



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Nuclear Weapons

by Ralph Hutchison and Marylia Kelly

More than fifty years after his death, The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is remembered as a civil rights icon, recalled for his stirring words at the Lincoln Memorial in 1963 when he declared “I have a dream!”

Beyond that, for lots of people, things get blurry. When an MLK parade is led by the local high school ROTC honor guard, equipped with guns, in full military regalia, one wonders what the apostle of nonviolence who decried war in all forms, might have said about that.

No need to guess, though, about what King would have said about the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and we suspect he would not have been displeased that the anniversary of the Treaty’s entry into force falls on January 22, just a week after his January 15th birthday.

Here are just a few of the things King said about nuclear weapons back in the day.

In the last Sunday sermon he preached, days before his assassination, King said:

“It is no longer a choice, my friends, between violence or nonviolence. It is either nonviolence or nonexistence, and the alternative to disarmament, the alternative to a greater suspension of nuclear tests, the alternative to strengthening the United Nations and thereby disarming the whole world may well be a civilization plunged into the abyss of annihilation, and our earthly habitat would be transformed into an inferno that even the mind of Dante could not imagine.”

King was not a latecomer to the discussion about



nuclear weapons. In the early days of his public ministry, in 1957, he said:

“The development and use of nuclear weapons should be banned. It cannot be disputed that a full-scale nuclear war would be utterly catastrophic. Hundreds and millions of people would be killed outright by the blast and heat, and by the ionizing radiation produced at the instant of the explosion . . . Even countries not directly hit by bombs would suffer through global fall-outs. All of this leads me to say that the principal objective of all nations must be the total abolition of war. War must be finally eliminated or the whole of mankind will be plunged into the abyss of annihilation.”

It is worth noting that King’s objections to nuclear weapons were not superficial; he understood the devastating effects of the bombs and the reality that the effects of nuclear war would not be limited to the combatants; they would be global. In that sense, he was decades ahead of

his time—scientists now know that even a limited nuclear exchange would trigger a nuclear winter that would cause a global famine.

King also called for his religious colleagues to join him in his denunciation of nuclear weapons:

“I am convinced that the church cannot remain silent while mankind (sic) faces the threat of being plunged into the abyss of nuclear annihilation,” he wrote in 1963 in the *Christian Century*. “If the church is true to its mission, it must call for an end to the arms race.”

Unfortunately, King’s statements about nuclear weapons could be delivered today with equal cogency and even more urgency. Now, nine nations possess nuclear weapons, and they are deployed on hair-trigger alert around the globe. Military experts like Admiral William Perry and analysts at the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* agree that the threat of nuclear devastation is greater now than at any time in our history.

If you want an MLK sound-bite on nuclear weapons, here’s what he said about nuclear war in an article in *Liberation* magazine, 1959:

“I have unequivocally declared my hatred for this most colossal of all evils.”

Keep Space for Peace

A gold rush into space is now underway.

There are tens of thousands of mini-satellites expected to be launched in coming years, mostly for 5G which will have military application for greater surveillance and targeting.

We can expect growing deterioration of the Earth’s ozone layer due to toxic rocket exhaust. More spaceports (often in environmentally sensitive area) are being constructed to handle the glut of launches.

Astronomers are angry as they witness the dark night sky covered in satellite trails.

The privatization of space for profit puts the United Nations’ Moon and Outer Space Treaties in jeopardy. The Pentagon’s “Space Force” is issuing statements about the U.S. determination to control the pathway “on and off” the planet.

It is time for an international call for protection of the space environment from greed, pollution and war.

from Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space

NO FIRST USE!

The threat of nuclear war is now higher than it was during the Cold War.

That’s according to former Defense Secretary William Perry -- who is no peacenik.

That’s why it’s more urgent than ever that our representatives institute a policy of **No First Use and No Sole Authority** in order to reduce the grave peril posed by nuclear weapons. **Ask your Senators and Representative and Congressional leadership to support legislation to institute a United States policy of No First Use of nuclear weapons.**

It’s important that we act now. President Joe Biden’s Nuclear Posture Review is underway, and it will determine his administration’s approach to nuclear policy. If we want to avoid a devastating nuclear war, we need to demonstrate broad public support for a policy of **No First Use**.

There are two bills in Congress, the Markey-Lieu Bill (S.1148, HR.669) and the Warren-Smith Bill (S.1219, HR.2603), that would institute a No First Use Policy. These bills should be uncontroversial for anyone who wants to avoid a potentially disastrous nuclear war. Yet, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer haven’t used their leadership to make sure these bills get a vote.

What you can do: Call on your congressional representatives to support a policy of **No First Use** and demand that Pelosi and Schumer bring the bills to a vote!
D.C. Capitol Switchboard: 202-224-3121





Are you a paid member of Peace Action of 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 Click on **Contact Us.**
Phone - 414-269-9525

Peace Action WI Defends Whistleblowers - Julian Assange and Daniel Hale

by Ann Batista and Julie Enslow

A cable published by WikiLeaks described U.S. soldiers murdering an entire Iraqi family - children, parents, and grandparents - followed by a U.S. airstrike to obliterate the evidence. When the Iraqi Parliament subsequently refused to extend legal immunity for war crimes by U.S. soldiers, President Obama was forced to withdraw our forces.

WikiLeaks publications have brought justice through transparency. In response, the U.S. government launched a decade-long smear campaign to undermine support for its publisher, Julian Assange - considered killing him and his associates, spied on his confidential conversations, stole his computers, and orchestrated his years of imprisonment in the U.K. in violation of his asylum.



Assange is being held on remand in the U.K. for extradition to the U.S. in a high security prison under extreme conditions. There is fear for his deteriorating physical and mental health. Given that the prosecution's star witness recently admitted he lied, a trumped up "computer intrusion" charge has imploded. All that's left are charges under the Espionage Act that will criminalize national security journalism for generations to come.

The drone whistleblower, Daniel Hale, has also been imprisoned under the Espionage Act for telling the truth. Hale is a former National Security Agency intelligence analyst who leaked classified information about U.S. drone warfare to the press in 2014. Hale's documents exposed how as many as nine out of ten victims of U.S. drone strikes in Afghanistan were not the intended targets.

Hale was indicted under the Espionage Act during Trump's tenure and was given a 45- month sentence. Biden's Justice Department then viciously went after him and this past October Hale was inexplicably transferred

to the notorious "Communications Management Unit" at the U.S. Penitentiary at Marion in southern Illinois. He is in solitary confinement and is allowed almost no human contact. His mental condition is fragile as he has PTSD from his time as a U.S. Air Force drone operator and is at times suicidal.

At his sentencing, Judge Liam O'Grady had recommended that Hale be confined at Butner, a minimum security prison hospital complex where he could receive treatment for his PTSD. But the Bureau of Prisons overruled the judge and sent him to one of the most notorious prisons in the country where they house dangerous convicted terrorists.

This is how our country treats those who are true to their conscience and speak out against war crimes such as torture, and the killing of innocent civilians with drone warfare.



Both the Democrats and Republicans in the White House have used the Espionage Act against whistleblowers and journalists who speak out against the war crimes of the United States. Since 2010 there have been ten prosecutions under the Espionage Act for either leaking classified information to the media (Chelsea Manning and Edward Snowden) or publishing classified information as in the case of WikiLeaks founder and publisher Julian Assange. The Biden administration is following the same path of severely punishing those who expose the truth.

Don't let the truth be criminalized. There cannot be democracy without freedom of the press and the right to speak the truth. **PLEASE CALL** your Senators and Representative at 202-224-3121 to urge President Biden to drop the charges against publisher Julian Assange and whistleblower Daniel Hale.

Milwaukee peace activists George Martin and Mark Foreman spoke on Julian Assange's behalf at a Peace Action Stand for Assange event on October 23rd. The links to their videos are here:

George Martin:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi7PudLt4eB9nlOhpS_kKCw

Mark Foreman:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5lj5GbiC6aw>

Glasgow Climate Conference a Serious Disappointment

The COP 26 Climate Conference in early November was seen as a last chance effort to turn around the climate crisis before it is too late. It was a disaster.

This gathering was the most privileged COP conference ever held. Many delegates of the poorest, most impacted nations were not able to attend because of COVID restrictions, lack of available vaccinations and problems with visas, while over 500 fossil fuel industry lobbyists were given the red-carpet treatment.

Scientists have warned that the top priority must be to limit the rise in global temperatures to just 1.5 degrees Celsius, or 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit, above preindustrial levels. That's the threshold beyond which the risk of calamities like deadly heat waves, water shortages and ecosystem collapse grows immensely. (The world has already warmed 1.1 degrees Celsius.) That can only be done by stopping the CO2 emissions of fossil fuels and methane by 2030.

But proposed national goals at the conference of “net 0” emissions amounted to a scam. It is another term for offsets and carbon trading which allows industries and governments to continue to emit greenhouse gases into the atmosphere while pretending that planting new trees, protecting dwindling forests and using (currently nonexistent) high-tech means of sucking CO2 out of the air will even things out. They are not talking about zero emissions but preserving the status quo.

Closing documents proposed “the phase-out of unabated coal power and of inefficient subsidies for fossil fuels.” It is not nearly what is required to turn around the climate disaster facing us.

The greed of the fossil fuel industry and the financial institutions funding it knows no bounds.

U.N. Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, had opened the conference with this statement:

“The six years since the Paris Climate Agreement have been the six hottest years on record. Our addiction to fossil fuels is pushing humanity to the brink. We face a stark choice: Either we stop it — or it stops us.



It's time to say: enough. Enough of brutalizing biodiversity. Enough of killing ourselves with carbon. Enough of treating nature like a toilet. Enough of burning and drilling and mining our way deeper. We are digging our own graves.”

But the delegates did not take his warnings to heart. What will make them listen and act to save life as we know it on planet Earth? Our only hope is the grassroots people's movement for a just and livable climate. Time is running out.

-Julie Enslow, editor

War Fuels the Climate Crisis

Climate activists protested outside the UN climate summit in Glasgow on Nov. 8, spotlighting the role of the United States



military in fueling the climate crisis.

Peace Action of Wisconsin has been addressing the links between militarism and climate change for several years. We are now being joined by many other voices.

The Costs of War project estimates the U.S. military produced around 1.2 billion metric tons of carbon emissions between 2001 and 2017, with nearly a third coming from U.S. wars overseas. But military carbon emissions have largely been exempted from international climate treaties dating back to the 1997 Kyoto Protocol because of lobbying from the United States.

U.S. military carbon emissions exceed that of over 140 nations. And the U.S. military is the largest single institutional consumer of fossil fuels. **It fights wars for oil to have oil to fight wars!**

Support Rep. Barbara Lee's Bill

Rep. Barbara Lee has proposed legislation demanding that the U.S. military account for its heavy carbon footprint and track, reduce and report greenhouse gas emissions for all operations, including troop deployments, overseas bases and bombings.

No War, No Warming! Stop military greenwashing! Tell your congressperson to join in and support Barbara Lee's bill. **D.C. Capitol Switchboard: 202-224-3121**

PEACE CALENDAR

December/January 2022

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

Stand for a Livable Climate - Protest the Funding of Fossil Fuels - **Dec. 3 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 of WI. Please wear masks. Signs provided. Check 350 Milwaukee's website for updates.

Sat. Dec. 11, 11 am International Human Rights Day. Zoom Panel ,”Human Rights Challenges Facing Democracy,” with Dr. Rachel Buff, Atty. Tim Muth, Dr. Paru Shah. Sponsored by Greater Milw. United Nations Association, City of Milwaukee Equal Rights Commission and Milwaukee County Human Rights Commission. Preregistration required: go to https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vy_gUNZrR46EJgIng42_SQ

Wed. Dec. 22, 7 pm End the Wars Coalition Meeting on Zoom.

Sun. Jan. 2, 11:10 am First Unitarian Church Panel (on Zoom) - “Julian Assange – Can Exposure Bring Justice?” Fidel Narvaez was Consul at the Ecuadorian Embassy in London for six years while Julian Assange had political asylum there. **John Kiriakou** is the U.S. torture program whistleblower and former CIA chief of counterterrorism operations in Pakistan. The Zoom link can be accessed on the First Unitarian Society website under “Forums”. The program will also be shown on You Tube. <https://uumilwaukee.org/events/category/sunday-forum/>

Mon. Jan. 17, 1 pm Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Commemoration at Dr. King’s Statue, 1700 block of Dr. Martin Luther King Drive (North of Walnut). Music, readings and open mic. Sponsored by Milwaukee MLK Justice Coalition.

Mon. Jan. 17, 7 pm Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. 21st Annual MLK Justice Program on Zoom. - “**Racism: Where Do We Go from Here?**” with a panel of local leaders for racial justice, musicians,

and actors. Sponsored by Milwaukee MLK Justice Coalition. See ad for more details.

Sat. Jan. 22, 12 noon Special Stand for Peace - First Anniversary of International Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Corner of Layton and Howell near the airport.

Wed. Jan. 26, 7 pm Milwaukee End the Wars Coalition Meeting on Zoom.

More updated information on local peace and justice events can be found on our website,
www.peaceactionwi.org



**Every Saturday
Noon to 1pm**

Dec. 4: Layton & 76th St.

Dec. 11: Hwy 100 & North Av.

Dec. 18: Pt. Washington & Silver Spring

Dec. 25: Christmas - No Stand for Peace

Jan. 1: Chavez Dr. (16th St.) & Greenfield

Jan. 8: 27th & Oklahoma

Jan. 15: King Dr. and Locust

Jan. 22: Layton & Howell

Jan. 29: 76th St. & North Av.

Thank You Volunteers

- Chris Jeske and Sean O'Reilly for serving on our Steering Committee the past three years. We value their input and commitment to Peace Action.
- Mail crew for recent mailings: David Lindberg, Mary Alice Martines, Babette Grunow, Trish Beausang, Julie Enslow, Eldeen Carpenter, Tom Neibler, Marsha Vila, Mary Lou Stebbins, Jan Watson, Mary Laan.
- Special "get well soon" to faithful mailing crew member Sue Cottrell.
- Participants in our annual Membership Meeting: David Swanson, Chris Breihan, Tom Seery, Sue Ruggles, David Drake, Harvey Taylor, Suzanne Rosenblatt, Pam Richards, Sean O'Reilly, Ann Batista, and Joan Robertson.
- Organizers of our weekly Stand for Peace: Steve Shea, Laura Kukor Shea, Jim Carpenter.
- Tom Rodman for assistance with our office computer.

Peace Action of Wis. Membership Meeting

Nationally known peace activist and author David Swanson was the special guest speaker at this year's Peace Action of Wisconsin membership meeting on Nov. 18th. He is the founder of World Without War and gave an insightful overview of the current state of U.S. militarism.

A Lifetime Peacemaker Award was presented to Joan Robertson, who, at the age of 105, is an ardent, long-term supporter of Peace Action of Wisconsin, as well as other organizations working for world peace. It was an honor to have her with us for our Zoom meeting.

The following people were chosen by consensus to serve on our Steering Committee for the coming year: Tom Seery, Christy Breihan, Mary Laan, Harry Targ, Bruce Ware, Jill Ferguson, Ann Batista, Eugene Barufkin, and Bruce Andrews. It was agreed by consensus that term limits for our Steering



Peace Action Honoree Joan Robertson

Committee would be extended from 3 years to 6 years.

Musician Harvey Taylor and poet Suzanne Rosenblatt performed, and the meeting closed with an excellent slide show of this year's past events by photographer Sue Ruggles, backed up with music by David H.B. Drake.

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.

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, Chris Breihan, Ann Batista. 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.***

Contact Us

Phone: 414-269-9525

E-mail: info@peaceactionwi.org

Website: peaceaction.org Contact Us

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

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 21st Annual Commemoration and Justice Program



Monday, January 17, 2022

1 pm - Dr. King's Birthday Commemoration at Dr. King's Statue
1700 block of N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive. (North of Walnut)
Music, King's Words and Open Mic at the statue.

7pm - 21st Annual MLK Justice Program on Zoom
"Racism - Where Do We Go from Here?" Panel of local leaders for Racial Justice.
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. Or, sign up on EventBrite for this free event and easy access. Donations welcome.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/21th-annual-milwaukee-dr-martin-luther-king-jr-justice-program-on-zoom-tickets-218176711417>

Sponsored by Martin Luther King, Jr. Justice Coalition

(more than 40 peace, justice and community organizations)

Contact: George Martin, 414-745-5740