



# Sacramento Area Peace Action May 2017 Newsletter

Working to end U.S. militarism since 1983.

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## Nuclear Industry Wants More Taxpayer Subsidies

Nuclear power facilities throughout the East and Midwest are reaching operational ages that will require additional costs to keep these “dinosaurs” in operation. These costs and also the costs of storing their extremely radioactive waste products (for hundreds of thousands of years) make nuclear power non-competitive with both fossil fuel and renewable power costs. Westinghouse Electric Company filed for bankruptcy protection in March, and Toshiba (partner) scrambles to recover huge losses from Westinghouse’s troubled nuclear plants under-construction in Georgia and South Carolina.

Their solution is to have states give nuclear power megawatts the same kind of preferential premium payments which are currently given to renewable energies (whose power costs are almost competitive with fossil fuel facilities). Taxpayers should not have to bail out this failing industry, especially during a period when scores of natural gas facilities are being designed and under construction.

Let Westinghouse and Toshiba dig deep into their corporate pockets, not those of the 99 Percent. We were fooled by the nuclear power industry in the 1950’s and 1960’s with such non-truths as “energy that will be too cheap to meter.” Why waste money on nuclear now, when wind and solar facilities have proven to be safe, viable alternatives?

**SHUT THE NUKES DOWN!**

## UN Buries “Inconvenient” Report

In June 2015, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) requested that Professors Richard Falk and Virginia Tilley prepare a report “...examining whether Israel has established an apartheid regime that oppresses and dominates the Palestinian people as a whole...”

In mid-December 2016, in “Israeli Practices towards the Palestinian People and the Question of Apartheid,” they concluded that Israel had established such a regime. ESCWA asked that the “secretariat ‘publish widely the results of the study.’”

Instead, bowing to US-Israeli pressure, the newly-installed UN Secretary General António Guterres had the report removed from the United Nations website and demanded ESCWA repudiate its contents. UN Undersecretary General Rima Khalaf, also head of ESCWA, did not bow. She stood by the report and resigned.

What made the report so “inconvenient” was that it recommended that the United Nations convene an Authority to determine whether Israeli Practices constitute the Crime of Apartheid. If that Authority concluded that Israeli practices constitute such a regime, then the international community is *required* to act in defense of Palestinian rights. Of course, that's expressly what the United Nations has failed to do for the last seven decades. And what the report terms an “on-going” crime will continue to go on!

(Quotes: from the report. Note: Guterres succeeded Ban Ki-moon as the UN's 9<sup>th</sup> Secretary General on January 1, 2017. Formerly, Guterres was the UN's 10th High Commissioner for Refugees.)

## No More Attacks on Syria!

Call 202-224-3121 to tell your Senators and Representatives to take action to stop all attacks on civilians in Syria. Demand a Congressional vote to end all U.S. involvement in the war in Syria except humanitarian aid and efforts to end all human rights violations against the Syrian people. The U.S. must end all weapons sales to all countries and use its diplomatic channels, including through the United Nations, to stop attacks against Syrian civilians by any parties.

## Protest Celebrate [Apartheid] Israel

Human rights supporters will protest the local Israeli lobby affiliates' Celebrate [Apartheid] Israel on Sunday, May 7, 12:30pm, at H St. & Carlson Dr., Sacramento. The event is being held this year at the Scottish Rite, 6151 H St. , just north of Sac State. There is nothing to celebrate about Israel's brutal occupation, shoot-to-kill policies, violent repression of non-violent activism, and other abuses of human rights and international law. FMI:

[SacReg4PalestinianRights@gmail.com](mailto:SacReg4PalestinianRights@gmail.com); 916-448-7157.

## Potluck, Open Discussion at Annual Meeting, May 7

The customary fabulous potluck and a discussion of SacPeace's response to Pres. Trump's initiatives will highlight the annual meeting, 4 pm on Sunday, May 7, at 909 12<sup>th</sup> St, Sacramento.

Fatima Garcia from the Brown Berets will speak about Plan Mérida and the U.S. Mexican government's so-called “war on drugs.”

Please bring your ideas, a main or side dish to share, and your own plate, mug, and tableware. Beverages and dessert will be provided.



Anti-drone activists blocked an access to Beale Air Force Base, Marysville, on March 28, to protest a spike in drone attacks and civilian deaths in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen under the new Trump administration. Ongoing monthly protests organized by Bay Area Code Pink are listed on the calendar at [www.sacpeace.org](http://www.sacpeace.org).