



DATED MATERIAL



A BAD TURN AT THE POLLS IN HONDURAS

Gary Grass

I went to Honduras to monitor their November 30 elections as part of a delegation sponsored by the Honduras Solidarity Network, Global Exchange, and the Center for the Study of Democracy, CESPAD.

History and geography time: Honduras is a country of about 10 million people in Central America. In the 1980s, with no insurgency or revolution of its own, it was a base for US wars in the region. Its reward was to be poorer and less equal than its neighbors, but still violent. It civilianized its government and had regular elections until 2009 when the US backed a coup against a president who sought some modest reforms. What followed was a narcodictatorship until 2021, when the social democratic Party for Liberation and Refoundation, LIBRE, won the presidency and tried to slowly unwind the reactionary shifts of the prior

12 years. President Xiomara Castro is limited to one term, which is about to end.

I don't know who won this time. The official results so far have a close race between the candidate of the conservative National Party, Nasry Tito "Papi" Asfura, and the conservative Liberal Party's Salvador Nasralla. Yes, I said conservative twice. Rixi Moncada, running with LIBRE, is a distant third in the official results.

Was there fraud? Certainly, though

what I personally witnessed was just a lot of technical errors. Nasralla is shouting fraud -- credibly -- based on unlikely numbers coming through the country's early reporting system, which was plagued with technical problems. Moncada is shouting fraud because of systematic failures of security measures like the biometric scans intended to ensure the correct person was casting the ballot and not someone with a fake identification card. That's very believable. I don't know how broad the opposition to LIBRE runs but it was deep. Many of the voters wanted them out by any means necessary: legal, fraudulent, with Asfura, or with Nasralla. Honduras is still a very conservative country.

So I don't think LIBRE won -- I heard complaints about them not living up to their promises -- though in a close three-way race it's still possible. I suspect Nasralla won but the race was so close that even a small amount of fraud for Asfura would change that.

One thing that seems obvious was the effectiveness of the US campaign to influence the election. Trump went all-in for Papi and the National Party, threatening to withhold all support and make Honduras his personal enemy if his choice lost. When told the last leader from that party was a narco-dictator who was extradited and



Source: Gary Grass. On November 30, a woman displays a ballot marked for Nasry Asfura in the Honduran election.

January 19, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.
St. Francis of Assisi Church
1927 N. Vel Philips Ave. (4th and Brown St.)

1pm - Program- "The Three Great Evils - Militarism, Racism and Poverty"

Guest performers include Jazz Saxophonist Juli Wood, singer Robin Pleur, Singer Dorothy James, pianist David Nunley, actor Andre Lee Ellis. *Peace Action Wisconsin is one of the local organizations to be honored.*

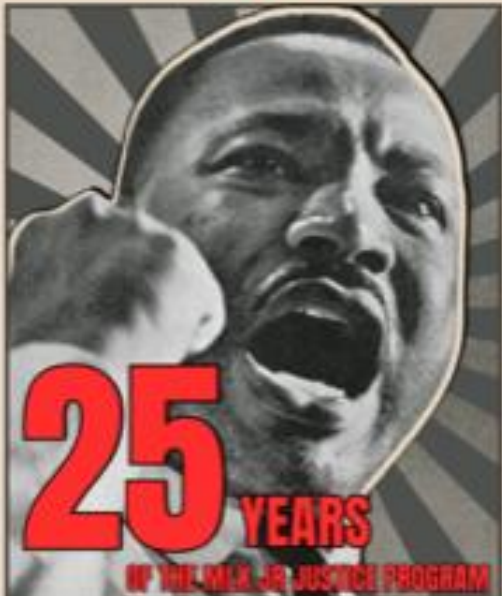
2:30 - March to Dr. King's Statue

(3 blocks). Open mic to reflect on Dr. King's message. In case of bitter cold, there will be a car caravan to the statue.

Sponsored by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Justice Coalition.

Includes over 35 local organizations committed to work in the nonviolent tradition of Dr. King.

DR. MLK JR DAY



was serving 45 years in a federal prison, Trump said, good point, I'll pardon him, I hear he's been treated very badly. Hondurans told me how they resented the interference, but Asfura was third in most polls and suddenly was winning. He did very well at the table I observed. Honduras relies on remittances from its citizens in the US, and Trump's big stick has been wielded weekly in the Caribbean.

What this means for Honduras is that they will almost certainly have a reactionary government that will roll back the rights of workers and women, LGBT, indigenous and black Hondurans, and allow death squads to roll into the Aguan valley to protect the

dam project there. Additionally, they have an electoral crisis right now that could end in some form of coup or military intervention.

Moreover, an Asfura government (or Nasrallah government, military, or Liberal-National compromise regime) would support the Trump administration and Israel and oppose governments in Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua while favoring the likes of El Salvador's Najib Bukele.

It's a victory for Trumpian foreign policy of ruthless, lawless imposition by threat, force, and fraud. It won't stop at Honduras and it won't stop at Latin America, unless someone stops it.

THE ISRAEL/PALESTINIAN "PEACE PLAN" PROCEEDS AS KILLING AND STARVATION OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE CONTINUE

Harry Targ

In late September, President Trump proposed a 20-point peace plan for Israel and Gaza. The plan included an immediate cessation of hostilities, exchange of prisoners and bodies of victims, a withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza, resumption of material humanitarian aid for the starving Gaza population and the establishment of an Israel/Palestinian "Peace Plan." Accordingly, the Plan calls for the establishment of a technocratic committee to oversee interim governance of Gaza. The committee would consist of international experts, including Palestinians. Another committee would oversee the transitional body, chaired by Donald Trump, and would presumably work on future phases of the promotion of peace in the region. A ceasefire agreement was signed on October 9 by Israel and Hamas. Israeli forces pulled back to agreed lines on October 10 and exchange of prisoners and bodies began.

A so-called "Phase Two" of the peace process is to include an end to military operations by Israel and Hamas (including its disarmament which it has opposed) and the establishment of the post-war "Board of Peace." Future work is to include establishing a permanent governance structure of Gaza (and presumably the West Bank).

The "Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict" was endorsed by the United Nations Security Council on November 17, 2025, with 13 yes votes and two abstentions (China and Russia).

While many were skeptical of the Trump-brokered "peace plan," hope was that the killing of Gazans would stop. However, Volker Turk, UN Human Rights chief,

indicated that his office documented 350 attacks on 2 Gazans since the Peace Agreement went into effect. In

addition, UNRWA reported on data gathered from Gazan health authorities that "360 Palestinians have been killed and 922 injured since the fragile ceasefire agreement came into effect..." (UN News, December 10, 2025.)

In addition, in Gaza, "everyone is traumatized and especially children." (A UNICEF spokesperson reported 165 childhood deaths from malnutrition since the war on Gaza started.) Gazans are subjected to electronic surveillance and possible drone attacks. And as this story is being written, Gazans are experiencing enormous flooding amidst the rubble of their bombed-out shelters.

In reality, a "peace agreement" prepared by the United States and selected allies in the Middle East gives little or no voice to Palestinians. Worse, it has not stopped the killing of Gazans, nor allowed the facilitation of critical humanitarian assistance to the Gaza strip.

Amnesty International also has presented data on Palestinians repressed and killed in the West Bank over the last two years. Amnesty reports that Israeli attacks have killed at least 995 Palestinians (including 219 children), displaced tens of thousands, and destroyed infrastructure and agriculture.

Amnesty concludes that: "The Trump peace plan is the latest in a series of fatally flawed initiatives, which seek to propose 'solutions' that sideline international law, implicitly rewarding Israel for unlawful occupation, illegal settlements, and its system of apartheid, which are the root causes of the continuous atrocities Israel inflicts upon Palestinians." ("Sustainable Peace Requires International Justice for all Victims of All Crimes in Israel and the OPT," *Amnesty International*, December 11, 2025, amnesty.org)

REMEMBERING JUSTIN FIRST

Julie Enslow

This past year Peace Action of Wisconsin was fortunate to receive an especially generous donation from the estate of Justin First who passed away recently. Justin grew up in Milwaukee in a family dedicated to peace and nonviolence that was closely associated with Mobilization for Survival - now Peace Action of Wisconsin. He was a conscientious objector to war as a young man and refused to register for the draft. Justin remained committed to working for a world without war throughout his life. It is fitting that his memory be kept and honored through supporting the work of Peace Action of Wisconsin.

We are grateful for this kind of financial contribution to our work and encourage others to remember us in their estate plans or as memorial contributions at the time of death. These gifts help to sustain our work for peace for future years.

VIOLENCE AGAINST JEWS AND PALESTINIANS MUST BE CONDEMNED

Harry Targ

The *Guardian* (December 14, 2025) and many other news outlets reported that 15 Jewish citizens of Australia were shot and killed at a Chanukah celebration at Bondi Beach, Australia. The *Guardian* also reported that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claimed that this horrific attack on Jewish people was the result of the Australian government's recognition of a Palestine state; that such recognition "pours fuel on the antisemitic fire."

Peace Action of Wisconsin opposes violence against all people: Jewish people and Palestinians. And contrary to Netanyahu, we believe that the existence of antisemitism justifies neither the genocidal war in Gaza, nor the violent expropriation of land in the West Bank by the Israeli government, nor the denial of the rights of the Palestinian people.

JOIN US / RENEW

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Name _____

Address _____

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.

January 3 - 27th/Oklahoma
 January 10 - 92nd/North
 January 17 - King/North
 January 24 - 27th/National
 January 31 - St. Paul/Water

February 7 - Farwell/Brady
 February 14 - KK/Lincoln
 February 21 - Sherman/North
 February 28 - 95th/Burleigh

PUBLISHED BY
 PEACE ACTION OF WISCONSIN, INC.

The Mobilizer Newsletter of
Peace Action
 of Wisconsin

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PEACE CALENDAR NOV. - DEC. 2025

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

January 8, Thursday | 6:30 PM (6:00 for visiting beforehand) | WILPF Freedom Book Circle Conversation | Virtual from Madison. This month's book is The Message by Ta-Nehisi Coates. Contact Women's International League for Peace and Freedom at wilpfmadison@gmail.com or 608.609.7961. See upcoming books at wilpfmadison.com.

January 8, Thursday | 6:00 – 8:00 PM | Uniting to Build Communities with WISDOM | Wisconsin Black Historical Society at 2620 W. Center Street. Conversation will focus on strategies to reduce violence and unnecessary incarceration as well as the need for strategic investments to strengthen communities.

January 20, Tuesday | 6:00 – 8:00 PM | Milwaukee Premiere with Abby Martin Q&A - The World's Greatest Enemy | Avalon Theatre at 2477 S. Kinnickinnic, Milwaukee. This film explores the environmental effects of militarism.

January 30, Friday | 10:00 am – 12:00 PM | Networking Brunch with Muslim Women's Coalition | 5325 S. 27th Street, Greenfield. \$15 and RSVP are required. Please contact staff@mmwconline.org or 414.727.4900.

ONGOING ACTIONS

Stand for Peace – Milwaukee. Saturday, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM. See this Mobilizer and peaceactionwi.org for locations. Weekly vigil over > twenty years calling for peace. Signs provided or bring your own.

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.

WILPF Freedom Book Circle Conversation – Virtual from Madison. First Thursday of each month. 6:30 pm (6:00 for visiting beforehand) From Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Contact wilpfmadison@gmail.com or 608.609.7961. See upcoming books at wilpfmadison.com.

Fox Valley Peace Coalition Vigil — Appleton. First Saturday, 11:00 AM, College Ave & Appleton St, Appleton, WI. Monthly vigil in downtown Appleton. Info: ronnajean61@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.

THE MEANINGS BEHIND THE WAR ON VENEZUELA

Harry Targ

At least 87 Venezuelans have been murdered by the US military in recent air strikes on boats in the Caribbean and the Pacific. More recently the US captured a Venezuelan tanker carrying oil to overseas customers. President Trump has threatened direct military attacks on Venezuela and added similar verbal threats against Colombia. No commentator outside the administration believes the lies that the boats had anything to do with drug trafficking. Many liken the claim to President George Walker Bush's claim that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction.

In the Newly Released National Security Strategy Document Trump Articulated The “Trump Corollary”

Trump wrote in an introduction to the document the following:

We want to ensure that the Western Hemisphere remains reasonably stable and well-governed enough to prevent and discourage mass migration to the United States; we want a Hemisphere whose governments cooperate with us against narco-terrorists, cartels, and other transnational criminal organizations; we want a Hemisphere that remains free of hostile foreign incursion or ownership of key assets, and that supports critical supply chains; and we want to ensure our continued access to key strategic locations. In other words, we will assert and enforce a “Trump Corollary” to the Monroe Doctrine.

In addition, as to the Western Hemisphere, the National Security Strategy document says:

- We must look to expand our network in the region.
- The National Security Council will immediately begin a robust interagency process to task agencies... to identify strategic points and resources.
- Non-Hemispheric competitors have made major inroads in our Hemisphere.
- Prior administrations have allowed the imposition of outside influence to happen: another great American strategic mistake of recent decades.
- To rollback outside influence in the Hemisphere as to “espionage, cybersecurity, debt-traps, and other ways” the U.S. should “leverage in finance and technology to induce countries to reject such

assistance.”

- In Latin America and around the world the US should make clear that American goods, services, and technologies are a far better buy in the long run...requiring closer collaboration between the U.S. Government and the American private sector.

In sum, the document referred to above illuminates and describes the visions and policies of the Trump Administration. It articulates an “American First” foreign policy of military projection and the reassertion of US hegemony in the Western Hemisphere. And it explains the deeper meaning of the attacks on the Venezuelan boats and Trump's threats of war on Venezuela.

The Bolivarian Revolution

The Bolivarian Revolution, initiated by former Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez in the 1990s and named after the nineteenth century Latin American revolutionary Simon Bolivar, stimulated political change throughout Latin America based on varying degrees of grassroots democratization, the construction of workers' cooperatives, and a shift from neoliberal economic policies to economic populism. And now the Trump administration is committed to:

- Destroying the Bolivarian Revolution
- Crushing movements of Latin American countries who seek solidarity with the countries of the Global South
- Opposing Latin American countries that seek to increase their commercial relations with China
- Reasserting the white supremacy and American Exceptionalism that characterized US policy in the Western Hemisphere articulated by Presidents James Monroe, Theodore Roosevelt, and Donald Trump.

Finally, the attack on boats in the Caribbean and Pacific and the phony claims about “drug cartels” is a part of this broader effort by the Trump Administration to crush Latin American independence (from Venezuela, to Cuba, to Colombia) and to reestablish US hegemony in the Western Hemisphere.



Source: Ann Batiza. On December 19, members of Peace Action and allied peace groups delivered our “Block the Bombs” Petition to Rep. Gwen Moore's chief of staff, Rob Hansen. Pam Richard, Julie Enslow and Jim Carpenter spoke.

ACTIVISTS

ANNUAL MEETING 2025

Stephen Beall

The annual meeting of Peace Action of Wisconsin took place at Zao Community Church on November 18, 2026. Approximately 50 people enjoyed a chili supper, musical entertainment, and a varied program, hosted by Chris Breihan.

This year's featured speaker was Dr. Jodi Melamed, who is an Associate Professor of English and REIS at Marquette University and the co-chair of the Milwaukee chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace. Dr. Melamed placed our work for justice in Palestine at the center of a global struggle against interlocking forces in government, industry, finance, and the academy. She emphasized the need to create alternative structures and centers of power based on grassroots organizing and mutual aid across borders. In this effort, Palestinians themselves are leading the way.

The meeting also featured brief reports from the various committees formed at PAWI's community action event in September. Janan Najeeb announced the success of a billboard campaign in support of Palestine. Stephanie Connors and Heba Mohammad spoke about protests against local weapons manufacturers; Rita Maniotis reported on outreach to the Mexican consulate to encourage peace initiatives in the UN. Amy Donohue and Karen Squire shared information on an ongoing

boycott of an Israeli pharmaceutical company, and Chris Jeske described a recent demonstration before the Milwaukee Press Club. Amelia Berendt, speaking for Rep. Ryan Clancy, gave an encouraging update on opposition to Wisconsin AB446, which would give to the IHRA definition of antisemitism the force of law. All speakers shared the view that, slowly but surely, we are changing public opinion and policy with respect to the Middle East.

Several members of this year's steering committee were returned to office for 2026: current co-chairs Jim Carpenter and Ann Batiza, treasurer Pam Richard, and secretary Chris Breihan; as well as current members Laura Kukor-Shea, Babette Grunow, James Oldenburg, Chris Broms, and Stephen Beall. New members elected to the steering committee were Dr. Joe Shaker and veteran Green Party activist Rita Maniotis.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Pam Richard presented the Peacemaker of the Year award to Ann Batiza, who has served as co-chair of the steering committee and is co-editor of the Mobilizer newsletter. Dr. Batiza expressed her delight in getting to know and work with so many committed activists, and noted the support provided by our new program and office consultant, Sabine Wolter.



Source: Ann Batiza. At our Annual Meeting on November 18, Janan Najeeb, Director of Wisconsin Coalition for Justice in Palestine reported on the Gaza billboards they deployed in Milwaukee.

IN ACTION



On December 2, Pam Richard joined Buddhist monks and indigenous people at a prayer vigil to abolish nuclear weapons in front of the Lawrence Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab in California.



Source: Ann Batiza. On October 22, Christy Breihan testified at the Assembly Committee on State Affairs in Madison in opposition to AB446, which would have criminalized criticism of Israel. Several other members of Peace Action of WI stated their opposition as well.



Source: Ann Batiza. On September 11, Zeiad Abbas Shamrouch, a Palestinian refugee from the West Bank and Executive Director at the Middle East Children's Alliance in Berkeley, spoke at the Veterans for Peace Annual Armistice Day Remembrance.



Source: Ann Batiza. On October 20, Peace Action of WI joined other groups at Cathedral Square in Milwaukee to protest violation of the ceasefire in Gaza.

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.

A special thanks to the Mobilizer mailing crew: Cookie Anderson, Eldeen Carpenter, Jim Carpenter, Sue Cottrell, Mary Laan, and Pam Richard.

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