



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM
WILPF Fresno, P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755

Graphic by Lincoln Cushing

**Israel Bombed a Safe Zone of Displaced Palestinians AGAIN
The United States Must STOP Arming Israel!**

"They bombed us while praying, they bombed us while eating, they bombed us while fetching water, They bombed us while waiting in line For the bathroom, they bombed us while fleeing, they bombed us while seeking shade from the sun, and They bombed us while searching for a bag of flour. They keep bombing us, over and over again; and each time they do, the world gets more accustomed to the idea of our death, and we become as though we are 'nothing'."

—A Palestinian from Gaza

As we begin the 10th month, 280 days, of Israel's genocidal war on Gaza, two more "humanitarian safe zones" in Gaza were attacked by Israel, dropping 500-pound bombs made in the United States. Then warplanes and armed drones were deployed to shoot journalists, medical teams and rescuers trying to help the wounded.

Again, innocent Palestinian children were killed or forever physically and emotionally destroyed. The targeted children and families were not combatants. They were Palestinians living under Israeli siege.

For (75 years and) 280 horrifying days they have struggled to survive; displaced; escaping the bombs and bullets while starving and sick with disease; living without clean water, food and fuel; living under tarps and without sanitation; surviving while heartbroken from so many family members martyred.

Biden has made a slight change; the bomb size has decreased from 2,000 pounds to 500 pounds, so now you're destroyed if you are within a football field of the bomb instead of two football fields away!

Hospitals have been systematically destroyed, and medical supplies and humanitarian aid blocked from entering Gaza. Medics and aid workers do what they can while the injured suffer unbelievably. International doctors report the conditions and injuries in Gaza as being far worse than any other war zone they've been in.

So, it appears that the innocent civilian Palestinian population is Israel's target. Of course, they use the cover of the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas attack and their goal of killing off Hamas to make Israel safe, but with the superior surveillance and tracking technology that Israel markets and sells to governments and entities worldwide, it seems odd that somehow they cannot pinpoint their targets in Gaza and have to have mass bombings. Well, it seems a clear intent to take the land and destroy or remove all Palestinian inhabitants.

As you read this in the August issue, be mindful that on Aug. 6 and 9, we remember the inhumane U.S. decision to drop two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, destroying 129,000–226,000 Japanese lives as a means to end WWII.

We have not evolved. Our tolerance for death and destruction as a means to resolve political disputes has increased. As a nation, we mourn an old tragedy while we are fully engaged in a new one. When will lessons be learned?

The registered death toll in Gaza by Israeli attacks is nearly 40,000, but a leading medical journal estimates it at 190,000 Palestinians in Gaza in 280 days. A minimum average of 54 Palestinian children have been killed by Israeli forces every day since Oct. 7.

By November, Gaza had been hit with the equivalent of two nuclear bombs (Source: Euromed. Scientists for Global Responsibility). The United States has sent Israel more than 14,000 of the 2,000-pound MK-84 bombs since Oct. 7. Israel has deployed 300 bombardments over Gaza in 280 days.

Israel has escalated its attack on Gaza to unbelievable levels, with impunity violating human rights and international law, disregarding the ICC's ruling that it must stop all genocidal actions. Netanyahu has been found guilty by the ICC of international war crimes and crimes against humanity, but he was still invited to speak to our Congressional representatives in Washington, D.C., on July 24.

We join others who expect better from our country. How can we be a country that boasts of freedoms while we fund and facilitate Israel's genocidal destruction of Palestine? Now is the time to join together and take a stand and be loud! We cannot stay silent watching more horrors unfold. Our representatives need to hear from us constantly to inform them of what we expect: that peace is the right path for a democratic, free nation. It's time to stop being a nation that profits off war, death and destruction!

SAVE THE DATE! All are welcome.

Forum for Palestine, Aug. 31
Hosted by Raza Against War and co-sponsored by the Palestine Liberation Group, WILPF-Fresno, Peace Fresno, Veterans for Peace-Fresno Chapter and the Fresno Center for Nonviolence

—Peace ~ Teresa Castillo, WILPF Fresno Branch Chair

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW! HERE'S HOW

Send dues to WILPF-Fresno, P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755. WILPF-US membership is \$35/year. WILPF-Fresno sponsors a low-income rate of \$20. For questions or information updates, contact Nancy Hatcher at nhatcher46@gmail.com or Kyla Mitchell at kyla.noelle@gmail.com.

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We need to talk about nuclear war—and this time it's worse!

A Joint Statement on the Occasion of NATO's 75th Anniversary released on July 8, 2024, states, "When NATO leaders gather in Washington DC on 9 July their agenda will be dominated by next steps in their support for Ukraine in its war with Russia.

"But, as former senior military officers and politicians in NATO state, we believe they also need to reflect long and hard on their approach to nuclear weapons. The risk that nuclear weapons could be used in conflict is the highest it has been since the atomic bombings of 1945 that killed more than 200,000 people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

"Most scenario planning also indicates any use of nuclear weapons is likely to escalate rapidly to a general exchange that would end most life on Earth...In light of the heightened threat of nuclear war, it would be a grave mistake for NATO's leaders to conclude that nuclear weapons are more important than ever for Europe's defence" (emphasis added).

The following day, July 9, 700 scientists from the Union of Concerned Scientists released a letter to Biden and Congress calling on both to cancel land-based nuclear missiles. Their letter begins with, "As scientists and engineers, we are acutely aware of the grave risk of nuclear war. We are particularly concerned about the needless dangers created by the deployment of expensive, dangerous, and unnecessary land-based, intercontinental-range ballistic missiles (ICBMs)" (emphasis added).

These scientists from around the globe maintain ICBMs are dangerous, expensive and unnecessary. Specifically, when addressing the complete lack of necessity for such weapons, they state, "Unnecessary because the United States deploys an assured ability to retaliate against a nuclear attack without land-based missiles.

"Roughly 1,000 nuclear warheads are deployed on U.S. submarines hidden at sea, essentially invulnerable to attack. Submarine-launched ballistic missiles are as accurate as silo-based missiles, quick to respond, and provide more destructive capability than could ever be employed effectively.

"Specifically, one nuclear detonation can destroy an entire city; hundreds or thousands of detonations would cause millions of immediate deaths, the destruction of critical infrastructure, and potentially catastrophic climate impacts. The U.S. Navy deploys twelve submarines and is working to replace the entire fleet. Silo-based missiles do not provide any important additional capability" (emphasis added).

On July 12, four peace groups in Fresno delivered a letter to both U.S. Senators Laphonza Butler and Alex Padilla expressing disappointment and outrage over a recent vote in Congress regarding H.R. 2670 (now law), which is the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2023–2024. Butler and Padilla were not in the small group of 13 senators who opposed the bill; both California senators voted to approve it.

In this NDAA, Section 229 authorizes the "Air Force Global Strike Command to establish a program for technology transition for the Air Force nuclear enterprise. The U.S. Air Force nuclear enterprise consists of people, processes, procedures, and systems to conduct, execute, and support nuclear weapon systems and operations" (emphasis added).

In Section 1611, this NDAA "prohibits the Department of Defense (DOD) from reducing the number of deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) to below 400."

Section 1618 "requires the DOD to establish a nuclear sea-launched cruise missile (SLCM-N) program."

Did our two senators read the bill before voting to approve? Our job as members of the peace community is not only to let our elected representatives know how we feel but also to inform them, educate them and assist them in any way we can so that these monstrous weapons no longer loom over our heads threatening the existence of those we love and all we care for.

On July 25, this writer presented to the Fresno City Council a proclamation signed by 169 people proclaiming: "We hereby assert that we have the right to live in a peaceful world free from the threat of nuclear war." How is that too much to ask? *It's not!*

You can read the entire Joint Statement here: icanw.org/true_security_for_nato_requires_moving_away_from_nuclear_weapons

You can read the entire letter from UCS here: ucs-documents.s3.amazonaws.com/global-security/Sentinel-Letter-July-8-2024.pdf

You can read the entire letter to Butler and Padilla at peacefresno.org. To access the full text of the NDAA, visit congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/2670.

—Carol Goiburn, WILPF Disarm Committee Chair

WILPF MEETING

Aug. 8 (second Thursday), 7 p.m., via Zoom and usually also at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N. Van Ness Ave. Open to all members. Watch your e-mail for an announcement. For info on the in-person option, contact Teresa at taca_03@ymail.com.

UNPACKING RACISM

With Dr. Jean Kennedy. Moving toward community event participation. To join, RSVP with your e-mail address to drjeankennedy@yahoo.com or text 559-270-1023.

WOMEN IN BLACK

On heat hiatus.

STIR IT UP-WILPF

KFCF 88.1 FM
Aug. 28 (fourth Wednesday), 3 p.m. Jean Hays highlights people and events important to our WILPF community.

JANE ADDAMS BRANCH

Aug. 21, 5 p.m., via Zoom. Leni Villagomez Reeves will speak about the current situation in Cuba, including challenges and Families Code implementation.