



Planted by the Waters

Spring 2019

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

Racism, Islamophobia and Empire

report on Fall Gathering, 2018

The EPI Fall Gathering was, as always, a chance to meet long time friends, eat good food, enjoy music — this year violin duets by Daniel Zwickle and Marilyn Jackson.

We are grateful to St. John's Presbyterian for their hospitality and to Food not Bombs for cooking dinner.



Zahra Billoo, our guest speaker, is a civil rights attorney and the Executive Director of the San Francisco Bay Area office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-SFBA). She also bakes birthday cakes for foster children through Cakes for Kids.



She opened her talk observing that the challenge in times of calm and so called peace is to maintain the resistance. Zahra recalled that her first contact with EPI was under the Obama presidency when she offered prayers at the Good Friday witness against nuclear weapons at the Livermore lab. She noted that under Obama there were deportations of millions of people, assassinations with drones including of American citizens and the ongoing expansion of nuclear weapons development.

Looking at American history, she pointed out that family separation, the kidnapping of children, the forced rape of women started with the founding of this country. Settlers and colonizers came from Europe and said "those indigenous people — they're savage. So we are going to separate them. We are going to take the women and do what we want with them; we're going to kill the men."

photos by Mark Coplan

Zahra told of the shock and despair she felt when she read printed advertisements in the newspapers from several hundred years ago saying, "For a scalp we'll give you this much. For an ear we'll give you this much. For proof of killing a male we'll pay you this much; for a woman or child this much."

This history impacts how we recognize today's immigration as well as how we relate to indigenous people today. When we meet an indigenous person we need to recognize them as a survivor of genocide.

This genocide was followed by one of the worst slave trades in human history. She spoke of the way people were sold in this country and what was done to slaves to break their spirits. She pointed out that major institutions, banks and universities, were complicit with the slave trade.

Slavery, she noted, has not actually ended. It is still allowed in prisons. She noted that fires in California are fought largely by prisoners and they are paid literally slave wages.

During all of this what is love? Family separation was a key part of the slave trade. Children were taken, married couples split up. Sometimes a woman was raped in front of her husband. Some of our presidents raped their slaves. So family separation is not a new issue, it is something our country was built on.

Then there were lynchings. These were advertised events attended by hundreds who watched and took body parts as souvenirs. Some analysts believe that lynch mobs became the court system. White robes became black robes. There were Black Codes and vagrancy laws punishing people simply for being black.

Zahra then cited the Chinese Exclusion Act, the internment of Japanese and Japanese-Americans, the targeting of communists and people perceived to be

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- • • • •
- **Maureen Hartman, ipresente!** •
- We honor Maureen a faithful vigiler •
- at the anti-nuke Circle of Concern at •
- the UC campus and a faithful •
- vigiler at the Living Graveyard. •
- • • • •

dissenters. These tactics continue today.

Zahra visited the border recently. She was with a Mexican-American activist and a Somali refugee; she asked, "Why do they want to come here?" She was given the answer in a poem, *Home*, by the British Somali poet Warsan Shire: "no one leaves home unless/home is the mouth of a shark/you only run for the border/when you see the whole city running as well. . ."

This forces her to ask "what is going on? Why are these people coming here?"

Now [Trump] says he's going to ban Muslims from coming into the United States until we can figure out what is going on. Never mind the fact that his family came here through what he now calls "chain migration." Never mind the fact that twenty to thirty percent of the slaves who were brought here were Muslims. Zahra named others in the administration who are equally racist.

Moving across the political aisle, Zahra noted that Hillary Clinton only talks about Muslims in the context of national security. The only contribution of Muslims she will celebrate are those who participated in illegal wars abroad. Iraq will suffer the consequences of illegal U.S. attacks for decades or centuries to come.

Bill Clinton says you can stay if you are here to fight ISIS, not if you want to work to uphold the Constitution or you want to be a teacher or social worker.

Hate crimes in the ten days following the 2016 election were worse than those right after 9/11. The targets were very broad, everyone Breitbart thought didn't belong here.

She looked at Trump's circle of advisors — the white supremacists, anti-Semites, Islamophobes. About "The Wall" — There is already a wall at the Mexican border. Actually there are two walls. The U.S. border guards are instituting cavity searches even to minors. Zahra spoke of her experiences at the Palestine border and the privilege her U.S. citizenship gives her where cavity searches are being done to Palestinians.

The U.S. is hiring more border guards. No money for water, teachers, nutrition, road repair.

First Muslim ban: Iraq, Iran, Somalia, Syria, Lybia, and Yemen — all have in common that they are the object of U.S. attack, whether bombing or economic. None has open U.S. embassies.

Third ban still in effect is against Iran, Syria, Somalia, Lybia, Yemen and North Korea (put on the list to balance the targeting of Muslims).

Zahra calls for the abolition of ICE for its criminal activities. ICE is a fairly recent institution. If we want to reduce the number of refugees we should stop bombing other people's countries, ruining their

economies, and overthrowing their elected governments. What we are fighting for is the soul of our country. The System isn't broken; it's working just as it was designed.

Every community Zahra named in her talk is still the target of harassment. The life expectancy of trans women of color is less than forty. Black people are shot in the streets and even in their own homes.

Islamophobia played a part in the U.S. invasion and suppression of the Moros in the Philippines. We need courage. We lose more fights than we win.

As a person of faith, Zahra said, I know that Jesus, peace be upon him (pbuh), faced harassment and violence and he brought his message to the people. And Moses (pbuh) faced harassment and violence and he brought his message to the people. And Mohamed (pbuh) faced harassment and violence and he brought his message to the people.

And in each of their stories and in the stories of so many other prophets we know they risked life and limb to build something better. Even in our own lifetimes we have their prophetic work to draw on. We need to look at what are we willing to risk. Let us be courageous and move forward.

EPI was honored to give Zahra an award:



*Ecumenical Peace Institute /
Clergy and Laity Concerned
Honors and Commends*

Zahra Billoo

*Holding her in the Highest Regard and Esteem
For her Steadfast Dedication
To the Work of Equal Human Rights for All
This third day of November, 2018*

Our gathering concluded with closing prayer offered by Imam Rashid Patch.

The Good Friday witness at the Livermore Nuclear Weapons Laboratory

by Carolyn S. Scarr

At the annual Good Friday witness, people concerned about the continuing development of nuclear weapons gather at the corner of Vasco Road and Patterson Pass Road, outside the Livermore Nuclear Weapons Laboratory, for an interfaith prayer service followed by nonviolent acts of witness.

Initiated by Berkeley seminary students inspired by Fr. Daniel Berrigan's nonviolence class, this action has been held for over 35 years. At 7:00 a.m. music begins a prayer service incorporating spiritual inspirations from many traditions, including the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Archbishop Oscar Romero, theologian Dorothee Soelle, Cesar Chavez and Berta Cáceres.

Our speakers have included Bill O'Donnell, Phil Lawson, Sharon Delgado (on Earth Day), Kathy Kelly, Phil Berrigan, Louie Vitale, Lee Williamson, Bishop Leontine Kelly and many other leaders in the struggle for peace and justice.

Our prayer service strives to be interfaith. We have opened with Muslim prayers and concluded with Jewish prayers or poetry. We honor the Native people on whose land we stand. We process to the main gate, stopping at the Stations of the Cross of Empire to mourn empire's victims. At the gate we engage in liturgical dance. We sing. Some of us block the gates, risking arrest.

Less than a month after Berta Cáceres was murdered we heard her words from 2015:

Wake Up! Wake Up, Humankind! We are out of time! We must shake our conscience free of the rapacious capitalism, racism and patriarchy that will only assure our own self-destruction. . . . Let us come together and remain hopeful as we defend and care for the blood of this Earth and its spirits.

These were very good words to hear at Livermore Lab, founded in 1952 to develop the hydrogen bomb, and which is still the place where new weapons of mass destruction are designed.

Why Good Friday?

Good Friday is the day we remember the execution by torture of a man who taught that God loves the poor and those who feed the hungry and clothe the naked. Jesus opened his ministry by quoting Isaiah:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captive and recovering of sight to the blind; to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.

One year our Good Friday preacher told us that the acceptable year would be the Jubilee year when poor people would have their land returned to them. All debts would be cancelled. Slaves would be freed. This is revolutionary stuff.

Our nonviolence is informed by Walter Wink who wrote that Jesus' instruction to carry the occupying soldier's pack an extra mile was designed to get the soldier in trouble because he was only allowed to force the colonized person to carry his load for one mile. Wink wrote that turning the other cheek forced the assailant to treat his victim like a social equal.

This nonviolence training and the call for economic justice would have been recognized by the powerful in the Roman empire as a threat. Crucifixion was the punishment for those who organized slave revolts or challenged Roman rule of their homeland.

Consider the nuclear weapon. Remember the burned of Hiroshima and Nagasaki struggling for water as their skin peels off their bodies. Remember the drawn-out deaths by cancer of those exposed to radiation poisoning. This death by torture awaits anyone whose country challenges the U.S. empire, especially now that we have a president who thinks if we have nuclear weapons we ought to be able to use them, and whose administration is systematically abrogating treaties limiting development and use of nuclear weapons. Recent projects include the "tactical" mini-nuke and the long range stand-off missile, both of which could be tools of nuclear escalation in a future crisis.

The nuclear bomb is the cross of today. That's why we gather at the Nuclear Weapons Lab on Good Friday. The theme this year is "Keeping Faith in the Face of Empire." Join us April 19 at 7:00 a.m. Visit www.epicalc.org for details.

A version of this article was published by the Sonoma County *Peace Press*.

I sing despite my tears

No matter why, or what about,
the shame in Abul Ghraib or that
of Auschwitz, and all the children
with their bloated hungry deaths.
In darkest moments when despair
seems to engulf known universe
and all the news not fit to print
decry man's outrage; still
somewhere within a song is born,
a dirge at times, an elegy most days
for flower or tree, for life
needlessly shed in endless pattern
of despair and ruthlessness,
and yet within there is a verse
which urges peace, and joy,
and all the beauty of the day.

Silvia Antonia Brandon-Pérez de Forsyth
Radical Marxist priest

Haiti Action Committee News and Action

From mainstream news media, we have been subjected to the usual racialized commentary about Haiti - "mobs in the streets", "police outgunned", "looters", "riots." And from far too many progressives, there has been complete silence. What is acknowledged as revolutionary social movement in other areas of the world is somehow dismissed as chaos in Haiti. Yet what we are seeing today in Haiti is the latest chapter in an unending struggle for democracy, dignity and justice.

In this time of rebellion, crisis and repression, we send our support to the people of Haiti, to the grassroots movement, and to the people's party, Fanmi Lavalas. It is a time for our voices to be heard, for the silence around Haiti to be broken, and for a dramatic increase in solidarity - something that should be on all of our agendas. www.facebook.com/HaitiActionCommittee

At Haiti Action Committee website, www.haitisolidarity.net find action items including:

Hold the US/UN Occupation Accountable

The United Nations, along with the United States and Canada, trains and supervises the murderous Haitian police and oversees Haiti's horrendous prisons where beatings, torture and killings are routine. Condemn the police killings of demonstrators in Haiti by the UN-supervised police and attachés and demand an end to the US/UN occupation. Contact UN representative in Haiti, Sophie Boutaud de la Combe: e-mail: boutauddelacombes@un.org; Twitter: @SBDLC @MINUJUSTH

Since February 7th hundreds of thousands of Haitians have been demonstrating in the streets of cities and towns throughout the country. Chanting "We are hungry, we can't take it anymore," protesters demand that the totally corrupt and fraudulently (s)elected president, Jovenel Moise, resign immediately.

A new report by a government watchdog group documents that \$4.2 BILLION of profit from Venezuela-supplied Petrocaribe oil has disappeared, unaccounted for. Meanwhile, teachers have not been paid for months, and sanitation services are nil. High inflation makes even the basics unaffordable for many people. Haitians throughout the country demand to know what happened to the money, while police and members of Moise's PHTK Party attack demonstrators with impunity, reminiscent of the Duvalier tonton macoutes death squads. Join Haiti Action Committee for a report about these events and the unstoppable fight of Haiti's people for liberty and justice.

And as you may have heard, a group of seven U.S.-based mercenaries were arrested in Haiti, found to be in possession of a collection of military grade weapons. These men evidently last operated in Afghanistan. The U.S. embassy spirited them out quickly and quietly.

Why Did Hanoi Summit Really Fail? February 28, 2019

Speaking from Hanoi, Christine Ahn, a co-founder and a current associate of the Korea Policy Institute, appeared this morning on "Democracy Now" and cautioned against accepting President Trump's depiction as to why the Hanoi summit was cut short.

Kevin Gray, a specialist in international relations at the University of Sussex, England tweeted that "Former SK [South Korean] unification minister Chong Se-hyun suggests that summit was derailed by last minute attendance of Bolton, who added demands for NK [North Korea] to also report chemical/biological weapons, in response to which NKs [North Koreans] increased their demand for sanctions relief." National Security Adviser John Bolton is widely seen as responsible for the recent U.S. government announcement of withdrawing from the INF Treaty with Russia.

Ahn also stated that continued military exercises by the U.S. government push North Korea into being more of a garrison state. She also stressed the humanitarian toll of continued sanctions on North Korea; see report from last year from Reuters: "60,000 North Korean children may starve, sanctions slow aid: UNICEF." Ahn also highlighted the strong support for a peace agreement in South Korea and for South Korean President Moon Jae-in — and the need for people in the U.S. to be engaged in such issues. Rep. Ro Khanna (D-Ca.) just introduced a House resolution to end the Korean War on Tuesday after 69 years of conflict.

Siegfried Hecker, emeritus research professor at Stanford University and a leading specialist on the North Korean nuclear program noted before the Hanoi Summit: "We maintain that a risk-based, phased approach for elimination of the nuclear weapons program will stretch over a decade or so because of the enormity of the nuclear weapons enterprise and the huge trust deficits that remain."

This report is from Institute for Public Accuracy: <http://accuracy.org/release/why-did-hanoi-summit-really-fail/>

Action: H. Res. 152 Calling for a formal end of the Korean war, was submitted on February 26 by Representative Ro Khanna and 22 co-sponsors, including Representative Barbara Lee.

For text and list see <https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/hres/152/BILLS-116hres152ih.pdf>

If your congressperson is not on the list, call them up and ask them to co-sponsor.

Iran — Still in U.S. Crosshairs

materials gathered by Carolyn S. Scarr

There are so many things to write about on Iran and U.S. foreign policy. For starters: the sanctions.

As in Iraq, sanctions are seriously jeopardizing the health of Iranians. *The Lancet*, in July of 2018, writes that cancer treatments are endangered by impairing access to both medications and treatment. There are also reports of reduction of medicines to treat diabetes and many other diseases.

In March of 2018 the United Nations Human Rights Council, looking at U.S. sanctions on Venezuela wrote “*Human rights and unilateral coercive measures*,” among other strong statements opposing sanctions and decrying their effects:

Deeply disturbed by the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the right to life, the rights to health and medical care, the right to freedom from hunger and the right to an adequate standard of living, food, education, work and housing,
Alarmed by the disproportionate and indiscriminate human costs of unilateral sanctions and their negative effects on the civilian population, in particular women and children, of targeted States. . . .

On the UN wire (un_wire@smartbrief.com):

Head of UN nuclear agency[states]: Iran keeping to nuclear deal.

March 4, 2019 BERLIN (AP) — The head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog says Iran is complying with the 2015 deal with major world powers aimed at preventing the country from building nuclear weapons.

Yukiya Amano made his assessment in a regular update to the International Atomic Energy Agency’s board of governors, confirming a confidential report distributed to member states last month.

He said Monday that “Iran is implementing its nuclear-related commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action,”

The U.S. is trying to manufacture a legal justification for attacking Iran, Philip M. Giraldo writes:

As an ex-CIA case officer who worked on the Iran target for a number of years, I was shocked when I read the [*Washington*] *Times*’ article, primarily because it sounded like a repeat of the fabricated intelligence that was used against both Iraq and Iran in 2001 through 2003. . . .

The hawks in Washington, by which one means National Security Adviser John Bolton, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and, apparently President Donald Trump himself when the subject is Iran,

have been somewhat frustrated by the lack of a clear *casus belli* to hang their war on. No doubt prodded by Netanyahu, they have apparently revived an old story to give them what they want, even going so far as to develop an argument that would justify an attack on Iran without a declaration of war while also lacking any imminent threat from Tehran to justify a preemptive strike.

What may be the new Iran policy was recently outlined in a *Washington Times* article, . . . “*Exclusive: Iran-al Qaeda alliance May Provide Legal Rationale for U.S. military strikes*.” . . . The article states that Iran is supporting al Qaeda by providing money, weapons and sanctuary across the Middle East to enable it to undertake new terrorist attacks. It is [supposedly] doing so in spite of ideological differences because of a common enemy: the United States. Per the article and its sources, this connivance has now “evolved into an unacceptable global security threat” with the White House intent on “establishing a potential legal justification for military strikes against Iran or its proxies” . . . [T]he Authorization to Use Military Force, originally drafted post 9/11 to provide a legal fig leaf to pursue al Qaeda worldwide, but since modified to permit also going after “associated groups.” If Iran is plausibly an associated group then President Trump and his band of self-righteous maniacs egged on by Netanyahu can declare “bombs away Mr. Ayatollah.”

What could be the reasons for this thirst for a fight?

It could be simply a contest between Iran and Saudi Arabia and Israel and of course the United States as to who will be the dominant force in the region. Religious differences might play a role, notwithstanding that Sunnis and Shias and Jews and Christians have historically lived at peace with each other in Iraq and Syria. Jews and Muslims lived as good neighbors in Palestine under Turkish rule and the British mandate.

Reading through the internet, let’s look at a *Times of Israel* article, Sept 2014: “Israel’s oil wars shift to the Golan Heights.

“Environmentalists made headlines two weeks ago when they blocked a controversial oil shale pilot project in the Shfela; largely unnoticed, the same US parent company has won approval for exploratory drilling up north” — that is in the Golan Heights. www.timesofisrael.com/israels-oil-wars-shift-to-the-golan-heights/

Since the Golan Heights is territory claimed by Israel after the 1967 war, it is not legally Israeli land. Who knows what sort of dispute may follow this development. Another factor is that in the Golan Heights are the headwaters of the Jordan River. Contaminating this waterway with oil drilling will hit the residents of the watershed hard.

COINTELPRO now in operation against Nicaragua

by Carolyn S. Scarr

At a concert given by one of my favorite progressive singers, it was a very unpleasant surprise to hear her say that the Sandinista government in Nicaragua had shut down a women's health clinic and expelled from the country its director. I shouted out, "That's not true," because I already knew that Nicaragua was a target of an international COINTELPRO, a divide-the-left operation resembling the one targeting the Black Panthers.

To find out what in the world the singer was talking about I e-mailed Dorothy Granada who has been providing healthcare for women in Nicaragua for at least 30 years. I knew that among Dorothy's projects was "Skills to Save Lives," a program to improve the knowledge and skills of midwives and other community healthcare workers. That would have given Dorothy a wide network of contacts in the field of health care for women. So I was sure she could shed light on this accusation.

Dorothy wrote back to me:

CISAS, *Centro de Informacion y Servicios de Asesoría en Salud*, a group in Managua, dedicated to health education of women had its legalization suspended because it was receiving money from the United States AID to pay the *golpistas* to create chaos at the torn up streets including murder, beatings, kidnappings, torture. The head of the group, Anna Quiroz, a nationalized Nicaraguan of Costa Rican birth, was expelled from the country and her citizenship taken away.

Let me know if you have other questions. I think that people who repeat unproved accusations are very irresponsible.

love to you and the family, Dorothy "

In a recent newsletter Dorothy grieved that many supporters in the U.S. of the progressive work of the Sandanistas are now letting themselves be deceived by rightwing propaganda. She wrote: "I will not try to counter the misinformation that the Nicaraguan right and their North American sponsors spread so effectively in the world media; others have done that well, especially the Nicaragua Network [see <https://afgj.org/nicanotes>]. I am shocked and saddened by how quickly friends believed the propaganda. This moment may offer an opportunity for some of us to examine our latent deep-rooted assumptions of class and race. I will instead tell you the story of a family that we have been working with and how government agencies have done their parts and done them well." If you want to get Dorothy's entire newsletter, contact the EPI office and someone will send it to you by e-mail.

One-time political prisoner in the U.S., Camilo Mejia, wrote to Amnesty International asking them to cease spreading misinformation about what was happening in Nicaragua.

In his detailed letter, which you can read in full at <https://www.alainet.org/en/articulo/193467>, Mejia describes what is really happening in Nicaragua.

Regarding the students' complaints about social security Mejia writes: "The original reforms to social security were not proposed by the Sandinista government, but by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and they were supported by an influential business group, known as COSEP. They included raising the retirement age from 60 to 65 and doubling the number of quotas necessary to get full social security from 750 to 1500. . . . The Nicaraguan government countered the IMF's reforms by rejecting the cutting out of any retirees, with a proposed 5% cut to all retirement checks, an increase in all contributions to the social security system, and with fiscal reform that removed a tax-ceiling that protected Nicaragua's biggest salaries from higher taxation. The business sector was furious. . ."

Mejia points out that the official story by Amnesty International and the U.S. is that "the protesters are peaceful and the genocidal government is irrationally bent on committing atrocities in plain sight. Meanwhile, the number of dead among Sandinista supporters and police officers continues to rise. The report states that ballistic investigations suggest that those shooting at protesters are likely trained snipers, pointing to government involvement, but fails to mention that many of the victims are Sandinistas, regular citizens, and police officers."

Mejia reports that "the 'peaceful protesters' have burned down and destroyed more than 60 public buildings, among them many City Halls, Sandinista houses, markets, artisan shops, radio stations, and more; nor does the official line or mainstream press mention that the protesters have established 'tranques,' or roadblocks, in order to debilitate the economy as a tactic to oust the government. Such 'tranques' have become extremely dangerous scenes where murder, robbery, kidnapping, and the rape of at least one child have taken place; a young pregnant woman whose ambulance wasn't let through also died on May 17th. All of these crimes occur daily and are highly documented, but aren't included in Amnesty International's report."

We do know from history that the U.S. has repeatedly used "sanctions" and other financial actions to put governments it wants to overthrow under a state of economic siege. For example, at the behest of Jesse Helms the U.S. prevented Haiti from receiving international loans which the Lavalas government would have used to upgrade Haiti's water and sewage system. And attempting to undermine the Chilean government under

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Nicaragua *continued from page 6*

Allende, the U.S. blocked international loans from the IMF and the World Bank and then criticized Chile for getting aid from the USSR.

Falling in line behind the story promoted by Amnesty International and the National Endowment for "Democracy" (NED), corporate imperialists of both major U.S. parties successfully promoted the recently unanimously passed NICA act which is clearly designed to undermine the legitimate government of Nicaragua.

The analysis by reporter Ben Norton makes it clear:

The newly approved "Nicaraguan Investment and Conditionality Act" (NICA) will give the US president the authority to impose targeted sanctions on Nicaraguan government officials, former officials, or people purportedly "acting on behalf of" Managua.

The bill also seeks to prevent international financial institutions from providing "any loan or financial or technical assistance" to Nicaragua's government.

The NICA Act enjoyed bipartisan support, but the campaign behind it was largely led by neoconservative Florida Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, with help from Senators Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz.

<https://grayzoneproject.com/2018/12/14/congress-sanctions-nicaragua-nica-act/>

So as we rally to the defense of Venezuela, let us simultaneously act in support of the democratic government of Nicaragua whose great crime was successfully serving the people. As Camilo Mejia goes on to say in his letter:

Nicaragua has managed, since Ortega returned to power in 2007, to cut poverty by three quarters. Prior to the protests in April [of 2018], the country's economy sustained a steady annual economic growth of about 5% for several years, and the country had the third fastest-growing economy in Latin America, and was one of the safest nations in the region.

The government's infrastructural upgrades have facilitated trade among Nicaragua's poorest citizens; they have created universal access to education: primary, secondary, and university; there are programs on land, housing, nutrition, and more; the healthcare system, while modest, is not only excellent, but accessible to everyone. Approximately 90% of the food consumed by Nicaraguans is produced in Nicaragua, and about 70% of jobs come from the grassroots economy. . . .

The audacity of success, of giving its poorest citizens a life with dignity, of being an example of sovereignty to wealthier, more powerful nations, all in direct contradiction to the neoliberal model and its emphasis on privatization and austerity, has once again placed Nicaragua in the crosshairs of U.S. intervention.

U.N. Report of Israeli Crimes and the Efforts to Silence Critics

Institute for Public Accuracy

March 1, 2019

The *New York Times* reports:

"Israelis May Have Committed Crimes Against Humanity in Gaza Protests, U.N. Says." "Israeli security forces committed serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law," Santiago Canton, the head of the United Nations independent commission of inquiry, stated on Thursday.

"These violations clearly warrant criminal investigation and prosecution," he added. "[Israeli forces] have intentionally shot children, they've intentionally shot people with disabilities, they've intentionally shot journalists, knowing them to be children, people with disabilities and journalists," Sara Hossain, one of the other three investigators appointed by the U.N. Human Rights Council, said.

The report also calls on third states to arrest "persons alleged to have committed, or who ordered to have committed, the international crimes," or seek their extradition. See report by Maureen Clare Murphy at the Electronic Intifada. <https://electronicintifada.net>

HATEM BAZIAN was profiled in the just-published New Yorker piece "How a Private Israeli Intelligence Firm Spied on Pro-Palestinian Activists in the U.S."

He said today: "This U.N. report is just the latest piece of evidence about Israel's systematic brutality. The U.S. government quit the Human Rights Council to stop any serious criticism of Israel. And there's a whole structure of anti-B.D.S. legislation and targeting of activists to silence people in the U.S."

<http://accuracy.org/release/u-n-report-of-israeli-crimes-and-the-efforts-to-silence-critics/>

Lessons From History

The ongoing attacks by snipers of the Israeli army are reminiscent of "Bloody Sunday," March 7, 1965, when some 600 civil rights marchers headed east out of Selma on U.S. Route 80. They got only as far as the Edmund Pettus Bridge six blocks away, where state and local lawmen attacked them with billy clubs and tear gas.

A major difference is that Bloody Sunday led up to the passage of the Civil Rights Act, and only one demonstrator had been killed. In Gaza, nonviolent marchers are not crossing the boundary line but are being shot and many killed by snipers more than one hundred yards away. If remembering the civil rights struggle in the U.S. leads to a response to the violence in Palestine, it should elicit support for the Palestinians.

Bloody Sunday story derived largely from <https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/civilrights/al4.htm>

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

- volunteering (mailings, vigils, publicity, calling)
- connecting EPI with my religious group
- making a tax-deductible contribution:
 - \$35 annual membership (\$10 low-income subscription)
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I will pledge \$_____ monthly, \$_____ quarterly

Please make checks payable to E.P.I.

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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•••••
 • You are invited to read *Planted by the Waters*
 • online at <http://www.epicalc.org/>
 • Upcoming events which EPI is involved in
 • planning will be found at the website.
 • ==>>If you want *Planted* by email and email
 • notification of events, send us your address.
 • Write to epicalc@gmail.com.
 •••••

Regarding that Envelope

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



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Inside:

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Actions

Be prepared for ongoing action to prevent & oppose a U.S. attack on Venezuela.

Climate Change, find ways to support young people working to have a future.

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

Ongoing Vigils

Thursdays, 4:30 - 5:30, Five Flags Park, Foothill, Jackson & Mission, Hayward. Justice for Palestinians. South Alameda County Peace and Justice (SAPJC) & Tri-City Peace and Justice (TCP).


Fridays, 12:00 - 1:00, Telegraph & Bancroft, Berkeley Women in Black, for justice and peace in Palestine.

Sundays 1- 2 p.m. & Thursdays 12- 1 p.m., Circle of Concern vigil at the west entrance to UC Berkeley to protest the involvement of the University of California in the development of nuclear weapons.

Good Friday

Keeping Faith in the Face of Empire

Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab
April 19, 2019, 7:00 a.m.

Rev. Will McGarvey, preaching
Vasco & Patterson Pass Rd. 
see www.epicalc.org for details

Sunday, March 31 2:00 - 4:00

Natylie Baldwin speaking on
*Russia and the West: What's True,
Exaggerated and False?*

Edith Stone Room; Albany Community
Center; 1249 Marin at Masonic
cosponsored by EPI & East Bay Peace Action
for info call (510) 524-6071 wheelchair accesible