

## END US WARS AT HOME AND ABROAD

### NEWARK ANTI-WAR MONTHLY PROTEST

First Saturday each month  
11am – 1pm  
at the MLK Monument near Old  
Records Hall on MLK Blvd and  
13th Street, Newark, NJ

The protests will be thematic,  
responding to the events and  
escalating threats and actual acts  
of war by the US both abroad and  
at home. All are encouraged to  
show mutual support and  
solidarity and unify in opposition  
to all aspects of US war making.

Events will include  
presentations on the status of the  
US war crisis as well as music and  
cultural presentations. The New  
Jersey Anti-War Agenda printed  
paper will be available.

We invite local organizations  
to get involved and there will be  
opportunity to bring local issues to  
the attention at the events. Music  
and other performance art is  
invited.

**For information: 908-881-5275**  
**organize@njantiwaragenda.org**

2018 Dates include: Feb 3, Mar 3,  
Apr 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, Aug  
4, Sep 1, Oct 6, Nov 3, Dec 1

These events are endorsed by the  
following organizations:  
Peoples Organization for Progress,  
NJ Peace Action,  
#NJAntiWarAgenda, Union  
County Peace Council

## CALLING UPON ALL NJ ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

**Urging you to pass resolutions  
approving participation in  
protests in the months ahead in  
response to the war moves of the  
US. We are in an emergency  
situation and we will need to be  
able to quickly mobilize in the  
streets in response to the  
escalations toward total war.**

**If your organization wants:**

- \* a speaker at a meeting
- \* to organize an antiwar protest
- \* to organize an educational event

**Please contact immediately:  
908-881-5275.**

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Suggested Donation \$1 or Gratis

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# #NJAntiWarAgenda

**NJAntiWarAgenda.org**

**blog: bit.ly/2l8oato**

**On FB: bit.ly/2oTKRkm**

**Call/text: 908-881-5275**

**Organize@NJAntiWarAgenda.org**

**#NJAntiWarAgenda**

**Contact us immediately to get a  
bundle of papers for your antiwar  
organizing!**

## Welcome to the NJ Anti-War Agenda!

The United States has now been at war for sixteen straight years - and remarkably in 224 of the 241 years since 1776. Eight years ago we were at war with two countries, last year the United States dropped over 23,000 bombs on seven different countries.

Whether or not a person knows these facts, we are all affected by and responsible for the endless spiral of imperialist war, killing, and misery inflicted upon the world by the military-industrial war profiteers who drive our nation's foreign policy, and do so in our name. At home, these endless wars divert scarce financial resources away from projects of health, education, jobs, housing, infrastructure, equality, and environment - we spend more on the military than the next eight nations combined - and all for what?

We see the trickle-down affects of this militarism in our communities in returning soldiers physically and psychologically damaged, and the militarizing of community police who are armed with grenade launchers and tank-like vehicles.

And as this is written, a potential nuclear apocalypse looms with North Korea, Iran and even China or Russia. The people who think they are in control, clearly have lost it. We must change course, change our shared history. We have reached a tipping point where effective action has become a moral imperative.

Whatever our individual politics, whatever the focus of our group activism, we all need to be united in this one shared goal: The end to this endless war and cult of militarism. Now! Before the eighth nation is bombed, and before WE are bombed!

We cannot accomplish this as isolated individuals or groups, we need to communicate and coordinate our efforts. A first step will involve becoming educated about the gamut of concerns: the geographical flash points such as Korea, Afghanistan, Iran, Venezuela, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, Libya; the allocation of military expenditures, weapons systems development and deployment, troop deployments, military-industrial corporations and their owners, officers, and lobbyists, and, of course, the politicians, policies, and laws that make it all possible.

That is the goal of this publication, The NJ Opposition to Endless War. We seek to encourage all interested parties to develop actionable plans, organize, and coordinate activities toward opposing endless war and foreign adventurism. This may take the form of education, boycotts, or protests - the means need to be flexible and appropriate to the context. We would like this publication to act as a clearinghouse for such information.

In this issue we have articles by the editor and other NJ activists as well as contributions by other concerned citizens. No one will probably agree with everything written in every article, and that's fine. Our intention is to inform and stimulate, not foster uniformity. Our goal is effective change.

Seven thousand copies of this publication are being printed and will be available for distribution in your communities, schools, and churches, and at your events. For information on procuring copies for distribution, please text or call 908-881-5275.

## To End US Wars Abroad We Must Struggle to End US Wars at Home to support or offer feedback:

**NJAntiWarAgenda.org/USWaratHome.html USWaratHome@NJAntiWarAgenda.org**

The \$700 Billion approved by both ruling parties in the US to give the current Trump administration Carte Blanche for all of the threats, escalations, bombings, deployments being carried forward is directly stolen from the funds needed to fix Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, Texas and Florida, the funds for full services needed, to end hunger and malnutrition in the US, to provide free universal health care, to fully meet the educational needs of America's youth, to rebuild the decadent roads and infrastructure, to maintain public control of the internet, to provide full employment, etc.

The violence the US has wrought upon nations throughout the world and the threats of violence, has come home to the US streets in the form of impunity for brutality and killing by police. Furthermore police departments particularly in cities are increasingly receiving military training and millions in military and equipment are transferred from the Pentagon to local police forces. Through racialized and classist policing and meting out of sentencing, millions are incarcerated in inhumane conditions and forced into enslavement labor by the criminal justice system.

The military also has a significant presence in public schools, particularly in low income communities targeting youth for military recruitment as cannon fodder and to carry out the violent missions on

behalf of US foreign policy. Between mass incarceration and military recruitment and the toll that takes on the families with one or both parents removed, much of the adult population in impoverished communities is demobilized and unable to make a practical contribution toward resisting onslaught from the many forms of systemic oppression.

It is imperative for those who are working to oppose US wars abroad to recognize the connection to the conditions that are tantamount to a US war at home against its own domestic inhabitants. Every effort must be made to show support for the organizations that are targeting the many domestic onslaughts including those of groups like Peoples Organization for Progress, Decarcerate the Garden State, efforts to support livable wages, free health care for all, full funding for education, safe and healthy communities and environment, support for labor organizing, etc. Opportunities to organize educational events - even in the street - where the connections between these issues need to be pursued and organized must be sought.

We will make no progress in the struggle to oppose endless US wars of imperialism abroad without also taking head on the US wars at home against "our own people."

## Veterans and GI's are Anti-War Allies!

**by Richard Moser, author of "New Winter Soldiers: GI and Veteran Dissent During the Vietnam Era."**

**befreedom.co / to support or offer feedback:**

**NJAntiWarAgenda.org/GlandVetSupport.html GlandVetSupport@NJAntiWarAgenda.org**

If you want to stop war and challenge the empire then help our soldiers and veterans organize. Our soldiers and veterans carry special knowledge. They have seen first hand the horror and futility of war. What we understand as endless war, empire and occupation they know through personal experience. Today's soldiers and veterans have been treated worse by the US government than any generation of soldiers in well over a century.

In an effort to hide the war from the US public the burden has fallen heavily on approximately 1% of the American population to go into combat. That 1% sees far more combat than soldiers did in WWII or Vietnam or Korea. Two, three, and more tours are not uncommon. This is far more than humans can endure. The consequences in PTSD, suicides and casualties are more than tragic: the empire is eating its own.

But soldiers and veterans also have so much to teach us: they know the machine and the know how to organize. Their training can teach us the kinds of dedication and discipline we need to build a mass movement with real power to disrupt the war machine. Maybe most important they can teach us how we can recapture the revolutionary spirit that once made America truly great. With a little help from their friends soldiers and

veterans can once again be leaders in a new anti-war movement.

Since the Vietnam War there has been an unbroken tradition of opposition to war from servicemembers, veterans and their families. During the Vietnam Era soldiers protested, refused combat, insisted on discussing actions rather than simply following orders and resisted the war effort in ways large and small. As veterans they organized the Vietnam Veterans against the War and came to lead the anti-war movement in the early 1970's. The Veterans For Peace and Iraq Veterans Against the War continue the struggle.

Want to help our service-members stand against war and the oppressive conditions of military life? The tradition of resistance continues. Start by supporting the organizations in the inset box below.

Given support and an opportunity to stand up for the kind of values and ideals that they really wanted to fight for, a new GI and veteran movement is ready to spring to life. We saw that movement come alive when the veterans supported the courageous water protectors at Standing Rock. Reach out to soldiers and veterans, build a civilian movement to support them, and when struggles like Standing Rocks call, the soldiers and veterans will answer.

**Find these organizations on-line: IVAW (Iraq Veterans Against the War), VVAW (Vietnam Veterans Against the War), Veterans For Peace, GI Rights Hotline, Military Families Speak Out**

## WHAT IS YOUR ANTI-WAR AGENDA?

Here on this page are some anti-war positions on the various US international and domestic war hot spots. If you read this page and find you mostly agree – then it is time to act to stop and prevent these growing catastrophes.

Please propose to your organizations to approve taking stands on these topics – so that your groups can become part of the growing coalitions in support of specific anti-war actions.

We encourage your further study of these topics and we encourage you to offer your skills – be it writing, speaking, organizing, raising funds, protesting in the street, staffing information booths at events, your art, whatever talents and resources you can bring to the streets – and of course contributing financially to the several organizations in the state that are taking these issues on – toward these anti-war efforts. Please make contact with the groups referenced in these articles to find out how you can support the specific activities around these issues.

## DONATE TO NJ ANTI-WAR ORGANIZATIONS

This link will provide information on how to make financial contributions to several NJ organizations that are vital to supporting an anti-war agenda in NJ including NJ Peace Action, Peoples Organization for Progress, NJ Philippines Solidarity Committee, Jersey City Peace Movement and the Central Jersey Coalition Against Endless War (possible others to be added). [NJAntiWarAgenda.org/fund.html](http://NJAntiWarAgenda.org/fund.html)

## NJ Philippine Solidarity



[njphilsolidarity@gmail.com](mailto:njphilsolidarity@gmail.com)

## Action Needed Against CIA Station at Rutgers Possible Stipend for Student Organizer: Call 908-881-5275

Rutgers Targum has reported that Rutgers has a close to \$2 million Defense Intelligence Agency grant establishing “a federally-designated Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence (IC CAE)” Its purpose is to develop intelligence programs and inform and educate Rutgers Students. Operating out of the Orwellian named “Rutgers Center for Violence Prevention and Community Safety,” Rutgers has established a Center for Critical Intelligence Studies (CCIS) directed by Rutgers Criminal Justice professor John Cohen. Cohen has an extensive intelligence background most recently working for the Homeland Security Department. Rutgers now offers a minor in Critical Intelligence Studies (CIS) through this program..

Cohen stated in the Targum article that CCIS’s purpose is to establish education and training for students that want to enter in the field providing them with access to intelligence “professionals” (read spies and operatives) in the field and to provide training in preparation for an intelligence career. Another aspect of CCIS is to provide training to those who are already working in the field as spies and operatives. The field agents will have direct face-to-face access to the student spy trainees. The CCIS minor aims to prepare students in intelligence skills including writing, briefings and research.

According to the article: “Students are also given exposure to internship and study abroad opportunities ... The classes feature guest lecturers from the FBI, CIA, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).”

The minor requires 18 credits of related course work including Introduction to Critical Intelligence Studies, and Critical Thinking and Analytic Writing for the Intelligence Community. The program is also offering a one week course IC CAE Certificate in Intelligence and National Security delivered by CCIS.

From the days of the Vietnam war, CIA research, recruitment and other operations as well as ties to the US war machine was a source of conflict between anti-war forces and school administrations. In 1986, during the US war on Central America, 19 students and recent graduates (including this writer) were arrested protesting CIA recruitment at Rutgers in a blockade of the university president’s office in Old Queens.

Now Rutgers is a hub, a major intersection where the Pentagon, the CIA and the other spymasters of war have full court access for recruitment, training and indoctrination on behalf of US imperialism. Once again – and even more so now than ever, it is necessary for students with the support of the larger anti-war forces to resist this militarization of Rutgers. Any faculty or students at Rutgers interested in working on putting together a teach-in at Rutgers on the crimes of the CIA, the DIA and the US intelligence in general, from over throwing governments and mass murder, raising of paramilitary death squads, subversion and intervention to thwart the sovereignty and democracy of other nations and peoples, the slaughter of 1000s from CIA and DIA operated drone weapons programs, drug running, money laundering and every other kind of dirty operation . . . please contact us.

Rutgers now is directly complicit with these operations. This collaboration with the goals of US imperialism and war making needs to be protested by those in the Rutgers community seeking peace and justice. **Students interested in organizing a teach-in and other activities on this topic should call or text 908-881-5275, visit [NJAntiWarAgenda.org/Campuses.html](http://NJAntiWarAgenda.org/Campuses.html) and write to [Campuses@NJAntiWarAgenda.org](mailto:Campuses@NJAntiWarAgenda.org)**

## USA OUT OF AFGHANISTAN!

[NJAntiWarAgenda.org/Afghanistan.html](http://NJAntiWarAgenda.org/Afghanistan.html) [Afghanistan@NJAntiwarAgenda.org](mailto:Afghanistan@NJAntiwarAgenda.org)

The U.S. war on Afghanistan began on October 7, 2001. It was illegal, unjust and unethical from the start and should never have begun. It punished an entire nation for the action of a few. It violated the U.N. charter which only allows one nation to wage war against another sovereign nation in self-defense or in direct retaliation for actions already taken. The nation of Afghanistan did not attack the U.S. on 9/11/01 nor was it threatening to do so.

So why did the U.S. invade Afghanistan in the first place? Did it have to do with making sure there was a government in place friendly to the U.S. to ensure safety for desired construction of an oil pipeline through the country? Or was it to ensure access for the U.S. to a region rich in mineral resources, including lithium? Did the U.S. really believe that an invasion would succeed quickly?

It is now almost 16 years later. The U.S. taxpayer has paid \$782 billion for this war and continues to pay approximately \$4 million an hour. At least 2403 U.S. soldiers have lost their lives and 3539 soldiers have been injured (as of September 2012). 26, 270 Afghan civilians have been killed and 29,900 Afghan civilians wounded. Added together, more than 91,000 Afghan civilians and soldiers have died in this U.S. war of choice. The lives of thousands more have been disrupted.

The war on Afghanistan began under George W.

Bush. It continued under both of his terms and both of Barack Obama’s terms in office. Just recently, after months of procrastination and dropping the largest non-nuclear bomb in the U.S. arsenal on April 14, 2017, Donald Trump announced yet another 4,000 troops would be sent to Afghanistan. It costs approximately \$1 million to deploy one U.S. soldier in Afghanistan for one year. Both these decisions make accelerating the U.S. drawdown of troops and engaging in serious diplomatic efforts to end the war more difficult. Why should we think that a strategy that has failed almost 16 years will suddenly succeed?

Think about it. Sixteen-year-old men and women in the U.S. and Afghanistan have never known a time without war. In fact, the people of Afghanistan have been engaged in war now since 1979, when the U.S. helped lure the former Soviet Union into war and then funded Osama bin Laden and the mujahedeen to fight a proxy war.

The war in Afghanistan is the longest war in U.S. history, by far. And there’s no end in sight. We need to continue to demand clearly an immediate withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan as well as support for restoring Afghanistan from the devastation caused by US involvement. We need to continue to raise this issue at our events and be poised for emergency protest response in opposition to escalations and continued atrocities by the US there.

Despite the explosive anti-U.S. rhetoric from the Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte last year, the US-Philippines’ neo-colonial relations remain intact. This neo-colonial relation continues and will play an even more important role now as the United States seeks to maintain its place as the dominant imperialist power in an increasingly multi-polar world.

In line with this, U.S. President Donald Trump together with U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis recently visited the Philippines as part of their Asia Pacific tour to attend the Association of Southeast Asian Nations’ (ASEAN) East Asia Summit (EAS) this coming November 12 to 14. Through this tour, U.S. Imperialism is being pushed to expand neoliberal globalization and domination of the region, including trade wars, the U.S. military pivot to Asia, containment of China’s aggressive expansionism, war mongering in the Korean peninsula as well as increased intervention in the Philippines.

### U.S. Imperialist, no.1 terrorist

In this context, remember that Philippines served as the United States’ blueprint for its Imperialist conquest. At the turn of the century, United States unleashed a genocidal war of aggression against the young Philippine republic. Particularly horrific is what is now known as the Balangiga massacre in Eastern Samar where U.S. troops murdered “everyone over the age of ten”. The U.S. even took the Bells of Balangiga as a war trophy which remains in US possession to this day. This war, dubbed as America’s “first Vietnam”, dragged on for an entire decade from 1899 to 1910 leaving 1.5 million people, mostly civilians, dead.

Despite the victorious eviction of U.S. military bases in 1991, to this day, U.S. Imperialism’s virtual occupation of the Philippines remains and is legitimized by various unequal treaties such as the Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT) of 1951, Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA), the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) of 1998 and the most recent Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA), turning the entire archipelago into a U.S. military base. This is on top of the annual \$180 million of U.S. military aid to the Philippines supporting the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), which is notoriously known for committing human rights violations against the Filipino people.

This continued U.S. military presence has been the cause of various atrocities against the Filipino people. The case of “Nicole”, a young Filipino who was gang raped by four U.S. servicemen in 2005; the mysterious death of Gregan Cardeño in 2010, supposedly recruited as a translator to serve at a U.S. military base in Maguindanao he ended up dead; and most recently the murder of Jennifer Laude, a

transwoman murdered by a U.S. serviceman Scott Pemberton in Olongapo in 2014.

### International Solidarity vs U.S. Imperialism

The Filipino people have been waging an anti-imperialist struggle ever since the U.S. imperialism first set foot in the archipelago and this struggle is set to intensify. The Filipino people continue to wage an organized and protracted struggle both in the parliament of the streets, through Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (New Patriotic Alliance), a massive multi-sectoral alliance of progressive people’s organizations, as well as in waging a revolutionary armed struggle in the countryside through the New People’s Army (NPA) led by the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its revolutionary alliance, the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP).

Locally, through Anakbayan New Jersey, a Filipino youth organization based in Jersey City, there has been organizing for the local rights and welfare of the Filipino community and linking it to the national democratic struggle back in the Philippines. Anakbayan New Jersey has conducted educational forums on campuses and in communities, conducted campaigns and has built solidarity relations with the struggles in New Jersey.

It is high time that all people supporting peace and justice to pay closer attention and strengthen the solidarity to the Filipino people and their struggle for national and social liberation. To this end, the New Jersey Philippine Solidarity Committee (NJPSC) was established in June 2015 to gather moral and material support for the Philippine struggle. The NJPSC was able to successfully organize the annual Philippine Solidarity Week each February to raise awareness about the struggle in the Philippines. Also, earlier this year, the NJPSC was able to host a forum about the ongoing civil war in the Philippines between the Philippine government and the revolutionary movement. There is much more to be done and the NJPSC continues to invite and encourage various organizations, institutions and individuals to join the solidarity movement for the Philippines.

### How you can get involved

1. Join the Resist US-Led War Movement by signing on to the Manifesto online (<http://tinyurl.com/resistUSwars>)
2. Join the New Jersey Philippine Solidarity Committee (NJPSC)
3. Contact [njphilsolidarity@gmail.com](mailto:njphilsolidarity@gmail.com) about inviting a speaker to your organization, campus or community and to participate in winter and spring activities around Philippines Solidarity including Philippine Solidarity Week in February 2018.

Antiwar / Anti-Imperialism Campus Meetings  
Philippine Solidarity Week February 2018  
NJ Philippine Solidarity Committee:  
[facebook.com/NJPhilippineSolidarity/](https://www.facebook.com/NJPhilippineSolidarity/) [njphilsolidarity@gmail.com](mailto:njphilsolidarity@gmail.com)  
Anakbayan New Jersey: [facebook.com/AnakbayanNJ/](https://www.facebook.com/AnakbayanNJ/) / [anakbayannj@gmail.com](mailto:anakbayannj@gmail.com)

## VENEZUELA SOLIDARITY

Antonio Cordero, Venezuelan Consul General in San Francisco

Dear Consul General Cordero,

On October 7, labor and antiwar activists from across the San Francisco Bay Area came together at a "U.S. Out Now!" public forum that was sponsored by the United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC) and held at the Niebyl Proctor Library in Oakland.

Forum speakers addressed all the major arenas in which the U.S. government is intervening throughout the world, sowing chaos, death, and destruction -- but special attention was paid to the urgent situation facing the Venezuelan people as a direct result of the U.S. intervention.

At the conclusion of the meeting, participants voted a "U.S. Hands Off Venezuela!" statement that we are forwarding to you and to the people of Venezuela. The statement reads as follows:

We, the participants in the October 7 "U.S. Out Now!" public forum in Oakland, California, were informed by the speakers of some very disturbing developments involving the stepped-up U.S. intervention in Venezuela:

\* On July 14, the U.S. Congress, with a large bipartisan majority, approved an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget titled, "On the Situation in Venezuela." This amendment has a military component. It begins by talking about the "instability" in Venezuela ("which risks spreading throughout the entire region") and directs the Secretary of Defense to hold a briefing ("which could be classified or not") no later than September 30, 2017 to lay the groundwork for a possible "humanitarian" multilateral intervention to address the "deteriorating situation in Venezuela."

\* Eight hundred U.S. Marines are slated to participate in November in joint military exercises in the Amazon jungle of Brazil, at the invitation of the illegitimate Brazilian coup government headed by Michel Temer, together with troops from Brazil, Peru and Colombia. Across Brazil, these exercises are seen to be targeting Venezuela and its Bolivarian government.

According to credible sources, on October 13, the Venezuelan rightwing opposition will be declaring a "Government in Exile" and will be receiving the immediate support of the U.S. government and the OAS. The opposition will also establish a Supreme Court in Exile.

We, UNAC forum speakers and participants, express our deep concern that this fraudulent and U.S.-funded "Government in Exile" will at some point call on the "international community" -- led by the United States -- to approve a "humanitarian" military intervention in Venezuela, much like they did in Haiti under the cover of the U.N. MINUSTAH troops.

We, UNAC forum participants, reaffirm our commitment to building the broadest antiwar united front coalition, with actions in the streets across the United States, to demand U.S./OAS Hands Off Venezuela!

United, we can prevail to stay the hands of the U.S. warmakers. U.S. Hands Off Venezuela!

In solidarity, Cindy Sheehan, Gold Star Mother, antiwar activist, Jeff Mackler, Administrative Committee, United Antiwar Coalition (UNAC), Tova Fry, Forum, co-organizer, International Action Center, Alan Benjamin, Editorial Board, The Organizer Newspaper, Judy Greenspan: Worker's World Party (Bay Area), others

[Venezuela@NJAntiWarAgenda.org](mailto:Venezuela@NJAntiWarAgenda.org)

[NJAntiWarAgenda.org/Venezuela.html](http://NJAntiWarAgenda.org/Venezuela.html)

### HONDURAS SUPPORT

In response to the electoral fraud and repression of opposition that occurred in Honduras, NJ residents are organizing in solidarity to protest US support of the fraud and to support democracy and human rights. Get involved:

[facebook.com/groups/523164874726406](https://facebook.com/groups/523164874726406)

[Honduras@NJAntiWarAgenda.org](mailto:Honduras@NJAntiWarAgenda.org)

908-881-5275

[NJAntiWarAgenda.org/Honduras.html](http://NJAntiWarAgenda.org/Honduras.html)

## US War Machine Targets Africa



Recently 4 US troops perished in a combat mission when they were attacked in Niger raising awareness across the US and world of the growing US military presence in Africa through the US military program known as AFRICOM.

The following is an excerpt from Margaret Kimberley's Freedom Rider column entitled "AFRICOM is the Question" at the Black Agenda Report site <https://blackagenda.com/freedom-rider-africom-question>

"Few people realize that such a thing as the United States Africa Command (AFRICOM) exists and that the military forces of most African nations have been under the de facto control of this country since the George W. Bush administration.

There is similar silence about the role that the United States played in bringing groups designated as terrorists into nations such as Niger and Mali. The decision to overthrow Muammar Gaddafi in Libya is directly responsible for Boko Haram and Al-Qaeda affiliate groups gaining a foothold throughout the region. Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton and their NATO partners in crime were not just responsible for the deaths of thousands of Libyans, slavery in that country, and an ongoing humanitarian crisis. They are responsible for bringing state sponsored terror to the entire region."

On the topic of military service, Margaret Kimberley states "Black people should feel no need to validate themselves through military service or any other undertaking. As the people who have suffered through centuries of unpaid labor, Jim Crow apartheid and constant oppression, we should feel no need to uphold this system. Yet we have already proven a willingness to die for the interests of a corrupt and dangerous state."

She continues, "Any discussion about Sergeant Johnson (the Black US soldier who recently perished in Niger) ought to point out that he was a victim of the poverty draft. Before enlisting he worked at Walmart, a sure path to continued poverty or to the dubious odds offered by the army. Trump said that Johnson "knew what he signed up for" but that is probably not true. He took a chance and hoped for the best. Unfortunately the machinations of Bush, Obama, Clinton and Trump made his choice a bad one."

Nick Turse, writer for online magazine Vice. com, explains that Sergeant Johnson is a casualty of a wider United States Military involvement in Africa:

The Fire and Fury statement by President Trump and the threat of "destruction" of the people of Korea by James "Maddog" Mattis, US Secretary of Defense are pushing the world to the brink of nuclear war. There needs to be a unified response demanding an end to the threats. These threats add to the most frightening assemblage of carnage potential surrounding the Korean nations by the United States: 3 air craft carriers loaded up with bomber and other air craft, possibly including nuclear weapons patrol Korean area seas. The carriers are accompanied by a fleet of war ships and 3 nuclear armed submarines. Meanwhile, B1 bombers launched from Guam are making sorties near Korea further increasing the threat of unlimited violence and kill force against the Korean people. Furthermore, South Korea has just agreed to accept THADD missile deployment which could be used in support of an aggressive "preemptive" strike against Korea by the US.

Opponents of US war with Korea are

**TO ACT: NO US WAR IN AFRICA!**  
[www.facebook.com/groups/139409723479976/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/139409723479976/)

**Peoples Organization for Progress**  
[njpop.org](http://njpop.org) / 973-801-0001  
**Black Alliance for Peace**  
[blackallianceforpeace.com/](http://blackallianceforpeace.com/)  
**Black is Back blackisbackcoalition.org/**  
[NJAntiWarAgenda.org/NoAfricom.html](http://NJAntiWarAgenda.org/NoAfricom.html)  
[NoAfricom@NJAntiWarAgenda.org](mailto:NoAfricom@NJAntiWarAgenda.org)  
**GPNJ Black Caucus @GPNJbc**

<https://news.vice.com/story/us-military-secret-missions-africa>

"U.S. troops are now conducting 3,500 exercises, programs, and engagements per year, an average of nearly 10 missions per day, on the African continent, according to the U.S. military's top commander for Africa, General Thomas Waldhauser. The latest numbers, which the Pentagon confirmed to VICE News, represent a dramatic increase in U.S. military activity throughout Africa in the past decade, and the latest signal of America's deepening and complicated ties on the continent."

Department of Defense General 'Mad Dog' Mattis, has told Senators that the US operations will soon increase dramatically. Such growth is evidence in more statistics from Nick Turse's Vice article: "When U.S. Africa Command, the umbrella organization for U.S. military operations on the continent, first became operational in 2008, it inherited 172 missions, activities, programs, and exercises from other combatant commands. Five years in, that number shot up to 546. . . . Today's figure of 3,500 marks an astounding 1,900 percent increase since the command was activated less than a decade ago, and suggests a major expansion of U.S. military activities on the African continent. "

NJ's Jim Brash, founder of the NJ Green Party Black Caucus and administrator of "U.S. Military Out of Africa Now!-NJ" Facebook group has this to say about AFRICOM:

" AFRICOM is just the latest manifestation of U.S. imperialism on the African Continent. The US and its junior partners which includes Benelux, France, Italy, & Great Britain, have positioned themselves as the long-term beneficiaries of Africa's wealth, since the end of the Transatlantic Slave Trade. They've done this thru war; political & economic intimidation; exacerbating tribal rivalries; instigating new tribal rivalries where there previously were none conflict where there, and by drawing up borders on maps that suited the interests of Anglo-European capital. "

"This generation has seen the murder of former Libyan leader. M. Qaddafi , as instigated by U.S. led foreign interests. A previous generation saw this same cabal instigate the murder of Congolese President Patrice Lumumba. "

" The US military industrial complex is not now nor has ever been a friend to the African people. Its friendliness is a cover for the exploitation necessary to insure Anglo-

European profits & continental domination."

AFRICOM's presence will only deepen the quagmire of debt, disease, famine, civil war, and political servitude the majority of African peoples are dealing with via the collaborationist governments they're living under. We are demanding the USA out of Africa Now! We are demanding the full withdrawal of all foreign military forces, including the U.N. peacekeepers from the African continent. We're also demanding full reparations by Anglo-European powers for the long-lasting affects of colonialism and for the further machinations by these same said powers during the post-colonial era."

An anti-war stance should educate about America's escalating conflicts in African countries and their repercussions. Instead of exploiting Africa's material wealth in crops, mining and other goods the US should provide support for developments in medicine and education. Resources should be provided to aid in resolving destruction caused by American Military missions into Niger and other African countries.

Jim Brash of Green Party NJ Black Caucus believes that more could be done educating Americans about United States' Military interventions. He says: "We need to also develop a grassroots effort in our communities about the US creeping military occupation among youth, churches, mosques and community based organizations about the nefarious role of the US in Africa and our need to resist. We need to be poised to take to the streets and to include speakers at anti-war rallies about the US war in Africa."

We've formed a facebook discussion group, that I for one hope will lead to protests outside of various UN missions and embassies, & eventually lead to a March on the U.N. itself, that will bring the pillaging, the manipulation, and the further militarization of the African continent by Anglo-European powers to the attention of the global community.

### PUERTO RICO EVENT

Anyone interested in helping to organize and / or participating in a discussion on the topic of the crisis in Puerto Rico including:

- \* the debt crisis
- \* the Jones Act
- \* the financial junta and the austerity clamp down
- \* and the aftermath of the hurricane disaster

. . . to be held in Perth Amboy in March 2018, please contact:

[PuertoRico@NJAntiWarAgenda.org](mailto:PuertoRico@NJAntiWarAgenda.org)  
908-881-5275.

[NJAntiWarAgenda.org/PuertoRico.html](http://NJAntiWarAgenda.org/PuertoRico.html)

### From NJ Flier Protesting US War on Korea

to support or offer feedback:[NJAntiWarAgenda.org/NOUSWarKorea.html](http://NJAntiWarAgenda.org/NOUSWarKorea.html) [NOUSWarKorea@NJAntiwarAgenda.org](mailto:NOUSWarKorea@NJAntiwarAgenda.org)

correct to be organizing street protests calling for an end to the US threats, an end to the violent rhetoric from the US administration and to call for diplomacy. Calling for diplomacy and an end to threatening rhetoric is NOT ENOUGH. Indeed the most important demands for us to make at this time is:

**THE COMPLETE, UNCONDITIONAL, IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL US ARMED FORCES FROM THE KOREAN REGION OF THE WORLD AND THE HALTING OF THADD SYSTEMS DEPLOYMENT TO SOUTH KOREA**  
**AN IMMEDIATE END TO ALL SANCTIONS AGAINSTTHE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF KOREA!**  
**AN IMMEDIATE PUBLIC OFFER TO NEGOTIATE ONCE AND FOR ALL THE SIGNING OF A PEACE TREATY BETWEEN THE US, NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA.**  
**THE COMPLETE FUNDING OF THE**

**NEEDS OF NJ'S CITIES AND ITS IMPOVERISHED COMMUNITIES, NOT A POTENTIAL WAR WITH KOREA THAT COULD UNLEASH THE UNTHINKABLE: NUCLEAR WAR**

The US is the aggressor and the nation that has its forces deployed on the other side of the planet threatening a nation the size of New Jersey. It is the responsibility of the people of the United States to make the demand to end this threat -- not just threatening words -- but the threatening actions and threatening physical presence of one of the largest kill forces ever amassed. Remember that the war fever, the threats of war and the deployments means that billions in US resources are being expended, enriching war profiteers while depriving the cities of NJ from getting the resources needed to improve life for NJ's impoverished. Be clear that threats of US war on Korea could easily touch off thermonuclear war and ostensibly end life on the planet.

#NJAntiWarAgenda is published by Bob Witaneck who is solely responsible for its content. That does not mean I agree with every thing everyone says in here – there are many contributors – but nobody quoted or contributing can be construed as responsible for any other articles or opinions expressed here in.

# NJ ANTIWAR

## New Jersey Peace Action is a Primary Motivator of NJ's Anti-War Movement

**New Jersey Peace Action | 673 Bloomfield Avenue | Bloomfield, NJ 07003**

**973-259-1126 | Fax 973-259-113 Director@njpeaceaction.org**

For nearly all of the recent anti-war events around NJ, NJ Peace Action has been a primary motivator in calling people to action and formulating an initial plan., communicating with the media and on social media, organizing the format of the events and providing signs and other materials.

For many years NJ Peace Action coordinated a vigil in Montclair opposing US wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and other US war policies – usually held at the intersection of Bloomfield Avenue & Church Street, In recent weeks an emergency rally was held there opposing US threats against Korea.

According to the group's website, "Peace Action is the nation's largest grass roots organization. It was founded as SANE (later to become SANE/Freeze) in 1957. Our goals are:

- Abolish Nuclear War
- Promote a more peaceful economy
- Bring an end to weapons trafficking
- Encourage non-military solutions to international conflicts
- Promote conflict resolution at all levels.

Peace Action's national headquarters are in Washington D.C. Policies are decided democratically at annual national conferences and through a Board of Directors elected by the grassroots affiliates.

The Northern New Jersey Affiliate - NJ Peace Action, always one of the nation's most active groups, is based in Bloomfield with chapters throughout the state local communities.

What we do...

- We lobby for policy changes in Congress, the United Nations, Trenton and in towns like yours
- We educate and publish a hotline on federal legislation and annual voting records for every member of congress on peace and justice issues
- We print fact sheets to better inform the public, hold public meetings on important issues and speak out in the press
- We promote conflict resolution programs in New Jersey Schools and encourage future generations to solve problems
- We organize at the grassroots level to encourage citizens to vote for candidates who support our views on peace and social issues."

NJ Peace Action will no doubt play a vital role in the next year in reviving NJ's anti-war resistance through participation in street demonstrations, organizing anti-war pressure on Congress and participating in educational events. The group can also offer advice and assistance in organizing protests and other events in your community and can provide expert speakers for educational events and for school events including colleges, high schools and elementary schools. Those planning any anti-war event should make contact NJ Peace Action one of their first steps in seeking support, co-sponsorship, participation and outreach.

**Donate: <http://www.njpeaceaction.org/drupal/join>**

## Highland Park / New Brunswick – Central Jersey Coalition Leads Anti-War Vigils and Protest Rallies

Contact: [noendlesswar@gmail.com](mailto:noendlesswar@gmail.com) 732-771-7882  
[www.againstendlesswar.org](http://www.againstendlesswar.org)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/204276683815](https://www.facebook.com/groups/204276683815)

Since 2004, the Central Jersey Coalition Against Endless War has kept opposition to US war making in the spotlight in the Highland Park / New Brunswick communities. Through 2015, the coalition maintained a monthly vigil on Raritan Ave/Rt 27 north of the Albany Street Bridge in Highland Park. It began on April 14, 2004 to commemorate those who were killed after the U.S. invasion of Iraq in March, 2003. Originally called the Iraq Memorial Wall Vigil, it included huge black panels with the name, age, rank, and date of every U.S. soldier killed. In 2008, the panels of the Wall became too numerous to continue to display on a weekly basis. However, the vigil continued another 6 years.

The coalition continues to organize protests at that site, and sometimes on the corner of Albany Street and George Street or at the Fountain on the corner of George Street and Livingston Avenue both in New Brunswick in response to US war escalations and threats.

According to one of the groups coordinators, Ellen Whitt: "We look at the vigil and our group as against the endless war on working people at home and around the world.

We have a weekly announcement email list that includes many events in the Middlesex County area. People can sign up for this and it includes the time and place of our monthly Planning Meetings. Contact [noendlesswar@gmail.com](mailto:noendlesswar@gmail.com) to join the contact list.

Every six weeks we sponsor Marc's Place Coffeehouse where we invite speakers to lead a discussion of important current issues including war, social justice and the environment. It also includes performances by area musicians and poets. The coffeehouse is nearly 12 years old. It brings together activists and people new to these issues to discuss how to fight back effectively."

According to Ellen, top concerns as far as US war escalations go include: "North Korea, Iran, Afghanistan, Middle East - Syria, Iraq, Palestinian" However the coalition stands ready to respond to any and all such war threats as they surface. Folks can plug in to help improve the effectiveness of the events and activities by:

Attending Planning Meetings to help plan future activities and our work with other groups, volunteerinh to help with the coffeehouse, helping with outreach (includes tabling at community events, distributing leaflets, social media).

According to Ellen, the Coalition works with many groups and is also formally part of other coalitions: "We are members of the NJ Alliance for Immigrant Justice and NJ Renews. We work with the local chapter of Jewish Voices for Peace, Food and Water Watch, New Labor, Interfaith-RISE (refugee resettlement), DIRE (Deportation and Rapid Response Equipo), among others."

Related to the coalition's opposition to war, the group also focuses on "immigration, environmental, labor issues and issues related to the Middle East. We have frequently worked with both NJ Peace Action and the Coalition for Peace Action," according to Ellen. "We are generally trying to build stronger connections with local and regional groups on issues where we agree to expand our reach," she added. Most recently on Monday October 1, the coalition led a rally demanding "Money for Puerto Rico, Not for War!" at the corner of Albany and George in New Brunswick.

## Help Arrange a Pizza Shop Youth Organizing Event

Cross generational organizing is challenging but it is a necessity toward building the kinds of forces we need to challenge the US war machine.

A tactic toward organizing events with youth participation that has proven successful is pizza shop organizing. (It works with college students and "older folks" too!)

If your group has a couple youth members or through organizing you make contact with a youths interested in anti-war efforts, invite them and their friends to an organizing pizza party at a local shop. If they are not "adult aged" it is best if you can talk to their parents about it and welcome them to attend as well.

We offer to pay for the pizza and work with them to invite the friends and colleagues to participate. We push some tables together and while we wait for the pizza we facilitate an informal discussion on the topic of opposing US war making. We offer a proposed plan for a subsequent event for the youth to participate in that we will provide assistance in organizing. We do everything possible to facilitate the successful event and build from there.

We can inquire among our members and supporters as to who has connection to younger folks, be they parents, mentors, facilitators of youth groups, religious ministers, educators, etc.

Approach the youth with the idea – if there is interest move forward. We suggest to them to invite as many interested friends as possible. We can provide hand outs. Ideally, have a couple of facilitators of the meeting but it is important that after an initial presentation – the discussion be allowed to flow informally. Before the meeting breaks – we try to come up with a commitment to move forward with an event and a high level plan to make it happen.

Make sure that the point persons know how to get in touch with everyone there through a sign in or even passing a lap top or phone around to collect the contact info. Then we do it again! If you are interested in helping to put together such a meeting – and especially if you have a connection to interested youth who can help get one of these meetings going, please call or text 908-881-5275. I definitely will help and I am definitely willing to throw a few pizza pies on the table for such efforts. **Contact: [Organize@NJAntiWarAgenda.org](mailto:Organize@NJAntiWarAgenda.org)**  
**[NJAntiWarAgenda.org/Organize.html](http://NJAntiWarAgenda.org/Organize.html)**

Northern NJ Weekly Vigils On FB: @LeoniaVigil/  
Leonia, NJ Vigil for Peace and Justice Leonia meets Sunday 4 to 4  
30pm at corner of Broad Av and Ft Lee Rd  
Teaneck meets Wed. 4 to 5 pm near the Armory, at Teaneck and Liberty  
Roads

Musicians / Poets  
Let's Slam Against the  
War Machine

Protest Performances

Recording

New Songs

Music Collab

[Music@NJAntiWarAgenda.org](mailto:Music@NJAntiWarAgenda.org)

[NJAntiWarAgenda.org/](http://NJAntiWarAgenda.org/)

[Music.html](http://Music.html)

Song Against US War on Korea  
Artist: Robert Colby-Witaneck

We got nuclear armed subs patrolling their coast  
But we all like to think he is the maddest the most  
We threatened to take him out Every other day  
And then we get bent when he says He'll make us pay  
B1s take of from the island of Guam  
To harass the Koreans make them worry about the bomb  
With 3 air craft carriers and a nuclear armed fleet  
An ever imminent threat to bring the nuclear heat  
The US dropping bombs all over the earth  
With no concern about what life is worth  
But they keep shouting it from the TV set  
About the Mad Korean and his nuclear threat  
The threat that is real to the entire world  
Preemptive US attack to start the death swirl  
Because China and Russia are not going to wait  
They got em too so they'll retaliate  
And when the first US city is in a mushroom cloud  
With 1000s more on the way - funeral shroud  
They said the Korean was mad but it matters no more  
Because the world was incinerated in a nuclear war  
<https://youtu.be/CCd9LTeduLY>



## Jersey City Peace Movement (JCPM)

Contact: [JCPeaceMovement@hotmail.com](mailto:JCPeaceMovement@hotmail.com) / JCPM PO BOX 7840 Jersey City, NJ 07307  
<https://m.facebook.com/JCPeaceMovement/>

Contact: [JCPeaceMovement@hotmail.com](mailto:JCPeaceMovement@hotmail.com) / JCPM PO BOX 7840 Jersey City, NJ 07307  
<https://m.facebook.com/JCPeaceMovement/> Since 2003, JCPM held a monthly protest in Journal Square in Jersey City that combined opposition to US wars abroad with support for the local homeless. According to Erik-Anders Nilson, one of the coordinators, the protests were held to show that: "We are against all the wars demanding troops and mercenaries be brought back now. We stand for Native American rights and the rights of the Palestinian people. We fight anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. Our three main points are: STOP WARS; HELP THE HOMELESS and VOTER ENCOURAGEMENT."

While JCPM has paused the monthly regularly scheduled protests as of the end of 2017, the organization is ready to organize new actions, perhaps at the same location, in response to the continuing growing threats of US war escalations.

Other activities of the Jersey City Peace Movement include: Film screenings, awards ceremonies honoring activists, lectures, antiwar activities first and foremost, inspiring people to vote. They also provide information and friendship to "our homeless friends." According to Erik-Anders: "We are open to all likeminded organizations and have been joined in past in solidarity on various issues by the following groups: Anakbayan, BLM JerseyCity chapter, International Action Center, Food Not Bombs, Action 21, Socks for Success, JC Peoples Alliance, Neturei Karta, Occupy Wall Street, Building Blocks(a Muslim community organization) and local elected officials. . . . We at JCPM are from all walks of life, across the spectrum of color/race, religion, sexuality, age and socio-economic structure and welcome likeminded progressive activists to join us at our monthly meetings on the last Sunday at 12 noon." To find out how you can help coordinate with the antiwar efforts of Jersey City Peace Movement, immediately contact: [JCPeaceMovement@hotmail.com](mailto:JCPeaceMovement@hotmail.com)

**[NJAntiWarAgenda.org](http://NJAntiWarAgenda.org) / Call/text: 908-881-5275**  
**[Organize@NJAntiWarAgenda.org](mailto:Organize@NJAntiWarAgenda.org) / #NJAntiWarAgenda**

# COMMUNITY

## Organizing an Anti-War Protest

Care needs to be taken in organizing events in opposition to US warfare. Having a well prepared plan, a good core group of organizers and participants, goals for the event, and an organizing strategy will greatly enhance success. Some first steps include:

### Determining the goals for the event.

The following is a sample of possible goal

- To oppose - the deployment of naval fleet, selling of weapons, bombings, etc
- To educate the public - about a policy, consequences, expenses, and the overall disaster it will likely cause at home and abroad.

- To reach out to the local community - offering opportunities for participation.

### Pick an appropriate location.

Things to consider include safety, parking, visibility to vehicle and pedestrian traffic, ability for interaction to share printed hand-outs and speak with passersby and a potential route to march from that location through visible markets and communities/

- You can also pick a location that is appropriate for the issue you are addressing, such as in front of your elected officials' offices, at a recruitment center, at a Federal or State Building if you are asking for something from the Federal or State government, corporate headquarters for a company such as Boeing, etc, though the benefits of a strategic symbolism need to be weighed vs. potential community outreach.

### Identify individuals and organizations with whom to partner.

- Look for those who not only support the goals but are also committed to organizing the event. A core group of 3 - 5 individuals is ideal to get things rolling.

### Identify the organizations that are sympathetic toward anti-war sentiments and activities in the area.

- Identify the local schools, community centers, businesses (for instance, beauty parlors and barber shops), places of worship, parks, housing developments, and other proximate opportunities that might aid in the distribution of information.

### Identify "hooks and hot-buttons" that would engage the community and invite participation.

- Identify the issues that are important to the local population and how it relates to the anti-war effort, if reasonably possible.

- Identify activities to interest more people, like artistic performances, open mic, and known speakers.

### Pick the date.

- The event date should be based upon the definite availability of you, the main organizer, and at least two or three others.

- Try to ensure a small group is present when starting. A group is far more likely to receive attention and interest from passersby than a few individuals.

- If your protest/vigil has 4 or fewer attendees, you can turn it into an "informational picket" where the attendees hand out fact sheets, etc. Sometimes you can build a bigger crowd from passers by depending upon objective circumstances and your approach to the public.

### Plan the publicity.

- Social networking which could be used to reach individuals as well as organizations.

- Local media which could result in pre-event publicity as well as event-day coverage.

- On-the-ground pre-publicity directed at the local area through fliers and canvassing.

- Event day live casting of (at least) key parts of the event and photographing the participation. Use hash tags on the photos, video, articles, etc. as well as on event signs. This will make it easier for people to follow your organizing efforts.

- Following the event, be sure to write and post reports with photos, blog, and generally use social networking to celebrate the successes of the event.

### Have a time-lined plan for the event.

- The sequence, staffing, and estimated duration for poetry and music, presentations, speeches, info-booths, printed hand-outs, pedestrian engagement, etc.

- Organizers should have a means to gather the contact information of participants and anyone who shows interest.

- If you are having speakers, organize the sequence, beginning with the most important speaker or the speaker addressing the most important topic, make sure that you have several speakers at the beginning who will describe the whole story within the first 10 - 15 minutes of your program. It is usually useful to ask speakers to stick to a time limit -- whether it be 5 or 10 minutes per person-- just so you can have some measure of control over the program. Be intentional about the people you invite, the topics you want them to cover and the effectiveness of the chosen speakers.

### Material Support

A small amount of funds could make the event more successful. The following are some items that might need to be purchased to make the event more visible and have a more coherent message:

- Poster board and markers. You can have pre-made signs or you can allow participants to make their own signs as they arrive. You should have suggested slogans but encourage them also to express their own anti-war agenda on their signs.

- If the topic is likely to be revisited at future protests, banners with demands, the names of participating organizations and #HashTag phrases that you are using to brand your events could be helpful.

- About 100 copies of half sheet fliers (cut in 2 to make 200) - depending upon the amount of pedestrian and vehicular traffic are key in communicating a clearer message to those you encounter during your event.

- A sound system - it could be a bullhorn or a more sophisticated rechargeable battery pack sound kit - makes for a more coherent rally and gives you an opportunity to address those hanging around, walking by or in vehicles passing the event. They can be rented, purchased or borrowed from seasoned activists who happen to have their own sound set up.

### Literature:

It is ideal to have a written piece explaining your purpose, including contact information what demands you are expressing. Include information about how to join your group on social networks. Hand outs promoting a local event are encouraged. NJ Anti-War Agenda will be made available for this purpose to distribute at your events - contact 908-881-5275 to arrange to get a bundle.

### Permit:

While you do not need a permit for a protest on public sidewalks and right-of-ways for protected free speech, many towns have local ordinances against sound amplification. While the constitutionality of such ordinances is questionable, sometimes it is easier to acquire a permit or to at least communicate to local officials or police to minimize the possibility of having your activity shut down or curtailed. Those experienced with organizing events in the town or city you are operating in can advise on whether or not a permit is advisable. If a permit is required, especially for sound, it is important to find out how long it usually takes to get that permit and plan the date of your event accordingly to allow yourself enough time to get the permit.

### Organizing:

These events should not be pop-up events but should be tied to an organizing drive in the neighborhood. Ideally supporters of the event should work the areas earlier on the day of and in the days and weeks in between events - to talk about the protests, the reasons and how they relate to the struggles of those in the neighborhood. The goal is to build a movement that engages the entire community - not simply to take a principled stand. The demand is stronger when it is backed by genuine community support.

NJ Anti-War Agenda is networked with a number of organizers with experience in arranging events, so help is just a phone call away at 908-881-5275. We are partnered with the following organizations that have also been instrumental in such organizing - you can contact these organizations as well for support and assistance in putting these events together: NJ Peace Action (973)876-1023, Peoples Organization for Progress (973)801-0001, Central Jersey Coalition Against Endless War (732)771-7882

**Peoples Organization for Progress**  
General Assembly Meeting Every Thu 6:30 pm, 224 W. Kinney St.  
Justice Monday Protest, 4:30-6 pm, Rodino Federal Bldg, 970 Broad St  
Recruitment: Every Saturdays, noon, Broad and Market,  
Newark, NJ  
njpop.org / 973-801-0001

One of the forefront organizations in NJ that is working to organize a stronger anti-war effort is People's Organization for Progress. At almost every anti-war protest in NJ that has taken place in recent month's, Lawrence Hamm chair of the People's Organization for Progress has played a swivel role in giving quorum to move forward with an event. We usually try to get 3 or 4 people initially to agree to call a protest assuming that they will take responsibility to make sure all the steps are taken to make sure that it is successful in various ways.

It is Lawrence Hamm, on behalf of POP who has delivered, without rental cost, a sophisticated sound system with very capable community amplification. POP also has a wealth of its trademark signs around almost every important issue out there - including on every aspect of the escalation of US wars and threats. While Chair Hamm, and often Ingrid Hill transports the POP protest infrastructure, sound, signs and other materials, POP also always delivers numbers of participants - it does not just throw its name on the flier. Many of the protests against US wars in recent months have been well attended by the yellow shirt styling POP membership.

Every decision made by Peoples Organization for Progress is vetted at the organization's Thursday General Assembly meetings that occur Every Thursday 6:30 pm, 224 W. Kinney St., Newark NJ. The meetings feature guest speakers, presentations, topical discussions, panels - along with a host of presentations by POP members and guests proposing POP involvement in various initiatives.

NJ Anti War Agenda recently spoke with POP chair Lawrence Hamm. According to Mr. Hamm, The Peoples Organization for Progress (POP) was founded in 1983 and in its constitution, one of the listed "aims and purposes" is to "work for world peace." Mr. Hamm explains that POP's origins are from the "revolutionary Black nationalist" period when progressive Black nationalists saw the struggle for peace as part of their work - "to people like WEB Dubois, Paul Robeson, and others for whom peace was at the top of the agenda. They always worked for peace and against the threat of nuclear war. There has always been an explicitly anti-imperialist dimension to the revolutionary Black nationalist movement. POP inherits those aspects of the movement. We try to bring the best of the Black liberation movement into the present and future," he states.

Speaking on the connections between the war at home and US wars abroad, Chair Hamm explains: "As Dr. King pointed out there is a facile relationship between imperialist wars abroad and poverty at home. The latest budget put forward by the Trump administration called for a \$54 billion increase in the military spending and a \$54 billion decrease in spending on social programs. Martin Luther King said in his speech on the Vietnam war that we drop bombs on Vietnamese children abroad and explode the bombs of poverty at home. In the last 16 years in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq we've spent \$5 trillion. Imagine what we could have done with \$5 trillion at home! How many schools and hospitals could have been saved? How much public housing could have been funded? We could have eliminated homelessness. When all is said and done we have accomplished in Iraq and Afghanistan only the destruction of those countries."

On POP's future anti-war plans, Mr. Hamm explains:

"We definitely are going to continue to support the work of NJ's anti-war coalition and NJ Peace Action particularly in opposing war with North Korea which would be disastrous. . . . Beforehand POP had protested on the corner of Broad and Market opposing the US attacks on Syria. . . . We will



continue to oppose possible war in Korea, war in Syria, to call for the withdrawal of troops from Iraq and Afghanistan and to oppose unjust imperialist wars abroad. . . . We oppose these wars because they are wrong, we end up supporting dictatorships and opposing progressive governments that don't agree with US foreign policy.

These wars are disastrous for the people in the countries. We have caused immense suffering and killed 100s of 1000s of children. When not directly involved the US is supporting governments like the Saudis and their adventure in Yemen, committing crimes against humanity. Then we have to help people to understand how using resources for war take away resources from use to meet domestic human needs."

POP was instrumental in mobilizing massive NJ participation in anti-war protests in NYC and NJ in the early days of the latest (and still ongoing) US war in Iraq. On Iraq, Mr. Hamm states: "10,000 Americans killed in Iraq, millions of Iraqi, many of them children . . . we've gained nothing. And the wars were proven to be based upon a lie."

POP plans to make another focus of its antiwar work, the situation in Libya which Mr. Hamm referred to as something that "Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton" have to take responsibility for. "They helped turn a country with the highest standard of living on the African continent according to the UN and it now is a failed state and now Black People are being bought and sold in a slave market in Libya. We're going to be speaking out about that very shortly . . . We'll be having something at one of our meetings and probably in the streets."

Speaking on the subject of Africom, Lawrence states "US troops are all over Africa . . . for geopolitical and economic reasons, due to contention among the great powers, which never ended after World Wars I and II albeit it is perhaps more subdued. In some periods the contention is violent and in other periods it is political - where politics becomes a substitute for warfare. That's why we see so many US troops all over the world. That's the underlying cause.

The reasons given (by the US) is that we are going to fight the radical Islamist groups or support democratic movements or oppose dictatorships - those are the political reasons that they give. While they might be engaged in battle with different groups they are there to secure the resources of Africa. . . . One of the reasons Obama had his pivot toward China is because China is a rising economic power and the US is struggling to hold on to the markets they have and to not be pushed out by China in other markets. And that's what China is doing.

The only card the US holds right now is that it is the dominant superpower and it tries to translate that military might into economic benefit.

The Chinese go in and try to partner with the governments while the US just wants the resources and does not want to give anything in return unless there's 1000% interest. When the US gives foreign aid it becomes a debt trap."



Make the Wars  
STOP!  
Call POP:

973-801-0001

njpop.org

## Black Alliance for Peace

### Afghanistan, N. Korea & the War Against Black America: The Need for Black Left Unity

The Trump administration's bellicosity in response to the delicate and dangerous situation with North Korea is just the latest, however crude, iteration of warmongering that has characterized U.S. geo-political policies beginning with the settler-state's bloody march across the North American continent and continuing to the present. With the ascendancy of the U.S. as a global power after World War II, military intervention was buttressed with sophisticated counter-intelligence operations as central weapons to advance U.S. global dominance. However, the state's use of military force and subversion took an even more qualitatively dangerous turn toward more militarism at the end of the Cold War when neo-liberalism and militarism converged as Full Spectrum Dominance, with bi-partisan support. Unrestrained by any countervailing global force, militarization, threats of war, and domestic repression dramatically exposed the strategy of the U.S. ruling circles and their junior partners in Europe to utilize force to advance and maintain their dominant position in the capitalist global order.

The task for those who have been the victims during this 522-year-old nightmare of Western colonial/capitalist exploitation and systematic dehumanization is to make sure that we don't confuse our interests with the interests of the U.S./EU/NATO axis of domination. For the black liberation movement, we must be clear about our friends and our interests and clearer about who our enemies are and their interests.

The Trump administration has threatened military intervention in Venezuela; committed the U.S. to a never-ending war in Afghanistan; declared an escalation of the War on Black America with the lifting of the restrictions on military equipment to domestic law enforcement agencies; and escalated tensions with North Korea (and by extension China).

For the black left and broader black social movements it is important that we recognize 1) that the liberatory agenda of the black working class and poor is in direct opposition to the agenda of the white supremacist ruling class and the U.S. state no matter which one of the bourgeois parties is occupying the executive office; 2) that internationalism is at the center of the black radical tradition and that we have historically identified the U.S. as an oppressor nation and opposed imperialist moves against oppressed nations, and that we must continue to do so; 3) that the commitment of the U.S. war machine to maintain white ruling class power abroad mirrors the domestic war apparatus used to enforce the continued imprisonment of colonized peoples, including the national oppression of black people and the black working class and poor; and 4) that U.S. imperialist wars are always fought by the working class and poor and that we have a responsibility to make sure that our young people, and indeed no young working class people, are tricked into believing that these wars are somehow honorable and reflect more than the naked greed of a rapacious, racist, parasitic oligarchy.

### Black Alliance for Peace (BAP): A People(s)-Centered Human Rights Project Against War, Repression, and Imperialism

The expanding wars in Afghanistan, conflict with North Korea, the U.S. African Command (AFRICOM), U.S. intervention in Venezuela, proposals to increase the military budget by \$75 billion, and the war on African/Black people are all interrelated expressions of the systemic violence that the state is waging and prepared to wage to salvage its rapidly declining power. We must understand those systemic connections or we will find ourselves chasing shadows and focused on symptoms instead of the diseased global system that produces ecological destruction, poverty, premature death, racism, alienation, wars and violence. To be whole, healthy human beings practicing revolutionary solidarity, we must stand in firm opposition to the death project of Western and U.S. imperialism.

That is why we created the Black Alliance for Peace. BAP is struggling to make real the sentiments of millions who want to see an end to war, violence, mass incarceration, police executions and beatings. BAP is exposing the lie that while the people

are told there is no money for jobs for our youth, health facilities and healthcare, fully funded public education, decent affordable housing, recreational facilities and even paved roads in our communities, billions of the people's resources are ending up in the coffers of the corporations who profit from war. That is theft -- systematic and legal.

We expose the fact that the black "mis-leadership" class fully participates in the process to deliver the people's resources to the ruling elite. More than 30 members of the Congressional Black Caucus voted in July to increase the military budget by more than 75 billion dollars, an amount that exceeded the \$54 billion dollars requested by the Trump administration that many saw as obscene.

The organizations and individuals that have come together in BAP understand that it is only through resistance that builds power rooted in the black working class that will allow us to not only resist but to realize a transformative vision beyond the logic of the white supremacist, patriarchal, colonial /capitalist national and global order. As Margaret Kimberley, BAP Coordinating Committee and United National Anti-war Coalition Administrative Committee member points out: "American government aggressions continue domestically and internationally with bipartisan support for threats against North Korea and ongoing war and occupation of Afghanistan. Proposals to increase the military budget are also embraced by Republicans and Democrats alike. This means that a people centered, independent effort is the only way to end the vicious cycle of state sponsored violence."

This position is echoed by Mekdes Amare, a young organizer and BAP member who sees the connection between the DOD 1033 program that is principally responsible for the obscene militarization of the police and war efforts abroad:

"Trump lifting the restrictions on the 1033 program is a troubling development for working class communities of color in America," she says. "But we must remember that many presidents before Trump laid the ground work for this increased drive towards fascism. This includes Obama who did not actually end the 1033 Program but only restricted weapons like bayonets while allowing advanced military hardware to flow into police departments."

In the spirit of the black radical internationalist tradition she says that "We must organize and fight this drive towards fascism for our own sake and for the sake of our sisters and brothers across the globe"

### The Black Left Must find a way to unite:

BAP sees itself as part of this effort to organize resistance structures as part of the broad effort to rebuild and unite the black left in the U.S. Brother Saladin Muhammad has been one of the few consistent voices calling for a broader black left effort to unite all our disparate forces at this critical moment in history. We should respond to Saladin's call. Now is the time for the Black is Back Coalition, the Black Left Unity Network, the Black Liberation Unity Committee, BYP100 and Black Lives Matter Network among other groups to find a way to struggle for a national framework that allows us to concentrate and coordinate our efforts to realize authentic black working class-based self-determination as part of a broader decolonial project in the USA.

The responsibility to organize and fight for a new future has never been more apparent. There is no reform of this dying order. The choices are quite clear. Either we fight for a new world order, one that sees the dismantling of and an end to the tyranny of the capitalist dictatorship or we will suffer a prolonged period of neo-fascist barbarity.

The financial and corporate elites have made their choice and their choice is to fight, even if it means destroying the planet and everyone one on it. What will be our choice?

*Ajamu Baraka is a veteran of the black liberation movement, a board member with Cooperation Jackson, the national organizer of the Black Alliance for Peace and was the 2016 candidate for vice president on the Green Party ticket. He is an editor and contributing columnist for the Black Agenda Report and contributing columnist for Counterpunch magazine. He can be reached at [www.AjamuBaraka.com](http://www.AjamuBaraka.com)*

## Green Party of NJ Integral to NJ's Antiwar Efforts

### Interested in working with GPNJ on anti-war? [www.gpnj.org](http://www.gpnj.org) . Interested in working with the Green Party on community discussions on the issue? Contact Theresa Markila [GPofMSW@gmail.com](mailto:GPofMSW@gmail.com).

Another key organization supporting a recent set of anti-war protests around NJ opposing the various aspects of escalating US warfare and threats is the Green Party of NJ. Whenever there is a proposal for an emergency action, we regularly reach out to the Green Party and if the event is something that the Green Party can support in some material way or with volunteer support, that helps the decision to move forward.

The Green Party typically assists the efforts in many ways: through using its internet resources, web services and e-mail services to encourage its members and supporters to participate. The Green Party has also assisted with generation of press releases and sharing the releases with their press contacts. One of the recent protests, a commemoration of the Mothers Day Proclamation by Julia Ward Howe against war was initiated by Green Party member Laura Genna. Green Party members Theresa Markila and Diane Moxley have also handled livestreaming of several of the recent protests, often receiving literally 1000s of views. The Green Party's recent gubernatorial candidate Seth Kaper-Dale also made it a point to participate and speak at an anti-war event and was photographed carrying a sign supporting peace with Korea.

According to an organizer for the Green Party of NJ Jim Brash, the Green Party's commitment to the anti-war struggle is based on two of the organizations key values, a commitment to non violence and a commitment to global responsibility.

Elaborating on what the party's view is on how to end US endless wars, Jim Brash states, "Well without the procurement of power or the threat of that procurement nothing will happen so first and foremost we must build up and upon our grassroots efforts. We need to use social media along with our interactions in the streets to turn the tide in our favor. Many people are indifferent towards war or violence until it affects them personally. We need to convince those people that they are already being affected."

Jim Brash also believes that the anti-war fight needs to be taken into the ballot box: "We need to promote and support anti-war candidates at all levels of government. All greens are anti-war due to our platform." He adds, "But building up grassroots efforts that are sustainable are more important than elections. We as a political party understand that."

In addition to continuing to play the key role it has recently in organizing protests around NJ to oppose war escalations and threats by the US, GPNJ is planning an event in Morris County around building a stronger anti-war movement in NJ.

According to Theresa Markila, another GPNJ organizer, "I wanted to have a discussion of what's going on in the anti-war movement in NJ and also some education on what our government and military are doing lately." Theresa has confirmed that similar events could be organized at other sites around NJ as well.

**NJAntiWarAgenda.org / Call/text: 908-881-5275**

**Organize@NJAntiWarAgenda.org / #NJAntiWarAgenda**

**Contact us today to become a #NJAntiWarAgenda organizer**

### Palestine Support / Maplewood, South Orange Thwart Local Attack on Speech Rights!

to support or offer feedback: [NJAntiWarAgenda.org/Palestine.html](http://NJAntiWarAgenda.org/Palestine.html)  
[Palestine@NJAntiwarAgenda.org](mailto:Palestine@NJAntiwarAgenda.org)

There will never be real peace in the Middle East until the problem of the Israeli occupation of Palestine is resolved. The current administration with full support from a bipartisan US Senate vote has announced plans to relocate the US embassy to Jerusalem, a dangerous US escalation of its involvement in the conflict there which was condemned by the overwhelming majority of the United Nations General Assembly. There has been widespread repression of protests and renewed bombings of Gaza since.

To oppose US involvement in this conflict on the side of the Israeli occupation, antiwar activists should consider supporting the following:

- \* rescinding of the plan to move the embassy to Jerusalem and an immediate halt to the US supported bombing of Gaza and other repressive measures.
- \* suspension of all US military aid and support for the Israeli occupation.
- \* a US statement to Israel warning it against military activities in Lebanon, Iran and Syria.

An antiwar movement needs to be able to have the right to talk about and address the Palestinian issue and oppose US policy in that regard. These rights are under attack on the national, state and local level as laws are being advanced outlawing the right to boycott Israel as a tactic to pressure it and the US to change policies.

The following excerpts a statement from Maplewood community members that effectively blocked anti-democratic rights and anti-freedom resolution that was considered by Maplewood Township that would have supported silencing of any criticism of Israel and its repressive treatment of the Palestinian people. Measures like the one that had been proposed in Maplewood have actually been passed in Caldwell, Millburn and Livingston, NJ. Be encouraged to borrow from this letter if it is helpful to opposing similar measures in other NJ towns.

Excerpting from the letter: "We, the undersigned SOMA residents, are writing to express our adamant opposition to a resolution submitted on November 21 to the Maplewood Township Council condemning the Palestinian Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement against Israel (BDS) by three non Maplewood residents. This resolution is part of a campaign to

effectively deny American BDS supporters their constitutionally protected right to boycott. At the federal, state, and local level, a coordinated anti-BDS campaign is seeking to prevent Americans from employing their protected right to engage in political speech and action, including criticizing and boycotting foreign governments.

The resolution, which condemns the non-violent, Palestinian-led movement for freedom, justice, and equality for the Palestinian people, also attempts to obscure the crimes and abuses perpetrated by Israel and to mischaracterize and suppress the Palestinian struggle for justice.

Modeled on the principled movement that brought down apartheid South Africa, the Palestinian BDS movement is a rapidly growing international movement made up of unions, academic associations, churches, and grassroots movements across the world. The BDS movement has garnered the respect and support of Black Lives Matter, as well as the United Nations, Amnesty International, and the ACLU, and many other people of conscience. In its commitment to freedom, justice, and equality for all, the BDS movement is part of the shared struggle of people of color against racial and economic injustice.

The Palestinian BDS call urges nonviolent pressure of Israel until it complies with international law by meeting three demands:

1. Ending its occupation and colonization of all Palestinian land
2. Providing full equality for Palestinian citizens of Israel
3. Respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties"

The letter continues: "At a time when the right to dissent and protest in this country is increasingly under attack, we call on the Maplewood Township Council to categorically reject the campaign attempting to smear BDS, deny its supporters their constitutional protections, and provide cover for settler colonialism and apartheid.:

# No to US War in the Middle East!

The US is escalating tensions and warfare in the Middle East in many ways. The bottomline is that the US needs to exit the Middle East militarily. This article will attempt to briefly highlight some of the impacts US is having and what might be appropriate demands of an antiwar effort should be making of the US government Syria

The US in recent years has supported an unsuccessful attempt at regime change in Syria, primarily through the backing of armed militias. Forces the US has backed have ended up in tacit and explicit alliances with Al Qaeda linked Al Nusra and ISIS and much of the weapons and resources provided by the US has ended up in the hands of such sworn enemies of the United States. In response to unproven accusations of use of chemical weapons by Syria, the US recently launched a bombardment of 55 cruise missiles at a military airport in Syria. The US has conducted massive bombings inside Syria resulting in 1000s of civilian casualties – ostensibly targeting ISIS but often striking Syrian and Iranian forces and the allied Hezbollah militia forces.

The number of US troops inside of Syria is uncertain – it was said to be 500 but recently a US general suggested it could be much higher number. There are about 10 US military bases inside of Syria.

The US has attempted to justify its presence inside Syria as intended to counter ISIS but Russia and Syria are claiming that ISIS has effectively been eliminated so that justification, flawed as it was, is no longer valid.

For its part, Israel regularly conducts bombardment and aerial patrol over Syria, and has threatened to take out Syria's air defenses, a threat often echoed from within US's foreign policy establishment.

While Trump has stated that there are pending agreements with Russia to de-escalate and possibly begin to resolve the Syrian war, there does not seem to be any intent to withdraw US forces or draw back US participation in supporting armed groups. The US is also imposing sanctions upon Syria that harm the people the most, driving up costs and reducing available food and medicines.

We need to demand an immediate halt to US bombings and other military operations, a withdrawal of US troops and privatized mercenary forces, the shutting of the US bases and an end to sanctions. The US needs to abandon its regime change strategy and its support for armed groups and let the Syrians settle their own matters. Iran / Lebanon

While these two countries have vastly different situations and histories they now have fallen in common crosshairs. Israel and Saudi Arabia have formed a tacit alliance and are pressing hard for a war targeting both nations. Lebanon based Hezbollah militias and Iran have both worked with Syria to oppose regime change. Iran supported Hezbollah has expelled past Israeli aggression on Lebanon. Former Lebanon Prime Minister Hariri on a visit to Saudi Arabia has resigned and denounced the Lebanese government and Hezbollah. There is a major shake up in Saudi Arabia that could be a prelude for wider war.

Similar threatening noise emanates regularly from all sectors of the US foreign policy establishment as well. The US is threatening to abrogate the nuclear treaty with Iran which would imply increased sanctions and US hostilities and threats and possible military action. The US has also bombed Iranian forces and Hezbollah soldiers inside of Syria. US designs in Iraq are also challenged by Iran which is heavily influential in the Shiite influenced Iraqi government. When Trump did the sword dance with the now fratricidal Saudi royalists in Riyadh he bombastically threatened Iran and accused Hezbollah of terrorism.

We need to recognize the seriousness of these threats and call upon the USA to denounce any threats to attack Iran and Lebanon. We need to demand that the US communicate to Israel and Saudi Arabia that it opposes an attack on Iran and Lebanon and will not support either in such an endeavor. We need to demand the halt of all bombardments of Iranian and Hezbollah forces in Syria, reassert the support for the nuclear treaty and lift the sanctions upon Iran.

## Saudi Arabia

Currently there is a crackdown with the killing and arrests of several Saudi princes According to Code Pink

<http://www.codepink.org/saudiArabia>

The U.S. has spent over \$8 trillion on military forces in the Persian Gulf in the last four decades, supposedly protecting the Gulf from the then-Soviet Union and Iran. The effect has been to give backing to an absolute monarchy that opposes religious freedom, female equality and humane treatment of migrant workers— the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The hereditary despots of Saudi Arabia are infamous for beheading and/or and floggings political dissidents. In January 2016 alone, the Saudi government beheaded 47 people, some of whom were guilty of such “crimes” as political activism. Between March 2015-2016, Saudi Arabia massacred over 6,000 people in a war of aggression against Yemen, and at least half of them were civilians. Yemen

According to Code Pink

<http://www.codepink.org/saudiArabia>

In March 2015, Saudi Arabia led an international coalition (backed by the United States) to launch air strikes against the Houthi rebel group in Yemen, sparking a full-blown armed conflict.

The increase in violence exacerbated the existing issues that have blighted Yemen for years: poor governance, lack of rule of law, widespread poverty, and insufficient access to basic healthcare and water, among others. Four out of five Yemenis today rely on humanitarian assistance for their survival. There is no access to essential services such as clean water and electricity, and food prices have soared creating a desperate situation for millions. Yet Saudi Arabia continues its brutal campaign against the poorest country in the Middle East.

Now, a blockade on Yemen by Saudi Arabia supported by the US has restricted access to food and aid with reports that 130 are dying each day with expectations that 50,000 dying by the end of 2017 as a result, with another 400,000 children will need treatment for acute malnutrition, according to the Save the Children charity.

The US has participated in military operations and often has hit civilian targets with drone missile strikes, causing scores of civilian casualties.

While there has been an attempt in Congress to pass a resolution stating that US involvement in the war in Yemen is “unauthorized” – the US continues its support for Saudi Arabia's genocidal action.

to support or offer feedback: [NJAntiWarAgenda.org/USOutofME.html](http://NJAntiWarAgenda.org/USOutofME.html)

[USOutofME@NJAntiwarAgenda.org](mailto:USOutofME@NJAntiwarAgenda.org)

Our anti-war forces need to demand and immediate cessation of US military support and shipments to Saudi Arabia and an immediate end to US direct and indirect involvement in the war on Yemen.

## Iraq

In recent history, the US brought 3 waves of slaughter to Iraq:

1. The US led war to force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait including the massive slaughter of 10s of 1000s of retreating Iraqi forces.
2. That was followed by a dozen years of genocidal sanctions causing over a million casualties due to access to food, medical supplies and clean potable water.
3. Then came the US slaughter of Iraq starting in 2003 that resulted in over a million deaths and with resultant death and suffering from the long lasting affect continuing today.

While the Obama administration had pledged to withdraw from Iraq, the final withdrawal never occurred.

One of the results of the destabilization by

## Time To Change Our Spending Priorities: END THE WARS!

Most don't know that the U.S. is currently involved in bombing seven countries – Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia and Libya – and threatening military action against at least three more – North Korea, Iran, and Venezuela. At the same time, tensions between Russia and the U.S. are rising, increasing the likelihood of a nuclear war in yet another instance.

With overwhelming bipartisan support, the US House of Representatives recently passed (346-70) a \$700 billion war budget for the next fiscal year, which will soon be reconciled with the Senate's version of a similar war allocation, which also received overwhelming bipartisan support in the Senate.

To pay for this virtual blank check for US war making, the US is slashing funding for environmental protection, public education, public transportation, health care, food aid and reducing staff in the US State Department, the only governmental agency charged with using diplomacy to resolve international conflict. Additionally, the tax cut for the wealthiest further reduces funds available for health care and other important programs.

Responding to these developments, the U.S. Conference of Mayors unanimously passed two resolutions submitted by local governments, addressing these disastrous cuts:

- a. Ithaca, New York stated the \$54 billion increase would raise the military portion of

the US invasion was the polarization of Iraq between the Shia allied forces which now for the most part control the government and the Sunni, which earlier on led the resistance to the occupation and in more recent years have been taken over by ISIS led militias. The US has used the ISIS presence as the primary reason to continue military operations in Iraq – participating in massive bombardments with 1000s of civilian casualties. As a result of failures by the US and the Iraqi armed forces, over 2000 US HUMV's and other weapons and supplies have fallen into ISIS hands.

The US needs to withdraw its forces from Iraq and to stop utilizing its presence in Iraq in pursuit of its strategic and military goals in the region. The US needs to instead repair the immense damage to Iraq from over a decade of deadly sanctions followed by over a decade of war and occupation. Relief is needed from the deadly aftermath of use of depleted uranium which has caused birth defects around Fallujah worse than the result of the nuclear weapons used in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

discretionary spending to 60%, when the majority of those polled support a \$41 billion decrease.

- b. New Haven, Connecticut issued a call for local governments to hold public hearings to explore how these cuts would affect their local budget.

A third resolution, from Mayors for Peace, refers specifically to the need to reduce nuclear weapons spending. **New Jersey Towns that Support Move the Money**

In October 2016, the Bloomfield Town Council approved a resolution to move at least 25% of the military budget into social programs. Now would be a good time for the Bloomfield Council to hold a public hearing to discuss the impact these deep cuts would have on providing essential services to Bloomfield residents. Montclair passed its “Move the Money” resolution in December 2013, but could follow-up with a public hearing on the impact of these budget cuts.

Peace Action, CODEPINK, the U.S. Peace Council and World Without War, call for communities to act upon the U.S. Conference of Mayors' resolutions in a national initiative to get local “Move the Money” resolutions passed. If communities across the country organize and pressure their local governments to challenge the 2018 proposed budget, this could result in coalition-building among peace and economic justice organizations.

# US: Itchy Finger on the Nuclear Trigger

to support or offer feedback: [NJAntiWarAgenda.org/Disarm.html](http://NJAntiWarAgenda.org/Disarm.html) [Disarm@NJSntiWarAgenda.org](mailto:Disarm@NJSntiWarAgenda.org)

Today there are around 15,000 nuclear weapons on the planet and although they are owned by a total of 9 nations, 95 percent of them are owned by the United States and Russia. Out of those 95 percent owned by both nations, around 2,000 in each side are on hair-trigger alert status, ready to be launched at military, and civilian infrastructure within 30 minutes or less. This is a Cold War posture that did not end along with the fall of the Berlin Wall. The threat of nuclear annihilation created either intentionally or accidentally is ever more present today as it was in the height of the Cold War-era.

The projected cost of modernizing the US nuclear arsenal is one trillion dollars over 30 years. The stated reason is to upgrade technologically an aging nuclear arsenal. Meanwhile poverty grows across the USA, climate disasters like Hurricane Maria and Irma are met with lackluster responses, healthcare is universally unavailable, schools are underfunded and cities are lacking resources to meet people's needs.

The arms race is also being escalated by the US through “defensive” deployments, like the THAAD missile deployment in Korea. THAAD is opposed by North Korea, China, Russia, and South Korean peace activists alike. A big reason why these so called defensive weapons exacerbate the potential for nuclear war is that they could be used for offensive purposes. For instance it's radar system could be used to track military movements within the borders of other nations. Also, they threaten the doctrine of “Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD)” – the idea that none of the nuclear weapons powers will launch a nuclear war since the understanding is that it will result in all sides being totally obliterated. The US deployment of “defensive” systems are a feature of a first strike doctrine, attempting to create the conditions where the US can “win” a nuclear war by developing the capability of shooting down any retaliatory attempts after a US first strike.

Other offensive escalations of the arms race by the US include:

- \* More than 500 M1A2 main battle tanks stationed and a huge NATO logistical bases in Baltics, right on Russia's borders.
- \* Huge U.S. THAAD missile bases in Poland and Romania could strike Moscow in minutes

While it apparently has not been done yet, there are reports that

the US is considering on preparing to put B-52 nuclear bomber planes on 24 hour alert. Meanwhile 3 nuclear armed submarines are patrolling the seas near Korea – each trident submarine can be armed with 12 launchable missiles, each with 12 warheads – so one trident submarine could have enough nuclear war power to strike almost 150 cities!

While there is widespread reporting on tests by Korea of long range missiles capable of being armed with nuclear warheads, there is much less fanfare around the fact that the US continues to carry out similar tests on a routine basis.

Recently, President Trump's called for a 10-fold increase in spending on US nuclear armaments.

Russia and China have not sat idly by through all of these developments. Each offers their diplomatic opposition around the deployments of the US as well as taking their own military counter measures. For example, Russia has touted the development of its so called “Satan” missile, an RS-28 with reports that it recently tested this ICBM nuclear armed capable missile at a distance of 3600 miles. The missile is said to be capable of destroying entire nations.

Our antiwar focus needs to be full court opposing any and all continuation to advance US nuclear war capabilities, including modernization, new weapons, deployments of nuclear weapons to potential war theatres (like Korea currently) and the forward placement of “defensive” systems that could figure into first strike strategy. The US needs to join the nuclear weapons ban and take unilateral measures to demonstrate a commitment to nuclear disarmament. It needs to invite all nuclear nations, including Russia, China, Israel, Korea, European nations, India and Pakistan into roundtable disarmament talks. It also needs to halt the practice of using other nation's nuclear technology as a pretext to escalate war threats.

The resources expended upon nuclear weapons by the US need to be rechanneled to meet human needs including the clean up and containment of the deadly wastes stored at various radiation dumps around the US and the rest of the planet – that pose an ever imminent threat of leaking out to the environment and possibly causing catastrophes of unknown dimension.

# Peace Knows No Boundaries Against Imperialism

## PEACE NOT WAR IN ASIA!

For over seven decades, U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM), the largest and oldest of the nine U.S. unified combatant commands of the U.S. Armed Forces, has carried out military invasions, exercises, wars, and occupations throughout Asia and parts of Africa. These include the Korean War, the Vietnam War, nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands, illegally storing nuclear weapons in South Korea, the destabilization of local communities and denial of their development due to U.S. military bases and military exercises, including drone warfare, in Korea, Okinawa, the Philippines, Guam, and the list goes on. The U.S. has over 180 military bases concentrated in this region alone. Everyday, the peoples of the Korean Peninsula, the Philippines, Asia and the Pacific region continue to wage life-and-death resistance to US-led war and military occupation--the biggest obstacle to genuine peace, democracy, development, and security in the region.

Asia is the largest market for U.S. exports, including military weapons exports, worth \$600 billion. From November 3-14, Trump will visit five countries in Asia--Japan, South Korea, China, Vietnam, and the Philippines. Amidst escalating hostility, war provocations, and threats to "destroy" North Korea, Trump will seek to consolidate U.S. lackeys in order to secure U.S. military and economic hegemony in the region. Trump will seek to put pressure on the governments he meets with. Some of his stated goals include re-negotiation of the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement and permanent deployment of THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) missile defense system in South Korea. Trump is expected to praise the Philippine military's brutal implementation of the U.S.-instigated War on Terror in Mindanao and push for continued collaboration in intelligence gathering, counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism between the U.S. and Philippines. The Trump administration will attempt to dominate the East Asia Summit in the Philippines, a regional gathering of state leaders where talks determining neoliberal economic policies will translate to greater U.S. military basing to protect U.S. trade interests and control major commercial shipping routes.

As Koreans, Filipinos, and peoples of the Asian diaspora, as well as peace activists, we stand with those in the frontlines of resistance to growing U.S.-led war, militarism, and neoliberalism in Asia and the Pacific, especially with those staging massive protests in Japan, Korea (where Nov. 4 is called 'No Trump Day Action'), and the Philippines against Trump's visit.

We call for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of U.S. military bases, personnel, agreements, exercises, war games, and all other operations from Asia and the Pacific, and for the US government to respect the sovereignty of the countries of the region, including their right to self-determination. We demand an end to inflammatory rhetoric and anti-people policies of this Trump administration, which has already implemented anti-democratic processes in the United States.

We invite your organization to sign on by endorsing this statement  
Signed: Nodutdol for Korean Community Development, BAYAN USA

### END US WARS AT HOME AND ABROAD!

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## RESISTING NUCLEAR AND ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER : BUILDING PEACE IN THE CARIBBEAN

A Declaration from the 1st Caribbean Peace Conference Bridgetown, Barbados, Oct. 6-7th, 2017

At a meeting of the World Peace Council held in São Luís, Brazil from November 18-19 2016 and hosted by the Brazilian Center for Solidarity of the Peoples and Struggle for Peace (CEBRAPAZ), and meeting under the theme "Strengthen the peoples' solidarity in the struggle for peace, against imperialism" it was determined that "strengthening the World Peace Council is a key task in this solidarity", and to this end the peace councils of the Caribbean were requested to stage a pan-Caribbean conference in the year 2017.

Given the call from the World Peace Conference in Sao Luis, the Caribbean Peace Movement moved to organize its first Caribbean Peace conference in the island of Barbados between October 6th and 7th, 2017. First Caribbean Peace Conference Barbados, October 6-7th, 2017 At Horatio Cooke Auditorium, National Union of Public Workers.

The delegates of the First Caribbean Peace Conference view with concern, the neo-liberal counter-offensive of imperialism, which is impacting Caribbean societies largely through the installation of retrograde capitalist forces, which have opened the countries to private sector dominance and the reversal of the social gains in health, education, public housing and

transportation, adversely impacting the quality of life of the Caribbean working people.

The First Caribbean Peace Conference also recognizes that climate change poses a major threat to the countries of the Caribbean region, as it impacts negatively on our ecological and economic systems and increases the risk of natural disasters that can wipe out Caribbean economies by wreaking havoc on infrastructure and by causing significant loss of life.

The Conference notes with alarm the extra-ordinarily intense and violent current hurricane season which has resulted in billions of dollars in infrastructural damage, destroyed entire islands, crippling their economies and has resulted in scores of deaths. It has not escaped notice that these natural events that have been exacerbated by the effects of human activity, have occurred following denials by the leadership of the USA -- the world's most eco-unfriendly nation -- of the need for any global agreements to combat global warming. From that perspective, the failure to build global consensus around climate change and the necessary responses represents a tremendous threat to Peace in the Caribbean region and militates against the stability and the proper functioning of Caribbean institutions and societies in general.

We also recognize the presence of foreign military bases in the Caribbean as contributing

The following was drafted at the Solidarity and Fightback: Resisting US-led War, Militarism, and Neo-fascism conference at the University of Toronto on August 7, 2017. The conference gathered over 250 peace activists from 21 countries. The manifesto, however, aims to go beyond the conference participants towards a broader movement for peace based on justice worldwide by calling for greater coordination and cooperation of mass actions.

### A CALL TO ACTION

All around the world exploited and subjugated nations and peoples are rising up against the tides of war, militarism and neo-fascism brought about by the crisis endemic to the global capitalist system.

This is US monopoly capital and the rest of the monopoly capitalist system in decay.

Every hour, workers in the factories and workplaces, farmers and peasants in the fields and plantations are being killed. Women and girls are degraded by systemic rape culture as a tool of war. Natural resources and the environment are plundered and destroyed. Families are displaced by wars. Villages and cities are hit with bombs and missiles. Hospitals, schools, places of worship and other public centers are being occupied and wiped out. Mothers and fathers lay their bodies to shield their children from bombs and airstrikes. Indigenous peoples and other oppressed nations face discrimination, genocide and displacement from corporate plunder and extractivism. Youth, people of color, LGBT, women and the poor are preyed upon and recruited to fight and perish in these wars at the behest of corporations as well as face increasing brutalization, mass incarceration, and racism by the militarized police state in their home countries. The whole world is threatened by the nuclear arsenal, chemical weapons, and other weapons of mass destruction of the United States.

Peoples resistance and struggles for liberation DO NOT CEASE to proliferate in all corners of the globe, fighting for life,

livelihood, sovereignty, peace, justice, and dignity. Peoples are also self-determining their forms of resistance and paths for liberation.

There remains an urgency to find bases of unity across cities, countries, and global regions impacted by imperialist war, militarism, and neo-fascism.

There is an urgency to amplify our calls and multiply our collective actions to

RESIST US-LED WAR and militarism, including the withdrawal of US military troops, occupation, bases, war games and exercises in West Asia, Africa, East, Central and South Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Pacific Islands, and East Europe. Resist US-NATO, AFRICOM and CIA counterinsurgency operations, proxy wars, and other forms of covert intervention. Fight Zionism, apartheid, and systemic racism. Fight against the US military-industrial complex, including divestment from the hundreds of billions spent on war and militarization and redirecting of public funds towards peoples needs, development, and infrastructure.

BUILD JUST PEACE through justice, social equity, and solidarity amongst peoples, including the recognition of the right to self-determination, economic, and food sovereignty, and self-defense of nations and oppressed peoples from reactionary aggression and violence. Build peace through genuine sustainable development, job creation, and the health and well being of our communities.

Resist Imperialist War! Build Peace!  
Long Live International Solidarity!

Signed: Organizational Signers,  
International League of People's Struggle,  
International Women's Alliance, Asia-Pacific Research Network, International Migrant's Alliance, Network Against Famine and War, United National Anti-War Coalition, Ban The Bases Network, Viet Unity; About Face; International Action Center

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significantly to further environmental degradation and as an erosion of the security and stability of the region. We therefore denounce the military maneuvers and exercises which destroy the environment and undermine the health of the populations residing in proximity to those military bases.

BUT IN addition to their environmental costs, the First Caribbean Peace Conference also views the presence of the large number of foreign military bases and facilities in the Caribbean region as a serious threat to the peace and stability of all the nations given their warlike and interventionist purposes. We consider it to be First Caribbean Peace Conference Barbados, October 6-7th, 2017 At Horatio Cooke Auditorium, National Union of Public Workers both urgent and necessary to resolutely join in the actions of the international campaign against foreign military bases and for a world of peace without nuclear, chemical and bacteriological weapons.

The First Caribbean Peace Conference acknowledges the 1967 Tlatelolco Treaty which established our region of Latin America and the Caribbean as a nuclear free zone, and to this end, we demand the immediate cessation of the transshipment of nuclear waste through the Caribbean Sea.

We also recognize the significance of the fact that 122 United Nations member states

have adopted the Treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons, the first and only international legal instrument that declares illegal all nuclear weapons. However, we forcefully condemn the fact that the superpowers possessing such weapons that can wipe out humanity have deliberately and arrogantly avoided signing this essential treaty.

We also note with alarm that a specific threat to Caribbean peace resides in the proliferation of firearms in the Caribbean, in an environment of economic and social collapse occasioned by neo-liberal capitalism and the corrupt activities of drug trafficking, money laundering, and human trafficking. When coupled with the intense foreign media penetration that the Caribbean has been subjected to, the phenomenon of imported values eclipsing our local values of respect and human decency, and with movies and films perpetuating greed, violence, opulence and selfishness, then the rise in senseless killings and gang warfare, presents itself as a direct threat to our Caribbean civilisation. [The statement continues with 30 points of unity toward further struggle against wars of imperialism and ecological destruction. The full statement can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2zWpjLb> ]