

Peace Action Wisconsin
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Join Us!

Our Annual Meeting Tuesday, November 18

5:30 pm at ZAO Church Living Room
Chili Dinner Provided – Bring a dessert or drink!
\$5-\$10 Donation Optional

Guest Speaker – Professor Jodi Melamed, Marquette University
Music by Julie Thompson
Report from Community Meeting Action Group Leaders
Steering Committee Election



The Mobilizer Newsletter of

Peace Action of Wisconsin



November - October 2025
Vol. 48 #6

THE PEOPLE OPPOSE GENOCIDE

Christy Breihan

It is too early to know the outcome of the recently announced ceasefire in Gaza, but people with loved ones there are relieved that Gazans are getting some degree of respite from the genocidal war Israel is waging against them. The ceasefire is NOT a peace agreement, let alone a roadmap for justice. Many more struggles lie ahead before Palestine can be free, but for now, there is hope that the ceasefire, despite reported violations and killings by the IDF and some factional fighting among the Gazans, may offer Palestinians some room to breathe.

While Trump gloats about brokering a ceasefire (in a siege he could have stopped long ago by withdrawing US support), activists worldwide attribute the willingness of the US and Israel to negotiate to the multitude of campaigns that pressured them to stop the slaughter and deliver humanitarian aid.

The UN General Assembly meeting convened in NYC in September 2025 (UNGA80) was dominated by discussions on the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, with world leaders calling out Israel to such an extent that Prime Minister Netanyahu took the podium to rebut them. His appearance was met with a massive walkout by the delegations from 77 countries, by Israel's count.

Colombian President Gustavo Petro joined protesters outside the UN during Netanyahu's speech. When the US government retaliated by revoking his travel visa, which "breaks all the immunity rules on which" the United Nations and the General Assembly "are based," said Petro, he observed correctly that the US and Israel could not stand alone against the world indefinitely. (The Hill, 9/27/25)

While these actions of world leaders and UN delegates show the growing pressure on Israel to curb its genocidal policies, perhaps the more important story is that of the pressure these leaders felt from back home, from the grassroots organizers who mounted a campaign for Gaza that their leaders could not ignore. In almost every nation that has joined South Africa in the ICJ case charging Israel with genocide, large public demonstrations have

helped motivate the elected officials to act.

The Global Sumud Flotilla, comprising about 50 small vessels from 45 countries (but not representing their governments) attempted to bring humanitarian aid to Gaza and serve notice to Israel that the world would not remain an indifferent observer to their genocide. The 500 people on board included doctors, artists, humanitarians, organizers, clergy, lawyers, and seafarers, everyday individuals committed to working for justice through nonviolent action. When the Israeli navy blocked the flotilla around October 1, massive demonstrations broke out around the world to support the flotilla.

In Italy, over 2 million people joined two general strikes called by the labor unions to support the flotilla and to protest the Italian government's continued complicity with Israel. The strikes disrupted key sectors of the economy as Italian workers showed their solidarity with the people of Gaza.

Many other countries, including Mexico, Egypt, Nicaragua, Chile, Colombia, Ireland, and South Africa, witnessed large protests by their people, to support the flotilla and to pressure their governments to take action against the genocide. Italy, Spain, and Turkey responded to their mass demonstrations by sending ships to accompany and protect the flotilla, with Turkey adding air surveillance.

The interception by the Israeli navy and arrest of the flotilla participants has led to more eye-witness testimonials on the brutality of this military, and to even further ostracization of the Israeli regime on the stage of public opinion.

Just how far this goodwill toward the people of Palestine and disapproval of the Israeli regime will go toward establishing peace and eventually, a just society, will depend on the determination of activists to keep up their pressure. Sumud in Arabic means steadfast resilience. The Palestinians have maintained theirs in the face of unimaginable violence and deprivation. If they can persevere, so can we. We must.

TRUMP MAKES “WAR” ON EVERYONE

Harry Targ and Babette Grunow

A recent *Washington Post* editorial correctly asserted that the old name, The Department of War, more accurately describes this US government agency than its name since 1947, the cold war euphemism, the Department of Defense. The editorial points out that our use of words becomes embedded in our collective consciousness such that we begin to incorporate ideology in our thinking.¹

However, President Trump’s dictum to rename the Department of Defense as the Department of War has a deeper meaning as well. During the same week, he ordered an attack on a Venezuelan “ship,” killing those on board, claiming with no evidence that the vessel was shipping drugs to the United States. In addition, the US has amassed 10 military vessels off the coast of Venezuela and planes in Puerto Rico. While Venezuela has put their military on alert, they have called for dialogue.

The United States has also been arming and funding “war” in the Middle East. And we know that in the name of “defense” the United States has about 900 bases around the world and has authorized almost a trillion dollars for more “defense,” or more accurately “war,” in the future.

The peace movement must also address war-making at home. Agents of the US government such as ICE and the National Guard have joined the FBI in making war on the American people. Soldiers and ICE agents have occupied and attacked communities within the United States such as Los Angeles, Portland, and Chicago, with Trump threatening to send troops to Baltimore, New Orleans and elsewhere. Most of the war-makers are being sent to locations in which majorities of voters are Democrats, and the mayors are African American.

In short, the US government is making war on targets outside the United States and against people within the United States.

If ever in US history there has been a need for the forces of peace and justice to unite, it is now. The renaming of the Department of Defense, as the Post admits, is a frank admission of what the project and vision of the Trump administration is: to make war on people everywhere.

The peace and justice movement, which stands in opposition, should remember Che Guevara’s humanistic alternative perspective. In a goodbye letter to his children, he wrote, “Always be able to feel deeply any injustice committed against anyone anywhere in the world.”

1 Editorial Department, Washington Post, “In Defense of the War Department,” <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2025/09/05/war-department-defense-trump-rebrand/>

INTEGRITY MEDIA HONORS JULIAN ASSANGE

Ann Batiza



The Integrity Media Independent Journalism Awards honored Julian Assange for “Courage in Journalism” at the University Club in Chicago on September 18, 2025. Here Ray McGovern speaks to Assange’s brother, Gabriel Shipton, who accepted the award on Julian’s behalf. Other honorees included: Matt Taibbi, Bob Scheer, Jimmy Dore, Fallen Heroes around the World, and the Chicago Crusader’s Dorothy Leavell. The event was moderated by independent journalist Aaron Maté. Ann Batiza attended with the Assange Defense group.

THE GLOBAL SOUTH IS ORGANIZING: WILL INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS CHANGE?

Harry Targ

On July 6-7, the BRICS nations met in summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. BRICS is a Global South bloc launched in 2009 by Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, and now has many affiliating “partner” nations with 30 other nations requesting membership. BRICS has been meeting regularly to strengthen the political and economic voices of the traditionally powerless nations of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Host President Lula spoke of the meeting’s purpose: “If international governance does not reflect the new multipolar reality of the 21st century, it is up to BRICS to help bring it up to date.”

According to Duncan McFarland, the BRICS countries, members, and associates surpass the GDP of the G7 countries, the historic former colonial powers.¹ Also, BRICS members and associates are much larger in population than the G7.

BRICS countries advocate for economic development and a new international order based on multilateralism and multipolarity. Concretely, they oppose tariff barriers, the currency and loan system created at Breton Woods in the 1940s, and Israel’s genocidal policies in Gaza.

Paralleling and expanding on the BRICS “movement,” the Shanghai Cooperation Organization met in Tianjin, China on September 1. They issued the Tianjin Declaration, which calls for “peaceful and equitable governance and increased South-South cooperation.” Formed in 1996 by China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, it became the SCO in 2001. SCO now has ten members including India, Pakistan, Iran and Belarus (with 26 countries and representatives of ten global organizations participating in the recent meeting).

SCO heard comments from Chinese President Xi. He proposed a Global Governance Initiative (GGI) emphasizing sovereign equality, a commitment to international law, multilateralism, a “people-centered” approach to global policy, and concrete actions to achieve these goals. He committed funds to a soon-to-be created SCO Development Bank. In addition, the Tianjin Declaration pledged to combat drug trafficking and terrorism, and to cooperate on the use of artificial intelligence and protection of the environment.²

It may be that the world as it has been organized by the United States and European powers for hundreds of years is changing. If so, the peace movement might need to assess what that might mean for its political work.

1 <https://www.peoplesworld.org/article/heir-to-the-non-aligned-movement-brics-presents-alternative-to-u-s-hegemony/>
2 <https://peoplesdispatch.org/2025/09/02/xi-jinping-proposes-a-new-global-governance-framework-based-on-sovereignty-and-multilateralism-at-sco-summit/>

JOIN US / RENEW PEACE ACTION WISCONSIN

____ New Member ____ Renewal

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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____ \$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

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

Saturdays, Noon until 1 p.m.

November 1: Layton/Howell:
Plan for coffee afterward at Al Wadi
<https://alwadicoffeemke.com/>
November 8: 16th/Wisconsin
November 15: 43rd/Cleveland
November 22: Sherman/North
November 29: Port Washington/Silver Spring

December 6: Locust/Humboldt: International Gift Shop at Friends Meeting House
December 13: 76th/Layton
December 20: St. Paul/Water
December 27: Locust/King



PEACE CALENDAR NOV. - DEC. 2025

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

Saturday, November 8, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM Another World is Possible - Summit for Collective Liberation
South Division High School, 1515 W Lapham Blvd, Milwaukee

Tuesday, November 11, 6:30 PM Veterans for Peace Armistice Day Program
Central United Methodist Church, 25th & Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee

Wednesday, November 12, 6:00 PM Building Unity Gathering
Wisconsin Voices Offices, 4201 N 27th St, 7th Floor, Milwaukee

Thursday, November 13, 3:30 – 5:30 PM Lights Up Vigil for Palestine
Willy St & S Blair St, Madison

Thursday, November 13, 5:30 – 7:30 PM Latin Jazz Benefit Concert for MECA
Cardinal Bar, 418 E Wilson St, Madison

Tuesday, November 18, 5:30 PM Peace Action Wisconsin Annual Meeting
Zao MKE Church, 2319 E Kenwood Blvd, Milwaukee

Saturday, November 29, 4:00 – 6:00 PM JVP Mourn & Resist Gathering
Corner lot at Holton & North, Milwaukee

Sunday, December 7, Save the Date International Human Rights Day Program
Zao MKE Church, 2319 E Kenwood Blvd, Milwaukee

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

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
Weekly discussion and music on social justice, community, and culture.

RECALLING NATO

Harry Targ

NATO's Founding

NATO was established in 1949 as the military arm of the West to “fight Communism” in Europe. Originally NATO had 12 countries. It grew to 16 countries when the Soviet Union collapsed. Since then, despite US promises to the contrary, NATO has grown to 32 countries today.

During the Cold War NATO continued as the only unified Western military command structure against the “Soviet threat.” The alliance constituted a “trip wire” signifying to the Soviets that any attack on Western Europe would set off World War III. NATO thus provided the deterrent threat of “massive retaliation” in the face of a first-strike attack.

With the collapse of the former Warsaw Pact regimes between 1989 and 1991, the tearing down of the symbolic Berlin Wall in 1989, and finally the collapse of the Soviet Union itself in 1991, the purpose for maintaining a NATO alliance presumably had passed. However, this was not to be.

After the Collapse of the Soviet Threat

In the next twenty years after the Soviet collapse, membership in the alliance doubled. New members included most of the former Warsaw Pact countries. The functions and activities of NATO were redefined.

NATO programs included air surveillance during the crises accompanying the Gulf War and the

disintegration of the former Yugoslavia. In 1995, NATO sent 60,000 troops to Bosnia and in 1999 it carried out brutal bombing campaigns in Serbia with 38,000 sorties. NATO forces became part of the US led military coalition that launched the war on Afghanistan in 2001. In 2011 a massive NATO air war on Libya played a critical role in the overthrow of the Gaddafi regime. And in the years leading up to the war in Ukraine, its leaders requested admission to the burgeoning military alliance.

NATO's role has changed since its inception. First, NATO's mission to defend Europe from aggression by “International Communism” was completed with the “fall of Communism.” Second, the alliance was regional, pertaining to Europe and North America, and now it is global. Third, NATO was about security and defense. Now it is about global transformation. Fourth, as its biggest supporter in terms of troops, supplies and budget (22-25%), NATO is an instrument of United States foreign policy. Fifth, as a creation of Europe and North America, it has become an enforcer of the interests of member countries against what Vijay Prashad calls, the “darker nations” of Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. Sixth, Trump's call for greater spending on arms ensures continued profitability for their manufacturers while other industries have diminishing returns.

Neither peace nor justice will be won through the actions of NATO.

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The Mobilizer Newsletter of
Peace Action
of Wisconsin

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GWEN MOORE JOINS PA AT NO KINGS RALLY

Christy Breihan

As twelve thousand people from the Milwaukee area rallied at Cathedral Square on No Kings Day, Peace Action of Wisconsin staffed a table with our literature and a petition to Congresswoman Gwen Moore urging her to support the “Ban the Bombs to Israel” act. Many people signed the petition and took information about AB446, a proposed Wisconsin law to repress criticism of Israel, which will be taken up in the Assembly this week. Rep. Moore made a point to stop at our table and agreed with our opposition to AB446. However, the Ban the Bombs Act still does not have her support, despite the efforts of PA members at the table to persuade her. However, a staff person took our literature for her consideration.



Caption: Sabine Wolter, Judy Haskell (with PEACE sign) and Eldeen Carpenter staff Peace Action's station at the No Kings Rally on October 19. Not shown are Christy Breihan, Jim Carpenter, Ann Batiza, Julie Enslow, Babette Grunow and other members of PA.

ACTIVISTS

OUR COMMUNITY MEETING SPURS ACTION

Ann Batiza

Peace Action of Wisconsin held a Community Meeting to develop strategies to oppose the genocide in Gaza in collaboration with efforts already underway in the Milwaukee area. After an overview of strategies and actions to be considered, breakout groups coalesced around seven specific actions.

Rita Maniotis's group presented a letter to the Mexican Consulate in Milwaukee to urge support for a "Uniting for Peace" resolution in the UN General Assembly (See image.) Such a resolution could require the UN to force Israel's compliance with international law. These actions can escalate from sanctions to boots on the ground to defend genocide victims and prevent further harm.

Janan Najeeb's group supported the Wisconsin Coalition for Justice in Palestine's billboard project. The first message posted was "Let Gaza Live. Stand with Palestine" (See image.) The second message, currently running, is "We Will Never Forget. Free Palestine."

In the October 17 article, "Milwaukee's Jewish and Palestinian Leaders Express Relief, Uncertainty in Response to the Gaza Ceasefire," the Journal Sentinel quoted Najeeb. The article said, "The Wisconsin Coalition recently put up billboards around Milwaukee urging people to stand with Gaza. It's part of an effort to publicize pro-Palestinian advocates' perspective. As the war ground on, Najeeb said she saw that perspective take hold among hundreds of Jewish community members who are 'completely, completely supportive of Palestinian human rights.'"¹

¹ <https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/local/milwaukee/2025/10/17/milwaukeees-jewish-palestinian-leaders-react-to-gaza-ceasefire/86696173007/>

Najeeb said, "We would appreciate everyone donating something towards this high-profile campaign." So far, over 50% of the cost has been covered through donations.

Amy Donahue chaired the third group that is carrying out boycotts of industries that support Israel's genocide. She said, "The Boycott Group met (at Kuumba) and is focusing on the international Boycott Teva campaign and political education around boycotting in support of Palestine. ... We have printed Boycott Teva brochures and had our first distribution points through Peace Action and USPCN at the No Kings rally." Her group is spreading the word to sister organizations.

A fourth group headed by Jim Carpenter with the support of Rep. Ryan Clancy is gathering signatures for the US House "Block the Bombs" resolution. They and a fifth group headed by Nolan organized Peace Action of WI's carpool to Madison to provide testimony to oppose AB 446, a bill which will criminalize criticism of Israel.

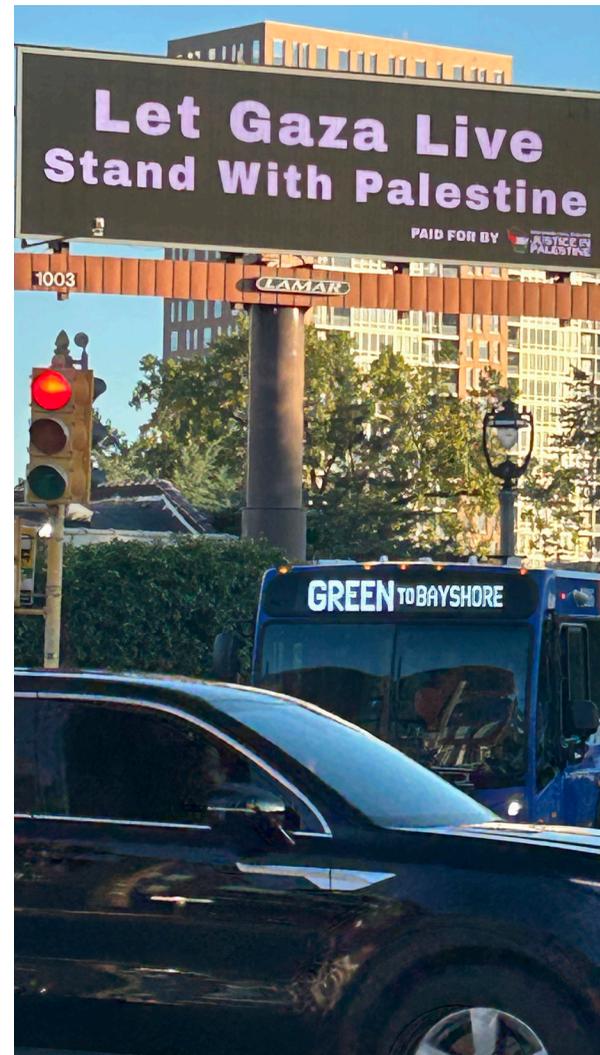
A sixth group is supporting the current boycotts of weapons manufacturing. The same October 17 JS article referenced above quoted Heba Mohamed, leader of Milwaukee4Palestine regarding her group's boycotts of "Derco Aerospace, a subsidiary of Lockheed Martin based in Milwaukee" which "sends spare parts to Israeli fighter jets." (See image of her vigil at Derco.)

We hope that all the group leaders will report back at our Annual Meeting on November 18, when we can thank them for their work.



On Oct 7, Milwaukee4Palestine held a rally and vigil at Derco Aerospace (a Lockheed Martin subsidiary) marking two years of genocide and Palestinian resistance. Derco holds the sole contract to repair F-100 engines that power F-15s and F-16s used in Israel's bombing of Gaza. Community members honored the martyrs by placing gravemarkers outside Derco, each bearing a name and the words "Killed by Derco," underscoring the campaign's demand: end complicity in war crimes. The action also launched DisarmDerco.com Visit the site for updates and to complete the interest form to support Milwaukee4Palestine's Disarm Derco campaign.

IN ACTION



Source Ann Batiza. Billboard sighted at Oakland and North from WI Coalition for Justice in Palestine: Let Gaza Live. Stand with Palestine.



Source Jim Carpenter. The WI Muslim Civic Foundation Gala honored Rashida Tlaib. Seated: Becky, State Rep Ryan Clancy, Azmi and Reem Alaeddin (sponsors of table). Standing: Pam Richard and Mary Laan.



Source Jim Carpenter. At the Mexican Consulate, Rita Maniotis's group urged the UN General Assembly to pressure Israel to stop the genocide. Jim Carpenter, Guadalupe, Liat, Jason, Julie Enslow, Rita Maniotis, Steve Watrous, and Rep. Ryan Clancy.

Thank You, Volunteers Thanks to Laura Kukor-Shea, Steve Shea, and Jim Carpenter for organizing the Stand for Peace and to everyone who shows up on Saturdays to keep our presence strong. Thank you also to Pam Richard and all who have tabled at events to hand out literature, gather petition signatures, and have the conversations that carry our message of peace in the community.

To everyone who came to a rally, attended a community event, or contacted your representatives, thank you. Your continued presence turns values into action and keeps peace visible in Milwaukee. We are grateful for your time, courage, and commitment. Together we can build a stronger, louder movement for peace.