



Young Women from Mosul Describe Their Lives under Terror and ISIS

Testimonies of Seven Women

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Introduction: The Iraqi city of Mosul was changed dramatically with the invasion of ISIS. The fall of Mosul to ISIS is reported to have been June 10, 2014, after the Iraqi army had curiously abandoned the city, leaving it unprotected. However, even prior to this, the area had been experiencing disruption and some acts of terrorism. (For the origins of sectarianism and ISIS, see “Iraq Report,” pages 4–5.)

According to a UN Habitat report, “City Profile of Mosul, Iraq: Multi-sector assessment of a city under siege”:

Like the rest of Iraq, Mosul city and its surrounding areas have witnessed a growing wave of extremism and sectarian and ethnic violence following the collapse of the former regime in 2003. The escalation of fighting, particularly between 2006 and 2008, has sparked a mass exodus of thousands of people from their home towns towards safer areas and destinations. Mosul city itself has acted as both a receiving city of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and as a rejecting one. Enormous numbers of Muslim Sunnis, of both Turkoman and Arab origin, fled their towns and villages south and west of Mosul and sought safety in the city, among a predominantly Arab



Muslim Sunni population. Conversely, a great number of Mosul’s ethnic and religious minorities (Christians, Kurds, Shabak, Turkoman Shia and Yazidis) fled to other areas, in some cases under direct threat of violence.

In late May 2017, Sami Rasouli of the Muslim Peacemaker Teams went to Mosul to escort his wife’s family members out from near the Old City, where ISIS fighters had been in control. ISIS had been driven from the area, but the people related horrible stories about what they had experienced. Their stories corroborated the stories that a number of women related when they came to Rasouli’s city, Najaf, and spoke at the University of Kufa.

The following are the actual testimonies of young women who wrote them in the English language. They are mothers,

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The statements and opinions reflected in this newsletter are the views of the author and not necessarily official positions of WAMM. We encourage a diversity of opinion to represent the range of perspectives that coexist under the banner of WAMM's mission statement.

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is a nonviolent, feminist organization, founded in 1982, that works in solidarity with others to create a system of social equality, self-determination and justice through education, action and the empowerment of women. WAMM's purpose is to dismantle systems of militarism, economic exploitation and global oppression.

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PM: Nuclear Notes and a THAAD Story by Polly Mann

Nice to Hear!

As far as I know it's the first time ever! This June the Annual Conference of Mayors meeting in Miami passed a resolution calling for the president to lower nuclear tensions by engaging in "intense diplomatic efforts" with nuclear-armed nations and their allies. The mayors recommended passage of the proposed Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act of 2017, a bill that would prevent the president from conducting a nuclear first-strike without the approval of Congress. In addition, they recommended that the government transfer nuclear weapons funds to causes more intimately related to the public's well-being.

Nuclear Nuts!

The Pentagon has proposed a reclassification of nuclear safety records in order "to avoid disclosing too much information about U.S. nuclear capabilities to the public." The U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff recommendation was made in 2014 by its spokesman, Greg Hicks, who said that the decision would ensure that "as long as nuclear weapons exist the U.S. will maintain a safe, secure and effective nuclear stockpile." However, prior to this reclassification, inspection records regularly revealed major flaws in the U.S. nuclear program.

It's a THAAD Story

During the many years I've used the computer I've never before seen any-

thing humorous in the text of information about weapons. That is, until today, when I was surveying material about weapon systems, the following appeared on the screen: "This is a THAAD story. Beijing is furious that Korea has decided to, jointly with the United States, install the THAAD missile." The installation on the Korean peninsula of the THAAD system (the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system designed to shoot down incoming missiles) is objected to by China, Russia, and North Korea. They say it's fueling an arms race and that THAAD's powerful radar would be used to spy on them and affect their deterrent capabilities.

In March of this year the U.S. began the installation of the system in South Korea. A few weeks later, the situation on the Korean Peninsula escalated dramatically. North Korean state media reported that the country had practiced attempts to hit U.S. military bases in Japan (a training exercise). Then the U.S. announced that it had begun shipping the THAAD system to South Korea and that much of the equipment would be held at the U.S. air base in Osan until the site was prepared. The response from China was immediate with a statement from a foreign ministry spokesman: "We will resolutely take necessary measures to defend our security interests."

320,000 U.S. and South Korean troops have been involved in joint military exercises. Japanese, U.S., and South Korean warships have also been engaged in military drills near the North Korean coast. China is concerned that the U.S. is hoping to use both South Korea and Japan to contain China in the future and has placed restrictions on South Korean businesses that operate in China. Chinese travel agencies are stopping the sale of tickets to South Korea. But 2015



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40,000–60,000 or More Civilians “Liberated” to Death in Mosul, Civilians Die in Raqqa

by Mary Beaudoin

FOCUS ON
IRAQ, SYRIA

The “liberation” of the beautiful Iraqi city of Mosul—until recently the second largest city in Iraq—turned much of it into rubble. 40,000 civilians or more were killed “as result of massive firepower used against them, especially by the federal police, air strikes, and Isis, itself,” according to reports from Kurdish intelligence believed to be “extremely accurate and well informed” by the UK’s *The Independent*. (July 19, tinyurl.com/y7oaxp7m)

Amnesty International estimates the death toll could be close to 60,000 or more with bodies still remaining in the rubble. (tinyurl.com/y9ln24kg) The organization issued a report revealing a callous disregard for human life even before the heavy assaults of summer when it “documented a pattern of attacks in which U.S.-led coalition and Iraqi forces appear not to have struck their intended military targets, instead killing and injuring civilians and destroying or damaging civilian objects” and “even in attacks that seem to have struck their intended military target, the use of what seem to be unnecessarily powerful weapons or failure to take necessary precautions resulted in needless loss of civilian lives.” (At Any Cost: The Civilian Catastrophe in West Mosul, Iraq, tinyurl.com/ya4l4khj).

The UN condemned the U.S.-led coalition for killing civilians in its escalating air strike campaign against ISIS in Raqqa. On May 28, U.S. Secretary of Defense James (“Mad Dog”) Mattis had announced on the CBS program, *Face the Nation*, that the U.S. had shifted to “annihilation tactics” against ISIS and that “civilian casualties are a fact of life in this

situation.” (tinyurl.com/y8q3eh56). The UK-based monitoring group Airwars estimated that more than 600 civilians were killed in more than 150 coalition or SDF [Syrian Defense Forces are the insurgents allied with the U.S. coalition and should not be confused with the Syrian Army] attacks on the city of Raqqa between March and May; hundreds have been killed since. (tinyurl.com/yb2cgug8)

A sense of outrage on behalf of humanity and justice for the victims means cataloging the injuries done to them. ISIS is certainly responsible for some of the death and destruction but critical analysis asks to consider how ISIS established its “caliphate” in a large strategic swath of Iraq and Syria in the first place. Who recruited, trained, supplied, funded, and enabled them, then leveled areas populated with civilians to get rid of them?

And on the ground—it’s alleged that it’s not only ISIS that committed war crimes, including torture. A June 5, 2017 well-researched article in *MintPress News* states that the Department of Defense is requesting \$1.3 billion to build up the Iraqi Counter Terrorism Service (CTS). The article expresses concern with the established fact that some special Iraqi forces were trained by the U.S. military in torture techniques that were used in El Salvador in the 1980s. (MintPress News Desk. Pentagon Requests \$1.8 Training Program to Combat Sectarianism It Fomented. mintpressnews.com, tinyurl.com/y7n8hmku)



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WAMM Thanks:

Thank you to everyone for making the 35th anniversary of WAMM a success!



The liberation of Mosul: civilians were trapped while the city was being destroyed. Photo: Felipe Dana/AP

Iraq Report: the War Never Ended *by Sami Rasouli*



Introduction: *Sami Rasouli, founder and director of the Muslim Peacemaker Teams dedicated to the principles of nonviolence, is a citizen of the U.S. and Iraq. After living in Minneapolis for many years, in 2004 he returned to the Iraqi city of Najaf, where he is from originally, hoping to bring reconciliation between his two countries. He returns to the U.S. each year to educate Americans about the Middle East and to help build people-to-people relationships. He provided an account of the situation in Iraq this year.*

Many severe problems in Iraq begin with foreign intervention. Each government official in Iraq has an American or Israeli advisor attached to him and these officials are taking orders from out of the country.

Iraq has been weakened in stages. The U.S. created ISIS, who are foreign insurgents, to deplete Iraq of its natural resource—oil. The U.S. has also been working with Saudi Arabia to deplete Iraq of its younger generations by having them kill each other through fomenting terror with the creation of sectarian extremism and then ISIS.

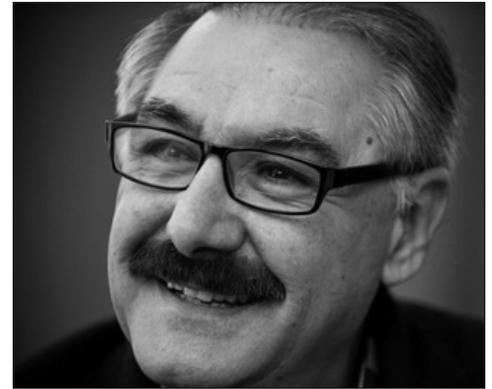
Now the nation is in shambles. A rich country, historically ancient and technologically modern, became poor. Corrupt government offices keep stealing from and destroying the economy. Ordinary government employees may not receive their salaries at any time—although the Kurds [whose forces are fighting in Iraq and Syria with the U.S.] are still getting paid. Iraq was awarded some IMF funds but of course this plunges Iraq into debt.

Seven new bases are being built in Iraq. Bases from the U.S. 2003 war and subsequent occupation period are being renovated. One of them is near the Mosul dam. The purpose of the military bases is to welcome U.S. military boots on the ground and to surround Iran and Syria. A big airport is being constructed by contractor Kellogg, Brown and Root, renowned for war and occupation installations and as a subsidiary of Halliburton whose former CEO was Dick Cheney, a chief instigator of war on Iraq.

Iraq for Iraqis: the Nonviolent Unity Movement

There has been an Iraqi secular unity grassroots movement among people throughout Iraq demonstrating against corruption and demanding reform of the election process. It has intensified in the last year. The movement does not believe government should be dominated by powerful political powers at the expense of the smaller parties. They demand that government be replaced with a secular meritocracy managed by technocrats and professionals. Muqtada Al Sadr, the influential leader, a Shiite cleric who holds no official government position and has a history of resisting the U.S. occupation, has become active again and joined the movement. Muqtada believes that the political parties based on religious affiliation have failed and wants an end to the privatization of Iraq initiated by Paul Bremer after the U.S. invaded Iraq.

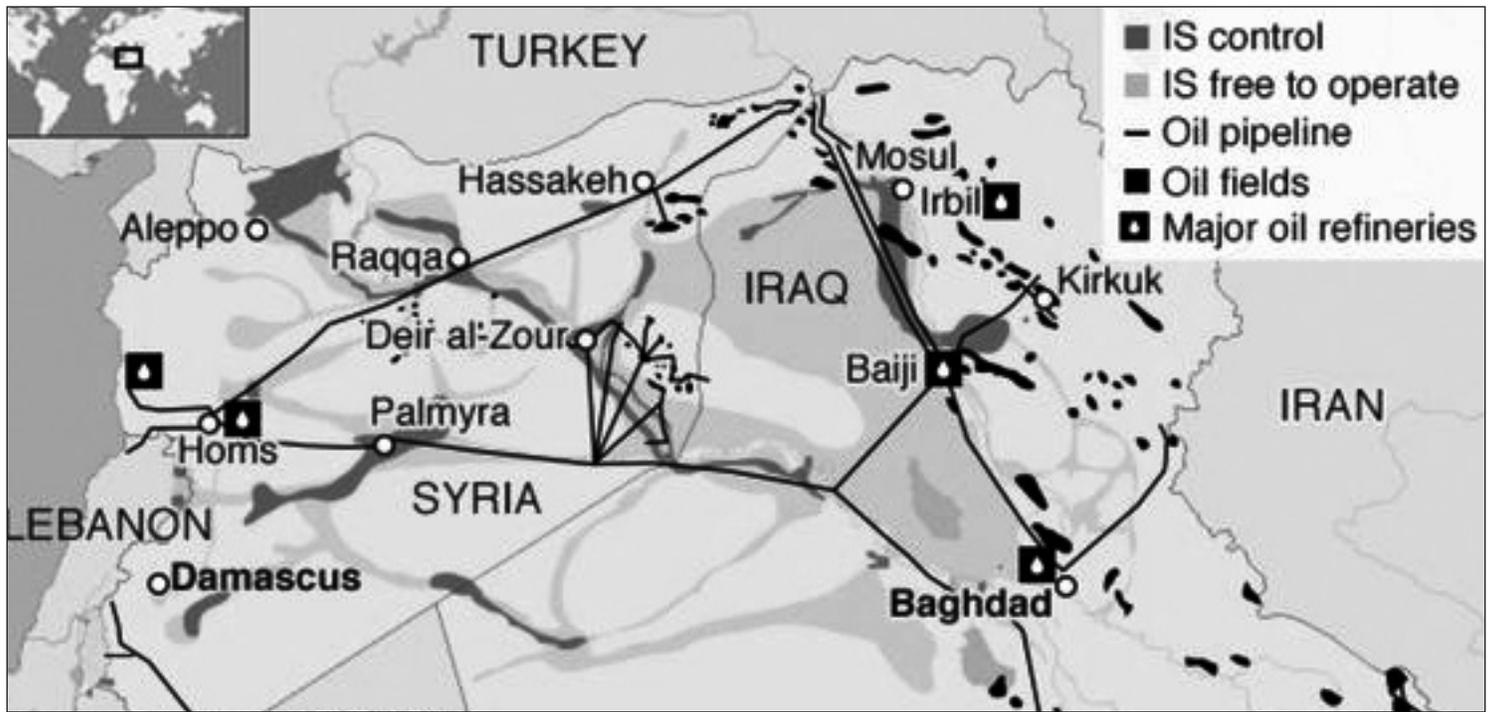
In Baghdad national demonstrations have been held every Friday in Tarir (Emancipation) Square. This is in central Baghdad outside the heavily



Sami Rasouli

fortified Green Zone which is the seat of federal government power and the site of the U.S. embassy that, in sheer physical size, is the largest in the world. While the exclusive environment within the Green Zone is luxurious, ordinary people outside lack basic infrastructure and hold government corruption responsible. In February of 2017 Muqtada Al Sadr and Iraq Vice President Al Maliki, head of the Islamic Dawa Party, met in Beirut at the invitation of Hizb Allah leader Sayed Hassan Nasrallah to try to reach a reconciliation between the two rival Iraqi leaders, but it didn't work. While Muqtada was in Beirut, protesters advanced toward the Green Zone again continuing their demand for deep reforms. Muqtada called for the movement to be peaceful, and for no government officials or property to be harmed. He urged supporters to disperse after several protesters and an embassy security person were killed.

The Iraqi people are angry about seeing the same old political faces and plan to boycott their elections nationwide as a form of protest and disobedience led by Muqtada Al Sadr until real change takes place. Many Iraqis think any change



ISIS gained control over or operated freely in areas of Iraq and Syria that correlated with oil pipelines. Map: Source: World Energy Outlook. IEA. Petroleum Economist. ISW. BBC

in the Iraq political arena would be impossible until the U.S. and Israel cease intervention and control. Iraq should be for Iraqis.

Mosul

Iraqi state army forces were sent to surround Mosul in October of 2016. Fighting in the urban environment of Mosul was especially dangerous. In the Old City, alleyways are narrow and houses are adjacent to one another. ISIS moved from house to house. Many young men from Najaf and the nine southern provinces of Iraq who had been fighting ISIS from the beginning up through the battle for Mosul were killed.

The Iraqi army was backed by other forces who fought with them to destroy ISIS [Kurdish Peshmerga, various Iraqi militia, and Iranian-backed Popular Mobilization Units (They call themselves “public recruited fighters,” translation: Al Hashd Al Shabi)].

These forces had started to fight ISIS

on the east side of Mosul and drove ISIS to the west side where the Old City is. On both sides of the city U.S. coalition (UK, France, and other European countries) and the Iraqi air force dropped bombs that destroyed homes, churches, government and commercial businesses, power and water treatment plants, factories, the Mosul University, and more.

Mosul’s historic Old City was destroyed with this continuous bombing. In April of 2017, thousands of the city’s inhabitants had already fled but 400,000 people were trapped there by ISIS who wanted them as human shields. The civilians were suffering from hunger and thirst and lacked medicine. They begged not to be bombed from the air by Iraqi and U.S.-led coalition forces in their efforts to annihilate ISIS, but the bombs continued. Civilians trying to escape could be caught in the crossfire, or shot—either by ISIS who wanted to hold them hostage, or by their “rescuers” who suspected them of *being* ISIS.

During the last week of May, I went to the oil rich town of Qayyarah (now literally a ghost town) south of Mosul. There I met with members of my wife’s family—a husband, wife, and their two young daughters—to escort them out of the area. ISIS had burned the oil field after defeat. We witnessed signs of the still burning oil field and the destruction of most homes and government buildings.

War creates profound pain and intense agony and destroys the environment. My work with Muslim Peacemaker Teams is like a drop in the ocean, but we continue to maintain water filters and plant trees. Every green tree gives birth to life.

ACTION: See the WAMM Calendar for ways to stand for peace and to support antiwar resistance. More events: email or call WAMM to receive a weekly e-calendar; go to WAMM Facebook or womenagainstmilitary-madness.org or call the WAMM office at 612-827-5364.

Young Women from Mosul Describe Their Lives under the Reign of Terror

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professionals, and students whose lives were severely disrupted.

Their accounts are published here as they were written and were only very minimally edited for common western grammar or to achieve clarity of meaning. These are accounts of their experiences before, during, and after the ISIS invasion.

Hind Khalid, a 25-year-old engineer from Mosul: “I lived in hard conditions in Mosul, even before ISIS. My father was kidnapped and all the family threatened.” She continued, explaining how she lost everything after ISIS took control: “We left Mosul after the ISIS invasion. ISIS took our house. Then during the battle of the Left Coast our house was damaged by shelling... We don’t have anything in Mosul to return to.”

Rahma Walid Yassin is a 24-year-old married woman, the mother of two children, who describes herself as a Muslim from the Retina [disambiguation: Sabak, an ethno-religious group] minority: My husband was kidnapped for ten days by ISIS and severely beaten. His nose was broken and he was seriously injured all over his body. My father was also beaten and left in a remote area. He was hospitalized for 15 days for damage to his head and body. My four-year-old son was kidnapped for several hours and then returned with a message to which a bullet was attached. The message told us to leave our house and get out of Mosul. We are currently living in Arbil [Erbil].

Salma Farooq is a mechanical engineer and writer from Mosul: For 952 days my life was under the rule and control of the organization of terrorism. A city lost its history. The city was a great prison as a whole. Inside there was injustice and the violation of the most basic human rights. We, the women, suffered a lot at this stage, deprived of our normal activities and happiness.

Every house was a small prison. We did not see the light of life. We did not leave the house for several days at a time, fearing that they [ISIS] would speak to us and in their own way punish us for exercising what we have a right to exercise: freedom of movement outside and in our own homes. They imposed black dress on us that disguised all of our features. They prevented us from going to the market alone or riding in a taxi alone, never taking into account our circumstances and our needs.

We were denied all means of communication with the outside world and we fell behind in study and development, in the field of science.

Under this psychological warfare, we wondered: Will I survive or not? Will I know what it means to be free again or not? We know the value of life and of breathing freely. We need a chance to prove that we are not terrorists. We are peace loving.

Maya Ramadhani, a 24-year-old former resident of Mosul who describes herself as an activist, explains how dangerous life was in Mosul even for ordinary Sunni Muslims: “As far as my life in Mosul, I lived in a war zone, and although I am one of the majority of Arab Muslim population, I nearly got killed four times by suicidal attacks

in the streets.” She says leaving Mosul was very dangerous, as well: “I left Mosul three months after the ISIS invasion. On our way to Baghdad armed militants almost killed us because I am a Sunni Muslim and people believe we are all ISIS members.”

Maysam Salim Botany, a 28-year-old engineer describes more than one heartbreaking displacement. Her family had already begun life anew in the Nineveh Plains, an area east of Mosul, with a largely Syriac Christian population. Many who had been driven from Mosul moved there when sectarian violence forced them out in 2010. “I am a Christian and I lived in Mosul before ISIS invaded. We lived in a new region in Nineveh and tried to start another life, yet ISIS invaded our region and we had to leave again. After the liberation of our region we went back to see our new house burned down with all our belongings! Today I don’t have anything of my family’s heritage, not even family albums. I am a person without a history.”

Nour Mahdi is a 29-year-old engineer from Mosul: “I was a Shia living in a Sunni community. I had to keep my sect a secret out of for fear of terrorists in Mosul. I left Mosul in 2014 after I was injured in a terrorist attack—me and my colleagues were heading out to a friend’s funeral when a car exploded next to ours! Then when we moved to Najaf (a Shiite city), I became the Mosuli emigrant in a Najafi community.”

Rand Laith Aziz is a 24-year-old medical student: “I am an Iraqi Christian. I used to live in Bakhdida, one of the Nineveh Plains outskirts southeast of Mosul, and this is my story—the story of life crucified, of



The Mosul area and areas to the east in Iraq's Nineveh Plains some of the seven women mention, as well as Erbil (also spelled "Arbil") and Kirkuk where they moved. In late July, U.S. coalition forces with regional militia pursued ISIS to the west and again civilians suffered. Large map: Kristin Dooley, Wikipedia. Inset map: CIA-World Fact Book.

culture destroyed, of people massacred by creatures—so-called humans. Our life ended three years ago when we were forced to leave our hometown on the sixth of August [2014]. It was a miserable night. The church bells commenced ringing in an alarming way, declaring full evacuation of the area as a notorious militant group called ISIS continued heavy shelling and was making major advances into the area. Everyone, including my family and me,

was stunned by the ominous news that kept flowing about our location. I refused to believe a single word of what was said, but my father insisted and the sound of the falling shells made me realize the situation.

It was near eleven that night when we decided to leave our place to reach a safe haven. Leaving was the only thing that could keep me alive. We got into our car with only identification papers and a single bag of

clothes and headed into the unknown with dozens of other vehicles flooding the road. Sight was compromised by the dust raised with the pandemonium of cars. We followed one another's taillights.

After four hours we were thankful to reach Erbil, 51 miles away from Mosul where we took refuge in the city's churches among massive crowds fleeing the intense clashes as ISIS militants had progressed

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swiftly. I stayed in Erbil under depressing circumstances.

Some media outlets proclaimed that invading forces looted and burned our assets back home.

In January of 2015, I moved to Kirkuk province to complete my medical studies, as I strongly believed that engaging in study would help me recover (from the trauma of losing her home and everything she had known). I started to recover from what I'd been through and thought I was fully recovered until something awful happened again.

I was residing in a students' dormitory provided by and supervised by a local cathedral. The night of October 21, we residents were woken up by the sound of bombs and clashes. At dawn around five a.m. we became worried by the sight of a couple of armed militants in our front yard who were not dressed in uniforms but were carrying RPGs (rocket propelled grenades) on their shoulders. We knew the situation was serious as one of them started shouting "Allahu Akbar," the slogan of the ISIS group.

We became even more frightened when these militants entered the front room of our residence and started firing from our dormitory toward a nearby military and government base! We were only a room away from ISIS members. I had an intense desire to scream and I was shivering but we realized that a single noise from us would draw their

attention and it would be our last move.

We lie on the floor breathing quietly. I was breathless from the smoke of their guns and so scared. Then when I could I crept to the window holding my cellular (cell phone) and started recording till I heard a loud explosion in the front yard, which followed shouts of "Allahu Akbar." That turned out to be a suicide bomber.

Then army militants and police started firing at our dormitory as they believed that it was an ISIS stronghold. This continued until midnight when ISIS militants were killed by local police and we were evacuated to another shelter where we stayed for more than twelve hours. At this time we heard intense clashes and the sound of firearms and the falling missiles that made everything shake.

The next morning ISIS militants were thwarted. We were taken back to Erbil where I currently reside.

It was the hardest and most awful night and I was traumatized for months. I can't forget the horror I've seen from the destruction of war and hate. I wonder when this will end. I am very grateful and thankful to the Lord for being alive. This in itself is a blessing."

Sandra Salim Elias is a 25-year-old lawyer from Basheka, twenty kilometers (approximately twelve



Mosul in ruins. Photo: AP

and a half miles) east of Mosul, who works with girls and orphans. She is of an ethno-religious group, Azidi [disambiguation: Yazidi or Yedizi] that ISIS made a particular target, mistakenly believing them to be devil worshipers. In Sinjar west of Mosul, ISIS killed men and forced women and girls into sexual slavery. Escaping ISIS, Yazidi were marooned on a mountain starving until finally rescued by Kurdish militia. "I am working recently as a social worker in an Azidi Solidarity and Fraternity League NGO. When ISIS came to Basheka, me and my family left our home and we lost everything. I never saw ISIS, but I saw my relatives and friends who had suffered from them. I helped many girls who survived from ISIS and I worked in a campaign for helping orphans who lost their parents due to ISIS."

Conclusion: *Though they will be affected forever by what they have experienced, these young women are safe for now and trying to rebuild their lives. Their hope is that others will come to understand how damaging war and violence in all its various manifestations is for humanity.*

Victory! No Funding for Police Drones

by Doug Olson

FOCUS ON DRONES

Brainerd, Minnesota area peace activists scored a significant victory in May 2016 when the city council of nearby Baxter declined a motion to approve a request by the Baxter Police Department to apply for \$50,000 in funding to purchase three drones. The motion deadlocked and failed on a tie vote of two to two.

In the debate over the drone funding request, Baxter Mayor Darrel Olson noted drones are not popular with people. He referenced protests outside Camp Ripley's Main Gate.

The Camp Ripley protests referred to by Mayor Olson are organized by Brainerd Area Coalition for Peace (BACP), an informal organization of dedicated peace activists. BACP was originally formed in October 2001 to protest against the U.S./NATO bombing of Afghanistan and has opposed all U.S. wars since. In addition to hosting peace vigils, members march in the Brainerd Fourth of July parade and host a booth at the Crow Wing County Fair. Protests against Camp Ripley's drone pilot training program began in August 2012.

BACP holds peace vigils outside Camp Ripley's Main Gate when Camp Ripley hosts its biannual Open House Day inviting the public inside the base. The vigil's pro-peace message counters the pro-war propaganda Camp Ripley spreads. Many members of Women Against Military Madness (WAMM), Veterans for Peace (VFP), and Grand Rapids Peace Circle/VFP joined the 2012, 2013, and 2015 vigils. Some Franciscan Sisters from the Little Falls, Minnesota convent also joined the vigils.

BACP encourages fellow peace activists and anyone opposed to war and militarism, including militarization of police, to join the Camp Ripley peace vigil in September of 2017.

Doug Olson is a member of Brainerd Area Coalition for Peace.

ACTION: Join the Peace Vigil Outside Camp Ripley: End Wars, Drones, Militarized Police

Join the Brainerd Area Coalition for Peace for a vigil outside Camp Ripley's Main Gate on Sunday, September 17, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00

p.m. to counter the pro-war propaganda Camp Ripley spreads at its Open House Day.

Camp Ripley is located at 15000 Highway 115, north of Little Falls.

Vigil participants can park along the right of way.



Camp Ripley, Minnesota, like other military bases around the country, encourages young children to believe that war and weapons are lots of fun. But outside the gates, antiwar protesters conduct peace vigils to counter these propaganda tactics.

The vigil will raise awareness about drone warfare's destruction and demand an immediate end to U.S. participation in the wars in the Middle East and Afghanistan and to U.S. assassinations by drone, as well as oppose the militarization of the police forces within the United States. (Camp Ripley is a major trainer of local and state police).

After the vigil, a potluck lunch will be held at Morrison County Park. Morrison County Park is located off Highway 76, north of Little Falls. All are welcome at the vigil and the lunch.

For more information about the Camp Ripley peace vigil: Please contact BACP member Larry Fisk at (218) 839-2985 or BACP member Robin Hensel at (320) 360-3931.

Further info about Brainerd Area Coalition for Peace, website: www.brainerdpeace.org or Facebook: Brainerd Area Coalition for Peace



County sheriffs practice training in military methods at Camp Ripley, Minnesota. Screenshot: Camp Ripley FB

PM: Nuclear Notes and a THAAD Story

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figures show China is South Korea's largest trading partner with 25% of its exports going to China, only 14% to the U.S. No surprise that *Business Times* reported at the beginning of this year that South Korea risks economic retaliation from China.

At the end of July, North Korea fired a test missile that it claims can reach California. The U.S. fired off a THAAD test missile into the Pacific Ocean. Intercontinental missiles can be outfitted with nuclear weapons and therein lies the danger. President Donald Trump, Vice President Pence, and U.S. Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley all rebuked China for not doing more to stop North Korea from escalating tensions. So it's China's problem? Really? A THAAD story, indeed!

Polly Mann is a co-founder of WAMM and a regular contributor to this newsletter.

ACTION: The WAMM Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons has a petition calling upon members of Congress to support a legally binding global treaty by the end of 2017 to ban nuclear weapons. Petitions are available from the WAMM office. Obtain signatures on the petition and return to the WAMM office which will deliver them en masse.

Update

On August 5, many people throughout the world were scratching their heads surprised by Russia and China voting with the UN Security Council to impose new sanctions on North Korea. Why would they gang up with the U.S. on North Korea? The U.S. is the catalyst for the problem; it's clear that the installation of THAAD, increasing militarization of South Korea and engaging in war games near North Korea creates a reaction on the part of North Korea to defend itself with its own show of force.

Geo-political analyst Stephen Lendman explained China and

Russia's Security Council vote this way: "Beijing and Russia oppose its nuclear and ballistic missile programs. They want these issues handled diplomatically—most of all non-militarily, the main reason they went along with sanctions is to preserve a measure of stability on the Korean peninsula... China and Russia seek an 'integrated,' realistic and feasible resolution to Korean peninsula issues. Increased U.S. regional militarization is [the] polar opposite [of] what's needed to resolve contentious issues." He quoted China's UN envoy Liu Jieyi: "We hope the parties concerned will immediately take effective action to prevent the situation from further escalating, create conditions for the resumption of talks and exert efforts to bring back at an early date the nuclear issue of the peninsula to the right track of seeking a peaceful solution through dialogue and consultation." (Why China and Russia Agreed to Tough New Sanctions on North Korea. August 7, 2017. globalresearch.ca)

\$15 Special Offer New Membership

Do you or someone you know want to support efforts opposing war? Ensure getting WAMM's newsletter by receiving it in the mail? (Option to receive via email instead.) Fill out this form and mail it with a check or credit card # to the WAMM office.

For new members: check the "new membership" box.

For a gift membership: check that box. Write name and address of recipient on back of form. Recipient will receive a card letting her or him know of your gift.

More info: call the WAMM office at 612-827-5364.

WAMM Membership

- \$15-39 Low Income/Student membership
- \$40-59 Individual membership
- \$60-199 Household membership
- \$200+ Major Donor
- This is a new membership. This is a membership renewal This is a gift membership
- Check enclosed Please charge my credit card

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____ Security Code _____

Signature _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Add me to the WAMM email list

Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Make checks payable to WAMM, 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Suite 3, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407

Sustaining Membership

(Ongoing contributions throughout the year)

\$ _____ Monthly \$ _____ Quarterly

(WAMM will send a coupon book, if by check)

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

WAMM Calendar

Please note that WAMM's provision of information on other groups' events is not meant to convey or endorse any action contrary to public policy that would be inconsistent with exempt purposes under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), i.e., charitable purposes.

WAMM Co-founder Marianne Hamilton

As this newsletter was put together, we received the sad news that WAMM co-founder Marianne Hamilton had passed away. A tribute to her legacy as a leader inspiring hope and action will appear in the next newsletter.

Ongoing Vigils for Peace

Vigil to End War

Every Wednesday. **Note:** Time change as of April to 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Lake Street/Marshall Avenue Bridge. Signs available on St. Paul side. Brief circle up for announcements after the vigil on St. Paul side. FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364.

Vigil to End the Occupation of Palestine

Every Friday, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. corner of Summit Avenue and Snelling Avenue, St. Paul. FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364.

Peace Vigil

Every Tuesday, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. on the east side of the Franklin Avenue Bridge, Minneapolis. Sponsored by: Prospect Hill Neighbors for Peace. FFI: Call 612-379-7398.

Grandmothers for Peace Vigil

Every Wednesday, 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. 50th Street and Halifax (1 block west of France), Edina. FFI: Call Marian Wright 612-927-7607.

WAMM Committee Meetings

Board Meeting

Third Tuesday of every month, 6:00 p.m. 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis. FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364.

Book Club

Episcopal Senior Living Complex, Welcome Center, 1860 University Avenue West, St. Paul. Call WAMM for meeting time and date. FFI: Call 612-827-5364.

End War

First Monday of every month, 6:00 p.m. 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis. FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364.

Ground All Drones

First Thursday of every month, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis. FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364.

Middle East

Second Monday of every month, 10:00 a.m. at WAMM, 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Suite 3, Minneapolis. FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364.

St. Joan of Arc/WAMM Peacemakers

Fourth Tuesday of every month, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. St. Joan of Arc Church, Parish Center, 4537 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis. FFI: Call Barbara 612-722-4444.

Tackling Torture at the Top (T3)

Second Wednesday of every month, 10:00 a.m. 4200 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis. FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364.

Ongoing Events

Committee to Stop FBI Repression

Stand with the people subpoenaed in a witch hunt, defend civil liberties. Learn what you can do. FFI: Visit stopfbi.net and mnStopFBI.wordpress.com.

People of Faith Peacemakers Breakfast

Second and fourth Wednesdays of every month, 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. African Development Center, Riverside and 20th Avenues South, Minneapolis. Peace with justice resource, support group. FFI: Visit justviewpoint.org or call 612-333-4772.

Grandmothers for Peace

First Wednesday of every month, 12:45 p.m. Edina Public Library, 5280 Grandview Square, Edina. Justice issue programs for understanding our role in changing systems. FFI: Call 952-929-1566.

Pax Salons

Every Tuesday, call for details and location. Small donations accepted. FFI: Call 651-227-3228.

Middle East Peace Now

Usually second or third Saturday. Refreshments 9:30 a.m. Program 10:00 a.m. Location varies. FFI: Visit mepn.org.

WAMM Second Monday Movies

Second Monday of every month, 7:00 p.m. 4200 Cedar Avenue South (enter on 42nd St.), Minneapolis. Projected on big screen. Free admission, popcorn. All welcome. Discussion follows film. FFI: Call WAMM 612-827-5364. or email wamm@mtn.org.

First Daughter and the Black Snake, Monday, October 9.

Documentary about indigenous/environmental activist Winona LaDuke, resistance to Enbridge Pipelines, wild rice, prophecy, family, food, treaties, historical trauma, horses, water.

Did you miss a movie you wanted to see? WAMM has a DVD collection of movies shown in the Second Monday Movie series, as well as other DVDs. They are available for checkout in the WAMM office for private or small group viewing.

Special Events

Peace Vigil Outside Camp Ripley: End Wars, Drones, Militarized Police

Sunday, September 17, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Camp Ripley Main Gate Entrance, 15000 State Highway 115, Little Falls, MN. See Page 9 of this newsletter. Potluck at Morrison County (Belle Prairie) Park follows. Sponsored by Brainerd Area Coalition for Peace. FFI: Larry Fisk (218) 839-2985 or Robin Hensel (320) 360-3931.

WAMM at Midtown Farmers Market

Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. East Lake Street and Hiawatha Avenue, On September 26: WAMM End War Committee; October 21: WAMM Membership Committee. Stop by, get education, action material, membership. FFI: 612-827-5364.

Anti-War Protest: 16 Years After U.S.

Invasion of Afghanistan Stop Endless U.S. wars

Saturday, October 7, 1:30 p.m., Mayday Plaza, 301 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis. Say no to U.S. wars, creating refugees, the Muslim ban, Islamophobia, racism, war on Korea! Stop U.S. wars and interventions: Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Korea, Somalia, Pakistan, Yemen, Iran, Philippines, Venezuela, everywhere! Fund housing, education, healthcare—not war! Sponsored by Minnesota Peace Action Coalition.

WAMM 33rd Annual Silent Auction

Sunday, October 8, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Bidding closes 7:00 p.m., St. Joan of Arc Church, 4537 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis. Bid on exciting variety of items! Free parking. Suggested entry donation: \$10 to \$30. You can also reserve a table for 4 to 8 people, \$25 per person. FFI: back page or 612-827-5364.



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33rd Annual Silent Auction

“Münch” and Bid with WAMM!

**Sunday, October 8th,
2017
5-8pm**

**St. Joan of Arc Church
4537 3rd Ave. S.
Minneapolis**

**Current political climate have
you screaming?
Join us at our Annual “Not-So-
Silent” Auction! Including a
dinner buffet, adult beverages
and music! And, this year, a
group howl to get out all
those frustrations!**

WomenAgainstMilitaryMadness.org