

Peace Action Wisconsin
1001 E. Keefe Ave.
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PEACE ACTION of WISCONSIN ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & CHILI SUPPER

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AT 5:30 PM
KINGO LUTHERAN CHURCH

1225 E Olive St, Shorewood, WI 53211 • \$5.00 donation

6 PM Supper: Chili, bread, salad, dessert

7 PM Program

Music by Julie Anne Lovely Thompson
Election of 2023 Steering Committee, changes in by-laws, awards, and an overview of 2022

Please volunteer to donate a pot of chili or a dessert and to help in the kitchen. (Call the office at 414-269-9525 to volunteer.)

This is an opportunity for you to renew your membership in Peace Action of Wisconsin.
\$30 a year single, \$50 a year household.
Alternatively, \$10 limited income, \$100 supporter, \$1,000 lifetime membership.

The Mobilizer Newsletter of

Peace Action
of Wisconsin



October-November 2022
Vol. 45 #5

THE HUMAN COST OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE

By Pam Richard

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 Donetsk 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!”

Plaintiff in CIA Lawsuit will Speak at Unitarian Forum

By Ann Batiza

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



Marjorie Cohn, former president of the National Lawyers Guild, is a retired criminal defense attorney and Professor Emerita at Thomas Jefferson School of Law who writes for *Truthout*. Please see <http://marjoriecohn.com/>.



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

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 extradition request and indictment. 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.

Thank You, Julie Byrnes Enslow!

Where do we begin to thank Julie for all she has done to sustain publication of *The Mobilizer* and dedicate years of activism to Peace Action of WI?

Julie was first hired by Peace Action of WI's precursor, the Milwaukee Mobilization for Survival, on Sept. 1, 1981. Along with other early members she began our newsletter that year as a single page issue called the *Milwaukee Mobilizer* until it became the 8-page *Mobilizer* in 1985. She has worked on the newsletter for almost 40 years!

In 1996, we affiliated with national Peace Action and the newsletter became *The Mobilizer*. Julie has often edited the entire newsletter and contributed many timely truth-telling articles with no compromise. She has always been articulate and eloquent in addressing and helping readers understand the serious issues confronting us.

Peace Action of WI is deeply grateful and wishes you a happy retirement, Julie! We also look forward to the future articles and guidance you have promised us. Thank you!

Thank You to our Peace Action Volunteers

Mail Crew - Mary Alice Martines, Marsha Vila, Mary Laan, Eldeen Carpenter, Mary Laan, Babette Grunow, Sue Cottrell, David Lindberg, Tom Neibler, Trish Beausang, Joyce Ellwanger, Barbara Markoff, Roger Hansen, John Payton, Jill Ferguson, Mary Lou Stebbins, Jan Watson, Don Timmerman, Roberta Thurston, Julie Enslow

Tom Rodman - for many hours of computer tech advice.

George Martin - for bringing your sound amplification system to our rallies.

Samir Moukaddam - for keeping the Peace Center on Keefe Avenue going over the past years.

Thank you for your work for Peace Action of Wisconsin

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.

Contact the White House and Members of Congress

To reach your representative and senators:

Call the Congressional Switchboard at

202-224-3121.

Access www.congress.gov/members

Send letters to

First St SE, Washington, DC 20004

How to Call the White House:

The Biden White House has very limited phone line hours. Call 1-202-456-1111 to be connected to the White House public comment line.

Please note, you must call between the hours of 10am - 2pm CT, Tuesdays - Thursdays while the phone line is open.

Send letters to

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW,
Washington, DC 20500

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, 2022, 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."



PEACE CALENDAR OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2022

Every Saturday Stand for Peace - Noon to 1 p.m.

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*
Friends Meeting House, 3224 N Gordon Pl, Milwaukee
- **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
814 W Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee, WI
- **Sun. Oct. 23, 12PM - United Nations Day with the UNA-Milwaukee** - with Dr Ira Helfand of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, at the Whitefish Bay Library, 5420 N Marlborough Dr, Whitefish Bay, WI 53217, in person or on Zoom with registration required
- **Sun. Oct. 30, 12:30PM - Milwaukee Car & Bike Caravan to Lift the Cuba Blockade**
Zao Milwaukee Church, 2919 E Kenwood Blvd, Milwaukee
- **TUES. NOV. 8, ELECTION DAY, GO VOTE!**
<http://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/Register-To-Vote>
- **Fri. Nov. 11, 7PM - Armistice Day Commemoration**
Veterans for Peace Milwaukee Chapter 102
at Milwaukee City Hall, 200 E Wells St, Milwaukee, WI 53202
- **Sun. Nov 13 - First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee Forum on Zoom:** Can a Lawsuit against the CIA Affect the U.S. Attempt to Extradite Julian Assange?
- **Thu. Nov. 17, 6PM - Peace Action of WI Annual Meeting and Chili Supper**, Kingo Lutheran Church, 1225 E Olive St, Shorewood, WI 53211
- **Fri. Nov. 25, Native American Heritage Day**
watch our website for activities.
- **Sun. Nov 27, Cuba Caravan**
to be decided according to the weather.



EVERY SATURDAY, NOON - 1PM

OCTOBER

- Oct 1:** Port Washington/Silver Spring
- Oct 8:** 65th/National
- Oct 15:** KK/Lincoln
- Oct 22:** 35th/Fond Du Lac
- Oct 29:** Brady/Farwell

NOVEMBER

- Nov 5:** King/North
- Nov 12:** Capitol/Oakland
- Nov 19:** 27th/National
- Nov 26:** 76th/Layton

The Mobilizer Newsletter of



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Ann Batiza, Christy Breihan, Jim Carpenter,
Babette Grunow, Pam Richard, and Harry Targ

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

Matt Taibbi and the DOJ Trojan Horse

By Ann Batiza

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 allay 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 secrets, 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 in those files. But still, 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 deplores 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 "[j]ournalists now routinely use language seemingly designed to prep potential jurors for prosecution." Declaring that "defense attorneys on television are rarer than pearls" he asks, "Have you noticed these analyses [in favor of the DOJ] almost always come from ex-prosecutors, that you've been trained to not even blink at headlines like, *Ex-CIA officer calls judge's ruling in Trump case 'silly'?*"

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.

Peace Action Loses Three Long-Time Members

By Julie Enslow

The past month saw the passing of three outstanding Peace Action members, Bill Sell, Ken Greening, and Don Wescher.

Bill Sell was one of our original members when we were founded as Mobilization for Survival in 1977. For years he managed our membership list and printed our mailing labels every month. Bill was deeply involved in the planning of the "Milwaukee 14" burning of draft records during the Vietnam War and was a committed anti-war activist and environmentalist. He was gentle, kind, witty, and an excellent writer. His letters to the editor appeared regularly over the years in our local paper.

Ken Greening 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 Wescher 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.

PEACE ACTIVISTS HIT THE STREETS URGING CEASEFIRE IN UKRAINE

By Julie Enslow with text of speech by Andre Walton



In a September 18 article written by Marcy Winograd for *L.A. 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.

“Don’t get me wrong, I am opposed to any nation that invades a sovereign country that didn’t attack them. I opposed it when we invaded Iraq and I am opposed to it now that Russia has invaded Ukraine. But one cannot strive for peace through more war. More war only equals more

suffering for the innocent. As the most powerful country in the world, we should be doing everything we can to strive for a peace deal with Russia.

“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.”



ACTIVISTS DEMAND AN END TO THE CUBA BLOCKADE

By Harry Targ, Christy Breihan and Art Heitzer

The Wisconsin Coalition to Normalize Relations with Cuba continues its monthly car caravans to demand an end to the US economic blockade of Cuba.

Preceding the August 28 caravan, activists heard updates on how Cuba is adapting to the ongoing impacts of the blockade and the challenges caused by the recent fire at an oil depot in Matanzas, near Havana. Three members of the Party for Socialism and Liberation who had just returned from Cuba also spoke about their experiences there, which included delivering needed humanitarian assistance. Sam Doucas, Erica Steib, and Alexa Nutile explained that, despite Cuba’s commitment to providing healthcare for all its citizens, the 62-year US economic blockade is causing shortages of vital medicines and diagnostic and surgical equipment.

Also, the speakers reported that despite the severity of the economic blockade, made worse by the Trump administration adding 240 more restrictions on international commerce with Cuba, the people there still support their government and its health and welfare programs. Since Trump left office, the Biden administration has not honored its campaign promise to reverse the new restrictions and reduce their horrific effects on the Cuban people. US policy remains to isolate and starve the Cuban people until they

surrender and overthrow their government.

The speakers encouraged US citizens to demand an end to this cruel and inhumane policy. The Cuban people, the speakers noted, appreciate the solidarity that so many in the US show to their revolution.

The September 25 rally was addressed by Missy Zambor of the Democratic Socialists of America and Patricia, from Students for a Democratic Society at UWM. Both groups call for an end to the US blockade and collaboration between the peoples of our two countries.

Long-time Cuba activist Art Heitzer reported that on November 2 and 3, 2022, the UN General Assembly will again debate a resolution calling for the US to end its economic blockade of Cuba. This will be the 30th year of such resolutions, which have been overwhelmingly adopted by 99% of the world’s nations—including all US allies in NATO—and often with only the US and Israel voting “no.”

The US government and almost all US media routinely ignore this near universal expression of the world’s opposition to this extraterritorial interference with Cuba’s need and right to trade with the world. There will be actions highlighting this vote on the preceding weekend, including in Milwaukee, on Sunday, October 30, at 12:30 pm at ZAO MKE Church, 2319 East Kenwood Blvd.

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