



Trump: Trumpeting for a War on Iran?

by Soraya Sepahpour-Ulrich

IN THIS ISSUE:

Trump: Trumpeting for a War on Iran? p1
by Soraya Sepahpour-Ulrich

Stop Funding Terrorists! H.R. 608! p2
from WAMM End War Committee

U.S. Troops Have Moved to Russia's Borders p3
by Polly Mann

John Pilger's The Coming War on China p4
by Polly Mann

Whistleblowers, War and Truth: An Interview with Coleen Rowley p8
by Margaret Sarfehjooy

Photo: Martin S. Fuentes, U.S. Navy



The Trump Administration's rhetoric and actions have alarmed the world. The protests in response to his visa ban have overshadowed and distracted from a darker threat: war with Iran. Is the fear of the threat greater than the threat itself? The answer is not clear.

Certainly Americans and non-Americans who took comfort in the fact that we would have a more peaceful world believing that Trump would not start a nuclear war with Russia must now have reason to pause. The sad and stark reality is that U.S. foreign policy is continuous. An important part of this continuity is a war that has been waged against Iran for the past 38 years — unabated.

The character of this war has changed over time. The 1980s began with a failed coup which attempted to destroy the Islamic Republic in its early days, and continued with the U.S. aiding Iraq's Saddam Hussein with intelligence and internationally-prohibited chemical weapons to kill Iranians during the eight-year Iran-Iraq war to helping and promoting the terrorist MEK group, the training and recruiting of the Jundallah terrorist group to launch attacks in Iran, putting Special Forces on the ground in Iran, and the imposition of sanctioned terrorism—the list goes on and on, as does the continuity of it.



While President Jimmy Carter initiated the Rapid Deployment Force and put boots on the ground in the Persian Gulf, virtually every U.S. president since has threatened Iran with military action. It is hard to remember when the option was *not* on the table. However, thus far, every U.S. administration has wisely avoided a head-on military confrontation with Iran.

To his credit, although George W. Bush was egged on to engage militarily on Iran, the 2002 Millennium Challenge, exercises which simulated war, demonstrated America's inability to win a war on Iran. The challenge was too daunting. It is not just Iran's formidable defense forces that have to be reckoned with, but the fact that one of Iran's strengths and deterrents has been

continued on page 6

Photo: Martin S. Fuentes, U.S. Navy

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.

Newsletter Editor
Mary Beaudoin

Newsletter Committee
Polly Mann, Carol Masters,
Lee Ross, Margaret Sarfehjooy,
Sarah Martin, Mary Beaudoin,
Linda Hoover

Proofreaders **Layout**
Ilze Mueller Kristin Dooley
Carol Walker

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.

WAMM Staff
Director: Suzanne Al-Kayali
Office Manager: Jamie Huberty-Koerner

WAMM Office
420 Cedar Avenue South, Suite 3
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407
612-837-5364 (phone)
612-827-6433 (fax)
wamm@mtn.org
WomenAgainstMilitaryMadness.org

WAMM Office Hours
Mon-Fri: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

WAMM is funded primarily through the generous contributions of our members.

WAMM also receives funding from Community Shares Minnesota



This newsletter is printed on ImagePrint® Multiuse, a Domtar EarthChoice® socially and environmentally responsible paper. Contains fiber from well-managed, independently certified forests.



Stop Funding Terrorists! Support H.R. 608!

from the WAMM End War Committee

FOCUS ON SYRIA *No one knows the tragedy of war better than its victims and veterans. That's why it's important to listen to U.S. Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii, a military veteran of the Iraq War and a member of the Armed Services and Foreign Affairs Committees of Congress, who introduced the Stop Funding Terrorists Act, H.R. 608. After returning from a trip to Syria in January of this year, she proposed this legislation to prohibit U.S. government funds from being used to support al-Qaeda, ISIS, or other terrorist groups. Unfortunately, the congresswoman has been pilloried by the war-biased U.S. and UK mass media and both sides of the aisle in Congress, which chose to characterize her trip as something slightly sinister because, among the many Syrians she met, she also met with President Assad, even though she issued the requisite statement about not being in Syria to support him. On behalf of the people of Syria, she urges Congress (a handful of Democrats and Republicans are co-sponsoring) and all Americans to support this bill. An excerpt from Congresswoman Gabbard's statement on Syria:*

"My visit to Syria has made it abundantly clear: Our counterproductive regime change war does not serve America's interest, and it certainly isn't in the interest of the Syrian people.

As I visited with people from across the country, and heard heart-breaking stories of how this war has devastated their lives, I was asked, 'Why is the United States and its allies helping al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups try to take over Syria? Syria did not attack the United States. Al-Qaeda did.' I had no answer.

I return to Washington, DC with even greater resolve to end our illegal war to overthrow the Syrian government. I call upon Congress and



U.S. Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard

the new Administration to answer the pleas of the Syrian people immediately and support the Stop Arming Terrorists Act. We must stop directly and indirectly supporting terrorists—directly by providing weapons, training and logistical support to rebel groups affiliated with al-Qaeda and ISIS; and indirectly through Saudi Arabia, the Gulf States, and Turkey, who, in turn, support these terrorist groups. We must end our war to overthrow the Syrian government and focus our attention on defeating al-Qaeda and ISIS.

From Iraq to Libya and now in Syria, the U.S. has waged wars of regime change, each resulting in unimaginable suffering, devastating loss of life, and the strengthening of groups like al-Qaeda and ISIS.

Urge your congressional Representative to co-sponsor the Stop Funding Terrorists Act: H.R. 608

PM: U.S. Troops Have Moved to Russian Borders

by Polly Mann



**FOCUS ON
RUSSIA**

The Russian reply could have been predicted. Vladimir Putin’s spokesman is reported to have said, “We perceive it [the deployment of troops] as a threat. These actions threaten our interests, our security. Especially as it concerns a third party building up its military presence near our borders. It’s the U.S., not even a European state.” (*The Guardian*, January 12, 2017). These plans were made under the Obama administration ahead of the next president and are part of EUCOM (U.S. European Command is one of the seven combatant commands that the entire globe has been divided into for U.S. military “responsibility.”) During the presidential campaign, Donald Trump said he would rather work with Putin than confront him. But his chosen Secretary of Defense, James Mattis, said that the West should recognize that Putin was trying to break NATO, which has been struggling to cope with Russia’s use of hybrid, or many faceted, warfare..

The U.S. sent Poland 87 tanks and 144 armored vehicles. And Britain is sending troops—1,000 of them. This is part of Atlantic Resolve, training events taking place in conjunction with European troops along Russia’s borders, with 4,000 U.S. troops and 2,000 tanks arriving in Eastern Europe. (The U.S. Marines have also arrived in Norway.) We are told that the U.S. military build-up on Russia’s borders is to reassure NATO partners after the referendum of the Crimea area of Ukraine resulted in it joining Russia in 2014 — that, and the continued Russian involvement in Ukraine (no mention of U.S. involvement!).

Ewen McAskill of *The Guardian* stated, “Few at NATO seriously believe war with Russia is



U.S./NATO military personnel and equipment have been deploying to these countries near the Russian border in Operation Atlantic Resolve.

likely but there have been dangerous developments. Russia alarmed eastern European states by moving nuclear capable Islander M missiles to its naval base at Kaliiningrad in the autumn.”

Is it any wonder that Russia acted thusly with the tremendous build up on its borders?

Major General Timothy McGuire, deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army Europe says, “The best way to maintain peace is preparation.” How about the best way to maintain peace is not preparing for war but actually maintaining peace?

Polly Mann is a co-founder of WAMM and a frequent contributor to the WAMM newsletter.



Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar, flanked by Senators Lindsey Graham and John McCain, in a December 30, 2016, interview on the Ukrainian affiliate of Radio Free Europe. They spoke of Congress getting tough on Russia, authorizing sanctions, and sending “lethal weapons” to Ukraine. tinyurl.com/hus2kt9

WAMM Committees

Issues Committees:

- Book Club
- End War Committee
- Middle East
- St. Joan of Arc/
WAMM Peacemakers
- Ground All Drones Committee
- Tackling Torture at the Top
- WAMM Second Monday Movies

Standing Committees:

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

WAMM Board

- Anne Bellamy
- Marie Braun, Treasurer
- Sally Kundert
- Vanessa Lawrow
- Sarah Martin, Co-Chair
- Brigid McDonald
- Pepperwolf
- Carla Riehle
- Coleen Rowley
- Margaret Sarfehjooy
- Carol Walker, Co-Chair
- Lucia Wilkes Smith, Secretary

John Pilger's *The Coming War on China*

by Polly Mann



U.S. military surrounds China. Map: The New Internationalist Magazine, Base Nation.

FOCUS ON CHINA

Is it possible? The United States would go to war against nuclear-armed China? The renowned Australian-born international journalist John Pilger says, “Yes.” He produced the documentary *The Coming War with China*, and has written the feature article, with the same title, for the magazine *The New Internationalist* (December 2016) with the aim, he says, “to break a silence. A nuclear war is no longer unthinkable.” Pilger warns that, in 2015, the Pentagon released its *Law of War Manual* which states that the U.S. is not committed to a treaty rule that prohibits the use of nuclear

weapons and that nuclear weapons are lawful weapons.

The following is a synopsis of some major points Pilger makes:

The rise of China as an economic power is declared by U.S. hegemonic powers to be an existential threat to this country. Already more than 400 U.S. military bases encircle China with missiles, bombers, and warships. The use of nuclear arms is even being discussed. Under Obama proposed spending on nuclear weapons was higher than it’s ever been.

The U.S. staged a huge military exercise in 2015—an armada of ships and long-range

bombers blocked sea lanes in the Straits of Malacca, cutting off China’s access to oil, gas, and other raw materials from the Middle East and Africa. This fear of a U.S. Navy blockade has caused China to build airstrips on disputed reefs and islets called the Spratly Islands, in the South China Sea.

The U.S. has Pacific partners in threatening China. Groundwork for this was laid in 2010 when Secretary of State Hillary Clinton demanded that the Philippine government (under former President Aquino) reopen the U.S. military bases on its soil that it closed in the 1990s following violence, generated

by the bases, that was perpetrated on women and others. Handed millions of dollars in arms and military equipment, the government of President Benigno Aquino broke off bilateral talks with China and signed a secret agreement with the U.S. As a result, five U.S. bases were restored. The Obama Administration then launched a propaganda campaign that cast China as a threat to “freedom of navigation”. [With Presidents Duterte and Trump now in power, the Philippines’ relationship with the U.S. is in flux.]

Another U.S. Pacific partner is South Korea. The Pentagon’s High Altitude Defense System, known as THAAD, is ostensibly aimed at North Korea but actually targets China and all of Asia.

Off Korea’s coast, a gigantic naval base was constructed on Jeju Island for U.S. aircraft carriers, nuclear submarines, and destroyers equipped with Aegis missile systems. And, despite resistance from the inhabitants, the Japanese island of Okinawa is also host to the U.S. military with 32 installations. China is Australia’s biggest trader, and much of the national economy relies on this, but, Pilger says, Australia takes its orders from Washington.

The world is shifting east, but the vision of Eurasia from China is barely understood in the West. “The New Silk Road” will connect trade, ports, pipelines, and high-speed trains. It has the approval of much of humanity and will bring Russia and China together and connect to Europe. China is negotiating with 28 countries for approval of train routes.

Many nations, however, remain under the aegis of the United States, which has intervened in the

affairs of a third of the members of the United Nations. “Americanism” is touted as the solution to all problems. In September, the think tank Atlantic Council referred to an “increasingly aggressive” China and the idea that the only salvation is the U.S. military.

A strategist in China told Pilger, “We are not the enemy, but if you [in the West] decide we are, we must prepare without delay.” Pilger cites George Kulacki of the Union of Concerned Scientists explaining that China is discussing putting its nuclear missiles on high alert so they can be launched quickly in warning of an attack. “America’s nuclear weapons policies are the most prominent external factor influencing Chinese advocates for raising the alert level of China’s nuclear forces.”

We need to listen to John Pilger’s warning and break the silence about the possible use of nuclear weapons. And, if we are ever to have world peace, the United States is going to have to change its world outlook and get accustomed to its place as just one of the many nations determined to live in peace with one another, rather than running the show.

Polly Mann is a co-founder of Women Against Military Madness, a regular columnist and contributor to this newsletter.

WAMM launched a Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons in January of this year. Contact WAMM 612-827-5364 if you would like to obtain a petition to circulate, postcards to send to congressional representatives, and/or find out about other activities to end the nuclear war threat.

Recommended Reading

The China Mirage: the Hidden History of American Disaster in Asia By James Bradley (Little, Brown and Company, 2015); From the nineteenth century through World War II and the origins of the Vietnam War, this book examines the American misconceptions about China that have distorted our domestic and foreign policies and have led to the avoidable deaths of millions. It explores the role of prominent American families, political figures, fortunes made in the opium trade, and the contributions of missionaries and the media. It should help American understanding of the troubled history that defines U.S.-China relations today.

Trump: Trumpeting for a War on Iran *continued from page 1*

FOCUS ON IRAN its ability to retaliate on any attack by closing down the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow passageway off the coast of Iran. Given that 17 million barrels of oil a day, or 35 percent of the world's seaborne oil exports, go through the Strait of Hormuz, incidents in the Strait would be fatal for the world economy.

Faced with this reality, over the years, the United States has taken a multi-prong approach to prepare for an eventual/potential military confrontation with Iran. These plans have included promoting the false narrative of an imaginary threat from a nonexistent nuclear weapon and the falsehood of Iran being engaged in terrorism when in fact Iran has been subjected to terrorism for decades (previously described above). These "alternate facts" have enabled the United States to rally friend foe against Iran, and to buy itself time to seek alternative routes to the Strait of Hormuz.

Plan B: West Africa and Yemen

In the early 2000s, the renowned British think tank Chatham House issued a publication that determined African oil would be a good alternate to Persian Gulf oil in case of oil disruption. This followed an earlier strategy paper for the U.S. to move toward African oil—the "African White Paper" that was on the desk May 31, 2000, of then U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney, a former CEO of energy giant Halliburton. In 2002, the Israeli-based think tank IASPS suggested that America push toward African oil. (It is an interesting coincidence

that this happens to be same year the Nigerian Islamist terror group, Boko Haram, was "founded.")

In 2007, the United States African Command (AFRICOM) helped consolidate this push into the region. In 2011, a publication titled "Globalizing West African Oil: U.S. 'energy security' and the global economy" outlined "U.S. positioning itself to use military force to ensure African oil continued to flow to the United States." This was but one strategy to supply oil in addition to or as an alternate to the passage of oil through the Strait of Hormuz.

Nigeria and Yemen took on new importance.

In 2012, several alternate routes to the Strait of Hormuz were identified which at the time of the report were considered to be limited in capacity and more expensive. However, collectively, the West African oil and control of Bab Al-Mandeb would diminish the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz in case of war.

In his article for the Strategic Culture Foundation, "The Geopolitics Behind the War in Yemen: The Start of a New Front against Iran," geopolitical researcher Mahdi Darius Nazemroaya correctly states that "the U.S. wants to make sure that it could control the Bab Al-Mandeb, the Gulf of Aden, and the Socotra Islands [belonging to Yemen]. The Bab Al-Mandeb is an important strategic chokepoint for international maritime trade and energy shipments that connect the Persian Gulf via the Indian Ocean with the Mediterranean Sea via the Red Sea. It is just as important as the Suez Canal for the maritime shipping lanes and trade between Africa, Asia, and Europe."

Actions Against Iran Continue

War on Iran has never been a first option. The neoconservative think tank The Washington Institute for Near East Policy (WINEP) argued in its 2004 policy paper "The Challenges of U.S. Preventive Military Action" that the ideal situation was (and continues to be) to have a compliant regime in Tehran. Instead of direct conflict, the policy called for the assassination of scientists, introducing a malware design flaw, sabotage, introduction of viruses, etc. These suggestions, which include the Stuxnet attack, were fully and faithfully executed against Iran.

With the policy enacted, much of the world sighed with relief when the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCOPA, or the "Iran Nuclear Deal" which restricts Iran's domestic nuclear power in exchange for the lifting of sanctions on Iran) was signed in the naïve belief that a war on Iran had been alleviated. Obama's genius was in his execution of U.S. policies which disarmed and disbanded the antiwar movements. But the JCPOA was not about improved relations with Iran, it was about undermining them. As recently as April 2015, as the signing of the JCPOA was drawing near, during a speech at the Army War College Strategy Conference, then Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert Work elaborated on how the Pentagon plans to counter the three types of wars supposedly being waged by Iran, Russia, and China.

As previously planned, the purpose of the JCPOA was to pave the way for a compliant regime in Tehran faithful to Washington. Failing that, Washington would be better prepared for war as under the JCPOA, Iran would open itself up

to inspections. In other words, the plan would act as a Trojan horse to provide America with targets and soft spots. Apparently the plan was not moving forward fast enough to please Obama, or Trump. In direct violation of international law and concepts of state sovereignty, the Obama administration slammed sanctions on Iran for testing missiles. Iran's missile program was and is totally separate from the JCPOA, and Iran is within its sovereign rights and within the framework of international law to build conventional missiles.

Trump followed suit. Trump ran on a campaign of changing Washington, and his speeches were full of contempt for Obama; ironically, like Obama, candidate Trump continued the tactic of disarming many. By calling himself a deal maker, a businessman who would create jobs, Trump used the rhetoric of noninterference. But few intellectuals paid attention to his fighting words, and fewer still heeded the advisors he surrounded himself with, or they would have noted that Trump considers Islam as the number one enemy, followed by Iran, China, and Russia.

The ideology of those he has picked to serve in his administration reflects the contrarian character of Trump and indicates their support of this continuity in U.S. foreign policy. Former intelligence chief and Trump's current National Security Advisor Michael Flynn stated that the Obama administration willfully allowed the rise of ISIS, yet the newly appointed Pentagon Chief "Mad Dog Mattis" has stated: "I consider ISIS nothing more than an excuse for Iran to continue its mischief." So the NSC (National Security Council) believes that

Obama helped ISIS rise and the Pentagon believes that ISIS helps Iran continue its "mischief." Is it any wonder that Trump is both confused and confusing?

And is it any wonder that when on January 28th Trump signed an Executive Order calling for a plan to defeat ISIS in 30 days the U.S., UK, France, and Australia ran a war games drill in the Persian Gulf that simulated a confrontation with Iran—a country that has, itself, been fighting ISIS? When Iran exercised its right, by international law, to test a missile, the United States lied and accused Iran of breaking the JCPOA. Threats and new sanctions ensued.

Trump, the self-acclaimed deal maker who took office on the promise of making new jobs, slammed more sanctions on Iran. Sanctions take jobs away from Americans and they also compel Iranians to become fully self-sufficient, breaking the chains of neocolonialism. What a deal!

Even though Trump has lashed out at friend and foe, Team Trump has realized that when it comes to attacking a formidable enemy, it cannot do it alone. Although both in his book *Time to Get Tough* and on his campaign trails Trump has lashed out at Saudi Arabia, in an about-face he has not included Saudis and other Arab state sponsors of terror on his travel ban list. It would appear that someone whispered in Mr. Trump's ear that Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Qatar are fighting America's dirty war in Yemen (and in Syria) and killing Yemenis. In fact, the infamous Erik Prince, founder of the notorious Blackwater, who is said to be advising Trump from the shadows, received a \$120 million contract

from the Obama Administration, and for the past several years has been working with Arab countries — UAE in particular — in the "security" and "training" of militias in the Gulf of Aden, Yemen.

So will there be a not so distant military confrontation with Iran?

Not if sanity prevails. And with Trump and his generals, that is a big *if*. While for many years the foundation has been laid and preparations made for a potential military confrontation with Iran, it has always been a last resort; not because hegemonists do not want war, but because they cannot win *THIS* war. In spite of all their efforts throughout the years, Iran has prevailed. Various American administrations have come to the realization that while it may take a village to fight Iran, attacking Iran would destroy the global village.

It is time for us to remind Trump that we don't want to lose our village.

Soraya Sepahpour-Ulrich is an independent researcher and writer with a focus on U.S. foreign policy and the role of lobby groups in influencing U.S. foreign policy. She is a peace activist, essayist, and public speaker. Soraya has a bachelor's degree in international relations from the University of Southern California (USC). She pursued her master's degree in Middle East studies at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, and completed her master's in public diplomacy at USC Annenberg for Communication and USC's School of International Relations. Her writings are published by various national and international websites, and she is often a guest political commentator on radio and television.

More on Iran: page 10

Whistleblowers, War and Truth: an interview with Coleen Rowley

Peace activist Margaret Sarfehjooy, a member of Women Against Military Madness Newsletter Committee, asked another peace activist, former FBI whistleblower Coleen Rowley, to talk about telling the truth in time of war.

Q: *Time Magazine* selected you (along with two corporate whistleblowers) as one of its three “Persons of the Year” in 2002 for disclosing the FBI’s mishandling of information related to the September 11, 2001 attacks. You were the first recipient of the Sam Adams Award for Integrity in Intelligence (SAII)¹ in 2002. Some of the more recent recipients of the Sam Adams Award — Julian Assange and Edward Snowden — are worried for their safety if they come to the U.S. Others, like John Kiriakou and the Danish whistleblower Frank Grevil, have been imprisoned, and still others, like Chelsea Manning are still in prison (to be released May 20). Why do you think it is so dangerous to be a whistleblower today?

A: Truth is the first casualty of war. By the way, our SAII is not solely for whistleblowers. Yet many of the post 9-11 awards have gone to truth-tellers who have been charged, prosecuted, or have had to seek political asylum outside the U.S. That’s because during the lead-up to and sustaining of all wars of aggression, “intelligence” becomes so highly politicized. And this is when officials are unduly incentivized to bend and skew facts to fit the policy goals of their commander in chief (the President) and/or his top military aides to cover up war crimes.

The telling example who inspired our award happens to be CIA analyst Sam Adams,² who confronted Westmoreland and other generals for lying about the enemy troop strength during the Vietnam War.

Laws exist that are designed to make it illegal to even classify information to cover up government illegality from the public. Other laws theoretically provide employees with the right to warn Congress and protect the revealing of fraud, waste, abuse, illegality, and/or danger to public safety. These laws are mostly ignored in time of war. When illegal orders are issued from the highest levels, as was the case, for instance, with the torture programs of both the military and the CIA, there really is no way of protecting anyone who tells the truth. Obama prosecuted at least three times as many whistleblowers under the old 1917 “Espionage Act” as had been prosecuted in all of American history. Before the post 9-11 “perpetual wars,” the Espionage Act was believed to apply only to real spies and not to employees revealing criminal activity to the American public. I would expect that as long as the wars, war crimes, and deceitful “intelligence” practices continue, there will be ever worse draconian punishment meted out on anyone, including on publishers, who try to reveal the truth to the American public.

Q: You belong to Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS), a distinguished group of current and former officials of the U.S. intelligence community. Why did VIPS dispute the claims that

Russia “hacked the presidential elections”? Do you think this claim is used as justification for U.S. and NATO military buildup in Eastern Europe and Norway?

A: Russian hacking claims are only the latest in a long series of false accusations and information warfare that the U.S. has launched since the Ukraine coup, the Crimea referendum to rejoin Russia, and Russia’s unexpected military intervention in Syria.

Essentially only bald assertions, lacking real evidence, were made public as to the Obama Administration’s “intelligence” assessments that President Vladimir Putin authorized “Russian hacking” that helped put Mr. Trump in the White House (see our January VIPS memo³). It’s very true, however, that all countries, with the technical ability, *do* “hack” to try to gain advantages in international affairs by intercepting the communications of foreign leaders and entities, even allies. It is now well known that the U.S. has conducted such electronic surveillance and spying all over the world for many decades, sometimes employing information so collected to topple foreign governments (even democratically elected ones), a practice it proudly terms “regime change.”

When the CIA and other intelligence agencies refuse to provide any evidence for such serious allegations, history tells us that a strong inference should arise that no real evidence exists. (You can check out the entire series of nearly 50 VIPS memos on Consortiumnews⁴ that document the use of false “intelligence,” beginning with our



first attempt Feb 5, 2003, refuting Colin Powell's bogus case for war on Iraq before the United Nations.)

Q: You have been interviewed on numerous international news media with audiences in the millions. Why do you think your voice is no longer heard on U.S. mainstream media?

A: To repeat, truth is always the first casualty of war. Most U.S. journalists are now fully "embedded" in a variety of ways with Washington's powerful neocon cabal of warmongers and the war profiteers of the Military Industrial Congressional Complex. They work in tandem to tamp down the truth and any "war weariness" on the part of Americans. Unfortunately, they have succeeded in normalizing a "perpetual war" that continues to grow larger and more dangerous in scope to ever greater numbers of people, now putting us on an insane trajectory to mutually assured nuclear destruction.

Q: Besides being an antiwar activist, author, public speaker, and organizer, you are also known locally as a creative sign-maker with many of your huge signs and banners at protests and rallies. Do you think it's time (again) to bring out the "Don't

Bomb Iran" banners?

A: "If I had a banner!" was our effective version of Pete Seeger's great song.⁵ Unfortunately, some of the hundred or so we displayed over the years may need to come out of storage. We may need to put up the highway blog [Coleen Rowley refers to a series of large banners in huge type font spelling out "Don't Bomb Iran," which were displayed on various sites and footbridges over lanes of highway traffic, as "the highway blog." See photo.] again to try and warn people of Trump-Flynn's insane threat to launch war on Iran.

Q: Do you think it will be easier to stop a war with Trump in power than it would have been if Hillary was President? What direction do Trump's advisers and appointees seem to be steering him on foreign policy?

A: With the unprecedented millions of people in the street, marching to "Resist Trump," and his public disapproval polls already much higher than prior presidents' at this early stage, the answer should be obvious. Calls for impeachment have already gone out and the federal judiciary was quickly emboldened to stop

his stupid immigration ban. Almost none of this opposition would have existed vis à vis Hillary Clinton and her neocon warmonger cabal.

The challenge facing us, however, is to garner some of the energy of the feminist, environmentalist, immigrant, and other causes and direct some away from general political partisanship into stopping the perpetual U.S. wars, which most of Trump's protesters do not appear concerned with. Political partisanship is an especially counterproductive approach wherein opposing party loyalists blindly attack Trump even for his efforts in the right direction — for instance, Trump's long-announced promise to seek rapprochement with Russia, stepping back from dangerous military brinkmanship, and working together to get resolution of the conflicts in Syria and Ukraine-Crimea.

Endnotes

1. Samadamsaward.ch
2. Samadamsaward.ch/history-of-the-sam-adams-award
3. Consortiumnews.com/2017/01/17/a-demand-for-russian-hacking-proof
4. consortiumnews.com/vips-memos
5. "If I had a banner!" (2008 video at: youtu.be/9ZbwNGUjjHY)

Always Unwise to Threaten Iran

FOCUS ON IRAN

“For eight years, from 1980 to 1988, Iran fought not just Iraq, but virtually the whole world. America and its allies funded Saddam Hussein’s war against Iran, and gave it intelligence and weaponry, including internationally-prohibited chemical weapons. This was a period when Iran was reeling from a revolution, its army was in disarray, its population was virtually one third of the current population, and it was reliant on American weaponry left over from the time of the U.S.-supported Shah. Yet, in the end, Iran prevailed.

“Various American administrations have come to realize that while it may take a village to fight Iran, attacking Iran would destroy the global village. It is time for us to remind Trump that we don’t want to lose our village.” — Soraya Sepahpour-Ulrich

Recommended Reading (mentioned in “Trumpeting War on Iran”)

“The Challenges of U.S. Preventive Military Action”. The Washington Institute for Near East Policy (WINEP). 2004. The neoconservative think tank described a covert, hybrid war on Iran in its 2004 policy paper. All of the tactics have since been executed.

“The Geopolitics Behind the War in Yemen: The Start of a New Front against Iran”. Mahdi Darius Nazemroaya. March 29, 2015. Global Research, Canada. tinyurl.com/oulvege.



Correction

In the “interview with Lee Ross,” *WAMM newsletter, Vol 35 No. 1*: It was “a city official,” not Lee Ross herself, who told one supporter, “Don’t hitch your wagon to McCarthy’s cart...” Also, Lee identified the person as “a homeless man” that the FBI “hired to sit in a building and make a list of everyone walking down the street.” (not the mafia)

WAMM Membership

- \$15–39 Low Income/Student membership
- \$40–59 Individual membership
- \$60–199 Household membership
- \$200+ Major Donor
- This is a new membership. This is a membership renewal This is a gift membership
- Check enclosed Please charge my credit card Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____ Security Code _____

Signature _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Add me to the WAMM email list

Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Make checks payable to WAMM, 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Suite 3, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407

Sustaining Membership

- (Ongoing contributions throughout the year)
- \$ _____ Monthly \$ _____ Quarterly
- (WAMM will send a coupon book, if by check)

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

Join, renew, or give the gift of WAMM membership.

And/or donate!

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 Vigils for Peace

Vigil to End War

Every Wednesday, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. **Note:** Changes 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. in April. Lake Street/Marshall Avenue Bridge. Signs available on St. Paul side. Brief circle up for announcements after the vigil on St. Paul Side. FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364.

Vigil to End the Occupation of Palestine

Every Friday, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. 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: Call 612-379-7398.

Grandmothers for Peace Vigil

Every Wednesday, 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. 50th Street and Halifax (1 block west of France), Edina. FFI: Call Marian Wright 612-927-7607.

WAMM Committee Meetings

Board Meeting

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

Book Club

Third Saturday of every month, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. NEW LOCATION: Episcopal Homes Welcome Center, 1860 University Ave. West, St. Paul FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364.

End War

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

Ground All Drones

First Thursday of every month, 4:45 to 6:00 p.m. 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis. FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364.

Middle East

Second Monday of every 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 every month, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. St. Joan of Arc Church, Parish Center, 4537 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis. FFI: Call Barbara 612-722-4444.

Tackling Torture at the Top (T3)

Second Wednesday of every month, 10:00 a.m. 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis. FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364.

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: Visit stopfbi.net and mnStopFBI.wordpress.com.

People of Faith Peacemakers Breakfast

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

Grandmothers for Peace

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

Pax Salons

Every Tuesday, 6:30 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: Call 651-227-3228.

Middle East Peace Now

Usually second or third Saturday. Refreshments 9:30 a.m. Program 10:00 a.m. Location varies. FFI: Visit mepn.org.

WAMM Second Monday Movies

Second Monday of every month, 7:00 p.m. 4200 Cedar Avenue South (enter on 42nd St.), Minneapolis. Projected on big screen. Free admission, popcorn. All welcome. Discussion follows film. FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364. or email wamm@mtn.org.

Command & Control, Monday, March 13, 7:00 p.m., 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis. Documentary of hidden history exposing what can happen if weapons built to protect us threaten to destroy us. Discussion with anti-nuclear activist Jay Kvale follows. Co-sponsored by WAMM Movie Committee, WAMM End War Committee.

Current Calendar Special Events

Stop Endless Wars

4200 Cedar Avenue South, Anti-war Protest Saturday, March 18, 1:00 p.m. Gather at Mayday Plaza, 3rd St. & Cedar Ave. South on West Bank, Minneapolis. 1:30 p.m. March. Closing location TBA. Initiated by Minnesota Peace Action Coalition. FFI: See back of newsletter or call 612-275-2720 or 612-827-5364.

MAP Peace Essay Contest Winners & Storytelling Event

Tuesday, March 21, 6:00 p.m., Landmark Center, F.K. Weyerhaeuser Auditorium, 75 5th St. West, St. Paul. FFI: Larry Johnson at 612-747-3904 or larryjvfp@gmail.com.

Peace Bingo

Friday, March 31, 6:00 p.m., 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis. Join WAMM for a fun night in! Donate to WAMM while having a great time! Raffle Prizes! Bingo Prizes! Beer and wine available! Grab your pals and wallet. Dab for a great cause! FFI: 612-827-5364.



4200 Cedar Avenue South, Suite 3
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407
(612) 827-5364 FAX: (612) 827-6433
e-mail: wamm@mtn.org
WomenAgainstMilitaryMadness.org
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TWIN CITIES, MN
PERMIT NO. 30308

14 years since the 2003 U.S. 'shock & awe' invasion of Iraq:



Stop Endless U.S. Wars

Afghanistan
Iraq
Syria
Libya
Pakistan
Yemen
Somalia

***Say NO to new U.S. war threats – Iran... & Everywhere!
Say NO to racism & Islamophobia
Funds for human needs, not war***

Anti-War Protest Saturday, March 18, 2017

1:00 pm, gather at Mayday Plaza 3rd Street & Cedar Ave. South on the West Bank in Minneapolis

1:30 pm, March Closing location to be announced

**Initiated by Minnesota Peace Action Coalition.
For more information 612-275-2720 or 612-827-5364**