



Sacramento Area Peace Action Newsletter

December
2021

Working to end U.S. militarism since 1983

909 12th St, Suite 118, Sacramento, CA 95814 916-448-7157 www.sacpeace.org

Let's Keep **Taking Action** for Peace!

By Mario Galván

The world today is a global battleground, on many levels. We waste our wealth on weapons and wars while millions suffer, starve, and are forced to flee their homes in order to survive. Between nations and international organizations, and even within nations themselves, there are conflicts and struggles for power, battles fought with words and ideas or with guns and bombs. Even within families, and sometimes with individual persons, peace is hard to find.

How can a small local group like ours hope to have an impact on a problem of such vast scale? The task seems impossible! But if we refuse to surrender to the seemingly impossible challenge, it *is* possible to move toward that distant and elusive goal, even if only one small step at a time.

Many years ago, a wise Chinese man wrote these words: "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." In that humble, yet positive spirit, we invite you to join us in taking another small step forward together in that long journey. And keep in mind, we're not just beginning this journey! As an organization dedicated to the quest

for peace in the world, let's not forget that we've come a long way, even if there is still a long way to go.

Who would have thought, back at the beginning of the "ban the bomb" movement in the 1950's, that today we would have an U.N.-sponsored international treaty prohibiting the manufacture and use of nuclear weapons? Sadly, nuclear-armed states, including the U.S., are refusing to honor the treaty; our work isn't over yet.



The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in England first met on February 17, 1958. Its emblem is still one of the most widely recognized symbols in the world today.

The "small step" we're asking you to take is just this: get involved with us again! We need to put the *action* back in Peace Action! We can't have a successful organization without the input and energy of our members, and even our board of directors could use an infusion of energy and enthusiasm.

If Peace Action is going to be viable, and make a difference in this country, and the world, we need all need to be active, to whatever extent we can. Every small action can help make a difference; a phone call, an email, or even an old-fashioned hand-written letter can touch someone, make a human contact, and pass a spark on to someone new. It's up to all of us to do our part, and no one can play your part but you.

Uncle Sam's Christmas presence...

UNHAPPY HOLIDAYS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

As people in the US celebrate the Holidays, shopping merrily, singing Christmas carols and religious hymns honoring the birth of the “Prince of Peace,” a dark cloud of suffering hangs over the land of his birth, the war-torn Middle East. The “dark angel” hovering there is CENTCOM, the US military’s “Central Command” for the region. This arrogant and externally-imposed military body presumes to control 4 million square miles, including 20 countries with 560 million inhabitants (almost double the population of the US!). And it’s only one of eleven such US military command units that circle the globe, and now extend into Outer Space as well.

As is clear to all now, with the retreats from Iraq and Afghanistan, the US involvement in the Middle East has led to one debacle after another. US wars in the region have driven 37 million people to flee their homes, creating a

global refugee crisis that is fanning the flames of a xenophobic right-wing political reaction that borders on (if not actually embracing) fascism. This is *not* the way to promote freedom and democracy!

These foreign follies, not only in the Middle East, but in the Americas, Asia, and now Africa are also creating “unhappy holidays” at home. The trillions of dollars spent overseas in the attempt to establish “full spectrum dominance” over the rest of the world has created poverty and misery at home. What a supreme irony that in “the richest country in the world” there are millions of homeless and hungry people who can’t afford to see a doctor when they’re sick! It looks like the US government is at war with us too; a class war.

This story on CENTCOM was inspired by an article online. You can read it all for yourself at: <https://tinyurl.com/yyk5mbkb>

Afghanistan and Beyond

By Brigitte Jaensch

Jan Egeland, secretary general of the Norwegian Refugee Council, was recently in Afghanistan and Iran. Iran has accepted at least 4 million Afghans and approximately 5,000 per day are trying to enter.

Egeland knows about the horrific situation in Afghanistan for the country’s forty million civilians. Afghans to whom Egeland spoke fear they will either starve or freeze to death this harsh winter, unless there’s an enormous aid operation. One estimate is that fourteen million Afghans are at risk of starvation, and 3.1 million children younger than five are already acutely malnourished.

The Biden administration plans \$64 million in aid, while preventing the release of \$9 billion of Afghan central bank assets because

the now-governing Taliban is a Specially Designated Global Terrorist group.

The \$64 million aid plan would be about \$4.55 per starvee (not counting the acutely malnourished children). The \$9 billion is about \$642.86 per starvee (not counting the acutely malnourished children).

The U.S. “the most powerful military in the world,” was defeated by people in sandals in a desperately impoverished country the size of Texas. In that part of the world, in addition to Afghanistan, the U.S. is also intervening in Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Jordan, Lebanon, Somalia, etc. as well as Israel, Saudi Arabia, UAE, etc.

Aren’t we *WAY* overdue for a deep, serious and reflective discussion about the U.S. government’s policies in the Middle East?

*Don't Miss This Important Event!
Mark Your Calendars!*

SacPeace Annual Member Meeting and Board Election January 22, 2022

This will be a very important meeting for us! This board election is past due. Our bylaws state that elections are held in even-numbered years, so there should have been one last year, in 2020. There are currently two empty seats on the board, and several other members may be stepping down. The board urgently needs new members!

This time, the board will not be presenting a "slate" of candidates. We will be soliciting nominations; any member in good standing may make a nomination, including self-nominations. We hope to have a field of candidates that exceeds the number of seats on the board (9), so that this can be a *real* election, not just a rubber-stamping of a group of pre-selected persons.

We hope to have a "hybrid" meeting (in-person *and* online), as some folks are still wary of Covid. The January newsletter will provide the finalized place and time.



Julian Assange

Persecuted For Revealing Hidden Truths

This story was excerpted (and edited drastically!) from an article published on December 10th by Glenn Greenwald

Assange is being criminalized for releasing classified information that made US war crimes public, but that's not the only reason they want to see him in prison. Biden is eager to see Assange punished and silenced for life for publishing documents during the 2016 election that revealed corruption at the DNC, showing how they cheated to help Hillary Clinton defeat Bernie Sanders in the primary.

Press freedom groups denounced the U.K.'s recent ruling approving Assange's extradition to the US. Reporters Without Borders issued a statement saying:

"We condemn today's decision, which will prove historic for all the wrong reasons. We fully believe that Julian Assange has been targeted for his contributions to journalism, and we defend this case because of its dangerous implications for the future of journalism and press freedom."

It's difficult to avoid the conclusion that Julian Assange is not only imprisoned for the crime of journalism, which exposed serious crimes and lies by the west's most powerful security state agencies, but he is also a classic political prisoner.

Assange is a pioneer of modern journalism, a visionary who saw that a major vulnerability of corrupt power centers in the digital age was mass data leaks that could expose their misconduct.

Read original at: <https://tinyurl.com/yc8rcrvf>

Dear Manager,
I'm not buying it!
Here's why:

Not buying Pillsbury!



Saying NO:

- ❖ to a Pillsbury factory in an illegal Israeli settlement
- ❖ to illegally exploiting natural resources in occupied territory
- ❖ to the theft of Palestinian land and resources

No Dough for the Occupation!

www.BoycottPillsbury.org

January Peace Events

Go to sacpeace.org for *hot links* to any inactive links below!

Thursday, January 13 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.

Thursday, January 13 5:00 pm Webinar: Organizing White People to Stop Another Jan 6th

This is a showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) webinar. Click to register.

One year later, we're still asking ourselves, "How did January 6th happen? And what can we do to stop this kind of thing from happening again?" We know that the majority of actors in the insurrection were white and were motivated by a white nationalist and far-Right agenda. And these groups are continuing to recruit and build in white communities. Looking towards the 2022 midterm elections and beyond, for those of us who are white, it's our responsibility to be offering white people a better alternative. Join SURJ to hear about how we organize to stop the rise of white supremacist violence and build political power for justice- and how you can join in the work.

Thursday, January 13 6:30 pm SURJ Community Meeting

Showing up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Register here. FMI: surjsacramento@gmail.com

Monday, Jan 17 - Feb 27 World Beyond War Online course: War and the Environment

Begins: Jan 17, 9:00 am - Ends: February 27, 2022, 12:00 am. Click to register.

Host Contact Info: Phill: education@worldbeyondwar.org

Monday, Jan 17 10:00 am - 3:00 pm Martin Luther King Jr Caravan and Wellness Fair

Find out more »

Thursday, January 20, 2022 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm Palestine Rights Vigil

Third Thursday Vigil for Palestinian rights. 16th & J, Sacramento. Those participating are asked to follow CDC guidelines, 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, January 27 @ 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Mountain Lions in California – from North to

South, and One Researcher's Journey to Help Conserve Them. Webinar hosted by Mountain Lion Foundation. Register here. FMI: info@mountainlion.org

Thursday, January 27, 2022 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm Stop Wars Weekly Vigil

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