



Planted by the Waters

Fall
2010

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

Invitation to Witness

Rev. Lee Williamson, *presente*

July 29, 2009

This letter from Lee Williamson is shared here to remember the depth of his leadership in the work for justice and peace.

June 25, 1985

TO: Various Clergy Colleagues in/near the S.F. Bay Area
FROM: Lee Williamson, Pastor Park Presidio UMC, San Francisco

Dear Colleagues and Friends in Faith,

God's Grace and Peace is Yours This Day!

Some of us in San Francisco have been studying the book, UNEXPECTED NEWS by Robert McAfee Brown. We are now in chapter 3 which deals with the encounter between the prophet Nathan and the king, David. In the concluding discussion of this chapter Brown reminds us that the early Christians were at times faced with the choice of declaring "Kyrios Christos" (Christ is Lord) to the necessary exclusion of being able to meet the requirement of the state to declare "Kyrios Caesar". He reminds us that such situations have been faced by Christians at other times too, such as in Germany in the 1930's.

Perhaps we are again living in such a time (Sadly, I do not think that to suggest this is too strong!). Perhaps we are living in a time when saying "Kyrios Christos" must necessarily preclude our being able to say "Kyrios USA", especially with regard to the death and denial of liberty that the intervention of the USA in Central America brings. Perhaps we are again being faced with the call explicitly to make what Alan Boesak, in a sermon at the 1983 meeting of the World Council of Churches, calls the subversive confession of faith -- "Jesus Christ is Lord", or we might say "Kyrios Christos". Such a confession of faith is subversive because, just as in the era of the Roman Empire and as in the era of Nazi Germany, to say "Kyrios Christos" is to deny the ultimate sovereignty of any other power. It is especially to deny the



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"I Will Not Be Afraid"

Esther Mohler Ho, *presente*

August 20, 2010

The title of this hymn from the Church of the Brethren hymnal, exemplifies Esther's life of service and witness.

Esther Mohler Ho, a committed peace activist, congregant, and retired teacher who faced arrest and risked her personal safety in support of nonviolence and social justice, died in Hayward on August 20, 2010, surrounded by her immediate family. The cause was colon cancer.

Esther served as secretary of the EPI board of directors for more than 20 years. This included the momentous board meeting held in the occupied HUD house in Oakland in 1993 when Esther decided that it made sense to remain in the house HUD was planning to



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Peace Potluck Dinners - Join us in a new way to support EPI's effort to facilitate conversations about peacemaking in the 21st Century. In lieu of our annual dinner, EPI will be hosting regular potluck gatherings featuring speakers around issues we support: reimagining a peaceful world, addressing perpetual war, torture and the truth commission and an update on Haiti.

- **Sunday, Sept. 26, Trinity UMC, Berkeley: Initiatives for Democratic Change** see p.2
- **Sunday Oct. 24, Oakland or Alameda: TBA**
- Rita Nakashima Brock: Perpetual War, Torture and the Truth Commission, see p. 5**
- **Sunday, Dec. 5, Hayward: TBA**

Update on Haiti
All potlucks to be held at 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

We invite you to help fund these events in addition to your food offering to we can continue to lift up voices for peace in the East Bay!

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Lee Williamson, from page 1

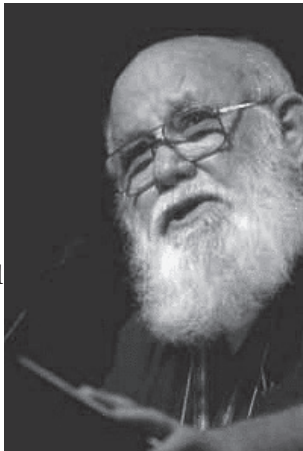
power and sovereignty of the state over the ethical witness of faith that finds itself in covenant with the God of Liberation and Justice.

How can we make this confession of faith? How can we make such a witness clear, and strong and visible for the world to see?

I suspect that there are more opportunities for this than we usually recognize!!

I invite you to use the occasion of my upcoming trial for the offering of this witness, this subversive confession of faith. I am being tried for nonviolent civil disobedience as part of the Pledge of Resistance/ Emergency Response Network.

SO . . . Here is the Information



TRIAL DATE & TIME: JULY 8 at 10 A.M.
PLACE: FEDERAL BUILDING —
450 Golden Gate (between Polk & Larkin)
San Francisco (near Civic Center BART)

The presiding Federal Magistrate will be Judge Woelfen. If the pattern remains consistent (never a given) the trial will be on the 18th floor of the building.

I am hoping that there will be so many clergy that the courtroom will overflow into the hallway.

I will be represented by the Rev. Stephen Brannon (a gift). Steve is an attorney as well as an Episcopal Priest.

I am expecting that I will be found guilty by the court and that I will be sentenced, probably to some time in jail (5-15 days seems probable). So, my main purpose is to use this occasion as a time and place to make my (OUR) witness!!

I seek your presence at this trial. Whether or not you will be able to be present, I ask for and expect your prayers and pledge mine for you, now and in the future.

“KYRIOS CHRISTOS”

May the Lord Bless and Keep You,

For Lee

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was your touchstone. When we struggled to support the International Fast For Life — could we, should we support what might be suicide? — you reminded us that Bonhoeffer, who believed that murder was a mortal sin, was prepared to spend eternity in hell if he succeeded in killing Hitler.

Christ the King grounded your life directed your work.

You honored as well the foundations of the work of companions on the journey. In Shalom Seekers Service you drew on the many traditions of justice and peace seekers.

You recognized the moments of decision when the right action tips the balance toward justice. You broke the heart of the unjust judge when you took his offer to serve a month and a half in jail rather than forgo witness for a year. The judge chose justice and let the people go.

In moments of challenge you found within yourself the right words. The man who said he stood by you although he was for a war in Central America, you told him you were not standing by him.

You treasured the smoothed beach glass — broken fragments made beautiful by the actions of the waves with rounded rocks brought down from the hills to roll in the water. We hold these memories and their tokens for the continued journey.

Carolyn S. Scarr
October 15, 2009

Peace Potluck Presentation - Sept. 26th Initiatives for Democratic Change

Initiatives for Democratic Change was formed in 2010 to develop and encourage the use of new strategies for democratic and progressive change. EPI is supporting this grassroots effort. They are a small group based in the San Francisco Bay Area. Their primary purpose is to make it possible for everyone to vote directly for solutions to the economic crisis and to the catastrophe of global warming.

There are more people working on constructive solutions to these crises and to attaining a more democratic world — in the United States and globally — than at any other time in history. To achieve these goals, however, we must develop more effective strategies. The widespread use in most states of advisory ballot measures — calling for jobs and economic recovery programs — is essential to establish an agenda for fundamental reform. This can be the first step toward creating a new deal for the American people — an economy that works for all, and a better future for our children.

The Initiatives for Democratic Change is committed to doing this work because the many who have personally suffered some of the worst effects of the current recession — unemployment, lack of health insurance, and homelessness. They are among the one-third of Americans who live in poverty or barely above poverty. They are part of the majority of Americans whose problems, and visions of a better future, have been systematically ignored by people in power. For more information: <http://www.initiativeforchange.org>.

Esther Ho, from page 1

sell illegally to a speculator and try to preserve it for the use of low income people. "Although I had been intellectually ready for civil disobedience for many years, I deliberately chose this for my first instance of 'crossing the line.' My reason for choosing this event was its tangible nature and the possibility of immediate positive results, plus my strong feeling against homelessness. . . ." She spent much of the two days of the occupation cleaning up the house and clipping back the over-grown foliage in the front and back yards.

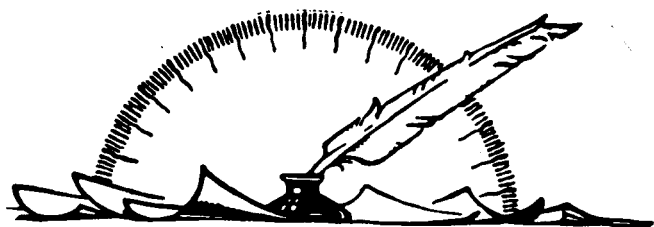
From 1954-1957 Esther worked with the Church of the Brethren Volunteer Service program in Germany in the Student Exchange Program. From 1995-2001 she served on a part-time basis with Christian Peacemaker Teams. Esther's service with Christian Peacemaker Teams included several stints in Hebron, some time in the inner city portions of Washington DC, support in Chiapas for the nonviolent Christian group Las Abejas, and support for First Nations people in Newfoundland trying to exercise their fishing rights.

Esther was a member of Mustardseed Affinity Group with which she studied and practiced nonviolence. She was one of the core people helping to plan the Good Friday witness at the Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab. Esther was a regular at the weekly peace vigil at the Oakland Federal Building and the monthly Living Graveyard and at the weekly Hayward vigil in support of justice for Palestinians. During the demonstration at Fort Benning in 2001, Esther was one of the people who crawled under the fence to enter the base housing the School of the Assassins.

Esther can be credited with the continuation of the Living Graveyard. The second time it was held, a fairly hostile member of the Federal police ordered all who were preparing to lie down on the city sidewalk to get up or be arrested. Esther was the first of two who remained lying on the sidewalk and were arrested. The ACLU defended our right to engage in this exercise of our first amendment speech and charges were dropped. We have had no trouble since that time.

For some years, one of Esther's major focuses of attention has been support for Palestinians' nonviolent efforts to build their own country back. She helped to educate Ecumenical Peace Institute and its constituents in their history and current struggle. She invited Paul Larudee to Mustardseeds to talk about his plan to organize the sailing of a ship to break the blockade of Gaza. With her encouragement, Mustardseeds gave the project as much financial support as they could pull together. Even after Esther was diagnosed with cancer, she got many of us to the local Friends of Sabeel Conference in San Anselmo.

Esther wrote poetry; she said, "I write poetry only when so overcome with emotion that I cannot express myself otherwise."



Let Us Mend the Broken Circle

by Esther Mohler Ho

(From the National Council of Churches: Prayers, Poems, Hymns and Readings for March 2004 Vigils - to be sung to Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah)



Let us mend the bro-ken cir-cle,
End all wars and heal the earth.
Our Cre-a-tor wills earth's whole-ness,
Calls us to as-sist re-birth.
We are called to end op-pres-sion,
Prac-tice love and help to heal,
Prac-tice love and help to heal.

Earth is woun-ded by blind plun-der
And de-filed by waste-ful-ness.
Self-ish-ness has brought dis-as-ter,
Land and peo-ple in dis-tress.
We are called to work for jus-tice,
Heal-ing wounds brought on by greed,
Heal-ing wounds brought on by greed.

We must tame our wild con-sump-tion,
Learn to live sus-tain-a-bly,
Ban-ish wea-pons, seek so-lu-tions,
Scale the walls that should not be.

ON THE EDGE OF PEACE

Voices from the Faith-Based Peace & Justice Community

Ecumenical Peace Institute's book of poetry, prose, and art from the interfaith peace and justice community around the world will be arriving soon.

Here you can find the words of Esther Ho, Lee Williamson, Joan MacIntyre, Diane Thomas, Earl Johnson and many others.

It has taken a long time to put this book together. We hope you will enjoy being in the company of friends as you read it. This book should be ready for the winter holidays. Call the office, email or write. Price will depend on printing costs. *Benefits EPI's work.*

Good Friday Services 2009-2010

Good Friday, 2009: "We Thirst for Peace"

About three hundred people gathered outside the Livermore Nuclear Weapons laboratory at 7 a.m. Rev. Nobu Hanaoka, a survivor of the Nagasaki bombing, spoke:

"Today we commemorate the suffering death of Christ on the cross. Because we know that in the Cross is a redemption of the human race and beyond Calvary awaits the dawn of a new day, we boldly acknowledge the wrong choices we have made, the wrong paths we have taken, and the sins we have committed, that brought us where we are today. Therefore, my sisters and brothers, let us also be bold enough to consider the changes we must make to be accountable to God's redeeming grace.

"As a result of the path we have taken and the choices we have made, our planet and its inhabitants are daily threatened by global climate change, mass starvation, diminishing natural resources, nuclear proliferation, ethnic cleansing, genocide, terrorism, homelessness, the unknown consequences of the war in Iraq for the Middle East and the rest of the world. Today, therefore, more than ever before, we need to renew our commitment to acknowledging the wrong and changing our ways."

Rev. Hanaoka went on to detail the results of the blasts in Japan, the history of the development of nuclear weapons both during World War II and afterwards as the U.S. sought to maintain its dominance in nuclear weapons. He spoke of the nuclear arms race, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty that did not happen and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and its successes and failures. He also described the dangers of nuclear power.

He concluded:

"We have long demanded other nations to comply with the Non-Proliferation Treaty, while we were maintaining and improving our own nuclear weapons program at such facilities as Livermore Nuclear Lab. If we expect other countries to abide by the treaty, shouldn't we also make good on the promise we made?"

"To reduce the possibilities of accidents, human errors, or theft, we must immediately and dramatically reduce the number of nuclear arsenals, and work toward their complete elimination. At the same time, we must reject reliance on nuclear power altogether and work toward developing sources of renewable energy in a sustainable way. At the same time, our pulpits should be preaching a new value system, less is better, sharing, rather than competing, is better. There is no pride in military supremacy, but in moral leadership. Let us leave to our posterity a nuclear-free, safe and peaceful world. Let us rise with Christ come Easter and begin to live a new life as responsible stewards of God's beautiful creation."



Included in the service was a water-offering ceremony, widely practiced in Japan to remember the people severely burned by the atomic blasts and their search for water to slake their tremendous thirst.



Along the route of the procession to the main gate of the lab were four stations where people could stop and make their own water offerings. About fifty people were arrested at the main entrance of the lab.

The complete text of Rev. Hanaoka's homily, the order of worship and the water offering litany, and pictures, can be found on the Ecumenical Peace Institute's website: <http://www.epicalc.org/>

Good Friday, 2010: "Why Are Haitians So Poor?" Nuclear Weapons, U.S. Empire, Haiti

The relationship between nuclear weapons and U.S. empire has long be a concern of Ecumenical Peace Institute. This year we focused on the suffering of the people of Haiti at the gates of the Livermore Lab because the nuclear weapons originating at Livermore are the most powerful weapons in the military system which enforces U.S. dominance around the world.

Being a part of the U.S. empire led to the weak infrastructure which made a major earthquake in Haiti into an enormous catastrophe. On the Richter scale the Haiti earthquake was somewhat more powerful than the Loma Prieta quake, but the disproportionately greater death toll was the result of a number of factors having to do with Haiti's being at the bottom of the international economic system which has the U.S. and its nukes at the top.

Local Haitian-American activist Pierre Labossiere, a founder of Haiti Action Committee and board member of Haiti Emergency Relief Fund, and Oakland attorney and Kehilla Community Center Board member Barbara Rhine, with Haiti Emergency Relief Fund, who



Good Friday, from page 4

was in Haiti at the time of the earthquake last January shared their experiences and observations.

Betsy Rose shared her music, including a song she wrote especially for Haiti:

Piti Piti Na Rivé

Piti piti na rivé
Piti piti na rivé
Piti piti piti piti
Piti piti na rivé

Little by little we make our way
Little by little and day by day
A little work a little love
Piti piti na rivé

A little effort and a little grace
A little patience and a lot of faith
Hand in hand we do what we can
Piti piti na rivé

A flood of laughter and a sea of tears
A mountain of courage to face our fears
A mighty force it is our source
Piti piti na rivé

© 2010 Betsy Rose



In the course of the Stations of the Cross, between the corner where we gathered and the main gate of the Lab, we remembered and reflected on the via dolorosa of Haiti's history — colonization; genocide; slavery; revolution and imposed debt; U.S. occupation, direct and by proxy; liberation and Aristide's election; coup and ongoing occupation; economic neocolonialism; the people's ongoing efforts for self rule; natural disasters.

At the gates we heard from Lizzy Beach and Jerri Handy, two PSR students who had recently returned from a United Church of Christ/Disciples of Christ Common Global Ministries Mission Trip to Haiti. In the arrest line, Greg Getty sat under a sheet to represent the many Haitians attempting to shelter themselves from hurricane weather with nothing but sheets. Tents and even tarps have still not been distributed by relief agencies.

At the community gathering following the witness, Barbara Rhine and Pierre Labossiere shared further about their work to support Haitians in their efforts to restore Haiti to democratic self rule, to break the bonds of neoliberal economics, and to build a new Haiti serving the needs of the people.



Peace Potluck Presentation - Oct. 24th Rev. Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock, Ph.D Perpetual War, Torture and the Truth Commission

Dr. Brock is Founding Co-Director of Faith Voices for the Common Good, an organization dedicated to educating the public about the values and concerns of religious leaders and organizations. She also works with The New Press in New York as Senior Editor in Religion. During 2001-2002, she was a Fellow at the Harvard Divinity School Center for Values in Public Life.

From 1997-2001, Dr. Brock directed the Fellowship Program at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University, formerly called the Bunting Institute, and the seven years before she became an administrator, she held an endowed professorship at Hamline University. Dr. Brock's latest book is: *Saving Paradise: How Christianity Traded Love for This World for Crucifixion and Empire*.

She is a member of the U. S. group of the Ecumenical Association of Third World Theologians, the leading global organization of liberation theologians. Her work continues to interweave religious questions with issues of justice in the U.S. and international contexts. As an active member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Dr. Brock has served on its General Board and Administrative Committees and, from 1996-1998, was the first Chair of the Common Global Ministries Board, a joint venture of the United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ.

In 1993, she represented the National Council of Churches on an ecumenical, international, high-level delegation to Guatemala and El Salvador to support the peace-making processes in both countries. In March of 2010 she participated as one of five Bay Area commissioners in the "Truth Commission on Conscience in War." They had a powerful public hearing at Riverside Church on March 21, with 14 testimonies from veterans, a Gold Star Mother, religious leaders, experts on moral injury, and war correspondent Chris Hedges. EPI's history of support for conscientious objectors will naturally lead us into the national campaign to protect the freedom of moral conscience for those in military service. This evening's gathering will give us essential signposts.

city sidewalk,
slender preteen Asian boy
sits tight-lipped at chessboard,
opposite him solemnly hunches
a husky black man,
a round-faced white man
with transfixed gaze
completes the triangle.

*arm's length away
i watch
unseen through café window.*

Esther Mohler Ho
-- August '03

This poem will appear in EPI's new book.

Iraq - "We are not really leaving!"

by Carolyn S. Scarr

*I am announcing that the American combat mission in Iraq has ended. Operation Iraqi Freedom is over, and the Iraqi people now have lead responsibility for the security of their country. President Obama, August 31, 2010 — **Would it were true.***

The 50,000 troops who are staying

Contrary to the current celebratory news, the occupation of Iraq is not coming to an end with the redeployment of two thirds of the American troops this month. Fifty thousand troops will remain at least till the end of next year. The U.S. military emphasizes that this is a sizeable number of troops, and that they will be equipped with considerable firepower. Gates has described them as "combat-ready".

Robert Fisk points out: "officially they are there to train the gunmen and militiamen and the poorest of the poor who have joined the new Iraqi army, whose own commander does not believe they will be ready to defend their country until 2020. But they will still be in occupation — for surely one of the the 'American interests' they must defend is their own presence — along with the thousands of armed and indisciplined mercenaries, western and eastern, who are shooting their way around Iraq to safeguard our precious western diplomats and businessmen. So say it out loud: we are not leaving."

(*www.independent.co.uk*, August 20, 2010)

More contractors

By October 2011, the State Department will assume responsibility for training the Iraqi police, a task that will largely be carried out by contractors. . . . in two new \$100 million outposts . . . the State Department is planning to more than double its private security guards, up to as many as 7,000. . .

(*New York Times*, Aug 18, 2010)

The Salvadoran Option

Not least of our concerns must be the 4,500 Special Forces members who will continue to carry out counter-terrorism missions alongside Iraqi counterparts. (Los Angeles Times Aug 20, 2010) These "counterparts" may well be "the Iraq Special Operations Forces (ISOF) — 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 story indicates that the Salvadoran Option reported in U.S. media five years ago was in fact a plan of action. (EPI reported on the Salvadoran Option in

Planted Spring 2006)

What has been in place and will remain is a well-established death squad, responsible only to the executive of a government which we have selected.

U.S. continues as kingmaker in Iraq

To go back several decades, we note that in 1963, the U.S. supported Saddam Hussein's coup against President Kassem's government which had replaced British proxy rule.

In today's Iraq the tradition of proxy rule has continued. The much-celebrated Iraqi elections of 2005 led to a Parliament which elected Ibrahim al-Jaafari to be prime minister. Jaafari did not please the U.S. Shortly after a sudden visit by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and her UK counterpart Jack Straw, Jaafari was out and Al Malaki was the new Iraqi Prime Minister. (Dahr Jamail, *The Dirty War*, Truthout July 9, 2009)

Vice President Biden, visiting Iraq the week of the partial withdrawal of U.S. troops, is pressing the Iraqis to form a government which would: "further develop its relationship with the United States.

The Obama administration has been reported to be sympathetic to a compromise plan in which Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki might retain his post with somewhat more limited powers while a new council with binding authority would be established under Ayad Allawi, a former interim prime minister and leader of a political coalition that is a rival to Mr. Maliki's.

Mr. Blinken [Biden's national security adviser] said the United States did not have a plan for breaking the political logjam in Baghdad or a specific candidate for prime minister.

Still, he signaled that the Obama administration believed that both Mr. Maliki's State of Law coalition and Mr. Allawi's Iraqiya coalition — the two leading blocs in the voting in March — should be part of "the foundation of the next government," along with the Kurdish alliance.

Asked about the bloc of candidates loyal to Moktada al-Sadr, the Shiite anti-American cleric, Mr. Blinken suggested that the United States did not see them as useful members of a new governing coalition — or, as he put it, the Iraqi government should include "coalitions that are interested in building a long-term partnership with the United States."

(*New York Times*, Aug 30, 2010)

So that is what this withdrawal is leading toward — a "partnership" government which will have an army and police force trained by the U.S. military, which will continue an economic system ordered under the privatizing rules of the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) and stamping out independent labor unions under the rules the CPA continued from the Saddam Hussein government. It is practically guaranteed that the death squads will continue to be used to eliminate critics of the government and of its puppet masters who will remain in the gigantic U.S. embassy to advise and direct operations in Iraq.

• **EPI urges our readers to ask Congress to investigate the Iraq Special Operations Forces which were created in the**

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Fighting the “Good War”

by Carolyn S. Scarr

Opposing a “good” war presents greater challenges than opposing a war of unabashed aggression. The opposition must begin with efforts to revive what many have considered to be war’s first casualty, the truth.

In contrast with the attack on Iraq and the subsequent occupation, the Afghanistan invasion and occupation is considered by many to be the good war. After all, many believe, we had to respond militarily when we were attacked on 9/11. Few people remember the fact that the then government of Afghanistan expressed willingness to extradite Osama Bin Laden if the U.S. provided evidence supporting the charge that he had been responsible for the attacks. The U.S. chose not to try that option but pushed for an attack. This subject was discussed in the Spring 2009 issue of *Planted*.

Protecting the Women

Support for the occupation of Afghanistan has been generated by arguments that the rights of women will be protected by the troops of the U.S. and other NATO forces. The Feminist Peace Network provides information about the recent story in *Time Magazine* which showed the photo of a horribly maimed woman. *Time* asserted that a “local Taliban commander” ordered her disfiguring attack. *Time* goes on to say: “For Afghanistan’s women, an early withdrawal of international forces could be disastrous.”

What really happened? Ann Jones writes in *The Nation*, August 12, “I know Bibi Aisha, the young Afghan woman pictured on the August 9 cover of *Time* . . . She told me that her father-in-law caught up with her after she ran away, and took a knife to her on his own; village elders later approved, but the Taliban didn’t figure at all in this account. The *Time* story, however, attributes Aisha’s mutilation to a husband under orders of a Talib commander, thereby transforming a personal story, similar to those of countless women in Afghanistan today, into a portent of things to come for all women if the Taliban return to power.”

Afghan women don’t want more enemies on the ground. “Grassroots political and feminist activists have called for an immediate U.S. withdrawal from their country. After eight years of American-enabled oppression, they would rather fight for their liberation without our help. The anti-fundamentalist progressive organization, Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA), has called for an immediate end to the war. Echoing their call is independent dissident member of Parliament Malalai Joya, who tells her story in her new political memoir, *A Woman Among Warlords*. The members of RAWA and women like Joya are openly targeted by the U.S.-backed Afghan government for their feminism and political activism. RAWA and Joya have worked on the ground, risking their lives for political change and echo the vast majority of poor and ordinary Afghan women. It’s they whom we ought to listen to and express solidarity with. If American progressives think they know better than Afghanistan’s brave feminist activists on how liberation can be achieved, we’re just as guilty as the U.S. government for subjecting them to the mercy of women-hating criminals.” (*Foreign Policy in Focus*, November 2, 2009)

A Pattern of Deception

“Remember the Maine” — We have been down this road before. The false story that Iraqi troops dragged Kuwaiti babies out of incubators supported a rapid move toward a military response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and helped to pull the rug from under the possibility of a diplomatic resolution. The Feminist Peace Network has posted: “CIA Document Calls For Using Afghan Women as Messengers To Humanize The War.”

General Petraeus didn’t let the grass grow under his feet as he used the story on *Meet the Press* and in statements to leading newspapers to support his “fierce media blitz to cripple the policy option of any significant military withdrawal a year from now.” (Norman Solomon)

Meanwhile Tarik Ali’s prediction of a wider war spreading into Pakistan has been realized. “The longer the US stays in Afghanistan, the more it creates instability on the Afghan-Pakistan border, because it’s a porous border and it’s impossible to police it.” (*Democracy Now!*, March 3, 2009) Even as thousands of Pakistanis struggle to stay alive in rising flood waters, U.S. drone attacks continue in areas of Pakistan.

Ending the War

“A majority of Americans now see the war in Afghanistan as not worth fighting, and just a quarter say more U.S. troops should be sent to the country, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News poll.” (*Washington Post*, August 20, 2010) However this majority opinion does not determine government policy in either the White House or in Congress.

Leaders of the U.S. military call for more troops and a “surge” to sweep through Afghan villages and towns, supposedly to remove the Taliban. We the people are instructed to bow to the expert opinion of the military, notwithstanding the fact that the declaration of war is the prerogative of the Congress and the commander in chief is a civilian.

Actions

- We in the peace and justice movement need to take a clear look at the way our country relates to the rest of the world. We need to give that relationship its proper name -- Empire. We need to recognize that “Pax Americana” is not a peace in any sense of the word and must be opposed.
- **We call upon our government to bring all our soldiers home.** These are our children, our sisters and brothers, even our fathers and mothers. Demanding their return is true support. We also demand they get the health care they need, the schooling they were promised and good jobs serving real community needs.
- **We need to call for an end to funding the wars of occupation:** Afghanistan, the continuing occupation of Iraq, the many bases around the world, the proxy occupations in many countries. We can remind our friends and fellow-citizens that the money we use for these occupations benefits the only fat cats and is desperately needed at home for our schools, healthcare, public transportation and disintegrating infrastructure.
- **Urge Congress to call for a timeline for withdrawal.** This is only a baby step in the right direction. Press Congress to go further and take the steps which will lead to real peace.

If You Want Peace, Work For Justice
Pope Paul VI

Haiti's Election Circus Continues, and Wyclef Jean won't take no for an answer

by Charlie Hinton (Haiti Action Committee)

On Friday, Aug. 20, Haiti's Electoral Council ruled that only 19 of the 34 declared candidates could run for president, eliminating the other 15, including rap artist Wyclef Jean, supposedly because he didn't meet Haiti's constitutional five-year residency requirement, but more likely because worldwide reporting of Mr. Jean's lack of qualifications and financial hanky panky, as well as internal Haitian political wrangling, made him too toxic.

However, he soon announced that he will sue to get on the ballot, providing the next episode for Haiti's ongoing presidential election soap opera.

And the election does go on. Even though Haiti lives under military occupation with more than 11,500 uniformed U.N. personnel on the ground, both military and police; even though the earthquake destroyed most election registration records; even though more than a million people remain living in squalid tent and tarp encampments in Port au Prince and points south and would miraculously have to be re-registered in 90 days; even though the money that will be spent on this election could feed and house thousands of these Haitians in extreme need; even though the president's term has been extended on an emergency basis, despite widespread protest; even though the largest and most popular party, Fanmi Lavalas, has been excluded from running candidates and its leader, twice overthrown President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, continues to be banished from returning to Haiti; even though the "international community" has supported dictators and tyrants throughout Haiti's history, including the murderous Duvalier family, these elections go on.

Why? There's a term for it. Instead of holding a free and fair election, where all parties, candidates and voters openly participate, this is a "demonstration election."

Demonstration Elections

As defined by Edward Herman and Frank Brodhead in their book, "Demonstration Elections," the purpose of a demonstration election is to substitute the form of democracy for its substance, in order to prevent real grassroots democracy. Yes, the purpose of a demonstration election is to prevent grassroots democracy.

In the case of Haiti, Fanmi Lavalas and the Lavalas movement have overwhelmingly demonstrated their popularity and influence in every election since 1990, when Aristide was elected with 67 percent of the vote. The Haitian majority loves President Aristide. He said he wanted to raise Haitians from a state of misery to "poverty with dignity," and he practiced what he preached, building schools, parks, housing, hospitals and clinics, and a medical school, despite having his government starved of funds and loans, because he put the needs of poor Haitians ahead of the demands of international bankers (see http://haitisolidarity.net/downloads/We_Will_Not_Forget_2010.pdf).

The Haitian majority loves President Aristide because he put the needs of poor Haitians ahead of the demands of international bankers.

With the Electoral Council banning candidates from Fanmi

Lavalas, we are presented with an election, in the name of "democracy," where the most popular party in the country is prevented from participating – providing the illusion of electoral "democracy" as a front for a military occupation whose goal is to repress the forces calling for the democratic sharing of power and wealth in the first place – the precise definition of a "demonstration election."

"Wyclef on Aug. 26 released on Twitter a song protesting the ruling removing his name from the presidential ballot. He recorded it in Haitian Kreyol, the primary language of the Haitian people. He's been criticized for not being fluent in either Kreyol or French, which is also spoken widely in Haiti." (AP photo credit)

Informal Empire

After the United States conquered Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines in 1898, the powers that be decided to create an "informal empire" as a means of control, rather than the kind of direct colonial occupation that the European powers had used in their conquests of Africa, Asia and the Middle East. The U.S. would use elections during an occupation to legitimate its preferred candidate, then use economics and other means of coercion to maintain a loosely knit system of neo-colonial dependency.

In "Demonstration Elections," Herman and Brodhead explain the template that has been developed for these sham elections, analyzing the elections in the Dominican Republic in 1966, Viet Nam in 1967 and El Salvador in 1982. We can see this template at work for recent elections in Iraq, Afghanistan, Honduras and now Haiti, where the boycotted senatorial elections of 2009 and the upcoming presidential elections fit this pattern perfectly.

A demonstration election is a *media event* above all else. The media sell the election to taxpayers at home to show "progress" and justify spending the money for the occupation. They feature the election as BIG NEWS, when it's really propaganda, a smokescreen for the harsh realities on the ground.

That is why the candidacy of Wyclef Jean is so important – it makes this Haitian election a media "event" and gives it the illusion of credibility, when it's real goal is to suppress the Lavalas movement, put a democratic front on a brutal military occupation, install a friendly face who will obey the will of the "international community" investor class, and continue the neo-liberal economic direction of the current Haitian government, all the while presenting the face of "democracy" to the outside world.

So now we have 19, possibly 20, candidates lined up, most of them with a tiny or no constituency, and all willing to play ball with the forces of occupation, while Lavalas supporters demonstrate to denounce the elections as a fraud, and U.N. troops shoot up the neighborhoods where they live.

But the media will never report on this. They have "on-agenda" items – basically anything about Wyclef – and "off-agenda" items – basically everything else, but especially any analysis of the background, context and Real Purpose of the election and, in the case of Haiti, that the Lavalas movement even exists. But it does. Stay tuned.

Charlie Hinton is a member of the Haiti Action Committee (<http://haitiaction.net/> and <http://www.haitisolidarity.net/>) and works at Inkworks Press, a worker owned and managed printing company in Berkeley. He may be reached at ch_lifewish@yahoo.com. This article first appeared in San Francisco Bay View.

'Palestinian Gandhi' Convicted for Protesting; U.S. Silent

by Robert Naiman

Last week, an Israeli military court convicted Abdallah Abu Rahmah, whom progressive Zionists have called a "Palestinian Gandhi," of "incitement" and "organizing and participating in illegal demonstrations" for organizing protests against the confiscation of Palestinian land by the "Apartheid Wall" in the village of Bilin in the West Bank, following an eight month trial, during which he was kept in prison.

The European Union issued a protest. But as far as I am aware, no U.S. official has said anything and no U.S. newspaper columnist has denounced this act of repression; indeed, the U.S. press hasn't even reported the news. To find out what happened, someone could search the wires where they'll find the AFP [Agence France Presse] story, or go to the British or Israeli press.

AFP reported: EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton expressed deep concern "that the possible imprisonment of Mr Abu Rahma is intended to prevent him and other Palestinians from exercising their legitimate right to protest against the existence of the separation barriers in a non-violent manner," her office said.

"The EU considers the route of the barrier where it is built on Palestinian land to be illegal," it quoted her as saying in a statement.

The failure of the New York Times to report the news is particularly striking, because the New York Times reported last August on the protests in Bilin, quoting Abu Rahmah in particular; and because this July New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof, writing from Bilin with the provocative headline "Waiting for Gandhi" weighed in on the subject of Palestinian nonviolent protest.

Last August, Ethan Bronner reported in the Times: Abdullah Abu Rahma, a village teacher and one of the organizers of the weekly protests, said he was amazed at the military's assertions [of protester violence, including of "rioters" throwing "Molotov cocktails"] as well as at its continuing arrests and imprisonment of village leaders.

"They want to destroy our movement because it is nonviolent," he said. He added that some villagers might have tried, out of frustration, to cut through the fence since the court had ordered it moved and nothing had happened. But that is not the essence of the popular movement that he has helped lead.

Kristof wrote patronizingly in his column last month that "some Palestinians are dabbling in a strategy of non-violent resistance," but it seems that Kristof was "dabbling" in his fleeting expression of concern about the fate of the Palestinians.

Under the "law" of the Israeli military occupation of the Palestinian West Bank since 1967, "incitement" is defined as "the attempt, verbally or otherwise, to influence public opinion in the Area in a way that may disturb the public peace or public order", and carries a maximum 10 year sentence. Abu Rahmah's sentencing will take place next month, and the prosecution is reportedly expected to ask

for a sentence of at least two years.

In December 2008 Abdallah received the Carl Von Ossietzky Medal for Outstanding Service in the Realization of Basic Human Rights from the International League for Human Rights in Berlin, as Amnesty International noted following his arrest.

This February, former President Jimmy Carter wrote on behalf of the Elders, the group of global leaders brought together by Nelson Mandela to promote peace: We are especially concerned to hear that Abdallah Abu Rahma, the coordinator of the Popular Committee against the Wall and Settlements in Bil'in, was detained in a night raid on 10 December last year and faces charges of incitement, stone throwing and organizing and participating in illegal marches. [...] Abu Rahma is a middle-aged school teacher who eschews violence including stone throwing.

Catherine Ashton, Europe's Hillary Clinton, protested the conviction. Why hasn't Hillary done so? Perhaps the failure of the U.S. media to simply report the news might have something to do with it?

- You can ask Secretary of State Clinton to speak out, as Europe's Catherine Ashton has, by calling the State Department's comment line at 202-647-6575 and pressing 1.
- You can use the State Department's web site, <http://contact-us.state.gov> choosing "E-mail a Question/Comment," and topic "U.S. Foreign Policy/Middle East." You could use a subject like "Conviction by Israeli court of Abdallah Abu Rahmah for nonviolent protest," and a question like "I urge Secretary Clinton and other State Department officials to speak out against the conviction by Israeli military court of Abdallah Abu Rahmah for organizing nonviolent protests against the Israeli separation barrier in the West Bank, which has confiscated Palestinian land."
- You can write a letter for publication to the New York Times letters@nytimes.com; you can contact the Times' news editors nynews@nytimes.com; you can write to the Times' Public Editor public@nytimes.com.
- UPDATE: (8/29): CNN, The Guardian, and the Independent reported the news; Amnesty International and South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu protested the conviction.

Robert Naiman is Policy Director at Just Foreign Policy

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Iraq, from page 6

horrifying tradition of the Phoenix operation in Vietnam. Ask them to remain critically aware of the actions by U.S. advisors. Ask them to shut down all the U.S. bases built in Iraq.

- Join us at the **Oakland peace vigil** held each Monday noon in front of the Federal Building, 1301 Clay.

In 1998, EPI initiated the weekly vigil at the Oakland Federal Building to call for an end to the sanctions which led to the deaths of 5,000 Iraqi children each month. The vigil has continued in an ongoing effort to end the occupation of Iraq, and also the occupation of Afghanistan.

Helmand residents accuse NATO of deliberate attack on civilians

Guardian, UK, 27 July, 2010

Survivors of an alleged NATO rocket attack on a small town in Helmand, which the Afghan government says killed 52 civilians, spoke today of their anger at what they claim was a deliberate air strike, despite coalition denials.



The incident is alleged to have taken place last Friday in Regey, in the volatile Sangin district of Helmand. News of it came as a deluge of leaked US army documents about previously unreported civilian killings threatens to ruin NATO's attempts to persuade Afghans that it takes innocent deaths seriously.

Many residents of the town say they believe the strike, which they say was a missile attack on a mud house where people were hiding from nearby fighting, was deliberate. "The foreign forces could see us," said Haji Abdul Ghafar, a 38-year-old farmer who had fled to Regey from a nearby village. . . . He was speaking to the Guardian at the Mir-wais hospital in Kandahar city, where he went with his son, Agha Shereen, who suffered a broken leg and nose, and a seven-year-old nephew, Abdul Jabar.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/jul/27/>

Iraqi Deaths 1, 469,066

U.S. Deaths 4,412 Coalition 4,732

Afghan & Pakistani Deaths ? ? ? ? ?

U.S. Deaths in Afghanistan 1,226

Coalition Deaths in Afghanistan 2,002

Withdrawal When?

. . . Top US military officials, meanwhile, are preparing to lobby for a delayed withdrawal from Afghanistan. . . .

Top Iraqi General: US Troops Should Remain Until 2020
The talk of a delayed Afghan withdrawal comes as Iraq's top military officer has said he wants US troops to stay in Iraq for the next decade, despite a withdrawal timetable for the end of next year. . . .

Iran in the Crosshairs

Iran Says Nuclear-Fuel Talks Should Open in September
Ladane Nasseri, Bloomberg News & Washington Post Thursday July 15, 2010

Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said that talks between his country and the world powers on a plan to supply fuel for a Tehran nuclear reactor should start around late September. — Iran has said it is ready for negotiations with the five veto-holding members of the United Nations Security Council plus Germany on a deal brokered by Turkey and Brazil in May. . . . this and other articles at www.justforeignpolicy.org

An Attack on Iran: Back on the Table

Joe Klein, Time Magazine, Thursday, Jul. 15, 2010

In late 2006, the Joint Chiefs of Staff said that military action against Iran's nuclear program was not feasible. . . . "Another war in the Middle East is the last thing we need," Secretary of Defense Robert Gates wrote in 2008. . . . Gates is sounding more belligerent these days.

A recently retired U.S. official with extensive knowledge of the issue: "**We offered the Iranians a really generous deal, which their negotiators accepted,**" . . . referring to the offer to exchange Iran's 1.2 tons of low-enriched uranium (3.5% pure) for higher-enriched (20%) uranium for medical research and use. "When the leadership shot that down, I began to think, Well, we made the good-faith effort to engage. What do we do now?"

. . . . U.S. Army's Central Command . . . has made some real progress in planning targeted air strikes on Iran.

The really generous deal is virtually identical to the one worked out by Turkey and Brazil which Iran is prepared to accept and the U.S. is vigorously ignoring.

Threatened Israeli strike on Iran would lead to regional war
Oxford Research Group, a leading security think tank, the consequences of such a military action against Iran "are so serious that they should not be encouraged in any shape or form."
Los Angeles Times, July 14, 2010.



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Bring our troops home.

Call Congress -- say no more money for war!

*This page removed for the time.
Sorry for the inconvenience*

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

EPI Peace Potlucks, Sundays 5:30 - 8:30
see pp. 1, 2, 5 & 11

- **Sunday, Sept 26: *Initiatives for Democratic Change***
- **Sunday, October 24: Rita Nakashima Brock: *Perpetual War, Torture & the Truth Commission***
- **Sunday, Dec 5: *Update on Haiti***

Wednesday, Sept. 22, 7:00 p.m.: Robert Fisk "Lies, Misreporting, and Catastrophe in the Middle East"; First Congregational Church of Berkeley, Dana & Durant. For info: 510-548-0542, events@mecaforpeace.org

Sunday, Sept 26, 2:30 p.m.: Congresswoman Barbara Lee talks on war, peace, the war power and her anti war actions in Congress, Q&A; Berkeley Fellowship of Unitatians, Cedar & Bonita, Berkeley. Contact Annie Boddum, WILPF, 510-339-1395, annieboddum@yahoo.com

October 2: *Peace March — One Nation Working Together*, march on Washington DC, initiated by the NAACP, 1199 SEIU, AFL-CIO, the National Council of La Raza, Green for All, Center for Community Change & the United States Student Association. Focus is on jobs & economic recovery; cut military spending to fund human needs; U.S. troops out of Iraq & Afghanistan. A West Coast march is being planned. Save the date & await details.

Sunday, November 14, 5:30, East Bay Sanctuary Covenant (EBSC) dinner, St. John's Presyberian Church, 2727 College Ave, Berkeley. Contact Sandy Hunter, 510-524-7989.

November 18-21: Close the SOA and take a stand for justice in the Americas. at the gates of Fort Benning, Georgia. For more information, visit www.soaw.org

Saturday & Sunday, Nov 27-28, EBSC Crafts Fair, 1st Congregational Church of Berkeley, Dana & Channing. Contact Sandy Hunter, 510-524-7989.

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.

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, 4:30 - 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.

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).