



## WISCONSIN-BASED COALITION FORMS TO COUNTER FALSE NARRATIVE ABOUT ISRAEL'S WAR ON GAZA

by Pam Richard and Christy Breihan

A broad coalition of Wisconsin organizations that work for peace and justice has come together to respond to the portrayal of the conflict in historic Palestine.

The coalition's member organizations include Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition, Jewish Voice for Peace—Milwaukee, Wisconsin Muslim Civic Alliance, Islamic Society of Milwaukee, Racine Coalition for Peace and Justice, Milwaukee Anti-war Committee, American Muslims for Palestine, UWM Students for a Democratic Society, Adalah Justice Group, Syrian American Medical Society—Milwaukee, Peace Action of Wisconsin, Students for Justice in Palestine at UWM, Marquette University and UW-Madison, Arab and Muslim Women's Research and Resource Institute, among many others.

At a press conference on October 12, the coalition issued the following statement:

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of Israeli and Palestinian lives, and condemn unequivocally the years of provocation by one of the most extreme supremacist Israeli governments in history.



Thousands of marchers protesting for Palestine marched from Dontre Hamilton Park to the Sunburst statue on Sunday, October 22. Source: Ann Batiza

"We are also alarmed by the one-sided narrative in mainstream US media and from President Biden's administration that posits Israel as a victim and ignores the tremendous suffering of the Palestinians under decades of brutal Israeli occupation.

"A lack of context makes it appear that this was an unprovoked attack by Hamas when in fact it is a result of decades of brutal policies on Gaza, often referred to as an open-air prison," explains Janan Najeeb, MMWC executive director.

This new Wisconsin coalition is calling for a correction of false narratives and an end to US

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support of Israeli apartheid and subjugation of the Palestinians. The coalition emphasizes the following points:

**1. Escalating Israeli apartheid and ceaseless settler violence is a provocation.**

The Israeli government has suffocated Gaza under an air, sea and land blockade for 17 years, holding more than 2 million people captive, while starving them and denying them medical aid in flagrant violation of international human rights law and countless UN resolutions. The Israeli government has full control over Gazans' access to water, electricity, fuel, food and all medical and other supplies.

For 75 years, Israel created an apartheid regime that destroyed Palestinian homes and villages, segregated and fragmented Palestinian families and communities, allowed killing with impunity and left Palestinians living in a state of constant fear and insecurity.

This year, the most racist, far-right government in Israeli history has been hunting down Palestinians in the West Bank and encouraging Israeli forces to repeatedly storm the holiest Christian and Muslim sites in Jerusalem. Heavily armed messianic Jewish settlers living on hundreds of illegal settlements built on stolen Palestinian lands have killed countless Palestinian children and terrorized Palestinian civilians under the protection of IDF soldiers.

**2. Resistance to oppression is not terrorism.**

Palestinians are an oppressed, indigenous people living under a brutal colonialist state who deserve safety, freedom and equality. There is now widespread acknowledgment that the grievous injustices suffered by Blacks in apartheid South Africa, segregation and historical lack of rights for African Americans and the ethnic cleansing of American Indians are immoral and inhumane, yet the daily suffering of Palestinians under the apartheid state of Israel is not recognized by Western politicians and media.

Palestinians are fighting for liberation, self-determination and basic rights. Calling resistance "terrorism" dehumanizes Palestinians...

**3. Efforts to silence Palestinian voices and prevent their stories from being told will no longer be accepted.**

Apartheid and colonialist regimes have always written the narratives of the people they oppress. We refuse to remain silent as Israeli's brutal systems of control, ethnic cleansing and slow genocide continues while a one-sided narrative is presented to fellow Americans.

**4. Safety and security will never result from policies of Jewish supremacy and militarized control over Palestinian lives.**

Racist depictions of Palestinians as "violent Muslims," disregarding the significant Palestinian Christian population who are also suffering under Israel's brutal rule, as well as portraying European Jews as civilized white people, is not new. It is the same model used for centuries by those who have colonized and ethnically cleansed indigenous peoples around the world...

"Our coalition's position is that the United States must end its partnership with Israel's brutal occupation," says Professor Lorraine Halinka Malcoe, a member of Jewish Voice for Peace.

In the words of the National Lawyers Guild, "Instead of condemning Palestinian resistance, the US is obliged under international law to cut off all military, financial and political support that enables Israel's brutal occupation."

"Israel has announced a siege of Gaza...yet, the United States is sending jet planes, naval carriers and ammunition to back up Israel's plans to collectively punish and ethnically cleanse the civilians that Israel has trapped in Gaza for over 17 years," says Munjed Ahmad from American Muslims for Palestine.

As a coalition of Wisconsin based organizations working for peace and justice in our state and our world, we commit to ensuring an honest narrative of the Palestinian plight and an end to our government's support of Israel's brutal apartheid system in Palestine.



Members of Peace Action of Wisconsin took part in a march with thousands of protesters for Palestine in Milwaukee on Sunday, October 22. Source: Ann Batiza

# GOLDEN RULE VISITS MILWAUKEE LABOR DAY WEEKEND

The Veterans for Peace Golden Rule Peace Boat was in Milwaukee for four days, after a 10,000-plus mile journey. Her mission: to promote a nuclear free future, to educate about the dangers of radiation to humanity and the environment, to support peaceful alternatives to war, and support the climate justice movement and conversion from fossil fuels and nuclear power to renewable energy.

It began with a welcoming news conference on September 1 at Discovery World. Mayor Cavalier Johnson presented a plaque with a proclamation. Mark Denning, Veteran and Native American spiritual leader, and several VtP-Milwaukee members gave stirring remarks. There was a lot of media coverage.

Peace Action members were there with peace signs, calling for ceasefire and negotiations in Ukraine. The crew gave tours of the boat, then sailed to Lakeshore State Park. That evening, Peace Action of WI hosted the crew of the Golden Rule at a potluck at ZAO church in Milwaukee. Victor McManemy, folk musician and activist from northern Michigan, sang for us.

On September 2, the Party in the Park had well attended tours, music from David Drake's Flagship Wisconsin, and the Raging Grannies of Milwaukee and Madison. The boat tours continued over the next two days before the Golden Rule sailed to its next stop in Racine.



## PALESTINIAN FILM REVIEWS

**Dave Lippman's *Star of Goliath* 25-minute video is available free at**

[https://youtu.be/r9nbxMT4-qw?si=ehSKv\\_18-jgcwpBh](https://youtu.be/r9nbxMT4-qw?si=ehSKv_18-jgcwpBh)

On a trip to Palestine in 2004, Dave Lippman, folksinger and film maker made his way through towns, refugee camps and cities of the West Bank and Gaza. He interviewed Israelis and Palestinians on the occupation of the two areas and pieced together newly written songs with slides and sounds from the region creating the musical and video montage called *Star of Goliath*. It describes the history of Zionism and encapsulates modern Holy Land history and imperial machinations, with attention to varying Jewish views on Israel and the struggle for Palestinian survival and sovereignty. The documentary was updated in 2015 and was shown at the Peace Action Friday Flicks on July 12, 2018. As history it remains relevant today.

**Abby Martin's *Gaza Fights for Freedom* is now available free. You can view it here with English subtitles:**

<https://means.tv/programs/gaza?cid=634570&permalink=gaza-fights-for-freedom>

This film illustrates life in Gaza for 2.1 million largely displaced or newly born inhabitants, where a million children reside. It focuses in on these families' peaceful resistance during the 2018 Great March of Return. In contrast to the protestors, Israeli Defense Forces used live ammo, rubber bullets, and cannisters of gas to pick off protestors, young and old - including medics and press. A most chilling video shows the IDF decide which child in the protest to target and then laugh as he is toppled when they shoot him. Several young victims are highlighted by video footage while they lived and by their families' memorials to their courage.

**Dan Cohen and Max Blumenthal's *Killing Gaza* is free at**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XfDMXrcYw2I>

The text below says, "... Dan Cohen and Max Blumenthal documented Israel's 2014 war on Gaza. Yet this film is much more than a documentary about Palestinian resilience and suffering. It is a chilling visual document of war crimes committed by the Israeli military, featuring direct testimony and evidence from the survivors."





On September 30, Milwaukee activists call for diplomacy now in Ukraine

## MKE PEACE ACTIVISTS JOIN *GLOBAL DAYS OF ACTION* TO END UKRAINE WAR

Last June, peace activists from 32 nations met in Vienna, Austria, and issued a declaration calling for a diplomatic end to the Ukraine War. They said, “We are firmly united in our belief that war is a crime against humanity and there is no military solution to the current crisis. We condemn Russia’s illegal invasion of Ukraine. The institutions established to ensure peace and security in Europe fell short, and the failure of diplomacy led to war. Now diplomacy is urgently needed to end the war before it destroys Ukraine and endangers humanity.”

They also designated 9/30 – 10/8 as Global Days of Action. In the US, many events were held ([www.peaceinukraine.org](http://www.peaceinukraine.org).) In Milwaukee, we dedicated our “Stand for Peace” to this cause. (photo). Hundreds of cars honked as we held signs and flags. We then gathered to hear Julie Enslow, Brian Verdin, Roger Quindel, Stephanie Spalatin, Missy Zombor, Jim Carpenter, Carolyn Dillon, Pam Richard, and Ann Batiza inspire us with antiwar messages.

On October 3-4, Ann Batiza, Eldeen and Jim Carpenter, and Jerry Hills joined CODEPINK in DC to deliver these petitions signed by thousands:

*We, the undersigned, call on every member of the United States Congress to vote NO on new weapons for the Russia-Ukraine-NATO war. President Biden’s latest request for another \$24 billion –most of that for weapons and military training – will put the cost of this war at nearly \$140 billion for US taxpayers, most of whom live paycheck to paycheck, struggling to make ends meet. There is no military solution to this war; only heartache as the US escalates a proxy war between Russia and the United States, the two most nuclear-armed nations.*



A sit-in at Senator Sander’s office led to 11 arrests

*We need Congress to support a mutual ceasefire and diplomatic resolution that addresses the security concerns of all stakeholders—not more weapons to throw gasoline on the fire and risk nuclear war.*

Sadly, not one Democrat is willing to call for a ceasefire and diplomacy now. Senator Baldwin wants to continue funding Ukraine’s counter offensive.

In contrast, Senator Johnson believes the war is a “lose-lose-lose for everybody” and says, “Nobody can win at this point. They should start negotiating.”

# LOBBYING IN DC FOR JULIAN ASSANGE

by Ann Batiza

While in DC for the Global Days of Action, I was also lobbying to end the case against Julian Assange. Assange's last appeal is now before the UK High Court. This appeal, given the Kafkaesque series of hearings, is almost certain to be rebuffed. Assange can then appeal to the European Court of Human Rights if his lawyers get word before he is diapered, drugged, hooded, shackled, and placed on a plane to the US.

The only real hope is if President Biden drops this case. I shared with senators and representatives materials to urge them to request this. Eldeen and Jim Carpenter, Jerry Hills, and I met with Senator Tammy Baldwin and her staff, and with Senator Ron Johnson's staff to whom I gave three items regarding the Assange case:

- A petition signed by over 290 Wisconsin residents
- Evidence for abuses by the CIA and FBI
- A 100-page booklet of information authored by Paula Iasella

I also shared documents with the staff of at least eight other senators and reps from both major parties and found that Reps. Jim McGovern and Massie were preparing a bipartisan letter urging President Biden to drop this case. That letter is now circulating for signatures in the House.

The Australian Prime Minister Albanese will visit President Biden October 23-25. While his efforts to free Julian Assange have been rebuffed in the past, it



Standing with Assange at the U.S. Supreme Court • Photo: Jim Carpenter

is hoped he will address Assange's freedom.

In anticipation of his visit, I wrote the following to the MKE Journal Sentinel:

*Dear Editor,*

*The Assange case is coming to a head as the last appeal is now before the High Court in the U.K. While this case will destroy press freedom in the U.S., Americans know little. There is now a bipartisan letter circulating in the House to drop this case. It is important that citizens call their Representative, for example Representative Moore here in Milwaukee (at 202-224-3121), to urge them to sign this letter.*

*People say, "Let justice take its course."*

*But they don't realize that testimony under oath at the 2020 extradition hearing showed that the CIA recorded all conversations between*

*Assange and his lawyers at the Ecuadorian Embassy and downloaded the contents of their computers. As reported by Yahoo News! and confirmed by witness testimony at the hearing, our government plotted to kidnap or assassinate Assange. Who could get a fair trial after these abuses?*

*This case will destroy press freedom. It criminalizes journalism the New York Times does every week - the possession, transfer and publishing of information covered up by classification - to allow public scrutiny. This is why the Obama administration refused to prosecute the publisher, Julian Assange.*

*Please call your Representative to sign on to this bipartisan letter and protect press freedom for our children.*





# PEACE CALENDAR : NOVEMBER 2023 - DECEMBER 2023

**November 1, Wednesday, 7 PM, (Central) – November 2, Thursday evening with wrap up at 6 PM:**

24-hour Global Online Picket to End the US Blockade of Cuba--Remove

Cuba from the so-called "State Sponsors of Terrorism" list! Marking the 31st United Nations vote condemning the US blockade of Cuba!

As the United Nations General Assembly debates Cuba's resolution, it is expected to overwhelmingly call on the US to end the embargo/blockade of Cuba. Join us in support of the UN and this worldwide demand. Register now: <https://tinyurl.com/24hr4Cuba>

**November 4, Saturday, 12 PM, NATIONAL MARCH ON WASHINGTON TO FREE PALESTINE!** The Palestinian Youth Movement – along with NSJP, ANSWER Coalition, The People's Forum, Al-Awda, USPCN, AMA and USCPR – will march in Washington DC for an end to US complicity in the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people and the settler-colonization of Palestine.

**November 9, Thursday, 6 PM CT, Community Church of Boston, Virtual Film Screening: Killing Gaza** (See review, p.3) Register here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZUkcuuvpj0pHtCBrSpW2zxLbn833Odn9kp#/registration>

**November 11, Saturday, 7 PM, Reclaim Armistice Day** with Milwaukee Veterans for Peace Chapter 102 at the Milwaukee City Hall Rotunda, 200 E Wells St. Speakers Medea Benjamin and Mark Denning, music and 21 Flower Salute

**November 16, Thursday, 5 PM, Peace Action of WI Annual Membership Meeting and Chili/Soup Supper.** Zao Church, 2319 E Kenwood Blvd, Milwaukee

See ad on back page.

**November 30, Thursday, 6 PM, *Theaters of War: How the Pentagon and CIA took Hollywood***, Central Library, 201 W Mifflin St, Room 302, Madison. New Anti-War Film Series, World Beyond War Madison Chapter and Madison Veterans for Peace, Chapter 25

**December 1, Friday, 4-8 PM, and December 2, Saturday, 9 AM- 4 PM, 49th International Quaker Gift Shop**, 3224 N Gordon Pl, Milwaukee, WI 53212.

Visit the Peace Action of WI table and support us with a purchase- peace calendars, holiday cards, buttons, flags and more.

**December 2, Saturday, Building Unity Summit in Milwaukee-** check online calendar for details

**December 9, Saturday, UN International Human Rights Day-** check online calendar for details



**November 4:** Sherman/North

**November 11:** KK/Lincoln

**November 18:** 92nd/North

**November 25:** St. Paul/Water

**December 2:** Locust/Oakland

**December 9:** Hwy 100/North

**December 16:** 76th/Layton

**December 23:** Port Washington/Silver Spring

**December 30:** King/North

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## ***Peace Action of WI Begins Partnership with UWM Students***

by Pam Richard

In early October, Pam Richard, Office Manager for Peace Action of WI, met with Amanda Kienow and Zach Garrity from the UW-Milwaukee Center for Student Experience and Talent. We discussed possible partnership and internship opportunities.

Peace Action would become a part of a service-learning database, which provides opportunities for students to volunteer. Students would spend around 10-15 required hours helping with projects and events at Peace Action during the semester.

For upcoming events on Public Policy, Government, Law, and International Affairs Career-Community opportunities, Zack Garrity will be our main contact. He will help us publicize our events within their department. We'll be able to sponsor some events on the UWM campus.

We are also teaming with the UWM Master of Sustainable Peacebuilding Program, which is headed by long-time Peace Action of WI member, Lynn Woehrle. On the UN International Day of Peace, we met with students from that program and from the UWM Global Student Alliance. After seeing our presentation, most of the students joined our email contacts list. We will develop mutual programs and involve students in our work in the future.

We will ask the Peacebuilding program to connect us to students who may be interested in an internship with us. We have applied to be a part of the CLIP (Community Leaders Internship Program). We can get an intern for the whole academic year (September-May). The student would take an internship course in the fall semester, funded by a student's Federal Work Study award. Peace Action would pay 25% of the student's wages.

We're looking forward to 2024 with UWM student involvement.

## ***THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS***

- Thanks to Laura and Steve Shea and Jim Carpenter for organizing and sustaining the Stand for Peace
- Mailing Crew- Marsha Vila, David Lindberg, Eldeen Carpenter, Trish Beausang, Babette Grunow, Tom Neibler, Julie Enslow, John Payton & Roger Hanson, Jan Watson, Sue Cottrell, Jan Watson, Joyce Ellwanger, Barbara Markoff, Jill Ferguson, Don and Roberta Timmerman
- Thanks to Brian Bunzel and Jess Devitt for organizing our storage space.

## **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

P.O. Box 11126 • Shorewood, WI, 53211

**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.**

**TELL CONGRESS:  
STOP THE GAZA GENOCIDE!  
CALL 202-224-3121  
for the Congressional Switchboard**

**Say you support the Resolution for  
Deescalation and Ceasefire in Israel and  
Occupied Palestine submitted by Rep. Cori  
Bush or go to [www.congress.gov/members](http://www.congress.gov/members)**

**Urge our senators to sponsor  
a companion resolution.**

**Call the White House at**

**202-456-1111**

**Tuesday-Thursday between 10am - 2pm CT**

**You can leave a message on the public comment line.**

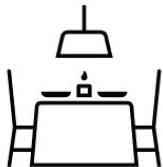
**NO TO GENOCIDE!  
CEASEFIRE NOW!**

**Peace Action Wisconsin**

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**Please Join Us!**

**PEACE ACTION OF WISCONSIN**

## **2024 MEMBERSHIP MEETING & CHILI SUPPER**

**Special Guest (Virtual) Speaker – David Swanson of World Beyond War**

NOVEMBER 16, 2024, Thursday at 5:00 PM

ZAO Church, 2319 E Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee, WI 53211

(\$5.00 donation- *no one turned away*)

- 5:30 PM - Supper- Chili, soup, bread, salad, dessert
- 6:10 PM - Music by Julie Anne Lovely Thompson
- 6:30 PM - Guest speaker - David Swanson of World Beyond War
- 7:15 PM - Election of steering committee members