



Sacramento Area Peace Action

Newsletter

October
2020

Working to end U.S. militarism since 1983

909 12th St, Suite 118, Sacramento, CA 95814 916-448-7157 sacpeace@dcn.org

China: Uncle Sam's Latest Boogeyman

By Mario Galvan

For several years now, drumbeats of anti-China talk have been getting louder and louder. Despite many years of economic cooperation, with many US manufacturers moving factories to China and Chinese goods flooding US stores, Trump has begun a trade war. Escalating bouts of sanctions are damaging the economies of both countries. Verbal attacks from the US government and the media are increasing in both number and intensity, accusing China of everything from spying on us with the Tik Tok app, to having deliberately sent us COVID.

Now, in the run-up to the coming election, China has become the “mud” each party is slinging at each other. Trump recently said that “Joe Biden’s entire career has been a gift to the Chinese Communist Party.” In return, Biden accused Trump of “rolling over for the Chinese” during the rise of the

Covid crisis, claiming that he would have demanded that US medical personnel be admitted into China to attack the virus at its point of origin.

All this mutual anti-Chinese ranting has caused hate crimes against all Asians to increase dramatically in the US.



Even more dangerously, US naval forces are going toe-to-toe with the Chinese military in the South China Sea. This new “Cold War” with China may accidentally turn hot, with another “Gulf of Tonkin” incident triggering a nuclear World War III.

Why, is all of this happening? The seeds of the answer lie in a doctrine laid out in 2000 by the

neo-conservative “Project for A New American Century.” It argued that no foreign country should be allowed to grow strong enough to threaten US dominance. As the only remaining “superpower” after the collapse of the USSR in 1991, the US should use its

military strength to control the rest of the world. It called for a massive buildup of the military, including “missile defense” systems, investment in high-tech weaponry and new generations of nuclear weapons, and the control of both cyberspace and outer space. Their proposal

coincided with a Dept. of Defense publication earlier that same year calling for the US military to achieve “full spectrum dominance;” the ability to overcome any adversary anywhere on land, sea, air, or space. Politicians agreed with both, which is why US military spending keeps increasing, and (*Cont. on p. 6*)

U.S.A. - The “Endless War” Nation

(From *Democracy Now*, Sept. 11, 2020) <https://www.democracynow.org/shows/2020/9/11>

Since declaring Independence in 1776, in all but 11 years, the US has been involved in some form of war or other combat. In the early years that too often meant genocide against Native Americans. And even before completing colonization from “sea to shining sea,” the US began assembling an empire.

Today, that involves having around 800 military bases in 80 foreign countries. (At the height of the wars on Iraq and Afghanistan, that number was more than 2,000 bases.)

How much is it costing? the *Costs of War Project* estimates that over these last 19 years, the United States has spent or obligated about \$6.4 trillion. That total is increasing daily.

The US is involved in wars in at least 24 countries. Wars mean people in those places are being “displaced” – turned into refugees. How many? No one is keeping accurate count, but just the 8 most violent ones (Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Somalia, Yemen, Libya, Syria and the Philippines) likely have resulted in at least 37 million persons being displaced. And that’s a very low-side-guess. The total could be from 48 to 59 million persons displaced.

The US doesn’t count all persons killed in wars. But in five of the wars (Afghanistan,

Pakistan, Iraq, Libya and Yemen) it’s estimated that US combat has killed around 800,000 persons. But there are also lots of indirect deaths; caused by destruction of local infrastructure, healthcare services, hospitals, and food

sources. Those deaths could be upwards of 3 million people.

For 11 of the 19 years since 9/11, a Republican has occupied the White House and for 8 of those 19 years, a Democrat has occupied the White House.

The “Costs of War” Project is Tracking People Displaced by US Wars

(This additional excerpt is also from the Democracy Now article above)

“The findings of our report are basically asking — the United States has been fighting wars continuously, as you said, for 19 years. We’re looking at what the effects of these wars have been. The Costs of War Project has been doing this for about a decade. We wanted to look specifically at how many people had been displaced by these wars. Basically, we found that no one had bothered to investigate how many people had been displaced by the wars in what are now, actually, at least 24 countries that the United States has been involved in.

We found that, in total, at least 37 million people have been displaced in just eight of the most violent wars that the United States has either launched or participated in since 2001. That’s Afghani-

stan, Pakistan, Iraq, Somalia, Yemen, Libya, Syria and the Philippines. And that’s a very conservative estimate. We found that the actual total could be up to 48 to 59 million.

I think we have to pause on these numbers - to wrap one’s mind around them - 37 million people displaced is difficult, in fact, and I think it requires some active effort. It certainly did for me.

Thirty-seven million, to put it in historical perspective, is more people displaced by any war since at least the beginning of the 20th century, with the exception of World War II. And if our larger less conservative methodology is accurate, the 48 to 59 million estimate, that is comparable to the displacement one saw in World War II.

Another way to try to wrap

one's mind around just the 37 million minimum figure, is that it's about the size of the state of California. Just imagine the entire state of California disappearing, having to flee their homes.

AMY GOODMAN: Can you talk about why those eight countries? And can you

correlate that with U.S. wars abroad?

DAVID VINE: We wanted to look specifically at the wars the United States has launched, so the overlapping war in Afghanistan and Pakistan, the War in Iraq, of course; wars that the United States has significantly esca-

lated, Libya and Syria, Libya along with — and Syria, along with European and other allies; and then wars the United States has participated in significantly, in ways including providing battlefield advisers, providing fuel, arms and others, in Yemen, Somalia and the Philippines.

We aren't saying the US is solely to blame for this level of displacement. Clearly, there are other actors, other governments, who also responsible. But the US has played a disproportionate role in waging war, in launching war and in perpetuating war over the last 19 years.

The displacement documented in this paper cannot simply be dismissed or normalized as “unintended consequences” or “collateral damage.” The displacement and other suffering must be central to any analysis of the post-9/11 wars and to any conceivable consideration of the future use of military force by the United States or any other country.

The legitimacy and efficacy of war should be questioned more than ever given nearly two decades of disastrous outcomes. One must also ask what steps the US and other responsible parties have taken - and will take - to repair and make amends for the damage inflicted on the many millions of people displaced by the post-9/11 wars.

Millions Displaced by U.S. post-9/11 Wars

Arrows point to the top three countries where the most refugees and asylum seeker from each country have fled. Arrows for Syria include all displaced Syrians, 2011-2019.



Julian Assange Extradition Update

By Robin Durston

As of Sept. 19th, 2020, Julian Assange's Extradition Hearing has passed the ninth day in London, UK. He has been under some type of confinement for over 10 years for publishing war crimes and human rights abuses.

Many witnesses testified on behalf of the defense. John Sloboda, of the Iraq Body Count organization, revealed that the Iraq War Logs revealed the torture and abuse of prisoners, with 37 million people displaced from the Middle East and 12 million deaths. He said that these helped to end the Iraq war and were done in the public interest.

Carey Shenkman, a civil rights and constitutional lawyer, testified regarding the Espionage Act, Section 793 E. The US prosecutor tried to get him to say that journalists can be prosecuted for possession and dissemination of national defense information. He said, "It's not that simple." There is no precedent for prosecuting a journalist for publishing classified information. They went back and forth citing numerous cases.

The prosecution has been telling every witness before testifying that J. Assange is not being tried for releasing classified documents, but that is not what the Extradition Order states. The prosecution

is saying he is being charged with revealing names of the people in the documents. Daniel Ellsberg and John Goetz reputed this allegation. John Goetz was working with Julian at *Der Spiegel* when the documents were released. He said Julian was obsessed with keeping the documents secure and preventing harmful disclosures. Daniel Ellsberg said when he released the Pentagon Papers he didn't redact them at all. "No journalist anywhere in the world is safe from life imprisonment, if J. Assange is extradited and found guilty". For more on this, see: www.assangedefense.org or www.consortiumnews.com

Daniel Ellsberg Defends Julian Assange

From *Bridges for Media Freedom*, [Assange Court Report](#). September 16, 2020

Vietnam era whistle-blower, 89-year-old Daniel Ellsberg said that he feels "a great identification," with both Julian Assange and his source Chelsea Manning, who "were willing to suffer the risk of imprisonment or even death to get information to the American public."

Ellsberg told the court that Assange exposed what were clearly war crimes in Iraq and Afghanistan... He further told the court that during his prosecution in 1971 he was not

allowed to tell a jury why he did what he did, and said that in US espionage cases matters of motive are not allowed not to be considered.

"Julian Assange could not get a fair trial in the United States," he concluded.

Ellsberg repeatedly denied that people had been harmed by Wikileaks actions, a main plank of the US extradition case...

Asked about people in Iraq and Afghanistan being forced to leave their homes after being

named by WikiLeaks, Ellsberg replied, "None of these threats appears to have been carried out... He said that some people might have left their countries because of this and he regretted that, but added, "How many refugees have been caused in that region by US wars?"

He told the court, "They are pretending to care about the people in this region when their policies have shown their absolute contempt for them over the last 19 years."

Happenings on the Home Front!

Is Your Neighborhood Cool? Not the Case for Low-Income Ones!

By: Board Member Gary Meyer

As climate changes, and American cities warm, this means that urban poor residents will experience more heat than the wealthy in many American cities, based simply by virtue of where they live. Such health problems as asthma, COPD, and heart disease spike.

In dozens of major U.S. cities, including Baltimore, low-income neighborhoods are more likely to be hotter than their wealthier counterparts, according to a joint recent investigation by NPR and the University of Maryland. Deadly health consequences can result, based on emergency calls for assistance. Ninety-seven municipalities were studied, and a strong correlation was found in the vast majority. The temperature disparity between neighborhoods in some cities were 10 degrees Fahrenheit.

However, disparities in neighborhoods stretch far beyond climatological ones. The quality of schools and grocery stores are two major concerns, which has locked urban poor neighborhoods, such as Sacramento's Meadowview, into decades

of educational and food insecurity. Many residents live in rental houses and apartments, which means less equity (including generational equity) than families in richer neighborhoods. Such facilities as hospitals, senior centers, banks, and restaurants (non-fast-food) are rare. Manicured parks, with ponds and other recreational facilities, cannot be found. Tree-lined streets (think Midtown and East Sac) are also rare. What is

common: unemployment and inequality.

Recommendations for changing this: Encourage your local politicians to invest, NOW, in hard and soft infrastructure to deliver facilities and services to these neighborhoods which have suffered institutional neglect for way too many decades.

Take Action: Contact your City Council representative and/or the Sacramento Tree Foundation.

A Recent Sacramento Homeless Protest

<https://www.sacbee.com/news/local/homeless/article245907415.html>

By Faye Kennedy, Poor People's Campaign

On Monday, Sept. 21, 2020 Sacramento Services Not Sweeps, a coalition of 25 plus community organizations and impacted community members, planned and hosted a press conference, march, and rally to bring attention to the pending and shameful eviction of residents currently living at the Stockton Boulevard Encampment located at 5085 Stockton Boulevard in South Sacramento near Oak Park.

We learned on Sept. 3 of the eviction. More than 50 plus of our unhoused neighbors will be forced from the 5085 Stockton

Boulevard Encampment with no place to go and no services provided as a back-up plan.

Both the housed and the unhoused community members joined us in solidarity with signs expressing their deep commitment for social justice: "Stop the Eviction", Fight Poverty Not the Poor," etc.

The event featured impacted voices from the Stockton Boulevard Encampment and formerly unhoused community members such as Betty Rios, President, Stockton Blvd Encampment, Donta Taye Williams, Resident, Stockton Blvd Encampment, Curtis Freeman, formerly (*Cont. on p.7*)

SOA Graduate Convicted for Jesuit massacre in El Salvador

By SOA Watch, posted 9-17-20
(Edited for this newsletter)

On Friday, September 11, 2020, a Spanish court convicted SOA grad Inocente Montano, a former Army Colonel and Minister of Security in El Salvador, for the November 1989 murders of five Spanish Jesuit priests... at the Jesuit-run University of Central America (UCA) in San Salvador.

After 30 years, this is an important step towards holding the highest levels of the Armed Forces accountable for the November 1989 massacre.

Montano was part of a group of high-level military officers who gave the order to 'eliminate' Jesuit Ignacio Ellacuría, rector of the UCA, for his leadership in working to broker a peace agreement to end the war in El Salvador. No other members of the high command have been prosecuted for ordering and planning the massacre. El Salvador refused to extradite members of the military high command to Spain (Montano was extradited from the U.S.) and there has yet to be a trial of the intellectual authors in El Salvador itself.

Furthermore, the U.S. in general, and the SOA in particular, have never been held accountable for their role in training and

empowering members of the military who ordered the murders at the UCA, as well as numerous members of the Atlacatl Battalion - a counter-insurgency battalion created at the SOA - who carried out the massacre.

In a statement of their own, the the Jesuit's University of Central America said:

"The case in the National Court of Spain clearly shows that the Armed Forces... functioned as a criminal machine for serious attacks against Salvadoran population and the rule of law, making use of power that goes beyond the functions granted to the military by the Constitution.

The resolution of the trial

in Spain will help both the national conscience and the Salvadoran judicial system to take real steps in favor of truth and justice, not only in this case, but also in all those related to serious violations of human rights.

Judicial convictions for homicide or terrorism are never cause for joy. They express the sad reality of a moment in history and the worst of the human condition, its ability to gravely offend life and break with the brotherhood to which we are all called. But they are a formal, legal and democratic recognition of the truth, and an encouragement and a guarantee of non-repetition of these inhuman acts."

China Boogeyman

(*Cont. from p. 1*) now stands at around one billion dollars a year, or \$100 million dollars per hour!

To justify this vast spending, the government needs an evil menace to scare us into going along. When the USSR, their old demon, faded away, 9-11 gave them a new villain, opening an "endless war" on global terrorism. But twenty years and several trillion dollars later, "the thrill is gone" in the Middle East.

To keep their racket going, the US government needs another "existential threat." It came with Obama's "Pivot to Asia."

But wait! How is Asia (read: *China!*) a threat to the US? Are they threatening to attack us? No! They're just passing us up as the largest economy in the world. The only real Chinese threat is to US corporate profits, not to the rest of us!

So next time you hear some talking head ranting about the "threat" from China, ask yourself: Are we so afraid of their boogeyman that we're willing to risk war - possibly a nuclear war! - to protect private profits? Let's not sacrifice any human lives, and our own security and morality, to them.

Homeless Protest

(Cont. from p. 5)

unhoused and now a member of the Sac Poor People's Campaign, and Matthew Windsor, resident of Stockton Blvd Encampment and all telling their brave stories.

Other speakers included: Crystal Sanchez, Sacramento Homeless Union, Cathleen Williams, of the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee and Faye Wilson Kennedy, of the Sacramento Area Black Caucus and Sac Poor People's Campaign.

Though the City/County homeless system has provided porta-potties and hand-washing stations, and recently virus testing, in recognition of these encampments as shelter-in-place areas for unhoused people, accessible cooling and breathing centers have not been provided.

Now the City, in particular Councilman Eric Guerra, refuse to stop this eviction, which will force hundreds of people to wander through the adjoining neighborhoods, putting themselves and hundreds of residents at risk.

The Stockton Boulevard Business Improvement District should be ashamed of pushing for this illegal eviction during a climate emergency and a pandemic. The homeless and their community advocates, will be pushing back against it!

Meet your Board Members!

My journey to political activism began with early religious teachings: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," "Love thy neighbor as thyself," and "Feed the poor and the hungry." I regarded civil rights and opposition to war as moral requirements.

In San Francisco during the 1960s it was easy to participate in anti-war and civil rights marches and demonstrations. Every gathering in Civic Center had speakers from diverse ethnic groups and political organizations and music.

In the early '70s I became part of a union contract negotiation for the clerical unit at the television station where I worked. I learned that the issue was power and control, not the minor increase in wages and working conditions we asked for.

I started reading labor history, and took a class at San Francisco City College. I learned about the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) and their struggles in the '30s through

the '50s, and the attempts to suppress them. The ILWU was an "internationalist" union, with an understanding that working people had a common interest that went beyond national borders.

I joined the Longshoremen, other labor groups, church groups, and a group calling themselves "Sandinistas" to



Edwina White

put on an event to publicize the role of the U.S. in the overthrow of the democratically elected government of Salvador Allende in Chile. Our goal was to boycott trade with Chile while it was under the military dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet.

In spite of the success of the event - which included speakers from Chicago labor, Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, who was working to establish a Mexican progressive/leftist party, and the S.F. Mime Troupe doing a new play about the U.S. government's nefarious doings in the Americas - the Pinochet dictatorship lasted for 17 years.

What I learned from the event has lasted a lifetime: If you want change, organize! ***"Don't mourn; organize!"*** has been added to my early teachings.

October 2020 Sacramento Peace Events

All of the links written out below can also be accessed directly at www.sacpeace.org

Thursday, Oct 1, 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.

Saturday, Oct 3, 8am, Webinar: The role of the Jewish National Fund in Palestinian dispossession. Register at: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_OjQeU6oqSE2hBCrX_WnBpA

Sunday, Oct 4, 2pm, Online Comedy Fundraiser to benefit the Campaign for Peace, Disarmament and Common Security. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/comedy-fundraiser-campaign-for-peace-disarmament-common-security-tickets-119342884781>

Thursday, Oct 8, 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, Oct 8, 4pm, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom monthly online call. FMI: 916/730-0860; conjoin@sonic.net Register at: <https://myaccount.maestroconference.com/conference/register/08B3O1HED14BWKMT>

Thursday, Oct 8, 6:30 - 8:30pm, Showing up for Racial Justice monthly meeting. Register at: https://actionnetwork.org/forms/register-for-surj-sacramento-october-community-meeting?clear_id=true&link_id=2&can_id=f37b8b36737ed72b8481591342237ae9&source=email-5-simple-actions-to-support&email_referrer=email_933285&email_subject=surj-sacramento-take-action-now

Thursday, Oct 15, 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, Oct 22, 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, Oct 29, 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.

Ongoing Vigils in Valley & Foothill Communities

Davis Peace Coalition: Silent Peace Vigil, every Saturday, 11am-12noon, G Street Plaza (between 2nd and 3rd Streets) Davis, 530-758-8575, www.davispeace.org (Updated 11-2006)

Sacramento Area Peace Action: Tuesdays, 4-6pm, 16th J Streets ; Saturdays 11:30am-1:30pm: 1 st Sat. Arden at Heritage; 3 rd Sat. Fulton Marconi, Sacramento , 916-448-7157, sypeaceact@jps.net (Updated 11-2006)

Solano County Peace and Justice Coalition: Thursdays, 5 to 6 pm, First and Military street in Benicia, www.solanopeaceandjustice.com (Updated 11-2006)