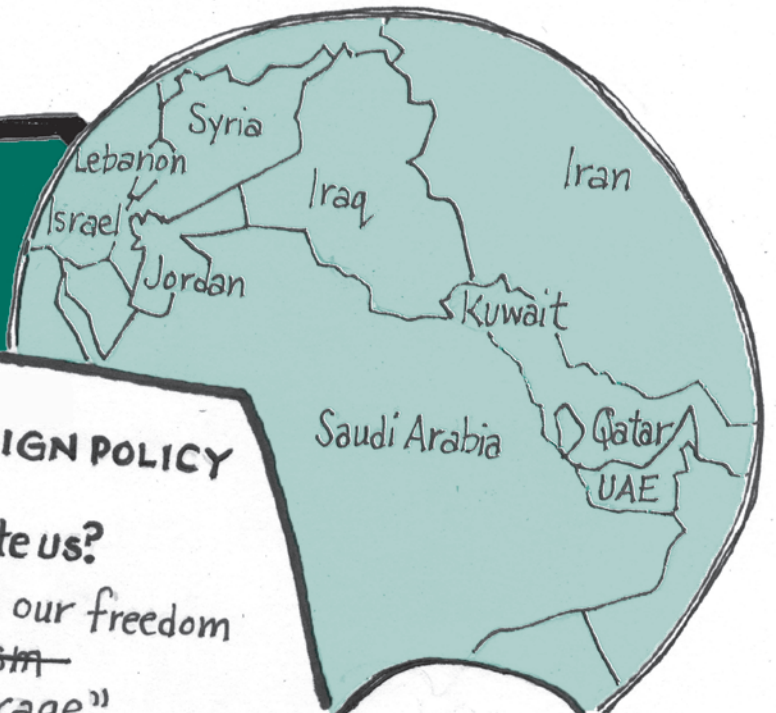


# Peace Newsletter

Central New York Voices for Peace and Social Justice November-December 2012 #819

**PLOWSHARES**  
**Craftfair**  
**and Peace Festival.**  
**December 1 & 2**  
**Details Inside**



**Notes**  
**ON U.S. FOREIGN POLICY**

**Why do they hate us?**

- (A) They hate our freedom
- (B) ~~Imperialism~~
- (C) "Muslim rage"
- (D) Not ready for democracy yet
- (E) ~~Illegal drone attacks~~



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# SPC INFO

## SPC Steering Committee 2012

Susan Adair, Jessica Azulay, Carol Baum, Jack Brown, Andy Mager, Kimberley McCoy, Julianne Oldfield, Amelia Ramsey-Lefevre, Carole Resnick, Ursula Rozum, Richard Vallejo, Rose Viviano, Wendy Yost.

## SPC's Peace Newsletter

**Editorial Committee:** Teresa Florack, Benjamin Kuebrich, Saptarshi Lahiri, Mitch Lucas, Leahann Lynagh, Amelia Ramsey-Lefevre, Aly Wane. **Calendar:** Nick Cavanaugh. **Layout:** Jessica Azulay. **Proofing:** Rae Kramer, Andy Molloy.

## peacecouncil.net

Read the *PNL* online (issues dating to 1936!). See all our projects and events.

## SPC Committees & Projects

**Bikes 4 Peace:** fixing bikes and working cooperatively with youth  
**Radical Reading:** reads & discusses timely books  
**CNY Working for a Just Peace in Palestine & Israel:** education, action  
**Ground the Drones:** education, demonstrations, outreach  
**Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation:** education, hydrofracking ban, Two Row Wampum campaign  
**Youth & Militarism:** counter-recruitment and youth empowerment  
**Fundraising:** overall planning to raise funds to support SPC's work  
*Event Committees:* Birthday, Bowlathon, Plowshares  
**Finance:** analysis, reports, budget, general oversight  
**Peace Newsletter:** produce SPC's monthly newsletter

## Affiliated Projects & Coalitions

**Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse:** faith & secular groups  
**Caribbean Latin America Coalition:** sister communities, solidarity, SOA  
**United as One:** working for justice in the local justice system  
**We Are NY:** labor and community activists working for the common good

# Peace Newsletter

Central New York Voices for Peace & Social Justice

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*About the Cover:* Our public school system values critical thinking less and less as lawmakers increasingly rely on standardized tests to evaluate students, teachers, and schools. Oversimplification and compartmentalization is further encouraged in our adult lives by media who fail to address the implications of our government's actions worldwide. Image: Teresa Florack.

## Peace Newsletter

Sponsored by the Syracuse Center for Peace & Social Justice

**Article submission criteria:** Contact [pnl@peacecouncil.net](mailto:pnl@peacecouncil.net) or 472-5478.

**Advertising:** Call 472-5478 or visit our website for rates and sizes.

**Calendar:** Submit items for the January *PNL* calendar by December 17.

## The Syracuse Peace Council (SPC),

founded in 1936, is an antiwar/social justice organization. We are community-based, autonomous and funded by the contributions of our supporters.

SPC educates, agitates and organizes for a world where war, violence and exploitation in any form will no longer exist. We challenge the existing unjust power relationships among nations, among people and between ourselves and the environment. As members, we work to replace inequality, hierarchy, domination and powerlessness with mutual respect, personal empowerment, cooperation and a sense of community.

Present social injustices cannot be understood in isolation from each other nor can they be overcome without recognizing their economic and militaristic roots. SPC stresses a strategy that makes these connections clear. We initiate and support activities that help build this sense of community and help tear down the walls of oppression. A fundamental basis for peace and justice is an economic system that places human need above monetary profit. We establish relationships among people based on cooperation rather than competition or the threat of destruction.

Our political values and personal lives shape and reflect each other. In both we are committed to nonviolent means of conflict resolution and to a process of decision-making that responds to the needs of us all.

# Educate, Agitate, Organize: SPC IN ACTION

compiled by Jessica Azulay

## Plowshares: A Gathering Not to be Missed

A beautiful community of activists, conscientious consumers and fair traders will gather for a weekend of commerce and communing at the Plowshares Craftsfair and Peace Festival. Plowshares is an opportunity to step into the kind of world we're working so hard to create: a place of justice, of peace, of compassion, of environmental sustainability. Plowshares will feature over 120 diverse craftspeople, live music and entertainment, a silent auction, raffle prizes galore and tasty, healthy food. Please join us this year on **Saturday, December 1, 10 am – 5 pm and Sunday, December 2, 11 am – 5 pm**. Think about those people in your life that you might introduce to Plowshares this year and ask them to join you. Materials are available on our website, and we're also on Facebook. Remember that Plowshares is SPC's largest fundraiser of the year, providing funds that carry us through the long Central New York winter.

## Andy Mager Leaves Peace Council for Related Project

After more than ten years on staff at the Peace Council, Andy Mager is bidding us farewell, sort of. Andy is leaving his regular staff position to work full-time for the Two Row Wampum Renewal Campaign, a project of SPC's Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation (NOON). Andy was instrumental in the revival of the Peace Council when he came on staff as co-coordinator with Carol Baum in 2001, and his tenure has seen rapid growth of organizing work, staff, and

resources. He leaves the organization having helped rebuild it into a recognized and respected force for peace and social justice in Syracuse (see more on page 15). While we are sad to see Andy go, we are thrilled for him and the Two Row Campaign, as they take off on organizing efforts to bring NOON's work to a statewide level.

## Stop the Carnage, Ground the Drones

**Drone Country Tour.** On October 20 about a dozen anti-drone activists toured local drone country, caravanning to visit Lockheed Martin, Syracuse Research Corporation, and Hancock Airbase. At each site Claire Bach, Ed Kinane and Rae Kramer spoke about the roles of these players in drone attacks. Following the tour we gathered at



Max Novak prepares the Drone Country Tour van. Photo: Brandon Weight

SPC for wine and cheese.

**Civil Resistance at Hancock heats up.** The resistance to war crimes being committed at Hancock Airbase continues with two further attempts to deliver a citizens' indictment to the base personnel. Ten

## Holiday and Goodbye Party!

Celebrate the season with the Peace Council on Friday, December 14, at the Westcott Community Center. We invite you to gather with us at 6:00 pm for food, socializing and a celebration of our work in 2012.

This will also be a party to send off long-time staffer Andy Mager and to honor his many contributions to the Peace Council.

were arrested on October 5 for blocking the main entrance to the base on E. Molloy Rd. On October 25, 17 were arrested as we blocked *all three* known gates to the base (E.

Molloy Rd., Thompson Rd. and Town Line Rd.) for a couple of hours. After being arraigned in DeWitt Town Court, all 17 were served an Order of Protection banning them from contacting Col. Earl A. Evans, Mission Support Group Commander at Hancock (whom none of us had ever met). We see this odd abuse of an Order of Protection as another attempt to quash civilian First Amendment rights.

Do join us for a robust Peace Outreach across the road at the Hancock main gate from **4:15 to 5 pm, Tuesday, December 4**. We want Hancock to know that we will continue to exercise our Constitutionally guaranteed rights of assembly and expres-

sion, and that we'll continue to expose its war crimes. Keep an eye out for trial date announcements.

**Report back from Pakistan Peace Delegation.** In early October several members of the Upstate Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars joined a CodePink delegation to Pakistan. They met with local community leaders and survivors of drone strikes, and participated in an internationally publicized peace march in Waziristan.

continued on next page

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Andy Mager (Two Row staff): [tworow@peacecouncil.net](mailto:tworow@peacecouncil.net)

## SPC in Action / from previous page

On October 24 at ArtRage, over 40 Central New Yorkers heard Judy Bello recount her experience and show slides from the trip. Delegation members are speaking to classes, congregations and community groups around CNY. Contact Amelia to arrange for one of them to speak to your group.

## Justice for Onondaga Denied, Again

With remarkable speed for the federal courts, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals rejected the Onondaga Nation's appeal of their Land Rights Action on October 19. Just one week after hearing the case, the three judge panel repeated the same denials that we've seen from the federal courts for the past seven years: the Onondaga "waited too long" and any remedy would be "too disruptive" or unfair to the larger community. The courts remain unconcerned about the "disruptions" experienced by the Onondaga through the theft of their land and ongoing efforts at cultural genocide. In response to Onondaga Nation General Counsel Joe Heath's effort to highlight the Nation's special connection to Onondaga Lake, one judge called the pollution of the lake "development."

This latest obstacle will not prevent the Onondaga from moving forward in their centuries-long quest for justice. On

November 2, the Onondaga filed a petition seeking a hearing before the full 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit. NOON will continue to stand with and support the Onondaga Nation in this work. Despite the dismissal of the case, the judges couldn't help but notice the strong community backing for the Nation, as nearly 50 supporters left the courtroom after the case was heard. Contact Andy.



NOON activists and NYC-area supporters of Onondaga Land Rights vigil after the hearing on the Onondaga Nation Appeal on October 19 in New York City. Photo: Andrew Courtney.

## Give Thanks...

On Thanksgiving morning, Onondaga people and neighbors gather together each year on the shore of Onondaga Lake to express thanks for the goodness of the Earth and to each other for our ongoing friendship; working side-by-side in peace and hope for healing, justice, and environmental restoration. You are invited to join us at **10 am on Thursday, November 22**, at Willow Bay on the north shore of Onondaga Lake. Dress for the weather. We'll have light refreshments. Contact Jack, 424-1454.

## SU Students Protest CIA Recruitment

The CIA is nosing around SU, looking to recruit students, but they aren't going unchallenged. On November 1, Ben Kuebrich and Brian Tackett (both graduate students at SU who are active with SPC) were joined by SPC staffers Jessica Azulay and Ursula Rozum in a protest outside a CIA recruitment session on campus. Brian was dressed as a CIA prisoner in orange with a hood over his head, kneeling near the door to the session. The rest of the group passed

## Plowshares Raffle

**Donate NOW, win LATER.** Items needed as prizes. Think outside the box. That "unusual" lamp from Aunt Tillie, a wonderful book, old jewelry, a plant looking for a new home, that piece of art you loved 30 years ago... Call Rae at 445-2840 by **November 30** to arrange pick-up/delivery.

out fliers to participating students outlining the long history of the CIA in assassination, torture and subversion of democracy, in an effort to inform them about what kind of work they might be getting into. Ben also entered the session and raised questions to the recruiters about torture and crimes against humanity. Media coverage in the *Post Standard* followed.

## Donate to Your Local Peace Movement

You may have received our fall fund appeal in the mail last month, but if it's still sitting in your to-do pile, this is your friendly reminder to send in that contribution. The Peace Council is people powered in true grassroots fashion, which means that there is no one but us, in our own community, to keep the lights on, the telephones ringing and the staff employed. So please, if you want to see our work continue, give as generously as you can. If you didn't receive a written appeal from us, we hope you'll consider donating nonetheless. Send checks to Syracuse Peace Council, 2013 E. Genesee St., Syracuse, NY 13210, or donate online at [www.peacecouncil.net/donate](http://www.peacecouncil.net/donate).

## Partial Victory on FitzPatrick Nuke

In March of this year, the Peace Council joined five other organizations as part of the Alliance for a Green Economy in filing a petition with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) challenging the operating license of the FitzPatrick nuclear reactor near Oswego, NY. The reactor is the same flawed design as those that exploded in

continued on page 15

## PEACE OUTREACH

Show your opposition to war and the reaper drones! Bring your own sign or use one of ours.

**1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month: 4:15-5 pm**

**Dec. 4** Hancock Air Base Entrance  
(E. Molloy Rd., between Thompson & Townline Rd.)

**Jan. 8** Hancock Air Base Entrance

**Feb. 4** Hancock Air Base Entrance

Contact Ed or Ann, 315-478-4571

# Anti-American Protests: Cutting Through Media Propaganda

Deepa Kumar

In September, 2012, a wave of protests against the United States spread around the world with demonstrations held outside US diplomatic institutions in over two dozen countries.

The mainstream media in the US have framed these protests through the simplistic lens of “anti-American violence in the Muslim world.” This framing communicates an entire world view that is taken for granted.

First, it discredits protest against the US by painting the demonstrators as violent. This focus on the violence and the sensational allows the media to conveniently skip over the complex reasons why people in the Middle East, South Asia and North Africa might be angry with the US.

Second, by using the term “Muslim world,” the media invite us to look at people in Muslim-majority societies primarily through the lens of religion. The focus on Islamist involvement in the protests to the exclusion of other voices casts this as a religious rather than a political confrontation. Thus, the protesters are presented not as political actors, but religious zealots.

Third, what follows from this is that the US is presented as an innocent victim—a misunderstood champion of democratic rights under attack from the irrational fanaticism that we have come to expect from “those Muslims”—a victim of “Muslim rage.”

In short, what is a political clash is turned instead into a cultural conflict and the “clash of civilizations.”

Speaking about the Libya attacks, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton lamented: “How could this happen in a country we helped liberate, in a city we helped save from destruction?”

Fully 11 years after the events of 9/11, the same question is being asked about why people in the Middle East might be

angry with the US, and the same ridiculous explanations are on offer—it is a clash of values, a clash of civilizations.

In 2001, George Bush explained: “They hate... a democratically elected government. Their leaders are self-appointed. They hate our freedoms: our freedom of religion, our freedom of speech, our freedom to vote.”



The US public listens to the bipartisan narrative which demeans the humanity of Muslims and other people living in the Middle East while turning its back to the havoc wreaked on civilian families by drone warfare. Image: Teresa Florack

A few days ago, Clinton said: “All over the world, every day, America’s diplomats and development experts risk their lives in the service of our country and our values, because they believe that the United States must be a force for peace and progress in the world.”

The difference between the two statements, it seems, is that the “clash of civilization” rhetoric has developed in these 11 years from a supposed hatred of our freedoms right here to a hatred of our soldiers and diplomats over there.

What has also changed is that the “self-appointed leaders” Bush refers to have faced challenges from the uprisings that began in North Africa and the Middle East in 2011. US-backed dictators in Tunisia and Egypt were swept from power by people’s movements and a reluctant US went along with the changes, backing

counter-revolutionary forces in an attempt to control the outcome.

You wouldn’t know that to hear the new “buyer’s remorse” for alleged US support of the “Arab Spring.” The protests today are being presented as the inevitable outcome of an unruly people when the iron hand of the dictator has been removed. The logic of course is that “some people are just not ready for democracy.”

The formula is so predictable, it might as well be a soap opera.

The second episode of the soap focused on distancing the film *Innocence of Muslims* from overall US values based on the assumption that this was the key cause of the protests. Hillary Clinton declared: “The United States government had absolutely nothing to do with this video. We absolutely reject its content and message.”

What gets omitted from this picture is that *Innocence of Muslims* is a product of the far right in the US. It is not an anomaly in an otherwise secular and tolerant nation. Rather, it joins a slew of similar films and other propaganda—like *The Third Jihad*, which was shown to NYPD recruits and produced by a well-funded Islamophobic network.

In the US, the Islamophobic network attacked mosques and incited fear and hatred. Just last month, a mosque in Missouri was burned to the ground, and six Sikhs in Wisconsin were killed by a neo-Nazi. Since 2010, there has been a 50 percent increase in anti-Muslim hate crimes.

The far right everywhere has a proclivity to burn things down and kill people, it seems—but don’t expect to see this portrayed in the mainstream media.

That would upset the soap-opera formula, because it would mean admitting that there are extremists right here who stand for more or less the same things that the Islamic fundamentalists stand for. The Southern Poverty Law Center reported that there are over 1,000 far-right hate groups in the US.

continued on next page

Deepa Kumar is an Associate Professor of Media Studies and Middle Eastern Studies at Rutgers University.

But the protests in the Middle East and North Africa since the Libya incident should not be reduced to a “clash of fundamentalisms” either. It is not simply the US far right provoking the Islamist far right to respond. Rather, thousands in the region are expressing their frustration against the part the US government has played in propping up counter-revolutionary forces in the region.

When the Arab uprisings began, the US believed that its dictator ally in Egypt, Hosni Mubarak, would hold on to power. The Obama administration didn’t take a position against Mubarak—in fact, it even stood by him. After the first rounds of protests, Clinton emphasized the need for an “orderly” and “peaceful” transition—in other words, time for the US to find a suitable pro-US replacement.

While the Obama administration rhetorically welcomed the “Arab Spring,” the strategy was to control the outcome of the uprisings.

The US has consequently supported the forces of counter-revolution from the Egyptian military to Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

Could this history of US involvement be behind the anger and protests that have swept the region? Such explanations are hard to find in the mainstream media. While the *New York Times* admitted that the “broadening of the protests appeared to reflect a pent-up resentment of Western powers” in a front-page story, the images that cover more than half the page are of angry bearded Muslim men, fire and ashes, and burning US flags.

Episode three of the unfolding soap involved an attempt to control the spread of protests. The US sent troops to Yemen and Sudan and tried to distance the protesters from the rest of the population who are to be “rescued” by the US.

Clinton also called on the “good Muslims” to act. As she put it, “Reasonable people and responsible leaders in these countries need to do everything they can to restore security and hold accountable those behind these violent acts.” What it means to be “reasonable” is to shut up and fall in line behind the US.

Also absent from the mainstream media is the part played by the US in funding, arming and training Islamists during the Cold War. The Holy Warriors who fought the US proxy war against the USSR in the 1980s were assembled and trained by the CIA and Pakistani ISI. The key recruiter to the Afghan war was none other than Osama bin Laden.

Eleven years after 9/11, the media are still asking the same question: Why do they hate us? And the same tired answer is being provided, but this time by the liberal imperialists wielding the “clash of civilizations” rhetoric with perhaps greater skill than their neocon predecessors.

### What Did We Win in the 2012 Election?

Let’s celebrate Election Day 2012 for the many progressive victories across the country! Maine and Maryland approved marriage equality in popular votes. Residents in over 100 cities voted on measures calling for an end to the doctrines of corporate personhood and money as free speech. Thanks to Maryland’s DREAM Act, undocumented youth won in-state tuition breaks at the state’s public colleges and universities. Colorado and Washington legalized marijuana, rejecting the failed prohibitionist policies of the racist War on Drugs. Closer to home, Green Party Congressional candidate Ursula Rozum gained new visibility for a progressive agenda, earning 21,413 votes in the 24<sup>th</sup> district. Voters in the race rejected right-wing Tea Party incumbent Ann Marie Buerkle by a wide margin.

We can breathe a collective sigh of relief that Romney and the extreme-right did not sweep Congress and the White House. Unprecedented levels of money spent on this election leave us with President Obama in the White House and the same majorities in Congress, Republicans controlling the House and Democrats the majority in the Senate.

There is no doubt that Obama’s second term will be full of challenges for progressives, given his support for policies we oppose: drone warfare, occupation of Afghanistan, hydrofracking, nuclear power, the proposed “grand bargain” to balance the budget on the backs of the working class through cuts to Social Security and Medicare, and escalating tensions with Iran (to name a few). The Peace Council will continue to build our progressive movement with our members and allies, regardless of party affiliation or degree of revulsion with our current political system. It’s up to us to hold the politicians’ feet to the fire and to inspire more and more people to take collective action for real social change.

-SPC Staff

# Interrupting the Data Factory: The CTU vs. Standardized Testing

Ben Kuebrich

On September 10, 2012, for the first time in 25 years, the Chicago Teacher's Union (CTU) went on strike.

In many ways this is the first major challenge to the bipartisan agenda of turning over public education and replacing it with a corporate model of high-stakes testing, superficial teacher evaluation, and charter schools—a strategy that started with Bush's No Child Left Behind and continues with Obama's Race to the Top (RTTT).

We should all be paying close attention to what happens in Chicago because it is a harbinger of things to come nationally. Arne Duncan, the current Secretary of Education, is the former CEO of Chicago Public Schools (CPS), where he used data from standardized testing to close underperforming schools and replace them with charters, with little improvement to show for the changes. Nonetheless, Duncan brought the same philosophy to his national reform agenda, putting in place the 4.3 billion dollar RTTT, a competitive program where states get money for making reforms that will fundamentally change the objectives of educators and the control of schools.

Through RTTT, states compete for funding by accepting a common set of national standards, lifting caps that would limit the number of charter schools, and tying testing to teacher evaluation and salary. To qualify for funding, Illinois made it law for a minimum of 30% of teacher evaluation to be based on test scores. In recent negotiations with the CTU, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel wanted more.

Chicago teachers rose up against this market-based philosophy of evaluation, with 92% of Chicago public teachers and the majority of Chicago parents supporting the union's efforts. The CTU won some concessions for their students, like textbooks in class on day one, and defended

against proposals to more closely link pay and evaluation to standardized testing.

## It Doesn't End in Chicago

Through programs like RTTT, Republican and Democratic administrations have chosen a model of evaluation that may seem common sense in our increasingly market-based society: test the student's ability to do a task before and after a year with a teacher; compare those students' improvements to other students, other teachers, and other schools; reward teachers and schools that do well, fire teachers and close schools that don't.



Source: Mike Keefe, Denver Post, 2002

But under this model, knowledge that can't be reduced to A through E on a test has no significance for evaluators and will have increasingly less emphasis in the classroom. During a nascent form of the current trend, Brazilian educator Paulo Freire labeled this reductive style of teaching the "banking model of education," with the teacher depositing information for the students to file and store. The teacher fills students with facts "detached from reality, disconnected from the totality that engendered them and could give them significance."

While we use gaps in test scores to claim a never-ending education crisis, our current solutions create students ill-equipped to take on complex problems in the real world. We won't solve the climate crisis, poverty, endless war, racism, or rampant consumerism with answers A through E.

Furthermore, national education reforms

like RTTT scapegoat teachers for gaps in achievement, even though studies show that external factors like a student's home life and income level are a much stronger indicator of their performance in a classroom than teacher quality. This matters in a place like Chicago where nearly nine in 10 public school students live beneath the poverty line. Acknowledging the connection between inequality and the classroom means broadening the scope of education reform instead of narrowing curriculums and punishing teachers.

Beyond narrowing the curriculum, one of the few known effects of the nation's current reform agenda is that it reduces the number of public schools and unionized teachers—lifting the government's responsibility to provide quality education to every student and diminishing the role of teachers to make the decisions that affect them. Instead, school boards of CEOs are hiring statisticians and using RTTT money for assessment software, replacing our system of education with systems of data collection.

It is clear that we need to fight the new bipartisan consensus on the corporate model of education. Diane Ravitch, a well-known education scholar, might say it best: "The CPS strike is about the heart and soul of public schooling [...] The education 'crisis' nationwide has been co-opted as a means of pushing privatization as the be-all-and-end-all solution to the 'achievement gap.' Schools are not businesses, children are not widgets, and teachers are not robots or machines. Let's start there."

This critique is the start, and the courage and democratic process of the CTU is a way forward. Instead of scapegoating teachers and unions, and flooding education with testing for their "accountability," we need to trust the people in the classrooms enough to ask them for solutions. Through solidarity, democratic organizations, and the bonds between teachers, students, parents, and community organizations, we can win this fundamental human right: quality public education for all. ♻️

Ben is a teacher and doctoral student at Syracuse University.

# Living Under Drones: A Synopsis

Compiled by Amelia Ramsey-Lefevre  
and Ben Kuebrich

In September, NYU and Stanford Law Schools partnered to release the most comprehensive study yet about the effects of drone warfare. *Living Under Drones* focuses on the emotional, economic and human tolls of drone warfare on Pakistanis from 2004 to the present. Presented here are excerpts and statistics from the study. View the complete report at [www.living-underdrones.org](http://www.living-underdrones.org). All page citations are from *Living Under Drones*.

“Drones are always on my mind. It makes it difficult to sleep. They are like a mosquito. Even when you don’t see them, you can hear them, you know they are there.”

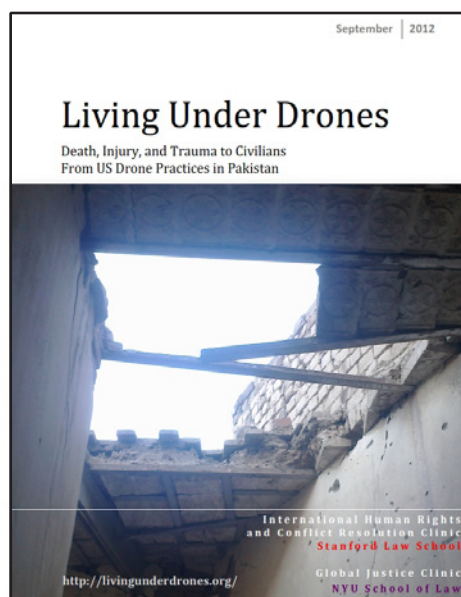
- Anonymous father of three (84)

## Why Are Civilian Deaths So Underreported?

Most recently [May 2012], officials in the Obama administration asserted that civilian casualties in Pakistan have been “exceedingly rare,” perhaps even in the “single digits” since Obama took office. (32) ... A recent exposé in the *New York Times* partially helped to explain the White House’s astonishingly low estimates by revealing that the Obama administration considers “all military-age males [killed] in a strike zone” to be “combatants . . . unless there is explicit intelligence posthumously proving them innocent.” ... [T]here is little evidence that US authorities have engaged in any effort to visit drone strike sites or to investigate the backgrounds of those killed. (33)

## “Double Tap” Deters Rescuers

A father of four, who lost one of his legs in a drone strike, admitted that, “[w]e and other people are so scared of drone attacks now that when there is a drone strike, for two or three hours nobody goes close to [the location of the strike]. We don’t know who [the victims] are, whether they are young or old, because we try to be safe.” (75) ... The threat of the “double tap” reportedly deters not only the spontaneous humanitarian instinct of neighbors and bystanders in the immediate vicinity of strikes, but also professional humanitarian workers providing emergency medical relief to the



*Living Under Drones* is available as a free download in PDF format at [www.livingunderdrones.org](http://www.livingunderdrones.org).

**2% of drone strikes kill high-level targets.**

**3 children are killed for each high level target that is killed.**

**1/3 of the reported deaths from drone strikes are civilians.**

**74% of Pakistanis now see the US as an enemy.**

**12% of Pakistanis find the US favorable.**

**13% of Pakistanis find the Taliban favorable.**

Sources: *Living Under Drones*, 2012; and PEW Center: “Pakistani Public Opinion Ever More Critical of US”

wounded. According to a health professional familiar with North Waziristan, one humanitarian organization had a “policy to not go immediately [to a reported drone strike] because of follow-up strikes. There is a six hour mandatory delay.” (76)

## Psychological Damage

In addition to feeling fear, those who live under drones ... described emotional breakdowns, running indoors or hiding when drones appear above, fainting, nightmares and other intrusive thoughts, hyper startled reactions to loud noises, outbursts of anger or irritability, and loss of appetite and other physical symptoms. (83)

## Illegality of Drone Warfare in Pakistan

In the absence of Pakistani consent, US use of force in Pakistan may not constitute an unlawful violation of Pakistan’s sovereignty if the force is necessary in self-defense in response to an armed attack ... Legal experts, including the current UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Christof Heyns, have questioned whether “killings carried out in 2012 can be justified as in response to [events] in 2001,” noting that “some states seem to want to invent new laws to justify new practices.” “Anticipatory” self-defense has been offered as a narrow exception, invoked to prevent an attack that is “instant, overwhelming, and leaving no choice of means, and no moment of deliberation.” There is little publicly available evidence to support a claim that each of the US targeted killings in northwest Pakistan meets these standards. Indeed, on currently available evidence, known practices—such as signature strikes, and placing individuals on kill lists for extended periods of time—raise significant questions about how the self-defense test is satisfied. (107-108)



## EXPOSING TERRORISM “OVER THERE” AND HERE:

# Drones Are Coming Home to Snoop on the Americas

Ed Kinane

“Predator drones from the war in Afghanistan are being transplanted to the control of the US Command (SOUTHCOM) for use in its operations in Latin America.”

– “!Presente!,” SOA Watch Fall 2012 newsletter

This past November, like every November since the mid-nineties, Central New Yorkers traveled to Ft. Benning, Georgia. There, with thousands of others, we rally to close the Pentagon’s School of the Americas. Each year such protests involve a few in direct action leading to arrest and trial. For these nonviolent actions over a dozen Central New Yorkers have served federal prison terms ranging from two to 12 months.

Having finally been “outed” by SOA Watch for training Latin American soldiers in torture and other terrorist tactics, in 2000 the SOA was forced to close...but weeks later it reopened under its current alias: the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (“different name, same shame”). Recently Benning acknowledged that it had become a drone base.

The two-decades-long SOA Watch campaign has now become a template for our own campaign to expose and de-fang Hancock Air Base on the outskirts of Syracuse. Hancock, like Benning, is an “anti-insurgency” training school. Hancock trains and deploys technicians to maintain and pilot the Pentagon’s MQ9 Reaper drone – a deadly flying robot, wreaking havoc over Afghanistan, Pakistan and elsewhere. Like soldiers indoctrinated at the SOA, with the weaponized drone these technicians and their chain of command perpetrate terrorism, shattering civilian lives.

Lately many of us who persistently protest the SOA/WHINSEC have also been

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*Ed is an SPC and SOA Watch anti-militarism activist. He’s been arrested at both the SOA and Hancock several times. Reach him at [edkinane@verizon.net](mailto:edkinane@verizon.net). For more about the SOA, see [www.soaw.org](http://www.soaw.org); for the Hancock campaign, see [www.upstatedroneaction.org](http://www.upstatedroneaction.org) and [www.peacecouncil.net/drones/index.htm](http://www.peacecouncil.net/drones/index.htm).*



*Drone resisters attempted again on October 25 to deliver an indictment for war crimes to personnel at Hancock Airbase. 17 people were arrested as they blocked all three gates to the base (see page 3). Photo: Ellen Grady*

arrested as we protest outside the gates of Hancock. Here, named for the number of arrested in each protest, is the roster so far: the Hancock 38, the Hancock 33, the Hancock 2, the Hancock 15, the Hancock 10, the Hancock 17. In what we call a “Gandhian Wave,” the last five arrests have occurred in 2012.

### Drones Over Latin America

The MQ9 Reaper is the Pentagon’s and the CIA’s lead device for aerial surveillance and assassination “over there.” Now the Reaper – and a slew of its robotic cousins – are coming home to roost in the Western Hemisphere. Driving this trend are US and Israeli drone manufacturers eager to expand their markets.

For several years US drones have been flying deep into Mexico, and now crisscross the Caribbean. Drones are penetrating South American airspaces. They are used for drug-interdiction, monitoring borders and detecting the desperate and undocumented trying to enter the US. Within the US there’s strong pressure for local police to use the drone for domestic surveillance and crowd control.

So far there seems to be little evidence that the drones now roaming Latin America

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continued on next page

### DRONES: TACTICALLY CLEVER, STRATEGICALLY STUPID

Weaponized drones are tactically clever, but some US militarists realize they are strategically stupid. Here are two reasons why:

**Blowback:** When it strikes, the Reaper generates enduring resentment toward the US. Drone strikes may be the Taliban’s and Al Qaida’s most powerful recruiting pitch. In Pakistan tens of thousands keep demonstrating against the obscenity of drone assassination. The masses of demonstrators have even impeded US military transport into Afghanistan.

**Tenacity:** Human beings under aerial attack tend to dig in and resist all the more fiercely (think London in the ‘40s, Hanoi in the ‘70s, Afghanistan for the past 11 years). Militants among such targets, seeing asymmetric aerial warfare as cowardly, tend to feel an empowering contempt for their brutish attackers.

For a debunking of the strategic value of drones, see Nick Turse and Tom Engelhardt’s *Terminator Planet: the First History of Drone Warfare 2001 – 2050*. [2012].

## Drones are Coming / from previous page

are weaponized. But some – like the Reaper and Israel’s Hermes 900 drone – can be adapted to deploy bombs and missiles. Missions drift: the so-called “war on drugs” segues into – and serves as cover for – war on “insurgents,” i.e. perceived enemies of the local oligarchies and clients of the US empire.

While the US Congress currently regulates drone export, the Israelis sell their drones all over the place. Customers include Brazil, Colombia, Chile, and Mexico. Reminds me of when back in the eighties Congress cut out military aid to Guatemala’s genocidal regime, the Israelis conveniently (for the Pentagon and for the US corporations operating there) provided such aid. Assisted by Israel – and, in the case of Venezuela, by Iran – several Latin American nations are already developing their own drones.

### Homework

Since Benning is getting into drone warfare mode and since US and Israeli drones are increasingly taking on dubious roles in Latin America, SOA Watchers and anti-Reaper activists have our homework. We need to grasp the multiple threats that surveillance and weaponized drones pose. A good place to begin is with Medea Benjamin’s *Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control* (2012).

But being better informed isn’t enough. We can actively resist the Reaper in our midst. Often inspired by the SOA Watch campaign, anti-drone activists are doing civil resistance at military bases in California, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Florida, New York – as well as at various drone research and manufacturing sites. [See page 3 for our recent local “Drone Country Tour.”]

Anti-drone activists here say “civil resistance” instead of “civil disobedience” – our actions, sometimes leading to preemptive arrests, are meant to *enforce* both US and international law. These actions attempt to expose and impede the law-breaking at Hancock. The Nuremberg protocols demand citizens do what we can to stop the government’s war crimes and crimes against humanity. For the human face of those crimes, read the Stanford and NYU law school document, *Living Under Drones* [see page 8].

For over two years upstate New Yorkers have been demonstrating at afternoon shift change twice-monthly outside Hancock’s main gate. Several times we’ve been arrested blocking the main entrance while trying to deliver a citizens’ indictment of base personnel and the chain of command. In November 2011 at our week-long Hancock 38 trial, former US attorney general Ramsey Clark testified to how Hancock’s Reaper violates international law and how the 38’s actions legitimately responded to the Nuremberg mandate. Instead of paying the DeWitt Town court our \$375 fines, we diverted those thousands of dollars to an Afghan peace group which, like us, is committed to ending militarism nonviolently.

In a scandal comparable to an earlier era’s judicially-tolerated lynching, US judges violate their oaths of office and ignore international law – which Article Six of the US Constitution decrees is the supreme law of the land. Such judicial disregard for the Constitution seems to stem from either careerism or willful ignorance.

### Do Drones “Save Lives”?

Propaganda works. Here in the US there’s been immense hype promoting weaponized drones. The mantra is “drones save lives.” The media focus on the drone’s gee-whiz technology and its magical ability to keep taking out the “bad guys” – a shuck since the Pentagon defines a “bad guy” as any male over 16 years of age spotted in one of its self-declared war zones.

Drone surveillance in combat zones can give the boots on the ground an edge over their ragtag, low-tech, but tough, adversaries. Further, no human crew is killed when the unmanned drones crash (as they often do) or are shot down or hacked. So, yes, a few military lives *are* saved. But weaponized drones kill or maim or displace untold numbers of civilians and non-combatants in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Gaza and elsewhere. And terrorize hundreds of thousands – who never know when the drones continually buzzing overhead will strike.

Drone technology is evolving and proliferating at an alarming pace – at an even faster pace than nuclear weaponry. Not only in Latin America but worldwide dozens of nations are now importing or developing the drone. Who knows when such drones will be used against US bases and US personnel and citizens, whether abroad or within Fortress America. Already here in upstate New York we’ve come to realize that, thanks to the killer robots we host, we too live in a war zone. The drone has not made our lives – or the lives of anyone on this planet – any safer. ☹

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# Reviving the Memory of Eduardo Mondlane in Syracuse: Links between Syracuse and a Mozambican Liberation Leader

Joe Cossa

In my article in the *Post-Standard*, published on February 3 of 2012 to commemorate Eduardo Mondlane's assassination and to bring a wider awareness of his connection to Syracuse, I shared my hope that the longstanding connection between the Syracuse community and the people of Mozambique be brought to the attention of a generation largely unaware of such an important connection. Mondlane served as Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Syracuse University from 1961 to 1963. He is to Mozambicans what King, Jr., is to Americans in the United States. While there may not be exact parallelism in their life trajectory and overall strategies in fighting against

injustice—with King resorting to non-armed struggle against the then oppressive regime in the United States and Mondlane to an armed struggle against the then oppressive Portuguese colonial regime in Mozambique—both understood that injustice against black people in Mozambique and the United States, respectively, was injustice against all people; thus, each of them is seen as a symbol of courage and justice.

Eduardo Mondlane was born and raised in 1920 in Nwajahani, district of

Mandlakazi in the province of Gaza, in Mozambique. Through the help of Swiss Presbyterian missionaries, working under harsh circumstances, and with his mother's encouragement and support, he attended schooling in Mozambique, South Africa, Portugal, and the United States. His multi-

during colonialism because I was black. Furthermore, attending these once exclusive schools allowed me to enter the University of Eduardo Mondlane, the only university at the time, as a law student. My dissatisfaction with law school was due to its use of the Portuguese Legal Code and

textbooks written by former elite members of the colonial enterprise such as António de Oliveira Salazar and Marcelo Caetano, two key catalysts of Portuguese colonialism. My educational journey was highly inspired by stories about Mondlane's determination and love for education, which I had heard since I was a child.

In 2006, after many years of study and work in cities that I have loved dearly, I ended up in Syracuse when I accepted a visiting instructor position at Colgate University to teach Comparative and International Educa-

tion, a platform that also allowed me to expose my students to Mozambique and its greatest hero, Eduardo Mondlane. It was here in Syracuse where my determination to foster the knowledge about Mondlane through writing became manifest, perhaps because I could not bear the disappointment that only a few people in Syracuse knew about him, one of the greatest embodiments of justice and liberation, despite the fact that he had lived here. Albeit the disappointment, it was comforting to learn that the Africa Initiative's Lecture Series in honor of Mondlane, under which a great figure in African liberation, Amílcar Cabral, came as guest, was key in revitalizing the memory of Mondlane's connection to the university and the community. Nonetheless, it will take a university-wide effort



*Eduardo Mondlane University in Maputo, Mozambique*

country education afforded him first-hand experience with the injustice perpetrated by the respective regimes against black people, in particular; on the other hand, this experience along with his interactions with politically conscious individuals in the aforementioned counties contributed to Mondlane's embarking on a quest to liberate Mozambique from Portuguese colonialism through the founding of Mozambique's Liberation Front (FRELIMO) in 1962 and the beginning of the liberation struggle in 1964.

As a result of Mondlane's and FRELIMO's efforts, Mozambique declared its independence from Portugal on June 25 of 1975, three years after I was born. This independence allowed my family to move into the capital city of Maputo and made it possible for me to attend school in institutions that I would have not been able to attend under normal circumstances

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*Joe Cossa is a Mozambican scholar, blogger (mozambicanscholar.blogspot.com) and podcaster residing in Syracuse. He holds a doctorate in Comparative and International Education and is the author of the book Power, Politics, and Higher Education in South Africa: International Regimes, Local Governments, and Educational Autonomy.*

**continued on next page**

**Eduardo Mondlane / from previous page**

to reiterate the important role that education and the university can play in changing the world through individuals and groups associated with it.

A university can serve as a birthplace of ideas that feed its surrounding community by nurturing the flames of activism or by transferring knowledge that breeds apathy towards the *status quo*. Today, it is very fashionable in academia to claim militancy for social justice. Yet, claiming social justice does not imply living a social justice lifestyle and, consequently, impacting our community with such lifestyle. We are comfortable talking about social justice and liberation, to some extent and within comfortable philosophical settings, yet we are not bold enough to confront ourselves about how our humane core has been tempered with misconceptions of the essence of justice and, therefore, of liberation. The link between Mondlane, Syracuse University, and the Syracuse community ought to remind us that reclaiming our humane core as educators and citizens is critical in our pursuit of justice.

Moreover, it ought to remind us that the university's role in its community has an impact that often goes beyond classrooms and lecture halls. In recent months, I have met Syracuse University students not associated with the African and African-American Studies program, whose interest in Mozambique has led two of them to go to Mozambique—one for an internship and the other on a fellowship—and another student-entrepreneur aspires to bring potable water to rural communities in developing countries, starting in Mozambique, by harvesting and purifying rainwater.

Surprisingly, none of these students knew about Mondlane, and the knowledge they gained by reading my article in the *Post-Standard* has fueled their interest to nurture this relationship between the university and the community with Mozambique. To some extent it was as if they had just figured out the spiritual link to their interest in a country they barely knew. In his lifetime, Mondlane had met young American students and faculty, and I am positive that this fueling of the memory of Mondlane on campus and in the community is in line with the work he began in Syracuse during his time here.

My intention in this article is not to downplay the work of the university and civil society to foster justice in Syracuse, but to reiterate the significance of the connection between Syracuse and a larger spectrum of the struggle for justice that results from Mondlane's sharing of his life with this community and the community's sharing of its life with this child of the human race who sacrificed his life for the liberation of the oppressed in a continent that continues to be a victim of neo-imperial expeditions. The success of such a unique connection can only be sustained through continuous efforts by the university, in partnership with the city's leadership, to engage the overall Syracuse community in teachings about this citizen of the world that constitute an unfathomable gift to the community. Perhaps, unlike most small cities, Syracuse has the advantage of being one with ties to this globally impactful figure. Ultimately, I am inspired by the fact that we are a community blessed with Mondlane as a model of activism, the fact that he was flesh and blood, and the fact that he was an individual subjected to the same human limitations as we are. ♡



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# Is Le Moyne Practicing Its Jesuit Values?

Mitch Lucas

Le Moyne College takes pride in its Jesuit foundation. It is a unique feature of the college that I have become more familiar with since I started studying there just over a year ago. The most pronounced feature of the school's education that I have experienced is its requirement that students take several classes in philosophy and religion, a way to include moral teachings in the curriculum.

Le Moyne's campus newspaper, *The Dolphin*, reported in September that Le Moyne will now provide retirement and pension plans for its staff through TIAA/CREF Financial Services. Participation in this new system is totally voluntary and is open to employees who have previously retired from the college.

Here's the problem. TIAA/CREF holds investments in companies whose products are used by the Israeli occupation in Palestine. It is a target of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanction (BDS) campaign, which urges divestment from companies that benefit from or provide resources to the Israeli occupation. Despite TIAA/CREF's June 2012 divestment from Caterpillar, whose bulldozers were used by the Israeli government to demolish Palestinian homes, its investments still fuel the Israel-Palestine conflict. Some of the companies that TIAA/CREF covers, like Hewlett-Packard and Motorola Solutions, supply weapons and surveillance equipment to advance Israel's work in Palestine.

## Tenets of a Jesuit Education

"Ignatian Pedagogy" is a key doctrine that explains what qualities both a Jesuit and Jesuit education should exercise. Listed below are some of the values the document encourages. Let's look at some important ones and examine Le Moyne's adherence to them.

*A Jesuit is someone who is concerned for, who is active against and who looks for injustice, inequality and poverty in the world. In essence, a Jesuit has a strong conscience.*

Oppression and injustice are key characteristics of the Israeli occupation. Le Moyne should actively avoid being

supportive of the occupation in any way.

*According to the Jesuit belief, human costs should always outweigh economic costs.*

TIAA/CREF and those it funds are more interested in increasing their wealth than in the lives of Palestinians. Le Moyne does need to provide pensions and benefits for its employees, but not at the expense of human lives. Jack Matson, Le Moyne's Associate Vice President of Human Resources, is quoted in *The Dolphin* stating, "we have to make sure that...the college is *fiscally* responsible with its decisions," and that "it's all about *balancing the costs*...with other competing interests." These statements show a clear and almost sole interest in the money, not the effects abroad.

*Jesuits strive for responsible citizenship and social justice.*

This point is the basis of Jesuit lifestyle and education. Being a responsible citizen means being aware of one's global environment. Although Le Moyne offers classes for its students that include discussion and investigation of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the Le Moyne administration is not itself engaging in that dialogue.

*A moral person acts against what he/she knows is wrong.*

A Jesuit acts against what he/she experiences as being wrong in the world. The Le Moyne administration shows that it is either unaware or intentionally refusing to address its investments' implications by following through with the change to TIAA/CREF. However, employees must also be responsible for their individual involvements with the new pension program, which are totally voluntary, and it is the job of the students to make Le Moyne conscious of its decisions.

## Walk the Walk

My conclusion: Le Moyne is straying from the true Jesuit mission by involving itself with TIAA/CREF and should divest from it.

The Alma Mater hails Le Moyne as a "beacon to us all," a respectable title that



Students at UC Berkeley painted images of the Israeli occupation to raise awareness on their campus among students and administrators. Photo: calsjp.org

risks becoming a remnant of a more venerable foundation. Le Moyne's students and administrators alike need to actively devote themselves to Jesuit values because they are truly decent and because the direction Le Moyne has recently taken is not acceptable; it is an embarrassing blemish on the school's record.

Fortunately, Le Moyne has the ability to better recognize its role in the Israeli occupation. Vicarious experience can replace direct experience when the latter is not possible, and Jesuit doctrine promotes this secondary experience – for example, demonstrations or enactments of a conflict – when the first-hand relationship to a problem doesn't exist. Le Moyne should both reward and endow clubs and individuals who will bring the secondary accounts of world issues to the campus. Students can then become the knowledgeable and socially-just leaders that Le Moyne wants to create and that the world needs.

Le Moyne would more closely align with Jesuit values if it were to identify the consequences of its actions in the world. Other colleges' students and administrations as well could then more strongly reflect upon the results of their actions. Le Moyne can still preserve the Jesuit mission if it takes into account the tangible effects of its choices when moving forward in the future.

*Mitch is a sophomore at Le Moyne College and a PNL intern this fall.*

# PERPETUAL PEACE PROJECT

[perpetualpeaceproject.org](http://perpetualpeaceproject.org)

'The maxims of the philosophers regarding the conditions of the possibility of a public peace, shall be taken into consideration by the States that are armed for war.'  
-- Immanuel Kant, "Secret Article relating to Perpetual Peace," in Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch (1795)

TWO NEW INITIATIVES RELATING TO THE PERPETUAL PEACE PROJECT

## EAT TOGETHER FOR PEACE

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## UNDERSTANDING OUR COMMON GROUND FOR PEACE

A new public lecture series following the visit of his holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet which took place in October 2012.

[syracusehumanities.org](http://syracusehumanities.org)



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## SPC in Action / from page 4

the Fukushima nuclear catastrophe, and it is the only reactor in the US without an emergency vent. In a rare move, the NRC Petition Review Board has issued an initial recommendation that the petition be accepted. However, the Board also said it was recommending an indefinite delay on a final ruling, which will allow the reactor to continue operating in its vulnerable state. We are happy that our concerns are being taken seriously, but outraged that NRC is delaying a ruling that could protect New Yorkers from a severe nuclear accident. We are calling on supporters to pressure the NRC to move on the petition by doubling the number of co-signers. Help reach our goal, visit [www.agreenewyork.org](http://www.agreenewyork.org).

### Two Row Gaining Steam

We have been busy with a great deal of organizing and outreach for the Two Row Renewal Campaign, the statewide educational and advocacy campaign organized by the Onondaga Nation and Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation. We've made presentations at May Memorial, the CNY Social Studies Teachers Conference, Syracuse University, Ithaca College and SUNY New Paltz, with the calendar filling in for the remainder of this year and 2013.

Plans for the Two Row canoe/kayak flotilla down the Hudson from Albany to New York City, **July 28-August 9** next year are coming together. The application to participate is available at [www.honorthetworow.org](http://www.honorthetworow.org), at the new Two Row office, adjacent to SPC's office, and at various offices at the Onondaga Nation. Applications are being accepted from both Haudenosaunee and other native people, and from allies. The deadline is **January 30, 2013**. There's much to do for this ambitious project entitled Honor Native Treaties and Protect the Earth. Contact Andy.

### Andy Set the Bar High

When the annals of the early 21st century Peace Council are written, the role of our departing staff activist Andy Mager will loom large. Andy will be remembered, among other reasons, for his pivotal role in reinvigorating SPC on the eve of the 2001 US invasion of Afghanistan; for being one of the rotating staff coordinators of the *Peace Newsletter*; for his engineering SPC's move from our little house on Burnet Ave. to the roomier, better-located Syracuse Center for

Peace and Social Justice on East Genesee St.; for coordinating our local justice in Israel and Palestine coalition; for helping to pilot SPC through its fundraising and consciousness raising 75th anniversary year; and especially relevant now, helping to kick start and sustain SPC's Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation. NOON has educated so many Central New Yorkers about the Onondagas' search for justice in the wake of the 18th century grand theft of their land – land which many of us now live on.



*Andy Mager at a press conference in 2006. Andy is leaving his staff position to work for NOON's Two Row Wampum Campaign. Photo: Ray Trudell*

But since some younger SPC members may know little about SPC activism of decades ago, here I want to especially recall Andy's 20th century impact on our anti-war work. When Andy first joined us in the early eighties, he was barely 20 years old. He had had a year at Brown University, but had already decided on an activist career. He quickly became a founder of Upstate Resistance, a grassroots group of young folks opposing draft registration.

The *New York Times* published Andy's op-ed on why he was refusing to register—for which crime in January 1985 Andy was tried in federal court in Syracuse. So strong and clear were Andy's anti-war convictions that he went *pro se*—i.e., in Judge Munson's court he defended himself without the benefit of an attorney. Andy did not need anyone else to advocate for him. Supporters crowded into the Federal Building lobby, taking their turn to enter the standing room-only courtroom.

After deliberating an hour, the jury found Andy guilty. Andy then spent four and a half months in federal prison. He

was the first activist I knew personally who went *pro se* and the first I knew personally whose activism led to prison. Andy was a model for the rest of us.

As he transitions from SPC staff to more focused work on Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation Two Row Wampum campaign, we have every confidence he'll continue to inspire us and keep setting the bar high.

— Ed Kinane

### A Settler Colonial State?

On October 1, Israeli analyst, writer and activist Jimmy Johnson spoke to the question “Is Israel a colonial settler state?” After his thoughtful presentation, which included comparisons with Australia, South Africa and the United States, it was difficult not to answer “yes.” Johnson distinguished between immigrants who seek to “join” an existing people and culture to at least some degree, and settler colonialists who “import” their own culture and traditions and seek to impose it on their new land, displacing the indigenous culture. The presentation is available at SPC's YouTube channel. CNY Working for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel is always looking for people to join our efforts. Next meeting is **Thursday, December 6 at 11:30 am** at SPC. Contact Jessica.

### Happy Birthday SPC

About 100 SPC supporters came out for a lively birthday celebration with great food, and music by Ryan Harvey. We socialized and savored Russian vegetable tart, roasted squash, and rice-lentil pilaf, followed by pumpkin and apple cakes (and ice cream, of course!), prepared by the loving hands of SPC activists. Ryan regaled us with tales of his recent travels and performed original songs jam-packed with insightful radical messages. Missed the dinner? Watch the video on our YouTube channel.

Many thanks to all who worked to put this great event together, including Peg Gefel (menu coordinator and chef); Terry Gavagan and Richard Vallejo (birthday cakes); Kimberley McCoy, Simon Morrin, Julienne Oldfield, Rose Viviano, Carole Resnick, Marie Summerwood, Jason Smith, Terry Eckert and Max Novack (cooks); table hosts and coordinator Shirley Novak; Karl Obine for photography; Gemma Estrella for videography; and all who helped with set up, break down, technical assistance, the written program, and door staffing. ♻️

