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If used, even a few H-bombs could trigger cataclysmic climate disruption, causing crop failure and massive famine on the planet. Image: video game, "Nuclear Winter"

## New U.S. Nuclear Bombs Heading for Europe: What Can Stop Them?

Article for WAMM by Nukewatch staff

**FOCUS ON  
NUCLEAR  
WEAPONS**

Decades after the Cold War, 20 U.S. nuclear bombs remain at an air force base in Germany, and the Germans want them gone.

Instead of removing these B61 bombs from German soil, the U.S. plans to replace them with a modernized version: the B61-12 (classified as "hydrogen" or "H" bombs). These new bombs are scheduled to be built in the U.S. by 2020, then deployed at the Büchel Air Base in Germany, and in four other European countries: Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Turkey. A civilian antinuclear campaign, "Büchel Is Everywhere: Nuclear Weapons-free

Now!" has responded hoping to prevent this from happening.

### Political, Military, and Corporate Background

According to AirForce-technology.com, the U.S. bombs can be air-launched against Russia by warplanes such as the B-2s, F-15s, F-16s, and Germany's Tornado PA-200 fighter jets.

German Tornado pilots are trained and obligated to take off with these U.S. bombs and, under orders from a U.S. president, to attack populations deemed the enemy. This unlawful and terrifying war plan is part of a "nuclear sharing"

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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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**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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**WAMM Office Hours**  
 Mon-Fri: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

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

**WAMM also receives funding from Community Shares Minnesota**



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## New U.S. Nuclear Bombs

*continued from page 1*

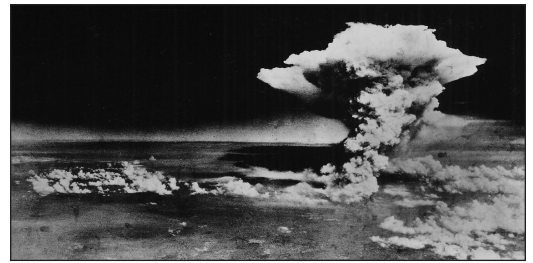
**FOCUS ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS** agreement between the U.S. and the cooperating European nations. It includes a first-strike option considered necessary by the U.S. and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), to which these nations belong. NATO calls its weapons proliferation “power and burden sharing,” and it currently involves nuclear war exercises next to the East-European Russian border – one such exercise was code-named “Anaconda” – involving tens of thousands of soldiers and extensive maneuvering of heavy military equipment.

Like the current B61, the new precision guided B61-12 is a weapon of mass destruction, which experts have called illegal under German, U.S., and international law.

Three U.S. National Laboratories where nuclear weapons are developed – Los Alamos and Sandia in New Mexico, and Lawrence Livermore in California – designed the new B61-12. Component parts are being made at the Y12 complex in Tennessee, the Kansas City plant in Missouri (formally the “Kansas City National Security Campus”), and at Sandia. Final bomb assembly takes place at the Pantex weapons assembly site in Texas. Major contractors are Boeing, Lockheed-Martin, Honeywell, and Bechtel. Hans Kristensen of the Federation of American Scientists has reported that 400 new B61-12s are planned and each weapon will cost at least \$25 million – a whopping \$10 billion for the entire upgrade.

### After Detonation: Firestorms and Nuclear Winter

But what would it look like if these B61s were actually put into use?



*Misidentified until 2016 as the mushroom cloud over Hiroshima, this is actually an image of the firestorm, a separate and distinct event, that arose as a result of the detonated bomb. Photo: U.S. Army.*

In 1985 the U.S. National Academy of Sciences (NAS) explained that among the consequences of a large-scale nuclear war between the U.S. and what was then the USSR “...the primary mechanisms for human fatalities would likely not be from blast effects, not from thermal radiation burns, and not from ionizing radiation, but, rather, from mass starvation.” The NAS study said that the resulting nuclear winter would cause “the loss of one to four billion lives?”

Thirty years later, scientists and doctors dramatically adjusted the mathematics of doomsday taking heed of new information about nuclear weapons-caused firestorms and climate disruption. Left out of those grim NAS calculations in 1985 had been the effect of mass firestorms caused by nuclear weapons being detonated on urban areas. A forewarning has come in the book *Whole World on Fire* (Cornell Univ. Press, 2004), by Lynn Eden, in which she noted, “For more than 50 years, the U.S. Government has seriously underestimated damage from nuclear attacks.”

“The failure to include damage from fire in nuclear war plans continues today,” Eden wrote. “Because fire damage has been ignored for the past half-century, high-level U.S. decision makers have been poorly informed, if informed at all, about the extent of



A nuclear-weapons free campaign logo proclaims, “Büchel is everywhere!”

damage that nuclear weapons would actually cause. As a result, any U.S. decision to use nuclear weapons almost certainly would be predicated on insufficient and misleading information. If nuclear weapons were used, the physical, social, and political effects could be far more destructive than anticipated.”

It’s worth remarking that fires from even a very “limited” use of a small number of modern nuclear weapons would create so much soot and ash that the consequent collapse of agriculture could cause the famine death of two billion people. This was the conclusion of Ira Helfand, MD, who wrote *Nuclear Famine: Two Billion People at Risk*, (2nd ed., November 2013. Physicians for Social Responsibility.), for the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and Physicians for Social Responsibility. The B61-12s planned for Germany are as many as three times the size of the Hiroshima bomb – yet they are considered small compared to any of the other nuclear

weapons currently deployed.

What nuclear war planners in the U.S. Navy and the Air Force, or ignorant sociopaths like Mr. Trump ignore or fail to grasp is this (from *Whole World on Fire*): “Within tens of minutes after the cataclysmic events associated with the [nuclear] detonation, a mass of buoyantly rising fire-heated air would signal the start of a second and distinctly different event – the development of a mass fire of gigantic scale and ferocity. This fire would quickly increase in intensity. In a fraction of an hour it would generate ground winds of hurricane force...”

People in Germany and around the world are aware of these consequences, and the global movement to eradicate nuclear weapons has been revived.

### **German Public Opinion and the International Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**

The greatest manifestation of this global antinuclear movement is the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons\*  
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### **WAMM Committees**

#### **Issues Committees:**

- Book Club
- End War Committee
- Ground All Drones Committee
- Middle East
- St. Joan of Arc/  
WAMM Peacemakers
- Second Monday Movies
- Tackling Torture at the Top (T3)

#### **Standing Committees:**

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

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## New U.S. Nuclear Bombs

*continued from page 3*

### FOCUS ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS

It was signed at the United Nations by 70 countries in 2017, and 22 countries have since ratified it. German political decisionmakers refused to take part in the negotiations for the treaty ban and have refused to sign it – following the bad example of the U.S., most NATO members, and all other nuclear-armed states. However, 50 ratifications are needed for it to become international law, a goal that activists hope may be reached this year.

The planned replacement of the B61s in Germany is moving ahead despite the fact that on March 26, 2010, the German parliament overwhelmingly approved a cross-party resolution calling on the government to pursue their permanent removal. A 2016 poll shows that about 90 percent of the German public is against the presence of the U.S. nukes. The creation and installation of the modernized B61s disregards the huge majority public support for a denuclearized Germany and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons adopted by the United Nations in 2017.

Within Germany there is a strong nationwide campaign called “Büchel Is Everywhere – Nuclear Weapons-free Now!” which is comprised of 60 groups and organizations that are focused on nuclear abolition. Aside from conducting lobbying work, “Büchel Is Everywhere” engages in nonviolent direct action which increases awareness and political pressure, keeps the B61 issue in the public eye, and challenges the



*Nukewatch members are among activists from throughout the world who gather at Büchel Air Base to protest U.S. nuclear weapons and call for their elimination in Europe. Photo: Nukewatch*

legalities of the “nuclear sharing” and of nuclear weapons themselves in court. Nukewatch, a Wisconsin-based antinuclear organization, is the first non-German organization to join the campaign.

In 2017, during Germany’s nationwide election campaign, Social Democrat Party leader Martin Schulz promised he would demand removal of the U.S. weapons if he became chancellor – and Germany’s Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel publicly endorsed Schulz’s promise at a Washington, D.C. press conference. Also, Germany’s Left Party called for a parliamentary decision to remove the B61s, and the permanent removal of the bombs is part of the Green Party’s platform. These parties need to be pressured to take further actions. Politicians know that when Germany steps out, it will affect future decisions of the four other “nuclear sharing” countries (Belgium, Holland, Italy, and Turkey). A “domino effect” is possible, so the best time to stop the B61-12 program is now – before it goes into full production.

### The Resistance That Can End the Bombs

In 2016, 2017, and 2018, twenty weeks of nonviolent actions took place with participants from over 50 organizations creating a Peace Camp just outside the Büchel Air Base. On July 17, 2017, U.S. delegates personally delivered a copy of the new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to the commander of Büchel Air Base. Last year, 10 campaigners from the U.S. joined with dozens from Holland, Belgium, and France, and the International Youth Group from Mutlangen, Germany. During 2017 and 2018, Nukewatch joined dozens who entered the base occupying aircraft bunkers where nuclear weapons are stored. This nonviolent direct action has resulted in arrests, offering antinuclear campaigners another platform to make their case against nukes; in court they use international law to express how their actions were necessary to prevent use of a nuclear weapon, a much larger crime. This year, 2019, will mark the third gathering of European activists with antinuclear resisters from the U.S. who join with

them because they acknowledge the responsibility of the U.S. government and weapons manufacturers in making the new bombs.

\*Signature/ratification status of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons .icanw.org/status-of-the-treaty-on-the-prohibition-of-nuclear-weapons

*Nukewatch is a Wisconsin-based environmental and peace action group dedicated to the abolition of nuclear power, weapons, and continued radioactive waste production. Staff and volunteers advocate Gand-*

*hian nonviolence in education and action, and report on nuclear issues in the Nukewatch Quarterly.*

### **ACTION Stop the Bombs International Week July 8 to 16, 2019**

Nukewatch invites peace, antinuclear, environmental, and student activists to participate in International Week, July 8 to 16, 2019, at the peace camp near the main gate of the Büchel Air Base in Germany. The peace camp includes networking, training, and nonviolent civil resistance. International Week is part of 20 weeks of action to stop 20 bombs.

### **20 Weeks of Action to Stop 20 Bombs March 26 to August 9, 2019**

The number of weeks represents

the number of B61 bombs deployed at Büchel. This year, groups and individuals will conduct nonviolent actions at Büchel Air Base to pressure the German government and to remind lawmakers of their various promises to permanently eliminate the U.S. nuclear weapons.

If you are interested in participating in International Week or the 20 Weeks of Action and would like more details, please contact: Nukewatch, nukewatch1@lakeland.ws, Phone: 715-472-4185 www.nukewatchinfo.org

Additional Information from the German coordinators of the camp: buechelatombombenfrei@de

## **New Nuclear-Capable Bombers Coming Soon to a Location Near You**

by Mary Beaudoin

### **FOCUS ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

The Air Force is upgrading to stealth bombers (model

B-21) that fly long range and strike any target worldwide, according to the *Rapid City Journal* of March 27, 2019. Dubbed the Raider, these planes are designed by merchant-of-death manufacturer, Northrup Grumman, and are to be hosted at Dyess Air Force Base in Texas, Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri, and Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota, along with the thermonuclear bombs that they can carry.<sup>1</sup>

Citing the “healthy relationship” between Ellsworth Air Force Base and the “huge amount of local support for that base” in the surrounding community, South Dakota Senators Mike Rounds and John Thune, enthused about an anticipated boost to the area’s economy.<sup>2</sup> What’s missing from this picture of a happy building boom

and big bucks rippling through the local economy? The new facilities to be built are to house planes, weapons, and personnel whose sole purpose is to be able to kill and destroy as fast as possible.

**Note:** The new planes are capable of carrying the new B61-12 (hydrogen or “H”) bombs, currently under development, which are as many as three times the size of the bomb the U.S. dropped on Hiroshima during WWII.

1. “Western South Dakota air force base will be first to receive B-21 nuclear bombers.” *Rapid City Journal* via *Brainerd Dispatch*. Arielle Zions. March 27, 2019. [tinyurl.com/y3wddlgf](http://tinyurl.com/y3wddlgf)

2. Ibid no. 1

3 “Projects. B61-12 Nuclear Bomb” Airforce Technology.com. [tinyurl.com/y59ucrak](http://tinyurl.com/y59ucrak)

**ACTION:** WAMM Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons is collecting paper petitions bearing the signatures of Minnesotans who call for the U.S. to sign the International Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; the



*Resembling a bat out of hell, the nuclear-capable stealth bomber. Artist rendering, U.S. Art Force.*

petitions are being presented to the state’s 10 representatives in the U.S. Congress. Steve McKeown, who has been obtaining signatures, reported over 16,000 signers from 550 cities and towns as of April 17. Please pick up a petition form from the WAMM office, ask that one be sent to you, or download copies from the WAMM website.

Resolutions in support of the ban are moving through Minnesota and other local governments across the U.S. On a federal level, on April 11, Congressmen Jim McGovern (MA) and Earl Blumenauer (MI) introduced H. Res. 302 calling on the U.S. and officials to support the treaty. Urge your representatives to support the treaty.

# Eyewitness Venezuela: Chavism vs. Coup Attempts

by Sarah Martin

**FOCUS ON VENEZUELA** *WAMM member Sarah Martin recounts what she experienced as an eyewitness and provides her impressions while on a U.S. delegation to Caracas in March.*

It is a critical time for all peace-and justice-loving people to stand up to the systematic U.S. aggression against Venezuela.

There were 13 of us in our delegation, which was organized by the U.S. Peace Council and Black Alliance for Peace and hosted by COSI and the International Solidarity Committee. We were antiwar activists from the U.S. and Canada representing United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC), the International Action Center, Veterans for Peace, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF),

the Canadian Peace Council, and Women Against Military Madness (me). We were accompanied by two journalists from *Popular Resistance*, as well as the Canadian journalist Eva Bartlett, who has done such good, needed reporting from Syria.

Our intention was to see the effects of the U.S. economic and political war on Venezuela, to see how the people are dealing with it, and bring a message of solidarity against war and intervention. We came at a historic, dangerous, and very important time – a time of ramped-up U.S. aggression against the people and government of Venezuela.

This latest chapter to destabilize Venezuela and bring it under U.S. domination has been going on since 1998, when Hugo Chavez was swept into power in a landslide election

after decades of struggle building progressive movements. Venezuelans threw out the government which had only benefited wealthy elites while leaving the vast majority of Venezuelans in abject poverty. A new constitution was written based on equality and human rights and the establishment of a government to lift the lives of all the people.

U.S. power could not tolerate the idea that Venezuela would have the audacity to exercise self-determination and sovereignty over its huge reserves of oil and its gold deposits. Destroying Chavism was/is critical to the U.S. maintaining control of the region. (Chavism is a belief in a populist political system based on social programs, independence, sovereignty, and equality as it was instituted by Hugo Chavez and based on the ideals of the Bolivarian Revolution, named in honor of Simon Bolivar who liberated Venezuela from colonial power.) The hegemon to the north finds it unacceptable that Venezuela is on the road to becoming an independent, socialist state.

Since 1998, accomplishments in Venezuela have been enormous and important in eradicating poverty and illiteracy, establishing a Cuban-style healthcare system with clinics on every few blocks, and providing public education, transportation, and housing. There have been great gains in civil rights of historically oppressed sectors of Venezuelan society, like women, Afro-Indigenous people, and the LGBTQ community. Labor laws are among the most progressive in the world.

↑ Eva Bartlett Retweeted

**Eva Bartlett** @EvaKBartlett · Mar 29

"We're seeing Syria (and Libya, Iraq) all over again. The demonization of leadership of a country America wants to dominate. The absurd rhetoric steaming daily from corporate owned media, pretty much in chorus."



**US is manufacturing a crisis in Venezuela so that there is chaos and '... Venezuela is America's current target for mass destabilization in the hope of installing a puppet government.**

rt.com

*Tweet from Canadian journalist Eva Bartlett*

This has been accomplished in spite of everything U.S. imperialists have thrown at Venezuela in what is really a 20-year ongoing war on the country. One of the first attacks was the 2002 coup attempt against the Chavez government which failed because Chavez had the support of the military and because people filled the streets.

Bush, Obama, and Trump all imposed sanctions on Venezuela. Today the sanctions are considered worse than on Cuba or Iran with the noose tightening every day. The U.S. uses all manner of financial weapons to wage economic warfare and to steal billions of dollars in assets from Venezuela. Make no mistake, this economic war is taking a toll because Venezuela is unable to use its wealth. But the people and government continue to resist and try to find their way around the problems created.

While we were in Caracas, an investigative report was released revealing that the attempted drone assassination of Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro last summer was planned by the U.S. and Colombia. Since Trump appointed the vicious architects of wars in Central America – National Security Advisor John Bolton and Eliot Abrams as special envoy to Venezuela – the aggression by the U.S. has escalated. A couple of months ago Juan Guaidó, a politician from a small right-wing party, who was trained and backed by the U.S., declared himself president on totally bogus grounds. It is ridiculous but dangerous. The unrealistic goal was that the military would defect and turn on Maduro. With a few sorry exceptions this has not happened and the 200,000

**facts about the ELECTRIC GRID SABOTAGE:**  
How did the Venezuela blackout happen?

**Why Venezuela suspects U.S. involvement:**

- Three actors** tweeted self-implicating statements, some just moments after the blackout started.
- U.S. Sec. of State **Mike Pompeo** tweeted a veiled threat: "No food. No medicine. Now, no power. Next, no Maduro."
- Florida Senator **Marco Rubio** tweeted just 3 minutes after the blackout giving precise information no news outlet had yet.
- Opposition lawmaker **Juan Guaido** tries to hold the population hostage, stating that energy will return when Maduro leaves.

**What caused the blackout?**

- Electromagnetic attacks** on the energy delivery system.
- 150 substations** experienced cyber attacks from highly-advanced hacker technology.

There was a cyber attack against the automated regulation system of the **Guri Hydroelectric Center**.

**How many states were affected?**

**18 states making up 70% of the country** which are all gradually being reconnected.

telesur

Chart of Electrical Sabotage. Source: Telesur

members of the military, the national guard, the police, and one million members of the neighborhood groups stand firmly ready to defend their country and president.

This coup attempt has been endorsed by the LIMA group of 50 countries including the EU and the right-wing governments of South America. But, although the U.S. says all options are on the table, the LIMA group has said no to intervention. The countries of South America know a U.S. military intervention would be a disaster. There are strong popular movements in these countries, and it is politically untenable for governments to let such a thing happen.

Our delegation was scheduled to be in Venezuela from March 10–15. But that changed. I and several

others had tickets on American Airlines. On the day I was to fly out of Miami, the airline stopped flying into Caracas because supposedly the pilots said it was too dangerous due to all the unrest. The warnings were part of an orchestrated fear campaign. Ironically, danger actually came from the U.S. embassy, which was found to be working with the opposition to overthrow the Venezuelan government and trying to bribe generals to defect; as a result, U.S. embassy diplomats were forced to leave Venezuela, and the U.S. State Department issued a statement that citizens are on their own, so we had to scramble for tickets. We obtained them on Copa Airlines, one of the several flying into Caracas.

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## Peace Delegation to Venezuela

*continued from page 7*

### FOCUS ON VENEZUELA

We arrived when the country was in the middle of an almost total blackout, a U.S.-engineered attack on the center of the electrical system at the Guri hydroelectric dam. There were three parts to the attack: a cyberattack on the computer, “the Brain”; an electromagnetic assault on the power lines, and, once the system was up and running again, fires in two substations.

We were in Caracas, a city of six million. Of course, as a result, in many ways life came to a grinding halt without electricity. There was no running water and the metro stopped. Buses were kept running but the lines were very long. Elevators and cable cars did not function. ATM machines didn’t work. Maduro called off school and work. It took seven days to restore full power.

During those days the government and local community councils and colectivos distributed water and food. (Colectivos are organizations of people in local areas who receive government grants to develop a variety of programs of their own based on

their interests and needs. They have been collectively maligned as violent by anti-Chavism media.) Neighbors grilled food. Priority was given to hospitals and schools. One of our young hosts who lives with her family got out board games, including a Trump version of Monopoly.

The attempt at a destabilization scheme didn’t work. People were calm, worked together, and helped each other. There was no looting. The plot failed because the government dealt with the effects of the blackout and repaired the system as soon as possible, and also because the people are highly organized and are about helping each other. They also understood the attack for what it was and the importance of not playing into it.

Our delegation visited several government ministries and communities and saw projects to create sustainability. Food supplies were being developed with fishing, raising rabbits, and vegetables in urban gardens. Priorities are given to schools and hospitals. Another very important way food is provided to people is with the CLAP (Local Communities for Production and Supply) boxes that contain

essentials. However, the sanctions have made distribution difficult because supplies like tires for trucks are not available.

Chavez revolutionized the healthcare system, and as

people had access to medicine and care, life expectancy climbed to 74. But the extreme sanctions are taking their toll and availability of medicines has fallen drastically. In 2018, there was a 86 percent shortage of essential medicines – especially those needed for leading causes of illness such as heart disease and cancer, and dialysis. There is a strong desire to achieve pharmaceutical sovereignty. U.S. sanctions makes this very difficult. Hard currency from oil sales is needed to build pharmaceutical labs, and the Venezuelan government cannot get its money; its gold reserves were frozen by the British government, and the Bank of London can’t release them. The good news is that China, India, and Cuba are helping to build vaccination labs. Five automated drug warehouses are projected to distribute hypoglycemic, antihypertensive, and analgesic meds among others to the neighborhood clinics throughout the country. Maduro has announced a new program called Pharmaceutical Engine which will produce drugs with substitute ingredients with the help of Cuba, Russia, India, China, and now a world health organization. A plan to fix drug prices as well as subsidies for the poor is being developed.

Our delegation had the opportunity to visit communities. We went to Catia, a barrio in the western part of Caracas, which has a population of just over one million people. Before Chavez, it was desperately poor. It wasn’t even on the map, because there were no public services. Now the community has been transformed and is vibrant with housing, schools, clinics, and many community gardens and greenhouses. Last year the community grew 17 tons of produce. We saw a new facility in a reclaimed oil company







*Kicking the U.S. out. Banner from large pro-Bolivarian march.*

building which is beginning to raise rabbits. All the residents we spoke to are proud of their barrio and accomplishments and have a deep commitment to the Bolivarian Revolution ideals. Catia is pro-government and pro-Maduro.

It's hard to say which was the most informative meeting, but our time with the Minister of the Electoral Commission, which runs all the elections and referendums in the country, had to be near the top. The right to vote is in the constitution. For 20 years the minister, a dynamic woman who comes out of the women's movement, has been developing what is internationally recognized as one of the fairest, freest, most transparent and secure electoral system in the world with incredible safeguards every step of the process. Monitors, including former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, say that it's virtually impossible to have voter fraud. Only 3.8 percent of voters aren't registered. Compare this to the U.S. system which works to disenfranchise voters. Because of the political times and the aggressiveness of some of the far right opposition, the minister and her staff face ongoing threats, but they continue their work.

When we met with President Maduro, he talked about the history of Venezuela and the U.S. He said that for 200 years, there has been a struggle between the Bolivarian Revolution, which stands for independence from colonialism, and the Monroe Doctrine, which maintains that the U.S. should control the Western Hemisphere. And now he views a struggle for the future of humanity as between capitalism and socialism. He said that he would like to talk to Trump, but Venezuela will never give up its independence and sovereignty. Venezuela's foreign minister, Jorge Arreaza, spoke with John Bolton in the U.S., but that didn't go so well. Before he left the U.S., Arreaza texted a photo back to his country of a No War on Venezuela rally on Wall Street.

For two weeks, in Caracas, hundreds of people have assembled outside the presidential palace to protect it and the president. The assembly was well organized with unions, community councils, and all kind of community groups taking shifts. Members of our delegation met oil workers.

We saw a pro-government, pro-Bolivarian Revolution march. The

count was at least 100,000 people representing many sectors of the country: unions, ecological groups, pensioners, LGBT, disabled people, women and student neighborhood colectivos. There was a sea of red shirts, caps, and banners and Venezuelan flags as far as the eye could see either way. People were joyful, singing, dancing, chanting. This was the first march since the blackout and people were celebrating the electricity being back on and how the imperialist plot had failed.

A couple of people from our delegation went to the opposition rally. They reported that it was very small. They talked to a few members of the opposition, whose main complaints were that they can't buy stuff like they used to, they had no opportunity in Venezuela, and they wanted to go to the U.S. and get rich.

In the U.S. on March 30, people from around the country rallied and marched in Washington, D.C., and in cities around the U.S., including Minneapolis, to say Hands Off Venezuela and no to NATO. There is a direct connection between Venezuela and NATO. Venezuela's neighbor, Colombia, is now a partner member of NATO, although it is far from the North Atlantic, and when Brazil's right-wing president, Jair Bolsonaro, was in town, Trump raised the possibility of NATO membership for Brazil. But Venezuelans are resilient. They resist domination from the north and are continuing to build a self-sufficient economy. They have the will to preserve their independence.

**ACTION:** At the same time, we in the U.S. must resist our government officials' intervention in South America.

## Resources: Venezuela

### Up-to-Date News from Venezuela

*TeleSUR*: telesurenglish.net

*Venezuela Analysis*: venezuelanalysis.com

*Orinco Tribune*: orincotribune.com

### Reports

**“A Crime Against Humanity on Venezuela: Impacts of the Economic Blockade and the Unilateral Coercive Measures”** Gobierno Bolivariano de Venezuela. [tinyurl.com/y6acbgyt](http://tinyurl.com/y6acbgyt)

**“Report of the Independent Expert on the Promotion of a Democratic and Equitable International Order on His Mission to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Ecuador”** Alfred de Zayas, former senior lawyer for the UN high Commissioner for Human Rights, current professor of international law, Geneva School of Diplomacy and International Relations. [tinyurl.com/y4deze5d](http://tinyurl.com/y4deze5d)

### YouTube Videos

**“An Ocean of Lies on Venezuela: Abby Martin & [former] UN Rapporteur Expose Coup”** [tinyurl.com/y6acbgyt](http://tinyurl.com/y6acbgyt)

**“The Origins of Venezuela’s Economic Crisis”** Greg Wilpert. *The Real News Network*. April 2, 2019. Producer for *The Real News Network* in Quito, Ecuador, activist, founder of *Venezuelanalysis.com*, a website supportive of Hugo Chávez’s

Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela [tinyurl.com/y6rhac8y](http://tinyurl.com/y6rhac8y)

**Steve Ellner on Venezuela** Professor of economic history at the Universidad de Oriente in Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela since 1977. *Progressive Media*. November 12, 2018. [tinyurl.com/y2xv5cuy](http://tinyurl.com/y2xv5cuy)

**“BBC Reporter Corrects U.S. Media on Venezuela with Greg Palast”** Interview with investigative reporter Greg Pallast in context of tar sands oil. *The Jimmy Dore Show*. [tinyurl.com/yxfuob5s](http://tinyurl.com/yxfuob5s)

**Radio Program and Transcript “From Oil Proxy to the Bolivarian Movement and Sabotage”** Interview with Michel Chossudovsky, professor emeritus of economics at the University of Ottawa, president and director of the Centre for Research on Globalization. Conducted historic poverty study in Venezuela; current warning re: negotiations with coup faction. *Guns and Butter*. Posted February 6, 2019. [tinyurl.com/y4kqf3l0](http://tinyurl.com/y4kqf3l0)

### Articles

**“The Making of Juan Guaido: How the U.S. Regime Change Laboratory Created Venezuela’s Coup Leader”** Dan Cohen and Max Blumenthal. January 29, 2019. *Telesur*; [tinyurl.com/y55qlpkb](http://tinyurl.com/y55qlpkb)

**“Trump Threatens Nuclear War if Russia Protects Venezuela”** Dispatches

from Eric Zuesse, investigative historian. *The Greanville Post*. March 29, 2019. [tinyurl.com/y5yynlff](http://tinyurl.com/y5yynlff)

### Blogs

Center for Economic and Policy Research: *America’s Blog* [cepr.net/blogs/the-americas-blog/](http://cepr.net/blogs/the-americas-blog/) Mark Weisbrot, co-director

Steve Ellner, Professor of economic history at the Universidad de Oriente in Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela. [steveellnersblog.blogspot.com](http://steveellnersblog.blogspot.com)

### Historical Context of the U.S. in Latin America

**Article:** “‘America First’ in Latin America” Gary Prevost. *Women Against Military Madness Newsletter*. Fall II, 2018. [tinyurl.com/y3q4c5r4](http://tinyurl.com/y3q4c5r4)

**Books:** *Empire’s Workshop: Latin America, the United States, and the Rise of the New Imperialism* Greg Grandin. 2016 Henry Holt & Co. plus “Afterword: The Obama Doctrine 2010.”

*Open Veins of Latin America* by Eduardo Galeano. Broad historical context. Monthly Review Press. 1971

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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*

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.

## Immigrant Solidarity Vigils

*Every Tuesday, 7:30 a.m.* 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.*

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, 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*

Times/dates pending. 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

### *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*

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](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 612-827-5364 or email [wamm@mtn.org](mailto:wamm@mtn.org).

*Hit & Stay* May 13. Explores the early actions, the activists going to prison or going underground, the FBI's pushback against the movement, the escalating scale and stakes, and the ultimate victory of the protesters in the trial of the Camden 28. A documentary film by Joe Tropea and Skizz Cyzyk. (2013, 1 hr, 39 mn, USA)

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

## Special Events

### *MayDay Parade*

Sunday, May 5, 2019. Line up at 11 a.m., Cedar Field Park, Minneapolis. WAMM will have a table at Powderhorn Park.

### *Walk Against Weapons*

Saturday, June 1, 2019 at Como Park. See ad on back page!



### Correction:

WAMM Newsletter Winter I, 2019: the WAMM contingent to the NATO conference in Dublin, November, 2018, reported back that there are U.S. troops in 170 countries, not 70, because troops are not always identified with military bases.



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## *TWELFTH 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 1, 2019 – Rain or Shine!**

**WALK SCHEDULE (NOTE NEW LOCATION!):**

10:30 a.m. – Check-in at South Parking Lot by the Lakeside Pavilion,  
1360 Lexington Avenue North in Como Park, St. Paul

11:00 a.m. – Walk begins; 1.75 miles stroll around Como Lake

11:45 a.m. – Closing Rally at South 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!**