



Sacramento Area Peace Action April/May 2020 Newsletter

Working to end U.S. militarism since 1983.

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Time to lift sanctions on Iran, Venezuela and...

People are dying in places like Iran and Venezuela, where U.S.-dictated “maximum pressure” economic sanctions restrict importation of life-saving medical supplies such as protective gear, and ventilators. **Tell our elected that economic sanctions must be lifted.**

Tell Congress to support Peace initiatives

Rep. Ilan Omar has introduced seven bills as part of a Global Pathway to Peace.

Urge your representatives to cosponsor these:

- The Stop Arming Human Rights Abusers Act
- The Global Migration Agreement Act
- The Congressional Oversight of Sanctions Act
- YouthBuild International Act
- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Resolution on the Rome Statute and the International Criminal Court
- The Global Peacebuilding Act

For more information, email SacPeace@dcn.org

How about sharing with those in greater need?

Changes in the 2017 tax bill have resulted in major declines in donations to non-profit and charitable organizations. Now, many of us have received or will receive so-called “stimulus checks” to help us in these disrupted economic times. If you can, **please consider sharing some or all of that money** with individuals or organizations whose need is greater than yours.

Bloated Military and Gutted Public Health Programs

Beginning with the Reagan administration, both Republican and Democratic administrations have implemented federal austerity policies which gutted programs like public health, education, and housing, while increasing an already-bloated military budget.

Please join progressive organizations and **demand that Congress not add even more to the current \$756 billion military budget in COVID-19 response bills:** “The coronavirus pandemic has made it crystal clear that federal spending is dangerously misaligned with our national priorities and actual threats to human security.”

How to save \$450 billion and prevent 68,000 deaths

A study entitled, “Improving the prognosis of health care in the USA”, by the Center for Infectious Disease Modeling and Analysis at Yale’s School of Public Health concluded that Medicare for All would cost Americans at least \$450 billion per year less than was being spent and it would prevent approximately 68,000 deaths annually.

To see how this works, there’s an on-line tool called *Shift* at shift.cidma.us Given the realities of the current pandemic, **tell our electeds to give Medicare for All a more serious and honest consideration.**

U.N. Secretary General issues warning

After 9/11, in order to “keep us safe”, governments around the world implemented massive surveillance programs. Now, United Nations Secretary General António Guterres warns the pandemic may be similarly exploited: “Against the background of rising ethnonationalism, populism, authoritarianism and the pushback against human rights in some countries, the crisis can provide a pretext to adopt repressive measures for purposes unrelated to the pandemic.”

Int’l Day of Action to boycott Puma on May 4

There is a global boycott of Puma because of its complicity in Israel's illegal settlements on Palestinian land. See www.bdsmovement.net/boycott-puma for more details. In support of this third annual day of action, Sacramento organizers are asking that people send a message to info@puma.com and cc Puma executives kerstin.neuber@puma.com, ann.unger@puma.com Melissa.Garbayo@puma.com. The message is “I am boycotting PUMA until it ends its sponsorship of the Israel Football Association (IFA) which is complicity in Israel’s violations of international law and Palestinian human rights. The IFA sponsors football matches in illegal Israeli settlements in Palestine’s West Bank, as exposed by Human Rights Watch and other human rights organizations. I endorse [the letter](#)* sent by over 200 Palestinian football clubs and sports associations urging Puma to end its sponsorship of the Israel Football Association due to inclusion of teams based in illegal Israeli settlements on stolen Palestinian land.”

For more info and a link to the letter, go to www.Sac4Palestine.org

Earth Day Message: Reduced Travel makes for better air, but what about the long term?

As reported in the Sacramento Bee, on the 50th anniversary of earth day, the American Lung Association’s released its *State of the Air* report, showing that 98% of Californians live in places the association graded “F” for air quality.

Much of the burden falls on the most disadvantaged and poorest communities, groups often closest to pollution sources and with less access to health care. One strategy that can help: a rapid transition away from fossil fuels.

The pandemic has forced changes; people are sheltering-in-place and we’re seeing an impact on traffic and roads. Less commuting is improving air quality; a wake-up call to institutions and businesses, which could lead to lasting environmental change.

Israel illegally arrests more Palestinian Children

Although human rights organizations called on Israel last month to release Palestinian children prisoners because of COVID 19, Israel has responded by arresting more children reports Defense for Children International – Palestine (DCIP).

“Palestinian children imprisoned by Israeli authorities live in close proximity to each other, often in compromised sanitary conditions, with limited access to resources to maintain minimum hygiene routines,” states DCIP’s report .

These children were already being held in violation of their human rights – adding to the number of Palestinian children being held in Israeli prisons when COVID 19 is on the rise is tantamount to genocide. Sacramento human rights activists continue to **call on our electeds in Congress to support HR 2407 calling for the end of US support to militaries, including Israel, that abuse children.** See calls to action at www.Sac4Palestine.org.

Medical diplomacy

For decades Cuban doctors have been going to places in need of medical help. When Italy's medical system was so dramatically overwhelmed with Covid-19 cases, dozens of Cuban doctors and nurses went to help. And more recently, a Cuban medical "brigade" was sent to Honduras to assist. (In 2009, the U.S. supported the overthrow of the duly-elected progressive president of Honduras, Manuel Zelaya.)

Contact Congress and the White House:

All US Representatives and Senators can be reached at 202-224-3121. To call district offices: Rep. Doris Matsui: 916-498-5600; Rep. Ami Bera: 916)-635-0505; Rep. John Garamendi, 530-753-5301; Rep. Tom McClintock, 916-786-5560; Rep. Doug LaMalfa, 530-878-5035. Sen. Kamala Harris, 916-448-2787; Sen. Dianne Feinstein, 415-393-0707.

For President Trump: [Whitehouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov), or 202-456-1111.

For a listing of some virtual Peace & Justice Events, please check
www.sacpeace.org