



## The Humanitarian Disaster of the US War in Afghanistan

by Pamela Richard

To read or listen to Western analysts, one would think that the United States and its allies' 20-year war was a benign and beneficial effort to modernize the country, liberate Afghan women and provide healthcare, education and good jobs, and that this has all now been swept away by capitulation to the Taliban. But aside from revenge, military insiders have revealed that we never had a clear idea of what we were doing there. We must not forget the trauma, death and destruction that the war in Afghanistan has caused over two decades.

The US covertly conducted *death squad assassinations, torture (including water boarding) at the infamous Bagram Air Base, CIA Special Operations, and pounded the civilian population with bombs and killer drones*. Our government dropped over 80,000 bombs and missiles on Afghans, with no accountability for how many civilians were killed.

According to the Cost of War, there have been 43,000 Afghan civilians killed and more than 160,000 civilian deaths. The Pentagon is notorious for dramatically undercounting the number of civilians killed in U.S. military operations. And when the U.S. government does admit to killing civilians, it often refuses to provide any compensation to the victims' families.

### A Humanitarian Disaster

We now leave behind a country that is among the poorest nations on earth. Ninety percent of the Afghan people earn less than \$2 per day. Two million children are malnourished. Hunger, disease, and trauma are

rampant, and infant mortality remains the highest in the world. According to the World Food program, four million Afghans have been displaced with another 2.7 million forced to flee the country.

Even as UN agencies warn of an impending humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, the U.S. Treasury has *frozen* nearly all of the Afghan Central Bank's \$9.4 billion in foreign currency reserves, depriving the new government of funds that it will desperately need in the coming months to feed its people and provide basic services.

Under pressure from the Biden administration, the International Monetary Fund decided not to release \$450 million in funds that were scheduled to be sent to Afghanistan to help the country cope with the coronavirus pandemic. (*cont. on pg. 2*)



Steve Shea demonstrating against war on Aug. 29.

## Era of Drone Warfare

The era of drone warfare began in 2001 with the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan. The government's claim that the use of drones is a surgically precise tool that makes the U.S. safer by enabling "targeted killing" of terrorists, with minimal collateral damage is false. Nearly 90% of those killed by U.S. drone strikes were NOT the intended target. In 2015, a US airstrike killed doctors from Doctors Without Borders and their patients at a hospital in Kunduz, Afghanistan.

On August 29, right after our troops were withdrawn, a tragic US drone attack in Kabul killed at least 10 Afghan civilians—including 7 children. It wasn't until Sept. 17 that the military admitted that those killed were innocent civilians. "The strike was a tragic mistake," said Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie, head of U.S. Central Command, and he offered his "sincere apologies" and reparations to the surviving family members.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) demanded that the Biden administration immediately put in place a "moratorium on drone warfare"



Remains of the car struck by US drone that killed aid worker Zemari Ahmadi and his family in Kabul Aug. 29.

For more than ten years, our government's drone strikes have killed thousands of innocent people in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Yemen, and elsewhere in the Muslim world destroying family homes, wedding parties, and even funeral processions along with the destruction of hospitals, schools, mosques, infrastructure, towns and cities. The civilian casualties in Kabul are simply the latest victims.

"This is the latest in 20 years of innocent lives taken and children orphaned in Afghanistan and covert drone warfare around the world," proclaimed Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN). "Impunity for these attacks continues to create a never-ending cycle of violence and retribution. Where should these victims go to seek justice?"

## "Over the Horizon" Attacks



Air Force Drone for "over the horizon" attacks.

The acknowledgment of the botched airstrike also underscored likely limitations of future U.S. counterterrorism efforts in the country. Military officials have insisted that they would be able to monitor, detect and interrupt militant activity despite having no presence on the ground in Afghanistan, but by using an "over the horizon" approach from distant bases. Counterterrorism and intelligence officials have said that information would be less reliable without information from the ground.

The Biden administration has indicated it could keep conducting "over-the-horizon" strikes against terrorist groups in Afghanistan despite the U.S. military's withdrawal. The recent failed Kabul airstrike should raise serious questions about this strategy.

In the light of these terrible violations of international law and total disregard for the lives and human rights of the people of Afghanistan, and the tragic loss of lives of US military personnel, we demand not only a complete and total exit of US military forces but an end to the drone attacks from "over the horizon" and payment of reparations for the terrible damage we have done.

***Peace Action's Peace Items  
for sale at our office.***

*For holiday gifts or for yourself!*

**Syracuse Cultural Workers  
famous Peace Calendar**

**New T-shirts**

**Palestinian Olive Oil**

**Peace Flags**

**Buttons**

## Nuclear War Resolution Passes County Board!



Milwaukee County Supervisors Steve Shea (left) and Ryan Clancy

In a victory for the Milwaukee Peace Community, the Milwaukee County Board passed a resolution on Sept. 23 urging United States federal policymakers to step back from the brink of nuclear war. The resolution passed by 13 to 2.

Milwaukee County Board Supervisor Steve Shea introduced Resolution 21-826 calling for the Board to endorse the Back from the Brink “Call to Prevent Nuclear War.” Supervisor Ryan Clancy was a co-sponsor. ***They are both Peace Action members.***

The resolution calls upon United States federal policymakers to:

- Renounce the US nuclear first strike or “flexible response” policy
- Remove the US nuclear weapons from being on “hair-trigger” or high alert
- Require checks and balances on the President’s current sole authority to launch nuclear weapons
- Cancel US replacement of its entire nuclear arsenal with enhancements
- Actively pursue verifiable nuclear arms reductions between nuclear States with the goal of total nuclear disarmament
- TAKE ACTION NOW and demand that the President, our two Senators and your Congressional Representatives embrace the principles of Back From The Brink as they recognize the dangers of inaction when tasked with ridding the world of these Armageddon inducing Weapons of Mass Destruction.



Thank you to everyone who called their County Supervisor in support of this resolution.

## The Afghanistan Papers - A Secret History of the Truth

*How We Were Lied To for 20 Years.*

“This confidential trove of government documents obtained by The Washington Post reveals that senior U.S. officials failed to tell the truth about the war in Afghanistan... making rosy pronouncements they knew to be false and hiding unmistakable evidence the war had become unwinnable.”

Check out the revealing articles from 2019 in the Washington Post on The Afghanistan Papers. The Afghanistan Papers compare in importance to The Pentagon Papers revealed by Daniel Ellsberg during the Vietnam War.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2019/investigations/afghanistan-papers/>



### Annual Membership Meeting Thur., Nov. 18, 7 pm - On Zoom

**Featured Speaker - David Swanson**  
**Executive Director of World Beyond War**  
**National Peace Activist, Author,**  
**Journalist, Radio Host**

David Swanson is cofounder and executive director of [WorldBeyondWar.org](http://WorldBeyondWar.org) and campaign coordinator for [RootsAction.org](http://RootsAction.org). Swanson’s books include *War Is A Lie*. He hosts *Talk Nation Radio*. He is a Nobel Peace Prize nominee, and was awarded the [2018 Peace Prize](#) by the U.S. Peace Memorial Foundation.

- Music and entertainment!
- Election of the 2022 Steering Committee
- Approve changes in the by-laws and our mission statement. (See emailed announcement.)
- Peacemaker of the Year Award for 2021.

Watch for the email-alert with the ZOOM contact. If you are not receiving our email-alerts call our office, 414-269-9525.

# Wisconsin's Moore and Pocan Vote Against Pentagon Budget!

Good News! Both Wisconsin US Representatives Gwen Moore and Mark Pocan voted AGAINST the massive \$778 billion National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and supported two amendments offered to reduce it. Peace Action is very proud of them as they were among only 38 Democrats to have the courage to stand up to the Biden White House, the Democrat Party leadership and the lobbying power of the defense industry.

They both also voted FOR an amendment sponsored by Mark Pocan, Barbara Lee (D-CA) and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) to cut the Pentagon budget by 10%. It failed 86-332. Pocan and Moore also voted “yes” on another amendment by Barbara Lee to limit the budget to the \$753 billion Biden had requested. It also failed 142-286.

A bi-partisan vote in the House Armed Services Committee had agreed to add \$25 billion over the \$753 billion that President Biden had requested (larger than Trump’s budget last year). The final budget of \$788 billion is the largest budget since WWII. Unfortunately, the NDAA passed easily, 316 to 113. The US Senate must now vote on the NDAA. They have also proposed the \$25 billion increase.



Rep. Mark Pocan



Rep. Gwen Moore

**One important victory** was an amendment sponsored by Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA) to **end all US support for the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen**. It was approved by 219 to 207. Another amendment to limit the servicing of Saudi warplanes was approved by 223 to 204. These close votes can be a crucial step to stop the vicious war in Yemen.

Another vote sponsored by Rep. Jamal Bowman (D-NY) would have prohibited a US military presence in Syria without the approval of Congress. It was rejected 141 to 286. The House also voted no on an amendment by Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA) to block funding for new ICBM systems.

Wisconsin Representatives Pocan and Moore voted in support of all the anti-war amendments. Peace Action thanks them!

# How Do You Reduce Military Spending?

by Steve Watrous

Some of us from Wisconsin and nationally wanted to explore a possible answer to that question: work with Wisconsin Rep. Mark Pocan and his new Defense Spending Reduction Caucus. The answer is promising.

After months of planning, Pam Richard and 12 peace leaders from WI, plus Carley Towne from Code Pink, zoomed with Pocan on Sept. 22. He plans to build the caucus – co-chaired by Rep. Barbara Lee and now at just 23 members including Gwen Moore -- for 6-9 months, aiming to make significant military cuts next year: “tens of billions.” He talked about trying to reduce the bloated NDAA voted on Sept. 23, the power of the military-industrial complex, and his goal of developing a modern definition of U.S. security.

Pocan said the Biden administration was interested in his ideas, and even a few Republicans. The Milwaukee End the Wars Coalition persuaded Rep. Moore to join the caucus and now it’s time for the meeting participants from national organizations to get their chapters to persuade local congresspeople to join and get serious about substantial cuts. A strong caucus may solve the fear of going it alone in Congress for peace.



Harry Targ calling for an end to endless war.  
*Anti-war protest photos by Sue Ruggles.*



# Our Annual Peace Picnic

**Sept. 19 in Kern Park**

Photos by George Martin

It was a beautiful sunny day in Kern Park for our annual Peace Action Peace Picnic. A large turnout enjoyed entertainment by Harvey Taylor & Suzy Krause and Suzanne Rosenblatt, free brats, corn and beer, and a delicious potluck. A great time to see old friends and welcome new young members.



Joyce and Joe Ellwanger at Peace Action's picnic, Sept. 19. Bill Sell is in center back.



Steering Committee member Bruce Ware with wife Joan, daughter Isabel and her friend, Cexio.



Peace Action office manager Pam Richard.



PAW co-chair Chris Breihan and Bill Breihan.



Mark Foreman and Steve Watrous enjoying our annual picnic.

# PEACE CALENDAR

*October/November 2021*

**Stand for Peace- Every Saturday** from Noon to 1 pm. Please wear masks. Flags and signs supplied by Peace Action WI.

**Stand for a Livable Climate-** Protest the Funding of Fossil Fuels- **Oct. 1 and every Friday** 12 Noon to 1 pm, at Water & Wisconsin, in front of Chase and Wells Fargo Banks. They're 2 of the largest investors in fossil fuels on Earth. Organized by 350MKE and endorsed by Peace Action WI. Please wear masks. Signs provided.

**Sat. Oct. 2, 12 noon-1 pm. Stand for Peace followed by Rally to End US Sanctions!** Capitol Dr. and Humboldt. Sanctions are a form of war. Sponsored by Peace Action WI.

**Sun. Oct. 10, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Importance of Indigenous Peoples Day.** The First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee Sunday Forum presents Anthony Gonzalez, Executive Director IM West, former Executive Director of the International Indian Treaty Council.

**Mon. Oct. 11- Indigenous People's Day Milwaukee.** Indigenous Peoples' Park, 7301 W. Courtland Ave, near 74thSt. See the Peace Action email alert for time and details.

**Tues. Oct. 12, 7 pm (on zoom) Report from Cuba and benefit for Pastors for Peace's** renewed caravans to Cuba, featuring Gail Walker just returned from two weeks in Cuba and US medical graduate.

**Tues. Oct. 12, 7 pm How to Talk to Kids about the Climate Crisis.** With psychotherapist Philip Chard. 350 Milwaukee monthly meeting on Zoom. (Zoom link on 350 Milwaukee website)

**Thurs. Oct. 14, 7 pm No F-35s in Wisconsin Campaign.** A Zoom update with Safe Skies Clean Water WI and Peace Action WI. Watch for Zoom link on our e-alert.

**Sun. Oct. 17, 1 pm-4:30 pm No F-35 Caravan and Creative Celebration at the WI State Capitol in Madison.** Between 1:00 and 1:20 pm meet at the State St. corner to join the caravan as it comes around the square. At 1:30 pm we will head to a COVID-safe, creative peace celebration that will include music, art-making, and free food.

**Fri. Oct. 22,, 5 pm to 7 pm. Demonstration to Free Julian Assange** at Catalano Square, south end of Broadway in the Third Ward. Organized by Julian Assange Defense Milw. Coalition.

**Sat. Oct. 23, 12 noon to 2 pm Stand for Peace followed by a Rally for Freedom of the Press and to Free Julian Assange.** Lincoln Memorial Dr. & Lafayette Hill. Sponsored by the Julian Assange Defense Milwaukee Coalition and Peace Action WI.

**Sat. Oct. 23, 10 am-11:30 am. United Nation's 76th Anniversary - "Urgency and Agency in the Battle to Avert a Climate Crisis." Special guest speaker Dr. Michael Mann, leading US climate scientist.** Whitefish Bay Library Community Room, 5420 N. Marlborough Dr. Sponsored by the United Nations Association of MKE. Endorsed by Peace Action WI and 350 Milwaukee. In person and on zoom.

**Dr. Michael Mann** is Distinguished Professor of Atmospheric Science and Director of the Earth System Science Center at Penn State University. He has authored more than 200 publications and five books including Dire Predictions, The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars, The Madhouse Effect, and The New Climate War.

**Wed. Oct. 27, 7 pm End the Wars Coalition Meeting on zoom.**

**Sun. Oct. 31, 1 pm Milwaukee Car & Bike Caravan to Lift the US Blockade on Cuba. Again on Nov. 28** and every last Sunday of the month. Meet at the parking lot of Mitchell Park Domes. (Tentative, call to confirm 414-628-2547).

**Sat. Nov. 6 School of the Americas Watch Virtual Conference.** See SOAW website for details on this excellent free conference. [www.soaw.org](http://www.soaw.org)

**Thur. Nov. 11, 7 pm. Milwaukee Veterans for Peace commemorate Armistice Day.** Milwaukee City Hall. Speakers, music and a 21 flower salute.

**Thur. Nov. 18, 7 pm Peace Action WI Annual Membership Meeting on Zoom.** Music and entertainment! Election of the 2022 Steering committee and to approve changes in the by-laws and our mission statement. We will present the Peacemaker of the year award for 2021. **Featured speaker - David Swanson, executive director of World Beyond War.** See ad Pg. 3

**Sun. Nov. 21 Annual School of the Americas Watch Vigil and Litany** at the US/Mexico border in Nogales, Arizona. See information at [www.soaw.org](http://www.soaw.org)

**Wed. Nov. 24, 7 pm. Milwaukee End the Wars Coalition meets on zoom.**

## Thank You To:

- All of you who have helped with mailings the past few months:

Mary Alice Martines, Rosemary Huddleston, Marsha Vila, Mary Laan, Babette Grunow, Sue Cottrell, David Lindberg, Tom Neibler, Trish Beausang, Joyce Ellwanger, Barbara Markoff, Roger Hansen, John Payton, Jill Ferguson, Mary Lou Stebbins, Jan Watson, Julie Enslow, Don Timmerman, Roberta Thurston, George Wagner, Don Wescher, Sharon Kusmirek, Laura Kukor-Shea.

- All who helped with our annual Peace Action Picnic: Eric and Liz Owen for donating and grilling brats and corn.

George Martin for organizing volunteers, providing a sound system and calling members with a personal invitation.

Bruce Ware for donating a new grill.

Harvey Taylor, Suzy Krause, and Suzanne Rosenblatt for entertainment.

Lakefront Brewery for donating beer.

Tom and Carol Seery, Pam Richard, Julie Enslow and Joe Radoszewski for set up.

All of you who helped with set up and clean up.

- Steering Committee Members for all their work this past year - Tom Seery, Christy Breihan, Chris Jeske, Bruce Ware, Mary Laan, Sean O'Reilly, Harry Targ, Jill Ferguson.

- Kristina Paris for serving on our Finance Committee.

## 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.**



## 12 noon every Saturday

Oct. 2: Capitol & Humboldt

Oct. 9: KK & Lincoln

Oct. 16: 51st & Silver Spring

Oct. 23: Lincoln Memorial & LaFayette Hill

Oct. 30: Brady & Farwell

Nov. 6: King & North Av.

Nov. 13: 76th & North Av.

Nov. 20: Water St. & St. Paul

Nov. 27: Pt. Wash. & Silver Spring

## 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, Pam Richard, Steve Watrous. Photos by Sue Ruggles and George Martin. Thanks to the ever-faithful mail gang.

**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.**

## Contact Us

Phone: 414-269-9525

Website: [peaceaction.org](http://peaceaction.org) .... Contact Us

[facebook.com/peaceactionwi](https://facebook.com/peaceactionwi)

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

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

DATED MATERIAL

## **Peace Action of Wisconsin Annual Membership Meeting**

***Thursday, November 18, 7pm on Zoom***

**See ad on pg. 3 for details.**

### **Are you a paid member of Peace Action WI?**

***If not, this could be your last newsletter.***

Due to the cost of printing and mailing, ***readers who have never paid*** a membership or given a donation within the past 3 years **will no longer receive this paper newsletter via the US mail**. The newsletter is sent via email if you are on our email action alert list. It can also be read on our website. If you want to continue to receive a paper newsletter please send in your membership and indicate whether you want a paper or only an emailed version of our newsletter.

\$30 individual, \$50 household, \$10 limited income.  
Send to PAW, 1001 E. Keefe Av. Milwaukee, WI 53212.

**Paid members will continue to receive this newsletter via the US mail unless you prefer to receive it on-line only.** If so, please let us know by calling or emailing our office through our website.

Be sure to give us your current email address.

**Website - [www.peaceactionwi.org](http://www.peaceactionwi.org) Click on **Contact Us**. Phone - 414-269-9525**