



Planted by the Waters

Winter-Spring 2017

Ecumenical Peace Institute/CALC • P. O. Box 9334 • Berkeley, CA 94709 • (510) 990-0374 • www.epicalc.org

Where Do We Go From Here?

The theme of our Fall Gathering, November 13, was "Where Do We Go From Here? no matter who won." Our speaker, Norman Solomon, focused on achieving community. This article will attempt to summarize this vivid and challenging evening; you can hear the whole program and see videos of much of it at the EPI website www.epicalc.org.

Dinner was provided by the East Bay chapter of Food Not Bombs. Delicious — rice, greens, beans, green salad, fruit salad. This arrangement made our dinner a benefit for them as well as for EPI. EPI board members and friends brought hors d'oeuvres and dessert.

The community theme was reflected by Rev. Daniel Buford's opening prayer and his celebration of the work of BOCA, Berkeley Organizing Congregations for Action, eighteen progressive congregations in Berkeley. Rev. Buford is now the director of BOCA which works to help the congregations work for human rights in the community. He said, "We are the people of faith, looking at things as they could be and should be." He called us to accept the challenge and to understand the light that we have.

Silvia Brandon Pérez raised her concern for indigenous peoples working for the preservation of land and water everywhere and sang her song remembering Berta Cáceras of Honduras. Marilyn Jackson accompanied on the violin.

Norman Solomon began his presentation by noting that an adjective often precedes the word "community", narrowing it to a certain ethnicity, religion, race, gender. . . He wants to see "making community" possible as something we do to make community authentic rather than a way of labeling each other. At this time we will be called to find better ways to engage in resistance. He told us that Dietrich Bonhoeffer said "Resistance is not really possible without community." The community that is required is based on real connection with each other and endeavoring together to sustain ourselves through difficult and daunting times, when we are challenging the warfare state.

We now have on the near horizon a government in which all three branches are based on hatred,

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Good Friday — 2017 Plans *Where Would Dr. King Be Today?*

April 14, 6:45 AM

Vasco & Patterson Pass Rd. Livermore

Fifty years after Dr. King gave his "Beyond Vietnam" speech, we ask "Where would Dr. King be today?" We believe Dr. King's spirit is with us at the Livermore Lab where new nuclear weapons continue to be designed, saying once again, "In a day when . . . guided ballistic missiles are carving highways of death through the stratosphere, no nation can win a war. Today it is no longer a choice between violence and nonviolence; it is either nonviolence or nonexistence."

We look at the wars, the oppression and the ongoing threats to our planet. We still have before us the work to end what Dr. King described as "the giant triplets of racism, materialism, and militarism."

Christina and Francisco Herrera, preaching. Carla DeSola leading in liturgical dance. Procession pausing at the Stations of the Cross representing some of the many places where the spirit of Martin Luther King is still felt by those working nonviolently for justice and peace. Nonviolent witness at the Main Gate of the Livermore Lab. Community gathering to share our work, our hopes and our love.

Haiti Action Committee Event

Dr. Maryse Narcisse

HAITIAN GRASSROOTS LEADER and
FANMI LAVALAS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

With music by

Vukani Mawethu

Phavia Kugichagulia and Val Serrant

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 3 – 5 PM

First Presbyterian Church of Oakland
27th Street and Broadway, Oakland

\$10-25 sliding scale, no one turned away

A Benefit for the Haiti Emergency Relief Fund

For more information www.haitisolidarity.net or contact
Haiti Action Committee at action.haiti@gmail.com

Where Do We Go From Here?, *continued from page 1*

bigotry, racism, misogyny and manipulation. That is our historic moment. Others at other times and in other countries have sometimes faced equally and often more daunting obstacles. We remember some of the names and say “¡presente!” Perhaps the most admirable are those whose names we don’t know, who labored in obscurity. Our possibilities rest with those people, not the few whose names we know, but the hundreds of thousands and millions and hopefully even tens of millions in our country who will be encouraged and nurtured and engaged in an authentic process of community to build resistance. Those in power may be exercising that power from the top down. But we have a faith and a confidence-based experience that from the bottom up we can make history go in a better direction.

We still persevere even when the result will not come in our lifetime. The poet W.S. Merwin said that in his last day he would like to plant a tree. Work for peace and social justice is always finding those seedlings and moving forward.

We must find ways to resist. Norman mentioned A.J. Muste who refused to go along with air raid drills in the 1950s. Asked if he thought he was going to change anything, Muste answered that if he did nothing he would be changed. Passivity in the face of the madness of militarism implodes on us when we stuff our worries, pain and rage.

In the face of the monumental tasks before us we need to be like all the little ants each carrying her little bit, together they get a lot done. We sometimes want to wait for the Lone Ranger — the great leader to come and rescue us. We need a culture that sustains us and sustains our work.

Norman also gave us some thoughts on the failures of the Democratic Party and its preparation to expand war and perhaps even to have a military confrontation with Russia. And in Trump Norman sees extreme nationalism and a proud ignorance of the world.

We face a lot of challenges, the two biggest threats being nuclear war and climate change. We must not let ourselves be disempowered by hopelessness. It is a sign of hope that young people have a positive view toward democratic socialism. He also see hope in the diversity of activisms such as Black Lives Matter and the Occupy movement.

We need to nurture a wide diversity in our activism and avoid the temptation of thinking that we are the only ones who are doing it the right way, working on the right issues.

A good example of working together is the electoral success of the Richmond Progressive Alliance and its grassroots organizing which prevailed, defeating Chevron. In a politically ecumenical way — and

thanks to Ecumenical Peace Institute for bringing us here — hundreds of people in Richmond showed we have the capacity to work together in an open, ecumenical, accepting, embracing way for a wide range of people and perspectives, starting at the local level.

And we cannot afford the luxury of sectarianism among people of good will dividing those who are trying to protect the planet’s ecological system, from those who are trying to prevent the massive slaughter of the organized killing of war, and from those who are working to end racism, economic inequities, and the deprivation of healthcare.

Norman spoke of Antonio Gramsci in prison under Mussolini — and some of us are going to prison even if we don’t want to if we don’t give up. Antonio Gramsci said a challenge of modernity is to live without illusions without being disillusioned.

We are constantly challenged not to be scammed and conned by flowery rhetoric of politicians and at the same time not to become cynical, which is a death knell for getting anything done.

So Norman is hopeful that in this time of tremendous crisis we can pull together more effectively, without illusions. We need to be realistic about what we are up against and then we can organize together. We face perpetual war. Militarism has seeped into everything and has become normalized and glorified. Patriotism is defined as a willingness to go into the military to kill and get killed.

Norman closed his talk recounting his experience at Ramstein Air Base in Germany which he describes in an article in the Nation Magazine as the switchboard for the “War on Terror”, the hub of the fiber-optic cables with which drone strikes are directed. He saw the utter “normalcy” of the place, turned into a Little America in Germany. There is no thought there in Little America of what happens to the targeted villages. That normalcy is also here in Big America, as at the Syracuse, New York, airport where drones fly among the civilian air traffic. This normalcy of militarism is also seen when one is walking on the UC campus which is so much integrated into planning the extermination of the planet. Norman sees hope in the organizing that people are doing. This organizing was highlighted in the question and answer session.

Pat St. Onge closed our gathering with a blessing, first inviting us to an action demanding that the Army Corp not permit the last piece of the pipeline going under the Missouri River. She said that what we experienced in Tuesday’s election has been who we are as a country since 1620. This is who we are — conquest, colonization, enslavement, Jim Crow, internment, exclusion — that’s the fundamental identity. And then we’ve told ourselves this other story, that we are about freedom and justice and equality

Haiti 2017: From Demonstration Election to Electoral Coup

by Charlie Hinton

On January 3, Haiti's Electoral Council (CEP) sealed the steal by confirming Jovenel Moïse as president of Haiti. A massive police presence resembling martial law has attempted to suppress street protests, attacking demonstrators who have been in the streets daily since the 11/20 election with a stinging blue foam added to water cannons. A potent new tear gas burns and stings the skin. A tear gas attack on a poor neighborhood at 1 a.m. on 11/29 suffocated three infants to death.

Haiti moves into 2017 with a "president" who would never have won an honest election. A tiny number of ruling families backed by the United States, Canada, and France, operating through a United Nations military occupation, has imposed an imperial ruler on an unwilling population through a process they call an "election." Everyone in Haiti knows this, but in the United States, we don't. International media reported the Moïse "victory" as a matter of legitimate fact, based on phony numbers released by the CEP. They either neglected or minimized the almost daily massive protests, and provided zero background or context, thus becoming willing participants in the fraud, and giving "fake news" a whole new dimension.

The only reason the November 20 election even took place is because massive daily street demonstrations protesting two fraudulent elections in 2015 forced a new election in 2016. They also forced the hated Hillary Clinton-imposed president, Michel Martelly, to leave office on schedule on 2/7/16, despite various maneuvers to attempt to extend his term.

The Fanmi Lavalas Party, founded by former President Aristide and long recognized as representing Haiti's poor majority, organized a Dignity Caravan that toured the entire country throughout the campaign with their candidate, Dr. Maryse Narcisse, often accompanied by Pres. Aristide, attracting huge enthusiastic crowds everywhere they went. Nevertheless questionable polls announced the leading candidate to be Jovenel Moïse of Martelly's PHTK Party. Clearly Haiti's majority poor, who turned out by the thousands at Lavalas campaign rallies and demonstrations, were not consulted in the polling.

Léopold Berlangier, a long-time Washington agent, was selected to become head of the Electoral Council (CEP) to oversee the elections. He is a former director of the USAID-funded Radio Vision 2000, and a frequent recipient of grants from the National Endowment for Democracy (founded to impose governments chosen by the U.S. on the people of



Dr. Maryse Narcisse

other countries.) The CEP then appointed sweatshop entrepreneur Andy Apaid, a leader of the movement to overthrow Aristide in 2004, as a counselor to the Vote Tabulation Center. The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) supervised the election and transported the ballots (the U.N. having militarily occupied Haiti since 2004).

Election day arrived, and it became obvious that a massive coordinated campaign of voter suppression and fraud had taken place. Voters needed an official Voter ID card, but many people never received them, so they couldn't vote. The number of voting stations was significantly reduced, especially in rural areas, so people had to travel for miles with limited public transportation to try to vote. When they arrived, their names weren't on the lists outside the polling places. Or if they were, their names weren't on the lists inside the station. Other people were told to vote in cities far away. A countrywide electrical power outage one hour after the polls closed caused 2 hours of darkness as ballots were being transported and counted. Nevertheless, enough people had managed to vote that ballots were later found uncounted and discarded.

The CEP announced that not only had Jovenel Moïse, the clone of Martelly who had been forced to leave office by massive street demonstrations, won an absolute majority of the vote – 55%, but he had finished first in Fanmi Lavalas Party strongholds, including the very neighborhoods where many of the demonstrators lived. The international media promoted this fraud, reporting the announced election results as "official," not even mentioning that the vote

Haiti *continued from page 3*

isn't official until losing parties are given the chance to appeal the results.

The parties that were reported to have finished 2, 3, and 4 in the vote DID appeal the results. An electoral commission/court (BCEN) appointed by the CEP was designated to verify the results, with participation of the 3 contesting parties in the process. Senator Yvon Feuille, a top Fanmi Lavalas expert on electoral documents and a member of the Fanmi Lavalas verification team, reported on Radio Timoun that first, the verifiers including the 3 contesting political parties were allowed only 5 minutes, far too little time, to review each of the several sets of documents from each polling station.

The senator went on to report the fraud was so grossly blatant and massive that in one small sample being verified, 85% of the votes for Jovenel Moïse were disqualified. In other samples, verifiers found numbers changed or added. By the third day of verification, CEP officials violated the electoral law article 187 by changing the procedures so that the contesting parties could no longer participate in the verification, but had to stand behind and merely watch. The three contesting parties and most observers left the room at this point, leaving three quarters of the election tally sheets not processed as required. It became clear that the CEP had no interest in true verification – their mission was to legitimize a pre-ordained electoral coup-d'etat. On January 3, the CEP announced that Moïse had won the election.

To add to the charges of fraud, Haiti's Central Financial Intelligence Unit (UCREF) has issued a report saying Jovenel Moïse may have "manipulated funds that have nothing to do with his businesses" (also known as money laundering) in his 14 bank accounts. Investigators are looking into allegations that he received more than \$1 million in loans that were quickly approved before he had even filled out all the paperwork. They also seek information about his ownership of 45 vehicles and his bank transactions, including frequent large daily cash deposits that exceeded the amount that needs to be declared to authorities, and checks written for large sums made out to cash with no named payee. Moïse appeared before a judge for four hours on January 25, and denied the charges.

Furthermore, the CEP allowed known criminals, death squad leaders and drug dealers to run for par-



liament. The United States called for the arrest of 2004 coup leader and narco trafficker Guy Phillippe on January 5, then had him extradited to the U.S. after he was "elected" to the Haitian Senate. In 2005, the DEA filed a sealed indictment charging Philippe with conspiracy to import cocaine and money laundering, but did not move to have him arrested for more than 10 years.

Youri Latortue, the leader of the Senate, whom the U.S. Embassy described in a secret cable released by Wikileaks as possibly "the most brazenly corrupt of leading Haitian politicians," has been accused of involvement in drug trafficking, kidnapping, and other illegal activities. These are just two of many examples of the type of candidate the CEP has allowed to run for office and govern Haiti.

Fanmi Lavalas has issued a communique rejecting the fraudulent electoral results and calling on the people to mobilize against this massively orchestrated fraud. Street demonstrations continue daily, guided by the slogan "Nou Pap Obeyi" WE WILL NOT OBEY!, as US/UN trained and supervised Haitian police brutally attack demonstrators with stinging tear gas, blue foam water cannons, bullets, batons and rifle butts. Two small demonstrations by Moïse supporters, however, proceeded without any repression.

Meanwhile, Moïse has announced his administration will build more prisons and support a law to limit press freedom, including the banning of Radio Timoun and Tele Timoun, the voices of Fanmi Lavalas. The process of re-imposing and consolidating a renewed Duvalierist dictatorship marches forward, under the US/UN occupation that began with the 2004 coup d'etat.

On February 7, Jovenel Moïse became Haiti's president despite the fraud and corruption. Few people attended the inauguration, and videos showed the march route virtually empty of spectators. Meanwhile, police and UN troops viciously prevented demonstrations in front of the National Palace.

On Feb 8, Fanmi Lavalas held a press conference. Their presidential candidate, Dr. Narcisse said, "The Haitian people did not accomplish February 7, 1986 [the overthrow of the dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier] to end up in this situation today. . . The political organization Fanmi Lavalas. . . rejects this electoral coup d'etat that resulted from an organized plot by the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP/KEP). Despite the present hardships, Haiti will triumph! We have in us this collective energy of a people determined to confront economic and socio-political challenges. We must have a state of laws, not a state where justice is trampled under foot! We the citizenry, victims of institutionalized injustice, strongly demand that the grievances of the people must be addressed. . . The dirty money that financed the coup d'etat cannot

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Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard Returns From Syria with Renewed Calls: End Regime Change War in Syria Now

January 25, 2017 Press Release from her office Washington, DC—Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard (HI-02) returned to Washington, DC after a week-long visit to Damascus, Aleppo, and Beirut to see and hear firsthand the impact of the war in Syria directly from the Syrian people. She heard stories of suffering, pain, courage and hope from people all across the country. She met with refugees, Syrian opposition leaders who led protests in 2011, widows and family members of Syrians fighting alongside groups like al-Qaeda, as well as those fighting on the side of the government. The Congresswoman also met with Lebanon’s newly-elected President Aoun and Prime Minister Hariri, U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Elizabeth Richard, Syrian President Assad, Grand Mufti Hassoun, Archbishop Denys Antoine Chahda of Syrian Catholic Church of Aleppo, humanitarian workers, students, small business owners, and more.

Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard upon her return:

“My visit to Syria has made it abundantly clear: Our counterproductive regime change war does not serve America’s interest, and it certainly isn’t in the interest of the Syrian people.

“As I visited with people from across the country, and heard heartbreaking stories of how this war has devastated their lives, I was asked, ‘Why is the United States and its allies helping al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups try to take over Syria? Syria did not attack the United States. Al-Qaeda did.’ I had no answer.

“I return to Washington, DC with even greater resolve to end our illegal war to overthrow the Syrian government. I call upon Congress and the new Administration to answer the pleas of the Syrian people immediately and support the Stop Arming Terrorists Act. We must stop directly and indirectly supporting terrorists — directly by providing weapons, training and logistical support to rebel groups affiliated with al-Qaeda and ISIS; and indirectly through Saudi Arabia, the Gulf States, and Turkey, who, in turn, support these terrorist groups. We must end our war to overthrow the Syrian government and focus our attention on defeating al-Qaeda and ISIS.

“From Iraq to Libya and now in Syria, the U.S. has waged wars of regime change, each resulting in unimaginable suffering, devastating loss of life, and the strengthening of groups like al-Qaeda and ISIS.

“Originally, I had no intention of meeting with Assad, but when given the opportunity, I felt it was important to take it. I think we should be ready to meet with anyone if there’s a chance it can help bring about an end to this war, which is causing the Syrian people so much suffering.

“The U.S. must stop supporting terrorists who are destroying Syria and her people. The U.S. and other countries fueling this war must stop immediately. We must allow the Syrian people to try to recover from this terrible war.”

Support “Stop Arming Terrorists” H.R. 608

Rep. Tulsi Gabbard’s Stop Arming Terrorists Act (H.R.608) would prohibit the U.S. government from using American taxpayer dollars to provide funding, weapons, training, and intelligence support to groups like the Levant Front, Fursan al Ha and other allies of Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, al-Qaeda and ISIL, or to countries who are providing direct or indirect support to those same groups.

End U.S. support of attacks on starving Yemen

Starting in March 2015, Saudi Crown Prince Salman started a bombing campaign against the Yemeni Houthis, a group the Saudi rulers consider aligned with Iran. . . . UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra’ad al Hussein said that possible war crimes had been documented with “alarming frequency.”

In addition to thousands of Yemeni civilians being killed directly by Saudi bombs, the bombing has also been responsible for the massive destruction of civilian infrastructure — water facilities, sewage treatment plant, hospitals. Particularly devastating has been the bombing of the port of Hodeidah, where most of the humanitarian aid has been entering the country. Two-thirds of the population requires food assistance and a Yemeni child dies every 10 minutes from hunger and the lack of medical facilities. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has called Yemen the “largest food insecurity emergency in the world.”

The United States also has blood on its hands. President Obama sold massive amounts of weapons to the Saudis and helped the Yemen intervention with logistical support, including refueling Saudi planes in the air.

President Trump is considering moving forward with a planned sale of \$390 million in precision-guided munitions from Raytheon to the Saudi government, which could allow the Saudis to modify thousands of air-to-ground munitions that could be used in strikes against civilians. Amnesty’s US Executive Director Margaret Huang says, “President Trump must not approve this arms deal.”

(Derived largely from Medea Benjamin’s article in March 15, 2017 “Information Clearing House.”)

ACTION: Just Foreign Policy <http://www.justforeign-policy.org/> is circulating a petition to urge Congress to invoke the War Powers Resolution to force Congressional debate and vote on U.S. participation in the Saudi war in Yemen before further U.S. military escalation.

Why Be HP Free?

by Vivian Zelaya

Do not throw away the HP products already in your church, home or organization. That would not be helpful. Do refrain from purchasing any more HP products, divest from HP stock and inform your congregation about HP's participation in inhumane activities and human rights abuses. Ask them to sign on to the HP free pledge: <http://www.fosna.org/free-your-church-hp> Why? Here are some of the reasons.

"Hewlett-Packard (HP) is one of the largest contractors of the U.S. defense industry. The technology created by HP helps deport immigrants in the United States on a scale we have never before seen, track Americans held within the massive and discriminatory incarceration system, and deny Palestinians freedom of movement in the West Bank and Gaza. Hewlett-Packard sells the tools necessary for state repression: surveillance and population registration technologies. The biometric IDs, fingerprinting, and retinal scanning equipment and software developed by HP are critical to Israel's ability to maintain segregation and apartheid.

"We know from the anti-apartheid campaign against Polaroid in the 1970s that public pressure can sway a corporation from profiting off the violation of human rights. Several U.S. denominations have already divested from HP, including the Presbyterian Church, Unitarian Universalists, United Church of Christ, Quaker Friends Fiduciary, and Alliance of Baptists. In December 2016, Peace United Church of Christ in Santa Cruz, California, became the first individual church to become HP-free. Now is the time for each of us to ensure we personally do not purchase HP products including computers, printers, paper and ink; and that our churches do the same." <http://www.fosna.org/free-your-church-hp>

Some examples of the use of HP technology to oppress the Palestinian people and to profit from the illegal Israeli occupation include:

1. Key information technology systems used by the Israeli navy to enforce the deadly blockade and destruction of Gaza.
2. Technologies, such as the discriminatory BASEL ID system, used by the Israeli army to restrict the movement of Palestinians in the West Bank and to maintain Israel's illegal occupation of Palestinian land.
3. Services and technologies to major Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank.

In the United States HP profits from immigration detention and mass incarceration by providing:

1. Information management for both state and private prisons, technology that tracks prisoner data and is essential not only for the continued

incarceration of millions of black and poor people, but also for widespread legal discrimination against former prisoners.

2. Technology used by the Obama administration's Department of Homeland Security and Immigration and Customs Enforcement to track, raid, detain, and deport millions of immigrant families, on a scale unprecedented in the U.S. history.

I am sorry if all this information depresses you but I want to remind you of the words attributed to Dorothy Day, Mohandas Gandhi, Archbishop Oscar Romero and probably others: It may seem that "What we do is very little but it is very important that we do it." We may feel that our small boycott action is very small, but remember the Civil Rights struggle, the South African struggle, the United Farm Workers struggle, the grape boycott, the lettuce boycott, the El Salvadoran coffee boycott, the Block the Boat action on the Oakland waterfront. We may not have achieved total victory through our non-violent struggles but we have upheld the vision of justice and achieved some victories. Go to <http://www.fosna.org/free-your-church-hp> and sign the HP free personal pledge and then educate your congregation or organization to do the same.

Additional Resources:

The Boycott National Committee's Hewlett-Packard Page

The American Friends Service Committee's Investigate HP Page

Mass Against HP's Apartheid Technology Report



Alliance of Baptists Affirm Statement on BDS

Presbyterian Church on Divestment from Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard and Motorola Solutions

Methodist Conferences Divest from Companies Involved in the Israeli Occupation

Unitarian Universalists Divest from Companies Profiting from Israel's Occupation

UCC Votes for Divestment, Boycott of Companies that Profit from Occupation of Palestinian Territories

Quaker Socially Responsible Investment Fund Divests \$390,000 from Hewlett-Packard, Veolia

Honduras: Exploring the Root Causes of Migration

by J. Alejandro Artiga-Purcell

UC Santa Cruz PhD Student in Environmental Sciences
==>> and participant in the December, 2016 "Root Causes of Migration" Delegation

Walls, security and extraction — these have become the pillars of US foreign policy on Central American immigration. Purportedly designed to stem the tide of immigration, current US policy exacerbates and actively creates situations that force immigration. In part, this is due to inaccurate and misguided analyses of why immigrants are coming in the first place.

The recurring themes became the rampant privatization of public resources facilitated by political corruption, and enforced through the militarization of the country and the criminalization with impunity of all those who dissent.

Vastly disparate communities within Honduras gave strikingly similar testimonies. The Garifuna, a coastal indigenous people, are fighting against a five-star tourist resort seeking to displace them from their home of over 200 years; Lenca indigenous in the Honduran highlands are threatened by hydroelectric dam and mining projects that seek to divert, over consume, and pollute the rivers that sustain their livelihoods; Campesinos in the Bajo Aguan valley face harassment, disappearance and death at the hands of paramilitary and military groups for demanding that African Palm plantation magnates return their illegally stolen land. Furthermore, national protests continue against the privatization of the country's major highways and the subsequent proliferation of tolls.

These cases represent distinct but connected manifestations of a larger project geared towards an extractivist model of development, which prioritizes the privatization of more and more public resources — energy, minerals, water, land — leading to the consolidation of wealth for a few and poverty for the many.

Often justified to combat gang violence and corruption, security is vital to this model — securing corporate access to valuable resources, and oppressing and criminalizing all those who resist their forced displacement and dispossession. This past year, the anti-corruption watchdog Global Witness ranked Honduras as the most dangerous country in which to be an environmental activist. This title gained global recognition with the murder of internationally renowned human rights and indigenous leader, Berta Cáceres.

Targeting of strategic leaders in environmental and social justice movements suggests that the violence in Honduras is anything but "random gang violence." Though gangs pose serious problems for day-to-day life, they are enabled by corruption, impunity and the same economic system that simultaneously prioritizes economic growth and strips Hondurans of their resources, rights, and livelihoods.

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News reports

No end in sight to Honduran nightmare. Huge profits being made by corrupt regime and international business and drug-trafficking partners

<http://us9.campaign-archive2.com/?u=ea011209a243050dfb66dff59&id=3668ceb82c>,

<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-analysis/another-damning-testimony-elites-honduras-trafficker>

<http://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2017/3/10/world-bank-funded-dinant-corporation-implicated-in-drug-trafficking-again>

On March 6, Devis Leonel Rivera Maradiaga, a witness called by the DEA in the case in US District Court in New York, against Fabio Porfirio Lobo, son of ex-Honduran President Porfirio Lobo, which implicated former Honduran President Lobo, his brother Ramon Lobo, his nephew Jorge Lobo, as well as Congressmen Oscar Nájera, department of Colon, and Fredy Nájera, department of Olancho. Rivera Maradiaga also mentioned the well-known Facussé family that owns the Honduran company, Dinant Corporation, which owns twelve thousand hectares of African palm plantations in the Aguan Valley, where over 100 campesinos have been murdered since 2009.

(UniVision News online, By Juan Cooper, March 9, 2017)

The United States Government suspected for more than a decade that the landing strips of the extensive plantations of the billionaire businessman Miguel were used by drug traffickers.

In his statement, Rivera offered additional details of incidents where supposedly his organization received favors from ex-Honduran President Lobo and some of their relatives, in exchange for juicy bribes.

Elites-Backed Honduras Drug Trafficker Sentenced to 10 Years <http://www.insightcrime.org/news-briefs/elites-backed-drug-trafficker-sentenced-10-years>

A court in Honduras has sentenced drug trafficker José Miguel Handal to 10 years in prison, bringing

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to a halt a criminal career that connected organized
crime with Honduran business and political elites.

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For more information from the Honduras delegation,
go to <https://rootcausesdelegation.wordpress.com/>

For the analysis of the impact of tourism on the
Honduran people see <https://rootcausesdelegation.wordpress.com/2017/01/11/government-supported-tourism-pushes-out-garifuna/> and also <http://sfbayview.com/2016/12/honduras-government-supported-tourism-pushes-garifuna-maroons-off-their-land-of-200-years/>

Action! Action!

Representative Hank Johnson has re-introduced
a bill calling for the suspension of U.S. military and
police aid to Honduras until human rights violations
committed by Honduran security forces cease and
their perpetrators are brought to justice. It features
the following demands:

- All U.S. aid to Honduran security forces must cease,
and the U.S. must vote no on all loans from multi-
national development banks to Honduras until the
following conditions are met:
- Full investigations and prosecutions regarding the
murders of Berta Cáceres, 100 small-farmer activists
in the Aguán Valley, Joel Palacios Lino and Elvis
Armando García; the armed attack against Félix
Molina; members of the Honduran military and
police forces who have committed human rights
abuses.
- That the Honduran military withdraw from domes-
tic policing, as mandated in the constitution.
- That the rights of "...land rights defenders; trade
unionists; journalists; Indigenous, Afro-Indigenous,
small farmer and LGBTI activists; human rights
defenders; critics of the government; and other civil
society activists..." are protected.
- Take steps toward establishing the rule of law and
a functioning judicial branch capable of prosecuting
members of the military and police forces.

In the Bay Area, Representatives Barbara Lee and
Jackie Speier are co-sponsors, but no one else so far.
Get your Representative to sign on.



Para Berta, presente

Eres flor y eres semilla
Eres paz y eres caricia
Somos Berta, muchas Bertas
Y surgimos cada día.

Te sembramos una tarde
Te sembramos en la tierra
Y los árboles se nutren
De la Berta que germina.

Somos Berta, muchas Bertas
Y surgimos cada día.
Y cosechamos tus frutos,
Lo alegre de tu sonrisa.

Somos Berta, muchas Bertas
Y surgimos cada día.
Y cosechamos tus frutos,
Lo alegre de tu sonrisa.

For Berta, presente

You are flower and you are seed
You are peace and sweet caress
We are Berta, many Bertas
and we rise up every day.

For we planted you one evening
We did plant you in the earth
And the trees are deeply nourished
From the Berta germinating.

We are Berta, many Bertas
and we rise up every day.
And we reap now all your fruit,
The joy that is in your smile.

We are Berta, many Bertas
and we rise up every day.
And we reap now all your fruit,
The joy that is in your smile.

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Mitákuye Oyás'in, we are all related*

by *Silvia Brandon Pérez*

Imagine a place where ALL life is respected: that was the overall feeling at Standing Rock. I answered a call for people of faith to come pray, and at orientation, they talked about prayerful spiritual resistance. Both times there I fasted as spiritual practice, prayed and communed with nature and with others. My first night, in November, I slept under the stars, in two sleeping bags covered by a tarp. I didn't realize it was 14 degrees, but to be able to commune with the heavens in a detoxifying body and to hear in the background the flute and the voices of native singers was a powerful spiritual experience. *Mitákuye Oyás'in* and *Wopila*.

Standing Rock is important because it is a place where generations, races, cultures and genders, met to explore and change, often to explode the existing paradigms, a place where we sometimes clashed, Indians and their allies, as we sought to define who and what we are about. It is a place where colonization and its effect on all of us reared its ugly head. The next "job" for us all is to study and deal with how we decolonize ourselves and our world. Part of that will be white privilege, and much of it will be "American" exceptionalism. But part of it will be to begin to understand just how we are affected by policies that have colonized us all, and being willing to change.

I felt at the time, and the feeling has not abated, that Standing Rock was the miracle that would bring us all together, make us forget our differences, whether of skin or gender, national origin or sexual orientation, religion or political beliefs. At camp there were indigenous people native to the area and also people from other lands. Daniel Zwickel, who lent me his car for the second trip, said it was the new Selma.

The generosity and kindness of most at camp was impressive, but I was particularly impressed by the young people, speaking knowledgeably about unbridled capitalism and consumerism in our society. I felt the same sense of hope I felt during Occupy Oakland, and during Camp Casey, but this was a battle for our planet and our environment. We are at a crucial time for the planet, and this gathering of over three hundred indigenous nations and thousands of allies of every race, color, creed, national origin and sexual or gender orientation was and is an amazing occurrence in these otherwise dark times of an ever more brutal corporate empire.

I wish I could continue in the same vein, but ultimately the resisters and their allies were betrayed by the tribal council, as stated by Lakota historian LaDonna Brave Bull Allard, who founded the Sacred Stone camp on her property. The Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council disassociated itself from the camps, and brought in Bureau of Indian Affairs and assorted officers. LaDonna denounced them and their ultimately successful eviction of the entire camp, where she had lived all her life. She in fact called out the chairman, Dave Archambault II, for

throwing their "people to the dogs."

Allard talked about the colonial and historic decisions that led to this moment, and stated in an article for *Yes! Magazine*: "This is a colonial system of government with no basis in Lakota/Dakota/Nakota culture or teachings. It is the same tactic they used with the Indian agents and the Hangs Around the Fort betrayals. They fabricate a leader that will allow them to take what they want from us. The hunger for power can divide a people."

However, there is a silver lining to all of this after all. After being unlawfully evicted and charged with trumped up charges, environmental activists are setting up camps or supporting already existing camps to fight against environmental disasters occurring all over the United States. Many were involved in camps against Keystone XL, and are taking up local fights against the oil and gas industry in places such as Oklahoma, Kansas and Tennessee (the Diamond pipeline); Louisiana (the Bayou Bridge), Lafayette, Colorado, and many more, including Turtle Island, Chaco Canyon, the Gulf, the Enbridge Line 5 Pipeline in Wisconsin, fracking in Pennsylvania, Bemidji, MN (the Alberta Clipper pipeline) and too many others to mention. <https://theintercept.com/2017/02/19/as-construction-near-standing-rock-restarts-pipeline-fights-flare-across-the-u-s/>

Across the world, we have environmental fights such as Honduras with the Lenca people, and the murder a year ago of indigenous Lenca leader Berta Cáceres, and the recent murder of Isidro Baldenegro López, a Mexican indigenous activist fighting to protect ancient forests from illegal logging in the Sierra Madre region of Chihuahua, Mexico.

So the good news is that this is not going away. Standing Rock has lit a fire, and awakened many throughout the world. While there I met activists from Latin America, from the Sami territories in the northernmost part of the world, from Canada and other countries.

As a response to acts of environmental destruction, please divest from major banks, including Wells Fargo and Bank of America. When you close your account and transfer your funds (hopefully to a local credit union), take a picture and post it, showing that you are supporting #NoDAPL.

What is next? As Joe Hill wrote to Bill Haywood before his execution, don't waste time mourning, organize! We can do this. We must resist, and we will resist! We have had centuries of practice.

Prayers and healing to all protectors everywhere. The movement you have inspired will carry us forward through these hard and dark days of imperial tyranny and white supremacy. May you be blessed, and may we deport greed from the world. *Wopila!*

**Mitákuye Oyasin* (all my relations), and *Wopila*, which more than thanks means, in the good sense of the Lakota values, "everything around you is a gift and never forget where it comes from, your heart." (<http://www.mitaoyate.org/warfieldmooselakotavalues>)

re the UN Report on Israeli Apartheid

by Vivian Zelaya

On March 18, 2017, United Nations Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary for the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Rima Khalaf, resigned from her post rather than withdraw the publication of a report that asserts Israel is committing Apartheid. Her eloquent letter of resignation dispels any doubts regarding the source of the repression of this meticulously researched document co-authored by former United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Palestinian territories, International Law Professor emeritus, Richard Falk and Virginia Tilley, a political scientist at the University of Southern Illinois.

Under-Secretary Khalaf wrote with refreshing candor: "... I also understand the concerns that you have, particularly in these difficult times that leave you little choice.

"I am not oblivious to the vicious attacks and threats the UN and you personally were subjected to from powerful Member States as a result of the publication of the ESCWA report 'Israeli Practices towards the Palestinian People and the Question of Apartheid.' I do not find it surprising that such Member States, who now have governments with little regard for international norms and values of human rights, will resort to intimidation when they find it hard to defend their unlawful policies and practices. It is only normal for criminals to pressure and attack those who advocate the cause of their victims. I cannot submit to such pressure."

In response to the formal request by UN Secretary General that ESCWA withdraw the publication of the report on Israeli Apartheid, Under-Secretary Khalaf writes: "...because I feel it my duty towards the people we serve, towards the UN and towards myself, not to withdraw an honest testimony about an ongoing crime that is at the root of so much human suffering. Therefore, I hereby submit to you my resignation from the United Nations.

Respectfully,
Rima Khalaf"

As the apartheid report is no longer available on the website of the UN agency that issued it, here is where you can access it: <https://web.archive.org/web/2017031605475/https://www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/publications/files/israeli-practices-palestinian-people-apartheid-occupation-english.pdf>

Under Trump, the U.S. May Now Be Killing More Civilians Than Russia

By Peter Certo, March 29, 2017

Foreign Policy in Focus

With mass-casualty events from Raqqa to Mosul, some think the U.S. military is scrapping rules designed to protect innocents.

In a desolated patch of Mosul, Iraq, people are still digging through the rubble. Rescuers wear masks to cover the stench, while anxious family members grow desperate about missing loved ones. . . . All told, 200 or more civilians may be dead there following a U.S. airstrike on the densely populated neighborhood.

The military has acknowledged the strike, but says it's still investigating the deaths. If the allegations are true, this was by far our deadliest attack on innocents in decades.

The carnage comes amid a push by the U.S. and its Iraqi allies to reclaim Mosul, Iraq's second most populous city, from the Islamic State (or ISIS).

That's making life terrifying for the city's residents, who've endured years of depredations from ISIS only to fall under U.S. bombs — and to face possible human rights abuses from Iraqi soldiers they don't trust. "Now it feels like the coalition is killing more people than ISIS," one resident told the UK's Telegraph newspaper.

Unfortunately, that may not be so far from the truth. AirWars, which tracks civilian casualties in Iraq and Syria, counted over 1,300 reports of civilian deaths from coalition airstrikes in March alone. That's about triple the count from February.

In fact, AirWars estimates, more U.S. coalition strikes are now causing civilian casualties than strikes by Russia, which was loudly (and appropriately) accused of war crimes for its bombing of Aleppo, Syria last year.

Is this the simple result of the fight heating up in Mosul? Not quite.

In the same month, at least 30 civilians were reported killed by a U.S. airstrike outside Raqqa, Syria — where the real battle with ISIS hasn't even begun yet — and up to 50 more may have died when the U.S. bombed a mosque in Aleppo.

<http://fpif.org/under-trump-the-u-s-may-now-be-killing-more-civilians-than-russia/>

See also <https://airwars.org/news/westmosulcivilians/>
<https://airwars.org/data/>

To Defeat ISIL ==>>Stop Arming Terrorists H.R. 608
Details of the bill on page 5.

Where Do We Go From Here?, continued from page 2 and all of that. From the very beginning the “we” was landed gentry. Most of us in this room weren’t in the “we”. My ancestors certainly were not in the “we”. Rev. Buford’s ancestors were definitely not in the “we.” And so all along, from 1620 and six months, as soon as the people who were already here understood that the people who had arrived did not see them as relatives, did not have any curiosity or interest in what was happening here, but came with an idea based on the papal encyclical — the doctrine of discovery, that wherever you go, it’s yours and you claim it for the church and you claim it for the monarchy. That’s how this country was founded.

Until we are able to tell that story, recognize the truth of it, we will remain on the margins of where all of that time people have been robustly engaged in resistance. That’s where we are, resisting this worldview that says some of us matter and some of us don’t. When we can continue to do that while also recognizing the truth of the story of who we and how we got to be here then we can begin to make significant progress. She encourages us to dig. Read Howard Zinn. Read Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz, *Indigenous People’s History of the United States*. There are so many people who have tried to tell the whole story. *Years of Infamy*, the real story of the Japanese internment. We don’t know our own story because we think it is their story. In fact it is our story.

Pat told us that in the Mohawk tradition we start every gathering with love and gratitude and we go from the people gathered to the waters and the earth and we go all the way up to the Creator.

We recognize that when you colonize a people you take their land, their language and their legacy. Legacy often means their children. The land gets taken, the language gets silenced and the legacy gets assimilated. All of us have had that experience. We have all lost the thread of who we were. So it’s everybody’s work, not just Indian people. Not just communities that have been marginalized. If you go back far enough, we are all indigenous to somewhere. We need to tap into that sense of indigenaity and honoring our own lineages so we can heal. The ancestors want to be healed as much as we do. And by healing ourselves we heal the future generations.

So in Mohawk . . . Let us gather up all of our minds and bundle them up as one mind. As we send love greetings and gratitude to the Creator and to all the people gathered here as well as to people everywhere so that peace may always prevail as we mingle together here on Mother Earth. . . . And now our minds are one. And the people say “T’ho.”

You can hear Norman’s whole challenging and even encouraging talk, and the whole program at our website www.epicalc.org.

Haiti continued from page 4

buy the majority that has dignity.”

In their 1984 book, *Demonstration Elections*, Edward Herman and Frank Brodhead describe the template through which the United States government uses elections as a tool of control. Their purpose is to create the illusion of democracy and “demonstrate” to the outside world, especially the United States public, that the people voting really support the puppet governments the elections are being held to legitimize. In the case of Haiti in 2017, the demonstration election has become an electoral coup, with no shred or even pretense of democracy. Yet Haitians fight on.

Haitians provide an EXAMPLE and need our massive solidarity. They’re in the streets daily, often at the risk of life and limb, often wet and hungry. They hold true to the vision of their 1804 revolution that defeated Napoleon’s army and abolished chattel slavery, and they refuse to give up. We could learn from their example.

We need to change our entire media narrative about Haiti. Poor? Haitians have been **made poor.** **Haiti is rich.** Its natural resources include oil, bauxite, copper, calcium carbonate, gold, silver, marble and hydro power. According to some government sources, Haiti is poised to make over \$20 billion mining minerals such as gold, copper and silver, but international forces steal all of it. Haiti is NOT poor. Haiti is exploited.

Haiti is also rich in human engagement with participatory democracy. Haitians may be denied schooling, but they know their history a lot better than we know ours. They know the kind of society they want to live in, and they work hard to create it.

Corrupt governments? Yes, the Haitian elite and their international collaborators have forced dictators and corrupt governments on Haiti. The only times Haitians were allowed free and fair votes, they elected leaders who tried to feed Haitians, and not international capital, and twice President Aristide was overthrown by coups.

Out of control mob violence in the streets? No, that’s media-speak for organized resistance — people risking their lives to demand justice, democracy, and a fair economy, and to fulfill the promises of their revolution of 1804, which brought forth the first and only nation ever created by the formerly enslaved overthrowing their slaveholders. How else can Haitians end 213 years of enslavement by another name, and bring forth the society they have fought for continuously against the power of the “international community” from the 18th century until today?

It’s a new year dawning, and time to look at Haiti in a new way.

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

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You are invited to read *Planted by the Waters* online at <http://www.epicalc.org/>

Upcoming events which EPI is involved in planning will be found at the website.

==>>If you want email notification of events, send us your address. Write to epicalc@gmail.com.

Regarding that Envelope

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



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Calendar & Announcements

Friday, April 14, 6:45 a.m. Good Friday witness
Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab.

Sunday, April 23, 3 - 5 p.m. Haiti Action Committee brings you Dr. Maryse Narcisse and Vucani Mawethu, at First Presbyterian Church of Oakland.

Beginning April 14 Every Friday 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Qal'bu Maryam, Women's Mosque, Jumu'ah Prayer,
Starr King School of Ministry, 2441 Le Conte Ave,
Berkeley, <http://qalbumaryam.weebly.com/>
qalbumaryam@gmail.com, 510-845-6232

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Winter-Spring 2017 edition of EPI's quarterly newsletter

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. Rain cancels. Please check EPI website for changes. www.epicalc.org.

Ongoing Vigils

Thursdays, 4:30 - 5:30, Five Flags Park, Foothill,
Jackson & Mission, Hayward. Justice for Palestinians. South Alameda County Peace and Justice (SAPJC) & Tri-City Peace and Justice (TCP).
Fridays, 12:00 - 1:00, Telegraph & Bancroft, Berkeley
Women in Black, for justice and peace in Palestine.
First Saturday of each month, 11:00, West County
Detention Center, 5555 Giant Highway, Richmond. Witness & vigil to oppose ongoing imprisonment of ICE detainees.