



August 2019
Volume 15 Issue 1

www.peaceactioncleveland.org

Cleveland Peace Action

Upcoming Events — Join Us

Monthly **Peace at the Pub** Events
Market Garden Brewery at 7 PM
W 25 St next to West Side Market

September 10

Prof. Jafar Mahallati

Chair of Middle East and North Africa Studies at Oberlin College
"A Dialog Against War Lobby Ideologues
Is US-Iran Encounter Real or Artificial?"



October 8: Check www.peaceactioncleveland.org
for details as they become available



November 12

Prof. Shelley Rose

Assoc. Prof. of History at Cleveland State University
"Peace Activism in a *DIGITAL* World"

September 19th Challenge Islamophobia

CPA invites you to a panel discussion on Islamophobia, the social and political discrimination of Muslims in the U.S.
Panelists: Isam Zaiem Cleveland Council on American Islamic Relations and April Stoltz, Coordinator Teatime for Peace.
Heights Library 2345 Lee Rd, Cleveland Heights
6:00PM Registration 6:30PM Program, Light Refreshments.

Peace Action is the country's largest grassroots peace and disarmament organization, with more than 100,000 members. Cleveland Peace Action is one of over 70 autonomous affiliates and chapter organizations.

Cleveland Peace Action Getting Out the Message



Passion overload.

Rosemary Palmer, CPA President

Remember the old joke about the centipede that was asked which leg went first when it walked? It considered the question, then could no longer walk, because it couldn't figure out the answer.

Each day, another atrocity, provocation, or attack causes Americans of conscience to feel outrage or despair. We can't decide which cause will make the most impact on our communities. Do we go to a protest? Call our legislators to implore them to vote for peace, immigration reform, or the environment? Write a letter to the editor? Take to social media to tweet or post on Facebook? Or do we just freeze at all the "in-coming," turn off the alarm clock, and dream on?

Cleveland Peace Action (CPA) understands the frustration we hear on all sides. Each of us has to choose our priorities. Some issues, CPA can approach directly, such as our long-standing, active working group on Middle East Peace. On others, we cooperate with other local social action groups, such as InterReligious Task Force on Central America (IRTF), on immigration, etc., NEO Coalition for the Green New Deal (environment), etc.

If you have a specific passion you'd like to work on through CPA, **let's talk**. Let us know what's on your agenda and what you want to do about it. If we find enough interest from others, we can help find "which leg goes first" on your cause and move forward together.

*Email clevelandpeaceaction@gmail.com
or call 216-205-1427*

ON HOME GROWN TERRORISM

I submitted this letter to the Plain Dealer in April, but it wasn't published. Then, as this newsletter was in preparation, a young man in El Paso stormed into a Walmart, killing at least 22 people, because many customers were Hispanic. His online writings echoed the words of President Trump to justify his actions. How many more people will be killed before there is decisive action to address the terrorism emboldened by white supremacist ideology? Francis Chiappa

We grieve yet another terrorist attack, on Passover, at the Chabad of Poway Synagogue in California. The shooter claimed his inspiration was the killings at two New Zealand mosques and at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. The shooter also claimed responsibility for an arson attack on a mosque. This should expose the fact that the most deadly version of terrorism in the U.S., in recent years, has been white supremacy.

While the White House focuses on radical Islamic terrorism, the clear and present danger in America is home grown. When a President repeatedly fails to condemn and distance himself from white supremacy, our trust in the institutions that must protect us erodes. A U.S. Coast Guard Lieutenant, who was recently arrested in an elaborate plot on the lives of many politicians and journalists, may now be released because federal statutes define terrorism only in terms of international organizations; and not domestic terrorism suspects.

Isn't it time we revised our definitions of terrorism to include not just the more expedient "Them", but also the more dangerous "Us", here in our country?

NUKES UPDATE

Today, a dangerous global nuclear arms race is emerging. The detonation of even a small number of nuclear weapons anywhere in the world could have devastating human, environmental, and economic consequences that could reverberate around the globe.

And current US policies only make the situation more dangerous. The president, like previous presidents, can order the launch of nuclear weapons at any time with no checks and balances on his decision. No one can stop him.

Hundreds of weapons are kept on hair trigger alert, increasing the risk of an accidental or unauthorized launch. And our government is currently planning to spend more than \$1 trillion over the next 30 years to **rebuild the entire US nuclear arsenal**. All while the United States walks away from several successful international nuclear arms control agreements that have made the world much safer.

Union of Concerned Scientists

How many nuclear warheads should be allowed on our planet?

Zero.

Sure, but you can't *un-invent* them. Any nation with the money can jump into the nuke club. All a government needs is access to raw uranium and a facility to enrich it. The technology is public. You don't need missiles: a plane or a ship will do.

Today eight nations have nukes, totaling about 14,000 of them, with over 90% belonging to the US and Russia.

How can we police the whole earth? Fourteen countries do their own enrichment. The surest way is to shut down all enrichment facilities: yes, that also shuts down nuclear power plants (currently only 3% of world energy production).

Coal, gas and oil produce 81%, but must certainly be cut back. Wind, solar, and hydraulic, at 17%, are all that's left...and they must grow.

How do we move the money, the corporations, the scientists, the engineers to a nuke-free planet and safe energy production?

Bill Fickinger

“NO RIGHTS/NO AID”

CPA Middle East Peace Committee Co-chair Don Bryant

NO RIGHTS/NO AID is a national grassroots U.S. political action campaign demanding that until all Palestinians have rights equal to those of Jewish Israelis, **all U.S. aid to Israel (\$3.8 - \$5 billion annually) must stop.** Right now, Palestinians face daily harassment, brutality and harm from Israel. They have no freedom of movement, no rights of self-determination, none of the property rights enjoyed by Jewish Israelis, and severely compromised due process of law.

NO RIGHTS/NO AID rejects Israel's disingenuous framing of the controversy as political. Israel claims that if it only had someone “reliable” to negotiate with on the Palestinian side, Israel would be willing to work for peace, and that its “harsh tactics” are regrettable, but necessary, for its security. However the facts on the ground reveal that no matter what Israel says, its true intention is to annex occupied Palestine into Israel and drive the Palestinians out through deprivation of human rights. NO RIGHTS/NO AID focuses the discussion on this deliberate human rights crisis. With NO RIGHTS/NO AID, the one state/two states debate becomes irrelevant because once Palestinians have equal rights, Israelis and Palestinians together will determine the correct political structure to govern all those involved.

At our May 2019 meeting Cleveland Peace Action's Middle East Committee met with NO RIGHTS/NO AID national organizers and our committee recommended that we

endorse the campaign. The CPA board also agreed two weeks later.

NO RIGHTS/NO AID involves local chapters working with a national connection for coordination: sharing best practices, community solidarity, and leveraging power for national actions. Individual chapters are to focus on (a) lobbying/pressuring local members of Congress; (b) educating non-activists in the U.S. about Israel's deprivation of Palestinian human rights and on the fact that Israel, a wealthy European level economy, receives more U.S. foreign aid than any other nation in the world; and (c) recruiting new members and chapters to NO RIGHTS/NO AID.

For the first time, NO RIGHTS/NO AID puts the massive U.S. annual aid to Israel “on the table” politically. U.S. aid to Israel has been sacrosanct. But it's high time to challenge this sacred cow. NO RIGHTS/NO AID is a suitable response to the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement started by Palestinians.

There are thousands of pro-Palestinian activists working in the U.S. and yet the situation for Palestinians continues to worsen by the day. Adopting the NO RIGHTS/NO AID focus puts pressure on Israel that is uniquely within the power of U.S. voters to make happen. As Israel's biggest enabler we have both an obligation and an opportunity to stop U.S. financial and geopolitical support that is crucial to this injustice continuing.



IS-PAL POPULATIONS

Jewish State of Israel: 6.8 million Jewish + 1.9 million Muslim
 Palestine State (West Bank + Gaza): 5 million Muslim

“One-state-solution” would be *slightly* majority Muslim.
 “Two-state-solution” must unify Palestine: politically and geographically difficult. Return “settlements” to Palestine?

75 years of Reducing Palestinian Holdings

Move the Money Rebrands; "Advocacy" Working Group Launches

Meghan Donovan, Advocacy Committee

Cleveland Peace Action's Move the Money group has expanded its focus and been renamed Advocacy. Reallocating excessive defense spending to human needs is still very much a concern of ours. In addition, we are devoting our energy to ending and preventing wars and U.S. military interventions; reducing and abolishing nuclear weapons; upholding environmental justice; supporting more humane immigration policy, ending the human rights abuses at the border and elsewhere; and promoting local peace and justice issues.

Some of the strategies of the Advocacy Committee include meeting with members of Congress to discuss proposed legislation related to our core issues; writing to and calling national, state and local legislators; and conducting person-on-the-street interviews to be shared to our social media.

We need your ideas as well, and welcome your participation. Our next meeting will be held on **September 23, 2019** at 7:00 p.m. at Pilgrim Church, 2592 West 14th Street.

We Need Your Support - Here's How We'll Use It

Now that we're an all-volunteer organization, our budget is much smaller. But we still need your support. Membership donations cover this mailed newsletter, our home base at Pilgrim Church, email server, website, social media, phone, printing, and copying. A modest increase of our lean budget would pay for program expenses and enable us to bring speakers to Cleveland.

You can use the envelope in this newsletter. Checks payable to Cleveland Peace Action support our advocacy work and are not tax-deductible. If you prefer to make a tax-deductible contribution, make your check payable to Cleveland Peace Action Education Fund. Online donations go to Cleveland Peace Action Education Fund, via our secure PayPal link: <http://peaceactioncleveland.org/join-donate/>.

Much more than donations, we need your involvement, your energy, your ideas, and your active presence in our struggle.

Email clevelandpeaceaction@gmail.com, call 216-205-1427, or use the website form at www.peaceactioncleveland.org.



Reach Out to Congress: *It Works*

One easy number: Congressional Switchboard at 202-224-3121 (9-5 EST)

Senator Sherrod Brown 202-224-2315; 713 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Wash D.C. 20510
216-522-7272; 801 West Superior, Cleveland 44115 Suite 1400,

Senator Rob Portman 202-224-3353; 338 Russell Senate Office, Wash. D.C. 20510
216-522-7095; 1240 E. Ninth St., Rm. 3061, Cleveland 44114

Rep. Marcia Fudge Dist. 11 202-225-7032; 2344 Rayburn House Office Bldg., Wash, D.C. 20515
216-522-4900; 4834 Richmond Rd., Suite 150, Warrensville, OH 44128

Rep. Anthony Gonzalez Dist. 16 202-225-3876; 1023 Longworth House Office Bldg., Wash. D.C. 20515
330-599-7037; 4150 Belden Village St. Suite 607, Canton 44718

Rep. Marcy Kaptur Dist. 9 202-225-4146; 2186 Rayburn House Office Bldg., Wash. D.C. 20515
219-259-7500 One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, OH 43604; 17021 Lorain Av., Cleveland, 44111 216-767-5933

Rep. David Joyce Dist. 14 202-225-5731; 1535 Longworth House Office Bldg., Wash. D.C. 20515
440-352-3539; 1 Victoria Place Ste. 320, Painesville, OH 44077
330-425-9291; 10075 Ravenna Rd., Twinsburg, OH 44087

Cleveland Peace Action and Cleveland Peace Action Education Fund

President Rosemary Palmer Secretary Mark Weber Treasurer Dena Magoulas
Board Members: Don Bryant, Francis Chiappa, Meghan Donovan,
Chantal Dothery, Bill Fickinger, Gay Sloane

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Check our website for news and events: <https://www.peaceactioncleveland.org>

Pentagon Budget Keeps Growing

Now at \$738 Billion

Francis Chiappa

Reporting in *forbes.com*, respected defense analyst William Hartung opines: “The newly proposed two-year budget deal between the White House and Congress has one major flaw. **It vastly overpays for the Pentagon.**” Hartung goes on to say that, “At \$738 billion for Fiscal Year 2020 and \$740 billion for Fiscal Year 2021, the agreement sets the table for the highest budgets for the Pentagon and related work on nuclear war-heads at the Department of Energy since World War II.

The proposed figures are higher than spending at the height of the Vietnam and Korean Wars, and substantially more than the high point of the Reagan buildup of the 1980s. And the Fiscal Year 2020 and Fiscal Year 2021 numbers are only slightly less than spending in 2010, when the United States had 180,000 troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, roughly nine times the number currently deployed.”

As the House of Representatives considered this year’s National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) (appropriately named for the late Sen. John McCain), it rejected an amendment to **trim** \$16.8 Billion. No surprise here, as the military-industrial complex could not prosper without bi-partisan support. Every year, dozens of amendments to the NDAA are considered, providing a glimpse into where our elected officials stand.

This year, under the Democratically-controlled House, peace amendments fared relatively well.



Here are the details on four key votes:

1. As noted above, the Lee/Khanna Amendment to cut \$16.8 billion from the Pentagon was defeated, with a whopping 120 Democrats voting with most Republicans.
2. The Khanna *No War With Iran Amendment* passed with 251 votes.
3. Rep. Lee won big in her decades-long fight to end the Iraq war, as an amendment passed to repeal the 2002 Iraq Authorization of Military Force (AUMF). Fourteen Republicans joined all but 4 Democrats in voting yes.
4. The Smith et al. amendment, prohibiting support to and participation in the Saudi-led coalition’s military operations against the Houthis in Yemen, passed with 240 votes, including 12 Republicans.

How’d our NE Ohio Representatives Vote?



Tim **Ryan**, who’s running for President, voted yes on all four amendments, earning 100%.

David **Joyce** got 0%.

Marcia **Fudge** did not vote, but it should be noted that in past years she’s typically voted with Peace Action 100% of the time.

Rep. Marcy **Kaptur** voted Yes on the three anti-war amendments, but voted against cutting Pentagon spending. This isn’t surprising, given her past generosity in budget matters. She should hear from her constituents about this.

Rep. Anthony **Gonzalez** voted against all but one amendment, but he did vote Yes on No War With Iran. His constituents might encourage him to do this more often.



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