

Torture in Iraq: No Monopoly on Capacity For Evil

The Fellowship of Reconciliation, the oldest peace organization in the United States, issued the statement below on May 13, 2004 on the violence in Iraq and the mistreatment of prisoners. Call your Congressional Representatives and urge them to demand a civilian investigation and full accountability. Go to <http://www.congress.org/congress-sorg/home/> for Senate and House of Representatives contact information

In July last year, President Bush was asked whether the invasion and occupation of Iraq might prompt anti-American Al Qaida forces, who had never operated in Iraq before, to travel there to attack Americans. The president's response, in his characteristic Clint Eastwood western style, was, "Bring 'Em On." They came. Thanks to the folly of the U.S. administration's policies and attitudes, Al Qaida-related groups have created a new theater of terror where none existed before. The shocking decapitation of an American contractor this week by Al Qaida operatives is evidence of that.

President Bush's cavalier attitude, coupled with the ongoing demonization of the Arab and Muslim world since Sept 11, 2001, also sent another message, this one to the U.S. military. The intelligence interrogators and prison guards in Abu Ghraib prison understood it well. If Al Qaida were "the evil ones" and Iraq was an Al Qaida operating base, then their prisoners were as evil as though they personally flew planes into the World Trade Center.

In addition to the dehumanization of the enemy, Americans have given themselves a charter of immunity. Since 9/11 and the invasion of Afghanistan, the Bush administration has claimed exemption for the United States from the constraints of international law. It is as though the U.S. is so fundamentally good, its purpose so noble, that it cannot and should not be bound by the Geneva Conventions, the International Criminal Court, or the need to listen to the international community.

The systemic violence at Abu Ghraib is

See *Torture in Iraq*, page 8

Greenpeace Acquitted: Judge Finds Greenpeace Not Guilty in Landmark Free Speech Case

The Bush administration's attempt to prosecute Greenpeace failed today when Judge Adalberto Jordan dismissed the charges in the midst of the trial. Shortly after the Justice Department rested its case, the judge granted Greenpeace's motion for acquittal, ruling that there was insufficient evidence to send the case to the jury. Greenpeace was the first organization to be prosecuted for the free speech activities of its supporters.

"America's tradition of free speech won a victory today but our liberties are still not safe," said Greenpeace Executive Director John Passacantando. "The Bush administration and its allies seem bent on stifling our tradition of civil protest, a tradition that has made this country stronger throughout its history. Greenpeace is grateful to everyone who stood with us — from former vice president Al Gore and NAACP Chair Julian Bond to the citizens of Miami and people around the world. We will never give up the struggle to protect our forests, our air, and our water and to build a green and peaceful future."

The case stems from a protest that took place several miles off the coast of Florida in April 2002. Two Greenpeace activists peacefully boarded a ship that was carrying illegal mahogany wood from the Brazilian Amazon into the Port of Miami. The activists, who clearly identified themselves as Greenpeace, intended to hang a banner that read "President Bush: Stop Illegal Logging." The individuals involved in this nonviolent protest were arrested, and misdemeanor charges against them were settled later that year.

However, instead of intercepting the illegal mahogany and prosecuting the smugglers, the Justice Department filed criminal charges against Greenpeace on July 18, 2003. Greenpeace was charged under an obscure 1872 law against "sailormongering," aimed not at protestors but at unscrupulous 19th-century innkeepers who would attempt to lure sailors to their establishments.

Numerous leaders, legal scholars and groups publicly criticized the prosecution, including Al Gore, Senator Patrick Leahy, the NAACP, the ACLU of Florida, People for the American Way, and the Sierra Club.



Eric Sirotkin (R) in North Korea

Peacemaking in North Korea: What's Really Going On?

The National Lawyers Guild Korean Peace Project presents this program on Wednesday June 16, at 7 p.m. Hidden Springs Wellness Center 1651 Siskiyou Blvd Ashland

Hear about a recent trip by Ashland resident attorney Eric Sirotkin to North Korea:

- What does the Korean standoff have to do with the war in Iraq?
- How would peace in Korea advance world peace?
- How do the The Clash of Civilizations and plans for a New American Century affect our foreign policy?
- Why do American taxpayers spend \$20-30 billion dollars annually "defending" South Korea from its \$500 million trading partner?

The conflict in Korea presents a unique opportunity for peacemaking and dialogue. Still, the media and the administration, along with even many progressive organizations, cast it as a rhetorical fight against evil and threats of weapons of mass destruction. By understanding the history of the conflict, US global Foreign policies, international legal obligations and reunification efforts of those in both the South and North, we can see how close we could be to peace and stability if the administration wanted peace.

Eric Sirotkin talks about his recent trip to North Korea where five lawyers were invited

to travel to the north of the DMZ and Pyongyang, meet with lawyers, governmental officials and military leaders in an effort to discuss peace, nuclear weapons and life in the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK). Their findings reveal the false and deceptive information promulgated by the U.S. government about the DPRK to mask an effort to hide a broader plan for war.

Sirotkin is returning to the DPRK in October.

For information on the event contact Eric at 541-488-4791 or at www.nlg.org/korea



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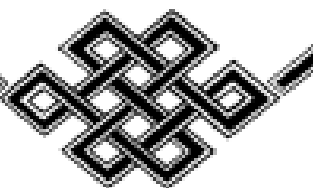
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From the Staff of Peace House

Regime Change Begins at Home

Progressive activists are already lining up to help defeat the Bush administration's re-election campaign this November. With the brutal occupation of Iraq in the headlines daily, and with further evidence of atrocities mounting each week, Bush's approval ratings are beginning to plummet. And progressives are seizing the opportunity to shine a light on this rogue regime and their reckless policies.

Before long, the campaigning will reach a fever pitch, with the incumbent talking about restoring "security" to the homeland and winning the "war on terrorism." Meanwhile the war will drag on and the scandals will continue to unfold, causing untold thousands to recognize the need to do whatever is necessary to ensure this administration is kicked out of office in November.

While some may lament the lack of a strong progressive voice in the opposition of John Kerry, and many others remain focused on supporting Dennis Kucinich in an attempt to sway the Democratic party towards progressive values while staying engaged in the electoral process. Others feel completely left out of the process.

There is a way to take the feelings of disempowerment and unite as a community that cares about our future. This summer, there is a very concrete opportunity to organize a campaign locally. And it is a campaign we can win.

The Bush administration's war on the environment is as cruel and calculated as their war in Iraq. This regime has done more to undermine environmental laws than any administration in generations. Right here in the Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion, they have already done away with protections for sensitive and threatened species, roadless areas, old growth reserves and salmon.

This summer alone, thousands of acres of

our public lands could be opened up to their timber industry sponsors for logging, without these protections. They could go as far as removing the public process that ensures citizen involvement in decision-making, turning back the clock on struggles won in the past to ensure protection of our public lands.

In all the polling, 75% of Oregonians want to see the remaining native and old growth forests on our public lands protected from logging and other resource extraction.

Oregon is already being touted as a swing state in the upcoming election. With the help of all progressive activists in Oregon, the forest protection movement could push back the assault of the Bush administration right in our own backyards.

This summer will provide folks many opportunities to plug into campaigns and actions. Greenpeace USA has opened their Global Forest Rescue Station in the Siskiyou mountains. This is a place where the public can come and see first hand the threats to our region and learn skills to defend these forests. The Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center (KS Wild) and the Friends of the Rogue-Kalmiopsis (FoRK) will be leading hikes into many of these threatened places. The Northwest Regional Earth First! Rendezvous is scheduled for June 10-14 in the Biscuit fire.

This is just a sampling of possible opportunities to get involved. Stay tuned to this newsletter for further updates along the way. And please visit these websites for more information about the forest protection movement and how to get involved.

www.kswild.org
www.o2collective.org
www.greenpeaceusa.org/forests
www.cascadiarising.org
www.forestadvocate.org



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Co-Directors

Grady Boyd
Linda Richards

Administrative Assistant

Stuart O'Neill

Peace Garden

Shelley Elkorich
Leisa Glass

Newsletter Editor

Ann DiSalvo

Newsletter Layout

Ramana Waymire

Contributors

Lesley Adams
Ginger Cassady
Marc Clearwater
Pol D'Huyvetter
Wendy Harris
Jennifer Hyman
Nigel Morris
Peace House Staff

Board of Directors

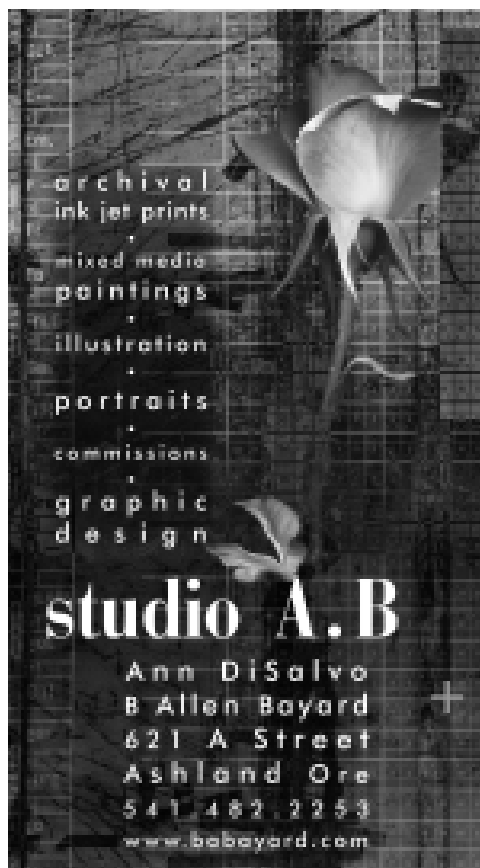
Shri Estes
Tina Friemuth
Maire Jordan
Kevin Preister
Rich Rohde

Letters to the Editor:

letters@peacehouse.net

Deadline for submissions June 16

Visit www.peacehouse.net



Thank You

From the Ashland Zen Center



The Ashland Zen Center had a very successful Annual Yard Sale.

We extend gratitude to the many generous people who helped us through donations and attendance at the sale.

War on Earth Language as a Weapon

I recently returned from a 25-day West Coast road show where I met hundreds of people and talked with them about the plight of forest ecosystems in the Pacific Northwest. I found that while many people are not surprised to hear that the Bush administration is weakening and eliminating environmental laws, many expressed confusion about the language being utilized by the administration.

When Bush came into office I dusted off a copy of George Orwell's 1984 because I felt it would be a good piece of literature to reread. Unfortunately, I was right. And fortunately, it helps me to reconcile the gaps between what this administration says, and what I see with my own eyes. To be content, the American public needs to be abreast of government activities. It is, however, often easier to just believe what we are told or perhaps to not see what is obvious.

I struggle with the terms "friendly fire," "Operation Enduring Freedom," "collateral damage," and "coalition of the willing." I also struggle with the terms "healthy forests" and "Biscuit Fire Recovery Plan." All of these terms sound reasonable, or at least harmless enough in the face of problems that demand answers.

I am reminded of the term "manifest destiny" which was used in the 19th century to justify the sweeping colonization of North America by insisting that America had a "destiny" to dominate the continent. Earlier in that century, the Monroe Doctrine declared in 1823 that European colonial powers had no right to be in Latin America, suggesting that self-rule was a high social value. Yet "manifest destiny," combined with the Monroe Doctrine, gave America the mental acceptance to dominate the Western hemisphere in

the late 1800s and into the 20th century.

I believe that people truly want to live in a peaceful place where they can love their families and friends without harm. Yet this administration knows all too well that if they use a smokescreen of clever language they are able to paint an altruistic picture while truly implementing a deep-rooted policy of domination and expansion. We should talk about the language of War and the language of the war against the Earth this month, as Bush prepares to make Iraq "sovereign" with tanks and make the forest "healthy" with log trucks.

Lesley Adams

lesley@kswild.org

Message from Craig and Cindy Corrie Rise in Birth Deformities Blamed on Allies' Deadly Weaponry

Thank you to all who recently paused to remember our daughter Rachel Corrie and to call for an end to the occupation—an occupation which took her life, as surely as it has taken the lives of thousands of Palestinians and Israelis.

Rachel looked for purpose and found that in Gaza when she went there in January 2003. Brutally killed one year ago, she was an unarmed, nonviolent, peace activist trying to prevent the demolition of the home of a Palestinian pharmacist, his wife, and three children. She believed that the nonviolent activism that she was doing and supporting would make not only Palestinians but also Israelis and Americans more secure—by supporting Palestinians who practice nonviolent rather than armed resistance and by speeding an end to this conflict that has so damaged both U.S. and Israeli images in the world. Rachel stood there that day because the United States government and Israel rejected a proposal in the UN to send international human rights monitors to the region. She and other activists went in their place, and they continue to go. Rachel stood there that day protesting illegal home demolitions that the U.S. opposes on the record, yet fails to stop—devastating demolitions that we, in fact, contribute to with billions of U.S. tax dollars annually that fund the Israeli military with its bulldozers, apache helicopters, F-16s, and more. In fact, the U.S. Government, with our tax dollars, surely purchased the Caterpillar D9R bulldozer that killed Rachel.

Rachel's case is closed in Israel and only the "Conclusions" to the military police report have been given to the U.S. We have been able to view the report at the Israeli Consulate in San Francisco. It contains inconsistencies and fails to satisfactorily reconcile the differences between the Israeli soldiers who say they did not see Rachel and the seven international eyewitnesses who say she was clearly visible. We believe that only an independent U.S. investigation can produce a result that we can trust. We continue to call for support and passage of House Concurrent Resolution 111 (HCR111) that calls for such an investigation and now has fifty-six co-sponsors, including Greg Walden.

Rachel wrote, "When I am with Palestinian friends I tend to be somewhat less horrified than when I am trying to act in a role of human rights observer, documenter, or direct-action resister. They are a good example of how to be in it for the long haul. I know that the situation gets to them—and may ultimately get them—on all kinds of levels, but I am nevertheless amazed at their strength in being able to defend such a large degree of their humanity—laughter, generosity, family-time—against the incredible horror occurring in their lives and against the constant presence of death...I wish you could meet these people. Maybe, hopefully, someday you will."

In September we traveled to Gaza and visited the families in whose homes Rachel had stayed. All were threatened with demolition because of their location near the Egyptian border and the giant steel wall being built



there. We shared meals with these families and played with their children. In recent months all of their homes have been demolished.

In the West Bank, we witnessed the strategy of separation taking physical form in the web of fences, walls, identification cards, and checkpoints that separate not only Palestinians from Israelis, but Palestinians from Palestinians, farmers from their fields, children from their classrooms, workers from their jobs, the sick from their healthcare, the elderly from their grandchildren, municipalities from their water supplies, and ultimately a people from their land. In Jerusalem we met members of an Israeli-Palestinian organization "Bereaved Parents" who have lost relatives to the conflict and now work together to end the occupation, and then for peace and reconciliation. In Israel, we met with peace activists who asked us to return home and work to end U.S. funding of the occupation.

After a year spent learning more, and after experiencing so personally the loss that thousands of Palestinians and Israelis share with us, we echo once again Rachel's plea for it all to end, "This has to stop. I think it is a good idea for us all to drop everything and devote our lives to making this stop. I don't think it's an extremist thing to do anymore. I still really want to dance around to Pat Benetar and have boyfriends and make comics for my coworkers. But I also want this to stop."

www.rachelcorrie.org

www.endtheoccupation.org

The number of babies born deformed and children suffering leukemia have soared because of the "deadly legacy" of depleted uranium shells used by British and American forces in Iraq, human rights campaigners claim.

Releasing details of health problems and human rights violations suffered by Iraqi children in the past year, they claim the country's youngsters faced a worse existence today than they did under Saddam Hussein's dictatorship. Depleted uranium was widely used by Allied forces to penetrate Iraqi tank armor in the Gulf Wars of 1991 and again last year.

Opponents claim the dust it releases upon impact is rapidly absorbed into the body, causing an upsurge of serious health problems inherited by Iraqi children during the past 13 years from their parents.

Caroline Lucas, a Green Party Euro-MP who recently visited Basra, said doctors there had told her that the number of children born with severe deformities, such as shortened limbs or eye defects, had increased sevenfold since 1991. In addition they were treating several new cases of leukemia every week - before 1991 the condition was very rare.

"Women in Basra are afraid to become pregnant because there are so many deformed babies," she said. "We are leaving a deadly legacy for generations to come." Lucas made the claims at the launch in London of a new charity, Child Victims of War (CVW), to help Iraqi youngsters "innocently suffering malnutrition, disease, disability and psychological trauma".

The amount of depleted uranium used by coalition forces in the two Gulf Wars is not known, but some estimates suggest it was 300 tons in 1991 and five times as much last year.

CVW says the number of Iraqi babies born with serious deformities has risen from 3.04

per thousand in 1991 to 22.19 per thousand in 2001. Babies born with Downs Syndrome have increased nearly fivefold and there had been a rash of cases of previously little-known eye problems.

The Ministry of Defense insists depleted uranium poses a "minimal" risk to civilians. But, researchers recently discovered radiation levels from destroyed Iraqi tanks to be as much as 2,500 times higher than normal in the surrounding area.

Joanne Baker, the director of CVW, said children had also been maimed by cluster bombs, blamed by Human Rights Watch for "hundreds of preventable civilian deaths".

Baker said malnutrition had worsened since the Anglo-US invasion and unpolluted water was in short supply while standards of hospital care had fallen because of shortages of medical supplies. Those children who went to school - and a Christian Aid survey showed two-thirds of poor youngsters did not - were "so malnourished they can't concentrate".

Ms Baker claimed: "Every child in Iraq had a degree of psychological trauma. 'I have been to Iraq under Saddam and sanctions - most people know how bad things were - but what has happened this year has plunged Iraq into a plight which is actually far, far worse,' she said. 'I am not an apologist for Saddam but I have spoken to people saying they suffered terribly and they are in tears saying 'I wish he was back'. 'If it is worse than sanctions and Saddam then we are really talking about a humanitarian catastrophe'."

CVW plans to open an office in Iraq to monitor abuses, counsel those who have been detained, train human rights groups and provide medical help to young victims of war.

By Nigel Morris



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Counter-Military Recruitment Program Update

The need to work against militarism has never been clearer. As anti-war activists we must address the root causes and tools of war. It is vitally important to support low-income and youth of color in our communities being targeted by military recruiters in public schools. There is an economic draft RIGHT NOW that we must address, organize against, and defeat. Many feel powerless to resist this endless war. Direct action in response to violence and corporate aggression is of the utmost importance, but working with young people to illustrate military recruiters hype and provide alternatives is absolutely essential for creating a nonviolent and sustainable culture.

Peace House (PH) staff has been working to revamp the counter-military campaign. We've been hosting monthly organizing meetings. The next meeting is Monday, June 21st at 7:00 pm at PH, 543 S. Mountain. Call 482-9625 for more info.

We plan to attend the National Network Opposing the Militarization of Youth conference this June 25- 27 in Philadelphia. We're earnestly soliciting money and flight miles from Peace House supporters to help with plane tickets and travel. Attending the NNOMY conference would increase our skills, resources and capacity to organize in southern Oregon.

There are many concrete things we can do here at home to bring peace.

Alternatives to Military Enlistment: Most recruits join the military for college funding. PH aims to publish an exhaustive guide of alternative college financing, internships and job training available. We need volunteers to research scholarship, work-trade and other alternatives for youth leaving high school.

Curriculum Development: We hope to publish a counter-recruiting tool-kit that will assist individuals or groups working to advocate for low-income and youth of color targeted by military recruiters. We need volunteers wanting to participate in a working group.

Veteran Advocacy and Outreach: PH is working to establish connections with veterans in our area interested in helping out with classroom presentations in high schools. Are you a veteran? Do you know any veterans? Have you worked as an advocate of military service members? Are you interested in researching available resources for veterans and specifically troops returning from Iraq?

School Outreach: We need contacts. Are you a high school student, parent or teacher? Do you know any students, teachers or administrators that might be interested or receptive to classroom presentations, options for college financing or working on challenging military presence in high schools? We need volunteers to make contacts and create working groups to organize events.

Opt-Out Fall Registration: We hope to present all students and parents with detailed information about opting-out. We need volunteers to contact high school principals to create a strategy to ensure all parents and students receive bi-lingual opt-out packets at fall registration.

Peace House was thrilled to welcome Fernando Suarez del Solar to our community last month. Fernando lost his son in the early days of the Iraq war when he stepped on an unexploded US cluster bomb. He has since traveled the country to talk with communities about the horrors facing soldiers in Iraq and in particular, to speak with young people considering joining the military. His work is an inspiration to all interested in resisting this illegal and immoral war. Check out www.mfso.org for more about Fernando and other military family's work to bring the troops home now and end this war.

PH has the opportunity to host a tour of Israeli military Refusniks (soldiers who refuse to serve in the Occupied Territories). We are interested in researching services and opportunities to support veterans returning from Iraq. We are also interested in helping create a conscientious objector counseling group. But we need your help!

STAY CONNECTED! SUBSCRIBE TO THE YOUTH PEACE LISTSERVE

To subscribe, log on to <http://lists.riseup.net/www/subrequest/youthpeace> and enter your email. The list is intended to be a forum for communication between the communities of southern Oregon and northern California working on this issue.

Grady Boyd and Stu O'Neill

Oppose the Militarization of Youth

Join the growing national network of groups working to stop the militarization of schools and young people!

These are trying, yet exciting, times for the counter military recruitment movement. Now, more than ever, those of us who are proactive in opposing war must help shape the tone of anti-war and peace conversations to be more inclusive of the counter-recruitment analysis. The National Network Opposing Militarization of Youth (NNOMY) will be integral in bringing our groups together so we can help the nation understand that providing youth with peaceful and viable alternatives to achieve success in life is an important sign of a civilized society.

NNOMY is an outgrowth of the national counter-recruitment organizing conference held in June 2003. From June 25-27, 2004, the network will meet again in Philadelphia. Please join us!

This gathering, open to all who work against the militarization of young people, will focus on strengthening the network that was formed at the "Stopping War Where It Begins: Organizing Against Militarism in Our Schools" conference that took place in June 2003. Time will be devoted to: Discussing the status of the network, briefing new members, and electing a steering committee; Strategizing about how to improve the effectiveness of U.S. counter-recruitment work, locally and nationally; Making an inventory of existing counter-recruitment resources and identifying other resources that are needed. The weekend will also feature: "Training-the-trainer" sessions for experienced counter-recruitment activists; Caucus and regional discussions; An evening devoted to issues of LGBTQ people and the military. For more information visit <http://www.objector.org>

Concerned about the Draft?

The current administration is gearing up the draft to be ready by June 2005. Military planners acknowledge the need for more soldiers. Unfortunately, voluntary enlistment has not grown as hoped, and half the soldiers in Iraq said they are "not likely" or "very unlikely" to reenlist.

The Bush administration has allotted \$28 million to the 2004 Selective Service System (SSS) budget for a draft. It is scheduled to report to Bush in the spring of 2005 that the system is ready for activation within 75 days of March 31, 2005, i.e., by June 15, 2005.

The SSS is the federal agency responsible for registering all U.S. men at age 18, and then recruiting them. The agency has recently filled all 10,350 draft board positions and 11,070 appeals board slots.

Congress is also talking about bringing back the draft. To ease the burden on the Reserves and the National Guard, Congress brought twin bills, the Universal National Service Act of 2003 (S. 89 and H.R. 163) forward, carried by Senator Fritz Hollings (D-S.C.) and Representative Charles Rangel (D-NY). The Act remains active in the Committee on Armed Services.

To expect a draft in the spring of 2005 – after the Presidential election is over – is only realistic; it seems like a certainty if Bush is reelected and remains unknown if Kerry should win.

A group of concerned Ashlanders are organizing a meeting at the Peace House on Wednesday, June 9th from 7-8:30pm to become informed, discuss the potential consequences of a draft, alternatives (such as Conscientious Objector status) and share ideas and questions. Hopefully we can develop awareness and action points to empower ourselves and make our voices heard. Questions, call Wendy Harris 552-0113.

"Only when the last tree has died and the last river has been poisoned and the last fish has been caught will we realize we can't eat money."
Cree Indian saying

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Defending Forests, Defending Freedoms

Come out to the woods this summer and join Greenpeace at their Forest Rescue Station in Southern Oregon! We will exercise our rights to rescue our LAST remaining ancient forests from outlaw federal agencies by hosting our station within threatened public lands. The Forest Rescue Station will provide a hub for people motivated to learn more about what is at stake and how we can effectively stop destructive logging on public lands in Oregon.

When you arrive at our colorful camp in the heart of an ancient forest, you can participate in workshops and demonstrations, take natural history hikes and help to create lasting solutions to benefit wildlife and local communities. We must work together to defend wild rivers, forest ecosystems and local economies from the Bush Administration's assault on Oregon's future, so pack up your knapsack and come out to the woods!

To view a calendar, see photos of our site and get directions, visit our website at www.greenpeaceusa.org/forests. Please write forestrescue@wdc.greenpeace.org or call 541-261-1050 to connect with someone locally who can help to answer questions.

Ginger Cassady

David Pine on the Israeli Peace Process

On May 7th and 8th, Temple Emek Shalom hosted speaker David Pine, West Coast Regional Director of Americans for Peace Now (APN). Founded in 1981, APN defines itself as "the leading American Zionist organization working to help Israel achieve a secure peace with the Arab states and the Palestinian people". APN's Israeli counterpart is Shalom Achshav (Peace Now), founded in 1978 by 348 reserve officers of the Israeli Defense Forces.

A disarming, gentle-spoken man, Mr. Pine opened with a poignant, yet humorous, tale of an old Jewish man who had been coming to the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem for 50 years to pray for peace between the Israelis and Palestinians. When asked how he felt after so many years without a resolution to the conflict, the old man replied, "It's like beating your head against a wall." Following the mellow chuckle which circulated around the room, Mr. Pine then discussed the roles which the three major parties in the peace process (Israelis, Palestinians, and US) should play.

Mr. Pine believes that Israel has a need for defensible borders but a permanent wall is not a solution. He maintains that the impediment of a permanent wall as well as a proliferation of redundant checkpoints within Palestinian territory hin-

der efficient commerce and productivity in Arab neighborhoods where poverty can be 2 to 3 times higher than in Jewish townships. Mr. Pine supports Sharon's policy of removing settlements but feels that this is counteracted by Sharon's refusal to communicate with Palestinian leadership.



On the other hand, the Palestinians, he stresses, have an obligation to denounce terrorism as a solution and to shun Yassir Arafat whom, it is felt, appears ambivalent if not supportive of terrorist tactics and organizations.

The recent, though unofficial, Geneva agreement which detailed a plan for a two-state system for the region is a good start, according to Mr. Pine. As to the United States' influence on the peace process, Mr. Pine feels that there is little to differentiate the competing presidential platforms at this time. APN appreciates president Bush's support of a two-state plan for Israel but feels that the US needs to play a greater role to encourage negotiations between the parties. A successful policy is "one that is good for both sides", he states. More information on APN can be found at www.peacenow.org

Marc Clearwater

MONSANTO BACKS DOWN ON GE WHEAT!

The Organic Consumers Association launched its anti-GE wheat campaign two years ago to educate consumers and farmers about the hazards of GE wheat. This campaign has evolved into OCA's "Millions Against Monsanto." After years of intense pressure from the OCA and the global grassroots, Monsanto has decided to shelve plans to introduce its controversial genetically engineered Roundup Ready wheat.

"This is the beginning of the end of genetically engineered crops," said Ronnie Cummins, National Director of the OCA. "This is a bitter defeat for Monsanto and a well-deserved victory for family farmers and consumers." Farmers across North America have been resisting the introduction of the biotech wheat crop, based on concerns over its negative impacts on the economy and the environment. Farmer resistance has been strengthened by consumer opposition, which has been especially strong in Japan, South Korea, and Europe. Even in the U.S. consumer pressure has forced major food companies like General Mills to speak out against Monsanto's GE wheat.



Learn more: www.organicconsumers.org/monlink.html

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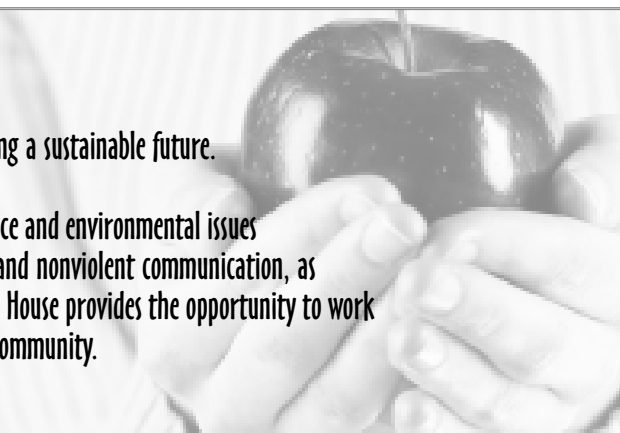
482-6858

Peace House Seeks Interns!

Peace House is a multi-issue regional resource for organizing, education, action and creating a sustainable future. We are seeking interns to work with an established nonprofit for possible college credit.

An internship with Peace House is a terrific way to learn about local and global peace, justice and environmental issues and engage with your community. Learn about conflict resolution, the consensus process and nonviolent communication, as well as technical skills necessary to grassroots organizing and activism. Working with Peace House provides the opportunity to work with a variety of regional activist groups on issues affecting the environment and global community.

Call Peace House for more information: 482-9625.



It Might Take a Village To Solve Some Social Problems

Children and the elderly sometimes seem to be locked in a zero-sum conflict for limited funding and services, demanding difficult choices from policy-makers. Making just decisions is challenging: how should we weigh the relative merits, for example, of a program to provide subsidized housing for fixed-income seniors, versus another that provides tutoring and emotional support for foster children?

Most attempts to deal with such problems through public and private service-entities come to be seen as problems of management expertise, efficient logistics, and inevitable tradeoffs.

But occasionally a community turns out to express itself coherently without bureaucratic direction, and realizes imaginative solutions to complex problems. The organizations which emerge are often difficult to classify, being hybrid entities.

Generations of Hope is one such innovation. Located on a deactivated military base in central Illinois, *Hope* provides housing and professional support to ten families who adopt children from the foster care system. All live as neighbors in *Hope Meadows*, a planned suburban development utilizing former base housing. Intermingled with the family homes are an additional forty-seven rental units occupied by senior citizens, who provide services to the children and to the project in exchange for reduced rent.

Social alchemy

This strategy of combining three or more generations of kin-like support in a secure

and welcoming neighborhood has paid off: seniors have a safe and affordable place to live, families at last receive adequate support for the often overwhelming task of adopting "special needs" foster children, and the children find an end to (or even avoid) a long series of temporary placements and painful disruptions.

Multiple sources of need are combined at *Hope* in a single crucible, and a peculiar alchemy ensues in which needs become resources, resources become multiplied, and certain stubborn costs seem to drop away altogether.

The *Hope* innovation poses interesting challenges to business-as-usual in the care and service industry, and offers an opportunity for re-imagining public service.

Hope West?

Recently an Ashland-area resident contacted *Hope* about the possibility of replicating the program, and offered to provide land for a *Hope Meadows* neighborhood development near Hilt, California.

Still needed: A few visionary local (Ashland-area) community leaders interested in exploring the feasibility of replicating the *Hope* model: to assess the need, to connect with local agencies, to strategize funding, and potentially to develop a working business plan, with the assistance of *Generations of Hope* in Illinois.

Contact: Taylor Sloan, Hornbrook, California, 530-475-3726

More info: www.generationsofhope.org

Support Conscientious Objector Camilo Mejia

Staff Sergeant Camilo Mejia of the Florida National Guard spent six months last year dodging roadside bombs, mortars and ambushes in Iraq's Sunni triangle. He concluded that the war was predicated on a lie, that U.S. forces were not welcome "liberators" but unwanted occupiers responsible for the deaths of Iraqis and the destruction of their country. Home on furlough in the United States, he decided not to return.

S/sgt. Mejia is claiming conscientious objector status; the first veteran of the Iraq war to do so. The army, however, is charging him later this month as a deserter. Says Mejia: "They make it seem that if you don't support what the government is doing then you are unpatriotic, and if you don't support the war, you don't support the troops. I felt that somebody had to come forward and say: I support the troops but I don't support the war."

Mejia's mother, Maritza Castillo, has appealed for support for her son, who is confined to Fort Stewart, GA, and is barred from conducting interviews. On her behalf, the Fellowship of Reconciliation urges that messages of solidarity be sent to Mejia (address below) and protests to the military (also below.) As information emerges about the torture, rape and abuse of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib, and the killing of hundreds of civilians in Fallujah, it becomes critical to support those troops brave enough to disassociate themselves from this horror.

Castillo, who is active with Military Families Speak Out, says her son's application for conscientious objector status is being denied in the context of an immoral war.

"President Bush does not give any explanation about the weapons of mass destruction that have not been found and for which he invaded and bombarded the people of Iraq and sent our young soldiers to die; Instead, he makes a mockery about the reasons he's had for spending the money of the American people in this bellicose adventure. When he is asked about the weapons of mass destruction and the chemical weapons, he responds with vulgar gestures."

S/sgt. Mejia may be the first Iraq veteran to apply as a conscientious objector, but he isn't the first to refuse to return to the war. Even the Pentagon acknowledges that morale is very low. So far, most of the doubters have gone AWOL. The Marine Corps alone registered 1,123 cases of desertion in 2003 and nearly 400 so far this year. Since the start of the war, 29,000 troops have called an advice hot line run by the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors.

Actions: Please write letters of support to Camilo Mejia. Send letters to the Commanding General at Fort Stewart supporting Mejia's case as a conscientious objector. Contact your congressional representatives.

S/sgt. Mejia Camilo
A Company USAG MED-HOLD 865
Hase Road
Ft. Stewart, GA 31315

Major General William G. Webster, Jr.
Commanding General, Fort Stewart
42 Wayne Place
Ft. Stewart, GA 31314
www.forusa.org

Cuba Night at Wide Awake Film Forum

Peace House and Southern Oregon Friends of Cuba will present two films about Cuba at 7 pm, Sat. June 5. For location call 482-9625.

Featured will be the classic Cuban film "Clandestinos". Also showing: a short film about the "Cuban Five" who were unjustly imprisoned in the US for working to stop Miami-based terrorism directed against Cuba (www.free.thefive.org for info about their case).

Brad Jones, who will be on the upcoming Pastors for Peace US-Cuba Friendship Caravan, will share his experiences from previous Cuba Caravans. Due to increasing hostility from the Bush Administration, US-Cuba relations are at their worst point since the 1962 missile crisis. Please support local efforts to counteract the hostile, regressive stance of the US government towards Cuba.

Also, donations are still urgently needed to help sponsor a school bus on the Caravan. The Rogue Valley, Portland, and Corvallis are teaming up to send a school bus from Oregon. Ashland still needs to raise over \$500. Tax deductible checks can be sent to Peace House at PO Box 524, Ashland, OR 97520. Please, do not write the word "Cuba" anywhere on the check itself, but do write "Pastors for Peace" on the memo line at the bottom of the check.

Petition to End the Occupation of Iraq

The Fellowship of Reconciliation-USA is calling on all those who recognize the folly of the U.S. occupation of Iraq to sign a petition that urges our administration and Congress to withdraw our troops and take six measures to ensure security, sovereignty and compensation of the Iraqi people.

The petition, which is on the FOR website, can either be **signed online** www.furthermedia.com/for/programs/iraq/iraq-petition.html Or you can download the petition in **PDF format** for printing and making multiple copies. [www.forusa.org/programs/iraq/Petition-End theOccupation.pdf](http://www.forusa.org/programs/iraq/Petition-End%20theOccupation.pdf) The PDF version comes complete with spaces for signatures.

Read and download the six **Talking Points on Iraq** which elaborate on the six demands of the petition. www.forusa.org/programs/iraq/TalkingPointsonIraq.htm Make copies of the Talking Points to distribute when canvassing for signatures to the Petition.

For a list of **Suggested Actions** around the petition, go to www.forusa.org/programs/iraq/WhatYouCanDo.htm

The situation in Iraq is deteriorating daily. The continuing U.S. presence there can only do more harm. Please sign and help distribute this petition today.

Contact: Jennifer Hyman (845)358-4601
communications@forusa.org

Join Peaceful Demonstrations

Citizens for Peace and Justice is coordinating demonstrations against the policies of the Bush Administration the first Saturday of each month from 12:00 Noon until 1:00 PM in Medford on the corner of Riverside Drive and Barnett. We gather in the parking lot next to the Burger King. We are encouraging all who are outraged at what is happening both domestically and internationally to come and be heard.

Bring a poster/sign or banner that articulates your particular concern. The goal is to maintain a presence that speaks out against the occupation of Iraq, about environmental policies, labor issues, women's choice issues, etc. Another goal is to educate those who still may not be paying attention to the sorry state of affairs in our country. To help achieve these goals, we will be contacting progressive groups all over the Rogue Valley to join in. We plan to do this every month until the November elections.

Tell a friend - bring your family. We have had two demonstrations thus far on that corner and the response from passers-by has been positive.

For more information call Christine Haynie 773-1680 or visit the CPJ website at Medfordcpj.org.



Peace Community Calendar

Eat The Biscuit

Alternate Thursdays, June 3, 17 in Elmo's Lounge at 6pm in the Student Union at SOU
Concerned citizens are regularly meeting to discuss and explore creative ways to help save the Biscuit fire-affected forests of the Siskiyou Wild Rivers area. (See May newsletter p.6)

Siskiyou Field Institute

June 3 - 6, Cave Junction Program
June 14 - 18, June 25 - 27, Ashland Programs, plus many more.
(See article May newsletter p.6)

Reclaim the Commons! Resist Biotech!

June 3 - 9, 2004
San Francisco, CA
Dazzle the forces of corporate globalization with streets full of resistance and vision! While the biotechnology industry and its lobbyists meet in San Francisco and the G8 meets in Georgia, join us in San Francisco for a mass mobilization that says NO to corporate profiteering and destruction and YES to the world we want.
For more information, log onto www.reclaimthecommons.net and www.biodev.org.

Learn from the Burn: Biscuit Wildfire Hikes

Every Saturday 9am. Fun for the whole family! We will carpool from Evo's Java House (next to the Ashland Public Library) leaving at 9am and returning around 6 pm. Bring water, warm clothes, rain gear, hiking boots and camera or binocs. Sponsored by Friends of the Rogue-Kalmiopsis. Contact: 482-2640 forkmail04@yahoo.com

Kelsey-Whisky Old Growth Hikes!

Sundays throughout the month of June. Meet up at Evo's Java House at 9 am, Return around 5:30 pm. Visit this unique endangered forest located in the 46,464 acre Zane Grey Roadless Area. Contact: 488-4996

Wide Awake Film Forum

Saturdays at 7:00 pm. Location TBA.
Always free! For more info, email us at wide_aware@riseup.net
June 5: "Clandestinos" plus a short video about the Cuban Five. Brad Jones will also share some of his adventures driving the bus last fall on the Pastors for Peace Caravan. See "Cuba Night" on page 6. Call 482-9625 for information and location.

International Day of Action

June 5th
12:00 Noon until 1:00 PM in Medford on the corner of Riverside Drive and Barnett. We gather in the parking lot next to the Burger King. We are encouraging all who are outraged at what is happening both domestically and internationally to come and be heard. Organized by Citizens for Peace and Justice. See article on page 6.

Free, Confidential HIV testing and counseling

Every Wednesday, 5pm to 6pm at the Abdill-Ellis Lambda Community Center in the Old Amory on Oak St. in Ashland. Call the Center 541-488-6990 for more info.

The First Southern Oregon LGBT Pride Celebration!.

From June 4th through the 13th a plethora of fun community events will be held throughout Southern Oregon. Email brandythegreat@jeffnet.org for more info, or to participate.

The Abdill-Ellis LLCA Annual Meeting

Tues. June 8th at 7pm at the Medford Library. Call the Center at 541-488-6990 for more info.

The LGBT Caucus Golf Tournament at Bear Creek Golf Course

Saturday June 12 at 5PM. Space is limited (due to course limitations) so folks who are interested should sign up quickly. It will be lots of fun. It is a "best ball scramble" format, which means team members play the team's best shot, so there's 'no pressure.' Amateurs welcome. Sign up as individuals or group. \$20 includes golf and BBQ afterwards. To sign up, call Sue Jones 734-9268 or e-mail sjones@jri-inc.com.

Anti-draft Meeting

June 9, 7-8:30 pm at Peace House. Call Wendy Harris at 552-0113.

I lth Annual Sacred Salmon Ceremony

June 11-13
Kanaka Flat near Ruch, Oregon
A gathering of the people to welcome the descendents of the TAKELMA, COW CREEK, GRAND RONDE and SILETZ confederated tribes, back to their native land. A time to share and learn about the ancient ones who lived for over 22,000 years here in Southern Oregon, and to make friends and bridge a gap. Public welcome. No drugs or alcohol allowed. For more information contact Aggie Pilgrim at 541-474-0334.

Earth First! Northwest Regional Rendezvous

June 10-14, 2004
Biscuit Burn, Oregon
The Siskiyou Wild Rivers Area is the most diverse conifer forest in the world. It has the largest concentration of rivers designated Wild and Scenic or eligible for such designation anywhere in the US. And it is the area where the "Biscuit Fire Recovery Project" has proposed the largest timber sale in modern history. Last year more than 200 Earth First!ers attended a rendezvous in the Biscuit Burn in the Siskiyou Mountains of Southwestern Oregon. The beauty, diversity and threats are drawing us back again....Join us to celebrate and initiate a season of Eco-resistance in the Biscuit, the Siskiyou and across Cascadia!
For more information and directions contact: siskiyou@cascadiarising.org / www.cascadiarising.org / 503-493-7498

Hiroshima/Nagasaki Vigil Planning Meeting

June 14, 7 pm at Peace House. Help plan this year's vigil, an opportunity for nuclear pollution education! Call Peace House for more info or to vounteer to help. 482-9625

Peacemaking in North Korea What's Really going on?

June 16
7 p.m. Hidden Springs Wellness Center, 1651 Siskiyou Blvd
Hear about recent trip by Ashland resident attorney Eric Sirotkin to North Korea! Presented by National Lawyers Guild Korean Peace Project. For information on the event contact Eric at 541-488-4791 or at www.nlg.org/korea See article page 1.

Southern Oregon Friends of Cuba

June 16
Meetings every third Wednesday; 5:00 pm at Peace House.
SOFA is preparing for the Pastors for Peace caravan to Cuba in July. We want to educate Ashland about US Trade policy, host a film forum, get funds for a bus to carry aid across the border and engage the community in solidarity events. See "Cuba Night" page 6.

Counter Military Recruitment Meeting

June 21 at 7pm. Every third Monday of the month meet and get connected to work against the aggressive military recruitment of low income youth and youth of color. Help create alternatives!

Pastors for Peace Potluck and Dance

June 24, Thursday at the Calvin Hall of Presbyterian Church, corner of Siskiyou and Walker, Ashland. 6:00 Potluck - 7:00 Caravan Friendshipment Talk Back - 7:30 Dance. For more information call Peace house or 482-8915

Applegate Citizen's for Political Change Film Festival

June 25th: Inherit the Wind
Films of social & historical signifigance; Come see & discuss this provocative films. 7PM at the Ruch Library Admission is free & refreshments will be served. A discussion will follow the film led by Professor Gerry Cavanaugh, who has published many articles on contemporary economic, political and social issues.

Clear Actions Mailing Party

June 30 at 10:00 am at Peace House. Lots of fun! Volunteers are always needed.

Torture in Iraq from page 1

indeed shocking, but in such a climate, it is not surprising.

Who are the victims of this maltreatment? According to a February Red Cross report, the U.S.'s own military intelligence officers estimated that 70-90 percent of "persons deprived of their liberty in Iraq" were innocent of any wrongdoing. Other intelligence officers assert that most of the Abu Ghraib detainees were caught up in general "sweeps," in the hope that they might provide useful information.

The innocence or otherwise of the detainees abused and tortured is, of course, irrelevant. What was done to them is against international law, as well as every religious and moral tenet of decency or compassion. That so many of them had done nothing to deserve incarceration in the first place merely demonstrates how degraded U.S. judgment has become and why our troops should leave Iraq now.

The violence of the last few weeks throws light on an essential truth: The "enemy" holds no monopoly on evil and "our side" no monopoly on good. All humankind has the capacity to perpetrate evil and violence upon its fellows. All violence, whether depicted graphically in photographs and videos, or taking place anonymously, out of the camera's range, is an affront to the God-given humanity of all. Americans now face the humbling task of asking themselves and their government how it could possibly have been in any nation's interests to provoke such violence by invading and occupying a nation that never attacked us.

Contact: Jennifer Hyman (845) 358-4601
communications@forusa.org

Jennifer Hyman



Help Grow a Peace Garden!

Peace House was selected from 66 Jackson County organizations to receive funding from the Walker Foundation for the start up of organic gardens to grow food for the Uncle Food's Diner. We are very excited to help create community and also to teach organic gardening skills to children and volunteers. Both Willow Wind CLC and Earth Tribe Community Garden have donated garden space. Ashland Food Coop has granted \$500 toward seeds, materials and soil for the project.

If you are interested in growing food and creating change to end hunger, call Peace House at 482-9625 and volunteer!

Fourth of July Parade Entry to Wear Black

Peace House invites people interested in participating in a mourning entry for the 4th of July parade to email Linda at Linda@peacehouse.net or call 482-9625 to sign up. We plan to dress in black and walk silently to express our mourning. Together we will make a statement to oppose violence as war, rape, genocide and human rights abuses continue all over the world. In acknowledging our grief and loss we hope to participate in creating a world without war. Can you imagine a non-violent, peaceful future? What does it look like?

Peace House will also need volunteers to have a 4th of July booth to sell merchandise and distribute peace information. Make this a part of your 4th to work for peace.

Women In Black

In **Medford**, first and third Wednesdays of the month at noon on Vogel Plaza for a half hour of silence. In **Ashland**, Fridays at noon on the Ashland Plaza. In **Grants Pass**, first and third Mondays at 11am to 11:30 at the Post office and after, meeting to noon at the Community Room behind The Creative Alternative (229A G St, under the Art Museum) In **Cave Junction**, Mondays at noon for a half hour at the County building.

WIB T-shirts

Women in Black T-shirts are available at Peace House with an original design by Darnell Designs for a \$10 donation.

Mugs for Peace

Show your support for Peace House with a thermal mug bearing the Peace House logo. It is a very useful item in stainless steel with a colorful carabiner for a handle and a screw-top lid, making an easy way to tote hot coffee safely on a bicycle. One less car at the java stop. Holds 12 oz. of any hot beverage, or, in summer, any iced beverage! Only \$12, and you'll be making a donation to this worthy cause. Call Peace House to make your request, 482-9625, or drop by at Peace House at the corner of Mountain and Ashland Streets above the SOU campus between 10am and 3pm, Tuesday through Friday.

Community Meal

Tuesday

Each Tuesday, Uncle Food's Diner provides free meals for the hungry with food donated by Ashland Food Coop, S.O.U., and P.C. Market of Choice. Come as a volunteer (no need to call) and help with food prep at 2pm or with serving and cleanup from 4:30 to 6:30pm. Come to help and eat a good dinner too! It's fun and fulfilling to see Peace in Action. Anyone is welcome, in the spirit of a true community dinner.

Uncle Food's Diner is serving at United Methodist Church, in the Wesley Hall at 175 N. Main, on the corner of N. Main and Laurel. For more information call Peace House 482-9625.

**"Let me say, at the risk of
seeming ridiculous, that the
true revolutionary is guided
by great feelings of love."
Che Guevera**

Clear Actions

Call For Submissions

Clear Actions is accepting article submissions from writers. Help us get out the latest word on peace, justice, nonviolence and the environment. Email Linda at linda@peacehouse.net or Ann at editor@peacehouse.net

**THE WORLD SAYS NO TO THE BUSH AGENDA
AUG 19, 2004**



**Mass world-wide protest during
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www.RNCNotWelcome.org
www.Unitedforpeace.org
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☐ I will pay my \$ _____ pledge by ____/____/____

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Name _____ Phone _____

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