

New Year, New Hopes

The arc of the moral universe is long, but bends toward justice

—Martin Luther King

Arc of Moral Universe Bends

On December 13, anti-nuclear activists stood trial for entering a property managed by Honeywell in Kansas City, Missouri, where nuclear weapons parts are manufactured. Judge Ardie Bland, who had earlier sentenced activists to prison, allowed this group to make presentations in court, explaining their positions. He found them guilty only of trespassing and sentenced them to write a one-page essay. According to the National Catholic Reporter, the judge told the activists: "I think you're educating because every time I learn something."

A Victory: Attorney Lynne Stewart Released from Prison!

Lynne Stewart, the people's attorney, was released from federal prison and returned home to New York on January 1st. Stewart was given compassionate release from her 10-year sentence on the grounds that she has late stage breast cancer and less than 18 months to live. She was unjustly accused of "material support for terrorism" for helping in the legal defense of the "blind Sheikh," Omar Abdel-Rahman. Women Against Military Madness joined peace and civil liberties groups across the country to demand Stewart's release this year and is awarding her with an honorary membership. More on her case: lynnestewart.org

2014 the International UN Year of Solidarity with Palestinian People

Proclaimed by an overwhelming majority in the UN General Assembly. Only the U.S., Israel, Canada, Australia and a handful of Pacific pindot islands (former U.S. Trust Territories) voted against it. For more information, see: Dept. of Public Information, United Nations 68th General Assembly Plenary, 58th Meeting



Essa, the son of Suad and Sami Rasouli.

Iraqi Baby Arrives Healthy

In spite of the tragically high percentage of babies born with birth defects in Fallujah and southern Iraq, healthy babies continue to be born in Iraq. Essa, the son of Suad and Sami Rasouli arrived on December 27 in Najaf. Mother and child are reported doing well. See photo at right. (Essa is recognized in the Quran as an esteemed teacher and is the Arabic name for Jesus.)

Nuclear Bomb Fuel Decreases

According to The New York Times, January 9, 2014, the Nuclear Threat Initiative, a group that advocates for safekeeping of nuclear materials, states that the number of nations with enough fuel for atomic bombs decreased from 32 to 25.

Mother Agnes, Mussalaha Peace and Reconciliation Movement Nominated for 2014 Nobel Peace Prize

In the words of Noble Peace Laureate Mairead Maguire: "Mussalaha, which translates as reconciliation, is a community-based non-violent popular initiative stemming from within Syrian civil society. Founded at a community level, it includes members of all Syria's ethnic and religious communities who are tired of the war. Mussalaha fills a void created by the noise of weapons; it does not side with any of the warring parties, rather it embraces all. The movement says no to the continued loss of life, and yes to a nonviolent solution.... In making this nomination for the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize, I believe that there is no military or paramilitary solution to the Syrian conflict and only through dialogue and negotiation can peace be reached. We urgently need a peaceful solution to the crisis in Syria. Mother Agnes Mariam and the Mussalaha Initiative in Syria exemplify all that is remarkable about the resilience of humanity when faced with unbelievable adversity." More information at: peacepeople.com