



Sacramento Area Peace Action June 2020 Newsletter

Working to end U.S. militarism since 1983.

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Systemic Change – LONG Overdue

One-half century, i.e., 50 years, after Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Southern Christian Leadership launched the Poor People's Campaign, ministers William J. Barber II and Liz Theoharis are the co-founders of the **Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival**.

Regrettably, the focus of the current campaign still needs to focus on the key elements from decades ago: racism, poverty, and militarism.

To these, the National and Call for Moral Revival campaign adds environmental degradation and "a recognition of a distorted morality based on religious nationalism" which is now endemic in the United States.

JUNE 20, 2020: Mass Poor People's Assembly and Moral March on Washington

People of conscience, faith leaders, poor people, disposed people and those otherwise impacted will gather digitally to let their voices be heard in the seat of power, Washington, D.C. For more information:

<https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/take-action/>

This virtual coming together will be the largest-ever-gathering of impacted people and persons of conscience.

Poor People's Moral Budget

The U.S. military budget is notoriously expensive, while 140 million people in America are poor, or one emergency away from being poor. To learn more about the seven sections of the Moral Budget:

<https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/resource/poor-peoples-moral-budget/>

The 1033 Program gives surplus U.S. military equipment to local and regional policing agencies

In 1997, under President Clinton, transferring excess military equipment to policing agencies was written into the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and became regular practice. Via Executive Order, President Obama restricted certain transfers, but President Trump overturned Obama's Executive Order.

Killology: Warrior mentality training

When policing agencies are armed with war materiel the police-community relationship tends to be more confrontational. But a contributing factor is a certain kind of training that policing agencies have been buying: killology or warrior/combat training.

Such training teaches: how to adopt the mentality of a warrior; how to be less hesitant to use lethal force; how to resort to lethal force more quickly; how to escalate a situation; seeing the world as the enemy and the community as terrorists; etc.

Killing others is something most people do not do naturally. They must be trained to do so.

Mathew Hoh is a former U.S. Marine, who resigned from the U.S. State Department in 2009 in protest over President Obama's escalation of war in Afghanistan. Per Hoh, approximately 5,000 U.S. military personnel plus 5,000 military contractors were killed in 21st century U.S. wars. But an equal number, 10,000 persons, unable to readjust to civilian life, being so haunted by the killing they did in those wars, have committed suicide.

Economic sanctions are economic warfare

Obtaining needed health supplies – tests, personnel protective equipment, ventilators, etc. – during the pandemic has been difficult for all countries. Most particularly forcefully impacted were countries whose economies have been destroyed by U.S. sanctions; countries like Venezuela and Iran.

There were entreaties from many sources, appealing to the U.S. to lift the sanctions on an interim basis. But to no avail. Even in non-pandemic times, U.S. sanctions kill.

What do "Defund the police" and "Abolish the police" mean?

For a conversation with six prominent activist voices please watch the June 10, 2020 episode of *The Daily Social Distancing Show* on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PVW2eaCyC5c>

Since the Reagan years, the U.S. has spent less and less on education and social services like mental health and spent more and more on jails and prisons.

That trend was exacerbated by the Clinton administration's 1994 crime bill which included minimum sentences for minor offenses and imposed "three strikes" life sentences.

Today, we recognize that there needs to be a paradigm shift because what we have is not only hugely expensive, but it's not working.

Industrial Pollution: What the Russian Arctic and Alaskan Indigenous Peoples have in common

A June 2020 pollution crisis links melting permafrost under a 21,000-ton diesel fuel tank to its collapse. This caused a 135 square mile oil spill. 6,000 tons spilled onto the ground. 15,000 tons spilled into the water. From there, diesel oil flowed into nearby rivers.

This occurred in Norilsk, Russia, at a power plant operated by Norilsk-Taimyr Energy Co., a subsidiary the world's leading producer of nickel and palladium (a rare metal used to make catalytic converters, used on gasoline-powered engines.)

Greenpeace calls this the first accident of such a large scale in the Arctic. Damage to just water bodies will amount to tens of millions of dollars.

"Inevitable" accidents like this and the pollution emitted from the huge drilling operations in Alaska are destroying what was once pristine Arctic environment.

Wind-carried pollutants from those drilling operations turn the sky a hazy green and leave black soot deposits on the snow and on everything else. Just 8 miles away, the people in Nuiqsut, Inupiaq, suffer asthmas flare ups and other health effects. And this area is poised for another drilling boom.

The feedback loop is clear: more exhaust, melts more permafrost and leads to more pollution and greenhouse gases in the air and environment. We need to transition to non-internal-combustion transportation. Do your part. Drive less. Walk and bicycle more. **Contact your Representative and demand better fuel economy standards.**

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.

In recent weeks we have witnessed electeds from both parties engaging in shameless political posturing, posing for opportunistic photo-ops, mouthing insincere pronouncements, and proposing symbolic gestures.

Given the loud and clear voices of hundreds of thousands of Americans who have taken to the streets, will Senators Feinstein and Harris and our Representatives have the curiosity, creativity and courage to author, co-sponsor, strongly support and vote for and pass **real and substantive legislation** that addresses the core aspects of the Poor People's Campaign: a National Call for Moral Revival? This is a time for political ingenuity, not business as usual!

Urge your Representative to sign onto and support H. Res. 988: "Condemning all acts of police brutality, racial profiling, and the use of excessive and militarized force throughout the country."

Urge Senators Feinstein and Harris to co-sponsor S. 3931, "A bill to prevent the militarization of Federal, State, and local law enforcement by Federal excess property transfers and grant programs."

Urge Senator Harris to join Senator Feinstein as a co-sponsor of S. 3866, authored by Senator Edward J. Markey: *Preserving Leadership Against Nuclear Explosives Testing (PLANET) Act*. The bill would prevent the Trump administration from restarting explosive nuclear weapons testing by restricting funds for fiscal year 2021 and all previous years (i.e., any funds from prior years) from being used for such a purpose.

June 2020 Sacramento Events for Peace, Justice & the Environment

For the latest listings, please check www.sacpeace.org

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