

Women Against Military Madness

Newsletter

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Women Against Military Madness

A positive view of Muslims would hinder the multibillion dollar Islamophobia industry that promotes fear as part of the U.S. "War on Terror."

The Business of Islamophobia:

by Margaret Sarfehjooy

Part I: The Attack on CAIR-MN

With offices in the U.S. and Canada, the Council of American Islamic Relations (CAIR) has worked to promote a positive image of Islam and Muslims in America since its establishment in 1994. It is America's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy group. Because Minnesota is home to the largest Somali diaspora in the U.S., much of it in Minneapolis/St. Paul, the state's CAIR office is often involved with advocacy for people of Somali origin—hearing complaints, advising them of their rights, and helping to resolve issues of harassment, discrimination, and bias.

Somalis in the Twin Cities have complained of FBI harassment ranging from being stopped at random on streets, in shopping malls, and campus libraries; stalked at mosques; interviewed without translators or access to lawyers; and having their legitimate businesses raided and shut down, their employment threatened, and airline boarding passes denied without due process.

It was in the nature of these kinds of concerns that earlier this year, a distraught Somali man came to CAIR-MN for help, stating that two FBI agents threatened to withhold his asylum application and defame him in the Muslim community if he didn't agree to be an informant for them. He said that despite his repeated requests for an attorney, the agents continued to try to coerce and intimidate him, and ultimately they caused him to lose his job after they had followed him conspicuously and photographed him at his job site. CAIR requested that a special agent with oversight investigate the actions of the agents for improper behavior.

On January 30, the CAIR-MN (Minnesota) office issued a press release announcing that it welcomed the FBI's response to their request to investigate the threatening tactics alleged to have been used by the two agents.

However, just two days after the press release was issued, two FBI agents appeared

unannounced at the home of Lori Saroya, the executive director of CAIR-MN, stating that they were conducting "community outreach." Subsequently, CAIR-MN's attorney called the agents and asked if they were assigned to "community outreach"; he admitted that they were not.

The American Civil Liberties Union commented: "Once again it appears FBI agents are improperly exploiting the goodwill established through community outreach programs as a method of gaining access to community members for investigative purposes. Trained FBI investigators know that showing up unannounced at someone's home is intimidating, and they could have contacted Ms. Saroya by telephone or at her office to set up an appointment if the true purpose was a simple 'meet and greet' with a member of her household."¹

continued on page 2



*Right, photo: Jim Peirpert
Man with Briefcase. 50 ft.
aluminum-plated sculpture
by Jonathan Borofsky,
Ft. Worth, Texas*

WAMM Newsletter

The statements and opinions reflected in this newsletter are the views of the author and not necessarily official positions of WAMM. We encourage a diversity of opinion to represent the range of perspectives that coexist under the banner of WAMM's mission statement.

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Women Against Military Madness is a nonviolent, feminist organization that works in solidarity with others to create a system of social equality, self-determination and justice through education, action and the empowerment of women. WAMM's purpose is to dismantle systems of militarism, economic exploitation and global oppression.

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Business of Islamophobia, continued from page 1

The Wall Street Journal (online.wsj.com) picked up the story and reported that on February 13, 2013, in a letter to Attorney General Holder, CAIR National Legal Director Nadhira Al-Khalili wrote: "The FBI has a well-documented history of using community outreach methods as a means to coerce, threaten, and intimidate members of the Muslim community. Given the above facts, it is difficult for us to reach any conclusion other than that [the agent's] visit was prompted by what the field office may have perceived as negative media attention. Further, we believe reasonable people can conclude the visit was an attempt to intimidate a highly regarded community leader."

Lori Saroya has served in civic organizations including the Minnesota Alliance on Crime, the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights Task Force, and the Minnesota Office of Justice Programs. For her work with CAIR-MN, Saroya received the St. Paul Foundation's Facing Race Ambassador Award twice. She also received the 2011 Rising Star St. Catherine University Alumni Award in the areas of social justice and community advocacy. She was named one of the 2012 Ten Outstanding Young Minnesotans by the Minnesota Jaycees. In 2011, CAIR-MN was awarded the "2011 Mission & Excellence Anti-Racism Award" from the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits and MAP for Nonprofits.

But, while CAIR receives respect and accolades from many community leaders in Minnesota and nationwide, the organization has endured years of accusations and threats from those who make a living off the concept of Islamophobia. A positive view of Muslims hinders the multibillion dollar industry that profits from promoting fear of Muslims as part of the U.S. "War on Terror."

Zaytuna College, located in Berkeley, California, is the first Muslim liberal arts college in America; Dr. Hatem Bazian, the co-founder, stated that "those who are working on Islamophobia believe that the more hatred we have of Muslims here, the more that we have reflexive hatred of Muslims abroad, thus authorizing or making the need for military action and the death and destruction [of Muslims abroad] more palatable to us without having to think we are actually killing humans."²

Part II: The Industry

The always-expanding surveillance industry receives billions of dollars from the Department of Homeland Security. The *Washington Post* discovered what amounts to an alternative geography of the United States, a "Top Secret America" hidden from public view and lacking in thorough oversight. Some 1,271 government organizations and 1,931 private companies work on programs related to counterterrorism, homeland security, and intelligence in about 10,000 locations across the United States.³

Private counterterrorism training firms capitalize on plentiful public grant funding. G.W. Schulz, an investigative journalist who tracks homeland security spending, notes that "agencies can apply for a dizzying array of federal grant programs, often without notifying local government officials about how grant funds are spent."⁴

One training firm, Security Systems International, or SSI, uses alarmist rhetoric about Muslim organizations and also boasts that its "homeland security training in Israel" is the only privately operated trip of its kind that receives funding from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.⁵

David Gaubatz, who was SSI's "star speaker" at the company's 2010 convention, infiltrated the CAIR national office by sending in five researchers to work undercover for six months, three of them women who wore Muslim garb. Gaubatz directed his associates to act "Sharia compliant," such as having the men grow beards, but not mustaches. Gaubatz also sent an individual pretending to be blind into CAIR. Gaubatz's son, Chris, posed as a Muslim-convert intern using the name "David Marshall," and removed thousands of documents that provided the material for Gaubatz's subsequent book against CAIR, *Muslim Mafia*.

This is the same David Gaubatz who claimed that he personally found sites with weapons of mass destruction within Iraq when he was an agent with the Air Force's Office of Special Investigations in 2003,⁶ and who recently claimed on his counterterrorism radio program that many Muslims join the U.S. military to kill fellow soldiers.⁷ SSI's founder, Henry Morgenstern, was a featured speaker at a 2006 Minnesota symposium on Terrorism and

continued on page 7

Recent legislation authorized women in the military to engage in armed combat. Many of us have been working for change in the opposite direction. Women Against Military Madness had its inception in 1981 when statistics showed that more women than men opposed war and we banded together to try to get our country to give up on war and seek other solutions for international disputes.

The number of females in combat zones is 150,000; 33 percent are African-American and 16.9 percent are Latina. I find it hard to believe that these groups are more pro-war—rather, I believe, they are more in need of jobs. Their unemployment ratios are high—14 percent for African-American women and 9.7 percent for Latina women (among the latter group who enlist, some may do so as a road to citizenship under the Dream Act). This is why, for many women, enlistment may seem like the only solution.

But Leah Bolger, a national leader in Veterans for Peace, does not see sending women into combat as a good solution. She recently commented: “If our government really wanted to support women, it could send 40 of them to college at \$25,000 a year for the same price it costs to send one of them to fight in Afghanistan . . . The grotesque Pentagon budget should be slashed, and that money used for education, health care and jobs programs—that is the real answer for the advancement of women.”

One of the biggest drawbacks for women considering enlistment is the probability of sexual harassment and/or rape. In 2010 alone, the military experienced a staggering 19,000 sex crimes within its ranks. According to Department of Defense statistics, more than one-fifth of all active-duty female soldiers have been sexually assaulted, leaving women who have been raped in the military with a higher rate of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) than that of men in combat.

And the actual rate could be considerably higher. That’s because, to date, only 13.5 percent of all victims—both male and female—actually report incidents of sexual assault at the time they occur. Of the incidents that are reported, less than 10 percent are prosecuted. Today, the occurrence of sexual assault in the U.S. military is almost double that of American civilians.*

To make matters worse, only 15 Veteran Affairs centers in the United States provide residential mental-health treatment specifically for women with PTSD. A *Military Times* poll estimates

the PTSD rates for female veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars to be about 20 percent. (Various studies of PTSD prevalence among male veterans of those wars has estimated the rate at anywhere from 10 percent to 18 percent.)

Women considering enlistment would find it helpful to first see the documentary “The Invisible War,” which received the Sundance Film Festival Audience Award for Best Documentary (Director: Kirby Dick. Docurama Films. 2012). It is an investigation into the systematic and predatory nature of rape taking place in U.S. military compounds. Among its highly disturbing revelations are that rape is often committed by serial offenders.

But the possibility of falling victim to a sexual crime is not the only danger for women entering the military, aside from the obvious danger of being killed or wounded in combat. At the beginning of this year, it was widely reported in major media that in 2012, the number of active-duty U.S. army soldiers who committed suicide was 177, exceeding the 176 who were killed that year in Afghanistan. Across all branches of service 349 took their own lives, which was also more than died in combat. And, of former military personnel, an astonishing 6,500 killed themselves that year, roughly equivalent to one every 80 minutes.

I cannot imagine ever encouraging a young woman to enter the military, even in a non-combatant status, but if she so chooses, she should look into all the aspects of such a commitment.

*These figures are not limited to women. According to the Service Women’s Action Network, 46 percent of the roughly 108,000 veterans who experienced military sexual trauma (MST) in 2010 were men.

Polly Mann is a co-founder of Women Against Military Madness.

Remote Control Combat Stress

In the first study [Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center] of its kind, researchers with the Defense Department have found that pilots of drone aircraft experience mental health problems like depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress at the same rate as pilots of manned aircraft who are deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan . . . The Air Force has also conducted research into the health issues of drone crew members. In a 2011 survey of nearly 840 drone operators, it found that 46 percent of Reaper and Predator pilots, and 48 percent of Global Hawk sensor operators, reported “high operational stress.”

— *New York Times*, February 23, 2013

Heavy Medal

The new blue, red and white-ribboned Distinguished Warfare Medal will be awarded to individuals for ‘extraordinary achievement’ related to a military operation that occurred after Sept. 11, 2001 [drone strikes and cyberware fare]. But unlike other combat medals, it does not require the recipient risk his or her life to get it.

— *Associated Press*, February 13, 2013

Photo: Erik deCastro/Reuters

The U.S. has now officially designated women as able to serve in combat. This is advancement?



Ten Years After Shock and Awe

by Sami Rasouli

Neither Infidel Nor Terrorist

Iraqis never got introduced to the real Americans, the peace loving Americans. They knew Americans through fighter jets and the military uniform, the attack and the war and invasion. The Arab media call the Americans infidels. Americans call Arabs terrorists, but when you meet each other you find that none of that is true . . . The small projects we do [together] are very powerful. The main effort is to stop the violence and pave the way for people to develop a peace-loving culture.

—Sami Rasouli, founder of the Muslim Peacemaker Team, on partnership projects with the Iraq American Reconciliation Project, which brings Iraqis and Americans together. reconciliationproject.org

Iraq has become an apartheid state. The division is between Iraq citizens and foreigners. Iraqis continue to have to pass through an exhausting number of checkpoints to get anywhere, but you don't see U.S. soldiers manning them anymore. Now the checkpoints have an Iraqi face. The U.S. military is, however, pulling the strings. There are 16,000 U.S. military and employees in the Green Zone of Baghdad, where the U.S. embassy is.

Traffic is divided into two different traffic lanes—one for civilian Iraqis and the other for military and the foreigners. The foreigners move freely across Iraq in black SUVs with shaded windows without having to submit to delays or checks. But there are many, many stories of Iraqi drivers being stopped and remote control bombs going off in their traffic lanes.

There are not as many explosions as there once were, but there are still explosions. Only Iraqis are the victims. It is unknown who is being targeted or why. The explosions take place where Iraqis are waiting, such as in long lines at checkpoints. Baghdad is always crowded, so the checkpoints there are very dangerous.

Iraqi's new army is fully engaged to control thousands of checkpoints across the country but Iraqi's national borders are not secured!

Every Iraqi city has a Green Zone. Checkpoints exist to protect them. Most of the time women cannot get some places because they cannot undergo the "body checks"—there are no women police or soldiers to perform body checks on them.

Iraq is being prepared for division into three sections. That, I believe, is the plan and this is how it has been working. I can hear Iraqis when I travel around saying, "If the division of Iraq will save our lives, so be it."

Iraq is governed under the same set of anti-terrorism "laws" that the U.S. passed with the Patriot Act. In accordance with this system, effective Sunni leaders have been driven from the Iraqi government. Vice President Tariq al-Hashimi should have been president but evidence of terrorism was fabricated against him. (Hashimi is now in exile in Turkey.) The Minister of Finance, Rafi'a Al Esawi, who is Sunni, was the next in line, but he also was accused of being a terrorist by secret evidence fabricated against him under the "Terrorism 4 Act." Hashimi was tried in absentia and found guilty, just before a national reconciliation to stabilize Iraq was about to take place. Convictions on secret evidence were the straw that broke the camel's back and the reason for the recent Sunni uprising, in which more than 100 people were killed in cities around Iraq.

Sunnis want Al-Maliki to step down so that they can take part in the government. This would be to the eventual advantage of Turkey. The first move will be taken by the Kurdish in the north. While Shia and Sunnis fight between themselves, Kurdish Iraq, will separate from them after controlling Kirkuk, the rich Iraqi city of oil. The U.S. and its western allies will recognize an independent Kurdish state. Turkey will then take over Kurdistan and oil will be shipped to the U.S. and Israel through Turkey.

Iran is then poised to obtain the immense oil fields in Rumaila in southern Iraq. But the U.S. and Israel and their allies want control. The rationale behind the threats aimed at Iran exists mainly for this reason, not because of a fear of nonexistent nuclear weapons. It is possible that Iraq, as a nation, will no longer exist.

Though the nation of Iraq may alter, the people and their culture will continue: "On the other hand they [Iraqis] do have a sense of history and of their people having 5000+ years of history living where they do. They express pride and optimism," Kathy McKay, executive director of Iraq American Reconciliation Project, who lives in Minneapolis, the sister city of Najaf, Iraq, commented on recently returning from a visit to Iraq. "I invite you to join us in ensuring that the next ten years see a strong activation toward peace, friendship, and mutual respect from Americans toward Iraqis."

Sami Rasouli is the founder and director of the Muslim Peacemaker Teams (MPT), which is modeled after the nonviolent philosophy and practices of the Christian Peacemaker Teams in Iraq.



Photo: Steve Clemens
Mennonista.blogspot.com
Visitors stopped at checkpoint attempting to visit the tomb of the Prophet Ezekeil.

April 2013: A Month of Actions in Cities Across the U.S.

Stop the Wars Ground the Drones

Stop U.S. wars, interventions & drone strikes

End the War in Afghanistan – Troops & Drones – Out Now!

No U.S. intervention in Africa

No new war on Iran, Syria or Mali

End U.S. support for the Israeli occupation of Palestine

Funds for housing & jobs, not wars

End drone surveillance at home



**Saturday
April 6 2013**

1:00 PM GATHER

Lake Street & Hiawatha Ave., Mpls

1:45 PM MARCH

2:15 PM PROGRAM

St. Albert the Great Catholic Church
2836 33rd Ave. South Minneapolis

Speakers include: Coleen Rowley,
member of WAMM, Mel Reeves, member
of Occupy the Hood (Mpls)

During April 2013, actions will be held in cities across the U.S. against the growing use of drones as an instrument of U.S. military intervention around the world. Join the April 6 protest in Minneapolis to say no to U.S. wars and interventions and no to drones.

Initiated by: **Minnesota Peace Action Coalition**

Initial endorsements: **Anti-War Committee, Twin Cities Peace Campaign,**

Veterans for Peace, Women Against Military Madness.

For more information: 612 522-1861 or 612 827-5364

March/April 2013 WAMM Calendar

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

Ongoing WAMM Vigils for Peace

Vigil to End War:

Every Wednesday, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Beginning April 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 612-522-1861 or WAMM 612-827-5364.

Vigil to End the Occupation of Palestine:

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

Peace Vigil:

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

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

Ongoing WAMM Committee Meetings

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

The WAMM Book Club. Third Saturday of each month, 10:00 a.m., AFRO Deli: 1939 S. 5th St. Minneapolis (Riverside and 20th Avenue). Meet in the rear left room, behind the Deli. FFI: Suzan Koch: suzykoch@comcast.net

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

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

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

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

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

St. Joan of Arc/WAMM

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

Tackling Torture at the Top

(T3): Second Wednesday of each month, 10:00 a.m. at Afro Deli and Coffee, 1939 5th Street South (Riverside and 20th Avenue), Minneapolis.

Ongoing Events

Committee to Stop FBI Repression. Stand with the people subpoenaed in a witch hunt, defend civil liberties. Learn what you can do. All who stand up and act for justice and solidarity are welcome. FFI: See stopfbi.net and mnStopFBI.wordpress.com, or call (612) 379-3585.

People of Faith Peacemakers Breakfast: Second and fourth Wednesdays, 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. at new location: African Development Center, Riverside and 20th Avenues. A resource and support group for those concerned about peace with justice from a faith perspective. FFI: www.justviewpoint.org or call 763-784-5177

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

Tea Time Conversational Salons: Most Tuesdays, 6:30 to 8:30

p.m. at Mad Hatter's Teahouse, 943 West Seventh St., St. Paul. Through March: Dakota-U.S. War of 1862. Salons are open to all. Suggested donations \$3-\$5 include tea, treats. FFI: 651-227-2511 or 651-227-3228.

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

Middle East Peace Now: Usually 2nd or 3rd Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Refreshments, 10:00 a.m. Program. Location may vary. FFI: www.mepn.org

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

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

Special Events

WAMM's 2013 Annual Meeting: "Living Under Drones: Report from Pakistan" Saturday, March 23, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. See details back page. FFI: Call WAMM, 612-827-5364.

Palestinian Land Day Events (Saturday, March 30):

U.S. Military Aid to Israel— at What Cost? 9:30 a.m. Refreshments. 10:00 a.m. to noon Program and Discussion at Southdale Hennepin County Library, 7001 York Avenue South, Edina. Presenter Alex Vella. Sponsored by Middle East Peace Now. FFI: mepn.org

Five Broken Cameras: Documentary Film. 2:00 p.m. at MayDay Bookstore, 301 Cedar Ave. (below the Hub

Bike Shop) on the West Bank. Documentary, discussion about a Palestinian farmer's nonviolent resistance. Organized by the Anti-war Committee.

Land Day with Special Speaker Susan Abulhawa.

6:30 p.m. Location: TBA. Author of book, *Mornings in Jenin*, and founder of Playground for Palestine, a project for Palestinian children. Sponsored by the Palestinian American Society.

Actions: Stop the Wars, Ground the Drones! See flyer on other side.

Why the U.S. Should Leave the Middle East, via Skype with former U.S. Senator James Abourezk. Sunday, April 7, 3:00 p.m. at 4200 Cedar Ave. S. (former American Nordic building) Minneapolis. FREE and open to the public. Coffee, Middle Eastern pastries. Hear first Arab-American senator. He questioned political status quo. In 1980, founded the American-Arab Anti Discrimination Committee, recently on Free Gaza Movement Advisory Board; currently vice-chairman, Board of Council for the National Interest Foundation. Author of *The Suffering in Syria*, *The U.S. Should Leave the Middle East*, and *Firsthand Account: Israeli Plot to Murder Former US Senator*. Sponsored by The Middle East Committee of Women Against Military Madness (WAMM)

Rally to Remember Deir Yassin Massacre on April 9, 1947.

Demand Right of Return for Palestinians. End the Israeli Occupation of Palestine, U.S. Aid to Israel. Tuesday, April 9 4:30-5:30 p.m. at Senator Klobuchar's office, 1200 Washington Ave. S., Minneapolis. Organized by MN-Coalition for Palestinian Rights. FFI: 612-437-0222

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

Further information and updates at: Nuclear Information and Resource Service (<http://www.nirs.org/international/asia/kudankulam2.html>); World Information Service on Energy ([wiser.org](http://www.wiser.org)), and DiaNuke.org



Earth Enlightenment
by Jane Evershed

Art and imagery that speaks to the pertinent issues.

Our emotions, our souls, the carnage of earth, the realm of nurturing men,

The rights of children, the fate of humanity . . .

Those empty seats at the table of global consequence, with your name written on them.

—Jane Evershed
www.evershed.com

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

• Earth Day News So Hot • It's Radioactive

by Carol Masters

• The New Satyagraha: Bhopal Survivors and Nuclear Resisters Unite

Survivors of the disastrous chemical spill in Bhopal, India, have joined with nuclear resisters in a new Indian satyagraha (Gandhi-defined “soul force”), a nonviolent movement for change. The Kudankulam nuclear generator, about to come online, has been the site of mass protests since August 2011. Last March, more than 250 survivors of the 1984 Union Carbide spill sat in a daylong fast in support of the Kudankulam struggle and to this day have continued their support of nuclear resisters.

Considered one of the world’s worst industrial disasters, the Union Carbide spill exposed over 500,000 people in early December 1984 to methyl isocyanate gas and other chemicals. The government of Madhya Pradesh confirmed 3,787 deaths. Others estimate 8,000 died within two weeks and many thousands have since died from gas-related diseases. After a bitter 25-year court battle, on June 7, 2010, eight former executives of the Indian subsidiary were convicted of negligence. The men were sentenced to two years in prison and fined \$2,100. Their original charges carried a maximum sentence of 10 years, but India’s Supreme Court reduced the charges. The company eventually paid the government \$470 million to settle the victims’ claims: Only a portion of the money was distributed, in many cases at \$550 per recipient.

Public outrage at the light criminal sentences and inadequate recompense has not waned. In recent months the Indian government has tried to “shake off the shadow of Bhopal, an episode that has become synonymous with ineffectual governance and humiliation at the hands of Western capital.” *

“Western capital” is not the only power under Indian public criticism: The reactors at Kudankulam in the southern Indian state (Tamil Nadu) are Russian-designed and many questions remain about their safety, faulty construction, cracks, leaks, and shoddy equipment. They have been under construction since 1988 and are obsolete before they even start up. Three million people live within 18 miles of these reactors.

As of early February 2013, protests had intensified, despite a government crackdown. Men, women, and children from several nearby villages are heading a campaign to stop the

nuclear plant. The villagers say they have faced media propaganda, government corruption, threats, prohibitory orders against public meeting, police abuse, cases of sedition in courts, and arrest warrants. Public agitation increased after the disaster at Fukushima. Says S. P. Udayakumar, coordinator, People’s Movement Against Nuclear Energy, “The Indian nuclear authorities have not shared any basic information about the project with the public. They do not give complete and truthful answers on the ‘daily routine emissions,’ the amount and management of nuclear waste, fresh water needs, impact of the coolant water on our sea and seafood, decommissioning costs and effects, Russian liability, and so forth.”

*<http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/india/bhopal/index.html>

What a Waste!

Also from the Nuclear Information and Research Source: Replaced a faucet lately? Bought a new belt? Did you check the label? Would it matter? Some small amounts of radioactive metals have been part of common household items—toys, flatware, batteries, buckles—for years, but the “floodgates are about to open.” The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is legalizing the “clearance” of radioactive materials from regulated control into raw materials, building supplies, and ordinary household objects (<http://www.nirs.org/radwaste/recycling/releasebrochure.htm>).

The recycling process is cheaper than treating such materials as the radioactive waste they are. Companies make a profit by selling contaminated metals to steel and scrap metal recyclers and manufacturers. In the U.S., nuclear plants and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Department of Energy are working hand in hand to increase the amount of radioactive “recycling,” weaken protection standards, and allow utilities to conduct incomplete cleanup of contaminated sites.

As William Boardman, *Reader Supported News*, reports, the plan is largely unnoticed. An alert congressman, Rep. Edward Markey of Massachusetts, noted an inadequate public response period this past January and raised the alarm (<http://readersupportednews.org/opinion2/277-75/15908-william-boardman-nuke-the-people>).

Carol Masters is a WAMM member and serves on the Newsletter Committee.

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 _____

Name _____ Phone (H) _____

Address _____ Phone (W) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

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

Make checks payable to WAMM, 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407

Pledge for Peace

(WAMM will send a coupon book)

\$ _____ Monthly

\$ _____ Quarterly

I want to volunteer for WAMM

WAMM Committees

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- Book Club
- Counter Recruitment
- End War Committee: Acting Against War and the Threats of War
- Immigration
- Media
- Middle East
- St. Joan of Arc/WAMM Peacemakers
- Ground All Drones
- Tackling Torture at the Top
- WAMM Occupy

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- Alycia Dahlen, Treasurer
- Kathy Hollander
- Jeanne Hynes
- Polly Mann
- Sarah Martin
- Sue Ann Martinson
- JoAnn Maus
- Brigid McDonald
- Coleen Rowley
- Margaret Sarfehjooy
- Lucia Wilkes Smith, Secretary
- Sharon Rice Vaughan, Co-Chair
- Carol Walker, Co-Chair

WAMM Welcomes New Staff

WAMM is delighted to announce the hiring of our new staff members.

Our new director Pepperwolf may not need much introduction to some of you. Pepper has been a long-time activist and organizer in the areas of peace and justice locally and in connection with wider movements.

Among her activities, she helped organize weekly actions and vigils with AlliantACTION, which for years, protested the manufacture of military weapons in Minnesota. She also worked in coalition to lobby the Minnesota legislature regarding depleted uranium. She has led workshop trainings in the spirit of Gandhian nonviolence and organized local groups to participate in the School of Americas Watch (SOA). She has been involved in national actions in Washington, D.C.; at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia; at nuclear test sites in Nevada and at Oak Ridge, Tennessee; and Project E.L.F. in Wisconsin.

Locally, she has participated in the antiwar protests of the 2008 RNC in St. Paul, on Highway 55 and Coldwater, MN reroute, and the vigil on the Lake/Street Marshall Avenue Bridge Vigil. With Global Exchange Witness for Peace, she participated in international delegations. Pepper is an experienced professional educator and holds a Master of Arts, Curriculum and Instruction degree from the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota. She has served terms on the

WAMM Board of Directors, and worked on many WAMM projects and events. Along with experience, Pepper brings her expertise, dedication and positive spirit to the position of director of Women Against Military Madness.

Our new WAMM office manager is Elina Kolstad. Born and raised in Minneapolis, Elina was in high school when the 9/11 attacks occurred, coming of age in an era of fear mongering and “terror.” With a family history of antiwar protest and political activism, she sought outlets for action, volunteering with WAMM while in high school and later, while at the University of Minnesota, participating in Anti-War Committee events. After graduation, Elina traveled around the world. Now she has found her place doing what she loves—working in an office in support of the peace and justice movement.

You and WAMM

Join a WAMM committee and work on ending war, tackling torture, grounding drones, looking at media, supporting Occupy, among other issues. Or, if you like, you can volunteer at or just attend our events. Some WAMM members are able to offer monetary support. Whatever they may be, your contributions are always greatly appreciated and make our antiwar message stronger. All of it strengthens WAMM.

WAMM THANKS

• Sarah Martin in honor of Liza Burr's mom.

• Sarah Martin in memory of Connie Fuller.

• Karen Hoistad in memory of Connie Fuller.

• Kenneth and Susan McGurty in memory of Connie Fuller.

• Leslie Plauda in memory of Connie Fuller.

• Perrin Lilly in honor of Mary Shepard and Polly Mann.

• Sue Welna in memory of Connie Fuller.

• Terry Robertson in memory of Connie Fuller.



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**LOVE IS GREATER THAN HATE
WAR IS NOT OUR FATE
PEACE CAN BE A REALITY
IT'S UP TO YOU AND ME.**

WAMM's 2013 Annual Meeting



Leah Bolger

**“Living Under Drones: A Report from the Delegation to Pakistan”
with keynote speaker Leah Bolger of National Veterans for Peace**

Saturday, March 23, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

St. Frances Cabrini Church, 1500 Franklin Ave. SE, Minneapolis.

Spoken word artist Misty Rowan performs.

Melodious Annual Report sung by Phyllis Golden.

ACTION Cards provided for “Never a meeting without an action!”

Light brunch.

Meet old friends. Make new friends. Support WAMM.

All who attend get a chance to win raffle prizes, bring a friend and you get an extra chance to win a “Trip Around the World.”

Opportunity to renew your acquaintance and membership!

For more information, call WAMM at 612-827-5364