

# w<sup>o</sup>rldwide wamm

Volume 29 Number 5 May 2011

A publication of  
Women Against Military Madness

*“From the sky, Occupation forces are bombing, killing civilians—mostly women and children. On the ground, Taliban and warlords together continue their fascism. If the U.S. and NATO left my country, the backbone of the Taliban and warlords would be broken.”*

—Malalai Joya

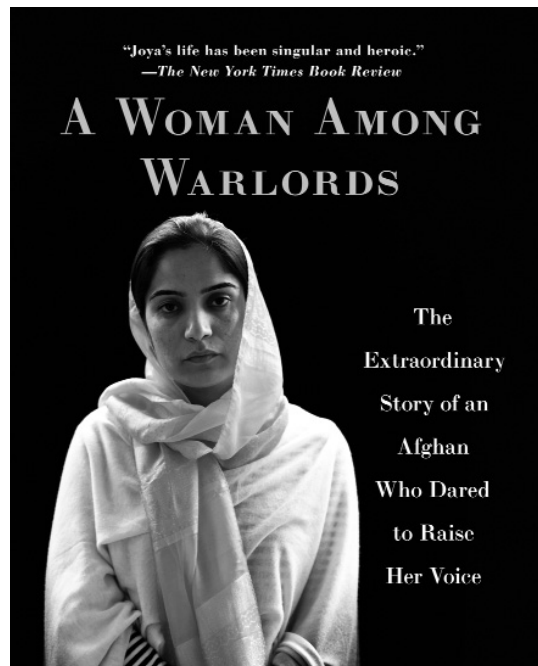
## Tearing Off the Masks of Those Who Hide Behind Women’s Skirts: Malalai Joya

by Mary Beaudoin

“The Afghan War Logs,” released last summer by WikiLeaks, revealed that the CIA advised using the plight of Afghan women as “pressure points” to rally flagging public support for the U.S./NATO war on Afghanistan. For that reason, the CIA must have been thrilled when last July *Time Magazine* featured on its cover the shocking photo of a young Afghan woman with her nose missing, reportedly cut off on Taliban orders. Next to the photo *Time* posed the question, “What happens to the women of Afghanistan if we leave?”

The story is a perfect example of institutional synergy between an administration waging war and supportive media producing propaganda. In a message to readers, *Time’s* managing editor Richard Stengel announced: “The stated intention is to counterbalance damaging WikiLeaks revelations—91,000 documents that, *Time* believes, cannot provide emotional truth and insight into the way life is lived in that difficult land.” The term “cover story” took on added meaning with the article. Despite disclaimers to the contrary, the *Time* report on conditions of women in Afghanistan served as a rationale for the war/occupation, giving cover for U.S./NATO involvement—a gift the CIA could only have hoped for.

But it did not go unchallenged. This April, Afghan activist Malalai Joya gave a talk in Minneapolis while on a national book tour for the new edition of her book *A Woman Among Warlords*. Countering the question posed by the *Time* cover, she asked another question with the direct honesty that has gained her honors, awards, and respect from peace and justice communities worldwide: “I’m telling you on behalf of my people, it would be better [for the U.S. and NATO] to ask: ‘What’s happening to the women of



Malalai Joya, Afghan feminist and activist

Afghanistan while we are there?”

Like the child in the fable “The Emperor’s New Clothes,” but with mature moral clarity, Malalai Joya pointed out an important fact that unfortunately is often avoided. The tragedy that afflicted the young woman of the *Time* cover happened while U.S./NATO forces are in Afghanistan.

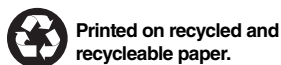
Joya criticizes big media for complicity in the atrocities of war/occupation: “They misuse the women of my country for their propaganda machine. They never let you see disfigured women and children when they [the U.S./NATO] use white phosphorus and plastic bombs on them.”

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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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Mon–Fri: 10:00 am–5:00 pm

WAMM is funded primarily through the generous contributions of our members. WAMM also receives funds from the following organizations:

The Pat Owen Fund of the  
Minneapolis Foundation

The Barbra Wiener Fund,  
a fund of Headwaters Fund

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MINNESOTA

**Tearing Off the Masks. . .**, from front cover

On her tour, Malalai shows slides of a few of the thousands of civilian casualties known to have occurred from U.S./NATO attacks. She said she was told by media sources that they could not publish such photos of Afghan casualties because it would offend the sensibilities of children. But, she asked, who is protecting Afghan children? It is they who truly suffer the effects of war. This wasn't even a question that big media in Minneapolis/St. Paul asked—none of them reported on her visit here, though independent media did.

Joya continues to state that she will not be silenced, because she needs to speak for the voiceless—"my people, the poor, suffering people of Afghanistan." This is something she has done for years. At a young age, she opened and managed a much-needed medical clinic and an orphanage in Farah, her province in Afghanistan, and then won a seat in Parliament. In 2005 she was the youngest person elected, but after denouncing the warlords and drug lords as criminal elements who didn't deserve to be seated there, she was assaulted, threatened, and evicted. There have been several assassination attempts on her life.

Joya was originally denied a visa, which she later received after supporters mounted a campaign pressuring the U.S. State Department, because she has said Karzai's US-backed regime is full of warlords/drug lords and people who have killed, tortured, and looted her people for decades. She told the Minneapolis audience that cynical U.S./NATO policy empowers and enables the criminal regime in Afghanistan by providing them with money and guns, and that they are further supported by the opium business. It was a major goal of the CIA to make Afghanistan the biggest opium producer in the world. Each year 8,000 tons of opium are transported out of the country on U.S. B52s. The drug money goes to Afghan warlords/drug lords, and, she said, "it goes into the pockets of the foreign masters as well."

While certain elements get rich off opium sales, there are reports of widespread hunger, malnutrition, stunted growth, starvation, and diseases such as tuberculosis and cholera among the people. Afghanistan now ranks 181 out of 182 on the UN Human Development Index.

What about the Taliban? Joya says that no one in Afghanistan can believe that the most powerful country with the biggest military in the world can't defeat the Taliban, who, she points out, were created by the U.S. government with the support of ISI (Inter Service Intelligence agency of Pakistan). She believes that the media portray the Taliban as a much more formidable force than they are. Having a monstrous enemy justifies the occupation.

*Photos the Pentagon doesn't want the public to see: rawa.org*



*Injured child, Kumar province, Afghanistan, Feb. 20, 2011. Over a period of four days 64 civilians were killed here by NATO airstrikes.*



The occupation keeps her country "lawless, insecure, especially for the women, and then they have a very good excuse to stay there longer for their own interests . . . During the nine years of occupation, tens of thousands of civilians have been killed—most of them innocent men, women, and children. Since Obama came into power, civilian death tolls have increased . . ." For these reasons, she said, "at least for my people, Obama is just a second and even more dangerous Bush."

Joya said talk of troop withdrawal is only to deceive people, and U.S./NATO troops will not leave. "They are there because of their strategic, political, and economic interests . . . When in Afghanistan, they make their military bases more powerful [so that] very easily they can control other Asian powers like Iran, China, Russia, etc. Then very easily they will have access to the gas and oil of the Central Asian republics."

The media, although they report the resistance of the Taliban, never report about "the second kind of resistance, which is a hope for the future of Afghanistan: the resistance of ordinary Afghan people—men and women, resistance of students of the universities. Nineteen members of the student [body] of one university in one day have been killed by this blind bombardment of U.S. and NATO troops. All students when they hear this news in Kabul they come on the streets with banners against the occupation. Who hears their voice? Every day more and more people in my country come on the streets and raise their voice against the occupation, but who will listen to the voice of these voiceless people? Also, the resistance of some few democratic parties that we have—parties and intellectuals. They never give you these reports."

She believes that if the U.S. and NATO just left her country in peace, the backbone of the Taliban and warmongers would be broken and people

*continued on page 4*

# PM Privatization: Even the Rain

by Polly Mann

A friend invited me to a movie, providing no details about it but assuring me that I would like it. Its quixotic name, *Even the Rain*,\* was never explained, but as the plot evolved it became obvious. The film plays out against a background of two conflicts – one in the year 1524 during the conquest of Bolivia by the Spanish and the other in the year 2000, when the Bolivian people engaged in a bitter, and sometimes violent, struggle against their government over water, a natural resource that cycles from sky to earth.

The plot contrasts the two conflicts. A story within a story gives us a fictional character who, as a director, travels to Bolivia to shoot a film that combines the conflicts. Characters in one conflict are heavily armed conquistadores in search of gold and land occupied by indigenous Indians. The other conflict involves a group of characters who are actual present-day Bolivians, and their struggles with their government.

An early scene in the film is of a long line of Bolivians seeking jobs with the making of the film. The fictional director, Sebastian, announces that only a handful of people are needed and that the rest can go home. An unforeseen situation develops, adding another dimension to a film that is already about conflict. The crowd of extras turned away becomes angry. The director's attention is drawn to a short, gaunt Indian man who states in a loud and powerful voice that people have been standing and waiting for hours for employment. When some are selected to appear in the film, the troublemaker is among those hired. He becomes the protagonist of the movie—in both the 1524 and 2000 conflicts.

Most people I talked with about the film remembered the water crisis in Bolivia in 2000. It seems the government had dramatically increased the cost of drinking water. In the underdeveloped country of Bolivia, this had put a tremendous hardship upon the people, and they revolted.

I had learned in high school history classes of the Spanish conquest of South America and I vaguely recalled the conflict that occurred in 2000. But I needed details, so I looked into the issue further and found that the Bolivian government had sold the country's water rights to a private company that had increased water rates from an estimated 200 percent to 300 percent more than the people had been paying. The result was that thousands of residents poured into the streets of the city to protest these hefty price increases. Workers living on \$60 per month had to pay as much as \$15 just to keep the water running out of their own taps.

After clashes with soldiers firing tear gas and bullets, a 17-year-old protester was killed, hundreds were injured, and more than a dozen protest

leaders were jailed. Within a week Bolivia's government suspended its 40-year lease with Aguas del Tunari, a subsidiary of Bechtel.

But there was so much more to the story. Why did the Bolivian government decide to privatize its water supply? It didn't happen in a vacuum. According to *The Ecologist* magazine in the year 2000, the World Bank declared it would not "renew" a \$25 million loan to Bolivia unless it privatized its water services. According to Jim Shultz, executive director of the Democracy Center in Cochabamba, the World Bank believed that "poor governments are often too plagued by local corruption and too ill equipped to run public water systems efficiently."

Protests of water privatization were not confined to Bolivia. In Washington, D.C., at the IMF and World Bank meetings on 16 April 2000, protesters attempted to blockade the streets to stop the meeting, citing the Water Wars in Bolivia as an example of corporate greed and a reason to resist globalization.

Six years later, on 19 January 2006, a settlement was reached between the government of Bolivia and the Bechtel subsidiary. It was agreed that "the concession was terminated only because of the civil unrest and the state of emergency in Cochabamba and not because of any act done or not done by the international shareholders of Aguas del Tunari." With this statement each party agreed to drop any financial claims against the other. But, most importantly, water was returned to state control.

This attempted privatization illustrates how the capitalist system can work against the best interests of the people as a whole and how it can and does provoke violence.

In conclusion, getting back to the film, there is a happy ending: the fictional film director, the Indian protagonist of the film, and the latter's wife and daughter are together and safe amidst the violence of the city. The embrace, with which the two men part, is that of loving brothers. The real-life happy ending for the Bolivian population was that resistance to outside conquest and to theft of resources was successful. ♪

\*Gordon, Juan (producer), Bollaín, Icair (director), Laverty, Paul (writer), 2010. *También la lluvia* [motion picture]. Spain: Moreno Films. *Even the Rain*. USA release: Vitagraph Films.

*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.*



Poster from the film, *También la lluvia* (*Even the Rain*)

## WORD UP!

### U.S. Military:

#### A Stealthy Son-of-a-Gun

Of course, it has to be. How else could recruiters meet their quotas without glossing over the facts and sometimes even outright lying? But it's gone a step further. It's officially engaging in deception, developing software that will let it secretly manipulate social media sites by using fake online personas to influence internet conversations and spread pro-American propaganda. It will allow the U.S. military to create a false consensus in online conversations, crowd out unwelcome opinions and smother commentaries or reports that do not correspond with its own objectives. A California corporation has been awarded a contract to develop this online persona so-called management service.

—based on info from [guardian.co.uk](http://guardian.co.uk)

### Taxes for War

The median U.S. household income came out to approximately \$50,000 in 2010. That comes to \$1826 per household for the U.S. war in Afghanistan. This figure does not include other wars and military expenses. —<http://irethinkafghanistan.com/ioul>

### We Don't Want Rule by Warriors

Neither the occupiers! Nor the bestial Taliban and the criminal Northern Alliance; long live a free and democratic Afghanistan!

— Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA)

# Jim Hightower's Lowdown on the Koch Brothers



WORD UP!

## Hail Britannia

According to the *New York Times*, December 10 of last year, the British levied a 50% tax on banker bonuses of more than \$40,700. It covers only banks but it is a beginning. So why shouldn't there be such a tax in the U.S.? But why stop with banks? It could cover all corporate bonuses and eventually put a cap on salaries. An estimated 18,000 Americans die each year due to the lack of access to affordable health care and hunger is a growing reality for many. Granted a British tax on banker bonuses is a far cry from an excess profits tax, it's nevertheless a hopeful sign and there aren't many of those around these days.

## And the Moon, Too

The private company Moon Express Inc., or MoonEx is building robotic rovers alongside scientists at NASA's Ames Research Center northwest of San Jose, California . . . to look for materials that are scarce on Earth but found in everything from a Toyota Prius car battery to guidance systems on cruise missiles. Although there is no guarantee, MoonEX officials think it may be a "gold mine" of these materials, known as rare earth elements.

—Business Section, *Pioneer Press*, April 9, 2011

## Women During War

Gender-based inequity is usually exacerbated during situations of extreme violence such as armed conflict. Examples include: violence including rape and sexual slavery, hunger and exploitation in camps for internally displaced persons, malnutrition, inadequate health services as males dominate.

—UNICEF

That's Charles and David Koch of New York City and Wichita, Kansas, respectively. Manhattan residents should be accustomed to billionaires, even those worth \$21.5 billion each, as David and his brother are. But what do you suppose the 107,000 residents of Wichita have to say about their billionaire Charles, who occupies, along with David, a position fourth from top in the ranking of the richest people in the nation?

The April 2011 issue of Jim Hightower's the *Lowdown* (a four-page monthly newsletter) discusses the famous—some say infamous—Koch brothers. They own Koch Industries, one of the largest privately held companies in the world. Papers, studies, dissertations, and probably books could be written about what their money could do to solve tremendous problems like world hunger or rebuilding Haiti. But that's not what these boys are about. They're after power and the accumulation of even more wealth. They're responsible for a nefarious network of far-right front groups and they've been directing millions into political organizations as well as to politicians themselves.

Twice a year Charles throws a party at Rancho Mirage, California, for 150 or so billionaire friends to meet and mingle with GOP elected officials, Supreme Court justices, and other comrades, such as Glenn Beck. They hobnob and plot political strategies for the following year, and pledge goodly sums to get it done. But at this year's gala a surprise awaited the guests. Common Cause and several other grassroots groups had organized 1,500 of their detractors to welcome them. The invited guests did their best to hide

## Tearing Off the Masks. . . , continued from page 2

would know what to do: "Liberation doesn't come from the outside. Only the people can liberate themselves." ♪

*A Woman Among Warlords: The Extraordinary Story of an Afghan Who Dared to Raise Her Voice.* Simon and Schuster. New York. Paperback edition 2011. Visit her web site [www.malalaijoya.com](http://www.malalaijoya.com)

*Mary Beaudoin is the editor of the WAMM newsletter.*

from the outsiders. Corporate executives, protected by baton-wielding sheriff's deputies in riot gear, hid behind walls.

Had he not been tied down at home, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, a Koch protégé, might have been at the party. The Brothers are responsible for the establishment of two offices in Madison to help the governor with his agenda, which is anti-labor, anti-health care, anti-environmental protection laws and anti-corporate tax cuts. These offices consist of 1) a seven-person lobbying office and 2) the American Legislative Exchange Council (check it out). The Koch organization, Americans for Prosperity, put up \$342,000 for one ad alone to demonize Wisconsinites who were protesting Walker's unprecedented power grab.

How did the Kochs make their money? Koch Industries covers the waterfront—energy (oil and gas), refining and chemicals, minerals, fertilizers, forestry, consumer products, polymers and fibers, and ranching. Among its holdings are Georgia Pacific paper products and Georgia Pacific lumber and building products—plus, of course, many more. ♪

A year's subscription to the *Lowdown* is just \$15, a sum this article alone is worth. The Hightower *Lowdown*, P.O. Box 20596, New York, NY 10011.

*Polly Mann is a co-founder of WAMM and continues to be active with the organization.*



Mudsadeq/Sadeq: AP

*When U.S./NATO bombings killed civilians including many children, Afghans in Kabul protested in the street showing pickets with the children's photos and signs demanding Obama "Stop killing Us!" and "Leave Afghanistan!"*

# Yes, It Can Happen Here!

by George Crocker

The Fukushima Dai-ichi nightmare continues, and the unforgiving nature of nuclear power becomes more apparent. It is likely to keep on getting worse until helicopters and concrete pump trucks bury the damaged reactors and radioactive waste under tons of concrete and sand with boron in it to absorb neutron radiation. Only now is the necessary equipment beginning to be dispatched, but until that is done, more irradiated fuel in reactor cores and dried-up storage pools will get exposed and melt and burn, perhaps explosively. Radioactive particles will continue spewing into the ocean and the atmosphere, contaminating global commons. To make matters even worse, the fuel in Unit 3 is made from “recycled” nuclear bombs called MOX, or mixed oxide fuel, and it contains plutonium. Plutonium has a half-life of 24,000 years, and the rule of thumb is that radioactive substances are dangerous for 10 half-lives. Plutonium is extremely carcinogenic if even a single molecule is ingested or inhaled. Contamination from Fukushima will therefore continue causing premature death and disease throughout the world into the very distant future.

How could this happen? By accident? Accidents are preventable. But building nuclear reactors on tectonic faults by oceans, not only in Japan, but elsewhere as well, is the result of planning and ensures that such events will occur. The horrific event at Fukushima is the inevitable consequence of human folly, greed, and arrogance. People decided that earthquakes could be withstood and sea walls would keep tsunamis out. They had such confidence in their barriers and protections that they put backup systems on low ground by the sea wall. No, this was hardly accidental. Rather, it was the predictable and predicted result of really stupid human decisions.

There were warnings about this madness, year after year, for decades. In Japan, North America, Europe, and wherever else that nuclear power plants have been built, concerned, well-informed people have pointed out multiple scenarios that could lead to disaster, and had identified multitudes of cost-effective, reliable, safe, and clean alternatives for providing electric utility services. The problem with alternatives, however, is that they interfere with market share for energy cartels. So the madness continues, with blessings from politicians who are, at best, ignorant and myopic, and from bureaucrats whose first priority is to cover their backs, without rocking the boat.

It's not just madness. It's malfessant madness, with public officials and media from virtually every major political and communications institution on earth engaging in crass complicity. Two circumstances illustrate this reality.

First, while there has been much discussion

regarding the appropriate size of evacuation zones, with the radius theoretically corresponding to “safe” radiation dosages at given distances from Fukushima, there has been no discussion about “safe” doses. Yet the BEIR (Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation) VII Report (June 2005)

of the National Academy of Sciences established that every single increase in radiation exposure increases risk. There is no “safe” dose. “Safe” is an audacious euphemism for the nuclear industry definition of “acceptable premature cancer death.”

Second, descriptions of radiological contamination of our environment provide no information regarding the fundamental distinction between radiation fields and radioactive particles. Background radiation fields are part of nature, and one experiences elevated background levels during airplane rides and x-ray examinations, for example. Radiation fields close to Fukushima are extremely high, severely limiting the activity of responders. But the number of radioactive particles now traversing the globe has been greatly increased. These particles can be, and are being, ingested and inhaled. Once they get inside the body, they are no longer “background radiation.” Instead, they get retained in glands, tissues, and bones. Radiation emitted by these particles passes through and damages nearby cells over and over and over again, and there is no chance to heal. Once retained, these particles become extremely efficient carcinogens, regardless of background levels at the time of inhalation or ingestion. (Normally operating nuclear power plants routinely emit radioactive particles at levels much less than Fukushima now, but still at levels that are very significant regarding their ability to get ingested and inhaled.) Many of these particles will continue cycling through the biosphere causing sickness and premature death for many generations to come.

Anyway, the boat's been rocked and the infallibility of nuclear energy is exposed.

Don't think it can't happen in Minnesota.

Just because an earthquake and tsunami breached barriers in Japan doesn't mean that any number of different scenarios cannot breach them here. Many critical reactor parts and components are aging and deteriorating. When they fail, nuclear operators could lose control. A major tornado could knock out power and back-up generation long enough for a loss-of-coolant event. Undetected corrosion could lead to disaster as it almost



*How did we get to this? With a little indocrination from Disney. The book, Our Friend the Atom, was published in 1956. It was followed by a documentary and Disneyland's Tomorrow-Land in the Magic Kingdom, to promote nuclear power. In 1983, Tomorrowland opened in Japan.*

## WORD UP!

### Where We Are Now

In February, the Minnesota Legislature voted to lift a moratorium that prevents building any future nuclear power plants in the state . . . Protecting consumers, finding a solution to the waste storage problem and not producing weapons-grade plutonium are the three stipulations, said Katie Tinucci, spokeswoman for the governor. Dayton, however, has not made it clear whether he will sign or veto the bill as it stands . . . As of June 2010, there were 18 pending applications for 28 new reactor units in the U.S., Couret [Ivonne Couret, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission] said.

—Minnesota Daily,  
March 3, 2011

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Julie and Don Larson in memory of their son, Gregory Shawn

CLASSIFIED ADS

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# • We Have to Demand • What Power Won't Concede

by Mary Beaudoin

When abolitionist Frederick Douglass said, "Power never concedes anything without demand. It never has, never will," it was the middle of the nineteenth century. He was certainly prescient. Here, in the United States, in the 21st century, the struggle continues. In the following two cases, people had to demand their First Amendment rights, which were violated by over-reaching law enforcement. We can take heart in that they received some justice, which helps to reaffirm those rights. Greater challenges remain with the subpoenas of antiwar and international solidarity activists, but the following victories can inspire our fight for First Amendment protection.

On March 31 of this year a federal judge ruled that a jury trial can go forward with protesters suing Ramsey County, former Sheriff Bob Fletcher and several sheriff's deputies regarding four raids that took place August 28 and 30, 2008, before the Republican National Convention when law enforcement seized thousands of pieces of literature from them. U.S. District Judge John Tunheim refused to grant the officers immunity and said they must face trial. He wrote in his opinion: "Based on the volume and breadth of documents seized, a reasonable fact-finder could conclude that the purpose of such broad seizures was to deter plaintiffs' speech and prevent them from exercising their First Amendment rights." There is now legal standing to challenge not only the warrants, but also the manner in which they were executed. Of course this doesn't mean that the jury will recognize the rights of the protesters, but it does give the go-ahead to further their case.

In the second case: On April 26, the city of Chicago agreed to settle a claim filed jointly by The Quaker organization, American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), and the ACLU over police spying. AFSC was awarded \$5,000 and the ACLU \$7,000, according to the Sun Times. The case dates back to 2002 when the Trans-Atlantic Business Dialogue was planning a major meeting in Chicago. The Chicago Police Department's "Red Squad" spied on, infiltrated and harassed groups. Ironically, they spied on the Quaker group at a time when the group was negotiating with police on how to keep a planned march and demonstration within police guidelines. The ACLU has urged recently elected Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel (former White House Chief of Staff) to have his police superintendent put reasonable suspicion guidelines in place to prevent police encroachment on protected First Amendment activity.

In both of these cases, people demanded that their First Amendment rights be protected. The same is true of the activists who were targeted in Chicago

and Minneapolis under the new and ridiculously overreaching "material support for terrorism" law. Under the new ruling by the Supreme Court in *Holder v. Humanitarian Law Project* in June of 2010, such humanitarian aid can constitute "material support" in countries the U.S. government considers terrorist.

They were subpoenaed by a federal grand jury, whose proceedings are secret and do not allow them to have legal representation in the room. The activists have refused to appear or cooperate to cooperate with subpoenas. They have been traveling the country and speaking about the injustice of what amounts to a witch hunt and fishing expedition. It is very important to support them. Nothing less than our First Amendment rights are at stake.

Ask your member of Congress to join with Representatives Ellison, Davis and Price in writing a letter to President Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder expressing her/his concerns about the FBI's abuse of power in their attacks on the rights of anti-war protesters. For more information: see stopfbi.net

Also, something we all need to be aware of: Congress voted to extend the notoriously oppressive USA PATRIOT Act through May 27 to allow time for more debate on three sinister provisions. These provisions relate to spying on communications and obtaining them through secret orders. The Committee to Stop FBI asks people to demand their congress members vote not to renew these provisions.

In addition, we should be aware of the JUSTICE (Judicious Use of Surveillance Tools in Counterterrorism Efforts) Act which was introduced in 2010 by then Senator Russ Feingold, the only senator courageous enough to vote against the PATRIOT Act when it was first introduced in the wake of 9-11. Provisions in the JUSTICE Act are specifically germane to the subpoenas. It contains stricter revisions of the overreaching standard set for "material support for terrorism" in the 2010 landmark Supreme Court case, *Humanitarian Law Project v. Holder*. At the end of April, according to the Bill of Rights Defense Committee web site: bordc.org, it had yet to be introduced in this congress and is awaiting cosponsors. ♪

Mary Beaudoin is the editor of the WAMM newsletter.

# May 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](http://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](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 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).

**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](http://www.creatingacultureofpeace.org).

### Save Our Friends

### Save Our Civil Liberties

**First:** See [stopfbi.net](http://stopfbi.net) or call the WAMM office at 612-827-5364 to get info, updates.

Call or write your member of Congress to:

- Ask your member of Congress to join with Representatives Ellison, Davis and Price and write a letter to President Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder expressing her/his concerns about the FBI's abuse of power in their attacks on the rights of anti-war protesters. More info: see [stopfbi.net](http://stopfbi.net)

- Congresswoman Betty McCollum 4th District, call: 651-224-9191; Washington, D.C.: (202) 225-6631.

- If you're in Congressman Keith Ellison's 5th District, call: 612-522-1212; Washington, D.C.: 202-225-4755. Ask the status of the Dear Colleague letter he promised the CSFR in February that he would write.

- Don't live in the Twin Cities? Please call your congressperson where-ever you live!

- Demand that your representative stand up for your constitutional rights, vote for any bill that protects civil liberties and vote against any bill reauthorizing the PATRIOT Act.

### 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

## Special Events

### WAMM Walk Against Weapons!

Saturday, June 4, 10:30 a.m. Meet at Bakers Square, 928 Prairie Center Drive, Eden Prairie. Participate in the fourth annual WAMM Walk Against Weapons, a three-mile walk from Bakers Square to Alliant Techsystems (ATK) in Eden Prairie. The Walk Against Weapons is a protest and fundraiser for WAMM and is in collaboration with AlliantACTION, a local group that holds weekly vigils at ATK, the largest Minnesota-based military contractor. Use the pledge form and start raising funds today! Organized by: WAMM. FFI and pledge forms: Call 612-827-5364 or visit [www.worldwidewamm.org](http://www.worldwidewamm.org).

### 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.

### Canvas[ing] Against Torture: Art Exhibit

Sunday, June 19, 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.: Opening reception and program. Sunday, June 24, 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.: Closing reception. First Unitarian Society (host) 900 Mount Curve Ave., Minneapolis. Gallery open every day except Saturday. Exhibitors: Jane Evershed, Kirk Anderson, Hend Al-Mansour, Leili T. Pritschet, Sandra Barnhouse, Terri Stark. Co-sponsored by Twin Cities Chapters of Amnesty International, The Center of Victims or Torture and WAMM Tackling Torture at the Top Committee.

*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).*



**It's You, Not the War:  
PTSD Denial**

The Vietnam Veterans of America has filed a lawsuit demanding records for 26,000 veterans of the current wars whom the group says were "wrongfully discharged" for personality disorders. The *Army Times* charges that two years ago Congress refined the rules for discharging people for "personality disorder" as a pre-existing condition after it became clear that many troops, in fact, had post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or symptoms of that disorder caused by their combat experience. The Defense Department's "personality disorder" designation prevents thousands of wounded veterans from accessing service-connected disability compensation or health care," said VVA President John Rowan.

—Center on Conscience and War

**The Military Will Make a Man Out of Him?**

Doctors and nurses treating soldiers injured in Afghanistan have begun speaking of a new "signature wound"—two legs blown off at the knee or higher, accompanied by damage to the genitals and pelvic injuries requiring at least a temporary colostomy...In most cases, the limbs are severed in the field when a soldier steps on a buried land mine. The increase in both rate and number of such wounds is most likely a result of the troop surge in Afghanistan.

—Washington Post, March 4, 2011

**Good News for German Youth**

German Parliament Votes to Suspend Conscriptio. It's effective July 1, 2011. Registration, however, remains compulsory with the new requirement that women must register.

—Center on Conscience and War

# Change the Media, Change the World: The National Conference on Media Reform

What happens when 2500 media mavens who are organizers, techies, professors, high school teachers, students and media advocates of all stripes come together? Synergy. Energy. Sharing. Networking. Advocacy. Activism. That's what happened the weekend of April 8-10, 2011 in Boston

I will start with Amy Goodman. I have never heard the Democracy Now! host speak so passionately. She said "from global warming to global warring, we need independent media." She talked, in part, about her experience of being arrested in St. Paul during the 2008 Republican National Convention. She is suing the city.

Two powerful messages emerged from the convention this year. The first, as stated by Federal Communications Commissioner Michael Copps was: "No matter what your first issue is, your second issue needs to be the media." To embrace this idea is essential. Why? The mainstream media, as you know, is owned by corporate conglomerates who act as gatekeepers for the information that the public gets and consistently consolidate for even more power. So while the drum was beat loudly and often for independent media, and it was well represented by so many wonderful independent media organizations, journalists, broadcasters, educators, students, and citizen journalists, a new message was given added emphasis this year: It's time for citizens to take back our media and our democracy in this country.

The second important message to emerge from the conference is the founding of the Democracy Fund, a new operating foundation that will challenge the influence of corporate lobbyists over government policymaking. Media corporations such as AT&T, Verizon, and Comcast spend \$100 million dollars a year combined on lobbying Congress. Josh Silver, outgoing president and CEO of Free Press, which sponsors NCMR, is leaving Free Press to become CEO of the Democracy Fund.

Meeting with others from around the country made me realize just how lucky we are in the Twin Cities and Minnesota. We have many more public stations and independent newspapers than most parts of the country.

You can see videos of NCMR speeches by Michael Copps, John Nichols, Josh Silver, Amy Goodman, Robert W. McChesney, Juan Gonzales, and other media and political luminaries, as well as find links on the NCMR website to listen to the many informative workshops on media analysis, media justice, media advocacy and media reform. Many videos are featured on the

WAMMToday blog, The Uptake.org, FreeSpeechTV.org, YouTube, and the NCMR website: conference.freepress.net. Watch the videos or listen to the audio of the workshops on your computer at home, by yourself or in groups. Be a part of changing the media to change the world.

*Sue Ann Martinson is a long-time justice and peace activist. She currently serves on the WAMM Board and WAMM Media Committee, and she created the WAMMToday blog.*

## Case in Point by Ann Galloway

Press releases were sent a month prior to her talk, and again when Malalai Joya was denied a visa and then again when she received a visa. Calls were made to local news outlets. MPR declined to interview her because they didn't think her English was good enough. Yet she was interviewed on national Democracy Now! and we could understand her just fine. I personally emailed WCCO, TPT, Fox9, Karel11, several reporters and tiplines to the *Star Tribune* and *Pioneer Press*. The only radio who is interviewing her is 950 AM and KFAI.\*

The corporate news still fails to inform us. They say that the women of Afghanistan are better off since the fall of the Taliban, which shows just how misinformed they are. It is exactly the reason why someone like Malalai Joya should be written about. And her visit should have been an article in the mainstream press since so much of our tax dollars are going to Afghanistan.

Do you think if Karzai was to come to Minneapolis there wouldn't have been an article and time and location of his visit?

**\*Note:** In contrast to the corporate media, ever faithful, independent media covered Malalai Joya's visit. In addition to the two radio station programs that featured interviews, *Southside Pride* interviewed her and published an article about her visit in print and online. In advance of her talk, Twin Cities Daily Planet enabled announcements and information to appear on its web site. The Uptake internet video and the cable TV program, World in Depth, filmed her speech. There may have been other independent media not mentioned here. Defending against consolidation of corporate media goes hand in hand with enabling access and distribution of independent media.

*Activist Ann Galloway is a member of WAMM and Veterans for Peace.*



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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (W) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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


## Yes, It Can Happen Here, *continued from page 5*

did at the Davis-Besse nuclear power plant near Cleveland in 2002. Some fatigued, distracted, or incompetent reactor operator could make a series of mistakes, leading to component malfunction and cascading failure. There are dozens of ways in which terrorists intent on extracting massive damage could penetrate security and protective barriers and lay waste to reactors and spent fuel pools, which, by the way, at the Monticello nuclear power plant, approximately 40 miles from Minneapolis, are up in the attic, at the top of the building as they were at Fukushima.

It doesn't have to be like this. Nuclear power accounts for about 20 percent of Minnesota's electrical generation capacity. Energy efficiency alone could replace most, if not all of that, if society actually got serious about replacing inefficient lights, refrigerators, motors, and other uncontrolled and obsolete equipment, and installed efficient commercially available end-use devices to perform those same functions. We don't do that either, because current government regulations cause power companies to sell electricity, not end-use functions, and as with supply-side options, the alternatives interfere with the profitability of power companies. But maybe now, in light of the latest nuclear disaster, enough of us will realize what our stake in this energy business really is and demand change. Here's how we can begin.

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and the Minnesota Department of Commerce Office of Energy Security have been formally requested to initiate an investigation and review pertaining to nuclear reactor safety in Minnesota. Please send letters to each of the addresses below, supporting that request:

Dr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

Bill Grant, Deputy Commissioner  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 Seventh Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101 

*George Crocker has been involved in energy issues since the Powerline Protest Movement in 1977. Together with Lea Foushee, he co-founded the North American Water Office (NAWO) in 1982. NAWO was the project sponsor of the Prairie Island Coalition during legislative struggles over expanded nuclear waste (cask) storage in the 1990s and provided leadership for community-based energy development to replace nuclear energy. George continues to work on these issues.*

## WORD UP!

### Sinking In?

60 percent of Americans oppose building more nuclear power plants. That's up from 48 percent who opposed it in an AP-Stanford University Poll in November 2009.

—St. Paul Pioneer Press,  
April 9, 2011



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HANDS OFF THE WORLD!  
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NO TO WAR!**

# **4th Annual WAMM Walk Against Weapons!**

**Saturday, June 4 • 10:30 a.m.**

**Meet at Bakers Square, 928 Prairie Center Drive, Eden Prairie.**

Participate in the fourth annual WAMM Walk Against Weapons,  
a three-mile walk from Bakers Square to Alliant Techsystems (ATK) in Eden Prairie.

The Walk Against Weapons is a protest and fundraiser for WAMM and is in collaboration  
with AlliantACTION, a local group that holds weekly vigils at ATK,  
the largest Minnesota-based military contractor.

Use the pledge form and start raising funds today!

Organized by: WAMM. FFI and pledge forms: Call 612-827-5364 or visit [www.worldwidewamm.org](http://www.worldwidewamm.org).

