



W.A.M.M. NEWSLETTER

Women Against Military Madness

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Women Against Military Madness

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Can We Learn from Cuba About COVID-19?

by Penny Gardner



Compare Cuba and the U.S.

Cases of COVID-19 continue to rise at an alarming rate in the United States. It may be helpful to look at comparisons between the U.S. and Cuba in the amount of COVID-19 cases. The differences are remarkable. Due to the disparity in populations between Cuba and the U.S., the raw numbers aren't meaningful. However, when cases per million of population are examined, the comparison is staggering. See below.

The lower number of cases in Cuba is due to the fact that its health system devised a strategy for dealing with the developing coronavirus crisis in January 2020. The plan included educating medical personnel as well as the public, so citizens would be informed about virus warning signs and preventive measures. Quarantine and treatment facilities were put in place before the first cases of COVID-19 were confirmed among three Italian tourists in early March. By then,

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	Population	Confirmed	Deaths	Cases/million	Deaths/million
Cuba	11,326,616	3,866	92	341	8
U.S.	331,002,651	6,088,017	185,694	18,376	560

Worldometer: August 28, 2020¹



So close and yet so far away: 106 miles from Havana to Key West, Florida as the crow flies, and a one-hour flight from Miami to Havana.



The statements and opinions reflected in this newsletter are the views of the author and not necessarily official positions of WAMM. We encourage a diversity of opinion to represent the range of perspectives that coexist under the banner of WAMM's mission statement.

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Women Against Military Madness is a nonviolent, feminist organization, founded in 1982, that works in solidarity with others to create a system of social equality, self-determination and justice through education, action and the empowerment of women. WAMM's purpose is to dismantle systems of militarism, economic exploitation and global oppression.

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End Minnesota Complicity in the Suffering of the Palestinian People

by Lucia Wilkes Smith



Living in the North Country doesn't allow us to ignore human rights abuses perpetrated internationally and, specifically, within Israeli-occupied Palestine.

General Mills

Now it's Cheerios, Froot Loops, Betty Crocker, and that cute Pillsbury Doughboy! In February, the United Nations named Minnesota-based General Mills among companies doing business in illegal Israeli settlements on Palestinian land.

General Mills bought Pillsbury in 2001 and manufactures frozen baked goods in the Atarot Industrial Zone. The factory was built on land belonging to the Palestinian neighborhood of Beit Hanina, located in the area of East Jerusalem. The Atarot, like other Israeli settlements, is illegal under international law according to UN Security Council Resolution 2334.

ACTION & INFO:

Join a peaceful banner, protest General Mills HQ, Golden Valley, MN, at surrounding park-like grounds that welcomes visitors. Visible from Highway #394, east of #169, Monday, September 21, 4:30-5:30 p.m. (a day before General Mills shareholder meeting scheduled Tuesday, September 22, 8:30 a.m.) Note: Anyone holding shares in General Mills is welcome to submit a question for corporate officers during that meeting to express their concerns.

Also, watch for updates on “No Dough for the Occupation!” a wintertime banner, holiday baking campaign.

American Friends Service Committee investigation: tinyurl.com/y6dr2rgl

Elbit Systems

The Minnesota State Board of Investment (SBI), which handles pension funds for all state employees and public-school teachers, holds stock in Elbit Systems, that Israeli weapons manufacturer renowned for “field testing” weapons—with intensity—on the Palestinian people of Gaza.

Elbit Systems also is under contract with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for surveillance equipment installed along the U.S./Mexico border. Indigenous organizer Nellie Jo David drew parallels between the cruel nature of walls and checkpoints in her own borderland Tohono O'odham Nation and in Occupied Palestine. (See the Women Against Military Madness Annual Meeting, June 2020: tinyurl.com/y489vw8k on Youtube.)

ACTION & INFO:

Lobby Minnesota State Board of Investment to divest from Elbit (continuing). *FFI:* WAMM calendar or contact the office at 612-827-5364.

See for background: “Minnesota Not Nice! State's Role in Violating Human Rights at the U.S. Southern Border and in Palestine,” by Lucia Wilkes Smith. *Women Against Military Madness Newsletter, Vol. 37 Number 4 Fall I, 2019,* tinyurl.com/y674up3q

Can We Learn From Cuba . . .

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a system of contact tracing and isolation protocols was already in place.

When the number of confirmed virus cases rose to 21 on March 20, containment actions were instituted. Tourist arrivals were stopped, a significant decision given the reliance the Cuban economy places on tourism. According to WorldAware, a risk management company, by early April public transportation was shut down and restrictions on non-essential shipping were implemented. Essential transport, such as medical services, was allowed to operate, with the use of facemasks mandated. In addition, the government “requested that all foreign sea-going vessels withdraw from Cuban waters, with limited exceptions.” Cargo operations and humanitarian flights were able to continue. Schools, gyms, theaters and cultural centers had previously been ordered closed. Some localities had curfews and restrictions of movement in or out of the community in place.²

A Study of Cuba’s Response

Helen Yaffe, an historian and lecturer in economic and social history at the University of Glasgow, specializes in Cuban and Latin American development. In her article “Leading by Example: Cuba in the COVID-19 Pandemic,” she has written in depth about Cuba’s response to COVID-19.³ Yaffe notes that:

the population went under ‘lock-down’ on March 20. Business taxes and domestic debts were suspended, those hospitalized had 50% of their salaries guaranteed and low-income households qualified for social and family assistance schemes, with food, medicine and other goods delivered to their homes. Workshops nationwide began to produce masks, bolstered by a grassroots movement of home production, and community

mutual aid groups organized to assist the vulnerable and elderly with shopping for food as long queues became the norm.

Cuba considers healthcare a human right and has a public health system that focuses on disease prevention. According to Yaffe, in 1983 Cuba instituted a system of neighborhood family medicine practices, and with this system, the doctor or nurse lives above the practice, providing 24-hour availability: “Once the first cases were confirmed, the family-doctor daily house visits were extended and became the single most important tool for active case detection to get ahead of the virus. Some 28,000 medical students joined them going door to door to detect symptoms.”

Yaffe describes the outcome of these daily home visits:

People with symptoms were remitted to their local polyclinic for rapid evaluation. Those suspected of having COVID-19 are sent to one of the new municipal isolation centers where they remain for 14 days receiving testing and medical attention. If symptoms

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WAMM Committees

Issues Committees:

- Book Club
- End Domestic Militarism
- End Military Madness Against the Earth
- End War
- Ground All Drones
- Middle East
- St. Joan of Arc/
WAMM Peacemakers
- Second Monday Movies
- Solidarity Committee on the Americas
- Tackling Torture at the Top (T3)

Standing Committees:

- Coordinating
- Finance
- Fundraising
- Membership/Outreach
- Newsletter
- Personnel
- Program/New Issues
- Silent Auction

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Cuban medical team arrives in South Africa. Photo: European CEO

Can We Learn From Cuba . . .

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proved not to be COVID-19, they return home, but must stay indoors for 14 days and are followed in primary care. In addition, the homes and communal entrances of patients sent to isolation centers are disinfected by ‘rapid response teams’ consisting of polyclinic directors and vice directors, alongside of family members.

Regarding medications, Yaffe indicates that Cuba has used 22 drugs in prevention (focusing on measures to enhance immunity) and treatment. Most of them are produced in Cuba. Heberon, an interferon Alfa 2b, showed promise. (Interferons are naturally occurring proteins that have anti-viral properties. Interferons have been used worldwide to treat viral infections such as dengue fever and hepatitis B and C.) Further, Yaffe explains that:

on April 14, it was reported that out of the 93.4% of COVID-19 patients in Cuba who had been treated with Heberon, only 5.5% of those reached a serious state. The mortality rate in Cuba reported by that date was 2.7%, but for patients treated with Heberon, it was 0.9%.

Yaffe also cites the preventive use of Heberon in China: “In Wuhan, China, nearly 3,000 medical personnel received Heberon as a preventive measure to boost their immune response: none of them contracted the virus. Meanwhile 50% of another 3,300 medics who were not given the drug did get COVID-19.

Due to this success, many countries have requested access to Heberon. Cuba also has other drugs in use and in development, as well as vaccines.

A History of Medical Internationalism

The success of Cuba’s biomedical industry is inspiring given the challenges of the six-decades-long U.S. criminal blockade, which includes food and medicine. After Cuba lost the support of the Soviet Union in 1989, the U.S. tightened the blockade in the 1990s, and by 1999, fearing penalties from the U.S., very few international pharmaceutical companies were trading with Cuba, causing serious shortages of medications and materials to manufacture medicines.

Cuba has a long history of medical internationalism. According to an article in *Al Jazeera*, as early as 1960, “Cuba sent a team of medics to Chile after a devastating earthquake hit the country.” In 1963, Cuba sent medical workers to help newly independent Algeria build its healthcare sector.⁴ Currently (from remarks on July 30 by Cuban President Diaz-Canel) “a total of 45 Henry Reeve brigades specialized in disasters and major epidemics are now working in 38 countries with 3,772 members—including 2,399 women—who have assisted more than 250,000 COVID-19 patients.”⁵

In the U.S., Reactionary Forces

Although Cuba had provided these invaluable medical services, on June 17, three senators, Rick Scott and Marco Rubio, both of Florida, and Ted Cruz of Texas, introduced the bill “Cut Profits to the Cuban Regime Act.” The Cuba Solidarity Campaign (CSC), a British organization that advocates for Cuba against foreign intervention, strongly condemned the bill, which, it says, “aims to punish countries which accept Cuban medical missions. If passed, the act would list those nations with Cuban medical brigades in the State Department’s annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, unless they complied with

U.S.-imposed regulations on how they worked with Cuba.” Contrary to what the senators allege, the facts are, as CSC, explains:

Depending on the resources of those countries, the brigades either work free of charge, or the Cuban government receives payment from the host nations. Those who volunteer abroad retain their salary at home, which is paid to their families while they are away, as well as receiving an agreed percentage of the host nation’s payment. The remainder is used to support medical brigades in poorer nations and Cuba’s health service at home.⁶

Characterizing the medical brigades as human trafficking is simply a guise designed to discredit the Cuban medical project. Usually human trafficking refers to the coerced use of persons for labor or sexual exploitation. In an interview with *The Nation*, “Dr. Gracilliano Diaz, a veteran of the campaign against Ebola in Sierra Leone 2014, dismissed the idea that he is a victim of trafficking: ‘We do this voluntarily, it doesn’t matter to us that other countries brand us as slaves. What matters to us is that we contribute to the world.’”⁷

In addition to U.S. government officials, the nongovernmental organization Human Rights Watch (HRW), which has been much criticized for its U.S. political bias, also leveled an unjust attack on the Cuban medical brigades. On July 23, 2020, HRW released a report, “Cuba: Repressive Rules for Doctors Working Abroad,” that claims:

the Cuban government imposes draconian rules on doctors deployed in medical missions globally that violate their fundamental rights . . . Governments

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seeking support from Cuban health workers should press Cuban authorities to modify applicable regulations and laws that violate the right to privacy, freedom of expression and association liberty and movement among others.⁸

Consideration for the Nobel Peace Prize

In response, on August 11, 2020, the Cuba Nobel Organizing Committee, which is promoting the Cuban medical brigades to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, released a statement: “*Misrepresentative and Flawed Human Rights Watch Report on Cuba.*” The organizing committee charges that the HRW report is “spurious, repeating shameful and already debunked accusations.” Cuba Nobel points out that although the volunteers are “not diplomats in a formal sense, it makes sense that they are discouraged from visiting places that will damage their prestige, need authorization to speak to the media and to participate in public acts of a political or social nature.” This regulation protects them from false accusations of political interference. This regulation also reassures a country like Honduras—where the government is the ideological opposite of Cuba—that the doctors it receives will not interfere in domestic Honduran affairs.⁹

After excoriating HRW for its attack on the medical brigades, Cuba Nobel concluded that “it would be more relevant to ask the U.S. government to lift the sanctions on Cuba that violate international law and the right of the Cuban people to their basic needs, including food and medicine, during a pandemic.”

Calls for Collaboration with Cuba

The National Network on Cuba (NNOC) has called for collaboration between the U.S., Canada, and Cuba to fight against COVID-19. In the U.S., municipal entities, including Richmond, California, and San Francisco, have passed resolutions supporting collaboration with Cuba to fight COVID-19 in their communities.

Women Against Military Madness formed the Solidarity Committee on the Americas (SCOTA), which includes members with medical and public health backgrounds. SCOTA was instrumental in creating SF4619, a resolution introduced by Minnesota Senator Sandra Pappas, calling for Minnesota and the United States to actively pursue medical and scientific collaboration with Cuba to effectively fight COVID-19. A companion bill, HF4690, was introduced in the House by Representative John Lesch. On August 9, 2020, Senator Pappas sent a letter to Governor Walz urging collaboration with Cuba to learn from its success in dealing with COVID-19. The letter was signed by four other state senators and six state representatives.

SCOTA is also pursuing an online forum between MEDICC (Medical Education Cooperation with Cuba) and some of the deans in the Academic Health Center at the University of Minnesota to explore the possibility of collaboration.

In Conclusion:

Certainly, Cuba’s development of innovative pharmaceuticals in the fight against COVID-19 is important and should be acknowledged as a significant achievement. However, it is clear that low-tech, people-powered interventions such as mobilizing public health resources, rigorous daily monitoring for early detection, enforcing quarantine

practices, educating the public and medical providers, providing early testing, and reinstating lockdown when new cases surge in a locale are the most important reasons for the containment of the virus in Cuba.

Penny Gardner is a member of Solidarity Committee of The Americas (SCOTA) and serves on the WAMM Board. A retired registered nurse, she has visited Cuba.

ACTIONS & INFO:

Endorse the Saving Lives campaign at savinglives@us-cubanormalization.org.

Sign the petition at cubanobel.org promoting the nomination of the Cuban International Medical Brigade for the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize.

Follow SCOTA on Facebook and at womenagainstmilitarymadness.org

Join a SCOTA meeting: contact solidaritycommitteeofamericas@gmail.com

Endnotes

- 1 “Coronavirus Updated.” *Worldometer*. worldometers.info August 28, 2020
- 2 “COVID-19 Alert: Cuba Imposes Public Transportation and Commercial Restrictions as of April 10” worldaware.com April 10, 2020
- 3 “Leading by Example: Cuba in the COVID-19 Pandemic.” Yaffe, Helen. *CounterPunch*. counterpunch.org June 4, 2020
- 4 “Cuba has a history of sending medical teams to nations in crisis.” Petkova, Mariya. *Al Jazeera English*. aljazeera.com
- 5 “Anti-imperialist unity is the tactic and strategy of victory,” from remarks by Cuban President Diaz-Canel at a videoconference on July 30, 2020. National network on Cuba. nnoc.info August 27, 2020
- 6 “CSC condemns U.S. threat to medical internationalism.” *Campaign News*. cuba-solidarity.org.uk July 1, 2020
- 7 “Cuba Has Sent over 2,000 Doctors and Nurses Overseas to Fight COVID-19.” Agustin, Ed. *The Nation*. thenation.com May 22, 2020
- 8 “Cuba: Repressive Rules for Doctors Working Abroad.” Human Rights Watch hrw.org July 23, 2020
- 9 “Misrepresentative and Flawed Human Rights Watch Report on Cuba.” Organizing Committee cubanobel.org August 11, 2020

75 Years of Nuclear Weapons



Helen Caldicott,
international anti-
nuclear advocate

Australian-born Dr. Caldicott, a pediatric physician, has been a key organizer with several anti-nuclear organizations including International Physicians for Social Responsibility. A tireless advocate for educating about the medical effects of nuclear weapons and the need to eliminate these massively deadly weapons, she issued yet another admonition, this time on the anniversary of the U.S. nuclear bombing of Japan 75 years ago. Excerpts from “The Lessons We Haven’t Learned,” Helen Caldicott, The Progressive, August/September 2020:

Potentially billions of people would die hideously from acute radiation sickness, vomiting, and bleeding to death. As thick black radioactive smoke engulfed the stratosphere, the Earth would, over time, be plunged into another ice age—a “nuclear winter,” annihilating almost all living organisms. Seventy-five years after the dawn of the nuclear age, we are as ready as ever to extinguish ourselves. The human race is clearly an evolutionary aberrant on a suicidal mission. Our planet is in the intensive care unit, approaching several terminal events. . . .

There are 450 Minuteman III nuclear weapons operational on the Great Plains—in Montana, North Dakota, and Wyoming. In each missile silo are two missileers who control and launch the missiles which contain one or two hydrogen bombs. Planes armed with hydrogen bombs stand ready to take off at any moment, and nuclear submarines silently plow the oceans ready to launch. . . .

Both the United States and Russia have nuclear weapons targeted at military facilities and population centers. Nuclear war could happen at any time, by accident or design. The late Stephen Hawking warned in 2014 that artificial intelligence, now being deployed by the military, could become so autonomous that it could start a nuclear war by itself.

Jay Kvale, citizen activist on nuclear issues

Kvale studies, speaks, and lobbies about nuclear issues and has delivered speeches at both the Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemorations. (Minneapolis and Hiroshima are sister cities. St. Paul is a sister city of Nagasaki. Both cities conduct annual commemorations for the U.S. bombings of Japanese cities.) A member of the End War Committee of Women Against Military Madness, Kvale delivered a speech at the August 6, 2020, commemoration of Hiroshima in Minneapolis (excerpts follow):

Since the atomic bombings in Japan 75 years ago, there have been two parallel trends that have developed in nuclear weapons issues:

The first is the building of bigger bombs and proliferation to many countries. In the early 1950s Edward Teller created the hydrogen bomb—200 times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb. In 1955, Russia developed the hydrogen bomb and it has since spread to nine countries.

The second trend is the effort to control the spread of the bomb through treaties and disarmament agreements. But in 2012, Obama approved a trillion-dollar modernization of the U.S. nuclear arsenal (over 30 years). Two years ago, Putin claimed Russia has a hypersonic missile system [a delivery

system that can travel many times the speed of sound]. The U.S. and China are scrambling to produce their own versions. And Trump has pulled out of the arms control agreements and has proposed above-ground nuclear testing (though this testing is getting a lot of pushback from Congress and scientists.)

The major positive development is the International Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which has been signed at the UN by most nations, and ratified by 44. If fifty nations do so (hopefully in the coming year), the treaty will become international law and a milestone that will make outlaws of the nine nuclear nations who haven’t ratified it. So far, only nine members of the U.S. House of Representatives, including Congresswomen Omar and McCollum of Minnesota, have signed the pledge to support the treaty. We need many more to sign.

Citizens should tell Congress to stop the nuclear race by opposing the modernization of the nuclear arsenal, cancelling the \$85 billion project for 400 intercontinental nuclear missiles (ICBMs), and cancelling the new \$10 billion Trident killer submarine which carries the equivalent of 2,000

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Child’s incinerated tricycle. Photo: The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.

Stopping the School to Military Pipeline *by Carol Masters*

FOCUS ON U.S.

In late July, in a groundbreaking move, New York Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez introduced a pair of amendments to a defense appropriations bill, amendments that would bar the military from using funding to maintain a recruiting presence in U.S. schools or on digital platforms such as Twitch. (Twitch is the world's leading live streaming platform for gamers, often young boys or men.)

In a statement to *The New York Times*, Ocasio-Cortez explained that the amendments are intended to curb a trend of military recruiters targeting minority and low-income students: "Whether through recruitment stations in their lunchrooms, or now through e-sports teams, children in low-income communities are persistently targeted for enlistment," she said.

A few days later, in a largely bipartisan vote, the House killed the amendment about Twitch, striking down the measure. "War is not a game," Ocasio-Cortez said before the vote. "This amendment is specifically to block funding for recruitment practices on . . . these live streaming platforms largely populated by children well under the age of military recruitment rules." (John Bowden, *The Hill*, July 27, 2020)

The second of AOC's amendments represents the more substantive challenge to the Pentagon's recruitment strategy. It would "limit the military's ability to place recruiters in secondary schools or access students' personal information from those schools." (Jonah Walters, *Portside.org*, August 24, 2020) It has not yet faced a House vote.

Through the 2001 No Child Left

Behind Act, Congress strengthened the military's school recruitment mandate by tying collaboration with military recruiters to federal education funding. Federal law requires schools to release the names, addresses, and numbers of all high school students to military recruiters through the Every Student Succeeds Act. (National Center for Education Statistics https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2006/stu_privacy/military.asp)*

Military recruiters use these inroads to form relationships with impressionable youths, and it's legal.

Parents do have the right to "opt out" in writing from having their child's information sent to military recruiters, and schools must notify parents they have the right to opt out. *BUT*: Parents often are not aware of this, and most schools do a terrible job of informing them. Parents and community members have organized for decades to try and limit recruiters' access to students and to guide young people toward civilian jobs. Today, with AOC, we have a strong voice *within* Congress to counter the hysteria of U.S. militarization and war making (hopefully, not a solitary one).

Her example can help amplify the message of National Veterans for

Peace, which has been an important contributor to counter-recruitment efforts. VFP has been raising public concerns about the militarizing effect that Pentagon recruitment efforts have on our youth (vfp.org) and culture. The Twin Cities chapter (vfpchapter27.org) has provided speakers and counselors to area schools.

ACTIONS & INFO:

Obtain a "Back-to-School Kit for Counter Recruitment and School Demilitarization Organizing."

National Network Opposing the Militarization of Youth: nmony.org (also on Facebook)

Copy and paste Opt Out form for a "Dear Superintendent, School Board member, Principal, etc. letter." World Beyond War: worldbeyondwar.org

Send an email to your state legislators and governor. Roots Action: tinyurl.com/y43n64dr

Carol Masters is a longtime peace activist, WAMM member, and writer.

Endnotes

* "Access to High School Students and Information on Students by Military Recruiters," U.S. Department of Education Q & A Policy Guidelines



 National Network Opposing
the Militarization of Youth
nmony.net

Stop
the
School
to
Military
Pipeline

The Nuclear Fuel Chain: From Mining to Waste

(as told by Leona Morgan in interview
with Mary Beaudoin, August 7, 2020.)



Leona Morgan is an Indigenous community organizer and activist who co-founded and coordinates with the Nuclear Issues Study Group. She works in international, multiracial, woman-led movements to dismantle the nuclear beast. Leona is from the Navajo Nation and lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The nuclear industry and government agencies downplay the true horrors of the nuclear issues with what we activists call “nukespeak,” meaning that they separate the full cycle of issues around nuclear power and nuclear weapons. But examination of the Nuclear Fuel Chain connects the two faces of nuclear—bombs and electric power—and reveals the links from mining to labs and manufacturing plants to transportation and waste storage. And from there it gets into the environment and inside our bodies. The Nuclear Fuel Chain also lays bare nuclear colonialism and for-profit nuclear industry.

While every year in August, Americans of conscience commemorate the horrific days when the U.S. dropped a uranium bomb on the Japanese city

of Hiroshima and a plutonium bomb on Nagasaki, July 16, 1945 is a very unique and quite tragic day for us in New Mexico.

We must not forget that New Mexico was the first place to experience a nuclear weapon. This year is also the 75th anniversary of the first atomic test that took place on Mescalero and Chiricahua Apache lands. [That was the Trinity Test. Trinity was the code name for a part of the Manhattan Project that resulted in dropping the bombs on Japan.]

The uranium to create the bomb dropped on Hiroshima came from the Shinkolobwe Mine in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where the most potent uranium was found. The Manhattan Project contracted with a Belgian company that owned the mine. The uranium was brought to the U.S. and refined at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and then sent to the Los Alamos National Laboratories in New Mexico, where it was used in the research and development of the bomb called Little Boy that was dropped on Hiroshima.

Hanford in Washington State is the site of the world’s first nuclear reactor



Leona Morgan

and it is where the uranium from the Shinkolobwe Mine was processed into plutonium fuel for the bomb called Fat Man that was dropped on Nagasaki.

The Congolese miners handled radioactive uranium without being provided with any knowledge about what it was. Their families and the entire village of Shinkolobwe were destroyed by radioactive contamination. Generations of children were born with malformations. An organization, the Congolese Civil Society of South Africa, and the Missing Link Conference connect Shinkolobwe survivors to Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The legacy of the Shinkolobwe Mine is felt all over the world from DRC communities to those living near nuclear dumps across the U.S. to downwinders from the first test in New Mexico and U.S. weapons dropped on Japan. There is a common thread among these people: a desire for recognition and justice for what was suffered as a result of the U.S. government program to build an atomic bomb.



Shinkolobwe mine, the origin of uranium used in the Manhattan Project to build the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Congolese workers were not informed that they were dealing with radioactive material. Photo: National Geographic

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Nuclear Fuel Chain. . .

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There are many weapons facilities in New Mexico and uranium continues to be experimented with. The University of New Mexico maintains a research facility.

Uranium waste is an issue. We do not want to turn into a wasteland and a sacrifice zone. Remarkably, in 1979, on July 16, the same day as the Trinity Test detonated the first atomic bomb, the world's largest uranium spill occurred on Diné (Navajo) homelands in the northwest part of New Mexico. It released over 100,000 million gallons of radioactive waste that flowed into Arizona. The contamination is still carried by wind, dust, trucks, trains, and animals. In Washington state, waste from processes still threatens the Columbia River and has defied clean-up efforts.

Sandia National Labs is a weapons arsenal, southeast of Albuquerque, and maintains a huge waste area called a "mixed waste landfill." It's basically a big hole in the ground where nuclear and other waste is dumped. It is less than one mile from water wells and above the Albuquerque aquifer, six miles from downtown Albuquerque. The site is being expanded (with a new storage shaft), but there isn't transparency about it. It's claimed that the dump is "interim" only, but there is no permanent storage site anywhere.

Right now my focus is on Holtec, a massive company which proposes to more than double high level radioactive waste near Albuquerque, bringing it from other locations. Other states have nuclear power reactors which generate waste. I would like to see other communities, especially along the railroad lines, to request hearings about the safety

of transporting nuclear waste to the Holtec facility. People can demand that their states hold Nuclear Regulatory Commission hearings. This concerns everyone.

ACTIONS & INFO:

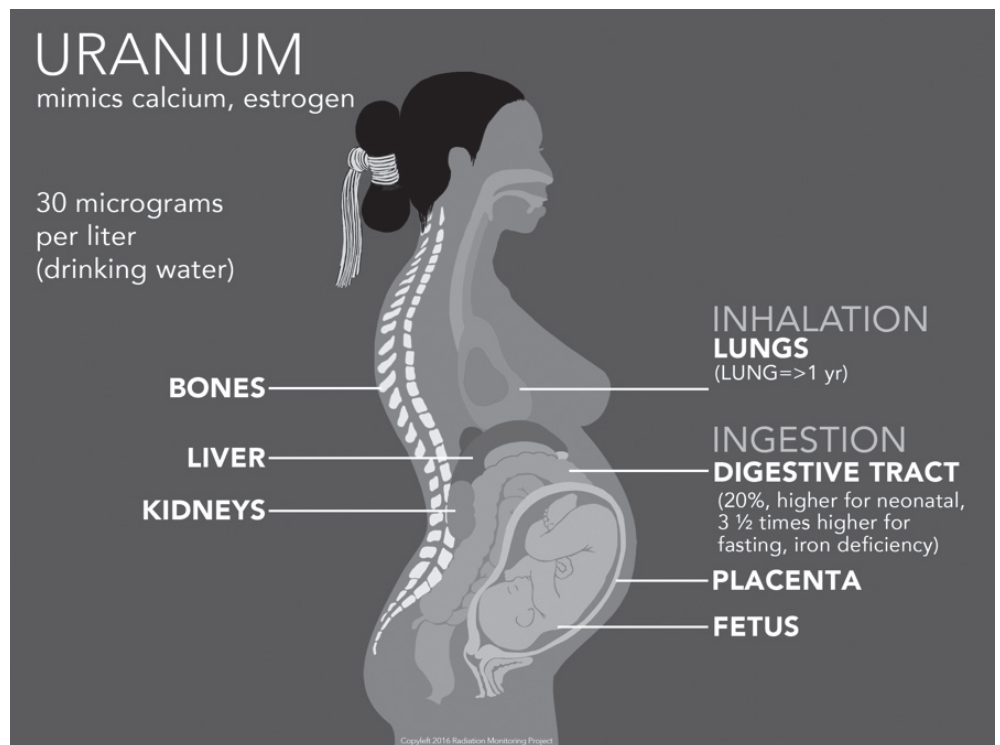
Stop the extremely dangerous out-of-state transportation of nuclear waste. The private companies, Holtec International and Waste Control Specialists (WCS)/Interim Storage Partners (ISP), have each applied for a license to transport all of the waste from every nuclear power plant in the country to dump on New Mexico and Texas. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has released a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for both proposals. **Submit a public comment on NRC forms:**

RE: Holtec (New Mexico) by September 22: [regulations.gov/comment?D=NRC-2018-0052-0376](https://www.regulations.gov/comment?D=NRC-2018-0052-0376)

RE: Waste Control Specialists (Texas) by November 3: [regulations.gov/comment?D=NRC-2016-0231-0317](https://www.regulations.gov/comment?D=NRC-2016-0231-0317)

"We Are Not a Wasteland": Nuclear Studies Group six-part video series, including issues of environmental racism and justice, to educate and inspire resistance to the largest proposed high-level radioactive waste dump on earth. [facebook.com/NuclearIssuesStudyGroup/videos](https://www.facebook.com/NuclearIssuesStudyGroup/videos)

"The Problem with Transporting Nuclear Waste"
tinyurl.com/y2kzjq4n



Radioactive uranium enters the body by inhalation or ingestion causing health impacts on organs. It mimics calcium and possibly, estrogen. Image & report: "The uranium map in our bodies," beyondnuclearinternational.org

PM: What's On Polly Mann's Mind?

by Polly Mann

Shame on the Congress, which had been allocated \$6 billion through its Payroll Protection Program to help small business owners, who just happened to be: (1) elite foreign-owned companies, (2) large chains backed by well-heeled Wall Street firms, and (3) private schools catering to elite clientele. Nearly 90,000 companies took the aid without promising that they would rehire workers or create jobs.

And Prof. Emeritus Michael D. Knox, Univ. of Florida, reminds us of our country's militaristic history:

The U.S. has bombed no less than 30 countries since the end of World War II, killing millions of people, maiming tens of millions more, disrupting and destroying education, healthcare, housing, businesses, infrastructure, and the environment, and creating untold

millions of refugees. Since 1946 no country has killed or injured more people living outside its boundaries. If people would refuse to support, fund, kill, or participate in the process, there would be no war. We need to reset and have a fresh start. Forty-seven percent of the population's income taxes go to the military [other estimates show an even higher percentage of the federal discretionary budget going to the military]. The people who profit from war are the arms manufacturers, while hunger, homelessness, and illnesses prevail.

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

75 Years . . .

continued from page 6

Hiroshima bombs. But what about Russia, which has a roughly equivalent nuclear arsenal? Many Russian scientists want to disarm and Russia has said it is willing to extend the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), which is set to expire in 2021. The treaty initially led to the dismantling of thousands of nuclear weapons and it should be extended.

We need our resources for the millions of virus victims and unemployed and for improving healthcare, education, and other parts of our infrastructure. And we must continue to break down the barrier of nationalism and the idea that people in other countries are "foreign enemies." We are all brothers and sisters on the earth and we should work together to abolish these weapons so that children can inherit a safer world.

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Sustaining Membership

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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 Peace/ Justice Vigils

Vigil to End War

Wear masks and practice social distancing! Every Wednesday, 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: 612-827-5364.

Vigil to End the Occupation of Palestine

Wear masks and practice social distancing! Every Friday, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., corner of Summit Avenue and Snelling Avenue, St. Paul. FFI: 612-827-5364.

Peace Vigil

Wear masks and practice social distancing! Every Tuesday, 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. on the east side of the Franklin Avenue Bridge, Minneapolis. Sponsored by: Prospect Hill Neighbors for Peace. FFI: 612-379-7398.

Grandmothers for Peace Vigil

Wear masks and practice social distancing! 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.

Immigrant Solidarity Vigils

Every Tuesday, 7:30 a.m.

Wear masks and practice social distancing! Stand up for justice, say NO to family separation, deportation. Gather weekly with signs (bring your own or use one provided) at ICE entrance closest to Fort Snelling light rail station. Vigil on Minnehaha Ave., Minneapolis by the sign at the driveway entrance to ICE. Rain or shine. (If using GPS—6000 Minnehaha Ave, Minneapolis). FFI: Call Pepper 612-701-6963 or Mary Lou 612-280-0354

Second Tuesday of every month, 7:30 a.m.

Wear masks and practice social distancing! Interfaith Coalition on Immigration (ICOM) gathers in solidarity with immigrants and refugees to achieve justice and stand up to systems of oppression. Vigil outside the Bishop Whipple Building, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, St. Paul. FFI: Facebook: Interfaith Coalition on Immigration (ICOM).

WAMM Committee Meetings

Board Meeting

Third Tuesday of every month via Zoom, 6:00 p.m. FFI: 612-827-5364.

Book Club

Times/dates pending. FFI: 612-827-5364.

End War

First Monday of every month via Zoom, 6:00 p.m. FFI: 612-827-5364.

Ground All Drones

Times/dates pending. FFI: 612-827-5364.

Middle East

Second Monday of every month via Zoom, 10:00 a.m. FFI: 612-827-5364.

St. Joan of Arc/ WAMM Peacemakers

Fourth Tuesday of every month via Zoom, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. FFI: Call Barbara 612-722-4444 or Bill 612-926-8459.

Solidarity Committee on the Americas (SCOTA)

Every Thursday via Zoom, 1:00 p.m. FFI: 612-827-5364.

Tackling Torture at the Top (T3)

Second Wednesday of every month via Zoom, 10:00 a.m. FFI: 612-827-5364.

Ongoing Events

Grandmothers for Peace

First Wednesday of every month, 12:45 p.m. via Zoom. Justice issue programs for understanding our role in changing systems. FFI: 701-260-7566.

Middle East Peace Now

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

WAMM Second Monday at the Movies

During the pandemic, we are no longer screening movies. However, the Movie Committee is posting links to important movies available on line. Check WAMM's Calendar and Facebook page for details. FFI: 612-827-5364.

Special Events

Palestine Bannering: Remember the Sabra & Shatila Massacre

Wear masks and practice social distancing! Thursday, September 17, 5:30 to 6:00 p.m., Loring Park Bridge, Mpls. Hold banners over I-94 to remember Palestinians. FFI: info@antiwarcommittee.org

10 Days Free from Violence

Friday, September 18, 10:30 a.m. through Sunday, September 27, 4:00 p.m. Multiple events to celebrate nonviolence. FFI: twincitiesnonviolent.org/calendar/

Blue Scarf Day Webinar

Sunday, September 20, 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Learn about the International Blue Scarf Movement. FFI: greta@worldbeyondwar.org.

General Mills Protest Bannering for Palestine

Monday, September 21, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. See details on Page 2.

WAMM Silent Auction is Canceled This Year

Each year, Women Against Military Madness puts on a silent auction which is the major fundraiser for the organization. But because of the Covid-19 pandemic we will not be able to hold this event. Instead, please contribute to:

WAMM International Day of Peace Fundraiser

Monday, September 21 all day. It is imperative that WAMM continue to work in solidarity with other organizations for nonviolence, social equity and justice through education and action. Thank you in advance for your contribution to this vital work. Please contribute on our Go Fund Me page at <https://tinyurl.com/y663o8yx>.

Dr. Rashid Khalidi Conversation on Palestine Webinar

Saturday, September 26, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Conversation with Dr. Rashid Khalidi, historian and author of *The Hundred Years' War on Palestine: A History of Settler Colonialism and Resistance, 1917-2017*. Co-sponsored by Middle East Peace Now, East Side Freedom Library and WAMM. FFI: mepn@mepn.org



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W.A.M.M. International Day of Peace Fundraiser



Each year, W.A.M.M. holds a silent auction which is the major fundraiser for the organization. But because of the Covid-19 pandemic we will not be able to hold this event. Instead, we are initiating a GoFundMe campaign ending on September 21, 2020: The International Day of Peace.

W.A.M.M.'s purpose is to "dismantle systems of militarism, economic exploitation and global oppression". At this time when the global pandemic necessitates a peaceful world working for the common good, the pandemic in the U.S. has created economic and social injustices. The police killing of George Floyd on May 25, 2020 in Minneapolis has launched a new wave

of military madness at home with troops and military hardware deployed in our neighborhoods.

It is imperative that W.A.M.M. continue to work in solidarity with other organizations for nonviolence, social equity and justice through education and action. Thank you in advance for your contribution to this vital work.

LINK HERE:

<https://tinyurl.com/y663o8yx>



**Donate by going online or send a check to Women Against Military Madness and write International Day of Peace in the subject line and mail to:
Women Against Military Madness, 4200 Cedar Ave S, Suite 3, Minneapolis, MN 55407**