



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

Graphic by Lincoln Cushing

**CALLING STUDENT ACTIVISTS AGAINST THE WAR ON GAZA**

International WILPF, which has sections in 40 countries, will be hosting a blog by international student activists against the war on Gaza. If you are a student who is participating in any of the many actions to stop the war, this is a site for you to write about your experiences.

- How have you been organizing?
- What are your successes?
- What have you learned about this war, campus connections to it and campus limitations on this organizing?
- Have you experienced any forms of repression from campus administrations, police or counter-protesters?
- What are your recommendations for other student activists?

The site will be a location to connect and strategize with student activists from around the world, to exchange analysis, strategies and tactics, activism lessons learned, and more. This is your chance to tell your story as you contribute to the history-in-the-making of this worldwide movement.

Would you like to be interviewed? To post to the blog? Your posts will be as anonymous as you want them to be. Any non-student *Community Alliance* readers who know student activists, please share this information with them. The blog will be up by early July.

Contact Jan Slagter, Americas Representative to the WILPF International Board, for more information at janetsl@mail.fresnostate.edu.



Students protesting the war and genocide in Gaza. Photo by Jan Slagter

**FRESNO WILPF IN THE TRIENNIAL CONGRESS: CUBA PRESENTATION**

The Cuba and the Bolivarian Alliance Committee, chaired jointly by veteran social justice, Philippines democracy and Cuba solidarity organizer Cindy Domingo from Seattle and Chicana/UFW and Cuba solidarity activist Leni Villagomez Reeves from the Fresno Branch presented a webinar for the WILPF Congress, together with noted public health expert Kathryn Hall-Trujillo, who teaches maternal and community health both in the United States and Cuba.

The presentation was called Cuba: State Sponsor of Peace. In 2014, Cuba hosted and led the 33 nations of the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States (CELAC) in reaffirming the world's first nuclear-free zone and again declaring Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace. The United States has more than 70 military bases in the region and illegally occupies Cuban territory as a naval base and torture prison.

Days before leaving office, Trump placed Cuba on the U.S. list of State Sponsors of Terrorism (SSOT List). Biden promised during his campaign to return to Obama's Cuba policies, but he hasn't done this. This isn't the blockade ("embargo") that only Congress can change. Biden alone could remove Cuba from this list.

Instead of removing Cuba from the list, Biden's State Department renewed it, citing only two reasons.

- Cuba's refusal to extradite Colombian rebel leaders in 2016 after peace talks broke down. But Colombia's President Petro has expressed appreciation for Cuba's key role in their peace process and said Colombia doesn't want anyone extradited, so that's invalid.
- "Cuba also continues to harbor several U.S. fugitives from justice wanted on charges related to political violence, many of whom have resided in Cuba for decades."

In other words, Cuba's designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism is entirely and completely based on Cuba offering asylum to U.S. political prisoners of the COINTELPRO war on Black America.

With Cuba on this State Sponsors of Terrorism, or SSOT List, banks internationally won't handle Cuban financial transactions, even for food and medicine. The SSOT List signals to anyone that does business with Cuba that the U.S. government might try to retaliate against them. Being on this list is causing terrible harm to Cuba, including the healthcare system.

Even as a country under siege, Cuba continues to implement advancements in gender rights, expansion of the definition of families and protections of children's rights. What can we learn from Cuba and their efforts to build a zone of peace and a strong inclusive democracy, and what can we do today to change U.S. foreign policy toward Cuba?

To view this presentation, visit [youtube.com/watch?v=PIV2iBGX\\_iE&list=PLNz1wyPMccmGr-ODD2Coyd7vI5oSoyOgn&index=5](https://youtube.com/watch?v=PIV2iBGX_iE&list=PLNz1wyPMccmGr-ODD2Coyd7vI5oSoyOgn&index=5): "WILPF Congress Day 4 #2 Palestine, Cuba." The presentation begins at 1:12:23 and ends at 2:08:45.

Take Action: Contact President Biden and demand that Cuba be removed from the U.S. list of State Sponsors of Terrorism.



Cuban veteran of the liberation and anti-apartheid struggle in Angola Lázaro Ostelaza Peña with some of the leaders of Cuba's future. Photo by LVR

**FRESNO RAGING GRANNIES AT WILPF CONGRESS AND IN THE COMMUNITY**

The Raging Grannies of Fresno were received with enthusiasm and appreciation when they wrapped up the WILPF-US 35th Triennial virtual Congress on June 6. With little time to prepare, seven Raging Grannies answered the call to sing out and gathered at Gioia Frank's home in full Granny regalia to perform a live virtual presentation.

To see the performance, visit [youtube.com/watch?v=VkJLJLqTXFM](https://youtube.com/watch?v=VkJLJLqTXFM): "River of Peace Panel, Fresno Raging Grannies." Their performance starts at 1:18:42 and ends at 1:28:00.

In addition to the virtual performance, the Raging Grannies attended two special birthday parties honoring Kay Pitts and Pat Wolk, and entertained at the Juneteenth Celebration at Valdez Hall and the Stone Fruit Jubilee in Kingsburg.

The Human Rights Coalition has requested that the Fresno Grannies sing on Tuesday, August 6, at 8 a.m. for the commemoration of Hiroshima Day.

This year, the Raging Grannies hope to be



Fresno Raging Grannies sing for the WILPF-US Congress. Photo by Gioia Frank

busy spreading the word for justice and democracy whether they are invited or not. Anyone interested in joining them is welcome.

For more information about Raging Grannies Fresno, contact Patty Bennett at [bennettpatriciajean@gmail.com](mailto:bennettpatriciajean@gmail.com).



Fresno Raging Grannies on Juneteenth. Photo by Patty Bennett

**WILPF LIBRARY COMMITTEE DONATES JANE ADDAMS AWARD BOOKS**

"The Jane Addams Children's Book Award annually recognizes children's books of literary and aesthetic excellence that effectively engage children in thinking about peace, social justice, global community and equity for all people."

The Library Committee of WILPF-Fresno celebrates this annual literacy event by donating sets of award-winning books to six Fresno County library branches and the library of Jane Addams Elementary School.

On May 31, WILPF-Fresno made our annual donation of multiple sets of the Jane Addams Children's Book Award winners to the Fresno County Library system.

We purchase the books from Petunia's Place with monies from donations, so if you wish to support this annual literary event, donate to Fresno Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755.



WILPFers, librarians and Jane Addams Award books. Photo by Susan Renfro

**WILPF MEETING**

July 11 (second Thursday), 7 p.m., via Zoom and usually also at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N. Van Ness Ave. This meeting is open to all members. Watch your e-mail for an announcement. For information on the in-person option, contact Teresa at [taca\\_03@gmail.com](mailto:taca_03@gmail.com).

**STIR IT UP-WILPF KFCF 88.1 FM**

July 24 (fourth Wednesday), 3 p.m. Jean Hays highlights people and events important to our WILPF community.

**UNPACKING RACISM**

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

**WOMEN IN BLACK**

July 3 (first Wednesday), noon, Courthouse. Might be on hiatus! Check first with Sue Kern at [skern@netptc.net](mailto:skern@netptc.net) or 559-349-3777.

**Find us on Facebook!**

WILPF-Fresno: [facebook.com/Wilpf-Fresno-395764603812264/](https://facebook.com/Wilpf-Fresno-395764603812264/)

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 and information updates, contact Nancy Hatcher at [nhatcher46@gmail.com](mailto:nhatcher46@gmail.com) or Kyla Mitchell at [kyla.noelle@gmail.com](mailto:kyla.noelle@gmail.com).

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW! HERE'S HOW**

THE CONTENT IN THIS SECTION IS PAID FOR BY WILPF. THE WILPF PAGE IS USUALLY COMPILED AND EDITED BY LENI VILLAGOMEZ REEVES (LENIVREEVES@GMAIL.COM).