



April 2022
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www.peaceactioncleveland.org

Cleveland Peace Action

**Annual Membership Meeting
Cleveland Peace Action and
Cleveland Peace Action
Education Fund
Wednesday, May 18, 2022
7:00 pm on Zoom**

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/yxmj8r42>



**Annual election of board members and officers
Keynote speaker: Greg Coleridge
“Cultivating Peace with Justice in a
Militarized World”**

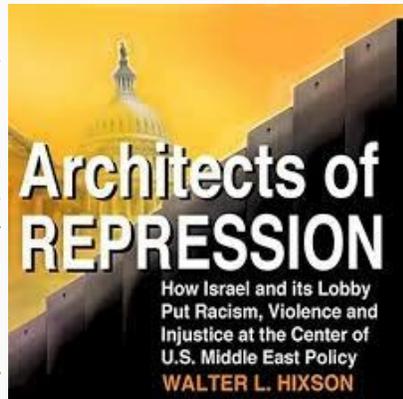
Peace Action is the country’s largest grassroots peace and disarmament organization, with more than 100,000 members. Cleveland Peace Action is one of over 70 autonomous affiliates and chapter organizations.

Israel Lobby Expert Speaks to Cleveland Peace Action

By Mark Weber
Cleveland Peace Action Board President

On December 7, 2021, Professor Walter Hixson of the University of Akron spoke at a forum sponsored by Cleveland Peace Action. Professor Hixson is the author of two books on the Israel lobby. In 2019, he wrote *Israel's Armor* (Cambridge University Press, 313 pages). Two years later, Professor Hixson wrote *Architects of Repression* (Institute for Research of the Middle East Policy, Inc. 2021. 244 pages). Hixson's remarks on the Israel lobby included a review of the origins of the Israel lobby as a political force in the United States in the years following the establishment of the state of Israel in May of 1948.

While referencing the massacres and the ethnic cleansing perpetrated by the Haganah and paramilitary groups that accompanied Israel's



founding, Hixson then focused on the role of the Israel lobby and especially organizations like the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) in American politics. In 1985, American citizen Jonathan Pollard was convicted of spying for Israel and sentenced to 30 years in prison. Pollard, together with staff from the Israeli embassy in Washington, photocopied and sent via special secret courier to Tel Aviv thousands of classified U.S. Government documents. Israel refused to return most of the stolen information. In 2007, two members of the Washington office of AIPAC were arrested and convicted of espionage for sharing classified material with Israel.

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Mazin Qumsiyeh Begins "Recognizing Settler Colonialism" Series

By Don Bryant
Cleveland Peace Action Board Member and
Middle East Peace Committee Co-Chair

On January 18, 2022, Dr. Mazin Qumsiyeh joined CPA to launch our "Recognizing Settler Colonialism" series live from Occupied Palestine on Zoom. An Indigenous land acknowledgement was given by Philip J. Yenyoy, executive director, American Indian Movement of Ohio. These descendants from Indigenous communities, separated by 6000 miles, share a common history of colonial oppression.

As founder of the Palestine Biodiversity Center and a medical geneticist, Dr. Qumsiyeh, with his wife Jessie, focus their lives and work on remedies to the "Orientalism and Settler Colonialism of Palestine."



After 100 years of displacement and 55 years of occupation, the diagnosis is grim. Before Israeli colonization of Palestine, it had existed as a multiethnic, multi-religious, multicultural, and multilingual nation with origins going back more than 3000 years. The creation of the monolithic society of Israel in 1948 could not have occurred without the depopulation of 530 Palestinian towns and villages. Now, there are fourteen million Palestinians world-wide with eight million of them living as refugees or displaced people.

Dr. Qumsiyeh compared the settler colonialism of Palestine with that of the United States. The narratives of the settlers are the same. They express disbelief as to why the Indigenous people are fighting back.

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President Biden and Nuclear Weapons

By Bill Fickinger
Cleveland Peace Action Board Member Emeritus
Adapted from a statement by Kevin Martin,
President of National Peace Action

Early in his administration, President Biden committed to a review of the nation's "Nuclear Posture," the explicit strategy of how, when, and why the United States would use its nuclear weapons. Biden has consistently raised the point that nuclear arms should not be used offensively as a first resort. A recent statement by the Permanent Five members of the UN Security Council, all nuclear powers, repeated the Reagan-Gorbachev era statement that "a nuclear war can never be won and must never be fought."

Because President Biden was a longtime arms control advocate in the Senate, some hoped Biden would initiate progress on arms reduction, perhaps even move toward President Obama's goal of a nuclear-free world. Such hope grows dim. To stop the nuclear spiral and deescalate these arms races, we must act now and pressure Congress and President Biden to take the following steps:

1. Engage in disarmament diplomacy with Russia, and later China, to avoid a prolonged new nuclear arms race. Stockpiles can be reduced by mutual agreement or reciprocal unilateral actions.
2. "No First Use" policy of nuclear weapons.
3. Cut expenditures on nuclear weapons and the \$1.7 trillion for the nuclear weapons upgrade.
4. Eliminate the ground-based missile leg of the "nuclear triad".
5. Block funding and deployment for new and "more usable" nukes.
6. Sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The hands of the Doomsday Clock continue to tick. It is up to us. A new arms race or even continuation of the status quo is unacceptable.



Settler Colonialism Continued from Page 2

The remedies proposed by Dr. Qumsiyeh include the establishment of the Palestine Museum of Natural History and the Palestine Institute of Biodiversity and Sustainability. His projects have engaged hundreds of local and international volunteers. While these remedies focus on education, biodiversity and sustainability, Dr. Qumsiyeh has also sought remediation by getting in the way of the Israeli military occupation of Palestine.

Through his nonviolent resistance he has found himself on the wrong side of the U.S.-funded weapons of the Israeli Occupation Forces. Mazin Qumsiyeh continues to inspire and amaze his students and his audiences. His authored books and publications can be found at <http://qumsiyeh.org/>.

Editor's Note: Please join us at the second event in the series, Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz's discussion of her book, Not a Nation of Immigrants: Settler Colonialism, White Supremacy, and a History of Erasure and Exclusion. Saturday, April 23 at 1:00 p.m. on Zoom. Details and registration link are at peaceactioncleveland.org.

Israel Lobby Continued from Page 2

Professor Hixson also discussed the role of the Israel Lobby in smearing with charges of "antisemitism" anyone who criticized Israel's oppression of the Palestinians in the West Bank and in Gaza. He mentioned the attacks by AIPAC on Congresswomen Ilhan Omar (D-MN) and Rashid Tlaib (D-MI) because of their support for the rights of Palestinians and their backing of BDS.

After listening to Professor Hixson's remarks, all those attending had a much fuller understanding of the harmful reach of the Israel lobby.

**"Peace hath higher tests of manhood, than battle ever knew."
John Greenleaf Whittier**

The United States abets 'apartheid' system in Israel

By Don Bryant
Originally published on *Cleveland.com*,
February 14, 2022

Amnesty International's report labeling Israel an "apartheid" government is like the condemnation of South Africa's apartheid government in the 1980s ("Amnesty rights group accuses Israel of 'apartheid,'" *The Washington Post*, February 1, 2022). In 2021, Israeli human rights organization B'tselem and Human Rights Watch separately also accused Israel of engaging in apartheid based on Israel's 55-year military occupation and oppression of Palestinians. Apartheid is defined as a system of institutionalized racial segregation, domination, and oppression. Amnesty found that "Israel has imposed a system of oppression and domination over Palestinians wherever it exercises control over the enjoyment of their rights – across Israel and the OPT [Occupied Palestinian Territories] and with regard to Palestinian refugees." Palestinians have been dispossessed of their land and deprived of their rights through laws, policies, and practices imposed by Israel.

Unsurprisingly, a U.S. State Department spokesman rejected the report's findings. ("U.S. State Department Rejects Amnesty's Apartheid Claim Against Israel," *Haaretz*, February 1, 2022) The United States has been overlooking Israel's human rights violations and blocking U.N. condemnations of Israel's crimes since the 1960s, to the detriment of our own national security. Congress continues to arm Israel with high-tech weaponry as part of an aid package costing U.S. taxpayers \$3.8 billion annually ("Israel-Gaza: How much money does Israel get from the U.S.?", BBC News Reality Check, May 24, 2021), violating the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act, which bars aid to human-rights violators.

*"The most powerful weapon you can be is an instrument of peace."
Carlos Santana*

Media coverage of the Russia-Ukraine situation is lacking

By Nina McLellan
Originally sent to Rachel Maddow (MSNBC) and
Judy Woodruff (PBS)

I'm disappointed in the media's incomplete coverage of the Ukraine situation, slavishly adhering to the Administration's line and omitting crucial background. After so many U.S. military disasters it's time to do better than the usual one-sided narratives.

In my regular tuning in to NPR and PBS news, I've yet to hear important context such as the U.S.-backed 2014 coup (remember the Nuland/Pyatt recording which involved connection to Vice President Biden), NATO's violations of 2015 security agreements with Russia, or the Ukrainian government's failure to live up to Minsk agreement commitments.

In addition to Judy Woodruff reporting these important aspects, there are certainly analysts who can provide a more complete perspective, e.g. someone from the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft or Medea Benjamin who just published an important article: <https://consortiumnews.com/2022/02/02/us-reaping-what-it-sowed-in-ukraine/>

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Break the grip of oil dependency that helps fuel wars in Ukraine, elsewhere

*By Don Bryant
Originally published on Cleveland.com,
April 4, 2022*

As the world witnesses another armed conflict driving world powers toward the brink of that final decision that could vaporize our planet, we also continue a path to catastrophic climate crisis. Addiction to war is intrinsically connected to addiction to oil. When world war makers fight, the people must respond.

The working class can begin to stop war nonviolently through boycott. Wars and multinational corporations are fueled by oil dependency. When we reduce our demand for oil, war makers and oil barons can feel it. People can slow the cash flow through the economic pipeline that fuels our financial system, polluters, and war makers.

Join the Earth Day Strike with a pledge to boycott gasoline from April 22 until May 1 -- ten days to steer away from war and climate crisis.

This is the perfect time to break the chains of oil dependency, as another war consumes us. Let's use our feet, public transportation, our bicycles, and car pools to run the war makers and "oil-igarchies" off the road. In 2020, 228 million U.S. drivers burned about 123 billion gallons of gas, or 337 million gallons a day. Break the cycle for people, peace, and the planet.

For more information or to participate, please visit earthdaystrike.org

*"We can never obtain peace in the outer world until we make peace with ourselves."
The Dalai Lama*

We would like to acknowledge that we gather on land originally stewarded by the Wyandot, Delaware, Shawnee, Ottawa, Miami, Eel River, Wea, Chippewa, Potawatomi, Erie, Kickapoo, Piankashaw, Kaskaskia, Mingo, Seneca and Ojibwa people.

We honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who lived here and cared for it.

Allergy

By Meghan K. Donovan

I think of the image from the 1960s of the flower in the barrel of the gun.

How many botanical gardens do we need in order to stop the pollen of bullets and bombs?

What seeds and bulbs are we planting?
The soil of toxic masculinity, racism, xenophobia, religious fanaticism, nationalism,

Watered with twisted misinterpretations of the Constitution and the Bible,
Bears ugly, bitter, thorny fruit.

Why did we and do we spend billions of dollars competing to see who has the largest and most lethal toys?

I'm too young to remember air raid drills, and I was in my forties before I learned what "99 Luftballons" was really about,

But I do remember hearing the name of one of my generation's greatest epics abused by presidents and their advisers.

We need a nonviolent but forceful remedy
Before we go into anaphylactic shock and die.

Rally for Peace In Europe—April 2, 2022 Market Square



Top row: David Guran, Ohio Poor People's Campaign;
Representatives of Move to Amend;
Jabir Asa, All-African People's Revolutionary Party
Bottom row: Representatives of Cleveland Peace
Action;
Michael Melampy, Cleveland Catholic Worker, and
Stephanie Riccobene, Cleveland Peace Action

Breaking the Silence Reading—April 4, 2022 Cleveland City Hall



Top row: Delores Gray, Carl Stokes Brigade;
Marc Alvarado, Interreligious Task Force on Central
America and Colombia;
Molly Nagin, Young Communists League
Bottom row: Manoa Hui, Building AAPI Feminist
Leadership (OPAWL)

Advocacy in Action

Cleveland Peace Action board member emeritus and longtime Move the Money working group chair Nina McLellan wrote to Representative Shontel Brown (D-Ohio).

I urge you to immediately release Afghanistan's foreign reserves. Denying the Afghan central bank its own money is causing irrefutable harm including economic collapse, widespread unemployment, starvation, and death of millions of Afghans. Economic sanctions have not worked to achieve democratic ends in other countries but have caused terrible harm to their peoples. We have a great responsibility to the Afghan people not to cause more harm. A failed country, likely vast migration is not in anyone's interest. Please restore the flow of Afghan money and work diplomatically to gradually move the Taliban administration toward democratic reforms.

Please visit Freedom to Boycott in Ohio's Facebook page to view and read testimony about Cuyahoga County's purchase of Israel bonds.

Video testimony from Cleveland Peace Action board members Faten Husni Odeh and Mark Weber and written testimony from CPA board member Don Bryant are available.



Cleveland Peace Action member Jean Kosmac at the Poor People's Campaign Mobilization Tour's March 14, 2022 stop in Cleveland

*"I do not want the peace that passeth understanding. I want the understanding which bringeth peace."
Helen Keller*

*"Mankind must remember that peace is not God's gift to his creatures; peace is our gift to each other."
Elie Wiesel*

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Alfred Porter, Black on Black Crime, Inc., reading a portion of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Breaking the Silence" speech at Cleveland City Hall, April 4, 2022

