

SYRACUSE

PEACE COUNCIL'S

Peace Newsletter

Central New York Voices for Peace and Social Justice November-December 2013 #829

TWO FACES OF DRONES

WEAPONIZED

SURVEILLANCE



ONE RESISTANCE

Image: Jeff Passetti

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SPC INFO

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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 & End the Wars: education, demonstrations, outreach

Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation: education, hydrofracking ban,

Two Row Wampum campaign

Military Alternatives Education Project: counter-recruitment in high schools

Youth RIOT: Resisting Imperialism & Oppression Together (youth organizing)

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

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Peace Newsletter

Sponsored by the Syracuse Center for Peace & Social Justice

Article submission criteria: Contact 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 15.

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.

Peace Newsletter

Central New York Voices for Peace & Social Justice

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Educate, Agitate, Organize: SPC IN ACTION

compiled by Jessica Azulay

Community to Gather at Plowshares

That wonderful time of year is coming around again—time for the Plowshares Craftsfair and Peace Festival! As we go to press, the staff collective and a huge core of volunteers are bustling to get ready for SPC's biggest fundraiser of the year. This year's festival will feature over 130 local vendors and their handmade goods. You'll find clothing, jewelry, soap and candles, winter wear, wooden bowls and decorative objects, metal and stone sculpture, herbal medicinals, wool and yarn products, and information from local community groups—you name it and you'll probably find it there.

Plus, in addition to crafts vendors, there are lots of opportunities to get great stuff and support the Peace Council at the same time! The SPC Marketplace features a wide array of peace and social justice books, calendars, t-shirts, stickers, buttons, and other fun products. You can win great prizes through the SPC raffle, buy vendor-donated crafts to benefit SPC, or bid on first rate products and services at the Silent Auction. All proceeds benefit the Peace Council!

While you're shopping you can visit with friends, eat a good meal, and check out music and other entertainment throughout the day. Plowshares is an annual window into the world we're working toward—supporting the local economy, promoting work for peace and social justice, and just plain having fun.

Join us at **Nottingham High School**

(3100 E. Genesee St., Syracuse) from **10am-5pm on Saturday, Dec 7** and **11am-5pm on Sunday, Dec 8**. Questions, 472-5478.

Drone Protests and the Order of Protection

On October 25, 2012, seventeen nonviolent activists were arrested at Hancock Air Base for protesting weaponized drones piloted from Hancock. They were charged with trespass and disorderly conduct and were given "temporary" orders of protection against the Base commander, which would

The case languished for a year and suddenly, on October 28, 2013, the activists received notices to appear in court on October 30. The orders of protection were extended and a trial date set for **Thursday, December 12 at 5 pm** at the Town of Dewitt Courthouse (5400 Butternut Dr., East Syracuse).

We strongly encourage people to come out in support—of their actions in protesting weaponized drones, and of their right to protest legally at the base. Contact SPC or check peacecouncil.net closer to the date in case it has been changed.

Recently we learned that an Ithaca-area anti-fracking activist was also served with an order of protection. We are very concerned that this may be a new technique to attempt to limit protest. It also trivializes the very real need for orders of protection for victims of domestic violence and others who actually need protection. Contact Carol.



Aly Wane and Kathy Kelly at a Peace Outreach at Hancock Air Base in October. Photo: Carol Baum

last a year (or until the case was disposed). They were read a list of ways they could not "molest" him, but the most telling was that they *were prohibited from going to his place of business* (i.e., the base). This in effect denies them their First Amendment rights of assembly, speech and redress of grievances.

food. And we have the right to know!

Food justice activists who met at the two marches against Monsanto this year invite you to a special potluck on **Wednesday, November 20 at 6pm**. We'll be joined by a longtime French ecological justice activist Prisca Foures who will tell us about the success of the European food movements. We will also discuss potential organizing in New York State to pass GMO labeling legislation in 2014. To RSVP or if you have questions, contact Ursula.

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2013 East Genesee St., Syracuse, NY 13210 • (315) 472-5478 • spc@peacecouncil.net

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PEACE
COUNCIL

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CNY Working for BDS

Central New York Working for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel is busy preparing for Plowshares! We will launch a new phase of our Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign with an interesting, informative and even delicious table. Need some help finding an alternative to the humus you love that's imported from illegal Israeli settlements on Palestinian land? Taste some of the other options, or let us give you a recipe. Learn about skin care products that aren't made by Ahava in the occupied territories. Find out which corporations need to feel the heat of this international boycott. And more!! Contact Jessica.

Supporting Native American Rights

Both Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation (NOON) and The Two Row Wampum Renewal Campaign are greatly disappointed by the US Supreme Court's recent refusal to hear the Onondaga Nation's Land Rights Action. The decision demonstrates once again the need for a powerful social movement to achieve justice for the Onondaga and other indigenous peoples. As Joseph Heath, attorney for the Nation, stated, "The struggle for healing and justice will continue; this is no longer a land rights case—it is a land rights movement. It is time to admit these historic harms and it is time for justice, time for healing." Both NOON and the Two Row will continue to be part of that process. See pages 8-9.

NOON's Thanksgiving Circle for Peace and Hope

For the sixth year, Onondaga people and Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation (NOON), will gather together on the north shore of Onondaga Lake to express thanks for the goodness of the Earth and to each other for our ongoing friendship, as we work side-by-side in peace and hope for healing, justice and environmental restoration. Please join us at **10 am on Thursday, November 28 at Willow Bay**. Dress for the weather. We'll have light refreshments. Contact Carol or Amelia.

Two Row Renewal Campaign Continues

Educational events to build on the momentum of the Two Row have been held recently in Central New York, the Hudson Valley and Western New York. More are coming soon in Ithaca and the Southern Tier. An end of year Two Row celebration, featuring participatory Haudenosaunee Social Dancing, is set for **Saturday, December 7, dinner at 6 pm, program and dancing at 7 pm** at Lafayette High School, 3122 Rt. 11, LaFayette. RSVP for dinner at HonorTheTwoRow.org or 315-901-1592.

A half-hour video documentary about the Two Row is expected to be available in December. Look for it on our website or our Facebook page.

I-81 and Justice in Syracuse

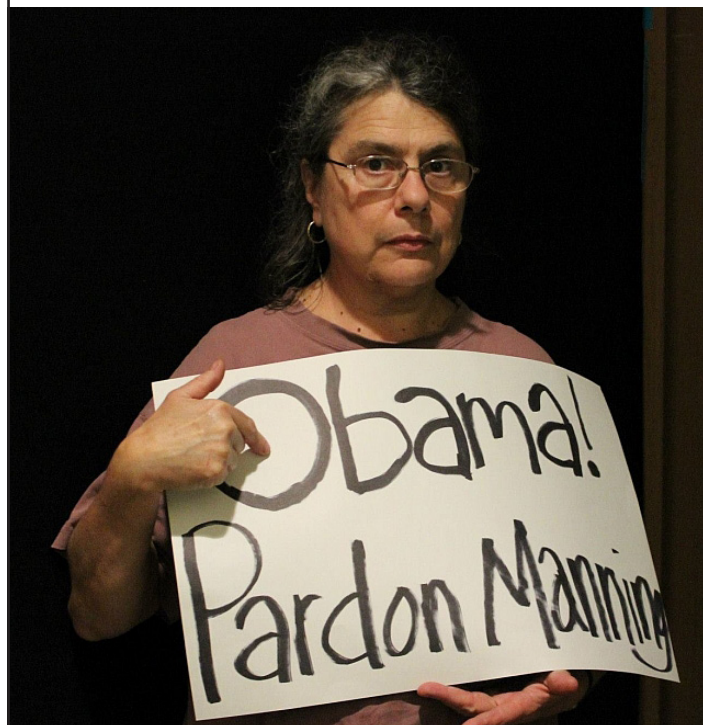
The decision about what to do with the I-81 viaduct will have a profound impact on the future of Syracuse. The Peace Council is joining a new effort, spearheaded by the Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse (ACTS), to bring the voices of those most affected by the decision into the planning process. The

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Activist Appreciation: Marie Summerwood

Marie Summerwood is a woman of many talents, and we are so grateful she is willing to share them with SPC.

Marie has been the force behind the food for many SPC Birthday dinners, taking it on again this year. Without her creativity and leadership, we wouldn't be able to organize such a do-it-yourself, community-centered event. Marie's commitment to healthy, regional/seasonal and tasty cuisine, as well as her skill and experience cooking for large groups, leaves us begging for more. Meal preparation is something to behold, as volunteer cooks, with varying skill levels and experience, come together under Marie's leadership. Over the course of two days the sounds of chopping, washing, chatting and laughter fill the kitchen. In addition to being one of the "chief chefs," this year Marie created a dinner recipe booklet as an SPC fundraiser (copies still available). And when you go to the Plowshares Craftsfair (**December 7-8**), you will see the results of Marie's work as a long-time member of the Plowshares Committee. Marie feeds us in body and spirit. Thank you.



PEACE OUTREACH

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

**First Tuesdays
December - March
4:15 - 5:00 pm**

Hancock Air Base Entrance

(E. Molloy Rd., between Thompson & Townline Rds.)

Contact Ed or Ann, 315-478-4571

The Undaunted Resistance

Aly Wane

As an undocumented migrant's rights activist, I have been tempted to give up these past few weeks. The government shutdown paralyzed Congress once more and the important conversation this country needs to have about immigration reform was sidelined once again. More alarming, however, is the fact that the current immigration reform proposals are not justice-based proposals, but "solutions" which could entrench the real profit makers in the migration crisis: the prison and defense industries.

However, despite this bleak landscape, the amount of grassroots resistance has been fierce and inspiring. All over the country, innovative actions have highlighted the agency and courage of migrants who are working to claim and define their rights in a society that often denies them their humanity.

Congressional advocates push for progress

In early October, there were a series of actions organized by well-funded, pro-Democratic Party groups to push the House to adopt the principles of the Senate Immigration bill. On October 5, there were well coordinated actions in about 150 cities including vigils and protests. This culminated in numerous acts of civil disobedience on October 8 which resulted in the arrests of about 200 people, including eight Democratic politicians. The power and significance of these actions should not be diminished. It took a tremendous amount of resources and organizing to pull this off and all of the participants should be commended.

However these actions were largely directed towards the goal of getting "any" piece of legislation passed, no matter how problematic. In fact, even the arrests were planned and coordinated with the authorities: as brave as it was for many of these activists and advocates to be arrested, there was little risk involved, considering that organizers had, for the most part, already negotiated the future release of the arrested, calling into question whether this was civil disobedience or simply powerful political theatre.

Radical Voices from the Grassroots

On the other hand many grassroots organizations which have been openly critical of the coming legislative proposals have been downright inspiring in their willingness to truly push the envelope. One of the most vocal and effective groups has been the National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON), which has focused on calling attention to the administration's culpability in deporting migrants at record levels (1,200 deportations daily). NDLON's "Not 1 More" campaign calls on the President to use his executive power to put a moratorium on deportations until the current broken immigration system is revised. Just as the President deferred the deportation of

many undocumented youth last year, he has the power to do so for many migrants in other categories.

In mid-October, in Arizona, the NDLON had a series of actions under the rubric "Shut Down ICE" aimed at concretely slowing down the deportation machinery. The actions were as simple as they were powerful: the activists simply either chained themselves to buses used for deportation, or lay down on the deportation routes, refusing to move. Some activists also decided to chain themselves to the entrance of the notorious Eloy Detention Center. Interestingly enough, for the most part, the authorities decided to release most of the protesters. Similar actions occurred in San Francisco.

Another terrific, undocumented-led organization that has upped the ante has been the National Immigrant Youth Alliance (NIYA). Last year, this organization succeeded in "infiltrating" ICE detention centers by having activists turn themselves in to the authorities on purpose in order to do "organizing from the inside" as they dubbed it. Once inside the detention centers, they gathered the stories of undocumented detainees who should have been eligible for relief under the seldom used "low-priority" principle which recommends that ICE not detain migrants with no criminal

records. The tactic succeeded and numerous detainees were released.

This year, NIYA created the DREAM 9 action: three undocumented activists chose to "self deport" to Mexico and then presented themselves to the US border with 6 other DREAMers who had previously been deported to seek asylum. The activists were all detained and eventually released pending the resolution of their cases. Recently, 35 undocumented youth called themselves the DREAM 30 (some were minors) and tried a similar tactic, all trying to cross from

the Mexican side of the border. At this point, many have been released, but one of them was deported and thirteen are still in custody. In each of these actions, the detained activists have gone on hunger strike as a tool of political resistance.

The Struggle Continues

These actions by NIYA have not been universally welcome. Many of the same activists pushing for comprehensive immigration reform have called these actions "distractions" and destructive to the goal of passing legislation. This has highlighted the tension between pro-Democratic Party immigration reformers and grassroots activists who have refused to ally themselves to either Party.

The continuing refusal by undocumented activists to acquiesce to a system which largely profits from their misery is a reminder that, while Congress is increasingly unable or unwilling to address the issues, the grassroots community will always find a way to make its voice heard. ♻️



One of NDLON's activists obstructs a bus from ICE on October 11, in Tucson Arizona. Source: National Day Laborer Organizing Network.

Aly is an undocumented activist and a member of the PNL editorial board.

The Two Faces of Drones: Weaponized “Court Witness”: Speaking Out For Truth and For Life

Ed Kinane

Mamana Bibi, a 68-year old midwife and grandmother, was tending her okra garden on the afternoon of October 24, 2012. Out of nowhere, Mamana was struck and dismembered by two Hellfire missiles from a US drone. Minutes later nearby children who had witnessed the attack, were also attacked by missiles, their shrapnel wounding nine.

These are two of many US drone strikes against civilians investigated by Amnesty International in North Waziristan. Mamana’s killing is recounted in Amnesty’s October 2013 76-page report, “Will I Be Next?: US Drone Strikes in Pakistan.”

It is such incidents – multiplied across the Islamic world – that motivate Upstate Drone Action to work to expose drone war crime. We focus on Hancock Air Base, home of the aptly-named 174th Attack Wing of the New York National Guard just outside Syracuse. Hancock is the regional hub for the weaponized Reaper drone. It trains pilots and mechanics who fly those lethal robots over Afghanistan...and who knows where else. It’s all hush-hush.

In our various civil resistance actions at Hancock since 2010 there have been well over 150 arrests and several bench trials in the DeWitt Town Court. These have entailed numerous jailings with thousands of dollars in fines and bails still outstanding. The more recent arrests also entail dozens of Orders of Protection (OOP) meant not to protect vulnerable women and children, but the very opposite: to suppress our outcry on behalf of victimized women, children and other non-combatants. (Demonstrators at Hancock who violate their OOP may reap lengthy prison sentences.)

The latest Upstate Drone Action trial occurred this past October 24, exactly one year after Mamana Bibi’s extra-judicial murder. The trial, presided over by Judge Robert Jokl, was remarkable for being the first in which all the defendants,* charged

Ed has twice served sentences in Jamesville Penitentiary for his nonviolent civil resistance at Hancock. Reach him at edkinane@verizon.net.



On October 29 Nabila spoke to a session of the US Congress, the first drone survivor ever to do so. Image: Amnesty International

with “disorderly conduct,” were found *not* guilty.

At one level it soon became an open and shut case: according to the elements of the charge, the assistant DA had to show, among other things, that “disorderly conduct” occurred on public land. Presumably unaware of that element, the prosecution allowed its witness, Col. Earl A. Evans, to testify that Hancock is private property out to the middle of East Molloy Rd., thus nullifying the charge.

But the DeWitt court sometimes plays fast and loose with the law, and certainly with justice. At the Nov. 2011 Hancock 38 trial, defense witness former US Attorney General Ramsey Clark testified before Judge David Gideon that we were acting consistent with international law and the Nuremberg principles in exposing and seeking to intervene in Hancock war crimes. DeWitt’s two judges so far have shrugged off such expert testimony.

We have come to compare the DeWitt court to 19th and 20th century courts failing to try lynchings of black people. Those courts let the sentiments of their (white)

communities trump explicit laws against murder. Similarly it would seem that until recently, at least, the DeWitt court let the popularity here in the US of drone lynchings over there trump international law (the highest law of the land as per Article 6 of the US Constitution).

Perhaps, on October 24, whether consciously or unconsciously, Judge Jokl was responding to the tide, both nationally and internationally, now vociferously exposing and opposing weaponized drones. Witness not only the aforementioned Amnesty International report, but also the compelling and carefully documented Stanford and NYU Law Schools’ 2012 study of US drone terrorism, “Living Under Drones” (see the Nov-Dec 2012 *PNL*). And Jeremy Scahill’s 2013 tome, “Dirty Wars,” an exceptional feat of investigative reporting. The intrepid Scahill exposes how the CIA and the US military (Commander-in-Chief Barack Obama) deploy drones to

assassinate non-combatants – including US citizens – in Pakistan, but also in Yemen and Somalia, with no due process.

Any analysis of the unexpected acquittal must acknowledge each of the five defendants’ eloquent testimony. While citing the public/private property contradiction in the prosecution’s case, and while invoking the First Amendment, and international law, the thrust of these testimonies came from their faith and from their conscience. And from their heart.

Let us never underestimate the transforming power of acting and speaking out – even to functionaries of the power structure – for truth and for life.

Visit peacecouncil.net for trial updates.

**Fr. Bill Pickard, Scranton, PA; Fr. Bill Streit, Trevilians, Virginia Catholic Worker; Carmen Trotta, NYC Catholic Worker; Ellen Grady, Ithaca, NY Catholic Worker; Linda LeTendre, Saratoga Springs, NY. All went “pro se,” defending themselves. ♻*

The Two Faces Of Drones: Surveillance

Syracuse Resists Drone Encroachment

Ann Tiffany

“The drones are coming! The drones are coming!” - Paul Revere (updated)

While we were cheering on the hundreds of thousands of nonviolent resisters participating in the “Arab Spring,” leaders in those countries must have been quaking in their boots. Given the growing disparity of income and the shrinking middle class leading to the increasing restlessness of the 99%, the 1% in the US also must have such shivers. Hence the increased surveillance of our streets, the NSA prying and spying, the militarization of police departments across the country *and* the very rapid move towards domestic surveillance drones.

In 2012 Congress passed the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Modernization and Reform Act. This act requires the FAA to provide enabling regulations integrating drones into the national airspace by 2015. Already the FAA has given about 350 permits to universities, local police departments, and corporations for drone flights below 400 feet.

Enter counter-legislation initiatives to address a variety of issues that arise as drones begin to crowd our global, national, state and local skies. Upstate Drone Action continues to expose Hancock Air Base drone war crime in Afghanistan through civil resistance and demonstrations at the base. SPC works to educate us about the two faces of reaper surveillance drones which the FAA now permits to “train” over Syracuse.

In the summer of 2012, an SPC anti-drone/anti-war program sub-committee met at John Brule’s to draft an Ordinance to submit to the Syracuse Common Council.

Ann is active with SPC and Upstate Drone Action.

We want regulations in place regarding privacy, data collection disclosure, as well as licensing and operating, before police agencies move to deploy their own drones over Syracuse. We want enforcement regulations that specify the sanctions if drone operators violate First and Fourth amendment rights.



This is an example of the type of surveillance drone police forces are likely to get hold of if communities do not pre-empt their acquisition. Image: digitaltrends.com

Our proposed Ordinance requires a warrant for any drone surveillance mission over Syracuse. Unregulated and unwarranted surveillance drones threaten: freedom of association and assembly (First Amendment); invasion of individual privacy (Fourth Amendment); and community safety (drones are vulnerable to hacking and have a high accident rate).

As drone technology (e.g. facial recognition, lasers, thermal imaging, crowd control, weaponization, etc.) advances, and as local police departments edge towards further militarization, mission creep’s slippery slope keeps getting steeper.

We began a petition drive at SPC’s 2012 Plowshares Craftsair and at various religious and community events. We now have over 800 signatures. Our Ordinance sub-committee, having written a first draft, met with three supportive city Councilors—Jean Kessner, Lance Denno, and Nader Maroun. We also met with three other Councilors—Jake Barrett, Bob Dougherty, and Khalid Bey. Each appeared to be supportive, as was Mayor Miner when we met with her. The Councilors we did not

meet with may well support surveillance efforts generally.

Our draft was given to the Common Council’s Public Safety Committee which sent it to the City’s Corporation Council for legal vetting. Reluctantly bowing to political realities, we accepted the Corporation Council’s and the Mayor’s strong request that this document be a non-binding Resolution (as opposed to an Ordinance).

At the Public Safety Committee’s first drone study session on June 27, Deb Warner, Center State Vice President for Public Policy and Opportunity, sat at the committee’s table and spoke for NUAIR (Northeast UAS Airspace Integration Research Alliance). NUAIR is an alliance of private industry, academic institutions, and military operations and bases lobbying to have Upstate New York and Massachusetts designated as a national drone research and testing region. Six such regions are planned throughout the US to develop the technology and expedite the integration of commercial and military drones into civilian airspace.

NUAIR argues that such a designation will result in many permanent jobs for the region; it will certainly be lucrative for the multi-billion dollar drone industry. After Ms. Warner’s 20-minute talk, SPC and the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU) were allowed several minutes to advocate for our Resolution mandating warrants for surveillance drones. Unexpectedly, Chairman Jake Barrett chose to “pull” the Resolution and return it to the Corporation Council for redrafting.

Since that study session SPC, NUAIR, Jean Kessner and NYCLU’s Barrie Gewanter, have met informally to generate mutually acceptable Resolution language.

However our initiative turns out, drones will surely be increasing their presence here. For me, the US “homeland” is now on a continuum somewhere between Huxley’s *Brave New World* and the recent Matt Damon film *Elysium* (worth seeing despite its violence). Military analyst Peter Singer says drone technology is currently where the Wright Brothers’ plane was in 1903.

As the amoral drone robots invade the sky, will we succumb to the new 1984 or will we resist? ♣

Justice Delayed: US Supreme Court Re Onondaga and

Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation

As members of Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation (NOON) we wish to express our extreme disappointment by the US Supreme Court's recent denial of the Onondaga Nation's *Petition for Writ of Certiorari* review of the dismissal of the Nation's historic Land Rights Action. It seems that justice for Indigenous Nations in the US court system is not possible and, as with this latest decision, sanctions New York's undeniable and knowingly illegal taking of the Onondaga Nation's lands in the late 1700s and early 1800s.

The Treaty of Canandaigua, signed on November 11, 1794, between the Haudenosaunee and the US promised to never seize or disturb Haudenosaunee lands. The US government continues to ignore this and two previous treaties that were made with the Haudenosaunee Six Nations in 1784 and 1789. In doing so, the United States government also abandoned Article Six of the US Constitution, which states that "...all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land."

For the past 200 years, in every manner available to them, the Onondaga have continually asked the US to honor the treaties and address New York's historic violations of federal law. But US courts were closed to them until recent years. Now one reason for denying them justice is because they are arbitrarily judged to have waited too long. Is this a no win situation?

In addition, the Onondaga Nation specifically designed their claim to minimize disruption to their neighbors and they are not asking for anyone to be evicted from their land. The Onondaga Land Rights Action seeks only a *declaratory* judgment: a simple recognition that their land was illegally taken from them.

Because of the example of the Supreme Court in Land "Claim" cases, which did seek to uproot some people, Judge Kahn of the US District Court, Northern District of New York, decided to dismiss their Land Rights Action without even a hearing because it would be "profoundly disruptive." The Second Circuit Court of Appeals upheld that decision. The US Supreme Court has chosen not to review that appeal.

The Onondaga are asking only for a *declaratory* judgment, but they have never even had an opportunity to present their case in court nor the vast body of research they have compiled.

They have also asked for the opportunity to have an active say in what happens to that land, including Onondaga Lake, which is sacred to them, and was disastrously polluted by the descendants of the people who took their land. Their cultural connection to the environment is expressed in their court case through voicing their concern for the environment. As they have stated we all share this environment. Have they waited too long to press their concern about the environment?

NOON recognizes and supports the sovereignty of the traditional government of the Onondaga Nation.



NOON supporters at October 11, 2007 hearing in Federal Court in Albany, NY regarding dismissal of Onondaga Land Rights Action. Photo: Katie Nadeau

The Doctrine of Discovery has also been cited as setting precedent for denying the Haudenosaunee court cases. US Indian law is based on the *Doctrine of Discovery*, as established by Justice Marshall in the 1823 case of *Johnson v. McIntosh*. It claimed that because the Indigenous peoples living in these lands that were "discovered" by the European explorers were not Christian, they were "savages" with no real right to the title of their lands. US courts have repeatedly used this Doctrine to attempt to reduce Indigenous nations' sovereignty.

But their struggle will likely not end here. For justice, the Onondaga must now try international options. The Nation and their attorneys are considering filing a challenge in an international arena; either the United Nations or the Organization of American States Commission on Human Rights.

As stated in their Land Rights Action, they "wish to bring about a healing between themselves and all others who live in this region that has been the homeland of the Onondaga Nation since the dawn of time...The Onondaga Nation brings this action on behalf of its people in the hope that it may hasten the process of reconciliation and bring lasting justice, peace, and respect among all who inhabit this area."

Members of NOON express our deep appreciation to the Onondaga Nation for their many efforts to seek reconciliation, justice, peace and environmental protection with and for all of us who live in Central New York. NOON applauds the people of Central New York for accepting the Onondaga Nation's offer to work for healing and reconciliation. We will continue to bring the people of Central New York together to brighten the "covenant chain of friendship", and work to support our Onondaga neighbors in this quest for healing, reconciliation and environmental protection which is ultimately in the best interest of us all. ♻️

Refuses To Hear Onondaga Nation Appeal

Allies Respond

Wendy Gonyea

The news took me by surprise as I held out the hope that we would have our day in court; truly, and we would have the opportunity to tell our land rights history in a national forum in the highest court in the land. I had envisioned our case being a unifying struggle for all our relatives across the land who have felt the sting of racist courts, who have been let down by a system routinely stacked against them because they—we—represent the conscience of American society. We are the survivors of generations of indigenous peoples who were placed here, who were pushed aside—and worse—for the growth of a new Empire. We were going to have our own ‘march on Washington’ with our songs, our drums, our people seeking justice in the name of our small community, the Onondaga Nation. That was my optimistic outlook. But the hard reality exists. We were turned down by the Supreme Court. The question remains. Where can we go to find justice?

Since the latest news, I’ve searched for alternatives to regain momentum in this long struggle ahead, and found strands of what could be our land rights movement. Ideas of a ‘truth commission’ are not unrealistic. Our lawyers and leaders have followed the international case of the Dann sisters where the Western Shoshone found relief from an oppressive situation. It could be our path as well.

In retrospect, if we did get to the Supreme Court we would be challenging the Marshall Trilogy of US Federal Indian Law. These laws, still on the books, are the direct result of the Christian Doctrine of Discovery that saw our people as ‘less than’ and too ‘heathen and inferior as a race.’ It’s unbelievable to think this is the law of the ‘highest court’ and the foundation of so many cases to follow, including Haudenosaunee cases. How blatantly insulting to tell the Oneidas ‘their embers have gone cold.’ We know our existence is fraught with too many modern instances of lingering racism. When a New York Governor can limit state employees from talking freely with native peoples, when a NYC Mayor can call for a “cowboy hat and a shotgun” for the Governor to deal with Native tax issues, when the US Government

can code name the most sought after terrorist of the present with a name undeserving of a terrorist identity—Geronimo—that’s racism, alive and still affecting our well being today.

One of our Haudenosaunee leaders said in Grand Council a few years back that we Oñgwehoñwe unconsciously seek the “approval of the oppressor.” That’s what colonizing can do, if you let it. It’s mind-boggling to think how often we, as contemporary Haudenosaunee people must filter what we hear, learn, read, and put it into our perspective, into our way of living as we continue about our daily lives. We have become great jugglers and balancers. It doesn’t change who we are.

Since the filing of our land rights case on March 11, 2005,

we’ve experienced ups and downs as our case moved through the courts and appeals system. We have lost people who have stood with us, while others have risen to stand with us now. We knew this US Court system is foreign to us, that it is riddled with antiquated laws, yet we held our heads high, stood proud and tried to reach for that plateau of truth, and we were rejected time and again. We were hopeful, bolstered by stacks of historical evidence in support of our case, by a thorough legal team, by our active Neighbors. We knew decisions from other Haudenosaunee cases would



NOON supporters in New York City for the Onondaga hearing of their Land Rights Action at the US Second Circuit Court of Appeals on November 2, 2012. Photo: Andrew Courtney

have implications on ours. Our cases went separately, which was not the original intent.

In researching evidence I found an explosive expose, “Like a Loaded Weapon – The Rehnquist Court, Indian Rights and the Legal History of Racism in America” by Robert A. Williams, Jr. I also read Sonia Sotomayor’s *My Beloved America*, hoping to gain insight into her life as a Puerto Rican woman and her rise to the bench in the highest court in the land. It was welcome news to me to learn Sotomayor had not participated in the decision to deny our land rights case.

One of our friends from NOON sent a quote last week from the Abolitionist Frederick Douglass in response to the Dred Scott Decision more than a century ago. It reads “The Supreme Court of the United States is not the only power in this world. It is very great, but the Supreme Court of the Almighty is greater.” *Do gis*. Justice has been delayed, but as long as those who carry on the truth stand strong in the face of adversity, Justice cannot be denied. ♻️

Wendy is a Beaver Clanmother of the Onondaga Nation.

Peace Newsletter seeks input and volunteers

Are there topics you want to see covered?

Do you have feedback on our content?

Contact the Editorial Committee about six weeks prior to publication in order for your article idea to be considered. A strong article proposal has a clear angle, a limited focus, and is relevant to the struggle for peace and social justice, locally or globally. We encourage you to engage with us *before* you write an article you'd like published.

Can you help with research and fact-checking?

Can you volunteer to put the newsletter on the website?

The *Peace Newsletter* Editorial Committee is always looking for more people to join our team of editors, designers, writers, and researchers! We're also looking for someone to compile events for our Community Calendar and to put the PNL on the website each month.

Contact Amelia at 315-472-5478 or amelia@peacecouncil.net.

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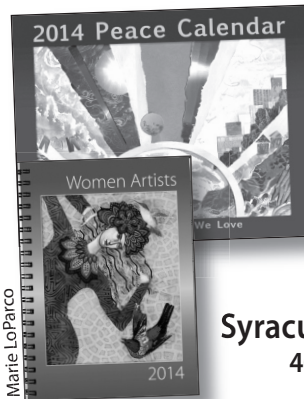


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Where is the War Update?

The War Update will no longer be a regular feature in the *Peace Newsletter*. The Editorial Committee thanks author Seth Rutledge for his devoted and important writing. Unfortunately we do not have the human resources to verify all of the information and analysis presented. If you enjoyed the War Update you can read Seth's blog at alchemicalnursery.org. If you want to see more of a similar type of content in the *PNL*, please contact Amelia to offer help in researching, writing, and editing.



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Al-Shabaab Repels Navy Seals While Libyan Kidnapping Sparks Protest

Abayomi Azikiwe

On October 5 the United States military intervened in the African states of Libya and Somalia under the guise of waging its “war on terrorism.”

In Libya, a national, Abu Anas al-Liby, was kidnapped and taken to a warship in the Mediterranean where he is being interrogated for his suspected involvement in the bombing of the US embassy in Nairobi, Kenya during August of 1998.

In the Somalian city Baraawe, Navy Seals Team 6 was sent in to capture or kill a leading commander of Al-Shabaab, a Somalian Islamist group designated terrorist by six countries including the US. Abdulkadir Mohamed Abdulkadir, a Kenyan national of Somali origin, is wanted by Washington for his alleged participation in the siege of the Westgate shopping mall in Nairobi where 67 people were reportedly left dead.

Both incidents represent the escalation of Pentagon and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) intervention in Africa. During the Westgate mall standoff, September 21-24, agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Israeli Defense Forces were said to have fought alongside Kenyan military and police.

These operations by the Obama administration are the direct result of a stated policy of enhanced military intervention on the continent. In December 2012, the administration announced that it would be deploying 3,500 Special Forces and military trainers to various African countries.

The USAfrica Command (AFRICOM) has partnerships with numerous governments within the region where training programs and joint military exercises are occurring with frequency. Washington’s military programs in Mali and Somalia are closely linked to the instability prevalent in these nations.

The Horn of Africa state of Somalia is the location of a US-financed 17,500-person military force known as the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) which has failed to defeat the Al-Shabaab Islamic or-

ganization, the target of the occupation by African militaries allied with Washington.

Libya Kidnapping Escalates Tensions

Alleged Al-Qaeda operative Anas al-Liby was taken off the streets of the capital of Tripoli on October 5. Eyewitnesses said that his abductors spoke with Libyan accents even though al-Liby was turned over to the US military for questioning.

went further to justify the detention on the grounds that it is line with the “war on terrorism.”

Kerry said “The United States of America is going to do everything in its power that is legal and appropriate in order to enforce the law and protect our security. With respect to Abu Anas al-Liby, he is a key Al-Qaeda figure, and he is a legal and an appropriate target for the US military.” (AFP, October 7)



October 7: Libyans protest the US’ forceful capture of Abu Anas al-Liby in Benghazi. Photo: Reuters

The abduction drew protests within Libya where demonstrators burned US flags and denounced the actions of both the Pentagon and the General National Congress (GNC) government that is backed by the Obama administration. These demonstrations prompted Prime Minister Ali Zeidan’s government to make a formal objection to the capture of al-Liby.

“The Libyan government has been following the reports of the kidnap of one of the Libyan citizens wanted by the authorities in the United States. As soon as it heard the reports, the Libyan government contacted the US authorities to demand an explanation,” the regime in Tripoli said in a statement (*The Nation*, Pakistan, October 7).

Yet, not to be overtaken by events, US Secretary of State John Kerry stated that the kidnapping of Al-Liby was done with the approval of the GNC regime. Kerry

A few days after the kidnapping of Al-Liby, the Libyan Prime Minister Ali Zeidan was taken and held in custody of a militia for several hours. He later said that the incident was an attempted coup against his government.

Libya has been destroyed as a nation since the US and NATO, along with their allies, waged a war of regime-change between February and October 2011. Systems of governance, economic relations and the distribution of national resources were shattered during the war which resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands of people including leader Col. Muammar Gaddafi and members of his family.

With the country being the largest known source of oil in Africa, the imperialist states were seeking to dominate the

Abayomi is the editor of the Pan-African News Wire (panafricannews.blogspot.com).

continued on page 12

industry and to open the country up to the super-exploitation that is typical in other post-colonial states. But efforts to jump start the production of oil has been slowed due to the ongoing unrest in various regions of the nation. Sectional clashes and labor unrest had virtually shut down the oil industry which prior to the war of 2011, was producing 1.6 million barrels per day.

Somalia Raid Rebuffed in Baraawe

Also on October 5, in the early morning hours, the Navy SEALs Team 6 conducted a raid against a home designated as a high-level Al-Shabaab hideout. Baraawe, a city of 200,000 on the Indian Ocean, is considered a strong base for the Islamic organization that is resisting the Washington-backed Somalia Federal Government based in the capital of Mogadishu.

Eyewitness accounts of the raid coupled with official statements issued by the Pentagon indicate that the operation was met by formidable resistance and that the capture of Abdulkadir, also known as Ikrima, did not take place. Although there was a fierce firefight in Baraawe between Al-Shabaab guerrillas and the Navy SEALs, the US claims that it suffered no casualties.

According to an account of the incident published by the Guardian newspaper which was based upon interviews of witnesses that live in the Baraawe neighborhood where the US assault took place, "The element of surprise had been lost and Al-Shabaab's fighters unleashed gunfire and grenades in a cacophony that rang out across the town." (*Guardian*, UK, October 9)

"The attackers from the US divided into two groups," this same man said. "Group one, comprising six men, stormed the

house and began shooting the people inside it, while group two, also of at least six men, were staying outside the house. The worst shooting took place inside where one Al-Shabaab fighter was killed. Al-Shabaab had more fighters inside and they fought extremely hard against the Americans."

Another person in the area said that US military equipment was discarded near the sight of a pool of blood. The SEALs fled and were seen retreating by the locals in Baraawe.

Resistance to Imperialist Intervention Will Escalate

As the Pentagon and the CIA continues its interventionist projects in Africa, the people of the continent will resist these murderous operations. Even in states where the governments have been installed and supported by Washington, the people who are the principal victims of the imperialist policies of resource extraction and labor exploitation will demonstrate their opposition to imperialism.

In both Libya and Somalia the US ruling class is seeking to take total control of the oil, natural gas and strategic waterways of these states. Nonetheless, these rapacious efforts on the part of successive administrations can in no way satisfy the aspirations of the majority of people within these occupied nations.

Military adventures in these states can only exacerbate the contradictions between the people and the imperialist nations as well as exposing the collaborationist posture of the client regimes. Consequently, US militarism bolstered by its NATO allies and subservient elites within these countries can only enhance instability and create the conditions for genuine revolutionary and anti-imperialist movements to develop and eventually take power. ♪



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The Government Shutdown and the Failure of the Two Party System

Aly Wane

I've repeatedly observed that the entire political spectrum in the US is tilted to the Right in relation to most European democracies. That is, in terms of most European politics, the Democrats would be considered moderates at best (if not moderate conservatives) and the Republicans represent a Far Right sensibility. This hit home for me recently during the latest government shutdown debacle: it was a perfect example of how only focusing on the perspective of the Two-Party system allows the entire country and so-called "Political Center" to gradually shift to the Right without our noticing it.

Defending a Conservative Plan

Republicans started this crisis by trying to pressure Obama to repeal key portions of the Affordable Care Act (so-called "Obamacare") and refusing to raise the debt ceiling unless he did so. This, unfortunately, put Democrats and many so-called "liberals" in the position of defending a program which is basically a Center-Right compromise which entrenches the for-profit health insurance industry. The ACA has always been the intellectual child of the conservative Heritage Foundation, one of DC's most influential conservative think tanks. While most progressives wanted a single payer system, the Democratic Party never even took up that battle and instead (perhaps realistically), decided to fight for a so-called public option. Those plans kept getting whittled down and even a simple expansion of Medicare was strongly rejected by the Republican Party.

All of the compromising eventually left us with the ACA which had clauses like the individual mandate which guarantees the health insurance industry a slew of new clients in exchange for a few concessions of their own (no denying people coverage because of pre-existing conditions and keeping adult children on policies up to the age of 26, just to name two). In fact, the day the ACA passed, Health Insurance stocks went sharply up.

In an Orwellian turn of events, Republicans have been assailing Obamacare as a



"socialist government expansion," masking the fact that it is essentially a pro-industry law which will actually benefit the corporations which dole out health insurance. The problem with this is that most of the corporate media, as amnesiac as ever, did not question this framing. Mainstream outlets like The New York Times, The Washington Post, NPR, and on cable, even the "progressive" MSNBC relegated their commentary to defending the ACA from the absurd distortions coming from the Republicans, but did not do a good job of refuting the idea that Obamacare was considerably "liberal." Thus the entire so-called "political center" moves to the Right; so while Democrats are able to win legislative victories (like the ACA), the Republicans win the rhetorical framing battle.

On this issue, the legislative wrangling between the two parties obscured the fact that, in the end, the major victor has been the health insurance industry. This is not to dismiss the ACA, but to correctly frame it as a slight improvement in health care access which, nevertheless, plays into the hands of the corporations who have most profited from our dysfunctional health care system. Of course, the disastrous rollout of the healthcare.gov website only played into the hands of Republicans who were once again gleefully able to call attention to "government dysfunction."

Here Comes Austerity

Another area in which the problematic "Democrat vs. Republican" framing reveals its function in obscuring deeper debate is the coming budget battle. Obama has already agreed to Social Security cuts when he signaled his approval of the so-called "Grand Bargain" last year. We are at the point where the Democratic President is, in effect, agreeing to cut one of the crown jewels of "progressive" achievements (Social Security) in order to trim the deficit. The question is not whether we will get austerity, but how much austerity.

At a time of great economic inequality and increasing poverty, both parties agree that "the government is part of the problem." Instead of arguing forcefully for the value of government and the public sector to relieve some of the more cruel aspects of Free Market capitalism, Democrats have essentially agreed to be the party of "less cuts." In many ways, we are still living in Reagan's world. However, I predict that some progressive pundits will express their surprise and outrage when Obama follows through with his stated compromise and agrees to deep government cuts.

The wrangling between the two major parties is increasingly hiding a deep societal wound: economic inequality is getting worse and our government has been hijacked by major corporate players who win no matter which party prevails.

Aly is an undocumented activist and a member of the PNL Editorial Committee.



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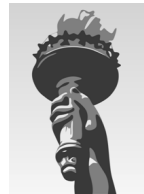


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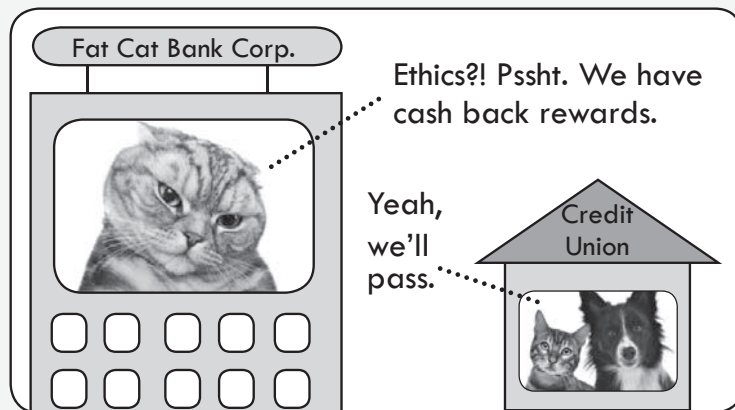
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SPC in Action / from page 4

developing I-81 task force will advocate for a solution that takes into account social justice and environmental justice concerns. To learn more or to get involved, contact Ursula.

Seeking Interns for 2014!

Special thanks to Fall 2013 intern Briana Shetler for her contributions to the Peace Council over the past few months. We originally met Briana in the Syracuse Common Council chambers during a session about surveillance drones. Briana's high energy and attention to detail were an asset as she helped to plan the SPC birthday dinner and promote the Plowshares Craftsfair and the CodePink drones summit. We are currently accepting applications for Winter 2014 internships. Contact Ursula or visit www.peacecouncil.net/intern.

Resolution Against Surveillance Drones

SPC's Ground the Drones Committee has been spearheading a resolution to "defend the civil liberties and civil rights of all people in Syracuse, NY as described in the First and Fourth Amendments"—in particular to ban drones over Syracuse's airspace until federal, state and local legislation is adopted to protect our privacy (see page 7 for more details). As we go to press, the resolution is scheduled to be discussed at a Common Council study session on **November 27, with a vote to be taken December 2** (these dates could change). See our website for updates on the progress of the resolution. Contact Carol.

No Fracking Infrastructure

On October 30 hundreds of New Yorkers rallied against the Department of Environmental Conservation's new regulations for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facilities. This preceded the only public hearing for the regulations. The room was filled to capacity within minutes, leaving over 100 people outside. The regulations would permit the development of LNG facilities, which would support fracking and expand the natural gas infrastructure. There was overwhelming opposition to the regulations from anti-frackers who claimed the regulations are inadequate to protect public safety. The DEC recently extended the comment period until December 4. Please visit ThirtyDaysOfFrackingRegs.com to submit comments on the LNG regulations.

—Emily Bishop, emily@nyagainstfracking.org

Signs of Success for United as One

As we go to press we've been notified that a new countywide jail oversight law has been drafted. This is a major sign of success for our coalition which has been working for the past three

years to prevent any more tragic deaths in the county's "Justice" Center in downtown Syracuse. UaO was formed following the deaths of Chuniece Patterson and Raul Pinet at the jail, due to neglect and harsh interrogation methods by jail staff.

We are very pleased with this sign of progress, though at this time it is too early for us to comment on the new legislation. Coalition members will be reviewing the law and giving feedback to county legislators in the coming weeks. Contact Amelia to get involved or find out more.



Some of the Birthday Dinner cooks (left to right): Kim McCoy, Rose Viviano, Marie Summerwood, Mike Miller, Carole Resnick and Mike Smith. Photo: Carol Baum

SPC Birthday Dinner

On October 5, the Peace Council celebrated our 77th birthday with a fabulous dinner at Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church attended by over 100 SPC supporters. Attendees heard from energetic CodePink activist Noor Mir about the impact our local work is having on the growing international movement to stop drone warfare. We extend countless thanks to the many volunteers who made the event possible, especially to our head cooks Marie Summerwood and Carole Resnick.

Sarah Eggers and Jessica Azulay added an extra element of activism to the dinner with the Pardon Chelsea Manning Photo-booth. The photos from the Pardon

Chelsea Manning photobooth will be sent to President Obama and are up on the Peace Council Facebook page. To learn more about the national campaign to pardon Chelsea Manning, visit www.bradleymanning.org. If you took photos during the dinner, we hope you'll share them by sending them to us.

Young People's Organizing

Youth RIOT (Resisting Imperialism and Oppression Together) hosted a small but thoughtful gathering of students and community organizers on September 29 at SU for a forum titled "War and Its Intersections." We discussed the role of religion in conflict, the intertwined history of environmental degradation and war, the meaning of the words *imperialism* and *revolution*, and direct action and other tactics to challenge the status quo. The group remains connected and ready to come together around emergent issues. Are you seeking space and support to organize around an issue you care about? Contact Ursula.

MAEP Takes a Break

We are sad to announce that the Military Alternatives Education Project (MAEP), our high school counter-recruitment program, is going on hiatus this semester as staff time will be redirected to new fundraising campaigns to address our budget gap. We thank the committed volunteers who have kept this program going for so many years. We plan to reconvene the group in the spring to assess our capacity to restart our truth in recruiting work. If you're interested in getting involved, contact Amelia. ♻️