



Palestinians Continue to Suffer

by Pam Richard, Julie Enslow, Samir Moukaddam

The ongoing colonial violence by Israelis against the Palestinians escalated once again this past month. Israeli settlers were forcibly removing Palestinian families from their homes in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of East Jerusalem. These actions follow months of increased home demolitions, force displacements, and violence against Palestinians.

May 7, scores of settlers stormed the sacred Al Aqsa Mosque, backed by Israeli security forces. As tensions rose, Palestinians responded with demonstrations and homemade rockets were launched into Israel from Gaza by Hamas. Then the Israelis launched another major military operation on the open-air prison of Gaza, which has lived under blockade for 14 years.

Israeli air and artillery attacks killed 253 Palestinians, including 66 children, and left more than 1,900 people wounded. The Israeli onslaught also completely destroyed 1,800 residential units in Gaza and partially demolished at least 14,300 others. Hospitals and media centers were targeted. Tens of thousands of Palestinians have been forced to take shelter in UN-run schools. Whole families have been obliterated. Gazans have been running out of medical supplies, water, food, and electricity. Young people are among the most affected groups.

In contrast, two children were among 12 people killed in Israel by rockets fired by Hamas and other armed groups from Gaza during the same period. Over 90% of the incoming rockets were deflected by sophisticated Israeli anti-rocket weaponry. The levels of violence are simply not comparable. Once again, this was a case of powerful occupiers fiercely attacking the occupied.

Israel used very powerful weapons, many of them

made in the U.S., in the 11 days of intense Israeli state violence. U.S. taxpayers are giving Israel a total of **\$38 billion** of weapons over ten years (\$3.8 billion each year from 2019 to 2028), according to 2016 agreement between the two countries. It is clear that US weapons are being used with the intention of destroying infrastructure and spreading fear among the public as part of the ongoing blockade, apartheid rule, dispossession and genocide of the Palestinian people. Although a ceasefire was reached between Israel and Hamas on May 21, many families continue to suffer. The majority were already traumatized by the 51-day Israeli bombing campaign of Gaza in 2014. That offensive killed more than 2,200 Palestinians, including 500 children. The latest Israeli attack has been a catastrophe for Palestinians. Military sieges of the sort imposed on Gaza are acts of war.

Huge numbers of people all over the globe protested in solidarity with the Palestinians in May, including protests in downtown Milwaukee with hundreds of people, sponsored by American Muslims for Palestine, and local Muslim and Palestine solidarity groups.

Peace Action WI was there, holding our banner in solidarity for liberation and independence from the Israeli occupation for the Palestinian people. As U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib stated, "Israel's bombing of Palestinians was not self-defense; it was part of ethnic cleansing. We need more than a ceasefire. We also need an end to the occupation."

Information for this article is from Al Jazeera, the Electronic Intifada, MECA for Peace and Jewish Voice for Peace

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“We should all be grateful that a ceasefire will prevent more civilians and children from being killed. But now what? We need accountability for every war crime committed. And we need to stop underwriting crimes against humanity while doing nothing to end the occupation.” U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar

U.S. Support for Israel Continues

On June 3, top Biden administration officials welcomed Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz to Washington, D.C., promising “ironclad” U.S. support for Israel despite growing international outrage over the widespread killing of Palestinian civilians. Gantz had the audacity to ask the U.S. for \$1 billion more in “emergency” military aid to Israel, over the \$3.8 billion given to them annually. The Biden administration has allocated a mere \$110 million to help rebuild Palestinian homes destroyed in the recent attacks.

Update: While a ceasefire continues to hold between Israel and Gaza, Israel is cracking down on Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank, occupied East Jerusalem and inside Israel. According to the newspaper Haaretz, Israeli police have arrested nearly 2,000 Palestinians over the past month in an attempt to quell protests against the occupation.



Palestinians walk amidst debris after bombings.
[Mohammed Abed/AFP]



Palestinian man runs for cover during Israeli air attack in Gaza City.
[Suhailb Salem/Reuters]



Peace Action WI joined the local demonstration in support of Palestinian human rights.
[photo by Sue Ruggles]

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Sales benefit the **Middle East Children’s Alliance**. MECA began distribution of food parcels on the very first day of the recent Israeli bombing attacks on Gaza and were the first to provide relief to displaced families at the schools and other make-shift shelters. Due to Israeli attacks, many water networks have been damaged and there is only electricity for a few hours a day. Water purification units are not functioning and 97% of water in Gaza is now unfit for human consumption.

Please call 414-269-8525 for an appointment to pick up your bottle of oil, or it can be delivered if you are homebound and in the Milwaukee area.

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Important Legislation to Defend Palestinian Human Rights

By Pam Richard

Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act (H.R. 2590), introduced by Rep. Betty McCollum (MN-04), seeks to protect Palestinian human rights and ensure no U.S. taxpayer funds are used to support abusive practices in the occupied territories.

The bill explicitly acknowledges and condemns the ill-treatment Palestinian children and families face, declaring these practices to be “contrary to the values of the American people” and efforts to promote dignity for both Palestinians and Israelis.

If passed, H.R. 2590 would prohibit any U.S. foreign assistance from being used to support:

- **The Military Detentions of Children-** American funds should not be used to support military detention of children anywhere – including the southern U.S. border. The Israeli military has violated the rights of Palestinian children for many years, and these violations have continued unabated during the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite a call by the United Nations for Israel to release all children from custody due to COVID-19, Israel held at least 157 Palestinian children in detention as of September 2020, according to the Israeli human rights organization B’Tselem. Defense for Children International has documented widespread reports of physical abuse, mistreatment, and poor conditions for detained Palestinian children.
- **Home Demolitions-** In the past year, Israel has further accelerated its longstanding and unlawful practice of demolishing Palestinian homes in the occupied territories. According to the United Nations, the Israeli government has demolished the homes or properties of 7,563 Palestinian families since 2009, displacing an estimated 11,408 people. That includes 851 destroyed homes in 2020 - a 27 percent increase from 2019 - and 331 thus far in 2021.
- **Annexation-** The unilateral annexation of any parts of the occupied territories constitutes a grave violation of international law and could irreparably damage the prospects for a two-state resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The May 2020 proposal by the Israeli government to annex parts of the West Bank

has been put on halt. But the Israeli government has continued to expand illegal settlements in the West Bank, furthering the de facto annexation of Palestinian territory.

An Important Step

In addition to prohibiting U.S. funds from being used to support abusive practices against Palestinians, the bill enhances transparency and accountability by requiring the Department of State to either certify that no U.S. funds are being used for prohibited purposes or issue a report to Congress detailing any violations by the Israeli government. These reports could serve as an important foundation for future efforts to protect and promote the rights of Palestinians.

Congress should send a strong message that the military detention and mistreatment of children, the destruction of family homes, and further annexation of Palestinian land will not be supported by U.S. funds. By cosponsoring H.R. 2590, members of Congress can align U.S. assistance with American values and international law.

What you can do:

Contact your Congressional Representative and ask her/him to co-sponsor H.R. 2590 in support of Palestinian basic human rights. **U.S. Capitol Switchboard - 202-224-3121**

Who are Congressional Leaders on Palestinian Rights?

Wisconsin’s Mark Pocan joins five progressive women in the House of Representatives as a strong vocal supporter of Palestinian rights. Rashida Tlaib (the only Palestinian member of Congress), Ilhan Omar, Cori Bush, Ayanna Presley and Alexandria Ocasio Cortez have consistently spoken on behalf of the Palestinian cause and led opposition to continued U.S. support of the illegal Israeli occupation.

Reps. Mark Pocan and Debbie Dingell (D-MI) initiated an unprecedented letter in February, 2020 to end U.S. support of the blockade of Gaza. In a growing support of this cause, 31 other congresspeople signed on, including Wisconsin’s Rep. Gwen Moore.

More than 500 former staffers who got Biden elected, publicly demanded that he defend Palestinian rights. Perhaps pressure is building that can affect U.S. policy on Palestine. Let all of our voices be heard!

The F-35 - Legacy of Failure

by Pam Richard

Adapted from a series of articles from the Project on Government Oversight, by Dan Grazier

At the end of the Trump administration, the acting secretary of defense called it a “piece of s...” The Air Force chief admitted the F-35 would never be able to live up to its original purpose. And now, Adam Smith, the chair of the House Armed Services Committee, said we should stop throwing money down “the F-35 rathole.”

This all comes as the program is rightfully on a list of programs facing a Pentagon review that could result in recommended cuts to the total number of aircraft to be purchased. This shift is due to the sudden realization in Washington, despite years of warnings, that the F-35 is too challenging and costly to maintain.

Testing continues to reveal design flaws in the F-35 — at last count in January, 2021, there were **871 flaws** which is only two fewer than the year before. Until the testing process is complete and engineers work through solutions to these problems, the F-35s purchased now will be built with these flaws. They will then require extensive and expensive modifications later on to fix problems that have yet to be revealed in the testing process.

As we have seen in recent years, misleading claims about falling prices often surface when the decision-makers in Washington begin to turn their attention toward the next year’s defense budget, as an effort to convince Congress to add more aircraft in the next authorization. When all the operating costs for the planned fleet are calculated across the program’s expected 50-year lifetime, the American people will spend **an estimated \$1.727 trillion**. Spending our grandchildren into poverty pursuing unworkable technological boondoggles is not the right way to compete with our potential adversaries.

According to the Air Force’s aircraft procurement justification book for fiscal year 2021, the \$77.9 million sticker price for the 2020 model F-35A jumps to **\$110.3 million per aircraft** when all aspects of the program are added together. And this figure will rise in the coming years as aircraft purchased now receive significant upgrades.

According to the Department of the Navy justification book, which covers both the Navy and Marine Corps aircraft procurement, a Marine Corps F-35B costs **\$135.8 million** and a Navy F-35C costs **\$117.3 million** per aircraft.

*It’s long past time to stop manufacturing these hugely expensive delivery vehicles for Weapons of Mass Destruction. We don’t want them to be stationed in Wisconsin. We say **no more F-35’s and no more war!***



Cuba Update

The UN will vote to call on the US to end the Cuba Blockade on June 23. Peace Action’s Stand for Peace on Sat., June 19 at Lincoln Memorial Dr. and Lafayette Hill will focus on ending the blockade on Cuba. Another Cuba Car Caravan will take place on Sun., June 20, 1pm beginning at the Mitchell Park Domes, calling for an end to the blockade.

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No Virus Can Slow Us Down!

Recent Peace Action Activities

COVID couldn't cramp our style. Peace Action Wisconsin has been organizing and participating in many peace and justice activities in recent months.

- In addition to our weekly Stands for Peace around the city, we co-sponsored or participated in Cuba Car Caravans, Caravan for the Climate, annual commemoration of May Day with Voces de la Frontera, Friday Stands for a Livable Climate with 350MKE, the Black Lives are Sacred Stand and the big demonstration in support of Palestinians. We organized special Stands for Peace on the War on Iraq, End the Cuba Blockade and a Tax Day event protesting Military Spending at the Army Reserve Drill Center.
- Peace Action hosted several educational events online including a Justice for Palestinians webinar, Safe Skies Clean Water WI panel discussion opposing the F-35, Challenges Facing Native Nations Today, a Special Code Pink webinar on Cutting the Defense Budget, and joined Korea Peace Now! to advocate for peace in Korea with Peace Action members Nan Kim and "Pastor Peace" Pyung An Kim.
- In May, Peace Action WI and The Interfaith Peace Working Group launched a Postcard Campaign of Resistance against the F-35s being stationed in Madison. We also participated in over 10 congressional and DOE meetings in the DC Days to Stop Funding of Nuclear Weapons with the Alliance of Nuclear Accountability.
- On the 4th of June, we helped organize the Milwaukee stop for the Line 3 Solidarity Tour in Wisconsin. Two Peace Action WI members went to the large Treaty People Gathering in Minnesota to support indigenous resistance to Line 3, a dirty tar sands oil pipeline.

**Check our calendar for upcoming events this summer.
(Lanterns For Peace, Sat., Aug.7)**



Biden's Military Budget

THIS IS BIG!

\$753 billion! That is President Biden's final military budget proposal for 2022, with \$715 billion targeted for the Pentagon. Released on May 28, Biden's budget far exceeds last year's military budget. So much for a change in priorities.

President Trump's proposed national security budget was "only" \$740.5 billion for 2021. \$705.4 billion was for the Pentagon. Nothing has changed when it comes to military spending. In fact, under the Biden Administration it is actually looking worse.

Biden's proposed budget continues to support major work on new nuclear weapons and may actually increase purchases of F-35 stealth fighter jets, the most expensive weapons program in the world. It includes \$17.4 billion for the new Space Force and over \$51 billion to maintain over 800 U.S. bases around the world.

The Biden administration is using increased tensions with China as its rationale for upping our military spending. But so-called "defense spending" should be called "war spending" and is an enormous boon to military contractors like Lockheed Martin.

However, Congress decides on the Federal Budget. Representatives Barbara Lee and Pramila Jayapal recently introduced new legislation from the Poor People's Campaign which calls for redirecting at least 10% of the military budget to meet human needs.

Call your Congressperson to sign on to the Lee/Pramila bill supporting a 10% cut in military spending.
DC Capitol Switchboard: 202-224-3121

PEACE CALENDAR

April/May 2021

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many peace events will be held online. Watch for the easy Zoom links on email alerts from Peace Action of Wisconsin.

Every Saturday Stand for Peace. 12 noon. See ad for weekly locations. Organized by Peace Action of Wisconsin. Wear masks if you are not vaccinated.

Every Friday Stand for a Livable Climate. Protest the Funding of Fossil Fuels - 12 Noon to 1pm in front of Chase Bank & Wells Fargo Bank on Water & Wisconsin. They are 2 of the largest funders of fossil fuels on Earth. Organized by 350.org Milwaukee. Endorsed by Peace Action WI. Wear masks if you are not vaccinated.

Sun. June 13 Virtual Panel, “Why Should I Care about Julian Assange?” 1 p.m.- 2:30 p.m. CST with Fidel Narvaez (Ecuadorian consul in the embassy in London during Julian’s asylum there), **John Kiriakou** (whistleblower who revealed the CIA torture program), and **Ray McGovern** (27-year CIA Russia analyst). Co-sponsored by Peace Action WI. Watch for zoom link on PA email.

Tues. June 15 Peace Action of Wis. Steering Committee meeting. 7pm at Peace Center, 1001 E. Keefe.

Wed. June 16 End the Wars Coalition meeting. 7pm on Zoom.

Thur. June 17 F-35s Out of Our Skies, Movie Screening and Panel Discussion. 7pm CST. Online program. After the 12 min. film, hear community activists in Wisconsin and Vermont who are fighting to stop the F-35 from deploying in their communities. Watch for zoom link on a Peace Action WI email. Co-sponsored by Peace Action WI.

Sat. June 19 Free Julian Assange Event, 10 am-12 noon, Sunburst Sculpture on Milwaukee’s Lakefront, East end of Wis. Ave. **Julian’s father and brother, John and Gabriel Shipton,** join us in Milwaukee as part of their US tour to save Julian Assange and gain his release from Belmarsh Prison in Great Britain. Assange is one of the great heroes of a free press and free speech. Sponsored by Peace Action WI.

Sun. June 20. Milwaukee Caravan to lift the Cuban Blockade. 1pm. Meet at the Mitchell Park Domes (524 S. Layton Blvd/ S. 27th St.) Sponsored by Wis. Coalition to Normalize Relations with Cuba.

Tues. July 20 Peace Action of Wis. Steering Committee meeting. 7pm at Peace Center.

Wed. July 21 End the Wars Coalition meeting. 7pm on Zoom.

Sat. August 7 Lanterns for Peace - Annual Commemoration of Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. 7:30pm-9:00pm. Candlelight Lantern Vigil lining Lincoln Memorial Drive near Bradford Beach Pedestrian Bridge. Free parking in lot.



12 noon every Saturday

June 5	Howell/Howard
June 12	Capitol/Teutonia
June 19	Lincoln Memorial/LaFayette Hill (Focus on Cuba)
June 26	76th/North
July 3	Oakland/North
July 10	92nd/North
July 17	King/Locust
July 24	43rd/Forest Home
July 31	Lincoln Memorial/LaFayette Hill

Aug. 7, 7:30pm Lincoln Memorial Drive at Bradford Beach. Special Lanterns for Peace Vigil commemorating Hiroshima/Nagasaki.

The Mobilizer

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

If you would prefer only an online copy of our newsletter instead of a hard copy, call or email Pam at our office.

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LANTERNS FOR PEACE

Remembering Hiroshima
and Nagasaki:
A Candlelight Vigil for Peace
and Global Nuclear Disarmament



76th Anniversary
of the Atomic Bombings
Saturday, August 7th,
7:30pm – 9:00pm

Thank you Volunteers

- Above and Beyond help in cleaning up the garage and sorting through many boxes of old (historical) papers- Babette Grunow, Mary Laan, Jill Ferguson, Joe Radoszewski.
- Special mailing of No F-35 in WI postcards- Mary Alice Martines, Mary Laan, Marsha Vila, David Lindberg, Rosemary Huddleston, Babette Grunow, Sue Cottrell, Tom Niebler, George Wagner
- Mobilizer Mail Crew- thanks to Julie Enslow and Christy Breihan for editing. Mailers: Mary Alice Martines, Rosemary Huddleston, Marsha Vila, Mary Laan, Babette Grunow, Sue Cottrell, David Lindberg, Tom Neibler



Lincoln Memorial Drive - Near Bradford Beach Pedestrian Bridge

(Free Parking in the lot across from Bradford Beach and the North Point lot just south of there. Pick up lanterns, signs and banners in the Bradford Beach parking lot)

Please wear a mask if you are not vaccinated.

Organized by Peace Action Wisconsin. Co-sponsors:
End the Wars Coalition
of Milwaukee, Veterans for Peace, UNA of
Milwaukee, WILPF, WI Green Party, 350 Milwaukee,
Mother's Organizing Center, Casa Maria Catholic
Worker, Progressive Dems, Catholics for Peace
and Justice, FCNL, Martin Luther King, Jr. Justice
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Free Julian Assange Event

Hear Julian's father and brother, John and Gabriel Shipton, on a personal tour to save Julian's life.

Sat. June 19, 10 am - 12 noon
Sunburst Sculpture, east end of Wis. Ave.

Sponsored by Peace Action of Wisconsin