

SYRACUSE

PEACE COUNCIL'S

# Peace Newsletter

Central New York Voices for Peace and Social Justice

June 2014 #835



Image: Melanie West

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# SPC INFO

## SPC Steering Committee 2014

Jessica Azulay, Carol Baum, Jack Brown, Sarah Eggers, Barbara Humphrey, Ben Kuebrich, Kimberley McCoy, Julienne Oldfield, Amelia Lefevre, Carole Resnick, Ursula Rozum, Brian Tackett, Richard Vallejo, Aly Wane, Jim Weidman, Wendy Yost.

## SPC's Peace Newsletter

**Editorial Committee:** Andrew Miller, Saptarshi Lahiri, Amelia Lefevre, Nikeeta Slade, Aly Wane. **Editorial & Layout Coordinator:** Amelia Lefevre. **Proofing:** Rae Kramer, Andy Molloy. **Web:** Simone Richmond.

## 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 & 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  
**New Yorkers Against Fracking:** statewide coalition opposing hydrofracking  
**GMO Free CNY:** works against genetically modified organisms in food  
**Move to Amend:** works against corporate control of the democratic system

## 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.

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## Peace Newsletter

**Sponsored by the Syracuse Center for Peace & Social Justice**  
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**Calendar:** Submit items for the July-August *PNL* calendar by July 7.



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# Educate, Agitate, Organize: SPC IN ACTION

compiled by Carol Baum

## Cornel West Brings the House Down

On Sunday, April 27, renowned activist and scholar Dr. Cornel West spoke on “Connecting the Dots: Racism, Poverty and Drones” to a crowd of about 600 people at Tucker Missionary Baptist Church. We also were treated to a piece by Buffalo revolutionary hip hop artist Quadir Lateef and viewed a slideshow prepared by Ithaca Catholic Workers.

After the talk, about 200 people rallied near Hancock Air Base (where Reaper drones are piloted) and marched to the main entrance. The theme was “People’s Orders of Protection Against Drone Terror,” which alludes to the needs of people around the world to be protected from drone attacks, as well as to the Orders of Protection served to many activists who have participated in nonviolent civil resistance at the base.

The day’s events were organized by the Upstate Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars and the Syracuse Peace Council, and co-sponsored by 50 groups.

## Anti-drone Initiatives

In our initiative to educate Syracusans about drone warfare, events were recently held at Syracuse University and Le Moyne College. Ed Kinane opened the programs by addressing the devaluing of human life, militarism, and the Reaper drone that is piloted from Hancock National Guard Air Base by the 174th Attack Wing. We then screened *Dirty Wars*, a documentary film that exposes extrajudicial atrocities committed by JSOC (the Joint Special Operations Command)—including drone strikes—across the globe. After the film, powerful discussions were held at both campuses.

We also displayed the Drones Quilt, whose squares commemorate the victims of drone attacks. Later we held a quilting party to create additional squares. The Syracuse Community Choir is making



Above: The “People’s Order of Protection Against Drone Terror” March to Hancock Air Base, April 27. About 200 people participated. Photo: Kim McCoy. Left: Cornel West speaking on “Connecting the Dots: Racism, Poverty and Drones” in Syracuse on April 27. Photo: Ursula Rozum

squares as well. If you’re interested in expressing your creativity through square-making, please email Brianna Shetler at [briannashetler@gmail.com](mailto:briannashetler@gmail.com).

On **Monday, June 9 at 7 pm** at SPC, please join us as we make our summer plans. Contact Carol.

— Brianna Shetler

## Bikes Rule

It’s time for Bikes4Peace, SPC’s summer youth bike repair project. This year, we’re starting early with an open “Bike Kitchen” training for people who want to volunteer as bike mechanics. The training will occur on **Wednesday, June 11, from 5-7 pm** on the ground floor of the Syracuse Center for Peace and Social Justice (2013 E.

Genesee St.—enter in rear). This will be a time to learn, practice and share bicycle repair skills on your own or a donated Bikes4Peace bike. Summer repair clinics for youth will begin on **Wednesday, June 25 at 5 pm** at the Northeast Community Center (716 Hawley Ave.).

On **Sunday, June 22, from 1-3 pm**, support Bikes4Peace by heading to Chipotle on Marshall St. Tell them you’re a Bikes4Peace supporter and we’ll receive 50% of the sale.

Want to have lots of fun fixing bikes this summer? Contact Ursula.

## Move to Amend

Move to Amend (MTA), the campaign to get big money out of politics, is making progress. As part of the New York for Democracy Coalition, our local group sent five people to Albany to lobby for New York to become the seventeenth state to call for a constitutional amendment overturn-

continued on next page

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COUNCIL

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## SPC in Action / from previous page

ing the Supreme Court's recent decisions that unleashed a tidal wave of cash into our elections. We expect a majority of assembly and senate members to sign a letter to Congress calling for an amendment that will affirm that artificial entities (such as corporations) are not entitled to the inherent rights of persons and that spending money in elections is not the same thing as political free speech and can be regulated. Locally, the Syracuse Common Council is discussing our proposed city resolution in support of an amendment.

MTA national spokesperson David Cobb will appear in Syracuse on **Monday, June 2, at 7 pm** at Plymouth Congregational Church (232 E. Onondaga St.), with an opening by the D.R.E.A.M. Freedom Revival. After a barnstorming tour of New York, David will return to Syracuse on **Saturday, June 7** for MTA's first statewide meeting. Contact Michael at 663-5640 or Lynn at 415-9534.

## SPC Out and About

Now that warm weather is here, opportunities abound to engage new people in our work for peace and social justice. Please consider joining the Peace Council Outreach Team to help staff info tables at community events. We're also starting regular downtown outreach tabling—the first day

### STREET HEAT

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

#### Tuesdays: 4:15-5 pm

- June 3** Hancock Air Base Entrance (E. Molloy Rd., between Thompson & Townline Rds.)
- June 10** Seneca Tpk. & S. Salina St.
- June 17** Hancock Air Base Entrance
- June 24** Seneca Tpk. & S. Salina St.
- July 1** Hancock Air Base Entrance
- July 8** Adams & Almond Sts.
- July 15** Hancock Air Base Entrance

#### Saturdays: 9-10 am

Park Street - Across from the Regional Market main entrance.

Contact Ed or Ann, 315-478-4571

will be **Tuesday, June 10**. Contact Ursula.

Another fun way to spend a summer day is marching with SPC in parades. On **Saturday, June 14, join us in the Juneteenth Parade** (meet at 11:30 am at MLK School, 416 E. Raynor St.). Then on **Saturday, June 21 join the SPC contingent in the Pride Parade** (meet at 10:30 am at Belden Ave. near the intersection with W. Genesee St.). Contact Amelia.



Dave Kashmer. Photo: Laura Brown

## Activist Appreciation: Dave Kashmer

Peace Council activists first met Dave Kashmer during Occupy Syracuse. Dave is a navy veteran with a heart of gold, always ready to lend a helping hand when asked and ready to take action when he sees a community member facing injustice. This is the second summer Dave will be the primary coordinator for Bikes4Peace repair clinics, acting as a liaison between the Peace Council and the community centers that host our bike clinics for youth. Dave is also a board member of the Workers' Center of CNY, where he is active in organizing support for farmworkers and low-wage workers.

## Latin America Solidarity

This summer, the CNY-Cajibío Sister Community is organizing a tenth anniversary delegation to Colombia. Eight activists from Syracuse, Cortland and Ithaca will meet with the Small Farmers Movement of Cajibío, Colombia to learn about their work to develop a sustainable agricultural economy and resist government policies that promote monoculture, dependency on large agribusiness and export agriculture.

Join CNY-Cajibío for a screening of *Colors of the Mountain* on **Thursday June 12, at 6:30 pm** at ArtRage Gallery (505 Hawley Ave.) Through the lens of a young boy, *Colors of the Mountain* paints

the struggle of farming communities whose daily lives are affected by armed military and guerrilla rebels. Delegation participants Emily Bishop and Frank Cetera will also share stories about why they are participating. Donation is \$5-15, sliding scale. Contact Ursula.

## Marking the Continuing Nakba

The *Nakba* (Catastrophe) refers to the dispossession of 750,000 Palestinians in 1947-48 connected with the creation of the state of Israel. This is the third year CNY Working for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel organized a commemoration event. We were joined by Dawud Assad, a survivor of the massacre in the village of Deir Yasin and author of *Palestine Rising*. Mr. Assad spoke passionately about his family's experience and also about the peaceful coexistence of Arabs and Jews in the region before Israel was established as a national entity. He advocated a one state solution to the ongoing conflict, emphasizing the need for an equally shared democratic government, with equal rights for all people. The event was well attended, and the food was fantastic! Contact Ursula.

## Activist Training: the GROW Strategy Chart

Join us on **June 24 at 6:30 pm** at the SPC office for an interactive training on how to plan activist campaigns using the Midwest Academy GROW Strategy Chart. Renee Vogelsang of Frack Action will lead this training to help activists think about how to establish goals, build people power and push power holders to make decisions that reflect our values. Renee has worked on energy, water, environmental and human rights issues since 2002. Contact Ursula.

## Lunches at SPC

The SPC staff collective eats lunch together **every Wednesday at 1 pm** and we invite SPC supporters and friends to join us. Bring your lunch or a snack and hear what issues SPC is focusing on, discuss current events and build a greater sense of community. Some weeks we may focus the discussion on a particular topic. Call SPC to let us know you're coming, 472-5478.

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# When We Are Too Politically Sophisticated to Act: Reflections on #BringBackOurGirls

Yanira Rodriguez

On Sunday May 4, approximately 40 members of the Syracuse community rallied in support of the mothers of more than 200 girls who were abducted on April 14 from their school in Chibok, Nigeria. Before, during and after the event I wrestled with the larger political implications of the #BringBackOurGirls campaign, but still felt it imperative that this issue had to get louder. I kept thinking of my 12-year-old daughter. I kept thinking of the few girls who managed to escape, running blind in the night, and of the horrors visited upon those who were not able to run. I kept thinking of the countless women here in the US subjected to sexual violence and coerced into silence. Even if there were imperialist motives behind the offers to help find the girls (and I do not dismiss the significance and implications of such agendas), it felt crucial that these girls should not be in the middle of the sordid politics surrounding their abduction.

Soon after the event, we began to see other rallies organized all over the world and an increase in media coverage by traditional and alternative media outlets. In response, Jumoke Balogun<sup>1</sup>, a Nigerian-American feminist and co-founder of the online journal *Compare Afrique*, wrote an emphatic critique of US sympathizers. In her piece entitled “Dear Americans, Your Hashtags Won’t #BringBackOurGirls. You Might Actually be Making Things Worse,”<sup>2</sup> Balogun rightfully argued that shows of solidarity from “Americans” could not only lead to further US intervention in the region but also undermine Nigerians’ democratic process. She cited important examples of the growing US military presence<sup>3</sup> in Nigeria, examples that in turn revealed that the political maneuverings have been underway long before the abduction of these girls.

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*Yanira is a poet and journalist, living in Syracuse for the past seven years. She will join SU’s Composition and Cultural Rhetoric Doctoral Program in the fall.*



Peta Long and Aimee Brill speak to the media in Columbus Circle on May 4 while demonstrators gather to bring attention to the April kidnapping of more than 200 teenage girls from their school in Nigeria. Photo: Kevin Bott

But the general assumption implicit in Balogun’s argument is all Westerners who mobilize in response to a call to action do so from a place of blind sympathy (a savior complex or more specifically a “white savior complex,”<sup>4</sup> which does exist and I do not mean to downplay). Her claims ignored the possibility that people organized from a place of knowledge (or a search for more complete knowledge) and from a place of recognition of their government’s role in national and international strife. In her argument, Balogun also assumed that the North American public is a unified offspring of its government, rather than what she suggested we were seeing in Nigeria: a participatory citizenry ready to challenge an administration that abandons (or misrepresents) them. These assumptions are not without cause. When Michelle Obama held a #BringBackOurGirls<sup>5</sup> sign sporting a pouty face, the irony was not lost on us. The organization Cultures of Resistance<sup>6</sup> circulated an alternative image with the first lady holding a sign that read, “nothing will bring back the children murdered by my husband’s drone strikes.”<sup>7</sup> These important moments, in which a North American public alongside

and engaged with an international public push against the US government’s covert imperialist agendas, speak to the kind of dialectic that is needed and that could not have happened without many having joined the conversation on Nigeria to begin with.

The Nigerian-American writer and photographer Teju Cole had also been grappling with the issue of outside support. On May 9, Cole posted on Twitter “[t]his perhaps is the international community’s role: serve as witness to what Nigerians must mostly do themselves, and amplify Nigerian work.”<sup>8</sup> On May 6, in a blog post for the *New Yorker* titled “Captivity,”<sup>9</sup> Cole wrote about the friendship between Muslim and Christian girls, challenging the religious polarity that gets recreated in the media. And as he contested some of the rhetoric that perpetuates division, oppression and war, Cole also appealed to our deepest sense of humanity. His appeal exposed the absurdity of both the media campaign and the inane politics that have created this moment. He wrote:

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continued on next page

“They [the girls] are not thinking of Twitter, where the captivity is the cause of the day, ...nor of the suddenly ramped-up coverage by international media, nor of how this war will engulf even those who are only just beginning to hear about it, nor of those who, free for now, will someday become captives. They are perhaps thinking only that night is falling again, and that the men will come to each of them again, an unending horror.”

Cole was doing important work at refocusing the conversation (despite the critique that could be levied at all levels) back to the girls. Cole’s tweets and shares also revealed a wrestling with information that at times perpetuated the constructs Cole challenged but allowed for other opportunities.

This kind of dialectic was absent in Balogun’s piece, and the absence points to a less obvious but deep concern: when in

our “political sophistication” we privilege our understanding of the “complexity” of issues rather than our indignation before gross human rights violations. Withholding from debate or (like Balogun’s piece) lumping and condemning people who are motivated to take action, in order to separate ourselves from the presumed naiveté of celebrities who put their name to a cause or from “regular” citizens who join causes (again) presumably with blindfolds on, creates a missed opportunity to redirect the conversation.

We miss the opportunity to contest the meanings that “powerholders” want to attribute to our collective actions, and would-be allies are instead stripped of agency and succumb to dominant narratives that seek to disenfranchise them from speaking up.

The refusal to join a call to action because it has gone “mainstream” also comes with its own set of blinders, as folks are swayed by a different kind of social media bling: snark<sup>10</sup> and cynicism. For example, Balogun’s piece was the only post I saw from several friends preceded by comments like #WordTheFuckUp and #RealTalk. But there was no talk, just a blanket reaction/

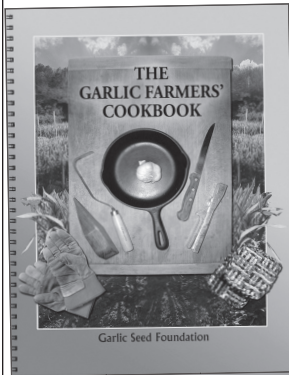
overreliance on an article critical of US intervention used as rationale not to get involved. Again, the inaction signaled a deeper issue where a particular sense of “logic” is privileged over empathy.

And the consequences of staying silent are dire. As of my writing, the majority of the girls remain captive, early outpours of international support are dwindling, and the US and other countries that offered to help search for the girls now claim a need to be “strategic” about their involvement.

As for an “American” public, yes, it is dangerous to act blindly but equally so not to trust our reactions to tyranny.<sup>11</sup> And when what we face are systematic and structural means to isolate and criminalize those who speak up, we could always use more people willing to expose their knowledge gaps<sup>12</sup> and to contest not only the obvious but more insidious ways power attempts to co-opt our actions. Perhaps then we can begin to address the seemingly simple but tough questions like the one posed by Cole when he tweeted “#BringBackOurGirls, but to where?”

<sup>1-12</sup> Visit [www.peacecouncil.net/pnl](http://www.peacecouncil.net/pnl) for source links.

### See What The *Stink* Is All About!



- The Garlic Farmers' Cookbook
- Aglio organic T-shirt
- Stainless Steel Garlic Crusher
- Ceramic Garlic Keeper locally made

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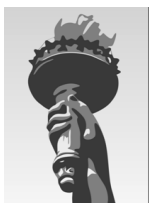
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**Vietnam: A Performance Art Peace**

Is seeking a videographer/photographer with editing experience. This is a PT position with compensation. The project is also seeking creative peacemakers to act, direct, write, choreograph, and promote through social networking.

Contact: Van ([vandelial@twcny.rr.com](mailto:vandelial@twcny.rr.com))

Celebrating Two Important Advocates for Civil Rights & Civil Liberties in CNY at Our Annual Dinner - June 4, 2014 at Justin's Tuscan Grill



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### Syracuse Community Choir Summer Solstice Concert

**The Power of Song: Honoring  
Nelson Mandela, Pete Seeger and the Beatles**

Thursday, June 19 7 pm St. Paul's Cathedral

Suggested Donation: \$15 (Less if you need to, no one turned away!) 428.8151 or [syracusecommunitychoir.org](http://syracusecommunitychoir.org)

**A summer evening of singing, remembering  
and community....**

# BDS: An International Response to a Palestinian Request

Ann Tiffany and Carole Resnick

Beginning in the 1960s, an international economic boycott of apartheid South Africa helped sweep away the entrenched legalized racism of that oppressive regime. It was South Africa's blacks and other people of color who sought that boycott. Today it is the Palestinian people who have called for a similar economic boycott of Israel in the form of a Boycott/Divestment/Sanctions (BDS) movement.

## Present-Day Apartheid

Although unpopular in the US, the term apartheid has been used for years to describe the Israeli government's structures for separating the Palestinian population from the Jewish Israeli population—geographically, economically, and politically. In 2007 the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* published an editorial addressing the issue: "The de facto separation is today more similar to political apartheid than an occupation regime... One side—determined by national, not geographic association—includes people who have the right to choose and the freedom to move, and a growing economy. On the other side are people closed behind the walls surrounding their community, who have no right to vote, lack freedom of movement, and have no chance to plan their future."

The truth was spoken on April 25 of this year when US Secretary of State John Kerry commented at a closed door meeting of the trilateral commission in Washington DC, that Israel risks becoming an "apartheid state" if US-sponsored efforts to reach an Israeli-Palestinian peace settlement fail. Responding to the storm of objection following the unexpected public release of his remarks, Kerry said, "If I could rewind the tape, I would have chosen a different word. Israeli leaders had made similar points in the past but apartheid [is] a word best left out of the debate here at home."

Eyes-open assessment of the reality indicates that the situation in Israel-Palestine is dire. BDS is an international nonviolent effort to effect change based on the model that eventually contributed to the dissolution of the South African apartheid state.

## What is BDS?

According to the website of the Palestinian BDS National Committee ([bdsmovement.net](http://bdsmovement.net)):

"The campaign for boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) is shaped by a rights-based approach and highlights the three broad sections of the Palestinian people: the refugees, those under military occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and Palestinians in Israel. The call urges various forms of boycott against Israel until it meets its obligations under international law by:

1. Ending its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands occupied in June 1967 and dismantling the Separation Wall;



2. Recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and
3. Respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN Resolution 194 (December 1948).

The BDS call was endorsed by over 170 Palestinian political parties, organizations, trade unions and movements. The signatories represent the refugees, Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and Palestinian citizens of Israel."

The BDS campaign is gaining momentum internationally, throughout the US, and right here in Syracuse. Central New York Working for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel/SPC is actively working to launch a local BDS campaign. BDS includes the following elements:

- A consumer **BOYCOTT** of goods, targeting products and companies (both Israeli and international) that profit from the violation of Palestinian rights (see box on page 10).
- Institutional **DIVESTMENT** of financial interests held in corporations which profit from the occupation. There has been some success at the level of divestment. For example, a Dutch pension plan divested from five Israeli banks, and the large US pension fund TIAA-CEFF responded to pressure from its membership and divested from SodaStream stock.

*Ann and Carole are active members of Central New York Working for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel. They sincerely hope that you will add your voice and your actions to the growing BDS movement!*

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# Shale-by-Rail: Regulations Aren't Enough

Emily Bishop and Ursula Rozum

If something sounds like a really bad idea, it probably is. Like shipping explosive shale oil from North Dakota's Bakken shale by rail across the United States in "DOT-111" shipping cars, originally made to carry molasses and corn syrup, to the Port of Albany and putting it on barges on the Hudson River.

The Bakken shale oil is a light substance that is extracted using hydraulic fracturing ("fracking"). This particular oil is often called "crude" oil, but unlike the stereotypical image of crude oil, it is light in weight and color and is similar to gasoline in consistency. This particular shale oil can vaporize into the air and ignite at a very low temperature, known as its "flashpoint." The addition of fracking chemicals to the shale oil, combined with its low flashpoint, makes it the most volatile oil that is transported by rail.

In July of 2013, a train derailment in the town of Lac Megantic, Quebec killed 47 people and destroyed the center of the vacation town, raising the alarm about the growing shale-by-rail industry that has ballooned as a result of the Midwest oil boom. There have also been recent explosions elsewhere in Canada, as well as in North Dakota, Alabama, and Virginia.

Bakken shale runs through Syracuse on trains operated by CSX. The trains are a mile long and can carry roughly one million gallons of oil per shipment. While New York has not yet seen tragedy at the scale of Lac Megantic, since the beginning of 2014 there have been derailments in Kingston, Buffalo and outside of Albany in the town of Selkirk.

## Government Officials Ask for Stricter Rules

The shale-by-rail industry has grown exponentially in recent years. Railroads carried more than 400,000 carloads of shale oil last year, up from 9,500 in 2008. About 75% of Bakken shale oil produc-

tion travels by rail, with Albany receiving 20-25% of these shipments.

New York is technically prevented by federal law from regulating rail freight transportation or car safety standards since this is an issue of interstate commerce. In recent weeks, Governor Cuomo and Sena-

tor Schumer have come out in support of stronger regulations. Schumer has called the industry's use of outdated tank cars a "ticking time bomb" and has encouraged regulators to replace older cars with models built after 2011 and suited to carry petroleum.

tor Schumer have come out in support of stronger regulations. Schumer has called the industry's use of outdated tank cars a "ticking time bomb" and has encouraged regulators to replace older cars with models built after 2011 and suited to carry petroleum.

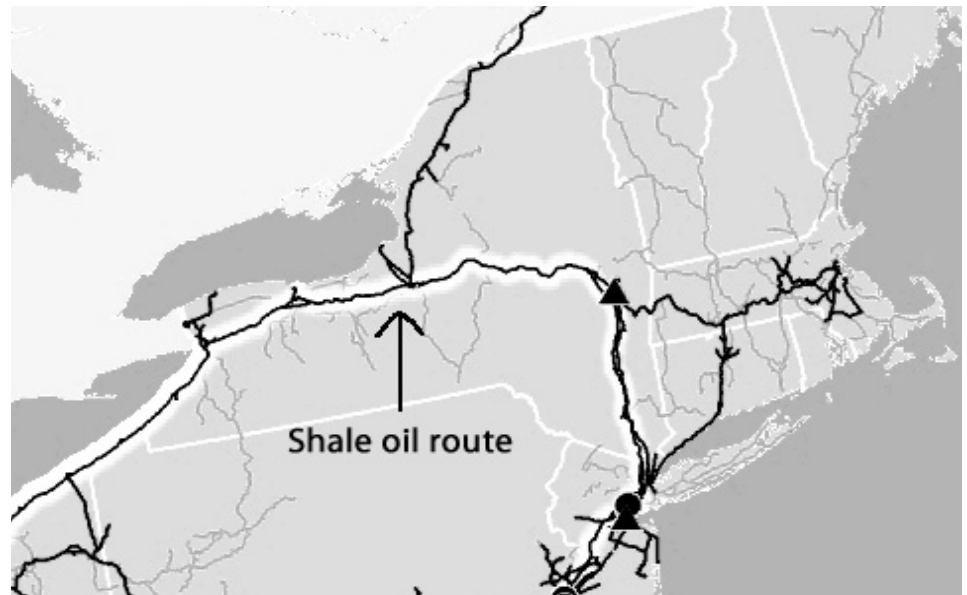


Image: [www.csxcrudebyrail.com](http://www.csxcrudebyrail.com)

tor Schumer have come out in support of stronger regulations. Schumer has called the industry's use of outdated tank cars a "ticking time bomb" and has encouraged regulators to replace older cars with models built after 2011 and suited to carry petroleum.

Cuomo also took action by issuing an executive order to review the safety concerns with the oil rail cars in January 2014, three years after this industry had already started operating in New York. This action is too little, too late. It turns out that state officials can't do much about regulating the rails since they are under federal guidelines.

However, Cuomo sent a letter to President Obama in early May 2014 urging him to "prioritize federal action," which includes changing voluntary safety measures into regulations; finalizing the Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration regulations to remove DOT-111 tank cars from transporting Bakken shale oil; partnering federal and NYS regulators to develop area-specific response plans to

Prohibition Order on May 7, 2014, but it isn't enough. The Order "requires that each railroad carrier provide the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), for each state in which it operates trains transporting 1 million gallons or more of Bakken shale oil, [and] notification regarding the expected movement of such trains through the counties in the state." This is to include a description of the oil to be transported, estimated volumes and frequencies per week, the routes which the trains will be traveling and the applicable emergency response information. The Order also calls on the railroad carriers assisting SERCs in disseminating emergency response information to emergency responders.

Within 30 days from when the Order was issued, the railroad carriers shipping shale oil have to report notification of their activities to the DOT. If they don't report by this time, DOT will order the railroad carrier to cease operations until it does so. Let's hope it is clear that the railroad carriers do not have the capacity to effectively handle this explosive material and

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*Emily is a Regional Coordinator with New Yorkers Against Fracking. Ursula is a Staff Organizer at SPC and Campaign Manager for Howie Hawkins for Governor.*



that the DOT immediately calls for an end to its transportation. The least the DOT could do is prohibit railroad carriers from transporting Bakken shale oil in DOT-111 cars, like Transport Minister Lisa Raitt did for all shipments in Canada.

The actions of the DOT, Cuomo, and Schumer are obvious and necessary. However, just like there is no safe fracking, there is no safe shipment of highly volatile shale oil. Instead of regulating, our government should instead immediately cease the shipment of Bakken shale oil by rail through the US. These trains are still moving without our local representatives or first responders knowing what is coming through or what to do in case a train explodes.

What's worse is that residents don't know what to do in case a train carrying Bakken shale oil explodes in their community. Do they know that they need to evacuate immediately? That one should be at least a mile away from the site of the explosion? Do our emergency responders know how to deal with a shale oil explosion? Recently, Ed Griffin-Nolan reported in the *Syracuse New Times* that our first responders in Onondaga County haven't had a hazardous material training in over six years, and the shale oil began to move through New York State just three years ago.

### Is Cuomo Preparing Our Community for This Emergency?

Recently, Governor Cuomo has been touring his "emergency preparedness" workshops throughout the state. They are mostly about storms, not exploding oil trains. While these workshops are attempting to educate people about emergency preparedness for weather events, the Onondaga County Emergency Response team hasn't taken initiative to educate the public about the potential of a train exploding in our community and how to respond to it. But Kevin Wisely, Onondaga County Commissioner of Emergency Management, assured us that "we have response plans for our community. Crude [shale] oil is just one of a multitude of commodities that travels through our community on rail that we prepare and train for."

However, shale oil isn't just any other

commodity and it isn't just any other oil. It is liquid petroleum that is extracted using fracking from shale formation, meaning that it contains methane and other gases that are extracted with it. And due to the Bakken shale oil's volatility and "light" characteristic, it releases more volatile organic emissions (fugitive emissions) than other types of petroleum, causing it to explode more easily. Add to this its low flashpoint and we're dealing with a very dangerous substance. If Onondaga County has a response plan to deal with an emergency of this kind, why aren't they sharing it with us?

### Divesting in Fossil Fuels

We need the transport of Bakken shale oil to cease immediately—at least until there

Seeger's greatest accomplishment was his successful effort to clean up the Hudson River. The river was a raging sewer when Seeger set out to save it in the 1960s, a dump for industries that grew along its banks, full of PCBs from the electrical industry, sewage discharges, pesticides, and other contaminants. The main traffic at the time was cement and oil barges. Decades later, the cleanup of the Hudson continues and decades later, the Hudson River is once again in danger, this time from barges carrying some of the dirtiest oil on the planet. It's only a matter of time before the Hudson River sees an oil spill like the one on the Mississippi River in February 2014, just upstream from New Orleans.

Like Pete Seeger did, citizens of New York are speaking up against extreme fossil fuel infrastructure. Community and labor



A shale oil train travels amidst the busy interstate in Albany, NY. Photo: Loren Baum

are federal regulations in place and the cars have been updated. But ideally, the practice of fracking and the production of all fossil fuels should be banned. While safer oil trains are superior to building more pipelines in the short term, we have to stop building more fossil fuel infrastructure like pipelines, gas storage facilities, compressor stations, and tar sands boilers. Every dollar invested in fossil fuel infrastructure locks us into decades more fossil fuel dependence, diverting resources from urgently needed investment in renewable energy.

Pete Seeger said, "participation—that's what's gonna save the human race."

activists are sounding the alarm about safety and mobilizing the public to push New York to do its job and protect the environment which our lives depend on.

We need to be there when regulatory agencies shirk their responsibilities, as the DEC recently did when it declared that boilers for Bakken shale—on the shore of the Hudson River next door to public housing—would have no negative impact. It's up to us to use every tool at our disposal—public comment, protest, voting, political pressure—to help kick our country's tired addiction to fossil fuels and to stop these bad ideas in their tracks. ♻️

- **SANCTIONS**, which are governmental actions to penalize Israel economically for its policies in violation of human rights and international law. Turkey and Norway both suspended military relations with Israel after nine Turkish citizens were killed on the Freedom Flotilla in 2010. If the US withdrew military aid to Israel because of its ever-increasing building of illegal settlements, home demolitions, the separation wall, travel check points for Palestinians only, detention of Palestinian political prisoners, blockade of Gaza and control of all goods entering there including food and medicine, we would have some meaningful sanctions happening with good potential to affect Israeli policies!

The BDS movement is an effort to both educate the international community and to provide a response that will move Israel to end the occupation. It has potential to contribute to a nonviolent solution to what has become an intractable conflict between the US-backed Israeli government and the Palestinians whose lands and lives have been occupied. Just as the international boycott of apartheid South Africa was instrumental in changing that government, BDS can help work toward a just resolution that provides self-determination and security for all peoples in the region.

Please join us in this effort. Your boycott will be especially effective if you let the store manager know why you're not

## Here are five brands to boycott which are profiting from the occupation:

**Sabra and Tribe Hummus** is partially owned by Israeli companies who supported the IDF (Israeli Defense Forces) in their assault on Gaza in 2008-9 and who also supported a group involved in the bulldozing of Bedouin villages.

**SodaStream** has its main factory making home carbonation devices and flavorings in an Israeli settlement illegally located on occupied Palestinian land.

**Ahava** is a cosmetic company manufacturing skin care products made from mud and mineral compounds from the Dead Sea. It is a violation of international law to exploit the resources of an occupied land.

**Hewlett Packard** contracts with the Israel Ministry of Defense to provide the system that regulates Palestinian workers' permits, and also provides services to three major settlements.

**Motorola** has a close relationship with the Israeli military. It provides radar detection systems to at least 20 illegal settlements and along the separation barrier.

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### Women Circles: Priestesses of Peace

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Not a political event but an emotional, psychological, spiritual experience that will allow you to strengthen yourself in many ways to stand for peace. In wisdom, clarity and strength.

On ritual night we will be initiated as Priestesses of Peace. The world needs more strong women for peace. *Join us.*

**August 23-28, 2014**

Rowe Camp and  
for more information, Conference Center  
go to Facebook: Rowe, MA  
**WomenCircles:** (413) 339-4954  
**Priestesses of Peace** Rowecenter.org

Questions, contact Rowe or the director, Marie Summerwood  
msummerw@twcny.rr.com



# Four Ways Privatization Is Ruining Our Education System

Paul Buchheit

## 1. Charter Schools Have Not Improved Education

The recently updated CREDO study at Stanford revealed that while charters have made progress since 2009, their performance is about the same as that of public schools. The differences are, in the words of the National Education Policy Center, “so small as to be regarded, without hyperbole, as trivial.” Furthermore, the four-year improvement demonstrated by charters may have been due to the closing of schools that underperformed in the earlier study, and also by a variety of means to discourage the attendance of lower-performing students.

Ample evidence exists beyond CREDO to question the effectiveness of charter schools (although they continue to have both supporters and detractors). In Ohio, charters were deemed inferior to traditional schools in all grade/subject combinations. Texas charters had a much lower graduation rate in 2012 than traditional schools. In Louisiana, where Governor Bobby Jindal proudly announced that “we’re doing something about [failing schools],” about two-thirds of charters received a D or an F from the Louisiana State Department of Education in 2013. Furthermore, charters in New Orleans rely heavily on inexperienced teachers, and even its model charter school, Sci Academy, has experienced a skyrocketing suspension rate—the second highest in the city. More trouble looms for the over-chartered city in a lawsuit filed by families of disabled students contending that equal educational access has not been provided for their children.

## 2. The Profit Motive Perverts the Goals of Education

Forbes notes: “The charter school movement

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*Paul is a college teacher, a writer for progressive publications, and the founder and developer of social justice and educational websites (UsAgainstGreed.org, PayUpNow.org, RappingHistory.org).*

began as a grassroots attempt to improve public education. It’s quickly becoming a backdoor for corporate profit.” A McKinsey report estimates that education can be a \$1.1 trillion business in the United States. Meanwhile, state educational funding continues to be cut, and budget imbalances are worsened by the transfer of public tax money to charter schools.

Education funding continues to be cut largely because corporations aren’t paying their state taxes.

So, philanthropists like Bill Gates and Eli Broad and Michael Bloomberg and Rupert Murdoch and Jeff Bezos and the Walton family, who have little educa-



Source: [choosingdemocracy.blogspot.com](http://choosingdemocracy.blogspot.com)

tional experience among them and who have little accountability to the public, are riding the free-market wave and promoting “education reform” with lots of standardized testing.

Our nation’s impulsive experiment with privatization is causing our schools to look more like boardrooms than classrooms. Charter administrators make a lot more money than their public school counterparts, and their numbers are rapidly increasing. Teachers, on the other hand, are paid less, and they have fewer years of experience and a higher turnover rate. The patriotic-sounding “Teach for America” charges public school districts \$3,000 to \$5,000 per instructor per year. Teachers don’t get that money; business owners do.

K12, Inc., the largest online, for-prof-

it Educational Management Organization in the US, is a good example of what the Center for Media and Democracy calls “America’s Highest Paid Government Workers”—that is, the CEOs of corporations that make billions by taking control of public services. While over 86 percent of K12’s profits came from taxpayers, and while the salaries of K12’s eight executives went from \$10 million to over \$21 million in one year, only 27.7 percent of K12, Inc.’s online schools met state standards in 2010-2011, compared to 52 percent of public schools.

It gets worse with the Common Core Standards, an unproven Gates-funded initiative that requires computers many schools don’t have. The *Silicon Valley Business Journal* reports that “Next year, K-12 schools across the United States will begin implementing Common Core State Standards, an education initiative that will drive schools to adopt technology in the classroom as never before... Apple, Google, Cisco and a swarm of startups are elbowing in to secure market share.” States are being hit with unexpected new costs, partly for curriculum changes, but also for technology upgrades, testing, and assessment.

Finally, the profit motive leads to questionable ethics among school operators, if not outright fraud. After a Los Angeles charter school manager misused funds, the California Charter Schools Association insisted that charter schools are exempt from criminal laws because they are private. The same argument was used in a Chicago case. Charters employ the privatization defense to justify their generous salaries while demanding instructional space as public entities. States around the country are being attracted to the money, as, for example, in Texas and Ohio, where charter-affiliated campaign contributions have led to increased funding and licenses for charter schools.

## 3. Advanced Profit-Making: Higher Education

At the college level, for-profit schools eagerly clamor for low-income students

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and military veterans, who conveniently arrive with public money in the form of federal financial aid. For-profit colleges get up to 90 percent of their revenue from US taxpayers. Less incentive remains for these schools after tuition is received, as evidenced by the fact that more than half of the students enrolled in for-profit colleges in 2008-9 left without a degree or diploma.

As with K-12 education, the driving need for profit directs our students to computer screens rather than to skilled human communicators. A Columbia University study found that “failure and withdrawal rates were significantly higher for online courses than for face-to-face courses.” The University of Phoenix has a 60 percent dropout rate.

The newest money-maker is the MOOC (Massively Open Online Course). Thanks to such sweeping high-tech strategies, higher ed is increasingly becoming a network of diploma processors, with up to a 90 percent dropout rate, and with the largest business operations losing the most students. For a 2012 bioelectricity class at Duke, for example, 12,725 students enrolled, 3,658 attempted a quiz, and 313 passed. Yet “schools” like edX are charging universities \$250,000 per course, then \$50,000 for each re-offering of the course, along with a cut of any revenue generated by the course.

### 4. Lower-Performing Children Left Behind

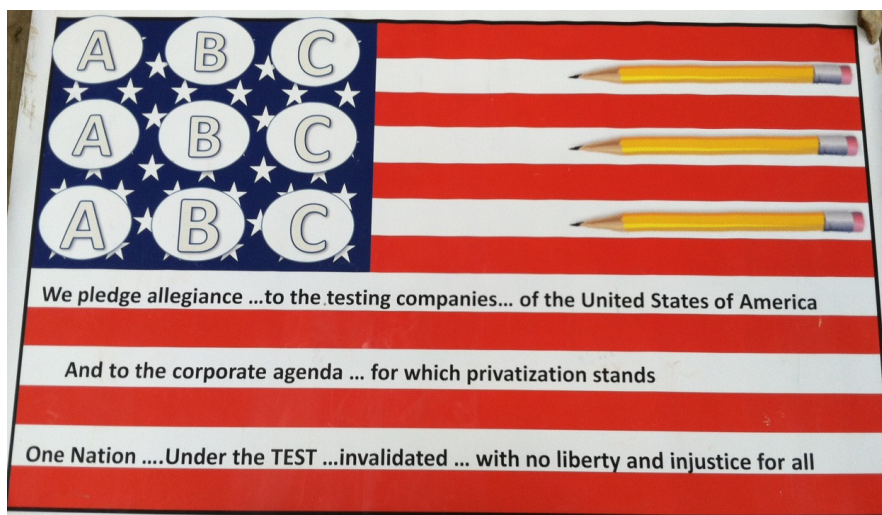
The greatest perversion of educational principles is the threat to equal opportunity, a mandate that was eloquently expressed by Chief Justice Earl Warren in the 1954 Supreme Court decision on *Brown vs. the Board of Education*: “Education is perhaps the most important function of state and local governments... Such an opportunity... is a right which must be made available to all on equal terms.” But we’re turning away from that important message. The National Education Policy Center notes that “Charter schools... can shape their student enrollment in surprising ways,” through practices that often exclude “students with special needs, those with low test scores, English learners, or students in poverty.”

The Knowledge Is Power Program (KIPP), perhaps the most acclaimed charter organization, says it doesn’t do that. KIPP has its supporters, and it proudly displays the results of an independent study by Mathematica Policy Research, which concluded that “The average impact of KIPP on student achievement is positive, statistically significant, and educationally substantial.”

But funding for the Mathematica study was provided by Atlantic Philanthropies, the same organization that provided \$10-25 million in funding to KIPP.

According to a 2011 study by Western Michigan University, KIPP schools enrolled a lower percentage of students with disabilities (5.9%) than their local school districts (12.1%), enrolled a lower percentage of students classified as English Language Learners (11.5%) than their local school districts (19.2%), and experienced substantially higher levels of attrition than their

local school districts. For charters in general, the CREDO study found that fewer special education students and fewer English language learners are served than in traditional public schools. And charter schools serve fewer disabled students. According to a Center on Education Policy report, 98 percent of disabled



Source: [educationalchemistry.com](http://educationalchemistry.com)

students are educated in public schools, while only one percent are educated in private schools.

In New York City, special-needs students and English-language learners are enrolled at a much lower rate in charter schools than in public schools. And Over the Counter students—those not participating in the choice process—are disproportionately assigned to high schools with higher percentages of low-performing students. Special education students also leave charters at a much higher rate than special education students in traditional New York public schools. In Nashville, low-performing students are leaving KIPP Academy and other charters just in time for their test scores to be transferred to the public schools. And Milwaukee’s voucher program, which has been praised as a model of privatization success, has had up to a 75 percent attrition rate.

### Equal Access to Education?

It’s been 60 years since Chief Justice Warren declared education “a right which must be made available to all on equal terms.” Belief in the American Dream means that anyone can move up the ladder. But today only four percent of those raised in the bottom quintile make it all the way to the top as adults. Two-thirds of those raised in the bottom of the wealth ladder remain on the bottom two rungs.

Compared to other developed countries, equal education has been a low priority in America, with less spending on poor children than rich ones, and with repeated cutbacks in state funding. But there’s no market-based reform where children are involved. Education can’t be reduced to a lottery, or a testing app, or a business plan. Equal opportunity in education ensures that every child is encouraged and challenged and nurtured from the earliest age, as we expect for our own children.

*This article was originally published at [alternet.org](http://alternet.org) and was edited slightly for length.*

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# Left-Right White Solidarity?

## A Comment on the New Face of 21st Century Neo-Fascism

Ajamu Baraka

Some years ago Italian anarchist Camillo Berneri suggested that while not always visible in the social practices of everyday European life, the racist foundation for European fascism was still present, safely confined to a space in the European psyche but always ready to explode in what he called a racist delirium.

Today, white workers and the middle classes in Europe and the US, traumatized by the new realities imposed on them by the decline of the Western imperialist project and the turn to neoliberalism, are increasingly embracing a retrograde form of white supremacist politics.

This dangerous political phenomenon is developing in countries throughout the European Union and in the US. Just recently, the National Front, a racist, authoritarian party that labored on the fringes of French politics for years, has emerged as one of the dominant forces in French politics. The Tea Party in the US, Golden Dawn in Greece, the People's Party in Spain, the Partij Voor de Vrijheid in the Netherlands – in these and other countries, a transatlantic radical racist movement is emerging and gaining respectability.

The hard turn to the right is not a surprise for those of us who have a clear-eyed view of Euro-American history and politics. In all the 20th century fascist movements in Europe, two elements combined to express the fascist project: 1) the rise of far-right parties and movements as the political expression of an alliance of authoritarian, pro-capitalist class forces bankrolled by sections of the capitalist class and constructed in the midst of capitalist crisis; and 2) racism grounded in white supremacist ideology.

The neo-fascism that is now emerging within the context of the current capitalist crisis on both sides of the Atlantic has similar characteristics to the movements

of the 1930s but with one distinguishing feature: the targets for racist scapegoating are different. The targets today are immigrants: Arab, Muslim and African in Europe; Latinos and the never-ending target of poor and working class African Americans in the US.

What makes the rise of the racist radical right even more dangerous today is that it is taking place in a political environment in which traditional anti-racist oppositional

opportunism of the US/NATO/EU axis in destabilizing Ukraine – knowing that the driving forces on the ground were racist, neo-Nazi elements from the Right Sector and the Svoboda party – demonstrated once again the lengths that this axis is prepared to go to achieve its geo-strategic objective of full-spectrum economic and political global domination.

Yet strangely, not only did many radicals in the US and Europe not see the potential



*Svoboda party members and other right wing activists carry flags outside of Parliament in Kiev, Ukraine. Photo: BBC*

forces have not recognized the danger of this phenomenon or for strategic reasons have decided to downplay the issue. That strategy has been tragically played out in the “immigrant rights” movement in the US.

The brutal repression and dehumanization witnessed across Europe in the 1930s has not found generalized expression in the US and Europe, at least not yet. Nevertheless, large sectors of the US and European left appear to be unable to recognize that the US/NATO/EU axis that is committed to maintaining the hegemony of Western capital is resulting in dangerous collaborations with rightist forces both inside and outside of governments.

The manufactured crisis with Russia over the issue of Ukraine is a case in point. The incredible recklessness and outrageous

threat that this situation represented but they seemed unable to penetrate the simplistic cold-war propaganda that suddenly reemerged to frame events in Ukraine.

Instead of being concerned that as a direct consequence of US actions a government came to power in Europe that for the first time since the 1930s included ultra-nationalist, racist neo-Nazis in key positions, the left along with the general population allowed the corporate media and US propagandists to turn the narrative away from US/EU destabilization of Ukraine to Putin's supposed expansionist aspirations.

The ease with which the corporate

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*Ajamu is a human rights activist and organizer, and an editor and contributing columnist for the Black Agenda Report.*

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## White Solidarity / from previous page

media was able to flip that script and to make Putin the new face of evil has been truly astonishing. And the fact that that narrative was embraced by most liberals and large sectors of the white left in the US only affirmed that having abandoned class analysis, anti-imperialism and never really understanding the insidious nature of white supremacist ideology, the US left has no theoretical framework for apprehending the complexities of the current period.

The inability to extricate itself from the influences of white supremacist ideology has to be considered as one explanation for the strange positions taken by large sectors of the white liberal/left over the last few years. How else can one explain the bizarre incorporation of the discourse of humanitarian intervention and the obscenely obvious racism of the “responsibility to protect?”

Could it be that many white radicals have fallen prey to the subtle and not-so-subtle racial appeal to a form of cross-class white solidarity in defense of “Western values,” civilization and the prerogative to determine who has the right to national sovereignty

that is at the base of the rationalization of the “responsibility to protect” asserted by the white West?

The apparent incapacity of white leftists to penetrate and understand the cultural and ideological impact of white supremacy and its powerful effect on their own consciousness has weakened and deformed left analysis of US and European foreign policy initiatives. It has also resulted in the US and European left taking political positions that either objectively championed US/NATO imperialist aggression or provided tacit support for that aggression though silence.

As a consequence of the abandonment of anti-imperialism and an active class/racial collaboration with the Western bourgeoisie, an almost insurmountable chasm has been created separating the Western left from its counterparts in much of the global South.

Instead of more resolute anti-imperialist solidarity, broad elements of the white left in the US and Europe have consistently aligned themselves with the policies of the US/NATO/EU axis that are giving support to right-wing forces from Ukraine to Venezuela.

Exaggeration, racial paranoia, an

overly simplistic and a divisive, even “racist” assessment of the liberal/left will be the charge. We accept those charges. We accept them because we know they will come. For those of us living outside the walls of privilege, who must nevertheless accept the realities of the colonialist/imperialist-created global South, we don’t have the luxury of comforting illusions. Our lived experiences negate the false history of Europe’s benevolent civilization. We see developing in Europe and the US a very real possibility of a left-right racial convergence fueled by crisis, leftist ideological confusion and what appears to be a mutual commitment to maintaining the global structures of white supremacy.

Understanding the violent history of the Western project and the pathological nature of white supremacy, we are forced to see with crystal clarity that within the context of the volatile economic and social conditions in Europe, giving legitimacy to neo-fascist forces like the ones in Ukraine might just be the fuel needed to ignite that racist, fascist delirium Berneri referred to.

*This article was originally published on [www.blackagendareport.com](http://www.blackagendareport.com).* ♣

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## Peace Council Calling!

Expect a phone call from SPC toward the end of the month. Our annual Phonathon is an important fundraiser, raising about \$3760 last year. It's also an opportunity for SPC supporters to share your thoughts about our work. The 2014 Phonathon will be on **June 25 and 26, and July 1** from 6-9 pm. We have dinner and then hit the phones! To help with calling or cooking, contact Ursula.

## Jail Oversight in Onondaga County

United as One's major effort, a bill to create a jail oversight structure in Onondaga County, has been stalled once again. Keep your ears perked for an announcement at short notice that the bill will be discussed in the legislature. It will be broadcast through SPC's website and through the SPC-Announcements listserv. Contact Amelia if you would like a call.

## Town of Dewitt Court News

*The good news* – John Amidon of Albany was recently acquitted of charges associated with his arrest at an April 2013 demonstration at Hancock Air Base. He had been charged with trespassing—when in reality he was pulled onto base property by a police officer—and loitering, because he wore a mask as part of his Grim Reaper costume. The judge ruled that the mask represented part of his free speech and therefore he could wear it.

*The mixed news* – On May 8 members of the Hancock 31 (arrested in April, 2013) had their temporary orders of protection extended. Although the Assistant District Attorney resisted it, there was new language in the Orders allowing them to safely participate in legal demonstrations at the base (which had not been the case previously).

*The bad news* – In the first jury trial having to do with cases arising from civil resistance at Hancock, Mary Anne Grady Flores was found guilty of violating an order of protection as she photographed a nonviolent civil resistance action at Hancock on Ash Wednesday in 2013. She was acquitted of the lesser charge of disorderly conduct. Her sentencing is scheduled for **July 10 at 7 pm at the Town of Dewitt Court** (5400 Butternut Dr., East Syracuse).

*Other news* – Trial dates have been set for the Hancock 31. They will be jury trials, and for the most part people will be tried individually. The trials will continue at least through June, 2015. See [upstatedroneaction.org](http://upstatedroneaction.org) for dates.

Contact Carol for more information.

## Land Rights Goes International

NOON welcomed about 40 people to the Westcott Community Center on May 5 for a program titled, "Onondaga Land Rights Action Goes International." It was an opportunity for the public to learn about the Onondaga Nation's April 15 filing with the Human Rights Commission of the Organization of American States (OAS). We heard from Tadodaho Sid Hill, Clanmother Freida Jacques, Faithkeeper Oren Lyons, Chief Irving Powless and Onondaga Nation General Counsel Joe Heath, about the Onondaga's history of struggle for Land Rights, the meaning of the

petition that was filed, other potential legal actions in the future, and what could be gained from a favorable ruling by the OAS.

Over the next year or two, while we wait for the ruling, NOON will continue to educate about the purpose of and principles behind the OAS petition, as we also work to support a real clean up for Onondaga Lake. Contact Amelia or Carol for more information or to get involved in NOON's organizing around Onondaga Lake and many other projects.



Sharon Gambocorto, Amelia Lefevre, Ray Robinson, Brianna Shetler, Ursula Rozum and Nikeeta Slade lobbied against long term solitary confinement in Albany on May 5. Photo courtesy of friendly stranger.

## HALT Solitary Confinement

Six representatives from United as One traveled to Albany on May 5 to lobby our state representatives in support of the HALT (Humane Alternatives to Long-Term) Solitary Confinement Act, which would create alternatives to isolation in NYS prisons and end long term isolation. On May 6 the Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement reported that there were already three new sponsors of the bill, though as we go to print none of the Syracuse-area representatives have signed on. Contact your representative to voice your support. Contact Amelia.

## Good Friends Garden Work Day

Work on the Good Friends Garden, a collaboration between NOON and members of the Onondaga Nation, is starting up. It's located on Rte. 11a on the Nation's territory. Contact Cindy at 315-415-5508 for gardening dates.

## Bye-bye, Interns

SPC hosted an energetic group of interns this spring. Thank you for your hard work and positive presence in the office. We look forward to continuing to work with all of you.

Dave Oster helped organize screenings of *Dirty Wars* on campuses, worked on SPC's weekly e-newsletter and made phone calls. We were pleased to see Dave travel for demonstrations against fossil fuels. Brian Tackett, a recent addition to our Steering Committee, worked with our database, spending long hours helping plan and implement a culling of our *Peace Newsletter* mailing list. Brianna Shetler was a tireless organizer against drones, organizing film screenings and an anti-drone quilting party, and helped coordinate ushers for the Cornel West talk. Additionally, Brianna was instrumental in helping with the legislative briefing on NYS energy planning and other activities with Alliance for a Green Economy. ♻️

