

# Women Against Military Madness

## Newsletter

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Women Against Military Madness

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*What's left out when the U.S. talks about Syria is that it is in a key position for exporting natural gas. Adding weapons to the region makes it explosive.*

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### Syria: the Mediterranean Piece

by Mary Beaudoin

We know that the Syrian people have suffered terribly from the violence that has erupted. Undeniably many factors are involved. But are we in the West to believe that the people need to be rescued by *us* so that they, too, can come to enjoy the democratic rights that U.S. citizens appear to have less and less of every day? Or is something else going on?

What's missing from this picture? When Washington, corporate media, or pundits address Syria, they neglect to mention that Syria is situated on the eastern Mediterranean in a key position with regard to natural gas—and its export to the world.

A NATO coalition fighting in Syria (through proxy and special ops) comprises the U.S., EU, Turkey with their NATO partners: the Mediterranean Dialogue countries, plus Israel, and the Gulf Council Coalition of Arab monarchies. “Every member state of the coalition has its own interests and believes it can be satisfied, even though these interests

are sometimes contradictory. There is a desire to ‘re-sculpt’ the Middle East. But the most important issues are economic,” according to Thierry Meyssan, professor of international relations at the Centre for Strategic Studies in Damascus.<sup>1</sup>

The NATO coalition is aligned against the official state government of Syria and its allies Iran, Russia, and China. Having energy interests in the Middle East, Russia and China are blocking a “regime change” coup d’état in the UN Security Council.

The “New Great Game,” once defined as the quest for natural gas through Central Asia, now extends to the Middle East as world powers struggle for control in the Mediterranean. German/American geopolitical analyst F. William Engdahl says natural gas is not only the “clean energy” of choice in Europe, but also the only way European Union governments “from Germany to France to Italy and Spain will be able to meet EU mandated CO2 reductions by 2020.”<sup>2</sup> Russia is well positioned to assist in the development and transportation of natural gas from Iran and Syria en route for Europe. This is because Russia has maintained a military facility in the Syrian port of Tartus since the Cold War, and it has experience with its own domestic gas industry—it’s vast reserves are currently the biggest supplier to the EU.

Rival pipeline routes through which natural gas can be transported from the Persian Gulf are a big part of the issue, according to Dmitry Minin of the Strategic Culture Foundation: “A battle is raging over whether pipelines will go toward Europe from east to west, from Iran and Iraq to the Mediterranean coast of Syria, or take a more northbound route from Qatar and Saudi Arabia via Syria and Turkey.”<sup>3</sup>

The objective of eliminating the competition

*continued on page 2*

*Syria is in a key position in the “New Great Game,” which has extended to the Mediterranean as world powers struggle for natural gas.*



# 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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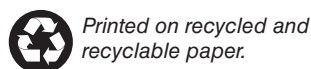
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A MEMBER OF



• **Syria,**  
• *continued from page 1*

• can explain why countries allied with the U.S.  
• have been instrumental in funneling arms to  
• Syrian rebels and why they have met fierce  
• resistance.

• Other energy transit routes are part of the  
• whole picture. So, too, is the discovery of  
• huge reserves of natural gas and oil in the  
• southeastern Mediterranean Sea. In 2010, the  
• World Petroleum Resources Project of the U.S.  
• Geological Survey was tasked with conducting  
• an “Assessment of Undiscovered Oil and  
• Gas Resources of the Levant Basin Province,  
• Eastern Mediterranean.”<sup>4</sup> The area described  
• is off the coast of Israel, Gaza, Lebanon, and  
• Syria, and close to Cyprus. Production in  
• specific fields is large enough to create exports.

• This close proximity of hydrocarbon reserves  
• and their transportation routes is a source of  
• volatility in the region. Israel, which receives  
• \$3 billion a year in aid from the U.S., has  
• conducted three bombing raids, engaged in  
• espionage, and used its military in the Golan  
• Heights to aid rebels opposed to the Syrian  
• government. Hezbollah from Lebanon crossed  
• into Syria to fight on the pro-government side.

• The war in Syria has taken a tragic toll with  
• UN estimates of 93,000 deaths. In June of  
• 2013, the Office of the UN High Commissioner  
• of Refugees counted more than one and a half  
• million externally—and four and a half million  
• internally—displaced people (among them  
• Iraqis who had found refuge in Syria from the  
• destruction of Iraq). Modern infrastructure  
• has been severely damaged. Irreplaceable  
• cultural artifacts have been ruined or looted.  
• As in Iraq, divide-and-conquer tactics manifest  
• in ethnic and sectarian divisions inflamed  
• by kidnappings, killings, and the targeted  
• destruction of sacred mosques in a country  
• that had been largely pluralistic.

• People of good will anywhere feel anguish  
• hearing about the suffering of the Syrian  
• people. But what can citizens of the United  
• States do about it? We can't really control what  
• other countries do. The only thing we can do is  
• look at the role our own nation is playing and  
• try to do something about that.

• Anna Macdonald, Oxfam's Head of Arms  
• Control warned that “sending further arms  
• into Syria would simply fuel the deadly arms  
• race which is unfolding on Syrian soil, and it  
• will be civilians who pay the highest price.”<sup>5</sup>

• And just what role has our nation been  
• playing?

Syria and its allies have met head-on with  
neocon plans laid in previous decades, and not  
associated in the public mind with the Obama  
administration. What we're seeing now was  
described in a 1996 framework created in a  
study group led by Richard Perle and entitled,  
“A Clean Break: A New Strategy for Securing  
the Realm.” The plan includes making “tribal  
alliances with Arab tribes that cross into Syrian  
territory and are hostile to the Syrian ruling  
elite” and suggests “striking Syrian military  
targets in Lebanon and, should that prove  
insufficient, *striking at select targets in Syria  
proper.*” Throughout the document, ways in  
which the United States can be persuaded  
to buy in are pointed out.<sup>6</sup> Self-described  
“Machiavellian” Michael Ledeen wrote an  
opinion in the *Wall Street Journal* April 4,  
2002, in which he stated, “We do not want  
stability in Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and  
even Saudi Arabia . . . The real issue is not  
whether, but how to destabilize.”

Five years later, Secretary of State Condoleeza  
Rice told the Senate Foreign Relations  
Committee that there was “a new strategic  
alignment in the Middle East.” She went on  
to say that Iran and Syria had chosen to be on  
“the other side” and that they “have made their  
choice and their choice is to destabilize.”<sup>7</sup>

Of course she hardly meant that they were  
choosing to destabilize themselves. In the same  
2007 *New Yorker* article about Rice's testimony,  
investigative reporter Seymour Hersch wrote:  
“The U.S. has also taken part in clandestine  
operations aimed at Iran and Syria.”<sup>8</sup> On  
April 17, 2011, this was confirmed when the  
*Washington Post* published an article “U.S.  
secretly backed Syrian opposition groups,”  
reporting what was in diplomatic cables  
exposed by *Wikileaks*.

A 2013 report on Syria from the U.S. Energy  
Information Administration reveals the  
ultimate result of destabilization: “The  
continued violence threatens to derail  
Syria's ambitions of becoming an important  
energy transit country to its neighbors, the  
Mediterranean, and Europe.”<sup>9</sup>

On March 24, 2013, the *New York Times*,  
while generally framing its reports in favor of  
deposing the Syrian government, reported that  
“with help from the C.I.A., Arab governments  
and Turkey have sharply increased their  
military aid to Syria's opposition fighters in  
recent months, expanding a secret airlift of  
arms and equipment for the uprising against  
President Bashar al-Assad, according to  
air traffic data, interviews with officials in

*continued on page 4*



Those people who support a policy of having the United States supply military aid and weapons to Syria need only look at Iraq and the medical effects of the intervention there for a glimpse of what kind of humanitarian assistance Syria may be in for. In a March 15 *Guardian Weekly* article Dr. Jawad Al-Ali, a cancer specialist at the Sadr teaching hospital in Basra, Iraq, stated that prior to the Gulf War he saw two to three cancer patients a month, but “now we have 30 to 35 dying every month. Our studies indicate that 40 to 48 percent of the population in this area will get cancer in five years’ time to begin with, then long after. . . Most of my family have it, and we have no history of the disease.”

Along the corridor of the hospital, pediatrician Dr. Ginan Ghalib Hassen has posted photos of the children she was trying to save. Many had neuroblastoma. “Before the war we saw only one case of this unusual tumor in two years. Now we have many cases, mostly with no family history. I have studied what happened in Hiroshima. The sudden increase of such congenital malformations is the same.”

Renowned journalist John Pilger, who wrote the *Guardian* article, found agreement among several doctors at the hospital about the effects of depleted uranium shells used by the Americans and British in the Gulf War. A U.S. military physicist interviewed by Pilger said: “Each round fired by an A-10 Warhog attack aircraft carried over 4,500 grams of solid uranium. . . It was a form of nuclear warfare.”

Hans von Sponeck, former assistant secretary general of the United Nations and senior UN humanitarian official in Iraq in a letter to Pilger said, “The U.S. government sought to prevent the World Health Organization (WHO) from surveying areas in southern Iraq where depleted uranium had been used and caused serious health and environmental dangers.” A WHO report, the result of a landmark study conducted with the Iraqi Ministry of Health, has been “delayed.” Covering 10,800 households, it contains “damning evidence,” says a ministry official, and according to one of its researchers remains “top secret.” However, news of the report is out. It says birth defects have risen to a “crisis” across Iraq where depleted uranium and other toxic heavy metals used by the U.S. and Britain have produced multiple cancers in entire families.

It is also known that white phosphorus, an advanced form of napalm, was used on Fallujah.

Now the Iraqi Ministry of Social Affairs has estimated that 4.5 MILLION children have lost one or both parents. Fourteen percent of Iraq’s population are orphans.

We can but hope that Syria will not go the way of Iraq.

*Polly Mann is cofounder of Women Against Military Madness, continues to be active with WAMM and is a regular contributor to the newsletter.*

## Brigid’s Rap Sheet

*by Brigid McDonald*

What is the motivation  
to, without hesitation,  
bomb a sovereign nation?

It only brings frustration  
And consternation  
To all civilization.

Because it’s not for their liberation,  
but for world domination!

And there’s a new manifestation—  
Our drones that cause  
annihilation of an innocent population.

We need more contemplation  
to bring humanization  
to our Obama-nation.

In my estimation, we must  
respect all creation and  
stop this ruination of civilization.

With some observation  
we’ll come to the realization  
that we’re the terrorist nation  
(and that’s no exaggeration!)

With this revelation,  
we’ll need preparation to do  
more integration and less separation.

We’ll need an explanation  
for the younger generation.  
We’ll seek inspiration  
For the earth’s salvation.

We know it can’t be done  
through weaponization!

*Brigid McDonald is a long-time active member of WAMM. She serves on the WAMM Board, the WAMM End War Committee, is a regular at the Lake Street/Marshall Avenue Bridge and a volunteer in the WAMM office.*

*by Polly Mann*



*Art on a metro station,  
Omonia Square, Athens*

### The Youngest Victims

Of all the statistics that describe the devastation wreaked upon Iraq by the illegal war, the figures describing the plight of Iraqi children are the most troubling and heart-wrenching.

— *Bie Kentane, “Iraqi Children: Deprived Rights, Stolen Future,” presentation to a meeting at the United Nations, Palais des Nations, Geneva, March 15, 2013*

133 children die every single day. And imagine that’s over 900 children a week. 100 children froze to death last year in Afghanistan. And people don’t have jobs, they don’t have bread. There are many, many millions of people in Afghanistan whose needs haven’t been met while the U.S. spends two billion per week on its military.

— *Kathy Kelly, Uprising Radio Interview, January 8, 2013*

Because of Welfare Rights Committee’s fierce battle at the State Capitol, the first increase for welfare since 1986 passed . . . However, the fact that it won’t help a single person for two years is an outrage. While it is an acknowledgement that the cash MFIP grants that poor families get doesn’t even come close to covering rent, it actively condemns kids to homelessness for another two years.

— *Welfare Rights Committee, Minnesota, May 17, 2013*

## Because We Can

We've got five, maybe ten years to clean up these old Soviet surrogate regimes like Iraq and Syria before the next super-power emerges to challenge us.

— attributed to Paul Wolfowitz in 1991 by Wesley Clark, former NATO Allied Supreme Commander, when Wolfowitz was working on defense policy at the Pentagon. (Page 150. A Time to Lead: For Duty, Honor and Country. Wesley K. Clark. Palgrave Macmillan 2007 New York, New York)

## Blocked Arteries

The United States and the European Union, in particular, have enacted measures that have affected the Iranian energy sector more profoundly than any previously enacted sanctions. These sanctions have prompted a number of cancellations of upstream projects and have resulted in declining oil production capacity.

— Country Analysis Brief: Iran Overview, Release date: March/April 2013. U.S. Energy Information Administration

## No Power to the People?

Development of the offshore South Pars field is of vital importance to Iran, both politically and economically. Natural gas production from South Pars is critical to meet increasing domestic consumption and to meet Iran's current and future export obligations.

While Iran is a net exporter of electricity, increasing domestic demand has created supply shortfalls during times of peak energy demand.

— Country Analysis: Iran, March 28, 2013, U.S. Energy Information Administration

*Vast reserves of natural gas lie in the Pars Fields in the Persian Gulf, an area split between Qatar and Iran.*

## Syria,

*continued from page 2*

several countries, and the accounts of rebel commanders.”

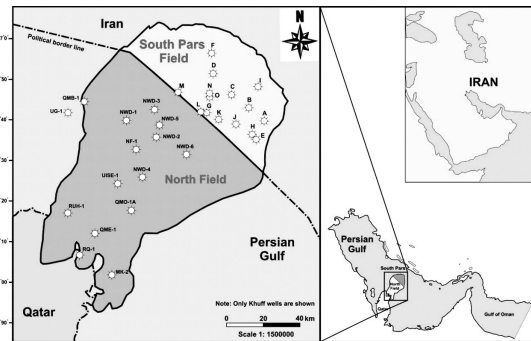
By June, the U.S. leadership was openly discussing adding more fuel to the fire. Aside from what it had been doing with its NATO partners and allies, backing the various groups fighting the Syrian state and supporting a new government-in-waiting outside Syria, it sent Patriot missile batteries, F-16 fighter jets, and troops for joint military exercises along the Syrian border in neighboring Jordan. On June 21, the *Los Angeles Times* reported that since last November, U.S. Special Op teams had already been training rebels on heavy weaponry.

But supporting the “rebels” is problematic for the U.S. in a rapidly escalating low-intensity war. Rebel forces include jihadists like Al-Qaeda-related Al Nusra groups, which are on the U.S. terrorist list—which begs the question: weren't we supposed to be in a war against terrorists, and just who has been instigating and executing these plans for “regime change”?<sup>10</sup>

Independent journalists and observers have long been maintaining that Libya's murderous “rebels” went to Syria and brought weapons with them. On June 23, the *New York Times* reported on Al Qaeda-aligned fighters acquiring these weapons. Is the U.S., itself, engaged in what it calls “material support for terrorism”?

When the rebels appeared to be defeated in key areas and the violence was subsiding, Secretary of State John Kerry said that the U.S. would be sending more weapons. This action comes at the time we are expecting to hold peace talks in Geneva in August to stabilize the country, calling to mind what Einstein said: “You can't simultaneously prevent and prepare for war.”

And the U.S. knows it. In anticipation of the Geneva II peace conference, if the conference even takes place, the U.S. is stacking the deck.



The Obama administration has announced that the conference will be delayed till August to strengthen the position of the rebels, in the hopes of weakening the current Syrian government and handing Syria over to the opposition.

In the meantime, authentic peacemakers are attempting to end the violence. The Musalaha Reconciliation Movement, a nonpolitical movement from all sections of Syrian society invited Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Mairead Maguire to Syria. Leading a delegation from eight countries, she met with refugees in camps, affected communities, religious leaders, combatants, government representatives, and opposition delegates and said that “an appeal to end all violence and for Syrians to be left alone without outside interference was made by all those we met during our visit to Syria.” The delegation also called for the lifting of U.S.-led economic sanctions “that target the Syrian population for purely political reasons in order to achieve regime change.”

She concluded the message with a request that in Syria we “strive to establish a nonwar zone and proclaim an Oasis of Peace for the Human Family.”<sup>11</sup>

Even former U.S. national security advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski warned that U.S. military intervention in Syria now will only make matters worse.<sup>12</sup> And he is renowned as the geostrategist who called for American primacy on the “Grand Chessboard.”

*Mary Beaudoin is the editor of the Women Against Military Madness newsletter.*

## Endnotes

- 1 Interview with the magazine *Geopolitika*, December 10, 2012. In 2005, Thierry Meyssan organized an Axis for Peace conference to counter neocon plans for the Axis of Evil. He is the founder of Voltaire Network of independent media and international relations analysis.
- 2 Engdahl, F. William. October 12, 2012. “Syria, Turkey, Israel and a Greater Middle East Energy War,” *Voltaire Network*. [voltairenet.org](http://voltairenet.org)
- 3 Minin, Dmitry. May 31, 2013. “The Geopolitics of Gas and the Syrian Crisis.” Strategic Culture Foundation online journal. [www.strategic-culture.org](http://www.strategic-culture.org)
- 4 U.S. Geological Survey Fact Sheet 2010-3014
- 5 Macdonald, Anna. May 31, 2013. “Syria arms embargo. Why more weapons to Syria is a mistake.” Special to CNN [www.cnn.com/2013/05/30/opinion](http://www.cnn.com/2013/05/30/opinion)

*Endnotes continued on page 11*



# Fair Food Now!

by Anne Winkler-Morey

As the plane sinks below the clouds on a flight to Fort Myers, its windows reveal a sea of black: flat, uninterrupted rows divided by ditches of blue stretching into the horizon. These farms are a secret to most of the millions who vacation in Southwest Florida, and are beyond the radar of many who reside here. But eight months of the year 100,000 farm workers turn Florida dirt into gold, planting and harvesting winter vegetables, including the lion's share of this country's fast food and grocery store tomatoes.

I'm flying to South Florida to participate in a two-week, 200-mile walk (March 2-15, 2013) for the rights of the farm workers who pick these tomatoes. The march is sponsored by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW). The Coalition and its allies have been working for three decades to end endemic abuses in the fields. They have uncovered numerous cases of unpaid and forced labor and slave-like conditions. Workers are paid a piece-rate poverty wage. Often they are denied access to shade, water, health care for work-related illness, and a way to redress grievances. A common grievance for women is sexual harassment.

For the first few years the CIW negotiated with Florida growers to bring wages back up to 1980s levels. In 1999, the CIW came up with a novel strategy, enlisting the growers as allies in a combined effort to demand a premium from large-scale tomato buyers that would go directly to farmworkers. This "Fair Food" campaign involved a two-pronged approach:

1. One penny more per pound, paid by the buyer—a calculus that amounts to almost doubling annual wages for most workers.

2. The establishment of workplace human rights standards aimed to end abuses like forced overtime, the right not to have to overfill one's bucket, and the right to complain about abuses without retribution. Signers of the Fair Food agreement also agreed not to buy from errant growers.

The Fair Food campaign represents a realization that the biggest profiteers in the agribusiness equation are the fast food and grocery chains whose wealth is built on the backs of farm workers. The campaign began with a boycott of Taco Bell—successful after four years. College students in Student Farm Worker Alliance chapters on campuses across the nation played a large role in the success of this boycott. Since the Taco Bell success, 10 other companies were targeted and, one by one, they signed on, including McDonald's, Burger King, Chipotle, and the grocery store chains Whole Foods and Trader Joe's.

The Coalition is now focused on the Florida grocery chain Publix and the fast food chain Wendy's. Publix is a giant in the South with 1,069 stores and sales of \$27.5 billion in 2012, according to its website. As Bernice Powell, North American president of World Council of Churches, put it, Publix is big enough to hold up or bring down the feudal agribusiness practices that have existed in Florida since slavery. CIW organizers agree: Publix is key to capturing the entire South Florida tomato market.

The Wendy's campaign engages activists nationally. On May 18 they gathered in New York to confront stockholders. All over the country activists are leafleting Wendy's,

*continued on page 6*



*Photos: Jacques-Jean Tiziou*

*The farm worker exclusion to the 1935 National Labor Relations Act is still in place and is strengthened by a punitive immigration system. Marchers want increased wages, dignity and justice.*

**Take Action Tools**

The Coalition of Imolakee Workers (CIW) is very user friendly and provides many actions you can take to help end exploitation and raise awareness of modern-day slavery in the fields. Take action includes the Fair Food Campaign with downloadable letters and emails to supermarket industry leaders, print and multimedia tools, free educational DVDs and organizing packets with fact sheets, stickers, postcards and more. [www.ciw-online.org](http://www.ciw-online.org)



*If large-scale tomato buyers paid one more penny per pound it would amount to almost doubling the wages of the poorly paid field workers.*

*Photos: Jacques-Jean Tiziou*



**Fair Food,**  
*continued from page 5*

educating customers and petitioning local franchise owners. Last winter several of us turned customers away from the restaurant on Lake Street and Minnehaha in Minneapolis. The Wendy's campaign will continue until the fast food chain signs the Fair Food Agreement.

\* \* \*

The members of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers are from Haiti, Mexico, and, primarily, Guatemala. The Guatemalans bring to South Florida memories of civil war and U.S. intervention on the side of brutal dictators, and the superb organizing skills they developed as a result. Because Guatemala is a land of dozens of indigenous nations, CIW members also bring their experience of working cross-culturally and in several languages.

In March of 2013, as the former Guatemalan dictator José Efraín Ríos Montt faced charges of crimes against humanity, some of the survivors of his regime of terror were marching in South Florida pronouncing a "New Day" for farm workers.

For fourteen days we marched, two by two, shouting, singing, chanting, dancing down the highways and byways of South Florida, following a flatbed truck with a sound system blasting Latino favorites and Aretha Franklin. Live musicians serenaded us with janeras, the small banjo-like instrument that accompanies soulful singing popular in Mexico and the Latino United States. For much of the march we followed Highway 41, taking a lane, slowing traffic, walking behind a police escort. Young super-humans among us ran the whole course, zigzagging to leaflet every person that emerged from a car or building. We discovered that 15 to 18 miles of marching in a day is possible, even for those of us who are not superhuman, if the music is lively and the speeches inspiring.

Music brought people out of their homes and stores to see what was happening. We carried placards in the shape of tomatoes and bushel baskets, with the words "One more penny! Dignity!" and "Publix Profits from Farmworker Poverty," and waved bright yellow flags that proclaimed a "New Day for Farm Workers." In between songs the organizers on the truck spoke through a mike that could be heard for a couple of blocks: "Good Morning, Port Charlotte,"

"Good afternoon, Sarasota," "Hello, Tampa!" "We are headed to Lakeland to tell Publix to come to the table and sign the Fair Food agreement. Join us! Honk for justice! You can do it!"

Those who ventured out of their homes, gas stations, bars, beauty parlors, and Publix grocery stores lifted cell phones and tablets to record the parade. They were witnessing something extraordinary in this "Right-to-Work" state: a forceful, disciplined display of united labor strength by some of the nation's lowest wage workers and their allies.

The organization of this march was supreme. The South Florida NAACP, and 45 local Unitarian, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Catholic churches provided food and water breaks and floors for our sleeping bags. Students at Florida State University provided a meal. Other entities, including retreat centers, private schools, and a YMCA provided showers. March participants were divided into "families" to take on housekeeping tasks. Two hundred backpacks and suitcases needed to be loaded and unloaded from U-Hauls each morning and evening. A school bus driver transported us from the march sites to our sleeping floor, every night. One woman got up at 5:00 a.m. every morning to get the coffeepots going. Four people did laundry for the whole group every three days. An activist from Tucson, who performs emergency medical care with No More Deaths/No Mas Muertos, (an organization that serves immigrants walking across the Arizona desert), provided foot care at every stop to a line of patients that grew with each passing day.

On the sixth day we marched into Sarasota, pausing for a 30-minute picket line at a Publix. Our group swelled as local church and student groups and passersby joined us. Our circle covered two blocks. On the 11th day we walked over a bridge with a view of downtown Tampa, the largest city on the trip. Again our numbers multiplied as we gathered at a local Publix for a candlelight vigil and Light Brigade.

To a marcher, these infusions of support were heady. When buses and vans from Boston, New York, Washington, D.C, Nashville, Denver, Cincinnati, San Diego, and Minneapolis joined us for the final weekend it felt as though we had to overcome. On the morning of the 17th, when we gathered at a Publix in Lakeland to begin our final day, I got the feeling the Publix personnel could feel it too: Marchers arrived in groups of four and five, 10 and 20, a seemingly endless parade of food-justice organizers, small

*continued on page 7*



**Fair Food,**  
*continued from page 6*

farmers, UNITE HERE members, immigration rights activists, and consumers who crave the taste of justice. When we covered the sidewalk of the Southside Mall, taking to the streets in groups of three, it seemed as though our numbers could only keep growing.

\* \* \*

Social justice and success for the Coalition of Immokalee Workers is not just measured in winning signers to an agreement, but also in building coalitions for the long term.

After all, the plantation economy has been with us for a long time now. It was bolstered by post-Civil War sharecrop and tenant farming systems, and protected by the still-in-place farmworker exclusion to the 1935 National Labor Relations Act. (The NLRA codified in law the right of workers to organize unions, collectively bargain and strike. In response to the pressure from Southern lawmakers, domestic and farm workers, who then were primarily black, were excluded. In California the United Farm Workers successfully lobbied for a Farmworker NLRA, but it only covers that state.) The plantation economy is strengthened in the 21st century by an immigration system that criminalizes undocumented farmworkers who make up about 50 percent of the annual workforce, and a guest-worker system that creates a second-class labor force with workers who can not organize, settle where they work and live with loved ones, or change employers, a system that encourages abuse. (In the current immigration reform debate, farmworkers' advocates are calling for legalization, while employer advocates are pushing for the

expansion of the guest-worker program.) With each new Fair Food signature the old plantation system undergirding modern U.S. agribusiness loses strength.

As we head back to Minnesota, the plane is filled with Twins fans, in Fort Myers during spring training to support their team as they prepare for a new season. The Coalition of Immokalee Workers is also preparing for a new season, one with dignity and justice for farmworkers—go, team!

Twin Cities activists are planning a full schedule actions this summer targeting Wendy's, including weekly pickets at the Lake and 26th street Wendy's, a run/ walk and a bike ride from one Wendy's to the others, and cultural events, on the last Saturday of each summer month. **For questions and to get on the list for upcoming events: email Anne at [wink1002@umn.edu](mailto:wink1002@umn.edu)**

*Anne Winkler-Morey participated in the March for Rights, Respect and Fair Food, marching 11 days and 166 miles. She teaches ethnic studies and history at Metro State University.*



## Join in Lively Summertime Actions with WAMM: GROUND ALL DRONES

**Saturday, August 3:** Distribute “NO DRONES” stickers at area art fairs: Powderhorn Park and Loring Park. Final organizing at Aug. 1 meeting.

**Saturday, August 24:** Table at Ground All Drones stickers and literature, Midtown Farmers' Market, Lake Street at Hiawatha Ave., Minneapolis. Take photos at “Another Child for Peace” picture booth.

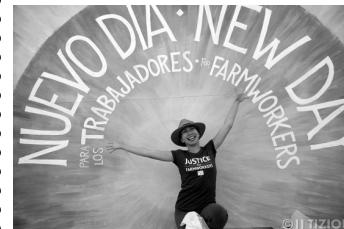
**Sat./Sun., September 28/29:** Participate in drone conference, demonstration in Chicago.

**Also:** Check the WAMM Ground All Drones blog for insightful articles: <http://groundalldrone.blogspot.com/> Can you suggest an organization or congregation where our “Drones 101” program could be presented? Let us know! Call the WAMM office at 612-827-5364.

## ACTION

### Weekly Wendy's Pickets and Other Events

Interested in participating? To obtain a list of events and have your questions answered: email Anne Winkler-Morey at [wink1002@umn.edu](mailto:wink1002@umn.edu)



Music sustained the marchers on the 200-mile walk through South Florida. Future actions will be sustained by the momentum of this march.

Photos: Jacques-Jean Tiziou

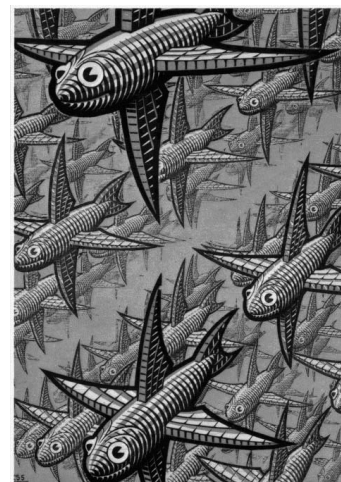


Image: Dutch graphic artist M.C. Escher

## It's Torture

The Declaration of Malta states that "Forcible feeding [of mentally competent hunger strikers] is never ethically acceptable. Even if intended to benefit, feeding accompanied by threats, coercion, force or use of physical restraints is a form of inhuman and degrading treatment."

—Department of Health Law, Bioethics, and Human Rights, Boston University School of Public Health, and the Department of Medicine, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, June 12, 2013. *New England Journal of Medicine*

# Guantánamo and Strange Associations

by Patty Guerrero

Everyone knows about Guantánamo. Everyone knows about the hunger strikes.

Everyone knows that President Obama has said, twice now, that he wants to close Guantánamo.

So, where are we now in this absurdity?

Well, Guantánamo is still open and there are still 166 prisoners, with over 100 on a hunger strike, and at least 40 are being force-fed. They would rather die than remain in this state of humiliation and suffering. Eighty-six were cleared for release long ago, but does anyone care?

Why won't President Obama make the call to end force-feeding? This is what one person said in his comment on an article about this form of torture: "Because then he'd have to let them die, or let them go. He'd rather not make those choices. One would bring down his own supporters on him in a whole new way, and the other would be a Willie Horton type extravaganza for the Republicans. He is afraid to make this choice. That is cowardly and wrong but those are his reasons. He's our President. He wanted the job. That means he has to make these hard calls and take the consequences. He has to trust the American people for better or worse."

These men are human beings and have suffered immeasurably.

Another quote, by M. Cherif Bassiouni, emeritus professor of law, DePaul University College of Law:

The question of torture is not something abstract, it is an international crime under U.S. law for which all perpetrators are subject to prosecution and, if found guilty, to punishment, including those medical personnel who participate in such acts (which is also a violation of their Hippocratic Oath and in violation of the "Nuremberg principles"). All such concerned persons should know that obedience to superior orders is not a defense when the order is manifestly unlawful.

The time to stop these illegal practices has long been upon us, the political will of a few has overcome the good will of the many in this country. All legal avenues through U.S. courts seem to be blocked, for the moment.

The men in Guantánamo have suffered for many years—some have died by their own hands, and some have been murdered. One man, Shaker Aamer, 47 years old and father of four, the youngest of whom he has never seen, has said that he is losing his mind and losing his life inside the high-security prison. He has been there for 11 years and was cleared for release in 2007. He quotes George Orwell: "The system is for the system, the torture is for the torture." And, he asks, "Is Obama a man of his word or is he a liar? How does he want to be judged?"

Apparently the Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid Society and Hennepin County Lawyers Association are not worried about being judged. They invited Condoleezza Rice, national security advisor and secretary of state for George W. Bush as their "honored" guest for their annual fundraiser on May 23. She spoke on the topic, "Why Democracy Matters." Pulleeze! (Dick Cheney was also in Minneapolis recently as the "honored" guest speaking at a meeting of a professional medical organization, the American Association for

*continued on page 9*



*Activists posed as Guantamo prisoners outside the Minneapolis Convention Center when Dick Cheney was honored as a guest speaker at the American Thoracic Surgeons meeting.*



Thoracic Surgery.) No one has been able to figure out this invitation to Ms. Rice, since if not for her (and Cheney), there probably would not even be any hunger strikers, let alone a Guantánamo. Do the Legal Aid and the Hennepin County Lawyers people think Ms. Rice's shameful legacy is something that can be ignored in the name of fundraising? Are these people forgetting why they became lawyers in the first place?

One member of Hennepin County Lawyers Association has stated that he admires Ms. Rice for what she did during her time as Secretary of State. But, then he said "I believe in redemption." Redemption for whom? The detainees, some of whom never even did anything? Maybe he believes Rice, et al, are redeemable? Well, maybe they are.

Tackling Torture at the Top (T3), a committee of WAMM, was at both of the occasions, protesting, but the shows went on. At the Condi protest we passed out letters that the attendees could send to any of the prisoners—all 166 names and the address at Guantánamo. Many of the attendees were happy to take the handouts, and many snubbed their noses. But



Protest signs at Condoleeza Rice event

at least we were there to tell people that their guest for the evening is a war criminal and to point out the irony of law associations that have seemingly forgotten about a war that caused many deaths and cost at least three trillion dollars.

*Patty Guerrero is an active member of the Tackling Torture at the Top (T3) Committee of Women Against Military Madness, as well as the WAMM Newsletter Committee.*

## The Law Violates Us

Presidential orders put in place by Bush and continued by Obama are reviewed every 45 days and are what gives the White House authority to use surveillance and force against Americans. Below are excerpts from an article that give a little information about the legal state of emergency orders under which we live.

The United States has been in a declared state of emergency from September 2001, to the present. Specifically, on September 11, 2001, the government declared a state of emergency. That declared state of emergency was formally put in writing on 9/14/2001 . . . In 2007, President Bush issued Presidential Directive NSPD-51, which purported to change Continuity of Government plans. It was passed without Congressional input.

The *New York Times* wrote in an editorial: Beyond cases of actual insurrection, the President may now use military troops as a domestic police force in response to a natural disaster, a disease outbreak, terrorist attack, or to

by Linda Hoover, WAMM

any 'other condition.' Changes of this magnitude should be made only after a thorough public airing. But these new Presidential powers were slipped into the law without hearings or public debate.

The declared state of emergency has continued in full force and effect from 9/11 to the present. President Bush kept it in place, and President Obama has also.

Information about what President Obama is doing when he renews the orders is not made readily available.

For an analysis of the process and the implications of these state of emergency orders for the peace movement and other Americans who may be concerned (and that should include everyone), see "State of Emergency and Continuity of Government: What is the Real Reason the Government is Spying on Us?" *Washington Blog*, Centre for Research on Globalization ([globalresearch.ca](http://globalresearch.ca))

### • First Do No Harm

• Physicians at Guantánamo cannot permit the military to use them and their medical skills for political purposes and still comply with their ethical obligations. Force-feeding a competent person is not the practice of medicine; it is aggravated assault.

• —Department of Health Law, Bioethics, and Human Rights, Boston University School of Public Health, and the Department of Medicine, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, June 12, 2013, *New England Journal of Medicine*

### • Honesty is Not the Policy

• Before the Freedom of Information Act, I used to say at meetings, 'The illegal we do immediately; the unconstitutional takes a little longer.'

• —Secretary of State and National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger, 1975. From Unredacted, the National Security Archive Unedited and Uncensored, an independent research institute and library, George Washington University, <http://nsarchive.wordpress.com>

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### • Herbs from Basil to Real French Tarragon

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

# July 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, 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

**Grandmothers for Peace Vigils** 50th St. and Halifax (1 block w. of France) 4:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. FFI: Marian Wright, 612-927-7607

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 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](mailto: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, NOTE: Time change: 4:30 to 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](mailto: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 4200 Cedar 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](http://stopfbi.net) and [mnStopFBI.wordpress.com](http://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 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](http://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](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: [www.mepn.org](http://www.mepn.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](mailto:interfaithonimmigration@gmail.com)

## Special Events

**Free Bradley Manning Weekly Walking Vigil:** Every Tuesday, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. during his court-martial (expected all summer). Meet in park at corner of Main Street SE (River Place) and E. Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis. Approx. two mile walk, slow pace, pleasant scenery. Bring signs you can wear or easily carry. Sponsored by: Free Bradley Manning Minneapolis. FFI: [freebradmpls@gmail.com](mailto:freebradmpls@gmail.com), [www.facebook.com/freebradmpls](http://www.facebook.com/freebradmpls) Endorsed by: Tackling Torture at the Top (T3), a committee of WAMM.

## Events for the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War

**North Korea with Roy Wolff.** Wednesday, July 24. People of Faith Peacemakers. 8:15 a.m. African Development Center, Riverside and 20th

Ave., Minneapolis. Part of an Axis of Evil, "rogue" nation, a Communist problem-state led by a crazy dictator? Is it possible that the tensions North Korea presents are rooted in the behavior and attitudes of a much more problematic empire (guess who)? Roy Wolff, U.S. Army veteran of the "Korean Conflict" of the 1950s, attended peace conferences in South and North Korea. Active in Veterans For Peace, he guides a process that can illuminate the reality regarding North Korea, while urging action leading to de-escalation of the current tensions and eventual reunification of South and North Korea. FFI: 763-784-5177

### Are We Still at War with Korea?

Saturday, July 27, 9:30 a.m. Light breakfast snacks, coffee. 10:00 a.m. Program. Macalester Plymouth United Church, 1658 Lincoln Ave., St. Paul. Public Forum on Korea. Sixty Years after the Korean War. Speakers: Appearing live: Stan Smith, peace activist from Chicago who visited North Korea in March. Via Skype: Christine Ahn, co-founder of the Korea Policy Institute who has participated in and led several delegations to North Korea. Sponsored by Korea Forum Committee; co-sponsored by local Twin Cities peace groups. See announcement back page. FFI: 612-827-5634

**Veterans for Peace 28th Annual Convention "Power to the Peaceful."** Tuesday, August 6 to Sunday, August 11. The Madison Concourse Hotel & Governor's Club, Madison, Wisconsin. Workshops and more. Keynote speakers: Kathy Kelly, Nick Turse, Diane Wilson, S. Brian Wilson. FFI: Email: [vfp@veteransforpeace.org](mailto:vfp@veteransforpeace.org) or phone: 314-725-6005

*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).*



## 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

### Issues Committees:

- 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

### Administrative and Other Committees:

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

### WAMM Board

- Meredith Aby
- Marie Braun, Treasurer
- Terry Burke (*on leave of absence since August 2012*)
- Polly Mann
- Sarah Martin
- Sue Ann Martinson
- JoAnn Maus
- Brigid McDonald
- BethAnne Nelson
- Coleen Rowley
- Margaret Sarfehjooy
- Lucia Wilkes Smith Secretary
- Sharon Rice Vaughan Co-Chair
- Carol Walker Co-Chair

## Media/WAMM Today Blog/Peace Troupe Needs You!

Interested in media issues and ideas? Want to help plan and promote programs around corporate media credibility, independent and social media, and media reform? The Media Committee keeps informed about and is active in current media issues such as internet access and internet freedom from surveillance, and sponsors educational panels on the media. The WAMM Media Committee is the creator of the blog, WAMM Today. It posts include news, stories, and perceptive views on current events and media issues, and up-to-date commentary from progressive news sources, as well as original articles by WAMM members.

The committee also formed the WAMM Peace Troupe, engaging people in conversations at Twin Cities events and in downtown Minneapolis. It films them for the WAMMMall "people on the street" videos posted on YouTube. New committee members are always welcome.

**Meetings:** Day and time varies. **Location:** Varies.

Interested? **Contact:** WAMM office at 612-827-5364 or email [wammmedia@gmail.com](mailto:wammmedia@gmail.com).

### Syria,

*continued from page 4*

- 6 Prepared by The Institute for Advanced Strategic and Political Studies. 1996. Pdf. of original document can be seen at: <http://www.israeleconomy.org/strat1.htm>
- 7 Hersch, Seymour M., March 5, 2007. "Annals of National Security. The Redirection. Is The Administration's new policy benefitting our enemies in the war on terrorism?" <http://www.newyorker.com>
- 8 Ibid footnote 7
- 9 U.S. Energy Information Agency: Independent Statistics & Analysis. Country Overview: Syria. February 20, 2013 [www.eia.gov/countries](http://www.eia.gov/countries)
- 10 For an analysis of the history up through the present, see: Chossoudovsky, Michel. June 19, 2013. "Fighting Al Qaeda by Supporting Al Qaeda in Syria." Global Research [globalresearch.com](http://globalresearch.com) Also Ibid 7.
- 11 Maguire, Mairead. May 11, 2013. "Report and Appeal to the International community to support a process of dialogue and reconciliation in Syria between its people and the Syrian government and reject outside intervention and war." The Peace People [peacepeople.com](http://peacepeople.com)
- 12 Brzezinski, Zbigniew. "Syria: Intervention Will Only Make It Worse," May 8, 2013. *TIME Magazine*

## WAMM THANKS

Linda R. Carlson in memory of Connie Fuller

## WAMM THANKS

Seward Community Co-op for the \$30 gift certificate for bananas and granola bars for participants of the Walk Against Weapons

**Correction:** The correct email address for Save JeJun Now is: [www.savejejunow.org](http://www.savejejunow.org)



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GROWS SUBTLE,  
DESIGNED TO DECEIVE  
AND BEFUDDLE.  
SO LET'S LET THE  
SUMMER SUN  
SHINE ITS LIGHT  
ON EVERYONE.**

## **Is the Korean War Really Over?**

*Sixty years after it ended, why does  
the threat of a new war hang over Korea?*

**Saturday, July 27 • Macalester Plymouth United Church, 1658 Lincoln Ave., St. Paul**

9:30 a.m. Korean breakfast treats, morning beverages

10:00 a.m. performance by Korean Drum Group, followed by Speakers

What is the role of the U.S. in Korea today? Is there a danger of a new Korean war? Why are the North Korea and its leaders so demonized in the U.S.? Hear knowledgeable speakers address these and other issues related to the ongoing, dangerous tensions.

**Speakers:**

**Christine Ahn, via Skype**

Co-founder of the Korea Policy Institute, Ms. Ahn has led delegations to North Korea.

**Stan Smith, appearing live**

A peace activist who recently visited North Korea in March 2013.

Sponsored by the July 27 Korea Forum Committee of local Twin Cities peace organizations.

**For more information: call W.A.M.M. at 612-827-5364.**