



Planted by the Waters

Summer/Fall 2017

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

Good Friday 2017 Dr. King Would Be In Livermore

"Where Would Dr King Be Today?" was the theme of this year's Good Friday witness at the Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab. This question was asked and answered throughout the service. In our opening music we dreamed Dr King's dream of justice and peace:

Soyinka Rahim: What is your dream today?
Joy for the suffering people —
liberation, reparation, conservation,
transformation,
freedom . . . and more.

Betsy Rose: We still have a dream.

Daniel Zwickel had begun with "Morning Has Broken" and **Silvia Brandon Pérez** closed the opening music with Ella's Song: "We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes."

Prayer was offered by **Kassie Standing Bear Helgerson** who joined us from Standing Rock and prayed a prayer of gratitude for the gifts that come to us from the four directions.

Samina Sundas of the American Muslim Voice Foundation offered a prayer based on Surah Hujurat 49.13 which tells us "God says We created you from a single pair and divided you into tribes and nations so that you may get to know each other, not that you



Carla DeSola leads dance motions

Colonel (Ret.) Ann Wright will speak on Diplomacy — Its Uses and Misuses at EPI's Autumn Gathering October 15, 5:30 p.m. St John's Presbyterian Church 2727 College Ave, Berkeley info and RSVP at 510-990-0374

Col. Ann Wright spent 29 years in the U.S. Army and Army Reserves. She was a diplomat in the State Department for 16 years, serving in the U.S. embassies of Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, Micronesia, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, Grenada and Nicaragua. She resigned in 2003 in protest of the U.S. invasion of Iraq. In 2007, she co-authored *Dissent, Voices of Conscience*.

In 2015 Ann was a member of the "Women Cross the DMZ" a project to challenge the militarization of the Korean peninsula and to support efforts for peace and reconciliation there. The delegation was criticized for failing to "hammer the North Korean government on human rights issues."* In response Ann wrote "as a diplomat in the State Department for 16 years, I learned that if your goal is to foster dialogue you must first build some level of familiarity and trust before you can go on to difficult issues."*

In the years following her resignation from the State Department, Ann Wright's conscience has taken her "on life's journey to see the effect of U.S. policies on Gaza [joining several of the Freedom Flotillas], Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, Egypt, Tunisia, Cuba, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Iran."* She has joined peace activists in the United States to oppose drone warfare.

Col. Wright has two articles posted this year on Truthdig. They exemplify her capacity to build familiarity with those the administration has engaged with in enmity.

"North Korea Wants to Deter a U.S. Attack. That's Why It Has Nukes. Kim Jong Un's decision to maintain nuclear weapons is rational in light of U.S. regime-change policies toward Iraq and Libya, neither of which were nuclear states." and

"Killer Drones and the Militarization of U.S. Foreign Policy. Continuing the use of drone warfare will exacerbate foreign distrust of American intentions, playing into the hands of our opponents."

https://www.truthdig.com/author/col_ann_wright
*articles by Ann Wright on Huffington Post

Good Friday *continued from page 1*

despise each other." Samina called us to work for hope, inclusion, peace, and for commitment to love each other, to support each other, to know each other and to stop war.

Marylia Kelley of Tri-Valley CAREs gave us a report on the ongoing research on nuclear weapons at the Livermore Labs -- 80% of LLNL's budget goes toward nuclear weapons but only 3% for actual scientific research. One of the lab's projects is the "modified" nuclear warhead to be put on the Long Range Stand Off missile, a radar-evading cruise missile — a first strike weapon. Livermore is also working to make our nuclear missiles "interoperable" — launched from land or sea, in addition to two new air-launched missiles. Marylia also gave us good news about the successful international efforts to negotiate the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons which has been signed by 122 nations.

Carla deSola led us in dance motions as we sang Jim Strathdee's setting of "The Spirit of the Lord."

Silvia, Soyinka and **Stephen Meyers** led us in a responsorial "Where would Dr. King be today?" naming dozens of places to which we responded saying together "Stand and resist" and singing "We shall overcome." We concluded by affirming Dr. King would be here at Livermore Labs, saying "Stand and resist." We sang "We Shall Overcome" all the way through ending with "We are not afraid today."

Harriet Bagwell sang Dr. King's favorite hymn "Precious Lord Take my Hand."

Fr. Ivan Tou of Newman in Berkeley read the Passion story Luke 23:26-49 beginning by reminding us that as we stand to resist the evil in this world our Lord holds our hand.

Vivian Zelaya read from "Beyond Vietnam," Dr. King's words of grief and challenge still true today after fifty years -- our resources diverted away from the needs of people to pay for war waged by "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today, my own government. . . . It should be incandescently clear that no one who has any concern for the integrity and life of America today can ignore the present war. If America's soul becomes totally poisoned, part of the autopsy must read Vietnam. It can never be saved so long as it destroys the deepest hopes of men the world over. So it is that those of us who are yet determined that America will be are led down the path of protest and dissent, working for the health of our land."

Our homily was preached by **Christina** and **Francisco Herrera**.

Christina led, celebrating the beauty as we stood in the sunrise.

We all know Dr. King would be here today and what he would be saying. We all know who Jesus was and what he preached. Today it is like remembering a story.



Silvia Brandon Pérez, Christina & Francisco Herrera

Our country is beautiful because it has a lot of countries inside of it. Immigrants have come from many places and have enriched the country in many ways, culturally and with love — brotherhood and sisterhood.

What has happened? Why is there so much war? Our country has lost morality and doesn't care about humanity. We are in the grip of racism and white supremacy. We as human rights workers have accepted this racism. In order to stop war we must stop the racism all of us carry inside.

This was Christina's message and challenge, to educate ourselves as human beings who will be able to build a world in which all of us have a place. Then we will be able to end war and end suffering and put a stop to the bombs being used to kill people all over the world.

Christina asked us, in the midst of our struggles against racism here, to remember the killings in Mexico. Journalists are being massacred. Recently they killed Christina's friend Miroslava Breach, a journalist and human rights advocate from the State of Chihuahua.

Christina said Dr. King would be saying this is the time of women. Time for women to rise up together with God and the land. Everywhere we go let us look at our sisters, our mothers.

Now women will have the courage to defend our rights without being afraid to touch the hurricane, without being afraid they will silence us.

People who organize themselves and forget the silliness of racism cannot be stopped.

When we begin to educate ourselves as human beings — I am talking about the heart — we will be able to live as human beings. We will be able to build a world where each of us has a place. That's when we will have the right to end war and end weapons.

The bombs are being made by our children to kill people in countries all over the world. She again asked us to remember the killings in Mexico.

continued on page 11

Haiti in Crisis: *What Next After The Stolen Election?* by Robert Roth

Addressing an overflow audience in Oakland in late April, Dr. Maryse Narcisse, presidential candidate of Fanmi Lavalas, the party of former president Jean-Bertrand Aristide, spoke about the necessity of reforming the justice system, investing in education and health, and the decisive role of women in the fight for democracy. Reflecting on the devastation wrought by both the 2010 earthquake and Hurricane Matthew, she focused on the growing threats posed by climate change to the island nation and the need for a vigorous environmental campaign to meet that threat. She emphasized that the Lavalas movement “places human beings at the center.”

Dr. Narcisse spoke in the wake of the selection of Haiti’s new president, Jovenel Moise, a right-wing businessman and protégé of former president Michel Martelly, who took office via an electoral process so replete with fraud and voter suppression that opposition forces called it an “electoral coup.” She denounced the stolen elections and the corrupt electoral commission that validated the outcome. But she reiterated that the deteriorating economic and social conditions in Haiti would be the catalyst for renewed protest in the days and months ahead. “There is no choice”, she stated, “but for the people to resist. And Lavalas will be there to support them.”

We can see the truth of this throughout Haiti. Market women — the very heart of Haiti’s economy and the foundation of so many Haitian families’ ability to survive — have been targeted by police trying to move them off the streets of Port-au-Prince, where they have been selling their goods for generations. When the women organized themselves and refused to move, police burned down their stalls.

On July 10 - 12, 2017, during three days of peaceful protest for an increase in the minimum wage, Haitian police attacked the workers from the industrial park in Port-au-Prince with tear gas, batons and cannons shooting a liquid skin irritant. They beat a woman who had recently returned to work from giving birth. A few days later, a young book vendor was shot to death in Petionville, on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince, by a police officer in front of horrified witnesses, who tried to prevent the police from quickly removing the body and covering up the crime. They were attacked with batons and tear gas.

There has been a 35 cents increase in the price of gasoline — which was already higher than what we pay here in the United States. The government has also announced plans to reduce government subsidies for oil and gas, which will send the price even higher. The rise in the cost of transportation combined with a hike in the price of food has made already untenable

living conditions even worse for the vast majority of Haitians.

Former president Michel Martelly came to power in 2011 touting his plan to build new schools and make education free for all. Instead, investment in public education has remained stagnant while tuition for private schooling has skyrocketed. Teachers have been on strike for months, demanding that they be paid after not receiving their salaries for up to two years. This despite the fact the Haitian government adds a surcharge to every international phone call and money transfer, supposedly to fund education. Students have also protested, both in support of their teachers and to denounce the failure of the government to invest in their education. They too have been met with violent repression, exemplified by a recent incident when the rector of the National University of Haiti used his SUV to run over a student protester, landing the student in the hospital in critical condition. A video captured the gruesome sequence. No charges have been filed in the case.

The Haitian government has a solution for the crisis in education — more prisons. There are now more than 10,000 Haitians locked up in prison, the majority of whom have never been charged or sentenced. Prisoners are frequently beaten, receive no health care, and live in overcrowded cells, where epidemics spread rapidly. When United Nations soldiers from Nepal introduced cholera to Haiti in 2010, the disease swept through Haiti’s prisons, killing hundreds. At the recent opening of a new prison in Haiti’s central plateau, the head of Haiti’s national police, Michel-Ange Gedeon, boasted about the increase in prison construction, saying: “In every society, whenever schools fail in their mission, prisons are built in a cascade to try to right the ship. If offenders are to be neutralized, then prisons are needed to contain them.” This is Haiti’s version of mass incarceration, so well known to Black and Brown communities here in the U.S.

Now there are new political prisoners — many of them associated with the Lavalas movement — who were arrested during the sustained wave of protests over the stolen elections. As living conditions worsen and protests sharpen, the prisons will fill even more.

All of this, added to the impact of Hurricane Matthew (the biggest storm to hit Haiti in 50 years) has led more Haitians to flee the country. In early July, the Coast Guard intercepted and sent back to Haiti 107 Haitians in a small, dangerously overcrowded boat south of the Bahamas. There are over 4,000 Haitians right now in Tijuana, living in refugee camps. Recruited by occupying forces of Brazil to work in the Rio Olympics, they were pushed out after the Games ended. Hoping for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) in the United States, which has been granted to Haitians since the 2010 earthquake, they instead have

continued on page 4

Haiti *continued from page 3*

been deported or placed in detention camps if they cross the border. When Haitian president Moïse traveled to the United States and met with Vice President Mike Pence in June, he refused to meet with Haitians worried about the changes in their TPS status, telling them to “calm down.” In their joint communiqué, Pence and Moïse did not mention the migration crisis but did pledge to jointly pursue “an economic reform agenda to attract investment and generate growth. Moïse’s handshake with Pence symbolized just how much of a compliant partner his regime is with the U.S. government as it seeks even more control over Haiti’s economy and future.

The United Nations Military Occupation Forces (MINUSTAH), which has functioned as a colonial overseer since the 2004 coup, is set to scale down its operation, but will remain in Haiti under its new acronym MINUJUSTH (United Nations Mission For Justice Support). MINUJUSTH will consist of 1185 police officers, and will continue to train and support the Haitian National Police — the same police who beat, tear-gassed and shot pro-democracy protesters during the last electoral cycle.

Lieutenant General Cesar Lopes Loureiro, the head of the Brazilian forces that have been in command of MINUSTAH since the beginning of the occupation, recently issued a glowing report on the accomplishments of MINUSTAH. But he was silent about UN responsibility for the cholera outbreak, and failed to mention the numerous cases of rape and other sexual assaults by UN soldiers. The UN has still not compensated the victims of the cholera epidemic, and it has given impunity to the many soldiers charged with raping Haitians during the long occupation. And there was not one word about the killings by UN soldiers of people in pro-Lavalas neighborhoods like Cite Soleil and Bel-Air, or in the Port-au-Prince prison. Whether the UN calls its operations MINUSTAH or MINUJUSTH, the continued presence of its forces, even in the guise of a reframed mission, is a clear assault on Haiti’s sovereignty.

What now looms on the horizon is the resurrection of the Haitian military. This has been a key goal of right-wing Haitian forces since President Aristide got rid of the army in 1995. Jovenel Moïse has stated that he wants the army in place within two years. The beginnings of that new army have been in the works for years, training at military bases in Ecuador.

In a statement to the Miami Herald, the president of the Haitian Senate, Yuri Latortue, who was a central organizer of the 2004 coup, said, “In Haiti we are used to having an army.” Referring to the U.S. occupation of Haiti from 1915-1934, which created the modern Haitian army, Latortue went on to say, “The Americans understood that if we have the police but not an army, we will not get anywhere.”

When Haitian activists speak of the Haitian Army,

there is a chill in the air. Before Aristide disbanded it, 40% of Haiti’s budget went to the military. In a country with fewer than two doctors per 10,000 people, there was one soldier per 1,000 people. The Army has long been Haiti’s central institution of repression; the main organizer of coups against elected officials, helping to enforce the Duvalier dictatorships and those that followed before the rise of Lavalas. It was the Haitian Army that overthrew Aristide in 1991 and initiated a reign of terror that took over 5000 lives before Aristide returned in 1994.

The goal of the 2004 coup, like the 1991 coup that preceded it, was not only to topple the Aristide government, but also to rid the country of the powerful grassroots movement that has activated, energized and given voice to Haiti’s poor. That goal has not been accomplished. A stolen election cannot hide this reality.

Throughout her campaign, Dr. Narcisse, often accompanied by former President Aristide, was greeted by tens of thousands of supporters in the poorest communities of Haiti. A vibrant Lavalas presence was evident across the country. In the face of decades of COINTELPRO-style counterinsurgency, including imprisonment, the killing and exile of thousands, attempts to buy off activists and encourage internal strife, Lavalas once again showed its significant base among Haiti’s majority population. In or out of government, this strength will serve as a bulwark against the harsh austerity program already being put into place by Moïse and his U.S. sponsors.

At the end of her speech in Oakland, Dr. Narcisse highlighted the grassroots work of the Aristide Foundation for Democracy. In the midst of the cholera epidemic, mobile health clinics from the Foundation treated patients who had nowhere else to go. After the devastation caused by Hurricane Matthew, President Aristide and Lavalas activists went to Les Cayes, Jeremie and other hard-hit areas to provide medical support, food and clothing. On Haitian Mother’s Day, hundreds of women filled the Foundation to get medical care for themselves and their children. Other clinics took place in mid-July, including on President Aristide’s birthday on July 15th. And the University of the Aristide Foundation (UNIFA) continues to grow, providing higher education for over 1,200 students, most of whom could never afford other universities in Haiti.

This is a movement that is not going away. As Lavalas digs in for the long haul, those in solidarity with Haiti have to do so as well.

Robert Roth is a founding member of Haiti Action Committee. This article is reprinted with permission from their newsletter which can be found at www.haitisolidarity.net.

Syria, North Korea, Iran, and Venezuela U.S. and regime change

materials edited by Carolyn S. Scarr

UN Charter Article 2 paragraph 4

All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations.

At the Aspen Security Forum 2017 on July 20, Mike Pompeo, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency openly revealed the U.S. intentions to replace the recognized governments of Syria, North Korea, Iran, and Venezuela.

Syria

When asked by Mr. Stephens of the *New York Times* about “our support for moderate allies, moderate rebels fighting the Assad regime” Mr. Pompeo said: “we are prepared to work with anyone who is working towards the end state that America is trying to achieve there.”

Mr. Stephens asked: “Does the end state include the end of the Assad regime?”

Mr. Pompeo: “You’ll have to leave that to the State Department. . . . Secretary Tillerson made very, very clear that Assad is not a stabilizing influence in Syria, that is difficult to imagine, and from an intelligence perspective not a policy perspective, I would add, it is difficult to imagine a stable Syria that still has Assad in power. He is a puppet of the Iranians and therefore it seems an unlikely situation where Assad will be sitting on the throne and America’s interests will be well served.”

North Korea

Regarding North Korea, Mr Pompeo said: “It would be a great thing to denuclearize the peninsula to get those weapons off that but the thing that is most dangerous about it is the character who holds the control over them today. So from the administration’s perspective, the most important thing we can do is separate those two, right separate capacity, and someone who might well have intent, and break those two apart. And I am confident the intelligence community will present a set -- a wide range of options for the President about how we might go about that.”

Mr. Stephens asked: “. . . when you started talking about separating the person from the capacity. . . . there are real questions as to whether you can ever get rid of capacity since that’s how North Korea stays in business that’s why it’s relevant. So, are you suggesting that then the alternative is some kind of regime change.”

Mr. Pompeo’s rather oblique reply included: “. . . there are things we can do to keep that [nuclear weapons] capability out of his hands. And as for the regime, I am hopeful we will find a way to separate

that regime from this system.” Later in that conference Pompeo agreed with a questioner that “a potential change in regime in North Korea as being part of the options that would be in our strategic interests” might be an interest shared by China and also by Russia, Japan, and South Korea.

Iran

In response to a question regarding Iran, Mr. Pompeo stated that the U.S. was looking at the religious leaders who have the final word in Iran in regard to whom: “we’re deadly focused on making sure [they] don’t continue to maintain capacity and power.” To achieve that goal, the U.S. continues to impose sanctions on Iran.

Venezuela

Toward the end of the press conference, Mr. Pompeo was very open about U.S. intentions regarding Venezuela:

“[A]ny time you have a country as large and with the economic capacity of a country like Venezuela, America has a deep interest in making sure that it is stable, as democratic as possible. And so, we’re working hard to do that, I am always careful when we talk about South and Central America and the CIA, there’s a lot of stories.

“So I want to be careful with what I say but suffice to say, we are very hopeful that there can be a transition in Venezuela and we the CIA is doing its best to understand the dynamic there, so that we can communicate to our State Department and to others. The Colombians, I was just down in Mexico City and in Bogota a week before last talking about this very issue trying to help them understand the things they might do so that they can get a better outcome for their part of the world and our part of the world.”

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Now from other sources:

About Syria

“Without Putin, Syria Would Have Ceased to Exist”: Interview with Flemish Priest Living in Syria

It is partly thanks to Hezbollah that so many Christians and other Syrians are still alive. They came to our rescue in our darkest hours. And the same goes for the Syrian army and the Russians. If Putin hadn't come in 2015, Syria certainly would have ceased to exist.

According to the Flemish **Father Daniel Maes**, who has lived in Syria since 2010, the coverage of the Syrian war is based on lies. President Bashar al-Assad is not the problem, but our own politicians, who support ISIS and Al Nusra, in order to topple the Syrian government. “The real terrorist leaders are in the West and Saudi Arabia.” globalresearch.org / globalresearch.ca

I recommend going to <http://www.syriasolidarity-movement.org/> and downloading Robert Roth's Syria primer: *What's really happening in Syria: a consumer*

Regime Change *continued from page 5*

fraud lawyer's mini-primer by Robert Roth, a retired public interest lawyer.

Take the time to read the whole thing. It's worth the time. (This is not the same Robert Roth as the Haiti Action Committee member.)

What to do to end the war on Syria —

Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard released the following statement upon her return: "My visit to Syria has made it abundantly clear: Our counterproductive regime change war does not serve America's interest, and it certainly isn't in the interest of the Syrian people.

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

"I return to Washington, DC with even greater resolve to end our illegal war to overthrow the Syrian government. I call upon Congress and the new Administration to answer the pleas of the Syrian people immediately and support the **Stop Arming Terrorists Act. [H.R.608 and S.532]** We must stop directly and indirectly supporting terrorists. . . ."

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

About Iran

When thinking about our relationship with Iran it is important to remember that the U.S., in collaboration with Great Britain, overthrew the non-sectarian democratically elected government in Iran in 1953, installing the brutal rule of the Shah.

Trita Parsi, founder and current president of the National Iranian American Council, in an article in *Alternet*, warns us of plans the Trump administration has in the works to sabotage the nuclear deal and start a war with Iran, notwithstanding the fact that Trump was obliged to admit that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has found that Iran is in compliance with the international nuclear weapons deal.

Parsi writes: "Recognizing that refusing to certify Iran would isolate the United States, Trump's advisors gave him another plan. Use the spot-inspections mechanism of the nuclear deal, they suggested, to demand access to a whole set of military sites in Iran. Once Iran balks — which it will since the mechanism is only supposed to be used if tangible evidence exists that those sites are being used for illicit nuclear activities — Trump can claim that Iran is in violation, blowing up the nuclear deal while shifting the blame to Tehran. . . ."

"According to *The New York Times*, the groundwork for this strategy has already been laid. Senate Foreign Relations Chair Bob Corker (R-TN) calls this strategy 'radical enforcement' of the deal. 'If they don't let us in,' Corker told *The Washington Post*, 'boom.' "

This is right out of the Iraq war playbook when the U.S. used the findings of the UN-based weapons inspectors to wipe out Iraq's anti-aircraft installations in advance of the U.S. attack. Iranians are without doubt aware of the danger of bowing to U.S. attempts to eradicate their defensive weapons — which they are permitted to keep under the terms of the nuclear weapons deal.

<http://www.alternet.org/right-wing/vijay-prashad-trump-setting-dangerous-confrontation-iran>

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Venezuela — some legal aspects

While Secretary of State Tillerson cited the Organization of American States as a "coalition partner" in anti-Venezuelan efforts, the regional body's charter explicitly disallows the interventionist measures wielded against Caracas by Washington.

Article 19 of the OAS charter clearly prohibits any state having "the right to intervene, directly or indirectly, for any reason whatever, in the internal or external affairs of any other State," while Article 20 notes that "No State may use or encourage the use of coercive measures of an economic or political character in order to force the sovereign will of another State and obtain from it advantages of any kind."

For more details see the Delphi Initiative at <http://www.defenddemocracy.press/tillerson-treatens-venezuela/>

As in the United States, the Venezuelan constitution includes methods and procedures for modifying the constitution. The fact that the Maduro administration adhered to these procedures has been widely ignored by the U.S. and European press. Quoting from the report of Delphi Initiative :

To counter . . . mass media slandering of Venezuela, calling the legitimate democratically elected President a dictator, and that the vote was illegitimate and against the present Venezuelan Constitution — let's explain upfront what the Constitution says:

Article 347 of Venezuela's constitution:

"The original constituent power rests with the people of Venezuela. This power may be exercised by calling a National Constituent Assembly [ANC] for the purpose of transforming the State, creating a new juridical order and drawing up a new Constitution."

Article 348 states

"(t)he initiative for calling a National Constituent Assembly may emanate from the President of the Republic sitting with the Cabinet of Ministers; from the National Assembly by a two-thirds vote of its members; from the Municipal Councils in open session, by a two-thirds vote of their members; and from 15% of the voters registered with the Civil and Electoral Registry."

North Korea in the cross-hairs of the U.S. war machine *on working for a world without nukes* by Christine Hong

I am here speaking before you today because of the terrible urgency of the present crisis with North Korea and the need for those of us in the anti-nukes, peace, and social justice movements in the United States to mobilize en masse to push for peace.

Many of you who have fought for a world without nukes understand that the horror of the atomic bombings of civilian populations at Hiroshima and Nagasaki amount to a terrible stain on the American conscience. Some of you came of age during the era of the brutal American war in Vietnam, and you recall how youth and conscience-stricken people converged in protest, making that time period a watershed moment in the American peace movement. In more recent decades, some of you may have taken part in the anti-war protests, raising your voices in the lead-up to the unconscionable war in Iraq. These have all been signature moments in the grassroots struggle for peace.

By contrast, North Korea, a country that knows more intimately than almost any other what it means to be in the cross-hairs of the U.S. war machine and that the United States has repeatedly threatened with nuclear annihilation has hardly occasioned any organized grassroots action. North Korea does not weigh on the conscience of the American public, though it should. Most Americans have no sense of how intimately the current crisis with North Korea is shaped by the ugly and reckless adventurism of American warmongering and the overwhelming disregard that most Americans demonstrate when the deaths of others as a result of our foreign policy occurs far from U.S. shores. North Korea comes to us in media portraits not in its complex truth, but as a simultaneously cartoonish and demonic portrait filtered through the fog of war, so shrouded in jingoistic rhetoric that too many of us consent to its apocalyptic destruction in advance.

When asked this past spring to ponder in real terms what it would mean if Trump were to authorize a nuclear strike against North Korea, Senator Lindsey Graham stated, "Yes, it would be terrible, but the war would be over there. It wouldn't be here. It would be bad for the Korean peninsula, it would be bad for China, it would be bad for Japan, it would be bad for South Korea, it would be the end of North Korea but what it would not do is hit America." Yesterday we were subjected to Trump's reckless challenge to North Korea, the most terrifying that we've yet seen from his administration: If North Korea continues to make threats against the United States, he stated . . . it "will be met with fire and fury like the world has never seen." Given that his

words fall around the somber anniversary of the atomic apocalypse the United States visited on Japan, we are again reminded that the policy-makers in Washington are afflicted with what Chalmers Johnson described as the amnesia of imperial powers. We don't recall that at the root of the present crisis is the Korean War, a brutal, dirty, and unresolved war—a war ironically known in this country for being "forgotten" but that set a paradigm for subsequent U.S. wars of intervention to follow. Few, in the mid-twentieth century, during a time of McCarthyism, registered opposition to the Korean War. Paul Robeson was an exception, and he is an example for us now. In a critique of "armed adventure in Korea" that resonates to this day, he lambasted his fellow citizens' "meek conformity with the policies of the war-minded, the racists, and the rich."

Robeson unflinchingly observed that "the maw of warmakers [was] insatiable" in Korea. In an asymmetrical conflict in which the United States monopolized the skies, raining down ruin from on high, four million Koreans—the vast majority of them civilians—were killed. Chinese statistics indicate that North Korea lost an unimaginable thirty percent of its population. Civilian infrastructure was not spared. Dams, schools, any standing structure was deemed to be fair game; indeed, American bombers complained that there was nothing left for them to bomb. As the historian Bruce Cumings notes, it was during this period that North Koreans, whom he describes as the "party of memory," learned how to live below ground. Three days into the war, Truman slapped a punitive round of sanctions against North Korea as an explicit part of his war policy—sanctions not as an alternative to war, this is to say, but as war—and North Korea to this day is the most heavily sanctioned nation on this earth. Against the conditions of the 1953 Armistice Agreement, the United States maintains roughly 30,000 forces and 100 military installations south of the DMZ—in stark contrast to China, which withdrew its forces from the peninsula within a short window of time. This is to underscore that for the entirety of its existence, North Korea has been subjected to a regime-change policy from the United States.

Just as most Americans did not register that the United States test-launched a Minuteman 3 ICBM from Vandenberg last week in a show of force aimed at North Korea—something that is, we should note, routinely done—so too do most Americans not know that at mid-century General Douglas MacArthur contemplated dropping "between 30 and 50 atomic bombs... strung across the neck of Manchuria" in order to create a zone of cobalt where no one could live for at least 60, perhaps over a hundred years, thus making impossible a Chinese advance from the north. In addition to placing nuclear weapons in South Korea for the duration of the Cold War in violation of the Korean War Armistice Agreement, the United States has threatened North

continued on page 8

North Korea *continued from page 7*

Korea with nuclear annihilation on at least a dozen occasions: when North Korea captured the crew of the Pueblo in the late sixties, when Colin Powell threatened to turn North Korea into a “charcoal briquette” in the nineties, when North Korea was added to the list of permissible preemptive targets in the 2002 Nuclear Posture review during the George W. Bush “Axis of Evil” era, when President Obama announced he was sending two Stealth bombers to drop dummy nuclear munitions off the Korean peninsula in a simulated nuclear first strike against North Korea, when Trump administration officials have repeatedly declared that all options are on the table. The unresolved Korean War, U.S. threats of nuclear annihilation, and U.S. regime-change policy are the structural roots of North Korea’s proliferation.

In this time of unprecedented danger, we have to be ruthless not in our threats but in our pursuit of truth, courageous not with our swords but in our willingness to confront our own denial. We have to recognize that North Korea does not require further U.S. intervention but rather that what we are seeing is a result of prior U.S. intervention and a state of unending war. The question before us is what a genuine peace means with North Korea. Few media outlets have reported on North Korea’s overtures to the United States. When it comes to North Korea, media coverage is all too often truly “fake news.” Yet these overtures, if pursued, might result in meaningful de-escalation on both sides. To be clear: there are peaceful alternatives at hand. Far from being an intractable foe, North Korea has repeatedly asked the United States to sign a peace treaty that would bring the unresolved Korean War to a long overdue end. It has also proposed that the United States cease its annual war games with South Korea. North Korea has cautioned the United States not to treat war as a game, especially in the form of the simulated invasion and occupation of North Korea, the “decapitation” of its leadership, and rehearsals of a preemptive nuclear strike. In return, North Korea will cap its nuclear weapons testing. China and Russia have reiterated this proposal. The United States, however, maintains that its joint war games with South Korea are simply business as usual and has not seen fit to respond. On August 21, it plans to proceed with its annual Ulchi-Freedom Guardian joint war exercises.

At mid-century, the vast majority of Americans were silent as this country went to war with North Korea. We cannot, we must not, be silent now.

Christine Hong is an assistant professor at UC Santa Cruz and a member of National Campaign to End the Korean War, the Alliance of Scholars Concerned about Korea, and the Working Group on Peace and Demilitarization in Asia and the Pacific. This article is the text of her talk at the Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab, Aug 9, 2017. Reprinted with her permission.

Celebrating Solidarity

by *Silvia Brandon Pérez*

Oh Creator who has given us the gift of life as social animals, with the power of community and love and sharing, allow us to walk and stand and share together, allow us to remember what it was like to live and share in the Commons. Allow us to remember and reclaim what makes us joyous animals that live with each other, love each other, help each other, learn from each other. Allow us to realize that injustice to one is a threat to justice everywhere. Allow us to be steadfast, to be *samids* as the Palestinians who stand when their land is taken and their water polluted and their olive trees uprooted and destroyed: perseverant and steadfast and courageous and brave, ready to smile and dance and laugh and plant more olive trees. Allow us to live each day of our lives as if it were the last, and to leave this planet and this earthly sojourn better than we found it.

We will indeed overcome, we will indeed plant new seeds of justice and sharing and freedom. Allow us to work without waiting for results, as do the Monarch butterflies who cross the skies and die along the way, but who do so for their grandchildren, or the Emperor Penguins, who care for their young through the long cold night of winter, day after day, breath after breath. Allow us to do what we must, and to grow in hope, which is the thing with feathers. Allow us to sing from the skies and from the loving ground in which we live: *Mitakuye Oyasin*: We are all related.

© 2017 Silvia Brandon Pérez

A grief I cannot know

A grief I cannot know
joins with anger in your eyes.
They killed your cousin in New York.
They all should pay.
Iraqi, Arab, Muslim — the whole lot
deserve to die.

And I can only say
I can't pretend to know your grief.
I'm sorry for your cousin's death.
This Iraqi woman shares your loss.
Please see

her son lies bombed in Basra's streets
his broken body,
her twisted tear-streaked face.

Beside me Oakland man,
Iraqi woman in the photograph, share
a grief I cannot know.
Anger fades.

© 2002 Carolyn S. Scarr

Employing Economic Measures as Nonviolent Tools for Justice in the Israeli-Palestinian Context

The U.S. Congress and 22 states across the U.S. are considering, or have passed, laws that penalize or criminalize the use of economic measures to oppose Israeli policies towards Palestinians that many find unjust and discriminatory. The targets of these proposed laws are organizations and agencies that endorse, in full or in part, the Palestinian call for the use of boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS). Such actions are anti-democratic, suppress legitimate criticism, and restrict our freedom to determine our own investment and selective purchasing practices. We affirm and defend the right of churches and organizations to witness using economic measures in the specific case of Israel-Palestine.

The BDS call, issued in 2005 by over 100 Palestinian civil society organizations, seeks to promote a nonviolent response to end Israel's 50-year military occupation of Palestinian territories and dismantle the separation barrier, much of which is built on Palestinian land; to recognize the full equality of Palestinian citizens of Israel; and to respect, protect, and promote the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties, according to UN resolution 194. U.S. churches, among many others, are clear in seeking an end to the occupation.

Churches and church-related organizations have employed such nonviolent tactics in many instances of injustice, both domestically and globally, over the decades. The Montgomery Bus Boycott and the boycott of products made by slave labor are some historical precedents. Some more recent examples include:

- Support for the Coalition of Immokalee Workers to seek fair wages for farmworkers who pick tomatoes used by major restaurant chains. The churches have affirmed boycotts of Taco Bell and Wendy's in support of the farmworkers.
- Support for the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) in the boycott of Mt. Olive Pickle Company in order to seek better wages for those who pick cucumbers.
- Support for United Farm Workers (UFW) in grape and lettuce boycotts aimed at securing fair wages for farmworkers.
- Opposition to the use of racially offensive names and logos by professional sports teams through boycotts.
- Participation in the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility to promote socially responsible practices by various companies through shareholder activism.
- Divestment to oppose the policy of apartheid in South Africa in the 1970s and 1980s.
- Corporate engagement with and/or divestment from fossil fuel companies in the context of the climate change debates.

Through the use of such nonviolent but impactful measures at the intersection of faith and finance, the churches have participated in making a difference, promoting justice, and effecting change. Indeed, when corporate social responsibility standards do not lead businesses to change their practices, then it is often only through the concerted economic pressure of civil society and public interest groups that positive political and social reforms occur.

The current effort to penalize or criminalize such use of economic leverage in the specific case of Israel-Palestine is therefore offensive and disturbing. It strikes us as an attempt to remove a responsible, powerful, and legal method of public witness as an option. To target economic measures in any way on one specific policy issue—Israel-Palestine—is selective and inconsistent. In fact, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld, without dissent, the right to boycott (1982).

As churches and church-related organizations, we may not endorse all aspects of the Palestinian civil society BDS movement; nor do we all have similar policies on the use of economic leverage in the context of Israel-Palestine. However, we all share a hope and desire for an end to occupation, and we continue to advocate for that. If we choose, through debate and reflection, to employ our economic leverage to advance that policy objective, as we do many others, we understand it as our right to do so. It is an assertion of our right as stewards of our financial resources to spend and invest as we choose, and to do so responsibly, according to our theological and moral conviction, expressed in our denominational or organizational policies.

We must be clear: such an assertion of this right is an effort to change unjust Israeli policy toward Palestinians, not to delegitimize the State of Israel, nor to marginalize or isolate our Jewish neighbors, or their enterprises. Our choices to purchase and invest responsibly, and to advocate with corporations or governments, including our own, are motivated by our firm commitments to justice and peace for all people, without discrimination or exclusion.

As churches and church-related organizations, we reject any efforts by the State to curtail these rights, and will continue to exercise them, as appropriate and in accordance with our faith and policies.

This statement is signed by a number of faith groups. See

http://www.globalministries.org/employing_economic_measures



Afghanistan

As the U.S. under Trump prepares to expand our military presence it is time to look at some history and also at the devastation Afghanistan has suffered.

Kipling readers will remember references to "The Great Game," which was fought out between imperial Great Britain and Tsarist Russia. Being at the crossroads of travel and trade between Asia and Europe, Afghanistan has been repeatedly invaded and occupied.

Between 1978 and 1988 the United States endeavored to displace Soviet-supported Afghan governments. The Soviet Union fought in Afghanistan to try to defend their ally. The U.S. during that time, working through the Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence Directorate (ISI), armed cadres of Afghan Islamic extremists (*mujahideen*). In these operations the U.S. was also joined by both Saudi Arabia and Iran. Declassified intelligence reports show that the U.S. military support of Afghan "resistance" fighters predated the Soviet invasion by six months. It was the intention of the U.S. to give the USSR its own Vietnam War.

In time the *mujahideen* forces grew to constitute a "huge foreign mercenary army" (Cooley, John K. *Unholy Wars: Afghanistan, America and International Terrorism*.) . . .

In 1988, the USSR withdrew their troops, signing the Geneva Accords according to which both the USSR and the U.S. would stop interfering in Afghanistan. Having won its objective, the U.S. lost interest in Afghanistan which was in ruins from the war, with one million dead and three million in refuge abroad. In this power vacuum the Taliban stepped into power, claiming themselves to be the legitimate government in 1996.

About 9/11. One of the CIA-backed *mujahideen* trainees, Osama Bin Laden, was the alleged perpetrator of the attack on the World Trade Center. The United States demanded that the Taliban government of Afghanistan turn Bin Laden over to them. Not unreasonably, the Taliban government responded that the U.S. should first provide the information which supported his extradition. The U.S. did not do so, but simply asserted that the refusal of the Afghan government to comply with their demand justified an attack. Thus was passed in U.S. Congress the Authorization for the Use of Military Force.

Osama Bin Laden is dead along with many more. According to researchers at Brown University over 31,000 Afghan civilians have been killed during the 16-year US military occupation.

Just Foreign Policy points out: "The only realistic alternative to endless war in Afghanistan is a **negotiated peace that includes all the major Afghan factions** and all the neighboring countries that are supporting major Afghan factions in the Afghan civil war, including Pakistan, India, Iran, and Russia." It is unconscionable to "add just enough American soldiers to prevent the Taliban from completely taking

US-backed war in Yemen sparks deadly cholera outbreak

by Niles Niemuth

4 July 2017 First published in *www.wsws.org*

According to the latest figures from the World Health Organization (WHO), more than 1,500 Yemenis have died in a deadly cholera epidemic which has infected some 250,000 people since April. Children account for a quarter of the deaths and half of all infections.

The deadly outbreak is the direct result of the criminal Saudi-led, US-backed war to reinstate the puppet government of President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi, who was ousted in 2015 by an alliance of Houthi militias and forces loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The war has been justified by Saudi Arabia with unsubstantiated accusations that the Houthis are being supported and financed by Iran. . . [Under both Obama and Trump] the effort to dominate Yemen, which borders the key oil transit point of the Bab el Mandeb strait, is a major component of the effort to block Iran's development as a regional power capable of impeding the predations of American imperialism in the Middle East.

Supplied with bombs and missiles, aerial refueling and vital logistical and intelligence support from the US government, Saudi Arabia and its allies have . . . carried out air strikes on food markets, schools, residential neighborhoods, hospitals and other critical infrastructure. Washington has supplied cluster bombs, illegal under international law, which have been used repeatedly.

The UN estimates that more than 16,000 people have been killed by airstrikes and ground fighting; nearly two-thirds of the fatalities have been civilians. As many as 17 million Yemenis, out of a pre-war population of 27 million, are in need of food aid, and of these 7 million are on the brink of dying from famine. Every hour, six children under the age of five die of preventable causes including starvation and malnourishment. More than three million Yemenis have been displaced from their homes.

A crippling naval blockade of the country by the US has been key to the unrelenting onslaught and has resulted in a complete breakdown in Yemen's physical and social infrastructure, creating the conditions for the outbreak of a cholera epidemic and its rapid spread through the population.

For more see <http://www.defenddemocracy.press/>
For ACTION see <http://www.justforeignpolicy.org/>

over Afghanistan, **without doing anything diplomatically and politically to end the war."**

Recommended Reading: *Afghanistan, The United States, and the Legacy of Afghanistan's Civil War*, by Katherine Harvey, <https://web.stanford.edu/class/e297a/Afghanistan,%20the%20United%20States.htm>

Good Friday *continued from page 2*

Francisco called us to keep on keeping on like the mothers of the disappeared whose ongoing vigil was so essential to the end of the dictatorship in Argentina.

This is the crucifixion right here, the murder of working people. There are no poor. There are the impoverished, the ripped off, the assaulted by a government which is a slave to the Market which is an idol.

We have to overcome the delusion of white supremacy. Our current president and system are like the crack addict who has the gun to our mother's head and he's our cousin. We have the power to change, with steadfastness.

Francisco closed with his song "End of War", whose refrain was the vision "People work now for the common good."

Jim Haber of Jewish Voices for Peace closed the service with readings from Dr. King's speech "The Three Evils of Society" which was given at the National Conference for New Politics, August 31, 1967.

"Our eyes have seen through the superficial glory and glitter of our society and observed the coming judgement. . . . we have read the handwriting on the wall. We have seen our nation weighed in the balance of history and found wanting. . . . It seems our legislative assemblies have adopted Nero as their patron saint and are bent on fiddling while our cities burn. What they truly advocate is socialism for the rich and capitalism for the poor.

"There has never been a solid unified and determined thrust to make justice a reality for Afro Americans. The step backwards has a new name today. It is called 'the White Backlash.' But the white backlash is nothing new. It is the surfacing of old prejudices, hostilities and ambivalences that have always been there. . . . The White Backlash of today is rooted in the same problem that has characterized America ever since the black man landed in chains on the shores of this nation.

"The time has come for America to face the inevitable choice between materialism and humanism. We must devote at least as much to our children's education and the health of the poor as we do to the care of our automobiles and the building of beautiful, impressive hotels. "

Jim gave us as a call to action excerpts from Dr. King's Drum Major Instinct in which Dr King told us how he wanted to be remembered as a drum major for justice, peace and righteousness. Jim then sang the closing prayer in Hebrew which he translated as follows: "May the one who makes peace in the heavens grant peace to us and to all humanity."

Lastly Jim led us in the laugh yoga sequence "Cry down, laugh up" and sent us on our way to the procession to the gate, via the Stations of the Cross.

At this year's Stations we remembered the struggle for water and justice at Standing Rock. We remembered Black Lives Matter, Immigrants seeking safety

Col. Ann Wright *continued from page 1*

You can see the list of Ann's articles and talks on the website for the book *Dissent: Voices of Conscience*: <http://voicesofconscience.com/articles.php>

We are looking forward to hearing Ann on the proper uses of diplomacy to achieve justice and peace and on some of its misuses to maintain injustice and dominance.

Regime Change — Venezuela *continued from page 6*

Article 349 states

"(t)he President of the Republic shall not have the power to object to the new Constitution. The existing constituted authorities shall not be permitted to obstruct the Constituent Assembly in any way."

The process to vote for the ANC [National Constituent Assembly] is complex but highly democratic. The 30 July election chose 545 members to the National Constituent Assembly, of which two thirds (364) were elected on a regional or territorial basis, and one third (181) by sectors of professions or activities, i.e. students, farmers, unions of different labor forces, employees, business owners – and so on. This cross-section of people's representation is the most solid basis for democracy.

<http://www.defenddemocracy.press/venezuela-the-national-constituent-assembly-is-in-place-but-the-fight-for-sovereignty-isnt-over/>

"Strange fruit"

No American, if that means a person from the United States, should support the Venezuelan opposition. Why? The question can be made this simple: Which side in the Venezuelan conflict produces "Strange fruit hanging from the poplar trees... a fruit for the crows to pluck"?

In a number of well-documented instances Venezuelan opposition forces have burned black people alive. This horrible fact should be enough to decide the issue for those in the United States when they think about which of the two sides to support in the struggle.

Bolivarian University Professor Chris Gilbert at <https://venezuelanalysis.com/>

Good Friday *continued*

in our country, Palestinians working for justice and to build their homes and dwell in them, Haitians working to reclaim democracy and the full use of their country's resources. Last but not least we remembered the ongoing struggle to eliminate nuclear weapons from our planet.

We went on to the main gate of the Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab, sang and danced Circle Round for Freedom after which we gathered at the gate where close to thirty of us were arrested.

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)
 - \$10.00 \$25.00 \$35.00 \$50.00 \$100.00 (other)

I will pledge \$_____ monthly, \$_____ quarterly

Please make checks payable to E.P.I.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

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

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

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

Regarding that Envelope

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



Ecumenical Peace Institute
of Northern California
P.O. Box 9334
Berkeley, CA 94709

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Berkeley, CA
Permit No. 1463

Address Service Requested

Calendar & Announcements

Sunday, October 15, EPI Autumn Gathering

Saturday, November 4, East Bay Sanctuary Covenant annual dinner

Inside:

1. Good Friday Report – Dr. King Would Be In Livermore
1. Col. Ann Wright at the Fall Gathering
3. Haiti
5. Regime Change – Syria, North Korea, Iran, Venezuela
7. Korea
8. Celebrating Solidarity
8. A grief I cannot know
9. BDS
10. Afghanistan
10. Yemen

Actions

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.

First Saturday of each month, 11:00, West County Detention Center, 5555 Giant Highway, Richmond. Witness & vigil to oppose ongoing imprisonment of ICE detainees.

Ecumenical Peace Institute *Autumn Gathering*

Sunday, October 15, 2017

Dinner and Program 5:30 – 8:45 p.m.

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

Colonel (Ret.) Ann Wright
Diplomacy — *Its Uses and Misuses*

Ann Wright is a 29-year US Army / Army Reserves veteran who retired as a Colonel and a former US diplomat who resigned in March, 2003, in opposition to the war on Iraq. She has been a leading peace activist in the years since — working to break the siege of Gaza, crossing the border into North Korea, standing against drone warfare at Beale Air Force Base in California and much, much more.

A delicious vegetarian dinner catered by Food not Bombs
Snacks and music at 5:30
Dinner and program at 6:00

==>> PLEASE CALL 510-990-0374
and let us know you are coming.

Donation \$25 - \$100 benefits EPI's ongoing work; no one turned away for lack of funds.

Wheelchair accessible entrance on Garber St. and from underground parking garage.

Visit <http://www.epicalc.org/> for more details.