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Year 2020: Peace in Colombia?



As Latin American countries struggle to maintain their independence against another wave of U.S. intervention, national strikes were called in Colombia on November 21, November 27, and December 4. The protests were initially called by a coalition of labor unions objecting to President Ivan Duque’s neo-liberal economic “reforms” reducing workers’ pay and protection and cutting pension benefits. Tax breaks for corporations; corruption; privatization of the pension systems; inadequate education, healthcare, and transportation; an increase of 35 percent in the cost of electricity – all reflective of austerity – were among the specifics reported to have impassioned protesters.

Indigenous people, farmers, students, environmentalists, free speech and civil rights advocates, and a variety of other Colombians joined the protests and the numbers swelled to hundreds of thousands in a mass movement. Because of the protests, Duque was forced into

dialogue with Mesa del Paro, a coalition of civil society, but without satisfactory results for the people. On December 12, the Latin American media source, *Telesur*, reported that strikes have been continuing for three weeks as the Colombian Federation of Education Workers denounced an “economic growth” bill that would give tax exemptions to big corporations at the expense of Colombia’s poorest sectors.

Among very important root causes for the protests are violations of human rights and justice, and the lack of support for the peace process, as explained here in Meredith Aby-Keirstead’s interview with James Jordan.

Interview with James Jordan, National Co-Coordinator for Alliance for Global Justice

by Meredith Aby-Keirstead

*The U.S. has a long history of intervention in Latin America and in Colombia in particular through Plan Colombia, the U.S. funded right-wing paramilitary death squads that targeted union and human rights leaders who challenged the policies of multinational corporations. For years, Colombia was the third highest recipient of U.S. aid (after Israel and Egypt), much of it for military and “security” related purposes. According to the Congressional Research Service, from the time it was initiated in 2000, Plan Colombia and “its follow-on strategies” exceeded \$10 billion in funding through 2016. (In 2019, hundreds of millions from combined State and Defense Departments were appropriated in aid for Colombia, with similar expectations in 2020.)**



Photo: Coalition for Peace in Colombia

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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.

Newsletter Editor

Mary Beaudoin

Newsletter Committee

Polly Mann, Carol Masters,
Lee Ross, Sarah Martin,
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Proofreaders

Iize Mueller
Carol Walker

Layout

Kristin Dooley

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.

W.A.M.M. Staff

Director: Kristin Dooley
Office Manager: Sophia Myers-Kelley

W.A.M.M. Office

4200 Cedar Avenue South, Suite 3
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407
612-827-5364 (phone)
wamm@mtn.org
WomenAgainstMilitaryMadness.org

W.A.M.M. Office Hours

Mon-Fri: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

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James Jordan interview ...

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As U.S. intervention in Colombia's civil war decreased, there was a corresponding increase in peace negotiations and in 2016 the Colombian government and the country's largest rebel group, the FARC (The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) formally ended the conflict. While many hoped this would bring peace, there hasn't been an improvement in human rights. Many peace accord promises remain unfulfilled in 2019, and in September some members of the FARC publicly declared their exit from the peace accords.

The following is the writer's interview with James Jordan about the situation on the ground in Colombia. Jordan leads human rights delegations to Colombia regularly and organizes the Alliance for Global Justice's labor solidarity campaigns.

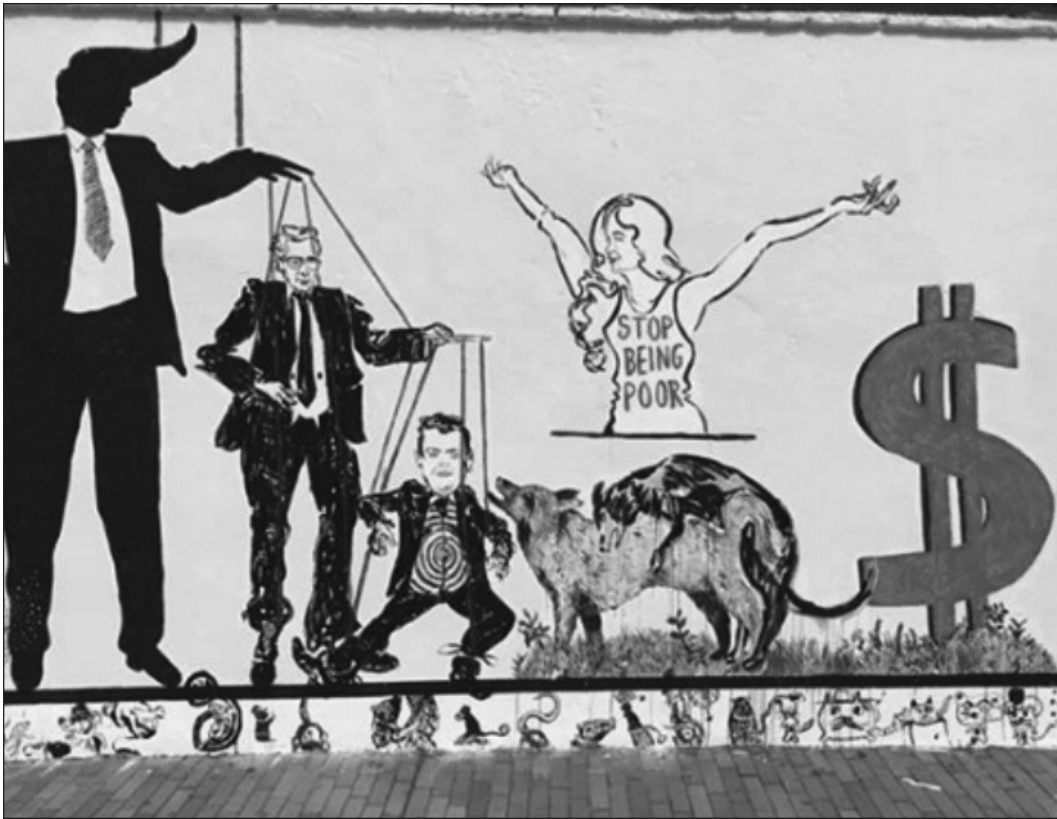
MA: Can you give our readers a status report on where the peace accords are in Colombia?

JJ: The peace accords are in serious trouble, but they're not dead yet. Today (October 15, 2019), a human rights defender, social movement leader, union organizer, or former insurgent is killed every 30 hours on average. The killers operate with impunity. Forced displacement continues to skyrocket, and the power of paramilitary death squads is rising sharply. The Colombian government is emboldened by fascist or fascist-leaning administrations in the U.S., Brazil, Argentina, Chile. They resist the demands of the Colombian people and of international pressure. While the former FARC insurgents have met 100 percent of their obligations, the Colombian government has only met around 25 percent. The administration of President Iván Duque has tried to

undermine key aspects of the peace accords and has encouraged violence and repression against former insurgents and indigenous, Afro-Colombian, and farming communities. The election of President Duque was preceded by well-organized threats and violence against left and center-left campaigns of political candidates and their supporters, as well as against widespread voter fraud. We actually took a delegation to observe one of the rounds of the elections, and every one of our teams witnessed some form of irregularities or fraud. Of course, the safe and open electoral participation of opposition political parties is as important a part of the peace process as any.

Even so, it is still true that a clear majority of former insurgents are in favor of the peace accords and thousands of them have been or are in the process of being reincorporated into civilian life. Colombian popular movements continue to support the peace. And both the Colombian Congress and its courts have repeatedly blocked some of the most critical assaults by the Duque administration.

The peace accords in 2016 brought an end to the 52-plus year civil war between the former Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army (FARC) and the Colombian government and saw the establishment of the legal, nonviolent new FARC – the Alternative Revolutionary Force of the Common. However, this did not spell an end to civil war. Around 1,000 of the old FARC soldiers never agreed to the peace accords, and never disarmed. Because of the ongoing political violence and the failure of the State to meet its commitments, their numbers have grown to 3,000 over the last three years. Recently three important former FARC commanders and peace negotiators announced they were withdrawing



Mural on the wall of the American-Colomba building in Bogotá depicting U.S. neo-liberal intervention in Colombia with the U.S., portrayed by Trump pulling the strings.

from the accords and re-forming as FARC Nuevo Poder, or New Power.

The New Power commanders have said they plan to cooperate with the ELN (National Liberation Army), which has around 5,000 members. The ELN had also been in negotiations with the government, but the Duque administration sabotaged those. Thus, even with the peace accords hanging on, today there is a presence of around 8,000 armed insurgents, and if anything, that number is growing.

All in all, the peace accords are still the law of the land, but they're barely hanging on. The civil war in Colombia has hardly ended, and what peace there is cannot truly be called a just peace. Some former insurgents have given up on that altogether, and the reasons are obvious and grave. But most insurgents and popular movements continue to defend the accords and fight for their implementation.

MA: What recent human rights abuses are you most concerned about?

JJ: The human rights situation in Colombia is heartbreaking. I have traveled various times to communities that are the hardest hit by political violence from the military and paramilitaries. Everyone has lost friends and family members and we have known some of the fallen.

One of our closest associates just survived an assassination attempt right in Bogotá – the second he's survived since 2016. Almost daily people I know well contact me, people who are truly in fear for their lives and those of their families. They are desperate for somewhere to go, somewhere they can be safe. Or sometimes they just want their families to be able to relocate, while they stay behind to continue the struggle at home.

I put people in touch with immigration lawyers and activists here in the U.S. and in Canada, too. But, as we
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WAMM Committees

Issues Committees:

- Book Club
- End War
- Ground All Drones
- 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

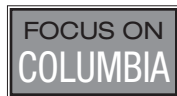
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- Anne Keirstead
- Audrey Kvist
- Vanessa Lawrow
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- Lucia Wilkes Smith, Secretary
- Carol Walker

Correction: The year of the next Camp Ripley Peace Vigil was incorrectly reported in the WAMM Fall II newsletter as 2020. It will actually be held in 2021. Vigils are held every other year to coincide with Camp Ripley Open Houses.

James Jordan interview ...

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know all too well, anti-immigrant racism is entrenched and expanding, both officially and unofficially. I discuss with them other options, and share what contacts we have in other countries. But for the most part, these comrades and their families are caught in the crossfire with nowhere to run.

And I won't even begin to tell you about some of the worst abuses – children shot dead in their parents' arms, a former insurgent being beaten and castrated at a military checkpoint before he was finally murdered, aerial bombings of civilians who later are falsely claimed to be "enemy combatants," communities fired on while they are in the very act of eradicating illicit crops and demanding inclusion in rural development programs. These are daily occurrences.

So, I'd say that one of the top concerns has to be the ongoing political violence against the left and rural, indigenous, and Afro-Colombian communities. Forty percent of the victims are Afro or indigenous. But I want to add that the anti-immigrant, anti-asylum policies of the Trump administration also form a kind of human rights abuse against Colombian social movement leaders who could be killed at any moment, who are being killed right now.

The other big human rights abuse I wish people knew more about is what's going on in La Guajira. Every year 600 to 700 Wayúu indigenous children die of hunger and thirst. They live in an area of severe drought, and that situation is made

so much worse by mining companies that rob their streams and rivers and contaminate what water is left. It has destroyed the ability of Wayúu people to feed themselves. This is going on right on the Colombian side of the border with Venezuela, in one of the most militarized parts of Colombia I have seen. But we don't know about it because it implicates transnational capitalism, and it reveals the huge expenditures on military hardware that threaten both the Colombian and Venezuelan people. Those expenditures could be going to feed, house, and educate Wayúu communities.

MA: What has the Trump administration done to promote or destroy peace in Colombia?

JJ: The election of Donald Trump as U.S. president marked a bad turn for Colombia. Previous administrations were also not good. But whereas when Colombia under former President Álvaro Uribe was considering invading Venezuela, the George W. Bush administration refused to back the idea believing it to be unreasonable. The Obama administration began a new phase of military partnership with Colombia and passed the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement. However, the Obama White House didn't interfere directly against the peace agreement.

The Trump administration, on the other hand, has openly talked about Colombia as a staging ground for possible military intervention in Venezuela and has led attacks on the peace agreement. The White House has pushed aggressively for Colombia to abandon commitments to land reform, return of the displaced, and rural development and crop substitution in exchange for voluntary eradication of crops with illicit uses.

He [President Trump] has insisted, instead, on violent, forced eradication without development, and on a return to the aerial spraying of rural communities with glyphosate (popularly known as Roundup, created by Monsanto). The Trump administration has also returned to the practice of requesting the extradition of former insurgents, a practice that undermines the autonomy and sovereignty of Special Peace Jurisdiction Courts. With the election of Ivan Duque, an Uribe disciple, in June 2018, Trump found a willing and subservient pawn.

MA: What can we do here to support peace in Colombia?

JJ: There are a number of different organizations that defend peace in Colombia. Despite political differences and differences in analysis, I think we all understand that right now the peace accords are in danger,



This Wayuu mother and child are among the fortunate to have escaped the fate of their indigenous communities in La Guajira, northern Colombia, where mining companies rob and contaminate water supplies. Photo: UNICEF

and the primary culprits are U.S. policies and the far-right wing that is in power in both Colombia and the U.S. I encourage people to look around and plug in wherever they can.

Meredith Aby-Keirstead is a long-time Latin America solidarity activist and is a member of the Anti-War Committee and Women Against Military Madness. She led human rights delegations to Colombia in 2004 and 2006 and has led organizing nationally in solidarity with the Colombian unions. She is also a member of Education Minnesota.

*Congressional Research Report. "Colombia: Background and U.S. Relations. Updated November 29, 2019." Summary, page 2; "Funding for Plan Colombia and Peace Colombia," pages 31-36. fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R43813.pdf

ACTION: Support Labor: The Fensuagro agricultural workers' union (Federación Nacional Sindical Unitaria Agropecuaria) is the most repressed and targeted union in Colombia and maybe even the world. In the first half of 2019 alone, 10 of their organizers were killed, and they represent the sector most affected by displacement. For many years, they had received no support from U.S. labor, but over the past several years, labor unions have co-sponsored two Fensuagro tours in the U.S. and have passed resolutions of



Map Source: Encyclopedia Britannica

solidarity with the union. Right now they really need our support, and are planning for their national congress in April 2020. **FFI:** Anyone who wants to support and/or attend the congress, contact: JAMES@AFGJ.ORG.

Participate in the Coalition for Peace in Colombia Organizations and activists from Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. joined together for peace in Colombia. **FFI:** coalitionforpeaceincolumbia.org for activities and campaigns including the People's Travel Advisory on Colombia.

In the Minneapolis/St. Paul area: Attend WAMM Coffee Hours for Education and Action The WAMM Solidarity Committee of the Americas is a new issue committee and sponsoring Saturday morning coffee hours. The next coffee hour will be held January 11, 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis (cross street 42nd Street). **FFI:** See Women Against Military Madness Facebook, the WAMM calendar at womenagainstmilitarymadness.org, or call the WAMM office at 612-827-6364.

Further Resources

Colombia News & Analysis

- Colombia Reports: colombiareports.com
- Pacifista!: pacifista.tv
- Agency Prensa Rural (Rural Press Agency): prensarural.org
- Colombia Plural: colombiaplural.com
- Contagio Radio: contagioradio.com

Latin America News & Analysis:

- Alborada (Latin America Uncovered): alborada.net
- North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA): nacla.org
- Task Force of the Americas taskforceamericas.org
- TeleSUR: teleSURenglish.net



Photo: El Espectador Graffiti mural in Bogota asks: "Who gave the order?" (for false positives identifying youth as enemy combatants).

After-Holiday Blues and an Action to Chase Them Away

by Polly Mann with Mary Beaudoin

Ironically, we have heard from the one of the greatest purveyors of propaganda, *The Washington Post*, that we are lied to about war. But with the release of the series “Afghanistan Papers: A Secret History of the War” by Craig Whitlock, you would think that the powers that be would have a hard time claiming to the American people that the war on Afghanistan, which never should have been waged in the first place, is justified.

However, not long after the *Post's* series was published, on December 17, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) was passed by Congress with bipartisan support (377-48 in the House, 86-8 in the Senate), giving the gift of \$738 billion for military spending to Trump, an increase of \$22 billion over last year. All of the amendments to stop or mitigate war were stripped out of the NDAA, so now it's possible for the U.S. to sell weapons to Saudi Arabia, continue complicity in the war on Yemen where ten million people are on the verge of starvation, enable the president to wage an unprovoked and disastrous war on Iran, deploy low-yield nuclear warheads, and build an odious wall on the U.S. southern border. In addition, the NDAA mandates the creation of a new branch of the military, the Space Force.

Congressman Ro Khanna of California, one of the minority in opposition to the NDAA, asked: “My question is, when are we going to listen to the American people? When are we going to do our Article One duty [which says that Congress controls

the “power of the purse”] and stop funding these endless wars and start funding domestic priorities?”

When indeed? There is always money for weapons and war, but there isn't enough money for the needs of our own people. In December, just in time for the holidays, Trump announced that approximately 700,000 people are set to be cut from the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), advancing the plan to make more than three million people ineligible. And it's proceeding even though the U.S. Department of Agriculture's latest statistics show that nearly 14 percent of adults and children live in “food insecure” homes, which means that in those households, families don't have enough food for every member to lead a healthy life. Another 540,000 U.S. children live in even worse conditions, with low or very low food security. (Latest USDA statistics from 2018: tinyurl.com/rnzlqjg)

There isn't enough money for social safety nets to protect the poor and vulnerable. In cold climates, people stand on highway off ramps in freezing weather begging. Blocks of tent cities have risen in Los Angeles, but even in the warm climate people are subject to perilous conditions; the *Los Angeles Times* reports 921 died last year and 1,000 are predicted to die this year. And throughout the U.S. today, working families who have adequate food and shelter may be hard pressed to pay for healthcare. Study after study shows that half of Americans are one paycheck away from financial hardship.



Polly Mann is a co-founder of WAMM.

ACTION: Tell Your Senators to Ban Nuclear Weapons!

Here's an action to take in the face of all the bad news. There is one place that immediately comes to mind where Pentagon costs could be cut so that human needs can be addressed. Without a doubt there should be a stop to the manufacture and modernization of nuclear weapons (modernizing will cost more than one trillion dollars over the next three decades). In Minnesota, volunteers from the WAMM Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons have obtained at least one signature from every single municipality in the state which they are in the process of delivering to their U.S. and state senators. **Call your senators Amy Klobuchar at (202) 224-3244 and Tina Smith (202) 224-5641** to tell them to listen to their constituents and have the U.S. sign and ratify the treaty! Call your local state officials, too. Minnesota state legislature: 651-296-0504.

March on the Pentagon Rages against the War Machine

by Emma Fiala

FOCUS ON
RAGE AGAINST
THE WAR

It has been glaringly obvious for far too many years that organizing against war – and the whole military-industrial complex and its support systems – in other words, “the war machine” – isn’t easy. At the same time, if one turns on the television or peeks at the week’s mainstream media headlines, protests related to issues like gun control, the climate, and migrants at the U.S. border attract tens of thousands of people and grab headlines. While it’s important to stand up for what we believe in (or against that which we don’t), missing from the media narrative is the issue of war – the single most important issue that we must stand up against.

Because what good is health care when we’re bombing each other to oblivion? And how will we pay for it when more than 50 percent of our country’s entire budget goes to the military? Likewise, how will we ever afford decent education? How will we invest in infrastructure? How can we possibly com-

bat environmental destruction and receive justice for this planet when the military is the world’s largest institutional polluter and consumer of fossil fuels?

The various effects of war related to the federal budget and the environment are certainly within reach of our understanding, but the pure brutality of war should be enough to send us all pouring into the streets – the deaths and the disturbing ways in which they occur, the ruined lives, the physical and mental damage to those who didn’t perish, the irreversible damage, the rapes, and more. Unfortunately, current mainstream popular protest movements did not address the evil of war.

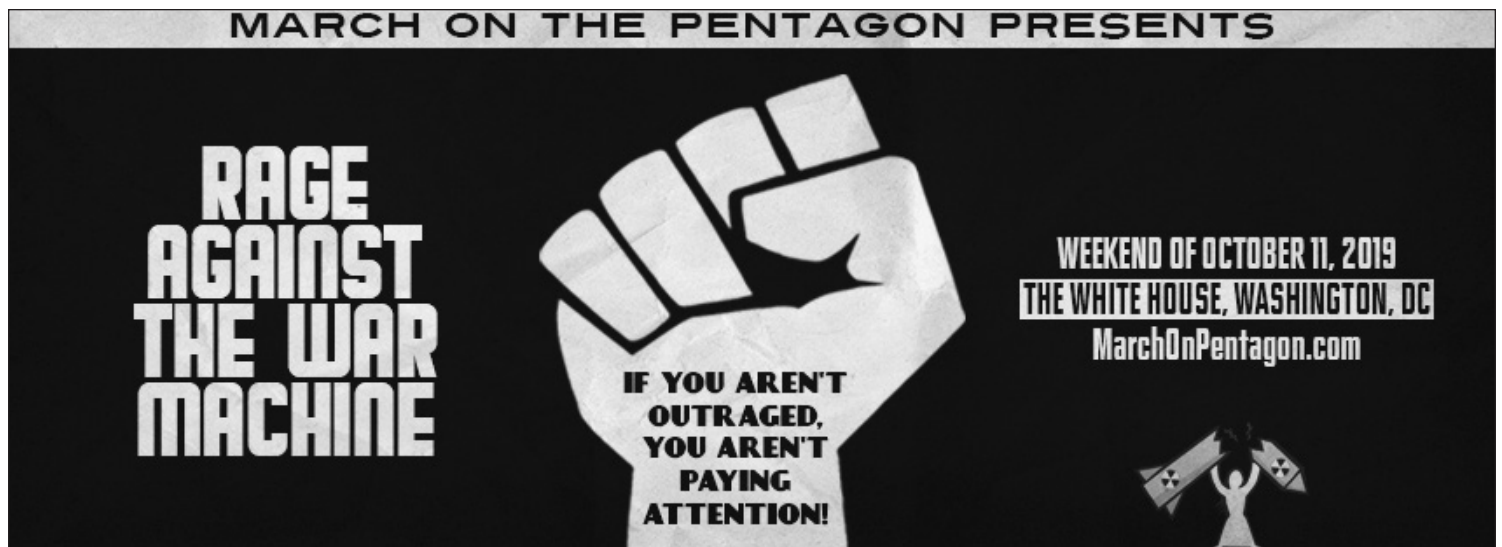
The Women’s March on the Pentagon was born in early 2018 after Co-Director Cindy Sheehan inquired about the issue of war with the national Women’s March – the big, national, now worldwide protest movement. Since the Women’s March wouldn’t address the issue of war, Sheehan decided to start the anti-imperialist group, Women’s

March on the Pentagon, to address the issue of women and war, among other things. Sheehan has been renowned as an antiwar activist ever since her son Casey was killed in the Iraq War.

The Women’s March on the Pentagon was held in October of 2018 when around 2,000 of us marched from the Pentagon City Mall to the Pentagon itself. An invigorated crowd of protesters and a host of amazing speakers found ourselves in the middle of a vast empty parking lot in Washington, D.C., on a Saturday, out of view of all but the Pentagon police tasked with watching us through binoculars from afar.

This year we decided to do things a little differently. This year’s event, which we named “Rage Against the War Machine,” manifested out of our extreme outrage for the marginalization of antiwar voices. The peace movement has been preaching and practicing peace for decades and while acknowledging that this is indeed important, a pro-peace

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Banner proclaiming the urgency of last October’s action. Stay tuned for future actions

Rage Against the War...

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movement alone doesn't do justice to the outrage we feel about the heinous acts committed by our government across the world in our names and with our tax dollars. (It should be noted that, to be inclusive, we dropped "Women's" from our movement's name.)

In our short existence, it has been a priority of March on the Pentagon to effectively communicate that we are *also* against the *bipartisan* war machine and all of the war, all of the imperialism, and all of the ways each and every one of us is affected. And so, on October 11th, Rage Against the War Machine led March on the Pentagon through the streets of Washington on a Friday afternoon, so that this time we were visible to passersby and employees of the various targets that we stopped by related to the war machine.

The march began at 11:00 a.m. at the White House where, as a group, we raged against the Republicans and the Commander in Chief. It is here where our audience who joined via livestream assumed we were liberals, simply expressing outrage at the President, when in fact we were raging against only one half of the corrupt war machine government. We were just getting started.

While at the White House we spoke of past and current ills of the executive branch. Acting as March on the Pentagon co-director and Women Against Military Madness board member, I read an open letter addressed to President Donald Trump in response to his recent anti-war statements. I said: "We take what you say with a grain of salt and will continue to do so until your

actions back up your words, because, historically speaking, presidents so rarely back up their words with their deeds." (Ironically, the previous day Donald Trump traveled to the Twin Cities, where he was met with thousands of unhappy Minnesotans who filled the streets surrounding Target Center, the downtown Minneapolis venue where he spoke.)

Then Rage Against the War Machine moved through the streets of Washington to the nearby International Monetary Fund (IMF) office. The IMF is responsible for causing economic instability the world over, often in preparation for U.S. regime change efforts. The IMF effectively holds countries hostage in exchange for loans and also facilitates contracts that benefit U.S. corporations in these countries.

Standing on a bench in front of the IMF, March on the Pentagon Co-Director Cindy Sheehan spoke of the anti-IMF uprising in Ecuador. Sheehan then introduced Judy Bello of the United Anti-War Coalition, who spoke of the sanctions currently harming citizens of 21 countries around the world right now. "When people think about war, they usually think about the military.... The U.S. is conducting another type of war that is equally devastating, an economic war against most of the developing countries of the world."

Dakotah Lilly, student activist and Rage Against the War Machine planning committee member, spoke of the international oligarchy, of which the IMF is a part. Lilly spoke of the devastating effects of the U.S. embargo and sanctions on Venezuela, a country he has visited numerous times.

We again took to the streets as we

marched to Farragut Square, to rage against the other half of the government war machine, the Democratic Party. The park is frequently passed by lobbyists whose offices are nearby. Here Sheehan spoke of promises that were never kept, including when Nancy Pelosi once told Sheehan that if Sheehan were to help elect her, Pelosi would help end war. As a result of this broken promise, Sheehan eventually left the party. Sheehan explained, "I left the Democrats in 2007 because they refused to end the wars. They told me: 'If you help us get elected, we'll help you end the war.' ... They betray every movement, they are the death of movements."

Activist Diane Moxley of New Jersey spoke to the group from the base of the statue of Admiral David G. Farragut, a 19th century naval commander. Moxley spoke of the need to fight back against the war machine. "What we all need to be doing right now is raging against the war machine and the military-industrial complex. They commit atrocities around the globe in our name and for no other reason than the big profits of their corporate donors and the wealthy elite. What we have going on right now has nothing to do with our security. It is about greed."

Upon arriving at the Atlantic Council, a think tank with connections to NATO and the Department of Defense that is staffed by former government and military officials, Jan Weinberg spoke. He is the founder of Show Up America, an organization that promotes civic engagement, and the author of the book *Violence Incorporated*, which addresses the influence of the military-industrial complex on public policy and the trade agreements. He

spoke of the Atlantic Council meeting he attended the previous day and about who it is that makes up the think tank's ranks.

I spoke of the massive Facebook purge of independent media and anti-war voices that occurred exactly one year prior to Rage Against the War Machine, and the fact that the Atlantic Council partnered with Facebook prior to this purge of 800 pages and people. "They gave them no warning. They gave them no explanation. They gave them no opportunity to get their pages back, and some of these pages had millions of followers," I explained.

Ann Wright, a retired U.S. Army colonel and former State Department foreign-service official who is an antiwar activist with Veterans for Peace, spoke about information technology company Booz Allen Hamilton, and other war profiteers. Wright explained that Booz Allen Hamilton "prides itself on having the greatest collection of intelligence in the whole world. Now, I thought that was the NSA. Booz Allen Hamilton is one of the parts of the NSA." Wright informed the crowd that NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden had been employed by Booz Allen Hamilton. She also explained that the company has contracts with United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, two countries currently wreaking havoc on Yemen.

Our final stop took us to the doors of *The Washington Post*, purchased in 2013 by Seattle billionaire Jeff Bezos, who owns both Amazon and Whole Foods, and has million-dollar contracts with the CIA.* Here, activist-writers Kevin Zeese and Margaret Flowers of Popular Resistance spoke of the lies told by corporate media that manufacture



Emma Fiala and children rage against war in Washington, D.C.

consent for war. They also spoke of the need for independent media to counter these narratives.

Marchers then engaged in a die-in on the sidewalk in front of *The Washington Post*, where protesters lay on the ground and chalk outlines were drawn around their bodies. It was during this time that others among us were able to take the microphone to add their words of outrage against the war machine.

The following day, we held a teach-in at St. Stephen's Church (full name: St. Stephen and the Incarnation Episcopal Church) in Washington's Columbia Heights neighborhood. Various panels of activists presented information to encourage attendees and spur conversations about how we can act against the war machine's imperialism, which is causing so much

suffering around the world. Information and statistics were provided about the many effects on people of color both within the borders of the U.S. and beyond our borders, harm perpetrated by sanctions and in other ways. This information provided us with tools to use and much more for when we returned home.

The first panel of the teach-in included members of Women Against Military Madness' (WAMM's) board of directors who spoke on the history and successes of their organization. Audience members had the opportunity to speak of their own local organizing experiences and ask questions of the WAMM members.

The panels that followed included speakers and moderators such as Dakota Lilly; Ann Wright; Medea Benjamin, Teri Mattson, and Paki

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Rage Against the War...

continued from page 9

**FOCUS ON
RAGE AGAINST
THE WAR**

Wieland of Code Pink; political commentator-comedian

Lee Camp of the program *Redacted Tonight*; activist journalist Eugene Puryear; Lisa Davis, vice chair of the Black is Back Coalition; Native American environmentalist Gray Michael Parsons; New Jersey peace activist Madelyn Hoffman; Don DeBar of Community Progressive Radio (CPR) in Spokane, Washington; and others, including musical guests. Cindy Sheehan provided a short

keynote, speaking of the 18th anniversary of the war on Afghanistan.

Livestreams of the march and each panel can be found at: youtube.com/channel/UCpqjupEanQWGGH1zx-RImEAw

Emma Fiala is the co-director of Rage Against the War Machine and a Women Against Military Madness board member.

*“CIA long relied exclusively on Amazon for its cloud computing.” *The Washington Post*. Apr 2, 2019. tinyurl.com/y4d4doda Also note: “Amazon has been selling its cloud services to the CIA, the Army, and the Homeland Security

Department. The billionaire’s rocket company, Blue Origin, is vying for Air Force space launch contracts.” from “Amazon’s Bezos Hits Silicon Valley for Not Working with the Pentagon, Defense One, Dec.7, 2019. tinyurl.com/rge9z2x

ACTION March on the Pentagon plans to continue holding an annual anti-imperialism event every October and will be working to encourage additional action between now and then. In Minneapolis/St. Paul, see the calendar page 11 of the Women Against Military Madness Newsletter and/or the calendar at womenagainstmilitarymadness.org. Also see: “Rage Against the War Machine” at marchonthepentagon.com



WAMM board members Carol Walker, Sarah Martin, WAMM Director Kristin Dooley, and WAMM Co-chair Emma at teach-in.

Keep the light of peace burning! Give the gift of a WAMM membership to someone, join, or renew.



WAMM Membership

\$15–39 Low Income/Student membership

\$40–59 Individual membership

\$60–199 Household membership

\$200+ Major Donor

This is a new membership

This is a membership renewal

This is a gift membership

Check enclosed

Please charge my credit card

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____ Security Code _____

Signature _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Add me to the WAMM email list

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

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

Sustaining Membership

(Ongoing contributions throughout the year)

\$ _____ Monthly \$ _____ Quarterly

(WAMM will send a coupon book, if by check)

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, 4:00 to 5:00 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

Third Saturday of every month. 10 a.m. to Noon. Episcopal Senior Living Complex, Welcome Center, 1860 University Ave. W., St. Paul. FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364.

End War

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

Ground All Drones

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

Middle East

Second Monday of every month, 10:00 a.m. at Kenwood Isles Condominiums, 28th and Hennepin Ave. So., Mpls.. 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 or Bill 612-926-8459.

Solidarity Committee on the Americas (SCOTA)

Second Thursday of every month, 11:00 a.m. WAMM Office, 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis. FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364.

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 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.

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.

The Report January 13. A thriller based on actual events. Idealistic staffer Daniel J. Jones (Adam Driver) is tasked by his boss Senator Dianne Feinstein (Annette Bening) to lead an investigation of the CIA's Detention and Interrogation Program created in the aftermath of 9/11.

NOTE SATURDAY!

Gaza Fights for Freedom

February 8. 10:00 a.m. Debut film by journalist Abby Martin with a team in Gaza. A stunning cinematic portrayal of Palestinians' heroic resistance. Skype with Abby Martin after the movie.

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

Special Events

January Coffee Hour

Saturday, January 11, 2019. 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Discussion on current events in the Americas. Sponsored by the Solidarity Committee on the Americas (SCOTA). Bagels and coffee provided. FFI: 612-827-5364.

Call your senators!

Urge our Senators to support the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Klobuchar: 612-727-5220; 202-224-3244; Smith: 651-221-1016; 1-202-224-5641. Call to support members of the WAMM End War Committee and Veterans for Peace Chapter 27 who will be delivering petitions signed by over 20,000 Minnesotans to the senators in the near future.

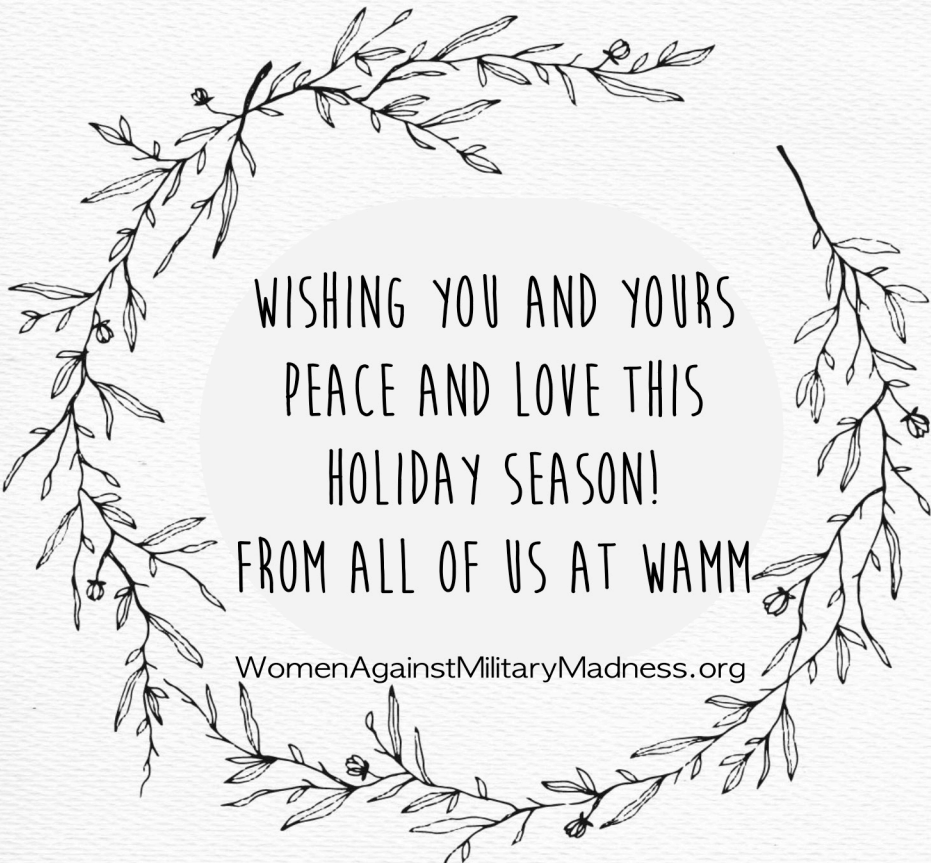
The Ribbon Project

Join us in workshops to create a ribbon of peace to display on the 75th anniversary of the U.S. military bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Multiple workshops planned. Call 612-827-5364 or email wamm@mtn.org.



4200 Cedar Avenue South, Suite 3
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407
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