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We Reject War on Foreign Soil As We Reject Police Violence Here!

FOCUS ON
WAR
ABROAD

“Effective war propaganda has caused Americans to either forget or apparently have a hard time understanding that war is itself a systemic evil that once unleashed, cannot be easily or neatly constrained. What goes around, comes around. When a country decides to open Pandora’s Box in its quest for dominance as an Empire, when its people come to see war as their answer, glorifying militaristic violence, normalizing the killing of millions of foreign people in the process, that violence inevitably “blows back” on its own domestic population. . . You cannot compartmentalize a love of military policing of the world from domestic policing within the U.S.

Not only (as MLK, Jr. said) is the U.S. government the greatest purveyor of

violence on the rest of the world, but it ends up also being the greatest purveyor of violence in and on its own citizens. But I hardly see anyone understanding that there is a blowback effect of our perpetual, unending wars that have killed millions of poor foreign civilians and its boomeranging back into the growing police and mass shooter violence killing poor U.S. civilians. Despite its disparaging treatment of American law enforcement, the mainstream media just continues to praise and extol U.S. military ‘warriors.’”
– Coleen Rowley, antiwar activist and member of Women Against Military Madness, June, 2020

“While the U.S. war on the black population at home is now exposed for all of America – and the world – to see,
continued on page 2



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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We Reject War on Foreign Soil...

continued from page 1

FOCUS ON WAR ABROAD

the victims of U.S. wars abroad continue to be hidden... For too long, we have let cynical politicians and business leaders divide and rule us, funding police and the Pentagon over real human needs, pitting us against each other at home and leading us off to wars against our neighbors abroad... Just as we are exposing the rot in U.S. police forces and calling for defunding the police, so we must expose the rot in U.S. foreign policy and call for defunding the Pentagon...

As we chant 'Black Lives Matter,' we should include the lives of black and brown people dying every day from U.S. sanctions in Venezuela, the lives of black and brown people being blown up by U.S. bombs in Yemen and Afghanistan, the lives of people of color in Palestine who are tear-gassed, beaten and shot with Israeli weapons funded by U.S.-taxpayers. We must be ready to show solidarity with people defending themselves against U.S.-sponsored violence whether in Minneapolis, New York and Los Angeles, or Afghanistan, Gaza and Iran." – *Medea*

Benjamin of Code Pink and Nicolas J.S. Davies, author of Blood on Our Hands: the American Invasion and Destruction of Iraq. Common Dreams, June 9, 2020

"We are clear: It is a moral and political contradiction to advocate for a kinder and gentler police force in the belly of the empire while it is unleashing murderous violence around the world against Africans and other colonized people. We will continue making the connections and organizing..." – *Black Alliance for Peace: "U.S. Out of Africa Campaign" blackalliancecampaign.com*

Note: Camp Ripley reported on June 20 that the Minnesota National Guard, joined by soldiers from Illinois and Iowa, after COVID-19 preparations, is now deploying to the Horn of Africa where it will "conduct security operations, force protection, and provide security force assistance in support of Operation Enduring Freedom." h/t to Robin Hensel (Minnesota National Guard website. June 20, 2020 tinyurl.com/y7hasur9)

See the 2020 U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) Posture Statement to Congress: tinyurl.com/yaaxaonj

Charts: Combined Forces Air Combined Commander 2015–2019 Airpower Statistics

		UNCLASSIFIED															
		As of Dec 31, 2019															
		OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE															
United States Air Forces Central Command Combined Air Operations Center	Iraq & Syria	Strike Aircraft (manned)				Number of Weapons Released (Manned & RPA strike assets)											
		Sorties		Sorties with at least one weapon release	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
		2015	2016		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017
		21,116	21,181	9,912	2,426	1,853	1,685	1,862	2,145	1,683	2,823	2,758	2,380	2,694	3,242	3,145	28,69
		19,680	16,056	11,825	2,718	2,090	2,052	2,582	2,341	3,160	2,439	2,244	2,427	3,038	2,709	2,943	30,74
		13,694	9,944	9,944	3,600	3,439	3,878	3,274	4,374	4,848	4,313	5,075	3,550	1,642	1,000	584	39,57
				1,591	780	747	294	254	431	356	241	338	758	876	1,424	2,214	8,712
				976	2,005	607	900	90	54	135	105	218	137	166	153	159	4,725
Statistics provided includes numbers of sorties (not strikes) and munitions expended by aircraft under CFACC control																	
					9,514	12,270	14,015	7,782	13,377								
					10,050	8,400	9,448	8,450	7,382								
					78,500	72,800	68,537	43,566	35,520								
					47,200	46,900	76,802	76,369	64,525								
					111,200	822,171	641,746	605,670	930,700								
					14,737	13,064	13,243	8,697	7,049								
					912	804	778	620	487								
					84,381	80,912	70,536	52,061	44,994								

Afghanistan: Unimaginable Suffering and Kindness

by Kathy Kelly



FOCUS ON AFGHANISTAN

In late May, as Afghans ended the Ramadan month of fasting, a three-day truce was declared between fighting forces. Earlier that month, a particularly savage assault in Kabul had shaken people. On May 12th, three militants stormed a maternity center in Kabul. 24 people were killed, among them eighteen mothers, several nurses and two newborns. By the end of that day, across Afghanistan, an estimated 100 people had lost their lives. "What is crushing Afghans," Mujib Mashal wrote for *The New York Times*, "is not just the sheer brutality of the attacks with newborn babies soaked in blood and deprived of mothers before they have even gotten a name, but the failure of anything to bring a reprieve."

Marzia, a young woman who helps coordinate the Afghan Peace Volunteers, studies midwifery at Kabul University. In early May, she had just recovered from a bad bout with COVID-19 and looked forward to returning to the maternity wards. Marzia's raw anguish, following the May 12th attack, came in the form of prayer as she wrote that only God could understand her.

"What kind of human would do this?" asked an outraged person on twitter, following the attack on the hospital. I shuddered, remembering my own experience standing outside a maternity center in Baghdad, in 1998, after a U.S. attack had shattered almost all of the hospital's windows, terrifying mothers who were in labor. And I thought of a more recent U.S. drone attack on unarmed laborers who rested after a full day of work harvesting pine nuts in the Nangarhar

province. The attack killed 32 people and wounded more than forty.

Our young friends in Kabul never seek protection from U.S. forces, nor do they turn to their government for security or to help meet basic needs. After the COVID-19 virus led to a shutdown in Kabul, they scrambled to assemble rations of cooking oil, rice, and beans for distribution to 100 needy families whom they've gotten to know through their Street Kids School. They wholeheartedly agree with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres's call for a global ceasefire: "The fury of the virus illustrates the folly of war. It is time to put armed conflict on lockdown... Put aside mistrust and animosity. Silence the guns; stop the artillery; end the airstrikes. End the sickness of war and fight the disease that is ravaging our world. That is what the human family needs, now more than ever."

Kathy Kelly of Voices for Creative Nonviolence is an international peace activist who has visited Afghanistan many times and has worked alongside the Afghan Youth Volunteers in Kabul.

WAMM Committees

Issues Committees:

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

Standing Committees:

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

WAMM Board:

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- Margo Casey
- Penelope Gardner
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- Anne Keirstead
- Sarah Martin, Co-Chair
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- Emma Sron, Co-Chair
- Carol Walker

Combined Forces Air Component Commander 2013-2019 Airpower Statistics

UNCLASSIFIED

As of Dec 31, 2019

United States Air Forces Central Command
Combined Air Operations Center
Afghanistan

OPERATION FREEDOM'S SENTINEL/RESOLUTE SUPPORT MISSION

Strike Aircraft (manned)

Sorties		Sorties with at least one weapon release	
2013	21,900	2013	1,408
2014	12,978	2014	1,136
2015	5,774	2015	411
2016	5,162	2016	615
2017	4,603	2017	1,248
2018	8,196	2018	966
2019	8,773	2019	2,434

Number of Weapons Released (Manned & RPA strike assets)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2013	193	297	250	284	368	337	256	158	232	189	118	76	2,758
2014	92	114	95	115	164	272	205	437	441	217	87	126	2,365
2015	40	30	47	31	41	109	79	156	111	203	69	31	947
2016	127	115	58	62	89	94	160	108	162	205	92	65	1,337
2017	54	200	203	460	328	389	350	503	414	653	352	455	4,361
2018	378	469	339	562	591	572	746	715	841	769	841	539	7,362
2019	463	327	673	548	635	441	613	783	948	777	519	696	7,423

Statistics provided includes numbers of sorties (not strikes) and munitions expended by aircraft under CFACC control

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Intel, Surveillance and Recon Sorties	31,049	32,999	21,634	19,681	15,404	12,716	17,723
Airlift and Airdrop Sorties	32,000	17,040	6,900	10,300	11,166	12,783	10,926
Airlift Cargo (Short Tons)	201,000	158,400	50,000	69,200	84,208	89,584	79,705
Airlift Passengers	506,000	202,700	78,000	111,100	120,554	150,330	141,294
Supplies Airdropped (Pounds)	10,883,000	28,000	0	0	33,423	667,880	606,600
Tanker Sorties	12,319	9,085	5,323	4,910	5,714	4,673	2,637
Fuel Offloaded (Millions of Pounds)	723	636	201	150	170	189	99
Aircraft Refuelings	53,266	46,793	26,162	18,137	17,989	19,214	12,877

Without Mercy: Sanctions and Militarism

FOCUS ON
MIDDLE
EAST

Syria: New Sanctions, Lies, and Looting

As of June 17, the U.S. has placed additional draconian sanctions on Syria through the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act, a piece of legislation named after a military defector who claimed that 55,000 photos of deceased Syrians were victims of detention and torture by the Syrian government. Antiwar proponents and journalists believe otherwise, and there is research to prove that though the photos are real, they actually depict casualties of war.

Independent journalist Eva Bartlett, with years of reporting on the ground in Syria and the Middle East, laments the Caesar Act: “an implementation of yet further brutal sanctions against the people of Syria, it will cause immense suffering, all under the premise of targeting Syria’s leadership and helping Syria’s people. The flawed and hypocritical logic is one which the U.S. has applied to tens of nations who have refused to cower to its hegemony.”

Syrian Ambassador to the United Nations, Dr. Bashar Al-Jaafari, challenged the hypocrisy: “When the United States publicly steals 200,000 barrels of oil from the Syrian oil fields on a daily basis, and 40,000 tons of cotton, and burns thousands of hectares of wheat fields, steals five million livestock, and prides itself on ‘dividing Syria’ and weakening the value of the Syrian pound intentionally, when coercive economic measures are imposed aimed at strangling the Syrian people,

occupying parts of the Syrian lands, and protecting their Turkish partner who occupies other lands, and when the U.S. representative, despite all of this, talks about her administration’s concern about the deteriorating living conditions of the Syrian citizen, and attributes this deterioration to what you call ‘the system,’ the legitimate question here becomes, are these not symptoms of political schizophrenia? Does this not indicate an acute illness?” (interview with journalist Basma Quaddour. Voices from Syria. June 21, 2020. tinyurl.com/y9ams7h3)

Iraq and Iran: The U.S. Doubles Down Again

How has the pandemic affected Iraq? From October 2019 through February 2020, amazing actions had taken place across Iraq as a new generation of young men and women conducted peaceful demonstrations and sit-ins protesting against the corruption of the Iraq government and its failure to provide adequate government services including utilities. Unfortunately, this went almost unnoticed in mainstream Western media. Protests stopped with the pandemic.

In Iraq, we watch the news each day with dismay. How can this country [the U.S.], this president [Trump] stoop so very low as to blame China for the virus, rather than cooperate during a worldwide pandemic? Instead, Trump continues to villainize other nations. Another example are the threats the U.S. administration issues to Iran and the U.S. refusal to loosen the sanctions. In fact, it has issued a new

round amidst Iran’s high incidents of the virus. U.S. Secretary of State Pompeo claimed that humanitarian items have been allowed in, but that isn’t true. The sanctions prevent international financial transactions and shipping – and that prevents medicine and medical equipment from entering Iran.

The administration deliberately and premeditatedly distorts Islamic-Arab culture throughout the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region to justify waging war against the populations, occupy the countries, and steal the natural resources, such as oil. At the same time, Muslim visitors continue to be banned from entering the U.S.

In general, violence in Iraq is a consequence of the American occupation which began in 2003. From time to time, some local militia forces have launched rockets into American bases and the American embassy in Baghdad to get American forces to leave Iraq, which has not resulted in the U.S. leaving but has resulted in the deaths of some soldiers and innocent people on both sides.

There is no doubt that the proposal for a global cease-fire called for by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and endorsed by Pope Francis would have an immediate positive impact and end the state of wars and violence in the Middle East.

~ email correspondence from Sami Rasouli in Iraq. He is the founder and director of the Muslim Peacemaker Team, Najaf.

In the Time of Pandemic

FOCUS ON
SOUTH
AMERICA

Venezuela: Friends and Foes

Few people have died from the coronavirus because the aggressive and immediate handling of the pandemic by the government has worked in slowing the spread. In the spirit of cooperation, Venezuela also accepted help from outside the country. China shipped medical supplies and tests. Thirty thousand Cuban doctors and medical personnel went door to door with their Venezuelan colleagues to identify people with the virus. Iran sent five tankers with gasoline to Venezuela. (The oil-rich South American country is in need, as its own production facilities were hampered by U.S.-imposed sanctions.)

Instead of cutting back on human needs, the government of Maduro has continued to build affordable housing, increase the minimum wage, and distribute food monthly to the majority of Venezuelan families.

As the attention of the U.S. public is diverted and focused on fighting the COVID pandemic, the Trump administration had been using this time to escalate military aggression

against Venezuela. His administration placed a \$15 million bounty on the head of President Maduro and several members of Maduro's administration. Days later Trump sent warships into the Caribbean on bogus charges that the Venezuelan government is involved in drug trafficking. Heavily armed mercenaries – in what has come to be called “the Bay of Piglets” – failed on three different missions to invade the country and advance to Miraflores, the presidential palace, to capture President Maduro and overthrow the government. The evidence is clear and growing that U.S. fingerprints are all over these fiascos.

Make no mistake, the vast majority of the Venezuelan people support their president and the Bolivarian Revolution and are committed to remaining a free and sovereign nation. [The Bolivarian Revolution is the social/political movement with which Venezuela has been governed from the time of Hugo Chavez through the present with President Enrico Maduro. It was inspired by anti-colonialist leader Simón Bolívar, “El Libertador,” who led Latin American independence from the Spanish empire.]

#No War #NO Coups #End Sanctions #Hands off Venezuela

~ Sarah Martin, a peace activist and member of the WAMM Board, has traveled to Venezuela multiple times in the last few years, listening to locals and government officials about conditions.

Chile in the Time of Pandemic

The politics of disaster: While most U.S. media attention focuses on the effects of COVID-19 in the U.S. and

to a lesser degree Europe and Asia, the virus has been devastating Latin America (see *The New York Times*, May 13, 2020, pp. A1 and A5). Chile has not escaped this devastation. With 3,615 deaths and more than 200,000 cases as of June 17 according to the Chile Health Ministry (see teleSUR, June 17, 2020), Chile has one of the highest per capita rates of infection in Latin America. Chile is entering winter, and the death rate per day is starting to spike.

The Chilean government declared a 90-day state of catastrophe in mid-March of this year, turning over control to the military (as they did last year during the political protests)* and banned large gatherings of people. Currently over 45 percent of the population are in lockdown or quarantine. The national referendum on a new constitution set for April 26 was canceled and has not been rescheduled. The conservative government of President Sebastian Piñera has used the public health disaster to curb political protest and prevent a new constitution from being written. Chileans are still protesting with pots and pans and other forms of civil disobedience, but mass protests and organizing have been crushed for the time being.

~ Michael Livingston, professor of psychology, St. John's University/St. Benedict's College in Minnesota and an antiwar activist. He has lived and taught in Viña del Mar/Valparaiso, and observed the 2019 social uprisings in Chile.

*See Michael Livingston, “Revolution Against Neoliberalism in Chile,” WAMM Newsletter Vol. 38 No. 2 p. 6–9, womenagainstmilitarymadness.org/news-letters

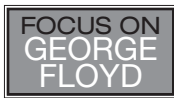
U.S.
SANCTIONS
STARVE
CHILDREN
IN 39
COUNTRIES!

SANCTIONSKILL.ORG

WAMM responds to the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis Police



All photos by Emma Sron. These and more available in color at emmasron.com



Women Against Military Madness (WAMM) mourns

with our Twin Cities community the murder of George Floyd. We condemn all forms of police brutality, and particularly systemic police violence against Black members of our community. We join the millions of people who are mourning the murder by officers of the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) of Mr. Floyd on May 25, 2020. We commit ourselves to ensuring those responsible for Mr. Floyd's death will be held accountable and to create an environment in which something like this does not happen again. We will actively join with our community to create a more just world.

Just as we oppose the use of the U.S. military in other countries, we also reject the violence enacted by militarized personnel responding to protest in the Twin Cities and the nation. George Floyd's unjust murder, preceded by centuries of

oppression and violence against Black people has sparked outrage and grief; as has the brute force with which the Minneapolis police, with the support of state troopers and National Guard, have responded.

We decry the use of wartime tactics including tear gas and other chemicals, stun grenades and flashbangs; rubber bullets and beanbag projectiles lined with lead; low-flying helicopters, and surveillance by Predator drones used on protesters exercising their First Amendment rights, alongside President Trump's encouragement of a military-style crack-down.

The government claims that the police and state troopers are here to protect our Twin Cities community. Instead, the use of police and militarized forces has served to incite violence and deepen the long-standing wounds of our nation. At WAMM, we understand that violence begets violence. Our communities are hurting, and the

presence of weaponized law enforcement has heightened our fear and hurt.

We are inspired by the outpouring of community action in response to this violence – from food and medical donations to neighborhood watches and clean-up crews – that demonstrate our belief that communities can come together peacefully to advance the common good. The massive and sustained demonstrations in our city, country and around the world, finally led to the arrest and charging of the four officers responsible for the murder of George Floyd and the Minneapolis Police Department's loss of contracts with Minneapolis Public Schools, Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board, the University of Minnesota, the Walker Art Center and the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. We must continue to organize and mobilize for a just solution and systematic change.

From WAMM's Core Values: "A militaristic society relies on violence and repression to accomplish its objectives. Under the pretext of 'national service,' the military teaches violence and killing. WAMM encourages service to society in an enterprise that enhances life, advances the common good, encourages cooperation and promotes equity."

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Twin Cities Uprising

Photos by Emma Sron



Save the U.S. Postal Service!

by Greg Pofertl

FOCUS ON USPS

I have been a member of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) since 1975. As a national business agent, I represented workers at the local and national levels until my retirement in 2004. I have been proud of my work – and the work of my brothers and sisters – to provide valuable services and earn decent wages and benefits.

The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) traces its roots to 1775 during the Second Continental Congress, when Benjamin Franklin was appointed the first postmaster general. In 1792, George Washington signed legislation that established the Post Office Department, which has provided valuable services throughout its history. And the USPS has always been on the front lines in times of crisis. Postal workers process 143 billion pieces of mail each year, while letter carriers provide service to 160 million delivery addresses. They bring essential medicine, health information, packages, checks (including stimulus, unemployment, and employment checks, social security and SSI checks), letters and other communications to people's homes and businesses throughout the country six days a week. The USPS is critical to rural areas because it is mandated by law to serve all postal addresses with no differences in the fees it charges. It is a lifeline that guarantees all Americans are connected to essential services. In addition, through the Carrier Alert Program, letter carriers regularly go beyond the call of duty to protect the lives of customers they serve, including older customers and customers with disabilities.

Today, the USPS is still “Americans’ favorite federal agency, with 74 percent saying it is doing an ‘excellent’ or ‘good’ job.” The agency has always been successful and with the passage of the Postal Reorganization Act (PRA), taxpayer subsidies which accounted for 25 percent of the Post Office’s budget in 1970, were eliminated, saving taxpayers more than \$100 billion since 1971. The PRA was the result of the Great Postal Wildcat Strike in 1970, when 200,000 postal employees in over 100 cities stopped the mail for eight days and won the right to collective bargaining over wages, hours, and working conditions. Prior to the strike, wages were historically low and were established by the president. Workers, who struggled to take care of their families, were fed up, joined together, and changed the Postal Service and their own lives forever. When I began my career with the USPS in 1975, I was so grateful to my two uncles and my father-in-law, who were among the postal workers who had the courage to strike.

Yet despite these successes, the USPS and postal jobs continue to be at risk. How can this be?

Unlike any other public or private entity, under a law passed in 2006, the USPS was mandated by Congress to *prefund* retiree health benefits at over \$5 billion a year in advance for the next 75 years, which creates losses. This has had a significant impact during the coronavirus pandemic, which has caused an additional large decrease in mail volume. The law still requires the USPS to pay today for benefits that will not be paid out until some future date. The USPS could be out of funds by September of this year. This has



Can't vote by mail if you don't have a postal system. Photo: Mary Beaudoin

added to long-standing pressure by those in Congress who want to privatize and dismantle the Postal Service. To make matters worse, President Trump favors this privatization scheme and has blocked coronavirus financial aid for the USPS.

Postal workers are fighting back. We are now in a fight to save the USPS and 600,000 good union jobs. Our current APWU president, Mark Dimondstein, since his first election in 2013, has led the effort to establish and build *A Grand Alliance to Save Our Public Postal Service*, which includes the postal unions and over 80 national organizations.

The Alliance is working to save the public postal service and to protect postal employees who are doing essential jobs on the front line of this pandemic. Richard Haefner, Minnesota Postal Workers state president, says: “As of today [05/25/20] about 2,000 postal workers nationwide have tested positive for COVID-19, and

over 60 have died. Some operations make social distancing impossible by their nature and folks working in those operations are required to wear masks. Fans have been removed from the workroom floor as was done during the anthrax attacks in 2001.” [Removal of fans was to prevent the spread of the virus by aerosol transmission inside postal facilities.] These protective measures are an indication that postal workers are clearly “essential” workers.

When postal workers are carrying out the mission of binding our country together, I am outraged we have a U.S. president who has called the U.S. Postal Service “a joke” and continues to act to bring about its demise. We postal workers have learned from past lessons in our tumultuous history that we can only win if we mobilize.

The American public has a crucial role to play in preserving the U.S. Postal Service. The struggle continues. We all have a lot at stake. Our future depends on it!

Greg Pofert is an active, retired APWU member who currently teaches at Cretin Derham-Hall High School and works part-time at the East Side Freedom Library in St. Paul, Minnesota.

ENDNOTES

1. facts.usps.com
2. news.gallup.com/poll/257510/postal-service-americans-favorite-federal-agency.aspx
3. nalc.org/news/nalc-updates/body/Legislative-Background-and-Status-of-Postal-Reform.pdf
4. A Grand Alliance to Save Our Public Postal Service is a broad coalition of national, state, and local organizations

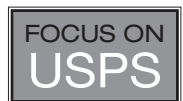
including the NAACP, Vote Vets, Jobs with Justice, National Council of Churches, and Rainbow Push. To join A Grand Alliance: agrandalliance.org.

ACTION! Currently, there is important legislation in Congress that needs our support; **H.R 2382 USPS Fairness Act**, which was passed in the House, and **S 2965 USPS Fairness Act**, which has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Steve Baines from Maine. This legislation will repeal the requirement that the U.S. Postal Service annually prepay future retirement health benefits.

Please contact your representatives in Congress about the USPS Fairness Act, and ask your organizations to support *A Grand Alliance to Save Our Public Postal Service* (agrandalliance.org)

More Reasons the Mail Must Get Through

by WAMM Newsletter Staff



Working Class Solidarity

Twin Cities neighborhood post offices were among the casualties during the Minneapolis uprising at the end of May when 75 fires were set ablaze by arsonists. The Minnehaha post office near the Third Precinct police station, the precinct of Derek Chauvin and his accomplices in the murder of George Floyd, “was a total loss”. In addition, the station in the Powderhorn neighborhood on Bloomington Avenue in Minneapolis and the Industrial station on Concordia Avenue in St. Paul suffered damage. And, according to Richard Haefner, Minnesota Postal Workers president, 27 postal vehicles were damaged or destroyed.

Carriers, responded to the destruction by holding a rally on June 7 in support of George Floyd in front of the burned-out Minnehaha station. Postal employees advocated for police reform, supported peaceful protest, and called for unity among working class people. They talked about how, in spite of the fire and damage to buildings, postal employees with the help of community volunteers labored to get the mail out and even went to work on a Sunday after post offices throughout the Twin Cities had a one-day shutdown for security reasons immediately following the destruction.

Voting by Mail!

Voting by mail has not led to big problems with fraud, as has falsely

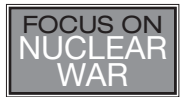
been claimed; Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington, and Utah are states that conduct elections entirely by mail and have done so successfully. Voting by mail makes participating in elections more accessible, increases voter turnout, and reduces voter suppression, providing yet another reason to save the USPS. In Minnesota, voting by mail is presently done by requesting an absentee ballot through the Minnesota Secretary of State.



The local chapter of the American Postal Workers Union, together with the National Association of Letter **WomenAgainstMilitaryMadness.org**

PM: Five Ways to Start a Nuclear War and How to Stop It Before It Happens

by Polly Mann



David Wright, global security director of the Union of Concerned Scientists, lists five ways in which the United States could be brought into a nuclear war. (podcast with transcript of “Got Science” tinyurl.com/y7entzbq):

- 1. False warning.** The war could start by mistake because the systems giving the warnings are all fallible. This is a particular problem for the U.S., which has 400 land-based missiles on “hair-trigger alert.”
- 2. The ambiguity scenario.** The U.S., Russia, China, and other countries have doctrines that call for attacking the adversary’s communication nodes, command and control centers, and warning centers. The Pentagon uses some of these same systems for both

conventional and nuclear forces. If an adversary attacked these facilities as part of a conventional war-fighting strategy, the U.S. might think they are trying to cripple our nuclear capabilities and launch a nuclear weapon.

- 3. The use of limited nuclear weapons on the battlefield.** It is very likely that the use of these weapons would result in a full-scale nuclear war.
- 4. Case of North Korea.** The North Koreans are not likely to resort to the use of nuclear weapons (partly out of self-preservation) – unless something forces their hand.
- 5. Case of India and Pakistan.** This is an example of countries that have had a number of conventional wars. The country that has inferior conventional weapons

(in this case Pakistan) might use nuclear weapons to stop a conventional war.

The U.S. could help avoid the possibility of a nuclear disaster by talking to and entering into arms control agreements with other nations. We should dismantle the 400 missiles that are on hair-trigger alert, especially given the missiles on submarines are adequate. We should preserve the treaties that have already been negotiated, including the Open Skies Arms Treaty, which increases confidence and transparency on military activities of states through information gathering from aerial imaging, and the Intermediate-Range Forces Treaty (INF), a treaty that bans missiles with ranges between 310 and 3,400 miles. President Trump has pulled the U.S. out of these two treaties and is talking of not renewing the New START

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Treaty, a nuclear arms reduction treaty, which expires in February 2021. Russian President Putin has expressed a willingness to extend this treaty for five years.

The U.S. should convene a meeting of the nine nuclear nations to work toward the elimination of these horrendous weapons and become signatories of the new landmark Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Polly Mann is a co-founder of WAMM and a regular contributor to this newsletter. Marie Braun of WAMM Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons contributed to this article.

WAMM Calendar

Please note that WAMM's provision of information on other groups' events is not meant to convey or endorse any action contrary to public policy that would be inconsistent with exempt purposes under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), i.e., charitable purposes.

Ongoing Peace/Justice Vigils Vigil to End War

Wear masks and practice social distancing! Every Wednesday, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Lake Street/ Marshall Avenue Bridge. Signs available on St. Paul side. Brief circle up for announcements after the vigil on St. Paul side. FFI: 612-827-5364.

Vigil to End the Occupation of Palestine

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

Peace Vigil

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

Grandmothers for Peace Vigil

Wear masks and practice social distancing! Every Wednesday, 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. 50th Street and Halifax (1 block west of France), Edina. FFI: Call Marian Wright 612-927-7607.

Immigrant Solidarity Vigils

Every Tuesday, 7:30 a.m. Wear masks and practice social distancing! Stand up for justice, say NO to family separation, deportation. Gather weekly with signs (bring your own or use one provided) at ICE entrance closest to Fort Snelling light rail station. Vigil on Minnehaha Ave., Minneapolis by the sign at the driveway entrance to ICE. Rain or shine. (If using GPS—6000 Minnehaha Ave, Minneapolis). FFI: Call Pepper 612-701-6963 or Mary Lou 612-280-0354

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

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

WAMM Committee Meetings

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

Book Club

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

End War

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

Ground All Drones

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

Middle East

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

St. Joan of Arc/ WAMM Peacemakers

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

Solidarity Committee on the Americas (SCOTA)

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

Tackling Torture at the Top (T3)

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

Ongoing Events Grandmothers for Peace

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

Middle East Peace Now

Usually second or third Saturday. Refreshments 9:30 a.m. Program 10:00 a.m. Location varies. FFI: Visit mepn.org.

WAMM Second Monday at the Movies

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

Special Events The Ribbon Project

Join us in workshops to create a ribbon of peace to display on the 75th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Multiple local workshops planned. FFI: 612-827-5364. The completed ribbons will be displayed at

the local Hiroshima/Nagasaki events listed below.

Peacestock

Saturday, July 18, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. "Where's the Truth?" Speakers: Norman Solomon and Andrew J. Bacevich. FFI: bill@peacestockvfp.org.

Ceremony of the Cranes

Thursday, August 6, 7:30 a.m. Lyndale Park Peace Garden, 4124 Roseway Rd, Mpls. Storytelling, cranes, bell-ringing and ribbon displays to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. FFI: spnscc@gmail.com. Physical distancing to be observed.

Nagasaki

Commemoration

Saturday, August 8, 7:00 p.m. Global Harmony Labyrinth, Como Park, St. Paul. Mayoral letters, storytelling, and ribbon displays to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the U.S. military atomic bombing of Nagasaki, Japan. FFI: spnscc@gmail.com. Physical distancing to be observed.

Miss the WAMM Annual Meeting?

Watch online: Women Against Military Madness Facebook: tinyurl.com/yarmbved or YouTube: tinyurl.com/yd3yl8pp.

Correction:

In the WAMM newsletter Spring 2020, under Action, the "International Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons" was misidentified as the "Treaty to Abolish Nuclear Weapons."



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*Rest in Power: George Floyd
 Photo by Emma Sron*



Calling All Peace-Loving People to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of U.S. Atomic Bombs on Japan

The U.S. dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, 1945, killing tens of thousands of people, most of them civilians. The U.S. is the only nation to have ever used nuclear weapons on another nation. The threat of using nuclear weapons continues today. It is time to acknowledge and contemplate what nuclear weapons have done. Details of commemoration events, page 11 and spnscc@gmail.com.



Ceremony of the Cranes: Thursday, August 6, 7:30 a.m.
 Lyndale Park Peace Garden, 4124 Roseway Road, Minneapolis.
 Commemoration of Hiroshima and also Nagasaki.
Nagasaki Commemoration: Saturday, August 8, 7:00 p.m.
 Global Harmony Labyrinth, Como Park, St. Paul.



The Ribbon Minnesota

Want to help with a display?
 The Ribbon Project: Join workshops in advance to create a ribbon of peace to display on the 75th anniversary. Details page 11.