



W.A.M.M. NEWSLETTER

Women Against Military Madness

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Women Against Military Madness

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WWIII and Nuclear Annihilation

This is not a warning – it's an alert.

by Coleen Rowley

The U.S. is supplying well over \$100 billion in arms to Ukraine, most recently to include armored tanks,¹ prompting Ukrainian President Zelensky to then demand to be furnished with the latest U.S. fighter jets.² On February 6, UN Secretary-General António Guterres told the General Assembly, "I fear we're not sleepwalking into a wider war. We're doing it with eyes wide open."³

The U.S./NATO proxy war against Russia is rapidly escalating into World War III. Many prognosticators believe

that World War III has already begun. The only question that remains is how long it will take before one side or the other, in obliviousness and desperation, resorts to pushing the button on their arsenal of nuclear missiles, already on hair-trigger alert, to end all life on earth. Another very real possibility is that the conflict escalates with a barrage of tactical nuclear weapons that trigger a nuclear winter, in which most or all of the world is plunged into darkness and starvation.

The long history of nuclear close calls during the "Cold War" reveals we are already lucky to be alive. "Accidents" are even more likely now as exemplified by the U.S. military panic leading to their costly firing of missiles at a series of "unidentified flying objects" including an "enemy" balloon (whether on a deliberate path or blown by the wind), then entailing the shooting down of three more of our own U.S. research/weather craft!

This year, even some military analysts from the war-planning think tank, Rand Corporation, have begun to worry about costs to the U.S. of the war in Ukraine,⁴ but most of us Americans have no understanding of the dangers posed by this new World War III between nuclear superpowers.

Americans have been shielded from the costs because U.S. wars have come to be conducted without a military draft and almost solely through aerial/

Nuclear Annihilation, continued on page 2



The finale of Stanley Kubrick's iconic 1964 film about the nuclear bomb, Doctor Strangelove, subtitled "or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb." Is this how things end today, or will we wake up?



NEWSLETTER

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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Women Against Military Madness 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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Nuclear Annihilation, *continued from front cover*

drone bombing and via hapless proxies and mercenaries. Nor have most Americans comprehended the connection between recent wars and the economic costs as they aren't levied higher taxes to pay the trillions of dollars being spent on war. Linda Bilmes, a financial expert at the Harvard Kennedy School, refers to the post-9/11 wars as "Credit Card Wars" because they are financed through borrowing to be paid by future generations.⁵

Today, though Americans feel the pain of inflation and lack of funding for healthcare, safe railways, and other human needs, Washington's discourse over raising the debt ceiling neglects to mention the cost of militarism.

Yet, the danger of nuclear confrontation continues. With the U.S./NATO having broken nearly all their prior nuclear treaties⁶ and having admittedly committed out-right fraud in the prior "Minsk Agreement," Russia has become rightly wary of negotiating with such unreliable, deceitful partners.⁷ Warmongering "leaders" in Washington, like characters right out of *Dr. Strangelove* insanity have become hell-bent going for broke, deluding themselves with notions of "winning" a nuclear war. (Director Stanley Kubrick's 1964 dark comedy was subtitled: *How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb*.)

Even though we're truly reaching for the eve of destruction, our Congress instead spends its time stewing over Ticketmaster concert sales⁸ while New York City public service ads advise us to deal with nuclear Armageddon by going inside and shutting our windows.⁹

We need to open our collective minds and wake up before it's too late.

Coleen Rowley is a former FBI agent and Minneapolis legal counsel who became a whistleblower, exposing the

FBI's 9-11 cover-up. Since retiring, she has been a dedicated justice and peace activist, member of Women Against Military Madness, member of WAMM's Tackling Torture at the Top (T3), Twin Cities Julian Assange Defense committees and Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity.

Endnotes (added by editor):

- 1 Depleted uranium is a low-grade radioactive material. "German Leopard-2 tanks, as well as Marder IFVs can use armor-piercing projectiles containing depleted uranium cores . . . Konstantin Gavrilov, the head of the Russian delegation to the Vienna-based Arms Control Committee told the Russian newspaper, Izvestia, that "if these weapons supplied by NATO are used against Russian troops, they would be considered a dirty bomb." Russia Warns Against Supplying Depleted Uranium Munitions to Ukraine. PL/Prensa Latina. Jan. 26, 2023. tinyurl.com/j7f6y4tt
- 2 Cooke, Lorne. Kyiv clamors for fighter jets as war nears "critical phase." AP News. February 14, 2023. tinyurl.com/2p8nsj63
- 3 António Guterres@antonioguterres. Twitter. Feb.6, 2023. tinyurl.com/5xde6yme
- 4 Charap, Samuel and Priebe, Miranda. Avoiding a Long War: U.S. Policy and the Trajectory of the Russia-Ukraine Conflict. Rand Corporation. January 2023. tinyurl.com/y7ypzn5a
- 5 Bilmes cites the "pay as you go" philosophy of President Truman for World War II. And that the delayed costs for recent wars had come to include "not only the trillions of dollars of current spending, but also the long-term liabilities such as veterans care – to future generations." Bilmes, Linda J., The Credit Card Wars: Post 9/11 War Funding Policy in Historical Perspective. Cost of War, Watson Institute, International and Public Affairs, Brown University. November 8, 2017. tinyurl.com/ycku6fhm
- 6 Treaties and Agreements. Arms Control Association. Accessed February 15, 2023. www.armscontrol.org/treaties
- 7 After U.S. and NATO reject Russia's proposals, outlook for Ukraine is grim. Yale McMillion Center. February 3, 2022. tinyurl.com/ccz5uhdn
- 8 Ticketmaster fees draw Klobuchar's attention in Senate Hearing. The Hill. January 24, 2023. tinyurl.com/mryeaxup
- 9 Nuclear Preparedness. PSA. New York City. tinyurl.com/eafy9ybj

Also see: "Recipe Concocted for Perpetual War," by Coleen Rowley and Robert Wing in Consortium News on February 4, 2018.
tinyurl.com/4azf7dmn

Time in the Joint for Joint U.S./ German Nuclear Evil

Anti-nuclear activist John LaForge was convicted in January of 2023 for trespassing on Büchel Air Force Base at Ramstein in 2018 and climbing on top of a nuclear weapons bunker. The bunker is presumed to hold one of the 20 U.S. B61 thermonuclear bombs. Designed for battlefield use, these bombs, often referred to as “tactical” weapons, can have as much as three times the explosive power of the bomb that decimated Hiroshima in 1945.

On February 28, 2023, LaForge, the co-founder of Nukewatch, a Wisconsin-based advocacy group, will have completed a 50-day prison term. LaForge pointed out that the Büchel base doesn’t just hold nuclear weapons, it also houses a U.S. Air Force Defense Nuclear Weapons School “responsible for delivering, sustaining, and supporting air-delivered nuclear weapon systems for our warfighters.” LaForge also related that the U.S. sped up delivery of the latest version of the bomb to the German base in December of 2022. (LaForge, John. “United States to Hurry Transfer of New Nuclear Bombs to Europe.” Nukewatch. January 22, 2023)

The U.S stores bombs in five European countries in violation of the Treaty on Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which explicitly forbids any transfer of nuclear weapons between countries that are parties to the treaty. LaForge wrote for the website *Common Dreams* that “it can never be a crime to interfere with the deployment, rehearsals for use, or the threatened use of nuclear weapons, or to resist the U.S. and German government’s joint plans to commit indiscriminate, uncontrollable mass destruction using firestorms and radiation.”

More Info:

Women Against Military Madness (WAMM) Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons, with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (icanw.org), urges the U.S. to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. WAMM also supports Back from the Brink (preventnuclearwar.org) which was successful in getting both Minneapolis and St. Paul city councils to pass resolutions to ban nuclear weapons. See WAMM calendar, or call the office 612-827-5364.

Further Resource:

Nukewatchinfo.org updates and newsletter.

ACTION:

Join the March 18 antiwar rally, 1:00 p.m., Hennepin and Lagoon Aves., Minneapolis. In coordination with rallies in Washington, D.C., across the U.S.



WAMM Committees

Action Groups:

- End Domestic Militarism
- End Military Madness Against the Earth
- End War Middle East
- St. Joan of Arc/ WAMM Peacemakers
- Movies
- Solidarity Committee on the Americas
- Tackling Torture at the Top

Standing Committees:

- Coordinating
- Finance
- Fundraising
- Membership/Outreach
- Newsletter
- Personnel
- Program/New Issues

WAMM Board:

- Diane Haugesag
- Sarah Martin
- Mary Jean Mulherin
- Sara Olson
- Jo Schubert, Co-Chair
- Lucia Wilkes Smith, Treasurer
- Emma Sron, Co-Chair
- Carol Walker
- Molly Wilbur-Cohen



Activists, in front of the Hamburg City Hall, proclaim that 68 countries prohibit nuclear weapons but not Germany. Neither does the U.S. which maintains a training school for military to sustain and deploy its tactical nuclear weapons at Büchel Air Force Base in Ramstein. Photo: Hinrich Schultze

Cuba: Close but No Cigar

by Lucia Wilkes Smith

Travel with Witness For Peace (WFP), December 2-11, 2022, was nearly perfect. The places where I stayed (mainly the Martin Luther King Center in Havana) were comfortable, except for the glaring absence of toilet paper, seats on the toilets, soap, or warm water in the shower. My first visit to a restroom in Cuba revealed effects of the 60-year-old U.S. embargo, which Cubans call The Blockade and understand to be immoral. Throughout the nation of just over 11 million people, basic necessities – toilet paper, housepaint, and supplies to repair and replace outdated fixtures and pipes – are impossible to locate.

WFP delegation members were free to walk, take taxis, and talk with Cuban individuals. Scheduled educational programs included presentations at medical care centers, a school for children with disabilities, and an organic farm. The work of every one of the sites we visited is negatively impacted by the U.S.-imposed embargo, which even imposes sanctions on other countries attempting trade with Cuba. This explains the presence of old, polluting Chevrolets and DeSotos manufactured in the U.S. during the 1950s and still running on Cuban roadways.

According to *Smithsonian Magazine*, “by the late 1950s, U.S. financial interests included 90 percent of Cuban mines, 80 percent of its public utilities, 50 percent of its railways, 40 percent of its sugar production . . .”^{*} The Cuban revolution ousted the dictator Batista in 1959, along with tourism money-makers that looped in the Mafia, gambling, and prostitution. The Cuban revolutionary system nationalized many corporations and some privately held property.

I intended to buy souvenirs in Cuba to support that economy. My son requested Cuban cigars. I discovered the U.S. makes it illegal for us to spend money in businesses operated by the Cuban government, and I saw no cigars in the little privately owned shops I visited. When I said I wanted to bring home Cuban cigars, the WFP staff person warned, “Do not risk it! The U.S. levies a fine of \$10,000 if you are caught taking Cuban cigars through customs.” Whoa! I bought my son a refrigerator magnet replica of a Cuban cigar.

Though the Cuban government provides free education for students from preschool through graduate school, evidence of the blockade shows up in the details. We learned while visiting a music school that it’s usually impossible to provide strings and rosin for violins or reeds for oboes because of the blockade.

Our delegation visited a tuition-free medical school where hundreds of students from many countries are educated. Following their medical program, the new physicians return to practice in their countries of origin. We met several students, including three from the U.S.

Cuban people have excellent preventive healthcare and medical care provided without fees. According to the World Health Organization, Cuba has the highest doctor-to-population ratio in the world and has sent thousands of doctors to more than 40 countries in need. In Havana, we met a primary care physician who described the care delivered at her clinic for about 890 people in that neighborhood. The doctor often visits people at home, so she becomes aware of their living conditions. She and the clinic nurse



Vintage advertising image featuring a cigar for which Cuba was renowned.

even live within the community they serve.

Clearly, the original embargo goal of causing personal misery was to provoke the Cuban population to rise up, overthrow its government, and reinstitute U.S.-style capitalism. Well, that’s not going to happen. Though life is difficult for Cubans, most seemed determined to make their people-centered system work for themselves and their neighbors. I saw a certain resilience and beauty in that.

Lucia Wilkes Smith is a long-time participant in peace and justice activities. She serves on the WAMM Board and WAMM Middle East Committee. She is active in the MN-BDS movement and Pipeline Blues Vigil to Stop Line 3.

Endnotes

^{*} Geiling, Natasha. History. “Before the Revolution,” *Smithsonian Magazine*, July 31, 2007. tinyurl.com/2p8465fh

Cuban Values

by Carol Walker

The first week in January of 2023, an Arts and Culture educational tour organized by Proximity Cuba partnered with Veterans for Peace for a visit to Cuba. The twelve people from Hawaii, California, Washington, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island, and Minnesota referred to themselves as the “Amor y Solidaridad” delegation. We visited the Museum of Fine Arts in Havana along with visits to many home studios including ceramist and painter José Fuster. We were treated to Afro-Cuban music and dance and experienced the rich and diverse Cuban culture.

Another visit our group made was to the Literacy Campaign Museum. 1961 was the Year of Literacy.

Thousands of young people (many teenagers) went throughout Cuba teaching reading and writing. In less than a year, Cuba eradicated illiteracy. In the words of one of the young volunteer teachers:

The literacy campaign taught us how to share, how to give without expecting anything in return, because in the literacy campaign, nobody went to be paid; nobody was given anything. We went to share what we knew, to give our good intentions, to work for the satisfaction of people learning to read and write. That gave us the values with which we’ve lived our lives ever since. And for those of us who

were women, it liberated us, because our entire generation of women gained a completely different view of life.

Today, education is free in Cuba through the university level. The Latin American School of Medicine (ELAM) in Cuba is the world’s largest medical school. Since its founding in 1999, it has graduated tens of thousands, with full scholarships, including students from the United States.

Our group visited Las Terrazas, a biosphere reserve and national park. In 1968 the region was an eroded mountain chain where a few families lived in extreme

Cuban Values, continued on page 6



“Saint Barbara” by artist José Fuster of the Jaimanitas Project. Photo: Carol Walker

Cuban Values,

continued from page 5

poverty. To change this situation, in eight years, 20 km of roads and 1,370 terraces were constructed, and seven million hardwood trees were planted. The community was built in complete harmony with the surrounding environment. Tourism was developed to complement its sustainability.

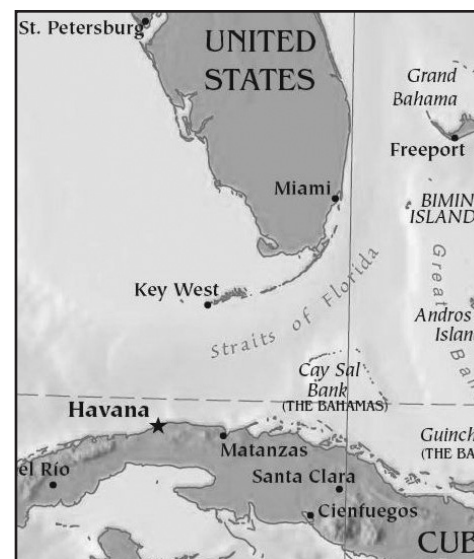
The delegation also traveled to the western province of Pinar del Rio where Hurricane Ian hit in September of 2022. We met with officials and workers and saw firsthand the new homes being built (free of charge) for people who had lost everything. We were able to deliver a small amount of humanitarian aid. In 2005, after Hurricane Katrina, Cuba offered to send 1,586 doctors and tons of medical supplies, but this was rejected by the U.S. State Department. In contrast, the U.S. has not lifted even a temporary suspension of the blockade to allow Cuba to rebuild after Hurricane Ian ravished its shores.

The Cuban Institute of Friendship with the People (ICAP) held a

press conference about the Golden Rule, a project of Veterans for Peace. The project was widely reported in Cuban media, including TV stations. The Golden Rule antinuclear sailboat had sailed from Key West, Florida, to Havana, Cuba, calling for an end to the U.S. blockade. According to Gerry Condon, crew member and former VFP national president, “the U.S. blockade is an act of terrorism against Cuba. This is an illegal, immoral action and has been condemned by most of the world.”

In fact, on November 3, 2022, the U.N. General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to condemn the American economic embargo of Cuba for the 30th consecutive year. 185 countries voted to support condemnation with only the United States and Israel opposing it, and Brazil and Ukraine abstaining.

Carol Walker is a member the Minnesota Peace Action Coalition. She serves on the WAMM Board, and the WAMM End War Committee, and is a long-time regular participant in antiwar vigils, among other peace and justice activities.



Cuba is approximately 90 to 100 miles from the Florida Keys. So close, but no cigar. Map: Wikimedia

ACTION:

Demand an end to the 60-year U.S. blockade of Cuba. Protest the inclusion of Cuba on the U.S. State Sponsor of Terrorism list.

Call or message senators and the U.S. President:

President Joe Biden: 202-456-1111

Minnesota Senator Klobuchar: (202) 224-3244

Minnesota Senator Tina Smith: (202) 224-5641

Congressional switchboard for any state: (202) 224-3121 to connect to your senators' offices.

Join the Cuba car caravan:

Car caravans are usually scheduled for the last Sunday of the month. Check the Solidarity Committee of the Americas (SCOTA) Facebook page or the WAMM calendar to confirm. Sponsored by WAMM's Solidarity Committee on the Americas (#SCOTA_MN) and the Minnesota Cuba Committee.



Dance performance at Alba Community Theater by Okan-Tomi, a cultural company that explores and reworks Afro-Cuban dances and music. Photo: Carol Walker

Chile Is Having a Constitution Do-Over, but the Ghost of Pinochet Remains

by Michael Livingston

Chile will get a second chance at a new constitution. On January 11, the Chamber of Deputies voted to initiate a new process. The Chilean Senate had voted to initiate the new process on January 3. The vote comes after continued social unrest and the record low approval ratings of leftist President Gabriel Boric following the rejection of the first constitution by 62 percent of the electorate in the September 22 referendum. This rejected constitution, in turn, was written in response to the October 2019 social explosion against inequality.

This process will be very different from the first go-around. The Chamber of Deputies and the Senate will each select twelve “experts.” These 24 experts, named the Commission of Experts, will draw up the first draft of the constitution. They start work on March 6 and have three months to complete the draft.

On Sunday May 7, voters will go to the polls to elect the Constitutional Council. Voting is mandatory and there is a gender parity requirement. Some seats are reserved for the indigenous peoples of Chile. The Constitutional Council will write a new constitution based on the draft created by the “experts.” Contradictions will be worked out by a joint committee of experts and members of the Constitutional Council. The final draft must be completed by November 7 and submitted to a mandatory popular referendum on December 17.

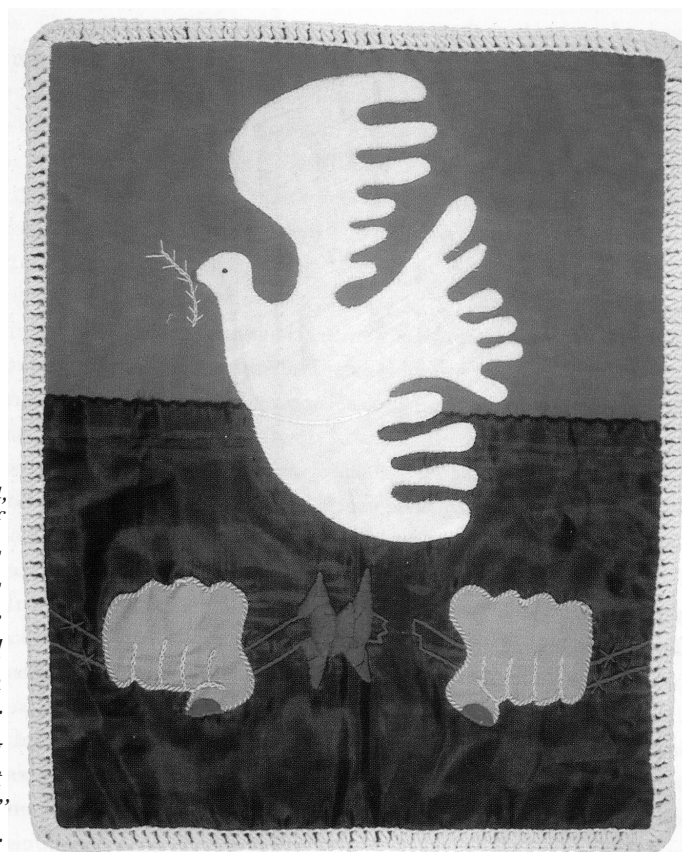
The root cause of Chile’s social problems remains the neoliberal model of capitalism imposed under U.S.- backed dictator Augusto Pinochet (1973-1990). Pinochet came to power in a

U.S.- engineered coup against the democratically elected socialist president Salvador Allende. Carried out by the CIA and the Chilean military, the coup destroyed the progressive social and economic measures of the Allende government and replaced them with a made-in-the-U.S. economic model designed by Milton Friedman and his Chicago Boys. This model privatized education and healthcare, destroyed the Chilean social security system and replaced it with private plans, crushed worker rights and environmental protections, and privatized natural resources (except copper, which subsidized the Chilean armed forces). This model was built into the Chilean constitution and governmental structures during the transition to democracy

in 1990 and is still defended by the conservative political parties and elites. It has resulted in massive social inequality in a relatively advanced country. While Chile can expect a constitution better than the Pinochet-era document, the probability of radical change, given a process dominated by the existing political parties, including the conservative parties, is nil.

Michael Livingston is a longtime peace and antiwar activist. He has lived and worked in Honduras, Chile, and Spain. A professor of psychology at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University, he is currently directing a study abroad program in Seville, Spain.

An example of arpillera, textile art creations of widows and mothers bereaved in Pinochet’s reign of terror “in the hope that what happened to Chileans between 1973 and 1990 is never forgotten.” – “Stitching Truth: Women’s Protest Art in Pinochet’s Chile.” tinyurl.com/4ywmupmr



U.S. Foreign Policy at a Glance

by Mary Beaudoin

Deep Diving



This collage of images above is an actual promotional ad for the U.S. Air Force. It provides a quick visual aid for understanding three aspects of foreign policy (left to right):

- **a woke military with more women:** Exploiting the idea of female empowerment and equity, in 2023, women are increasingly targeted for recruitment. Encouraged to join males in the role of enforcing the subjugation of foreign countries and extraction of resources for U.S. multinational corporations, their jobs can now even include fighting in combat.
- **the sky's not the limit for the U.S. empire:** Which country's airspace will these parachutes be dropped from next for surreptitious surveillance or invasion? Do U.S. parachutes run the risk of being shot down by a foreign military the way the U.S. Air Force shot down balloons drifting over Lake Huron, the Carolina coast and

Alaska, that were for Chinese research or only U.S. hobbyists' toys?

- **USAID: beware of proverbial Greeks bearing gifts:** The first stated purpose of USAID is to "advance U.S. national security and economic prosperity." As opposed to many charitable organizations delivering humanitarian goods, this government agency is the public relations front of the U.S., a Trojan horse of soft power working hand-in-glove with the U.S. military and imperial agendas. Samantha Power, the USAID head with a coincidentally apt name, was recently in Hungary agitating for more war with Ukraine through "press freedom" and "democracy" promotion.

We're drowning daily in propaganda, lies, and media manipulation. Independent journalism is smeared as conspiracy theory, censored, or ignored. It takes some searching but honest alternatives can be found with some diving into *Youtube*, *Rumble*, *Telegram*, and programs on other platforms and websites, or on *substack.com*. Just a few significant stories from outside the mainstream news:

The U.S. blew up Nord Stream pipelines: Seymour Hersh provides credible evidence.

Big tech-U.S. government worked together to manipulate social media politically: Matt Tilibi reveals what's in the Twitter files.

It's U.S. sanctions, not Assad, that are killing Syrians. Vanessa Beeley reports on the post-earthquake situation and Israeli bombing of Damascus. Eva Bartlett, Kevork Almassian, Richard Medhurst contradict what the U.S. media, including *PBS*, say about Syria. Aaron Mate and the Syria Support Movement revealed recurring false reports of Syrian government chemical weapons use "on their own people." War reality, Donbass region of Ukraine: Eva Bartlett reports on the ground.

Peace negotiations between Russia and Ukraine in the Minsk agreements, in Turkey peace talks, and by former Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett were scuttled by the U.S. and NATO. But throughout the U.S. and Europe, thousands rally against war in Ukraine. Stop the War Coalition, United National Antiwar Coalition.

Polly Mann *Presente!*

by Sarah Martin

Polly Mann, a leading force and giant in the Twin Cities antiwar movement, died on January 12, 2023 at the age of 103 in San Francisco, California, where she passed her final days in the home of her daughter Connie. Until just six months before she died, she was still sending ideas and suggestions to the WAMM newsletter editor. Polly always thought big, made things happen, and remained involved.

In 1981, together with her friend Marianne Hamilton, Polly conceived of Women Against Military Madness (WAMM). Marianne and Polly knew that polls showed most women were antiwar but they needed an organization to change the government's spending priorities from military spending to human services. A vital concern was also the ongoing threat of nuclear warfare. Polly and Marianne felt that there should be a place where women could lead in demanding a peaceful and just society.

Polly understood the importance of having a persistent antiwar presence by making the organization sustainable with an office and staff.

Polly was very well informed, followed events closely, and had a sharp analysis of the depth and breadth of U.S. imperialism. Her response to injustices, oppression, and violence was a demand for swift and strong action when countries were in the crosshairs of U.S. militarism. At times the organization took unpopular positions such as WAMM's early decision to support Palestinians in their struggle for liberation from U.S. support for a brutal military occupation, opposition to the U.S./NATO dismemberment of Yugoslavia, and the U.S. involvement in the unsuccessful but highly destructive and

propagandized attempt at regime change in Syria.

Polly addressed U.S. foreign policy funded at the expense of human needs. Kim DeFranco, WAMM member and former organizer with the Welfare Rights Committee, said, "Throughout her lifetime and when fighting for economic and social justice, she knew women are the economic and social backbone and needed to be better supported by the government and society." With WAMM, Polly "wrote articles, joined rallies, demonstrations, and legislative committee hearings, and encouraged the Minnesota legislature to pass important bills that would improve the lives of poor and working families and women and their children."

Polly went on delegations to many countries including Cuba, Libya, and the Philippines to see and hear firsthand the effects of U.S. foreign policy. She helped initiate an ongoing weekly vigil in St. Paul, Minnesota, for justice in Palestine during the first Intifada in 1988. Addressing militarized injustice within the U.S., she joined the picket line at the Hormel strike in Austin, Minnesota, and, as WAMM member Susan Giesen recounts, "Guardsmen were blocking the street. She marched right up to the line, approached each guardsman, touched him gently on the shoulder and said, 'I know you don't want to be sent to Central America. I will do all I can to not let them send you there.'"

Polly was a prolific writer and wrote columns for the *Women Against Military Madness Newsletter*, *Southside Pride*, and the *Women's Press*. She was a popular speaker at innumerable programs and rallies including at the



*Polly Mann in 1988.
Photo: Almanac, TPT*

Minnesota State Capitol for the March on the RNC in 2008.

Polly was a beloved, respected and dynamic leader. WAMM member Erica Bouza said on her 90th birthday, "Greatness is rare. Not many of us have encountered it; the courage to stand up for what you believe and the skill to lead and persuade others to pursue the dreams of social, racial, economic, and gender justice are isolated virtues, given to the very few. She is gutsy, scholarly, practical, and effective, a devoted friend and an inspiration to those who dream of freedom, equality, and justice."

What Would Polly Do?



Despite claims of temporarily lifting humanitarian sanctions after the earthquake, U.S.-imposed sanctions are preventing rescue and relief work.

"Western leaders, screw your 'Sanctions Target the Regime' blather: Sanctions KILL PEOPLE!"

*— SyriaSupport Movement,
Feb. 17, 2023, tinyurl.com/mw6jsdr7*

Not an 'Uptick' — Occupation Requires Violence

by Carol Masters

On January 26 at least nine Palestinians, including a 61-year-old woman were killed in an Israeli raid on the Jenin refugee camp in the occupied West Bank. At least 20 others were injured. People were unable to obtain medical attention because of snipers and tear gas/targeting of hospitals and make-shift clinics. Occupation forces then surged through streets, targeting Palestinian homes with live bullets and using bulldozers to overturn residents' cars.* A few days later, before he was taken down, a Palestinian man killed seven Israelis in an illegal settlement.

Soon after this "uptick in violence," U.S. Secretary Anthony Blinken visited Prime Minister Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority head Mahmoud Abbas to urge an easing of tensions, stating that the U.S. wants for each party an "equal measure of security, freedom, and dignity."

However, according to Diana Buttu, a Haifa-based human rights lawyer and advocate interviewed on "The Take," an *Al-Jazeera* podcast, this reference to an "uptick" ignores the daily violence that Palestinians have been living with for 55 years — the Israeli military occupation. "To maintain occupation requires violence," she said, citing the violence of demolishing homes, of stealing land, of killing children, of expediting gun licenses for Israeli civilians, of conducting the now near-daily raids on Jenin. In January alone, 35 Palestinians have been killed, on track to exceed the deadliest year since the Second Intifada, 2022, when 220 Palestinians, 48 of them children, died in Israeli attacks.

Buttu concluded that the most honest thing Blinken said was "for Palestinians [there was] a shrinking horizon of hope."



A wall in the Jenin Refugee Camp.

Endnotes

* Massacre in Jenin: Resistance continues amid occupation. Samidoun Palestine Prisoner Network. Jan. 26, 2023. samidoun.net

Update:

In late February, 11 Palestinians were killed, 100 injured in an Israeli army raid on the city of Nablus. After two Jewish settlers were killed, 400 settlers rampaged freely through villages nearby, burning homes and cars.

Become a Member of WAMM!

And know that you support an organization that's active against military madness.

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

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____ Security Code _____

Signature _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ (2/23)

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)

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.

Ongoing Peace/ Justice Vigils

Pipeline Blues Vigil (Stop Line 3)

Every Monday, 4:00 to 5:00 p.m., outside MN Governor's Mansion, 1006 Summit Ave., St. Paul. Co-sponsored by WAMM and Veterans for Peace Chapter 27. FFI: 612-827-5364.

Vigil to End War

Every Wednesday, 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. (Note time change as of April: 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. Sponsored by WAMM End War Committee. FFI: 612-827-5364.

Vigil to End the Occupation of Palestine

Every Friday, 4:00 to 5:00 p.m., corner of Summit Avenue and Snelling Avenue, St. Paul. Sponsored by WAMM Middle East Committee. FFI: 612-827-5364.

Immigrant Solidarity Vigils

Every Tuesday, 7:30 a.m.

Vigil at the ICE entrance on 6000 Minnehaha Ave., Minneapolis. (Not far from Bishop Whipple Building where Immigration Court is held.) Park at the Ft. Snelling commuter light-rail parking lot. Sponsored by WAMM. Call Pepper at 612-701-6963.

Second Tuesday of every month, 7:30 a.m.

Vigil at 1 Federal Drive, Ft. Snelling, (Minneapolis/St. Paul), 55111, outside the Bishop Whipple Building, where Immigration Court is held for five-state area. Prayer, song, courtwatch. Sponsored by Minnesota Interfaith Coalition on Immigration. FFI: mnicom.org

WAMM Action Groups

Board Meeting

Third Tuesday of every month via Zoom, 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. FFI: 612-827-5364.

End Domestic Militarism

Times/Date pending
FFI: 612-827-5364.

End Military Madness Against the Earth

Time/dates pending.
FFI: 612-827-5364.

End War

First Monday of every month via Zoom, 6:30 p.m. FFI: 612-827-5364.

Middle East

Second and fourth Monday of every month via Zoom, 9:30 a.m. FFI: 612-827-5364.

St. Joan of Arc/ WAMM Peacemakers

Fourth Tuesday of every month via Zoom, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. FFI: Call Barbara 612-722-4444 or Bill 612-926-8459.

Solidarity Committee on the Americas (SCOTA)

Every Friday via Zoom, 10:00 a.m. FFI: 612-827-5364.

Ongoing Events

WAMM Monthly Movies

Day for movies may change after March. Check online or call WAMM at 612-827-5364. 4200 Cedar Ave. So. (enter on 42nd St.), Minneapolis. Projected on big screen. Free admission. All are welcome. Discussion follows film. FFI: 612-827-5364 or email: general@wamm.me.

Feminists: What Were They Thinking?

Sunday, March 12, 1:00 p.m., Netflix's documentary takes a look into the women's movement of the 1970s through the collection of feminist portraits. Over 40 years later, we look at the culture then and now. Discussion follow.

Special Events

Celebrating the Life of Polly Mann

Saturday, May 13, 2023. Gathering at 10:00 a.m., memorial at 11:00 a.m. Lunch follows. St. Joan of Arc Church, 4537 Third Ave. S., Minneapolis 55419.

Say No to U.S. Wars

Saturday, March 18, 1:00 p.m. Hennepin and Lagoon Aves S., Minneapolis. National weekend of anti-war protests to protest U.S./NATO war on Ukraine and mark 20 years after the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Initiated by MN Peace Action Coalition. FFI: 612-827-5364.

Solidarity Forever, from Minneapolis to Venezuela

Wednesday, March 22, 7:00 p.m., 4200 Cedar Ave. S. (enter on 42nd St.), Minneapolis A delegation report-back. Two Anti-War Committee members are returning from the Alliance for Global Justice's Venezuela delegation to do the reporting that the US media refuses to do. Sponsored by the Anti-War Committee. info@antiwarcommittee.org

WAMM Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 25, Breakfast 9:30 am., Program: 10:00 a.m. Join us IN PERSON at our annual meeting. Guest Speaker Coleen Rowley on the topic of "Propaganda and Psychopathology." We will vote on Board of Directors, annual budget, learn about action groups and how you can get involved in antiwar and social justice issues. FFI: 612-827-5364. See ad on back page.

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*Check the WAMM calendar
and zoom links at
womenagainstmilitarymadness.org
or call the WAMM office:
612-827-5364.*



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FREE ASSANGE!
*Revealing war crimes
is not a crime!*

IN-PERSON!!!

Join us for the
WAMM Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 25, 2023

**St. Joan of Arc Welcome Center (gym lobby)
4537 Third Ave S., Minneapolis 55419**

- 9:30 a.m. Breakfast, food provided
- 10:00 a.m. Coleen Rowley talk: "Propaganda and Psychopathy"
- 11:00 a.m. Annual meeting: voting on minutes, annual budget and election of the board of directors. Annual report, written by Jo Schubert, sung by popular vocalist Sophia Shorai.

Visit action group tables. Catch up with old friends and make new ones.

More info: 612-827-5364.