



Winter/Spring
2012

Planted by the Waters

Ecumenical Peace Institute/CALC • P. O. Box 9334 • Berkeley, CA 94709 • (510) 655-1162 • www.epicalc.org

Occupy Good Friday *Proclaim Good News to the Poor!*

This year we see the work of thousands of people around the country claim the public spaces in our cities and towns to make clear their desire to build communities and public institutions which meet the needs of the vast majority of our fellow citizens.

For nearly thirty years the peace and justice community has gathered on Good Friday outside the Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab to oppose the continued development of weapons of mass destruction.

This year, the year of the Occupy movement, we are honored to be joined by the Interfaith Canopy and to hear from one of its stalwarts, Nichola Torbett, preaching on the text that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.

Our prayers will be led by people of three religious traditions: Amer Araim, a Muslim Imam; Ron Nakasone, a Buddhist teacher; and Lenore Weiss, a Jewish poet.

We will be led in dance movement by Carla DeSola, to the music of Jim Strathdee's setting of "The Spirit of the Lord" from Luke and Isaiah:

The spirit of the Lord is upon me
because God has anointed me
to preach good news to the poor.
God has sent me to proclaim
Release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed
to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.

And we remember that the acceptable year of the Lord is the time of Jubilee when all debts are forgiven, all slaves are freed and property is redistributed.

continued on page 2

Dorothy Granada *of "Skills to Save Lives" (Destrezas Para Salvar Vidas)*

**is here Sunday, April 29, in
A Fund-Raising Event To Support
Women's Health Care In Rural Nicaragua**

"The health care system in Nicaragua has improved greatly, yet poor women continue to die as a result of preventable illness during pregnancy and giving birth. Our work assists those at the forefront of rural health care: Traditional Midwives and Community Health Workers"

Dorothy Granada

Following the International Fast for Life and her work with Nuremberg Actions at Concord Naval Weapons Station, Dorothy Granada has worked for 25 years providing health care to women in rural Nicaragua. Her work has been recognized both nationally and internationally.

**Join us on
Sunday, April 29; 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
at Berkeley Friends Church
1600 Sacramento Street, at Cedar
two blocks from North Berkeley BART station
donation \$12 — \$50 sliding scale requested,
no one turned away for lack of funds**

Sponsored by: Ecumenical Peace Institute
(www.epicalc.org) & The Women's Empowerment
Network (www.nicahealth.org)

*Wheelchair accessible, ramp on Cedar Street at west
end of building.*

Report from the School of the Americas Watch

by Vivian Zelaya

The solemn chorus of, "Presente," followed the chanting of each name of a Central American victim of the graduates of the infamous School of the Americas, also known as The School of Assassins, and recently, deceptively renamed the Western Hemisphere Institute for Strategic Cooperation. Thousands gathered at the gates of Fort Benning, Georgia, on November 20, 2011, intoning the reverent cry, "Presente," in response to the recitation of the names of the victims, such as "Dolores Rodriguez Pereira, seven years old." Even long time veterans of the annual memorial and protest of the slaughter of the innocents, were drawn into a deepened awareness of the reality of their deaths and our collective complicity, by the solemnity of the procession at the gates of Fort Benning.

Following the procession, Theresa Cusimano, a forty-three year old repeat offender from Denver, inspired attendees to action. For the second time, she would be risking a six month sentence in federal prison, in an attempt to awaken the conscience of her fellow Americans by setting foot on the grounds of Fort Benning. Before Theresa went over the fence onto the grounds of Fort Benning, she shared a brief autobiographical sketch, and urged her listeners to practical action. She implored us all to continue to raise the issue, and insisted that everyone should contact Jon Stewart, Stephen Colbert, and Rachel Maddow demanding that they interview Father Roy Bourgeois on their popular TV shows, in order to inform the public and raise public consciousness of the atrocities committed by graduates of WHISC, the Western Hemisphere Institute for Strategic Cooperation.

Some people are aware of the 1980 assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero and the 1980 rapes and murders of Catholic Sisters Ita Ford, Maura Clark, and Dorothy Kazel and lay church worker Jean Donovan. Many North Americans have heard of the 1989 slaughter of the six Jesuit professors at the University of Central America and their housekeeper and her daughter. The names of the eighty-five thousand Salvadoran victims of the graduates of the School of the Americas, not to mention 200,000 Guatemalans, 40,000 Nicara-

Good Friday at Livermore, from page 1

The stations of the cross on the way to the lab gates are the Stations of Homelessness —

- † the homeless and foreclosed of our country,
- † the homeless of Palestine whose homes are demolished,
- † the homeless refugees from around the world who arrive in our cities fleeing violence,
- † the homeless of Haiti whose houses were shaken down and never rebuilt as the generosity of the world was diverted from their needs.
- † Beginning the stations we remember the destruction of the earth of Livermore in particular by the research of the Labs.
- † Ending the stations we are welcomed by the interfaith community of Oakland Occupy whose canopy is a place of beauty and reflection.

Lastly we join in the dance where we remember *The Strangest Dream* when the world all agreed to put an end to war. And once again under Carla's leadership we join in dance movements as some take their witness to the very gates of the Lab.

guans and many, many more hover beyond our consciousness, unnoticed and barely remarked upon.

Saturday, November 19, previous to the Sunday procession, there were extensive opportunities to learn about the many tragic injustices perpetrated in our name and with our money. Presentations about drones, the worldwide nefarious activities of Coca Cola, the latest flotilla to Gaza, and many other human rights concerns filled our Saturday.

"Isn't there anything positive to report?" one might ask, or the popular question, "Where is the hope?" Three things come to mind. Through the untiring efforts of SOAWatch, www.soaw.org, several Latin American countries are ceasing sending soldiers to WHISC. The second positive factor is the many wonderful people one meets at the Fort Benning gathering, students, teachers, young people, elders of all ages, veterans, religious and non-religious people, who energize one another for the continuing struggle. Lastly, but permeating throughout the gathering, was the music, the absolutely splendid, talented musicians who untiringly inspired and educated us all. If possible, visit the website and join SOAWatch in the effort to shut down WHISC.

Iran and the threat of War

by Carolyn S. Scarr

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has consistently found that there is no evidence to support the allegation that Iran is trying to develop a nuclear weapon. Iran is enriching uranium to the extent necessary for building a research reactor and to the extent needed to develop a nuclear power system. That is 20% U235 in a mix of other isotopes, the largest part of which is U238. While it is true that 20% Uranium 235 can be further processed to make weapons grade Uranium, which is 85 - 90% U235, there is absolutely no indication that Iran is doing this or has any plans to do so. Of course, since you can't prove a negative, Iran cannot prove it is not making a nuclear weapon in some hitherto undiscovered location.

The presence of a section in last fall's IAEA report titled "possible military dimension" acknowledges the fact that 20% enrichment could be the first step toward making weapons grade uranium. Notwithstanding the big flap being made over the presence of these paragraphs, there is no evidence that more highly enriched uranium is being made.

The findings of the IAEA, which has investigators on the ground on a regular basis, are consistent with the opinion of both U.S. and Israeli intelligence agencies who hold that Iran had a nuclear weapons program while it was under attack or threatened by potential attack by Saddam Hussein's Iraq. They hold that this program was discontinued in 2003 when the U.S. invaded Iraq and removed Hussein.

Much has been made of the existence in the IAEA report last fall of a section regarding a "possible military dimension" to Iran's program. MERIP's analysis of the report states that "Under [IAEA director] Amano's predecessor, Mohamed ElBaradei, the IAEA had preferred the phrase 'alleged studies' to refer to charges of warhead design research and the like by Iran, because these charges are based on documents shared with the Agency by unidentified countries and the Agency was unsure of their ultimate provenance or credibility." (Dec 8, 2012, *Narrowing the Options on the Table*, Middle East Research and Information Project)

The Russian scientist about whom there was a major news flap turns out to be an expert in using explosives to make nanodiamonds, which

are used in drill bits for drilling oil wells. Makes sense.

Regarding charges of anti-Semitism

It is certainly true that President Ahmadinejad is hostile to the state of Israel under its current government. The famous statement in which he supposedly said he wanted to wipe Israel off the map has been widely misquoted. Virginia Tilley, Professor of political science notes that "Farsi-language experts like Juan Cole and even right-wing services like MEMRI, say that what he actually said was 'this regime that is occupying Jerusalem must vanish from the page of time.' . . . Ahmadinejad was citing Imam Khomeini, who said this line in the 1980s — a period when Israel was actually selling arms to Iran. . . ."

An article in Foreign Policy magazine notes that some 30,000 Jews live in Iran with civil status equal to other Iranians. They even have a constitutionally guaranteed seat in parliament.

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

continued on page 4

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 300 nuclear weapons. The United States, which would join in a counter attack, has a lot more.

The real threat is recounted by Israeli journalist Ronen Bergman on NPR's NewsHour (1/12/12):

I know that most of Israel's leaders do not believe that Iran is going to use nuclear weapons against Israel. The problem is not the nuclear threat. The Iranians are not stupid. They want to live. . . . The problem is that once Iran acquires this ability, it would change the balance of power in the Middle East.

[Bergman goes on to quote Israeli Minister of Defense Barak]: "Just imagine, Ronen, that tomorrow we go into another war with Hezbollah in Lebanon like we did in 2006, and this time we are determined to take them out. But Iran comes forward and say, to attack Hezbollah is like attacking Iran, and we threaten you with nuclear weaponry . . . it would certainly make us think twice."

Political Problems in the U.S. hindering a peaceful resolution of conflict.

The Iran Threat Reduction Act, H.R. 1905, is currently floating around Congress. So far as can be understood from a reading of its status on the Library of Congress website it has passed the House and gone on to the Senate where it sits in the Committee on Foreign Relations.

According to USF Professor Stephen Zunes:

[it] appears to be designed to pave the way for war by taking the unprecedented step of effectively preventing any kind of U.S. diplomatic contact with Iran. . . . sponsored by the right-wing chair of the House Foreign Relations Committee Ileana

Ros-Lehtinen, [it] contains a provision (Section 601, subsection (c)) which would put into law a restriction whereby

'No person employed with the United States Government may contact in an official or unofficial capacity any person that. . . is an agent, instrumentality, or official of, is affiliated with, or is serving as a representative of the Government of Iran.'

A recent State Department briefing by spokeswoman Victoria Nuland was clearly threatening, and continued to press the unproven claim that Iran was striving to make nuclear weapons. She repeated the allegations, as if they were established fact, to justify the heavy economic sanctions: ". . . the economic squeeze that all of us are trying to put on Iran to encourage Iran to come clean with the international community about its [alleged] nuclear weapons program. . . ."

We who worked to end the sanctions on Iraq, know that sanctions fall most heavily on the people at the bottom of the heap. They will weaken the forces for democratic change in Iran by simultaneously giving proportionally greater economic strength to the rulers and by providing the rulers a common enemy (the U.S.) to rally the general population to oppose. Meanwhile Iran sits surrounded by U.S. bases in every direction, being required to "come clean" about a program for the existence of which there is no evidence.

A Nuclear Free Middle East — is it so impossible?

Professor Richard Falk gives us our challenge:

A nuclear-free Middle East: Necessary, desirable and impossible

A nuclear-free zone in the Middle East - with the participation of Israel - can avoid war in the region.

Finally, there is some discussion in the West that supports the idea of a nuclear-free zone for the Middle East. Such thinking is still treated as politically marginal, and hardly audible above the deafening beat of the war drums. <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2012/01/20121318016697652.html>

A recent Israeli poll finds that "only 43 per cent of Israelis favour a military strike, while 64 per cent support establishing a nuclear-free zone (NFZ) in the region that included Israel."

This solution would be entirely consistent with the U.S. responsibility as one of the leading nuclear powers and a signer of the Non-Proliferation Treaty to work for a reduction of nuclear weapons. This treaty also includes a commitment (which we have not honored) to reduce our own stock of nuclear weapons.

Iraq — Where Have We Been and What Next?

by Carolyn S. Scarr

The lies that led to war

Despite considerable evidence to the contrary, Congressmembers of both parties chose to believe that even under the watchful eyes of UN inspectors and US intelligence Iraq had managed to amass weaponry sufficient to threaten the US, and perhaps other countries. As Professor Stephen Zunes points out in a recent article:

[Congress] did not, as many now claim, make a 'mistake.' They knew full well beforehand about the consequences of the invasion and the likely absence of dangerous Iraqi weapons or weapons systems. In scores of policy reports, newspaper articles, academic journals and other sources, the tragic consequences of a US invasion of Iraq and a refutation of falsehoods being put forward by the Bush administration to justify it were made available to every member of the House and Senate. Truthout, Jan 1, 2012

The predicted disaster

Iraq Invasion Will Trigger 'Human Catastrophe'

A war on Iraq could cause half a million deaths and have a devastating impact on the lives, health and environment of the combatants, Iraqi civilians, and people in neighbouring countries and beyond, says an authoritative new report launched today in London and 13 other countries. Researched and written by international health professionals, this evidence-based analysis examines the likely impact of a new war on Iraq from a public health perspective . . .

The report making these predictions was issued in November of 2002 by Medact, the British organization similar to the U.S. organization, Physicians for Social Responsibility. EPI helped to put on a local press release for this report, which got little attention in the U.S.

Looking at the legacy of invasion

Every man's death diminishes me

The massive death count of Iraqis continues to be underplayed even by progressive analysts. The important work of Iraq Body Count is misused to form the basis for suggesting that the Iraq deaths rose to the level of "several" hundred thousand.

Completely ignored is the fact that in July of 2006 the second of two careful epidemiological studies done under the auspices of Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and published by the *Lancet*, a leading medical journal, which reported there had been 601,000 deaths of Iraqis due to war-related violence. At that time the IBC count was 43,394. Presuming a continuity in the ratio of IBC deaths to the actual total, one can calculate a likely actual death count of 1,599,338 as of March 15, 2012 (the date on which we did the calculations for the March Living Graveyard). One and a half million cannot be reasonably called "several hundred thousand". Writers without a determination for accuracy easily pick up the IBC figure, which reached 115,477 by that date. We do not forget the million deaths from the ten years of sanctions, half of whom were children under the age of five whose deaths were "worth the price" according to Madeline Albright.

Fallujah babies: Under a new kind of siege

Dahr Jamail reported 6 January, 2012 that:

Doctors and residents of Fallujah are blaming weapons like depleted uranium and white phosphorous used during two devastating US attacks on Fallujah in 2004 for what are being described as "catastrophic" levels of birth defects and abnormalities. Dr Samira Alani, a paediatric specialist at Fallujah General Hospital, [asserts that] since 2005: "We have all kinds of defects now, ranging from congenital heart disease to severe physical abnormalities, both in numbers you cannot imagine," . . . while showing countless photos of shocking birth defects. . . . Dr Alani told Al Jazeera that in the vast majority of cases she has documented, the family had no prior history of congenital abnormalities. Alani showed Al Jazeera hundreds of photos of babies born with cleft palates, elongated heads, a baby born with one eye in the centre of its face, overgrown limbs, short limbs, and malformed ears, noses and spines. She told Al Jazeera of cases of "thanatophoric dysplasia", an abnormality in bones and the thoracic cage that "render the newborn incompatible with life".

Al Jazeera, Jan 6, 2012

An Unstable, Divided Land

Dutch scholar Reidar Visser writes in the New York Times of Dec. 15, 2011:

American forces . . . will be leaving behind a country that is politically unstable, increasingly volatile, and at risk of descending into the sort of sectarian fighting that killed thousands in 2006 and 2007.

. . . When Americans designed the first post-Hussein political institution in July 2003, the Iraqi governing council, the underlying principle was sectarian proportionality. What had formerly been an Arab-Kurdish relationship was transformed into a Sunni-Shiite-Kurdish triangle. Arabs who saw themselves first and foremost as Iraqis suddenly became anomalies.

A house divided against itself cannot stand.

A clear sign of the division is the arrest warrant issued by (Shi'ite) Prime Minister al-Maliki against (Sunni) Vice President al-Hashimi. The Vice President is taking refuge with the Kurds.

U.S. works to install the stability of repression

The United States is planning to provide the Iraqi government with a wiretapping system to eavesdrop on cellular calls and messages "to assist in combating criminal organizations and insurgencies," according to a U.S. Air Force contract solicitation.

. . . An American contractor would buy, install and maintain the equipment, and would train the Iraqis to run it. As envisioned in the solicitation, the system's computerized monitoring stations will be located in Baghdad at an existing signals intelligence center, backed up by computer servers at the Interior Ministry's National Information and Investigation Agency, the country's primary investigative agency.

Washington Post, July 30, 2011

Human Rights Watch:

Iraq becoming a 'police state'

BAGHDAD (AP) – Iraq's Shiite-led government cracked down harshly on dissent during the past year of Arab Spring uprisings, turning the country into a "budding police state" as autocratic regimes crumbled elsewhere in the region, an international rights group said Sunday.

Iraqi security forces routinely abuse protesters, harass journalists, torture detainees and intimidate activists, Human Rights Watch said in the Iraq chapter of its annual report.

"Iraq is quickly slipping back into authoritarianism," said Sarah Leah Whitson, Middle East director for the New York-based group. "Despite U.S. government assurances that it helped create a stable democracy (in Iraq), the reality is that it left behind a budding police state." *USA Today*, 1/22/12

Combine this with the Iraq Special Forces under the direct control of the Iraqi president, whose training began shortly after the U.S. invasion in 2003:

the Iraq Special Operations Forces (ISOF) — [is] probably the largest special forces outfit ever built by the United States . . . [a] project started in the deserts of Jordan just after the Americans took Baghdad in April 2003. There, the US Army's Special Forces, or Green Berets, trained mostly 18-year-old Iraqis with no prior military experience. The resulting brigade was a Green Beret's dream come true: a deadly, elite, covert unit, fully fitted with American equipment, that would operate for years under US command and be unaccountable to Iraqi ministries and the normal political process.

The Nation, June 22, 2009

This force has been left behind to support the Iraqi prime minister, Nuri al-Maliki, in whose selection the U.S. played a determining role. Shane Bauer's *Nation* article quoted above closes with the ominous prediction of General Trombitas of the Iraq National Counter-Terror Transition Team:

I ask him how long the United States will be involved with the ISOF. "Special forces are special because we do maintain a relationship with foreign forces," he says. "Part of our theater-engagement strategy is to maintain a relationship with those units that are important to the security of the region and to the world." As our helicopter appears in the lightly clouded sky, he chooses his next words carefully: "We are going to have a working relationship for a while."

The Nation, June 22, 2009

continued on page 7

General Trombitas has his own history in both El Salvador and Colombia which we might keep in mind as we remember the discussions in Newsweek in 2005 about the “Salvador Option” which would maintain U.S. control in Iraq using “Special Police Commandoes”. Seymour Hersch described the operation in the *New York Times Magazine*, May 1, 2005.

**Can it be a coincidence that —
Western oil firms remain as US exits Iraq**

“Prior to the 2003 invasion and occupation of Iraq, US and other western oil companies were all but completely shut out of Iraq’s oil market,” oil industry analyst Antonia Juhasz told *Al Jazeera*. “But thanks to the invasion and occupation, the companies are now back inside Iraq and producing oil there for the first time since being forced out of the country in 1973.”

Juhasz, author of the books *The Tyranny of Oil* and *The Bush Agenda*, said that while US and other western oil companies have not yet received all that they had hoped the US-led invasion of Iraq would bring them, “They’ve certainly done quite well for themselves, landing production contracts for some of the world’s largest remaining oil fields under some of the world’s most lucrative terms.”
Al Jazeera, Jan. 7, 2012

Divide and misrule continue

Charles Tripp, professor of middle east politics at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, writes in a very disturbing article posted on Alternet, March 27, 2012: “For government, violence presents itself as a realistic resource for stability, the key in fact to ‘stability operations.’” He goes into considerable detail describing the use of government sponsored violence to suppress political dissent. This includes the murder of investigative reporters.

It is all too clear that the recipe for domination being followed is the one prescribed by U.S. Army experts on the Middle East quoted in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Dec. 11, 2005 :

[The experts] propose that the United States be willing to place stability above democracy, at least in the near term, and to swallow the “bitter pill” of supporting an authoritarian regime in Iraq backed by sectarian militias.

Kathy Kelly and other visitors to Iraq over the years reported on American supported death squads trained by the U.S. military and placed under the control of the “leaders” of Iraq chosen by the U.S.

Having established the government of domination — and remembering that the government of Saddam Hussein was also a government installed by the U.S. — we Americans have the continued responsibility to keep Iraq in the focus of our attention and to work to put an end to American complicity and support in its oppression.

**Actively Seeking Justice
for Palestinians**

Last October, EPI’s annual dinner program focused on the issue of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) of companies supporting Israel’s occupation of Palestinian territory. A panel of speakers provided historical background, updates on the activities of Christian churches both in Palestine and other parts of the world, and finally, presentations about religious and secular Jewish opposition to the Israeli occupation.

Firsthand Experience of Apartheid

Our first panelist was Nabil Wahbeh, who was born in Jerusalem to a Christian family that had lived there since early Christian times. He was a child during the 1948 war when Israel drove out some 750,000 Palestinians and destroyed 500 Palestinian villages, many of which are now the sites of some 200 Jewish settlements. After years of negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis, some 500,000 Jews live in expanding “settlements” in the West Bank where racist policies toward the Palestinian “minority” produce conditions which Bishop Desmond Tutu compares to the South African regime of Apartheid.

Nabil, who can only visit Jerusalem as a U.S. citizen and is prohibited from living there because he is Palestinian and not Israeli, called upon people of faith to read the Kairos Palestine document which has been written by the heads of the Christian churches in Palestine. It contains a powerful call to end the occupation and provides deep insight into the faith, hope and love of those who work to end Palestinian suffering.

BDS in Christian Denomination

Ministers from two major Protestant churches informed us of the movements within their denom-

continued on page 8

inations to address the Palestinian occupation. The above mentioned Kairos Palestine document has provided a theological foundation calling Christians to love our enemies and to concentrate on the social and political dimensions of faith hope and love.

Michael Yoshi, a United Methodist minister from Buena Vista UMC in Alameda has been addressing the plight of Palestinians for many years. He is leading a movement that will require the Methodist Church to divest its retirement funds from corporations such as Caterpillar, which support or benefit from the illegal occupation of Palestine. Michael will bring this issue to the 2012 United Methodist General Conference in Tampa Florida this Spring.

Rev Yoshii read the message from Presbyterian pastor Walt Davis who has been researching and writing about Palestinian issues for the national Presbyterian network. The faith-based investment committee of the Presbyterian Church USA has voted to recommend to their July 2012 General Assembly a resolution calling for the divestment of all church funds from Caterpillar, Motorola solutions and HP. Two educational publications have had a great influence on the Presbytery decision: "Steadfast Hope, a Palestinian Quest for Just Peace" and "Facts on the Ground." These are available on a free dvd and are divided into short chapters for congregational use.

Jewish Voice for Peace

A third representative from our faith community, Rabbi Alissa Wise, is an active leader in the divestment campaign. She is founding co-chair of the JVP Rabbinical Council and a national organizer at Jewish Voice for Peace, whose national office is in Oakland. Referring to the substantial organized opposition, she responded by saying that divestment does not target Jews nor delegitimize Israel, but does oppose the occupation, which is illegal. JVP works with the faith community to help people unlearn the fear of these accusations.

JVP's major initiative is divestment is focussed on TIAA-CREF retirement funds in which most colleges and universities participate. Unfortunately, Viola, Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions, Drones, and Northrup Grummond are all included as part of TIAA-CREF retirement accounts. "It's complicated," she said, "because most people think of Caterpillar as a company which makes construction equipment and do not realize its role in the destruction of Palestine in the violent demolition of homes and uprooting of olive trees." Details of JVP's research can be found on the website: www.wedivest.org.

Who Profits?

Dalit Baum is an Israel researcher studying the economy of the occupation, and more specifically the American or international companies that we must target to make changes. She has been working with Global Exchange and is now serving as the Middle East Program Director for AFSC.

Security companies from all over the world come to Palestine to test their "non-lethal" weapons. After testing weapons on Palestinians non-violently protesting, these security devices appear at demonstrations around the world in which protestors are being attacked by new weaponry. CSI, a tear gas producer in Pennsylvania run by Israelis, makes tear gas that was used in Syria and Egypt. Another company which profits from repression is involved in the prison industry and immigration, policing private prisons, both in the U.S. and in Palestine, Israel. This is a gigantic company, one of the biggest in the world. The idea of the movement is to put pressure on these companies from the outside.

There are products, which exploit natural resources, and are produced in the settlements. One major example is Ahava, a cosmetic product from the Dead Sea. Another is Soda Stream, a settlement product made on occupied land, using confiscated land and Palestinian labor, which sells all over the world.

We've all heard about the system of walls and barriers and checkpoints in the West Bank. Many international companies build and maintain these barriers. Using the tools of non-cooperation and tracing these "crimes" in the West Bank back to our communities, churches and schools are the lines we must connect to make a difference. For more information on boycotting, divestments and sanctions, go to: www.globalexchange.org/eap.

Let Peace Prevail

It is the hope of EPI that each faith group and each faithful person will persist in the great effort of bringing peace and justice to Palestine / Israel and the entire Middle East region. Dr. Amer Araim offered prayers from his Muslim tradition during our Fall gathering that are worthy of repeat: "Let peace prevail on the earth and let us enter the abode of Paradise with peace. We offer you our souls, minds, hearts and hands. O God, you are the most merciful, compassionate source of peace. Help us be instruments of peace in Palestine, be the guiding force to bring about understanding between the Palestinians and Israelis and that the people of peace may live in the land of peace."

Haiti -- Past, Present, Future *Money, Military & Electoral Fraud* by Carolyn S. Scarr

In his beautiful and horrifying article, "Haiti, Occupied Country", the noted Uruguan writer Eduardo Galeano, forcefully reminds us that the first free country in America was Haiti. Haiti defeated Napoleon's troops and achieved its independence in 1804. But wait! we say, the U.S. independence was achieved in 1789. No, Galeano, says: "I said the first free country. In Haiti slaves achieved their freedom. The United States declared its independence when it was a nation with 650,000 slaves who remained so for another century, and its first Constitution said that a black slave was equal to three fifths of a person."

Haiti paid a terrible price for humiliating Europe and threatening the slave state to the north. For 60 years the U.S. refused to recognize Haiti. "Throughout the 19th century, Haiti's example was a threat to the security of countries that still continued practicing slavery. Thomas Jefferson has said: 'From Haiti came the pest of rebellion.'"

<http://www.haiti-liberte.com/archives/volume5-12/Haiti,%20Occupied%20Country.asp>

The following centuries were for Haiti years of crippling debt from the massive sanctions and reparations France required from Haiti, repayment for having freed themselves, 150 million francs, nearly twice what the U.S. paid for the Louisiana territory. This debt was later acquired by the U.S. and finally paid off in 1947. The current value of the money Haiti was forced to pay to French and U.S. banks was over \$20 Billion. It is no wonder that France became upset when the Aristide government began to look into being repaid.

Under President Wilson, the U.S. Marines invaded Haiti in 1915. They stayed until 1934, putting down numerous Haitian revolts and killing thousands of people. Tens of thousands of Haitians were dispossessed of their land by American businesses or were put into forced labor. As they left, the Americans, to protect their investments, established the Garde d'Haiti created by the United States Marines. Widely hated by most Haitians, the Garde d'Haiti, operated with impunity and acted as the U.S. agent to control events in Haiti.

Let this historical sketch be background



for the current situation under selected "president" Martelly. Hopefully *Planted* readers are already familiar with the history of President Aristide's two overwhelming elections and the U.S. promoted coups which twice displaced him.

In 2004, President Aristide and his wife were kidnapped by U.S. marines and kept out of Haiti for a number of years. After considerable Haitian and international pressure, organized in large part by Haitian women, the Aristides were allowed to return just a year ago. Aristide is very clear that he is not planning to run for office; his focus will be on improving education in Haiti, starting with rebuilding the Aristide Foundation's medical school which was taken over by U.S. marines to use as its barracks during the 2004 coup. The UN's MINUSTAH troops stayed on and have only just been displaced from the campus as the medical school is restored.

First, let us note that the Haitian election commission did not allow the Lavalas party to run a candidate in the November, 2010, presidential election. The excuse given for this and earlier post coup "elections" was that the head of the Lavalas party, President Aristide, had not signed the necessary papers. In exile, Aristide arranged to have his signature notarized and sent from South Africa, but the election commission held that this did not meet the requirements. Thus the party with the significant majority of support amongst the people was excluded from the ballot. Further observe that Martelly came in third in the first round of elections, although he had significant financial backing from an anonymous Florida backer. Martelly was put on the second round ballot by the influence of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, through an "electoral commission" sent by the Organization of American States.

An *Aljazeera* article sheds light on the kind of Haiti the U.S. hopes to see under Martelly:

No sooner had Michel "Sweet Micky" Martelly been confirmed the winner in Haiti's deeply flawed presidential election than he jumped on a plane and headed to Washington, where he met with his country's real power brokers: officials from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the US Chamber of Commerce and the State Department.

There, he committed his desperately poor country — where some 700,000 people are still homeless as

continued on page 10

a result of last year's earthquake — to fiscal discipline, promising to "give new life to the business sector." In exchange, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton gave him a strong endorsement. "We are behind him; we have a great deal of enthusiasm," she said. "The people of Haiti may have a long road ahead of them, but as they walk it, the United States will be with you all the way," she added.

"Martelly: Haiti's second great disaster."
Greg Grandin, 4 May, 2011
<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2011/05/20115413435816393.html>

Furthermore, since his elevation to the presidency, Martelly has made clear that his early allegiance to Baby Doc Duvalier has held firm. At the age of 15, Martelly joined the *tonton macoute* — the Duvalierist death squad. Since Baby Doc's return, Martelly has been very cozy with him. Many Duvalierists hold positions of power in Martelly's government.

Very important in today's picture of Haiti is Martelly's determination to re-establish the Haitian military. Since Haiti's army is an agent of Haiti's only external enemy, the U.S., it is clear it serves no function other than repressing the Haitian people.

When Aristide abolished the Haitian military, he turned over its headquarters to serve as the office building for the Ministry of Women's Affairs. Other military bases were allocated to other civilian services. Current on-the-ground reports tell us that the new Haitian army is retaking those buildings, and the United Nations "Stabilization Mission" MINUSTAH forces are standing aside and letting them do it.

Camouflage-dressed young men carrying brand new weapons are roaming around attacking whom they will. Recently the farmers' market in Port Au Prince, which had been established to serve poor farmers bringing their produce in to sell, was set on fire and burned to the ground. Witnesses report that the arsonists shot at people attempting to douse the fire and drove them away. Martelly has exhibited a peculiar streak of *hubris* on many occasions such as his mooning the legislature, offending many present. Also walking through the city with his band of armed guards, he attempted to crash a meeting of students. When they refused to admit him, he went in with his guards and beat them severely. Videos of many of these events have been sent to Pierre Labossiere.

Fortunately these attacks have not been focused

on the Aristide Foundation's Medical School which has been reopened since President Aristide's return. However, a new campaign against Aristide himself has been mounted. He is accused of corruption, based on the accusation of someone obviously hoping for a plea deal. This kind of smear attack has happened before. A drug dealer, turned over by the Aristide government to the U.S. drug enforcement authorities, accused Aristide of complicity in the drug trade and got a reduced sentence. Charges against Aristide were dropped for lack of evidence. Such stories are intended by the accusers to damage Aristide's reputation and hinder his work for education in Haiti.

And what about the earthquake, the cholera — and the aid money raised around the world? We asked those questions on December 10 of last year. On International Human Rights Day, Haiti Action Committee, EPI, Bay Area Latin America Solidarity Coalition, Bay Area Labor Committee, and USF Human Rights Education Students joined to build a "sheet tent" and set it up in San Francisco at Powell and Market. Our little tent made with bamboo, duct tape, and a bed sheet represented the kind of housing that many Haitian people are still trying to find shelter in while the millions of dollars raised by people of good will sit in bank accounts or are used to set Haiti's economy more firmly into the pattern of sweatshops and imported "Miami rice".

It is quite possible that part of the world's generosity will be used to fund the \$95 million plan, which calls for creating a military of 3,500 soldiers who would eventually replace the UN. This plan also calls for a National Intelligence Service (SIN is the French acronym), that will deal with people and organizations accused of terrorism.

Nothing is being done to build a good water supply system. (The Inter-American Development Bank loan, which was blocked by the U.S., was intended by the Lavalas government to be used to develop Haiti's water system among other important civilian uses.) No one is building decent housing. Even the tent cities are being attacked and torn down, forcing newly dislocated people to look further for housing. Port au Prince residents point out the public housing built by the Aristide government, still standing after the earthquake.

We who belong to churches which collected money for relief, can ask our denominational structures to tell us in detail what they are doing in Haiti with our donations and if the money is

continued on page 11

getting to the Haitians who need it. This is just a start. Stay tuned.

More detail about the rise of misrule and the growth of the military and how to support democracy in Haiti can be found at Haiti Action Committee's website, www.haitisolidarity.net.

This article draws significantly on the work of Nia Imara and Charlie Hinton. Get the fuller picture from "The Army in Haiti: A History of US-Sponsored Violence" — Nia Imara, <http://www.haitisolidarity.net/article.php?id=541> and "The Emperor Has No Votes" — Charlie Hinton, <http://hcvanalysis.wordpress.com/2011/06/07/haiti-the-emperor-has-no-votes-the-imposition-of-martelly-the-reconstitution-of-the-army-and-the-restoration-of-duvalier/>

Pictures of action at the "sheet tent" in San Francisco, Dec. 10, 2011, taken by Amanda Scarr. USF students hand out literature. Mary Prophet stands by the tent and holds tap-tap with sign reading "Occupy Wall Street Not Haiti."



Afghanistan

How Not To Win Hearts and Minds

You burn their holy books. This always goes over well.

Book-burning is a great Western tradition. Sometimes we have burned authors, also.

You urinate on their soldiers after you kill them.

You go into their villages, break into their homes, kill women and children and try to burn the evidence of the massacre. Americans practiced this trick in Vietnam where millions of hearts and minds were won and five million people were killed.

Fly drones over the countryside — and the neighboring country, too — bomb soldiers on every side, bomb wedding parties and funerals, bomb reporters and photographers and people coming to help the wounded.

The first step in all of this is — you invade a country of proud and independent people because they demand evidence before turning over an accused criminal.

This was our message at the Living Graveyard vigil at the Oakland Federal Building on March 19.

Encouraging reading from Foreign Policy Morning Brief March 27 —

Support for Afghan war falls sharply

Top story: A new poll conducted by the New York Times and CBS found that U.S. public support for the war in Afghanistan is rapidly deteriorating. 69 percent of those surveyed said the United States should no longer be at war in Afghanistan, a 16-point jump from four months ago.

68 percent of respondents thought the war was going "somewhat badly" or "very badly," up from 42 percent in November. The increased pessimism about the course of the war was evident in both Republicans and Democrats: six out of 10 Republicans, who remain more supportive of the Afghan war effort overall, said that the war was going somewhat or very badly.

This gloom about the U.S. prospect for success in Afghanistan has led many Americans to support an accelerated troop withdrawal. 44 percent of those surveyed said the United States should withdraw sooner than 2014, when under an agreement with the Afghan government all U.S. troops must be out of the country. 33 percent said that the United States should adhere to the current timetable, 17 percent said it should stay as long as necessary, and 3 percent called for an immediate withdrawal.

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

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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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You are invited to read *Planted by the Waters* online at <http://www.epicalc.org/> and download articles to share. Upcoming events which EPI is involved in planning will be found at the website.

Calendar & Announcements

Sunday, April 29, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Benefit for Skills to Save Lives; coffee & dessert with Dorothy Granada Berkeley Friends Church

1600 Sacramento Street, at Cedar

two blocks from North Berkeley BART station

donation \$12 — \$50 sliding scale requested, no one turned away for lack of funds

Sponsored by: Ecumenical Peace Institute (www.epicalc.org) & The Women's Empowerment Network (www.nica-health.org)

Wheelchair accessible, ramp on Cedar Street at west end of building

EPI Volunteer Corps

Why not join the EVC now? You are needed!

CORPS members are needed to fulfill occasional 2-4 hr. assignments. The jobs, scattered throughout the year, will greatly support EPI efforts. They include help with events, mailings, calling members.

Volunteers have fun, are often offered yummy refreshments, and can work both day or evening times. We will carefully observe your parameters (e.g., only on Thursdays 12 - 5; Evening events preferred).

If interested (even if you have helped before), please let Sandy Hunter know:

***Sandyh10@yahoo.com* or 524-7989.**

We would like to induct you into our **VOLUNTEER CORPS**. You will help the causes of justice and peace and we will love you!

Actions

Living Graveyard Each **third Monday, 12:00 - 1:00**, at the Oakland Federal Building the weekly anti-war vigil is transformed into the "Living Graveyard." Covered with white sheets, participants lie on the city sidewalk, far enough apart to allow for pedestrian and wheelchair traffic. Tombstones mark the numbers of the dead. This legal street theater makes visible the reality of the deaths caused by the war. Names of the dead are read to the sound of a gong.

Weekly Vigils

Mondays, 12:00 - 1:00, Oakland Federal Building, 1301 Clay Street. End occupation of Iraq. Sponsored by Ecumenical Peace Institute, Berkeley Women in Black, Bay Area Labor Committee for Peace & Justice, and others.

Thursdays, 12:00 - 1:00, San Francisco Federal Building, 450 Golden Gate, peace in Iraq, San Francisco Friends.

Thursdays, 12:00 - 1:00, Union Square, Grandmothers Against War, end occupation of Afghanistan.

Thursdays, 4:00 - 5:00, The Sidewalk at the Park being renovated at Foothill, "E" and Main St, Hayward, 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.

Sundays, 3:00 p.m., walk around Lake Merritt for peace. Meet at the columns at the east end of the Lake, between Grand & Lakeshore Avenues. sponsored by Lake Merritt Neighbors Organized for Peace, (LMNOP).