

Have You Heard?

Our Pro-War Press

A survey by the national media watchdog group, FAIR, found that, of the top 100 circulated papers in the U.S., not a single editorial board opposed Trump's April 13 airstrikes on Syria. Twenty papers supported the strikes, while six were ambiguous as to whether or not the bombing was advisable. The remaining 74 issued no opinion. – "Out of 26 Major Editorials on Trump's Syria Strikes, Zero Opposed," April 18, 2018 – fair.org

Employees of Google Revolt against Complicity in Killing with Drones

3,100 Google employees signed a letter in April requesting that the company cancel Project Maven, a Department of Defense initiative that analyzes image-recognition technology on drone footage collected by the military to identify objects and people as possible targets. The letter stated: "We believe that Google should not be in the business of war. Therefore we ask that Project Maven be cancelled, and that Google draft, publicize and enforce a clear policy stating that neither Google nor its contractors will ever build warfare technology... Building this technology to assist the U.S. Government in military surveillance – and potentially lethal outcomes – is not acceptable. - *Defense One, New York Times, Ars Technica, dailydot.com*, and others

More Nations Ratify Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Following last week's announcement from Palestine, Venezuela this week joined six other ratifying countries in formally endorsing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons... The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was negotiated at the UN in New York in 2017 and approved on the 7th of July by 122 countries. The treaty enters into force when the 50th country delivers its instrument of ratification to the UN Office of Legal Affairs. – Pressenza, International Press Agency

It Stinks!

Black Belt Residents Sued by Corporation, but Remain Resolute

Four million tons of coal ash which contain toxins such as mercury and arsenic were shipped from a mostly white county in Tennessee to a dumping ground next to Uniontown, a rural, poor and mostly black community in the Alabama black belt. Residents formed the Black Belt Citizens Fighting for Health and Justice. Then Green Group Holdings, the corporation (mis)handling the waste had the unmitigated gall to sue four of the activists in a \$30 million defamation lawsuit in what residents say was an attempt to scare them; the ACLU became involved and the case was dropped more than a year later. But residents say that they continue to suffer from serious health problems and endure horrible stench and pollution in the air, water, and soil due to low Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards. On March 16, 2018, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (USCCR) issued a statement of deep concern that the EPA is perpetuating "the environmental injustice the Uniontown community must endure," which it sees as an example of the EPA's track record of environmental racism – which is only getting worse. The USCCR pledges to continue to monitor the situation and Black Belt Citizens remain resolute. – blackbeltcitizens.org, usccr.gov, harpers.org, theguardian.org

New U.S. Military Bases around the World

Turkish news reported 10 U.S. military outposts in northern Syria, at least some like one near the city of Manbij, not far from the Turkish border, have permanent-appearing structures. Thousands of Ghanaians rallied in the streets of their capital on March 28, 2018 to protest a deal that would give the U.S. military an expanded role in Ghana. In the fall of 2017, the U.S. opened its first permanent American base in Israel; U.S. and Israeli Air Forces are stationed there. – *The Internationalist*, *The Hill*, military.com, and more

U.S. College Students Vote to Divest from Companies That Harm Palestinians

In April, students at Barnard College, New York, voted to request that the administration divest from eight companies violating international law and the human rights of Palestinians. In March, the University of Minnesota student body passed a resolution calling for their university to divest from companies that are complicit in Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights, in maintaining and establishing private prisons and immigrant detention centers, or violations of Indigenous sovereignty. - forward.com, mndaily.com

Barbarism Alert! Old Cluster Bombs Back, New Ones on the Way

The United States is ending a long-standing policy to authorize use of certain older types of cluster munitions in its stockpile whose explosive bomblets kill and maim indiscriminately, resulting in loss of life and limb, sometimes years later. The Department of Defense signed a **policy memo** on November 30, 2017, delaying the ban. Human rights groups and some Congress members objected. The Pentagon is also authorized to purchase newer cluster bombs with de-activation technology. – U.S. Department of Defense memorandum on cluster munitions: tinyurl.com/yc9l9eyy; reuters.com