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[www.peaceactioncleveland.org](http://www.peaceactioncleveland.org)

# Cleveland Peace Action

## Never Again: A Solemn Remembrance on the 76th Anniversary of the Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

On Friday, August 6, Cleveland Peace Action members and supporters gathered at Rockefeller Lagoon to remember the 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Attendees convened at 7:00 to fold paper cranes and decorate lanterns to be launched at sunset.

The program began at 7:30 with music from folksinger, songwriter, and popular open mic host Charlie Mosbrook. Afterwards, the Reverend Roger Osgood from Heights Christian Church gave an invocation, and board member Meghan Donovan led the group in a meditation.

Erika Brown, community network builder at Neighborhood Connections, read an excerpt from Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1967 "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence" speech. (For more about the speech, please see page 3.) Board member Francis Chiappa followed with a slideshow of photographs of Hiroshima and Nagasaki before and after the bombings and the anti-nuclear activism of Hibakusha and their descendants.

Physicist and longtime peace activist and CPA board member Bill Fickinger spoke about nuclear weapons funding, including the projected \$1.7 trillion budget for nuclear weapons modernization during the next 30 years. (For more facts and perspective from Bill, please see page 10.)

Clarissa Jakobsons read one of her own poems, written from the perspective of Setsuko Thurlow, a Hibakusha who was a teenager during the bombings and became a tireless activist. (*The Vow from Hiroshima*, which we screened online last year, is a documentary about Thurlow's life and work.) Next, Jakobsons read "Ground Zero: Downtown Cleveland" by the late Daniel Thompson, the first poet laureate from Cleveland.

Dorian Martin, cofounder of Safer Heights, spoke about how militarism disproportionately affects BIPOC communities. (He also decorated some beautiful lanterns before the program began.)

Columbus activist Karen Jiobu spoke about her family's connection to Hiroshima and her experience in a World War II internment camp in Arizona. She frequently speaks to students, parents, and community groups and shared her story about speaking to law enforcement cadets who were not aware of the internment camps.

Charlie Mosbrook wrapped up the program with more music, and at sunset we launched lanterns on the lagoon. The lanterns are an annual tradition on the Ota River in Hiroshima.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

*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.*

**Never Again! - Continued from Page 1**  
**(For more photos, please see Page 9 and our Facebook page.)**

*Many thanks to the performers, speakers, and planning committee,  
and to the City of Cleveland for the use of the pavilion.*



*Charlie Mosbrook and Francis Chiappa*



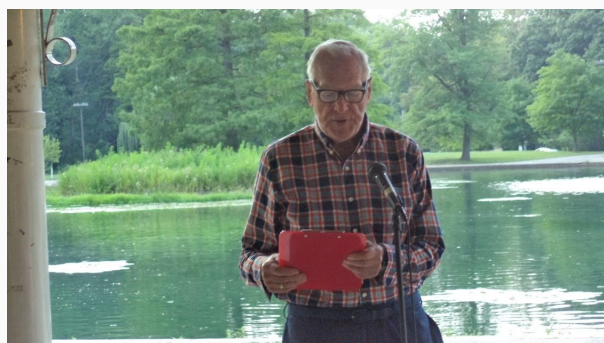
*Erika Brown*



*Dorian Martin, Pamela Bertaud, and a young  
guest decorating lanterns*



*Clarissa Jakobsons*



*Bill Fickinger*



*Karen Jiobu*

## Breaking the Silence: Intersectionality in Action

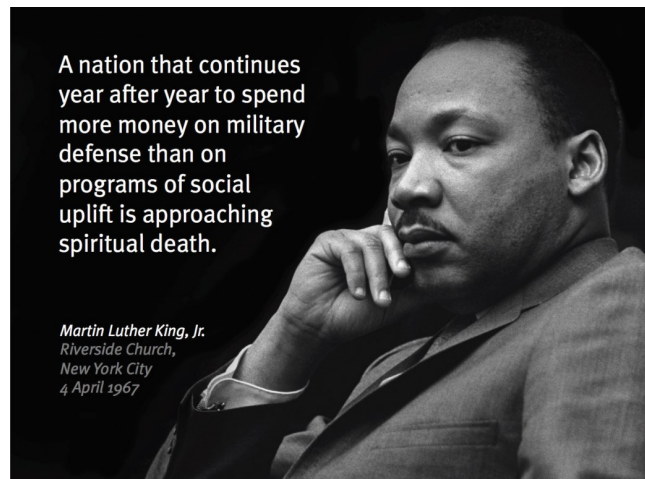
By Francis Chiappa

On April 4, 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered a landmark speech at New York's Riverside Church entitled "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break the Silence." Breaking new ground, it drew the connections between the "three evils of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism." One year later, Dr. King was murdered on April 4.

Fast forward to 2021, when a national group of activists had convened around the vision of remembering the speech by collectively reading it on its 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary. After all, Dr. King's message is even more relevant now. The national event was virtual, allowing readers to participate remotely. Among them were Alice Walker, Jane Fonda, Dr. Ibram X. Kendi, Rosanne Cash, Arlo Guthrie, Bill T. Jones, Viet Than Ngyuen, Bill McKibben, and Edward James Olmos.

Cleveland was among many cities holding its own virtual event. Cleveland Peace Action was the initiator, but wide participation was its defining achievement. The consensus-based, artful, and patient facilitation of Mark Silverberg led to a moving reading of Dr. King's incisive and visionary words by a diverse group 14 activists. It was my privilege to be the only white male reader.

As a key organizer, it was my honor and pleasure to work with so many skilled and passionate local activists. We worked seamlessly and selflessly together in producing this program. It is our intention to repeat Breaking the Silence in April 2022, as a live event.



*America, the richest and most powerful nation in the world, can well lead the way in this revolution of values. There is nothing except a tragic death wish to prevent us from reordering our priorities so that the pursuit of peace will take precedence over the pursuit of war. There is nothing to keep us from molding a recalcitrant status quo with bruised hands until we have fashioned it into a brotherhood.*

*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

[View our reading of the speech here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNK6xjhn3Tg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNK6xjhn3Tg)

Sponsoring organizations were: A Greater Buckeye, Black Lives Matter Cleveland, Black Spring Cleveland, Cleveland Move to Amend, Cleveland Nonviolence Network, Cleveland Peace Action, Coalition for a Better Life, Cuyahoga County Jail Coalition, Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus, End Poverty Now!, Hip Hop Congress, InterReligious Task Force on Central America, Neighborhood Connections, New Era, Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition, Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless, Ohio Poor People's Campaign, The Cleveland Observer, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Cleveland, Young Latino Network, and YWCA.

## July Peace@ThePub@Home: Todd Nelson on Understanding the Russian Worldview

By Elizabeth Kravanya

July's Peace @ The Pub featured Dr. Todd Nelson, Peace Studies Professor in the Political Science department at Cleveland State University. Dr. Nelson is a Russian subject matter expert who specializes in "memory politics." The topic of his talk was *Russia Against the World: Understanding the Russian Worldview*. This information is important as we navigate the recent attacks against our elections in 2016 and 2020, the Russian disinformation campaigns designed to create instability in the West, and cyberattacks from malign entities who find safe harbor in the former Soviet Union. Why do the Russian people approve of Vladimir Putin? It turns out there is more than the politics of fear to understanding the Russian worldview - although fear is certainly part of how Putin maintains control.



The fall of the Soviet Union may have been welcome to Germany and Western democracies. However, the democratic model that was successful in Poland was not adaptable to a country as vast as Russia. It can be argued that Putin's rise to power came from U.S.-supported capitalism that made the country vulnerable to corruption and gangs. The rise of oligarchs was made possible by a failure of the West to understand the cultural differences between the Russian people and hubris of assuming they welcomed the disruption that followed the fall of the Soviet Union. The Russian view of the Soviet Union is much different from the Western perspective.



Russian politicians use nostalgia. Stalin's "reign of terror" was rewritten into a narrative of a caregiver who protected the Russian people. Putin came in and with a firm hand, invoked the order of the Soviet system, presenting himself as a leader who would restore Russian greatness. Putin would protect Russia against those "democratic forces" that sought to destroy the Russian culture.

Putin, Dr. Nelson points out, "is a realist and he has a fairly good idea of what he can get away with" as it pertains to United States retaliation. The country and its oligarchs have been sanctioned to the point that the West has little means to confront Putin effectively. Russia supplies Western Europe with significant energy resources giving Putin leverage over any response from NATO countries. Not to mention, Russia is a major nuclear power.

When we understand the Russian perspective, we begin to see how the invasion of Crimea is viewed as a reclaiming of Russian territory. We are forced to acknowledge that Western democracy does not work, nor is welcome, across the globe. If we are to have a more peaceful relationship with the other major nuclear power, respecting our differences is key. The art of "whataboutism" is employed by Putin with an artful hand. Russia meddles in elections across the West. Putin would argue the United States tries to influence Russian politics as well. For every human rights violation reported in western media about Russia, there are violations against Black Lives Matter protestors, issues with the border, and other behaviors we shun from other countries. The image of glass houses comes to mind.

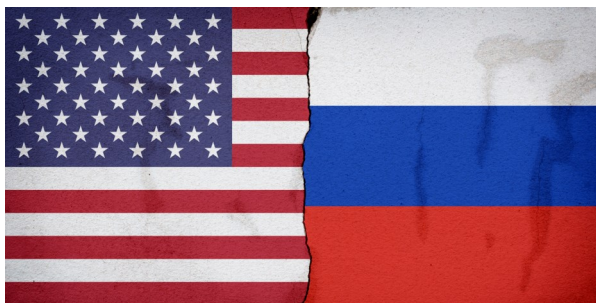
(Continued on Page 5)

## July Peace@ThePub@Home

*Continued from Page 4*

If the United States democracy is to thrive, America must be vigilant in seeking the truth through reliable sources. Disinformation is not exclusively Russian, but there is ample evidence that Putin authorized meddling in the 2016 election. Putin permits troll farms to operate in the country. While he keeps plausible deniability, he is aware of the ransomware attacks originating out of Russia.

The politics of mutually assured destruction continues to be a driving force of the rela-



tionship in the United States and Russia. The extension of the START which was signed in February 2021, states, "The Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, also known as the New START Treaty, enhances U.S. national security by placing verifiable limits on all Russian deployed intercontinental-range nuclear weapons. The United States and the Russian Federation have agreed to extend the treaty through February 4, 2026." While START is important, the proliferation of cyberattacks is quickly redefining the U.S. relationship with Russia. Russia has a history of being a malign actor due to ideology, not her citizens.

If we as citizens of the United States seek to understand the Russian perspective, we can find common ground to work together for a more peaceful world. Eventually the competition for world domination becomes less important than cooperation for world preservation. As we face issues like climate change and COVID-19, there is common ground on which to build bridges to peace.

## An Anti-War Playlist

*Curated by Meghan Donovan*

- "7 O'Clock News/Silent Night" - Simon and Garfunkel
- "Give Me Love (Give Me Peace on Earth)" - George Harrison
- "Invisible Sun" - The Police
- "Give Peace a Chance" - The Plastic Ono Band
- "One Day" - Matisyahu
- "What's Going On" - Marvin Gaye
- "Where Have All The Flowers Gone?" - Pete Seeger
- "Manhattan Project" - Rush
- "99 Luftballons" - Nena
- "Everybody Wants to Rule the World" - Tears for Fears
- "Future Legend/Diamond Dogs" - David Bowie
- "Down By the Riverside" - Sister Rosetta Tharpe
- "Wind of Change" - Scorpions
- "Masters of War" - Bob Dylan
- "For What It's Worth" - Buffalo Springfield
- "Land of Confusion" - Genesis
- "Born in the U.S.A." - Bruce Springsteen
- "Let Them Eat War" - Bad Religion
- "Mrs. McGrath" - The Dubliners
- "Lincoln's Army" - The Irish Rovers
- "The Cruel War" - Peter, Paul, and Mary
- "Fighting for Strangers" - Steeleye Span
- "Peace Train" - Yusuf/Cat Stevens
- "21 Guns" - Green Day
- "Generals and Majors" - XTC
- "The Fiddle and the Drum" - Joni Mitchell
- "Games Without Frontiers" - Peter Gabriel
- "Hammer to Fall" - Queen
- "I Ain't Marching Anymore" - Phil Ochs
- "Foggy Dew" - Sinead O'Connor
- "Lucky Man" - Emerson, Lake, and Palmer
- "Mr. President" - Janelle Monae
- "Turn! Turn! Turn!" - The Byrds
- "No Nuclear War" - Peter Tosh
- "Where Is the Love?" - Black Eyed Peas
- "With God on Our Side" - Bob Dylan
- "Under Pressure" - David Bowie and Queen
- "Stop the Cavalry" - Jona Lewie
- "Imagine" - John Lennon



## CPA Annual Meeting Features Nina Turner

*By Meghan Donovan*

For the second year, Cleveland Peace Action's annual meeting was on Zoom. However, our membership and attendees were as engaged as ever.

Board president Mark Weber could not be present but recorded his opening remarks in advance. In keeping with the night's topic, "Downsizing the Military-Industrial Complex," he mentioned the \$740 billion annual military budget and stated that cutting the budget by 10 percent could send 1.5 million students to college for four years or provide health coverage for 22 million children for a year. He also mentioned Israel's oppression of Palestinians and pointed out that the U.S. is complicit by providing \$4 billion in military aid to Israel. He concluded by saying, "A national transformation cannot happen until we as a nation spend more on people in need and less on the latest military hardware."



Next, Rosemary Palmer conducted the board and officer elections. Board members re-elected Francis Chiappa, Meghan Donovan, and Dena Magoulias and welcomed new board members Mary Ober and Stephanie Riccobene. (Mary and Stephanie's bios are on page 8.) Mark was re-elected as president, Dena was re-elected as treasurer, and Meghan was elected as secretary.

Afterwards, Meghan paid tribute to continuing board member and Middle East Peace Committee co-chair Don Bryant and outgoing board members Rosemary Palmer and Bill Fickinger. We followed with a posthumous tribute to Walt Nicholes.

Board member Elizabeth Kravanya introduced our keynote speaker, Nina Turner, president of Our Revolution and candidate for the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District race. This was not the first time that Nina spoke about military spending; in 2020, she hosted a 16-week series, "Drop the MIC Live," that addressed the topic.

She started by responding to the misconception that cutting military spending is disrespectful to servicemembers. She stated, "There is a difference between taking care of our military personnel and funding and enriching people who build weapons of mass destruction." She also emphasized the need for "foreign policy focused on democracy, human rights, diplomacy, and peace and economic fairness."

She cited our legislators' role in starting and continuing wars. The War Powers Resolution of 1973 is intended to check the President's power to commit the U.S. to armed conflict. However, "Congress has allowed its [constitutional] power to be stripped over many presidencies."

She supported cutting Pentagon spending and re-allocating money to domestic issues but also emphasized that "we must have a just transition for people in the weapons industry, just as we should for people in fossil fuel industries" She said that the Green New Deal can play a key role in this effort.

She wrapped up with the A. Philip Randolph quote, "Make wars unprofitable and you make them impossible." Next, she answered questions about cybersecurity; H.R. 2590 (the Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Occupation Act introduced by Representative Betty McCollum); nuclear weapons; the F-35 Lightning II; and U.S. relations with Russia.

Her final message to CPA members was courtesy of her friend Rosario Dawson: "I am here to encourage your courage." And so we hope we can do the same for you.

## Cleveland International Film Festival Represents Palestine

*By Faten Husni Odeh*

Human beings are a persevering species. This became more evident over the last year and half with this daunting pandemic. We had to find creative ways of continuing on with our lives and the Cleveland International Film Festival absolutely delivered on this challenge.

From the comfort and safety of our own homes, we were able to participate in this year's film festival and Cleveland Peace Action had the honor of co-hosting the film '200 Meters'.

The synopsis showcases just what human beings are, a persevering species... especially the notorious perseverance of the Palestinian people.

Director and writer, Nameen Nayfeh highlights the human struggle that many Palestinians are facing today as a result of Israel's illegal occupation, which is being separated from their families by Israel's "security wall."

The main character, Mustafa has to decide whether or not to accept an Israeli citizenship to be able to live with his wife and children on the other side of the wall or hold onto what is left of his identity as a Palestinian.

One of the attendees at our discussion felt that the film did not do enough to showcase all of what is being done to the Palestinian people. As a Palestinian-American, I personally felt the film did a great job of presenting what everyday life looks like for the Palestinian people. Things that perhaps we may take for granted in the U.S., living with freedom, might not have been understood to be a privilege for some in other parts of the world. Simple things like going to work or being able to enjoy the laughter of your children around you.

The film leaves the issues the main character experiences unresolved because the issues of the Palestinian struggles still indeed remain unresolved. Free Palestine.

## Free Palestine—From Sheikh Harrah to Gaza

*By Don Bryant*

As the coronavirus pandemic was beginning to recede this past May so was the veil over Israel's occupation of Palestine. Amazingly, mainstream news and Congress were aroused by what we saw in Sheikh Jarrah and the following bombardment of Gaza and less sophisticated rockets sent into Israel by Hamas, Gaza's elected government since 2005.

The recent uprising and violence began with the impending forced evictions of at least 36 Palestinian families in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood and in two other East Jerusalem neighborhoods, a continuation of Israel's settler colonialism inflicted on the Palestinian people. At the same time, armed Israelis had raided the Al-Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third holiest site, as Palestinian Muslims were observing Ramadan.

Protests erupted around the world and in the U.S. In Northeast Ohio, Palestinian and Arab-American leaders joined with student and community organizers including Cleveland Peace Action, Jewish Voice for Peace Cleveland, Black on Black Crime, Inc. and activists from as far away as Youngstown, OH and Dearborn, MI. Thousands of people rallied and marched on May 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> weekend at a Crocker Park Mall rally organized by Al-Awda the Palestine Right to Return Movement, and at Cleveland Public Square initiated by another local group, Palestine Resistance. Hundreds more came out the following week to protest Israel's continued assault on Gaza with a rally and march starting at the Free Stamp downtown.



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## Free Palestine

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### In the media

The NY Times & the Israeli Haaretz shook the world when photos of 67 Palestinian children killed by Israeli airstrikes in Gaza were printed on the front pages on May 28, 2021.



Next, Cleveland.com editor Elizabeth Sullivan contacted us at Cleveland Peace Action requesting op-ed submissions from local Palestinian or Arab-American authors. We connected her with Jeff Abood and Nahida Halaby Gordon of the Interfaith Council for Peace in the Middle East. They both submitted op-eds along with my own "Letter to the Editor" submission. All of the articles made it to print and online editions.

### U.S. Administration and Congress

"Israel has the right to self-defense" is the usual response from Congress when constituents protest Israeli assaults on Gaza. Palestinian rights to defend themselves against the occupier are rarely recognized. A U.S. arms deal to supply Israel with an additional \$735 million in high-tech weapons beyond the annual \$3.8 billion already allocated was duly questioned after Senator Bernie Sanders introduced legislation to halt the sale. A House Foreign Affairs Committee member stated that to let the "sale of smart bombs to go through without putting pressure on Israel to agree to a ceasefire will only enable further carnage." Secretary of State Antony Blinken scolded Israel when he said he had not seen any evidence that Hamas was operating in a building bombed where the Associated Press, Al-Jazeera news, and civilian offices were based.

The conversation may have shifted but the weapons deal went through. We have a lot of work to do before Palestinian human rights are restored and their Right of Return is recognized. I encourage you to participate in Cleveland Peace Action's Middle East Committee. To be part of the solution contact co-chairs Faten Odeh at [faten4justice@gmail.com](mailto:faten4justice@gmail.com) or Don Bryant at [email.donbryant@gmail.com](mailto:email.donbryant@gmail.com).

## Meet our new board members

### Mary E Ober, PhD

Mary is a retired teacher who lives in downtown Cleveland, continuing and expanding the fair trade business with artisans in El Salvador from her late husband (Revy Fair Trade & Foundation). Social justice is a long running passion. Raised by her Antioch College parents, where her mother was a member of the nascent Interracial Committee (with Coretta Scott, a classmate) and her father registered as a conscientious objector in the Korean conflict after serving in the Army on Okinawa during the post-WWII "cleanup" operations, Mary shares their passion for antiracism, fair wages, and climate justice.

She has four grown children, plus stepchildren, and nine grandchildren, whom she would like to help inherit a more peaceful world. She values her longstanding progressive Cleveland friendships and her ongoing support of team members and social justice actions of the InterReligious Task Force (IRTF), Ohio Fair Trade, and the national Fair Trade Federation.

### Stephanie Riccobene

Stephanie is an active volunteer/member of the Cleveland Catholic Worker Community, the Cleveland Nonviolence Network and the West Side Creation Care Team. As a member of the Cleveland Nonviolence Network, she organized and worked collaboratively with the myriad groups, including Cleveland Peace Action, to develop and produce the 2016 People's Justice and Peace Convention in Cleveland, Ohio and the political platform assembled at the Convention.

Stephanie formerly served on the Advisory Board of the Commission on Catholic Community Action, and was a lobby associate with NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby in Washington, D.C. She also taught American Government and State and Local Politics at Owens Community College in Toledo. Stephanie earned a Master of Arts degree in Political Science at the University of Akron, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science at Cleveland State University.

## Never Again!—Continued from Pages 1 and 2



*Sharon Habat showing CPA treasurer Dena Magoulas how to fold paper cranes*



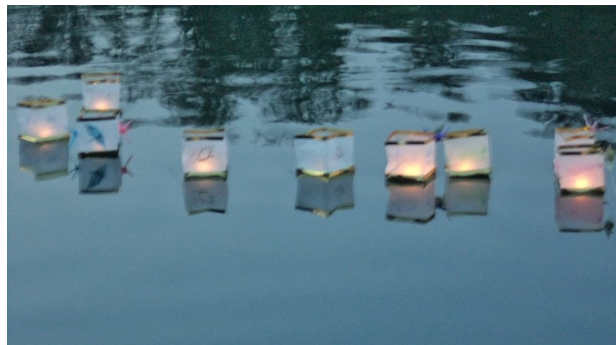
*CPA board member Don Bryant (who thoughtfully provided water in 80+-degree weather)*



*Reverend Roger Osgood*



*Lanterns (also below left and right)*



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**Renew your membership via our PayPal link:**  
**<http://peaceactioncleveland.org/join-donate/>**  
**or use the enclosed envelope to send a check,**  
**payable to Cleveland Peace Action.**

## End the War Industry

By Bill Fickinger

The U.S. military budget (most of which is spent on goods and services from weapons manufacturers) consumes the largest amount of discretionary spending in the federal budget. This money should be going to education, healthcare, infrastructure, and sustainable energy—each of which creates more jobs than military spending.



A core responsibility of the US government is to make our nation secure. Congress decides how much can be spent by the Department of Defense, which in turn chooses how that money will be invested. Most of it is spent on technologies delivered by private corporations, providing enormous incomes for their investors. These profit-makers then contribute generously to the campaigns of the members of Congress who got the ball rolling. The Congressional-Military-Industrial-Complex.

How can this structure be controlled? The first step is to reduce and limit the weapons stockpiles: if the government stops buying them, industry must stop making them.

The DOD spent \$421 billion in 2020: five biggies: Lockheed \$75 billion; General Dynamics \$22 billion; Raytheon \$26 billion; Boeing \$22 billion; Northrup Grumman \$12 billion. Do we need all this spending on new technologies? Currently the USA has 1450 warheads ready to launch on 675 delivery systems; Russia has 1450 warheads on 510 delivery systems. These numbers are specified by the New START Treaty.

In January, Biden and Putin agreed in a phone call that they would extend New Start. In February, five days after President Putin signed the accord, Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced that the U.S. had formally agreed to extend the treaty for five years, until 2026.

New weapons are not needed: governments must support industries which work to improve life on the planet, not to end it.

## End the Bombings and Sanctions!

By Don Bryant

If we were to place a template of a map of Syria over a map of the US to match the locations that have been bombed just this year, we'd find five or six U.S. cities attacked from San Francisco to Salt Lake City, Utah; to Baltimore, Maryland, and Washington D.C.; and points in between. The 'wild west' scenario in Syria has been initiated by Israel, Turkey, the U.S., and a Turkish-backed militia.

President Biden ordered a military attack in eastern Syria just over one month after taking office, killing 22 people. A second round of attacks in Iraq and Syria was ordered on June 27, sending F-15 and F-16 warplanes with precision-guided munitions bombing two targets in Syria and one in Iraq. Casualty reports include five people killed in Iraq and one child killed and several other people injured in Syria. Iraq's Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhemi called the recent attacks "blatant and [an] unacceptable violation of Iraqi sovereignty." Syria's Foreign Ministry declared that the air raids demonstrated "the recklessness of US policies and the need for Washington to withdraw its aggressor forces" from the area.

We have not heard much analysis or criticism of Biden's flagrant violations of international law, and without authorization from Congress. After retaliatory military strikes on U.S. troops by militias, voices in Congress are calling for decisive action. The top Republican of the Senate Armed Services Committee Jim Inhofe said in a statement to POLITICO, "Iran-backed militias' continued assault on U.S. personnel in Iraq cannot be tolerated - President Biden must put forward a real strategy for deterring and ending these attacks, rather than continuing his bare-minimum, tit-for-tat approach that is failing to deter Iran or its militias and puts [U.S.] lives at increased risk." The Pentagon's claim that Washington's bombing and killing of Iraqis and Syrians was "pursuant to its right of self-defense" and designed to protect "US personnel" is a



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## End the Bombings and Sanctions

*Continued from page 10*

stretch unless Iraq is our 51<sup>st</sup> state. The most obvious question is, if Washington is concerned for its personnel, why doesn't it withdraw them?

After Trump's drone assassination of Iranian Revolutionary Guard General Qassem Suleimani in January 2020, the Iraqi Parliament demanded that the US withdraw troops and other foreign occupation forces. Twenty-five hundred US troops remain in Iraq, along with military contractors, CIA operatives and other personnel (1). After the U.S. withdrew troops from Iraq in 2011 troops returned in 2014 to fight the Islamic State (ISIS). The group has since lost all the territory it once claimed. It is apparent that the U.S. goal is merely to carry on a proxy war with Iran.

A force of some 900 uniformed troops and contractors occupy Syria, a blatant violation of the nation's sovereignty and for the sole purpose of denying the Syrian government access to its own oil reserves (2). Syrians need to rebuild not fight off intruders – again!

The Caesar Sanctions were passed by the U.S. Congress in 2020 as an amendment to the Defense Appropriations Bill. These sanctions cause the Syrian people to go without essentials such as food, energy, and medicine. The Syrian currency has collapsed, and people are going hungry. The United Nations is even restricted from aiding the Syrians.

The sanctions must be lifted to allow Syria to rebuild and also allow the return of hundreds of thousands of refugees from distressed refugee camps in neighboring nations. Potable water, food, and housing are depleted, and families have little to return to.

Cleveland Peace Action calls on the Biden Administration to withdraw all troops, contractors, personnel, and proxy armies from Syria and Iraq, to immediately lift the life-threatening sanctions on Syria, and to make reparations to civilian victims of U.S. attacks.

**On September 14 at 7:00 p.m., CPA will present "War, Peace, and Propaganda: U.S. in the Middle East" with Bowling Green State University Professor Emeritus Oliver Boyd-Barrett, an expert on communications, media, and U.S. foreign policy and how taxpayers, Congress, and other world leaders get manipulated into supporting war and occupation around the world. Event and registration information are listed here: <https://www.peaceactioncleveland.org/> and on our Facebook Page.**

1. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/26/politics/joe-biden-iraq/index.html>

2. <https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2021-03-12/us-troops-syria-civil-war-biden>

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**Cleveland Peace Action Education Fund**  
**Suite 109**  
**2592 West 14th Street**  
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**September 14, 7:00 p.m. at the Parma Library,  
6996 Powers Boulevard (Zoom option available):  
"War, Peace, and Propaganda; U.S. in the Middle East"  
with Bowling Green State University Professor Emeritus  
Oliver Boyd-Barrett  
October 12— TBA  
November 9—TBA**

**Check our website for news and events:  
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