



Planted by the Waters

Spring 2016

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The Color of Empire *report on EPI's Fall Dinner*

At our fall 2015 dinner EPI presented a challenging panel on "The Color of Empire: At Home and Abroad." We recalled that Dr. King challenges us to conquer "the giant triplets of racism, materialism, and militarism." The four panelists spoke on their work to end racism in this country and to oppose U.S. foreign policy founded on racism.

Devonté Jackson, Bay Area organizer for Black Alliance for Just Immigration, opened the evening with his work at the "intersection of racial justice and immigrant rights." The phrase the Color of Empire, leads us to look at global policing, and Devonté's work opposing Urban Shield.

Urban Shield is a training of police and emergency responders.

A number of groups representing various communities of color have come together to challenge these militarized trainings as well as the Islamophobic and anti-Black scenarios of the trainings. Weapons manufacturers use the trainings to promote special weapons and surveillance technologies. Furthermore, the U.S. is leading the way in training other repressive states in how to police their countries. Israeli military are also involved in these trainings of both U.S. police and those of other countries.

Devonté pointed out that not only are people of Black and Brown communities being killed, but they are also being locked up in disproportionate numbers both here and around the world.

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Remembering David McPhail *by Glenda Pawsey*

I miss my friend David McPhail. I miss him sitting next to me in the pew at St. John's Presbyterian Church. I miss hearing him sing, I miss the prayers he shared. I miss him at Mission and Justice meetings where he always had a long list of causes to respond to. I miss him at vigils, at marches, at demonstrations. His passion for social justice, his kindness and caring for all were so inspiring.

David reflected the Spirit in talk and action. Into our awareness and action David brought School of the Americas Watch (SOAW), the Greater Richmond Improvement Project shelter (GRIP), the East Bay Interfaith Immigration Coalition (EBIIC) with its monthly vigils at the West County Detention Center and its work with immigrants.

David's passion for the Spirit was so infectious. He said that his challenge was "Showing Up and Paying Attention." And that he did. We are all richer for it!

Good Friday Worship & Witness *Empire and the Cross* *Sowing the Seeds of Hope*

March 25, Good Friday, 6:45 AM, S. Vasco Rd. & Patterson Pass Rd., outside the Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab

Livermore Lab was founded to develop the hydrogen bomb. New weapons of mass destruction are still designed there. For more than 30 years, people of faith and others concerned about the proliferation of nuclear weapons have gathered there on Good Friday.

In 1981 Archbishop Hunthausen wrote:

Nuclear arms protect privilege and exploitation. Giving them up would mean our having to give up economic power over other peoples. Peace and justice go together. On the path we now follow, our economic policies toward other countries require nuclear weapons. Giving up the weapons would mean giving up more than our means of global terror. It would mean giving up the reasons for such terror — our privileged place in the world.

Death by torture on the cross was used by the Roman empire to discourage slave uprisings and revolts. Nuclear threat serves a similar purpose for the U.S.

Good Friday this year falls on the day after the anniversary of the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero. We will hear Rev. Deborah Lee who works with faith communities to work for the fair treatment and dignity of immigrants.

The service includes liturgical dance led by Carla DeSola. At the main gate, there will be chanting for peace, liturgical dance and an opportunity for nonviolent acts of witness. At the Stations of the Cross on the way to the gate we will remember some of the many struggles for justice in this world of empire and weapons of mass destruction.

For more information, visit www.epicalc.org. You may also phone 510-990-0374 or 510-654-4983.

After William Blake *by Claire J. Baker*

If, as Blake writes,
"Peace is the human dress,"
then these war-days
we are clothed in rags and tatters
not befitting the divine human form
which Blake calls Love.

To be found in EPI's book *On the Edge of Peace*

Color of Empire, *continued from page 1*

Deborah Lee, of the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, focused on her belief that all persons are sacred across all borders. Racism and empire are the founding sins of this country — the founding conquest of this country, from Plymouth Rock across the continent and beyond into Asia. Deborah also works with Women for Genuine Security. She asked us when did we first become aware of empire. Many people said “Vietnam”. One strong voice said “the Korean War” another “Nicaragua”. “Vandenburg Air Force Base and the plight of the Marshallese”. “Military bases.” “Being a conscientious objector in the military town of San Diego.” These were just some responses.

Deborah shared her own story, as a student in Berkeley becoming aware of our country’s intervention in Central America. She then learned of the U.S. intervention in her mother’s home country of Indonesia in 1965 which forced her family to leave. Deborah had just returned from leading a religious delegation to Honduras where they saw the root causes of migration — U.S. military aid, coups, and the repression of indigenous peoples who are trying to fight mining companies. The U.S. is also working to push people off their land to put in hydro-electric plants and is establishing military bases to protect the “energy corridor” which is shunting electrical power north from those plants.

Agribusiness is still a big factor in the misuse of land as it has been for decades.

Deborah is very concerned about U.S. posturing in Asia. The U.S. has over 700 foreign bases. At the end of World War Two, the U.S. took over twenty percent of the land of Okinawa, which is just one percent of the land mass of Japan. Okinawans face racism in their own country where the national government does not honor their governor’s refusal to give a permit for the construction yet another U.S. base. Okinawans have said to Deborah that they have been devastated by war and it hurts them that their land is being used for war against other people.

Pierre Labossiere spoke about Haiti, to which he led a religious delegation, making the connections between people in the Bay Area and the brothers and sisters in Haiti. EPI’s Lee Williamson and Carolyn Scarr were part of that delegation. Pierre connected that solidarity work with EPI’s work at Livermore opposing the nuclear weapons and the years of support for the communities of the indigenous people in the U.S. It is important to destroy the mindset of conquest. The spirit of the conquistador prevails today. Bush called it right when he called it a “crusade”.

Haiti is commonly called the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, but in fact the people of Haiti have been among the most robbed and impoverished in the Western Hemisphere. People don’t generally know that Haitian volunteers fought in support of the struggle for U.S. independence. The history of the people in Haiti is like a dismembered body, like a crime scene; we are trying to piece together the facts of the country.

The color of empire is the story of people of different colors who have been kidnapped, colonized, forced to work like beasts of burden to make money for a little clique to live filthy rich. That’s what we have to this day and have perpetuated around the world.

In Haiti in 1791 the African slaves rose up and broke the chains of slavery, defeating the forces of Napoleon, Britain and Spain in 1804. This shows that when the people are

determined to win their freedom — “We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes.” Right now the empire looks pretty mighty but with people in this room — EPI, Black Lives Matter, The Black Alliance for Just Immigration — many of us can bring humanity to rule this world again so we don’t have to live in empire. Enslaved Africans in chains going up against the mighty armies of the time and winning! — That’s why this history of Haiti is not told. Haiti became a “bad example”, inspiring African slaves in the U.S. Thomas Jefferson looked at Haiti as a “pest” which had to be kept confined to the island.

The same policies are still going on. The struggle that is going on today in Haiti is that long ongoing struggle of the Haitian people who are refusing to allow the definitions of imperialism that they are nobodies, that they are inferior, that they have no history, that they were savages in Africa and that they continue to be savages in the Americas.

Pierre noted the media blackout in newspapers such as the New York Times of the big demonstrations of people in Haiti demanding their democratic right to fair elections. Shameful, on this fiftieth anniversary of the Voting Rights Law, President Obama’s administration is bowing down to racist voices that are promoting the idea that Haitian people shouldn’t have the right to vote in their own country. We have to rise up and say “Hell, no. We won’t accept it. We won’t accept it here and we won’t accept it in Haiti either.”

In the 19th Century, the two things that were foremost on the minds of the Haitian people were the abolition of slavery around the world and the end of colonialism. Haiti supported Simon Bolivar in his struggle to free South American countries from colonialism. Haiti has never backed down from that struggle. As a result Haiti was misrepresented and given a bad press which continues to this day. The struggle in Haiti now calls for our solidarity. When we win in Haiti, everybody else wins. When we win in the U.S. everybody wins.

Cuban-born Silvia Brandon-Pérez told us that after the sinking of the Maine, the U.S. sought to gain Cuba as a point from which to dominate the Caribbean and other areas, wanting to annex Cuba as it did Puerto Rico.

The Cuban revolution began in 1953. Dictator Batista had a corps of torturers trained in the U.S. After the revolution Batista and his torturers got asylum in Miami. Silvia remembers in the early days of the revolution, when she was nine, people came out of their houses and showed how they had been tortured — people with their hands cut off, women with their breasts cut off. . . . It is from that history that she came to work with School of the Americas Watch, both as an organizer and as an interpreter.

Indigenous communities are being disappeared around the world because the empire wants the resources in their land. Silvia recalls that Jesus — whom she thinks of now as Joshua — was a subversive Jew who was fighting against the occupying Roman empire. That’s why he was crucified.

All connected — human rights for prisoners, immigrant rights. If you are of color you have less rights.

Silvia is concerned about the impact on Cuba of U.S. “improved relations.” In 1961 Fidel came to the U.S. No one would talk to him except in Harlem. Cuba has been providing free doctors around the world, giving free medical training. The U.S. still has an embargo against Cuba.

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Berta Cáceres, Presente! *Hear the Cry of the Earth, the Spirit of the River, and the Cry of the Poor*

U.S. Religious Delegation to the Funeral of Berta Cáceres
Please add your Name & Solidarity:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Fk6dS6eehoVIZ5kR9Knc0DRrd8GVS5EOL7WuioW1Dqs/viewform?c=0&w=1>

*"Hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor."
- Pope Francis, Laudato Si', 49.*

*"Berta: You are present in the soul of our rivers
and in the spirit of our birds." -3/3/16*

On the night of March 3, Honduran environmental and indigenous leader Berta Cáceres was brutally murdered in her home. As co-founder of the Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH), Berta had led the Lenca indigenous communities to fight for the integrity of their indigenous territories. She was a 2015 recipient of the Goldman Environmental Prize, awarded each year in recognition of the courageous efforts by persons from around the world to defend and protect the rivers, forests and lands from devastation due to destructive practices of governments and transnational corporations.

For years, Berta and the Lenca communities fought to block the Agua Zarca hydroelectric dam. She had been persecuted and received numerous death threats for her work. Her murder is one of over 100 unprosecuted murders since 2010 of organizers working to defend the lands and rivers so that the Honduran people can have sustainable opportunities and not have to migrate.

As representatives of faith communities in the United States, we traveled to La Esperanza, Honduras for the funeral to express our solidarity and respect for her, her family and Lenca communities. We join our voices with the many environmental and human rights organizations, and faith communities around the world to protest her murder and to commemorate her extraordinary witness in defense of life, and for the protection of the sacred rivers, forests, lands and communities from further desecration.

Thousands gathered in her home town for the funeral in an incredibly moving display of tribute to her life and an equally passionate cry of indignation at her murder, which many believe is linked to the transnational hydroelectric and mining companies which affect nearly half the territory of Honduras. Since the 2009 military coup, a culture of impunity, violence and racism reigns, which targets indigenous and Afro-descendant communities when they protect creation from further destruction.

We stood alongside Fr. Ismael Moreno Coto, SJ and other religious leaders who have accompanied the struggle to defend Mother Earth, La Madre Tierra.

We join our voices to the call issued by Berta's family, by COPINH and the Lenca people she defended, by environmental and human rights organizations in Honduras and around the world, and communities of faith for:

1. An exhaustive, independent and international investigation into Berta's murder, and those responsible be brought to justice;
2. An end to the D.E.S.A.-backed Agua Zarca hydroelectric dam, and hundreds of concessions to corporations for mining and hydroelectric projects, tourist development and agribusiness that ignore the rights of indigenous and other affected communities to prior consultation, destroy the environment, and displace entire communities from their ancestral lands.
3. An end to the intimidation and attacks targeting COPINH and other activists, human rights defenders, and all who exercise their right to peacefully protest and work for a more just society.
4. An immediate end to all U.S. assistance to Honduran security forces, as it contributes to the climate of violence, corruption and impunity; and an end to U.S. support for the Alliance for Prosperity, which promotes large scale infrastructure projects that benefit corporations, but fails to address the structural problems of poverty.
5. Guarantee the physical integrity and safe return to his country of Mexican environmentalist and journalist Gustavo Castro Soto, who was a witness to the attack on Berta. Gustavo works with Otros Mundos Chiapas and the Mesoamerican Movement against Extractive Mining.

A Call for Faith Solidarity:

We appeal to all people of faith and conscience to stand in solidarity by:

- honoring the spirituality, culture and rights of indigenous communities and Mother Earth;
- holding our own U.S. government accountable for the role it plays perpetrating policies that undermine peace, social and economic justice; and
- responding to the request from our Honduran sisters and brothers to organize delegations and accompany them as they continue the struggle to protect the environment in the name of Berta Cáceres.

Hear the Cry of the Earth, the Spirit of the River, and the Cry of the Poor!

Delegation Members:

Rev. Deborah Lee, Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity & United Church of Christ
Scott Wright, Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach
Jose Artiga, SHARE Foundation
Rev. David Funkhouser, Honduras Accompaniment Project (PROAH)

Supporters:

Eileen Purcell, SHARE Foundation Advisory Board & Co-founder Sanctuary Movement
Jean Stokan, Sisters of Mercy of the America - Institute Justice Team

Please Join us and add your Name & Solidarity:

visit the link shown at beginning of this statement.

For questions or more information, contact:

Rev. Deb Lee, dlee@im4humanintegrity.org

Haiti Rises

A Time for Solidarity

by Nia Imara and Robert Roth

“Reflecting on struggles everywhere, we came to the conclusion that a people can't be sovereign if they don't have the right to vote. No people can retain their dignity if their vote does not count.”

From a Statement Issued by 68 Haitian Grassroots Organizations on January 22, 2016

The voice of Haiti's popular movement at this critical period in the country's history has never been clearer. For the past several months, since the discredited legislative and presidential elections of last August and October, mass vibrant protests for the right to a free and fair vote and against foreign intervention have been a relentless force, in the face of heavily-armed and well-financed adversaries and mounting repression. The influx of articles and editorials in recent weeks by leading U.S. media outlets depicts the situation in Haiti as a confused, incomprehensible morass of violence and dysfunction, with all sides being equally unreasonable in their demands. This misleading portrayal of Haitian politics and culture — indeed, of Haitian people — by American mainstream media is not new. Rather, it is a continuation of a historical pattern of obfuscating the underlying reasons for the grievances of Haiti's mass movement, which has consistently denounced foreign intervention and the suppression of Haiti's sovereignty.

The popular revolt in Haiti has forced the postponement of the January 24 presidential run-off election, to the dismay of the U.S. State Department and the current Haitian government of Michel Martelly, whose handpicked candidate had been declared the frontrunner. And now, on February 7, it has forced the end of the rule of Martelly himself, who has had to step down rather than oversee the next stage of the electoral process.

These are major victories for the people's movement in Haiti. But already there are signs that the next round will be just as difficult as the fight has been already. The popular movement has made it clear that they have no interest in a top-down solution that excludes the participation and voices of the tens of thousands of Haitians who have risked their lives nearly every day in the fight for democracy. They have raised the fundamental question: How can elections proceed to a second round if the first round was hopelessly illegitimate? How can elections move forward without a thorough investigation and repair of the fraud that already took place? These are the critical issues being fought over today as Haitians celebrate the end of the Martelly dictatorship.

Background to the Revolt:

Twelve Years Since the Coup, Twelve Years of Occupation

The revolt in Haiti has not emerged overnight. It is now almost twelve years since the U.S.-orchestrated coup that overthrew the democratically elected government of

Nia Imara is a member of Haiti Action Committee, a San Francisco Bay Area based organization. Robert Roth is a co-founder of the Haiti Action Committee, and teaches high school in San Francisco. Haiti Action Committee is on FACEBOOK and @HaitiAction1 The website of HAC is www.haitisolidarity.net

President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and removed over 8,000 elected officials, and exiled, jailed, raped and murdered thousands of supporters of the *Fanmi Lavalas* Party. The coup was enforced by a United Nations military occupation that still exists today.

It has been five years since Michel Martelly, a supporter of the brutal Duvalier dictatorships and their death squads, was selected as president; only 17% of eligible Haitian voters turned out in an election that excluded the most popular political party, *Fanmi Lavalas*. Hillary Clinton, then the U.S. Secretary of State, flew to Haiti to dictate to Haitian officials that Martelly be placed in the election runoff after initial results had left him only in third place. His U.S.-backed reign has featured one corruption scandal after another, intimidation of the judicial system, the return of death squads, torture of political prisoners, selling off of oil and mineral rights to foreign corporations, and rule by decree.

Haitians have had enough of this. As they watched this latest election being stolen and a Martelly minion emerge as the leading vote getter, they took to the streets by the tens of thousands. As they saw ballot boxes burned and “observers” with 900,000 government-issued credentials vote over and over again, they declared the election an “electoral coup.” As they were turned away from one polling place after another, and told that they were not eligible to vote, they declared fraud.

While they joined the demonstrators in the streets, *Fanmi Lavalas* and its presidential candidate, Dr. Maryse Narcisse also filed a petition with the National Office of Electoral Litigation to challenge the results. All major opposition condemned the fraudulent elections and announced a boycott of the scheduled presidential run-off on January 24. As the demonstrations grew in size and scope, the Haitian government responded with increasing violence. Police fired into peaceful protests, and beat and tear-gassed those in the streets. Much of this has been met with silence by the international media.

When it comes to Haiti, the United States' homegrown illness—racism—is cast outward. Just as the voting rights of Black people have been abused throughout American history, the U.S. Government, through financial and diplomatic coercion, abuses the voting rights of Haitians. Just as the basic human rights of Black people—decent education, housing, healthcare, physical safety—are regularly undermined here, the U.S. Government has directly and indirectly made efforts to extinguish fundamental civil and human rights in Haiti. Just as the State of Michigan forced the majority Black population of Flint to drink contaminated water while the EPA did nothing, so did United Nations troops dump their excrement into Haiti's water supply with impunity, bringing cholera to the country with no reparations. The U.S. Government—from the Bush Administrations, to the Clinton and Obama Administrations—have routinely demonstrated, as a matter of policy, that Black lives matter in Haiti as little as they do in America.

The State Department: Talking Democracy, Promoting Fraud

The U.S. role throughout the electoral crisis is as predictable as it was after the 2010 earthquake, when the State Department sent then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to handpick a well-known misogynist and supporter of the Duvalier dictatorship, Michel Martelly, for president. With

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one hand, the U.S. State Department denounces the “violence” surrounding the elections, while the other hand has never ceased stoking the fires of electoral fraud and corruption. With one face, the U.S. State Department encourages fair, free elections and discourages voter intimidation; with the other, it upholds electoral fraud and threatens the leadership of Haiti’s most popular movement.

The U.S. State Department has been the chief promoter of both the Martelly government and the fraudulent elections that Haitians have called an “electoral coup.” It has maintained its pro-Martelly stance despite the reports of independent human rights investigators that Martelly’s PHTK Party intimidated voters, stole ballots, burned ballot boxes and attempted to terrorize voters and suppress voter turnout in both the August 9 and October 25 legislative and presidential elections.

Now that the popular movement has finally brought these fraudulent elections to a temporary halt, the State Department has made its displeasure even more clear. On January 24, it issued a warning to demonstrators in Haiti against “electoral intimidation, destruction of property, and violence,” saying this runs “counter to Haiti’s democratic principles.” This is the same racist and paternalistic tone it has always used in Haiti—from the time of Haiti’s Revolution, to the U.S. invasion and occupation of Haiti from 1915-1934, to the two coups that overthrew the democratically elected Aristide administrations in 1991 and 2004. This from the same State Department that was silent when peaceful protesters were killed, tear-gassed, beaten or arrested, or when Martelly’s agents terrorized voters and burned down polling places.

Hidden From The Headlines: *Fanmi Lavalas* and Dr. Maryse Narcisse

In addition, there has been near-silence about the remarkable campaign run by *Fanmi Lavalas* and its presidential candidate, Dr. Maryse Narcisse. A medical doctor and long-time *Lavalas* militant, Dr. Narcisse helped establish health clinics in rural communities. At the time of the 1991 coup, like many Aristide supporters, she went into the streets to protest the military and was briefly forced into hiding. When President Aristide was reelected in 2000, she joined his administration. Exiled after the 2004 coup, she returned in 2006 to help rebuild *Lavalas* and continues to serve as Aristide’s spokesperson. Day after day throughout this campaign, she has been in the streets with the people. Her campaign has emphasized “dignity”—that the Haitian people cannot be bought or sold, that, as President Aristide has said, “If we don’t protect our dignity, our dignity will escape us.”

The progressive achievements and agenda of *Lavalas*—setting up health clinics in poor urban and rural communities, advancing the fight against HIV/AIDS, promoting equality for women, literacy education for all Haitians, living wage employment, taxing the rich, and abolishing the Haitian Army—have made it the party of the poor majority in Haiti. The organized collective of dozens of grassroots organizations that compose *Fanmi Lavalas* make it much different from the elite political parties we are familiar with in the U.S. *Fanmi Lavalas* grew out of a nationwide mass movement to force out the American-backed dictator, Jean Claude “Baby Doc” Duvalier, and to instill truly participatory democracy after years of rule by the elite and foreign intervention. In 1986, after decades of sacrifice and

struggle against repressive regimes, Haitians succeeded in forcing out Duvalier and bringing about the nation’s first democratic elections. It was a hard-fought, hard-won victory when the great majority voted into presidential office Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 1990.

Since then, the U.S. organized two coup d’états against the Aristide administration, which again received an overwhelming mandate in 2000. Following each coup—in 1991 and 2004—the U.S. Government helped to install a military occupation to suppress resistance, namely, *Lavalas*. In 1991, the U.S. lent its support to paramilitary groups, many of whom were part of the Duvalier military—since disbanded by *Lavalas*—and the Haitian police. In 2004, the U.S., with the support of France and Canada, threw its full weight behind the United Nations, which, in Haiti, is an occupying force, not a peacekeeping mission. Over the last 12 years, that occupation, known as MINUSTAH, has overseen the attempt to destroy Haiti’s popular movement.

Lavalas still has a target on its back. In an article published by Reuters on January 26, 2016 an unnamed Congressional source told the news agency that, “The Obama Administration would be worried if he [Aristide] were playing an important role. They’re not thrilled with Aristide’s forces coming back.” This should be no surprise, given the leading role *Lavalas* has played in the democratic movement. After all, in 2011, it was President Obama who made a phone call to South African President Jacob Zuma, warning him not to allow President Aristide and his family to board a South African plane and come back to Haiti. When Aristide returned, he was greeted by thousands of people at the airport and then at his home. Once again, Haitians—and in this case the people of South Africa—did not obey.

What Next? A Time For Solidarity

During this campaign, Dr. Narcisse emerged as a formidable candidate. If there is a full investigation of the last bogus election, as *Lavalas* and grassroots organizations are demanding, the abundance of popular support for Dr. Narcisse is certain to manifest in the ballot box. If she ends up winning, she would be the first elected woman president in Haiti’s history.

That will only be possible if a transparent and credible process takes place over these next months. The “electoral coup,” after all, stole votes from candidates who represented popular organizations and parties. Any new election that repeats this process will be a new form of theft. With U.S. officials already decrying the “violence” of demonstrators and warning against new protests, and reports circulating of “solutions” that leave out the representatives of the very grassroots organizations and parties that have been at the forefront of the fight for free and fair elections, this is a moment for vigilance in Haiti. In their recent statement, 68 grassroots organizations in Haiti state their position very clearly:

“We say NO, WE WILL NOT OBEY ILLEGITIMATE OFFICIALS. Self-defense is a legitimate universal law. Civil-Disobedience is an accepted universal right when a people confronts an illegal regime. The right to elect a government is universally accepted as a way for a people to protect its existence. Today, confronted by the danger presented by local and international colonialists, the Haitian people have started a RESISTANCE FOR EXISTENCE movement. They ask for people to people solidarity from everywhere on the planet.”

We should heed their call.

The U.S. and Its Continued Violation of the Rights of Immigrants

by Silvia Brandon-Pérez

I have been presenting “Know your rights” immigration workshops in Spanish every week, and sometimes twice a week, since the announcement of upcoming ICE raids. ICE is the appropriate acronym for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which replaced the Immigration Service after the Department of Homeland Security was created, post September 11th. The whole system is terrible and completely broken.

I would like to give the people I speak to some hope. I speak to mostly working mothers in school meetings, or domestic workers, or other people who are non-white and non-prosperous, but who work very hard to support their families and don't have any health care or other safety nets if they get sick or encounter trouble. I also attempt to leave politics out of it... This, most days, is impossible.

Recently while reading *Esperanza Rising*, a young adult novel written by Pam Muñoz Ryan and set in California during the time of the Great Depression, I came across the tale of the Mexican “repatriation” during that period, a little-known historical fact. Muñoz Ryan says in her author's note at the end of the book that the Deportation Act of March 1929 gave counties the power to send great numbers of Mexicans back to Mexico. In LA, for example, county officials organized “deportation trains” and the Immigration Bureau made “sweeps” in the San Fernando Valley, arresting anyone “who looked Mexican” whether or not they were U.S. citizens or were in the U.S. legally. Many of these people who were deported had been born in the U.S. and had never visited Mexico... To quote Muñoz Ryan:

The numbers of Mexicans deported during this so-called “voluntary repatriation” was greater than the Native American removals of the nineteenth century and greater than the Japanese-American relocations during World War II.

With Donald Trump talking about deportation, this topic has come to the fore. Francisco Balderrama, co-author with Raymond Rodriguez of the *Decade Of Betrayal: Mexican Repatriation in the 1930s*, speaks about the forceful deportation of as many as a million people, who had to leave with only the clothes on their back. As many as sixty percent of them may have been born in the U.S., but this made no difference.

The irony is that in many of the states where Mexicans lived they were already here. As many of the elders state, the borders crossed them during the so-called Mexican-American War, fought over the annexation of the Mexican land which is now Texas by the U.S. This dispute was begun because Mexico had outlawed slavery, and the U.S. settlers who came to Mexico brought their black slaves to do the work. The U.S. fought a dirty war of imperial conquest and took away what amounted to half of the land of Mexico, including California, Texas, and parts of Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Nevada. In order to make it appear legal, a token payment of \$15 million was made by the U.S.

Today we are deporting children who have come to our country to seek protection for their lives, and we are holding them in pens much like animals, and are deporting them frequently without a hearing. In addition to our treatment of them in the “legal system” of deportation, they

have frequently been victims of abuse by ICE and border patrol agents. The ACLU states on its page on the subject:

The immigration system contains an unnecessary and unconstitutional lack of rights that is unheard of in the criminal justice system. No one should be in immigration detention without a constitutionally adequate bond hearing in which the government bears the burden of showing that detention is necessary—to protect against danger to the community or flight risk—and that no alternative release conditions would suffice.

The United States also has mandatory and disproportionate deportation laws that needlessly separate families. Reform should restore discretion to consider the equities in every individual's case. Reform should also ensure access to counsel in immigration proceedings, as effective judicial review is an integral component of due process. More than half of individuals in immigration court proceedings are currently unrepresented, including 84 percent of those in detention.

NPR reports on abuse at immigrant detention centers:

A new report on conditions in immigrant detention centers around the country finds a systematic and ongoing failure by the Obama administration to adequately inspect facilities run by public and private contractors. The report alleges a pattern of basic human rights violations leading to deaths, suicides, violence and sexual assaults in facilities that were given a clean bill of health by federal inspectors.

Those are among the conclusions drawn by the National Immigration Justice Center and Detention Watch Network based on a review of government inspection documents for 105 detention facilities. The documents were made public only after three years of litigation under the Freedom of Information Act. The report is called “Lives in Peril: How Ineffective Inspections Make ICE Complicit in Immigration Detention Abuse.” <http://immigrantjustice.org/lives-peril-how-ineffective-inspections-make-ice-licit-detention-center-abuse-0>

Mother Jones in June of 2014 wrote about the unaccompanied immigrant children, and a complaint filed with the Department of Homeland Security on behalf of 116 unaccompanied minors, prepared by the ACLU and four other civil rights organizations. The complaint details claims of physical, sexual, and verbal abuse directed at children—some as young as five years old—at the hands of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), often after the children fled violence or threats in their home countries.

About a quarter of the children reported some form of physical abuse by CBP officials, including “sexual assault, beatings, and the use of stress positions.” More than half reported verbal abuse and denial of medical care. The children are not guaranteed legal counsel after being apprehended.

Please call the White House comments line every day of the week — and have your friends call, and ask for an executive order during the last days of this administration, calling for the granting of Temporary Protected Status to all children in detention, and their immediate release without bond. The number to call is 202-456-1111 and he gets his messages at the end of the day, after 5 p.m. EST.

Water, Water Everywhere, But Not For Palestinians

by Vivian Zelaya

A few weeks ago, when a friend returned from a trip to the West Bank, I asked her, "How was it?"

"Everyone is dehydrated!" was her response.

Two unpleasant memories immediately invaded my consciousness. The first was my own experience with dehydration-induced illnesses. The second was the sight of black water tanks on the roofs of Palestinian homes. I remembered, on my last trip to Palestine, explaining to a friend that one could identify Palestinian homes, not only in the West Bank, but also Israel, by the black water tanks on their roofs. Jewish Israeli roofs did not have water tanks. They did not need them because their allotment of water was much greater than the inadequate amounts Palestinians received. I also remembered seeing the Palestinian water tanks, sometimes riddled with bullet holes, the result of Israeli snipers maliciously diverting their boredom.

Water is a serious issue here in California and in many parts of the world. However, to my knowledge, there is no place where it is more cruelly used as an "under the radar" tool of oppression than in the West Bank, except for Gaza. Recently, I heard the parents of Rachel Corrie speak. They reminded us all that in 2003 Rachel and other members of the International Solidarity Movement often slept at water wells in Gaza hoping that their presence as internationals would protect the wells from destruction and poisoning.

During the frequent bombing assaults on Gaza in recent years, much of the water and sanitation infrastructure was targeted and destroyed. According to the World Bank, Israel's ongoing blockade of Gaza prevents entry of the necessary materials to repair this infrastructure. Nearly all of the more or less intact water and sewage pumps left in Gaza cannot function due to lack of necessary fuel and electricity. I often wonder how many illnesses and deaths result from this lack of potable water.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) the minimum recommendation for humans is 100 liters of clean water per person per day. In the Gaza strip actual water use is 91 liters of very poor quality of water per person per day. In the West Bank Palestinians average 72 liters per day, while Israeli settlers water the lawns, their gardens and swim in their pools with 300 liters per person per day. In the Jordan Valley, according to Israeli figures, settlers get 487 liters per capita per day and in the northern Dead Sea area the figure is as high as 727 liters per capita per day. In some West Bank areas, Palestinian villages receive much less water, in some cases only 20 liters per person per day.

Water delivery to West Bank Palestinians is unreliable, hence the rooftop cisterns, which settlers and soldiers alike are free to destroy with impunity. Palestinians pay higher prices than Israelis for the water, which Israel takes from West Bank aquifers, and sells back to them at inflated prices.

Of course we know that inadequate clean water leads to illness, an un-provable form of "below the radar" ethnic cleansing. Who can prove that a single illness or death is the result of someone's water tank being shot full of holes or of the difficulty and expense of procuring potable water?

Maybe a statistical study could show cause and effect, but who is funding that kind of study for Palestinians? Even if someone could prove intentionality on the part of Israel, would that dissuade the Israeli government from continuing the practice? After all, the wall and the settlements are designed to appropriate the aquifers beneath them. I remember hearing Dr. Laura Nader on the radio, the last time Israel invaded Lebanon. She believed that Israel's goal was to expropriate the Latani River in Lebanon. Is it only about getting enough water for Israelis? Maybe. Is it about ensuring plenty of water for Israelis, while depriving Palestinians of adequate amounts of water for health? Most likely it is.

This is happening while the U.S. Congress continues to fund the occupation at ever-increasing amounts and the U.S. administration continues to shield Israel's cruel deeds with the power of its UN veto.

It seems that the only hope for Palestinian survival is that those humane individuals remaining on the planet will wholeheartedly embrace and implement Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (bdsmovement.org) until "Jim Crow" Israel abandons the occupation and comes to realize that Palestinians are people too.

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painting the market

by Carolyn S. Scarr

clear skies sun shining good for tomatoes
cluster bombs frag the market —
fruit, vegetables
organs, limbs
strewn across street scene
painting it in blood

I remember guava bombs.
What fruit is this?

To be found in EPI's book *On the Edge of Peace*

Highest-and-Best Use (HBU)

by Rod Repke

Highest-and-Best use of real estate is a fairly complex issue. This short essay is, in a sense, a supplement to Nancy Taylor's essay "Environmental Racism/ Environmental Justice" in the Summer 2015 issue of *Planted by the Waters*.

Determining Highest-and-Best Use (HBU) involves the application of several criteria and depends on what kind of real estate one is referring to: urban, rural, agricultural, industrial, commercial, etc. It is used, among other uses, in setting property tax rates, especially in urban or suburban settings. There is an old saying that eventually all farmers become real estate speculators. This is especially true in rapidly developing, formerly agricultural regions like the SF Bay Area. Hayward, for example, used to be all cherry orchards. [editor remembers when Hayward also grew a lot of tomatoes.]

The most egregious example of this has been the fate of the Santa Clara Valley since about 1960, now known as Silicon Valley. I spent my teen years — the 1950's — in San Jose, at that time a farm town something like Salinas, with a population of maybe 95,000 to 100,000 people; an agricultural center for orchards and fruit trees: prunes and walnuts; tomatoes along the west borders — a major center for the canning industry. At that time San Jose State College (now San Jose State University) even had an engineering option called "food process engineering". Some people may remember when Orchard Supply Hardware actually provided support for the orcharding industry and Farm Machinery Corporation actually made farm machinery (now they make armored vehicles for the military — at least that has been the case).

The Santa Clara Valley was noted for its fertile soil, its ideal climate and moderate year-round temperatures. It was sometimes referred to as the Valley of Heart's Delight — at least by some old-timers. In the spring there were blossom tours through the valley. The air was filled with the scent of fruit trees. There were even tule fogs there in the winter sometimes. What do we have now? Asphalt and concrete: Man-made desertification; a heat dome over the city; a climate hotter and drier than it used to be; and the scent of fruit tree blossoms is hardly even a memory because everyone who remembered it is ancient (like me) or dead — and thereon hangs a tale.

This all by way of introduction.

The point is, folks, that you can't eat silicon! — just like you can't drink oil. Admittedly my intro may be longer than my message, but most people around these parts now are relative newcomers and are oblivious to this history. They think: Wasn't it always this way? No folks, it wasn't.

The Highest-and-Best-Use concept became defined as land on which structures could be built — which, in San Jose, began around 1960. People started to complain that San Jose was beginning to look like Los Angeles. The city manager at that time stated, when the issue was raised: Yes, and I will do whatever I can to ensure that it happens — or words to that effect — and ultimately we arrived at the present state of bliss — or is it?

This is where the HBU concept goes amiss — at least by some evaluative criteria. HBU maximizes government

tax revenues — and that is the bottom line. Land used for agriculture is usually taxed at a lower rate than urban land. Governments increase tax revenues by gradually converting farmland into urbia and suburbia by reclassifying land along the urban/rural interface, usually following the road net, initially responding to commercial and industrial pressures, and subsequently residential pressures.

I may be old-fashioned, but in my estimation, the Highest-and-Best-Use of prime agricultural land is — agriculture. The trend in the semi-arid West has always been to push agriculture farther and farther into marginal land and, as per the HBU concept, cover the agriculturally productive land, usually referred to as "undeveloped", with tax-generating structures, usually referred to as "development".

To make the marginal lands productive, to "make the desert bloom", we resort to more and more chemical agriculture — fertilizers and pesticides — underpinned by more and more artificial irrigation utilizing a more and more limited supply of water, raising the costs and thus raising the price of food for an exploding population which, in many parts of the world (including the U.S.), is already suffering from poverty and malnutrition. The ultimate product of irrigated, chemical agriculture is alkaline desert incapable of being rehabilitated.

Maybe the highest and best use of marginal land is not to try to farm it, but to build on it, reserving the naturally good agricultural lands for food production.

Marcha Por La Paz Haiku

by Earl S. Johnson

We went South to look
We saw in a dim mirror
The face was our own

We went to listen
The not-so-distant gunfire
"Made in USA"

We saw and heard
The deep brown eyes of children
Weeping and laughing

We, bearers of hope
The steadfastness of the Saints
Hope was brought to us

We leave with questions
The Rule of light or darkness
God lays in our hands

We return in awe
Hope and hopefulness abound
"We shall overcome"

To be found in EPI's book *On the Edge of Peace*
To get a copy call or email EPI.

All poems copyrighted by the author.

The More Things Stay The Same

In Fallujah, U.S. Declares War on Hospitals, Ambulances

Nov. 2004 — Leading up to a major U.S. assault on Fallujah, the United States military and Iraqi government destroyed a civilian hospital in a massive air raid, captured the main hospital and prohibited the use of ambulances in the besieged city of Fallujah.

Saturday morning, witnesses in Fallujah reported that an overnight air strike by U.S. fighter crews had completely razed a trauma clinic, which was recently constructed using Saudi donations. Also destroyed were two adjacent facilities used by health care providers. There have been mixed reports of injuries and deaths resulting from the bombing. Nov. 9, 2004, *The New Standard*

U.S. knowingly bombed hospital in Kunduz, general admits

Since the beginning of October, U.S. air force and U.S. special forces have been involved in “support” for the U.S.-established government of Afghanistan in its efforts to retake Kunduz from the Taliban.

On October 3, 2015 a U.S.-led NATO military coalition bombed a hospital run by Doctors Without Borders/Medecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in Kunduz, Afghanistan, killing at least 22 people — 12 staff members and 10 patients, including 3 children — and wounding 37 more. The hospital had treated hundreds of people injured after Kunduz fell to a Taliban attack and as government troops launched an assault to reclaim it. The bombing was called in by U.S. special operations forces General John Campbell, the commander of the U.S. and NATO war in Afghanistan, who admitted to a Senate panel: “the decision to provide aerial fires was a U.S. decision, made within the U.S. chain of command” and “We had a special operations unit that was in close vicinity that was talking to the aircraft that delivered those fires.” (BBC)

MSF had given the U.S. and Afghan military and civilian officials the GPS coordinates of the hospital. When the attack began, MSF called the U.S. military and civilian authorities again and again to alert them of the situation. The attack continued for at least an hour. “A series of multiple, precise and sustained airstrikes targeted the main hospital building.” (MSF report)

Destroyed was a hospital which was “the only facility of its kind in the whole northeastern region”; one whose “doctors treat all people without distinctions . . .” (CNN)

Doctors Without Borders has demanded an independent inquiry, rejecting the three current investigations — by the U.S., Nato and the Afghans — as compromised by their partiality.

Support MSF’s demand for independent & international investigation by the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission (IHFFC)

The above is an expanded version of the text of the flyer for the Living Graveyard, Oct 19, 2015.

See MSF's latest on this matter:

<http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/article/even-war-has-rules-remarks-kunduz-deane-marchbein-and-jason-cone-washington-dc>

War Against the People, Jeff Halper

a review of the book by Vivian Zelaya

Dr. Jeff Halper, Nobel Peace Prize nominee, founder of the Israeli Committee Against Home Demolitions, and The People Yes! Network, recently spoke in Berkeley about his new book, *War Against the People: Israel, the Palestinians and Global Pacification*. Several years ago a card featuring Jeff and his friend Salim, was circulating among those concerned about peace and justice in Palestine/Israel. Salim’s home had been destroyed several times by the Israeli military and Jeff and the members of the Israeli Committee Against Home Demolitions, with the consent of Salim and his wife, had rebuilt their home each time. The postcard sized photo showed Jeff and Salim, two good friends and two grandfathers, each holding a preschool aged grandchild. Salim held his grandson, Anas, and Jeff held his granddaughter of a similar age.

Jeff opened his book talk by sharing something that had recently happened to Anas, who is now in his early teens. Anas’ mother sent him to a grocery store near their home for a few items. As Anas left the store with the groceries, he heard the noise of some disturbances up the street, perhaps some stone throwing. He immediately found himself in the grasp of an Israeli soldier. He showed the soldier his groceries and protested that he was not involved in anything other than buying groceries for his mother. With the assistance of another two or three soldiers he was thrown into a military vehicle. The soldiers then drove him out into the desert, beating him as they traveled. When they reached an isolated spot, they took Anas out of the vehicle, beat him some more and shot him twice in the leg. The soldiers then hopped back into their vehicle and left Anas alone in the desert to bleed to death. Fortunately for Anas, some Palestinians were watching from a distance and immediately called an ambulance. Jeff assured us that Anas has recovered from his injuries and is back with his family. Jeff stressed the fact that what happened to Anas is not an unusual occurrence.

With this little story as background, Dr. Halper launched into the content of his new book, *War Against the People*, enlightening his audience regarding Israel’s role in the greater struggle for global hegemony, as a provider of field tested (on Palestinians) technologies of control, high-tech weaponry, surveillance and security systems.

Many members of the audience who had seen themselves as experienced and well informed on the topic of Israel/Palestine came away from Jeff’s talk with a much deeper, clearer and more frightening awareness of the implications and consequences of the “matrix of control” developed by Israel during the years that the United States has so heavily funded and defended Israel’s actions.

Jeff informed us that Israel, though a small country geographically, has carved out for itself a very crucial high tech niche market, which gives it great political power in addition to profit. One might remember that after the 2014 assault on Gaza, Hillary Clinton stood next to Benjamin Netanyahu and praised the Iron Shield. It was said that the next day orders poured in from all over the world for the Iron Shield.

According to Dr. Halper, Israel’s field tested expertise in high tech weaponry, intelligence gathering, surveillance

continued on page 11

School of the Americas Watch 2015

by Silvia Brandon-Pérez

This year's vigil and events included over fifty workshops on many topics, and on Sunday from the stage the movement's decision to hold the 2016 vigil in one of the border towns was announced, for the purpose of accompanying our immigrant brothers and sisters and those working and organizing for them. Many of the workshops, such as those presented on Colombia, Mexico and others (*From the San Fernando Valley to Ayotzinapa; Mining, Militarization, and the Disappeared; The Weight of Gold: Canadian Mining within the Dominican Republic*) led to deep reflection on the continuing role of global empire in its multinational guise (the power of money to travel without the need for a visa or a passport, while restricting the rights of people to travel or even to flee violence).

In the United States we are seeing what is probably the largest transfer of wealth from the poorest to the richest: the 1% versus the 99%. Notwithstanding platitudes about the protection of the family, our government deports strangers among us, whose homelands have been scorched by our military and economic policies. We discriminate, as a nation, as a matter of course.

We are at war everywhere, the new Pax Americana making and selling weapons to all countries, and frequently to both sides in a conflict. We label as terrorists those people fighting for their freedom and have policies and programs, such as those exemplified by the School of the Americas, which target the so-called subversive among us who are willing to fight injustice wherever it may appear. Dissent, a cornerstone of our early existence, is daily criminalized.

SOA Watch, which was started after the murder of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her teenage daughter in El Salvador, in November of 1989, began as an interfaith grassroots nonviolent movement, and it continues to work to close down the School responsible for the torture and murder of thousands of people in the Américas, including the Saint of the Américas, Archbishop Oscar Romero. As people of faith, we must stand up and protest our national sins, and they are many. We are not called upon to agree but to disagree. We are not called upon to be nice, but to resist, to object, to shout out or to stand up for human rights and justice, and for peace, as we do throughout the year in our work with SOA Watch.

A highlight of the weekend was the vigil at the gates of the Stewart Detention Center, which this year had an attendance of 1200 people or so, and as last year, included civil disobedience. The Center is a private for-profit prison that houses 1800 immigrant detainees in a town of 1700 mostly poor African-American residents. We sang, marched to the gates, and heard testimony. Altogether, the events of this gathering were educational, exhilarating, heartbreaking, and also provided an opportunity to meet with old friends and to meet new friends as well!

After visiting several border towns and conducting a series of meetings, SOA Watch has decided to go to Nogales this October. We will be joining with groups that are already on the ground and supporting their work, in further exploration of the roots of migration. The plans are to hold this event between October 7th and 10th, in Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, México. There will still be a small presence at Fort Benning in November as in previous years.

Colombia and Guantánamo: a tale of global Empire

by Silvia Brandon-Pérez

I will start with Guantánamo because it is an important reminder of the start of the imperialist expansion of the U.S. throughout the planet. At the time in question, Cuba is fighting for its independence from Spain, with the help of many of her sister countries, and the U.S. sees this as an opportunity for expansion, in particular, to obtain "markets" for its products. Cubans believe that the U.S. sank its own ship, the U.S.S. Maine, and then blamed Spain for the explosion. The U.S. enters the war, with the help of the yellow journalism of William Randolph Hearst, who publishes sensationalist stories to fuel people's anger and desire to punish Spain. The U.S. obtains, as war booty, Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines (Puerto Rico is still a U.S. colony; the Philippines was the site of the first U.S. genocide on foreign lands).

Cuba, however, was not content to go from the hands of one master to another and continued to fight. After the end of the war with Spain the U.S. installed a military governor, ruling Cuba for many years. It imposed on the newly constituted nation the Platt Amendment which made Cuba into a "protectorate" and included the right of the U.S. to invade and intervene in Cuban affairs at will. The Platt Amendment established a base on Cuban soil — Guantánamo. The continued presence of U.S. troops in Guantánamo and their use of the base to torture freedom fighters are an atrocity and an affront against human rights. (As I write this article, the Center for Constitutional Rights has just come out with a white paper on the closing of the prison at Guantánamo which I quote: "The infamy of Guantánamo has never been just its location, but rather its immoral and illegal regime of indefinite detention. Closing Guantánamo in any meaningful sense means putting an end to that practice.")

In many ways similarly to Cuba, Colombia became an occupied country in the 20th century, and right-wing officials whose palms were being greased by imperial bribes led the way to the destabilization and enslavement of that country. Colombia has at least seven military bases which fly the U.S. flag right next to the Colombian flag. In its newest incarnation, Plan Colombia, an initiative which purports to fight narco-trafficking, covers a multiplicity of sins. Under it the Four Horsemen of Exxon-Mobil, Chevron-Texaco, BP-Amoco and Royal Dutch-Shell hold a monopoly of Colombia's energy resources. Even though the U.S. used narco-trafficking to fund coups in other lands, as in the Iran-Contra affair, the war on drugs provides a handy excuse to intervene.

Like all empires before it, the U.S. loots, pillages and scourges all lands in which it "does business." Money is to be made from the sale of weapons and the training of "counter-insurgency" forces in places such as the School of the Americas/WHINSEC. [The Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC) — in response to growing criticism of the School of the Americas, the school was given this new name.]

One of the groups I interpreted for at SOAW last fall was a coalition of Colombian Amerindians and participants in the Congreso de los Pueblos (Assembly of the People), in

The Color of Empire, *continued from page 2*

In response to audience questions: making the connections —

In closing remarks, Devonté encouraged people to study *The New Jim Crow* in their congregations. Pierre raised up the ongoing nonviolent movement for democracy in Haiti, resisting racism, white supremacy which is trying to impose dictatorship on Haiti. Silvia remembered the U.S. invasion of the Dominican Republic in 1965 to depose democratically elected President Juan Bosch. She compared this to the overthrow of Mossadegh, and the president in Honduras, and the ongoing repression in Colombia. It is our job to learn what is going on in the world. Deborah reminded us that we need to celebrate the stories of resistance.

Devonté believes bringing a global analysis to the local work can help, noting that Urban Shield was held in Pleasanton last Sept 11 - Sept 14. Urban Areas Security Initiative is all tied to "counter-terrorism" rather than having the claimed focus on responding to a natural disaster. Urban Shield is a global platform to promote these trainings. Policing happening here mirrors what is happening in Palestine.

Pierre noted that in Haiti we see the militarization of police. Since 2004 Haiti has been occupied by the troops of the United Nations most of which are troops trained at the School of the Americas. There are videos of U.N. troops massacring civilians. And Haitian police are getting trainings in the use of very violent weapons intended to disrupt civil demonstrations. The U.S., Canada and possibly Israel are sending to Haiti strong skin irritants and a very potent form of tear gas which feels like someone is reaching down inside your body and pulling out your organs. Friends of Pierre have told him of this experience. Under U.S. leadership, training also is going on to re-establish the very violent and repressive Haitian military, which was disbanded by President Aristide.

Silvia looked at the stories of police attacks and the treatment of people in jail, many of whom have died of beatings or from medical mistreatment. Police impunity also extends to the violence against immigrants. Misogyny is the worst thing and has to be stopped here and around the world.

Deborah said that migration is mostly forced either for economic reasons or in search of safety and security. It's a symptom of empire. People will migrate to where you have taken their stuff — they will follow the gold or the bananas they washed and packed because they know they can make a living here, that they can sustain their families and live in safety. If we don't change our policies that have destroyed their countries, we can only expect more migration.

Deborah gave us a word to add to our vocabulary: "co-responsibility", between actions of foreign companies and U.S. government policies. The U.S. looks at the migration of children as a security problem and responds with militarization, troops, drones, prisons. We have to take co-responsibility. We need to look at the companies profiting now from this policing — profiting from misery.

Devonté said it's really important to think of all of these things as interconnected. It is important to think of the economic side. He alerted us to the proposed StingRay upgrade, whereby Alameda County will increase their use of cell phone systems to spy on us. He also noted the expansion of private prison corporations, also expanding

into mental health services. There is a quota on locking up immigrants. Money is a big part of the oppression people feel, it is necessary to connect the dots.

Silvia knows no one ever wants to leave their country. Most people love their little piece of land. We who come here as immigrants do so because we have no other choice. The U.S. does economic terrorism the world over.

Pierre warned us to watch out for the militarization of "disaster relief." He shared with us Walter Riley's report on the total uselessness of the U.S. sending in the military after the Haiti earthquake. He also alerted us to the attack on Dominican citizens of Haitian parentage, the threat to remove their citizenship leaving them particularly vulnerable to economic exploitation.

We closed the evening by singing "This Little Light of Mine," which was very popular in the civil rights movement.

Colombia/Guantánamo, *continued from page 10*

the departments of Boyacá, Arauca, Casanare, Santander and north of Santander in the northern Colombian Andes. This assembly is an attempt to create popular unity among leftist groups, women, indigenous people and other social sectors, but their struggle is plagued by forced displacement and the sacking of the people's lands, and their eventual genocide by those who want their land and resources. Despite the fact that the peace process was guaranteed by the Colombian Constitution of 1991, peacemakers are attacked and frequently disappeared. As representatives of the Congreso explained, there is talk of peace by the government, contradicted by fierce attacks against the people. For more information, see <http://congresodelospueblos.org/>.

The U.S. uses Plan Colombia as a way to arm the thugs who prey on the people, including labor organizers, who are among the most threatened groups in that country. Liberation theology began in Colombia, but the peace process will not succeed until the U.S. and other foreign multinationals and their allies are recognized as the predators they are.

War Against the People, *continued from page 9*

and counter-terrorism have made it a key player in the international arms trade. Israel's many weapons customers come from all parts of the globe and consequently have increased Israel's influence worldwide. As the world relies more and more heavily on "military solutions" to solve problems that could preferably be solved through diplomacy, some see Israel's treatment of Palestinians as the model to be followed.

Do not think that Dr. Halper leaves his readers helpless and disempowered after educating them concerning the realities of the shadow world in its War Against the People. He does see a way out but it is a way that calls us to engagement and action.

Spring edition of EPI's quarterly newsletter

I/We want to be part of the Peace and Justice work of Ecumenical Peace Institute/CALC by:

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- You are invited to read *Planted by the Waters* online at <http://www.epicalc.org/> and download articles to share. Upcoming events which EPI is involved in planning will be found at the website.
- ==>>If you want email notification of events, send us your address. Write to epicalc@gmail.com.

Regarding that Envelope

There is an envelope included in each issue of *Planted by the Waters*. If each person who receives *Planted* puts a check into the envelope and mails it to EPI/CALC, it will greatly improve our ability to do the work for justice and peace which we are called to do together. It doesn't have to be a lot. Every little bit counts.



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Calendar & Announcements

Saturday, April 2, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. A Tribute to Rev. Phil Lawson, Easter Hill United Methodist, 3911 Cutting Blvd., Richmond

Sunday, April 24, 2:00 p.m. A mass to honor Blessed Óscar Romero, Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland, invitation from Oakland Catholic Worker

Sunday, May 1, 24 hours of rally for justice for immigrant groups, people of color, working people . . . Details to be announced.

Saturday, August 6, Peace Lantern Ceremony . . . Details to be announced.

Tuesday, August 9, Hiroshima/Nagasaki Day remembrance & action at Livermore Lab . . . Details to be announced.

Inside:

1. The Color of Empire: Report on EPI Fall Dinner
1. Good Friday Worship & Witness: Empire & the Cross
1. Remembering David McPhail
3. Berta Cáceres, Presente!
4. Haiti Rises
6. Violation of Rights of Immigrants
7. Water & Palestine
8. Highest & Best Use
9. Attacks on Hospitals, The More Things Stay the Same
9. War Against the People, book review
10. SOAW 2015
10. Colombia & Guantánamo

Actions

Living Graveyard and Reading of the Names, noon to one on 3rd Mondays, Oakland Federal Building, 1301 Clay Street, two blocks from 12th Street BART.

Covered with sheets to represent the dead of the wars of occupation in Afghanistan and Iraq, some of the participants lie down on the city sidewalk in front of the Federal Building. The names of Californians in the U.S. military who have died in Iraq or Afghanistan and the names of some of the Iraqi dead are read. Flyers are handed out.

This is legal, non-violent witness. People stop, look and think. Please bring a white sheet to cover yourself with. A pad to lie on is recommended. The designated Monday may be changed due to federal holidays and other factors. Please check EPI website for changes. www.epicalc.org.

Ongoing Vigils

Thursdays, 4:30 - 5:30, Five Flags Park, Foothill, Jackson & Mission, Hayward. Justice for Palestinians. South Alameda County Peace and Justice (SAPJC) & Tri-City Peace and Justice (TCP).

Fridays, 12:00 - 1:00, Telegraph & Bancroft, Berkeley Women in Black, for justice and peace in Palestine.

First Saturday of each month, 11:00, West County Detention Center, 5555 Giant Highway, Richmond. Witness & vigil to oppose ongoing imprisonment of ICE detainees.