

# New Hampshire Peace Action News

Spring/Summer 2017

Volume 33, No 1

## From the Director

by Will Hopkins

With the UN Charter Destroyed: A New Safety Net for Humanity in Lieu/Markey Bill

In the last year of President Obama's Presidency, former Secretary of Defense William Perry said, "Today, the danger of some sort of a nuclear catastrophe is greater than it was during the Cold War, and most people are blissfully unaware of this danger." Having a President that even Right-Wing commentator George Will describes as "incapable of sequential thought" makes the existence of a safety net against nuclear war rather critical.

In August of 1945, the world witnessed the destructive power of nuclear weapons when the United States bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki; with this, and the horrific ruin of World War II serving as a backdrop, the United Nations Charter came into force in October. The guiding principles of the Charter were "Maintaining worldwide peace and security. Developing relations among nations. Fostering cooperation between nations in order to solve economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian

international problems." The five great world powers who had been on the winning side of World War II (who are also the five officially recognized nuclear weapons states, the five largest military spenders, and five of the six largest military exporters and producers) formed the "Security Council" with individual veto authority over General Assembly resolutions. The charter required a Security Council resolution for the use of force between any member-states, exempting only instances where a nation acted out of self-defense. The fabric of this Charter since 1945 has deterred another world war, kept the use of nuclear weapons at bay, and maintained a sometimes strained, but existent peace between Security Council members.

Since then, generation upon generation of aircraft, missile, torpedo, troop armament, submarine, aircraft carrier, bunker buster, military computing technology, and nuclear warhead have compounded the intense deadliness of war. The lion's share of the world's enormous spending on more and more (and increasingly advanced) armaments has been done by the US- most years we outspend the next ten largest spenders combined.

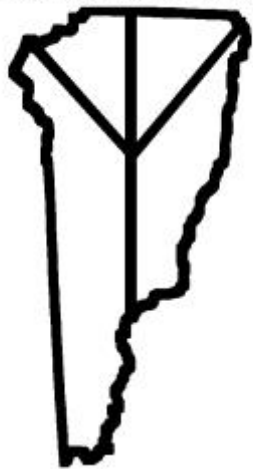
On April 12, Senator Jeanne Shaheen, on New Hampshire Pub-

lic Radio's *The Exchange*, defended President Trump's recent bombing of an Assad controlled airfield in Syria. Arnie Alpert of NH's American Friends Service Committee submitted a query by email: "Please ask Senator Shaheen if Donald Trump has lawful authority for an act of war against Syria." Senator Shaheen argued that President Trump had legal authority under the Congressional Authorization that allowed President Bush to invade Iraq in 2003- a frankly poor argument since that resolution was about Iraq and the Hussein Regime's purported WMD program; Hussein has been dead for over a decade and his regime is relegated to history texts.

Shaheen may have been able to make a stronger (but still rather weak) domestic law argument under article 2 of the Constitution, and the 1973 War Powers Act, which allows the president 60 days of emergency war-making power without consulting Congress- but even accepting that Trump has the domestic authority, her response ignores international law. The United Nations Charter, as a ratified international treaty, is considered "Supreme Law of the Land" under article six of the US Constitution - and is an important legal underpinning keeping the human race from self-destructing since 1945. Upholding the United Nations Charter ought to be

Continued on page 7

WWW.NHPEACTION.ORG



Non-Profit  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 1667  
Concord, NH  
03301

8	Upcoming Events
6	Veterans For Peace
5	350NH Update
5	New London Town Resolution
4	Can ISIS Be Stopped Without War Making?
2	Palestine Education Network
1	From the Director

Inside this Issue

Return service requested

NH Peace Action Education Fund  
4 Park St. Ste. 210  
Concord, NH 03301

## Living Hell in Hebron, the West Bank

by Carolyn Cicciu

On April 5, 2017, the Palestine Center for Human Rights (PCHR), distributed a personal account from Imad Abu Shamsiya. Imad lives in Hebron (al-Khalil) in the West Bank of Palestine. He participates in the Israeli human rights organization B'tselem ("in the image of" in Hebrew). In particular, he arms himself with a video camera in an effort to "shoot back," aiming at the brutality he witnesses from Zionist settlers and armed Israeli Defense Forces (IDF).

I have visited Hebron, in Occupied Palestine four times. The situation in the city was bad after Israel invaded in 1967 and began its settlement project, but it became far worse after 1994. Israeli-American settler, religious extremist and physician Baruch Goldstein entered the Ibrahim Mosque while Muslims prayed. He sprayed the Palestinians with automatic gunfire, killing 29 and wounding 125. The brutality continued when he was beaten to death by those who survived the massacre.

Initially, the government condemned the massacre and took action against the Israeli terrorist group to which Goldstein belonged. But Israel took action against the victimized Palestinians, too. Most notably, the government expelled Palestinians from homes and businesses that were in proximity to the illegal Jewish settlements (only Israelis who are Jews may live in these colonies) in the center of the city. This included all the more than 500 Palestinian businesses on Shuhada Street. Today, access is limited to Jewish Israelis and tourists; walking down the street exposes the apartheid that exists throughout the Occupied



West Bank. The metal doors of the shops are welded shut; the once busy street resembles a ghost town.

Each year, we members of the Palestine Education Network (PEN) hold a silent vigil in downtown Manchester to honor the lives of those murdered so brutally, to express our plea to the Israeli government to "Open Shuhada Street" to its Palestinian

families and business owners and to end the violence against innocent people. In February this year, supporters from all over New England joined us in the vigil on the corner of Bridge and Elm to honor the lost as well as current Palestinian residents like Imad whose lives are daily affected by racism and colonialism. Please read Imad's story below.

Life under occupation: Opposing Israeli discrimination in H2 area of Hebron

Imad Abu Shamsiya is a 47-year old husband and father of five children, three boys and two girls. A shoemaker by profession, for years he has been dedicating a large part of his time to opposing the occupation by documenting human rights violations committed by Israeli settlers and soldiers in his home, Tel Rumeida, and other parts of Hebron via camera. Revealing the violence of Hebron to the world has not only contributed to the conviction of some Israel perpetrators, but turned the life of Imad and his family into a living hell.

In 2007, the Shamsiya family moved into a house that had been in family hands for decades, located in Tel Rumeida, in the H2 area of Hebron, which is under Israeli military control and a main showplace of tension and escalations by Israeli settlers and soldiers. Tel Rumeida is home to 172 Palestinian families and one settlement. "From the very beginning of my family's life here, we started to suffer," Imad describes. Only four months after having settled into their new home, one of Imad's daughters was attacked by Israeli settlers who threw stones at her, breaking her jaw. After six months, Imad started to document violations by Israeli settlers on camera and provided his material to Palestinian human rights organizations. The camera is a blessing and a curse, because it serves as a form of protection but also leads to increasing attacks by settlers. Nevertheless, filmed incidents are the only proof that ever leads to conviction of Israeli perpetrators. Without video documentation Israeli crimes go fully unpunished in an environment of dehumanization and hatred.

"My wife, Faiza, and me started to document every single attack on our family as we gradually also documented incidents in the neighborhood. Since then, the Israeli settlers and soldiers seek revenge by harassing all of us," Imad describes angrily. Imad's oldest son, Aune (18), has been arrested by the Israeli forces six times, starting at the age of 14. After being shot in the leg, which required medical treatment and recovery for a full year, Imad sent Aune to live in Jerusalem with his uncle to be safer. The two other sons, Mohammed and Saleh, were arrested at the age of 13 and 9 respectively, following complaints by settlers that generally lead to the immediate arrest of Palestinians without the incident at stake being questioned. Israeli perpetrators, frequently enjoy full impunity, while Palestinians are considered guilty unless proven differently. The entire Shamsiya family had been a victim of these attacks, ranging from arbitrary arrests of minors, to acid thrown at Imad's daughter, Marua, to other forms of harassment and abuse.

The harsh life of the Shamsiya family further deteriorated following an Israeli military order, issued on 29 October 2015, declaring Tel Rumeida a closed military zone, enforced by a fence and electronic checkpoint. Israeli soldiers invaded the Palestinian residents' homes at night to register every Palestinian inhabitant with a number. Only registered

residents are allowed to enter, while Israelis can leave and enter as they please and without undergoing a security check, thereby being enabled to carry arms and other weapons into the area, which are frequently being used to harm Palestinian residents. Almost 100 Palestinian families have fled the unsafe area that Tel Rumeida has become.

"The amount of attacks by Israeli settlers and soldiers against my family are too many to count," Imad adds. One of the worst offenses experienced was when settlers tried to poison his entire family. "One night we had guests at our house and as I walked them to the checkpoint around 9 pm, I noticed a settler on the roof of my house. I immediately checked the roof and found that the water tanks were open and that the water had a strange color," Imad describes. When he called the police, they found that the water had been poisoned and Imad had to empty the tanks and exchange them. Even though Israeli soldiers could see the perpetrator from one of the many watch towers established in and around Tel Rumeida, the crime went unpunished and was registered as an offense by 'unknown'. "With these attacks the Israelis want to deliver a clear message: My family will be attacked as long as we live here and document the crimes," Imad reiterates.

The dangerous situation unprecedentedly deteriorated for Imad following the shooting incident in cold blood of Abdel Fattah al-Sharif by the Israeli soldier Elor Azaria in March 2016, which was recorded on camera by Imad and distributed to human rights organizations and the media thereafter. The video clearly shows how the Israeli soldier and EMT shot an already harmed al-Sharif, lying on the ground, in the head. The attack sparked international media attention and condemnation and led to the very rare conviction of an Israeli soldier, even though the verdict was a highly lenient 18-month sentence. The Israeli public widely defended Azaria and protested against the verdict, which is reflective of the atmosphere of dehumanization of Palestinians in a context of encouragement of such crimes by Israeli officials, which leads to frequent extrajudicial street killings of Palestinians.

"Since the video became public, my life started to change and I received personal death threats on the phone and through Facebook. Once, I received a phone call by an unknown number in the middle of the night, speaking in broken Arabic and telling me that I will be sorry for what I have done and that me and my family will be burned down," Imad describes. Settlers started gathering in front of Imad's house, swearing at him, trying to enter the house and demanding him to leave the area. The regular throwing of stones and other devices led Imad to build a fence around the entire house, in addition to the fence that already exists from the Israeli occupation. "Me and my family are scared to leave the house, we are locked in here and rather go in and out illegally through the fence of the military zone than using the road in front of the house that leads to the checkpoint." Imad, who has a handicap from birth leading to walking difficulties, is forced to climb through waste and over obstacles alongside the fence when he wants to leave his house to avoid being harassed by settlers on the actual road. Moreover, he has lost his job as he is unable to meet with customers. "I live here and suffer because of my camera," Imad comments. "We will not leave our home, we will not give our house away so more settlers can move into the area, and we will continue to oppose the apartheid system and racist policies imposed on us by the occupying power," Imad emphasizes.

Since October 2015, 15 Palestinians, including minors, were killed in the area, several families were ripped apart, Palestinian's access to education and health was restricted and an

### New Hampshire Peace Action STAFF

Will Hopkins, Executive Director

Doreen Desmarais, Administration

Hannah Eliason, Membership Advocate

Kaity Thomson, 350 NH,

Climate Justice Coordinator

a special project of NHPA

## Living Hell in Hebron, the West Bank *continued*

increasing number of attacks by settlers go unpunished. Tel Rumeida is exemplarily for the Israeli apartheid system and collective punishment of Palestinians, which is illegal under international law as defined in Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. PCHR relentlessly works to document these crimes in order for the Israeli perpetrators to be held accountable.

Yes, Imad's experiences are chilling and inhuman.

Other PEN members who have visited Hebron and, in particular, Shuhada Street, share their impressions of the atmosphere and experience:

Will Thomas said, "Having visited the West Bank Palestinian city of Hebron three times in the past six years, I con-



clude that Hebron (Al Khalil) is "Hell on Earth" for Palestinians. I learned that the IDF (Israeli Destruction Forces) enforce a severe apartheid-like system in the city where illegal settlers are protected by the military while they verbally harass and, sometimes, physically attack Palestinians, including children who walk to school on segregated sidewalks. This is oppression at its worst.

Janet Simmon shared the following observations: I visited Hebron in 2012 with Interfaith Peace Builders. We were constantly told by our guide to stay together and pay attention. I could never give my full attention to what I was trying to hear and see and learn. At one point we were walking along when a Jewish settler came driving by and started watching us. After she drove off, IDF soldiers appeared. Our small group, with our US passports, were clutched with fear from the sudden appearance of these soldiers with guns at the ready as if we were dangerous. It made my skin crawl. I can't imagine living under the eye of people who want your property and want you gone and the constant presence of troops with assault weapons watching your every move. I can't imagine the crippling fear of never having a minute without being watched. There are international observers in Hebron (Temporary International Presence in Hebron or TIPH, a civilian observer mission in West Bank city of Hebron), but they can only report what they see; they cannot provide assistance or security for anyone. I also observed rocks, feces, and trash lodged in chicken wire that Palestinians had to stretch over their shopping street; Jewish settlers throw this debris and urine from above. Could you live without a moment free from fear as the Palestinians do?

The reason we US citizens should be appalled and become active is because US dollars support this criminal activity. The government provides \$3.8 billion a year to Israel so that

it can engage in these human rights and international law violations. Keep Imad's experiences and voice alive by writing to your representative and senators to ask them to stop aid to Israel until it ends its illegal settlement and occupation of the Palestinian people.

The members of the Palestine Education Network meet monthly. If you are interested in joining them, please email Carolyn at [c.cicciu2@gmail.com](mailto:c.cicciu2@gmail.com).

*DISCLAIMER: In my experience, no issue divides and inflames people quite the way the conflict in Israel and Palestine does. Even among the peace movement, discussion of the issue is often avoided. Recently, when a friend asked me what would make me feel comfortable talking in community about my own views on the issue, I replied, "Nothing. Israel and Palestine is the issue that people have been most angry at me for addressing over the past eight years, and frankly, the only thing I have done, is avoid it at all costs. I have said nothing, and consistently had my head bitten off for saying it."*

*My practice when I felt an article submitted for our newsletter would be too inflammatory has been to not publish it, and my practice when an article I felt I could publish came in has been to "knock the teeth out of it first." Some of my rules for publishing have included: cutting anything that directly references religion-criticizing the Palestinian Authority or the Israeli government is fair game- conflating Palestinians with Islam, or Israelis with Judaism is not. I have removed any reference to Apartheid; while for what it is worth, I think the word Apartheid fairly describes the system in Israel, it is my belief, that those who are not already firmly planted in a staunchly pro-Palestinian position tend to shut down immediately when words like that are used. Finally, the use of words like "evil" and "demonic" surface frequently in people's writing about the situation, particularly those who have visited Gaza- I have universally cut these statements- and frequently, rejected articles out of hand when they contain this language.*

*My censorship and avoidance of this issue in our newsletter and elsewhere, has caused friction among those who are most passionate about this issue (many of whom are also our board members and our most committed activists). Last year this dynamic triggered what I think was a very healthy discussion with the Boards of NH Peace Action Education Fund and NH Peace Action, and the decision we reached was that articles be published with a disclaimer that the views expressed do not necessarily represent the opinions of NH Peace Action. With no disrespect meant to Carolyn, who happens to be a person I have great respect and admiration for, the article is one which prior to the board discussion I would have rejected wholesale and refused to publish, even "de-toothed". The rage expressed here might be justified, but I have questions that this sort of piece has the potential to bring anyone closer to a just peace.*

*In closing this disclaimer, I will say this, I hope this piece challenges you, and encourages you to think deeply about the morality of United States providing over \$3 Billion per year in primarily militarized aid to Israel without preconditions of a peace process. It does not necessarily represent the views of NH Peace Action, but rather reflects Carolyn's (and Will Thomas and Janet Simmon's) own story and experience in Palestine. Finally, if you are hurt, offended, or find yourself disagreeing, I would encourage you to think about writing a piece for our next newsletter rather than leaving angry voicemails or sending me enraged messages.*

*This piece is bound to illicit an emotional response in anyone who reads it- but in the end, I agree with the boards, that my avoidance and censorship of this issue and the strong opinions held by members of our organization has not been healthy. Your opinion has a place here too. Will Hopkins, Director.*

### NH Peace Action Education Fund Board of Directors

Curt Smith, Chair

Krisan Evenson, Vice Chair

Jonie LaBombard, Secretary

Bill Maddocks, Treasurer

Amy Antonucci

Lynn Chong

Nick Dundorf

Michael Ferber

Chris Hansen

Chris Hobby

John Lamperti

Sandra Yarne

Whitney Howarth

### NH Peace Action Board of Directors

John Lamperti, Chair

Greg Heath, Treasurer

Nancy Burke

Lynn Clowes

Will Thomas

Olivia Zink

Janet Simmon

"When I say it's you I like, I'm talking about that part of you that knows that life is far more than anything you can ever see or hear or touch. That deep part of you that allows you to



stand for those things without which human kind cannot survive. Love

that conquers hate, peace that rises triumphant over war, and justice that proves more powerful than greed." Fred Rogers

"Violence is impractical because it is a descending spiral ending in destruction for all. It is immoral because it seeks to humiliate the opponent rather than win his understanding: it seeks to annihilate rather than convert. Violence is immoral because it thrives on hatred rather than love. It destroys community and makes brotherhood impossible. It leaves society in monologue rather than dialogue. Violence ends up defeating itself. It creates bitterness in the survivors and brutality in the destroyers." ~ **Martin Luther King**

## ISIS Can Be Stopped without War-making

By Steve Diamond

In response to "Can ISIS Be Defeated Without the Use of Violence?" - by Michael Ferber, New Hampshire Peace Action News]

Many thanks to Michael Ferber for starting a very necessary discussion. Recognizing that US aggression towards Iraq was the biggest factor in the rise of ISIS, that the behavior of many ISIS militants is truly despicable, and that unified global action is hard to agree on and implement, he wonders if some sort of military response is necessary. He also rightly confronts a challenging question for the peace movement and beyond: how can we speak and act constructively together to reverse this disaster? Our country has a particular responsibility to address the problems we have done the most to create, yet the bull in the china shop may not be qualified to pick up the pieces.

Perhaps the root of the problem is arrogance, which America has in great supply and reinforces in numerous regimes abroad. A great start for reversing arrogance is to ask others about their successes in addressing similar problems. Foreign Policy Magazine [How to Beat the Islamic State Through Non-Violence] and a TED talk [How Can We Solve Democracy's Problems] have already profoundly addressed this question. Foreign policy Mag brings up examples from history where authoritarian regimes were effectively resisted when those they rule refused to cooperate. In the TED talk, a journalist shares what he learned about how the most populous Muslim nation weakened the power of Islamic Militancy through inclusion, addressing inequality, and police action strictly rooted in due process.

I also question the demonization of all ISIS fighters. ISIS is a source of some degree of self determination, security and rule-of-law in a region that has had little to none of that for many years. Like all military organizations engaged in war, some factions engage in horrendous excesses, while others refrain from doing so when they could have. As we've seen, some men have defected from ISIS after seeing the brutality and hypocrisy that does exist in the organization. The US should now follow the Hippocratic Oath and discontinue all overt or covert violent action within ISIS territory. We should help deliver food, medical care, and evacuation (if possible to provide without confrontation). We should support defensive police protection at the border of ISIS territory, to prevent ISIS from expanding its influence or smuggling oil. Any bordering nation that refuses to take concrete action to stop the smuggling of oil should itself be blocked from trading oil, and from accessing international banking. The vast majority of the UN General Assembly must agree on this to proceed. Diplomacy is hard, but avoids the harms inherent in making war. Containment doesn't solve every problem. It won't be instantly successful. It is not entirely pacifist, at least not according to the strictest definitions of that word. But it is constructive, may realistically protect ourselves while working to undo our nation's previous mistakes, and is a plan around which unity can be built.

The US does not have jurisdiction or right to police the world unilaterally. Perhaps many ISIS fighters deserve to be locked up forever, but that is not our decision. The way out of this mess must include respecting and supporting the self-determination and responsibility of all the people in the region to address this issue as they see fit. US meddling to select who will lead these countries and the provision of weapons to corrupt and abusive regimes will not be useful ways to proceed. In short, I want us to reverse arrogance with respect. Diplomacy is hard, but easier and more effective than war. Our diplomacy will be taken seriously when our government stops being a big part of the problem. War criminals and Islamic extremism are hardly novel concerns. At the very least, the US government should stop committing war crimes, such as bombing civilians, and stop arming Islamic extremists. We should support the efforts already begun by Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard to stop our government from arming Islamic extremists. In conclusion, I see increasingly less-violent strategies to move us towards a meaningful end to the conflict. Steve Diamond <http://nhmakingwaves.org>

Did you know that Amazon.com donates to non-profit, charitable organizations when you shop?

If you go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and select NH Peace Action Education Fund, we will receive a percentage of your purchase as a donation.

**Please notify the office (603-228-0559) (info@nhpeaceaction.org) if you are going to be away, or if your address changes so that we can hold any mailings. (We have to pay first class return postage on undeliverable mail!)**



## Solidarity

by Art Desmarais

In September of 2016, a friend and I took our first trip to Standing Rock, ND. We went back again in October and on the weekend of December 5, we answered the Call for Veteran's, which was the date that eviction was to be enforced. Nearly 10,000 people were there to protect the water that weekend.

We learned a lot about Lakota culture and the struggle to protect the few natural resources they had left, primarily the water. As you may know, the Dakota Access Pipeline is slated to run under the Cannonball River, which feeds into the Missouri River and is a main source of water for thousands of people, both indigenous and non-indigenous.

What intrigued me most was the solidarity between other oppressed groups and the Lakota people of Standing Rock. Black Lives Matter stood in solidarity and joined the resistance, Palestinians advised them how to deal with the gas attacks and Buddhist monks from Okinawa travelled to Standing Rock to stand in peaceful, nonviolent solidarity.

In 2014 I walked with the monks from the New England Peace Pagoda from NH to DC. We were joined by monks and others from Okinawa. I learned a lot about the US occupation of their homeland. There are currently 32 air bases and 48 training sites on Okinawa, an island with an area of 466.02 sq. miles (roughly 70 miles long and 7 miles wide) with more being proposed. One in particular, is being built in a pristine bay. We are already beginning to fill in Henoko Bay to make another air base. Why are we destroying more nature in the name of Empire? Our government has made it clear



Planned Henoko Facility

they are not interested in clean water or the rights of indigenous people to have sovereignty over their own lands.

The people of Okinawa are in desperate battle to save their land. They have put out a call for American's and especially veteran's, to join in peaceful, nonviolent

resistance actions and if possible, come to Okinawa and to stand with them for any length of time during the months of May and June.

If you would like more information, you can contact Yuchi Kamoshita at [duckwalksdrums@gmail.com](mailto:duckwalksdrums@gmail.com). He will be happy to help with logistics.

*Art Desmarais is US Army Reserve veteran and member of NH Peace Action and Veterans For Peace.*



## New London Town Resolution

On March 15, 2017, the town meeting in New London, New Hampshire passed a resolution calling for an end to the nuclear weapons modernization program, the removal of our nuclear missiles from hair trigger alert, and the resumption of serious and sustained negotiations to eliminate nuclear weapons, as required by Article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. This resolution came just before the start of negotiations at the United Nations which have the same goals in mind.

The heart of the New London resolution reads as follows:

We, the citizens of New London, New Hampshire, petition the US government to: cancel its nuclear weapons modernization program, take all nuclear weapons off hair trigger alert, reduce our nuclear arsenal to 900 warheads, fully and actively honor its obligation under Article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, apply the resulting savings to meet human and infrastructure needs, and further petition our state government to actively promote and support the above actions.

At the same time, Global Zero, based in Washington, DC, has drafted a similar resolution and aims to promote it nationwide. New Hampshire AFSC and New Hampshire Peace Action anticipate working closely with Global Zero in this effort, and they encourage other peace and justice organizations to join in this work.

In the early 1980s, the Nuclear Freeze Movement succeeded in stopping the persistent increase in the number of nuclear bombs and warheads, which had been going on since the start of the nuclear arms race in the late 1940s. However, the concept of nuclear deterrence remained an article of faith in the US government, and a cultural norm in the larger society. As a result, a qualitative nuclear arms race replaced the quantitative one, with ever more sophisticated nuclear weapons and delivery vehicles being developed. According to former defense secretary William Perry, these actually increase the risk of nuclear war and have lifted the arms race to its most dangerous point in history.

Both Kenneth W. Ford, one of the inventors of the hydrogen bomb, and well-known military analyst Col. Andrew Bacevich have stated that nuclear deterrence is an outmoded idea and actually counterproductive to national defense. But if the US nuclear weapons modernization program continues as its proponents wish, the nuclear arms race will

continue into the mid-2040s at a cost to US taxpayers of \$1trillion. It means that the world shall have passed a century under nuclear armament, with no one left alive who remembers what the world was like before such armament existed. If it has not done so already, it means that the nuclear weapons complex may become a permanent fixture in our lives.

After New London's resolution passed, a local resident sent a letter of protest to the local newspaper, arguing that town meetings should confine themselves to purely local issues and that where national issues are concerned, people should file individual petitions with their public officials. What that argument fails to point out is that a community resolution often has more visibility and weight than an individual petition, and that resources devoted to armament mean that much less for human needs and local well-being, as President Eisenhower observed back in 1953.

With the New London resolution as a starting point, New Hampshire AFSC, New Hampshire Peace, and Global Zero aim to reject nuclear deterrence and nuclear weapons development as cultural norms and acceptable works in progress, and to replace them with the safer and more compassionate world that our children and those yet unborn deserve. All three organizations believe it is time for a nationwide effort in that direction.

*John Raby is a member of NH Peace Action and lives in New London.*



*by John Raby*

## 350NH Updates

350 New Hampshire is building momentum into the spring! There is an upheaval of our hard work to protect the climate on a national level. Federal policies and legislation are being overturned and is no longer reflecting the progress we have made. And in response, our climate movement is looking inward.

350NH is building community power, renewable energy solutions and our skills on a local level. We know we win by growing our movement here in New Hampshire, focusing on fighting against fossil fuel infrastructure and for real solutions right in our back yard. And we win by leveraging our voice with thousands of local groups across the country in pivotal moments of national and global fights. And here's how we're doing it:

Our community-led working groups are at the forefront of our work. They held a six week activist training series, started organizing mass mobilizations for science and climate justice, kept moving forward for NH offshore wind power, and took a stand against new fossil fuel infrastructure. Join this community-led climate movement and help make a difference, get started by emailing [griffin@350nh.org](mailto:griffin@350nh.org).

350 NH's mass mobilization team is chartering three buses from NH down to the national People's Climate March on April 29th.

Last month, 350 New Hampshire wrapped up our six week movement training series. Over the six weeks we were able to train dozens of new and seasoned organizers in a variety of topics. Some of the topics covered were movement history, recruitment and retention, and civil disobedience. Please like the 350 New Hampshire Facebook page to watch the trainings from the convenience of your home!

Our legislative team put up a strong fight to stop the conversion of a Concord biomass facility to fracked gas. They worked tirelessly with legislators and rallied at a key hearing to show our unified opposition. Unfortunately, our legislature decided to move forward with the expansion of fossil fuel dependence. But we will not give up. The legislative team is already hard at work strategizing for the 2018 session.

The Offshore Wind Team is working with seven sea-coast cities and towns to pass resolutions for offshore wind. The first two cities, Durham and Portsmouth adopted the town resolution in their Energy Committees this winter! Next, we will support them as they bring it forward to their city councils. Dover is slated to adopt the resolution with a few edits. The Dover Energy Committee is expected to vote at their next meeting on 5/17.

*by Griffin Sinclair-Wingate, NHPA Education Fund Board Secretary, 350NH member and a student at UNH.*

## Memorial Day 2017

by Will Thomas

Memorial Day – for some it means “summer” is near, a time for barbecues and family gatherings. For others, it means “winter,” a continuation of “darkness, of despair, of hopelessness.” These are the veterans who are homeless, addicted, and living (or dying) with PTS (leave out the “D,” as feeling stressful is not a “disorder” - it is simply a normal response to an abnormal condition).

On this Memorial Day in 2017, I will be remembering all those who have “fallen,” or to say it another way, to honor those military personnel who have had their lives taken from them while being sent to participate in either illegal, immoral or unjust actions overseas.

One soldier I will remember fondly but sadly is a man who was assigned to Afghanistan on three deployments. Jacob George, who called himself an Arkansas “hillbilly,” killed himself two and a half years ago. When President Obama resumed bombing in Iraq and in Afghanistan, Jacob’s gentle soul, his PTS, could not absorb the increase in violence. With a new president who has escalated the bombings, drone attacks, and missiles, I am wondering how many other combat vets might react by having “flashbacks” to their deployment (s)? And, please refrain from using the term “tour” because it was not a tour a la Disney, it was being sent to a combat zone where violence, destruction, and killings occurred.

On Memorial Day, it would also be appropriate to remember all those innocent civilians who have been robbed of their lives by warfare. Starting with the Great War (1914-18), the civilian casualties far out-number the number of armed forces members’ deaths. We should grieve for all the casualties of war even for those human beings our government and others deemed the “enemy.”

When people see me wearing either a Veterans for Peace cap or t-shirt, many say “Thank you for your service.” I always reply with a respectful “Thank you,” but then say, “the best way you can thank me is to work for peace. Some are puzzled while others reflect and then acknowledge my comment in a positive way.

Let us resolve that we will not support sending our troops, including Special Forces, to fight in illegal, unjust and immoral wars anywhere or to remain as occupiers of those lands we have invaded, either overtly or covertly.

On May 29, Veterans for Peace will be at the Vietnam Memorial Wall in D.C. where we will honor the dead whose names are on the Wall (and re-



Memorial Day 2016

member those whose names are not inscribed – the 100,000 or so Viet Nam veterans who committed suicide). We will read letters written by veterans, family members, friends and the general public that address the madness of war. For more information go to [www.veteransforpeace.org](http://www.veteransforpeace.org) and for more on the American War in Vietnam, go to [www.vietnamfulldisclosure.org](http://www.vietnamfulldisclosure.org).

On Memorial Day, the ideal way to honor all of the dead is to insure that others do not die in war that is, indeed, the “scourge of humankind.”

*Will Thomas is an NHPA Board Member and Veterans For Peace member. He also coordinates the activities of the NH Chapter of Veterans For Peace. You can reach him at [willwen@comcat.net](mailto:willwen@comcat.net).*

*The Board and Staff of NH Peace Action Education Fund would like to thank the*  
**Anne Slade Frey**  
**Charitable Trust**  
*for ongoing support of this newsletter and our other educational programs*

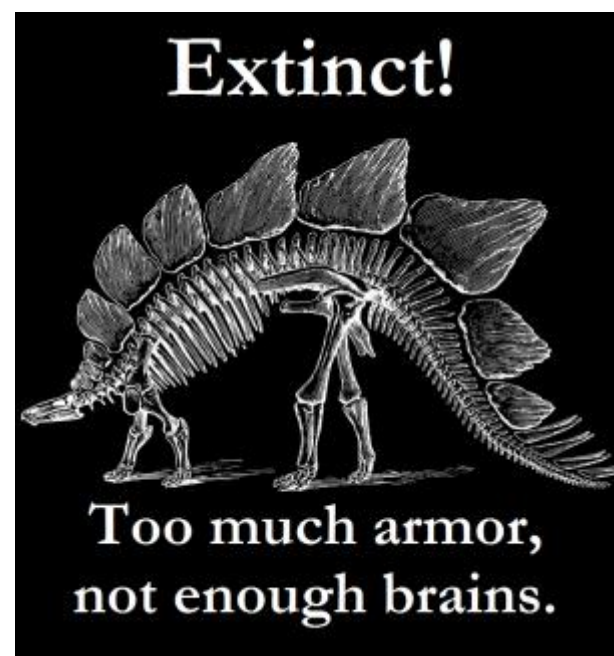
## NH PEACE ACTION WISH LIST

A new gas grill, ours is on it’s way out. The more portable, the better! Email [Will@nhpeaceaction.org](mailto:Will@nhpeaceaction.org) if you can help.

Volunteers! NH Peace Action has been busy this spring tabling at various events, rallies and marches and there are several coming up in the next few months that we could really use some staffing help with. Please email [Doreen@nhpeaceaction.org](mailto:Doreen@nhpeaceaction.org) if you can help.



Special thanks to Tom and Bev Westheimer for having these new “make coffee not war” T-shirts made up for us! They are grey with our contact info on the back and come in small to 2XL. Just \$10 each! And don’t forget that we still have plenty of our other Extinct t’s, also \$10 each. Call the office at 603-228-0559 to reserve yours.



## ***From the Director*** *continued from page 1*

something a US Senator who serves on Senate Foreign Relations cares about, not something to be conveniently set aside.

Our United States has succumbed to argument's slippery slope, using our military might rather than pursuing perpetrators of war crimes and violators of international law. We wish Senator Shaheen pointed out the increasingly blatant and normalized relinquishment of legal standards in this new, young century when we must not forget the lessons of world wars.

This slippery slope of ignoring the UN Charter can arguably be traced to the NATO bombing of the forces of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in Kosovo under President Bill Clinton, from March to June of 1999. China and Russia were unwilling to support a resolution for the use of force to protect the Albanian population, but with all of the NATO countries behind it, and Russia tangled in significant domestic strife, Clinton made the decision to act. The rather flimsy legal argument was that the NATO Charter and other regional agreements required NATO to act in defense of the Albanian population, superseding the UN Charter. The United States Congress and Senate preponderantly supported the actions, and like President Obama's strikes on ISIS as ISIS moved toward the isolated Yazidi in Syria a few years ago, many civilian lives were probably saved by Clinton's campaign. All of NATO was involved, and very few outside of China and Russia spoke out on the illegality.

Regardless of the legality of NATO's bombing of Kosovo, likely a majority of New Hampshire Peace Action's members were not opposed to NATO's actions at that juncture. NATO may have been right in intervening militarily to protect the Albanian population, but by disregarding the UN Charter, a door was opened that desperately needs to be closed.

George W Bush walked through that door and into Iraq with slight congressional resistance; 9/11 changed the discussion; supporters argued that the reported WMD program in Iraq made the invasion an act of self-defense. President Obama was able to use the self-defense argument to launch strikes against Al Qaeda in Yemen, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Uganda, Sudan, Somalia, and Syria, but he did refrain from starting any new wars directly against member-states of the United Nations (though arguably not by choice in the case of Syria).

This brings us to the precariousness of now, when Senator Shaheen goes on *The Exchange*, and provides legal justification for the bombing of a Syrian airfield on behalf of Donald Trump, and does not see the charter and its central tenets as even worthy of mention.

Journalist Salena Zito of *The Atlantic* commented that the press, and many others "took Donald Trump literally, but not seriously" during the campaign, and that his supporters "took him seriously, but not literally." -after a few short months of the Trump Presidency, we must all take

this man both seriously, and literally. During the campaign, Donald Trump boasted that he would target the children and families of suspected terrorists. I do not believe that it was a mistake that in the first weekend of his presidency, a raid overseen by President Trump killed six



Newar "Nora" Al Alawki

year old Nora Al Alawki. Nora was the younger sister of Abdulrahman, the sixteen-year-old from Denver roasted to death by hellfire missile under orders from President Obama, and daughter of Anwar, the first American targeted for assassination by the Obama administration. President Trump was signaling that he intended to make good on his threats around the intentional killing of civilians, and that he was aware that international and domestic law do not apply to him.

He made a bold statement that he could and would murder American children, and ignore right and wrong, as well as constitutional and international law, and no one in Washington, The Hague, or anywhere else would have the guts to speak out against him. President Trump was right.

A careful study of the conflict in Syria suggests that if any factions who could feasibly assume political or military control outside of the two primary axis of military power (Bashar Al Assad and his loyal Ba'athists opposed to the radical Wahhabi movement that encompasses the Islamic State and Al Nusra) ever truly existed, they have long since been destroyed. Given that, the bombing of an Assad-controlled Syrian air field is a direct act of war against an officially recognized member-state of the United Nations.

Even putting aside the morality of waging war on behalf of Al Qaeda and the Islamic State; the bombing of the Syrian airfield, devoid of any pretense of legal justification under the UN Charter, was, in a sense the final nail in the coffin of the Charter. Particularly with the rise of tensions with North Korea, this puts the world dangerously close to nuclear conflict.

Given that buttressing the UN Charter in the short term would likely require a trial for Bill Clinton, George W Bush, and maybe even Barrack Obama, and at the very

least impeachment of Trump, we certainly cannot expect Congress under the current paradigm to act.

This breakdown of the fabric of international law as established by the UN Charter leaves us in a very dangerous predicament; one where Vladimir Putin, Kim Jong Un, or Donald Trump can very easily make decisions that quickly lead to nuclear conflict. From our perspective as American peace activists, we must consider our primary responsibility to be restraining our own President to avoid nuclear winter or toxic global radioactivity.

To this end, Congressman Ted Lieu and Senator Ed Markey have introduced the *Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act of 2017*, a bill allowing the use of nuclear weapons only in response to nuclear strike, or with a declaration of war from Congress. Decades ago, this restriction was dubbed "no first use." Lieu's and Markey's bill, unlikely to pass through a Republican-dominated House and Senate, and likely facing a veto from President Trump, currently lacks the co-sponsorship of our NH Senators Shaheen and Hassan, as well as our Congresswomen Kuster and Shea-Porter. In particular, Senator Shaheen's leadership on Senate Foreign Relations is absolutely required for this bill to have momentum.

A 2010 survey by the Roper Center at Cornell showed that more than three-quarters of Americans support a no-first-use policy, so building a campaign for restricting first use should be more easily doable. We should ask our representatives to co-sponsor Lieu's and Markey's bill to begin weaving a new safety net against nuclear war. Please call today:

Senator Maggie Hassan  
202-224-3324  
603-880-3335

Senator Jeanne Shaheen  
202-224-2841  
603-647-7500

Rep. Ann McLane Kuster  
202-225-5206  
603-226-1002

Rep. Carol Shea Porter  
202-225-5456  
888-216-5373

*Will Hopkins is Director of NH Peace Action and NH Peace Action Education Fund*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 16: Building a Culture of Peace Forum.** Migrant Justice leaders Enrique "Kike" Balcazar and Zully Palacios from Vermont who have recently been awarded the Cesar Chavez Human and Civil Rights Award will be with us to talk about their activism and immigration. Maggie Fogarty of AFSC NH will also be with us to speak about ways of supporting immigrants in NH, including sanctuary and accompaniment movements around the state. May 16, 2017, UU Church of Concord 274 Pleasant St. Arrive 6:45. Program 7-9PM Free to All. For information contact LR Berger 496-1056.

**May 20: March and Rally Against Monsanto.** This is a GLOBAL action aimed at informing the public, calling into question long-term health risks of genetically engineered food (GMO's) and demanding labels for GMO products so that consumers can make informed decisions. NHPA is a co-sponsor and we will have a table at the Rally and would love to have a volunteer help. If you can, please contact doreen@nhpeaceaction.org. NH State House, 107 N Main St., Concord. 11 AM. There will be music, speakers, info tables organic food samples and organic seed swap. More information is available on the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1850910825178673>.

**May 21, "Where the Guns Go".** Mexico is awash in gun-related homicide, and most of the guns come from the United States. In fact, Sig Sauer, a German corporation with a manufacturing facility in Newington, NH, is the major supplier of firearms to the Mexican government. This public event, featuring speakers and a short film, will highlight the impact of guns and violence on the lives of ordinary Mexicans. It will also explain the responsibility of foreign companies and the U.S. government for the crisis. This event is co-sponsored by Amnesty International USA, Seacoast Peace Response, Seacoast Resistance, New Castle Promise, Occupy Seacoast, and NH Peace Action. Please visit: [www.afsc.org/event/where-guns-go-us-arms-and-crisis-violence-mexico](http://www.afsc.org/event/where-guns-go-us-arms-and-crisis-violence-mexico).

**June 2: NH Rebellion Annual Meeting.** Featuring **Hedrick Smith**, Pulitzer Prize-winning former New York Times reporter and editor and Emmy award-winning producer/correspondent. We'll begin the evening with cocktails, hearty appetizers and socializing. Meet our Board members, including some new to the board. We will share our many accomplishments, our campaigns to advance voting rights and campaign finance reform. There will be a silent auction featuring many great items including vacation stays, books, portraits and more! Tickets are \$30 per person. Please visit [www.NHRebellion.org/calendar](http://www.NHRebellion.org/calendar) for tickets. Puritan Backroom Event Center. 5 to 7 pm.

**June 17: Women's March to Ban the Bomb.** In one of its final acts of 2016, the United Nations General Assembly adopted with overwhelming support a landmark **resolution** to begin negotiations on a treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons. This historic decision heralds an end to two decades of paralysis in multilateral nuclear disarmament efforts. Throughout June and July of 2017, governments will negotiate the ban on nuclear weapons at the United Nations. WILPF and our coalition are hitting the streets to celebrate and also demand a good treaty that prohibits these weapons of mass destruction once and for all. The Women's March to Ban the Bomb is a women-led initiative building on the momentum of movements at the forefront of the resistance, including the Women's March on Washington. It will bring together people of all genders, sexual orientations, ages, races, abilities, nationalities, cultures, faiths, political affiliations and backgrounds to march and rally noon to 4 pm in New York City. Learn more at [womenbanthebomb.org](http://womenbanthebomb.org). We are considering a bus to this march and rally, and would like to see how many members would be interested. Please respond to this email if you would likely join us.

**June 22-24: Concord Market Days.** NH Peace Action will again have a booth at Concord Market Days. This is a great opportunity to talk to people about our organization, recruit new members and make a little money. Volunteers are needed to help staff the booth. If you would like to fill in a shift or two, please email [Doreen@nhpeaceaction.org](mailto:Doreen@nhpeaceaction.org).

**July 15: NHPA Annual Membership Meeting.** Please join us for the NH Peace Action Annual Membership Meeting on July 15, 2017 at the NH Audubon Center, 84 Silk Farm Rd., Concord, NH. Tentative agenda: 10 am Business Meeting; 11 am Speaker; 12:30 potluck lunch. Goals: We seek to provide a morning of planning, networking, education and entertainment. We invite members to come for all of the meeting and to bring family members and friends. We will also be electing Board members for the coming year. There is a suggested donation of \$20 per person. We will be providing the bbq. Please email [doreen@nhpeaceaction.org](mailto:doreen@nhpeaceaction.org) or call the office 603-228-0559 and let us know what you will be bringing for a dish. Other details will come soon. Watch for the flyer in your mail!

**SAVE THE DATE: September 17.** Rohina Malik will perform her one-woman play: "Unveiled", a rich, provocative 70-minute collection of five character studies of Muslim women in modern-day America. Malik brings the five women to life on stage as they serve tea and uncover what lies beneath the veil in this critically acclaimed one-woman show. Racism, hate crimes, love, Islam, culture, language and life are interwoven in this uplifting theater experience. Location TBA. You can read more about Rohina at <http://rohinamalik.weebly.com>.

### Yes! I want to build Political and Cultural Power for Peace!

\$100 Sustaining Member     
  \$30 Individual Member     
  1 year Gift Newsletter Subscription \$10     
  \$50 Family Member  
 \$10 Limited Income / Student     
 \$  Other Amount     
 I would like to give \$  MONTHLY toward peace with my Visa/MasterCard

CC#  Exp. Date   
 (Visa or MasterCard Only)

Name(s)  Phone

Address

Email:

add me to your list

change me to electronic newsletter

Please send a gift subscription in my name to :

Name(s)

Address

Mail to: NH Peace Action 4 Park Street Suite 210, Concord, NH 03301 Phone: (603) 228-0559

For a tax-deductible gift, please make your check payable to NHPA Education Fund.

(Please note for one-time gifts, checks don't have the extra fees charged by credit card companies so more of your money goes towards waging peace!)