

# Stop the Doomsday Clock Before It Strikes Midnight!

by Polly Mann

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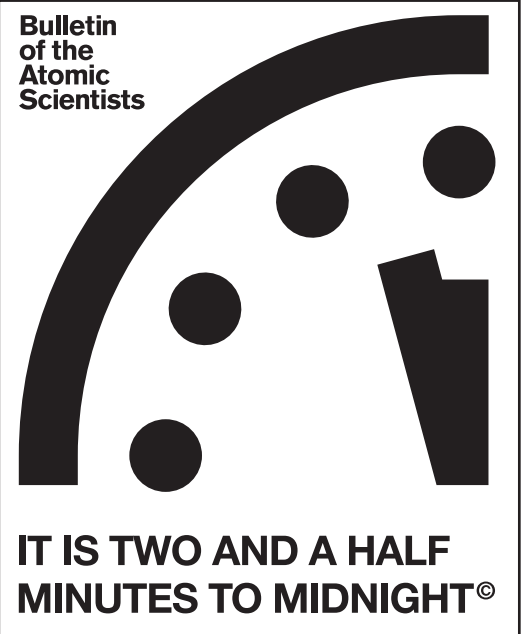
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*Graphic: The hands of the Doomsday Clock were moved two minutes and 30 seconds closer to midnight by the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, stating: "The probability of global catastrophe is very high, and the actions needed to reduce the risks of disaster must be taken very soon. In 2017, we find the danger to be even greater; the need for action more urgent...the Clock is ticking..."*

**FOCUS ON NUKES** The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists (BAS) has reset their nuclear clock at 2.5 minutes to Doomsday, symbolizing the likelihood of nuclear disaster, and it's ticking for everyone on earth. From the statement provided by the BAS Science and Security Board, a warning for 2017: "Over the course of 2016, the global security landscape darkened as the international community failed to come effectively to grips with humanity's existential threats, nuclear weapons and climate change...the United States and Russia which together possess more than 90 percent of the world's nuclear weapons remain at odds in a variety of theaters, from Syria to Ukraine to the borders of NATO; both countries continued wide-ranging modernization of their nuclear forces and serious arms control negotiations were nowhere to be seen..."

In an effort to prevent such a nuclear disaster, this spring more than 120 nations gathered at United Nations headquarters in New York to begin negotiations for a legally binding treaty to ban nuclear weapons.

A number of scientific reports warn that "the risks of accidental, mistaken, unauthorized, or intentional use of nuclear weapons are evident due to the vulnerability of nuclear command and control networks to human error and cyberattacks, maintaining of nuclear arsenals on



high level alert, forward deployment and their modernization?" Nonnuclear nations are concerned because "nuclear detonation would not be constrained by national borders and would have global consequences causing destruction, death, and displacement and long-term damage to the environment, climate, human health and well-being, socioeconomic development, social order and could even threaten the survival of humankind."<sup>1</sup> Risks increase with time and the possibility of non-state actors acquiring weapons.

The International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and its affiliate, Physicians for Social Responsibility, revised their report,

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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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**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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MINNESOTA

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**Stop the Doomsday Clock Before It Strikes Midnight!**

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“Nuclear Famine: A Billion People at Risk? Global Impacts of

Limited Nuclear War on Agriculture, Food Supplies, and Human Nutrition” to estimate that the number of people at risk of starvation could actually be two billion. The earth would experience darkness long enough to destroy agriculture and create starvation on a massive scale? And that’s if there were a limited, regional nuclear war.

Unfortunately, all nine nuclear nations refused to attend the ban the bomb conference, and once again the U.S. is on the wrong side of the fence. The U.S. boycott of the UN’s meeting is like a mother’s refusal to permit her child to be vaccinated against smallpox in the midst of a smallpox epidemic.

But together, the participating nations persevere in their belief that the conference will contribute to “the progressive stigmatization of nuclear weapons” (UN Press Release).

As citizens of one of the most nuclear-armed nations, our public participation is also necessary. We are called to heed the warning of the Bulletin for Atomic Scientists and the ticking of the clock:

“The probability of global catastrophe is very high, and the actions needed to reduce the risks of disaster must be taken very soon. In 2017, we find the danger to be even greater, the need for action more urgent. It is two and a half minutes to midnight, the Clock is ticking, global danger looms. Wise public officials should act immediately, guiding humanity away from the brink. If they do not, wise citizens must step forward and lead the way.”

We must be those wise citizens that step forward and lead the way. In the U.S., we have to stop this obsession with Russia and North Korea and demand that our leaders work together with those nations and others of the world to preserve life on earth for ourselves and future generations.

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

**Endnotes**

1. “2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.” Nonproliferation Treaty/CONF.2015/W.P29 [tinyurl.com/m48lnmb](http://tinyurl.com/m48lnmb)
2. Report: [tinyurl.com/ktko5xd](http://tinyurl.com/ktko5xd)

**Action**

Help raise awareness of the need to ban nuclear and other weapons by participating in the WAMM Walk Against Weapons—part of the WAMM Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons. Unable to walk? Please consider sponsoring a walker.

**Further Resource**

*Nukewatch Quarterly*: a publication devoted to news and information on nuclear weapons, power, waste and nonviolent resistance. Available at [nukewatchinfo.org](http://nukewatchinfo.org), mail subscription, or free at Twin Cities locations.

# Death by a Thousand Cuts: The Cost of War

by Mary Beaudoin

FOCUS ON  
WAR COSTS

The Department of Defense (DoD) was called the War Department until 1947, a few years after the end of World War II. The Orwellian label “defense” is, for the most part, delusional as the department has continued the function of waging war and flexing military might around the world. But so it’s understood what we’re talking about, we need to refer to the DoD here as what it is commonly called.

This spring the Trump administration presented its 2018 federal budget proposal, which it named: “A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again.” The negotiator in chief is requesting \$639 billion for the DoD. The total includes \$65 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) which is used largely as a slush fund to wage war without having to account for just where or how, and an increase of \$54 billion over the current DoD budget.

But surveys for the last five years have shown that the American public would prefer to see a *cut* in defense

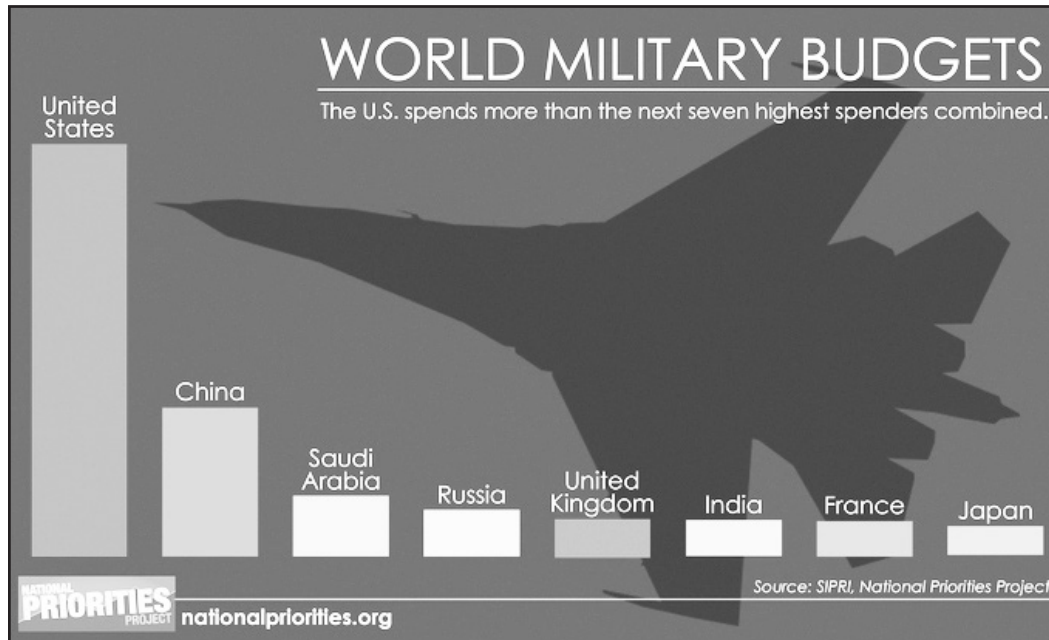
spending. In 2016, people responded that they do not want funding for nuclear weapons increased.

Peace activist Jay Kvale of St. Paul is one of the Americans disturbed by the new administration’s budget priorities which designate who will eat and who will not. He had this to say:

“Trump budget director Mike Mulvaney unveiled an absurd, heartless federal budget that proposes \$54 billion more in military spending (so Trump can “win wars”) while cutting Meals on Wheels, the EPA, State Dept. etc. Meals on Wheels serves several million people, many of whom are homebound, and also half a million veterans.

“The Administration also wants to cut our meager foreign aid at a time when millions in South Sudan, Somalia, Nigeria, etc. are on the verge of starvation. Hardest hit is Yemen, where 16 million people need assistance and several hundred thousand children may die of starvation this year if food aid doesn’t

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Do we feel safe yet? The U.S. spends as much on its military as the next seven largest countries combined. Chart: National Priorities Project



## 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

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- Coordinating
- Finance
- Fundraising
- New Member
- Newsletter
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### A Thank You a Welcome

WAMM would like to thank the outgoing board members: Carla Riehle, Pepperwolf, Sally Kundert, and Coleen Rowley. We appreciate your continued dedication and work for peace!

WAMM would like to recognize our incoming board members: Sara Olson, Penelope Gardner and JoAnn Maus! We are thrilled and excited to have your energies in our organization.

### WAMM Remembers

John Landgraf, Steve Simon, Steve Schwartz and Ted Dooley.

### WAMM Thanks

In memory of John Landgraf: Liza Burr, Livonne Fisher, Coleen Rowley, Sarah Martin, Shirley Jordan, Patty Guerrero, Bill Barnett and Kerry Cashman, Pepperwolf and Tom Bottolene, Lucia Smith, John and Marie Braun, Catherine Abbott, Carol Walker, Patricia Peterson, Richard and Marie Steege, Mary Beaudoin

In memory of Steve Simon: Coleen Rowley

In memory of Steve Schwartz: Sarah Martin, Mary Beaudoin

In memory of Ted Dooley: Sarah Martin

# U.S. and Latin America Beyond the Border Wall

by Anne Winkler-Morey

## FOCUS ON LATIN AMERICA

Beyond Donald Trump's overt anti-Mexican racism, his war on immigrants, and his puzzling anti-NAFTA rhetoric, there are other less obvious factors influencing United States Latin America relations we need to be aware of in 2017.

New products dominate the market and new players hold the reigns, yet the centuries old practice of impoverishing masses to enrich a tiny elite, while depleting resources for future generations continues. For peace and justice activists in the U.S., these changes alter our strategies while sustaining our goal of building solidarity across borders.

### **Palm oil and a new era of mining**

When trans fats went out in 2002, processed food companies turned to palm oil. Overnight former jungles in Brazil were clear cut and transformed into Palm plantations. In the "banana republics" of Guatemala and Honduras, palm oil began to replace the yellow fruit. The pesticide practices of the palm oil industry are so destructive to water tables that activists in Guatemala are charging

the industry with ecocide.

Likewise, new mining enterprises are extracting formerly unextractable subsoil resources using techniques that are more environmentally destructive than anything we have seen before. They are also more mechanized, creating fewer jobs for shorter periods than historic mines.

Aided by these new technologies, markets for gold and silver are on the rise again, fueled by new investors from Europe and Asia. China's growing consumption of steel is industrializing jungles and traditional subsistence farming regions. Iron ore production has skyrocketed. In addition, there is a new product – coltan – essential to cell phone production. It is especially lethal, poisoning both the water tables and workers. Brazil and the Congo are primary regions for coltan extraction.

### **New Players**

For a century the U.S. dominated the export economies of Latin America. It was the majority buyer and seller to the region, taking the place of Britain and Spain as the dominant power in the region. The U.S. would



*The Palm oil industry exploits workers and causes deforestation. Credit: Larry Luxner/The Tico Times*

intervene militarily when political and economic pressure were not enough to protect its interests. At first these interventions were overt – gunboats on the shore, military interventions in a dozen nations and long-term occupations in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Later the intervention would be covert (hidden from the U.S. public) – the CIA coup in Guatemala in 1954, Bay of Pigs in Cuba in 1962, the overthrow of Salvador Allende in Chile in 1973, the decade of wars in Central America in the 1980s. Destabilization of regimes threatening U.S. economic interests continued into the 21st century – most notably Venezuela. Barack Obama continued the imperial relationship, funding its interests with drug war money, and supporting a coup in Honduras to unseat a president curtailing mining interests.

In the 21st century however, the U.S. is no longer the economic king in the region. China, Canada, Japan and the E.U. are investing heavily in the region. China's interests are growing especially fast, and they have become the dominant power in some nations, such as Nicaragua. Regional powers like



*Ownership of labor, land, and resources has been an ongoing struggle in Latin America. Mural, Diego Rivera, 1931.*

Brazil and Argentina have gained the economic stature to be able to aid or exploit smaller neighbors. In addition, national industries within Latin American countries do not mean local people have any more control of profits than external parties. The Honduran palm oil company, Grupo Dinan, for example, has resorted to assassinations of activist leaders fighting for worker and water rights.

Finally, there are non-state investors in Latin America whose interests are not as direct as a fruit or mining company. TIAA CREF, a retirement investment company, is heavily invested in the palm oil industry. It uses the hard-earned savings of U.S. workers to steal land, suppress Latin American workers' rights and facilitate environmental crimes.

Such diversity in investment and trade should be good for local sovereignty, providing a measure of leverage, but for Latin America to use its leverage, it needs a level of regional cooperation, and national administrations committed to regulating export industries to maximize the profits that remain in the country, and social policies that distribute those goods for public welfare. Without those things, market competition can actually lead to more oppression for workers. Those of

us who lived through the Cold War know well how struggles amongst the big global powers get played out in the regions they are exploiting.

### **Problems and possibilities with regional integration and distributive administrations**

In the 1990s and 2000s there was a so called "pink tide" in which more left-leaning regimes committed to regional cooperation to loosen the hold of the U.S. and distributive social policies, took over in a majority of Latin American nations. Hugo Chavez' Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela in the 90s provided both the leadership and the revenue to make regional economic cooperation possible.

Unfortunately, while leading regional trade groups and providing oil grants and barter deals to its neighbors, Venezuela did not diversify its own economy. The inevitable fall in world oil prices, put an end to those deals.

Today we see a rise of right wing regimes in the southern cone – a desperate response to the failures of the "pink tide" to deliver on or sustain their distributive promises. One of the most egregious examples of how fractured regional cooperation is today: the new Argentine President has initiated an anti-immigrant crusade ala Trump, criminalizing Bolivian migrants who provide cheap agricultural labor in Argentina.

### **The roots and strength of local grassroots organizations.**

What inhibits wholesale exploitation of workers and land, is local non-governmental community-based organizing. Bolstered by the recent rise in global environmental and indigenous movements, activists confront plantations and mines at every turn. We hear about the tragic crimes such as the murder of the indigenous environmental activist

Berta Cáceres in Honduras, but we may not realize that day in and day out grassroots activists make life difficult for corporate exploiters. This 2012 quote from AZO Mining, the "leading online publication for the mining community" illustrates how concerned the mining interests are about this activism:

"Guatemala's mining conflict is a major roadblock for mining operations in the country. Recently, many communities in Guatemala protested against mining companies as they fear that indiscriminate mining in certain areas will lead to damage of land and water pollution, thus affecting their livelihoods. These communities accused the government of permitting exploration in indigenous territories without consulting local communities and failing to fulfill its international obligations." [tinyurl.com/n4dxgad](http://tinyurl.com/n4dxgad)

### **What should we in the U.S. do?**

The global economy is changing, altering struggles for economic sustainability and sovereignty in Latin America. As we fight walls, bans, raids, detentions, deportations, and disappearances on our side of the border, we also need to support the right of Latin America to stay home, build sustainable economies, and small "d" democracies. We need to stand with the Latin American people as they uphold indigenous sovereignty and the protection of resources for future generations.

*Anne Winkler Morey has a Ph.D. in Latin American History and U.S. foreign relations from the University of Minnesota. She served as an Executive Director of the Central America Resource Center in the 1980s. She currently teaches at Metro State University.*



*Latina Rosie the Riveter mural*

## Voices Heard

In the long and varied history of Jewish experience, we are inspired by those who have resisted injustice and fought for freedom. We strive to live up to those values and extend that history. By endorsing the call, we make our hope real and our love visible and we claim our own liberation as bound with the liberation of all. – *Jewish Voice for Peace on endorsing the call for BDS*

Churches played a vital role in emancipation, the abolition of slavery, the civil rights movement, ending the war in Vietnam, the BDS movement against apartheid in South Africa, the Sanctuary Movement to end the U.S. support for Central American dictatorships and death squads, and many more struggles. Churches can help end the Israeli occupation. – Washington Report on the Middle East *about the role of churches in the BDS movement*

We take no position on either side of that debate but we do assert that states should not be deciding with whom they should do business on the basis of ideological predisposition. – *American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) letter opposing amendments to House State-Foreign Relations Operation*

Many of you have asked how best you can support me to face this latest persecution. My answer is, without hesitation ... more BDS! – *co-founder of BDS, Palestinian Omar Barghouti*

## Are State Legislatures Demanding a Loyalty Oath to Israel? *by Margaret Sarfehjooy*



A bill was heard in the Minnesota State Legislature requiring businesses that contract with the state to certify that they are not discriminating against Israel. Though presented as anti-discrimination legislation, this bill is a thinly disguised attempt to undermine the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement (BDS). The Palestinian-led, international BDS movement for freedom, justice, and equality upholds the simple principle that Palestinians are entitled to the same human rights as the rest of humanity. But not only does the legislation aim to end support for Israel's violations of international law, it is also an attack on the protected First Amendment right of freedom of expression, as was testified by a member of the ACLU who spoke at the Minnesota House hearing for the bill.

BDS is gaining support throughout the world because it offers hope of a Middle East settlement through nonviolent means and the possibility of bringing about positive change for the long-suffering Palestinian people living under Israeli occupation. The BDS movement has experienced several successes in recent years. Academic organizations, as well as many artists, sports figures, and intellectuals have joined in the boycott. Groups participating in BDS through their actions include Jewish Voice for Peace, the United Church of Christ, the Presbyterian Church (USA), Mennonites and Quakers. The World Council of Churches (consisting of 347 churches, denominations, and church fellowships to which 560 million Christians belong) encourages divestment from companies



that benefit from the occupation of Palestine.

The Israeli government and its supporters can't hide Israel's atrocious human rights abuses, so they are trying to silence, through legislation, those who oppose Israel's apartheid rule. Omar Barghouti, the Palestinian co-founder of the BDS movement, said in an email to *The New York Times*: "Having lost many battles for hearts and minds at the grass-roots level, Israel has adopted since 2014 a new strategy to criminalize support for BDS from the top" in order to "shield Israel from accountability."<sup>1</sup> (Israeli police recently arrested Omar Barghouti over alleged tax evasion, seizing his passport and forbidding him from leaving the country shortly before Barghouti was scheduled to travel to the U.S. to receive the Gandhi Peace Award jointly with Ralph Nader in a ceremony at Yale University.)

Israel's Minister of Foreign Affairs (MFA) spokesperson Emmanuel Nahshon openly admitted that the Israeli government had "stepped up our efforts directly and indirectly, dealing with friends of Israel in a variety of countries in which we have the BDS movement, fighting it with legal instruments." A recent article in the Israeli newspaper *Yedioth Ahronoth* noted how the MFA, "in cooperation with Jewish and pro-Israeli organisations", convinced "several



*Palestinian home demolitions and brutal, often arbitrary, arrests including of children, are systemic under Israeli occupation. Photos: Reuters/Al Jazeera/The Australian*

American states to pass legislation against the boycott of Israel.”<sup>2</sup>

The top-down attempts to silence those who openly oppose Israel’s human rights violations were very visible at the Minnesota State Capitol earlier this year. Pro-Israel groups have been influencing Minnesota legislators to pass anti-BDS legislation as they have legislators in at least 16 other states. The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) maintains a registered lobbyist at Minnesota’s capitol. Jacob Millner, former JCRC lobbyist at Minnesota’s capitol and current senior policy analyst at The Israel Project, “works on issues pertaining to legislative action to fight BDS at a state level.”<sup>3</sup> The Israel Project (TIP), a multimillion dollar organization with offices in both Jerusalem and

Washington, D.C., supplies resources advancing a right-wing pro-Israel, anti-Palestinian narrative to journalists, policymakers, and others. (On a national level, shortly after presidential hopefuls Newt Gingrich and Michelle Bachmann talked about the “Palestinian culture of hate” during the 2012 presidential primaries and Gingrich described Palestinians as an “invented” people, TIP issued a “fact” sheet to support such views.)<sup>4</sup>

Why do vendors who contract with Minnesota have to pledge allegiance to Israel? Why can’t Minnesotans decide for themselves if they don’t want to support the Israeli government’s oppression of Palestinians, without fear of losing a state contract? Billions of federal dollars from taxpayers’ pockets go to the Israeli government each year, and that money is being used to enable Israel to continually violate international law and human rights. And now Israel wants to codify these violations into law, state by state.

But the millions of dollars spent to influence legislators within the United States can’t hide facts, such as a new United Nations report entitled “Israeli Practices towards the Palestinian People and the Question of Apartheid,” which accuses Israel of having established an apartheid regime that oppresses and dominates the Palestinian people as a whole and urged governments to “support boycott, divestment and sanctions [BDS] activities and respond positively to calls for such initiatives.”<sup>5</sup>

*Margaret Sarfehjooy is the co-chair of the WAMM Middle East Committee. Members from the committee, along with other peace and justice advocates attended the hearings at the Minnesota Capitol, and some among them testified.*

## Endnotes

1. “Cuomo to Halt State Business with Groups That Back Boycott of Israel.” McKinley, Jesse. *The New York Times*. nytimes.com June 5, 2016. tinyurl.com/z477kdu
2. “Israel and Friends Battle the Boycott in Britain: Part Two.” White, Ben. *Middle East Monitor*. middleeastmonitor.com March 2, 2016. tinyurl.com/m9r4w2f
3. “Jacob Millner, The Israel Project.” JCPA2017. tinyurl.com/ldywg8k
4. “Follow the Money: From Islamophobia to Israel Right or Wrong” Bulkin, Ely and Nevel, Donna. *alternet.org* October 3, 2012. tinyurl.com/93878bn
5. “UN report: Israel has established apartheid regime.” March 17, 2017. tinyurl.com/zxwhmtp; This report was preceded by: “Gaza in 2020. A Livable Place?” Country Team in the Palestinian Territory. United Nations Relief Works Agency. tinyurl.com/mpgkx2q

## Action

As of this writing, the legislation against BDS had yet to be voted on in the Minnesota Senate and signed or vetoed by the governor. Watch the status of such legislation in the state in which you live, and demand that vendors not be penalized for supporting a nonviolent effort to stop Israel’s atrocious human rights abuses, and for practicing their constitutionally protected free speech rights.

## Further Resources

“What to Know about anti-BDS Legislation” at Palestine Legal tinyurl.com/krqgnfg  
“Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions”: Jewish Voice for Peace tinyurl.com/kkpaosg

## Death by a Thousand Cuts: The Cost of War

*continued from page 3*

reach them. Exacerbating the situation is the Saudi war on Houthi rebels. Saudis are losing even though they have bought billions in military aid from the U.S. Recently, they bombed the main port that delivers humanitarian aid.”

Jay Kvale is correct in his assessment that increased defense spending comes at the expense of cuts to foreign aid, which is managed by the State Department, whose funding the proposed budget cuts by 29 percent. There is bitter irony in this cut because starvation is imminent, or already occurring, in places where the U.S. has had military involvement, contributing to the disruption of agriculture and food supplies. It is the victims of war who pay the highest cost—often with their lives. Within the U.S., the increase in defense comes at the expense of innumerable other community and low income programs such as those that provide people in the U.S. with public housing, emergency and home energy assistance, and legal aid. Meals on Wheels gets much of its funding through home-delivered nutrition programs for the elderly and disabled, part of the U.S. Health and Human Services Agency; the agency’s budget has been slashed by 16 percent. The budget shifts spending away from public education for all to incentivizing private education. It slashes mass transportation, pollution control, climate and clean energy research, the arts, public broadcasting, the National Health Institute, and more.

Yet the new budget includes a 7 percent increase in Homeland Security, in part to pay for the border wall sealing out Mexico.

What are the odds of the 2018 budget passing?

If it’s any indication: in a vote of 371 to 48 on March 8 of this year, the U.S. House of Representatives appropriated \$578 billion for the Department of Defense in the 2017 federal budget. This figure is not as high as Trump’s but it ensures death and destruction will continue by including funding for 1.3 million active-duty military; 826,000 National Guard and reserve troops; weapons systems for all four branches of the military, and billions for war fighting in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen and other, perhaps yet undisclosed, places.

Representing Minnesota, one of the most liberal states, four Democrats voted in favor of the funding and only one, Keith Ellison, voted against it. All three Republicans voted in favor. *Note:* The 2017 DoD bill has been sent to the Senate where, as of this writing, it has yet to be approved. It was supposed to fund the DoD starting October 1, 2016, and run up to October 1, 2017, when the 2018 budget is scheduled to begin. Military spending continues, in spite of delays in overall DoD funding authorizations during any given year with the passage of emergency supplemental funding.

Before the federal budget for any given period passes, congressional committees need to examine the various areas in the budget and make their own recommendations. House and Senate Armed Services Committees are responsible for funding and oversight of the Department of Defense which includes all branches of



*March 18 Minnesota Peace Action rally, Minneapolis. The American people do not want war waged in their names and with their tax dollars. Photo: Kristin Dooley*

military service, plus nuclear weapons, Missile Defense systems, cyber and space intelligence, research and development of new and experimental weapons programs, and more.

U.S. Representative Mac Thornberry of Texas is the chair of the House Armed Services Committee and is pushing for more defense spending. Thornberry was ranked as a number one recipient from the defense industry in the 2015/2016 election cycle, according to the Center for Responsive Politics, which tallies campaign contributions based on Federal Commissions data. He laments what he calls “excessive” government spending, but his lamentations never seem to apply to military spending. His counterpart is war advocate and Senate Armed Services Chair John McCain of Arizona. Outside the United States a visit from John McCain is feared, as it is said, “where John McCain goes, war follows.” Within the U.S., it is said that “John McCain never met a war he didn’t like.”

It’s tempting to ascribe the problem of escalating militarism to individual political personalities—after all, they provide us with so much material but it’s important to also see them in context, says commentator Todd Pierce, Major, U.S.



Army (Ret.), who had served on defense teams representing clients at Guantanamo: “The problem with personifying everything being done by Trump blinds people to the even more radical extremists in the United States government like John McCain and Lindsey Graham who are demanding we spend even more on a world dominating U.S. military which is designed not for defense any more but for offensive, aggressive war, in violation of the Nuremberg Principles. Consider the possibility that we have what are, in essence, two rival factions of fascists: Trump’s, and the other fascists, those who demand U.S. war on the world.”

They may differ in degree on funding domestic priorities, yet those who still support war can be found on both sides of the political aisle. They have been creating a dangerous inflammatory situation in a world where militarism is already deeply entrenched through the weapons industry, financial interests,

the National Security State, and supportive media.

Given these powerful interests, where is there hope? Hope is alive every week in the hundreds and thousands that have been showing up at congressional offices (inside or outside), and in streets across the country protesting a variety of injustices. Millions of U.S. constituents succeeded in preventing Congress from passing the disastrous, misnamed American Health Care Act by confronting their congressional representatives in their home districts. People in every state have been pushing back against all kinds of injustices.

These injustices do not arise out of nowhere. We need to clearly see that there is a direct connection with the funding of militarism. War feeds on fear. It creates enemies abroad and scapegoats minorities at home. And it steals from human needs. That’s why it’s time to resurrect the platitude: *Follow the money.*

*Mary Beaudoin is the editor of the Women Against Military Madness newsletter. Bill Adamski contributed to this article.*

**Action**

One action you can take is to participate in or support WAMM’s Walk Against Weapons (see back page).

**Sources for this article**

Blue Print to Make America Great Again, Defense Budget,” whitehouse.gov; “The public favors cutting defense spending,” philly.com; “Trump federal budget 2018,” Washington Post; “Here’s the \$250 Billion in Hidden Military Spending,” The Balance, thebalance.com; “Where Your Income Tax Money Really Goes,” War Resisters League, warresistersleague.com; National Priorities Project, nationalpriorities.org; “The Truth About Meals on Wheels,” usatoday.com; “How They Voted,” *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

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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. **Note:** Time change as of April to 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. 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*

Episcopal Senior Living Complex, Welcome Center, 1860 University Ave. West, St. Paul. Call WAMM for meeting time and date. FFI: Call 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. FFI: Visit [stopfbi.net](http://stopfbi.net) and [mnStopFBI.wordpress.com](http://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. Peace with justice resource, support group. FFI: Visit [justviewpoint.org](http://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. Justice issue programs for understanding our role in changing systems. FFI: Call 952-929-1566.

### *Pax Salons*

Every Tuesday, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Mississippi Market, 1500 West 7th Street, St. Paul (Community Room). 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](http://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](mailto:wamm@mtn.org).

*Eye in the Sky* Monday, May 8, 7:00 p.m., 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis. Drama about a secret "capture" or "kill" drone incident inadvertently involving a 9 year old girl. Triggers dispute in U.S., British governments over moral, political, personal implications of modern warfare. Rated R. Co-sponsored by WAMM Ground All Drones Committee.

## Special Events

### *WAMM at Heart of the Beast May Day Parade*

Sunday, May 7, 11:00 a.m. Join WAMM in Free Speech section east of Bloomington Ave. on 25th St. (between Bloomington and Cedar), South Minneapolis. FFI: 612-827-5364

### *"Coming War on China" a film by John Pilger*

Friday, May 19, 6:30 p.m., 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis. Urgent, timely investigation reveals the United States and China, both economically powerful, nuclear-armed, are on the road to war. Sponsored by the WAMM End War Committee. FFI: [wamm@mtn.org](mailto:wamm@mtn.org) or call Suzanne or Jamie at the WAMM office 612-827-5364

### *Social Media for Activists Workshop*

Monday, May 22, 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis. intro course: how to create events; share events with friends, other organizations; basic uses, recommended for anyone new to Facebook, Twitter. Suggested \$15 donation. Reservations recommended. FFI: [wamm@mtn.org](mailto:wamm@mtn.org) or call Suzanne or Jamie at WAMM @ [wamm@mtn.org](mailto:wamm@mtn.org) or 612-827-5364.

### *10th Annual Walk Against Weapons*

Saturday, June 3, 10:30 a.m. FFI: See back page.

**A Special Thanks to Tom Bottolene** for providing WAMM with the benefit of his creativity in graphic design and for his dedication in managing the WAMM website for many years. WAMM is very grateful for his contribution to the organization.

# A Peek Behind the Curtain of Current Crises

*I just got this memo from the Secretary of Defense's office.*

*It says we're going to attack and destroy the governments of seven countries in five years. We're going to start with Iraq and then we're going to move to Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Iran.*

– Wesley Clark, former NATO Supreme Allied Commander of Europe, quoting what a Pentagon official told him shortly after 9/11 (excerpt from Clark's speech to the Commonwealth Club of California, October 3, 2007)

It's evident that the plans Clark spoke of have been moving forward. But the scheming predates 2001. War planners are opportunistic in search of casus belli, or crisis (which they may have created in the first place). A few examples of the legacy of war that the Trump administration has already continued, or appears likely to:

**Syria:** Once again horrific chemical attacks on Syrian children have been ascribed to an “evil dictator” who is defying logic and “attacking his own people.” Forgotten is the fact that blame for a similar incident in 2013 in Ghouta was refuted. Ron Paul, now with his Institute for Peace and Prosperity, asks, “Does anyone believe that on the eve of the peace talks, just after the White House said the Syrian people should choose their own leaders, that Assad would launch a gas attack? We're back to the same old lies that got us into Iraq. Do we never learn to question propaganda?” Certainly the weapons manufacturers don't. On April 7, *Fortune* magazine reported that Syrian airstrikes added “nearly \$5 billion to missile makers stock value.” Raytheon stock rose by

2.5% after its Tomahawk missiles were used in the strike. The whole weapons industry has seen its stock skyrocket with the \$50 billion-plus increase in the 2018 Defense Department budget.

**Yemen:** Oxfam reports that nearly seven million people have been knowingly pushed to the brink of starvation and 70% of the population requires food aid. On April 8, 2017, Gareth Porter (“The U.S. Provided Cover for the Saudi Starvation Project in Yemen,” Truth Out, truth-out.org) wrote: “The Saudi coalition has pursued a war strategy of maximizing pressure on the Houthi resistance by destroying agricultural, health and transportation infrastructure and by choking off access to food and fuel for most of Yemen's population. The United States has enabled the Saudis to pursue that strategy by refueling the Saudi-led coalition planes bombing Yemen and selling the bombs. Equally important, however, the U.S. has provided the political-diplomatic cover that the Saudis need to carry out this ruthless endeavor without massive international blowback.”

**Somalia:** The Bureau of Investigative Journalism in its “Somalia Report 2001–2016,” states: “The Pentagon's Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) is the lead agency in the covert ‘war on terror’ in Somalia, although the CIA also has a strong regional presence. The U.S. has been carrying out extensive covert military operations inside Somalia since 2001” and “JSOC has its own fleet

of armed Reaper drones, which are flown from various bases in the region.” Corporate media may attribute instability to the famine that's devastating the country but, as in Syria, military actions wreak havoc on a country. The UN reported in April that more than half of the population – 6.2 million people require humanitarian and protection assistance, nearly three million are at risk of famine.

**Drone Warfare:** Micah Zenko, Council on Foreign Relations analyst, stated that, President Obama had approved 542 drone strikes, killing an estimated 3,797 people. Due to human rights pressure, he was more restrained toward the end of his presidency. Since his inauguration, Trump has increased the percentage of drone strikes, approving at least 36 in 45 days.

**Don't despair! Do something!** There is no denying that powerful forces are causing enormous harm in the world. Action is the best anecdote. Join the peace movement and show how powerful we are together.



WAMM Annual Walk Against Weapons.  
Photo: Tom Bottolene



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## ***TENTH ANNUAL WALK AGAINST WEAPONS!***

Raise awareness of the weapons that our tax money pays to wage war on other countries and escalate the threat of nuclear war. Now military weapons, including drones and armored vehicles, have come home to U.S. federal, state, county and local law enforcement.

Join other dedicated peacemakers for a vibrant, visible stroll to the University of Minnesota West Bank to protest the use of weapons, including drones. We'll stop at Mayday Plaza for a brief rally and head back to the finish for a total of three miles.



### **WALK SCHEDULE:**

10:30 a.m. - Check-in at Perkins Restaurant parking lot in Minneapolis  
(901 27th Avenue South)

11:00 a.m. - Walk begins 1.5 mile walk to Mayday Plaza

11:45 a.m. - Walk returns for Closing Rally at Perkins parking lot

**Would you like to walk or sponsor a walker? Come as an individual, form a team or join an existing team. Call the WAMM office 612-827-5364 for more information!**