



Sacramento Area Peace Action

Newsletter

August
2020

Working to end U.S. militarism since 1983

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75 Years After Hiroshima & Nagasaki: Rolling Back the Nuclear Arsenal

The Sacramento Regional August Peace Event Goes Virtual!

(This article combines information from the PSR press release for this event, and the web site of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists)

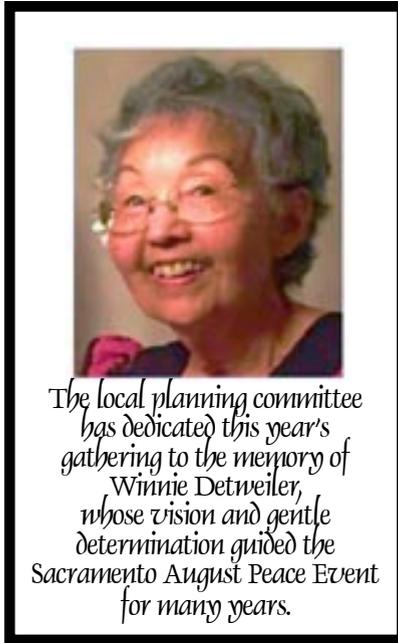
In August of 1945, the U.S. became the only country in history to deploy nuclear bombs in a conflict. The August Peace Event 2020 on the 75th anniversary of bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is a time to pause and remember. It is also a call to action and a reaffirmation that nuclear weapons must never be used again.

According to the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, "...killing large numbers of civilians was the primary purpose of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima; destruction of military targets and war industry was a secondary goal..."

More than 70,000 men, women, and children were killed... the munitions factories on the periphery of the city were left largely unscathed."

This two-day national online event will be shown on August 6 from 8am to 6pm, and August 9 from 11am to 6pm. The Sacramento segment of the event will

be on Sunday afternoon, August 9, from 2-3 pm PDT.



The local planning committee has dedicated this year's gathering to the memory of Winnie Detweiler, whose vision and gentle determination guided the Sacramento August Peace Event for many years.

**Go to sacpsr.org
for links to various
livestreams on YouTube
& Facebook, as well as
SacAccess Channel 17**

**Clicking the (Livestream on...) links
will open a list of all presenters and
times for the date you select.**

The local program will feature the following speakers:
Setsuko Thurlow, a survivor of the Nagasaki bombing and leading member of the Nobel Prize-winning International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

Critical Issues Forum, a high school program from the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey

Pat Elder, an Investigative Reporter with Civilian Exposure, speaking about the impacts of chemicals in weapon manufacturing on water quality

Patricia Hynes, Traprock Center for Peace and Justice, speaking on the health impacts of radiation on women and children

Goli Sahba MD, 350 Sacramento, Sacramento Climate Coalition, speaking on the climate impacts of nuclear weapons

The program will also include written and recorded messages from several local area state and federal elected officials, including Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg.

The U.S. Abets Israeli Illegalities

The Israeli gov't annexation of 30% of the West Bank didn't happen on July 1. Covid-19, among other things, changed the timeline. But the objective remains: maximum takeover of Palestinian land, as empty of Palestinians as possible.

If Palestinians could make full use of the Jordan Valley, it would mean \$1 billion in revenue annually. It's fertile; Palestine's plant and animal food basket. Lots of livestock. There's an aquifer. Nominal access to Dead Sea minerals.

It abuts Jordan, a foreign border. Israel wants to cut all that off, and its military has a knee firmly on the West Bank's neck. The huge segregation Wall. Israel-only bypass roads. 450 checkpoints. Dozens of illegal settlements where about 750,000 Israeli citizens (11% of its population) live. Industrial zones where Palestinians work under "plantation capitalism" conditions for Israeli owners. Curfews. Night raids. Permits required to do anything. Lots of use of excessive force.

For 53 years, de facto, it's been confiscating the West Bank bit-by-bit. But for the 120,000 or so Palestinians not yet forced out, official (de jure) annexation of the Jordan Valley, would change their legal status from living under "foreign military occupation" to being alien residents in a foreign country. Easy to "deport." Something Israel's

been using on Palestinians of East Jerusalem since 1980.

If/when Israel annexes - "acquires by force or threat of force" - the Jordan Valley, the hellish situation for the 3 million Palestinians living in the West Bank will be more hellish!

If only the U. N. Security Council weren't hobbled by the omnipresent U.S. VETO, economic sanctions could be imposed on Israel. Even

military action could be authorized. (Father-President Bush got U.N. authority before making war on Iraq when Saddam Hussein annexed Kuwait as Iraq's 19th province; Operation Desert Storm. Son-President Bush invaded in 2003 with no legal authority!)

But the U.S. VETO is a fact! And the European Union is Israel's major trading partner. So nothing there either.

Democrats Vote To Increase Military Budget

Two amendments, Pocan/Lee in the House, plus Sanders/Markey in the Senate, could have resulted in a 10 percent cut in military spending for FY2021. In this time of economic chaos and COVID, both amendments were rejected by a huge majority of Democrats, as well as almost all Republicans. (House vote: 93 Yea and 324 Nay; Senate Vote: 23 Yea to 77 Nay)

So in FY2021, between \$730 and \$740 billion dollars of our tax money will be spent on the military. Over \$10 billion of this is for new nuclear weapons systems.

With lower tax rates on the wealthy and corporations, a significant amount of this will

be debt-financed, adding to the approximately \$25 trillion of US government debt. This huge debt, \$25 million-million dollars will be passed on to many future generations. And the majority of it is for military budgets and the many recent wars (in the past two decades) that have been debt-financed.

Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA) commented, "We can't keep pouring billions into the military while we face a public health crisis, and families struggle to make ends meet."

Senator Mark Pocan (D-WI) said, "A \$740 million defense budget IS A FAILURE!"

Sadly, out of all our local reps, only Doris Matsui voted in favor of the military cost-cutting measure.



The US Military Has A New Target: Our Kids!

Recruiters are luring millions of young children through online video games!

Millions of kids go online daily to play “shooter” games, not knowing that some of the people they’re playing with are not just other kids, but military recruiters. And some of them are as young as 13 years old!

There are various “pitches” used to lead from the game into talking about joining the Army, Navy, or Air Force. One is the fact that the “players” that kids are chatting with are actual military personnel, who are getting paid to play video games! That must sound like a dream job to a teenager.

Another lure are bright ads that show up saying “Sign up to win!” If kids don’t read the fine print at the bottom, they don’t realize that they’re signing up to talk to a military recruiter.

When a young player online



Video war gaming is BIG business, hosting national championship events.

shows some real talent, they may get a straight-up job offer. An Air Force general in recruiting said that if he ran across a “brilliant” 15 year old, he’d tell them “Go tell your mom and dad that you are special, and that I will offer you a \$100,00 signing bonus... and send you to Harvard for four years for free.”

Pretty tempting offer, isn’t it?

So we need to be resisting the war machine even on the “home front,”... literally! If you need help getting your kids (or grand-kids!) to see the dangers being hidden behind the lure of video games, contact the Student Options Committee through the Peace Action office.

Celebrating the July 20th National Day of Action in Sacramento

The event was organized by the Sacramento Labor Council, SEIU CA, and SEIU locals. Many other groups joined in, including the Poor People’s Campaign, Black Lives Matter, Sacramento Area Peace Action, and the Peace & Freedom Party.

A caravan of about 50 cars began in West Sacramento and drove to the Capitol, circling it and the downtown area in order to pass City Hall and the Federal Building. Ending at the Capitol, they were greeted by signs saying “Strike for Justice”, “Strike for Black Lives”,



and “Vote for Justice.”

Workers were asked to commemorate the last moments of George Floyd’s life with 8 minutes and 46 seconds of silence.

The organizers said: “On

this national day of action, we’re taking to the streets to demand our elected leaders take courageous action to dismantle systemic racism.

We’re demanding changes on every level, from ending the brutality that’s cutting Black lives short, to state and federal budgets that prioritize the needs of communities devastated by COVID 19 and racial inequality over the greed of billionaires and corporations.

It’s time for our leaders to invest in our communities, and to affirm that Black lives matter.”

August 2020 Sacramento Area Peace Events

Tuesday, Aug 4, 4:30 - 6pm, Webinar: From Stormtroopers in Portland Streets to November's Election. Click to register.

Wednesday, Aug 5, 4 - 5pm, Veterans For Peace has decided to suspend its weekly in-person, anti-war vigil until such time as it can be resumed without endangering anyone's health. May peace and justice prevail. FMI: 916-456-4595

Wednesday, August 6, 6:30pm, Sacramento Area Peace Action Board meets. Respecting efforts to slow the spread of the coronavirus, the Board will meet via conference call. Members who wish to participate should contact the SacPeace office, 616-448-7157, sacpeace@dcn.org.

Thursday, Aug 6, 4:30 - 6pm, Abolish Nuclear Weapons - 75th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. Stop U.S. militarism and wars weekly vigil. Those participating are asked to stay at least 6 feet apart and wear a mask. 16th & J Sts. Sacramento. FMI: 916-448-7157, sacpeace@dcn.org.

Thursday, Aug 6, 8am - 6pm, Hiroshima Nagasaki National livestream, FMI: HiroshimaNagasaki75.org/events

Sunday, Aug 9, 11am - 6pm, Hiroshima Nagasaki National livestream. FMI: HiroshimaNagasaki75.org/events

Sunday, Aug 9, 2 - 3pm, Online event: Sacramento Regional August Peace Event broadcast of: 75 Years after Hiroshima/Nagasaki: Rolling Back the Nuclear Arsenal on national livestream with Setsuko Thurlow, nuclear disarmament activist and hibakusha, dedicated in memory of Winnie Detwiler with tribute by JoAnn Fuller. FMI: info@sacpsr.org, 916-955-6333

Sunday, Aug 9, 4 - 5pm, Webinar: A Discussion on the Connections Between Black Lives Matter and the Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Click for info and to register.

Sunday, Aug 9, 8pm, Access Sacramento broadcast of Sacramento Regional August Peace Event on Comcast Channel 17. Will replay at August 10 noon and August 11 4am. FMI: 916-448-7157, sacpeace@dcn.org.

Monday, Aug 10, 5 - 7pm, American Civil Liberties 2020 Virtual Lobby Day. Click to register. FMI: changemakers@aclunc.org

Thursday, Aug 13, Showing up for Racial Justice general meeting. FMI: surjsacramento@gmail.com.

Thursday, Aug 13, 4:30 - 6pm, Stop U.S. militarism and wars weekly vigil. Those participating are asked to stay at least 6 feet apart and wear a mask. 16th & J Sts. Sacramento. FMI: 916-448-7157, sacpeace@dcn.org

Thursday, Aug 13, 4pm, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom monthly online call. Click to Register. FMI: 916/730-0860; conjoin@sonic.net

Thursday, Aug 20, 4:30 - 6pm, Support Palestinian rights. Stop U.S. militarism and wars. Those participating are asked to stay at least 6 feet apart and wear a mask. End U.S. aid to Israel. & Boycott companies aiding Israel's abuses. FMI: 916-448-7157.

Thursday, Aug 27, 4:30 - 6pm, Stop U.S. militarism and wars weekly vigil. Those participating are asked to stay at least 6 feet apart and wear a mask. 16th & J Sts. Sacramento. FMI: 916-448-7157, or sacpeace@dcn.org.

Coming Soon!

We're trying to liven up our newsletter a bit with a new layout and more visual graphics. Should we make it bigger? Add more pages? It's up to you!

We'll be sending a survey soon to see what you, our members, would like to see in our newsletter. Please respond promptly.

Your input is very important to us!