



For our latest news and calendar:
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Are you receiving our weekly email calendar? We plan many events between newsletters! We've shown films, worked to pass social justice legislation, and held demonstrations against the wars on short notice. To receive the weekly email calendar or quarterly newsletter via email contact us at director@wichitapeace.org to be added to our list! You can also Like us on Facebook.

Summer 2012

Contents: Iran, 20th Anniversary, Doris's Outcome, Police Shootings, Divest from Israel, Father Roy Bourgeois, War is Trauma

SANCTIONS ON IRAN ONLY PAVE THE WAY TO WAR

As we write this it appears that we won't see a bombing war on Iran before the November elections, and we sincerely hope we won't see that after either. But the sad truth is we are already waging war on Iran. Not only are the US and Israel assassinating Iranian scientists (and sometimes their children), but they conduct other covert activities like introducing dangerous computer viruses and sabotaging industrial and transportation equipment.

The severe sanctions are crimes in themselves; taking revenge on the ordinary Iranian people for the crime of living in a country with a regime that Israel has decided makes a good target politically. This is an oppressive regime, but it is not a threat to the US or Israel and has the right under the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty to enrich uranium for civilian nuclear power. That is unlike Israel, which has not even signed the NPT for the very good reason that they have 200 nuclear weapons that they won't admit to and thus won't allow to be inspected. Israel knows the Iranian regime is not crazy enough to court complete annihilation by attacking Israel, but it is convenient for Israel to take world attention off the ongoing theft of Palestinian land and water and the continuing blockade of Gaza.

The cruelty and irrationality of the current Iran sanctions were on display after the recent earthquake in northern Iran. The normal human impulse is to send supplies and medical support to the victims, but in this case all kinds of bureaucratic and political machinations were necessary before aid could be sent. People were afraid they would face legal punishment for acts of simple kindness.

These sanctions are like the sanctions against Iraq in the 1990s, which hurt the Iraqi people by causing shortages of medical supplies and many other items of daily life that could be called "dual use". Those sanctions did not really affect Saddam's hold on power.

Sanctions distort any diplomatic process and weaken the domestic opposition to the regime. If we go along and accept the rationale for the sanctions, this contributes to further demonizing Iran in the minds of the US and Israeli people, thus contradicting the argument that sanctions are a "peaceful" alternative to war. And since sanctions are not effective in dislodging the regime, the sanctioning governments get frustrated and conclude they must escalate to bombs to get their way. This is the scary path we are on now.

PEACE CENTER CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY

The Peace and Social Justice Center is 20 years old! Twenty years ago, sharing a small office with two other nonprofits, one of our first projects was to create this newsletter. Within the first year, we raised enough in gifts and loans to purchase the Peace House, which currently houses our office and most of our programs.

We have planned two special celebrations to commemorate our 20th anniversary: Friday, October 5: Concert featuring **Emma's Revolution**, at the First Unitarian Universalist Church, 7202 E. 21st St. N., 7:30 p.m. *Emma's Revolution* has been described as "like Rachel Maddow and



John Stewart with Guitars." Tickets for their concert, also in honor of First UU's 125th anniversary, can be purchased for \$15 in advance from the Peace and Social Justice Center or First UU, or for \$18 at the door.

Friday, December 7: Peace and Social Justice Center Annual Meeting, 6:30 p.m. (location TBA). The featured speaker is **Tom Hayden**, social and [political activist](#), author, and politician, and currently the director of the Peace and Justice Resource Center in Culver City, California. Watch for more information! It is thanks to your support that the Peace and Social Justice Center has 20 years of history to celebrate. We hope you will join us.



The Fix Was In

Doris Ravenfeather Gent was found guilty of obstructing justice by a judge who had obviously made his mind up about the outcome going in. There were protests outside the Broadview/Drury hotel and the protesters were invited in to attend the Brownback town hall. Occupy Wichita (OW) used the human microphone after the main speaker finished his remarks. OW spoke out against Brownback's Medicaid-for-profit scheme, his slashing of education, health care and SRS programs for the most vulnerable among us, women, children, the elderly and disabled people and against his Robin Hood in-reverse tax plan.



Occupiers and supporters were leaving to applause from sympathetic attendees when police swarmed in on three older women and an officer arrested Doris. Officer Wright insists that Doris was so physically challenging that he was unable to control her without injuring her and necessitating a visit to the emergency room upon her release.

The witnesses for the defense were more believable and even found some humor in their answers to questions. This gives them a credibility that the practiced responses of the Police witnesses lacked. The judge showed his total lack of judgment when he chastised Doris's lawyer for using a Martin Luther King quote. He reworked it to say that Doris should have known she could be arrested for nothing more than asserting her First Amendment rights. In essence, the

Judge ruled that Doris should have known she could be arrested just like in any dictatorship for telling it like it is, and he used a bad interpretation of Martin Luther King to justify his actions.

If the police had not been called, nothing bad would have happened, the protesters were simply leaving peacefully. The only perpetrator in this situation was Officer Wright. He assaulted a 61 year old woman, arrested her, sent her to the emergency room, charged her with obstructing justice and then he lied in court that Doris was so threatening and physically challenging that he had no choice but to put her in a hammer lock and slam her into the wall. Will the real criminal please stand up?



THE US ATTORNEY SHOULD INVESTIGATE AND CALL A GRAND JURY ON THE POLICE SHOOTINGS IN WICHITA

The epidemic of police brutality sweeping through America has arrived in Wichita.

People are getting shot when police have an overwhelming choice to use non-lethal measures in a given situations. Five people are dead since October in Wichita. The investigations are done by the WPD reporting to the Sedgwick County District Attorney. Not once have the police ever found themselves at fault. This really strains credibility.

Many of our police officers act with integrity, displaying great respect for the communities they serve. Others do not. We now call upon those decent officers to stand with us in denouncing the reprehensible actions of those who tarnish the department's reputation. The Wichita Police Department is not operating in a transparent manner. Since October of 2011, four people have been fatally shot by Wichita police officers, each under dubious circumstances.

Karen Jackson, a 45-year-old grandmother, was killed by officers who claim she had a knife, although contrary reports state the knife was actually in Jackson's purse when she was shot.

Timothy Freeborn Collins, Jr., 17, was a respected and well-liked student at Northwest High School, and contrary to police claims was not in a gang and did not have a gun.

Marquez Smart, 23, was killed by officers in Old Town. Marquez did not own or have a gun, had no criminal record and was shot while running away from the crowd.

Troy Lanning II, 24, was unarmed and running away when he was killed by an officer.

The Wichita Police Department has treated the families of those shot by its officers with an appalling level of disrespect. The department has withheld information, refused to answer any of the families' questions, made public statements that the families know to be false, and has made atrocious statements in reference to those slain.

Occupy activists call for the US Attorney to convene a grand jury to investigate these police shootings. The WPD currently carries out its own investigations of police shootings. This is not sufficient, these investigations need to need to be done by an impartial agency working independent of the WPD.



Divestment from Corporations who profit from the Occupation of Palestine

Several national U.S. religious groups and socially responsible investment funds have recently voted to divest from corporations including Caterpillar that support the occupation of Palestine. Caterpillar provides Israel with weaponized bulldozers for demolishing Palestinian homes, razing Palestinian olive groves, and building Israel's Apartheid Wall. This has occasionally caused injury and even death to unarmed civilians.



In May, Quaker Friends Fiduciary Corporation (FFC), divested \$900,000 from Caterpillar. In June, Caterpillar was removed from the MSCI (Morgan Stanley Capital International) World Socially Responsible Index,

a list used by Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) funds to discern acceptable companies for investment. TIAA-CREF, a leading retirement provider for people who work in the academic, research, medical and cultural fields, followed suit and divested \$72 million of its Social Choice Funds from Caterpillar.

On July 5, the Presbyterian Church USA voted against divestment in Caterpillar by a razor-thin margin, 333-331, with 2 abstentions. With this close vote, it's clear that the movement for divestment from corporations supporting the occupation is gathering momentum.

In addition to these Quaker and Presbyterian divestment actions, we see that the world United Methodist Church (UMC)'s 2012 General Conference (GC), the highest decision-making body of the church, adopted this resolution:

1. Urging the U.S. government to "end all military aid to the region";
2. Calling on "all nations to prohibit... any financial support by individuals or organizations for the construction and maintenance of settlements"; and
3. Calling on "all nations to prohibit... the import of products made by companies in Israeli settlements on Palestinian land."

Local activists from Palestine Study Group and Occupy Wichita will be attending the National Organizers Conference of the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation, September 21-23, in St. Louis. We invite you to get informed by participating in our regular monthly film series on the struggle for Palestinian human rights.

Join us at one or all of the events with Father Roy Bourgeois, lifetime peace and justice activist and founder of School of the Americas Watch



Dinner at Piccadilly Restaurant, Central and Rock
RSVP: fbelden@att.net Sponsored by The Group.

Tuesday, Sept 25, 6 pm

At KIPCOR-2515 College Avenue, North Newton
Wednesday, Sept 26, 7 pm KIPCOR,

Breakfast at Lorraine Ave Mennonite Church, 655 S. Lorraine **Thursday, Sept 27, 8 am**

On Social Justice at the First Unitarian Universalist Church, 7202 E 21st Street **Thursday, Sept 27, 6 pm reception, 7 pm program**

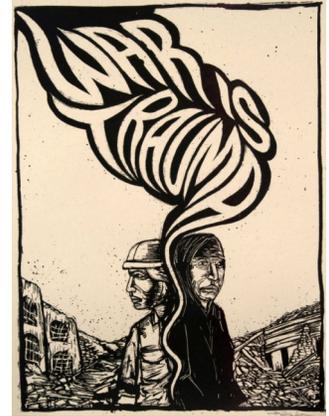
Breakfast at the Peace Center
Friday, Sept 28, 8 - 9:30 am

War is Trauma Veterans' Art Exhibit Friday, October 26

A unique exhibit of art, "War is Trauma," from Justseeds Collective, IVAW (Iraq Veterans Against the War) and their allies will open with a reception at the Peace Center on Final Friday, Oct 26, and be on display through Veterans' Day, Nov. 11.

These prints address "Operation Recovery" and its goals "supporting service members' and veterans' rights to heal, GI resistance, challenging the culture of militarism in the US, and ending the war in Afghanistan." (Nicolas Lampert, posting in Justseeds Collective Projects).

The hope is that exhibitions "can act as a starting point to bring different people together – veterans, civilians, Iraqis, Afghans, and others to dialogue on issues." The issues which inspire the prints include GI Resistance, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), sexual assault in the military or Military Sexual Trauma (MST), and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). To add to the impact, the covers of the 130 portfolios were made from paper from the Combat Paper Project, which uses cut-up military uniforms from various units. Over 30 artists have participated in this project. Join us on Friday, Oct. 26 at 6 pm for the opening reception.



**Peace and Social Justice
Education Fund
1407 N. Topeka Street
Wichita, Kansas 67214**

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Upcoming Events

International Day of Peace Fundraiser at the Peace Center

Friday, Sept. 21, 6-8 pm, International music and food; bid on items in our silent auction. \$5 donation.

Father Roy Bourgeois' visit to Wichita, Tuesday, Sept. 25 –

Friday, Sept. 28, See full schedule inside page 3

***Broken on All Sides: Race, Mass Incarceration, and New Visions for Criminal Justice in the US* - film Thursday, Oct. 4, 7 pm**, at the Peace

Center, Discussion on how to broaden the viewing to the community at large and plan further appropriate actions.

Emma's Revolution – Concert to Celebrate Our 20th Anniversary!

Friday, Oct 5, 7:30 pm, First UU church, 7202 E 21st St

Marking 11 years since the Invasion/Occupation of Afghanistan

Sunday, Oct. 7, 5 to 7 pm, light pot-luck & short film at the Peace Center

War is Trauma—Veterans' Art Exhibit Opening at the Peace Center

Friday, Oct. 26, 6 pm, refreshments will be served.

Peace and Social Justice Center Annual Meeting

Friday, December 7:, 6:30 p.m. (location TBA). *Tom Hayden* will speak.

Palestine Study and Discussion Group at the Peace Center

2nd and 4th Mondays, 5:00 pm. New Israel/Palestine action and study group that meets twice a month. Join us to develop this group.

Protest Police Violence, Excessive Force and Shootings

Every Monday, Noon, City Hall, south plaza with Occupy Wichita

In the next few years, we will be working to raise funds to replace the roof and upgrade the windows.

You can help today by remembering the Peace Center and Education Fund in your will or by donating to the Rainy Day Fund.

Call Pat Cameron at 316-263-5886 if you have any questions.

www.wichitapeace.org

You can use your smart phone to read the code below and make a direct contribution. Thank you for your generous support!

