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Planted by the Waters

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The New Jim Crow — review and report by Nancy Taylor

Some EPI members and friends have been part of a study group that has been reading the highly acclaimed book by Michelle Alexander, "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness." This study group, led by Rev. Phil Lawson, began at Easter Hill United Methodist Church in Richmond, CA during Lent this year. The group has agreed to continue to meet. We are hoping to find ways that we can work nonviolently to end mass incarceration and the related evils so powerfully described in The New Jim Crow. Several groups are engaging to work together locally. We are also hoping to recruit others to join us. I hope that this article will inspire you to at least read the book, and even better, to join our group. If you wish further information on this, please contact Nancy Taylor through the EPI office line. In the meantime, this article is a review of the study, and ultimately of the book itself. "Now let us rededicate ourselves to the long and bitter, but beautiful, struggle for a new world." Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Alexander suggests that there is an undercaste in the United States that only stopped for a few years after the Emancipation Proclamation, during Reconstruction, and then started up again with the Jim Crow Laws in the early 1900s. Once these laws were made illegal in the 1960s, another, even more insidious set of laws came along to continue the undercaste. She calls the result of these laws Mass Incarceration. These laws began churning out in earnest when Ronald Reagan announced the unprecedented expansion of the War on Drugs in 1982 (originally launched in 1971 by Richard Nixon). Alexander takes us through event after event since then and builds a case that mass incarceration, (defined as the period from the initial arrest, through imprisonment and parole) driven by the War on Drugs, is a giant, complicated conspiracy that is designed to keep people of color (primarily African Americans but brown people as well) "in their place," at the bottom of the "food chain." And the rest of us (including many blacks) are the unwitting co-conspirators!

Alexander lays out her points which she so succinctly outlines in the Introduction, and then delves into in detail, reporting her research, citing study after study, statistic after statistic, all available from public records. The statistics on law enforcement and prison spending and populations over the last 30 years is unbelievable! The FBI, Department of Defense and DEA antidrug budget allocations increased by 1400% from 1982 to 1991! Programs for drug treatment, prevention and education, at the same time, were reduced to almost 20% of 1981 levels by 1984. The

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Good Friday witness

Some one hundred and fifty people gathered in the growing light at the Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab for what was probably the 30th annual Good Friday witness for an end to the design and development of weapons of mass destruction.

After Daniel Zwickel's opening songs, the gathering was blessed by dance with the sounding of Tibetan bowls to the invocation of "peace" in several languages.

Marylia Kelley, of Tri-Valley CAREs, updated us about the labs. The good news — "the interoperable nuclear warhead", a new warhead with new military capacities, has been denied its funding beyond the current planning horizon in response to pressure from the concerned public. The bad news — Livermore Lab's request for 2015 asks for 89% of its budget for nuclear weapons activities — more than one billion dollars. Most is for the National Ignition Facility supposedly to create nuclear fusion reaction in the laboratory but it's really for nuclear weapons design. Second biggest ticket item is for "directed stockpile work" to modify nuclear weapons and to create new nuclear weapons.

Tri-Valley CAREs is circulating petitions to stop the transport of plutonium bomb cores from Los Alamos across three states here to Livermore to shake and bake these cores to see how they will do if used in the course of a nuclear war. The cores would then be transported back to Los Alamos. Marylia pointed out monitoring wells keeping track of continuing toxic and radioactive contamination of land and ground water in Livermore.

Hassan Fouda, of Northern California Friends of Sabeel, offered the call to prayer and read to us the Muslim daily supplication including: "I seek refuge in you from submission except to you . . . I seek refuge in you from injustice done by me or to me . . . I seek refuge in you from lack of hope and from despair . . . I seek refuge in you from wickedness and greed. . . I pray to you to guide us toward the way of peace and to deliver us from darkness into light." From the Quran, Fouda read, " Oh, mankind . . . We have made you into nations and tribes so that you may know each other, not that you despise each other." "Goodness and evil are not equal. Repel animosity with good deeds. This could convert a hostile enemy into an intimate friend."

The responsive reading, led by Silvia Brandon Pérez and Stephen Myers, was based on the sermons of Archbishop Oscar Romero, interspersed with scriptural readings from several traditions. The people responded with "In the name of God, I implore you — stop the slaughter! ¡*¡Paren la matanza!*!" The closing was the people reading Romero's words: "Brothers, you came from our own people. You are killing your own brothers. Any human

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order to kill must be subordinate to the law of God, which says, 'Thou shalt not kill.' No soldier is obliged to obey an order contrary to the law of God. No one has to obey an immoral law. It is high time you obeyed your consciences rather than sinful orders. In the name of God therefore, in the name of this suffering people whose cries reach every day more and more urgently to heaven, I implore you, I beg you. I order you stop the slaughter! ¡Paren la matanza!"

Silvia with Daniel sang for us the song from the Chilean resistance to Pinochet, "*Gracias a la Vida* — Thanks be to life." Vivian Zelaya read the passion story from Mark's Gospel.

Kathy Kelly, who has been on the front lines of so many struggles, began her talk by invoking the beauty of story, the beauty of song, the beauty of memory, invoking once again the words of Oscar Romero "In the name of God, I order you, I beg you stop the slaughter. Stop the repression!"

Kathy recalled to us the day when Roy Bourgeois and the others climbed the tree at the School of the Americas to boom Romero's words to all of Fort Benning, Georgia. She recalled also Romero's saying, "Me they may kill, but my blood will rise in the Salvadoran people." She told us, "Those words 'stop the repression, stop the slaughter' belong in our hearts because here we stand, in a sense humiliated and shamed by our own inability to stop the menacing, the horrible message nuclear weapons send all around the world. 'If you do not subordinate yourself to serve our national interest, we are prepared, we are ready to eliminate you, to slaughter you.' This seems so incompatible to what we know of ourselves as good people, as neighbors, as friends. And yet, that's the terrible shame that we bear."

Kathy shared about the young people who have been her teachers of late, the young people of Afghanistan. She has been carrying around the sense of horror, remembering all the little lives snuffed out in Iraq, the children she saw dying in hospital beds in Iraq because of the economic sanctions. They should have been teenagers now.

Going back to the Gospel of Mark, Kathy reminded us of a particular teenager we know almost nothing about. When all of Jesus' disciples and family and friends have dropped away, this one teenager hangs in there. And all of a sudden he is struck by terrible fright when he realizes what he's up against. So he makes a run for it. Someone grabs at his loincloth and it comes undone. And so in his nakedness and shame he bolts, he runs.

The wonderful story-tellers of the earliest Christian community position a young man, dressed in an immaculate white garment, dignified, who is there to greet the very, very brave women who won't let the crucifixion, the torture, the humiliation, the shame, the inability to save oneself or ourselves be the final word. They go because they want to roll away the stone that blocks the tomb and do ministrations to the body of their friend, Jesus. And there is the young man dressed in the immaculate white garment and he has very few words for them. "The one whom you seek is gone. Don't be afraid. And go tell everyone."

And so, in spite of our shame over being unable to save the people who every single day, through hunger, through torment, through the inability to save their children are menaced by our weapons and our warmongering. In spite of our collective shame over not being able to stop the repression and to stop the slaughter, we yet may hear those

words of the young man who holds out such hope and the women who come to the tomb and hold forth hope: "Don't be afraid. Go tell everyone."

Kathy said when she was in Lebanon in 2006 she felt that deep and abiding shame because they walked into the funeral for a child Zahara who had been killed by a Raytheon bunker buster. The parents had put their children in underground shelter because engineers had assured them that the Israelis didn't have anything that could attack that fortified building. It was the safest place in town. They didn't know that Condolisa Rice was telling the Israelis, "Don't sign a cease-fire. We can get you the Raytheon bunker buster." So the children died from the force of the implosion destroying their internal organs, leaving them looking unhurt. Overhead, at the funeral, there was a drone doing surveillance. The mother looked at me, pointed overhead at the drone — still doing surveillance. And she asked, "Didn't they know? Didn't they see? Just every morning my daughter runs back to me. Only we put her in that basement because we wanted to save her." She showed Kathy a picture of the girl. And Um Zahara asked me "Is she the terrorist? Who? — Who is the terrorist?"

And so to look in the mirror together. And so to feel as though the loincloth is being unraveled and we are naked in our shame. And so to voice the collective deep "We're sorry. We're so very sorry. We want to change. We want to see. We want to abolish war." And so to hang onto that claim for dear life. "Yes, we want to abolish war. We want to stop the wars." And so to gather together, shoulder to shoulder, arm in arm. Believing in nonviolence. Believing that yes — we shall overcome. And so to gather together and ready to say that we will not let inconvenience get in the way of acting in accord with that deep profound desire to end war let us step across the line, let us get arrested today, let us say together, "We shall overcome." Do so in the name of all of those people, surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, including the teenagers in a generation to come who will inherit what we try to sow as seeds here today. Thanks to every one of you for your goodness, for your care, for your yearning for peace. *Gracias a la vida.*

Father Bernard Campbell gave the benediction, saying "We human beings are made for love — made in the image and likeness of God who is love. We are not made for violence or cruelty, for the breaking of the bonds that join us one to another in common humanity. We are made for love. Let us remember in whose image we are made, always. . . . Let us not lose hope."

To end the service before the procession to the gate Carla DeSola led us in dance movements as Silvia and Daniel led us in *Were You There?*

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they dropped the atom bomb?

Were you there when Romero preached his last.

In the course of the procession, the walkers stopped at four stations of the cross: Homelessness, immigration, Palestine, nuclear weapons. At the gate Carla DeSola led the gathering in a circle dance to *The Cry of the Poor* moving into an enactment of the pietà. Those who were so called then walked up to the gate and stood or knelt in front of the waiting officers.

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prison populations themselves have increased in the last 30 years from 350,000 in 1981 to 2.4 million in 2011! And most of these are African American men for low-level drug crimes.

Chapter 1: The Rebirth of Caste. This chapter describes the history of racialized social control of African Americans starting with slavery. When slavery and Jim Crow appeared to die, a new system of racial caste, tailored to the needs and constraints of the time, was born: mass incarceration. This chapter covers the economic, social, legal and political environments of the period from before the Civil War through the present, and how the role of race - and racial caste - have played out.

Chapter 2: The Lockdown. The laws around the War on Drugs are discussed in detail in this chapter. The lack of legal constraints on the police in this "war," coupled with the financial incentives given to local police forces by the Federal government as a reward for mass drug arrest is shocking. Once there is an arrest, the defendants usually do not receive good legal representation, and are pressured into plea bargaining, even when innocent. They become "felons," even for low-level drug crimes. Constitutionally-protected civil liberties are being undermined by the drug war, including searches without a search warrant, wiretapping, surveillance of homes without a warrant, and others. The new rules ensure that virtually anyone, anywhere, and their property, can be seized for any reason and become a target for drug-law enforcement activity.

Chapter 3: The Color of Justice describes how a "race-neutral criminal justice system can manage to round up, arrest, and imprison an extraordinary number of black and brown men, when people of color are actually no more likely to be guilty of drug crimes... than whites." This chapter explains how the legal rules that structure the system ensure that the undercaste is overwhelmingly black and brown. I had always thought that racial profiling is illegal. It's not! The Supreme Court has upheld that race-based stops can take place, although apparently this is not a widely-acknowledged fact. Despite recent federal reforms of crack sentencing laws, much higher penalties still exist for possession and sale of crack, which is more widely used in the black community, despite the fact that, pharmacologically, it is the same drug as cocaine. Possession of 28 grams of crack cocaine leads to a five-year mandatory minimum sentence for a first offense; it takes 500 grams of powder cocaine to prompt the same sentence.

Chapter 4: The Cruel Hand discusses what happens to people after their release from prison - that release is NOT the beginning of freedom, but instead a new stage of control, discrimination and stigmatization that lasts for the rest of their lives. They are denied the right to vote, to get credit, to get jobs, an education, to receive food stamps, to get housing, to receive any kind of public assistance. When they come out of prison, their opportunities for any kind of normalcy are non-existent.

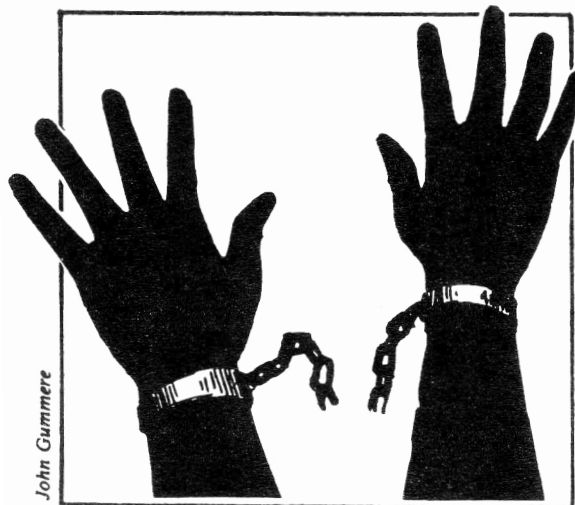
Chapter 5: The New Jim Crow. The most obvious parallel between mass incarceration and Jim Crow is legalized discrimination. More African American adults are under correctional control, in prison, on probation or on parole, today than were enslaved before the Emancipation Proclamation. And yet there is a state of denial about the truth of mass incarceration - that so many black and brown men in

the U.S. are locked in cages; and that when they are released, they will be locked in ghettos. The racism involved is so complicated and structural that it's difficult to understand, to get a grasp of. Alexander examines this in depth.

Chapter 6: The Fire Next Time. Alexander discusses the ramifications of the future of civil rights advocacy in this current legal environment. She feels that "nothing short of a major social movement can successfully dismantle the new caste system;" and also, that drug abuse should be decriminalized and viewed as a public health problem instead. She suggests that unless there is a meaningful discussion of race, even if mass incarceration is somehow dismantled, that there will arise a new system of racialized social control (racial caste) in America. Then there's the matter of the Prison Industrial Complex: the privatization of prisons themselves, their contracts which require that states guarantee high occupancy levels so that the prisons can make their profits. Prisons employ hundreds of thousands of people. Prisons are big business, as are the industries that supply law enforcement with guns, tasers, uniforms, technology, vehicles, etc. Rich and powerful people (including Dick Cheney) have invested millions in private prisons and related industries and are looking forward to expanding the market - increasing the supply of prisoners!

Some additional points worth noting: 1. The fact that white people can point to the "success" of many African Americans is precisely why the racial caste system can exist; i.e., white people have made it clear that they do not condone racism. If there were no successful African Americans, white people would be "calling out" racism. 2. Barack Obama's presidency has presented problems of its own. There's a strong (understandable) sentiment in the black community that they want President Obama to sail through his presidency smoothly and without major problems. And yet President Obama has thrown even greater amounts of money into the war on drugs than his two previous predecessors! - presumably because he didn't want to appear "soft on crime."

Please learn more as Michelle Alexander discusses the War on Drugs: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P75cbEdNo2U>



The Life of a Child Under Military Rule

by Vivian Zelaya

Imagine that you and your family are asleep all snug in your beds, when suddenly in the middle of the night you are awakened by loud banging and shouting at your front door. You jump out of bed and run to your front door to open it a crack. Heavily armed soldiers burst loudly into your house and shouting, demand to see where your children sleep. Noisily they tramp through your house to locate your children cowering in their beds. They begin hitting and kicking your fourteen year old son and drag him from his bed. They ignore your questions. "Why? What has he done? Where are you taking him?" You and your family stand outside in your bedclothes as they handcuff and blindfold your son and force him into a military vehicle, all the while ignoring your shouted protests and questions. You are unable to protect your child from the Israeli military.

According to an Australian documentary, Stone Cold Justice, <http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/episodes/> that aired on the Australian television program Four Corners on February 10, 2014, this nightmare happens to about 700 Palestinian families per year in the occupied West Bank. Australian lawyer, Gerard Horton, presents documentary evidence, and tells the stories of a few of the young boys who have undergone these midnight raids and their consequent horrors. His findings coincide with a recent UNICEF report, CHILDREN IN ISRAELI MILITARY DETENTION and the information from DEFENSE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL (DCI) PALESTINE presented on September 30, 2013 by Brad Parker and Ivan Karakashian at the Palestine Center in Washington D.C.

On the way to the interrogation sites, soldiers often hit these young blindfolded and handcuffed boys with helmets, beer bottles and gunstocks. When the boys arrive at the interrogation center they frequently spend the remainder of the night outdoors, blindfolded, handcuffed, sitting on the dirt, sometimes in an outdoor cage, and are refused water, food, access to a toilet, and any medical attention that they might need after the beating administered en route.

In the morning the young boys are subjected to coercive military interrogations without the benefit of counsel. Their parents don't even know where they are. They are bullied, threatened and beaten into signing confessions. To what do they confess? The catchall charge is stone throwing. Sooner or later the boys sign a confession in Hebrew, a language that most of them don't know and can't read. The UNICEF report tells us that the most commonly used means of coercion are threats of death, physical violence, solitary confinement and sexual assault upon the boy or a family member. When the boy finally sees a military judge his signed confession is usually the only evidence against him. The conviction rate for these children is 99.7%.

Why does Israel, a signatory to the CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD, so blatantly violate human rights, International Law and the Geneva Conventions to obtain "confessions" to stone throwing? Gerard Horton explains that stone throwing is not the real issue. Intelligence is what the Israeli Military is after. The young boys are terrorized in an effort to make them collaborators who will supply the Israeli Military with information about the lead-

ers and organizers of the many peaceful protests throughout the West Bank. The Israeli military wants to maintain absolute military control over all Palestinians. Gavin Kelly of Addameer* also informs us that these children's so called "confessions" are used to imprison community leaders. Does Israel really need to do this when the military can already hold people without charges, in administrative detention for six months at a time and then renew it over and over indefinitely?

When the boys are finally released from Israeli military prison they are traumatized and their ability to trust is greatly diminished. The family structure is badly damaged as all the children have witnessed their parents' inability to protect them from this cruelty. They are often depressed, distrustful and fearful.

Then there is the ancient West Bank city of Hebron where 800 settlers occupy the center of the city and relentlessly harass young children on their way to and from school. Palestinian schoolteachers tell us that hardly a day goes by, when children are not tear-gassed by soldiers on their way to school. Soldiers are there to protect the settlers not the Palestinians. According to Yahuda Shoul, a former soldier and founder of a veterans group called Breaking the Silence, soldiers don't see children as children, only as Palestinians. Children as young as five have been arrested. "When we see settlers attacking Palestinians, our orders are not to intervene," Yahuda says. He also reminds us that, "The DNA of the military operation in Hebron is the same throughout the West Bank."

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Western Asia — War and more War

Afghanistan

Top of the news these days is the prisoner swap which released Bowe Behdahl in exchange for five uncharged Afghans who have been kept in Guantanamo. This swap could have been done years ago, in the days after he was picked up by the Taliban in 2009.

“I am sorry for everything here.”

Shortly before he walked off base, recently released POW Bowe Behdahl emailed his parents. “I am sorry for everything here. These people need help, yet what they get is the most conceited country in the world telling them that they are nothing and that they are stupid, that they have no idea how to live.” He then referred to what his parents believe may have been a formative, possibly traumatic event: seeing an Afghan child run over by an MRAP. “We don’t even care when we hear each other talk about running their children down in the dirt streets with our armored trucks... We make fun of them in front of their faces, and laugh at them for not understanding we are insulting them.”

<http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/americas-last-prisoner-of-war-20120607>

The war’s not going to end

Regarding the reports of a future withdrawal from Afghanistan, New America Foundation fellow, Anand Gopal writes: “it’s important to realize that the war’s not going to end, even after 2016, because the U.S. is allied with power brokers, warlords, also the Afghan army who are going to be continuing to fight the ‘war on terror’ on the U.S.’s behalf. For the next two years it’ll be special operations forces, when he [Pres Obama] says ‘counterterrorism operations,’ what he means is night raids, targeted killings and allying with these warlords. When I say warlords, I mean private contractors because the U.S. is paying for them essentially, they are mercenaries, they’re paramilitary forces, there’s hundreds of thousands of them around the country.”

See www.accuracy.org Obama West Point Speech — Myths on Afghanistan, Syria, Honduras.

Iraq

As we are working on this issue of *Planted*, the fundamentalist Sunni group variously known as ISIS and ISIL has attacked and taken Mosul, Takrit and areas of northeastern Iraq. This is a heavily armed force whose military actions in Syria have been supported by Saudi Arabia who supplies them with U.S. weaponry. Loads of captured weapons from the Mosul army base are being hauled into Syria.

ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) has seized wide swaths of territory & aims to create a fundamentalist Islamic emirate spanning both sides of the Iraq-Syria border.

A lot of argument is going on regarding what the U.S. and others should be doing and who is to be blamed. It should have been anticipated that sectarian hostilities would result from a political system based on religious and ethnic divisions put in place in Iraq by the U.S. occupation.

The Iraq Civil Society Solidarity Initiative (www.iraqcivilsociety.org) “calls on the Iraqi government and armed groups involved in the conflict in northern Iraq to adhere to international humanitarian law, specifically in providing protection to civilians and their property, as well as to aid workers, ambulances, and civic organizations that seek

to help civilians and reduce their suffering.” They further call upon the elected politicians of Iraq to lay aside their conflicts and “direct their full attention to the selection of a national Iraqi government that is able to unite Iraqis without discrimination or bias. . . The government must adopt a policy of continuous dialogue, and it must reject war as a solution to its political and economic problems. The claim that war can end violence and unrest, that guns can solve problems, is based on a lie — using violence to combat violence can yield no lasting peace, provide no enduring security, as the experiences of Mosul and before it, Fallujah, well attest. Iraqis, Kurds, Arabs — all people in the region — are able, given a stable political atmosphere, to protect their cities and their country. Any international or U.S military intervention will only increase and reinforce the negative effects Iraq has suffered over the past decade.”

What’s Next — Syria?

Haaretz (June 7, 2014) writes “U.S. admits supplying lethal aid to Syrian rebels.” And, as we write, the administration is considering sending “manpads,” anti-aircraft guns that can be carried by one person to bring down military planes — and civilian aircraft. National “Security” Advisor Susan Rice is quoted as saying “we’ll remain very much engaged, both in trying to support the Syrian people and trying to support the Syrian opposition.” She claims the U.S. is trying to counter “terrorism that is seeping out of Syria.” It is the unfortunate fact that through the Saudis the U.S. is supporting the import of terrorists into Syria with the clear intent of overthrowing the government headed by Bashar Assad, notwithstanding his recent election by a considerable majority of the Syrian people.

United Nations Charter, Article 2, ¶4:

“All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations.”

Victory in El Salvador, fear and loathing in Venezuela

by Silvia Brandon Pérez

On June 1st I participated in the joyous celebration of the inauguration of Salvador Sánchez Cerén, the new President of El Salvador, at the San Francisco Local 1021 of the SEIU, sponsored by the Farabundo Martí front for National Liberation (FMLN) and the Northern California Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), Bay Area chapter. I was reminded throughout the evening of Dr. King’s powerful statement in 1996, when he announced the pivot of the civil rights movement toward economic justice: “We’ve found through our experience that timid supplications for justice will not solve the problem. We’ve got to massively confront the power structure.”

I interpreted for various speakers, and sang a number of songs, with Daniel ben Avram MacJean, and there was food and poetry, and much reminiscing of more than thirty years of struggle, where the power structure was confronted massively, and finally there is a new beginning. We were reminded by the Haiti Solidarity Group that it is not enough to win elections, as Jean Bertrand Aristide won

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elections in his native land twice, and was ejected twice by US-backed coups, and Haiti is still disgracefully occupied, this time by the UN's MINUSTAH, its people reduced to tent-living in their own land.

We were reminded by poet and singer Mario, of the group Una Flor, Un Canto, y Una Poesía, whose songs I hope to record soon, that when we have martyrs in the movement, we don't take a minute of silence, but remember them an entire life. We ended the event with a spirited performance by Fogo Na Roupa, a Brazilian dance group led by a wonderful Salvadorean dance director, which has won the San Francisco Carnaval prize six years running.

Throughout the evening I worried about Venezuela, because I was working for the Chilean Chuquicamata when, with our help and support, the Chilean right ousted and deposed Salvador Allende, ushering in the bloody dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet. I well remember the cacerolazos, the manufactured shortages of food, toilet paper... the fake outrage of the "citizenry."

I worry because if Venezuela, with US help, falls, our new and glorious Latin American left victories are all in peril. I see this current state of affairs as similar to that which prompted the international creation of brigades to help fight Francisco Franco, including, in the US, the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. I want us to do something, anything, to prevent this from happening. The only hope in the world continues to be the Bolivarian revolution, in its many guises, in Cuba and Venezuela, Bolivia and Ecuador, Argentina and El Salvador...

I remember all too well how the left in Latin America was systematically destroyed in the 1990's by military power, with the help, money and training of our government. El Cono Sur or Southern Cone (Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Chile) experienced brutal repression on all the groups of public organizing, including labor unions, peasant groups, leftist parties, and human rights groups, as well as all family members of any of these. The dictatorship in Argentina over a 7-year period tortured, killed and disappeared over 30,000 activists. Pinochet wreaked havoc in Chile. Guatemala's guerrillas were targeted and annihilated (200,000 in two years) by 'counter-insurgency' measures. El Salvador had a bloody civil war funded by US dollars.

The Cuban revolution was an unprecedented victory, because despite its nearness to the US (90 miles at its closest point), it persisted, regardless of the blockade and the conspiracies aimed at overturning the government. Hugo Chávez picked up the baton, and Venezuela during his rule eliminated the worst of the dire poverty, opened up free clinics for all, and in general did something about the country's inequality. This is now all in danger of falling. So, I am asking you all, what do we do? Do we start a team of observers, do we ask other countries to help? What?

Because on June 1st I went to the celebration of Sánchez Cerén's inauguration dispirited, and returned with my heart charged by the sharing and the music and the poetry... But we need to act now, as true revolutionaries with the power of love, and protect Venezuela, and the dreams of Simón Bolívar and José Martí.

What say you?

Trade Deals That Threaten Democracy

How the US-EU and Transpacific Trade and Investment Agreements will further empower corporations and undermine public services, social and environmental protection and trade union rights

Published by the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations in Geneva. This article is derived largely but not entirely from the IUF booklet which we hope to make more widely available, either in print or online. www.iuf.org/w/?q=node/3311 See also www.iuf.org/w/?q=node/3454

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA — aka TPP) are now being secretly negotiated. Like earlier trade pacts, they will constitute an intricate web of bilateral and regional investment agreements, some of them deliberately and misleadingly packaged as Free Trade Agreements, which confer on transnational capital new powers to directly challenge the democratic right of governments to regulate and to legislate worker and consumer food safety standards, regulate financial flows, provide affordable medical services and protect natural resources and the environment.

The shape of the TPP and the TTIP can be anticipated by the history of similar agreements, largely set up by the World Trade Organization (WTO). These agreements have provided the "right" of investors to directly challenge government laws and regulations at national and sub-national levels through secret arbitration tribunals which bypass domestic courts. These challenges are grounded in an expansive definition of "investment" which applies to even anticipated, future profits and purely speculative financial instruments. WTO rules limit governments' ability to favor or support domestic producers in ways which "discriminate" against foreign investors (the national treatment/most favored nation principles).

Some details of the TPP have been leaked and are being studied in depth by concerned citizens. Negotiations on the transatlantic pact (TTIP) are at an earlier stage, but government pronouncements indicate that it has similar goals.

Historical Background

The WTO has been a prime mover in promoting, institutionalizing and enforcing the global neo-liberal project. . . .

It has attacked the "non-tariff barriers" to the flow of goods and services — the laws and regulations constructed over decades of struggle by labour and social movements to protect the collective political, economic and social rights of working people. Public ownership and public provision of services are also attacked as barriers, since they place fairness and social needs before the most important need of corporations - private profit. In the U.S. we have seen the privatization of everything from schools, to prisons, to municipal water projects, and now to the Postal Service (which was established in the Constitution!).

Investor-to-state Dispute Settlements: fast track to circumventing democracy

Since the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) approximately 3,200 such agreements have been signed. Over 90% of these treaties provide investor-to-state dispute settlement (ISDS) provisions allowing corporations

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Elections and the U.S. Response

Syria & a few geographical and historical reflections
by Carolyn S. Scarr

We citizens of the United States like to think of our government as supportive of democracy around the world. This view is called into question by the U.S. response to three very different elections in recent months.

Syrian elections took place on Tuesday, June 3. They were watched by international observers from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa as well as by a number of volunteer observers from the United States and other “western” countries. Observers found the elections basically fair, if not perfect. The turnout was very high. In addition Reuters reported that “Tens of thousands of Syrians abroad voted in an early poll.” Unfortunately, Syrians could not vote at their consulates and embassies in the U.S., France, Germany, Belgium and United Arab Emirates because of the hindrance by the governments of these countries.

Members of the Syria Solidarity Movement observing the election write back: “The election was held in a festive atmosphere with lots of singing and dancing. There was no doubt of the outcome, but it was an opportunity for Syrians to show their support for their government, and for the government and the world to hear directly from the people. The result was a resounding expression of solidarity, although the degree will be known only when the results are tabulated and the turnout is determined. In this context, it will be instructive to compare the results with the Egyptian election, where the results were also known in advance, but where the turnout was embarrassingly low. Not so in Syria. The polls stayed open until midnight and every polling station had a waiting line.” The turnout was 73.4% of which Assad won 88.7%. Read more at <http://www.syriasolidaritymovement.org/>

Ajamu Baraka, an associate fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies and editor of Black Agenda Report, writes on Common Dreams that the overwhelming electoral victory of Bashar Assad demonstrates that “substantial numbers of non-Alawite people and communities support the government. And even those elements of Syrian society that were not enthusiastic supporters of the government grew to understand that the legitimate indigenous opposition had been displaced by powerful non-Syrian forces from the U.S. and the Gulf States who provided material, political and diplomatic support to an opposition that not only had tenuous ties to the country but seemed only committed to waging war. This convinced many that the only politically consistent option was to support the government, as an expression of support for Syria’s sovereignty and its national project.” <http://www.commondreams.org/view/2014/06/04-3>

The U.S. administration is making it clear that they don’t recognize the legitimacy of the Syrian people’s choice at the polls. Kerry is calling the Syrian election “a farce”, although it stands up well next to the other elections in the region this spring. Alarming news can be found in *The Business Insider*: “US Special Forces May Soon Be Training Syrian Rebels. President Barack Obama is weighing sending a limited number of American troops to Jordan to be part of a regional training mission that would instruct carefully vetted members of the Free Syrian Army on tactics, including

counterterrorism operations.” www.businessinsider.com

Egypt’s election in late May had a very low turnout. “Western” powers are reported to be cool but not overtly hostile toward the recent “election” of General el-Sisi in Egypt where the legitimately elected government of President Morsi was overturned in July of 2013 by the military led by el-Sisi who gave up his military commission to be eligible to run for elective office.

The election on May 24 of a really dirty oligarch, billionaire Petro Poroshenko, in Ukraine where the legitimate government was overthrown by what can only be called terrorists with fascist historical roots has been celebrated by the U.S. administration.

Going a little further afield in time and space, we can see how the U.S. responded to the election in Haiti of Jean Bertrand Aristide. It engineered a coup to overthrow him — twice. Also part of the strategy was to prevent the overwhelmingly popular Lavalas party from running candidates in two elections. Thus was achieved the “government” of Martelley, welcomed with open arms by then Secretary of State Hilary Clinton, whose husband works with former President Bush, Jr. to engineer Haiti’s most recent sweatshop economy currently in the making.

Also in the Americas, we saw overthrown and murdered Chile’s President Allende, who had been legitimately elected. We also saw every effort to repeat that pattern in Venezuela. A successful overthrow has resulted in years of repression in Honduras. Let us not forget the bloodshed inflicted by the Contras on the people of Nicaragua. And as El Salvador celebrates the electoral victory of the FMLN, we must keep a close eye on our government’s actions there.

Back to Africa, the freedom and democracy in the Congo was nipped in the bud with the murder of Patrice Lumumba, in 1961 when JFK was president in the U.S.

With Fatah and Hamas joining to form a united government for Palestinians, we recall that Hamas actually won a nation-wide election which Fatah decided not to honor. As Hamas took control of Gaza, the U.S. and Israel besieged that part of Palestine with no other excuse than their disapproval of the Palestinians’ electoral choice. Now the joining of these opposing parties in a unity government is being greeted with great hostility by the U.S. and its ally Israel.

President Obama’s adoption of the idea of American “exceptionalism” is very troubling. It is time for us to pick up the words of Dr. King as he made his “passionate plea to (his) beloved nation,” which he described as a “strange liberator” in the specific context of Vietnam: “Here is the true meaning and value of compassion and nonviolence when it helps us to see the enemy’s point of view, to hear his questions, to know his assessment of ourselves. For from his view we may indeed see the basic weaknesses of our own condition, and if we are mature, we may learn and grow and profit from the wisdom of the brothers who are called the opposition.

“. . . Somehow this madness must cease. We must stop now. I speak as a child of God and brother to the suffering poor of Vietnam. I speak for those whose land is being laid waste, whose homes are being destroyed, whose culture is being subverted. I speak for the poor of America who are paying the double price of smashed hopes at home and death and corruption in Vietnam. I speak as a citizen of the world, for the world as it stands aghast at the path we have

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Elections, continued from page 7

taken. I speak as an American to the leaders of my own nation. The great initiative in this war is ours. The initiative to stop it must be ours."

What Dr. King spoke of in 1967, in the speech known as "Beyond Vietnam," must be taken beyond Vietnam indeed. As he said, we must end the "pattern of suppression which has justified the presence of U.S. military 'advisors'" in countless countries around the world "to maintain social stability for our investments."

Being limited in space, this article is necessarily limited in time and geography. We have not gone into the occupation of Native Peoples' Lands to form this country and the death and destruction this involved. EPI has a modest but clear history of cooperation with Native People on issues of land justice and religious liberty, including supporting the traditional people of Big Mountain and helping to counter the celebratory approach to the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Columbus to this hemisphere. We have also left out the land grab of Mexican territories, the overthrow of the internationally recognized government in Hawaii, the Spanish American War with the appropriation of Spanish colonies, the long struggle for Puerto Rican independence.

What is "exceptional" is the breadth of U.S. intervention around the world. Let us look it in the face and see clearly what our work must be. Dr. King calls us to our task: "A true revolution of values will soon cause us to question the fairness and justice of many of our past and present policies. . . We must move past indecision to action. . . Now let us begin. Now let us rededicate ourselves to the long and bitter — but beautiful — struggle for a new world."

Trade Deals, continued from page 6

to directly sue governments for damages in closed tribunals for which there is no appeals process. Arbitrators are free to determine compensation and allocation of costs. ISDS claims are proliferating. Over 500 cases have been filed. Two thirds of the 58 new cases filed in 2012 were against developing or "transition" countries. The IUF booklet describes several instances in which corporations have taken governmental bodies to these kangaroo courts.

Expanding investor "rights"

Expropriation has expanded to include "measures tantamount to expropriation," "indirect expropriation" and "regulatory expropriation." This may include any state measure or policy which may potentially impact on profits, future profits, or "reasonable expectation of profits." How reasonable the expectation is will be decided by these "tribunals." We have seen similar arguments in the U.S. claiming that zoning restrictions, environmental protections, health and safety standards constitute a "taking" of private property for which a public entity has to reimburse an owner. Seattle's recent increase in minimum wage is being challenged as a restriction of employers' First Amendment Rights by cutting into their advertising budget!

The treaties prohibit any restrictions on the repatriation of profits or funds. Governments may not impose capital controls to halt attacks on their currencies or restrict "hot money" flows in a crisis.

Opposition to these trade deals are growing around the world. The IUF has provided us with a valuable educational tool to help people around the world working to protect our democratically achieved protections of the common good.

At the intersection of mass incarceration, immigration, slavery and the homeless *by Silvia Brandon Pérez*

Bryan Stevenson, winner of the Smithsonian American Ingenuity Award in social justice, says in an article written for Smithsonian by Chris Hedges in December of 2012, that mass incarceration defines us as a society, the way slavery once did. The United States has less than 5 percent of the world's population but imprisons a quarter of the world's inmates. Most of those 2.4+ million inmates are people of color, Black or Latino. And we are exporting this system, this new auction block, throughout the world, because the prison industry is one of the fastest growing and most profitable industries worldwide.

The disturbing use of mass incarceration to "control" people of color is, in the words of Michelle Alexander, the new "Jim Crow." Latino and black men, both the young and their elders, are locked out of the political system because they have criminal records, and can no longer vote. They are locked out of the employment market, at a time of very high unemployment, because most employers will not allow anyone with a record to apply for work. They then become outcasts, the first ones targeted when a new crime is committed, the ones "shot" when the forces of the law are "in doubt." And for those without papers, the undocumented among us, which number more than eleven million, this racist system ensures that they will be stopped, frisked, arrested for minor offenses, and will wind up in jail, "awaiting" trial or, even if charges are dropped, "awaiting" deportation if they happen to be undocumented.

Because the system is allowed by law to pay little or no money, they will do all the jobs in the jail, including the dishes, the floors, the toilets, the cooking, for little or no pay, or for an extra packet of chips or watery soup that might include the odd bug, and the "law" says this is allowed, this is "the way we conduct business." Conditions are so severe, including overcrowding and poor living conditions, and the use of solitary confinement for extended periods of time, that some of the inmates are undergoing dangerous and painful hunger strikes, and in places such as Guantanamo, are being force-fed, which is nothing less than torture.

We know about this; in December of 2012, the Smithsonian published the story mentioned above (<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/people-places/why-mass-incarceration-defines-us-as-a-society-135793245/#EJhhHlzgmobUIg7u.99>); that story starts in Montgomery, Alabama, on a street with four slave depots, where they retrace "...the steps taken by tens of thousands of slaves who were chained together in coffles. The coffles could include 100 or more men, women and children, all herded by traders who carried guns and whips." The square now showing a historical marker celebrating the presence in Montgomery of Jefferson Davis, was where "... men and women fell to their knees weeping and beseeched slave-holders not to separate them from their husbands, wives or children. It was here that girls and boys screamed as their fathers or mothers were taken from them."

On May 28th, I accompanied two children to say goodbye to their father, who was going to be deported after the

continued on page 9

Intersection, continued from page 8

Board of Immigration Appeals denied his appeal of the order of deportation. The little boy, aged 7, had not seen his dad in over a year, and the girl, 16, had seen him shackled when she had accompanied me to a hearing, and had run out of the courtroom sobbing. It was only this past January that San Francisco settled a case started by the ACLU and agreed not to shackle immigrants not accused of violent crimes for long periods of time (see <http://www.npr.org/blogs/thetwo-way/2014/01/24/265809791/immigrants-wont-be-shackled-at-san-francisco-court-hearings>).

It was left to me to explain to the boy where we were going and why; it was up to me to herd them into the dirty interview room, with a scarred Plexiglas window where they could see their dad, and "touch his hand" through the window. While they both sobbed into the phone line, the three of them held hands in a symbolic touching. Shades of the Montgomery auction block... This man was held at two separate jails for almost two years, on an initial DUI charge filed against him after he was arrested in a parked car, and had to be awakened by the officer. He ultimately pled to a DUI misdemeanor because he had spent more than a year in prison, and could not tolerate the situation any more. He could not afford a private attorney; the length of his imprisonment made the plea necessary. His bail had been set at \$10,000, all cash; the family had only been able to raise \$6,000 out of that \$10,000. He would work 12 to 14 hours per day at whatever menial jobs were available, for an extra coffee or juice or chips...

Two women whom I spoke to also spoke about the prison system; they resented the fact that at least the men could work, while they could not. They talked about the food with bugs, the meager portions, the excessive charges for things such as instant soup (\$3 per packet). Imprisonment in this large scale ensures that your expenses will be well paid for; they do all the work, get no money, and the state pays for their room and board, sometimes at a rate between \$120 and \$200 per day.

None of this is news; Michelle Alexander has written her brilliant book about the new "Jim Crow." It describes a pattern of mass arrest, prosecution and incarceration that is racially motivated. It has nothing to do with crime and everything to do with race. People of color are targeted at a much higher rate than whites. This sets in motion a sickening circle of criminalization based on race, and is related to our poor school systems, poor employment opportunities, and embedded racism. And as stated before, the conditions inside are tantamount to torture... inedible food, segregation and sometimes solitary confinement, in small cells where the inmate is denied human contact. At the end of the line the inmate is either released to a world that does not want him or her, where he or she cannot get a job or an education or public housing, and where he or she cannot even vote. If he or she is undocumented, the end of the line might mean deportation to "the border" in a country that may now be alien to the inmate, who may have lived here for ten or more years, who has married or is raising a family, who is a productive member of society.

While making phone calls for a candidate during the recent electoral campaign, I spoke to the wife of naturalized husband-and-wife voters. She told me their daughter had been deported, despite the fact that she had lived here for many years, both of them were US citizens, and she was

suffering from a severe form of lupus. Her husband was very angry and refused to cast his vote for any candidate. And then there was the woman with a particularly severe case of epilepsy, who was almost deported except that she had a virulent seizure and fainted on her way up the steps of the plane.

I have added the intersection with homelessness because immigrants, when released on bail, are often sent out of prison with no money, into a city they may be unfamiliar with; they lack the resources, language and otherwise, to find a place to live, a job, a plate of food. Many of them eventually join the homeless population.

Mass incarceration is an outrageous practice, targeting our young, our people of color, and subjecting them to inhumane conditions of slavery and torture, racism and cruelty, and at some point in what often appears to be a distant future, the dishonor of a criminal record. It must be stopped.

On June 11, 1963, President Kennedy appeared on national television to address civil rights, and called for national unity, calling it a "moral issue". He said about Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation "One hundred years of delay have passed since President Lincoln freed the slaves, yet their heirs, their grandsons, are not fully free. They are not yet freed from the bonds of injustice. They are not yet freed from social and economic oppression. And this Nation, for all its hopes and all its boasts, will not be fully free until all its citizens are free. We preach freedom around the world, and we mean it, and we cherish our freedom here at home, but are we to say to the world, and much more importantly, to each other that this is a land of the free except for the Negroes; that we have no second-class citizens except Negroes; that we have no class or caste system, no ghettos, no master race except with respect to Negroes? Now the time has come for this Nation to fulfill its promise."

It is now more than a half century later, and rather than fulfilling the nation's promise, we are still hypocritically preaching morality and democracy to the world, and still avoiding the moral issues of the day. We have added other people of color to the slaves that were freed by Lincoln, but we have added further bonds of cruelty and injustice, including economic injustice to an unparalleled degree.

P.S. As we go to press I just returned from a wonderful symposium on immigration and economic justice put on by CLUE California, and held in Los Angeles. We touched on the babies now coming to our borders, and being housed in warehouses by ICE, babies as young as five years old, and on Friday morning, while at my daughter's preparing to return, I accidentally opened my email to the immigrant children in Nogales. I burst out crying in front of my youngest grandbabies, aged 11 and 40 months. It is time to take this to the streets.

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A Pivot on the Peace Island

By Kathy Kelly May 24, 2014 Jeju Island, South Korea –

For the past two weeks, I've been in the Republic of Korea (ROK), as a guest of peace activists living in Gangjeong Village on ROK's Jeju Island. Gangjeong is one of the ROK's smallest villages, yet activists here, in their struggle against the construction of a massive naval base, have inspired people around the world.

Since 2007, activists have risked arrests, imprisonment, heavy fines and wildly excessive use of police force to resist the desecration caused as mega-corporations like Samsung and Daelim build a base to accommodate U.S. nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and submarines for their missions throughout Asia. The base fits the regional needs of the U.S. for a maritime military outpost that would enable it to continue developing its Asia Pivot strategy, gradually building towards and in the process provoking superpower conflict with China.

"We don't need this base," says Bishop Kang, a Catholic prelate who vigorously supports the opposition. He worries that if the base is completed, Jeju Island will become a focal point for Far Eastern military struggle, and that this would occur amid accelerating military tensions. "The strongest group in the whole world, the military, takes advantage of National Security ideology," he continues. "Many people make money. Many governments are controlled by this militarism. The military generals, in their minds, may think they are doing this to protect their country, but in fact they're controlled by the corporations."

Jeju Islanders cannot ignore or forget that at least 30,000 of their grandparents and great grandparents were slaughtered by a U.S.-supported Korean government intent on crushing a tenacious democracy movement. The height of the assault in 1948 is referred to as the April 3 massacre, although the persecution and murderous suppression lasted many years. The national government now asking sacrifices of them has rarely been their friend.

But for the construction, Gangjeong seems a truly idyllic place to live. Lanes curving through the village are bordered by gardens and attractive small homes. Villagers prize hard work and honesty, in a town with apparently no need to lock up anything, where well-cultivated orange trees fill the eye with beauty and the air with inexpressible fragrance. Peaks rise in the distance, it's a quick walk to the shore, and residents seem eager to guide their guests to nearby spots designated as especially sacred in the local religion as indicated by the quiet beauty to be found there.

One of these sacred sites, Gureombi Rock, is a single, massive 1.2 km lava rock which was home to a fresh water coastal wetland, pure fresh water springs and hundreds of plants and animal species. Now, it can only be accessed through the memories of villagers because the Gureombi Rock is the exact site chosen for construction of the naval base. My new friend, Tilcote, explained to me, through tears, that Gureombi has captured her heart and that now her heart aches for Gureombi.

Last night we gathered to watch and discuss a film by our activist film-maker and friend Cho Sung-Bong. Activists recalled living in a tent camp on Gureombi, successful for a time in blocking the construction companies. "Gureombi was our bed, our dinner table, our stage, and our prayer site," said Jonghwan, who now works every day

as a chef at the community kitchen. "Every morning we would wake and hear the waves and the birds."

The film, set for release later this year, is called "Gureombi, the Wind is Blowing." Cho, who had arrived in Gangjeong for a 2011 visit at the height of vigorous blockades aimed at halting construction, decided to stay and film what he saw. We see villagers use their bodies to defend Gureombi. They lie down beneath construction vehicles, challenge barges with kayaks, organize human chains, occupy cranes, and, bearing no arms, surround heavily armed riot police. The police use extreme force, the protesters regroup and repeat. Since 2007, over 700 arrests have been made with more than 26 people imprisoned, and hundreds of thousands in fines imposed on ordinary villagers. Gangjeong village now has the highest "crime" rate in South Korea!

Opposing the real crime of the base against such odds, the people here have managed to create all the "props" for a thriving community. The community kitchen serves food free of charge, 24 hours a day. The local peace center is also open most of the day and evening, as well as the Peaceful Café. Books abound, for lending, many of them donated by Korean authors who admire the villagers' determination to resist the base construction. Food, and much wisdom, are available but so much more is needed.

After seven years of struggle many of the villagers simply can't afford to incur additional fines, neglecting farms, and languishing, as too many have done, in prison. A creative holding pattern of resistance has developed which relies on community members from abroad and throughout the ROK to block the gate every morning in the context of a lengthy Catholic liturgy.

Priests and nuns, whose right to pray and celebrate the liturgy is protected by the Korean constitution, form a line in front of the gate. They sit in plastic chairs, for morning mass followed by recitation of the rosary. Police dutifully remove the priests, nuns and other activists about ten times over the course of the liturgy, allowing trucks to go through. The action slows down the construction process and sends a symbolic, daily message of resistance.

Returning to the U.S., I'll carry memories not only of tenacious, creative, selfless struggle but also of the earnest questions posed by young Jeju Island students who themselves now face prospects of compulsory military service. Should they experiment with conscientious objection and face the harsh punishments imposed on those who oppose militarization by refusing military service?

Their questions help me pivot towards a clearer focus on how peace activists, worldwide, can oppose the U.S. pivot toward increasing militarization in Asia, increasing conflict with its global rivals, and a spread of weapons that it is everyone's task to hinder as best they can.

Certainly one step is to consider the strength of Gangjeong Village, and to draw seriousness of purpose from their brave commitment and from the knowledge of what is at stake for them and for their region. It's crucial to learn about their determination to be an island of peace. As we find ways to demand constructive cooperation between societies rather than relentless bullying and competition, their struggle should become ours.

Kathy Kelly (kathy@vcnv.org) co-coordinates Voices for Creative Nonviolence (www.vcnv.org)

Haiti — a constant struggle

“They say that freedom is a constant struggle,” so goes the song. “Oh, Lord, I’ve struggled so long, I must be free.”

In 1804, the people of Haiti established the first free country ever achieved by the revolt of slaves. The fact that African slaves overthrew their owners turned the European-descended world against them from the start. That antipathy remains till this day.

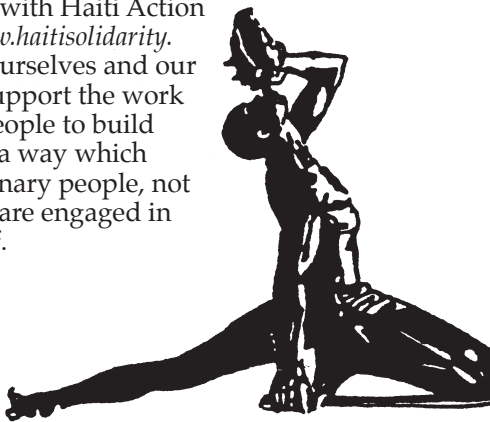
Rather than recapitulate that history in this brief observation of current events, this article will note that since the overthrow of the Baby Doc repressive regime, Haitians have had two actual free elections in which they twice elected Jean Bertrand Aristide who was twice removed by a U.S. organized coup. Martelley, the current “president” of Haiti, was selected by the U.S. State Department and is closely allied with Baby Doc Duvalier who has returned from his exile in France to be tight with Martelley and was greeted with open arms by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Past issues of *Planted* have given the story of the diversion of aid intended for reconstruction after the earthquake. We will look at some current problems:

Ile a Vache is an island off the coast of Haiti near Les Cayes. People have lived there for many generations — food self-reliant and healthy. Now the tourist industry is moving in. People are being shoved off their farms. Forests on the island are being cut down. A web search on the name turns up numerous references to “Resort Beachfront Hotel,” etc. This is one of several instances of land grabs for outside interests. Sweatshops are being set up in “industrial parks” displacing good farm land. Foreign mining companies, many of them Canadian, are moving into Haiti. This is clearly Disaster Capitalism as Naomi Klein calls it. There is massive popular resistance to these appropriations around the country.

Ongoing attacks on Aristide — President Aristide has made it clear, in words and by his actions, that his work at this time is in education with the medical school and the nursing school in full operation. Anti-Lavalas forces continue in their attempts to undermine Aristide and his work by promulgating false charges against him. Sometimes they accuse him directly and sometimes by proxy through his friends. The complete absence of evidence does not slow down this effort. It is clear that the intention is to reduce international support for Lavalas as a political force in Haiti and the educational work of the Aristide Foundation.

Ecumenical Peace Institute encourages our readers to work, as we do, with Haiti Action Committee (www.haitisolidarity.net) to educate ourselves and our friends and to support the work of the Haitian people to build their country in a way which benefits the ordinary people, not the 0.001% who are engaged in ripping them off.



August 6: Failure to Disarm — Holding Our Government Accountable

The Ecumenical Peace Institute asks people of faith and good will to mark the 69th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan at the Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab, where 89% of its fiscal year 2015 budget request is for nuclear weapons activities.

The Wednesday, August 6, 2014, event is titled, “Failure to Disarm: Holding Our Government Accountable.” Participants will gather at the northwest corner of the Livermore Lab (Vasco Road and Patterson Pass Road in Livermore). The program featuring music, art and speakers will begin at 7:30 AM.

Featured speakers include Rick Wayman on the courageous litigation filed recently by the tiny Republic of the Marshall Islands against the U.S. and eight other nuclear weapons states for their failure to disarm. Chizu Hamada will connect nuclear weapons and nuclear power and update us on the situation in Japan. Attorney Scott Yundt will speak on the nuclear weapons programs at Livermore Lab. And, Jackie Cabasso will connect the dots to holding the U.S. accountable for resurgent militarism in Okinawa, Jeju Island and beyond.

A hibakusha (A-bomb survivor) speaker has been invited, and, at 8:15 AM, there will be a solemn moment of silence to honor radiation victims worldwide. The U.S. dropped the first nuclear bomb used in war on Hiroshima at 8:15 AM local time, August 6, 1945.

Immediately following the program, at approximately 8:30 AM, will be a “call to action,” in which participants will be invited to march a short distance to the Livermore Lab West Gate. Those who choose will nonviolently risk arrest. Others will conduct a legal witness and support.

This event is cosponsored by the Ecumenical Peace Institute, Livermore Conversion Project, Tri-Valley CAREs, Western States Legal Foundation, No Nukes Action, Asian Americans for Peace and Justice, American Friends Service Committee, Peace Action West and others. For more information, contact Tri-Valley CAREs at 925-443-7148 or EPI at 510 - 990-0374 or visit <https://www.facebook.com/AugustAction>

Other events relating to the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are:

Friday, August 1, 7 pm to 9 pm. Newman Nonviolent Peacemakers will commemorate the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in an informational program at Newman, 2700 Dwight Way (at College Ave.), Berkeley. The program will include a portion of Oliver Stone’s film *Untold History of the United States* entitled *THE BOMB*. A lively discussion will follow.

Saturday, August 9 6:30–9 p.m. Japanese Peace Lantern Ceremony, North end of Aquatic Park, Berkeley
West end of Addison St., 2 blocks west of Sixth St.

1 block south of University Ave.

for more information www.peacelanterns.org

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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

Friday, August 1, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Newman Hall, Berkeley. Commemoration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, see page 11.

Wednesday, August 6, 7:30 a.m. Livermore Nuclear Laboratory. Failure to Disarm, a Hiroshima Day program and action calling for end to research and development of nuclear weapons, see page 11.

Saturday, August 9, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. Aquatic Park, Berkeley, Japanese Peace Lantern Ceremony, see page 11.

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

- • • • •
- You are invited to read *Planted by the Waters*
- online at <http://www.epicalc.org/> and down-
- load articles to share. Upcoming events
- which EPI is involved in planning will be
- found at the website. If you want email no-
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Actions

Living Graveyard and Reading of the Names, third 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. (July Living Graveyard is cancelled.)

Weekly 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.