



Sacramento Area Peace Action October 2017 Newsletter

Working to end U.S. militarism since 1983.

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A Path Forward for Korea

Kim Jong-un of N. Korea has seen the U.S. topple governments in Iraq, Libya, etc., and he views his nation's nuclear arsenal as a deterrent to any similar efforts to forcibly remove him from power. He sees nuclear weapons as the key to his political and his nation's survival. No amount of sanctions will change this standoff.

A diplomatic approach, on the other hand, one that provides some security assurances for Pyongyang in exchange for a freeze of its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile testing, could change the equation. It could also lead to further engagement that might one day succeed in North Korea (and even the US) denuclearizing, and even may bring reunification of the Koreas.

The long-standing US administration's own reticence to negotiate without preconditions is the main impediment to halting North Korea's progress on its nuclear weapons program. China played a key role in reaching a negotiated outcome with the US, France, UK, Russia, and Germany over the Iran nuclear issue in 2015. Similarly, six party talks (Japan, the Koreas, Russia, China, and the US) should be restarted. **Even better, ALL nuclear weapons states should follow U.N. agreements and start destroying their nuclear stockpiles immediately. North Korea could be persuaded to follow suit.**

In direct contradiction to Trump's statement that "talking is not the answer," we believe that *talking is the only answer*. The military alternative, resulting in millions of deaths and possibly radioactive fallout around the world, is not an option.

Maria Cornejo Departs Board

Maria Cornejo, who served as President of SacPeace for two years and has led the successful Student Career Opportunities Committee (counter-military-recruitment), is departing California this month. The Board will appoint a successor to the vacancy.

The Board expresses its thanks and good wishes to Maria.

Maggie Coulter succeeds Maria as President, and Jamier Sale will serve as Vice-President, until the Board elections in May. Other officers continuing are Gary Meyer, Secretary, and Barbara Davis, Treasurer.

Vote to Repeal AUMF Fails in Senate

An amendment that would have repealed the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) failed in the Senate Sept. 14. California's two Senators supported the amendment, along with 34 other Senators, to rescind the AUMF passed just after 9/11 and since used to justify endless wars, large and small, from Afghanistan and Iraq, to Syria, Georgia, Yemen, Djibouti, Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, and the Philippines (Muslim separatists).

Rep. Barbara Lee, the only Congressperson to vote against the 2001 AUMF, has sponsored resolutions yearly to rescind the Act. The Senate amendment this year was sponsored by Sen. Rand Paul, R-KY.

Call Congress! All US Representatives and Senators can be reached at 202-224-3121. To call district offices: Rep. Doris Matsui: 916-498-5600; Rep. Ami Bera: 916)-635-0505; Rep. John Garamendi, 530-753-5301; Rep. Tom McClintock, 916-786-5560. Sen. Kamala Harris, 916-448-2787; Sen. Diane Feinstein, 415-393-0707. Pres. Trump, Whitehouse.gov, or 202-456-1111.

Dan Kovalik Speaks Out on Russia

Dan Kovalik, a human rights and labor lawyer, who represents the United Steel Workers Union, spoke on September 11th at The Avid Reader. He first discussed the significance of this date in **1973**: the overthrow of Salvador Allende by the Chilean military and the U.S. CIA. "Now there's an example of real interference in a nation's politics/elections."

Many other examples followed, including US involvement in Yemen, where millions may die, and 1000 US bases located in 138 countries around the world. Americans must view what damage their own government has done, with Agent Orange (Vietnam), drones (Yemen), and spent uranium (Iraq).

Demonizing Russia also fits nicely into the goal of spending \$1 trillion dollars over the next 30 years to upgrade the US nuclear triad. With profit margins estimated at 50%, \$500,000,000,000 of tax-payers money will be transferred to the corporate defense industries' coffers.

Regarding the 2016 election, Democrats would like to portray Trump's victory as the fault of Putin/Russian collusion and hacking. Unfortunately, Hillary's inability to excite liberals and progressives resulted in her losing "the white women's vote," as well as almost all of the states between the West Coast and the East Coast.

We highly recommend reading Kovalik's book, "The Plot to Scapegoat Russia."

The Vultures Are Circling Over Iran – Again!

Donald Trump has called the Iran Nuclear Deal the worst deal ever and vowed to scrap it. He often changes his mind, but he seems committed this time. The game plan is to kill the Iran Deal through "radical enforcement."

It's analogous to the little kid who pinches and pokes his older brother, then when older brother finally hits him, the little kid – crying at full volume – runs to Mom or Dad, "Brother hit me." So, the U.S. will harass Iran by demanding "radical enforcement" of spot inspections of military sites -- an exact replay of the run-up to the 2003 U.S. war on Iraq. When Iran says ENOUGH, the U.S. will term Iran to be in violation and will assert the right to bomb Iran.

Why all the subterfuge? Because the Iran Deal is with six countries: the U.S., Britain, France, Russia, China and Germany. It's tight and verifiable and U.S. intelligence agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirm Iran's compliance.

President Obama expended "political capital" to accomplish the Iran Deal; formally, it is the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). But the neocons hate it. The Saudis hate it. Months before its provisions were finalized, Israel's Prime Minister infamously denounced it before a fawning joint session of the U.S. House and Senate. Four Democratic Senators even voted against it: Chuck Schumer (NY), Ben Cardin (MD), Bob Menendez (NJ), and Joe Manchin (WV).

Much of the greater Middle East has been devastatingly bombed since 2001, but Iran has been on some folks' hit list for the last two decades. Donald Trump's poll numbers are low and Presidents with low numbers often find some place to bomb.

So things don't look good.

October 2017 Sacramento Area Peace & Justice Events

Check www.sacpeace.org for updates.

EVERY Tuesday, 4:30-6pm: Stop U.S. militarism and wars now! 16th & J, Sacramento. 916-448-7157.

EVERY Wednesday, 4-5pm: No New Wars, No Killer Drones! 15th & L, Sacramento. Veterans for Peace. 916-456-4595.

Sunday, Oct 1, 4pm - 7pm, Green and Just Economy: Lessons from the Zapatistas exploring the agro-ecological, social, and economic practices that have improved the lives of people in the Zapatista communities of southern Mexico. Help at the farm 4-5pm, discussion 5-7pm, Yisrael Family Farm, 4505 Roosevelt Ave. Sacramento. FMI: joannfuller44@gmail.com

Thursday, Oct 5, CodePink Fall Drone Resistance Week at Creech Air Force Base in Indian Springs, Nevada. Goes thru Oct 12. Carpools from the Bay Area and Sacramento. FMI: ratherbenyckeling@comcast.net, 510-215-5974.

Thursday, Oct 12, 6:30pm, SacPeace Board of Directors meet, 909 12th St, Sac. Members welcome. Info: 916-448-7157.

Saturday, Oct 14, 5:30pm, Take Back the Night to end sexual and gender-based violence. Speakers & resource fair at Sacramento Native American Health Center, 2020 J St, Sacramento. March through Midtown at 8pm. FMI: info@sactakebackthenight.org

Sunday, Oct 15, 11am - 5:30pm, 16th Annual Freethought Day Festival, a celebration of secularism, church-state separation and rational thought, combining the fun and festivity of a fair with the education and activism of a conference. North Steps, State Capitol, 11th & L Sts. Sacramento. FMI including about tabling: 209-610-0651 or chair@FreethoughtDay.org.

Tuesday, Oct 17, 4 - 6pm, Monthly Vigil for Palestinian rights. End U.S. aid to Israel & Boycott companies aiding Israel's abuses. Sign petitions for Palestinian rights. 16th & J, Sacramento. 916-448-7157.

Please deliver October 1st!

Time Sensitive!

Return Service Requested

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