



# Planted by the Waters

Fall 2016

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## The Living Graveyard — *a bit of history* by Carolyn Scarr

In 1997 Ecumenical Peace Institute, the East Bay Coalition to Stop Sanctions on Iraq (now the East Bay Coalition to Support Self-rule for Iraqis) together with other peace groups began a weekly vigil to raise awareness about the deadly sanctions imposed on Iraq and to end them.

In 2006 organizers of the Oakland vigil who had participated in anti-war die-ins at the San Francisco Federal Building decided to organize an action in Oakland. Since Congresswoman Barbara Lee has been a consistent opponent of the war we decided to create a legal witness rather than get arrested on her doorstep.



November 24 - 27 2006, Berkeley Daily Planet

The first Living Graveyard was held in November of 2006. Some fifteen people lay down on the sidewalk in front of the Oakland Federal Building. They were covered with white sheets to represent a shroud and sprigs of green rosemary were laid on their bodies. "Rosemary, that's for remembrance."

Thus began a monthly witness remembering the dead. Our January Graveyard was interrupted by a Federal Marshall who told us we had to get up or we would be arrested. Esther Ho and I were arrested that day. The Marshall claimed we were blocking the pedestrian crosswalk and the handicapped entrance, which we were not. With the assistance of the ACLU we established that we were exercising our first amendment rights and all charges were dropped.

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## Urgent Request For Funds for Haiti From The Haiti Emergency Relief Fund, HERF

c/o East Bay Sanctuary Covenant,  
2362 Bancroft Way, Berkeley CA 94704  
510-595-4650 • [herf1804@hotmail.com](mailto:herf1804@hotmail.com)  
[www.haitiemergencyrelief.org](http://www.haitiemergencyrelief.org)

As we write this, Hurricane Matthew has slammed into Haiti, leaving thousands without shelter or food. The hurricane has devastated the city of Les Cayes and many villages in the Southwestern part of the country, destroying crops and livestock and reversing the gains in food production made by women's agricultural cooperatives and other local farmers. Now the torrential rains and winds have hit the capital, Port-au-Prince. With massive flooding comes the increased danger of water-borne diseases, particularly cholera (brought to Haiti by UN troops), which has already reached epidemic proportions.

We ask that all friends of Haiti donate right now to the Haiti Emergency Relief Fund. Your donations will go directly to grassroots organizations on the ground in Haiti. With the delayed October 9th elections to take place soon, popular organizations in Haiti are hard at work trying to help families and communities while ensuring that the election is free and fair and that Haiti's poor majority is not blocked from voting or having their votes counted.

**This is a critical time for us to step up our solidarity.**

**Please send your tax-deductible funds to:**

Haiti Emergency Relief Fund  
c/o East Bay Sanctuary Covenant,  
2362 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA, 94704

Or donate at: [www.haitiemergencyrelief.org](http://www.haitiemergencyrelief.org)  
EBSC is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization,  
tax ID# 94-3249753

Thank you so much for your generous support,

Haiti Emergency Relief Fund Board of Directors:  
Walter Riley, Maureen Duignan, O.S.F.,  
Pierre Labossiere, Marilyn Langlois, Robert Roth

## How Decades Of Deliberate U.S. Policy Undermined Haiti's Rice Production

by Leslie Mullin

Leslie Mullin is a founding member of Haiti Action Committee

The story of Haitian rice begins in Africa. Rice is a grain that has sustained African peoples for centuries.\* Haitian rice is thought to have originated in West Africa. It has been cultivated in Haiti for over 200 years and is a basic staple of the Haitian diet.

Until the 1980s, Haiti was self-sufficient in rice production. Since then, decades of deliberate US policy carried out in collaboration with successive Haitian dictators and military regimes have turned Haiti from a rice growing country into the world's fourth largest importer of American rice. In one example, in September 1992, American Rice Corporation, based in Texas, signed a 9-year contract with Haiti's brutal military regime to export rice to Haiti. The previous year, CIA-backed General Raoul Cedras, trained at the School of the Americas, led the overthrow of Haiti's first democratically-elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, in a military coup that killed, tortured and raped thousands of pro-democracy supporters of the constitutional government. Aside from the Vatican, few governments recognized the repressive Cedras regime. But American Rice Corporation Communications Director Lawrence Theriot had powerful connections in Washington. Theriot was the former director of Reagan's Caribbean Basin Initiative, with friends like Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Jesse Helms. (R-NC)

Military regimes are not only brutal — they are efficient mechanisms for restructuring economies, literally at gunpoint. The American rice deal was in line with a well-defined US strategy beginning with Francois Duvalier (Papa Doc) to dismantle Haiti's rural economy, redirecting production towards agro-industry and export manufacturing. Under Jean-Claude Duvalier (Baby Doc), Reagan's Caribbean Basin Initiative promoted massive increases in subsidized American rice exports to Haiti. The USAID 1982-83 extermination of 1.3 million Creole pigs overseen by armed Ton Ton Macoute under Baby Doc tore the heart out of the peasant economy. Even earlier, when 1970s floods damaged Haitian rice crops, subsidized US rice imports in the form of food aid began to undermine Haiti's rice farmers. In December 1987, Haitian farmers blocked roads to protest smuggled American rice.

Bill Clinton's sly 2010 "Devil's Bargain" apology for undermining Haitian rice production during his administration masked decades of deliberate U.S. policy in which Clinton's contribution was a nail in

the coffin. Clinton failed to mention that his bargaining chip — the one that enabled Arkansas rice farmers to reap profits off Haiti — was the threat of prolonged violence by the Cedras regime against Haiti's pro-democracy movement. Nor did he apologize for forcibly repatriating Haitians fleeing persecution under the Cedras regime. This is why we say Haiti is the most robbed country in the western hemisphere — not the poorest.

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\**Black Rice: the African Origins of Rice Cultivation in the Americas* by Judith Carney. "Black Rice tells the story of the true provenance of rice in the Americas. It establishes, through agricultural and historical evidence, the vital significance of rice in West African society for a millennium before Europeans arrived and the slave trade began. The standard belief that Europeans introduced rice to West Africa and then brought the knowledge of its cultivation to the Americas is a fundamental fallacy, one which succeeds in effacing the origins of the crop and the role of Africans and African-American slaves in transferring the seed, the cultivation skills, and the cultural practices necessary for establishing it in the New World."

### Sources:

Aristide, Jean-Bertrand. "Globalization: A Choice Between Death and Death." From *Eyes of the Heart: Seeking a Path for the Poor in the Age of Globalization*. Edited by Laura Flynn. Common Courage Press, Monroe, ME, 2000.

Aristide, Jean-Bertrand. *Dignity*. University Press of Virginia, 1996.

George, Josiane. "Trade and the Disappearance of Haitian Rice," TED Case Studies #725 June 2004.

Ridgeweay, James [ed]. *The Haiti Files: Decoding the Crisis*. Essential Books, Washington DC, 1994.

Sprague, Jeb. *Paramilitarism and the Assault on Democracy in Haiti*, Monthly Review Press, New York, 2012.

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## California Ballot Measures

### recommendations of California Council of Churches Impact

Proposition 51: YES

Proposition 52: YES

Proposition 53: NO

Proposition 54: YES

Proposition 55: YES

Proposition 56: YES

Proposition 57: YES

Proposition 58: YES

Proposition 59: YES

Proposition 60: YES

Proposition 61: YES

Proposition 62: YES

Proposition 63: YES

Proposition 64: YES

Proposition 65: NO

Proposition 66: NO

Proposition 67: YES

To read their discussion of the measures visit [www.churchimpact.org](http://www.churchimpact.org)

## Report on Defense for Children International-Palestine

by Vivian Zelaya

According to Defense for Children International-Palestine: "Israel has the dubious distinction of being the only country in the world that systematically prosecutes between 500 and 700 children in military courts each year that lack fundamental fair trial rights." 1.

Fifteen year old Abdul-Rahman Kmail, incarcerated by the Israeli military without charge or trial in February of 2016, received a four month extension of his incarceration, still without charge or trial, on June 11, 2016. Administrative detention without charge or trial, which under Israeli Military rule, can be extended indefinitely was formerly reserved for Palestinian adults. Recently, thirteen Palestinian children are being held in administrative detention in East Jerusalem.

Attorney Brad Parker, an international advocacy officer for Defense for Children International-Palestine says, "Jailing children without charge or trial for indefinite periods amounts to unlawful arbitrary detention. Israel should either charge these children, and grant them due process rights, or immediately release them."

In 1991 Israel ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which demands that children should be deprived of their liberty only as a measure of last resort, children must not be unlawfully or arbitrarily detained. Yet the Israeli military makes a practice of invading Palestinian homes in the middle of the night, snatching boys as young as twelve from their beds and hauling them off to jail without a word of explanation to the parents who must stand by helplessly. In this way the children and the parents learn the terrifying truth. Parents are unable to protect their children from the Israeli military.

Meanwhile, in nearby colonial settlements, Israeli children sleep peacefully in their beds, secure in the knowledge that they are protected by Israeli civil and criminal law and the Israeli military.

Beth Miller of Defense for Children International-Palestine, recently informed a Berkeley audience what happens to the boys as they are transported to Israeli interrogation sites, often located in nearby settlements. On their way to interrogation the boys are blindfolded, kicked, slapped, punched and threatened with abuse of all kinds to themselves, and to their family members, by the Israeli soldiers. Once the child meets the interrogator, he is usually accused of stone-throwing. No parent or legal advocate is allowed to be present. He is told to sign a "confession." The "confession" is written in Hebrew, a language that most Palestinian children do not read or understand. If the child is reluctant to sign the "confession," he receives more kicks, blows, punches and threats. The threats can range from sexual abuse

to the child or to a family member, to the denial of a work permit to the family breadwinner, to home demolition.

The signed "confessions" are almost always the only "evidence" used against a child in court. The conviction rate based on these "confessions" is 98%. A child who pleads guilty usually gets three to six months in prison. In violation of the fourth Geneva Convention, sixty percent of these "convicts" are transferred to prisons in Israel where it is much more difficult for parents to visit.

In addition to incarceration, Defense for Children International-Palestine also tells us that there has been an increase in the number of Palestinian children killed and injured in the last year. As documented by Defense of Children International-Palestine, fifty-two Palestinian children have been killed so far in 2016.

In June, twenty members of Congress joined Congresswoman Betty McCollum of Minnesota in a letter to President Obama urging him to appoint a special envoy for Palestinian children to ensure that the U.S. government prioritizes Palestinian children's rights. We deeply appreciate any member of congress who dares to express concern for Palestinian children in this pre-election atmosphere, where the two major presidential candidates are pledging their undying loyalty to the State of Israel, to such a degree that it causes one to wonder, "Of which country do they wish to be president?" We need, however, to do much more if we wish to maintain our own humanity.

The frantic rush of anti-BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) legislation that threatens our First Amendment rights to free speech indicates, in a back-handed way, that BDS is having an effect. It appears that our national legislators, in failing to use their "powers of the purse" to halt the enormous "tribute" paid to the State of Israel each year, have left all hope of equity and justice to us, civil society, the people, to do the necessary work to bring about some measure of equity and justice thereby preserving our own humanity.

For these reasons I urge anyone reading this article to do all that you can to understand, educate, and advocate for an end to the human rights abuses perpetrated on the people of Palestine by the State of Israel. Some of the websites listed below might be helpful.

1. [http://www.dcipalestine.org/jail\\_terms\\_extended\\_for\\_seven\\_palestinian\\_teens\\_held\\_without\\_charge\\_or\\_trial](http://www.dcipalestine.org/jail_terms_extended_for_seven_palestinian_teens_held_without_charge_or_trial)  
[www.bdsmovement.net](http://www.bdsmovement.net)  
[www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org](http://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org)  
[www.codepinkforpeace.org](http://www.codepinkforpeace.org)  
<http://whoprofits.org/>  
<http://ifamericansknew.org/>  
[www.endtheoccupation.org](http://www.endtheoccupation.org)  
<http://mondoweiss.net>  
<https://electronicintifada.net/>  
[www.fosna.org](http://www.fosna.org)  
<http://nwtac.dci-palestine.org/>

## Dangerous Confusion about Syria

by Rick Sterling

There is a hypocritical disconnect in Western and especially U.S. foreign policy. When it comes to Israel, the U.S. is quick to claim "Israel has a right to defend itself." For Syria, that same right does not seem to exist.

### Is Israel Defending Itself or Defending Occupation/Apartheid?

When Israel executed intense bombing campaigns against Gaza in 2008, 2012 and 2014 the U.S. justified the attacks. At the United Nations on 18 July 2014, U.S. Ambassador Samantha Power said, "*President Obama spoke with Prime Minister Netanyahu this morning to reaffirm the United States' strong support for Israel's right to defend itself. . . . Hamas' attacks are unacceptable and would be unacceptable to any member state of the United Nations. Israel has the right to defend its citizens and prevent these attacks.*"

Israel claims it is simply responding defensively. The human rights group B'Tselem reports that over the decade between June 2004 and July 2015, Palestinians launched over 8700 rockets and 5000 mortars from Gaza into Israel. However, the total number of civilians killed over 10 years was 28 for an average of fewer than three persons per year. Using this as a justification, Israel has attacked by air and invaded every few years with extreme discrepancy in casualty rates. For example, Israeli attacks on Gaza in Summer 2014 resulted in over 2900 deaths . . . 97% of them Palestinian.

With so few deaths and little damage caused by the rockets from Gaza, it seems Palestinians have launched these as almost symbolic protest against Israeli repression. The Gazan economy is hugely restricted, the borders are closed and even the sky and ocean are off limits. Many people would say that Israel is keeping the entire population of Gaza in prison-like circumstances. In addition, many residents of Gaza are descendants of refugees from nearby Israeli towns and cities. Under the Geneva Conventions and UN Resolution 194, they have the right to return but have been deprived of this in addition to most other rights.

In summary, Palestinians have launched rockets and mortars to protest Israeli occupation and apartheid policies. The Palestinians are not seeking overthrow of the Israeli state so much as recognition of their rights and an end to the Occupation. Casualties have been few. In response, the West has given Israel a virtual free pass to attack Palestinians in Gaza and unleash horrific bombing in densely populated urban areas where there are huge civilian casualties. The Israeli government is not defending itself; it is imposing punishment on a captive and defenseless population.

### The Syrian State is Under Real Attack

The situation in Syria is dramatically different. The armed opposition in Syria has inflicted a huge number

of deaths and damage in the 5 year campaign to overthrow the government. Data from the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights show the following number of casualties since March 2011: Pro Government forces (army and militias) - 105,000 ; Anti Government forces - 101,000; Civilians - 86,000.

These numbers show the intensity of violence. They also indicate how wrong it is for critics to blame Assad and the Syrian government for all the deaths. As shown, soldiers and militias defending the state make up the largest number of casualties.

It is frequently claimed that protests only became violent after peaceful protests were brutally crushed. This is untrue. There were seven police killed in the first protests in Deraa. That was soon followed by dozens of soldiers being massacred in Deraa and Banyas at the end of March and in April 2011.

The conflict in Aleppo is currently in the news. This was the largest city in Syria and the industrial and financial engine. The largest and most effective opposition force in Aleppo is the Al Qaeda associated Nusra. Nusra is recognized to be 'terrorist' even by the U.S.A. and was never part of the 'cessation of hostilities'. There are other factions and fighting groups, but they are all seeking to destroy the Syrian state. Most of the groups are explicitly Wahabi sectarian and hostile to secularism, Christianity and moderate Islamic faiths.

The opposition in Syria is heavily armed with weapons, ammunition and explosives. Daily they launch hell cannon missiles into western Aleppo, killing randomly. Car bombs have killed thousands of civilians and soldiers. Tunnel bombs have killed thousands more.

Aleppo was relatively quiet until summer of 2012 when thousands of armed fighters invaded and occupied neighborhoods in the eastern part of the city. The 'rebels' were disliked by the majority of the population from the start. This was documented even by western journalists such as James Foley and Stephen Sotloff who went there inclined to be sympathetic to the opposition. Martin Chulov of the Guardian described East Aleppo in 2015 and estimated its population at just 40K. In sharp contrast, there is a large population of about 1.5 million Syrians living in the rest of the city. This is reflective of the reality: the vast majority of Syrians support the government and hate the terrorists. This includes many who are critical of the Baath Party and who want reforms but not violence and destruction. This important fact is generally ignored by western media. The current situation in government protected Western Aleppo is described by journalist Eva Bartlett.

In contrast with the Israeli situation, the Syrian government is truly fighting to defend itself against an armed opposition that is violent, sectarian and unpopular with the large majority of Syrians.

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**Syria**, *continued from page 4*

### **The Foreign Factor**

Adding to the legitimacy of the Syrian government's right to defend itself, the armed opposition in Syria has been heavily supported by foreign governments. Western states and their Gulf allies have supplied weapons, training, logistical support and salaries for many thousands of fighters. Qatar's Al Jazeera has broadcast misinformation, fabricated stories and heavily biased reporting from the start.

The same governments have been complicit in the recruitment and travel to Syria by thousands of foreigners from all parts of the globe. European, North American and Australian governments "looked the other way" as their citizens were recruited and then traveled to Syria via Turkey to join ISIS or Nusra. According to one study, over 12,000 foreigners including 3,000 from Europe and North America traveled to Syria in the first three years of the conflict. That was before ISIS peaked. Only in the last year, following terrorist actions in the West, have Western governments started arresting or detaining recruits and recruiters.

### **Violating International Law**

The situation in Syria is more extreme but has similarities to the situation in Nicaragua in the 1980's. On 27 June 1986, the International Court of Justice ruled:

"the United States of America, by training, arming, equipping, financing and supplying the contra forces or otherwise encouraging, supporting and aiding military and paramilitary activities in and against Nicaragua, has acted, against the Republic of Nicaragua, in breach of its obligation under customary international law not to intervene in the affairs of another State."

The court also decided the U.S. should make reparations to Nicaragua for injury caused by the violations. The US ignored the ruling and later withdrew from the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice.

The former Nicaragua Foreign Minister and former President of the United Nations General Assembly, Father Miguel D'Escoto, has written "What the U.S. government is doing in Syria is tantamount to a war of aggression, which, according to the Nuremberg Tribunal, is the worst possible crime a State can commit against another State." (personal correspondence quoted with permission)

### **Another Connection to Central America**

There is another connection between Central America and Syria. As some readers will recall, the American overseeing the Nicaraguan Contras and El Salvador death squads was U.S. Ambassador to Honduras, John Negroponte. His expertise was later used in Iraq when the 2003 invasion erupted into fierce resistance to the U.S. occupation. Newsweek magazine referred to Negroponte and the strategy of death squads as the 'El Salvador option'. Negroponte's chief political officer and right hand man was Robert S. Ford. After serving in Iraq, Robert Ford was later appointed to be U.S. Am-

bassador to Syria by Secretary of State Clinton. Ford has been in the forefront of the U.S. effort to promote the opposition and destabilize Syria. This is why it is accurate to say there is a personal and strategic link between the death squads and dirty wars of Central America in the 1980's and conflicts in Iraq and Syria.

### **Propaganda and Confusion**

Propaganda regarding Syria has been intense and led to much confusion. Sectarianism and opportunism, promoted by the Gulf monarchies Saudi Arabia and Qatar, has added to the disarray. The widespread but false analysis which suggests that Israel was content with the Assad government was refuted by the former Israeli Ambassador to the United States, Michael Oren, who said, "We always wanted Bashar Assad to go, we always preferred the bad guys who weren't backed by Iran to the bad guys who were backed by Iran." This is confirmed by looking at Israeli actions such as their medical treatment of Al Qaeda connected terrorists from Syria. It is also confirmed by reviewing the demands on Syria by Secretary Clinton in 2010. The Clinton effort to "change Syria's behaviour" pertained to Israeli interests: Syria should stop supporting Hezbollah, Syria should distance itself from Iran and Syria should come to agreement with Israel.

Confusion on Syria has pervaded much of the progressive movement in the West. As the Vice President of Veterans for Peace, Gerry Condon, recently said "The peace movement has been demobilized by disinformation." Some of this has been caused by peace groups who have been unduly influenced by Americans purporting to be Syrians. For example Mohja Kahf has been influential in demonizing the Syrian government. She is said to be Syrian but left the country as an infant and teaches at University of Arkansas which is heavily funded by Saudi Arabia. Her husband, Najib Ghabbian, teaches at the same university and is a leader of the U.S. sponsored National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces, the equivalent of the Iraqi National Council which campaigned for the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

Confusion and misinformation has been promoted by a groups and individuals widely considered progressive. They supported the invasion of Libya and have learned nothing from the results. Now they join the demonization of the Syrian government and promote a fantasy "Syrian revolution." Their specific examples of Syrian "revolutionaries" are the "activists" and "citizen journalists" who have been funded by the U.S. State Department.

In the early days of October, Syrian Arab Army (SAA) backed by Palestinian paramilitary made a major advance and captured more territory in East Aleppo from the terrorists. As the SAA and allies advance, the howls of protest and disinformation in the West escalates. Western media would have the pub-

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## 'Good Guy' Narratives & Community Safety

09/13/2016

by John Lindsay-Poland

"I'm too old for this s—t," the deputy says as we wait on the bus for processing. He is 65 years old. "I feel sorry for the ones coming up, I couldn't do 25 years of this." He is referring to a lack of public appreciation for police.

We are outside the Urban Shield expo of militarized equipment for police and other agencies. From where we sat in peacefully at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, we could see men in military fatigues entering the expo. As part of Urban Shield occurring in the Bay Area this weekend, dozens of SWAT teams from northern California, Mexico, and beyond also are competing in extreme exercise scenarios that must have a "nexus to terrorism," according to Homeland Security funding criteria.

The deputy continues. "Just like not everyone in prison is guilty, not every police officer is bad."

I'm down with that. But it's not really the point. If you are a good person, a police officer, and I give you military tools for fighting enemies, if prosecutors don't hold your peers accountable when they commit crimes or use excessive force, if you don't live in the community where you work, if you are not aware of implicit racial bias or toxic masculinity, then even you as a good person will likely commit abuses.

Alameda County Sheriff spokesman J.D. Nelson claims <http://patch.com/california/pleasanton/march-rally-protesting-urban-shield-training-forces-pleasanton-road-closures> that police militarization is nothing new, that police have used military technology for a hundred years. This would not be reassuring, even if it were true. After all, Southern police departments first adopted the .38 revolver — a measure of militarization at the time — on the basis of spurious and racist claims that black men high on cocaine were resistant to lower caliber bullets.

Today's normalization of militarized policing is evident in the phrase "first responders," which conflates police with fire and EMS personnel, and removes from the meaning of law enforcement its capacity for force and violence. It also makes invisible those who are typically first responders: family, neighbors, and other community members. The phrase sounds so good, especially when Sheriff spokesmen reference emergencies such as earthquakes. Of course we want agencies that will help us prepare for and respond to natural disasters. But why would you want a SWAT team to be the first to respond to an earthquake?

In fact, many community-based initiatives in California's East Bay — where Urban Shield is centered — respond to emergencies, including Community Emergency Response Trainings <https://www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams>, People's Community Medics <http://www.peoplescommunitymedics.org/>, and Learn, Lead, Lift <http://www2.oaklandnet.com/government/o/OFD/s/EmergencyPreparedness/LearnLeadLift/index.htm> which trains low-income communities in emergency preparedness.

The other image invoked for Urban Shield training is of terrorists hell-bent on killing and destroying, for which no negotiation or de-escalation skills supposedly can be applied. In fact, an FBI study <https://www.hsdl.org/?abstract&did=757920> of 160 active shooter incidents found that a majority of the incidents ended on the shooter's initiative, most before police arrived on the scene; in 21 incidents, unarmed citizens — primarily staff and students in school shootings — safely restrained the shooter.

Urban Shield training is actually applied to much more ordinary law enforcement. Two thirds of SWAT team deployments in 2014-2015 disclosed by police departments <https://afsc.org/document/report-urban-shield-abandoning-hope-not-building-hope> that participated in Urban Shield and responded to public records requests were for serving search, arrests and parole warrants, rather than for situations requiring specialized tactical capacities. Limited data indicate they also were deployed disproportionately against people of color, consistent with a national study by the American Civil Liberties Union. <https://www.aclu.org/sites/default/files/assets/jus14-warcomeshome-report-web-rel1.pdf>

As criticism of policing in the United States has increased, it's become more important for police to maintain the narrative that they are "good guys" going up against "the bad guys." That's why the deputy so desperately wanted the community to see him as a "good guy." Yet no one always behaves as wholly "good" or "bad."

The Alameda County Sheriff's deputy who arrested me put on plastic cuffs and zipped them tight against my wrists, until they cut off circulation and stopped the feeling in my thumb. Safariland, which produces such cuffs, was also vending its wares inside Urban Shield. (One online ad <http://www.ebay.com/itm/10X-Restraint-Zip-Tie-Disposable-Plastic-Handcuff-Double-Cuff-Restraint-Survival/> for these cuffs says to "please use carefully when releasing your hostage." Your hostage.) As I write, more than a day later, some of my thumb is still numb.

Others arrested with me, mostly white, also had highly constricted plastic cuffs that cut off feeling. This tight application of cuffs can produce nerve damage. When asked to adjust them, officers simply ignored us for awhile. It was a version for white people of casually applied indifference-cum-brutality. I know officers are human, of course, and would like to believe they are mostly "good guys," but so often, institutions generate police behavior that doesn't reinforce that idea.

A colleague of mine who comes from a family with many police officers observes that police are exposed to the worst in people, while also having enormous power. They are, after all, authorized to use lethal force in some circumstances. The combination of pessimism with power, he notes, has awful consequences. And current training focused on worst-case scenarios reinforces both of these features.

To construct genuine security, we and our local, state and national officials must decide to shift resources away from militarized law enforcement and toward underfunded programs for community emergency response, mental health care, education, and housing.

John Lindsay Poland is Wage Peace Coordinator, American Friends Service Committee and researcher / analyst of US policy, militarism, and human rights in Latin America.

## **With malice aforethought, reflections on wage slavery, gentrification and displacement, narcissistic capitalism and the homeless**

*by Silvia Brandon Pérez*

While helping an 83-year-old widow who had been married to her husband for 29 years, but whose knowledge of the English language was insufficient to deal with the daily grind of life in the middle of the narcissism of our modern capitalist Empire, I reflected once again on how people have to deal with the harshness of ongoing gentrification and displacement, while possessing little money, and lacking the resources and language to find a place to live that is affordable. After her stepchildren filed an improper action for unlawful detainer, so they could presumably sell the home in which she had lived for thirty years, and every one of whose trees, bushes, flowers she had planted and cared for, she ultimately (in her own words) was exiled to the barren town in northern New Mexico where her only son lives, there to face a community with little or no Spanish.

I decided to drive her to her new home so she could see the beauties of the land of “enchantment” that I have loved for so many years. I drove her around, unpacked her belongings, many of them smashed by the improper transportation of an unscrupulous moving company that gave us a very low bid as a typical bait and switch maneuver, and helped her to buy a used auto with a fair amount of unrepaired hail damage. I engaged people, asked them if they had any Spanish, took her around to see the stores, banks, and even the public library, obtained a medical pendant for her, installed internet and other services, and three weeks later I drove home, satisfied that she would now be more “independent.” She had been a Eucharist minister at her local Roman Catholic Church for thirty plus years, and even though unlettered and unschooled (she had never attended school either in the US or in her native Mexico), her love of God was boundless, and her services were beautiful and unquestionably filled with more simple beauty and meaning than most of the local masses...

The trip home through New Mexico, Arizona and then California was maddeningly slow because so many of the roads are closed or blocked and traffic trickles. I had spent too much time without internet access and had disregarded bill payment, bank balance, and found myself plagued by overdraft charges. In the end, the fact that you are doing a good thing for a neighbor does not prevent your local banking institution from claiming its pound of flesh... So I slept in the car outside of restaurants and convenience stores,

the light shining on my face no problem to a deep untroubled sleep.

I came back to a troubled nonprofit organization with too many hungry and homeless, or chronically unemployed and underemployed. Our city is now a model city and the 3rd most diverse city in the country, but our elected officials are still hypocritically preaching morality and solutions while avoiding the moral quandaries and the rising hungry and homeless populations. We still have on our books laws such as the one that prevents people from sharing food or “feeding” hungry people without a permit, or the one that makes it a crime to fall asleep in your car. When I interpreted in August for my widow at a sleep clinic and the doctor explained that she must pull over and take a nap if she ever felt sleepy, I quipped, loudly and smilingly, “Not in Hayward.” Although the 9th Circuit has struck down a similar law in LA, in Hayward we pay no attention to pesky situations such as the federal strictures. The truth is that we have become inured, habituated, used to cruelty and injustice, including economic injustice to an amazing degree. The woman whom I helped for over a year as an advocate was coerced into signing an unfair settlement agreement which disregarded her rights to community property. On the very last day of her “tenancy” the locks to the house were changed, and all her herbal teas and protein drinks and health supplements, to the tune of hundreds of dollars, stayed behind. When I pleaded with one of the stepsons whom I have found in the past to be more reasonable, it was for naught. She was made to stay in the room where the mediation was going on by herself, while her two stepsons and their lawyer dictated the terms of her exile. And the judge saw fit to call that a fair settlement.

As for me, I call the blind eye of the judges and the lawyers nothing more than malice aforethought. Today’s case which I helped settle in which yet another landlord tried to evict three families with young children is one more nail in the coffin of our obligation to build community rather than narcissistic and greedy me me me behavior. We have “fair trade” policies in which the superior party coerces the smaller one into ‘fair’ agreements. In law school we called them contracts of adhesion, and typically they were illegal. If I had one thing drilled into me, it was the concept of the required meeting of the minds and equality of bargaining position in order to be able to enter into a valid contract. The widow of 83 and the wage slaves with young children are among the many crushed by our current fascination with our ‘marketplace’ and our growing greed.

## No to U.S. Missile Defense in Korea

On July 7, 2016, the U.S. and South Korean governments announced a joint decision to deploy the U.S. Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile system in South Korea.

The two governments assert, without serious evidence and contrary to expert opinion, that the THAAD system will protect South Korea from the threat of North Korean missiles. For example, the U.S. Congressional Research Service finds that THAAD is unlikely to shield South Korea since it is designed to counter high altitude missiles, not those that North Korea would likely use against South Korean targets.

Moreover, the decision to deploy THAAD in South Korea, and to continue with last summer's U.S.-South Korea war games, occurred in spite of offers by North Korea to freeze its nuclear weapons programs if Washington and Seoul would stop the war games. North Korea has since continued testing its ballistic missiles; it conducted its fifth nuclear explosion, September 9, 2016, and continues to pursue its goal of fitting a nuclear warhead on top of an ICBM missile.

The U.S. THAAD deployment in South Korea is part of the U.S. "pivot" to the Asia Pacific. It expands the already significant network of U.S. "missile defense" systems encircling China and Russia. These systems give the United States a significant, although fleeting, military advantage in any future confrontation since they give the United States military the potential to neutralize an opponent's ability to retaliate. The expansion of this network appears to reflect a broader U.S. decision to change its military posture from one of deterrence to that of first strike.

The determination of the US government to use an expanding regional military presence to boost its regional political influence comes at high cost. For example, this strategy intensifies regional military tensions, fuels a new arms race, and increases the possibility of a new war on the Korean peninsula. In doing so, it also undermines the national sovereignty and democratic aspirations of people in other countries, in this instance those in South Korea.

A growing number of South Koreans are fighting to block deployment of the THAAD system in their country. They correctly fear that its deployment will draw their country into an anti-Chinese alliance with the United States and Japan, embolden militaristic and anti-democratic political forces in their own country, and exacerbate tensions between North and South Korea. They also worry about the negative health effects that appear associated with the operation of the THAAD radar system. Also of concern is the cost of the THAAD system--estimated at \$1.3 billion, plus

an additional \$22 million each year for operating and sustainment--will be borne by South Korean and U.S. taxpayers.

Very little is known in the United States about THAAD and the opposition of South Koreans to its deployment in their country, and of recent diplomatic overtures by North Korea to reduce tensions on the peninsula. Yet, its deployment should also be of concern to people in the United States. We also will suffer if our country again goes to war. And even if the worst is avoided, the continuing development of new and more destructive weapons systems draws precious resources away from needed domestic social programs.

After decades of disastrous military engagements abroad, we need a new approach. We urge the U.S. government to move away from policies that escalate military tension and redraw Cold War-era lines in favor of policies that seek to resolve conflicts, peacefully, through diplomacy and dialogue. Toward that end, we urge the U.S. government to rescind its decision on THAAD deployment in South Korea, and to pursue all possible avenues for reducing tensions on the Korean peninsula by re-engaging in diplomacy with North Korea.

### **Stop THAAD in Korea and Militarism in Asia and the Pacific Task Force**

Solidarity Committee for Democracy and  
Peace in Korea

Korea Policy Institute

Philadelphia Committee for Peace and Justice in Asia

Global Network Against Weapons and

Nuclear Power in Space

Veterans For Peace

The statement printed above was sent to EPI with a request for co-sponsorship, which we have been happy to do.

Individuals and organizations which wish to add their names to this statement are invited to email [no-thaad@mail.com](mailto:no-thaad@mail.com)

- For organizations, send: name of organization, location — city, state, contact person's name and email.
- For individuals: name, location, email address.

To read more about the issue:

Counterpunch — <http://www.counterpunch.org/2016/08/16/thaad-comes-to-korea-but-at-what-cost/>

ZoominKorea — <http://www.zoominkorea.org/week-9-of-thaad-opposition-seongju-celebrates-fall-harvest-with-candlelight/>

# Ecumenical Peace Institute



## Autumn Gathering



Sunday, November 13, 2016  
Dinner and Program 5:30 – 8:45 p.m.

St. John's Presbyterian Church  
2727 College Ave., in Berkeley

## Where Do We Go From Here? —no matter who won



### Norman Solomon

journalist, media critic, author & activist, will speak and will lead us in an examination of how we shall work for justice and peace under whatever administration has been elected.

*Norman Solomon's dozen books include "War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death" and "Made Love, Got War: Close Encounters with America's Warfare State."*

*Solomon is the founder of the Institute for Public Accuracy, a consortium of policy researchers and analysts. He is IPA's executive director and the coordinator of its Expose Facts project. He is co-founder of the online organization RootsAction.org, which now has more than 650,000 active supporters. Solomon is a longtime associate of the media watch group FAIR (Fairness & Accuracy In Reporting). In the summer of 2015, Solomon became a member of the Courage Foundation advisory board.*

*Solomon was a Sanders delegate to the Democratic Convention.*

**Directions:** St John's Presbyterian is at 2727 College Ave. between Garber St. and Forest Ave., three blocks north of Ashby. Wheelchair ramp on Garber. Underground parking with elevator, enter from Garber.

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## Looking Over The Scene

by Carolyn Scarr

### Water is Life

I hope we can rely on you to have been watching closely, from reliable sources, the situation in North Dakota where the Standing Rock Sioux have been protecting their water and the site of their burial ground. As our beloved Joan MacIntyre once said, they won't send bulldozers to dig up her family's graves in Oakland, so why should they do it to the Native Americans? EPI has supported Native American rights at Big Mountain and in Ukiah. We hold the Standing Rock water defenders in our prayers and encourage us all to send logistical support to the folks who are planning to spend a long cold winter protecting the water and the land.

### Ukraine and the Threat of Nuclear War

It is extremely worrisome to hear our politicians talk about Ukraine as if they were prepared to start World War III to defend the government established on Russia's border by a violent — and neonazi linked — coup which overthrew the elected government. Russians have not forgotten that they have been invaded from the west several times. We would do well to remember that when Gorbachev warmed relations with the U.S. and western Europe and tore down the Berlin Wall, the Russians were under the impression that the U.S. promised not to expand NATO eastwards toward Russia. That implied promise has been broken several times. It is frightening to see our "moderate" candidate, Hillary Clinton, saber-rattling and threatening war with the world's other major nuclear power. The U.S. and Russia are running neck and neck. An exchange of nuclear bombs would be catastrophic.

### Iran

As American politicians squabble over the Iran nuclear deal, a major achievement of the Obama administration, the allegation is being made without benefit of evidence that Iran was and is in pursuit of a nuclear weapon. I want to remind the readers that we wrote in *Planted* Winter/Spring 2012:

Islamic rules of war forbid use of fire in warfare. In the Hadith there is a saying of the Prophet (pbuh) that: "Punishment by fire does not behoove anyone except the Master of the Fire" (AbuDawood). The injunction deduced from this saying is that the adversary should not be burnt alive.

This religious injunction sheds light on the history of Iran and nuclear weapons as provided by Robert Fisk in an article of Jan 25, 2012 in *The Independent*:

When did all this start? The Shah. The old boy wanted nuclear power. He even said he wanted a bomb because "the US and the Soviet Union had nuclear bombs" and no one objected. Europeans

rushed to supply the dictator's wish. Siemens [a major German based company] — not Russia — built the Bushehr nuclear facility.

And when Ayatollah Khomeini, Scourge of the West, Apostle of Shia Revolution, etc., took over Iran in 1979, he ordered the entire nuclear project to be closed down because it was "the work of the Devil". Only when Saddam invaded Iran — with our Western encouragement — and started using poison gas against the Iranians (chemical components arriving from the West, of course) was Khomeini persuaded to reopen it.

All this has been deleted from the historical record; it was [according to the official story] the black-turbaned mullahs who started the nuclear project, along with the crackpot Ahmadinejad. And Israel might have to destroy this terror-weapon to secure its own survival, to ensure the West's survival, for democracy, etc., etc.

Thus we see why the current religious rulers of Iran have strictly forbidden the development of nuclear weapons, as is widely acknowledged in the Western press, who nevertheless don't understand the foundation for this fatwa.

What if anything is the threat of a possible Iranian nuke? Israeli and American intelligence both recognize that the Iranian leaders are not suicidal. They would not risk the continued existence of their country by attacking Israel, even if they actually had nuclear weapons. Israel is estimated to have about 80 nuclear weapons. The United States, which would join in a counter attack, has a lot more.

### Political Prisoners, It's Time for Them to be Released

We in the U.S. doesn't like to admit we have political prisoners. However I would like to mention some who should be released by President Obama before his term is up.

**Leonard Peltier**, Native American political prisoner, still in prison for more than 40 years since his conviction of being involved in the deaths of FBI agents. Federal prosecutors have said they do not know who killed the agents. Leonard is over 70 years old and in very poor health. He could receive needed medical care if he were released.

**Mumia Abu Jamal**, journalist, former Black Panther, and innocent of the murder of Officer Faulkner. Exonerating evidence, both of witnesses and of logistics, has been ignored by the legal establishment. Mumia is suffering from Hep C probably caused by the transfusion required when he was shot by Officer Faulkner. Prison authorities are refusing the necessary medical treatment for this condition, which treatment would be available if he were released.

*continued on page 11*

## The Living Graveyard, *continued from page 1*

Each month, on the third Monday, we gather, place a tombstone to remember the Iraqi dead and the U.S. dead and the dead of the “coalition.” Some people lie on the sidewalk covered with sheets. When we are too few, we use a dummy to represent the dead. Informational flyers are handed out. We read the names of the Iraqi dead, the names of California military killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, the names of the dead in the Israeli attack on Gaza, and the names of people of color killed in this country by police or “security” forces. This is a time of mourning and remembrance. It is a time of rededication to the work for peace and justice.

Our tombstones and our flyers include a count of the Iraqi dead and of the U.S. and coalition dead. People sometimes ask us how we figure how many Iraqi civilian deaths there have been. We rely on the report of the Johns Hopkins Medical School survey of July 2006 as published in *Lancet*, a peer-reviewed medical journal. We take the ratio of this count, 654,965, to the contemporaneous Iraq Body Count figure, 43,394. Iraq Body Count is a public record of violent deaths of Iraqis following the 2003 invasion of Iraq, [www.iraqbodycount.org](http://www.iraqbodycount.org). Like Just Foreign Policy, we feel it is likely that this ratio has remained reasonably steady over the years, so we multiply the current Iraq Body Count by this number to get the likely true death toll, which has by now climbed to approaching three million.

You are invited to join in this witness. If you are thinking of coming please check on the EPI website to be sure that nothing has caused it to be rescheduled. We avoid federal holidays and we also don't come if it is raining.

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## Looking Over The Scene, *continued from page 10*

**Oscar López Rivera**, Puerto Rican activist has been in prison since the early 1980s, convicted of seditious conspiracy (that is, of conspiring to use force against the authority of the United States over Puerto Rico).

These are only some leading names representing an uncounted number of people imprisoned for their political efforts for justice and freedom mostly for people of color.

Whistleblowers also must be remembered. We remember here **Chelsea Manning**, recently sentenced to seven days in solitary confinement for attempting suicide.

And let us not forget those imprisoned in **Guantanamo**, the illegal prison which was supposed to be closed if President Obama can keep his campaign promise before the end of his second term.

Fall 2016 edition of EPI's quarterly newsletter

## Syria, *continued from page 5*

lic believe that Syria and its allies are doing nothing but attacking hospitals and killing children. Like the WMD in Iraq and stolen incubators in Kuwait, these lies are intended to deceive the public into supporting yet another criminal attack on a sovereign state. In reality there are few civilians in eastern Aleppo. Most civilians left years ago, after the terrorists invaded eastern Aleppo in 2012. Understandably, most Syrians hate the terrorists who are either mercenary traitors or foreign fanatics.

Progressives should be doing everything we can to stop U.S. intervention and aggression against Syria. There is a real risk of U.S. aggression against Syria and potentially Russia. Neo-conservative hawks cannot bear to see Syria and its allies defeat terrorism and survive. U.S. foreign policy makers persist in seeking a unipolar world dominated by the U.S.A. and serving the interests of the military industrial complex, Saudi Arabia and Israel. The stakes could hardly be higher.

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Rick Sterling works with Syria Solidarity Movement, Mt Diablo Peace & Justice Center and Task Force on the Americas. He can be reached at [rsterling1@gmail.com](mailto:rsterling1@gmail.com)

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

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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](mailto: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, October 22**, East Bay Sanctuary Covenant annual dinner, St John's Presbyterian Church, Berkeley  
**Sunday, Nov 13**, EPI Autumn Gathering

### Inside:

1. The Living Graveyard
1. Haiti Emergency Relief Fund, appeal
2. Haiti's rice, some history
2. California Ballot Measures
3. Palestinian Children
4. Dangerous Confusion about Syria
6. Urban Shield
7. With Malice Aforethought
8. Korea -- No to U.S. missiles
9. Flyer for Autumn Gathering
10. Looking over the Scene

### Actions

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

### 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.

## Ecumenical Peace Institute Autumn Gathering

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Dinner and Program 5:30 - 8:45 p.m.

**St. John's Presbyterian Church**  
2727 College Ave., in Berkeley

**Where Do We Go From Here?**  
— *no matter who won*

**Norman Solomon** journalist, media critic, author & activist, will speak and will lead us in an examination of how we shall work for justice and peace under whatever administration has been elected.

Join us for a delicious vegetarian dinner.

Snacks and music at 5:30

Dinner and program at 6:00

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