



# Sacramento Area Peace Action

# Newsletter

September  
2020

*Working to end U.S. militarism since 1983*

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## 2020: Racism, Repression and Fightback in the USA

*By Alliance for Global Justice*

(Edited for this publication!)

For over two months, an uprising against police brutality and white supremacy that followed the murder of George Floyd has persevered in spite of the

violently one-sided political repression spearheaded by both the state and the extreme right-wing.

The Alliance for Global Justice (AFGJ) has recently released a new report detailing the various forms in which

political repression of today's anti-racist uprising in the U.S. has manifested itself.

The report discusses findings in four key areas of investigation into deepened political repression of the uprising at the state and societal level: a surge in mass arrests and a

significant rise in political imprisonments; an increase in arbitrary detentions and the militarization of streets; deaths caused by use of lethal force; and deaths caused by the ignition of racist violence and right-



wing terrorism.

By late June, protests had emerged in at least 1,700 cities and towns across all 50 states. In response to this widespread unrest, on June 1st, 62,000 National Guard troops mobilized in at least 25 states., working in cooperation with police

to “dominate the streets,” as President Trump has described.

Since then, militarization of police forces and the encroachment of martial law has enabled the violent repression and mass politically-motivated arrests of protestors in many major cities across the country, ranging from a few dozen to over a thousand arrests.

Though statistics on this are very difficult to attain, the National Lawyers Guild

(NLG) has reported on the prominence of many largely arbitrary “protest-related” arrests, including “disorderly conduct,” “resisting arrest,” and “failure to disperse.”

According to the NLG, police across the country have arrested protesters, journalists, (*Cont. on p. 6*)

# Nuclear Bombs/Accidents Aren't the Only Cause of Ocean's Radioactive Poisoning

By Board member Gary Meyer

Most people know that the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear reactor meltdown led to the deaths and injuries of thousands of people. Many do not know that this disaster caused the largest accidental source of radionuclides in the ocean, and atmospheric and soil contamination comparable only to the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster. Soil contamination caused deleterious effect on stock farming and agriculture, affecting human health.

The peak of the concentrations was approximately one

month after the earthquake, which corresponds with the decision to use seawater to cool the reactors. In terms of radionuclide activities in the surface of the ocean, Fukushima exceeds Chernobyl.

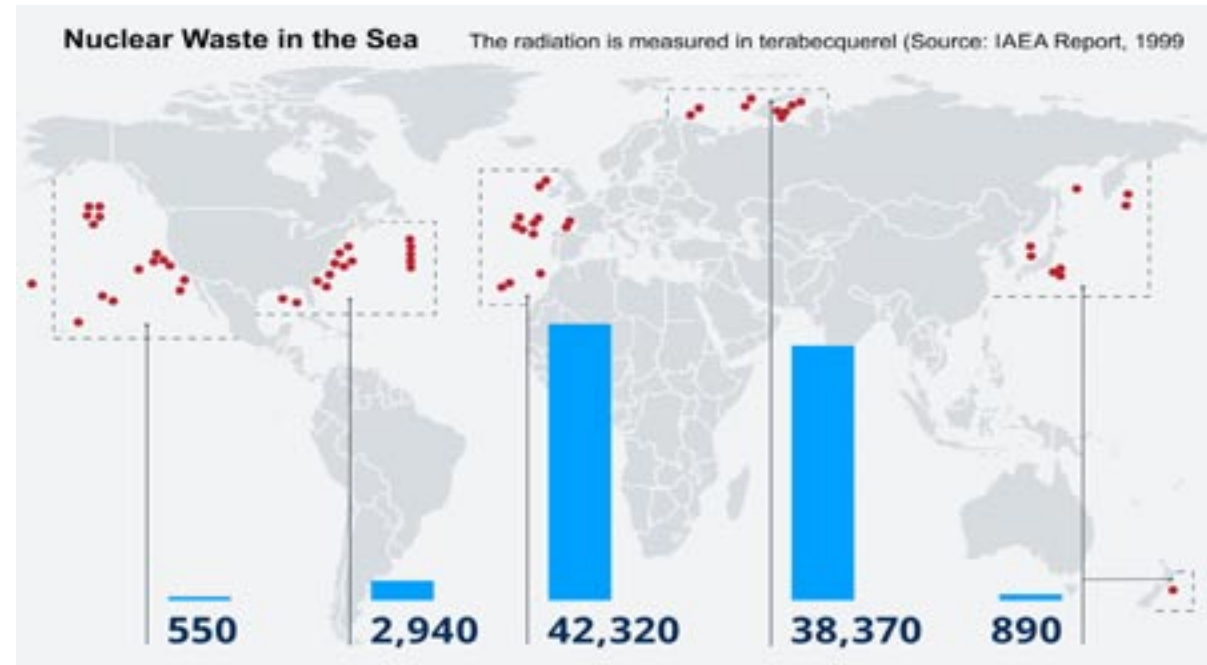
**However, radionuclide activities in our oceans is much higher in the North Atlantic. Why??**

Until the early 1990s the oceans were used as a gigantic dump for radioactive waste from nuclear power plants.

From 1946 to 1993, more than 200,000 tons of waste, some of it highly radioactive, was dumped in the oceans.

Also, several nuclear subs, with nuclear munitions, were also sunk. More than 90 percent of this nuclear waste came from Britain and the Soviet Union. However, the US dropped more than 90,000 barrels and at least 190,000 cubic meters of radioactive waste in the North Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

“The barrels are everywhere” says ecologist Yannick Rousselet, and “they are rusty and leaking, with radiation clearly elevated.” He also said there is “no safe way to lift the rusted barrels,” which will lead to contamination of the ocean floor for decades. (Cont. on p. 7)



## Creech Anti-drone Resistance Fall Action Sept. 27 - Oct. 3rd

Co-sponsored by **CODEPINK** and Veterans For Peace

**Our Fall Action Week of Drone Resistance is almost here!** Please join us for all or part of the week!

This year's special theme will be the 19th Anniversary of the War on Afghanistan! We will commemorate that event and stand in solidarity with the Afghan people and their right to live without U.S. occupiers.

We also deeply hope that by the time our fall action is here, we will **NOT** be at war with Iran. Bring all the troops home now! **WAR IS NEVER THE ANSWER!**

Just because we don't hear about U.S. drone strikes (thanks to is media

ensorship!), that doesn't mean that people in Afghanistan, Yemen, Iraq, Somalia, Syria, Libya and elsewhere aren't being regularly killed and terrorized by these racist tools of U.S. empire building, under both Republican and Democratic Administrations.

There are over 900 drone pilots operating out of Creech, which means that a disturbing amount of remote murder is happening at Creech on a daily basis.

These strikes are mostly away from any "battlefield," killing people as they are eating dinner in their homes, sleeping in their beds, driving their cars

on the highway, worshipping in a mosque, attending wedding parties or funerals.. just living their lives. Innumerable unarmed civilians, including women and children are being slaughtered by these cowardly weapons of destruction. This is unconscionable! Let's make the 6th annual SHUT DOWN CREECH fall action a very powerful stance against the brutality of covert U.S. drone killing. Please join us, and help spread the word.

[REGISTER HERE](#) as soon as you can, to help us prepare for your arrival!

For more info: [www.ShutDownCreech.blogspot.com](http://www.ShutDownCreech.blogspot.com)



# The Yemen Civil War In A Global Context: The Untold Story

By Mario Galvan

We hear a lot these days of the major humanitarian crisis in Yemen, where as many as 100,000 have died in their civil war, and millions are facing starvation.

The US government bears some responsibility for this; it supports the Saudi aerial bombing campaign with weapons, intelligence, and even in-flight refueling of Saudi attack aircraft.

The US State Dept. claims that the rebel forces in Yemen are Iranian proxies in the battle with Saudi Arabia for regional dominance. Our support for Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen is justified as an extension of the hostile diplomacy of the US toward Iran, which is suffering under heavy US sanctions.

But a recent webinar on the subject paints a very different picture, and shows how the framing of the Yemeni "civil war" is a cover for the real cause of the fighting: who will control, and benefit from, newly discovered oil and natural gas resources. What's the real story?

The Republic of Yemen only came into existence in 1990, with the merger of the Yemen Arab Republic in the north, and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen in the

south. Very soon after that, in 1994, a civil war broke out between the northern faction, who had been a "free market" (if somewhat corrupt) country, and the south, which had been socialist.

The north won, and instituted "structural adjustments" in order to obtain loans from the IMF and World Bank. This was not well received by the majority of the population, who are largely rural subsistence farmers. The military victory of the north also put many southern properties and resources into northern hands.

This led to an indigenous insurgency against the Yemeni government beginning in 2004. It was a broadly based, cross-regional alliance called Ansar Allah ("Supporters of God").

One of the main points of the webinar was to point out how, in our Western media, this movement has been demonized and re-branded as "the Houthis," a radical Shi'a group supported by Iran.

In fact, the movement also contains Sunnis as well, who make up nearly two thirds of

the population.

The name "Houthi" is taken from one of the leaders of the Ansar Allah movement, Hussein Badreddin al-Houthi, whose name includes the name of his tribe, the Houthi. He was killed by the Yemeni army, along with a number



of his guards, for resisting arrest in 2004. This sparked the insurgency against the government, which has been called the "Houthi" insurgency in the West, to hide the existence of the very broad Ansar Allah movement, of which Hussein

was a part.

This "reductive naming" is a verbal device that reduces an entire movement/insurgency to one man, to "minimalize the resistance." In Cuba, the problem was Castro, not



the Cuban Revolution; in Venezuela, the problem is Maduro, not the Venezuelan people; in Bolivia, the problem was Evo Morales, not the poor indigenous majority that elected him to office.

This device has been used very effectively to direct the attention of the US public away

from what is really going on in areas where "US (business) interests" are at work behind the scenes. Let's not let it work again in Yemen!

The "real story" is that the majority of the people of

Yemen, a nation of around 20 million mainly poor rural subsistence farmers, are struggling against a corrupt and repressive capitalist government being supported by the

US, Britain, Saudi Arabia (US proxies?), and a ragtag coalition of local states.

In addition to wealth of the newly found oil and natural gas fields, also at stake is the geopolitical crossroads Yemen occupies at the entrance to the Red Sea. Right across the narrow strait to the west, in Djibouti, military bases are springing up like mushrooms as "the Great Chess Game" continues to play out among world powers.

So the Yemeni people are condemned to pay the price of other nations' political and financial ambitions, to suffering under a brutal aerial

bombardment that has no real chance of ending yet another "endless war."

Unfortunately, they have no corporate propaganda machine to tell their side of the story; just us.

Here's a link to the webinar: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ct2vjfm4kGE>

And here's another link to a 5 minute interview with the editor of a Yemeni newspaper, who is quoted as saying, "It's easy to forget the poor when you're fighting the rich." <https://www.cnn.com/videos/world/2016/08/16/yemen-intv-amanpour-ward-hakim-almasmari.cnn>

## A Code Pink Emergency ACTION!

Not only is the US helping the Saudis and the UAE wage this war, it's now also blocking humanitarian aid. How are hospitals without power going to treat COVID-19 patients in Yemen? USAID has an obligation to give Yemen the aid it was promised!

Reach out to your representatives in Congress about restoring and expanding aid to Yemen. It only takes a few minutes! You can do it during a commercial while watching TV. Change can be made in your in-between moments! Use this link:

[https://www.codepink.org/usaaid\\_yemen?utm\\_campaign=usaaid\\_yemen&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=codepink](https://www.codepink.org/usaaid_yemen?utm_campaign=usaaid_yemen&utm_medium=email&utm_source=codepink)

# Racism & Repression (cont. from p.1)

legal observers, medics, and bystanders alike. Charges range from low-level offenses to federal felonies.

Law enforcement agents continue to exercise deadly force and intimidation against human beings with impunity. Legal observers have reported law enforcement agents attacking people with batons and bicycles, running protestors down with horses and police vehicles, and freely deploying tear gas, pepper spray, rubber and bean bag bullets, and flash-bang grenades.

A body of documented evidence has made evident the serious injuries and fatalities caused by the use of state-sanctioned violence against anti-racist protestors and most particularly people of color.

President Trump has also repeatedly encouraged his supporters to take action against protestors in the name of restoring "law and order." By doing so, the administration has strengthened the narrative of neo-fascists by evoking a sense of imminent danger and providing the militant far-right a platform.

The Trump Administration has given the Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) elite force, the Border Patrol Tactical Unit (BORTAC) the

green light to enter major cities in order to crack down on protests. BORTAC agents, the "Marine Corps of US federal law enforcement community," are trained to treat civilians as "enemy combatants." The rise in arbitrary detentions and forced disappearances of protestors and people



of color today have made evident the everyday reality undocumented people of color face in the hands of U.S. law enforcement.

It also sheds light on the fundamental role of the U.S. police state: to repress people of color for their actions undertaken in defense of their survival. We recognize that these practices of state-sanctioned violence aren't

new, and that the repression of anti-racist resistance movements transcends U.S. borders. The intentional and systematic role the U.S. state has played in providing training, sponsorship and arms to right-wing militaries and paramilitaries in the global south is an issue that should concern all of us committed to the anti-racist movement.

From the creation of the School of Americas in 1946, to today's support of right-wing client states and plans for regime change around the world, U.S. foreign policy has facilitated the repression of colonized peoples. Now it's bringing those policies to bear at home as well.

With local, state, and federal law enforcement as well as the militant right-wing making its presence known during this nationwide uprising, the U.S. anti-racist resistance

movement will need more than just its numbers to overcome its repression.

In order to succeed, we need an unwavering commitment to expose human rights violations, and to mobilize against racial oppression and injustice everywhere.

**Here's a link to the report:** [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Old-9pf4KcGa5Z2U7QIBYDp\\_nxn6ppy4r/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Old-9pf4KcGa5Z2U7QIBYDp_nxn6ppy4r/view)

# Meet your Board Members!



**Mario Galvan**  
Member since 1994

Hi everyone,

The Board has decided to "personalize" the newsletter a bit by sharing some information about ourselves, and why we're giving our time to Peace Action. We'll each have a turn, month by month.

I grew up in Roseville, where my dad worked for the railroad. I went to Sierra College before moving down to San Jose State, where I earned a BA in Art History. I've been doing artwork since childhood, thanks to a very talented older sister who inspired me.

Being born just after the end of WWII, I grew up playing soldier (along with cowboys and Indians, Tarzan, etc.) with my seven brothers. We lived at the edge of town, and Dry Creek, with all of its trees and brush along the banks, was our favorite playground.

I became politically aware and active during the Viet Nam war (not *really* a war, since Congress never declared war) in the 1960's, and have been at it ever since. For the last 26+ years, I've been working with the Zapatistas, an indigenous group in Mexico who got fed up with the Mexican government and declared war on it in 1994. They're still there today, no longer a rebel army, but as a well-organized social movement. They control an autonomous area in which they govern themselves. They have their own medical, educational, and legal systems, independent of state and federal laws. Sadly, they continue to be attacked by paramilitary groups even today, but they keep on keepin' on!

That's what we have to do as the Peace Movement. We too have a government that doesn't give a damn about us, and a political system that shuts us out so that it can pander to the rich. If we ever hope to attain peace (as in ending war), we have to recognize and deal with another war, that's invisible and undeclared: the class war.

The people who run our society have tricked us into fighting each other, while they're stealing us blind, and using our nation's wealth to try to rule the world. We have to make peace with ourselves first, and then work together to take our country back from the "elites." We can do it if we learn to live in relations of partnership instead of domination (Thank you, Riane Eisler!), and if we can "fuse" our various issues into one unified force, like the Poor People's Campaign and others are striving to do!

Please, help us make it happen! We can't do it without you!

*We want your input!*

## Survey reminder

If you've completed the survey, thank you! If not, please do so. If you get the newsletter online, you were emailed a link to the survey. If you get the newsletter by mail, you got a printed copy.

If you have questions, call the office at 916-448-7157 or email us at [sacpeace@dcn.org](mailto:sacpeace@dcn.org)

## We invite submissions

We want your ideas! Feel free to submit articles, photos, or the issues you feel are most important.

## Name the newsletter

Let's give our newsletter a creative and spirited name! Isn't "Newsletter" kind of boring? We can do better! Help us!

## Radiation at Sea

*(Cont. from p. 2)*

Radiation will be absorbed by marine animals, including those caught in fishing nets, and beaches will be contaminated.

"The exact effects of radioactive radiation are extremely difficult to prove" says Roussetlet, adding that we must walk away from everything that causes radioactive waste: nuclear power plants, nuclear weapons manufacture, etc.

**Until humans can assure proper disposal and storage of nuclear wastes (much of which will remain radioactive for millions of years!), they have no right to continue poisoning our planet!**



## September 2020 Sacramento Peace Events

**Thursday, Sep 3**, 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](mailto:sacpeace@dcn.org).

**Thursday, Sep 3**, 7pm, Cynthia Kaufman presents her new book, Challenging Power: Democracy and Accountability in a Fractured World. Click to register. FMI: [info@marxistschool.org](mailto:info@marxistschool.org)

**Thursday, Sep 10**, 1 - 2:30pm, Webinar: Living With Lions in the Wildland-Urban Interface. Click to register. FMI: [crobinson@mountainlion.org](mailto:crobinson@mountainlion.org)

**Thursday, Sep 10**, 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](mailto:sacpeace@dcn.org).

**Thursday, Sep 10**, 4pm, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom monthly online call. Click to Register. FMI: 916/730-0860; [conjoin@sonic.net](mailto:conjoin@sonic.net)

**Saturday, Sep 12**, 6 - 10pm, Fundraiser Concert & Art Event benefiting nonprofit California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project. The Center for the Arts, 314 W Main St., Grass Valley. FMI: [info@chirpca.org](mailto:info@chirpca.org)

**Thursday, Sep 17**, 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, Sep 24**, 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](mailto:sacpeace@dcn.org).

**Sunday, Sep 27**, Shut Down Creech AFB actions through Oct 3. Click to register. FMI including about carpooling: [ratherbenyckeling@comcast.net](mailto:ratherbenyckeling@comcast.net)

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**909 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 118**  
**Sacramento, CA 95814**

*Working for peace since 1983!*