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Minneapolis/St. Paul Protests Under Occupation

by Kim DeFranco

On May 25, 2020, we witnessed yet another police killing of a Black man. The lockdown for COVID-19 had been in full force for two months, hitting minority communities the hardest as Minnesota watched a video of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin kneeling on George Floyd’s neck for 9 minutes and 29 seconds while Floyd was unarmed, hand-cuffed, and pinned face down on the street.

Over the years, the country has seen many Black people die at the hands of police. The police in the United States are almost never held accountable, charged, or convicted for using unnecessary excessive and, at times, deadly force.

However, this murder by police was different. People were shaken to the core by the video taken by Darnella Frazier, the brave young woman who captured Floyd’s last moments of life struggling to breathe and calling out for his mother while Chauvin never lifted his knee from his neck.

This was the last straw for many Black, Brown and Indigenous people. The response came hard and fast. Thousands of people from all different communities, including many white Minnesotans, flooded into the streets in protest and demanded accountability for Floyd’s death. Protests took place the day after his death and continued up to Chauvin’s conviction on April 30, 2021.

Throughout the summer and fall of 2020, rallies, marches, and speak-outs took

place in the streets of Minneapolis – at City Hall, and in public spaces outside at the homes of Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman, the chair of the Minneapolis City Council, and Mayor Jacob Frey – to demand justice for Floyd, the arrest of all four police officers involved, and the assurance that a special prosecutor would be appointed to handle the cases. In neighboring St. Paul, people gathered in protest at the Minnesota State Capitol and the Governor’s Mansion.

During these months, many groups and
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End the Occupation of Palestine!

Vigil at the corner of Summit & Snelling Avenues, St. Paul every Friday, 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. FFI: 612-827-5364



“Full Mobilization” of National Guard troops was called during the George Floyd protests. Here at the State Capitol with police behind. Photo: Emma Sron

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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Less Lethal Weapons: Violence to Silence Justice

by Jasmine McBride, BLCK Press

Less-lethal weapons have been used for crowd control by the police for decades, but only recently has medical documentation of injury emerged. “If we look back at historic protests, Black people always had injuries. Violence has been used to silence calls for justice. Bio-medical research over time has become more cognizant of . . . police brutality as a public health risk,” according to Dr. Brooke Cunningham, a University of Minnesota medical specialist.

The injustices that occur at the protests themselves are often overlooked. Protesters are in the position of putting their own bodies on the line.

“The fact that they’re shooting people out here, and tear gassing people all the time says a lot about the system and how militarized it is,” said Victor, 19, a survivor of police brutality, in an interview with journalist Georgia Fort. Ironically, as militarized as the police are acting, tear gas is actually banned from military use.

Following the death of George Floyd, the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Minnesota conducted a study on the injuries caused by the less lethal weapons used in crowd control: “What we found was alarming; 89 patients required emergency medical care, with 26 percent of those injuries being head injuries. An adolescent required emergency surgery after a strike to the head with a rubber bullet.”

On April 11, 2021, Daunte Wright was shot to death by Brooklyn Center Police Department officer Kimberly Potter by what was – according to Potter – supposed to have been a taser. Since the death of Daunte Wright, hundreds of demonstrators have gathered on Brooklyn Center’s streets demanding justice each night. Protests have always been a space of empowerment for communities to amplify their voices, to condole one another, and take a stand.

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Law enforcement used flash bangs and tear gas on unarmed protesters at the demonstrations against the murder by police of Daunte Wright. These weapons can cause serious, even long term, injury. Photo: Brad Sigal

Less Lethal Weapons,

continued from page 2

“A lot of these protests are peaceful. But the fact is that they want to shut us up,” said Victor, who was shot in the face with a rubber bullet,* sending him to the hospital where he was told he had a fracture in his face. “They’re the ones constantly in full body armor. If you see these protests, you can see the difference in power. I don’t have anything that could hurt them physically.”

The amount of injuries and demand for medics during the George Floyd protests last year made the risk of protesting very clear. Many protesters fighting for Daunte Wright have made more of an effort to use protective gear like gas masks, umbrellas, and goggles, but have still been brutalized.

Protests have brought thousands of individuals together in pursuit of justice. But it has also brought in more law enforcement. The National Guard has been called in to help our state’s police departments, while the cops themselves have been initiating curfews and enforcing the same harmful tactics among protesters. Rubber bullets, tear gas, flashbang grenades, and other tactics such as kettling (cops closing in on protestors to trap them) continue.

“We found a substantial number of patients with serious injuries, including many injuries to the head, neck, and face. United Nations guidelines state that these weapons should only be aimed directly at the extremities and that hits to the head, neck, and face are potentially unlawful. . . . Under current practices, projectiles are not appropriate for crowd control,” stated an article published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* (January 2021).

Though the short-term effects of less lethal weapons has been widely circulating, there has been new conversation around the long-term effects of these weapons, as well. *Medical News Today*

(July 2020) reported: “Tear gas was initially developed as a chemical weapon for military use. These chemical weapons are now banned in warfare [The Convention on the Prohibition of Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons] There are strict guidelines [United Nations Guidelines on Less Lethal Weapons in Law Enforcement] for tear gas use in public. . . . from a distance, only using it outdoors, and using the lowest possible strength chemical mix.”

As families have been left to tactics such as stuffing their windows with wet towels to keep tear gas from seeping in, or having to drag in injured protesters, I worry for their safety. With the sounds of flashbang grenades, screaming, and the effects of tear gas all night, this can be traumatizing.

According to the American Lung Association, “long-term health effects from tear gas are more likely if exposed for a prolonged period or to a high dose while in an enclosed area. In these instances, it can lead to respiratory failure and death.” U of M medical specialists were invited to speak with the Minneapolis City Council regarding the research on the harm patients experienced from the protests last summer. They recommended the discontinued use of launched tear gas canisters, which is awaiting approval from the Mayor.

Jasmine McBride is a writer at BLCK Press (blckpress.com). This article was excerpted and republished with the permission of Jasmine McBride and BLCK Press.

* **Rubber bullets:** “Rubber bullets, referred to as kinetic impact projectiles (KIPs) are made from a variety of materials including rubber, polyvinyl chloride, plastic or a composite including metal. A conglomeration of these materials into one bullet, propelled at a fast velocity and in close proximity, can cause terminal injuries.” ~ “Rubber bullets can be deadly, experts say, as George Floyd protests put spotlight on police use of projectiles.” Dr. Ayodola Adigun and Eden David, June 9, 2020 ABC News [tinyurl.com/582cjkkk](https://www.tinyurl.com/582cjkkk) (note added by WAMM newsletter editor)



WAMM Committees

Issues Committees:

- 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)

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- Finance
- Fundraising
- Membership/Outreach
- Newsletter
- Personnel
- Program/New Issues
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ACTION:

Join the WAMM End Domestic Militarism Committee for education and action about local, state, and national issues on this subject. Call the WAMM office at 612-827-5364.

The Occupation, *continued from page 1*

individuals came together, demanding accountability for all lives stolen through police killings, in addition to Floyd's. A coalition was formed among seventeen community activist groups, comprised of Black, Latinx, Asian, Indigenous, Muslim, immigrants, youth and students, antiwar activists, families against police violence, and other social justice groups. Since many of these groups have been established for years, an infrastructure existed to provide the community with the organizing tools and the support needed, providing space for people to express their anger and grief, and to create powerful events, which helped to get the boots on the ground faster. These original groups also provided guidance to work towards real solutions and demand change as the protests grew organically.

The City of Minneapolis chose not to reach out to the established groups for their input or help.

Michelle Gross of Communities United Against Police Brutality, one of the most long-established groups in the coalition, stated, "Most of the people who were out there were sincere. They cared about their rights and the rights of others. They wanted to contribute to a better world for their families and others."

Minneapolis burns

Though few in numbers, people with malicious and incendiary intent came to the initial protests. During protests on the night of the May 27, 2020, a video emerged of a mysterious "Umbrella Man," dressed in black, wearing gloves, and carrying an umbrella, breaking the windows of the Auto Zone which was located across from the Third Precinct police station. The application for a search warrant identified him as a White male with known ties to a White supremacist motorcycle gang. It



Police shoot projectiles from behind concrete barricades during the first days of the George Floyd uprising and protests. Photo: Brad Sigal.

stated his intention to incite violence. This was related to the first fire that set off a string of fires throughout the precinct and other parts of the city, mainly around Lake Street.¹ Fires were also set in St. Paul in the Midway district. [It appeared that arsonists had exceptional knowledge of fire setting, as they quickly took down brick buildings, as well as auto supply stores containing highly flammable products.]

Gross said that while the burning of the Third Precinct station brought cheers from Black and Brown youth who had righteous anger over the continued oppressive policing in their communities, "no person who lives in the neighborhood, no matter how angry, would burn down a library, post office, school, or grocery store." She pointed out that most of the people who were later arrested for burning buildings [including the police station] turned out to be White supremacists.² "Out-of-state people, out-of-towners came in and used this opportunity to start a race war. However, the city now can play off this to vilify protesters and launch disgusting attacks on them," Gross concluded.



The burning of the Third Precinct police station was cheered by youth of color, but most arsonists arrested for burning buildings turned out to be White supremacists from out of town. Photo: Brad Sigal.

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The Occupation,
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**Law enforcement overreach,
collective punishment, and
military tactics**

During the first days of the uprising, as the number of people in the streets grew, Minneapolis police forces and Minnesota state troopers in riot gear, as well as county sheriff's departments, responded with force. People in the streets definitely outnumbered them, but law enforcement had weapons and didn't discriminate among the people who were out. Instead, they shot tear gas and flash-bangs indiscriminately into the crowd.

After two nights of buildings burning and criticism of Minnesota Governor Tim Walz for being too slow in ordering up the National Guard, night curfew was called. According to the order, people needed to be at their homes starting in the evening lasting till morning – otherwise police would believe “you are up to no good.”

During the scheduled curfew time, a video emerged showing Minneapolis police officers firing “marker rounds” at residents who were standing on the porch of their house. (Marker rounds, used by police, are in the form of bullets filled with marker dye, which then identify people when the police want to arrest them



Police raising weapons to fire on May 28, during the George Floyd protests in Minneapolis. Photo: Brad Sigal.

later.) The residents were in compliance with the curfew, and, from their porch, were filming police officers doing a sweep of the neighborhood. As the police were coming down their street, they screamed at the residents to get inside their house while another officer can be heard yelling “Light ‘em up” as the marker rounds hit them.³

People also reported seeing law enforcement slashing tires of cars parked in an empty parking lot, resulting in people who wanted to leave the streets at night unable to get their cars to go home.

Throughout this period, law enforcement continued to use “less lethal” ammunition such as rubber bullets,

concussion grenades, and tear gas on the people. Rubber bullets have caused serious injuries when hitting body parts. Tear gas has been outlawed for military use but isn't outlawed for police use. The gas has very dangerous side effects and can cause death.

Many independent journalists and livestreamers had quickly begun reporting on the frontlines, showing protests in real time, as well as filming people telling the horrible truths about how in the past their loved ones' lives had been stolen from them by police. People, watching TV and internet screens in their homes, were able to see demonstrations up close and watch brutal police tactics

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Protests continued in Minneapolis up through Chauvin's trial. The names of others who lives were stolen by police were written within the letters of George Floyd's name. (Banner designed by C. J. McCormick of the Antiwar Committee.) Photo: Emma Sron.



Some of the 3,500 (MPR News figure) National Guard troops called up during the Chauvin trial. They survey the crowd below that is demanding accountability for the murder of George Floyd. Photo: Emma Sron

The Occupation,

continued from page 5

used against protesters who were exercising their right to demand justice and change.

Independent journalist and live-streamer Emma Sron reported how another independent journalist lost an eye when it was shot out by law enforcement. (Sron is a co-chair of the Women Against Military Madness board.)

As rallies and marches continued, many opinions floated throughout the U.S. describing the protesters in broad generalities which lumped all the people in the streets together. The city and state leaders bought into this generalized scenario. They applied overreach of policing and collective punishment, creating a military-style occupation in St. Paul and Minneapolis.

In the spring of 2021, as the Chauvin trial approached and protests continued, the power structure became even more fearful of people's reaction if Chauvin weren't convicted.

Concerned that there could be an uprising like the one the previous spring, the State of Minnesota and the City of Minneapolis decided to use a two-prong approach to keep the "city and its citizens safe." To try to ensure that things didn't get out of hand, they formed Operation Safety Net and created the Office of Violence Prevention.

Operation Safety Net

Again, there was going to be collective punishment that took the form of a militarized occupation of the city. The occupation included most of the downtown areas and police precincts, which were fortified with layers of barbed wires, fencing, and concrete blocks. The Minnesota governor called up 3,000 National Guard. They were stationed at the Hennepin County Government Center where the trial would be held and tasked with patrolling the streets of low-income neighborhoods where mostly black, brown, and indigenous people lived. Troops were also seen in their vehicles or on foot, rifles slung over their bodies, patrolling streets and alleys in other parts of Minneapolis, and in St. Paul blocks near the Governor's Mansion.

The Office of Violence Prevention

If the militarized occupation wasn't enough, the City of Minneapolis decided to offer grants. It would pay groups \$175,000 each to be "trusted messengers" and "violence interrupters." People from seven groups that received money were sent out to

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A protester waves a Black Lives Matter flag at the Hennepin County Government Center where the trial of Derek Chauvin was held in the spring of 2021. Photo: Emma Sron.

The Occupation,

continued from page 6

protests to intervene with community members in whatever they deemed to be tense situations. Along with the additional cost of the barricades, the Violence Intervention program would last throughout the duration of the trial and beyond, costing the city (and its taxpayers) about \$1 million. These approaches didn't bring safety to the people in the streets. Police and paid city organizations often brought more harm than prevention.

Another killing by police and more military style repression

Shockingly, on April 11, 2021, while the Chauvin trial was still going on, police committed another murder in the Minneapolis area. This time it was in Brooklyn Center, a Minneapolis suburb. A White policewoman Kim Potter, on the force for 26 years, killed Daunte Wright, a young Black man, while attempting to arrest him during a traffic stop.

After it was reported, people quickly gathered at the site to demand justice, information and release of the body camera video. During that time, a potentially dangerous situation was created when two cop cars were parked right in front of people who were visibly horrified at the killing. The location of the police cars acted as a provocation. A few angry people in the crowd smashed the windows and jumped on the roof of the cars. Police responded with rubber bullets and injuries were reported among the people gathered. The police left the scene and the crowd moved on to the Brooklyn Center police precinct.

Demonstrations were livestreamed, revealing problems caused by "violence interrupters" from the groups collaborating with the city. In one incident, members of one of these organizations decided to



During the Derek Chauvin trial, while seeking justice for George Floyd, Daunte Wright's name is added to protests of killing by police in the Minneapolis area. Photo: Emma Sron

stop a person from chanting, deeming a chant offensive, going as far as disconnecting the mic. When an independent Black journalist called out their behavior, he was sworn at. Another time, a person from one of the collaborator organizations went up to the fencing around the Brooklyn Center precinct to cut the plastic ties holding parts of the barricade together and encouraged others to do the same. When that person left, the police retaliated, leaving the crowd to receive the police wrath of rubber bullets and tear gas.

Protests continued all week, day and night, and more people joined in, outnumbering the police. As a result, the governor and mayors in Brooklyn Center and surrounding cities once again called for curfews. Most nights police continued to use tear gas and marker rounds on people and rubber bullets to push back the crowds. Many people were arrested and left in jail for up to three days on probable cause for rioting. Police also targeted journalists, even though they are exempted from the curfew policies. A number of journalists were tear

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Sheriff department riot squad, military style, in Brooklyn Center after protests of Daunte Wright shooting by police. Photo: Nick Pfosi/Reuters

The Occupation, *continued from page 7*

gassed, shot at and sustained injuries, and even detained before being released.

The Brooklyn Center police station is located in the heart of a residential neighborhood, and families and children who live there were affected. Tear gas seeped through windows. Children were traumatized by the constant noise of shots being fired. Neighbors just trying to get into their homes were either stopped or arrested. Police did sweeps through the surrounding neighborhoods looking for any demonstrators. One night, a church nearby, Kenyan Community Seventh-day Adventist Church, offered shelter to demonstrators, including the injured. The police surrounded the church as a form of intimidation but eventually left.

In expectation of the verdict in the trial of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin and in wake of the death of Daunte Wright, the Minnesota Governor Walz announced he would call in reinforcements in the form of law enforcement from states beyond Minnesota,⁴ requesting the extra funding during a call with legislative leaders. This was done instead of reaching out to Wright's family or addressing the people's concerns.

Change comes from the people

In conclusion, elected officials allowed the police structure to use a variety of repressive tactics against community members, revealing that forces continue to see the people they supposedly serve as antagonists and enemies. When they could have, officials did not take opportunities to work with standing community groups or families who had suffered because of police violence, and only attempted to reach out to them when it was too late. Collective



During the occupation of Minneapolis, thousands marched to demand justice for killings by police and for police reform. Photo: Emma Sron

punishment had already been used against the community. However, in the aftermath, responding to continued pressure, some elected officials at the state and local levels have taken measures towards police reform.

While action is not being taken fast enough or reforms have been weaker than what the people want, some strides are being made. Minnesota state representatives moved reforms forward, and Governor Walz has put more pressure on reluctant legislators, who are in control of the senate, to take action.

On May 15, 2021, the Brooklyn Center City Council voted 4-1 in favor of a resolution that would create a roadmap for policing changes. Brooklyn Center Mayor Mike Elliott, who offered the resolution, addressed the public: "It says that we, as your elected leaders, are committing ourselves. And that you can hold us accountable for achieving those goals."

The people proved that despite facing formidable obstacles that could have served to scale back protests and scare protesters away, in the end this didn't prevent them from demonstrating, marching, and calling for accountability. The desire for justice

was so strong that even during the pandemic, thousands of people continually came out for George Floyd and other casualties of police violence, insisting on positive change in policing. Minneapolis has forged the way as a beacon of light and hope for people who demand a better world and has led the way in showing how it can be done. All power to the people!

Kim DeFranco participated in many of the events following the murder of George Floyd. She is a member of the Women Against Military Madness Newsletter Committee.

Endnotes

- 1 Police Dept. arson investigator application for a warrant, State of Minnesota, Hennepin County, tinyurl.com/yue94mu3 Heavy.com
- 2 "Four Indicted in Minneapolis Police Third Precinct Arson" Press release, United States Dept. of Justice, United States Attorney's Office, District of Minnesota August 25, 2020 <https://www.justice.gov/usao-mn/pr/four-indicted-minneapolis-police-third-precinct-arson#>
- 3 video film of incident: <https://twitter.com/tkerssen/status/1266921821653385225>
- 4 Emergency Executive Order 20-21 "Declaring a Peace Time Emergency to Provide Safety and Protection" <https://tinyurl.com/4hdur3jj>

What Is It Costing to Build Armageddon?

by Bill Adamski and Jay Kvale

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICANW) accurately describes the dread that we associate with these doomsday machines: “[They] are the only devices ever created that have the capacity to destroy all complex life forms on Earth. It would take less than 0.1 percent of the explosive yield of the current global nuclear arsenal to bring about devastating agricultural collapse and widespread famine.”¹

At the beginning of this year, on January 27, 2021, the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists (BAS) announced that its Doomsday Clock would remain at 100 seconds to midnight – the closest it has come to predicting a nuclear apocalypse in its 74-year history. It is, they said, “the most dangerous situation that humanity has ever faced.”²

What typically does not usually come to mind regarding these existential threats to our being is the outrageously large amount of taxpayer dollars that are wasted on making and maintaining them.

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) plans to spend \$15.6 billion to maintain and update the U.S. nuclear arsenal in fiscal year (FY) 2021 (5800 warheads).³

The Pentagon will spend more than \$29 billion in FY21 to modernize the delivery systems (warplanes; submarines; command, control, and communications systems) of the air, land, and sea nuclear triad.⁴

But that is just a projected tiny down payment on this long-term modernization project. The military plans to spend up to an inflation-adjusted \$1.7 trillion over 30 years to overhaul its nuclear arsenal by rebuilding each leg of the nuclear triad and its

accompanying infrastructure⁵ – trillions wasted on weaponry that must never be used.

The long-term bet by the mass weapons lobby is that these obscene armaments will long continue to be an important part of U.S. military strategy, contrary to an increasingly more prevalent international assertion that they must be abolished. On January 22, 2021, the United Nation’s “Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons” (TPNW) officially “entered into force” as international law. Nuclear weapons are now illegal. Currently 54 nations have taken the courageous action to fully ratify this treaty – with many more in the process of moving toward that goal.⁶ Unfortunately, the U.S. is not one of them.

Nevertheless, movement towards the complete abolition of all nuclear arms is very achievable. After all, the world’s nations have already been able to come together, agreeing through international treaties or conventions, to universally ban other categories of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs): chemical weapons, biological weapons, cluster munitions, and anti-personnel mines.⁷

Furthermore, Russia and the U.S., through arms control treaties, have already reduced their nuclear arsenal stock piles by 80 percent from their year 1986 totals (70,300) to 13,400, which is 90 percent of the world’s total nuclear weaponry.⁸ Even though neither country has yet ratified the UN’s TPNW, the treaty’s international legal authority (“all nuclear weapons are now illegal”) can be used to push them, under the recently-renewed New START Treaty, to quickly accelerate further reductions all the way to zero.

Demonstrating dramatic downsizing by way of example, both superpowers can jointly demand that the seven other nuclear states follow. All nine countries could quickly start this process by building upon Global Zero’s mission, “a world without nuclear weapons,” which developed a five-step plan to attain total abolition of these armaments by 2030.⁹

Finally, somewhere during this incredible process, all nine nuclear nations can join the many, many other countries who have already signed and ratified the UN TPNW, making nuclear weapons universally illegal and banned, as they are for all those other categories of WMDs.

The result would be a world that becomes immeasurably safer, much less threatening and dangerous.

And the payoff for humanity is incalculable. Trillions of U.S. taxpayer dollars could be redirected from building for a world-ending Armageddon and instead toward making the planet substantially better by fulfilling many critical human needs.

Bill Adamski and Jay Kvale are members of the End War Committee of Women Against Military Madness.

Endnotes

- 1 Int’l Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons (ICANW), 2020: “The cost of nuclear weapons” [tinyurl.com/2d7pwksx](https://www.tinyurl.com/2d7pwksx)
- 2 The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, 27 Jan 2021: “This is your COVID wake-up call: It is 100 seconds to midnight” thebulletin.org/doomsday-clock/current-time
- 3 Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, 22 Jan 2021: “Fact Sheet: U.S. Nuclear Weapons Modernization: Costs & Constraints” [tinyurl.com/y926z5pr](https://www.tinyurl.com/y926z5pr)
- 4 Center for Arms Control Fact Sheet [tinyurl.com/y926z5pr](https://www.tinyurl.com/y926z5pr)

Endnotes continued on page 11

Ask Officials to Sign the Parliamentary Pledge!

We have lived under the threat of nuclear annihilation for 75 years. The Parliamentary Pledge for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (pictured) offers our elected officials an opportunity to personally support the treaty as we pressure the U.S. and the other eight nuclear-armed nations to sign it. In Minnesota, U.S. Congresswomen McCollum and Omar and Minnesota State Senator John Marty have already signed.

Please send a copy of the Parliamentary Pledge to your city council member, Minnesota state representative and senator, and/or U.S. Senators Klobuchar and Smith and ask that they also sign the pledge.

Copies of the ICAN Parliamentary (Legislative) Pledge for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons can be obtained online at nuclearban.us/icanpledge, or by calling the WAMM office: 612-827-5364. FFI: pledge.icanw.org [The Pledge is a project of ICAN (the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons)].

— Marie Braun,

WAMM Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons

ICAN



PARLIAMENTARY (Legislative) PLEDGE

FOR THE TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

ABOUT THE PLEDGE
This Pledge is a commitment by legislators around the world to work to promote the signature and ratification of the Treaty by their respective countries.

WHO CAN SIGN
Any current member of a national, state/provincial or regional parliament or congress may sign the Pledge. It is open to legislators from all countries.

HOW TO SIGN
To add your name to the Pledge, please email info@icanw.org or sign below and send as a scan.

NAME

SIGNATURE

COUNTRY

EMAIL

DATE

We, the undersigned legislators,

warmly welcome the adoption of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 7 July 2017 as a significant step towards the realization of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

We share the deep concern expressed in the preamble about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences that would result from any use of nuclear weapons and we recognize the consequent need to eliminate these inhumane and abhorrent weapons.

As legislators, we pledge to work for the signature and ratification of this landmark treaty by our respective countries, as we consider the abolition of nuclear weapons to be a global public good of the highest order and an essential step to promote the security and well-being of all peoples.

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WAMM Calendar

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

Ongoing Peace/ Justice Vigils

Vigil to End War

Every Wednesday, 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

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, 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. 50th Street and Halifax (1 block west of France), Edina. FFI: Call Marian Wright 612-927-7607.

Correction:

For correct dates in Haiti articles: see Spring 2021 newsletter at womenagainstmilitarymadness.org

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 Committee Meetings

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, 6:00 p.m. 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, 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

Coffee Hour: Colombia & Honduras, Part II

Saturday, June 12, 10 a.m. to 12:00 noon CST James Patrick Jordon of Alliance for Global Justice and Vicki Cervantes of Honduras Solidarity Network. Sponsored by WAMM Solidarity Committee of the Americas

Access Zoom events

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

Announcements

Hear Julian Assange's Family in the Twin Cities

Monday, June 21, 7:00 p.m. The father and brother of Wikileaks Whistleblower Julian Assange will be in the Twin Cities to discuss his case. Details TBA on the WAMM calendar online. FFI: WAMM office: 612-827-5364.

Money for Human Needs Not War! Campaign

has messages to share about "U.S. Tax \$\$ Squandered on the Military." Please like and share these posts. Sponsored by WAMM End War Committee.

Continued from page 9

5 Center for Arms Control Fact Sheet tinyurl.com/y926z5pr; Arms Control Association, August, 2018: "U.S. Nuclear Modernization Programs." tinyurl.com/v824pcb2

6 International Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons (ICANW), 2021. icanw.org

7 The Library of Congress, 2020: "Laws Prohibiting Investments in Controversial Weapons" tinyurl.com/htdc6bm3

8 Global Zero, 2021: "Reaching Zero" globalzero.org/reaching-zero

9 Global Zero, 2021: "Five Step Action Plan to Abolish All Nuclear Weapons" globalzero.org/reaching-zero

Dorothy Van Soest Reads from *Nuclear Option*

7:00 pm • Tuesday, June 29

via Zoom

Back by popular demand. Dorothy presents slides and a reading from her most recent mystery novel. FFI and to sign up, see womenagainstmilitarymadness.org





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See Announcements inside.

Join WAMM's Weekly Friday Vigils for Palestine

Every Friday 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Snelling & Summit Avenues, St. Paul

Speak out! Take action! Keep the movement strong and visible!

WAMM Weekly Vigils in support of Palestine began in the summer of 1988 during the First Intifada. We continue to use this specific form of protest in order to stand with the Palestine Resistance and to make their struggle public to the people of St. Paul.

As we go to press, a ceasefire has been declared after 11 days of vicious bombing of Gaza by the U.S.-supported Israeli military. WAMM will continue to educate and advocate through our newsletters, in our social media and on the street until Palestinians are free. Please join us.



END U.S. AID TO ISRAEL

MIDDLE EAST COMMITTEE OF WOMEN AGAINST MILITARY MADNESS

WAMM's Middle East Committee meets on the second Monday of every month at 10:00 am via Zoom. Contact the WAMM office at 612-827-5364 or general@wamm.me for details.