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End the Silence! Lift the Deadly Sanctions!

The Sanctions Kill Coalition, a group of nonprofit and human rights organizations, produced the independent report, "We don't deserve this' The Impact and Consequences of U.S. Sanctions," released September 12. The following takes direct excerpts from the report, edited with some small changes and additions for this newsletter. See the complete report at sanctionskill.org.

There is silence here when it comes to discussing sanctions. Most people in the U.S. don't know how the sanctions imposed by their own nation directly affect the lives of millions of people around the world, and that sanctions cause misery and death. When foreign countries struggle with food, medicine, and other shortages, it is too often assumed the result of incompetent or corrupt governance. But the role of sanctions must be taken into account. Sanctions serve as economic warfare to achieve political ends and are an act of war.

The report from the Sanctions Kill coalition provides a few examples of what U.S. officials have said about 20th and 21st century sanctions used as instruments of foreign policy in Latin America:

In 1960, a State Department memorandum declared, "Every possible means should be undertaken promptly to weaken the economic life of Cuba. . . . denying money and supplies to Cuba, to decrease monetary and real



*The Shadow and the Megaphone
by Jean-Etienne Minh-Duy Poirrier*

wages, to bring about hunger, desperation and overthrow of government." Sanctions against Cuba continue as policy to this day.

In 1970, when Dr. Salvador Allende was elected president of Chile, before he was even inaugurated, President Richard Nixon instructed the Central

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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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The WAMM Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons

Would you like to help spread awareness and action about nuclear weapons? The information and action below is available FREE in the form of two-sided cards on cardstock. Call 612-827-5364. Pick up at the WAMM office, 4200 Cedar Ave. S., Suite 3, Minneapolis. Packages of 50 can be sent to you via USPS for a \$10 donation. *A project of the WAMM End War Committee*

WHY BAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS?

Remember!

HIROSHIMA August 6, 1945 80,000 killed 100,000 severely injured
NAGASAKI August 9, 1945 74,000 killed 75,000 severely injured

- 65% of the casualties were children nine years of age or younger.
- By 1950 ANOTHER 230,000 had died from injuries or radiation sickness.

Note: Some of today's nuclear weapons are 3,000 times more powerful than the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Robert Oppenheimer, lead atomic scientist, witnessing the true power of the bombs, quoted the *Bhagavad Gita*:
"Now I have become death, the destroyer of worlds."

It Is Possible: South Africa developed but disassembled its arsenal to sign NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty). Today the U.S. could take the lead in bringing the nine nuclear-armed nations together to work toward the elimination of these horrendous weapons.

The U.S. led the world into the nuclear age... Now we must lead them out!

Today there are nearly 13,500 nuclear weapons in the hands of nine nations.

Russia	6,375
U.S.	5,800
France	290
Israel	90
China	320
U.K.	215
India	150
Pakistan	160
North Korea	30-40

90% are held by the U.S. and Russia.

"Weapons of War must be abolished before they abolish us!"
John F. Kennedy

Info compiled by the End War Committee of Women Against Military Madness, 4200 Cedar Ave, Suite 3, Minneapolis, MN 55407
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WHY ACT NOW?

Three things could trigger a nuclear holocaust:
1. Accident 2. Miscalculation 3. Madness

WHY TOTAL ELIMINATION:

- Nuclear Weapons threaten our security and our very existence
- Nuclear weapons pose an irresponsible risk to the future of mankind
- No nation can deal with the immediate humanitarian catastrophe or the long-term consequences generated by a nuclear detonation

DIVEST FROM WAR AND VIOLENCE; INVEST IN HUMAN NEEDS

ASK YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS (city, state and federal):

1. To support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
2. To sign the Parliamentary Pledge of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. Copies of the Treaty and the Parliamentary Pledge available on websites listed below

NO ONE CAN WIN A NUCLEAR WAR

Be Active – Stay informed: ICANW.org BanNuclearUS.org womenagainstmilitarymadness.org

PM: What's on Polly Mann's Mind Today: Who Wins in War?

by Polly Mann



The United States war on Afghanistan has officially been called to a halt after 20 long years. The U.S. has also been winding down in the Middle East. However, there are still prisoners in Guantánamo, held for their supposed involvement in 9/11, 2001, where this foreign policy originated. And the U.S. is still carrying out air strikes in countries across the Middle East and Africa and is taking actions in the Asia Pacific threatening China.

The CIA and military drone-strike programs have continued since the Bush Administration and have not seriously been challenged; as the U.S. pulled out of Afghanistan, the killing by drone of a man in Kabul who worked for a U.S.-based charity and his seven children is only the latest known case in decades of mistaken targets.

The wars the U.S. has waged were not successful even in terms of stated missions to defeat declared enemies. IS appears to be making a comeback in northern Iraq.* In Afghanistan, the Taliban rules and Al Qaeda still exists in its newest iteration, IS-K. (The nefarious history of funding, training, and supplying IS-type salafist groups has long been credibly reported, but not in Western corporate media.)

The fact that the war continued for so long testifies to the control of U.S. foreign policy through a system of weapons manufacturers, their lobbyists, and the congressional members under the influence of lobbyists. William Hartung reports in his study, "Profits of War: Corporate Beneficiaries of the Post-911 Pentagon Spending Surge," that "weapons makers have spent \$2.5

billion on lobbying over the past two decades, employing on average over 700 lobbyists per year over five years. That is more than one for every member of Congress." Hartung and researchers from The Costs of War project of the Watson Institute of International & Public Affairs at Brown University (tinyurl.com/r7vsan7h) found, not coincidentally, that one-third to one-half of the total \$14 trillion spent on the war on Afghanistan went to military contractors.

To continue the profits of war, the project concluded that a new "rationale of choice" is needed, and it is "exaggerated estimates of the military challenges posed by China."

We say, after 20 years of death, enormous destruction, and trillions of dollars, can't we finally have peace?!

Polly Mann is a co-founder of WAMM, and contributor to this newsletter. Mary Beaudoin contributed research to this article.

Endnote

*According to the September 22, 2021, Iraq Oil Report, which monitors energy extraction risks, "The Islamic State militant group is staging increasingly bold attacks on both security forces and civilians in northern Iraq, with energy infrastructure at risk." <https://tinyurl.com/57vb854m>

WAMM Committees

Action Groups:

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

Standing Committees:

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

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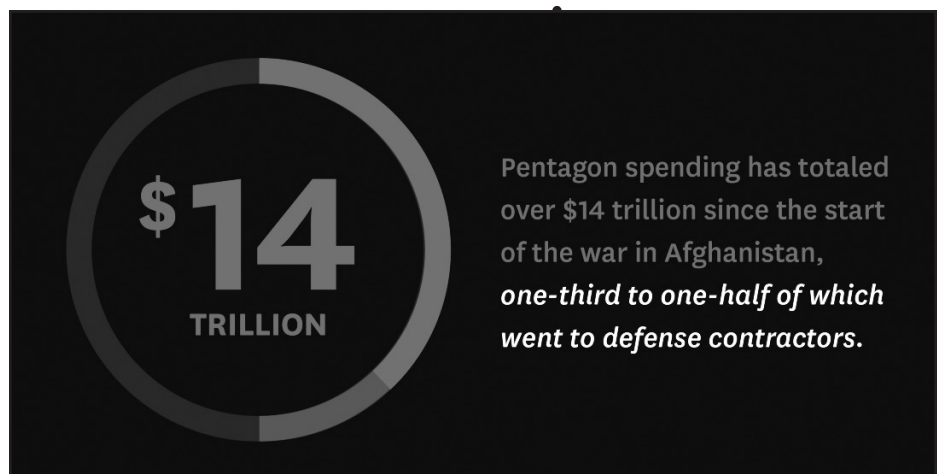


Image: Costs of War project, Watson Institute of International & Public Affairs, Brown University

End the Silence!

continued from front cover

Intelligence Agency to “make the [Chilean] economy scream.”

In 2018, U.S. Ambassador to Venezuela William Brownfield said, “The best solution would be to accelerate the collapse [of the economy], even if it produces suffering for months or years.”

We add to these examples the stunning response of Secretary of State Madeline Albright in 1996, when journalist Lesley Stahl in a *60 Minutes* interview asked her whether the deaths of half a million children in Iraq, as the result of sanctions, was worth it. Albright responded, “It was a very hard choice, but we think the price was worth it.”

The Sanctions Kill report includes quotes from people in currently sanctioned countries, providing a glimpse into how they feel and how their lives are affected materially. The quotes report ruined food and medicines and health systems in peril due to lack of fuel to generate electricity; short supply and inflated prices for gasoline and other goods; and lack of supplies for the maintenance and replacement of water systems. Those economically disadvantaged to begin with, children, and the elderly are the first and most affected, but other ordinary people also suffer.

The report lists 39 nations, in a 2019 list, under direct or indirect U.S. sanctions. The report highlights the impact on some of the currently most severely sanctioned countries where the people suffer: Cuba, Iran, Syria, Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Zimbabwe.

How do sanctions work?

(For a quick summary, see the chart that follows.)

Sanctions are U.S. decrees and legislation, “extraterritorial” in nature when

they assume the right to impose regulations, restrictions, and penalties on non-U.S. countries, companies, and individuals. Most of these sanctions are not authorized by the United Nations Security Council and many of them are enacted by the U.S. alone.

There are many types of sanctions: economic or financial restrictions, trade prohibitions, and blocking or seizing assets of individuals, organizations, and countries.

Greatly increasing the reach of sanctions are “secondary sanctions” that target non-U.S. entities which are interacting with the “primary” target.

How is it possible for the U.S. to have so much control? The U.S. dollar is the globally recognized national currency used in international trade and global finance – “the reserve currency” held by banks. The Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications (SWIFT), based in Belgium, has been the primary transaction network governing transfers between banks in every country of the world. Although SWIFT is based in Belgium, because of the position of the U.S. dollar, the U.S. has been able to monitor and disrupt transactions to impose extraterritorial sanctions on secondary or third parties, penalizing them if they deal with targets sanctioned by the U.S.

Will Biden change sanctions policy?

According to the report, President Biden’s administration is currently reviewing U.S. sanctions policy. On January 21, 2021, the first National Security Memo of the Biden administration called for a review to determine whether U.S. sanctions are hindering response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Subsequently, administration leaders raised a second concern, saying that “the goal of sanctions should not be to punish ordinary citizens for the actions of

their leaders.” Then, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen expressed a third concern that sanctions are undermining “the U.S.’s leadership role in the global financial system.” The Biden administration review of sanctions is being conducted by an interagency team including State and Treasury Departments. As of mid-September 2021, the results of the review have not been released. Currently it seems the Administration is not changing policy. In the past three months, more sanctions have been imposed on several of the countries already under sanctions: Nicaragua, Syria, Cuba, and Iran.

Findings of the Sanctions Kill Coalition report: U.S. sanctions are killing civilians and hurting the U.S. economy.

1. Sanctions primarily hurt civilians. Humanitarian “exceptions” have not worked.

Many sources report how devastating sanctions are for ordinary citizens. Targeted countries are unable to import essential medicines and material to sustain infrastructure for adequate food and water.

2. U.S. sanctions have hindered the response to COVID-19. As a result, many civilians have died, and the pandemic has spread further.

3. U.S. sanctions and extraterritorial claims have led to the imprisonment of businesspersons and diplomats and the violation of international treaties.

Two prominent cases: In 2020, Alex Saab, a Venezuela diplomat, was arrested on a U.S. extraterritorial “charge,” while en route to Iran to acquire basic food, medicine, and medical equipment; he has been imprisoned since. In 2018, Meng Wanzhou, the chief financial officer

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End the Silence!

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for the Chinese company Huawei, was arrested in Canada for bank business dealings in Iran. [Update: After nearly three years of confinement, Wanzhou was released under a delayed prosecution agreement from a U.S. court, and able to return to her family in China September 25.]

4. Sanctions are spurring countries to sell U.S. securities and establish alternatives to the U.S.-dominated financial system.

China, Russia, the EU, and other foreign countries are reducing U.S. holdings and exploring alternatives to the SWIFT financial system that is dependent on the U.S. dollar. [Update: Iran has joined China, Russia, India, and several Central Asian states as a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Council (SCC), linking Iran to a multi-lateral economic structure. Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Egypt became ex-officio as “dialogue” members.]

5. Many U.S. industries and farmers want to trade with sanctioned countries and call for a change in policy.

Millions of U.S. farmers and workers depend on exports of their crops and commodities. They want to be able to export and trade with China, Cuba, and other countries where it is prohibited or severely restricted. Sanctions harm North American industry and agriculture and do not improve national security or achieve stated goals of changing behavior in targeted countries.

6. Many U.S. sanctions are based on false claims of an emergency and threat to national security.

U.S. sanctions are sometimes

SANCTIONS KILL



THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES ARE AFFLICTED BY U.S. SANCTIONS: CUBA, VENEZUELA, IRAN, NICARAGUA, ZIMBABWE, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA, IRAQ, SYRIA, LEBANON, CHINA, YEMEN, SOMALIA, LIBYA, SUDAN, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, BURUNDI, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, BELARUS, AND PARTS OF UKRAINE AND RUSSIA.

WHAT ARE SANCTIONS?

 THE U.S. AND E.U. PASS LAWS TO BAN, BLOCK, OR RESTRICT TRADE TO A SPECIFIC COUNTRY, GROUP OR INDIVIDUALS WHEN THEY DO NOT COMPLY WITH U.S./E.U. FOREIGN POLICY.

CURRENCIES ARE DEVALUED AND INFLATED WHEN SANCTIONS ARE LEVIED. INTERNATIONAL CREDIT RATINGS TANK, AND COUNTRIES ARE PRESSURED TO STOP DOING BUSINESS WITH TARGETED COUNTRIES. 

 THE FIRST SECTORS AFFECTED ARE GENERALLY MEDICINES, COST OF FOOD, POWER, WATER TREATMENT, AND OTHER ESSENTIAL HUMAN NEEDS.

BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES HOLDS TRADE, BANKING AND MILITARY DOMINANCE OVER MOST OF THE WORLD, SANCTIONS HAVE KILLED MILLIONS OF VULNERABLE PEOPLE. 

 SANCTIONS VIOLATE INTERNATIONAL LAW, THE UN CHARTER, GENEVA AND NUREMBERG CONVENTIONS BECAUSE THEY TARGET CIVILIANS BY ECONOMIC STRANGULATION, CREATING FAMINES, LIFE THREATENING SHORTAGES AND ECONOMIC CHAOS.

LEARN MORE AT SANCTIONSILL.ORG

authorized by Congressional legislation, or they may be authorized by the President, declaring that there is an “unusual and extraordinary threat” to the “national security, foreign policy, or economy of the United States.” Just one example of many which were authorized, providing this as a rationale: In March of 2015, President Obama declared a

“national emergency with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the situation in Venezuela.” The claim that Venezuela posed then or poses today a security threat to the United States is not credible.

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End the Silence!

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7. A large majority of world nations believe U.S. sanctions violate international law.

Sanctions are called “unilateral coercive measures” at the United Nations. In December 2020, the United Nations General Assembly passed resolution 75/181 on “Human rights and unilateral coercive measures [sanctions].”: *“Unilateral coercive measures and legislation are contrary to international law, international humanitarian law, the Charter of the United Nations and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States.”*

The current UN Special Rapporteur on the Negative Impact of the Unilateral Coercive Measures on the Enjoyment of Human Rights Alena Douhan reported, *“Sanctions are bringing suffering and death in countries like Cuba, Iran, Sudan, Syria, Venezuela, and Yemen. . . . Sanctions that were imposed in the name of delivering human rights are, in fact, killing people and depriving them of fundamental rights including the rights to health, to food and to life itself.”*

8. There has been virtually no reporting [in U.S. corporate, mainstream media] on international criticism and recommendations regarding U.S. sanctions.

The report from Sanctions Kill raises important questions such as “Why don’t more Americans know about the impact of U.S. sanctions? Could U.S. officials face criminal and civil liability for implementing sanctions? Are U.S. unilateral sanctions in fact illegal and in violation of the United

Nations Charter? Why is this policy continuing? What should be done?”

The report concluded, in sum: Unilateral coercive sanctions violate basic human rights, sanctions undermine peaceful relations and the sovereign equality of nations, sanctions create potential criminal and civil liability for U.S. authorities, media has failed to inform the public about the consequences and global condemnation of U.S. sanctions.

The report makes the following recommendations for the U.S. government:

- Implement the plan proposed by UN Special Rapporteur Alena Douhan. Excerpt: *“States shall not take measures preventing other states from getting external aid of any character . . . No national law or regulation of regional international organizations shall have extraterritorial application. . . . Humanitarian exemption regimes shall not be limited to the medicine or medical equipment and software necessary to treat COVID-19 or for imminent life-saving activity only.”*
- Undertake and apply a review of U.S. foreign policy with respect to UN Charter principles regarding multilateralism and the sovereign equality of nations. Abrogate all unilateral coercive measures adopted outside the UN Security Council.
- Require congressional oversight regarding presidential claims that there is an “extraordinary threat” to national security. The current situation, whereby the president can impose warlike sanctions on other countries without any oversight, should be reformed.

ACTIONS:

Sign the petition calling on President Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, and members of Congress to end economic sanctions: sanctionskill.org/petition

Call your members of Congress to end sanctions.

In Minnesota:

Senator Amy Klobuchar:
(202) 224-3244

Senator Tina Smith: (202) 224-5641

From any state:

The Congressional switchboard: (202) 224-3121 will connect you with your Congressional representatives.

RESOURCES:

Sanctions Kill sanctionskill.org

Reports, petitions, presentation toolkit; hand-outs/placards; fact sheets, statements, articles, webinars, podcasts, and more.

Nuclear Reactors in Orbit: Militarizing Space Over Our Heads

by Joel Weisberg

Since the beginning of the Space Age, military operations have been a major component of outer space activities. For example, the GPS satellites that we use for mapping our terrestrial trips were actually created and are currently used by the military to help in guiding weapons to their targets; and our spy satellites help to keep track of the military activities of those who are considered adversaries. Donald Trump's recent creation of a separate "Space Force" branch of the armed services illustrates the increasing focus on outer space in military activities. Under Biden, various U.S. officials have recently asserted their continuing desire for U.S. space dominance, and the Space

Force is intended to consolidate these efforts. Over the long term, the military plans to continue its old roles in space, but is also preparing new space weapons and missions to defend U.S. military and commercial activities in space. Examples of the commercial space activities that it may want to defend include the mining by U.S. corporations of valuable minerals on the Moon and asteroids. (Yes, it appears that corporate sponsored space mining will become a reality within the next few decades, and the U.S. military wishes to enforce control over those activities.)

Nuclear reactors in space are one of the new developments that may

shortly contribute to space militarization. These space nuclear reactors are essentially (very) miniature versions of the nuclear power plants that currently provide much of Minnesota's electricity. The space nuclear reactors are planned to have two principal uses:

First, they can generate electricity to run various power-hungry spacecraft systems, possibly including sophisticated laser and particle beams that can attack and destroy other spacecraft.

Second, they can heat gases to very high temperatures to provide high-energy rocket propulsion for ease in

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Image: MIT News. Artist's depiction of objects in space orbiting the earth.

Nuclear Reactors in Space,

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maneuvering and changing orbits, something that would be essential for a nimble space weapon.

Because it is so hard to lift anything heavy into orbit, the main benefit of space nuclear reactors would be their ability to provide a large amount of usable energy from a relatively light apparatus, thereby opening up new military possibilities.

The 1967 Outer Space Treaty bans the placement of weapons of mass destruction (including nuclear weapons) into orbit, and the treaty has been honored so far by every nation on Earth. However, space nuclear reactors do not qualify as weapons of mass destruction, so they are not banned by the Outer Space (or any other) Treaty.

Indeed, both the U.S. and what was then the U.S.S.R. placed nuclear reactors into orbit decades ago in order to power military satellites, but the practice was stopped by both countries after a Soviet reactor-carrying satellite accidentally reentered and broke apart over Canada, leaving behind a many-hundred-mile-long trail of highly radioactive plutonium debris.

The new generation of space nuclear reactors that are planned will be somewhat safer, principally because their fuel, if released in an accident, will be low-enriched uranium, which is significantly less dangerous than that in the original plutonium-fueled reactors, although these reactors are not totally benign.

For one thing, the proposed reactors would create a host of other radioactive elements as a byproduct of their normal operation in space, which would also be spread to the environment if an unplanned reentry of another satellite occurred such as the one that accidentally broke apart over Canada.

And, aside from the potential spread of radioactivity at the untimely end of a mission, another major danger is the possibility upon launch of an explosion of the nonnuclear rocket hosting a nuclear reactor which might spread the radioactive reactor fuel over large areas. (Efforts are being made to harden the reactor so that it could survive such an explosion intact, and, as noted earlier, if it were to be released in a launch accident, it is much less dangerous than the original space reactors which were fueled by plutonium.)

Another more abstract issue is that the development and use of these very capable devices will enable the military to expand the missions it is able to accomplish. It is easy to imagine how the majority of peace advocates would interpret these efforts!

Several efforts to develop space nuclear reactors for military use have recently been funded. NASA is also funding projects aimed at creating similar devices for civilian spacecraft, although any space nuclear reactor could be employed for either civilian or military uses. It is clear from these multiple funding activities by NASA, the military, and private or corporate enterprise that a major effort is being made to develop a new generation of space nuclear reactors, and that they will probably be used for a variety of missions in military and civilian satellites.

Meanwhile, there are international efforts to prevent the general militarization of space (including the military space reactors discussed here). Numerous resolutions have been submitted to the UN on this topic over the years, with the U.S. almost always voting against them in the face of overwhelming support by other nations. A draft treaty, called the PAROS (Prevention of an Arms Race in Space) Treaty, has been submitted to the UN (first by Russia

in 2008 and later by several nations including the major spacefaring ones – i.e., Russia, China, and India) but unfortunately the U.S. has been unwilling to even engage in negotiations on this treaty.

Why? Presumably because the U.S. wishes to have an arms race in space, betting that its usual technological prowess will keep it ahead of those countries it regards as competition. U.S. Space Force officials have stated numerous times that outer space is a “warfighting domain.” The price? Undoubtedly billions upon billions of dollars and reduced security for all nations as they all scramble to keep up with the U.S. by developing their own versions of space weapons. How much saner it would be for all parties to negotiate them away!

It is my opinion that peace and social justice activists should keep track of these developments since they may well affect military space activities in a major fashion over the next several years.

Joel Weisberg recently retired from Carleton College, Minnesota, and is the Stark Professor Emeritus of Physics, Astronomy, and the Natural Sciences. He is a friend of WAMM and a peace and social justice activist who follows nuclear and space issues.



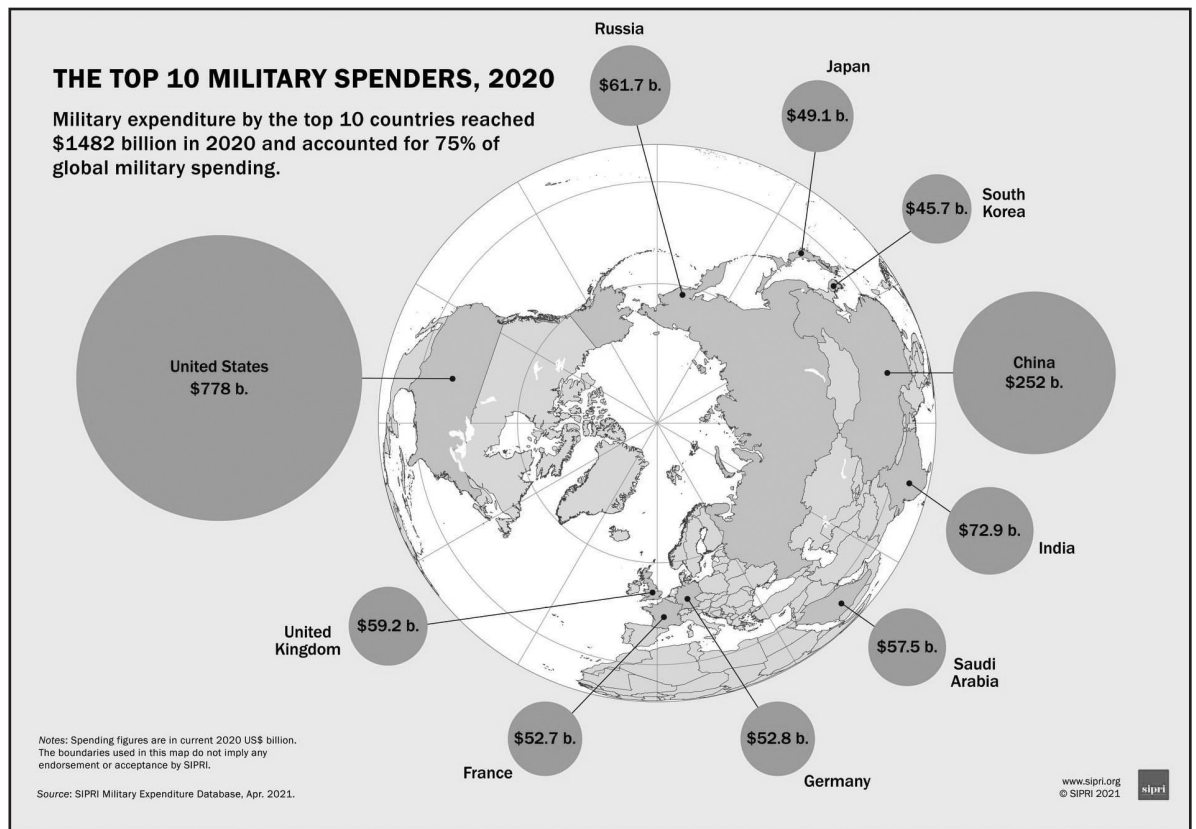
Earth with objects orbiting. Image: NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

War Occupies the House

by Jay Kvale

In late September, in a vote of 316-113, the U.S. House of Representatives added \$25 billion to Biden's Fiscal Year 2022 request for the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) – evidence that China fever is in full swing. The designated new principal enemy must be “defended” against.

The Minnesota delegation was split with Representatives Craig, McCollum, Philips, and Stauber voting Yes and Emmer, Fischbach, Hagedorn, and Omar voting No.



The U.S. Is Number One in Military Spending.

Graphic: Based on Stockholm International Peace Research Institute data. www.sipri.org

Where Is Congress in the War on Yemen?

An amendment to the NDAA was added by Representative Ro Khanna (California District 17), to end U.S. support for the Saudi war on Yemen passed 219-207.

House Foreign Affairs Committee Chair Gregory Meeks (New York District 5) added an amendment to stop the U.S. servicing of Saudi planes; it passed 223-207. Sara Sirotta of *The Intercept* says that “the provision Meeks and his colleagues have introduced is especially lenient to the White House’s current approach to the war.” Antiwar.com reports that the Meeks amendment “calls for the suspension of the U.S. servicing of Saudi warplanes that are responsible for civilian casualties in Yemen, although the wording leaves room for exceptions that the Biden administration could take advantage of to continue the war.” This amendment would require “the suspension

of U.S. sustainment and maintenance support to Saudi air force units responsible for airstrikes resulting in civilian casualties in Yemen ‘with certain exemptions for territorial self-defense, counterterrorism operations, and defense of U.S. government facilities or personnel.’” (Italicized emphasis by this newsletter.)

What About Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles?

An amendment to the NDAA by John Garamendi (Third District, California) blocking funding for new ICBMs was defeated 299-118.

Jay Kvale is a member of the WAMM End War Committee.

ACTION:

FFI: nuclear weapons and what we can do now. See Page 2 of this newsletter.

What Will the NDAA Fund? Third Revolution Warfare Ahead

“As someone who has studied and worked in artificial intelligence for the better part of four decades, I worry about such a technology threat, born from artificial intelligence and robotics. Autonomous weaponry is the third revolution in warfare, following gunpowder and nuclear arms.” ~ Kai-Fu Lee, “The Third Revolution in Warfare,” September 13, 2021, *The Atlantic*

Hennepin County Not Serving ICE as Much

by Carol Masters

Positive Steps: Hennepin County Sheriff David Hutchinson in a directive issued earlier this summer limited the use of immigration detainer warrants to hold people in jail (*Star Tribune*, “Hennepin County sheriff changes approach to jail inmates with immigration issues,” by David Chanen, September 7, 2021).

The warrants, used by ICE, can no longer force people to be held unless authorities take the added step of getting a judge’s approval. The sheriff also eliminated the jail’s ICE office and does not alert ICE when undocumented people will be released.

Decriminalizing Communities Coalition, made up of over 30 community partners working at the intersection of immigrant justice and criminal justice reform, has put steady pressure on the sheriff’s office to end its cooperation with ICE. But during a meeting with Hutchinson in July, the group was told that the directive is a procedural change and not a formalized new policy.

Still, the directive offers hope to immigrants and advocates for more lasting change and true public safety.

Carol Masters is a member of WAMM’s newsletter committee.

Also: There was a halt to the daily deportations of Haitians when agents on horseback charged at the immigrants on the Texas border, exposing the inhumane and racist treatment of them. .

Don’t be alone in the dark. Join WAMM! \$20 Special for new members.

We’re thankful that the justice and peace movements can see clearly in scary times.



Great Horned Owl, Raptor Center

Boycott Pillsbury!



Minnesota-based General Mills owns Pillsbury, which operates a factory illegally within an Israeli settlement on militarily-occupied Palestinian land. According to the U.N. High Commission on Human Rights, this places General Mills in violation of international law: UN Security Council Resolution 2334.

A “boycott” is a nonviolent activity protected as a right by the U.S. Constitution. Use your rights! FFI: afsc.org/boycott-pillsbury.



Image: Miradna Kharsa, AFSC.org

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
- Check enclosed Please charge my credit card

Sustaining Membership

(Ongoing contributions throughout the year)
 \$_____ Monthly \$_____ Quarterly
 (WAMM will send a coupon book, if by check)

This is a gift membership
 Total amount enclosed \$_____

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____ Security Code _____
 Signature _____
 Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ (10/21)
 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

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, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., changes to 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. beginning on November 3. 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

Every Friday, 4:00 to 5:00 p.m., corner of Summit Avenue and Snelling Avenue, St. Paul. FFI: 612-827-5364.

Peace Vigil

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

Every Wednesday, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. 50th Street and Halifax (1 block west of France), Edina. FFI: Call Marian Wright 612-927-7607.

Pipeline Blues Vigil

Every Monday, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., Governor's Mansion, 1006 Summit Ave., St. Paul. Sponsored by WAMM and Veterans for Peace Chapter 27. Signs available or bring your own. FFI: 612-827-5364.

Immigrant Solidarity Vigils

Every Tuesday, 7:30 a.m.

NO to family separation, deportation. Gather at ICE entrance, closest to Ft. Snelling light rail station. Vigil on Minnehaha Ave., Minneapolis driveway entrance to ICE. FFI: Call Pepper at 612-701-6963.

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

In solidarity with immigrants and refugees to achieve justice, stand up to oppression. Vigil outside Bishop Whipple Bldg., 1 Federal Drive, Ft. Snelling, St. Paul. FFI: Facebook: Interfaith Coalition on Immigration

WAMM Action Groups

Board Meeting

Third Tuesday of every month via Zoom, 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. FFI: 612-827-5364.

Book Club

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

End Domestic Militarism

Every other Monday via Zoom, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. FFI: 612-827-5364.

End Military Madness Against the Earth

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

End War

First Monday of every month via Zoom, 6:30 p.m. FFI: 612-827-5364.

Middle East

Second and fourth Monday of every month via Zoom, 9:30 to 10:30 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 Friday via Zoom, 10:00 a.m. FFI: 612-827-5364.

Tackling Torture at the Top (T3)

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

Ongoing Events

Grandmothers for Peace

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

Middle East Peace Now

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

WAMM Second Monday at the Movies

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

Special Events

#646 Drop The Charges Protest and Dance Party

Saturday, October 16, 6:00 p.m., Painter Park, 620 W. 34th St., Minneapolis. We demand the charges be dropped for all 646+ protesters arrested on 1-94 November 4, 2020. We demand community control of the police now. Sponsored by Twin Cities Justice 4 Jamar and 9 other groups.

Peacestock Fall 2021

Online. Tuesday, October 19, 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., "Militarism and the Environment" featuring Adrienne Kinne and Gary Butterfield. Sponsored by Veterans for Peace Red Wing Chapter 115 & Minneapolis Chapter 27, and Kessel Peace Institute of the University of Minnesota, Mankato. FFI: peacestockvfp.org Bill Habedank: home 651-388-7733, cell 651-764-1866.

End U.S. Blockade of Cuba and Hands Off

Cuba Sunday, October 31, 1:00 p.m. This will be a car caravan. Location TBA. Sponsored by SCOTA action group of WAMM.

Armistice Day Events in St. Paul

Thursday, November 11, TBA. Sponsored by Veterans for Peace. FFI: 612-821-9141.

"Growing Up in Gaza: A Personal Story"

Middle East Peace Now Monthly Forum

October 16, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Online via Zoom. Originally from blockaded Gaza, speaker Abdallah Salha joined numerous organizations abroad to explore human rights, solidarity and conflict resolution. He is currently a student at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. Sponsored by Jewish Voice for Peace – Twin Cities, American Muslims for Palestine-Minnesota, Northfielders for Justice in Palestine. FFI: mepn@mepn.org

Give To WAMM on Give to The Max Day: November 18

For ways to donate, please see back page of this newsletter.

Access Zoom events

through the Women Against Military Madness Calendar at womenagainstmilitarymadness.org and Women Against Military Madness Facebook. All events on CST zone.

WAMM will not be holding a Silent Auction this year due to concerns about COVID.



4200 Cedar Avenue South, Suite 3
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(612) 827-5364
e-mail: wamm@usfamily.net
WomenAgainstMilitaryMadness.org
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GIVE TO WAMM!

GIVE TO THE MAX ON NOVEMBER 18, 2021!

Please consider contributing as the WAMM Annual Silent Auction was not held this year due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Three ways to donate:

- Donate online at: givemn.org/organization/Wamm
- Donate online on WAMM's website: www.womenagainstmilitarymadness.org
- Send a check to WAMM, 4200 Cedar Ave, Suite 3, Minneapolis, MN 55407.
Write: "Fall Donation" in the message line.

Please especially consider contributing to WAMM on Give to the Max Day. You – our members and friends – supply nearly 100% of the funding to keep WAMM strong so that we can stand together for peace and justice, educate and inspire, and also act as a welcoming presence for new activists to build the skills that work for peace.

