

PEACE NEWSLETTER



CNY VOICES FOR PEACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE • #850 MAY/JUNE 2016 • PEACECOUNCIL.NET • FREE

THEY'RE STEALING OUR LAND, YET WE ARE THE TERRORISTS? BERTA CÁCERES 1971-2016



*Yo sabía que íbamos a triunfar,
me lo dijo el río.*

#JUSTICIAPARABERTA

By Andalusia Knoll

On July 15, 2013, indigenous campesino Tomas García was murdered by Honduran soldiers in the town of Rio Blanco while he protested a hydroelectric dam which was slated to be built on top of his community's main water source. Following his funeral I travelled with the legendary indigenous activist Berta Cáceres and other indigenous leaders back to Tegucigalpa, flying by military bases as the rain poured down and a police patrol vehicle trailed us to "provide security." It's a trip I knew I would never forget, emblematic of bitter land struggles being waged in Honduras. I never dreamed that I would remember it because it was the first, and one of the last times, I would see Berta, who was assassinated in her own home in La Esperanza, Honduras at midnight on March 2, 2016.

Cáceres, a hero for indigenous communities worldwide, was the general coordinator for the Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH). Her murder has alerted the world to the violence and plunder that Honduras has suffered following the 2009 coup d'état which ousted center-left president Manuel Zelaya. Following the coup Honduras flung its arms open to international "development" in the form of dams, mines and other mega-sized projects.

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TWO MONTH ISSUE
MAY/JUNE '16

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Mail to: 2013 E Genesee St., Syracuse, NY 13210

Left: Worldwide movements have grown in response to the ongoing refugee crisis, providing support for refugees seeking resettlement as well as countering the racist policies and violence of far-right, anti-refugee movements.

Cover: *Justicia Para Berta*, Genevieve Roudané. Text reads "I knew we would triumph, the river told me so." Berta Cáceres, a Honduran environmental activist, was assassinated on March 3, 2016.

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SPC Statement of purpose

The Syracuse Peace Council (SPC), founded in 1936, is an antiwar/ social justice organization. We are community-based, autonomous and funded by the contributions of our supporters.

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

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

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

◀educate • agitate • organize▶ SPC in Action

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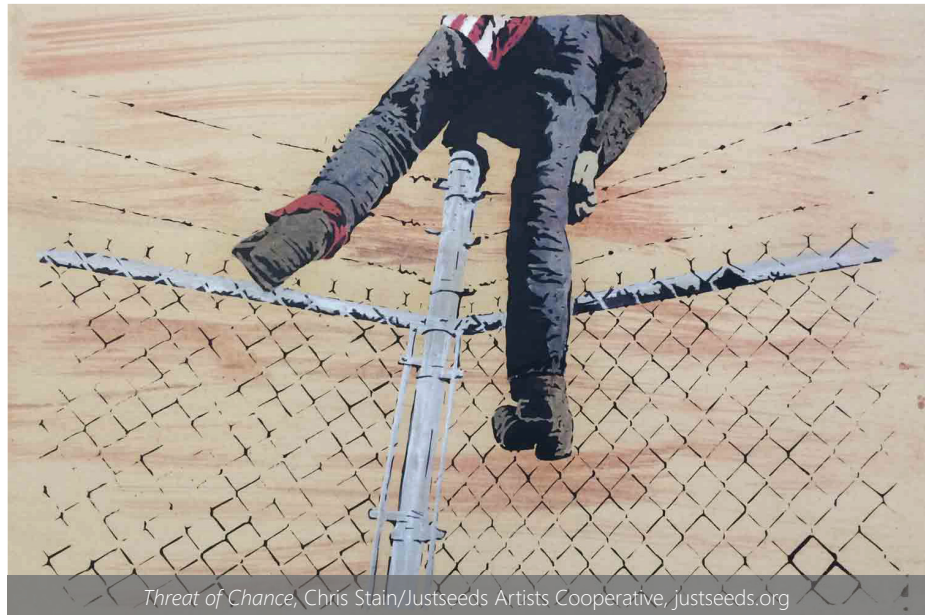
THINKING THROUGH SOLIDARITY WITH THE DISPOSSESSED:

AN INTRODUCTION TO THIS PNL

Seven years after the US-backed coup, 30% of Honduras is now allocated to mining concessions. Assassins attack anyone who resists the land grabs. Using David Harvey's term, it is capital accumulation by dispossession at the barrel of a gun. In Syria, possession of fossil fuels and pipelines is driving the war. Capitalist imperialism makes peoples' lives precarious. People are forced to move for safety or for employment. Communities are uprooted. The refugees from these

wars head to the fortresses of relative safety, the countries of the governments and companies attacking and looting the resources of their homes. In Europe and North America they are greeted by anti-immigrant sentiment, walls, and guards. Refugees from Honduras end up working in the fields of Immokalee, Florida or CNY, with fewer legal protections than other workers. Others wind up in immigrant prisons. What does solidarity mean in these conditions?

— PNL editors



Threat of Chance, Chris Stain/Justseeds Artists Cooperative, justseeds.org

ALLIANCE FOR A GREEN ECONOMY NEEDS YOUR HELP

Alliance for a Green Economy works to promote a just transition to a carbon-free, nuclear-free, energy-efficient future, revitalize the economy, and safeguard human health and the environment. The Syracuse Peace Council is a member organization.

Our most pressing issue in the upcoming months is ensuring that the NYS Clean Energy Standard promotes renewable energy equitably and with accountability. We need your help!

- Send an on-line postcard to NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority). <http://energydemocracyny.org/demand-race-and-economic-equity-in-renewable-energy-funding>.
- Sign an on-line letter to Governor Cuomo. <http://www.allianceforagreenecconomy.org/nukes-are-not-clean>.
- Watch a video of our community workshop to learn about NY's proposed Clean Energy Standard (CES) and how

you can craft comments for the Public Service Commission hearings **May 24 in Oswego and May 25 in Liverpool** to ensure the CES moves us past dirty fuels (coal, gas and nuclear) into renewable energy. Check www.agreenewyork.org for a link to the video and information about the hearings.

- Like Alliance for a Green Economy on Facebook. Sign up for email updates about NY Energy issues at www.agreenewyork.org. Thank you!

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SPC, from previous page

PROTESTING TRUMP

On Saturday, April 16, over 300 people, including Muslim, Black, Latina/o/x, and LGBTQ CNYers and those who stand in solidarity with them, protested Trump's visit and the violence he incites and emboldens. We held an alternative rally with our own message: we want a CNY based in solidarity with immigrants and refugees, Muslims and Latina/o/xs, safe for women, LGBTQ, dissenters, and people of all races. To organize the protest, SPC worked in coalition with the Palestine Solidarity Collective, SEIU 1199, the Workers' Center of CNY, Vets for Peace, Black Lives Matter Syracuse Chapter, and unaffiliated members of the local community. The rally had speakers from many organizations and perspectives, with music by the Malvinas.



Part of the crowd of 300+ people who protested Donald Trump's speech in Syracuse April 16. Photo: Ray Trudell.

BIKES 4 PEACE IS BACK!

Syracuse's only cooperative bicycle repair program is back for another season! SPC's Bikes 4 Peace is a community bicycle recycling and repair program that engages youth in cooperative bicycle repair. We aim to promote cycling and empower youth and adult cyclists.

Bikes 4 Peace will hold our 2016 Pre-Season Orientation on **Thursday June 2** at 6pm at Mello Vello, 556 Westcott Street. We welcome anyone interested in helping to organize youth bicycle repair clinics, as well as those who'd like to support the program in other ways (graphic design, fundraising, promotion). We also seek people with an interest in developing our summer program into a year-round community Bicycle Repair Kitchen. Learn more and fill out a new volunteer application at peacecouncil.net/bikes4peace or contact Ursula.

SPRING FUND APPEAL

Have you received your spring fund appeal letter? As you can see reading "SPC in Action," we've got a lot of exciting projects going on this spring, and we need your support to keep them going! The Peace Council's budget relies on your contributions, and we're asking you to be as generous as possible. Please give what you can, pass the fund appeal on to a friend, and contact the Peace Council to find out how you can pitch in. Contact Ursula.

END POLICE MILITARIZATION

On April 27, the Peace Council joined with dozens of community groups from across the state to denounce the militarization of police and the New York Tactical Officers Association Conference, a SWAT training and weapons expo that the Syracuse Police participated in. The statewide organizing was anchored by the national organization War Resisters League. You can see media coverage of the action at peacecouncil.net.



STREET HEAT

At least monthly since 2010 we have been demonstrating outside Hancock Air Base to call for an end to the illegal and immoral killing of human beings by the weaponized Reaper drone. Weekly on Tuesdays and Saturdays we've been hitting the streets to call for an end to the militarism dominating US foreign policy. We want Hancock base personnel to rethink their role in that killing machine, and we wish to remind the public of all the killing in our name. Please join us as often as you can.

Tuesdays: 4:15-5pm

- May 24** – E. Genesee St. and Erie Blvd.
- May 31** – E. Genesee St. and Erie Blvd.
- June 7** – Hancock Air Base entrance (E. Molloy Rd., btw. Thompson & Townline Rds.)
- June 14** – Seneca Trnpk. and S. Salina St.
- June 21** – Hancock Air Base entrance
- June 28** – Seneca Trnpk. and S. Salina St.

Saturdays: 9-9:45am

Regional Market main entrance (Park St.)

Left: Erica Brock from War Resisters League speaking in front of Syracuse's Public Safety Building to denounce the militarization of police and the New York Tactical Officers Association Conference. SPC was one of many groups participating. Photo: Carol Baum.

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WILL THE US OWN UP TO ITS ROLE IN EUROPE'S REFUGEE CRISIS?

By Ryan Harvey, *Truthout*

A small, crowded boat arrives at an isolated beach on a small Greek island. Inside, 49 people prepare to unload their few possessions. On the beach, lit only by a half-moon and a few headlamps, volunteers from around the world wait to assess if there are any medical emergencies.

Soon after landing, vans and cars line up to begin transporting the group of mostly young people from Afghanistan to a support facility established by local villagers and international volunteers, where tea has been prepared and dry clothes have been made ready for distribution.

The boat has sailed across the Aegean Sea from Turkey, where three million other refugees have gathered hoping to find temporary work to pay for the multi-thousand-dollar trip through various illegal human smuggling networks into the few northern European countries that have offered them safe haven.

The conditions they have fled from have been created, in large part, by US political, economic and military actions across the Middle East.

Scenes like this repeat every night in places like Langada and Skala Skamnias, on the Greek island of Lesbos. Last year, over one million people made the journey from Turkey to the Greek islands, the vast majority fleeing violence in Syria and Afghanistan. And while the solidarity networks that have emerged from this crisis are most present in Lesbos, the “Red Island” of Greece and the busiest landing point for such refugees, similar initiatives have been established in Chios, Kos, Samos and many smaller islands.

One of the central issues facing refugees here is the increasingly militarized borders of Europe, in both European Union (EU) and non-European Union states. In recent months, Austria, Serbia, Hungary and Macedonia have made moves to block many refugees from crossing their borders. At Calais, on the northern tip of France, thousands have been stranded for years in a self-built tent city, where they try daily to make the crossing to England. In Nijmegen, on the Dutch border with Germany, 3,000 refugees live in a massive campsite of containers and tents, supported by a small community of local activists.

The crisis in Europe has come to a head at Idomeni, on the Greek-Macedonian border, where thousands have been stranded with little-to-no support structures. In mid-March, a large crowd smashed through the border as tear gas filled the air. This week, as conditions in the makeshift camps have deteriorated,



Migrants in an overcrowded raft are helped by rescuers after a sea crossing, near dawn on the shore of the island of Lesbos, in Greece, March 20, 2016. Photo: Sergey Ponomarev, *The New York Times*.

thousands crossed a dangerous river to break through the border en masse. Three refugees died in the process.

Though camps across Greece are now filled to capacity, a far larger crisis looms in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan, where the vast majority of the refugees have ended up.

The recent series of European border closings spurred a political crisis in early March, when the EU announced that the “Balkan route” would be closed off entirely. That policy shift, stalled for a few weeks due to political tensions between Cyprus, Turkey, Spain and Greece, went into effect on March 19.

According to this bizarre agreement, every refugee – the EU’s preferred term is “irregular migrant” – picked up at sea will be deported back to Turkey. For each Syrian deported, another Syrian will be allowed to enter Europe from Turkey. So, in order for a Syrian refugee to enter Europe, another Syrian first has to give \$1,500 to a smuggler, risk their life at sea, get arrested and, finally, get deported back to Turkey.

US Involvement in Creating the Crisis

Until last summer, the refugee crisis in Europe was quietly and intentionally hidden from most Americans’ view. It took 3,771 deaths in the Mediterranean last year – and a photograph of a lifeless, drowned Kurdish child named Aylan Kurdi – for coverage to hit the American press. By that time, 3,000 people were arriving every day to Lesbos, and many thousands more to the other Greek islands.

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Refugees, from previous page

The irony of our ignorance should be obvious: the United States stands at the center of the situations pushing these refugees out of their homes, over mountains, around border crossings, through Turkish prison cells and onto crowded, dangerous boats. From Libya to southern Afghanistan, US interventions and occupations have led to further destabilization, violence and, in almost all cases, civil wars.

A longer trail of complicity stretches back to the four decades of economic and military support that the United States has given to the Arab dictatorships challenged in the 2011 Arab Spring, and to similar support given in that same time period to a number of insurgencies that dovetailed with US foreign policy objectives. One such group, the insurgency of the Afghan Mujahideen, fought a decade-long guerrilla war against Soviet occupation in the 1980s.

Those who came to fight in Afghanistan from abroad, many of whom received US military and economic support either from Congress or the CIA, hatched a postwar strategy of insurgency across the Arab and Muslim world, which resulted in a civil war in Algeria that took 120,000 lives. Meanwhile, other smaller rebellions caused significant fighting across the Maghreb, in northern Pakistan, Yemen, Chechnya, Albania and beyond.

The group now known to the world as ISIS was created in this period by a Jordanian Mujahideen veteran named Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. Originally launched in Jordan, the all-but-failed organization was given a second lease on life in post-invasion Iraq, where a destabilized and fractured society made fertile soil for the hyper-sectarian ideology of Zarqawi, who helped turn anger at the US occupation into a civil war against Shiites.

The sectarian state originally put in power in Iraq by the United States escalated divisions in the country, helping fuel the other side of the 2005-2006 civil war while pushing a large, disenfranchised Sunni population further toward the open arms of groups like ISIS. A focus of the US "surge" in 2007 was working with Sunni militias to turn against this tide, but that strategy only lasted until the Iraqi state took control of the Sahwa program (Awakening Councils, or Sons of Iraq) as US troops withdrew and quickly dismantled them.

Against a backdrop of electricity shortages, water contamination and continued political destabilization, ISIS, which had by then entered into the north of Syria to take advantage of the civil war there, re-entered the picture with its dramatic capturing of Fallujah, Ramadi and other key points in Iraq's Anbar Province.

ISIS may be the most menacing face of Syria's civil war, but the multifaceted war includes a range of other groups, most notable the Assad regime itself, but also groups like the al-Qaeda-linked Jabhat al-Nusra and the Free Syrian Army, a "moderate" group originally formed by deserters from the regime's military. And while a civil society-based revolutionary movement continues to defend the small spaces it has been able to hold, a pipeline of US, Gulf and European money providing various factions with weapons that have helped prolong the bloodshed has helped shatter the hopes and dreams of those who first took to the streets in 2011. Though the US Congress recently canceled

the public program backing such rebels, the much larger CIA program remains in operation.

Alongside the US funding, US allies like Turkey, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have pumped weapons, logistical equipment and soldiers into Syria to support various factions fighting in the civil war, mainly those linked with the Supreme Military Council of Syria, which includes the Free Syrian Army and other anti-ISIS, anti-Assad groups. These groups, as well as the Kurdish peshmerga (from Iraq but often fighting in Syrian Kurdistan) and the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG), are often supported by bombings by the US, France, the UK, Saudi Arabia, the Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Canada and Turkey.

On the other side of that war, Russia and Iran have sustained financial and political support to the four-decade-old Assad regime, helping defend its authoritarian police state from an array of forces fighting against it. In October 2015, Russian air support joined in the fight to secure Russia a seat at the negotiation table and to bolster Assad's position in power. Though Russia announced in mid-March that it would begin withdrawing forces as a long-needed cease-fire takes effect, fighting targeted Islamist groups unaffected by the cease-fire continues in Aleppo, Syria's largest city and its financial center.

The Refugee Crisis

Beyond the common narrative of Arab war and repression is the other Middle East: the one that occupied Tahrir Square and Pearl Roundabout, and took to the streets of Sidi Bouzid, Daraa and Sanaa demanding social justice, freedom and the end of dictatorships largely supported economically, politically and militarily by the United States. That Middle East turned upside down the US demand for "regime change" that was made infamous in Iraq, initiating a wave of protest and revolution that swept Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali (in Tunisia), Hosni Mubarak (in Egypt) and Ali Abdullah Saleh (in Yemen) from power as it inspired the world to take action against injustice and poverty.

Since then, popular protests have exploded in almost every corner of the world, drawing comparisons to the revolutionary period of 1968. It's hard to analyze this wave of uprisings and protest without crediting the revolutions in the Arab world as the first spark that caught.

Those who inspired the world now face a severe wave of repression, with Syria as one of the most shocking examples. Over 11 percent of the population has been killed or injured since the start of the revolt, and over 20 percent have fled the country. Syria has become the single largest source of refugees in the world. The second largest? Afghanistan.

The Arab allies of the United States, fully involved in the war, have taken in an astoundingly small number of refugees from Syria, with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in last place, with zero. The United States, with its massive economy and "huddled masses yearning to breathe free" rhetoric, pledged last year to take in a mere 10,000 refugees for fiscal year 2016—that's .015 percent. So far, that number has only reached 955.



Young Kurds arrive at Lesbos via ferry. Photo: Ryan Harvey.

Considering the extent to which US money has been spent killing people and destroying infrastructure in these countries—for each of the 1,700 Syrian refugees accepted into the country last year, the United States spent an estimated \$375,000 financing and arming various factions in the civil war—it's far beyond an oversight that the United States' borders are almost impossible for refugees from the region to enter. Even those who worked as interpreters for US soldiers in Iraq regularly make the dangerous crossing to Greece, unsupported by the governments they risked their lives to assist.

The reality is that the United States is politically unwilling to help. Its wars of political and economic self-interest have always centered on a US perception of success and have always utilized a rhetoric of liberation to achieve long-sought foreign policy objectives. It has left those whose lives have been turned upside down across the Middle East—the people it claimed to be liberating when it invaded their homes—to fend for themselves in Europe or drown in the picturesque waters of the Mediterranean Sea.

Building a Solidarity Movement

Given this reality, we have an obligation to build a movement of solidarity with those fleeing these countries, as well as with those who have stayed home to continue pushing for radical social change across the Middle East. It is not enough to simply build awareness.

When similar revolutions, interventions and civil wars ripped Central America apart in the 1970s and 1980s, the Sanctuary Movement and groups like the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) sprang to life, identifying ways that people in the United States could participate in the effort to defend the tens of thousands of social movement activists that were slaughtered there. Groups like Witness for Peace sent thousands of people to Nicaragua to learn about the realities there and to challenge US support for the Contras.

Today, we are in a similar position as these groups were when they launched such important initiatives, and thankfully, we have

some models from which to build in response to the massive human crisis in the Middle East.

So what do we do? We know from the European model that direct assistance for refugees is essential. Americans can participate in and help support these efforts economically. There are numerous organizations in Greece, Macedonia, Turkey and Lebanon that accept volunteers and donations, such as the CK Team (which I worked with in Lesbos in February), Doctors Without Borders (which operates in Syria and across the Greek islands) and both Proactiva and Sea-Watch (which operate rescue boats and provide emergency lifesaving support on the sea).

In terms of solidarity with social movements in the Arab world, we have a long way to go, but some groundwork has been done. MENA, a London-based group focusing on building solidarity with workers in the Middle East, is a great resource for news, views and ideas for action. MENA also maintains the Egypt Solidarity Initiative, which focuses on solidarity with political prisoners and those facing state repression in post-revolution, post-coup Egypt.

Activists like Leila Al-Shami have been tirelessly promoting the ideals of, and news about, the popular revolutionary movement in Syria that has been pushing to oust Assad since 2011. This spring she will be touring the United States and sharing stories and perspectives from her new book *Burning Country: Syrians in Revolution and War*. Her blog Tahrir-ICN has been an important resource over the last few years with news, opinions and translated statements from revolutionary and anarchist groups across the Arab world.

A few years ago, Iraq Veterans Against the War, in partnership with the Iraqi Federation of Trade Unions, the Organization for Women's Freedom in Iraq, War Resisters League and the Civilian-Soldier Alliance, launched The Right to Heal Campaign, demanding that "the human rights impacts of the war in Iraq be assessed and that concrete action be taken towards rehabilitation and reparations for those impacted by the lasting effects of the war."

Iraqi-American activist Ali Issa has recently published a book, *Against All Odds: Voices of Popular Struggle in Iraq*, and is doing numerous speaking events around the United States to talk about social movements in Iraq and how to support them.

In New York, Baltimore, Kansas City and elsewhere in the United States, groups have come together in solidarity with the revolutionary movement in Rojava, the Kurdish north of Syria. These groups have also embraced many of the principles of Rojava's revolutionary movement, including participatory democracy, feminism, ecological sustainability and secular pluralism.

We owe it to the Arab world—and to the people of Afghanistan, Pakistan and other countries where covert and overt US militarism has caused so much suffering—to do more. In the face of a massive backlash, we must stand with the brave revolutionaries of the Middle East. ♻

WE ARE EMBRACED BY FREEDOM

WHY FARMWORKERS AND ALLIES ARE BOYCOTTING WENDY'S

By Priscilla Vélez

“We are not a community tied down by slavery; we are embraced by freedom!”

With this powerful statement, Lupe Gonzalo, farmworker leader of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), led a crowd of fellow farmworkers and allies on International Women's Day.

From New York City to places like Louisville, Nashville, all the way to Palm Beach, countless allies joined the CIW in a series of actions in the month of March with one purpose: to join farmworkers in declaring a national boycott on Wendy's until the fast food giant joins the Fair Food Program (FFP).

From extreme poverty to sexual harassment and even modern-day slavery, farmworkers have long faced abuses at work. The Coalition of Immokalee Workers, a farmworker-led organization, created the FFP as a solution to these injustices. The FFP is a unique partnership among farmers, farmworkers, and retail food companies working on eliminating the exploitation that has plagued agricultural workers for generations.

Gonzalo voiced the significance of the CIW's Fair Food Program in the lives of women: “For the first time, women can work with dignity in the fields. Wendy's needs to learn that farmworkers will continue to fight until they agree to the Fair Food Program!”

The program has been eliminating sexual violence in the fields through its effective monitoring program that establishes zero tolerance for abuses—ranging from verbal abuse to sexual assault. Farmworker women are finally given a space to speak out and experience a dignified workplace under the FFP, no longer remaining silent about the oppression they face.

The program also provides a wage increase through the “penny per pound” premium, compliance with the CIW's human rights-based Code of Conduct, worker-to-worker education sessions, and a worker-triggered complaint resolution mechanism.

While Wendy's major competitors—McDonald's, Burger King, Subway, Taco Bell, and Chipotle—have all chosen to join the FFP, Wendy's continues to run from their ethical responsibility.

The reason why the CIW has called on their allies for a national boycott is threefold.

Firstly, **Wendy's has shifted its purchases from farms in Florida to Mexico.** Following increasing implementation of the FFP in Florida's farms and new standards for human rights set by Florida growers, Wendy's has stopped buying tomatoes from Florida altogether. Wendy's has instead taken their purchasing to Mexico, where there is widespread denial of human rights for farmworkers.



BOYCOTT WENDY'S!

A recent investigation published about one of Wendy's tomato growers from Mexico exposed the supply company's inhumane conditions towards workers, where they were forced to work without pay, trapped for months in scorpion-infested camps, and beaten when they tried to quit.

Secondly, **Wendy's chose to value public relations above human rights protections for workers in their supply chain.** This past January, Wendy's released a new supplier code of conduct that contains no effective mechanisms for worker participation or enforcement. This new code embodies the most dangerous kind of corporate approach to social responsibility as it is driven by a false image of responsibility to serve their public relations interests rather than actually guaranteeing the security of human rights.

Lastly, **Wendy's is profiting from farmworker poverty.** By refusing to join the FFP, Wendy's is deriving a real cost advantage over its competitors, and providing a market for non-reputable growers. Wendy's stands alone as the very last of the five major US fast food corporations to refuse to join the Fair Food Program.

Addressing Wendy's refusal to join the FFP, Gonzalo stated: “The Campaign for Fair Food is prepared to mobilize consumer action in support of real worker-driven social responsibility, and we will prevail, because more and more, transparency and food justice are becoming the hallmarks of the 21st century food market.”

As more communities gain awareness of the abuses that are occurring in the fields, more people will continue to stand with farmworker leaders who are saying “no more!” to the corporations that place profit over people. As allies continue to take action in the Fair Food Movement through the national boycott, Wendy's will be pressured to pursue a more transparent system for the farmworkers in their supply chain.

Students, youth, organizers, faith leaders, and community members from around the nation continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with farmworkers. Student/youth allies recently named April the “Month of Outrage,” as they organized actions from coast to coast, pressuring Wendy's to quit neglecting farmworkers' humanity.

As consumers, we have the responsibility to hold corporations accountable for the products that we buy from them. Justice delayed is justice denied. It is time for us to stand with farmworkers by boycotting Wendy's until they stop delaying farmworkers' access to justice and begin listening to the hardworking individuals and families who contribute millions to their annual profits. ♪

Priscilla Vélez is a Steering Committee member of the Student/Farmworker Alliance, the student/youth network that organizes in solidarity with the CIW.

OUR TAXES, OUR JOBS!

By Aggie Lane

For four years the Urban Jobs Task Force (UJTF) has been fighting for jobs for Syracuse city residents and contracts for minority and women-owned enterprises (M/WBEs) whenever local projects receive public money or tax breaks. Syracuse's poverty drives this advocacy. Recently, a national study reported that Syracuse is Number 1 (out of the 100 largest US cities) in concentrated poverty for Blacks and Latinos and Number 5 in concentrated poverty for whites. The report's findings are not a surprise to residents of the city's distressed neighborhoods because daily they live with quality of life issues. For many the answer is *jobs* because so much is tied to economic power. The Partnership for Onondaga Creek, a founding member of the UJTF, felt that if Syracuse's Southwest side had been a middle-class neighborhood, the county would not have built the undesirable Midland Avenue sewage plant in its midst.

At the end of 2011, just as the UJTF was forming, the city selected the Fayetteville-based COR Development Company to create a residential, hotel, retail and educational center in Syracuse's Inner Harbor. The UJTF decided that this ten-year, \$350 million project should have a legally-binding Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) attached to it because any tax benefit package given to COR would affect delivery of services in the poorer city neighborhoods due to a diminished city tax base. Generally, CBAs provide benefits as defined by the community, such as good jobs and apprenticeships, contracts, affordable housing, greenspace and grocery stores. Just as the developer applies for tax benefit packages which might vary from a hundred thousand dollars to, as in the case of Destiny USA, \$700 million, city neighborhoods through a CBA should be able to secure direct benefits from those large projects that will negatively affect their services.

In 2013 the UJTF, with the help of Syracuse University's Community Development Law Clinic, developed a CBA to negotiate with COR, asking for a 25% hiring goal for low-income city and county residents, and that 20% of the contracting dollars go to M/WBEs. COR would also provide funding for an independent compliance monitor and \$2 million for apprenticeship training. COR refused to have a conversation with us saying, through the media, it was working with the SUNY Educational Opportunity Center to identify local workers for the project. The agreement between COR and SUNY-EOC is a poor substitute for a CBA because it contains no enforceable hiring or contracting goals.

The positive from that experience was that we had learned how to draft a CBA, modeling it on other CBAs around the country. Then in 2014, two UJTF members attended a national conference where we met a City of Cleveland official who told us how Cleveland promotes CBAs on large projects and requires contractors awarded city projects to hire 20% Cleveland residents. Taking notes from Cleveland, the UJTF urged



Protesting for city jobs at the Inner Harbor. Photo: Aggie Lane.

Syracuse's Joint School Construction Board (JSCB) to add a residency requirement to its own workforce diversification plan of 10% minority and 10% women for its \$300 million city school renovation project. After a public hearing, the JSCB added a 20% city residency requirement.

Building on that success, the UJTF worked with Common Councilor Bey and SU's Community Development Law Clinic to draft a Syracuse Resident Employment Ordinance modeled in part on Cleveland's law. In Summer 2015, we collected over 1,500 signatures from city residents urging the mayor and Common Councilors to support this legislation. Currently, the city's lawyer is preparing the ordinance for the Common Council's consideration and vote, which we hope will happen before the end of May.

In November 2015, COR, the Inner Harbor developer who had been working with the city's Industrial Development Agency (SIDA) during phase one of the project and had refused to speak with us, decided to apply to the county's Industrial Development Agency (OCIDA) for the rest of the project. For phase one, SIDA had given COR sales and mortgage recording tax exemptions but not a property tax exemption (which could

Aggie is a neighborhood activist who resides on the Southwest side of Syracuse. She is the current president of the UJTF.

continued on next page

Tax exemptions, from previous page

have been difficult to get because under SIDA's rules, all property tax exemptions must also be approved by the Common Council). Wanting a no-hassle deal, COR applied for a \$44 million tax benefit package for the rest of its Inner Harbor development from OCIDA, most of that being a property tax exemption.

We believe that it is fundamentally wrong for OCIDA to accept tax exemption applications for city development projects because these projects should be going to SIDA for consideration. That said, the UJTF would also like to see CBAs on large development projects getting tax benefits or using public funds. We gave both county legislative chair Ryan McMahon and County Executive Joanie Mahoney our original CBA for the Inner Harbor project; to our disappointment, in December, OCIDA not only approved the \$44 million tax benefit package, but also did so without any enforceable workforce goals for city residents. Currently, the UJTF has monthly demonstrations at the Inner Harbor protesting this tax deal, asking "Where are the City Jobs?"

It is time to speak up! Join us for this protest on the third Thursday of every month or consider joining the Urban Jobs Task Force. Organizations as well as individuals can join. We have four quarterly general membership meetings with most work done by the policy, community outreach and projects committees. To learn more, call Aggie at 315-478-4571. Check out our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/SyracuseUrbanJobs and our website www.ujtf.org.



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Berta, from page 1

In September 2010, 41 hydroelectric dam concessions were granted, and new legislation was passed which allows for the privatization of the rivers. Resistance to these projects has been met with brute force dished out by the US-funded military and numerous hitmen bankrolled by the transnational companies.

During the coup in 2009, Hillary Clinton, serving as Secretary of State, actively worked to prevent democratically-elected Manuel Zelaya from returning to office. In recent statements, Clinton has refused to acknowledge that it was an actual coup, in which case she would have had to deny aid to the replacement government, which she didn't do.

In 2013, on a schoolbus full of 40 campesinos from Rio Blanco heading to a protest demanding justice for their murdered compañero, I interviewed Berta Cáceres about development and bloodshed. She refused to respond to my questions in first-person and always managed to flip the answer to be about collective struggle. Her words reflected the true solidarity in which she fought these battles for land, water and the preservation of First Nations' cultures.

Andalusia Knoll: Why are the people struggling in Rio Blanco against the Agua Zarca Dam (a hydroelectric project of SINOHYDRO, a Chinese government-run company notorious for human rights violations, and Honduran dam company DESA, approved to be constructed on indigenous Lenca territory—eds.)?

Berta Cáceres: This project is one of more than 300 dams in Honduras driving the privatization of rivers, water and land. It violates our individual and collective human rights. We're not just speaking about indigenous peoples but the Honduran people in general. This energetic development stems from a capitalist logic that generates profits for multinational companies, while privatizing the communal natural resources. This is done regardless of the opinion, wishes or decisions of the people in the communities. In this case they are violating Convention 169 [the international convention concerning indigenous peoples, ratified by Honduras in 1995], which is the right of indigenous peoples to be consulted.

What they have done with the Agua Zarca dam is to impose a project in the name of sustainable development and clean and renewable energy, but it is a farce. Their concept of development is to generate profits for the private companies and not for the people.

We have been leading this struggle for a long time, and currently this process has led us to the militarization of the area. The company's response has been to develop repressive practices which profile us, which has generated more criminalization against organizations like COPINH. Here in Honduras this is within the post-coup context where there has been a surge of human rights violations and impunity for transnationals. They are using new anti-terrorist laws against social movements.

Andalusia Knoll is a freelance multimedia journalist based in Mexico City who also covers land struggles, human rights violations, and state and gender violence throughout Latin America. Her work has appeared on Democracy Now!, VICE News, AJ+ and Truthout. You can follow her on twitter @andalalucha.



Image: SOA Watch

This has sown fear and terror in the communities. This is not only the case with COPINH but in many other places such as Atlantida and the Lower Aguan, where they are fighting against a dam and a mine.

You have to place what's happening in the context of the progress of international trade agreements. The Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) was small in scope, but what followed—the Trans-Pacific Partnership—is bigger. It doesn't just include the Americas but also the great continent of Asia—China and Taiwan as well as Europe, Canada and the United States. It was passed behind the backs of our communities. Dozens of countries participate in this treaty, and they have met dozens of times. The [Trans-Pacific Partnership] is more aggressive and allows for a greater degree of impunity.

We have said that Honduras has been a laboratory of mining enclaves, African palm enclaves, and military occupations. We have more than seven gringo army bases.

AK: What does this have to do with the coup, and who are the people who were responsible for the overthrow of Manuel Zelaya?

BC: The coup d'état's goal was to advance a project of domination that greatly favors the corporations. It's shameful to see how this country has legislated certain decrees that have permitted it to become this kind of laboratory. For example they are stimulating projects like "Future Cities," that hand over our country in a way that has not happened in the past 520 years since the conquest. These Model Cities will be free-market enclaves largely developed for tourists in Afro-indigenous Garifuna along the northern regions of Honduras' coast.

The coup was the door that allowed the entrance of mega-projects in our country. This is all related to militarization because no extractive project can be implemented without the backing of soldiers. It's because the [projects] are against the well-being

continued on next page

Berta, from previous page

of the communities who in turn rise up in defense of their livelihood and fight these projects of death. The [companies] know they need to have the mechanisms of structural repression, and institutions and laws to guarantee their projects. This is why there was a coup—to justify greater intervention in our country. It is now a miserable country, which ironically has become the most violent in the world with the most violent cities in the world. Capitalism has not solved [these problems]. Here in Honduras that is proven.

AK: You have talked a lot about criminalization. When we were en route to Rio Blanco the man who gave us a ride said we better watch out when we arrive because there is a woman, Berta Cáceres, who has been threatening community. We thanked him for his advice and went on to look for you.

BC: (Berta responds with a laugh)

We are aware that the people working for SINOHYDRO/DESA are not our enemies. The big companies are our enemies. They have offered up thousands and even millions of Lempiras [Honduran currency]. It comes as no surprise that there is a racist and patriarchal campaign against us. We lead a vigorous and peaceful fight. They have something specifically against me because I'm a woman, and I have had to face the military directly. We have not just started receiving death threats; it has always been a constant.

We have been part of a struggle against the military occupation by the United States from the beginning. For a long time we have denounced the introduction of more military bases. The government said "it is true, we're not [building] anything" and [President] Pepe Lobo still maintains that it is not true that a huge military base, perhaps the largest on the continent is going to be constructed.

This [militarization] will not only be against the liberation struggle here in Honduras but against all people on this continent, against the progressive governments, against the popular projects of integration [i.e., Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America] and against the self-determination of communities and their identities. The capitalist logic wants to destroy our diverse identities—rich, colorful, strong, resilient, insurgent and creative rebels. This complexity of indigenous peoples is an obstacle to capitalism.

AK: What role does the US Army School of the Americas play in all this mess? (Still popularly known as the School of the Americas, this combat training school for Latin American soldiers run by the US Army has been renamed Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation and remains located in Fort Benning, Georgia.—eds.)

BC: The colonels who developed strategies of low intensity warfare against the Lenca people studied at the School of the Americas. The Executive Manager of DESA, David Castillo, studied at the Academy of West Point in New York. There is a confluence of all these forces, of all these interests to advance the project of plunder.



Photo: Ocote Films.

AK: How is this all related to the struggle that indigenous communities have waged for the past 520 years against colonial powers?

BC: I think Honduras is a laboratory of all these colonial elements. We are at a stage where the multinationals have adopted a new approach to acquire more territory. Before, they used politicians, mayors and officials to carry out their projects. Now they enter directly into indigenous communities and offer local leaders perks and bribes to break down defense of their land.

Their strategy to counter social struggles includes the reproduction of manuals that were used in Guatemala during the war against the indigenous peoples there. They have studied and developed a language that comes directly from the communities. If we listen to the DESA Executive in Rio Blanco, he speaks of community and uses the peoples' terms. The manuals explain that they have to use popular means of communication and popular pedagogic thought. This is very worrying for social movements as it shows a deepening of the transnationals' aggression. I think their other strategy is to play with the misery of the people.

AK: Y'all have received many death threats as well as other members of COPINH and people in the communities threatened by megaprojects. Who is behind these threats?

BC: Yes, both our comrades and we have received various threats. The hitmen are paid by the extractive sector and the army and state officials with SERNA, which is the governmental environment institution, who criminalize and repress us. The situation becomes more dangerous once hitmen are involved. With a soldier, they wear a uniform and you can identify them. But not with the hitmen, and they're becoming a big industry.

AK: Who bankrolls these hitmen?

BC: Those who have the greatest interest in earning millions of profits with the Agua Zarca Project. The army knows that and permits their existence.

AK: When you were transporting Tomas García's body from the hospital to his burial in Rio Blanco you had an escort of six policemen. How did you feel being "protected" by the same police who have repeatedly criminalized you?

BC: We accepted the police escort because it signified that they would have to take responsibility for anything that could happen. Their role has been to protect DESA and their investments, not the population. The level of vulnerability in which we find ourselves, the level of death threats, the danger to our physical and emotional integrities is severe. It is a very high level of risk. If we had money to pay for our own security force with bodyguards we wouldn't search out the police. But we don't have that money. At the moment in which we had to deliver our comrade's body and saw how the hitmen and DESA employees were reacting to the situation, we had to re-evaluate our own security.

We are afraid. That is normal. We are human. But we will not paralyze our activities or stop our struggle.

AK: What gives you hope to continue in this fight considering all these incredibly difficult conditions?

BC: It is the strength of the Lenca people of Rio Blanco. The strength of the girls, the children, the women. They are impressively brave, with clear political convictions. They are determined, and are the ones who have most strongly resisted



Photo: Andalusia Knoll.

the temptations of the company. They hold down three roles at one time, spending time at the road blockade, the river and the mobilizations. This is what nourishes me. It's as if you're in the desert and there is no water, and then suddenly someone knows where to find the water, which is what gives you strength.

We are a people with a history [of being] anything but submissive. We have dignity; we are Lenca people, the people of Lempira, with a heritage of rebellion. ♪



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Rochester anti-drone activist Peg Gefell protesting during the shift change at Crech Air force Base in Nevada. Photo: Carol Baum.

HANCOCK ANTI-DRONE ACTIVISTS PROTEST IN NEVADA

Carol Baum, Peg Gefell and Joan Pleune headed off to Crech Air Force Base at the end of March to represent the Upstate Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars in a four-day mass mobilization to end drone warfare. Crech AFB, located 30 miles outside of Las Vegas, is the largest drone control and training center in the US.

More than 100 activists from 20 states participated. There were daily vigils, along with workshops, action planning and solidarity building. The “Inside Drone Warfare” Symposium featured drone whistleblowers (To view it, go to upstatedroneaction.org/wp/inside-drone-warfare-symposium). The week concluded with a civil resistance action at the base, with 25 people arrested.

STUDY GROUP

The Poverty and Segregation in Syracuse Study Group wrapped up on May 3. For the last few months they discussed both the history and current state of racism and housing patterns in Syracuse, having read the books *Salt City and Its Black Community* and *Human Rights in Syracuse*.

ONONDAGA LAKE ACTIVISM

Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation is supporting an on-line petition by the American Indian Law Alliance, “Remove the Toxic Black Goo: Onondaga Lake needs a Better Future!” Please sign it at change.org/p/andrew-cuomo-remove-the-toxic-black-goo-onondaga-lake-needs-a-better-future. It includes an excellent description of Onondaga Lake’s current situation with respect to the Honeywell “clean-up.”

In addition, Onondaga County legislators considered a resolution that would effectively break a promise made to the Onondaga Nation to give them back a small portion of Onondaga Lake’s shoreline – a section known as Murphy’s Island. A May 3rd meeting at the Onondaga County Legislature was attended by 25 people, who strongly supported cleaning up the currently polluted Murphy’s Island and giving it back to the Onondaga.

They also heard from speakers involved in CNY Fair Housing, Greater Syracuse HOPE and Consensus CNY. We hope to continue to strengthen the connections between SPC’s mission and the work on racism and segregation in CNY.

NUCLEAR FREE WORLD

It’s been a busy spring for the Nuclear Free World Committee, and the summer will be just as active.

In March, we hosted filmmaker Bud Ryan and his film *The Forgotten Bomb*. This powerful film challenges us to remember the lessons of the bombing of Hiroshima and to work for a society free from weapons of mass destruction. A copy of *The Forgotten Bomb* is available from the Peace Council for screenings in classrooms and community meetings. Contact Diane, drswords@syr.edu.

On April 14 and 15, we hosted two lectures by historian Vincent Intondi, author of *African Americans Against the Bomb*. Intondi asks that we all urge President Obama to visit Hiroshima during the upcoming G7 meeting in Japan. To learn more and sign a letter we are sending to President Obama, go to peacecouncil.net/Hiroshima.

On **June 7 at 6pm**, we will present the 2016 Youth Peace Award at ArtRage Gallery, 505 Hawley Ave. The Youth Peace Award, originally hosted by Peace Action CNY, recognizes work for social change by teen activists in the Syracuse area. This year’s award is generously support by John Mannion and the Community Foundation.

Our biggest event of the summer will be the August dramatic procession to remember the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Contact the SPC office to get involved with planning for this moving annual event.

JUSTICE FOR PALESTINE

On April 13, the Justice for Palestine Committee hosted *Life in Occupied Palestine: Artistic Reflections*, featuring Sarah Schieffelin of *The Building Theatre* and Ahmed Hmeedat, artistic coordinator for the *Nakba Museum Project*. Sarah presented *Walls – Transition Position*, a physical theater work based on the observations of a young woman during her visit to the West Bank in June, 2013. Ahmed discussed the experience of growing up in the Deheishe Refugee Camp and shared slides of Palestinian public art. The Justice for Palestine committee encourages everyone to support the Palestinian-led movement for Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions for human rights.



Becca Shaw Glaser protesting Donald Trump's Syracuse visit April 16, 2016. Photo: Farrell Brenner.

ACTIVIST APPRECIATION: BECCA SHAW GLASER

A few months ago Becca Shaw Glaser brought her extensive experience and skill as a writer and editor to the *PNL* committee. Becca is a poet, writer, and anarcho-transfeminist activist. The *PNL* committee is grateful for all her contributions during a time of transition.

Becca went above and beyond while organizing the protest of Trump's rally, helping to bring together a broad coalition of organizations and volunteers. Becca has participated in many of the social movements of our time, including the 1999 World Trade Organization protests in Seattle, the LGBTQ movement, the anti-Iraq War movement, Occupy Wall Street and THE General Body at Syracuse University.

Becca is a brave voice against complacency and timidity. We are saddened that she is leaving Syracuse, but grateful that she choose to share her talents with us. We wish her the best of luck wherever she chooses to take her passion and abilities.

SPC NEEDS YOU THIS SUMMER!

SPC strives to be a truly participatory grassroots organization. What we accomplish is the result of a collective effort by dedicated volunteers and SPC members. There are countless ways to volunteer with SPC.

In the Streets

The summer creates great opportunities for SPC activists and committees to engage with our community about peace and justice issues. We'll be hosting outreach tables at the Downtown Arts and Crafts Fair, the City Market, the Middle Eastern Festival and outside the Downtown Farmer's Market. To join the Outreach Team and/or to suggest an outreach venue, contact Ursula.

In the Office

In addition to political organizing, we are especially in need of people to help work on our website and social media, the *Peace Newsletter* calendar and distribution, and ongoing data entry. We promise a friendly environment and an opportunity to put our shared political values into action.

Summer Internships

SPC is seeking applicants for summer internships. Areas of internship work include grassroots fundraising, summer outreach, event organizing, and collaborating with SPC committees. Interns are supervised by the staff person relating to that area of work. Please spread the word to friends and family! Details can be found at www.peacecouncil.net/intern.

WAR IS A LIE AUTHOR IN SYRACUSE

Author, activist and journalist David Swanson came to Syracuse April 25 to celebrate the publication of the second edition of his book, *War Is a Lie*. Drawing on evidence from numerous past wars, the book refutes every major argument used to justify wars, even those that have been defended as "just."

David directs WorldBeyondWar.org, which is planning a conference to be held **September 23-25** in Washington D.C. called "No War 2016." We will be organizing to bring people down to it. Contact Carol.

THANK YOU, INTERNS!

Interns make the world go round at the SPC office, and this spring semester was no exception.

Yifei Dong joined us from Syracuse University. Originally from China, Yifei came to SPC to meet community activists working on issues he is studying as an International Relations student. He has been open to doing anything, and does it enthusiastically and with good humor. Imani Brannick, also from SU, compiled events for the weekly e-newsletter, and also helped with *PNL* distribution, poster for events and outreach tabling.

As soon as she started her SPC internship, Ally Klindeinst also filled out a membership coupon. A SUNY Oswego graduate, Ally is a big picture thinker and has been instrumental in improving SPC's social media presence. Ally also helped organize the Strike for Peace Bowlathon. Ally plans to continue interning into the summer.

Thank you interns! We are grateful for your reliable and enthusiastic work with SPC!

SPC SIGN ONS AND PETITIONS






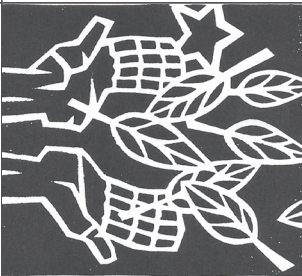
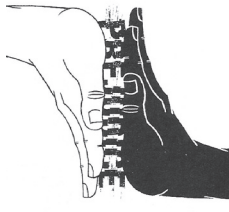
SPC often gets asked to sign on to letters and support petitions in addition to the petitions already mentioned. Recently we signed on to letters to:

- the Justice Department urging a halt to pursuing deportation proceedings against children who do not have counsel and to guarantee that every child facing deportation is provided a lawyer.
- Gov. Cuomo and legislative leaders to stop the nuclear raid on clean energy programs in the NYS budget.

A new petition we're supporting is to close the US Air Force base in Ramstein, Germany, home to the US military's drone-signal relay center. Former CIA analyst Ray McGovern will present the petition when he speaks during a Stop Ramstein Campaign protest there on June 11. The petition campaign will be launched in mid-May. Watch the SPC Announcements listserv or our website. ☮

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COMMUNITY
CALENDAR
MAY/JUNE 2016

<p>30 EVER MON. Syr. Community Choir Children's Choir. 3-5pm. 601 Allen St. 428-8151.</p>	<p>31 ★ Street Heat. 4:15-5pm. E. Genesee & Erie Blvd. Ann or Ed. 478-4574. EVERY TUES. Rough Times Live (Media Unit). 8pm. Time Warner 98. 478-UNITE.</p>	<p>25 ★ Public Service Comm. Hearing. 2&6pm info. 3&7pm hearing. Liverpool Public Library. agreenewyork.org. See p3. Sierra Club program. 7:30pm. Univ. United Meth. Church. 1085 E. Genesee St. Jack. 424-1454.</p>	<p>26 March for Farmworker Justice. Noon. Leave from 2013 E. Genesee St. CNY Workers' Center. 218-5708.</p>	<p>27 </p>	<p>28 ★ EVERY SAT. Street Heat. 9-9:45am. Regional market main entrance (Park St.). Ann or Ed. 478-4573. EVERY SAT. NH Action Network Meeting. 10am. Fountain of Life Church, 700 South Ave. syracusenan@gmail.com.</p>	<p>29 EVERY SUN. Syr. Community Choir Teen Choir. 4-6pm. 601 Allen St. 428-8151.</p>
<p>6 ACTS' Pre-K Expansion Task Force Mtg. 7pm. Iowono School, 3049 E. Genesee St. Call first. 416-6363; acts.eny@gmail.com.</p>	<p>7 ★ Street Heat. 4:15-5pm. Hancock Air Base main entrance, E. Molloy Rd. Ann or Ed. 478-4571. ★ Presentation of Youth Peace Award. 6pm. ArtRage, 505 Hawley Ave. Diane, dtswords@syr.edu. Partnership for Onondaga Creek. 6pm. Brady Faith, 404 South Ave. Aggie. 478-5471.</p>	<p>8 EVERY WED. Syracuse Community Choir. 7-9pm. Grace Episcopal Church, 819 Madison. 428-8151.</p>	<p>9 EVERY TUES/THURS. Free High School Equivalency Prep. 6-9pm. Westcott Comm Ctr, 826 Euclid Ave. Brett. 289-9057. EVERY THURS. Talk to a Lawyer. 6-8pm. Westcott Community Center, 2nd Flr. 826 Euclid Ave. 471-3409. Free.</p>	<p>10 CNY Chap. NYS Alliance for Retired Americans Mtg. 10am-noon. NYSUT Office. Brittonfield Park. Jerry. 243-9823.</p>	<p>4 ★ EVERY SAT. Street Heat. 9-9:45am. Regional market main entrance (Park St.). Ann or Ed. 478-4575. <i>In Poor Taste: The Generically Modified Foods Kitchen</i> reception. 7-9pm. ArtRage, 505 Hawley Ave. 218-5711, artragegallery.org.</p>	<p>5 6/4-6/5. Westcott Art Trail. 10-5pm. Westcott Community Center. 826 Euclid Ave. Garden Tour & Picnic Fundraiser for Syr. Ctr. for Peace and Social Justice. 11am-4pm. Sycamore Hill Gardens. 2130 Old Seneca Turnpike. Marcellus. Jerry. 243-9823. \$5 advance, \$10 at door.</p>
<p>13 Syracuse Greens Monthly Mtg. 7pm. 2013 E. Genesee St., 1st Floor. Howie. 425-1019.</p>	<p>14 ★ Street Heat. 4:15-5pm. Seneca Trmpk. & S. Salina. Ann or Ed. 478-4571. ★ Nuclear Free World Mtg. 5:30pm mtg, 7pm potluck. Call for location. Ursula, 472-5478. ★ Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation Steering Cmte. Mtg. 7-8:30pm. 2013 E. Genesee St., 2nd flr. Carol, 472-5478. Call for orientation on agenda.</p>	<p>15 Skunk City Neighborhood Assn. 6:30pm. Mundy Library, 1204 S. Geddes St. 476-7475. Shaleshock CNY Mtg. 6:15pm. Onondaga Free Library, 4840 W Seneca Trpk. Jack. 424-1454.</p>	<p>16 ★ EVERY THURS. Other Voices. Other Choices. 7:30pm. TW Cable Ch. 98. othervoicesotherchoices.blogspot.com for shows. ACTS' Taskforce on Community Violence and Youth Mtg. 7-8:30pm. SWCC, 401 South Ave</p>	<p>18 ★ EVERY SAT. Street Heat. 9-9:45am. Regional market main entrance (Park St.). Ann or Ed. 478-4576. EVERY SAT. Westside Residents Coalition. 11am. 610 Gifford Street Community Garden.</p>	<p>11 Duck Race to End Racism. 12-4pm. Syracuse Inner Harbor, 390 W. Kirkpatrick St. Interfaith Works. 449-3552. Syr. Community Choir Summer Solstice Concert "Gracias a la Vida." 7pm. St Paul's Cathedral, 220 E. Fayette St. \$15-25 sliding scale. children free. Film: <i>A Special Day</i> (1977). 8pm. ArtRage Gallery, 505 Hawley Ave. 218-5711, artragegallery.org. \$5 donation.</p>	<p>12 EVERY SUN. "Dismantling Racism from the Inside Out" 4pm. 505 Hawley. 218-5711, artragegallery.org. Free.</p>
<p></p>	<p></p>	<p></p>	<p></p>	<p></p>	<p></p>	<p>19 Events marked with a ★ are Syracuse Peace Council related events. peacecouncil.net 315-472-5478</p>