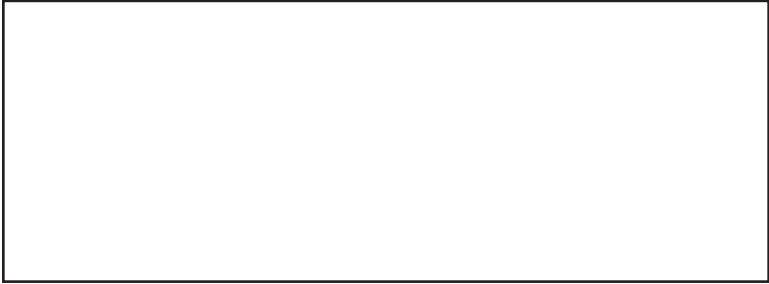


DATED MATERIAL



US Foreign Policy in a Troubled World
Where do we find signs of hope?

with

Erik Sperling – IN PERSON!

Executive Director of Just Foreign Policy

Thursday, August 27 - 7:00 p.m.



Join us at Friends Meeting House, 3224 N. Gordon Place, MKE!

Free parking in Gaenslen School lot off Auer Avenue, which is accessed from Humboldt Ave.

Erik Sperling, originally from Mequon, worked closely with Peace Action Wisconsin during high school and college. After law school, he was a Congressional foreign policy staff person, most recently for Congressman Ro Khanna.

Currently, Erik is the Executive Director of Just Foreign Policy in D.C. and is extremely knowledgeable on world issues and what is happening in Congress.

SECTION 219 IS AN ISRAELI TROJAN HORSE

Ann Batiza

Members of Peace Action of Wisconsin were sent messages in advance of the July 22 House vote on a re-authorization of the NDAA (National Defense Authorization Act). While this version of the NDAA will increase the Pentagon’s budget to 1.2 trillion dollars, Section 219, or “The U.S.-Israel Defense Technology Cooperation Initiative,”¹ will redefine the U.S. military’s relationship with Israel. It provides for an “executive agent” at the Pentagon to oversee Israel’s interests by synchronizing “co-operative efforts that may be carried out through the following domains:

- (1) Counter-Unmanned Systems including aerial, maritime, and ground platforms.
- (2) Anti-tunneling and subterranean threats.
- (3) Missile and air defense technologies.
- (4) Artificial intelligence, quantum, machine learning, and autonomous systems.
- (5) Directed energy and advanced sensing.
- (6) Cyber defense, electronic warfare, and digital resilience.
- (7) Biotechnology, bio-manufacturing, and medical defense.
- (8) Networks, data fusion, and contested logistics.
- (9) Defense industrial base cooperation, manufacturing, and co-production.
- (10) Other emerging technologies as jointly agreed by the United States and Israel.”

Benjamin Netanyahu referred to an earlier iteration of this scheme as “my plan.”²

While the House passed the measure 216-212 mainly with Republican support, the bill will have to be reconciled with a Senate version (which so far has not passed) to become law. Representative Thomas Massie (a Republican who vigorously opposed Section 219

along with Democrat Representative Ro Khanna,) has said that some form of Section 219 will likely remain in the reconciled NDAA, even if its counterpart has been stripped from the Senate bill.

According to Josh Paul who resigned from the Biden administration 2023 over its arming of Israel’s genocide, Section 219 will “essentially give Israel the leverage that we currently have to be able to drive U.S. policy and to shape U.S. defense approaches.”³ As reported by Michael Arria at *Mondeweiss*,⁴ Ben Freeman, who is the Director of the Democratizing Foreign Policy program at the Quincy Institute, pointed out in *Responsible Statecraft* that Israel’s leverage will increase its hold on members of Congress because they will want to keep the job opportunities in their districts that arise from these joint ventures.

The House bill was passed at a time that support for Israel is waning in the U.S. According to a Pew Research poll, 60% of Americans have an unfavorable view of Israel, compared with 53% holding such a negative opinion last year.⁵ As recently as 2022, only 42% held such views, so public opinion has dramatically changed since Israel’s genocide in Gaza. Now, a majority of adults in both parties hold unfavorable views of both Israel and Prime Minister Netanyahu.

While our yearly \$3.8 billion gift of American tax dollars to Israel is increasingly unpopular, Section 219 will remove our military support of Israel from public scrutiny. It is ironic that in our 250th year of independence from Britain, our lawmakers seem determined to lose our sovereignty to Israel, despite the will of the American people. The lack of timely mainstream media coverage has already helped to make this coup possible.

1 For Section 219 of the House version of the NDAA, see pages 102-107 in https://rules.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/republicans-rules.house.gov/files/documents/rcp_h8800_xml.pdf
2 Middle East Monitor, June 4, 2026, accessed 8.5.26 at <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20260604-my-plan-netanyahu-letter-reveals-israels-bid-to-replace-us-aid-with-military-fusion/>
3 PBS NewsHour, July 16, 2026, accessed 8.5.26 at <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/vote-on-u-s-aid-to-israel-exposes-sharp-divide-in-congress>
4 Michael Arria, *Mondeweiss*, “House passes spending bill that critics say will integrate the U.S. and Israeli militaries,” July 23, 2026, accessed at <https://mondeweiss.net/2026/07/house-passes-spending-bill-that-critics-say-will-integrate-the-u-s-and-israeli-militaries/>
5 <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2026/04/07/negative-views-of-israel-netanyahu-continue-to-rise-among-americans-especially-young-people/>

TRUMP CALLS SUPPORTERS OF CUBA “US LEFT-WING TERRORISTS”

Harry Targ

With God’s help, a free Cuba is what we will soon achieve... I am canceling the last administration’s completely one-sided deal with Cuba.

-President Donald Trump, New Cuba Policy in Speech in Miami’s Little Havana, 2017

With these words, President Trump early in his first term announced the return to the almost 70-year Cold War against Cuba, a war that has cost the people on the island and their relatives in the United States dearly. He initiated efforts to resume travel restrictions, limit trade and investment on the island, and to punish US citizens who traveled to Cuba on their own. These policy changes were motivated primarily by Trump’s promises to a dwindling sector of Cuban Americans in the Republican Party (and a few Democratic politicians as well).

In 2026 Trump escalated the economic blockade of Cuba, threatening to punish any country that continued to engage in commerce with the island. (He had already put Cuba back on the “state sponsor of terrorism” list in January 2025). The most brutal part of the renewed policy now is the blockade of Cuba’s access to oil. The island now suffers blackouts, shortages in transportation, energy access to hospitals and schools. In the main the United States has enshrined the policy of starving Cuba, an approach to the island resembling Israel’s genocidal policy against Gaza. And during the spring of 2026 the Trump administration moved a battleship and troops to the Caribbean, threatening a US war on Cuba.

Most recently, Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced the publication of a new 100-page State Department report, “Cuba: The Capital of 21st Century Communism.”¹ The report asserts that Cuba has engaged in subversion and has “infiltrated the highest reaches of the U.S. government.”

The most menacing part of this document is its identification of whom it regards as supporters of Cuban terrorism in the United States, both individual politicians who oppose the administration and leading organizations that have been providing material aid to Cuba during its darkest hour of starvation. The Venceremos Brigade of volunteer farm laborers has been a favorite target for years, but the new list includes the National Network on Cuba, IFCO Pastors for Peace, the National Lawyers Guild, Code Pink, and Democratic Socialists of America. Individuals who support “terrorist” Cuba, the report suggests, include Karen Bass, mayor of Los Angeles; Zohran Mamdani, Mayor of New York; Congresspersons, Ilhan Omar, Maxine Waters, and Ayanna Presley; and Amy Goodman, journalist.

In short, The Trump Administration has escalated its brutal assault on Cuba and at the same time is reinventing the age of McCarthyism by defining any groups or individuals who disagree with US policy toward Cuba and/or provide material aid to its starving population as supporters of terrorism. These truly are dangerous times.

See Acere.org for more information and suggested actions.

¹ <https://www.state.gov/cuba-the-capital-of-21st-century-communism>

POLICE SHOOT COREY RUIZ

Babette Grunow

In response to the police shooting of Corey Ruiz, the Board of the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice stated,

“We must restore humanity.

“It cannot be done if we continue to accept and ignore the blatant racism and disregard of human life as displayed by the execution of Corey Ruiz by Madison police on July 22.

“We have allowed too much violence in our police forces and now in the militia called ICE.

“We stand with all people of conscience who demand change and transformation immediately. We no longer accept the lies and excuses for the use of lethal force.”

Other statements, some with recommendations for change, can be found at: <https://wnpj.org/news/wnpj-member-groups-respond-to-the-police-killing-of-corey-ruiz-on-williamson-street-madison-july-22-2026/>.

THE PASSING OF A GREAT SOUL DON TIMMERMAN 1942-2026

The recent passing of Don Timmerman on July 19, 2026, has left a huge hole in the Milwaukee peace community.

One of the original founders of Peace Action of Wisconsin in 1977 (then Mobilization for Survival), Don committed his life to peace, nonviolence and serving the poor. He served those in need as a Catholic priest in Tanzania for seven years before joining the Casa Maria Catholic Worker Community in Milwaukee. Don tirelessly confronted injustice, poverty and militarism, was arrested hundreds of times for civil disobedience, and was a leading light for peace, simple living and nonviolence.

Don’s lifelong mission was to live simply and love others with Christlike compassion. He was a gentle, kind, loving, generous soul. Don was one of the true saints among us and deeply loved by all who were privileged to know him.

Memorial donations may be made to the Casa Maria Catholic Worker House at Casa Maria, PO Box 05206, Milwaukee, WI 53205.

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

NO ARMS FOR ISRAEL!

Call 202-224-3121

for the Congressional switchboard.

Please call Senators Baldwin and Johnson and your Representative to say:

- No arms for Israel.
- No supplemental funds for the Iran War.
- REDUCE the Pentagon budget.

The proposed \$1.5 T Pentagon budget is absurd and the current \$1.1 T is obscene. Stop using our taxpayer dollars to kill people abroad. Use our money for healthcare, education, and the homeless - the many needs of people living in the United States. We are tired of supporting the corporate titans that benefit from war. We are appalled that we continue to fund Israel’s genocide in Gaza and attacks on its neighbors.

NO TO GENOCIDE!

NO ARMS FOR ISRAEL!



2 Source: Pam Richard. Don Timmerman was a constant presence at the Stand for Peace. Here he points out that “Love your enemies” means no more weapons and war.



PEACE CALENDAR SEPT. - OCT. 2026

Monday, September 7 - Labor Fest, Milwaukee, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Summerfest Grounds, 200 N Harbor Drive. We will share a table with the UN Association. Parade begins at Zeidler Union Square, 301 W. Michigan At. at 11:00 AM.

Wednesday, September 9 - Workshop: WBW War Tax Resistance Work Group, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM CST. Madison Central Library, 201 W. Mifflin, Madison, Room 101. Join World Beyond War in Madison to learn about legal options for tax withholding through the W4 form. See <https://events.worldbeyondwar.org/event/workshop-wbw-war-tax-resistance-work-group/>.

Saturday, September 12 - Art Bar for the Great Riverwest Fall Rummage Sale and Flea Market, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. 722 E Burleigh St, Milwaukee. Our table will be on Burleigh near Weil St.

Friday, September 18 - Voces de la Frontera Gala at 5:00 PM. Potawatomi Casino Hotel, 1611 W Canal St, Milwaukee, WI 53233

Monday, September 21 – Sunday, September 27 - WBW Global Week of Action for Peace and Climate Justice. For more information go to: <https://climatemilitarism.org/weekofaction/>.

Sunday, September 27 - Sturgeon Fest, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Harbor District. Look for our table.

Thursday, October 1, Peace and Justice Book Circle with Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, 6:30 – 8:30 PM. By Zoom. "Emperor of Gladness, a Novel", by Ocean Vuang. To join the discussion, send an email to wilpfmadison@gmail.com. Everyone is welcome to be part of the conversation even if you have not read the book.

Thursday October 1- Sunday October 4 - Milwaukee Muslim Film Festival, presented by the Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition. Oriental Theater, 2230 N Farwell St, Milwaukee, WI. Opening night special presentation. MMFF celebrates the vibrant tapestry of Islamic culture and commemorates the shared human spirit that binds us all together.

Saturday October 10, Saturday - Indigenous People's Day (Oct 12) Celebration. At noon with an Indigenous led Water Walk on the Menominee River. The walk is several miles on the Hank Aaron State Trail!

ONGOING PROTESTS/ EVENTS IN THE MILWAUKEE AREA BY OTHER COMMUNITY GROUPS

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

Tuesdays, 4:00–5:30 PM - Stand Up for Democracy (Shorewood Resists: Capitol Drive Overpass Protest) at the Capitol Drive bridge over I-43, between 8th and 9th Streets, Milwaukee.

Thursdays, 9:00 AM - interfaith Jericho Walk at 310 E Knapp St, Milwaukee.

Thursdays, 4:30 – 5:30 - Community Vigil: Beyond War at the Northeast Corner of Williamson & Blair Streets, Madison, WI. From World Beyond War, Madison.

Fridays, 9:00–10:00 AM – Milwaukee: Weekly Ice Out Vigil at 310 E Knapp St, Milwaukee.

Saturdays, 10:00–11:30 AM – Greenfield: Weekly Power to the People Vigil at S 76th St & W Layton Ave, Greenfield.

Saturdays, 12:00–1:00 PM – Glendale: Support Justice and Equality at W Silver Spring Drive & N Port Washington Road.

Saturdays, 12:00–1:00 PM – Tosa: Support Democracy and Human Rights! At 76th Street & W Bluemound Road and at 76th Street and North Avenue.

Saturdays, 12:00–12:30 PM - Support Democracy! Oppose Tyranny! At N Van Buren & E Pleasant Street, Milwaukee.

Saturdays, 1:00–1:30 PM – Gilman Triangle Saturday Group Protest along N Downer Ave between E Bradford Avenue and N Lake Drive, Milwaukee.

Sundays, 2:00–3:30 PM – SE Wisconsin Indivisible at 1501 Miller Park Way, West Milwaukee.

Interested in Becoming a Conscientious Objector? If you are in the U.S. military and are interested in seeking discharge or reassignment as a conscientious objector, the Center on Conscience & War offers free support and counseling.

Center on Conscience & War: 800-379-2679 202-483-2220

GI Rights Hotline: 1-877-447-4487

These resources can help people pursuing conscientious-objector discharge, noncombatant reassignment, or other military-rights counseling.

Sundays, 11:00 AM CST – Doctors Against Genocide: Weekly Calls to Action and Live Webinar from frontline doctors at <https://doctorsagainstgenocide.org/>

Sign Petition to End the US Government's Obsessive Cruelty toward Cuba at <https://worldbeyondwar.org/cuba/>. For 64 years the U.S. government has vindictively and illegally punished the people of Cuba with an economic blockade with devastating consequences and is now threatening war.

DOLLAR HEGEMONY AND THE DECLINE OF AMERICAN POWER

Stephen Beall

In a recent article in the Financial Times, Martin Wolf laments: "The world many of us hoped for some 35 years ago, after the collapse of Soviet despotism, the world the United States largely created, is disappearing." Is such talk exaggerated, or are we truly witnessing what Wolf calls "the end of American hegemony"?

It is well known that the US operates military bases in over 80 foreign countries, but this fact hides a more insidious kind of occupation. At the end of World War II, when the world economy was in shambles, western countries agreed to peg their currencies to the US dollar. This arrangement ended in the early 1970s, but in the same decade OPEC agreed to sell oil exclusively for American currency. Loans from the IMF and World Bank and many other transactions are likewise denominated in dollars, with the result that one cannot participate in the global economy without keeping a large quantity of American money in reserve. While other countries are obliged to hold our money, we can borrow at low rates, run trade deficits, and control access to financial markets. Through dollar-based institutions such as the World Bank, we can also manipulate foreign economies, extract resources, and strip assets. Governments that offer resistance are faced with crippling sanctions and the constant threat of military intervention.

In short, what Americans like to call the "liberal international order" is essentially a global protection racket, and, like smaller-scale rackets, it can fail if a strong competitor moves into the neighborhood. There are signs that this is beginning to happen. China, with its developing industrial and technological base, has promoted the renminbi "people's currency" as an alternative to the dollar for international trade. The Chinese are also leading partners in the BRICS alliance, composed of resource-rich and emerging countries including Brazil, Russia, India, South Africa, and (since 2024) Iran. BRICS has encouraged trade in local currencies through parallel institutions such as the New Development Bank and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement. The Chinese have also promoted an infrastructure and development strategy called the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), with the goal of establishing overland and maritime trade corridors between cities in Eurasia and the Global South. BRI projects are funded with loans in renminbi or local currencies, thus reducing dependence on western capital and the strings that are attached to it.

How soon these efforts will bring about the end of "dollar hegemony" remains to be seen, but they help to explain America's more aggressive posture in recent years, particularly its fixation on Iran. This is an oil-rich country that sits at the center of two major trade routes: the New Silk Road between the west and China, and the North-South Transport Corridor, which links Russia with the Indian Ocean. In short, Iran is the linchpin of an integrated Eurasian economy. Since the 1950s, the U.S. has endeavored to control Iran's government or, failing that, to isolate the country and cripple its economy. American policy-makers are now faced with a two-fold problem: harsh economic sanctions have failed to unseat the revolutionary government in Tehran, and military action has failed to establish control over the trade that passes through Iranian territory. The limits of American military power are becoming obvious, while the financial surplus that comes from dollar hegemony is being absorbed by fruitless military expenditures. America's free ride, as well as its control over the global economy, may be coming to an end.

**STAND
FOR PEACE**
SATURDAYS, NOON UNTIL 1 P.M.

**Sept. 5: Lincoln Memorial/
LaFayette Hill**
Sept. 12: Oklahoma/Howell
Sept. 19: King/North
Sept. 26: 92nd/Burleigh

October 3: 10th/Lincoln
October 10: St. Paul/Water
October 17: Vliet/Highland
October 24: KK/Lincoln
October 31: Farwell/Brady

The Mobilizer Newsletter of Peace Action of Wisconsin is published by Peace Action of Wisconsin, Inc.
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
Website: peaceactionwi.org
Facebook: facebook.com/peaceactionwi

ACTIVISTS

TURNER HALL HOSTS THE CUBAN AMBASSADOR

Stephen Beall

Approximately 250 people gathered at Turner Hall on July 21 to honor Lianys Torres Rivera, the Cuban Ambassador to the US. The event was organized by the Wisconsin Coalition to Normal-ize Relations with Cuba and co-sponsored by Peace Action Wisconsin, Veterans for Peace Milwaukee Chapter 102, the United Nations Organization Milwaukee and other groups.

The Ambassador was introduced by Dr. Alexandra Skeeter, a local graduate of Cuba's Latin American School of Medicine. "I left Cuba with much more than medical training," said Skeeter. "I saw that there is a different way of treating human beings, based on solidarity and the idea that healthcare is a human right."

Ambassador Torres described the hardships faced by Cubans as a result of the oil blockade and other sanctions imposed by Washington since the beginning of this year. "We have only one or two hours of electricity a day in many homes, which means there is no water, refrigeration or public transportation. It's hard to sleep and food spoils." She went on to say that a shortage of medical supplies has been particularly harmful to children. The infant mortality rate has gone up from 4 to 9.9 percent, while the survival rate of children with cancer has dropped from 85% to 65%.

While she hopes for an end to the blockade and a resumption of oil shipments, Torres said that Cubans have prioritized installing solar panels in hospitals, clinics, and other critical services. "We have to adapt," she said, "but we are still here!" She also noted that sympathetic Americans, including several activists from Milwaukee, have visited the island to distribute aid and show their solidarity. "We thank you for your support," she said. "Cuba is not alone because we have people like you."

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

- Thank you to our mail crew volunteers- Mary Laan, Justin Schatzman, Sue Cottrell, Eldeen Carpenter, Carol Poth, Rita Maniotis, Jim Carpenter, Julie Enslow, Kristina Paris and Pam Richard. Allen Uebele solved our mailing difficulty. Thank you!
- A huge thank you to Kristina Paris and Justin Schatzman for office and accounting help.
- Julie Enslow, Kristina Paris and Pam Richard organized Lanterns for Peace, Brian Bunzel helped secure the materials, and Sharon Kusmirek provided outreach. Thank you all the above and Ann Batiza and Rita Maniotis for helping with the set up. Many thanks to David Drake for music, and Carlos from CodePink for his powerful words at the corresponding Vigil on the Lakefront.

Source: Ann Batiza. On July 3, Jim and Eldeen Carpenter and Ann Batiza joined CODEPINK for a combination of activism and sign holding in the grass by Brady Street Bridge before the drone show. Many honked for peace.



Source: Ann Batiza. A lively crew made lanterns on August 6 at Kingo Church, home to our new office.

IN ACTION

ROTARY CLUB HOSTS CUBA'S AMBASSADOR

Christy Breihan

The Milwaukee Rotary Club hosted a luncheon talk and question and answer session for Cuba's Ambassador to the US, Lianys Torres Rivera, at the War Memorial Center on July 21, 2026.

The hundred and fifty or so attendees heard the ambassador assure us that Cuba poses no threat to the United States or any other country. Cuba does not engage in illegal drug trafficking—in fact, Torres said, it cooperates with the US to prevent it. Cuba seeks only a normal and peaceful relationship with its closest neighbor. However, she affirmed, if attacked or invaded, Cuba is prepared to defend its sovereignty.

While Cuba is tough on illegal drugs, it has a very advanced biotechnology research program. In response to an audience member's question, the ambassador described Cuba's treatments for cancer, Alzheimer's disease, and diabetes which could help many US citizens if we were allowed to purchase them.

However, Cuba's accomplishments in healthcare have been severely affected by the Trump/Rubio intensification of the blockade which has kept oil from arriving in Cuba for over seven months. Without oil, they cannot generate enough electricity to keep their essential services running. Their low infant mortality rate (3.94 per 1,000 live births in 2025) has more than doubled, and their success in treating childhood cancer has dropped from 85 to 65 percent, the ambassador informed us. Our blockade is literally killing children in Cuba.

Yet the people remain resilient, Ambassador Torres said. She described people getting up in the middle of the night to cook and do laundry whenever power becomes briefly available, and then going to work the next day, doing their best to survive.

Ambassador Torres's remarks were well-received, and the audience's numerous questions were respectful, reminding us of what "diplomacy" should mean.

below: Source: Pam Richard. On July 8, our Lanterns for Peace vigil lit up Lincoln Memorial Drive.



Source: Pam Richard. Julie Enslow stood among those who came out for Lanterns for Peace on August 8.

