A series of recent alarming events has moved the US closer to a direct military conflict against Iran. A war on Iran would result in a disastrous regional conflict. The situation is very serious.

Trump’s hawkish National Security Advisor John Bolton has been itching to attack Iran for years and now is in a position of power to push Trump toward another war in the Middle East. He has had close relations with the MED, a radical Iranian group out to overthrow the current regime and take power for themselves.

In addition, both Israel and Saudi Arabia are putting pressure on Trump to attack Iran. Analysts say that Trump leans toward being an isolationist when it comes to military conflict, so it remains to be seen if he submits to the pressure to go to war to achieve a regime change and control of Iran’s oil.

Extreme hawk John Bolton is pushing US toward war.

The Crisis Evolves

• Initially, after Bolton came on board, Trump withdrew the US from the 2015 Iran Nuclear Agreement between Iran and seven other world powers. This was the strongest agreement of its kind ever negotiated and the International Atomic Energy Association declared Iran has fully complied. Iran and other signatories have remained in the agreement.
• Crippling economic sanctions on Iran have been reinstituted, affecting food and medicines and leading to a growing humanitarian crisis. An economic war is now being waged. US is trying to get Iranian oil exports down to zero, crippling the economy. Iran has threatened to restart its nuclear weapons program if sanctions are not lifted.
• The US is punishing the other countries who have remained in the Nuclear Agreement with secondary economic sanctions.
• Recently, the US military put its forces in Iraq on high alert and on May 15 ordered all non-military personnel in Iraq to leave the country. Were Americans at risk or is this preparation for US military action on Iran across the border?
• Contradictory statements about a “possible imminent threat” from Iran are coming from US and other sources, creating a split between the US and its close allies.
• Trump designated the Iranian military as a “terrorist organization.” Iran returned the accusation.
• The US has boosted the presence of our military forces in the region. It is reported that the Pentagon is making plans to send 120,000 troops. Many more would be needed if we actually go to war.
• In mid-May the US deployed the USS Lincoln carrier strike group and a bomber task force to the region.
• On May 15 it was reported that four United Arab Emirates oil tankers were attacked by drones in the Red Sea and missiles attacked a Saudi pipe line There was an immediate attempt to blame Iran. Iran blamed Israel. This could well be an attempt to create a false flag incident that would provide an excuse for a retaliatory military strike on Iran.
• Then Iran increased its production of enriched uranium, threatening the restrictions of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

NO WAR on IRAN!
by Julie Byrnes Enslow
Boycotts are protected free speech—the US Supreme Court ruled in 1982 that citizens have a constitutional right to organize and participate in boycotts to achieve social change. In that case, the court ruled that the NAACP had the right to boycott white businesses to protest unequal treatment.

A global boycott and divestment campaign was decisive in ending the apartheid regime in South Africa. In the US, boycotts have a long history as an effective nonviolent tool to fight injustice—from Rosa Parks and the Montgomery bus boycott to César Chávez and the UFW.

Activists are fighting back. Anti-BDS laws have been defeated in Missouri, Maryland, Virginia, Massachusetts and New York. Federal courts have blocked Arizona and Kansas from enforcing anti-BDS laws.

In April – in a major victory for free speech - a federal judge issued an injunction against the Texas anti-BDS law. The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) had filed a lawsuit on behalf of Bahia Amawi, a speech pathologist required to take an anti-boycott pledge in order to renew her contract with the public school district in Austin.

“There is no First Amendment exception when it comes to Palestine,” said Palestine Legal Senior Staff Attorney Liz Jackson.

Please contact your state legislator to urge them to repeal this unconstitutional law.
WI Capitol Switchboard: 1-800-362-9696

Repeal Wisconsin’s Anti-BDS Law
By Susan Ruggles

Did you know that Wisconsin has a law that requires contractors doing business with the state to promise they won’t boycott Israel? The law may also apply to independent contractors and state employees. Churches that divest pension funds from businesses in Israel would be ineligible for state contracts to provide social services.

Wisconsin is one of 27 states that have adopted laws to discourage boycotts of Israel since 2014. These laws seek to undercut the global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement by punishing individuals, nonprofits and companies who exercise their rights.

Introduced by state Sen. Leah Vukmir (R-Brookfield) and state Rep. Dale Kooyenga (R-Brookfield) in 2017, the bill was a product of the right-wing American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). It passed the State Legislature with little fanfare and was signed into law by Gov. Walker in April 2018.

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Venezuela –
The Coup Keeps Failing
By Julie Byrnes Enslow

When President Trump took the hawkish advice of National Security Advisor John Bolton, he thought he could easily overthrow the elected government in Venezuela and replace President Nicolás Maduro with his handpicked appointment, Juan Guaidó. After three coup attempts, the vast majority of the Venezuelan army has stayed loyal to Maduro, and the US overthrow of the internationally recognized legitimate government has been a failure.

What to do? Trump continued to tighten the stranglehold of economic sanctions that are literally killing the Venezuelan people. And he threatened US military action with “all options are on the table.”

The pattern of US policy to overthrow legitimate governments (many democratically elected) over the years has been to
- impose harsh economic sanctions to devastate the economy
- provide financing and weapons to the opposition
- sabotage any negotiations or peace process
- exploit the resulting humanitarian crisis
- name a new “leader”
- install a government that will serve US economic interests.

This has been a recipe for disaster. Sanctions lead to hunger, which leads to desperation and the overthrow of the current government. The crisis opens the door for right-wing governments that will do the bidding of the United States, and oppress their own people.

US military intervention in Venezuela will lead to civil war and an unspeakable tragedy for the Venezuelan people. Venezuela has serious problems, greatly exacerbated by the US economic sanctions. But an illegal coup or war is not the remedy.

Unable to resolve the country’s political crisis and with coup attempts failing, the opposition leader Juan Guaidó is considering talks with President Nicolás Maduro. Both sides have sent representatives to Norway for discussions.

Lift the Sanctions! Hands off Venezuela! Support Negotiations!

Historic Venezuelan Embassy Protection Collective Arrested

A group of US peace activists was handed the keys and given permission to live in the Venezuelan embassy in D.C. and protect it from a takeover by coup supporters after embassy employees were returned to Venezuela on April 10. Embassies are owned by their countries’ governments and by law under the Vienna Convention cannot be taken over or violated by the host nation or other parties.

To prevent the opposition headed by US appointed “interim president” Juan Guaidó from illegally taking over the embassy, as many as 30 invited peace activists came to protect it. The DC police and federal agents allowed Venezuelan expatriates supportive of Guaidó to rally outside, harass the Protection Collective, prevent food from being delivered, and threaten the protectors with violence, including rape and murder. The authorities even had the electricity and water turned off, although utility bills had been paid.

As weeks went by, many protectors needed to leave the embassy. Four were left on the early morning of May 16 when police came and, in violation of international law, arrested them.

Medea Benjamin and Ann Wright of Code Pink wrote on May 14, “History will record this as a US violation of a key tenet of international law and as a heroic example of US citizens doing everything in their power—including going without food, water and electricity and facing daily assaults by the opposition—to try to stop a US-orchestrated coup.”

Benjamin said the best way to protect both the US embassy in Caracas and the Venezuelan embassy in DC was for the two governments to sign a “ Protecting Power Agreement” — something Venezuela’s ambassador has been calling for at the United Nations. As we go to press, a deal has been reached between Turkey and Venezuela for a Protecting Power Agreement at the embassy in DC. Switzerland has offered to protect the US embassy in Caracas. The US State Department now has to agree to the arrangement.

War Powers – Who Has Them?
By Christy Breihan

The Peace Center was packed on Monday, May 6th, as activists gathered to hear Robert Naiman discuss US involvement in global warfare, and our strategies for ending the war in Yemen and halting the threats of war against Korea, Iran and Venezuela. Brought to Milwaukee by Peace Action of Wisconsin, Naiman is the Policy Director of Just Foreign Policy and a nationally respected foreign policy analyst.

Focusing on the War Powers Resolution of 1973 and its passage by Congress in the wake of the outrage over the Vietnam War, Naiman explained both its history and the potential it has as a tool to “stay the hand” of a president’s military ambitions.

Although the US Constitution has always reserved for Congress the authority to declare war, US presidents have continually waged war as “commander-in-chief” of the armed forces. Once our troops are involved in a conflict, it is very hard to effect a change of course. The War Powers Resolution (sometimes called “Act”) is best used to call the question before the president uses force.

The resolution says the president cannot engage in military action unless Congress declares war or passes a statutory act supporting the action, or we are in an emergency situation due to an attack on the US (or an imminent threat of one). Absent one of these criteria, any member of Congress can introduce a “privileged” resolution (meaning leadership cannot block its consideration) to stop the involvement. If it passes as a “concurrent” resolution in both houses, the president cannot veto it—however, if it is a “joint” resolution, it can be vetoed. So when Congress, in April, voted on a “joint” resolution to require President Trump to end US involvement in the Saudi-US war on Yemen, (the first time such a resolution had ever been passed), Trump vetoed it and the override attempt failed. An effort to pass it again as a “concurrent” resolution is underway.

What types of military involvement can be prohibited by the War Powers Resolution? In addition to direct action by US troops, the resolution covers participation in the movement of foreign forces, (such as re-fueling Saudi aircraft), intelligence sharing, and target selection. The US has been providing all of these to the Saudis, along with supplying 60% of their weapons.

US policy is currently inflaming serious conflicts on several fronts. If we can count on Congress to use the War Powers Resolution to stop the US war on Yemen, we can insist on the same constitutional authority of Congress and the War Powers Resolution to prevent a US war on Venezuela or Iran or Korea.

Bird Dogging the Candidates

As more and more candidates join in the race for the US presidency, peace activists need to pursue their views on US military intervention, military spending, nuclear disarmament, arms sales, human rights, immigration and climate change.

Peace Action of Wisconsin is calling for members to join our bird dogging teams to ask key questions at local appearances of presidential candidates. Call our office to join in our peace work for the coming presidential elections. Brief trainings will be held. 414-269-9525
Back from the Brink
Call to Prevent Nuclear War

The danger of nuclear war is real and growing. We are marching to the brink of catastrophe.

The Steering Committee of Peace Action of Wisconsin has endorsed a national grassroots initiative, “Back from the Brink,” seeking to fundamentally change US nuclear weapons policy and lead us away from the dangerous path we are on.

We will be working to have the Milwaukee Common Council and the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors also endorse this call in the coming weeks. To help with this effort please join our Disarmament Committee by calling George Martin, 414-745-5740.

Peace Needs You

Peace Action is an activist membership organization working for peace and justice in our community and around the world. Our very important work is accomplished through our committees of program, disarmament, communications, finance/fundraising, internet, and coordinated by our annually elected steering committee.

All of us can help make a better world:

- **Program Committee:** If you are interested in helping plan or host events, such as, educational films and panels, rallies and membership events, including transportation and staging.
- **Disarmament Committee:** If you agree that nuclear weapons are a top threat to mankind, help our “Back from the Brink Campaign.”
- **Communications Committee:** If you have experience working with newsletters, mailing lists, brochures and flyers including graphics.
- **Finance/Fundraising Committee:** If you have experience in data entry, bookkeeping, accounting, Quick Books, audits, non-profit taxes or in fundraising planning, campaigns and events.
- **Internet Committee:** If you have experience in web design and maintenance, Nation Builder, digital newsletters, email alerts and social media.

And if you like talking on the phone from home, we need you too.

Work locally and think globally!

To join a committee please call our office, 414-269-9525.

Lanterns for Peace

Friday, August 9 - 6-9 pm

Annual Commemoration of the Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Washington Park Urban Ecology Center
(N.E. corner of Park, south of Lisbon.)

6:00 pm - Making of lanterns and family activities.
7:30 pm - Commemorative Program
8:30 pm - Floating of Japanese Lanterns in the Lagoon

No More Hiroshimas!
No More Nagasakis!
No More Nuclear Weapons!

No More Hiroshimas!
No More Nagasakis!
No More Nuclear Weapons!
PEACE CALENDAR
April / May 2019

June 1, Sat., noon, Weekly Stand for Peace. Oppose war on Venezuela and Iran. National Ave. and Cesar Chavez Dr. (16th). Sponsored by Peace Action of Wisconsin. (See weekly schedule in adjacent ad)


June 9, Sun., 11 AM- 8 PM Locust Street Festival. Volunteer at the Peace Action booth, circulate anti-war petition and sell our peace merchandise to support our work. Locust St. between Humboldt and Holton. Call our office to volunteer. (414-269-9525)

June 21, Fri., 7 PM Summer Friday Freedom Flicks at the Peace Center, 1001 E. Keefe Ave. The first of our summer series of peace and anti-war films begins. Sponsored by Peace Action of Wisconsin. See ad for schedule.

June 19, Wed., 7 PM End the Wars Coalition Meeting, the Peace Center, 1001 E. Keefe Ave., Milwaukee. (Third Wed. of each month.)


July 17, Wed., 7 PM End the Wars Coalition Meeting, The Peace Center, 1001 E. Keefe.

July 20, Sat. Garfield Ave. Blues, Jazz, Gospel and Arts Festival. Volunteer at our Peace Action booth. Circulate anti-war petition and sell our peace merchandise to support our work. Garfield Ave. between MLK Ave. and 6th St. Call our office to volunteer. (414-269-9525)

PLAN AHEAD! Friday, August 9 – Annual Lanterns for Peace - Commemoration of the Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Washington Park Urban Ecology Center. 6-9 PM.

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Friday Freedom Flicks
Summer Series of Peace and Anti-War Films

Friday June 21, 7pm War Made Easy
How the US government uses media to drum up support for war. Norman Solomon (2007)

Friday, June 28, 7pm Shadow World
A Documentary on the global arms trade, taken from a book of the same name by Andrew Feinstein (2016)

Friday, July 12, 7pm In the Year of the Pig
Emile de Antonio’s powerful documentary on Vietnam (1968)

Friday, July 26, 7pm. Sir! No Sir!
GI resistance during the Vietnam War (2005)

More in August. Sponsored by Peace Action of Wisconsin
Thank You Volunteers

Office and mailing help: Julie Enslow, Christy Breihan, Babette Grunow, Mary Lou Stebbins, David Lindberg, Jan Watson, Tom Rodman, Samir Moukaddam, Patrick Auld.


Volunteer Opportunities

• Office help - organize files, make phone calls to update our membership information.

• Outreach in Riverwest - attend events, and knock on doors in our neighborhood with newsletters and petition.

• Tabling and set up - at Locust Street Day (Sun., June 9), Garfield Blues and Jazz Festival (Sat. July 20), and Lanterns for Peace (Fri., Aug. 9).

Call our office to volunteer. 414-269-9525

Stand for Peace
Saturdays Noon-1 PM

June 1: National and Cesar Chavez Dr. (16th)
June 8: Brady and Farwell
June 15: Hwy 100 and Bluemound
June 22: Capital and Teutonia
June 29: Port Washington and Silver Spring

July 6: Lincoln Memorial and Michigan
July 13: National and Greenfield
July 20: Capitol and Oakland
July 27: Locust and King

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.

Phone: 414-269-9525  |  E-mail: info@peaceactionwi.org
Website: peaceactionwi.org  |  facebook.com/peaceactionwi
Peace Action Picnic
Sun. June 23  2pm – 6pm
Kern Park  -  Picnic Area 2
3614 N. Humboldt, Milw.

Friends, Food, Fun and Music
Music at 2:30
with David H. B. Drake, Julie Thompson
Harvey Taylor & Susie Krause

Potluck, grills provided, beer and beverages.
Bring lawn chairs for comfort.
(Playground nearby for kids.)

See you there!