

Peace Action of Wisconsin
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DATED MATERIAL



SHOW UP FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY!

Mark your calendar and help pack these events.

FRI 3/7 | 12–4 PM

Vendors • Workshops • Keynote: Francesca Hong
Location: Peak Initiative, 2480 Cherry St, Milwaukee

SAT 3/8 | 1 PM

March & Rally — King Park
Hosted by the Milwaukee International Women's Day Coalition.

THEN – IFTAR with PCRF-MKE SATURDAY NIGHT

SAT 3/8 | 5 PM

Islamic Society of Milwaukee, 815 W. Layton Ave, Milwaukee

The Mobilizer Newsletter of

Peace Action of Wisconsin



January - February 2026
Vol. 49 #1

THE COMMUNITY UNITES TO DEFUND ICE AND ISRAEL'S GENOCIDE

Jim Carpenter

On February 8, Peace Action joined the WI Muslim Civic Alliance and other community organizations to pledge resistance to the illegal and immoral actions of ICE. We gathered to show we stand with the people of Minnesota. The featured speaker was Congresswoman Ilhan Omar from Minneapolis. She spoke of the united resistance against the violence and intimidation by ICE and the use of mutual aid networks to accomplish this resistance.

The Trump administration is attempting to deport millions of individuals, depriving them of due process, detaining and deporting lawful residents and even U.S. citizens, and arresting and detaining individuals at protected locations such as courthouses and medical facilities.

Minneapolis has been the focus of an operation called "Metro Surge," described by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as "the largest immigration enforcement operation ever carried out." This operation has resulted in numerous reports of aggressive tactics such as the unlawful detention of U.S. citizens, racial profiling, intimidation of witnesses and bystanders, and the use of excessive force, including the recent senseless shootings and deaths of two U.S. citizens.

Whistles and instructions on how to use them, should ICE come to Wisconsin, were distributed at our gathering.

Wisconsin has a history of uniting against immoral federal laws that capture and return people to unjust places. In Cathedral Square Park in Milwaukee there is a historical marker that commemorates the 1854 rescue

of Joshua Glover from a jail at the site. Joshua was an escaped slave captured under the Fugitive Slave Act. In violation of federal law, the abolitionist Sherman Booth gathered with angry Milwaukee residents and broke into the jail to release Glover so he could make his way to Canada. We have Milwaukee streets named after Glover and Booth.

What to do about undocumented immigrants and people seeking entry into our country to escape political oppression or extreme poverty is a highly divisive political issue. Basic morality requires us to care about the plight of our fellow human beings. Immigration reform with a path to citizenship for the undocumented who are already successfully integrated into our community makes moral sense.

Trump's claim that he is only deporting threats to our communities is a gigantic lie. As of November 2025, approximately 73% of individuals held in ICE detention had no criminal convictions, and fewer than 5% had a violent criminal conviction.

Our moral obligation to accept some number of refugees is increased by the fact that our foreign policies have sometimes helped create and maintain the poverty and political oppression that refugees are trying to escape.

Congresswoman Omar and others also spoke of the need to stop Israel's genocide and to free Palestine. Omar is one of the co-sponsors of the Block the Bombs Act which will stop U.S. bombs from going to Israel if Israel cannot show they will be used consistent with international law. Congresswoman Gwen Moore has refused to co-sponsor this legislation even though she has been petitioned by hundreds to do so. 1



HYBRID WARFARE AGAINST CUBA AND IRAN

Harry Targ

Against Cuba

A memorandum circulated toward the end of the Eisenhower Administration suggested strategies to undermine the popularity of the Cuban Revolution. The memorandum said:

... every possible means should be undertaken promptly to weaken the economic life of Cuba (and) while as adroit and inconspicuous as possible, makes the greatest inroads in denying money and supplies to Cuba, to decrease monetary and real wages, to bring about hunger, desperation and overthrow of government.¹

Sixty-six years later our “hybrid warfare” strategy against Cuba continues. While traditional warfare between nations has declined, warfare within countries has increased. Internal

wars are encouraged and sustained with covert interventions: private armies, spies, and other operatives financed by outside nations. Hybrid warfare refers to economic sanctions, embargoes, and blockades to bring down adversarial states and movements.

Despite the unending United States policy to undermine and overthrow Cuba’s socialist revolution (and defeat a Hemisphere-wide growing resistance to United States domination), Cuban solidarity activists continue to organize in opposition to United States foreign policy.

Against Iran

Iran has been a country of particular concern to the United States since the end of World War II. During that war, the US and its allies used Iran to protect US bases that were moving war materials to the former Soviet Union.

Two years after Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadegh had nationalized Iran’s oil resources, the CIA launched the coup that established the Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi as Iran’s all-powerful dictator. His repression lasted for years until a mass-based worker and religious-led movement ousted him from power in 1979. As leaders consolidated their control of the state, the Shah fled to the United States

for medical treatment, the new regime demanded his return to stand trial for his crimes, and Iranian

students took 52 US embassy personnel hostage for 444 days.

The United States’ responses to the transformation of the Iranian regime included President Carter’s declaration of his “doctrine,” which proclaimed that instabilities in the Persian Gulf region were vital to US national security. The US began to fund Iraq in its eight-year bloody war against Iran, which led to 500,000 Iranians killed. The United States urged Israel to invade Lebanon and escalate attacks on Palestine. We also increased the sale of technologically sophisticated arms to Saudi Arabia.

Ever since the hostage crisis of 1979, the United States has imposed economic sanctions of one sort or another on Iran. After years of damage to the Iranian economy and the people at large, the Nuclear Treaty of 2015 (the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action), was negotiated by Iran, the United States, member countries of the European Union, and Security Council members, Russia and China. Along with Iran’s promise to stop the production of potential nuclear material, signatories agreed to end the freezing of Iranian assets deposited in US and European banks, to eliminate various prohibitions on Western investment in the Iranian economy, and to remove trade restrictions. However, in 2018 President Trump withdrew from the Nuclear Treaty and re-imposed crippling sanctions. As a result, the Iranian economy contracted by 4.8 percent in 2018 and in a BBC report projected a further decline of 9.5 percent in 2019.

Iran’s oil exports and hence production were hit particularly hard. The value of Iranian currency declined dramatically and inflation in the country rose, particularly for the price of food. Sanctions reduced purchasing power, increased the cost of living for food and transportation, reduced access of Iranian students studying abroad to financial resources and led to the reduction of public services.

Along with military threats and attempts to isolate them diplomatically, our hybrid warfare against Iran uses the same economic tactics as that against Cuba: make the people suffer and cause such outrage that the people rise up and overthrow their government.

¹ <https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1958-60v06/d499>

IT IS NOW 85 SECONDS TO MIDNIGHT

“On January 27, 2026, the Doomsday Clock was set at 85 seconds to midnight, the closest the Clock has ever been to midnight in its history.”¹

The Doomsday Clock Statement says:

A year ago, we warned that the world was perilously close to global disaster and that any delay in reversing course increased the probability of catastrophe. Rather than heed this warning, Russia, China, the United States, and other major countries have instead become increasingly aggressive, adversarial, and nationalistic. Hard-won global understandings are collapsing, accelerating a winner-takes-all great power competition and undermining the international cooperation critical to reducing the risks of nuclear war, climate change, the misuse of biotechnology, the potential threat of artificial intelligence, and other apocalyptic dangers. Far too many leaders have grown complacent and indifferent, in many cases adopting rhetoric and policies that accelerate rather than mitigate these existential risks. Because of this failure of leadership, the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists Science* and Security Board today sets the Doomsday Clock at 85 seconds to midnight, the closest it has ever been to catastrophe ...

Even as the hands of the Doomsday Clock move closer to midnight, there are many actions that could pull humanity back from the brink:

- The United States and Russia can resume dialogue about limiting their nuclear arsenals. ...
- Through both multilateral agreements and national regulations, the international community can take all feasible steps to prevent the creation of mirror life and cooperate on meaningful measures to reduce the prospect that AI be used to create biological threats.
- The United States Congress can repudiate President Trump’s war on renewable energy, ...
- The United States, Russia, and China can engage in bilateral and multilateral dialogue on meaningful guidelines regarding the incorporation of artificial intelligence in their militaries, particularly in nuclear command and control systems.

¹ <https://thebulletin.org/2026/01/press-release-it-is-85-seconds-to-midnight/>

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

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.

March 7: Howell/Howard
March 14: St. Paul/Water
March 21: Oakland/Locust
March 28: No Stand on No King's Day

April 4: King/Locust
April 11: 51st/Silver Spring
April 18: 16th/Wisconsin
April 25: National/Greenfield

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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.

Saturday, March 7, 12:00 – 4:00 PM - International Women's Day Milwaukee International Women's Day Coalition. Vendors, Workshops, Keynote Speaker Francesca Hong. Location: PEAK Initiative, 2480 Cherry Street, Milwaukee

Sunday, March 8, 1:00 PM International Women's Day — Milwaukee International Women's Day Coalition. March and Rally. King Park, Milwaukee

Sunday, March 8, 5:00 PM Iftar with Palestine Children's Relief Fund—Milwaukee Islamic Society of Milwaukee, 815 W Layton Ave, Milwaukee 53221

Wednesday, April 22, Save the Date : Annual Earth Day Event — details TBA

ONGOING ACTIONS (STATEWIDE)

Madison — Weekly Silent Vigil for Peace (Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa). Tuesdays, 11:30 AM – 12:00 PM Corner of Monroe St & Edgewood Ave (near Edgewood HS). Contact: opjustice@sinsinawa.org

Madison — Weekly Vigil for Palestine. Fridays, 12:00 PM Near the entrance to Memorial Library (across from the Catholic student center). Signs not provided. Contact: joel.garb@gmail.com

Racine — Racine Coalition for Peace and Justice Stand for Peace / Palestine Vigil

First Saturday of the month, 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM. Martin Luther King Plaza, 909 Dr. Martin Luther King Dr, Racine 53404
Third Monday of the month, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM NW corner

of Hwy 20 & Hwy 31 — park near AT&T in Kohl's lot, 5502 Washington Ave, Racine 53406. Note: Cancelled when weather is below 25°F; check for snow cancellations.

Viroqua — Driftless Palestinian Solidarity Weekly Vigil. Saturdays, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM. W Decker St & N Main St, Viroqua

Milwaukee — WISDOM: End Solitary Confinement Vigil. 23rd of each month, 11:00 AM – 11:30 AM. Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility (MSDF), 1015 N 10th St, Milwaukee

La Crosse — Women in Black Peace Vigil. Thursdays, 12:00 PM – 12:30 PM. Main St & 4th Street South, La Crosse. Contact: dbuffton@yahoo.com

Superior — Women in Black Weekly Silent Vigil. Sundays, 12:00 PM – 12:30PM Center City Park (Tower & Belknap), Superior. Contact: christineolson3@gmail.com

Appleton — Fox Valley Peace Coalition Vigil. First Saturday of the month - 11:00 AM College Ave & Appleton St, Appleton. Info: ronnajean61@gmail.com

Eau Claire — Monthly Peace Stand. Third Friday of the month, 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM Hwy 93 & Golf Road, Eau Claire. Contact: helpsmeeet@usa.net

Milwaukee — 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

“OUR CRY”: A LETTER FROM INSIDE AN ICE DETENTION CENTER

Stephen Beall

On February 5, 2026, the group known as Eyes on ICE published a document entitled “Our Cry, a Letter from Inside Delaney Hall.” The four-page letter details conditions inside an ICE detention center on the outskirts of Newark, NJ. The group received the letter from a source close to the author, Leonardo Villalba, who has since been transferred to another facility. Twenty-four other detainees added their signatures to corroborate his statements.

Mr. Villalba begins by apologizing for the illegal status of the detainees, explaining that their lives were in danger in their home countries. Upon entering, he says, they surrendered themselves to border authorities, in some cases receiving court dates to pursue their cases according to the law. “We also attended periodic check-ins, obtained work permits and social security numbers, filed taxes, and were working legally and contributing to the economy.”

Nevertheless, they were arrested by ICE agents at scheduled appointments and at US Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) offices. After detention, Mr. Villalba continues,

“We have been subjected to court proceedings where lawyers are afraid to represent us because they say there is a presidential order to deport as many people as possible. ... Judges are denying a large number of cases, dismissing them outright. Simultaneously, prosecutors are filing motions to send us to Latin American countries like Ecuador, Guatemala, and Honduras, countries with similar or worse conditions. ... This has forced many to request voluntary departure as the only option to return to their countries of origin, despite the danger we may face.”

In addition, he says, detainees have received contradictory information about their ability to return to their homes voluntarily. “We feel vulnerable, in a way, kidnapped or detained without justification. We see with profound helplessness and frustration that the right to due process & legal counsel were violated.”

Not surprisingly, these circumstances have taken a psychological toll on the detainees and their families,

who, in some cases “were subjected to witness[ing] the arrests of their wives and fathers, [and] who are devastated by the tragedy and the economic burden, since we are the providers and heads of our households.” Mr. Villalba’s description of conditions in the overcrowded facility is also troubling. “The flu is a constant problem among the detainees, as are stress, fever, and general body aches; which could lead to an outbreak of illness or an epidemic.”

He concludes by saying, “Our American dream is safety and protection - with our families. Although this is a difficult situation, we trust in God and believe in American justice.”

A translation of the entire letter, along with facsimiles of the Spanish original, can be found on the website of the activist group Cosecha (<https://www.lahuelga.com/elgrito>).



EMERGENCY HEALTH FUNDRAISER FOR CUBA

The Wisconsin Cuba Coalition is raising money for desperately needed medical aid to Cuba, as the country confronts the worst economic crisis in its history.

Please help by sending a check, payable to Global Health Partners, to Wisconsin Cuba Coalition, PO Box 1848, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201. (Do not put the word “Cuba” on checks.) The Coalition will forward the checks to Global Health Partners. **THANK YOU!**

ACTIVISTS

STOP IHRA CODIFICATION IN WISCONSIN

Stephen Beall

The Wisconsin State Assembly just passed a dangerous bill that threatens free speech and the rights of Palestinian advocates. AB 446/SB 445 directs all state and local government bodies to consider the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition when evaluating evidence for discriminatory intent. This means that when an allegation of antisemitism is made, state actors in Wisconsin are required to consider the IHRA definition. The bill further provides that the IHRA definition must be considered in determining whether a hate crime penalty enhancer should be applied in a criminal charging decision.

While antisemitism is a real concern, the IHRA definition is highly controversial because it conflates legitimate criticism of the state of Israel and its policies with antisemitism. Seven of the eleven examples described in the definition focus on Israel, including “applying double standards” to Israel or claiming that Israel is a “racist endeavor.” Criticism of any government, including a foreign government, is political speech protected by the First Amendment. Codification of the IHRA definition clearly poses a risk to free speech and academic freedom. Wisconsinites will be deterred from making statements that could be construed as critical of the Israeli government due to the fear of government investigation in the event a complaint is made. And once a certain type of speech is restricted, it is a slippery slope from here.



Source: Wisconsin Muslim Civic Alliance. Participants at Wisconsin Muslim Civic Alliance’s 2026 Advocacy Day went to the Capitol to make their voices heard on AB 446/SB 445 and the importance of recognizing Eid as a holiday in Wisconsin.

The Assembly passed this bill with a 66-33 vote and additionally adopted an amendment, which states that students attending any public school or university will not be subject to any new civil or criminal penalty. This ultimately does not offer any real protection, because all state and local agencies, such as the Department of Public Instruction and Board of Regents for the UW System, will still be required to consider the IHRA definition when an allegation of antisemitism is made.

The legislation still must go through a few steps before it becomes law. The Wisconsin State Senate is expected to vote on the bill either in late February or in March when the legislative session ends. It is imperative to put pressure on the Senate to vote

NO on SB 445. Finally, Governor Evers must hear the message that he needs to VETO this legislation, despite the fact that an amendment has been adopted. This legislation is inherently flawed and cannot be amended to protect First Amendment rights. Use your voice and take action to protect free speech and free expression. Our democracy depends on it.

Call Governor Evers at 608-266-1212 to urge him to veto AB 446/SB 445. You can use this sample message, “Hi Governor Evers, my name is ____ and I live in ____ (your city/town). I am calling to urge you to veto AB 446/SB 445 regardless of whether any amendment is made to these bills. This legislation is inherently flawed and cannot be amended to protect First Amendment rights. Thank you.”

IN ACTION

YOUNG PEOPLE PROTEST ICE, RACISM, AND WAR

Harry Targ

Across the country high school and college students have been hitting the streets after walking out of classes to protest ICE, racism, war, and police repression. Protests escalated with “Free America,” on January 20 and have continued into February. School walkouts parallel store sit-ins, selective commercial boycotts, and other forms of protest, while organizations discuss the next No Kings rallies for late March.

High school walkouts occurred in Milwaukee as part of the nationwide protests against brutal ICE policies. For example, according to WTMJ-TV, hundreds of students left their classes at Shorewood High School on Friday, January 16.

Shorewood Senior Mira Antigua, a Shorewood protester said: “As young people, we’re seen as uneducated or just like not knowledgeable of the real world, but when in reality... we’re doing things like this.” The students were joined by some elected politicians, including State Representative Darrin Madison, who praised the young people.

The times are right for a new progressive beginning given, the presence of ICE, our funding of the genocide in Gaza and other wars, our imperious kidnapping of a head of state, our censoring educational curricula, and our despoiling the environment. Most of humankind continues to live under dehumanizing material circumstances.

Now massive mobilizations are spreading around the world concerning issues critical to people’s lives. Numbers of passionately committed young people are growing. And, as the civil rights, feminist, and antiwar movements of the past have shown, young people play a critical role in organizing social movements.

1 <https://www.tmj4.com/news/milwaukee-county/shorewood-high-school-students-walk-out-to-protest-ice-policies-in-solidarity-demonstration>



Source: Ann Batiza. A broad coalition of activist groups gathered at City Hall on January 23 to stand in solidarity with Minneapolis and say, ICE OUT!

REVEREND JESSE JACKSON 1941 – 1926

Rainbow Push Coalition founder and acolyte of the Reverend Martin Luther King, the Reverend Jesse Jackson rejected US militarism abroad, supported Palestine, and fought for “public health, not private wealth,” housing, and jobs at home. He will be missed.

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS

Thank you PAWI volunteers and members for showing up to Stand for Peace, testifying at hearings, meeting with elected representatives, calling and emailing officials, sharing alerts, attending demonstrations, and doing the behind-the-scenes support that makes everything run. Your steady presence turns values into action. We’re grateful to you. Thank you for keeping peace visible in Milwaukee and around the state.



Source: Ann Batiza. Abby Martin fielded questions on January 20 at the Avalon Theatre after the showing of her film about the devastating impacts of US militarism, Earth’s Greatest Enemy.