



Post-election Peace Work in the Time of Biden

by Julie Byrnes Enslow

Donald Trump may leave the White House kicking and screaming, but *we do* have a new president who, compared to Trump, is intelligent, experienced, and seems empathetic. Many think he is also a good listener. We certainly hope so, as he's not likely to embrace a truly progressive agenda unless he feels our legions pushing him in that direction.

President-elect Joe Biden has never been known as a friend of the peace movement. He was a supporter of the Iraq War, voted for the Crime Bill, and supported Obama's war on Libya. However, he has promised to make some significant moves on his first day in office which we can all applaud.

- Rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement
- Rejoin the World Health Organization
- Rejoin the Iran Nuclear Deal
- Renew a commitment to DACA

We also can strongly encourage President Biden to take climate change very seriously and move forward quickly with his energy plan, which is basically based on the Green New Deal. *All* fossil fuels must be left in the ground - no fracking, Joe. We can insist that he rapidly reinstate and strengthen environmental regulations removed by President Trump. He can promote criminal justice reform and an end to police brutality with national policing standards. And his proposals to improve our national access to health care give us an opening to work for universal coverage.

But in the area of foreign policy and militarization, we have a lot of work to do. We must urge President

Biden to pull back on vindictive economic sanctions against Iran, Venezuela, Cuba and North Korea which are causing real suffering to their people. Sanctions are a form of war. The increasing tensions with Iran must be reversed to avoid war. We should appeal for a return to President Obama's efforts to normalize relations with Cuba. The US role in the war on Yemen must stop. The rights of the Palestinian people have to be recognized. We must let President Biden know that the continued demonization of Russia and China can lead to a major and catastrophic war and must end.

Time is running out on two fronts - climate change and nuclear conflict. The Doomsday Clock, which is now a precarious 100 seconds to midnight, must be reversed. Biden can take our nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert and announce a no-first-use policy. He can order that on day one. He must halt the ongoing modernization (rebuilding) of the US nuclear weapons stockpile started under Obama and restore arms control treaties such as New START, Intermediate Nuclear Forces and Open Skies. And he should be urged to sign the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. (See article on pg. 3.)

Underlying so much of this agenda is the out-of-control military spending which can be shifted to basic domestic needs and addressing the climate crisis. Peace Action has long called for new national priorities and a foreign policy based on national sovereignty, diplomacy, negotiations and human rights. Now is the time to make our voices heard loud and clear. **We must be prepared to fight for a just foreign policy, disarmament and strong climate action.**

Cuba, Covid 19 and the Nobel Peace Prize

by Christy Breihan



The Henry Reeve International Medical Brigades of Cuba have been nominated for the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize. This nomination has been made

in recognition of Cuba's heroic efforts to combat COVID-19—not just in their own country, where they have lost only 131 people to COVID out of a population of 11.3 Million—but around the world where they were needed, particularly in impoverished countries with inadequate health care systems.

Begun in 2005 when the government of Cuba offered to send experts in disaster relief to Hurricane Katrina-ravaged New Orleans (only to be refused by the US), the Henry Reeve medical teams have been providing essential support to countries struggling with Dengue fever, Ebola, earthquake damage, and systemic inadequacies in delivering routine healthcare.

Since the beginning of the COVID pandemic, Cuba has sent almost 4,000 members of these brigades to 39 different countries, where they have provided critical support to local health teams and sometimes have provided the only professional medical care available. They have done this at great risk to themselves—in fact, while no Cuban medics have died from COVID in Cuba, four members of the Henry Reeve Brigades have died from COVID while working abroad.

Most of the world has recognized the bravery and selflessness of these Cuban medical heroes. But the government of the United States, still determined to reverse the Cuban revolution and impose a regime subservient to Washington, has countered the popularity of the Cuban doctors with charges of “human trafficking” and “slavery.”

Cuba responds that the Brigade members are all volunteers, they receive their regular pay while out of the country, and they earn an extra stipend for their foreign service. There is nothing forced or “slavish” about it. Poor countries receive these services at no charge; countries that have the resources are asked

to pay. Most of the income goes back into the Cuban healthcare system which has the highest doctor/patient ratio in the world, the world's largest medical school, and advanced biomedical research with breakthrough treatments for cancer, diabetes, and COVID. About 25% of the fee is used for the staff's stipends.

In contrast to our healthcare “non-system” built around making a profit, the Cuban system rests on the principle that healthcare is a right, and the chance to save lives is the most important reward. It is this example of what the Cubans have accomplished that threatens American supporters of our for-profit healthcare industry, and why it is important for us to help get the truth out to the American people.

Add your support for a Nobel Peace Prize for the Henry Reeve Brigades! Go to www.cubanel.org



We Banned the Bomb!
International Celebration and Observance of UN Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Milwaukee Action

Fri. Jan. 22. - 12 noon - 1 pm

- Meet at Northwestern Mutual headquarters
700 E. Wis. Ave, Milw.
- March to Fed. Ct. House / Sen. Ron Johnson's office
517 E. Wis. Ave.
- On to US Rep. Gwen Moore's office
250 E. Wis. Ave.
- End at Chase Bank & Wells Fargo Bank, 100 E. Wis.

Wear Masks! Social Distancing!

We Banned the Bomb!!

50th Nation Ratifies Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

In a huge success for the movement to abolish nuclear weapons, the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons will go into effect on Fri., Jan. 22. On Oct. 24 Honduras became the 50th nation to ratify the treaty, allowing it to enter into force 90 days later, Jan. 22, 2021, becoming binding international law! For those nations that are party to it, the treaty prohibits the development, testing, production, stockpiling, stationing, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons, as well as assistance and encouragement to the prohibited activities. For nuclear armed states joining the treaty, it provides for a time-bound framework for negotiations leading to the verified and irreversible elimination of their nuclear weapons program.

Although 122 UN member states voted to adopt the treaty, it has not been signed by any of the world's nine nuclear powers — Britain, China, France, India, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia and the United States. Still, the nuclear ban treaty sets a precedent for peace through world law and stigmatizes nuclear weapons. Now our work continues.

All of the other 122 countries that signed onto the treaty need to be pushed to ratify it. The international pressure for nuclear disarmament can build and, with a lot of work from the grassroots, could shame the nuclear nations to seriously consider joining the rest of the world in rejecting nuclear weapons forever.

It is up to us to make sure that corporations, governments and the public know that nuclear weapons are now illegal and that they need to stand on the right side of history.



Let's Celebrate and Educate!

Peace Action of Wisconsin has been asked by a coalition of groups- International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance (OREPA), Nukewatch, the Nuclear Resister and the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (ANA) - to celebrate/observe the "Entry into Force" of the Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons. We will be part of a coordinated, nationwide public action that spotlights the treaty as a victory for humanity on this historic day.

In Milwaukee, we will be marking this globally important event with an observance **beginning at noon on Friday, Jan. 22**, in front of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company in Milwaukee, 700 E. Wisconsin Ave.

According to *Don't Bank on the Bomb*, Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance has \$1.1 billion invested in companies that are part of the nuclear weapons industrial complex. Most of it is in stock in Boeing, Honeywell International, Bae Systems and Huntington Ingalls Systems. We will call out Northwestern Mutual for its complicity in the development and production of nuclear weapons.

From there we will walk to the Federal Court House, 517 E. Wisconsin, and deliver a message to Senator Ron Johnson. Then we proceed to Rep. Gwen Moore's office, 250 E. Wisconsin, and on to Water and Wisconsin to Chase Bank and Wells Fargo Bank, two other big investors in nuclear weapons (\$20 million each).

Of course, we will carefully social distance and wear masks. The wind coming off of Lake Michigan should blow any corona viruses all the way to Iowa. Please join us on this historic date.

Sources: *Nukewatch, ICAN, Democracy Now!, Wikipedia*



**NO MORE
NUKES!**

Africom

The Militarization of Africa

by Pam Richard

Why are we concerned about the militarization of Africa by AFRICOM?

The U.S. military established AFRICOM (United States African Command) on October 1, 2008 as part of Pentagon command operations throughout the planet. They claim that combat operations in Africa are to counter violent extremist organizations which they say are finding safe haven throughout African countries.

However, the truth is that the U.S. uses military force to impose control of African land, resources and labor to service the needs of U.S. multi-national corporations and the wealthy in the United States. It is part of a new colonization of Africa.

AFRICOM was established in the months before Barack Obama assumed office as the first Black President of the United States. A majority of African nations—led by the Pan-African government of Libya—rejected AFRICOM, forcing the new command to instead work out of Europe. But with the U.S. and NATO attack on Libya that led to the destruction of that country and the murder of its leader Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, corrupt African leaders began to allow AFRICOM forces to operate in their countries and establish military-to-military relations with the United States.

Despite the Pentagon's claims that AFRICOM has a "light footprint," recent documents reveal that the U.S. has at least 29 military bases in 15 countries across the continent.



The Pentagon has divided up the world for US control.

A Free Webinar United States African Command (AFRICOM) and Human Rights in Africa Friday, Dec. 4 at 1pm CST

Featuring first-hand reports from WILPF women from Africa describing the effects AFRICOM is having on their respective nations.

Hosted by World BEYOND War, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom - U.S. Section, Black Alliance for Peace, Peace Action, United for Peace and Justice and others, **including Peace Action of WI.**

Watch for registration link in our Peace Action e-alert. or Register at: bit.ly/africom

2020 Membership Meeting Friday, Dec. 4 at 1pm CST

Peace Action of Wisconsin 2020 Membership Meeting on Nov. 19 featured speaker Erik Sperling, Executive Director of Just Foreign Policy who served as a leading foreign policy staff person for Congressmen John Conyers and Ro Khanna. Erik had his start with Peace Action Wisconsin after 9/11 as a high school student. He became a leading student anti-war activist and went on to organize for Peace Action at UWM in college. We were very proud to have him speak to us on U.S. foreign policy as we look forward to a new administration.



Erik Sperling

Our meeting was held on Zoom due to the pandemic. Singer Julie Ann Lovely Thompson performed a couple of songs. Photographer Sue Ruggles put together a slide show of the past year's peace events.

The following people were unanimously approved for our 2021 Steering Committee: *Tom Seery, Chris Breihan, Chris Jeske, Bruce Ware, Mary Laan, Harry Targ, Sean O'Reilly, Jill Ferguson and John Martinson.*

We look forward to a year filled with activism for peace and justice. The pandemic may change our style but will not hold us back.

Jan. 25 - World Says No to War on Yemen

Joint Statement from Stop the War Coalition (UK), and US groups- Action Corp, Yemeni Alliance Committee, Yemen Relief and Reconstruction Foundation, CODEPINK, Just Foreign Policy, Voices for Creative Nonviolence.

Since 2015, the Saudi-led bombing and blockade of Yemen have killed tens of thousands of people and devastated the country. The U.N. calls this **the largest humanitarian crisis on Earth**. Half the country's people are on the brink of famine, the country has the world's worst cholera outbreak in modern history, and now Yemen has one of the very worst COVID death rates in the world: It kills 1 in 4 people it infects. The pandemic, along with withdrawal of aid, is pushing more people into acute hunger.

And yet Saudi Arabia is escalating its war and tightening its blockade.

The war is only possible because Western countries — and the United States and Britain in particular — continue to arm Saudi Arabia and provide military, political and logistical support for the war. The Western powers are active participants and have the power to stop the world's most acute human crisis. The disaster in Yemen is human-made. It is caused by the war and blockade. ***It can be ended.***



People and organizations from the U.S., Britain, Canada, France, Italy, and across the world, are coming together to call for an end to the war in Yemen and solidarity with the people of Yemen. We demand that right now our governments:

- Stop foreign aggression on Yemen.
- Stop weapons and war support for Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.
- Lift the blockade on Yemen and open all land and seaports.
- Restore and expand humanitarian aid for the people of Yemen.

We call on people around the world to protest the war on Monday, January 25, 2021, just days after the

U.S. presidential inauguration and make clear that the **WORLD SAYS NO TO WAR ON YEMEN**.

Peace Action of Wisconsin is sponsoring a virtual event on Mon., Jan. 25, regarding the war on Yemen and how we can influence the new Biden administration to stop support of that war. Watch for the Zoom link in our email alert or website.

Election Returns Socialism to Bolivia

by Christy Breihan

A year ago in Bolivia, a military coup backed by the US Embassy in La Paz forced the democratically-elected indigenous president, Evo Morales, out of office and into exile. President Trump immediately recognized the new far-right wing government led by Jeanine Anez, calling it a harbinger of things to come in Latin America.

If it is indeed a sign of things to come, the future just brightened a bit as Luis Arce, a member of Morales's socialist Mas Party, was elected to the presidency by a wide margin, defeating the conservative interim government of Jeanine Anez.

Arce had been the Finance Minister in the Morales government, and had been credited with lifting millions of Bolivians out of poverty by expanding the nation's economy and recognizing the rights of the indigenous people. The rightwing government had opposed these policies, but the vote shows that "the Bolivian people want to retake the path we were on," according to Arce.

On Nov. 9, Evo Morales returned to his native Bolivia by walking across the border from neighboring Argentina where he had been in exile this past year. He was greeted by brass bands and throngs of his fellow indigenous people.

So far, the US government has acknowledged the Arce victory and congratulated him. The will of the Bolivian people must be respected.



PEACE CALENDAR

December 2020/January 2021

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some peace and justice events may be cancelled. Many will be held online. Please check with our Peace Action email calendar or our website, www.peaceactionwi.org or on facebook.

Fri. Dec. 4 Free Webinar: AFRICOM and Human Rights in Africa. 1 pm to 3 pm CST. See article on Africom for more info.

Sat. Dec. 5 Stand for Peace - See ad. Stand for Peace may be canceled due to the increase in COVID-19 cases. Please check our web site or email alerts.

Wed. Dec. 9 End the Wars Coalition Meeting, on Zoom 7 pm.

Sat. Dec. 12 International Human Rights Day - What Have We Learned in 2020? Virtual event on Zoom. 10:30 am. Sponsored by the City of Milwaukee Equal Rights Commission, Milwaukee County Human Rights Commission and the United Nations Association of Greater Milwaukee. Panel Discussion moderated by Robert Smith of Marquette University. Zoom link will be emailed from Peace Action WI.

Wed. Jan. 13 End the Wars Coalition Meeting, on Zoom 7 pm.

Mon. Jan. 18 20th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Justice Program on Zoom. 1 pm. Organized by M. L. King Justice Coalition. See ad for details.

Fri. Jan. 22 International Celebration and Observance of UN Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. 12 noon. Meet at Northwestern Mutual headquarters, 700 E. Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee. March to Federal Building and Wells Fargo Bank on Water St. Social distancing and masks required. See ad.

Mon. Jan. 25 The World Says No to War on Yemen. International Day of Action. Virtual event on Zoom. 7 pm. Film and panel. Watch for Zoom link and details on our email alert. Sponsored by Peace Action of Wisconsin.

Stay Safe. Stay Well. Take Care of One Another.

Stand for Peace

Saturdays Noon-1 PM

These are the **tentative** plans for our weekly Stand for Peace. If necessary, **Standings may be cancelled** due to the skyrocketing Covid numbers. We are following the governor's advice on staying at home. Please see our website, peaceactionwi.org, to check on the current status.

December 5: Hwy 100 & North

December 12: Layton & 76th

December 19: Port Washington & Silver Spring

December 26: King & North

January 2: 92nd (Swan Blvd) & North

January 9: Forest Home & 43rd

January 16: Sherman & North

January 23: Capitol & Oakland

January 30: Howard & Howell

Please wear a face mask. Stand 6 to 10 feet apart.



Get on Our E-Mail Alert List!

Make sure we have your email address, so you can receive our action alerts and calendar updates. Keep up to date with lobbying calls, on-line webinars, meetings and speakers, and special demonstrations and events.

Don't be out of the loop!

Send us your email at:

info@peaceactionwi.org

Thank you Volunteers Stand for Peace Activists

Thank you to all the intrepid Stand for Peace activists for your devotion to the cause of peace, justice and equality this past year. Peace Action Wisconsin began standing against war every Saturday back in 2003. You have persevered in sub-zero temperature, chilling winds, snow, rain, heat, and even Covid-19 with facemasks and social distancing.

Thanks to Laura Kukor-Shea and Steven Shea for setting up the weekly locations for the stands. (They met and fell in love at Stands for Peace.)

Thanks to those with cars for transporting the peace signs and flags- Jim Carpenter, Don Timmerman & Roberta Thurston, Jerry Hills, Julie Enslow, Pam Richard, Steve Shea, and Greg Bird.

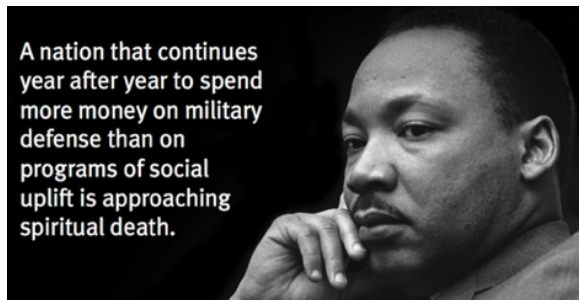
Thanks to everyone who participated these past months in taking a stand for world peace including Don Timmerman, Roberta Thursten, Chris from Casa, Jim & Eldeen Carpenter, Jerry Hills, Steve Shea, Laura Kukor Shea, George Martin, Julie Enslow, Pam Richard, Marsha Vila, Tom Neibler, Susan Dupont, Joan Bleidorn, Greg Bird, Pat Richard, Jill Ferguson, Steve Watrous, Art Heitzer, John Payton, Roger Hansen, Christy Breihan, Babette Grunow, Bob Graf, Trish Beausang, Jim Dill, Tom Rodman, Samir Moukaddam, Debbie Metke, Joe & Joyce Ellwanger, Sue Ruggles, Brian Verdin, Mary Laan, Bruce Andrews, Pat Gowens, Mark Foreman, Joel Palpham, Harvey Taylor, Mary Jo Travis, Tammy Gibbs and so many others.

Thanks To Our Mailing Crew

Mary Alice Martines, Mary Laan, David Lindberg, Marsha Vila, Tom Neibler, and Babette Grunow and Pam Richards who helped with mailing our newsletter and fund appeal letter.

Thanks to Kristina Paris who helped with formatting and printing our fund appeal letter.

Thank you to Julie Enslow and Chris Jeske for writing and editing our fund appeal letter, and Julie Enslow and Christy Breihan for writing and editing *the Mobilizer*.



JOIN US / RENEW



____ New Member ____ Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

____ \$30 individual ____ \$10 limited income

____ \$50 household ____ \$100 supporter

____ \$1000 lifetime membership

Additional donation of support \$ _____

Make checks out to Peace Action of Wisconsin

1001 E. Keefe Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53212

Call office for information on monthly sustainers.

If you are not receiving our *Peace Action Email Alerts* please email us your email address so you can keep in touch with current activities.

Contact Us

Phone: 414-269-9525

E-mail: info@peaceactionwi.org

Website: peaceactionwi.org

facebook.com/peaceactionwi

The Mobilizer

Published by Peace Action of Wisconsin, Inc., 1001 E. Keefe, Milwaukee, WI 53212. \$30 annual membership, \$10 limited income. Contributors to the publication of this newsletter: Julie Enslow, Christy Breihan, Pam Richard, and the ever-faithful mail gang.

End Military Intervention, Transfer Military Spending to Human Needs, Abolish Nuclear Weapons & Power. Oppose Racism & Sexism, Protect the Environment.

Peace Action Wisconsin
1001 E. Keefe Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53212

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Milwaukee, WI
Permit No. 643

DATED MATERIAL

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day ***20th Annual Justice Gathering on Zoom*** **Monday, January 18, 2021 1 pm**

Recognizing Dr. King's Vision of a Beloved Community:

- **The Great Gatherings for Black Lives Matter**

The diverse marches to end police violence brought together black, brown, white, old and young, gay and straight by the tens of thousands across the country and around the world to demand justice and respect for our Black brothers and sisters.

- **The Great Frontline Heroes of the Covid-19 Pandemic**

Doctors, nurses, technicians, service people, teachers, mail carriers, grocery clerks, firemen - the list goes on and on of people who are risking their lives for the rest of us in the midst of this pandemic.



Words of Dr. King and music performed by local actors and musicians.

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic we will have a safe, virtual gathering on Zoom.

Watch for the Zoom link on Peace Action's email alerts or website.

Sponsored by the Martin Luther King Justice Coalition

(over 30 peace, justice and community organizations)

Contact: George Martin 414-745-5740