



W.A.M.M. NEWSLETTER

Women Against Military Madness

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Women Against Military Madness

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Above Right: Graffiti on a Gangjeong village wall. Born on Jeju Island, artist Gillchun Kohn states that his work is "focused on the historical perspective of Jeju" and its "ecology, politics and environment" which he sees as all connected.

The following is a Q & A with Barry Riesch, longtime antiwar activist who participated in a 12-member delegation of Veterans for Peace when they traveled to Jeju Island in December of 2015 in international solidarity with the people of Gangjeong Village in their resistance to the creation of a South Korean naval base to be used by the U.S. Navy as part of the U.S. military Pivot to the Pacific. In addition to the factual learning experience, Riesch said that "for many members of the delegation, the experience was personally transformative—seeing the base, connecting with the people, and the way we were treated so well." He was supported in his delegation participation by Women Against Military Madness and the local peace community.

Island of Resistance, Island of Peace

Q: How long have people in the village of Gangjeong on Jeju Island, South Korea, been resisting the establishment of a naval base there?

A: There have been more than 3,000 consecutive days of resistance to the construction of a naval base in the village of Gangjeong. It has been ongoing since 2007, when people there created their anti-base committee to oppose the base. And though the naval installation is now nearly complete, due to the persistence and determination of the villagers and others in solidarity with them the resistance will continue, though it probably will take a different form.

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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, founded in 1982, 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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Photo: Jeju Weekly



The Pacific Pivot for Peace

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Q: *Is there something about the Jeju Islanders that makes them particularly capable of nonviolent resistance and for so long?*

A: Resistance to foreign military occupation is familiar to Jeju Island. The Wind of Peace Park commemorates an estimated 25,000 to 30,000 people killed following the end of World War II. (Some estimates are even higher than this shocking number, which was one-tenth of Jeju Island's population at the time.) Most of the people were civilians—men, women, and children massacred with bullets, hanging, or by being buried alive. Some people were tortured. Citing the desire to wipe out perceived communist influence among independent-minded Jeju Islanders, the U.S., as the occupying administrator of Korea, played a role, along with mainland Korean forces and ultra-rightist youth squads that were empowered to suppress an uprising that broke out in 1948. (The tragedy is referred to in Korean history as The April 3 Incident, as it is the spark in 1947 which ignited what followed.)

Years later, in 2005, the massacre was recognized in a Truth and Reconciliation Commission based on the South African model. The dead were finally honored, and the island was declared “The Island of Peace.”

UNESCO-Designated Unique Environment

Q: *Are there any other factors that have captured the attention of people from all over the world in regard to the inadvisability of building a base on Jeju?*

A: In addition to being the Island of Peace, Jeju has enormous environmental value and is the only place on the planet with three UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) natural science designations: World Natural Heritage, Global Geopark, and Biosphere Reserve. Tourists visit from all over the world; many Chinese are among them. The creation of a massive U.S. military installation on the island ignites the concern of people throughout the world.

Q: *Aren't three UNESCO designations on one island enough to prevent the building of the base?*

A: UNESCO has been powerless to prevent the military from proceeding with plans. But given Jeju's history, it's no wonder that the Navy met with resistance in attempting to build military bases at two other locations on Jeju Island prior to Gangjeong.

Q: *How did anyone get sold on the idea of a base at Gangjeong and what effect did it have on the shoreline?*

A: When the Navy eventually settled on Gangjeong, a small fishing village

“The Gangjeong villagers should never regard their efforts to stop the Jeju Island naval base as a failure. They have the strength, the resilience, and commitment that is an inspiration to the international community in our struggle for peace and justice.”—Barry Riesch

on the southern coast with 2,000 inhabitants, as a location it marketed the idea as a “Civilian Military Port Complex for Tour Beauty,” but villagers were not deceived about its real purpose and began to organize opposition. Nevertheless, construction crews moved in and concrete was poured over the unique Gureombi volcanic rock formation along the coastline that is considered sacred. Soft coral reefs, home to some vanishing species, became casualties when a deeper harbor was dredged. The 100 dolphins that used to make friends with the island women famous for their deep sea spear-diving departed to become refugees somewhere else in the sea.

Persistence Resistance

Q: *The dolphins left, but what about the people?*

A: Gangjeong villagers did not depart, but stayed, and a dedicated group tried to protect their natural environment against the destruction of the shoreline and encroachment of the base on their village. The natural environment is a source of their

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Above: Police remove Barry Riesch as he participates in a blockade to base construction at Gangjeong Village on Jeju Island, Korea. (Photo: Ellen Davidson)

• And Now for • Some Good • Environmental • News

• No More Selling Out to • Shell

• The Science Museum will
• not renew a controversial
• sponsorship deal with Shell
• in which the oil company
• provided significant fund-
• ing for its high-profile
• climate change exhibi-
• tion...The lapsing of the
• deal will be seen as a blow
• to Shell after it was forced
• out of the Prince of Wales's
• climate change project
• earlier this year because
• of its efforts to drill for oil
• in the Arctic. Last year,
• toy firm Lego also ended
• its partnership with the oil
• company after a sustained
• campaign by Greenpeace,
• which said Shell's polar
• plans were at odds with
• the Danish company's
• green image.—“*Science
• Museum Ends Sponsorship
• with Shell,*” The Guardian,
• November 12, 2015

• No GMO Here

• The final tally of the mas-
• sive European anti-GMO
• wave has been reached
• now that the Oct. 3 dead-
• line to notify the European
• Commission has passed.
• A total of 19 EU countries
• have “opted out” of grow-
• ing genetically modified
• (GMOs) crops within all or
• part of their territories.—
• Eco Watch, *ecowatch.com*,
• October 15, 2015

Philippines: People Resist U.S. Militarization



Gross violation of human rights is being systematically carried out by the Philippine Government as part of its internal security program, the Oplan Bayanihan, which was patterned after the counter-insurgency program of respondent government of the United States... It is also clear that Oplan Bayanihan, was devised and is being implemented with the assistance of the defendant Government of the U.S. either through technical assistance and actual participation of its military personnel in combat operations. The Philippine military is also being propped up through the continuous military aid from the U.S.—*Findings from The International People's Tribunal on Crimes Against the Filipino people convened July 16-18, 2015, in Washington, D.C., available at internationalpeopletribunal.org*

The Philippine Supreme Court ruled that a military accord with the United States that allows increased U.S. military presence in the Philippines is constitutional, as tensions in the South China Sea continue to rise. On Tuesday, while anti-U.S. protests took place outside, the court voted 10-4 to deny the petition of some lawmakers and activists to declare the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) unconstitutional because it surrenders Philippine sovereignty to a foreign power.—*“Philippine Court Upholds Military Accord with the U.S.”, TelesurTV.net, January 12, 2016*



Above: The Veterans for Peace delegation to Jeju Island display their banner in solidarity with Gangjeong villagers in opposition to a naval base on the coast. (Photo: Ellen Davidson)

The Pacific Pivot for Peace

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livelihood and it also holds spiritual meaning to them. The people have been struggling to defend their land and way of life. I observed their morning rituals when they made 100 bows at the entrance of the construction site at 7:00 a.m. every day. Later in the afternoon for an hour-and-a-half daily they held a Catholic mass there. Anyone could participate. Exuberant dancing followed.

Q: *What effect do the village protesters and internationals have on each other?*

A: As internationals, we looked to the local resistance for their strength, and got inspiration from their resilience and dedication. They had set up an impressive structure. There was a kitchen where cooking was done for the meals of the resistance. (It was said that it would be the next thing destroyed by the base builders.) There was medical assistance available, too; I became concerned about a possible blood clot in my leg while I was there and came to trust something other than Western medicine when I was given

acupuncture to relieve the problem.

Housing accommodations are provided to internationals and people from out of the area. Two Catholic clergy were able to build the St. Francis Peace Center, which houses artworks, community space, and sleeping accommodations. That's where I stayed when I was there. One of the clergy, Father Mun, had it built with money he received through a lawsuit when he was injured by a fall of 16 meters (53 feet) when base builders disrupted rock.

International peace activists, antiwar activists have made common cause with the villagers over our opposition to the base. We come to demonstrate our solidarity and give them encouragement and support. They look to us for that. In the case of U.S. citizens, the concern is felt deeply as a responsibility because it is our government that has pressured their government to build the base.



Q: *Is there a specific action that the Veterans for Peace took while you were there?*

A: Veterans for Peace attempted blockades of trucks carrying materials to build the base by sitting in plastic chairs in the road at the entrance to the base with other people in the resistance. Police picked us up, while we were still sitting in the chairs, and moved us out of the way so the vehicles could get through. After the vehicles passed, they left us alone, and we went back again and resumed our position. We did this every day. When I first arrived some people were fasting in protest of a truck running over the foot of one of the women protesters; she needed surgery as a result.

Q: *Can you tell us something about who was in your delegation?*

A: The twelve of us came from states all across the United States from Maine to Minnesota to California. Many of us were veterans of the Vietnam War. We were privileged to have two younger veterans of the Iraq War with us. We also had one Korean War veteran with us. My roommate at the Peace Center was an 86-year-old veteran who had been involved as a young man in night missions in North Korea; he was so determined to participate that it didn't matter that he now needed a walker to get about. Ann Wright, a former colonel and ambassador to Afghanistan, who became a full-time peace activist, was also with our delegation. At other times delegations of antiwar internationals: women's groups, religious groups—many of them Catholics, Korean reunification activists, archeologists, artists, various groups and individuals from all over the world have come to show solidarity with the villagers of Gangjeong in their struggle against the base.

U.S. Military-Economic Strategy

Q: *What is the overall strategy of the U.S. wanting the base at Gangjeong?*

A: Bruce Gagnon, a Veteran for Peace, has been active with Gangjeong solidarity for several years and was an organizer of this delegation, along with Taruk Kauff, who is on the Veterans for Peace National Board. Bruce described the strategy and danger behind the placement of the base in his "Organizing Notes" blog:

These deployments on Jeju would put U.S. warships right in the middle of the Yellow Sea shipping lanes that China utilizes to import 80 percent of the resources, particularly oil, to run its economy. It will also make Gangjeong Village a prime target in the event of hostilities.

The U.S. "pivot" into the Asia-Pacific is expensive, dangerous to world peace, and highly provocative... The goal is "full-spectrum dominance" over China and Russia, and the profits to U.S. weapons corporations are an expected side benefit.

Source: Organizing Notes. Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space. space4peaceblogspot.org

Q: *What benefit does Korea have from building the port?*

A: Samsung and Daelim, headquartered in Seoul, are the transnational corporations with construction, engineering, and electronic divisions that profit from building the port. (While the Korean state *owns and will maintain* the port with its navy and military, under the

Read It and Weep

The Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) announces sales of \$47.085 billion for fiscal year 2015. Sales under the government-to-government Foreign Military Sales Program totaled \$35.359 billion. Along with sales executed using U.S. government appropriations under various security cooperation and security assistance authorities such as Foreign Military Financing (FMF), and DoD programs, totaled \$11.726 billion, totaling \$47.085 billion for fiscal year 2015.

Demand for U.S. defense products and services remains strong, as the U.S. share of total global arms transfer agreements has increased over the last decade. With a number of partner countries looking to modernize and expand a full spectrum of capabilities, the U.S. share of transfers to partners and allies in emerging defense markets in Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America continues to increase.—*News Release, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, October 22, 2015*

Coming By Stealth

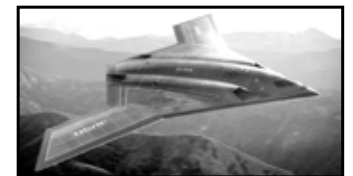


Photo: DoD

The Pentagon has said the LRS-B bomber [Long Range Strategic Bomber] will cost close to \$550 million per airplane, projecting a \$55 billion price total. Defense Secretary Ash Carter said the new aircraft will help the U.S. "project power across the globe now and into the future... Officials have been tight-lipped as to the specific capability expectations for the LRS-B, but indications are that it will be stealth, able to carry conventional and **nuclear weapons** and could possibly operate both with and without a pilot. (emphasis: editor)—CNN, *October 29, 2015*

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**Report from Jeju
Island, Korea:
Barry Riesch**

**Sat., February 13,
2:00-3:00 p.m. at
Mayday Books,
301 Cedar Ave.,
Minneapolis.**

**Sponsored by WAMM
End War Committee;
Mayday Books;
Veterans for Peace,
Chapter 27.**

RESOURCES TO COUNTER THE ASIA PACIFIC MILITARIZATION

Delegations

• Veterans for Peace
www.veteransforpeace.org

• Code Pink
www.codepink.org

• Women Cross the DMZ
www.womencrossdmz.org

Publications—print & online

• Global Network Against
Weapons & Nuclear Power in
Space
www.keepspace4peace.org

• *Peace in Our Times*
vfpeaceinourtimes.blogspot.com

*Quarterly publication of Veterans
for Peace. Free in print at some
community locations throughout
the U.S., paid subscriptions
individually or in quantities, view
or download online*

• *Korean Quarterly*
www.koreanquarterly.org
*Print copies also available free
at many community locations in
Minneapolis/St. Paul*

The Pacific Pivot for Peace

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Status of Forces agreement that the U.S. has with Korea, the U.S. can use the base at Gangjeong, as it can any other base in the country.) These corporations wield such enormous power that they are able to sue the Korean government for the equivalent of USD millions for loss of profit due to delays in construction of the base because of the anti-base protests. In turn, the South Korean government threatened to have the common people: Gangjeong villagers and Jeju Islanders compensate them because of this—in other words, those whose livelihood and land are damaged or destroyed by the base were supposed to pay.

Infuriating as this is, it's evidence quantifiable by monetary means that the resistance was effective in delaying base construction.

The Real Struggle Begins Now

Q: *With the Gangjeong base nearly complete, what were people of the resistance thinking about? (The Jeju Weekly reported that the first of the battleships, an Aegis destroyer, sailed into the Gangjeong harbor on December 22.)*

A: There was a lot of discussion in the Gangjeong resistance about “What happens now?” In addition to the port, housing is being built for 7,000 military personnel—I believe that they are for South Korean military—and that is encroaching on the village. The way things once were has ended. But people shouldn't regard the resistance as a failure. They have shown such strength and resistance, and people see them as examples.

Barry Riesch was a participant in the Veterans for Peace (VFP) delegation to Jeju Island. He is a past president of the VFP Twin Cities chapter and served six years on the National Veterans for Peace Board. He is a U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam War, and returned on an amends mission in 1992. In 2000, he participated in the Iraq Water Project.

The Asia-Pacific Peace Pivot

Q: *What will happen now to the movement to resist bases?*

A: Activists are engaging in a different kind of pivot than the Asia Pacific military pivot—with the Jeju Island experience as a springboard, they are moving to create a Peace Pivot connecting islands in solidarity to resist the web of military bases that the U.S. is pressuring governments to expand in Japan, Australia, South Korea, the Philippines, and elsewhere in the Pacific Rim. Koreans, Taiwanese, and Okinawans already have gathered for Peace for Sea International Camps first in Gangjeong Village and then in Henoko, Okinawa. The December 2015 Veterans for Peace delegation went on to Henoko to join with the people who are resisting construction of a U.S. Marine Corps air base there. Veterans for Peace is setting up chapters on Okinawa in solidarity with the inter-island Peace Pivot.

Q: *What can we do to pivot to peace?*

A: Call your congressional representative and tell them no to new U.S. agreements to use bases in the Pacific or anywhere. Keep informed to find out about actions you can take to challenge U.S. militarization of the Asia Pacific.



PM: A Tale of Two Islands: Iceland and Okinawa

by Polly Mann



Above: Gate 1 of Camp Schwab in Okinawa. (Photo: xrea.com)

The little island country of Iceland (population 323,000) has been of interest to me for many years. Of all the Scandinavian countries, I consider it the most progressive. In the fall of last year, the Reykjavik City Council voted to join the Boycott, Divestment and Sanction (BDS) movement based on the South African model which calls on nations to pressure Israel to end its brutal racist, apartheid policies against Palestinians by boycotting Israeli products, divesting in funds invested in that country, and leveling sanctions against all activities involving those policies. Reykjavik was responding, in particular, to the 2014 Israeli military massacre of Palestinians trapped in the occupied territory of the Gaza Strip, which had been under siege for eight years. (The massacre by the Israeli military, which the U.S. supplies with weapons, resulted in the death of

2,251 dead, the injury of 11,231, two-thirds of them seriously, including 3,436 children, one-tenth of which will be left with permanent injuries.) A couple of days after it agreed to participate in the BDS movement, Reykjavik, succumbing to pressure, narrowed its boycott to Israeli goods made in the Occupied (illegally) Territories; this is where Israeli settlers persecute Palestinians, poison their wells, burn their olive orchards, and confiscate or bulldoze their homes to build their own settlements. The limited boycott isn't as strong as it would have been, but it is more than Minneapolis or Chicago or other city councils in the U.S. have managed to do.

When banks were in trouble in 2008, the United States bailed them out. But Iceland has sentenced to prison 26 bankers whom it held responsible for the 2008 global financial crisis. This

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Vieques, Puerto Rico: People's Success and Environmental Irony

by Duane Cady

The U.S. Navy had a major explosives training facility on Vieques island in Puerto Rico for 55 years, withdrawing in 2003 under pressure from peace and environmental NGOs with the Fellowship of Reconciliation playing a leadership role. Those living on Vieques have a 27 percent higher rate of cancer and twice the risk of their children dying of cancer when compared with other Puerto Ricans. The abandoned training facility became a wildlife refuge, perhaps for political reasons, to spare the Navy the trouble and expense of cleaning up the site. Perhaps you've seen or heard recent television commercials encouraging travel to Vieques; their pitch is, irony upon irony, "environmental tourism."

Vieques became a wildlife refuge after its more than five decades as an explosives training facility—i.e., target practice firing range—largely because the environmental cleanup required to redevelop it for housing or commercial use was staggering financially and physically.

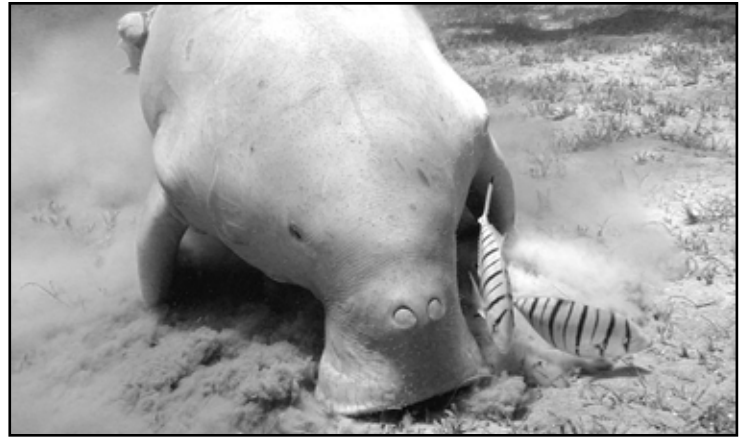
This is an excerpt from "War and Our Environment: Why Environmentalists Must Oppose War," a talk by Prof. Duane Cady, November 15, 2015, at an Every Church a Peace Church event, St. Joan of Arc Church, Minneapolis.

PM: A Tale of Two Islands

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is in contrast to this country, where during the first 15 months of 2015 federal prosecution of white collar crime fell to a 20-year low.

Another island, Okinawa (population 1,312,000), a prefecture of Japan, is in conflict with the United States, which is constructing Camp Schwab, a U.S. Marine air base, there in Henoko. The present governor, Takeshi Onaga, promised the people of Okinawa that he would revoke the permit for the new construction. In Tokyo, however, the central government vowed to fight the governor’s decision. But according to a recent *Washington Post* article “many Okinawans are fed up with bearing the overwhelming burden of Japan’s military alliance with the United States.” Okinawa makes up less than 1 percent of the country’s land mass but houses 75 percent of the U.S. military bases in Japan. There is an ongoing campaign against the base. Opponents are angered by the tremendous noise and the threat to public safety generated by yet another base. The Marine air base would also cause irreparable damage to the marine ecosystem, which is home to one of the world’s few dugong, large sea mammals related to the manatee. There are 32 U.S. military bases located on Okinawa Island. In total, these bases occupy approximately 20 percent of the island’s area.



Above: A dugong. (Photo: Julien Willem/CC)

Okinawans won’t accept it, and opposition is growing and aided by an emerging inter-island, international Pivot for Peace movement. In December, a delegation of U.S. Veterans for Peace, joined local anti-base activists in solidarity at the gate where the new Camp Schwab is being constructed in Henoko, raising banners that said, “No New U.S. Military Base on Henoko,” “Close Futenma Air Station,” and “No Helipads at Takae.” Locals, and later foreigners were forcibly removed by police, enabling cement trucks to move onto the base, but according to reports there was no active construction on the base that day.

Polly Mann is a co-founder of Women Against Military Madness and regular contributor and columnist for the WAMM newsletter. Mary Beaudoin contributed information about the Veterans for Peace in Okinawa.

No one has to go it alone in the pursuit of peace!

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Pledge for Peace

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I want to volunteer for WAMM

Killer Drones & WAMM's Ground All Drones Committee

Photo: DoD



Drones are in the news all across the country! Americans bought a half million drones for holiday gifts. According to the Federal Aviation Administration the gift drones aren't toys but are "aircraft" that must be registered with the federal government. Unmanned aerial vehicles—UAVs or drones—are here to stay, for monitoring climate change, photographing weddings, delivering groceries, and spying by government-sponsored agencies or private individuals. The Ground All Drones Committee of Women Against Military Madness (WAMM) decided to focus on the issues of the U.S. use of drones for assassination of targeted individuals, without regard to legal due process or international law, and the unintentional killing of people in the vicinity of the "target."

Currently, the U.S. operates two separate killer drone programs, one controlled by the CIA, the other by the military. President Obama announced two years ago that all lethal drone activity eventually would be taken over by the military. Though Congressional Intelligence Committee staffers supposedly review CIA drone attacks, some analysts express concern that similar scrutiny is not being applied to Pentagon actions.

In reality, how many people have been killed by U.S. drones throughout Syria, Iraq, Somalia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Yemen? Accurate figures are illusive. Leah Bolger, past president of the Veterans for Peace national organization, showed a WAMM audience her photograph of a Pakistani man standing beside a tree with a bright red headscarf twisted through its branches. That scarf was the only proof he could show of his wife's death-by-drone or of her life. In areas of the world without even printed (let alone digitized) census information, no one officially can certify the birth, marriage, or death of an individual.

The "Naming the Dead" project of the Bureau of Investigative Journalism reports that, over 10 years,

between 2,467 and 3,984 people were killed by CIA drones in northwestern Pakistan alone. Discrepancy in the figures is due to the impossibility of verifying the deaths. Of the thoroughly investigated killings, 726 individuals can be reliably identified by name, age, and gender. The United Nations' definition of a child is an individual aged 0-17. We wonder, then, how many children have been killed by U.S. drone attacks throughout six countries. More than a hundred? More than a thousand? Is there a specific, turning-point number of dead children that would cause us to cry, "We have killed enough! Stop!"

WAMM people know that joining in action is vital. WAMM people move in creative ways to educate and to inspire further action to wage peace. We write letters and sign postcards and petitions to reach the President and Congress. We piece together a quilt made of fabric squares that display the tangible, visible names and ages of children killed by U.S. drone attacks.

To develop knowledge and understanding, most individuals need data and facts. Many also need the heartfelt "truth" revealed in stories and poems. The approaches will be combined in this unique event hosted by the WAMM Drone Committee:

"Facts & Truth: U.S. Drone Programs"

Tuesday, February 23, 7:00 pm, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31st St., Minneapolis. **Jay Kvale**, Ground All Drones committee member, will present "The Drone Papers," summarizing the cache of secret documents provided by an anonymous whistleblower to *The Intercept*, an alternative media source, revealing inner workings of the U.S. drone program. **Sarah Hayes**, local poet and artist, will read her original poems concerning drone warfare and its aftermath.

Also, please note: All are welcome to come to the WAMM-Ground All Drones planning meetings on the **first Thursday** of each month, **4:45 to 6:00 p.m.**, in the WAMM office. "**Drones 101**" is a multimedia program that committee members will present to school and community groups. In warmer months, we staff literature tables at farmers' markets and gather in open spaces to "**Fly Kites, Not Drones.**" Join in the fun! For additional information, call WAMM at 612-827-5364, visit the blog at groundalldrone.blogspot.com and sign up on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/wammgroundalldrone>.

Lucia Wilkes Smith, on behalf of WAMM's Ground All Drones Committee.

WAMM Committees

Issues Committees:

Book Club
Counter Recruitment
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War and the Threats of War
Immigration
Media
Middle East
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Program/New Issues
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WAMM Board

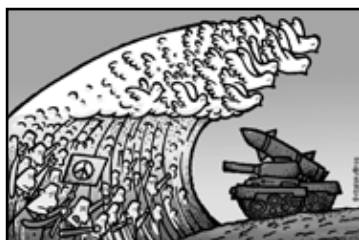
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WAMM Seeking Director

Women Against Military Madness, a nonviolent, feminist organization that works to create a system of social equality, self-determination and justice through education, action and the empowerment of women, is seeking a new director with a progressive political analysis and commitment to peace and justice. 40 hours per week. Annual salary \$40,000 with excellent benefits. WAMM office hours: Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; some evening and weekend hours based on the needs of the organization. Additional information and job description at

WomenAgainstMilitaryMadness.org



Want to Stop Militarism of the Asia Pacific without Leaving Home? Stop the TransPacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement

The military acts as the enforcer to control the world's wealth for transnational corporations. Is it any wonder then that the military might of the U.S. Navy is required for "pivoting" or "rebalancing" to the Asia Pacific? Or that governments in other countries are succumbing to pressure to increase their militarized ports?



The Transpacific Trade Agreement

(TTP) coincides with U.S. pressure to expand bases in the nations of the Pacific Rim. The agreement between TPP partners is described by the public-interest advocacy group Public Citizen as "a massive, controversial, pro-corporate 'free trade' agreement among the United States and 11 other countries—Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam. Although it is called a 'trade' agreement, the TPP is not mainly about trade." It is about transnational profit to the detriment of people's wages, health, and environmental protection.

The final text, created in secret for the benefit of multinational corporations and newly released to the American public, is worse even than imagined. It would offshore more American jobs, lower wages, allow unsafe imported food, raise the price of medicine, and expose national law to attack in foreign tribunals. In other words, it threatens to make powerless subsistence wage slaves of much of humanity in the U.S. and the Pacific Rim countries.

Write or call your members of Congress and tell them: No to the TPP. More info at: citizen.org/tpfaction. Want to do even more and spread the word? Check out www.ExposeTheTPP.org and contact Mina at gtwinfo@citizen.org or call: 202-454-5134.

WAMM Calendar

Please note that WAMM's provision of information on other groups' 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. Time from now through Mar.: 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Lake Street/Marshall Avenue Bridge, signs available at St. Paul side. Also brief circle up for announcements after the vigil on St. Paul side. FFI: Call WAMM at 612-827-5364.

Vigil to End the Occupation of Palestine

4:30 to 5:30 p.m. every Friday, corner of Summit Avenue and Snelling Avenue, St. Paul. FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364.

Peace Vigil

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

Grandmothers for Peace Vigils

50th Street and Halifax (1 block w. of France) Wednesdays, 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.

Ongoing WAMM Committee Meetings

Board Meeting

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

The WAMM Book Club

10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Afro Deli, 1939 South 5th Street, Minneapolis. Third Saturday of the month. FFI: Call 612-827-5364.

End War Committee Acting Against War and the Threats of War.

First Monday of each month, 6:00 p.m. at WAMM, 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis. FFI: Call Marie 612-827-5364.

Ground All Drones Committee

First Thursdays of every month, Now begins 15 min. later: 4:45 to 6:00 p.m., 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis. FFI: 612-827-5364.

Middle East Committee

Second Monday of each month, 10:00 a.m. at WAMM, 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Suite 3, Minneapolis. 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 South, 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.

People of Faith Peacemakers Breakfast

Second and fourth Wednesdays, 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. at African Development Center, Riverside and 20th Avenues S. A resource and support group for those concerned about peace with justice from a faith perspective. FFI: www.justviewpoint.org or call 612-333-4772.

Grandmothers for Peace

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

Pax Salons

Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 943 West Seventh Street (St. Paul Gallery), St. Paul. Please come. Topics vary. Call for details. Small donations accepted. FFI: 227-3228

WAMM Second Monday at the Movies

Second Monday of every month, 7:00 p.m. 4200 Cedar Ave. South, Minneapolis. Projected on big screen. Free admission, popcorn. All welcome. Discussion follows film. FFI: 612-827-5364 and wamm@mtn.org

Middle East Peace Now

Usually second or third Saturday. Refreshments 9:30 a.m., Program 10:00 a.m. Location may vary. FFI: 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. Sponsored by: Interfaith Coalition for Immigration, Advocates for Human Rights. FFI: Email interfaithonimmigration@gmail.com or call Michele 612-341-3302 (x117)

SAVE THE DATE!

WAMM Annual Meeting

March 12, 10:00am

Mount Olive Church

3045 Chicago Ave,
Minneapolis

WAMM members interested in serving on the 2016 Board, please contact the WAMM office.

Special Events

Report from Jeju Island, Korea. Eyewitness account with Barry Riesch, who participated in a Veterans for Peace delegation in solidarity with Korean resistance to a naval base. Saturday, February 13 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Mayday Books 301 Cedar Ave., Minneapolis Sponsored by WAMM End War Committee; Mayday Books; Veterans for Peace, Chapter 27.

The Family Tree: A Kinship Lynching in Georgia, a Legacy of Secrets and My Search for the Truth

Veteran journalist/WAMM supporter Karen Branan speaks about her book. Tuesday, February 16, 7:00 p.m., Majors and Quinn Booksellers, 3038 Hennipen Ave. Minneapolis. Through extensive research and interviews, Karen discovers she is related to the sheriff and one of the black victims of a lynching in Harris County, Georgia, 1912.

Songs of Peace and Love, a WAMM and Minnesota Community Sing Saturday, February 20. See back page of this newsletter.

Facts & Truth: U.S. Drone Programs

Tuesday, February 23, 7:00 p.m., Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 East 31st St., Minneapolis. Jay Kvale, WAMM Drone Committee member, presents "The Drone Papers," about secret documents a whistleblower provided to Wikileaks revealing inner workings of the U.S. drone program. Sarah Hayes, local poet and artist, reads her original poems on drone warfare and aftermath.

For WAMM membership and gifts, see page 8.



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Songs of Peace and Love: WAMM & Minnesota Community Sing

Saturday, February 20, 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Walker Community United Methodist Church,
3104 16th Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55407

Light refreshments provided.

Donations to WAMM accepted at the door.
Suggested donation: \$5-\$25.

For more information, call
WAMM at 612-827-5364 or visit
womenagainstmilitarymadness.org

