

Peace Action Wisconsin  
P.O. Box 11126  
Shorewood, WI, 53211

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The Mobilizer Newsletter of

# Peace Action of Wisconsin



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## MILITARY CORPORATIONS, BANKS, AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS IMPLICATED IN ISRAELI GENOCIDE IN GAZA

Harry Targ



Source: Ann Batiza. Christy Breihan, Harry Targ and his wife Deena along with several other members of Peace Action of WI protested against the genocide in Gaza at the Sunburst statue on July 25.

Francesca Albanese, a UN appointed rapporteur, issued a lengthy, data supported report to the United Nations Human Rights Council, "From Economy of Occupation to Economy of Genocide," on June 16, 2025. The report investigated what it called settler colonialism and genocide and demonstrated the connections between Israeli policy and foreign governments, corporations, and banks and the nearly 60,000 deaths in the Gaza strip. The report showed conclusively how international, economic, and political entities have profited from the mass killing of Palestinian people.

A centerpiece of foreign investment in Israeli genocide is military corporations like Lockheed Martin, producers of the F-35 jet fighter planes. In addition, the US firm, Palantir, working closely with the Israeli military, provides software for combat.

Heavy equipment manufacturers such as Caterpillar (implicated in the death of Rachel Corrie several years ago) and Volvo provide heavy equipment that destroy Gazan towns and buildings. As to banking support for the Israeli economy, the report identifies BNP Paribas, Vanguard, and Barclays as central. In addition, financial institutions tied to governments such as Norway, Germany, and the US play a central role in Israel's economy and thus its war-making capacity.

Peter Bloom in a Common Dreams article, July 31, 2025, points out that the war on Palestinians shows that "profit reigns above life." He suggests that "if we fail to dismantle the Authoritarian-Financial Complex now, it will define the next century of planetary crisis- with each famine, each war, and each displacement event monetized, securitized, and outsourced."



# FROM RUBBLE WE DANCE

Register



### Wishah & Baladi Dabke Troupe - from Palestine

Sunday, September 7, 2025 at 6:00 PM (Register above)  
Oak Creek Performing Arts & Education Center -350 E Puetz Rd in Oak Creek

*A celebration of Palestinian culture, resistance, and resilience*

All proceeds go to MECA (Middle East Children's Alliance) in support of Gaza

# WORLD NEEDS TO ACT NOW TO SAVE GAZA

Jim Carpenter

Peace Action celebrated a July 30 Senate vote when 27 senators (no Republicans) voted for a resolution to block weapons sent to Israel. This is a historically large number to vote against arming Israel but far from the needed majority. Peace Action stated “Senators faced a clear choice: stand for law, humanity, and the protection of innocent life — or stand with the machinery of mass violence, in defiance of both conscience and U.S. law prohibiting arms sales to gross human rights abusers.” Baldwin finally voted “yes” to blocking weapons after badgering from activists. (She voted “present” in a previous vote.)

In the House, a bill to block bombs to Israel, H.R.3565, will never get out the Republican controlled committee and not even a majority of Democrats have the courage to co-sponsor it. Pocan is a sponsor, but Moore continues to refuse to co-sponsor, despite the Democratic Party base expressing overwhelming support for the bill. In Moore’s recent town hall meeting, her stance motivated Chris Broms, a new member of our steering committee, to stand up and announce his prediction of a primary challenger to Moore.

The bombing and starvation in Gaza continues unabated and the United States continues to be an obstructionist in the UN Security Council. The United States vetoed a new draft resolution on Gaza, standing as the lone vote against the text which called for an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire, the unconditional release of hostages held by Hamas and others and the immediate lifting of all aid restrictions.

Some argue that Israel’s genocide would end if the United States would stop supporting Israel, but clearly neither party is about to do that without a much greater level of public pressure. Peace Action of WI is working to increase public pressure but it will need greater participation of its members to succeed.

This failure in America has prompted a call for 2 nations to band together and act now without U.S.

support. On August 10, Minister Mansour, Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the UN, stated the UN must act now “to send an immediate international protection force to save the Palestinian people from certain death.” Sarah Leah Winston, the Executive Director of DAWN (Democracy for the Arab World Now), stated on August 12, “Now that Palestine has formally requested protection forces, the UN General Assembly should move urgently to mandate such a force under a Uniting for Peace Resolution. Israel has made clear for the past 2 years that no amount of pleading, pressure or negotiation, will end its atrocities and deliberate starvation in Gaza; only international peacekeeping forces can achieve that.”

Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese said on social



Source: Jim Carpenter. Bob Sanders is riding across the United States to raise money for Gaza and awareness of the genocide. Here, he is pictured at the Friends Meeting House (l. to r.) unknown, Jim Carpenter, Sanders, Julie Enslow and Barbara Eisenberg. The event raised \$8,000 for the relief work in Gaza done by the American Friends Service Committee.

media. “States must break the blockade, send NAVIES with aid, and stop the genocide. History will not forget.”

Former Irish President and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, delivered a searing keynote address at the UN high-level conference on the Israel-Palestine conflict. Robinson condemned the atrocities in Gaza, Israel’s illegal occupation, and the international community’s failure to act. She stated there are practical steps that member states should take now to end Israel’s impunity including “halting arms transfers, expanding targeted sanctions and moving to suspend trade co-operation.”

As a pacifist, I prefer this option to pressure Israel.

## WISCONSIN PEACE ACTION ENDORSES THE HAGUE GROUP RESOLUTIONS

Harry Targ

The Hague Group was formed by nine nations in January of 2025 to express concern about Israel’s genocidal policy in Gaza and the West Bank. They met in emergency session in July and adopted six resolutions partially listed below.

Twelve countries adopted the resolutions and 30 countries (including the Republic of Ireland), primarily but not exclusively from the Global South, attended and indicated they would bring the resolutions back to their countries<sup>1</sup>. The resolutions in part declared the commitments of signatories to:

“1. Prevent the provision or transfer of arms, munitions, military fuel, related military equipment, and dual-use items to Israel, as appropriate, to ensure that our industry does not contribute the tools to enable or facilitate genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other violations of international law.

“2. Prevent the transit, docking, and servicing of vessels at any port, if applicable, within our territorial jurisdiction, while being fully compliant with applicable international law...

“3. Prevent the carriage of arms, munitions, military fuel, related military equipment, and dual-use items to Israel on vessels bearing our flag, while being fully compliant with applicable international law...

“4. Commence an urgent review of all public contracts, in order to prevent public institutions and public funds, where applicable, from supporting Israel’s illegal occupation of the Palestinian Territory which may entrench its unlawful presence in the territory, to ensure that our nationals, and companies and entities under our jurisdiction, as well as our authorities, do not act in any way that would entail recognition or provide aid or assistance in maintaining the situation created by Israel’s illegal presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

“5. Comply with our obligations to ensure accountability for the most serious crimes under international law through robust, impartial and independent investigations and prosecutions at national or international levels...

“6. Support universal jurisdiction mandates, as and where applicable in our legal constitutional frameworks and judiciaries, to ensure justice for all victims and the prevention of future crimes in the Occupied Palestine Territory.”

1 <https://consortiumnews.com/2025/07/18/hague-group-confronts-israel-over-gaza/>

## 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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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

Please call Senators Baldwin and Johnson and express your disgust at their unwillingness to block weapons that Israel is using in a genocide. Neither voted for the Joint Resolution of Disapproval on April 3 that would have blocked the sale of such weapons. 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!**  
**NO ARMS FOR ISRAEL!**

# STAND FOR PEACE

September 6 - Sherman/North  
 September 13 - KK/Lincoln  
 September 20 - Humboldt/Locust  
 September 27 - 92nd/Burleigh

October 4 - King/North  
 October 11 - 27th/National  
 October 18 - Water/St. Paul  
 October 25 - Brady/Farwell

## PEACE CALENDAR SEPT-AUG. 2025

PLEASE CHECK OUR ONLINE CALENDAR FOR DATES & TIMES OF ACTIONS FOR A CEASEFIRE IN GAZA AND FOR PALESTINE.

**Hope Rises from the Ashes - David Rovics in Concert with Kamala Emanuel. Saturday, September 6, 2:00 PM**  
 Washington Park Bandshell, 4599 W Lloyd Street in Milwaukee Sign up: \$25.00 at <https://bit.ly/HopeRises2025>

**From the Rubble, We Dance - Palestinian Dabke Performance. Sunday, September 7, 6:00 PM**  
 Oak Creek Performing Arts & Education Center, 350 E Puetz Rd, Oak Creek, WI Sign up: QR code on Peace Action of WI website All proceeds go to MECA (Middle East Children's Alliance) in support of Gaza

**2nd Annual Pickleball for Palestine Tournament, Saturday, September 13, 12:30 PM**  
 Krueger Park, Brookfield. Sign up: [pickleballforpalestine.com](http://pickleballforpalestine.com) All proceeds go to the Palestine Children's Relief Fund

**UN International Day of Peace Sunday, September 21, Save the Date. Location TBD**

**Zao Fest Community Event. Saturday, October 4th, 12:00 - 5:00 PM.**  
 Zao Church, Milwaukee

**Indigenous Peoples Day, Monday, October 13**

**ONGOING ACTIONS**  
**Driftless Palestinian Solidarity Vigil — Viroqua Saturdays, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM,** W Decker St & N Main St, Viroqua, WI Weekly vigil calling for a ceasefire in Palestine. Bring signs,

friends, and your voice.

**Racine Coalition for Peace and Justice — Stand for Peace / Palestine Vigil, Saturdays, 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM.** 1st Sat: Martin Luther King Plaza, 909 Dr. MLK Dr, Racine. Other Saturdays: NW corner Hwy 20 & Hwy 31 — park near AT&T in Kohl's lot, 5502 Washington Ave, Racine. Bring your signs.

**Fox Valley Peace Coalition Vigil — Appleton, First Saturday, 11:00 AM,** College Ave & Appleton St, Appleton, WI

**Monthly vigil in downtown Appleton.** Info: [ronnajeane61@gmail.com](mailto:ronnajeane61@gmail.com)

**WISDOM for Justice — End Solitary Confinement Vigil 23rd of each month, 11:00 AM – 11:30 AM,** MSDF, 1015 N 10th St, Milwaukee. Monthly action to end solitary confinement.

**Food Not Bombs Milwaukee — Mutual Aid Picnic & Free Store. Third Saturday, 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM,** Jackson Park Picnic Area #1, Milwaukee Free food, groceries, clothing, and more. Donations and volunteers are welcome.

**The Grass Is Greener — Riverwest Radio 104.1FM Tuesdays, 8:00 PM,** also streaming at [riverwestradio.com](http://riverwestradio.com). Weekly discussion and music on social justice, community, and culture.

## CONGRESS IS "OUT OF STEP" ON GAZA

Christy Breihan

On July 30, two votes were taken in the US Senate on Joint Resolutions of Disapproval (JRDs) that aimed to stop major US weapons transfers to Israel where they are being used in the genocidal war on the people of Gaza. Although the effort did not prevail—SJ Res. 34 garnered 24 votes and SJ Res. 41 got 27—it was the largest Senate vote ever to support curtailing arms to Israel.

Introduced by Vermont Independent Senator Bernie Sanders, the resolutions were supported by over half of the Democratic caucus and the two independents who caucus with them. A previous effort in November 2024 had gotten only 19 votes.

The resolutions targeted the sale and export of 1,000 lb. bombs and Joint Direct Attack Munition guidance kits (SJ Res. 34) and assault rifles (SJ Res. 41). Peace Action President Kevin Martin observed that the relevance lay not in the specific weapons they

aimed to curtail, but rather was “more a gut check on how much genocide and starvation a senator can stomach supporting.”

The Republicans and 17 Democrats who voted “no” chose the “deep Super PAC pockets of AIPAC over the will of their constituents,” said Peace Action Executive Director Jon Rainwater. Public opinion polls show how “out of step” these senators are with their constituents. A Gallup poll in late July showed that only 8% of people identifying as Democrats support Israel’s war on Gaza. We who seek justice for Palestine must keep reminding all of Congress that the voters demand peace and an end to US taxpayer funding of the atrocities being committed by Israel against the people of Gaza and the West Bank.

“It is power from below—organizing, mobilization, and moral witness—that will end US complicity,” says Rainwater. We encourage everyone to let their representatives know that justice and peace will not be won with more bombs, but with an end to all weapons transfers to Israel. We demand immediate unimpeded humanitarian access and aid to citizens in Gaza, and a US policy that supports peace, freedom, and self-determination for all Palestinian people.



Jim Carpenter and Joe Shaker along with others from Peace Action of WI and allied organizations protest the Gaza genocide on July 25.

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The Mobilizer Newsletter of  
**Peace Action**  
 of Wisconsin

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

PEACE ACTION OF WISCONSIN  
 P.O. Box 11126 • Shorewood, WI, 53211  
 Phone: 414-269-9525

Email: [info@peaceactionwi.org](mailto:info@peaceactionwi.org)  
 Website: [peaceactionwi.org](http://peaceactionwi.org)  
 Facebook: [facebook.com/peaceactionwi](https://facebook.com/peaceactionwi)

# ACTIVISTS

## REFLECTIONS ON HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI

Harry Targ



Source: Sabine Wolter. Peace Action of Wisconsin members again created “Lanterns for Peace” at ZAO Church, but the Milwaukee flood prevented our venturing outside with them.

At our August 9 “Lanterns for Peace” event, Peace Action of Wisconsin again commemorated the horrific bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. What do we now know about the decisions made to carry out those bombings? Do later declarations of American “exceptionalism” reflect anything about the decision-making process at that time?

First, a small number of politicians, elected and appointed, made decisions of monumental importance to the victims of the bombing and the subsequent danger of nuclear war.

Second, the decisions were made in the face of overwhelming evidence that the use of these horrific bombs was not needed to end the war in Asia.

Third, Truman and his aides made their decisions in contradiction to warnings of the dangers of atomic war for civilization. Opposition came from significant sectors of the scientific community, including some scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project, which developed the bomb.

Fourth, the decision to use atomic weapons was profoundly political. Demonstrating that the United

States had this powerful new weapon sent a message to the Soviet Union. In addition, key decisionmakers including General Leslie Groves, Director of the Manhattan Project; James Forrestal who would become the first Secretary of Defense; and James Byrnes, Secretary of State, were virulently anti-communist. Also, the decision to drop the bomb, whether a motivation or not, communicated to the American people that President Truman, not seen as particularly qualified for the job, was tough and potentially a great leader. He, like some historians and former advisors, continued to defend the decision for years to follow.

Finally, a better future and the survival of humanity require a realization, as Paul Robeson once suggested, that what is precious about all people is not their differences but their commonalities. Exceptionalist thinking separates people and facilitates decisions like the dropping of the bombs over Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Sharing what we have in common as human beings, both our troubles and our talents, is the only basis for creating a peaceful and just world.

# IN ACTION



Source: Ann Batiza. At the 2025 Lanterns for Peace program at Zao MKE Church in Milwaukee, we honor the memory of Hiroshima and Nagasaki victims and reaffirm our call for a world free of nuclear weapons.



Peace Action Wisconsin joined the Milwaukee Anti-war Committee in protesting the Milwaukee Air and Water Show. War is not family friendly!



In a show of solidarity with the 2025 Gaza Freedom Flotilla attempting to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza, a group of Milwaukee activists took a flotilla of kayaks and powerboats up the Milwaukee River.

**Thank you to all of our amazing volunteers who made Lanterns for Peace possible! Your hard work and heart helped us honor Hiroshima and Nagasaki with beauty, dignity, and a powerful call for a world free of nuclear weapons.**

Thank you to Stand for Peace participants, who have braved all sorts of weather to take a stand for peace at the weekly Stands: Barbara Aho, Ann Batiza, Stephen Beall, Christy Breihan, Eldeen Carpenter, Jim Carpenter, Mary Devitt, Sandra Edlund, Babette Grunow, Art Heitzer, Jerry Hills, Chris Jazewski, Lauro Kukor-Shea, Rita Maniotism, Chris Broms, Tom Niebler, Pam Richard, Tom Rodman, Dr. Joe Shaker, Steve Shea, Deb Slakes, Roberta Thurstin, Don Timmerman, Kelly Kracht, Kamie Kracht, and Mary Jo Travis.

We encourage all Peace Action WI members to join us there as often as you can. Signs and flags are provided. 5