In the calculations of military strategists to “win the war,” civilian deaths, injuries and mass destruction are left out of their calculations. The war is cheered on by the media, which is owned and controlled by the corporations that are making massive profits from the war. Conflicts of interest abound. Lloyd Austin, the Secretary of Defense, was on the Board Of Directors of Raytheon, a defense contractor, from 2017-2020.

Since the Russian invasion in Feb. 2022, 7.7 million Ukrainian people have been internally displaced, almost a third of the population. Almost 90% of them are women and children, as men are forced to fight. Over 6.4 million people, at a rate of one refugee child every second — have crossed into neighboring countries.

Non-profit organizations and human rights groups are warning that across the region, many people lack access to health and medical needs including food, clean water, shelter, hygiene supplies and medication. Cases of communicable diseases, such as COVID-19 and polio, have the potential to grow along with gastrointestinal ailments. Ukraine may be unable to restore the heating system before winter. Children are unable to attend school as the humanitarian crisis deepens.

As of April 2022, the UN asked for $948.9 million to provide lifesaving support to children and their families to respond to critical needs within Ukraine and for refugee response. These appeals remain significantly underfunded.

Much of the media has marked eight months of the escalation of the war, but UNICEF has been on the ground in Ukraine since 1997, and has had emergency teams in place since conflict broke out in Ukraine’s eastern region in 2014. Even before the heavy weapons fire and air strikes on cities and civilian neighborhoods, insecurity and deprivation had become a way of life for families in the Donetzk and Luhansk oblasts due to the conflict that started in March 2014.

The US commitment to Ukraine is up to $40 billion in security assistance, or $110 million a day. The US has sent $8.6 billion worth of military equipment over the last year, without any assurance of where the weapons are going or any public discussion of what the US could do to seek an end to the conflict.

The message of endless funding announcements by Congress signals that there is no end in sight to the war, and that the US is committed to funding weapons for Ukraine, no matter what the cost in human lives and despite the very real possibility of a nuclear war.

According to UNICEF, the UN General Assembly has a better message, “End hostilities in Ukraine now! Silence the guns now! Both sides open the door to dialogue and diplomacy now!”
On November 13, the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee will host a Forum co-sponsored by Peace Action of Wisconsin with lawyer, Deborah Hrbek, and former head of the National Lawyers Guild, Marjorie Cohn, titled, “Can a Lawsuit against the CIA affect the US Attempt to Extradite Julian Assange?”

Plaintiff Deborah Hrbek will discuss the lawsuit against the CIA, Mike Pompeo, the security firm, UC Global, and its CEO David Morales filed August 15 by Hrbek, her law partner Margaret Ratner Kunstler, and two American journalists. The plaintiffs allege their constitutional rights as US citizens - to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures by the US government - were violated when they visited Julian Assange at the Ecuadorian embassy in London.

The lawyers and journalists claim that information copied from their electronic devices - such as laptops, smartphones, and tablets - which they were required to surrender upon entering the Embassy, was shared without their knowledge with the CIA, as were their privileged conversations with their client Assange while in the Embassy.

The suit additionally cites the illegal seizure of privileged information from Assange's visitors who are US citizens, including: his US defense attorneys, "human rights attorneys with active cases defending Guantanamo Bay Detention Center detainees," "national security journalists whose sources might be in jeopardy if exposed" and physicians.

Based on evidence revealed in an ongoing Spanish case against defendant, David Morales, the plaintiffs further allege that former CIA Director Mike Pompeo approved this "unreasonable search and seizure" in violation of US citizens' Fourth Amendment rights.

Hrbek will discuss the implications of that lawsuit on the Assange extradition matter, while Marjorie Cohn will unpack the implications of that lawsuit on the US Attempt to Extradite Julian Assange.

Both will discuss why press freedom and therefore government accountability is at stake if the Department of Justice continues to prosecute Julian Assange and seek his extradition.

Plaintiff Deborah Hrbek is a partner at HRBEK Kunstler and has represented WikiLeaks reporters and filmmakers since 2015. Please see www.hrbeklaw.com.

References
Margaret Ratner Kunstler et al., vs. CIA et al. - https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/22136088-margaret-ratner-kunstler-et-al-v-cia-et-al-complaint
August 20, 2022, In Truthout by Marjorie Cohn, “Mike Pompeo and CIA Sued for Illegal Surveillance of Assange’s Visitors”
August 16, 2012, Interview of Deborah Hrbek on Democracy Now!, “Mike Pompeo and CIA Sued for Spying on Americans who Visited Julian Assange in Ecuadorian Embassy in U.K.”
Every Saturday Stand for Peace - Noon to 1 PM
Please wear masks. Flags and signs supplied by Peace Action of WI. See ad for locations.

- Oct. 1-8 - Keep Space for Peace Week.
- Mon. Oct. 10 - Indigenous People’s Day
- Tues. Oct. 11, 7PM - WI Cuba Coalition monthly meeting, contact Art Heitzer for the zoom link
- Thu. Oct. 20, 7PM - Medea Benjamin Book Tour for her new book she wrote with Benjamin Davies, War in Ukraine: Making Sense of a Senseless War
- Fri. Oct. 21, 3PM - Medea Benjamin Book Tour for her new book she wrote with Benjamin Davies, War in Ukraine: Making Sense of a Senseless War at the Rotary Club Room at the Milwaukee Public Library

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By Ann Battiza

In Matt Taibbi’s September 17 TK News article, “The Justice Department Was Dangerous before Trump, it’s out of Control Now,” Taibbi uses the recent raid of Mar-A-Lago as a springboard to discuss the erosion of civil liberties in the US since 9/11. In particular, he details two decades of overreach by the DOJ and its FBI, which seems relevant to the lawsuit against the CIA and others described on page 3 of this Mobilizer.

Taibbi writes, “The reviled former president Donald Trump has become a giant media version of a Trojan Horse, inside which the Justice Department has assembled an army for a grand assault on civil liberties. The rout is already on.”

As we know from the ACLU’s 1977 “Skokie case” involving the Ku Klux Klan, civil liberties must be vigorously defended, no matter how controversial the client. (See the ACLU website for a March 2, 2020 article by that case’s attorney, David Goldberger.)

In the case of the recent raid of Mar-a-Lago, pre-9/11 defenders of civil liberties are cheering on the DOJ to play concerns about privileged communications that might have been scooped up in the raid, the DOJ explained it has procedures in place to set up a separate committee - a filter committee or taint team - that would access the documents retrieved and decide which have relevance in its pending case. Taibbi mocked that solution: But they [the DOJ] say, don’t worry, we’re not using any of those services you can trust us. After all, we’re United States Attorneys. (And their paralegals. And legal assistants. And, perhaps, a few IRS or DEA or FBI agents, whose only job is to make cases against the types of people they’re in those files. But, don’t worry.) Just because the whole concept of attorney-client privilege, as well as the 1st, 4th, 5th, and 6th Amendments — guaranteeing rights to free speech, against unreasonable searches, and to due process and legal counsel, respectively — were created to bar exactly this kind of behavior, they insist the state would never abuse this authority.

Taibbi says, “The Trump case is almost incidental to this wider story of extralegal short-cuts, intimidation, improper searches, and, especially, a constant, intensifying effort at discrediting the adversarial system in favor of an executive-branch-only vision of the law, in which your right to stand before a judge or jury would be replaced by secret bureaucratic decisions.”

What follows is Taibbi’s exploration of cases in which the DOJ has raided the offices of courageous defense attorneys with unpopular clients - taking information from all of the unlucky firm’s lawyers and related to all the firm’s cases, not just the one currently before the court. In at least one case, the DOJ raided the lawyer of the lawyer’s offices. Eventually this overreach was challenged in 2019. The victory in that case was cited by Judge Aileen Cannon in Donald J. Trump v. United States of America as she decided to appoint a Special Master to take over the job of the DOJ’s taint team.

Taibbi also explores the cozy relationship between the DOJ and journalists whereby intelligence officials and prosecutors regularly and illegally leak prejudicial information that is immediately repeated by the media, and that “[journalists] now routinely use language seemingly designed to prepare potential jurors for prosecution.” Declaring that “defense attorneys on television are rarer than pearls” he asks, “Have you noticed these analyses for prosecution.”

In keeping with that cozy relationship, Taibbi says the Trump case Special Master ruling has been derided by “TV experts,” as, among other things, placing Trump “above the law.” Perhaps it is time to step back from our tribal responses to all things Trump and examine for ourselves whether the DOJ overreach that many of us applaud in the context of Donald Trump will look as fortuitous and fair in the future.

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

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by Ken Grenning

Ken Grenning was a kind, gentle soul and an amazingly dependable volunteer for Peace Action as well as Voces de la Frontera and the United Nations Association. He is remembered for quietly being there to help so many people and for his commitment to peace and justice for immigrants.

Don Weschler joined Mobilization for Survival (now Peace Action) in our early years and participated in nearly all our events, often as a volunteer worker. These good men will be greatly missed in our community.
In a September 18 article written by Marcy Winograd for LA. Progressive, she documented the efforts of peace activists across the nation who rallied on September 15 for a ceasefire in Ukraine. Using the above image, she wrote, “Milwaukee anti-war activists, including a county supervisor, took their peace flags and ‘Diplomacy, Not War’ signs to the campus of conservative Marquette University, where they passed out hundreds of flyers with QR codes for students to email their Congress members for a ceasefire. Organizer Jim Carpenter, co-chair (with this author) of the foreign policy team of Progressive Democrats of America, told skeptics who want a fight to the last Ukrainian, ‘Are you more concerned about saving lives or saving territory?’”

At the rally, the following remarks were delivered, by Andre Walton, Executive Director of Our Wisconsin Revolution. His speech is reproduced below.

“Why is it that war is always the priority in this country? Is it because it’s profitable for some? Is it because of geopolitical advantages? Or is it due to the US endless need to stay the world’s sole superpower?

“Whatever the case may be, I know that every dollar that goes towards bombs and bullets is [a] dollar that could be used to help further improve this world. Since the start of this war the United States has sent over $50 billion in arms and aid to Ukraine. That’s more than we’ve sent to Israel, Egypt, Afghanistan, and 157 other nations combined the past year. All the while Flint, Michigan, Jackson, Mississippi, and many other United States cities across this nation still did not have access to safe clean drinking water. What does it say about a nation that constantly ignores the needs of its own citizens, while spending limitless amounts of money on war and destruction?

“It tells me that we are a decaying nation. A nation hell bent on staying the sole superpower of the world. But how long can a nation stay a world superpower, if its people aren’t taken care of? Well, just ask Rome how that worked out for them.

“Is it because it’s profitable for some? Is it because of geopolitical advantages? Or is it due to the US endless need to stay the world’s sole superpower?

“Instead, by all accounts, we are doing everything we can to prolong the war. US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin put it plainly. The goal of the US is to weaken Russia. Meaning we are not worried about the well-being of the Ukrainian people, but more concerned about damaging our political adversary. Why should the US government’s geopolitical interests be put before the interests of the people of Ukraine?

“Instead of aggressively fueling more war, we should be aggressively striving for peace.

“I would also like to point out the blatant hypocrisy of the US government. They condemn Russia for invading a sovereign country, but still have not admitted that they were wrong for what they’ve done to Iraq. How can we expect other countries to abide by international law, while we consistently ignore it ourselves?

“If we want a more peaceful world, then we as a country must lead the charge in striving for peace. No more can we overthrow governments that don’t submit to the US will. No more can we spend endless amounts of money on propping up dictatorships across this world. No more can we pretend to be the moral authority, while causing endless wars. If we want a more peaceful world, we have to start by correcting our own actions and dealing with what we are in control of.”

For more information about the coalition and the next caravan, see www.WiCuba.org.

More information and ways to help Cuba can be found at the “Let Cuba Live” website at www.LetCubalive.info