

Today, after nine years of American occupation and “nation-building,” Iraq is left with destruction. Tragically, the most affected segments of the population are women and children. An estimated three million Iraqi widows and five million orphans (one fifth of the country’s children) are struggling to survive.

Mission Accomplished: Iraq Today

by Sami Rasouli

The U.S. troops officially pulled out by the end of 2011, but left behind a crippled country called Iraq. Iraq will never be the same after 2003. According to international law, the U.S. is legally and morally responsible to pay Iraqis reparations and to rebuild the country. But today, after nine years of American occupation and “nation-building,” Iraq is left with destruction. Education and health levels are far below what they were before the invasion. Electricity and clean water are not available for millions of Iraqis. Tragically, the most affected segments of the population are women and children. Trafficking of Iraqi women for prostitution continues through neighboring countries, and an estimated three million Iraqi widows and five million orphans (one fifth of the country’s children) are struggling to survive, according to a 2009 Iraqi Government report.

Mr. Deandar, the Minister of Displacement and Migration in Iraq, recently stated that 1.5 million Iraqis remain displaced within the country. Other Iraqi civil society organizations report four million Iraqis are still displaced from their homes, either living in exile outside the country or inside the country but unable to return to old neighborhoods after the sectarian violence of 2005–2007.

Meanwhile, the balance of power in the region, which President Bush hoped to tip in favor of the West, is precarious and dependent on many factors outside of American control, such as the Arab Spring uprisings. The Iraqi economy is in shambles and production facilities are destroyed. Ninety percent of the Iraqi population is traumatized, most having witnessed killing, explosions, and other violence over the past three decades. According to some estimates, over one million Iraqis have died from war-related violence since 2003.

Before the Gulf War in 1991, then-U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, III told then-Foreign Minis-



This ad, sponsored by several peace groups, demanded that Congress not allow Bush to attack Iran but its message is applicable today as well. Text continued: “An ominous pattern of provocative words and acts from the White House points to a new war: a ‘preventive’ strike on Iran . . . ‘All options are on the table,’ says the Bush Administration . . .”

ter of Iraq Tariq Aziz, “We will destroy your country and bring it back to the stone age.”

Amid this gloomy picture, it is timely to ask, “What lessons should the war hold for America?”

What was the point of invading Iraq? Who won the war? In 2011, President Obama declared success in Iraq after he ordered his forces to leave the destroyed country before the end of the year.

Iraqis today continue to celebrate the withdrawal of American forces from Iraq. Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki recently sent a congratulatory text message to the millions of Iraqis who own cell phones, claiming victory (which he was supposedly behind)!

Unfortunately, Iraq is the main loser in the ongoing saga of destruction that began in 1991 with the Gulf War, continued with international sanctions throughout the 1990s, and deepened with the U.S.-led invasion in 2003 and subsequent occupation.

continued on page 2



Printed on recycled and
recycleable paper.

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

Newsletter Editor

Mary Beaudoin

Newsletter Committee

Polly Mann, Carol Masters,
Patty Guerrero

Proofreader

IIZE Mueller

Layout

Ginny Sutton



WAMM Staff

Kim Doss-Smith, Director
Vanessa Lawrow, Office manager

WAMM Office

310 East 38th Street, Suite 222
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55409
612-827-5364 (phone)
612-827-6433 (fax)
wamm@mtn.org (e-mail)
www.worldwidewamm.org (web)

WAMM Office Hours

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

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

Community Shares Minnesota

A MEMBER OF



MINNESOTA

Correction: The article, "Orange Alert: From Minneapolis Skyways to St. Thomas University," which appeared in the February 2012 WAMM newsletter was written by Bill Sorem, not Roger Cuthbertson. Bill Sorem also videotaped the action, as he has so many WAMM and anti-war actions, which can be seen at www.theuptake.org and on YouTube.

Mission Accomplished . . . , continued from page 1

Neither is the 99% of the American population a winner in this war. According to renowned economist Joseph Stiglitz, America lost or will lose \$4 trillion to the war: "With the end of the war looming, we can say for certain that the total cost will be at least \$4 trillion. This figure could climb much higher, depending on the number of veterans who require long-term care, the cost of replacing equipment, and the full social and economic impact of the war. The human toll has been equally high: 4,486 Americans have been killed in Iraq, 32,000 wounded in action, and tens of thousands seriously injured. More than one-third of recent veterans report having a service-connected disability."¹

This tremendous cost of the Iraq War has contributed to the struggles of the U.S. economy over the last few years, resulting in jobs and homes lost.

So, who won this insane war? Let's read part of a lecture that was delivered by the former Israeli Minister of Security, Avi Dichter, on the Israeli role in Iraq: "We've achieved in Iraq more than we expected or planned."²

The lecture was delivered on September 4, 2008, at the Research Institute of Israeli National Security. Dichter included the following points in his speech:

- Neutralizing Iraq is of the utmost strategic importance for Zionist security
- Iraq was crushed as a military power and a united country, and our strategic option now is to keep it fragmented
- Our strategic goal remains to prevent Iraq from returning to its Arab and regional role

• Israeli goals include supporting Kurds with weapons, training, and a security partnership in order to found an independent Kurdish state in northern Iraq that will control the oil in Kirkuk and Kurdistan

However it seems the major goal of the American-Israeli war against Iraq has not, in fact, yet been accomplished—i.e., to divide the country into at least three pieces based on ethnic and sectarian backgrounds. This is the strategy suggested by former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger after the 2003 invasion and supported by current U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, who worked to pass a bill in the U.S. Congress to divide Iraq.

The ongoing, internal political fighting between factions in Iraq, such as the latest exchange of accusations between Prime Minister Maliki and Vice President Hashimi, encourages the line of thinking that Iraq should be divided into three autonomous states. This is part of the legacy left by the U.S., a time bomb waiting to go off.

The Iraqi people, especially women and children, will continue to suffer from violence and destruction.

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. He lives in Najaf, Iraq, with his wife and their two children when he is not in the United States, raising awareness for MPT.

1 <http://threetrilliondollarwar.org>.

2 <http://windowintopalestine.blogspot.com/2010/05/israel-we-destroyed-iraq-iraq-must-stay.html>.

**Fundraiser for Buses to Chicago to Protest NATO/G8
G8 Moved. Protest continues.**

Saturday, April 21 • 5:00 PM

Black Dog Coffee and Wine Bar • 308 Prince Street, St. Paul

(corner of East 4th St. /Prince St. & Broadway) • Lowertown

Parking: On Broadway or in lot behind the Black Dog (east of the building)

Donations at the door encouraged. • Music, Spoken Word by Misty Rowan

Help Minnesota get to Chicago in May. NATO, the 28-nation military alliance that has been a leading force for war on Afghanistan and Libya, originally planned to meet for the first time with the G8, the main economic council of wealthy nations. But plans changed abruptly and the G8 meeting has been rescheduled from Chicago to the presidential retreat, Camp David in Maryland. Anti-war and economic justice/Occupy movements claim victory at this development and will continue their family friendly protest and march in Chicago in May; it promises to be so significant that they will hear it at Camp David and around the world. Show the power of the people to resist the NATO/G8 agendas and demand money for jobs, housing, healthcare, education, pensions, the environment!

Fundraiser sponsored by Minnesota Peace Action Coalition (MPAC), Women Against Military Madness (WAMM), Anti-war Committee.

FFI: fundraiser (no reservation necessary), or to make bus reservations: **612-823-5989**. Reserve a bus seat online at <http://antiwarcommittee.org/>. FFI on NATO/G8 protest: **CANG8.org**

Update: Shaymaa's Story Continued

by Maria Braun and Mary Beaudoin

The end of the Iraq war occasioned few reflections on the scale of destruction we have wrought there. As is our habit, the discussion focused on the costs to America in blood and treasure, the false premises of war and the continuing challenges of instability in the region. What happened to the Iraqis was largely ignored . . . American political and military leaders, like the public, show little interest in non-American casualties.

Denial, after all, is politically convenient. Failing to consider the mortality figures, the refugees, the impoverished, the demolished hospitals and clean water systems and schools is to deny, in effect, that the war ever happened.

—John Tirman, *Opinion Page, New York Times*, Jan. 4, 2012

This is an update on the story of one Iraq mother. The original story was printed in the WAMM newsletter, February 2011 (archived online at www.worldwidewamm.org)

Shaymaa Abdulkadham Hasan first traveled to the United States in 2010, with her eight-year-old son, Mustafa, who was severely injured when he came into contact with a high-powered electrical cable that had been connected to a nearby factory, dangerously close to the family home. He lost his right leg below the knee and three toes on his left foot, and, in addition, sustained serious burns on his left arm. His ankle was also seriously scarred and his arm hung limp at his side. With the Iraqi medical systems destroyed during twenty years of sanctions and war, Mustafa could not receive appropriate medical care and the needed prosthesis.

Here is why: According to a study, conducted by the Disabled Peoples' International in collaboration with the Iraqi Ministry of Labor and the Ministry of Health, there are more than one million disabled people in Iraq. The Institute for the Rehabilitation of Disabled War Victims deals with 100,000 Iraqi citizens who have lost limbs. Left-over unexploded ordinance in the form of cluster bombs and land mines continue to create additional victims today. In September of last year, Abdul Nassir Kamel, Director of the Rehabilitation and Prevention of Disability Department at the Ministry of Health, stated that ten plants in Iraq have begun producing prostheses; however, production is far less than the actual need, estimated at 20,000 prostheses per year, and adequate materials are frequently not available.

From the series, "After Iraq" by Sama Alshaibi, photographer and filmmaker, born in Basra, Iraq. www.samaalshaibi.com

Mustafa was fortunate in that the Muslim Peacemaker Teams in Najaf, Iraq, and St. Joan of Arc Church in Minneapolis, were able to bring him, with his mother, to Minnesota to receive medical care; several medical facilities and doctors graciously offered to provide treatment free of charge.

Following extensive surgery on his left arm at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, and surgery on his right leg and the fitting of a new prosthesis at Shriners Hospital in Minneapolis, Shaymaa and Mustafa returned home, expecting to return to the Twin Cities for a new prosthesis and further surgery on his arm in March of 2012.

It had been very difficult for Shaymaa to be away from her family and she worried daily about their well being, sometimes exhibiting outward signs of anxiety and depression. During the time that she and Mustafa were in the U.S., her four-year old son, Ali, was injured in a minor electrical accident. There was a fire at their home, necessitating her husband to move the family to his mother's house. While in the U.S, Shaymaa also learned that her husband's 20-year-old nephew had been kidnapped.

Mustafa had not been going to school in Iraq; however, during their stay in Minnesota, Mustafa attended the Dowling School in Minneapolis. He loved going to school. Shaymaa's Minnesota support group encouraged education for her children, especially for Mustafa because of his disability, which limited his choice of occupation (Iraq had a high literacy rate before it was attacked, but now 70% of school age children in

continued on page 4



• "The Forgotten," from the series, "Warchestra" by Sundus Abdul Hadi. Multi-media, www.warchestra.com

• Those who have forgotten us, when will you remember us? When will we cross your mind? When will you help our situation?

• Love, you have left us with no explanation; you shut the doors in our face and abandoned us.

• Where did you come from on the day you set your eyes on us? Where did you find us?

• Your eyes have scarred us. You who have forgotten us, when will you remember us?

—lyrics of a traditional Iraqi folk song (text in the painting)



WAMM THANKS

Bob Jones in memory of Jeanette Rankin

WORD UP!

Losing Sight

One in 25 Iraqi citizens is disabled. More than 100,000 citizens have lost their sight, in addition to 205,000 citizens who have suffered reduced vision or may lose their vision.

—*Iraqi Institute for Rehabilitation of Disabled War Victims*

No End in Sight

Almost 25 million landmines are still present on Iraqi soil, and approximately 800,000 Iraqis have suffered disability due to exploding landmines.

—*Huda Al-Jasim, "Iraqis Lose Their Limbs in Endless Series of Wars," www.ashrq-e.com*

Iraqi Refugee Children in Syria

In the Syrian Arab Republic, more than 10,000 refugees will receive primary health and nutrition care services; 25,000 Iraqi children will be enrolled in preschool and primary and secondary schools; and 1,000 vulnerable refugees and Syrians from hosting communities will receive vocational training focusing on refugee minors, youth and school dropouts, according to a 2012 UNICEF plan. What happens to them if NATO attacks Syria?



Update . . . , continued from page 3

Najaf are illiterate). Upon returning to Iraq, Mustafa was sent to a government school, but there are many problems with the school system in Iraq, including the fact that they use corporeal punishment. There also seems to be a lack of sensitivity to the injured; other students began to pick on Mustafa and he frequently came home with bruises. Because teachers were also not supportive, and they were concerned that there might be a setback in his recovery, Shaymaa and her husband took Mustafa out of school. The support group in Minnesota told them they would be willing to raise money so that Mustafa could go to a private school. When she and her husband met with the principal of a private school, the school refused to accept him because they did not want to be responsible for a child with his injuries. They referred him to a school that accepted children with mental disabilities. This made Shaymaa angry because she knew that such a school could not meet Mustafa's educational needs. And so he remained at home.

In the spring of 2011, Shaymaa's husband, Mohammed, was advised to have laser surgery on his eyes because his night vision wasn't good and as a taxi driver his vision was very important. But the surgery did not go well and he had to stay out of the bright sun for two months. Of course he was unable to work during this time, which had a negative effect on their financial situation.

And within five months of their return to Iraq, Mustafa was no longer able to wear his new prosthesis because a bone on the left side of his leg just below his knee was growing outward, making the prosthesis painful to wear. Shaymaa is a wonderful advocate for her children and called her sponsors in the U.S to ask if they could return earlier than March 2012, when they had originally been expected to return, as she was anxious for Mustafa to have a new prosthesis. After several delays, including Shaymaa having her appendix removed, they arrived back in the U.S. on January 30, 2012.

Upon their arrival in Minneapolis, we learned that while Shaymaa was in the hospital in Najaf, Mustafa had fallen six steps down the stairs of their home, causing injury to his nose and the loss of two permanent front teeth. He was taken to a hospital. After 12 hours, the family was advised that they could not treat him there and they sent them to another hospital. When they arrived at the second hospital, the doctor who was on call

did not answer his page and they had to bring Mustafa to a clinic, where he was finally able to receive treatment that stopped the bleeding in his mouth. His nose required seven stitches; fortunately it was not broken.

Shaymaa also tells us that her nephew who was kidnapped during her last stay in the U.S. is still missing, and presumed dead. His car was eventually found, but they could find no clues as to what happened to her nephew.

During the current visit, Mustafa went to Rochester for a follow-up visit relative to the skin graft on his left arm. The doctor was amazed at how well Mustafa is doing. The good news is that Mustafa does not need another serious operation on his arm this year, due primarily to his family's persistence in following the regimen of exercise ordered by the doctor last year. He can lift his formerly limp arm straight up in the air and out to his side; he can even wheel himself in a wheelchair with both hands.

His doctor at Shriners Hospital removed the bone spur on his right leg and Mustafa was fitted for a new prosthesis. Mustafa also returned to Dowling Elementary School for the length of their stay.

Life in Iraq continues to be very difficult. Problems that occur have exponentially serious consequences due to the destruction of the country, the breakdown of systems, and the fact that little has been rebuilt. Poverty, desperation and corruption are rampant through the land. Shaymaa does not hold out much hope for a future for Mustafa and her other five children, ages 3 to 15, if they remain in Iraq. She and her husband will continue to pursue plans to move to Turkey. There apparently is a large Iraqi population where they plan to live in Turkey and they have friends in the area. There are opportunities for better education and improved medical care for all their children and there would be work for Mohammed in a local marble factory. Shaymaa also thinks about applying to the United Nations for refugee status. She hopes to eventually emigrate somewhere—perhaps to the United States where Mustafa could get the medical treatment and the follow-up that he needs.

The struggle to survive and to try to provide for a more hopeful future for her children is never ending for Shaymaa.

Marie Braun is an active organizer against all war. She co-founded the Twin Cities Peace Campaign after traveling to Iraq during the Sanctions Period. Mary Beaudoin is the editor of the WAMM newsletter and member of Twin Cities Peace Campaign.

From the series, "After Iraq" by Sama Alshaibi, photographer and filmmaker, born in Basra, Iraq. www.samaalshaibi.com

Eyes in Gaza flyer goes here

March/April 2012 WAMM Calendar

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

Ongoing WAMM Vigils for Peace

Vigil to End the War on Iraq:

Every Wednesday, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. **Note:** Changes to summer hours 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. April till November 1. 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.

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

Ongoing WAMM Committee Meetings

Board Meeting: Third Tuesday of each month, 6:00 p.m. at the Sabathani Community Center, 310 East 38th Street, Minneapolis. FFI: Call WAMM, 612-827-5364.

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

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

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

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

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.

WAMM Speak Out: First and Third Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sabathani Community Center, 310 East 38th Street, Minneapolis. Join us to share what's concerning you about the state of our country. For old and new WAMM members and other interested parties. Sponsored by: WAMM. FFI: Call WAMM, 612-827-5364.

Ongoing Events

Committee to Stop FBI Repression. Every other Thursday, 7:00 p.m. at Walker Church, 304 16th Ave. South, Minneapolis. Stand with the people subpoenaed in a witch hunt, defend civil liberties. Learn what you can do. All who stand up and act for justice and solidarity are welcome. FFI: See stopfbi.net and mnStopFBI.wordpress.com, or call (612) 379-3585.

People of Faith Peacemakers

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

Grandmothers for Peace:

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

Tea Time Conversational Salons:

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

Third Thursday Global Issues

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

Middle East Peace Now:

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

MN 9/11 Truth: Second Tuesday of each month, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Rondo Community Outreach Library, 461 North Dale Street, St. Paul. Meets to educate and discuss the events of 9/11/2001. FFI: Visit www.mn911truth.org.

Active Nonviolence Training:

Interactive session (non-lecture and non-reading) in social change analysis, community-building and project planning to strengthen our group for action. FFI and to register, visit www.creatingacultureofpeace.org

Special Events

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

"World in Arms" Art Exhibit:

through May 4 The Anderson Center at Tower View, 163 Tower View Drive, Red Wing. Sculptor, Gita Ghei's exhibit, "World in Arms" showcases drawings, photography, and large installation pieces dealing with war. Ghei will be joined by a number of war veterans, peace activists, poets and other Minnesotan artists, including Vietnam War veteran Bruce Berry, Gulf War veteran Chante Wolf, peace activist David Harris, and artists Ann Mohler, Joel Pieper and Matt Quinn. FFI: Visit www.andersoncenter.org.

WAMM's 2012 Annual Meeting and Post-War Iraq Saturday, March 31, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 3045 Chicago Ave. S., Minneapolis-

lis. Help us begin the celebration of WAMM's 30th Anniversary year by attending a program on "Post-War Iraq." Brief annual meeting to follow. Good Music! Good Program! Good Brunch! WAMM Action! Meet old friends. Make new friends. Win raffle prizes. Support WAMM. FFI: Call WAMM, 612-827-5364.

Presentation by Dr. Mads Gilbert: "Eyes in Gaza" Friday, April 13, 7:00 p.m. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 East 31st Street, Minneapolis. Saturday, April 14, 10:00 a.m. Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, 2730 East 31st Street, Minneapolis. Join others at a lecture by Dr. Mads Gilbert, one of two foreign doctors allowed into Gaza during Operation Cast Lead. Free and open to all. Sponsored by: the WAMM Middle East Committee, Middle East Peace Now (MEPN) and Al Aqsa Institute of MN. FFI: Call WAMM, 612-827-5364.

Fundraiser for Buses to G8/NATO Protest Saturday, April 21, 5:00 p.m. Black Dog Café, 308 Prince Street in Lowertown, St. Paul (corner of Broadway and Prince St.) Donations at the door encouraged! Music, Misty Rowan doing spoken word. Join us for hors d'oeuvres. Coffee and wine cash bar. Extra food available for purchase. The protest is in May. Sponsored by WAMM, Minnesota Peace Action Committee, Anti-War Committee. FFI on fundraiser or bus reservations: 612-823-5989. Reserve a bus seat online at eventbrite.com/event/2785594789. FFI on NATO/G8 protest: CANG8.org



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.

Surrounding Iran, On the Road Through Damascus

by Margaret Sarfehjooy

The war on Iraq was looked on as a Bush effort. Those in power today are continuing Bush's war plans stronger than ever. Where is the outcry?

Iran is threatened, and the U.S. continues to push the screws even tighter. U.S. policy toward Iran for the last three decades has primarily taken the form of economic sanctions, threats and isolationism. The U.S. is involved in a covert and proxy war.

The covert dimensions of the war are being fought by intelligence assets, cyber attacks, computer viruses, secretive military units, spies, assassins, agent provocateurs, and saboteurs. The kidnapping and assassination of Iranian scientists and military commanders, which started several years ago, is a part of this covert war. The U.S. has been at war with Iran through its proxies for years.

Iran is now surrounded by the U.S.: The U.S. has more than 30 military bases and facilities including its naval base in Bahrain, U.S. Central command (CENTCOM) headquarters in Qatar, not to mention its military installations in Pakistan, Turkey and Afghanistan. A third aircraft carrier, the USS Abraham Lincoln, has sailed through the Strait of Hormuz, near the coast of Iran. Israel has become a de facto U.S. military outpost. U.S. and Israeli command structures are being integrated, with close consultation between the Pentagon and Israel's Ministry of Defense. The Pentagon has dispatched some 15,000 U.S. troops into Kuwait.



Iran is now surrounded by U.S. bases.

As for Arab cooperation in threatening Iran? As part of the NATO-Gulf Cooperation Council (NATO-GCC), Qatar and the United Arab Emirates played key roles in the destruction of Libya. GCC stands for Gulf Cooperation Council, the organization of six wealthy Persian Gulf monarchies (Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates-UAE). It was part of the prime strategic backyard for the U.S. invasions of Afghanistan in 2001 and Iraq in 2003, and is currently at work "containing" Iran.

The combined strategy of NATO-GCC is regime change in Syria to weaken Iran. The road to Iran is through Damascus.

Margaret Sarfehjooy is the chair of the WAMM Middle East Committee.

PM Where Are They?

Hey, hey 9,000 U.S. troops were sent to Israel—or so they say. Or were they? And, if they weren't, where are they??

I guess they're there. But you'd never know it if you depended on the mainstream corporate press to tell us; I found absolutely no word of them there. I first learned about U.S. troops being sent to Israel on the website, *Al Arabiya*, back in the middle of January. Apparently, in December, General Frank Goprenc, commander of U.S. forces based in Germany, had made an announcement while on a visit to Israel. He had spoken of an upcoming deployment of several thousand U.S. troops to Israel where they would participate in military drills with Israeli troops in an opera-

tion called "Austere Challenge 12." Then, on January 15th, according to *Al Arabiya*, about 9,000 U.S. soldiers arrived in Israel.

Egyptian Major General Jamal Mathloun said the deployment might not necessarily mean a direct signal of war, but that it could be construed as readiness on the part of Israel and the U.S. in case of a conflict in the region. Abulaziz Sager, chairman of the Gulf Research Center in Dubai, said the deployment of U.S. troops to Israel is "definitely to send a clear signal to Iran." Elias Henna, a Lebanon-based military expert, said the deployment was "to support U.S. presence in the region."

continued on page 9

SYRIA & IRAN RESOURCES

Who Are the Real Friends of Syria?

friendsofsyria.wordpress.com (An imperial political alliance is also called, "Friends of Syria" and is distinct from this source.) This site advocates for an independent Syria by and for Syrians, without outside intervention, explores media propaganda.

Syria: NATO'S Next "Humanitarian" War?

Global Research Online Interactive Reader Series, Book No. 3
www.globalresearch.ca

Documenting Syrian Crisis

Independent youth media project of Syrian journalists and media representatives. Attempts to document all the events taking place, aiming to create a comprehensive database related to the Syrian crisis.
http://www.voltairenet.org/_Syrian-Center-for-Documentation

NATO-GCC

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/country_profiles/4155001.stm

Iran Project Toolkit:

Fact sheet and suggested talking points from Fellowship of Reconciliation.
<http://forusa.org/content/for-iran-project-toolkit>

by Polly Mann



Sign: Impact Printing.

Bumper stickers: Northern Sun Merchandising, Minneapolis

WORD UP!

The Task at Hand

For well over half a century, the U.S. has been cannibalized by its military-industrial complex, which has infantilized its moral sense, squandered its wealth and undermined its political integrity. Our political leaders are not genuine leaders, but have been reduced to the role of apologists for this monster, which has a bureaucratic momentum of its own. The primary political duty of Americans and their European allies should be to reduce and dismantle this gigantic military machine before it leads us all inadvertently into "the supreme international crime" of no return.

—journalist *Diana Johnstone*, based in France

WAMM Today

News, views, commentary. Also on Facebook.
wammtoday.wordpress.com

Pedalstory

See the blog of WAMM members Anne and Dave Winkler-Morey as they continue on their 417-day cycling trip around the US, engaging people in discussions about the kind of society they want.

www.worldwidewamm.org

Announcement about the WAMM Newsletter

We regret to inform you that the WAMM newsletter has been reduced from ten copies per year to eight copies in 2012. We hope that this reduction will not need to continue, but at this point it is necessary, due to WAMM's current financial constraints.

WAMM in 2011: It was a Banner Year!

Well-behaved women seldom make history.

March is National Women's History Month and it's also the month in which WAMM holds its annual meeting. We think it's a good time to reflect on the activities WAMM sponsored and/or participated in the previous year. Were we well behaved? Probably not if it means passively tolerating the status quo of war and injustice. Here is just some of what we've done in 2011:

Challenge! Host talk by Malailai Joya, the bravest woman in Afghanistan

Empower! People's Plaza

Energize! Join Occupy Minneapolis

Rally! Anti-torture and Bradley Manning support

Publicize! WAMM YouTube

Vigil! Lake Street/Marshall Avenue Bridge every Wednesday

Educate! Sara Flounders of International Action Center speaks on Libya, North Africa and the Middle East

Inform! Participation in workshops, conferences, taught classes on the Middle East

Expose! Cynthia McKinney eye-witness report on Libya

Protest! NATO/U.S. attacks on Libya

Resist! the 10th Anniversary of the War on Afghanistan

Support! for Wisconsin and Minnesota government workers

Hear! Kathy Kelly and Steve Clemens eye-witness reports back from Afghanistan and Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers

Find out! Sami Rasouli, Muslim Peacemaker Team, reports back from Iraq

Participate! MN Break the Bonds

Demand! with Welfare Rights at the State Capital

Defend! against home foreclosures

Perform! WAMM Peace Troupe on the Nicollet Mall

Sing! Community Sing: Great Songs of Peace

Rejoice! WAMM's Fifth Annual Valentine's Day, "Peace and Resistance"

Inspire! Margaret Randall speaks at the WAMM Annual Meeting

Express! the WAMM blog with articles and opinions

Connect! United National Antiwar Conference, Sabeel, National Conference on Media Reform, Stop FBI Conference, Close SOA, 30th anniversary of nuclear resistance

Speak! WAMM Speak Outs



Photo: Tom Bottolene

WAMM members helped organize and participate in the protest on the 8th anniversary of the war on Iraq, sponsored by Minnesota Peace Action Coalition.

Examine! WAMM workshop studies of racism
Stand up! for civil liberties. Committee to Stop F.B.I. repression

March! Fourth Annual Walk Against Weapons

See! Canvas[ing] Against Torture: Art Exhibit

Alert! Bannering against war on Iran

Go! Ann and Dave Winkler-Morey pedaling across the country to engage conversation about the kind of society people want

Stay! Occupy Liberty Plaza, Washington, D.C.

Stir! Katia deLlano of the Federation of Cuban Women

Redress! Support for Move to Amend

Advocate! Immigration reform and the Dream Act

Protect! Counter recruitment

Learn! from Iraqi medical delegation brought to MN by Iraq American Reconciliation Project

Report! 10 issues of the WAMM newsletter

Reveal! Sarah Smith and the outrage of material support for terrorism charges for traveling to Palestine with two young women of Palestinian origin

And much, much more, including:

Honor!

WAMM co-founder Polly Mann receives the 2011 Peacemaker of the Year Award from Minnesota Fellowship of Reconciliation

Activist Marie Braun receives Courageous Woman Award from Women's Resource Center, Augsburg College

WAMM depends on its members and supporters to continue our work. We can't do it without you! If you can make a contribution, please send it to: WAMM 310 E. 38th St., Minneapolis, MN 55409 or call the WAMM office at 612-827-5364.

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, 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: Co-chair
- Lisa Albrecht
- Terry Burke
- Alycia Dahlen: Treasurer
- Kathy Hollander
- Polly Mann
- Sarah Martin
- Sue Ann Martinson
- Carol Masters
- Brigid McDonald
- Sharon Rice Vaughan
- Coleen Rowley
- Margaret Sarfehjooy
- Lucia Wilkes Smith: Co-chair
- Carol Walker

PM, continued from page 7

However, the exercises must have been called off, according to reports on the internet. The *Common Dreams* website, in announcing the postponement of the exercises, said the call-off was attributed to the desire to avoid "unnecessary headlines in such a tense period." It further stated that it was thought the exercises could "dangerously ramp up regional tensions." But there's nary a hint as to where the troops were during this interim.

The Israeli website, *debka.com*, reported on January 15th of this year that Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Moshe Yaalon, in a radio interview, said that the exercises had been called off despite the fact that 9,000 U.S. soldiers had already arrived in Israel. Yaalon said the U.S. was hesitant over possible repercussions for fear of a spike in oil prices. According to the site, "Israel's Deputy Prime Minister further inflamed one of the most acute disagreements in the history of U.S.-Israeli relations over the Obama administration's objections to an Israel military action against Iran's nuclear sites in any shape or form." The Deputy Prime Minister contended that "a military operation is the last resort, but Israel must be ready to defend itself. The friction had already been fueled by the deep resentment aroused in Israel by Washington's harsh condemnation of the Jan. 11th assassination of the nuclear scientist Prof. Mostafa

Ahmadi-Roshan and the absolute denial of any U.S. involvement."

The final word that is evidence to be found anywhere of U.S. troops in Israel comes from what appears to be a fundamentalist Christian end-times website. It concludes that the deployment of troops was for the "specific purpose of enforcing the division of Jerusalem." It predicts that the Rapture (at the end of the world) will take place immediately upon the launching of the first Israeli nuke. The report, which is headed by a statement that is said to be for educational or discussion purposes, contains a miscellany of interesting items: "1) By the way, I am confident that many of our military missile-defense personnel deployed in Israel are, in fact, born-again Christians; 2) Benjamin Netanyahu, likewise, is expecting the near-Rapture; and 3) January 23rd is a New Moon. There is a tactical advantage for air strikes then."

So it goes. Maybe the troops are just having a great time, visiting Jerusalem and enjoying the nightlife of Tel Aviv while awaiting the Rapture—or, just awaiting orders from headquarters? Or, are they back in Quantico or New Mexico?

**NO WAR ON
SANCTIONS
INTERVENTION
ASSASSINATIONS
IRAN!**
http://www.freehcnk.com/events/2143-417552917/

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

The World Jubilee (TWJ)

Market will be held on Saturday, March 31, 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.



NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TWIN CITIES, MN
PERMIT NO. 93424

310 East 38th Street, Suite 222
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55409
(612) 827-5364 FAX: (612) 827-6433
e-mail: wamm@mtn.org
www.worldwidewamm.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**NO TO WAR ON
IRAN AND SYRIA!**

WAMM *Annual Meeting*

Saturday, March 31, 2012
Mount Olive Church
3045 Chicago Ave. S., Minneapolis

10:00 AM Brunch
11:00 AM Program
12:00 PM Business-y Meeting
1:00 AM Adjourn

Program: War in Iraq is Over (they say)

Everyone is welcome for brunch and program.
Annual Report for WAMM members and guests (All are welcome.)

