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Women Against Military Madness

Big problems can develop when there are revolving doors and close collaborations between government officials, think tanks and NGOs representing human rights.

Are Human Rights Becoming a Tool of U.S. “Smart Power”?

by Coleen Rowley

Some nonpartisan commentators finally recognize that current US foreign policy continues to escalate militarily as though on steroids. It has become evident that use of deadly force by a U.S.-dominated NATO is not only outside the parameters of international and constitutional law, but also in some cases outside basic legal principles that have stood the test of time not only for decades, but for centuries. One explanation, however, for why American civil society, in general, has not pushed back is the “better rhetoric” now being used to sell war.

What is this better rhetoric and newly minted impetus for U.S.-NATO’s same dumb (actually insane) war agenda, what used to be blurted out as “We must bomb the village to save it”? Constantly flitting through the revolving doors of their official appointments, foreign-policy think tanks and directorships of “human rights” organizations, proponents of “Smart Power” make their compelling case for more (endless) war in successfully urging us to “recast the fight against terror and nuclear proliferation . . . from a dark, draining struggle into a *hopeful, progressive cause* aimed at securing an international system of liberal societies and defeating challenges to it.”

David Swanson, author of *War Is a Lie*, speaking at the 10th annual Peacestock gathering, sponsored by Veterans for Peace in Hager City, Wisconsin, this summer, commented while dissecting the newest “progressive-led” war propaganda: “That wars must be marketed as humanitarian is a sign of progress. That we fall for it is a sign of embarrassing weakness. The war propagandist is the world’s second oldest profession, and the humanitarian lie is not entirely new. But it works in concert with other common war lies. . . .”¹

Lies about war, in humanitarian disguise, were clearly evident in Chicago last March. Peace



Black Angel painting by Brom

Science Fiction and Fantasy genres have spawned images of The New Woman equipped with lethal weapons, ready for battle. Is it any wonder when the development of electronic games is connected to military simulation, recruitment and training?

activist Ann Wright (a former Foreign Service State Department official and retired U.S. Army colonel); Ann Galloway, a member of Women Against Military Madness, and myself were among the thousands of antiwar activists who were in Chicago for the protest of NATO wars. There we noticed, in billboards and announcements, the new campaign of Amnesty International-USA: “Human Rights for Women and Girls in Afghanistan—NATO: Keep the Progress Going.”

Unwilling to let this go unchallenged, we packed

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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.



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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**New re-designed
WAMM website:
www.worldwidewamm.org**

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into a taxi along with a few other antiwar activists, to head to the Chicago hotel where AI-USA's "Shadow Summit" was being held—a conference billed as a feminist cause regarding the supposed improved status of women and children under U.S.-NATO occupation. The summit featured former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, and other U.S. State Department officials and Council on Foreign Relations figures. We weren't allowed to carry in our "NATO bombs are not humanitarian," "NATO Kills Girls," and anti-drone bombing posters that we had with us for the protest march later that day, but we did witness enough of the event to prompt Ann Wright and me to issue a warning about the exploitation of women's rights as a cover for war: "Amnesty's Shilling for U.S. Wars."²

The United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC) later issued a *Statement on NATO Claim of "Progress" for Women and Girls in Afghanistan*, as well as a *Statement Condemning Amnesty International USA's Campaigns in Support of U.S./NATO Wars*. UNAC condemned Amnesty's pro-war stance and propaganda efforts supporting continued occupation in Afghanistan and intervention in Syria, and asked for Amnesty to reaffirm its commitment to human rights, not war, and remove those responsible for their current pro-war policies and campaigns.

Human rights seen as a "tool" of U.S. "Smart Power": Suzanne Nossel, the current executive director of Amnesty-USA, previously worked at different times as a State Department official for Richard Holbrooke and Hillary Clinton and is personally credited with having coined the term "Smart Power," which Clinton announced as the defining feature of current U.S. foreign policy. "Smart" indeed—certainly better-sounding—to project a contrast with the formerly unabashed Bush-Cheney reliance on "Hard Power." "Smart Power" employs "Soft Power:" diplomatic, economic, and cultural pressures, which can be combined with military force, to "work our will" upon foreign nations, as described by Nossel:

To advance from a nuanced dissent to a compelling vision, progressive policymakers should turn to the great mainstay of twentieth-century U.S. foreign policy: liberal internationalism, which posits that a global system of stable liberal democracies would be less prone to war...

Washington, the theory goes, should thus offer assertive leadership—diplomatic, economic, and not least, military—to advance a broad array of goals: self-determination, human rights, free trade, the rule of law, economic development, and

the quarantine and elimination of dictators and weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

Even more relevant to the issue of human rights and peace and justice organizations being co-opted, however, Nossel also described Smart Power, in *Foreign Affairs* magazine, March/April 2004, as "knowing that the United States' own hand is not always its best tool: U.S. interests are furthered by enlisting others on behalf of U.S. goals."³

The question that emerges is, how could otherwise highly effective human rights organizations, respected for their good work largely because of their independence from powerful, self-interested governments, so easily fall into being used as tools of what Nossel once referred to as U.S. "Superpowerdom"? When Amnesty-USA invited Madeleine Albright and other State Department officials to speak at its NATO women's forum, it was not the first time it had reached out to the architect of harsh economic sanctions—and the deaths of a half million Iraqi children. Shortly after becoming executive director of AI-USA in January 2012, Suzanne Nossel moderated a panel at Wellesley College, during which she goaded fellow panelist Madeleine Albright as follows:

Now as the head of Amnesty International-USA, one point of great frustration and consternation for human rights organizations and civil society organizations over the last eight or nine months has been the failure of the UN Security Council to address, in any way, the deaths of now five thousand civilians in Syria at the hands of President Assad and his military. Last spring the Security Council managed to forge a majority for forceful action in Libya and it was initially very controversial, [causing] many misgivings among key Security Council members. But Gaddafi fell, there's been a transition there and I think one would have thought those misgivings would have died down. And yet we've seen just a continued impasse over Syria and a real, almost return to cold war days and paralysis in the Security Council. How do you explain that and what do you think is the missing ingredient to break that logjam and get the Security Council to live up to its responsibilities on Syria?⁴

Even the savvy Madeleine Albright seemed genuinely taken aback by the Amnesty director's push for a U.S.-NATO Libya-like intervention in Syria. Albright and the other speaker responded skeptically as to what could be achieved through bombing or military force. What shouldn't have been surprising, however, was Nossel's minimizing the thousands of NATO bombing sorties on

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Libya by calling them a “forceful action,” and her urging a potential UN Security Council authorization to do the same to Syria, referring to this as “living up to its responsibilities.” She was already on record, in her prior think-tank capacity, lamenting that failure in Iraq might mean Americans would lose their “willingness to use military force—Iraq as a failed state is likely to herald an era of deep reservations among the U.S. public regarding the use of force—a kind of post-Vietnam, post-Mogadishu hangover.”⁵

Little skepticism, mostly just applause for “Responsibility to Protect” and “U.S. Atrocity Prevention Board”: Sadly, Amnesty is far from being the only human rights or peace and justice organization being misled in varying degrees by the U.S. State Department’s newly-minted “Responsibility to Protect (R2P)” doctrine—otherwise known as “humanitarian intervention”—and its newly created “Atrocity Prevention Board,” chaired by Samantha Power, one of the main architects of U.S.-NATO’s bombing of Libya.⁶ Human Rights Watch, Physicians for Human Rights,⁷ the Peace Alliance, Citizens for Global Solutions, Think Progress, and AVAAZ are just some of the groups that seem to have swallowed that particular Kool-Aid.

This is not entirely new, as neo-con war hawks years ago co-opted the various big “liberal” think tanks: Brookings; the U.S. Institute of Peace, the Carnegie Endowment for Peace; etc. NATO war hawks also hijacked the Nobel Peace Prize decades ago.⁸

Jean Bricmont noted in his book, *Humanitarian Imperialism: Using Human Rights to Sell War*:

Since the end of the Cold War, the idea of human rights has been made into a justification for intervention by the world’s leading economic and military powers—above all, the United States—in countries that are vulnerable to their attacks. The criteria for such intervention have become more arbitrary and self-serving, and their form more destructive, from Yugoslavia to Afghanistan to Iraq. Until the U.S. invasion of Iraq, [a] large part of the left was often complicit in this ideology of intervention—discovering new ‘Hitlers’ as the need arose, and denouncing antiwar arguments as appeasement on the model of Munich in 1938.⁹

In connection with his “groundbreaking critique of the troubling symbiosis between Washington and the human rights movement”: *Ideal Illusions: How the U.S. Government Co-opted Human Rights* author James Peck stated:

The war in Libya today, and calls for intervening in Syria tomorrow, epitomize a tragic development in the human rights and humanitarian ethos: War and various other kinds of overt and covert intervention are being *re-legitimized* through Washington’s human rights rhetoric. Libya tells us everything we should not be seeking to do in Syria and why humanitarian war is a monstrous illusion. The widespread support in the human rights community for all kinds of interference from ‘democratization,’ to ‘nation-building’ to promoting the ‘rule of law’ now risks blending into rationales for war itself. This is suggestive of nothing so much as a profound failure of the human rights community to expose how and why the U.S. government has fashioned human rights for over four decades into a potent ideological weapon for purposes having little to do with the rights of others—and everything to do with furthering Washington’s strategic objectives and global reach.¹⁰

Jus ad bellum (the right to go to war) is concerned with Just War theory, the Nuremberg Principles (crimes against peace), the 1928 Kellogg-Briand Treaty (outlawing war), and even, to some extent, the “Powell Doctrine” (evaluating reasons to go to war)—but its main proposition has been forgotten or ignored, especially since 9-11—that is, at a bare minimum, wars of aggression are the supreme crime because they give rise to blatant violations of the Geneva Convention and other international *jus in bello* crimes (committed while conducting war) such as spawning further wars, ethnic genocide, torture, human rights abuses, killing of prisoners, and targeting civilian populations.

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WORD UP!

Please note: Regarding Amnesty International-Twin Cities

We believe that the local Amnesty International-Twin Cities deserves your continued support as it operates independently of Amnesty International USA’s objectionable analyses and policy statements, and continues to perform its work for prisoner advocacy. WAMM co-sponsors some events with AI-Twin Cities, including protest against torture.

Regarding Other Human Rights Organization

Check with local chapters, national and international offices to see what their current policies are.



War is a Lie

Book by David Swanson
(David Swanson Publisher, 2010).
Challenges commonly held perceptions and refutes major arguments used to justify war. Can be used as a handbook in debunking future lies. Available at little more than cost. Paperback, Kindle, audio, online and in bulk. Accompanying youth study group on Facebook. Warisalie.org

End the War on Afghanistan NOW!

11 years since the start.
Sunday, October 7, 1:00 p.m.
 anti-war protest. Hennepin & Lagoon Avenues, Minneapolis. 1:30 p.m. March. Sponsored by Minnesota Peace Action Coalition. FFI: 612-522-1861 or 612-827-5364.

WAMM THANKS

In memory of

Bob Jones in memory of
 Lucretia Mott

Sylvia Johanneson in
 memory of Janet Helgen

Bob Jones in memory of
 Laura Ingalls

Sarah Martin in memory of
 Lois Swenson

Joyce Alwin in memory of
 Lois Swenson

Joyce Wallace in memory of
 Lois Swenson

Patty Guerrero in memory of
 Lois Swenson

Carol Walker in memory
 of Lois Swenson

Joseph and Marilyn Schmit in
 memory of Lois Swenson

In honor of:

Bob Brezinski in honor
 of Polly Mann

Mary Mengel in honor of
 Pedalstory

Elmer Zoff in honor of
 Sarah Martin

Gene and Patricia McHugh in
 honor of Marlys Weber

Carol, SuSu, Meredith, Anne,
 Mary, Jim and Harold for
 office move expenses

Photo: Greg Skog

**Women Who Don't Dwell
 in Fiction or Fantasy**
*Activists in peace and
 "War is a Lie" T-shirts. Chelsea
 Skog, Sue Skog, with Coleen
 Rowley, who wrote this article.*

Human Rights . . . *continued from page 3*

U.S. violations of both types of international law of war, as well as violations of its own constitution have, paradoxically, served to further erode whatever legitimate, pre-existing "Soft Power" it once possessed. America's "moral authority," its legitimate ability to educate, its leadership by example in pushing other countries to adhere to international law was quickly sacrificed by the deceitful means it used to launch the bombing of Iraq and Libya, as well as its institutionalizing an endless, ever-expansive "global war on terrorism."

If war is a lie generally, if institutional wars have historically been instigated, ratcheted up, waged, and later falsely ennobled through pretext and propaganda, if "Smart Power," "Responsibility to Protect" and "humanitarian intervention" serve as little but better rhetoric and therefore an effective guise to sell military force to American citizens as a "last resort," after having checked off diplomatic efforts (set up to fail) and harsh economic sanctions that starve civilians and kill children, doesn't it make sense for human rights and peace and justice groups *to renounce instead of embrace* attempts of powerful governments to use them as "tools" of such policies?

What would truly be smart and could reduce atrocities in the world would be for "nongovernmental" groups and organizations professing human rights and peace as their cause to regain their independence by disentangling themselves from U.S.-NATO national interest agendas and reliance on military force. Once that's accomplished, it might be easier for civil society to reverse direction away from the use of war and might-makes-right to what is actually smarter: the power of ethical and legal norms.



Coleen Rowley is a dedicated peace and justice activist and WAMM Board member. She is a former FBI special agent and renowned whistleblower who served as chief division counsel in Minneapolis. Her regular blog can be found on Huffington Post. <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/coleen-rowley>

- 1 "Abolishing War: One Last Step" talk given by David Swanson at Peacestock 2012
<http://davidswanson.org/node/3736> or see Videos Part 1 and 2 at: <http://vimeo.com/user11898489/videos>
- 2 <http://consortiumnews.com/2012/06/18/amnestys-shilling-for-us-wars/>
- 3 "A public relations pro, Nossel has constantly flitted back and forth through the revolving door, depending upon the party in power, between official State Department positions working at the UN as assistant to Richard Holbrooke and Hillary Clinton but also at different times working for Human Rights Watch, Bertelsmann Media Worldwide and the *Wall Street Journal* as well as being a senior fellow at the Century Foundation, the Center for American Progress and the Council on Foreign Relations."
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smart_power
- 4 <https://sites.google.com/a/wellesley.edu/albright-institute-2012/> (at 46 minutes)
- 5 Her other significant concerns were . . . U.S. military morale; and that America's image as a "superpower" would be tarnished: "The combined impact of Iraq's emergence as a failed state on America's image, military, credibility influence in the Middle East, and on our battles against terrorism and WMD will be profound. In both bilateral and multilateral relations, most countries' dealings with the U.S. are predicated on the idea that we are capable of accomplishing whatever we set out to do. That notion is so well understood that we rarely have to prove it. The prevalence of this belief has made it immeasurably easier to rally others behind our causes, thwart opposition and work our will. While failure in Iraq won't change that overnight, it will open a question about what superpowerdom means in an era of terrorism and insurgency." "Top 10 List: Consequences of Iraq Becoming a Failed State" by Suzanne Nossel
http://www.democracyarsenal.org/2005/08/top_10_list_10_.html

Joe Emersberger in "Debating Amnesty About Syria and Double Standards" notes in his recent correspondence with Amnesty-USA: "Before being hired by Amnesty, Nossel supported the U.S. invasion of Iraq and even three years after the illegal invasion of Iraq led to hundreds of thousands of deaths, advised the U.S. government that the 'military option cannot be off the table' in dealing with another 'menacing state'—namely Iran." <http://mrzine.monthlyreview.org/2012/emersberger060712.html>

Philip Weiss writes: "Former State Department official Suzanne Nossel triangulates Hillary, Madeleine,

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Silent Auction flyer goes here

August/September 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 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

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: Third Saturday of each month, 10:00 a.m. FFI and Location: Contact Suzy, 651-451-8627 or 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

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

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

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

Stop All Drones: For dates and location, call the WAMM office 612-827-5364.

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

Ongoing Events

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

People of Faith Peacemakers

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

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: www.creatingacultureofpeace.org

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 Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 285 North Dale Street, St. Paul. Meets to educate and discuss the events of 9/11/2001. FFI: www.mn911truth.org.

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

Special Events

WAMM's 28th Annual Silent Auction. Sunday, September 23, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. St Joan of Arc Church, 4537 Third Ave. So., Minneapolis. FFI: WAMM at 612-827-5364, or Kathy Hollander at 612-724-9425. See flyer page 6.

End the War on Afghanistan

NOW! 11 years since the start. Sunday, October 7. 1:00 p.m. anti-war protest. Hennepin & Lagoon Avenues, Minneapolis. 1:30 p.m. March. Sponsored by Minnesota Peace Action Coalition. FFI: 612-522-1861 or 612-827-5364.

2012 Vincent L. Hawkinson Award to Steve Clemens. Sunday, October 14, Time TBA, St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Roseville. The Vincent L. Hawkinson Foundation for Peace and Justice will award the 2012 Honorary Award to recognize a lifetime contribution to peace and justice. FFI: www.hawkinsonfoundation.org or call 612-331-8125.

Emergency Response to New or Escalating U.S. Military Intervention.

In the event of U.S. military intervention in Syria or Iran, a major escalation of the U.S. drone wars in Pakistan or Yemen, or military action in yet some other country, there will be a demonstration at the Federal Bldg in downtown Minneapolis at 3rd Avenue and 4th Street. It will be the same day at 4:30 p.m. if the announcement is made before noon—if made after noon it will be the next day at 4:30 p.m. Watch for an email announcement. Emergency Response Call Initiated by: the Minnesota Peace Action Coalition (MPAC). FFI: Call WAMM at 612-827-5364.

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.

Request: Ribbon Around the Pentagon.

The Minnesota Historical Society is interested in obtaining panels. Donate them to the Historical Society, please contact Gail at 612-721-5598 or iras@bitstream.net.

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.

PM Back to School: And the Golden Rule?

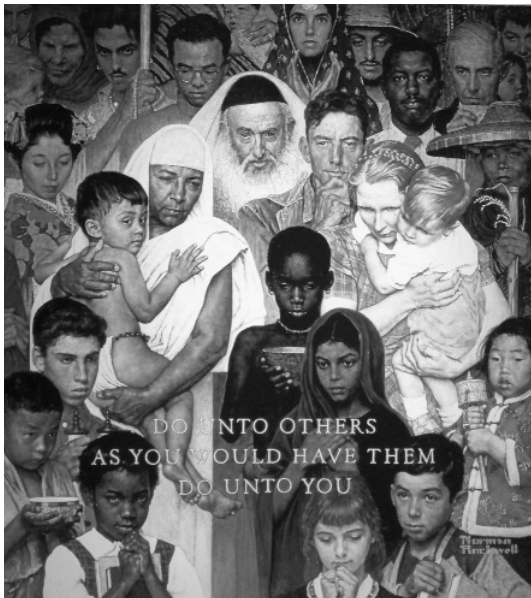
by Polly Mann

It looks like Mark Yudof, president of the University of California, has gone and done it again—while on university ground, attempted to forward his one-sided personal bias. Back when he was president of the University of Minnesota (1997-2002), his wife, Judy, and the general counsel of the University, Mark Rotenberg, planned to hold a fundraiser for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), which is one of the most powerful lobbying groups in the country. AIPAC not only promotes Israel's interests and the interests of other countries affecting the U.S.-Israel relationship around the world, it also provides free trips to Israel for members of the U.S. Congress. The Yudofs and Rotenberg could have done this as individuals, but they had planned to hold the fundraiser at the official residence of the university president—a big, beautiful white house on the Mississippi River. Holding the event on this university property would infer that they endorsed it as representatives of the university, and give the impression that the university itself endorsed it.

Upon reading this, we in Women Against Military Madness who opposed the U.S. support of Israeli military actions against Palestinians, requested that, in fairness, we also be allowed to hold a fundraiser in the presidential manor. Before we received notice that this would not be permitted, it was announced that the AIPAC fundraiser had been canceled. Whether or not WAMM's request had anything to do with that we'll never know.

The present situation in California is a bit different. President Yudof sent an open e-mail letter on March 8 of this year that went to the entire UC student body decrying an "alleged climate of anti-Semitism and intolerance on the ten campuses that comprise the lofty UC systems." His letter did not mention a similar zero-tolerance policy toward Islamophobia or anti-Arab sentiment. And his letter stated that he was invoking the help of the Museum of Tolerance and the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) to improve the campus climate.

Clearly, it does need improvement, but without bias. A Muslim & Arab Student Campus Climate Fact-Finding Team report of July 9, 2012, found that for "students who are visibly and apparently Muslim or Arab, as well as active participants or leaders of organized student groups, the daily experience on UC campuses is notably negative and characterized by institutional insensitivity and daily harassment." Student complaints included, but were not limited to, everything from harassment, hate mail, name calling ("terrorist"), defacing of peaceful displays, equating criticism of Israeli government policy with hate speech, inac-



"Do Unto Others as You Would Have Them Do Unto You" the iconic 1961 painting by Norman Rockwell. Variations of the Golden Rule exist as a moral foundation in every culture and major religion.

tion on the part of the administration when incidents are reported, and bigotry in student newspapers (including a racist 2011 David Horowitz Freedom Center ad run in the *Aggie* on the UC Davis campus).

The Israeli Defense Force (IDF) spoke at UC Davis, organized by the aggressive StandWithUs organization, which had previously been caught on camera at UC Berkeley "physically harassing and pepper spraying people with opposing viewpoints." Needless to say, there is a perceived double standard in the application of campus policies toward Muslim and Arab student events. Even worse, the events take place in an accusatory and even "criminalizing" environment, involving UC administrative staff.

Yudof himself had established the President's Advisory Council on Campus Climate, Culture and Inclusion in 2010 that produced the report in response to a Muslim student group's protest of Israeli Ambassador Michael Oren at UC Irvine. However, the "communication practices and actions by campus administrators and President Yudof" were one of the major issues students identified as creating an unfavorable climate for them. Jewish student groups who do not subscribe to Yudof's biases have complained as well.

Yudof's March 8 letter also elicited a response from the California Scholars for Academic Freedom (SCAF), who stated that Yudof was actually delivering a blow to the right of dissent and protest. Furthermore, SCAF charged that "neither the Zionist ADL, which defames critics of

● Knowledge Not Learned in College: Japanese and Muslim Americans Join Together



● *Photo: Photographer unknown*
● *Portrait of young child with*
● *school desk. "Esse Quam*
● *Videri" exhibit*

● Heart Mountain Interpretive
● Center at the site of a World
● War II Japanese-American
● internment camp outside of
● Cody, Wyoming presents "Esse
● Quam Videri (to be rather than
● to seem): Muslim Self-Portraits,"
● an exhibit intended to counteract
● preconceived notions of Mus-
● lims in America. July 18 through
● Sept. 18, 2012. Images of and
● by Muslim Americans with short
● essays, adding context. Also:
● Photo gallery and permanent
● exhibit of Japanese American
● families imprisoned during
● World War II.
● [http://heartmountain.org/
● PhotoGallery.html](http://heartmountain.org/PhotoGallery.html)

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When Will They Ever Learn?

After angry protesters hurled insults at Muslim families attending an Orange County (Southern California) charity event in March, the Japanese American Citizens League and Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress, among others groups, showed up at city council meetings and press conferences to condemn the incident . . . The Japanese American Citizens League was also among the first to issue a statement warning against intolerance toward Muslims immediately after the World Trade Center attacks, said Patty Wada, the league's regional director. Wada said many Japanese Americans, especially those who lived through internment, feel a sense of deja vu as they see the animosity often directed at Muslims today.

—California Watch californiawatch.org, June 1, 2011

Empathy Lives in Learning

Council for American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)-Los Angeles, together with Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress and the Japanese American Citizens League, organized the 3rd Annual Bridging Communities Program—a learning exchange between American Muslim and Japanese-American high-school students. Muslim students from other parts of California also visited the Manzanar and Tule Lake internment camps to gain an understanding of war hysteria injustice and learn from their identities. —CAIR California 2010-2011 Annual Report



Chilling signs of 21st century bigotry in Dearborn, Michigan, and in 1942 on the West Coast.

Human Rights . . . , continued from page 4

Samantha, Susan Rice, and the Atrocity Prevention Board. See her 2007 blog on negotiations with Iran as a tactical necessity (the Dennis Ross view)—i.e., we must go through the motions because we have to prove them futile before we do what needs to be done. It is strange and unfortunate that such a person now leads Amnesty International USA.” <http://mondoweiss.net/2012/06/amnesty-intl-collapse-new-head-is-former-state-dept-official-who-rationalized-iran-sanctions-gaza-onslaught.html>

6 If there were global justice, NATO would be in the dock over Libya. Obama's New Atrocity Prevention Board: Reasons for Skepticism <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/may/15/global-justice-nato-libya>

7 Starving the Syrians for Human Rights—Physicians for Human Rights Supports Tougher U.S. Sanctions on Syria. <http://antiwar.com/blog/2012/05/09/starving-the-syrians-for-human-rights-physicians-for-human-rights-supports-tougher-u-s-sanctions-on-syria/>

Back to School . . . , continued from page 7

Israeli policies and has a history of spying on Americans, nor the Museum of Tolerance is qualified to offer advice on academic freedom.” Professor Gabriel Piterberg, who grew up in Israel and is an historian who has written about Israel/Palestine issues, belongs to SCAF. In a teach-in, he charged that Yudof's motivation was to silence criticism of Israel on UC campuses and to chill other dissent.

Piterberg said he believed that Yudof's letter was probably prompted by a series of UC campus lectures made by Israeli Ilan Pappé, another Israeli historian and activist who is critical of Israeli government policy toward Palestine and Palestinians. Piterberg concluded that “Yudof can be a Zionist personally but as UC president he should represent the entire and diverse UC com-



- 8 Nothing “Purist”—Just Everything Hypocritical About Awarding Nobel “Peace” Prize to Promote Western Militarization. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/coleen-rowley/nothing-puristjust-everyt_b_1321915.html
- 9 <http://www.amazon.com/Humanitarian-Imperialism-Using-Human-Rights/dp/1583671471>
- 10 <http://www.accuracy.org/release/libya-and-syria-humanitarian-war-is-a-monstrous-illusion/http://www.powells.com/biblio?isbn=9780805083286>

Also see Are Your Humanitarian Heartstrings Being Tugged in the Name of Empire? <http://www.alternet.org/world/151707?page=2>

munity equally, or he should resign and become an employee of the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee.”

Polly Mann is a cofounder of WAMM. Her column appears regularly in this newsletter.

Sources:

Muslim & Arab Student Campus Climate at the University of California Fact-Finding Team Report & Recommendations. July 9, 2012

Ibid, Attachment 3: Open Letter to UC Community from President Yudof. March 3, 2012

Ibid, Attachment 8: Open Letter Regarding Yudof's Statement to the UC Community. April 8, 2012

Ibid, Appendix B: Work Group Charge Letter. Campus Council on Community and Diversity Arab and Muslim Student Community Work Group-UC Davis

UC President Yudof Enlists ADL, Museum of Tolerance to Monitor Campus Civility, *Washington Report on Middle East Affairs*, June/July 2012, pp.48-49

UC Climate Survey Reveals Muslim Students Feel Intimidated. June 28, 2012. Muslim Affairs Council <http://www.mpac.org/programs/young-leaders-development.php>

Students and Civil Rights Groups Caution Against Efforts to Silence Student Activism, July 12, 2012 International National Lawyers Guild www.nlginternational.org

Salahi, Yaman (2012, August 2) How UC devalues Arab and Muslim student voices.

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WWLD: What Would Lois Do?

By Patty Guerrero

I can't express the sadness that I and so many others feel over the death by violence of our dear, dear friend, Lois Swenson.

Lois spent a major part of her life trying to save our fragile planet by not consuming goods that weren't absolutely necessary and also befriending whoever needed help.

I became a friend of Lois's through WAMM. I was privileged, as were many others, to travel to Mexico with her a number of times. We didn't go to spend time on the beaches (although I spent my share of time on them), or to stay in fancy hotels, (although I would sneak into their pools). Lois always had a mission—to help build libraries in poor pueblos or to try and convince North American tourists to go back home and conserve, conserve, conserve and to educate others about the disastrous effects that NAFTA was having on Mexico. Her mantra was Reduce, Recycle, Reuse. And, "Live Simply So Others Can Simply Live." She learned these things through her travels to third world countries, but I would guess that she also learned them from her parents. ("Teach your children well." —Crosby, Stills and Nash)

She never bought the "stuff" to take home like I did. I remember once while in Mazatlan that I said I wouldn't buy anything except small items like earrings. When we were ready to leave, I had

so much stuff that it was she who had to help me carry my bags across the border. We both had a big laugh. But, true to her word, no one wanted any of the things after I got home. Another time, here in St. Paul, we were in a coffee shop and I took a napkin when I bought coffee and bagel and she said, "Now, Patty, why do you need that napkin?" I couldn't believe it and said, "Lois, I need it." But, again, when we finished, I hadn't touched my napkin. She was always right in these matters—often irritatingly so. But, she knew we appreciated her "saving the world."

Next time when you think you "need" something, or are letting the water run while brushing your teeth, just think: WWLD (What Would Lois Do?). In that way we will be remembering her and we will be doing our part. I will miss her forever. She was my rock, my foundation.

I end this with what the woman from the *Star Tribune*, who wrote an article on Lois, said to me when I thanked her, "I only got to know Lois from the few people we interviewed. But I'm left feeling she was one helluva woman who made a huge difference in the lives of many people."

Patty Guerrero is a long-time WAMM member who is active in Tackling Torture at the Top and serves on the Newsletter Committee. She holds the Mad-hatter's Tea Salon on Tuesdays nights in St. Paul.

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No U.S. intervention in Syria

*Statement by The Middle East Committee of
Women Against Military Madness*

There is a clear danger of yet another war in the Middle East. The United States is turning its attention to Syria, with the intention of engineering regime change in its favor.

The Middle East Committee of Women Against Military Madness (WAMM) fully supports the right of the people in all the countries of the Middle East to determine their own future and assert democratic rights. We are therefore firmly opposed to any external intervention, and this includes military intervention in Syria.

NATO is already maneuvering to weaken Syria through sanctions, which have never been an alternative to war as much as a prelude to it, acclimatizing public opinion to the “inevitability” of war. It is also interfering politically, trying to ensure that the Assad regime is replaced by one with an orientation favorable to what is always described as “our interests”—e.g., the pursuit of energy resources with trade agreements and geopolitical positioning that benefit U.S. multi-national corporations.

The Middle East Committee believes the Syrian people should assert their own democratic rights and determine their own system of government without the kind of external interference which has proved so disastrous in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other parts of the world. We therefore oppose all U.S.-led attempts to create an unrepresentative “government-in-exile,” which would have no purpose beyond further legitimizing the case for military intervention.

The Middle East Committee of WAMM therefore opposes all U.S.-sponsored and supported military intervention in Syria.

—*WAMM Middle East Committee*