

Trump's Outrageous Proposed Budget

by Julie Byrnes Enslow

President Trump's recently proposed federal budget for 2020 is the largest budget in Federal history - \$4.75 Trillion. It is so extreme that it is unlikely to be seriously considered by Congress.

The budget requests \$370 Billion for the military and cuts nearly everything else across the board. The largest cuts are aimed at science and environmental agencies, eliminating the National Endowment for the Arts and the humanities, and nearly \$2.5 Trillion in cuts to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

Deputy director of the Office of Management and Budget, Russell Vought said, "The budget requests \$750 billion for national defense. And to be clear, this is not funding for endless wars. This is for research and development and procurement to fund the most awe-inspiring military the world has ever known."

This "awe-inspiring" military is built on the backs of working people and the poor, by hacking away at Medicare, Medicaid; through ending student loan forgiveness; work requirements for the poor; slashing important programs and budgets for education and environmental regulation.

Every single department in this budget gets a cut except for the Department of Defense, Veterans Affairs Department, Homeland Security, and a wee bit for the Department of Commerce.

While the United States continues to spend **more than the next ten countries combined** on its military, it is finishing 27th in the world in education and healthcare. We need a budget that represents our nation's priorities, not the defense industry's.

And remember, the military didn't even ask for this big increase!

This is a vision of America as a completely

militarized society, where the government really consists of an enormous military that's all over the world, in over 150 countries with over 800 military bases, with a border wall, and a rigid, dehumanizing immigration system.

This is not our vision of America. Budgets reflect priorities and values, whether one's personal budget or the national budget. What kind of America do we want our tax dollars to be funding?

"This budget is a recipe for American decline," said Representative John Yarmuth, Democrat of Kentucky and the chairman of the House Budget Committee. "This is a budget that we will not take seriously when we are working on our budget and spending priorities for 2020."

Senator Bernie Sanders stated, "This is a budget for the military industrial complex, for corporate C.E.O.s, for Wall Street and for the billionaire class. It is dead on arrival."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

"A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death."

From King's April 4, 1967 Riverside Church speech against the war in Vietnam.



N. Korea/U.S. Summit a Flop

The disappointing summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean Chairman Kim Jong Un in late February was a step backwards for a resolution of the Korean conflict. Kim's offer to dismantle the North Korean plutonium production site at Yongbyon in exchange for cutting back on economic sanctions would have been an important step towards denuclearization. As the North Koreans said, the U.S. missed a golden opportunity to move the process forward.

But Trump and his advisors are not interested in a step by step, give and take approach toward resolving the issue. They are not open to lifting the economic sanctions that directly impact the Korean people in return for steps toward verified denuclearization (even though sanctions can always be reimposed). Trump wants the "grand bargain" where he gets everything he wants immediately. However, this is not a real estate deal.

It was disclosed by N. Korean Vice Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui that the hostile attitude of National Security Advisor John Bolton and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo contributed to sabotaging the success of the summit. Chairman Kim is reconsidering any future talks unless the U.S. is willing to offer commensurate measures to match the 15-month moratorium on launches and nuclear tests. But Trump may be open to more talks with Chairman Kim. Let's hope that Bolton and Pompeo stay out of the way.



National Security Advisor John Bolton and Sec. of State Mike Pompeo

S. Korea, U.S. Halt Joint Military Drills

The annual springtime joint war games by South Korea and the US have been canceled to help reduce tensions and support diplomatic efforts with North Korea. These massive military drills have been very threatening to North Korea for years.

Resolution to End Korean War

U.S. Representative Ro Khanna has introduced a resolution to officially end the Korean War after 69 years. We are glad to report that Wisconsin Congressperson Gwen Moore is one of the original 19 cosponsors of this resolution. **Let's thank her. (202-225-4572)**

Venezuela

What We as Activists Can Do

by Babette Grunow

Peace and solidarity activists have called for actions to assure the U.S. does not begin a military attack on Venezuela (sit-ins, demonstrations, lobbying, etc.). A recent article in the Military Times predicts no invasion, with experts explaining that an attack would be costly and bloody, requiring hundreds of thousands of troops. But the fact that an attack would be wholly irrational seems beside the point when the president is Donald Trump, who of course continues to threaten military action.

A second task for activists is to correct the narrative. Peace delegations and independent journalists on the ground in Venezuela report an open society with less hunger than many other countries in the region, where people overwhelmingly oppose intervention and the sham "interim president" Juan Guaidó. But the mass media and both major U.S. political parties persist in treating President Maduro's election as if it never happened. They call his government a dictatorship or regime, terms used for our official enemies.

Finally, we must fight for the U.S. to end its draconian sanctions against Venezuela, which have effectively blocked the acquisition of food and medicine and cost thousands of lives. At this point, the economic hardships of the Venezuelan people are almost entirely the product of the U.S. freezing billions of dollars of Venezuelan assets. The offer of \$20 million in supposed humanitarian aid would not make up for that. The International Red Cross

Venezuela *continued from page 2*

has condemned the politicization of humanitarian aid and refused to participate in this charade.

We Must Stop This War Before It Starts!

The worst sanctions against Venezuela, the financial embargo, started in August of 2017. The media mostly ignore that. Sanctions are being used to basically deprive people of food and medicine, to destroy the economy and destabilize the country.

After recently withdrawing U.S. diplomats from the Venezuelan embassy in Caracas, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said, “diplomatic staff at the embassy has become a constraint on U.S. policy,” raising questions about whether the U.S. is coming closer to a military intervention.

“I don’t think [military intervention] is their first choice; I think they’d rather have Venezuelans killing each other than have the U.S. involved in the war itself. But, yes, if they had the right pretext, I think they would go in,” said Mark Weisbrot, Center for Economic and Policy Research.

Sixteen progressive House Democrats, including Ro Khanna, Ilhan Omar, and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, sent a letter to Secretary of State Pompeo condemning U.S. threats of military intervention in Venezuela and U.S. sanctions. The letter read, in part, “The president’s recent economic sanctions threaten to exacerbate the country’s grave economic crisis, causing immense suffering for the most vulnerable in society who bear no responsibility for the situation in the country.”

The best chance for peace is through dialogue called for by the Vatican, Mexico, and Uruguay, lifting the sanctions, and taking unauthorized war off the table.

What you can do:

1. Two of our Wisconsin congresspersons have taken a stand against U.S. military intervention in Venezuela. Rep. Gwen Moore and Rep. Mark Pocan have signed on as cosponsors of **H.R.1004, Rep. Cicilline’s bill to prevent unauthorized war in Venezuela**. So far, the bill has 54 cosponsors. **Call** Rep. Pocan and Moore if you are in their districts and thank them for sponsoring H.R.1004. If you are in another congressional district, call your representative and ask him/her to be a cosponsor. **Congressional switchboard: 202-224-3121.**

2. Join Peace Action’s weekly Stand For Peace which often focuses on No War in Venezuela.



President Nicolas Maduro • Opposition leader Juan Guaido

Flooding Submerges Air Force Base

In recent climate news, massive flooding has forced the closing of much of the Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska. Flooding submerged as many as 60 structures on the base, which is the headquarters of U.S. Strategic Command.

In January, the Pentagon released a report warning that climate change could threaten two-thirds of the nation’s military installations. In October, Hurricane Michael severely damaged Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida.

Democracy Now!, Mar. 19, 2019

Training the World for War

Each year, through a vast constellation of global training exercises, operations, facilities, and schools, the United States trains around 200,000 foreign soldiers, police and other personnel. From 2003 to 2010, for example, the U.S. carried out this training regime at no fewer than 471 locations in 120 countries and on every continent but Antarctica. Most of it goes on behind closed doors.

Casa Cry, March 2019

Historic Vote on War Powers Act

Wednesday evening, March 13, the U.S. Senate took a historic vote, claiming its constitutionally granted power to declare war. The resolution directs the president to remove U.S. support for Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen. The resolution passed with a vote of 54 to 46 and invoked the 1973 War Powers Act, which regulates the conditions under which the U.S. may enter into war. Seven Republican senators voted with all Democrats in favor of the resolution. Senator Bernie Sanders was the resolution's main sponsor.

The resolution had already passed in the House of Representatives. But due to a technicality, the House needs to vote once more. President Trump threatened to veto the vote. But it would still be a significant statement of crumbling U.S. support for the Saudi war in Yemen and could help to pressure an agreement to end the conflict.



Artist protests the war in Yemen.

Illustration from Real News Network

Nuclear Weapons Spending Increases

By Pam Richard

We're now living in a time where all of the nuclear armed nations are drastically increasing spending on nuclear weapons. This renewed arms race only benefits the weapons industry and is justified on the pretense of modernization for a "robust" nuclear weapons deterrent. In reality these programs are destabilizing, a step backwards from nonproliferation, and a dangerous move toward the actual use of these weapons.

The U.S. leads in this dangerous spending. The 2020 proposed Pentagon budget is over \$750 billion. The Dept. of Defense plans to purchase aircraft carriers, ships, stealth bombers, and planes that can deliver nuclear weapons that can destroy whole regions of the planet.

Nuclear weapons development and production sites are receiving vast sums to make hundreds of new nuclear bombs, with increased targeting and kill capabilities. The National Nuclear Security Administration, under the Dept. of Energy, will get a 10 percent increase in its budget, bringing it to \$16.5 billion for 2019. Plutonium is being readied to make new bombs. The estimated cost of the modernization program in the next 30 years has risen to \$1.7 trillion!

In May, the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability will meet to coordinate national anti-nuclear groups to protest these shameful levels of spending. Anti-nuclear activists have united with peace groups, youth, indigenous nations, scientists, and people across the planet to reverse this course. National Peace Action has been at the forefront of the movement, beginning in the days of the SANE-Nuclear Freeze Coalition that ended nuclear bomb testing with the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (which the U.S. still hasn't ratified).

At the end of April, the United Nations will host the Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Non-governmental organizations will be presenting educational forums at the UN on the critical need for nuclear disarmament. Peace Action, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, United for Peace and Justice, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Code Pink, Tri-Valley CAREs, and Nukewatch will join international peace groups in this effort, and ask all nations to ratify the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

"A true revolution of values will lay hands on the world order and say of war, 'This way of settling differences is not just.'"

From King's April 4, 1967 Riverside Church speech against the war in Vietnam.

Nuclear Weapons Spending Increases *continued from page 5*

Peace activists are also pressing for other actions:

- Take nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert.
- Ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.
- Negotiate and ratify the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty.
- Return the U.S. to compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action with Iran and lift the sanctions that block humanitarian supplies to civilians in Iran.
- Reinstate the INF Treaty.

What you can do:

To learn how you can help end increased military spending, please go to the website of National Peace Action. It has updates on legislation being introduced in Congress to end war and decrease military spending. www.peaceaction.org

Standing with Ilhan Omar and the Muslim Community

Editorial

Julie Byrnes Enslow

When U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar spoke the truth about the influence of AIPAC and the state of Israel on United States elected officials, all hell broke loose. If she had been talking about the NRA or the aero-space industry or the pharmaceutical industry would she have been as severely attacked? They are also huge lobbying interest groups who give great sums of money to political candidates to influence their votes. We all know that is the way it works. But for Omar, one of the first Muslim women in Congress, to speak out about the government of Israel's special relationship with Washington, DC, was to be instantly labeled "anti-semitic."

Criticizing the policies of the Israeli government is not anti-semitic. To stand up for basic human rights for the Palestinians and to oppose the illegal Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the deadly blockade of Gaza is not anti-semitic. It is in the ancient tradition

of Judaism to stand for justice for all people. The Jewish Voice for Peace is not anti-semitic. My Jewish friends who first taught me about the plight of the Palestinians were not anti-semitic.

The case of Ilhan Omar reeks of Islamophobia. She is black, she is an immigrant, and she is Muslim - the perfect target for right-wing extremism in this age of Donald Trump. Her life has been threatened, she has been told to resign, yet she stands strong. She is remarkable.

Islamophobia at its most extreme was displayed in the horrific terrorist attacks in two New Zealand mosques that massacred 50 Muslims and injured dozens more during Friday prayers on March 15. The shooter, a white supremacist, said in his 74-page manifesto that he was inspired by President Trump. Trump's first executive order was the Muslim ban. Hate crimes against Muslims, Jews, blacks, and immigrants are on the rise.

As people of peace we must take action and stand with our Muslim sisters and brothers.

What you can do:

Call on your senators and congressperson to support H.R.810 and S.246 that would prohibit the use of any funds to implement Trump's Muslim ban. **D.C. Capitol switchboard: 202-224-3121**



PEACE CALENDAR

April / May 2019

April 2, Tuesday, 9 AM- 5 PM, NO to NATO Counter Summit, NATO leaders meeting in Washington, DC to celebrate the alliance's 70th anniversary. National peace leaders will gather at St. Stephen Church, 1525 Newton St, Washington DC.

April 5, Friday, 7:30 PM, "Project Unspeakable" A staged play reading addressing the Assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Malcolm X, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Robert Kennedy.

Milwaukee Friends Meeting House, 3224 N. Gordon Place. Produced by Milwaukee Political Theater. Free Performance.

Repeated Sunday, April 7, 2pm, at WI African American Women's Center, 3020 W. Vliet.

April 5-11, Latin American Film Series, UWM Union Theater.

April 6, Saturday, 4 to 6 PM, Cuban filmmaker Eric Corvalan Pelle screens 2 of his films.

A) Cuban opinions on racial discrimination and B) Domestic Violence against women and children. UW-Milwaukee Union Theater, Maryland Ave & Kenwood Blvd.

April 11, Thursday, 6-8 PM, Winona LaDuke of the White Earth Anishinabe Nation will speak on **"The Next Energy Economy: Grassroots Strategies to Mitigate Climate Change and How We Move Ahead"**, at UW-Milwaukee Merrill Hall, Room 131, 2512 E. Hartford Ave. Free.

April 13, Saturday, 12 noon, Stand for Peace Opposing Taxes for War and Militarism. At National Guard Base, 51st and Silver Spring Dr. Sponsored by Peace Action WI and Casa Maria.

April 13, Saturday, 2-4 PM, Building Unity Gathering. Peace and Social Justice groups from Southeastern WI meet to strategize at the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, Ogden and Astor.

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

April 18, Thursday, 7 PM Documentary Film - "Occupation of the Mind: Israel's Public Relations War with the United States." Through media clips and interviews, the filmmakers examine how the media shaped people's understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Peace Center, 1001 E. Keefe Ave. Sponsored by Peace Action Wisconsin.

May 1, Wed. May Day - Annual Day for Immigrants Rights organized by Voces de la Frontera. **This year it will be in Madison!** Check Voces for more details.

May 6, Monday, 7 PM, Speaker Robert Naiman, policy director of Just Foreign Policy will address **"US Involvement in Global Warfare"** and taking action to end war in Yemen, Korea and Venezuela. One of the top foreign policy analysts, he will speak at the Peace Center, 1001 E. Keefe. Sponsored by Peace Action Wisconsin.

May 15, Wednesday, 7 PM, End the Wars Coalition Meeting, The Peace Center, 1001 E. Keefe.

Documentary Film | Thursday, April 18, 7pm.

The Peace Center, 1001 E. Keefe Ave.

Sponsored by Peace Action Wisconsin.

"Occupation of the Mind"

Israel's Public Relations War with the United States

Narrated by Pink Floyd's Roger Waters, the film zeros in on pro-Israel public relations efforts within the U.S. The discussion features "leading observers of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict," who look at how the Israeli government, the U.S. government and the pro-Israel lobby have seemingly joined forces to shape American media coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in Israel's favor.

Film producer will be present online for Q&A.

Stand for Peace

Saturdays Noon-1 PM

April 6: St. Paul & Water
April 13: 51st & Silver Spring
April 20: Humboldt & Locust
April 27: King & North



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____ \$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.

Volunteer Opportunities

Graphic designers to develop literature for
tabling.

Spring cleanup gardeners.

Help with mailings.

Office Needs

A shredding machine, please.

White cardboard, foam board, etc. for making
signs for demonstrations.

Call Pam at 414-269-9525

Thank You Volunteers

Office and computer technology assistance:

Kristina Paris, Patrick Auld, Tom Rodman

Mailing Crew: Babette Grunow, Mary Laan.

Tom Neibler, Julie Enslow. Mary Lou Stebbins,
David Lindberg

Special thanks to Susan Modder for facilitating
the day long Peace Action Steering Committee
strategic planning meeting.

Thanks to Samir Moukaddam for his hard
work in keeping the Peace Center going.



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Peace Action Wisconsin

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DATED MATERIAL

Robert Naiman

Policy Director of **Just Foreign Policy**
will address

**“US Involvement
in Global Warfare”**
and taking action
to stop war
in Yemen, Korea
and Venezuela.



Monday, May 6 – 7 pm
The Peace Center, 1001 E. Keefe

Robert Naiman is one of the top
U.S. foreign policy analysts.
Don't miss this opportunity to hear him in person.
Sponsored by Peace Action Wisconsin.



The Mobilizer

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