



W.A.M.M. NEWSLETTER

Women Against Military Madness

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Women Against Military Madness

Military Madness: U.S. Style: What's the alternative?

by Kristin Dooley, WAMM Director

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Imagine a chemical attack happens in your neighborhood. What do you expect would happen next?

From watching various (questionable, of course) horror movies, the National Guard would quarantine my neighborhood with sand trucks and bright yellow warning tape and fire fighters and police would converge on the area. Strange men and women in biohazard suits with oxygen tanks and protective gloves would enter the area and start taking samples of the soil, water and air in an attempt to identify the toxin. Our bodies and our neighbors' bodies would be thoroughly examined for symptoms and effects and the data would be collected to be analyzed. Our finest epidemiologists would be consulted and a treatment and clean up plan would be developed and implemented. A cure or palliative care would be applied to my neighbors and my family.

What I would not expect is that three foreign heads of state would coordinate their militaries to bomb three buildings near Washington, D.C. and follow up with press conferences proclaiming their success.

Sometimes the best way to realize that we are being told lies about what is happening in a foreign country is to turn the narrative around and apply it to



what would happen if it occurred in our own country

Military madness occurs when the government convinces the media and many of its citizens that the only correct course of action is dropping bombs on a country far, far away. This madness is what took place at 4:00 a.m. (Syrian time) on April 14, 2018, when the militaries of the U.S., France, and England launched a joint military attack on Syria. The reason, the leaders of the U.S., U.K. and France provided was to punish Syria's use of chemical weapons in the town of Douma. They spoke as though the attack and who was responsible was fact, before there was an opportunity to investigate.

In April 2018, we experienced a near total black out of any alternative to this

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The statements and opinions reflected in this newsletter are the views of the author and not necessarily official positions of W.A.M.M. We encourage a diversity of opinion to represent the range of perspectives that coexist under the banner of W.A.M.M.'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. W.A.M.M.'s purpose is to dismantle systems of militarism, economic exploitation and global oppression.

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A Deadly Exchange: United States and Israel Security Forces Exchange Programs

by Erika Levy



Each year, law enforcement agencies from across the U.S. send officers to train with the Israeli military, national police, and other security personnel. Israel touts itself as the global leader in “counterterrorism,” and annually trains these U.S. police personnel in the latest surveillance and border security technology and protocol. The itineraries for these exchange programs include: lectures from top security officials in the Israeli government; meetings with former IDF soldiers and members of the Israeli National Police; visits to checkpoints and discussions with border patrol agents; as well as visits to Israeli prisons, where Palestinians often suffer horrific human rights abuses.

Given their history, it is not surprising that U.S. police forces would choose to train with an occupying army. The foundations of U.S. policing can be found in the formation of bands of slave catchers in the South, as well as in militias that captured and killed Native Americans in the North in the 19th century. Today, black and brown neighborhoods are overpoliced, black and brown people are disproportionately incarcerated, and Native American and black people are more likely to be shot and killed by police officers than any other demographic!

U.S. policing has *always* operated specifically to protect settler colonialism and white supremacy. Israel, and the Zionist principles upon which it was founded, is a settler colonial, white supremacist state. In the late 1800s, as European colonial powers expanded their empires, they sought

new markets in the Middle East and Asia, and Palestine offered a strategic geographic location between the East and the West. With anti-Semitism on the rise, the global elite saw the colonization of Palestine with European Jews and the establishment of Israel as a Jewish-only state as the ideal way to rid Europe of its poorest Jewish population, while ensuring access to new markets and political influence.

As the Zionist project unfolded, thousands of Palestine’s inhabitants – the Muslims, Christians, and even Jews who had been living there for centuries – were violently expelled from their homeland and barred from returning. Generations of Palestinian refugees and internally displaced persons are still prevented from returning home. Present-day political boundaries substantially divide Palestinian land, with some Palestinians living in the West Bank, some in Jerusalem, and some effectively blockaded in the Gaza Strip. Continued expansion into and colonization of Palestinian land has given the state of Israel near total control of water, sea, airspace, and electric resources as well as control of Palestinian fields, orchards, and pastures on which Palestinian livelihoods depend. The Israeli occupation restricts Palestinian movement throughout the West Bank and criminalizes all forms of protest. And ultimately, as U.S. police departments train with an occupying army, they bring home with them the worst possible tactics that they then employ in their own communities.

These worst practices include dehumanization, predictive policing, increased



Hands Up! Don't Shoot! Protesters were confronted and arrested by heavily militarized police during the Ferguson, Missouri protests following the shooting of Michael Brown in 2014. According to the Israeli newspaper, Haaretz, the St. Louis County police chief had attended a training camp conducted by Israeli police and military.

surveillance, threats to social movements, police militarization, and lethal shoot-to-kill policies. Dehumanization of and surveillance of “undesirable” communities in the U.S. is not new. Black, brown, indigenous, immigrant, refugee and Muslim communities are routinely surveilled and harassed, and experience disproportionate violence at the hands of the police. Training with an occupying army bolsters these practices, further justifies, and ultimately normalizes these practices as an inevitable outcome of policing.

While training with Israeli security forces is not the sole contributor to the militarization of U.S. police forces, Israeli counterterrorism and weapon technology has heavily influenced the rise in police militarization in the U.S. and worldwide, particularly as social justice movements challenge the status quo. Currently in the U.S., the federal 1033 Program allows local police departments to purchase excess military-grade weapons at a significant discount. Because officers train with

a foreign army to respond to civilian crises as terrorist threats, police departments will often formulate militarized responses to protests and social justice advocacy, and use these military weapons to respond to unarmed protesters.

These police exchanges between the U.S. and Israel have devastating effects on Palestinians and people of color inside Israel. Palestinians are routinely harassed and frisked by Israeli military and police officers. Checkpoints inside the West Bank restrict Palestinian movement, and the biometric ID cards they are required to carry with them contain private information easily accessed by the occupation authorities. Palestinian children as young as seven years old are arrested and jailed for throwing stones or marching for their rights. African refugees inside Israel are at this very moment being rounded up and deported. Under the guidelines of the \$38 billion aid package to be doled out over 10 years which the U.S. gave Israel in 2016, Israel is required

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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
- Membership/Outreach
- Newsletter
- Personnel
- Program/New Issues
- Silent Auction

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- Carol Walker

A Deadly Exchange

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to purchase U.S.-made weapons only; these weapons are then used in the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians, and in the lethal policing of people of color inside Israel proper. The police exchanges solidify this deadly partnership. Not surprisingly, U.S. racist policing of black and Native American people, and ICE raids on undocumented Mexican and Central American immigrants are comparable with IDF raids on Palestinians and the deportation of African refugees by the Israeli government.

U.S. police exchanges with Israel are mostly funded through support from major Zionist organizations in the United States: The Anti-Defamation League (ADL),² the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA), the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), and the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE). One of the largest of these programs is the ADL Counter-Terrorism Seminar. A 2017 ADL report stated that since 2004, the seminars have brought 200 law enforcement executives, representing nearly 100 different federal, state, and local agencies across the U.S., to Israel for law enforcement exchanges. During these exchanges, officers, whether they are Jewish or not, are groomed to feel a deep emotional connection with Israel and to see Israel as a leader in rooting out terrorist threats and in creating “safety” for its people. Ultimately, these exchanges further the false narrative that certain

communities can only be safe if others are in danger.

Jewish Voice for Peace, an American advocacy group working toward self-determination for Palestinians, and seeking an end to the occupation, is currently conducting a national campaign called the Deadly Exchange to educate people about the exchanges, and their practices and sources of funding. In addition, the campaign is introducing local legislation to ban police exchanges between the U.S. or any foreign army. In the Twin Cities specifically, the local campaign has uncovered at least two trips taken by Hennepin County Sheriff Richard Stanek, in 2011 and 2012. In Saint Paul, Police Chief Todd Axtell participated in an exchange as recently as 2016. The local Twin Cities campaign has been organizing educational events to spread the word about the exchanges and what communities can do to end them.

As resistance movements against police brutality and police militarization gain ground in the U.S., activists are looking to continue the struggle globally. While ending these exchanges will not necessarily overhaul American policing practices or eliminate police brutality, pulling the funding streams that enable exchanges will be a concrete step in the right direction. ☺

Erika Levy describes herself as an Ashkenazi Jewish organizer in the Twin Cities. She is a member of the Jewish Voice for Peace-Twin Cities coordinating committee, and is part of the Deadly Exchange committee to end police exchanges between the U.S. and Israel.

Endnotes

1. Lind, Dana. “There are huge racial disparities in how U.S. police use force.” vox.com/cards/police-brutality-shootings-us/us-police-racism; Roetman, Sheena. “Number of Native Americans Killed by Police Could Double by the End of 2016.” indiancountrymedianetwork.com/news/native-news/number-of-native-americans-killed-by-police-could-double-by-end-of-2016

2. Anti-Defamation League. “Anti-Defamation League, National Counter-Terrorism Seminars (NCTS)” September 9-17, Israel

Resources

Deadly Exchange deadlyexchange.org

National campaign with education, news updates, a petition to sign, actions to take to end deadly exchanges between U.S. and Israeli law enforcement.

Jewish Voice for Peace

National organization dedicated to U.S. foreign policy based on peace, human rights, and respect for international law. Jewishvoiceforpeace.org Check for local JVP in your community. In Minnesota, see Jewish Voice for Peace Minnesota on Facebook.

Communities United Against Police Brutality

a Twin-Cities empowerment organization that works to change structure and individual cases to end police brutality. cuapb.org

Gaza: World Condemns Killing, Maiming Peaceful, Unarmed Protesters, Calls to Investigate

FOCUS ON
PALESTINE/
ISRAEL

The mainstream, corporate press falsely equivocated the Great March as “clashes” between Palestinians and Israelis, often characterizing it as a Hamas action, when in fact it was an action of 30,000 Palestinian women, children, and men. Mazin Qumsiyeh’s *Human Rights Newsletter*, Palestinian media, *Mint Press News*, *Electronic Intifada*, *Mondoweis*, and many other alternative sources and foreign media have reported fairly on this. The United Nations and the European Union have called for independent investigations of live ammunitions used by Israel’s Defense Forces against the unarmed Palestinians when they

marched and camped peacefully *within their own borders* of Gaza to the edge of the heavily militarized barrier that has been penning them in under a draconian siege for more than 10 years. Predictably, the U.S., in the Security Council, blocked an investigation. Turkish, Moroccan, Kuwaiti, Qatar, Egyptian foreign ministries were among those condemning the Israeli action. British Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn called for a review of arms sales to Israel. The International Committee to Protect Journalists reported 10 Palestinian journalists injured, many severely; at least one has died.

How the Israeli military attacked, maimed and killed peaceful protest-



Palestinian Women were in the lead in Gaza for the six-week Great March to Return, which began March 30.

ers should be another indication of why U.S. law enforcement should not be engaging in partnerships with them. ☺

BDS Military Embargo on Israel

FOCUS ON
PALESTINE/
ISRAEL

Why a military embargo is needed: Israel is only able to carry out brutal massacres and deliberately kill Palestinian civilians because of the willingness of governments, institutions, and companies around the world to cooperate with Israel’s military and weapons companies. Over the period 2009-2018, the U.S. is set to provide military aid to Israel worth \$30bn, and governments and companies across the world export weapons and security services to Israel. Israel’s military industry depends on exports to foreign markets: up to 70 percent of Israel’s military production is exported, mainly to the global South. Military assaults on Palestinians are used by Israeli military companies

to test and market new weapons and military technology. Israeli weapons companies market their weapons as “field-tested.” Israeli military companies such as Elbit Systems are key drivers in the proliferation of both drones and a ruthless model of securitization and militarized repression to the world.

Successes: More than a dozen banks have announced that they have divested from Elbit Systems over its role in Israel’s military violence. Elbit’s participation in a Brazilian drone development effort was terminated and Elbit lost out on deals in Denmark and France following public campaigns. Norway has an official policy of not exporting weapons to Israel. ☺

by BDS Global Campaign

Resource: BDS (Boycott, Divest, Sanction) Military Embargo tinyurl.com/y79psfql

ACTION: Join the WAMM Middle East Committee to end the occupation of Palestine and military weapons which are used on Palestinians. Fridays, 4:30 to 5:30 pm, corner of Summit and Snelling, St. Paul.

Join or Support the WAMM Walk Against Weapons Saturday, June 2, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Raise awareness of the need to end U.S. military weapons manufacturing, sale and use.

Tinderbox Tensions Rise: Saudi Arabia and Iran

by William O. Beeman

FOCUS ON
SAUDI ARABIA/
IRAN

As the U.S. provides more arms sales to Saudi Arabia, here's a look at the kingdom within its regional context, and its history with the U.S. after World War II.

The Middle East region is once again a tinderbox as tensions between Saudi Arabia and Iran are rising to new heights.

Although hostility between the two states has been simmering for decades, two new factors have served to cause their mutual enmity to heat up further. The first is the presidency of Donald J. Trump in the U.S. The second is the rise of Mohammad bin Salman (MBS in the vernacular) as heir-apparent to the Saudi kingship. Both of these leaders are hostile to Iran, and highly friendly to each other. This heightened alliance has created a new dynamic relationship in the Middle East. MBS is young and ambitious, and seeks a new and heightened role for Saudi Arabia in the Middle East and the world. Trump is anxious to flex American muscle wherever he is able. For both, Iran is a highly suitable target.

Saudi Arabia has long been a rentier sleeper state in the Middle East. It had two primary identifiers on the world scene: its petroleum exports and its guardianship of the sacred cities of Mecca and Medina with the attendant annual Hajj pilgrimage. It has been a staunch ally of the U.S. since after World War II, when U.S. commercial interests coincided with the Cold War need to keep the Soviet Union at bay.

The U.S. “Twin Pillars” Policy: The Shah of Iran and Saudi Arabia

The U.S. was petrified that the Soviet Union would invade Iran, as it did briefly after the war, and make its way to the oil fields of Iran, Southern Iraq, and the Arabian Peninsula. The U.S. then forged an unusual policy—the “Twin Pillars” policy to serve as a bulwark against the Communists. Iran under the Shah was one of the “pillars.” Saudi Arabia was the other. When the British pulled out of the region in 1972 for financial reasons, American fear of the Soviets went into overdrive. The U.S. under Nixon, Ford, and Carter sold astonishing amounts of military weaponry, planes, and defense equipment to both Saudi Arabia and Iran. The Shah used American financing to beef up his military forces and repress dissent. The Saudi royal family already had its population under tight control, so it used the American funds to increase the size of its military.

The Iranian Islamic Revolution of 1978–79 was cataclysmic in reshaping the landscape of the region. Within a year of the revolution Iran and the U.S. had become implacably antagonistic toward each other. Iran accused the U.S. of supporting the Shah and his repressive regime. The U.S. was infuriated at the occupation of the American Embassy and the holding of its personnel captive for 444 days. Diplomatic relations between the two countries were broken and have never been restored.

U.S. Weaponizes Saudi Arabia As Its Ally

This left Saudi Arabia as the sole remaining major military power in the region allied with the U.S., and American administrations continued massive arms sales to the Saudis down to the present, even after the fall of the Soviet Union in 1989. As an American ally, Saudi Arabia also went along with post-revolutionary U.S. hostility toward Iran.

As a result of earlier American investment in the military of the region, both Iran and Saudi Arabia have two of the largest armies in the world. Iran is eighth in size with 523,000 troops, and Saudi Arabia is 21st in size with 227,000 troops. Both have military troop strength greater than France, Germany, or Israel.

Though the Saudi Arabian army is much smaller than the Iranian army, Saudi military expenditures are massively larger than those of Iran. Saudi Arabia has the third or fourth largest military expenditures (measures vary) and the largest expenditures as a percentage of GDP in the world (10 percent). Iran by contrast is 19th in the world in terms of expenditures, spending 3.0 percent of GDP. Saudi military equipment is state-of-the-art, and is continually being upgraded by the U.S.

The current Saudi regime has internal difficulties that it must deal with. It has dissidents on its own soil and abroad who disapprove of the royal family and their personal conduct on social and religious grounds. An example is Al-Qa’eda. Most Americans think that Al-Qa’eda primarily directs

its efforts against the U.S. and the West. This is fundamentally wrong. The main target of Al-Qa'eda is and always has been the Saudi regime, which it considered to be an impure and imperfect guardian of the sacred shrines in Mecca and Medina.

Additionally, there is a significant population of Shi'a Muslims in Saudi Arabia, where Sunnis are the majority sect. Inconveniently, the Shi'a population is located in the Eastern Province on top of the oil and gas fields that provide the Saudis with their primary income.

Saudi Arabia's Regional Worries: Iraq, Lebanon, Bahrain, Yemen

The Iranian Revolution frightened Sunni rulers throughout the region. Saddam Hussein launched an attack on Iran in 1980 to halt what he feared would be a Shi'a takeover of his government. The Lebanese government became fearful that their Shi'a population would become restive – and with good reason. Eventually the Lebanese Shi'a coalesced into Hezbollah, which had been started by Iranian revolutionaries, and which is now the strongest political force in Lebanon. The majority Shi'a in Bahrain threatened to overthrow their Sunni royal family. Because Bahrain is adjacent to the Shi'a population of Saudi Arabia, a spillover movement would threaten the entire Saudi state. Finally, the Zaidis, a Shi'a offshoot sect that had ruled Yemen for centuries but was overthrown in the 1970s, threatened to return to power under the nom de guerre the Houthis (named after the movement's founder, Hussein Badreddin al-Houthi – the real name of the movement is Ansar Allah, "Supporters of God"). This was a



Regional map of Saudi Arabia, Iran, and surrounding countries

problem for the Saudis because the Zaidis were not only resident in Yemen, they also spilled over the Saudi southwestern border, again threatening the integrity of the state.

The Focus on Iran

The Saudi regime found in opposing Iran a way to concretize all of their fears about these internal and regional dangers. They surmised that if the Shi'a were restive, it must be because they were being provoked and masterminded by Iran. Therefore, they concluded that eliminating Iran as a power in the region would make Saudi Arabia secure.

Up until the Trump administration, the U.S. was nervous about these rising tensions, and tamped down moves by the Saudi government to take serious military action against Iran for fear of destabilizing the entire region – and a major source of

petroleum for the world. However, now that Donald Trump is in office, and MBS [Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman] has come into power, the restraints appear to have been greatly loosened. The Trump administration is itself openly hostile to Iran, and so has been supportive of Saudi efforts to control Shi'a forces. Recent arrests of Saudi royal family members and businessmen for "corruption" have quieted any forces in Saudi Arabia that would oppose Saudi government action against Shi'ites and against Iran. Deadly strikes against the Houthis in Yemen have tamped down Shi'a advances there.

On November 4, Sunni Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri was visiting Saudi Arabia. From Riyadh he abruptly announced his resignation, causing speculation

Tinderbox

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FOCUS ON SAUDI ARABIA/ IRAN

that he had been forced to do so by the Saudi government.

At this writing he has not returned to Lebanon. The immediate result is that Lebanon has been left under the effective control of Hezbollah. Saudi Arabia ordered its citizens living in Lebanon to leave for their safety. [Updated: In a bizarre twist, Hariri returned to Lebanon later in November of 2017 and reversed his resignation. Then on February 28 of 2018, he visited Saudi Arabia again and, it's reported, pledged to stay out of regional conflicts.]

Although Saudi Arabia lays the blame for all of this regional unrest at the feet of Iran, Iran has denied categorically any direct involvement. Indeed, Hezbollah has been independent of Iran's direct control for nearly two decades, though they fought alongside Iran and Russia to support President Assad of Syria against Syrian Sunni groups [takfiri extremists] trying to overthrow him, including ISIS (also known as IS and DAESH). Iran has denied providing any weapons support to the Houthis,



On April 5, 2018, people protested the Saudi Arabia war that is devastating Yemen as Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman came to make deals with Silicon Valley tech titans. Trump signed off on weapons sales to Saudi Arabia the same day.

although a rocket launched by the Houthis against the Riyadh airport on November 11 was tentatively identified as having Iranian identification marks.

Ironically, Could Russia Be the Wild Card Winner?

There is a strange “wild card” in the current Saudi-Iranian situation. This is Russia under Vladimir Putin, who is forging positive relations with both Iran and Saudi Arabia. This is paradoxical, since the original “Twin Pillars” policy was designed to thwart Soviet ambitions in the region. It appears that whatever transpires between Iran and Saudi Arabia, the Russians may now be the ultimate winners. ☺

William O. Beeman is Professor of Anthropology at the University of Minnesota and Visiting Scholar at Stanford University. He has lived and worked in the Middle East, including Iran and the Arabian Peninsula for over 40 years.

ACTION: Join or support Women Against Military Madness in the Walk Against Weapons on Saturday, June 2. More info: back page of this newsletter.



On March 20, at the White House, Trump pointed to a chart displaying the lethal weapons that Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is buying from the U.S.



Protesters enact Trump and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman with a weapon, symbolizing the ones he was purchasing when he came to the U.S. in March.

Have you heard?

Our Pro-War Press

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

Employees of Google Revolt against Complicity in Killing with Drones

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

More Nations Ratify Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Venezuela this week joined six other ratifying countries in formally endorsing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The Treaty was negotiated at the UN in New York in 2017 and approved on the 7th of July by 122 countries. The treaty enters into force when the 50th country delivers its instrument of

ratification to the UN Office of Legal Affairs. – *Pressenza*, International Press Agency

It Stinks! Black Belt Residents Sued by Corporation, but Remain Resolute

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

New U.S. Military Bases around the World

Turkish news reported 10 U.S. military outposts in northern Syria have permanent-appearing structures. Thousands of Ghanaians rallied in the streets of their capital

on March 28, 2018 to protest a deal that would give the U.S. military an expanded role in Ghana. In the fall of 2017, the U.S. opened its first permanent American base in Israel; U.S. and Israeli Air Forces are stationed there. – *The Internationalist*, *The Hill*, military.com, and more

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

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

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

The U.S. is ending a long-standing policy to authorize use of certain older types of cluster munitions in its stockpile whose explosive bomblets kill and maim indiscriminately, resulting in loss of life and limb, sometimes years later. The Department of Defense signed a policy memo on November 30, 2017, delaying the ban. Human rights groups and some Congress members objected. The Pentagon is also authorized to purchase newer cluster bombs with de-activation technology. – U.S. Department of Defense memorandum on cluster munitions: tinyurl.com/yc9I9eyy; *Reuters* ☺

Military Madness, U.S. Style

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madness. Moreover, we who question the official story will be accused of being clueless or conspiracy-minded.

The WNYC radio program “On the Media” has created a series of News Consumer’s Handbooks (tinyurl.com/yarb33b2) that listeners can use when breaking news is announced. The series includes such wise advice as:

“Remember, in the immediate aftermath, almost everyone will get it wrong.” (Terrorism Handbook: tinyurl.com/hwk284q)

“Inevitably, whole populations and religions are scapegoated. Ignore this.” (Terrorism handbook: tinyurl.com/hwk284q)

“Pay attention to the language the media uses: ‘We are getting reports...’ could mean anything; ‘We are seeking confirmation...’ means

they don’t have it;’ ‘[News outlet] has learned’...means it has scoops or is going out on a limb.” (Breaking News general handbook, recording and downloadable pdf: tinyurl.com/yajjywqh)

We should also ask that people living in the United States imagine what we would hope to happen if the event occurred here? Could we expect the propaganda to be as thick as it has been in the war on Syria?

“In war, truth is the first casualty” - something awake observers have remarked throughout the ages from the time of the Greek dramatist Aeschylus (525–456 BC). It is closely related to the tactic, “All warfare is based on deception,” which appears in *The Art of Warfare* by Chinese military strategist Sun Tzu (545-470 BC). This is well understood by those who, while investigating and/or analyzing the war on Syria, have tried to present views which conflict with the propaganda of empire.

Veteran Middle East journalist Robert Fisk asks, “Has there ever been a Middle Eastern war of such hypocrisy? A war of such cowardice and such mean morality, of such false rhetoric and such public humiliation?... I’m referring to the utter lies and mendacity...” *Paste Magazine* commented: “Rank propaganda is the order of the day. Honest observers are appalled. Stephen Kinzer wrote that ‘coverage of the Syrian war will be remembered as one of the most shameful episodes in the history of the American press.’”

Some other journalist voices worth hearing: Eva Bartlett, Vanessa Beeley, Seymour Hersh (relegated to “journalist in exile”), Tim Anderson; websites such as Global Research, MintPress News, the Ron Paul Institute of Peace, Black Agenda Report, Near Eastern Outlook, United National Antiwar Coalition blog, Voltaire Network ☺

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<input type="checkbox"/> \$200+ Major Donor	
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<input type="checkbox"/> Check enclosed	<input type="checkbox"/> This is a gift membership
<input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my credit card	Total amount enclosed \$_____
Credit Card # _____	Expiration Date _____ Security Code _____
Signature _____	
Name _____	Phone _____
Address _____	
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	
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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	

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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 Vigils for Peace

Vigil to End War

Every Wednesday, From 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 Avenue 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

Second Thursday of every month, 10:00 to 11:30 a.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 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. Peace with justice resource, support group. FFI: Visit 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, call for details and location. 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.

Ban Nuclear Weapons Videos

May 14, 2018. Short videos about the arms race with prominent activist commentators. Discuss actions we can take, how to support WAMM's Walk Against Weapons.

Whose Streets? June 11, 2018.

When unarmed teenager Michael Brown is killed by police, left lying in the street, it's a breaking point for the residents of St. Louis County, MO. Documentary on Ferguson's young community members becoming torchbearers of a new wave of resistance nationwide.

Miss a movie? DVD collection from WAMM Second Monday Movies is available for check-out in the WAMM office.

Special Events *Photographer's Project for Hope and Peace*

Rochester to Bemidji, MN, Saturday, May 5 to Friday, May 25. Korean-born artist/photographer kyong juhn, of Rochester, MN, begins a 330-mile walk May 5–May 25 duplicating the distance that her mother walked from North to South Korea during the Korean War in the 1950's. The Peace Bus from Veterans for Peace acts as a sag wagon. kyong is making 22 overnight stops in various places along the way. This is *not* a fundraiser; it's a grant recipient of the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council. Follow kyong's journey on Facebook at walkforhopeandpeace. Events along the way. Walkers welcomed to join for as short or long, as desired. Contact: kyun@saic.edu

May Day Parade and Festival: Join WAMM!

Saturday, May 6, 11:00 a.m. assemble, 12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m. parade begins corner of 25th St. E. and Bloomington Ave. S., travels south on Bloomington to 34th St. E. to Powderhorn Park for festival. Join WAMM in parade as 50,000+ people fill the streets as participants and spectators in day of celebration, community.

2018 Walk Against Weapons

Saturday, June 2, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.: join us (or support WAMM or a walker) at 10:30 a.m. at Perkins Restaurant parking lot, Riverside and I-94 in Minneapolis. Leisurely-paced walk begins 11:00 a.m. to Mayday Plaza, 301 Cedar Ave; returns to the Perkins Restaurant for a short closing rally and raffle. 3 miles total. FFI: back page, this newsletter or call the WAMM office at 612-827-5364.



4200 Cedar Avenue South, Suite 3
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407
(612) 827-5364 FAX: (612) 827-6433
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ELEVENTH ANNUAL WALK AGAINST WEAPONS!

Walk to Ban Nuclear Weapons; Walk to End the Madness

On July 7, 2017, 122 member states of the United Nations agreed to an historic treaty. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. For more than seven decades the world community has lived under the threat of annihilation by these weapons, which are unique in their destructive power, in the unspeakable human suffering they can cause, and in the threat they pose to the environment, to future generations, and indeed to the survival of humanity. The current looming threats of nuclear war make the world security situation even more dangerous than it was a year ago. Now is the time to speak out! Now is the time for action!



Saturday, June 2, 2018 – Rain or Shine!

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 Restaurant 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 W.A.M.M. office 612-827-5364 for more information!