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Cleveland Peace Action

Oh, another politics letter!

*Yes, we all get 2 or 3 a day, along with 10 more on-line!
What's this one about?*



The goal of **this** letter is to give Northeast Ohio folks the opportunity to participate in efforts to put an end to war.

Cleveland Peace Action has been around for 40 years, beginning as the Greater Cleveland Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign. Its work has been made possible by the skill and determination of hundreds of organizers and supporters. We have sponsored demonstrations, invited expert speakers, visited Congressional offices, published letters-to-the-editor, and most importantly have worked with our members to change the world.

If you've read this far, thanks! Now some details: most of our invited-speaker-events take place at the conference room adjacent to Pilgrim Church on W 14th St. Our monthly Peace@thePub talks are at Market Garden Brewery.

Join us, and invite a friend or relative to come along: especially "next generation people" whose lives depend on the elimination of war.

After you have looked through the upcoming events and the messages from our committees, put this letter in your pocket and pass it on to someone else.

Upcoming Peace@ThePub Events

"Why Peace Is A Feminist Issue" Meghan Donovan

Tuesday January 14th 7 PM

Meghan, chair of CPA Advocacy Committee, will present "Why Peace is a Feminist Issue." Some of the topics she will touch on include war and militarism's impact on women and girls; why permitting or requiring women to serve in combat is not a feminist act; and how women have been part of peace movements throughout history.

"Peace Activism in a Digital World" Shelley Rose, PhD

Tuesday, February 11th 7PM

Dr. Rose will discuss the physical and online spaces of activism and protest events in the 20th and 21st century, including the use of social media as a tool for organizing in cases like Standing Rock. As a historian, she examines the changing modes of protest events as well as common practices between activist communities. She is Assoc. Prof. of History at CSU, specializing in protest history and digital humanities.

Peace at the Pub events are at Market Garden Brewery West 25th St and Lorain

March Annual Meeting at Pilgrim Church

date to be announced

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.

My Trip to Palestine

Don Bryant, Co-Chair of CPA Middle East Peace Committee

Seven years ago, I traveled to Occupied Palestine to join the Global March to Jerusalem planned in coordination with Palestinian **Land Day**. This is an annual commemoration of Palestinians' connection to the land with their sustained resistance and sacrifice to protect their families, homes, and farms for more than 50 years of military Occupation. On March 30, Land Day 2012, a group of us went to Bethlehem to join the March.

Our intention was to get into Jerusalem, but the military power's goal was to keep us out. This was easy since our adversaries had erected a wall around the city to keep out the indigenous Palestinian people. They call it a *security fence*, but it's a concrete wall 30 meters high, known as the Apartheid Wall. It surrounds the city, but also encircles villages and farms as though they were security threats, and keeping family members separated for no reason but to further drive the Palestinians out of this stolen land - Israel. A guard tower loomed over the Apartheid Wall where Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) were stationed. As the demonstration grew, the IOF began firing plastic-coated metal bullets and tear gas canisters towards the thousands of nonviolent demonstrators in Bethlehem.

At the same time, the Global March and Land Day participants demonstrated at other checkpoints within Occupied Palestine surrounding Jerusalem, the "City of Peace." Solidarity demonstrations erupted in Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, and Syria. Hugs and handshakes with siblings, parents and other relatives, separated for years, found their way through the military barbed wire border fences on Land Day.

Land Day evolved into pro-democracy demonstrations, known as the **Great March of Return**. Since March 2018, Palestinians in Gaza have staged weekly protests at the border fence that keeps them from their land and homes seized by Israel beginning in 1947. The so-called "democratic" Israel attempts to quell these demonstrations with live ammunition in cross-border killings of pro-democracy demonstrators.

Since the start of the Great March of Return protests, the Palestinian Center for Human Rights has documented 215 killings of pro-democracy demonstrators by Israel, including 47 children, 2 women, 9 persons with disabilities, 4 paramedics and 2 journalists. All these realities on the ground have been confirmed by United Nations reports, in addition to UN Security Council Resolution 1860 (2009), which calls for the lifting of the blockade on Gaza. Still the international community has failed to act on the resolution.



The Gaza pro-democracy demonstrations have been hidden from the news. We are inundated with reports of other pro-democracy campaigns in Hong Kong, Paris, Iran, and Bolivia, but the world is silent about besieged Gaza. Let's remember the people of Gaza so they won't have to die to make us remember.

On Land Day 2012, we never got through the army's shuttered gate to Jerusalem. Instead, I wound up at the hospital in Beit Jala where I was treated for head wounds inflicted by a tear gas canister that hit my head on a bounce, shot by Israeli forces to quell our peaceful demonstration.

Don Bryant has provided the following update: CPA has signed onto the NO RIGHTS/NO AID Campaign to help close the U.S. foreign policy loophole that undermines our democracy and international security. Our government continues to arm Israel with high grade weaponry while Israel continues gross violations of human rights of millions of Palestinians in Occupied Palestine and Gaza. For the first time, NR/NA 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.

THE LITHIUM COUP

Mark Weber, Secretary of Cleveland Peace Action

I. In 2006, Juan Evo Morales Ayma was elected as the first Indigenous President of Bolivia. Morales, one of seven children, was born in 1959 in Western Bolivia to a poor family. In the period 2002-2006, socialist or left-



populist governments came to power in Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Venezuela, and Bolivia. This “**Pink Tide**” now has all but receded with right-wing governments now in power in several of these countries with the most notorious being that

of former army captain Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil.

Bolivia has about 70% of the world’s known reserves in lithium. Lithium (a rare metal) is used in batteries, but with the rise of electric cars, the demand for lithium has skyrocketed. With the election of Morales in 2006, the government of Bolivia began to assert that the primary beneficiaries of the proceeds from the sale of natural resources (like lithium) should be the Bolivian people themselves. However, several large multi-national corporations saw it differently. Companies like Tesla (United States) and Pure Energy Minerals (Canada) wanted direct access to the reserves of Lithium. However, Morales stood in the way.

II. If there was one region of Bolivia that hated Morales, it is the wealthy, eastern lowland province of Santa Clara. Here, the heavy concentration of Bolivians of European

ancestry are concentrated. This minority oligarchy has controlled Bolivia for almost all of its history. Hatred of the indigenous peoples of Bolivia, as well as resentment of Morales for his social policies, aimed at a modest wealth redistribution and fueled a desire to orchestrate an overthrow of the elected government. This wealthy minority joined up with the leaders of the army and with the representatives of foreign capital to plot the end of Morales. After many “spontaneous” demonstrations and resorts to violence, the Army withdrew its support and Morales resigned and left for exile in Mexico. The interim president is a wealthy politician, Senator Jeanine Añez, from the Santa Clara province. She has had a history of attacking and demonizing Bolivian indigenous peoples. She has since tried to remove these bigoted tweets; but...too late...her prejudice is out there for all to see. The goal of the interim government will be to organize for new elections and also to roll back the modest reforms of the Morales era.

We should all realize that Bolivia 2019 is but a variation of the same theme in Latin America and elsewhere: U.S. companies help to de-stabilize left-wing governments that refuse to do their bidding: **Iran-1953, Guatemala-1954, Dominican Republic-1965, Chile-1973, Honduras** in 2009 and now **Bolivia**. The Lithium Coup is about who controls the vital resources of Bolivia and it is not about “corruption” as the various adherents of the oligarchy and naive foreign observers contend.

Mark Weber has long been active in social efforts in South American countries, participating in six human rights delegations to Colombia since 2009. The delegations were sponsored by Witness for Peace/Solidarity Collective, a US-based human rights NGO.

Nuclear Updates: Last October, Trump withdrew the US from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. Russia has been violating it by testing and deploying IR missiles prohibited by the treaty. Putin withdrew Russia the following day. These missiles (500 to 5500 km range) play a major role in US forces in Europe confronting Russian forces. Further negotiations are essential.

JCPOA (joint comprehensive plan of action), better known as the Iran Deal was signed in May 2018. This allowed international inspectors access to Iranian nuclear facilities to verify that only acceptable amounts of low enriched uranium are being produced. Trump withdrew from the Deal in May 2019. Subsequently, IAEA certified that Iran was abiding with the required limits. Result: July 2019: Iran, in response, slightly breaches LEU limit, which IAEA recently confirmed. This gave Trump the opportunity to increase sanctions on Iran exports, especially oil. The impact on Iran’s economy has led to rising havoc among Iranian investments and citizens.

Today’s MUST LIST: reopen discussions with Russia on all treaties. Return to the Iran Deal as written. Reject Trump’s plans for nuclear weapons upgrades, for example, small nuke warheads on drones! Have reliable, intrusive international monitoring every nuclear program, including Israel’s. Commit to the eventual scrapping of all nuclear weapons. What’s the alternative? Google Bulletin of Atomic Scientists or Union of Concerned Scientists for updates.

CPA’s former secretary, Bill Fickinger, has on several occasions presented a Powerpoint talk on “Getting Rid of Nukes”, both at CPA events and college and library venues. A retired physics prof at CWRU, Bill has updated the talk to the age of Trump, with sections on the history, development, use of nukes, the explosive arms race, efforts to slow it down, and current challenges, as other nations try to join the fray. Bill would like to hear of any opportunities to present this work to groups interested in the topic. wjf@cwru.edu

TEAMWORK WORKS: CPA has long worked with other Cleveland peace groups.

Here we see Chantal Dothey with



her sign at Oberlin Peace Builders September protest.

Then more protesters take to the streets at Oberlin.



Chantal joins Meghan Donovan at Cleveland Nonviolence Network Holiday Bazaar held at North Presbyterian Church, Cleveland.



(Photos by Rosemary Palmer)

Cleveland Peace Action and Cleveland Peace Action Education Fund

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

NEW Phone Number - 216 205 1427

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