



SACRAMENTO AREA PEACE ACTION

NEWSLETTER

Fall
2021

Working to end US militarism since 1983!

909 12th St., Sacramento, CA 95814 916 448-7157 www.sacpeace.org

Let's Put the **ACTION** back in Peace Action!

In these trying times of war, terrorism, climate change, and political division, it's hard for many people to find time to even think about peace. To many, it must seem like a dream, a fairy tale that has no chance of becoming real in this often brutal world in which we live.

Who gets to make history, and why?" Who decided - and who decides today - to make war instead of peace? According to our Constitution, it's "we, the people" who should be making these decisions. Instead of acting for ourselves, we've been letting others control our lives.

How did this happen? By our own inaction, and our lack of

belief in ourselves, we let others take us to war. Peace will only come when we, by acting in our own interests, and exercising the power that we have, take back control of our own country, and of our own lives.

Well, Peace Action is ready to turn the page, and start moving again! We're starting new projects, and are looking for new people who've had enough, and are ready to put some energy into their dreams of peace, justice, and a decent life for all of us, not just a few.

If that's you, join us! We've got some exciting new projects going that can use some fresh blood, and some new energy!

The Newsletter Group

We're forming a collective group that's producing this newsletters like this one for , as well as others. We need your ideas, your art, and your energy!

The Radio Station

We have a license for a low-power radio station, and the chance to be part of a network of stations up and down the state. We need your voices, your ideas, and your help in creating an on-the-air local community.

Who knows what we might be able to accomplish, if we can learn to work together - in peace, and for peace!

Drop us a line, and get to know us. We're trying our best to do our best! We hope you'll want to lend a hand in making the changes we all need!



Israel's Nukes Make US Aid Illegal!

But the lies and coverups continue

In his New York Times essay, Peter Beinart noted how the prevalence of US "lies of omission" allow policymakers and politicians to pretend Israel does not have nuclear weapons. This in turn generates the false narrative that Iran's nuclear program could initiate a Middle East nuclear arms race.

Much has happened in the decades since President Richard Nixon first promised Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meier never to publicly discuss Israel's nuclear weapons. US Senators Stuart Symington and John Glenn learned that Israel (with help from some proxies in the US) in the 1960s diverted enough US weapons grade uranium from the government contractor NUMEC to build a dozen bombs.

Outraged that nothing was being done about it, the senators complicated the "strategic ambiguity" by amending US laws to condition aid to nuclear weapons countries that were not signatories to the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Israel and its US surrogates responded by lobbying incoming Presidents to ignore the law and commit in writing to upholding nuclear ambiguity.

In 2012 Obama passed a gag regulation forbidding any US federal agency employee or



contractor from discussing Israel's nuclear weapons. For example, Israeli spymaster Rafel "Rafi" Eitan's covert operations team penetrated the NUMEC facility in 1968, the year of some of its most stunning losses. In closed briefings to top agency officials, CIA has never wavered in its conclusion that Israel had diverted material to fuel Israel's nuclear weapons development.

After Eitan died in March of 2019, a great deal of formerly classified information about his exploits against America, which included running Jonathan Pollard, should have become available since privacy claims no longer prevailed.

However, the CIA's internal profile of Eitan, while mentioning his 1960 operation to kidnap Adolf Eichmann from Argentina and Jonathan Pollard, carefully

redacts his NUMEC operation in the 1960s chronology.

Why does such information still receive protection? If multiple US government agencies reveal that the US has long known Israel has a nuclear weapons program, it raises uncomfortable questions about amount of foreign aid illegally delivered to Israel.

Since Symington and Glenn became law, the US has transferred nearly a quarter of a trillion dollars in foreign assistance to Israel, and additional billions covertly.

One of the main tasks of Israel's US lobby is delivering enough campaign contributions to US politicians that upholding the law remains unthinkable. This has been a winning strategy but also makes the power of Israel's surrogates in the US increasingly visible and the subject of scorn and derision.

Space Alert!

Defend the Earth, Not Arms Dealers

the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space
globalnet@mindspring.com • www.space4peace.org • (207) 389-4606

Militarism Fuels Climate Change

by Kooban Paik-Mander

We are drowning, burning and choking because of climate change. The world is haunted by images of commuters in China, in a dark subway car with muddy water up to their necks, standing in order to breathe.

Only days before, Germany and Belgium witnessed torrents of water that swept away centuries-old, half-timbered houses, leaving hundreds dead. A few days before that, Oman, New Zealand, New York, and elsewhere had also been deluged. Meanwhile, out-of-control fires on the west coast are belching so much smoke that New Yorkers can't breathe.

We have entered the era of Climate Catastrophe, and our president and Congress must respond appropriately. Instead, they continue to pour billions of dollars every year into war-making that will further compromise the health of the Earth and the survival of its people.



A Hypersonic Arms Race

In June 2021, the U.S. released the FY 2022 defense budget request. The theme was singular: to dominate China. The wish list came to \$715 billion. Then, the following month, the Senate Armed Services Committee voted to pile on another \$25 billion in a nearly unanimous bipartisan vote. (Only Elizabeth Warren demurred.) The floods, fires, tornadoes, rain bombs and mudslides are, by far, the biggest threat to global security, not China. The spectre of “the China threat” has been effective in

justifying endless support for war, expansion of the nuclear arsenal, and developing costly high-tech weapons, like hypersonics, that don't even function yet. Even if they did function, they would open up the chance of miscalculation that could easily tip into nuclear war. What makes hypersonic weapons so unique is not their speed, but rather, their almost incredible maneuverability. For the complete article see: www.space4peace.org

The Human Crisis, Moral Injury...

By Mario Galvan

Beyond the physical damage caused by war, it has long been recognized that it also has mental and spiritual effects. Some of the names given to have been "battle fatigue," "shell shock," and most recently, "PTSD" (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder).

I've recently been deeply moved by two new items I've seen online. One is old, from just after WW II, and the other is brand new. But they both touch something that I feel is missing from most of our discussion and analysis of war and the damage it causes.

I'll begin with the oldest, a talk given in March of 1946 by the French author and philosopher Albert Camus. During the war, he was active in the Resistance to the Nazi occupation of France, which exposed him to the harsh brutality and absurdity of war; to abhor violence and killing, but still have to take part in it.

He said that the French people felt that *"mankind is still under threat,"* and that *"they must rescue a certain idea of mankind from the crisis that grips the whole world."* He called it a *"human crisis,"* and gave that title to his talk.

In our own time of "endless war," I believe we are still living in that crisis. Though we object to war and killing, we still feel obliged to tolerate it as some kind of necessary evil.

He thought that *"The crisis is also about replacing real men with political men. Individual passion is no longer possible, only collective, ...abstract passions. Whether we like it or not, we cannot avoid politics..."*

What counts is ensuring the triumph of a doctrine. Human suffering is no longer considered a scandal; it is merely one variable in a reckoning whose terrible sums has not yet been calculated." In modern terms, it means that we can believe that resisting "socialism" is more important than saving human lives and dignity.

Even after the war, he said, *"Violence has a stranglehold on us. Inside every nation, and the world... mistrust, resentment, greed, and the race for power are manufacturing a dark, desperate universe..."* In today's world, our police shoot first, and ask questions later (if at all), and our government attacks other countries who they think may be thinking of attacking us. Camus suggested that the only choice is between being a victim or an executioner. Is this the kind of world in which we wish to continue living?

For Camus, the lesson that they learned, amid the horror and brutality, was that *"...a sense of shared dignity was at stake. A communion among men that*

had to be defended... With that in mind, we knew how to act and we learned that people, even in situations of absolute moral degradation, can find sufficient values to guide their conduct.

"Once people began to realize the truth lay in communicating with each other, and mutual recognition of each other's dignity, it became clear that this very communication was what had to be served. To maintain this communication, men needed to be free, since a master and a slave have nothing in common... To maintain this communication we had to eliminate lying and violence... From the negative impetus that was the starting point of our revolt, we drew an ethos of liberty and sincerity.

"...it was the act of communication that was needed to oppose the murderous world. ...and this communication must be maintained today if we are to protect ourselves from murder."

As the today's media fills our minds with the ideas of others, it can be hard to distinguish our own thoughts from the lies and disinformation we're constantly being fed. This is propaganda, not communication, which requires dialogue and mutual respect. If we hope to find that "sense of shared dignity" and "communion among men" (and women, we need to add today!),
(continued on the next page)

...and the U.S. Culture of War

...that Camus is talking about, we need to be sure that we're really talking to each other in an honest and respectful way.

That's what we're trying to do in this newsletter, and why it's also important for us to hear from you. We envision this as a means of communication, not just another voice talking at you. For it to work, we need you to do your part!

The webinar on Moral Injury addressed not only that, but also the "culture of war" in the US. The guest speaker was Dr. Kelly Denton-Borhaug, author of a book that deals with both topics.

The term "moral injury" was coined by a doctor working at a VA hospital who was looking for a way to treat the traumas that he was seeing among veterans. Though it was similar to PTSD, he thought, it went beyond that. Where PTSD dealt with fear and hyper-anxiety, he also saw a kind of "moral pain" caused by a person witnessing or taking part in "acts that violate their moral codes." Not only a betrayal of their own deeply held personal values, but also a betrayal by others, such as the political leaders who ordered them to carry out such actions.

Statistics on suicides among veterans underline the seriousness of the problem; four times more soldiers commit suicide

than are killed in battle!

This research led to the start of a "Moral Injury Group" at the VA hospital in Philadelphia. She shared a poignant story of a vet who, having been through a number of failed treatments for 8 years, was willing to try one more. He was quoted as having said, "If this one doesn't work, I'm going to kill myself." Thank goodness, it *did* work for him, and he is now leading groups with other vets.

The main connection with this webinar to Camus' talk is the emphasis on communication.

Most of the vets came home to a society that didn't know what to do with them; they didn't know what to do with themselves either. Many turned to alcohol and drugs, going into a solitary downward spiral.

In the group, however, they learned to speak to each other about the problems they had been keeping to themselves. In the group they were told "*You have an important story to tell, and the public needs to hear it!*"

That "public" part is another aspect of Camus' "human crisis." In uncritically accepting the "culture of war," the public is taught to glorify violence, and to honor the sacrificed (victims) as "heroes," deserving of praise and admiration. Our children learn that it is "fitting and noble" to kill or be killed for

God and country!

The public needs to be awakened from the "American Dream" that is in reality a nightmare for millions of people, both at home and around the world.

The event ended with a call for people to "start calling out the architects of violence." Though it is veterans who are most deeply damaged, we are all affected by this moral injury.

They quoted Dr. King from his "Beyond Vietnam" speech:

"We haven't begun - as a nation - to deal with the poison that has dripped into our soul during these 20 years."

Sadly, a lot more poison has seeped in since then. But luckily for us, there are people showing us the way - through having the courage to face our problems squarely, think critically about them, and to communicate honestly and respectfully with each other in search for the changes that we need to be making.

Listen to a reading of Camus' speech on YouTube at:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aaFZJ_ymueA&t=22s

We'll post the link to the Moral Injury webinar on our website as soon as we get it!

SUPPORT THE AFGHANISTAN TRUTH-TELLERS!

For the past 20 years, the US lied to us about the war in Afghanistan. After more than 240,000 people killed and trillions of our tax dollars spent to enrich the US arms industry and US supported Afghan war lords, the war ended in bitter defeat for the US and its NATO allies.

Black sites used for torture such as at the Bagram Air Base were created, production of opium skyrocketed under the US occupation, and more than 90% of the population lived on less than \$2 per day.

Massive bombings and drone strikes were carried out, which we know today mainly struck civilians, but we were not told this at the time. The US government kept us all in the dark, but two brave people discovered some of the truth and let the world know.

Julian Assange and WikiLeaks leaked thousands of documents that described US war crimes in Afghanistan. These have been called the Afghan War Logs and were published, even in the Washington Post.

For this, the US wants to have Julian Assange extradited from the UK so he can be prosecuted by the US, where he faces up to 175 years in prison.

On the weekend of October 2-24, right before the US case for extradition is to be heard in a UK court, protests have been called to oppose extradition and support Julian Assange. Start organizing a protest in your community!

Information on the Assange defense, and soon on the protests, will be available on this website: <http://assangedefense.org>

Daniel Hale was in the military and part of the drone program that flew militarized drones in the Afghanistan war. Hale knew that most of those killed by the drone strikes were civilians. When he divulged this to the media, he was charged with violations of the Espionage Act and has been given nearly 4 years in prison. For more information on this and how you can help, go here: <https://standwithdanielhale.org>



JULIAN ASSANGE



DANIEL HALE

[HTTPS://UNAC.NOTOWAR.NET](https://unac.notowar.net)

Dissenters Disorientation: The New Student Activists

For me as a Second Wave feminist activist who attended undergraduate college in 1968-1972 and graduate school in 1972-1974, the Dissenters are a breath of fresh air as a national and international group of young people, mainly students, who are focused on grassroots peace activism: campaigning to have their campuses disinvest from at least the top military contractors; and abolishing police and prisons. They are militant, passionate, welcoming, and focused on a sustainable movement practicing self-care and caring for each other.

Back in 1968, I recall a "disorientation" when I first came to college, with events like a guerrilla theater session in which we were cautioned, "Don't strangle your roommate." It's fascinating to see how technology has opened new possibilities in the 53 years or so since then, while learning why it is wrong for us older activists to lament that there is "no peace movement out in the streets." The Dissenters are out to change that, as well to back disinvestment in the military on their own campuses and in their own communities, giving a new meaning to the adage that activism begins at home. A big theme of the Zoom-based conference was "Abolition," harking back to the movement to

abolish slavery in the U.S.A. and internationally. A successful education project in the Chicago area if I am correct, "No Cops Academy," was typical.

The friendliness and hospitality of the sessions were a hallmark of the Dissenters Disorientation, as well as the prominent role of People of Color and nonbinary people.

While the sessions took place on Zoom, the Discord site and application also made possible some excellent dialogue. The Dissenters Discord site is still up; the conference took place on the weekend of 3-5 September, and the opportunities for continuing contact between participants eased my blues at the ending of such an exciting and stimulating weekend. How fortunate I was to be invited!

The sessions included discussions of abolishing the police and military; direct action and canvassing; the top 5 military contractors and how to counter the economy of death; how to start a Dissenters chapter or crew; and some cultural events in the evenings with poetry and music.

Technology provided audio and video links between young activists in different parts of the world: one session included activists in Colombia, Palestine, and the Philippines. The Boycott, Divestment, and

Sanctions (BDS) campaign by Palestinian civil society and the world at large against Israeli apartheid, together with the history of Palestine/Israel, was the focus of a very informative session.

Zoom was used to do things very much in the spirit of the older movement familiar to me: thus breakout rooms provided the intimacy of a feminist small group session.

There were also new items of protest technology to learn about: I had never heard of a lockbox, one method of creating an effective blockade (a photo was shown of a civil disobedience event using these). The Movement for Black Lives was rightly a pervasive influence, and connections were drawn between abolishing the police and military. (In the Sacramento area, the militarization of the police has been a focus for Black Lives Matter demonstrations.)

Dissenters Disorientation was an energizing experience! I hope there will be chapters locally at places such as Sac State (CSUS), Sac City (SCC), Cosumnes (CRC), and American River (ARC). Or might there be a community-based chapter in the Sacramento area in a non-campus setting?

Dissenters is on the web:
<<http://wearedissenters.org>>.

September & October Peace Events

For more info, or to access any of the links on this page, go to www.sacpeace.com

October 2021

Friday, October 1 @ 11:00 am - AFRICOM at 13: Building the Popular Movement for Demilitarization and Anti-Imperialism in Africa.

The U.S. defeat in Afghanistan occurred years ago, but his defeat has had no impact on U.S. foreign-policy makers, who continue their destructive path in places like Yemen, Libya and Syria. President Joe Biden has eagerly accepted and ramped up... [Read More »](#)

Thursdays, October 7 & 14, @ 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm - Stop Wars Weekly Vigils
16th & J Sts. Sacramento. Those participating are asked to follow CDC guidelines and wear a mask and maintain social distance if not fully vaccinated. FMI: 916-448-7157, sacpeace@dcn.org.

Thursday, October 21 @ 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm - Support Palestinian Rights
Third Tuesday Vigil for Palestinian rights. 16th & J, Sacramento . Those participating are asked to follow CDC guidelines and wear a mask and maintain social distance if not fully vaccinated. End U.S. aid to Israel. & Boycott companies aiding Israel's abuses. FMI: 916-448-7157.

Thursday, October 28 @ 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm - Stop Wars Weekly Vigil
16th & J Sts. Sacramento. Those participating are asked to follow CDC guidelines and wear a mask and maintain social distance if not fully vaccinated. FMI: 916-448-7157, sacpeace@dcn.org.

November 2021

Thursday, November 4 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm - Webinar on Mountain Lions: Beloved Beasts

Register Now! Join us for a conversation with author Michelle Nijhuis as she discusses her book "Beloved Beasts" with The Mountain Lion Foundation's own Jessica Janson. In Beloved Beasts, acclaimed science journalist Michelle Nijhuis traces the history... [Read More »](#)

Thursdays, November 4 & 11 @ 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm - Stop Wars Weekly Vigils
16th & J Sts. Sacramento. Those participating are asked to follow CDC guidelines and wear a mask and maintain social distance if not fully vaccinated. FMI: 916-448-7157, sacpeace@dcn.org.

Thursday, November 18 @ 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm - Support Palestinian Rights
Third Tuesday Vigil for Palestinian rights. 16th & J, Sacramento . Those participating are asked to follow CDC guidelines and wear a mask and maintain social distance if not fully vaccinated. End U.S. aid to Israel. & Boycott companies aiding Israel's abuses. FMI: 916-448-7157.