (nation) is like a single body. If one of its parts is hurting, the other parts respond to it with fever and wakefulness. It is remarkable that a people’s revolt, with no discernable leadership, in a country of 85 millions, could organically and creatively and systematically organize its energies, sustain itself and the country, and triumph, in the absence of the state and in spite of Mubarak’s various attempts to sow sedition and terror.

### New Power Relationships in the Muslim World

Days after Egyptians deposed Mubarak, there was a revolt in Libya against the ruling government. On day five of the Libyan Revolution, as these lines are being written, some facts are already discernible. It took six weeks to bring down Ben Ali’s regime in Tunisia, and eighteen days for that of Mubarak in Egypt, but in Libya it took only four days for Benghazi and the Eastern province of Libya to bring down Gaddafi’s regime.

What is collapsing in the Muslim world is not merely an autocratic regime in Tunisia, Egypt, or Libya; it is U.S. and Western policies. Protests are being organized and gaining momentum in Morocco, Algeria, Jordan, Kuwait, Iraq, Syria,

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# International Women's History Month Action: Stop the Witch Hunt!

March is International Women's History Month and here in the U.S. and in our own Twin Cities, our own sisters are under attack, in a grand jury investigation witch hunt. Subpoenas calling Sarah Martin, Tracy Molm and Ahn Pham to testify were re-activated and could mean they will be jailed for non-cooperation. The following are excerpts from a speech by activist Jess Sundin, also subpoenaed. She delivered them at a recent regional conference in Chicago, addressing the witch hunt.

“Let me say first, no one sent any guns or money to groups on the government's list of what they call ‘foreign terrorist organizations.’ I don't agree with that list anyway, but it's important that you as our supporters understand, we have not given what any of us might understand as material support to any groups on that list. What we have done, is to help lead the anti-war movement in this country. Within the anti-war movement, we have worked to befriend the peoples hardest hit by U.S. war and militarism. The stories of these people—trade unionists, families, students—are kept out of the mainstream media here in the U.S. But when we travel to Palestine, or Colombia or elsewhere, and bring back these stories and pictures, and share them with people here, they see people just like them being harmed. That knowledge makes everyone a person of conscience. And that makes the anti-war movement much stronger. . .

We have heard that they [Department of

Justice/Attorney General's office for which the FBI conducts the investigation] are very upset that there was fundraising done to support the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees. This is a wonderful organization, a registered NGO with the Palestinian Authority. It is not banned by Israel, and it is not on the terrorist list. Quite the opposite. They run daycares, give support to women refugees, and work towards equality for Palestinian women . . . The prosecutors are also very upset that some of us openly disagree with the terrorist designations they have assigned many of the organizations around the world that fight for liberation . . . Again, I don't believe any one has sent arms or money to these groups—that's just not what we do. But some of us sympathize with them politically, and it is our very thoughts, and our speech, that are criminalized by this case.”

## **Please call and demand subpoenas be dropped and the witch hunt called off:**

1. U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald at 312-353-5300. Then dial 0 (zero) for operator and ask to leave a message with the Duty Clerk.
2. U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder 202-353-1555
3. President Obama at 202-456-1111

More information at: [stopfbi.net](http://stopfbi.net) ☞



## **DON'T LET A GRAND JURY JAIL SARAH, TRACY, AHN!**

Stand by these three re-subpoenaed women and other subpoenaed activists.

Keep informed about Grand Jury repression of these and other activists. Get involved in support. Watch for special events. Sign the petition.

### **For more information:**

Call the Committee to Stop FBI Repression at 612-379-3585 or the WAMM office at 612-827-5364. Web site: [stopfbi.net](http://stopfbi.net)  
Videos of subpoenaed women speaking can be found at: [mnstopfbi.wordpress.com](http://mnstopfbi.wordpress.com)

### **EMERGENCY ACTION:**

If the Grand Jury indicts these women, 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

## **It's Back to the Streets! Get on the Bus to New York!**

### **April 9 Rally Against the Wars at Home and Abroad!**

In the spirit of the amazing and inspiring revolutions in the Middle East and Wisconsin help build a huge antiwar march and rally. WAMM is organizing a bus to the “Rally Against the Wars at Home and Abroad” on April 9th in New York City. The bus will leave Minneapolis the morning of April 8th and will return the evening of April 10th. The cost is \$205.00 per person.

If you are interested in reserving a seat on the bus—or in making a contribution to help sponsor someone else—please call the WAMM office at 612-827-5364 or email [wammofficemanager@mtn.org](mailto:wammofficemanager@mtn.org). Space is limited and is on a first come basis.

The rally is organized by: United National Antiwar Committee (UNAC).

**FFI: Visit [www.unacpeace.org](http://www.unacpeace.org).**

## **WAMM THANKS**

- Lee Ross in memory of Sam Ross.
- Sarah Martin in memory of Sam Ross
- Sarah Martin in memory of Steve Hamilton.
- Anne Gilmore and Karen Holdgrafer in memory of Sam Ross.
- Paulette and Lawrence Molin in honor of Sam Ross and his family.



# March 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, 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 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](http://www.alliantaction.org).

**Vigil to End U.S. Involvement in Torture:** Every Wednesday, 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. Federal Courthouse Plaza, 300 4th St., Minneapolis. WAMM Tackling Torture at the Top (T3). FFI: 612-822-9520 or e-mail: [tacklingtorture@gmail.com](mailto:tacklingtorture@gmail.com)

**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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

**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](http://www.justviewpoint.org) or call 763-784-5177

**Grandmothers for Peace:** First Wednesday (Note: time and phone number change) 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.mn911truth.org).

## Special Events

**Stand by Sarah, Tracy, Ahn and others subpoenaed.** See Page 5 of this newsletter.

**Malailai Joya: "Ten Years Into the U.S. War: An Evening with the 'Bravest Woman in Afghanistan'"** Friday, April 1, 7:00 p.m. St. Joan of Arc Church, 4537 Third Ave. S., Minneapolis. FFI: See back of this newsletter.

**Witnessing Whiteness:** Saturday, April 2, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. See **WAMM Announces**, Page 7 of this newsletter.

**Second Annual Cuban Movie Festival** Thursdays now through March 31, 7:30 p.m. St. Anthony Main, 115 Main St. SE, Minneapolis. Featuring winners from the 2010 Latin American Film Festival in Havana. Five Cuban feature films, one U.S./Cuba documentary. Spanish with English subtitles. Tickets: \$7.00. Sponsored by: the Minnesota Cuba Committee and the Film Society of Minneapolis/St. Paul. FFI: Visit [www.minnesotacubacommittee.org](http://www.minnesotacubacommittee.org).

**Middle East Conflicts: Critical Conversations Film Course** Mondays, April 4 to May 2, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Five-session St. Paul Community Education course. (Course # 4670-SEA) Como Park Senior High School, 740 West Rose Ave., St. Paul. Underlying issues, root causes of inter-related conflicts beyond media hype and distortion. Film showing, background info, discussion. Taught by: Elizabeth Burr, Ph.D., who has lived, traveled in the Middle East, teaches at local colleges. Fee: \$39. To register: 651-293-8634 or [www.commed.spps.org](http://www.commed.spps.org)

**Back to the Streets! WAMM bus to Rally Against Wars at Home and Abroad!** WAMM bus leaves for New York City, April 8, a.m. for April 9 rally in New York City. FFI: See back of newsletter. Organized by: United National Antiwar Committee (UNAC). FFI on the march: Visit [www.unacepeace.org](http://www.unacepeace.org).

**"This Land is Whose Land? Defining Citizenship. Understanding Access. Taking Action." The White Privilege Conference** April 13-16 at Sheraton Bloomington Hotel, Minneapolis. For students, youth, teachers, college faculty, activists, social workers, healthcare workers, anyone. Based on understanding, respecting, connecting. Fosters difficult, critical dialogues around white supremacy, diversity, multicultural education, leadership, social and economic justice, intersecting systems of privilege and oppression. Gain strategies for addressing issues to advance social and economic justice. Host: MN Justice Collaborative. Sponsored by MN State Colleges and Universities, Augsburg, Gustavus Adolphus, Goddard, YWCA, more. FFI, registration: [www.uccs.edu/wpc](http://www.uccs.edu/wpc)

**Proposed WAMM By-Law Changes** Tuesday, April 19, 6:00 p.m. Sabathani Community Center, 310 E. 38th St., Minneapolis. WAMM Board of Directors proposes amending organization by-laws to raise the max. number of board members from 15 to 16 (Article V: Section 2A). All WAMM members invited to a Board meeting to participate in the process. WAMM by-laws. FFI: Call WAMM, 612-827-5364.

*Additional upcoming events are listed at [www.worldwidewamm.org](http://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](http://www.mapm.org).*

## Another Wave . . . , continued from page 4

and everywhere in the Gulf, the Arabian Peninsula, and Southeast Asia. The autocratic and feudal regimes that the United States and the West have maintained in power across the Muslim world with various forms of violence and corruption are unraveling, while popular revolts are gaining momentum and spreading.

Two weeks into the Egyptian revolution, the U.S. government was still expressing its “unshakable commitment to Israel’s security,” and Israel’s security demanded loudly that the despot stay in Egypt, that the peaceful millions of Egyptians demanding change be ruthlessly crushed, and those that survive be ruled with steel and fire. The institutions of the U.S. government were shamelessly set to work in pursuit of Israel’s clearly murderous design. The triumph of the Egyptian and Tunisian revolutions and the domino effects that they have created across the Muslim world are another setback to Western imperial policies in the Muslim world and a new challenge to the power relationship that has governed the Muslim world for centuries now in accordance with Western interests. ♡

*Fouzi Slisli graduated from Mohammed First University in Morocco, completed a master’s degree and a Ph.D. at the University of Essex, and is currently an assistant professor at St. Cloud State University. He has written extensively about Islam, the Middle East, and North Africa.*

## LIBYA UPDATE

*Editor’s Note*

Although the following articles are certainly worth reading, even just looking at the titles provides a picture of what some analysts believe is occurring there.

“Insurrection and Military Intervention: The U.S.-NATO Attempted Coup d’Etat in Libya?” by Michel Chossudovsky

“Petroleum and Empire in North Africa. NATO Invasion of Libya Underway” by Keith Harmon Snow

“Libya and the Return of Humanitarian Imperialism” by Jean Bricmont

“Another NATO Intervention? Libya: Is This Kosovo All Over Again?” by Diana Johnstone

“The Fate of Libya and Its Oil: A Cynical Danse Macabre” by Fidel Castro

“World Cheers as the CIA Plunges Libya Into Chaos” by David Rothscum ♡

## WAMM Announces:

### Anti-Racism Workshop

Join the WAMM Board in an Anti-racism Workshop exploring the book, *Witnessing Whiteness: The Need to Talk About Race and How to Do It*. Saturday, April 2, 2011, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Discussion led by WAMM Board member and University of Minnesota Associate Professor Lisa Albrecht.

For more info, location and to purchase a copy of the book: WAMM office at 612-827-5364. Also be sure to see the calendar this newsletter for “This Land is Whose Land?: The White Privilege Conference”

### Proposed WAMM By-Law Changes

Tuesday, April 19, 6:00 p.m. Sabathani Community Center, 310 E. 38th St., Minneapolis. WAMM Board of Directors proposes amending organization by-laws to raise the max. number of board members from 15 to 16 (Article V: Section 2A). All WAMM members invited to a Board meeting to participate in the process. WAMM by-laws. FFI: Call WAMM, 612-827-5364.

### Be Your Own Media with WAMMToday.

Discouraged with mainstream media? Here’s a chance to be your own media. Discover what WAMM members are doing. Share your ideas, opinions, actions and analyses with WAMM members and others. To post: [wammtoday.wordpress.com/](http://wammtoday.wordpress.com/) or e-mail items to [wammmedia@gmail.com](mailto:wammmedia@gmail.com) ♡

## Drones, continued from page 3

the U.S. people to spend \$2 billion per week for war in Afghanistan that maims, kills and displaces innocent civilians who’ve meant us no harm. ♡

\* “Spies for Hire,” a project of CorpWatch, maintains an online database of intelligence outsourcing (<http://www.crocodyl.org/spiesforhire>)

*Polly Mann is a co-founder of WAMM and continues to be active with the organization. Her column appears regularly in the WAMM newsletter. Also find her writing at [www.worldwidewamm.org](http://www.worldwidewamm.org) in the Middle East Committee section and on the WAMM Blog.*

## 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.

### The World Jubilee (TWJ)

**Market** will be held on Saturday, April 2, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 Snelling Ave S, St. Paul, MN 55116. TWJ is a registered nonprofit organization for economically disadvantaged groups from around the world. Items for sale include: Pottery, Baskets, Jewelry, Textiles, Clothing, Rugs, Cards, Carvings. Visit the displays and learn more about the groups.



## WORD UP!

### We Just Live Here

The super-rich earn their fortunes with overseas labor, selling to overseas consumers and managing financial transactions that have little to do with the rest of America, while relying entirely or almost entirely on immigrant servants at one of several homes around the country.”

—Bill Moyers,

*The Progressive*, Feb. 2011

### Crashing the Party

Under tight security and intense secrecy, the billionaire Koch brothers, who have largely financed the growth of the Tea Party movement, gathered about 200 of the nation’s wealthiest on Sunday in Rancho Mirage, California, to continue their planning on how to fight climate control, health care for average Americans, increased regulations over finance and industry and how to oust President Obama from office. But unlike past events organized by the Kochs, this event was met with protests, demonstrations and increased media attention of their covert efforts to usurp our democratic process.

— *veracitystew.com*,

a watchdog site, which follows the Koch Brothers who recently opened a lobbying office in Wisconsin, Feb. 2011

### The Truth about Social Security

Cantor [Eric Cantor, House Majority Leader] said that Social Security had to be cut to balance the budget. But here’s the thing: Social Security does not and never has added a single dime to the federal deficit. . . . Social Security is paid for through the payroll tax. Currently, the payroll tax raises way more money than Social Security pays out and things are projected to keep going this way for another couple of decades. Bailing out Mr. Cantor’s friends on Wall Street when they make a bunch of shady deals, cause a financial crisis and almost ruin the world economy? That adds a lot to the deficit.

—Arshad Hasan,

*Democracy for America*

## On Wisconsin:

### Calling Foul Play

“A \$3.9 billion budget deficit in Wisconsin was cited as the reason for attacking the public worker unions. That claim is phony. What Walker did not say was that Wisconsin taxpayers have been forced to pay billions to fund U.S.-led wars and occupations in Iraq and Afghanistan, send drones to Pakistan, support dictators, and maintain more than 800 military bases worldwide ([costofwar.com](http://costofwar.com)). In addition, more billions have been given to the wealthy and powerful in massive bailouts and tax breaks. Truly, the demand ‘Money for Jobs, not for War!’ has never been more appropriate or timely.”

— United National Antiwar Committee,  
“Solidarity with Wisconsin Workers”

“The bulk of our growing inequality has been a product of skyrocketing incomes among the richest one percent and even more dramatically—among the top 0.1 percent.”

—Kevin Drum, “Plutocracy Now: What Wisconsin Is Really About,”  
*Mother Jones*, March/April 2011

“Middle-class and working people have paid higher taxes—especially local property taxes—to make up for corporate tax cuts . . . It’s not public workers—teachers, firefighters, nurses, garbage collectors or social workers that are creating budget deficits in Wisconsin or anywhere else. It’s the relentless demands by corporate ‘persons’ to be exempt from paying their fair share while government is expected to work for them educating the workforce, providing transportation, infrastructure, and cleaning up pollution corporations create . . . These legal thieves are now calling themselves ‘the job creators,’ but 75 percent of all new jobs are created by much smaller business, who don’t get subsidized like Big Business does.”

—Lydia Howell, “Wisconsin Resistance: Divided and Conquered No More?”  
*Evergreene Digest*, February 21, 2011

“According to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, corporate tax income has fallen by half since 1981 and over two-thirds of Wisconsin corporations pay zero taxes.”

—Josh Healey, *The Progressive* (online),  
February 18, 2011

“Accepting Gov. Walker’s assertions as fact, and failing to check, created the impression that somehow the workers are getting something extra, a gift from taxpayers. They are not. Out of every dollar that funds Wisconsin’s pension and health insurance plans for state workers, 100 cents comes from the state workers. How can that be? Because the ‘contributions’ consist of money that employ-

ees chose to take as deferred wages—as pensions when they retire—rather than take immediately in cash. The same is true with the health care plan. If this were not so, a serious crime would be taking place, the gift of public funds rather than payment for services.

“Thus, state workers are not being asked to simply ‘contribute more’—to Wisconsin’s retirement system (or as the argument goes, ‘pay their fair share’ of retirement costs as do employees in Wisconsin’s private sector who still have pensions and health insurance). They are being asked to accept a cut in their salaries so that the state of Wisconsin can use the money to fill the hole left by tax cuts and reduced audits of corporations in Wisconsin.”

—David Cay Johnston, “Really Bad Reporting in Wisconsin: Who ‘Contributes’ to Public Workers’ Pensions?” February 24, 2011, *Tax.com*


### The Union Makes Us Strong!

“A well-known Egyptian labor organizer, Kamal Abbas, made a video telling Americans from Tahrir that ‘we and all the people of the world stand on your side and give you our full support . . . I want you to know,’ he continued, ‘that no power can challenge the will of the people when they believe in their rights. When they raise their voices loud and clear and struggle against exploitation.’”

—Mark LeVine, *AlJazeera.net*, February 26, 2011

What the polls say—Pew Research Center poll: nationwide 42 percent sided with unions versus 31 percent with Walker. Gallup poll: Americans oppose weakening collective bargaining rights, 61 to 33.

### FBI Raids Related

Union and antiwar activists are interrelated in the struggle for justice and peace. Many labor groups have issued solidarity statements against the subpoenas of peace and justice activists and peace and justice activists support labor. Here is just one example: Labor negotiator and attorney Joe Burns reported that at the AFSCME Council 5 Convention expressed “its grave concern that the recent FBI raids are reminiscent of the Palmer Raids of the 1920s, the McCarthy hearings of the 1950s, and the FBI’s harassment of the civil rights movement, and our grave concern that these raids be the beginning of a new and dangerous assault on the First Amendment rights of every union fighter, international solidarity activist or antiwar campaigner. (*In These Times* online, October 16, 2010)” 



## WAMM Membership

- \$15-39 Low Income/Student membership  
 \$40-59 Annual membership  
 \$60-199 Household membership  
 \$200-349 Sustainer (amount above membership)  
 \$350+ Major Donor (amount above membership)
- This is a new membership.  This is a membership renewal  This is a gift membership
- Check enclosed.  Please charge my VISA Mastercard Total amount enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

Make checks payable to WAMM, 310 East 38th Street, Suite 222, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55409

## Pledge for Peace

(WAMM will send a coupon book)

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

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

I want to volunteer for WAMM

## WAMM Committees

### Issues Committees:

- Book Club
- Counter Recruitment
- Immigration
- Iraq
- Media
- Middle East
- St. Joan of Arc/WAMM Peacemakers
- Tackling Torture at the Top

### Administrative and Other Committees:

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

### WAMM Board

- Lisa Albrecht
- Terry Burke
- Janet Chisholm
- Alycia Dahlen
- Kathy Hollander
- Polly Mann
- Sarah Martin
- Sue Ann Martinson
- Brigid McDonald
- Pepperwolf
- Sharon Rice Vaughan
- Coleen Rowley
- Margaret Sarfehjooy
- Carol Walker
- Lucia Wilkes-Smith

## Dateline Madison, February 26, 2011

*In solidarity with the labor struggle, WAMM Board member Sue Ann Martinson went to Madison on February 26th with WAMM Director Kim Doss Smith, Veterans for Peace member Patrick Doss Smith, and a WAMM intern, Eliza Summerlin. On-the-ground report from Sue Ann Martinson:*

Thousands upon thousands march by. We are on the street that surrounds the Capitol. The signs: "It's About Freedom—ASCME." My favorite. Then SEIU, AFL-CIO, many more unions. Someone on the side yells, "Chicago," and many marchers respond. They just keep marching. Thousands more are on the Capitol lawn. I am leafleting for the mobilization against the war that will be held in New York City on April 9. On the street, you can hear the sound of bagpipes. Firefighters from all over Wisconsin weigh in, with signs for Marshfield and Waukesha and other Wisconsin towns. The bagpipers wear kilts, and those around me start chanting, "Thank you!"

Signs are everywhere calling for recall of Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker. People chant, "Scott Walker has got to go," or "Kill the Bill," or "I say 'Union,' you say 'Power.'" Mothers and fathers with young children in strollers walk by everywhere. Some people chant, "What does democracy look like? This is what democracy looks like." The mood is ebullient. A cross-section of the people of America passes before my eyes. During the rally, chanting "United We Stand" with thousands of people gives me chills, good chills. And it is not from the cold, although it is cold but not below zero. Sometime in the afternoon it starts to snow. Which stops no one.

A man hands me a leaflet. "Stop Honeywell's War on Workers."

And I find out that "Honeywell's Metropolis Works plant in Illinois is the only uranium conversion facility in the U.S. The plant receives radioactive uranium and uses millions of pounds of deadly chemicals . . . to prepare it for use in nuclear fuel." Their union has been locked out since June. Honeywell has brought in union busters, and scabs to handle the deadly materials.

Now people are being allowed inside the Capitol building, but everyone is getting checked first and there is an hour's wait or longer to get in. But it doesn't matter. Being outside is powerful and moving and oh, the people, or as Walt Whitman would say, "the people, yes!" At state capitols around the country at noon on this day, thousands gather in solidarity with the people of Wisconsin. Estimates are that at least 100,000 rallied in Madison, with some estimates substantially higher. Thousands also rallied in cities around the country, including 1,000 at the Capitol building in St. Paul. And even in conservative Texas and Virginia (400 in Richmond), people gathered in solidarity. Some call the power of Madison a wake-up call for people all over America.

By the time you are reading this report, there will have been other developments in Madison and also more results from the power of the people in Wisconsin, as the governors and politicians of other states look on. When thousands of people singing the national anthem held the "free" on the "land of the free" as a powerful and long sustained note, it brought tears to the eyes of many. To be in the heart of that nonviolent and somehow orderly yet chaotic movement, is unforgettable in a time when hope in this country is taking a battering. To be part of all that was, and is, hopeful beyond words. ♡



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**STOP THE WITCH HUNT!  
SOLIDARITY AGAINST  
WAR AND OPPRESSION,  
AT HOME AND ABROAD!**

## **Malalai Joya: “Ten Years Into the U.S. War: An Evening with the ‘Bravest Woman in Afghanistan’”**



**Friday, April 1 • 7:00 p.m.**  
**St. Joan of Arc Church, 4537 Third Ave., So.,**  
**Minneapolis.**

At a constitutional assembly in Kabul in 2003, she stood up and denounced her country’s powerful U.S./ NATO-backed warlords. She was only twenty-five years old. Two years later, she became the youngest person elected to Afghanistan’s new Parliament. In 2007, she was suspended from the parliament for her persistent criticism of the warlords and drug barons and their cronies. She has survived four assassination attempts.

Malalai Joya takes us inside Afghanistan and shows us the desperate day-to-day situation the Afghan people face at every turn. She will answer such questions as “What are U.S. tax dollars paying for in Afghanistan?” and “Is the U.S. war and occupation really helping Afghan women?” A controversial political figure in one of the most dangerous places on earth, Malalai Joya is a hero for our times, a young woman who refused to be silent, a young woman committed to making a difference in the world, no matter the cost.

**Tickets: \$10.00** • Sponsored by: the Twin Cities Peace Campaign (TCPC) and W.A.M.M. FFI and Tickets: Call TCPC, 612-522-1861 or W.A.M.M., 612-827-5364.

*Photo credit: Ash Sweeting,  
Sydney Morning Herald*

