

Nuclear Shorts

Call to Action to Oppose New Nuclear Weapons

PeaceWorks in Kansas City, Missouri, is issuing a **Call to Action** to oppose the start of a new 21st Century nuclear arms race beginning in Kansas City, Missouri now.

The “KC National Security Campus,” formerly the Kansas City Plant, announced Nov. 7, 2023, that the complex plans to *double* in size next year and increase its number of workers to Cold War levels of 9,000. The KC National Security Campus is one of the eight major centers that together produce U.S. nuclear weapons, and KC makes over 85% of the parts.

We invite you to join in a Resistance Retreat from Friday to Sunday, April 12-15, at Jerusalem Farm, 520 Garfield Ave., Kansas City, Missouri. Register by contacting PeaceWorks vice-chair Ann Suellentrop at annsuelen@gmail.com or 913-271-7925.

Biden’s “National Posture Review” promotes so-called “deterrence,” but endorses preparations for full-scale nuclear war and pretends the U.S. could “win” a war against Russia and China. The U.S. is preparing for World War III by making all new nuclear weapons systems, warheads, ICBMs, jet bombers,

and submarines — *at a cost of over \$2 trillion* over the next 30 years.

Documentary on Radioactive Waste Wins Prize

The new documentary film from producer/director Mary Beth Brangan, “SOS - The San Onofre Syndrome: Nuclear Power’s Legacy” [<https://sanonofresyndrome.com/>], has won the Awareness Film Festival’s Documentary Feature Grand Jury Award — beating the festival’s 100 other documentary entries. Brangan says that the film “chronicles a community’s victory over leaking reactors, only to confront a chilling reality — deadly radioactive waste stranded next to a rising sea. As temporary containers decay, a nationwide crisis emerges, and the race to avert catastrophe becomes a stark countdown against time.” Hailed as “a timely and urgent story with global implications,” the film was recently accepted into the next International Uranium Festival to be screened in Rio de Janeiro, Berlin, and eighteen U.S. cities in 2024. — SOS: info@sanonofresyndrome.com; <https://sanonofresyndrome.com>

Nearly Everyone Breathing Polluted Air

New York Times: “According to a pre-pandemic study from the World Health Organization, 98 per-

cent of the world’s population lives in places that do not meet its guidelines for healthy air quality, with emissions from vehicles and heavy industry polluting the air year-round.”

The Guardian Weekly: “Analysis of data gathered using cutting-edge methodology — including detailed satellite images and measurements from more than 1,400 ground monitoring stations — reveals a dire picture of dirty air, with 98% of people living in areas with highly damaging fine particulate pollution that exceeds World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines.

“The WHO says the annual average concentrations of PM2.5 (tiny airborne particles mostly produced by burning fossil fuels and some of which can pass through the lungs and into the bloodstream and affect almost every organ) should not exceed 5 micrograms a cubic meter. The new analysis found only 2% of the population of Europe live in areas within this limit.”

Said Roel Vermeulen, a prof of environmental epidemiology at Utrecht University who led the team of researchers across the continent that compiled the data, “What we see quite clearly is that nearly everyone in Europe is breathing unhealthy air.” — *New York Times*, June 10, 2023; *Guardian Weekly*, Sept. 29, 2023

Biden Returns from Israel Empty-Handed

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of the original Palestine left for millions of Palestinians under Israeli daily control.

Biden should take a moment in the Oval Office to read page 121 of the book *The Jewish Paradox* by Nahum Goldman (January 1, 1978), the head of the World Zionist Organization. He quotes the leading Founder of the Israeli state, David Ben-Gurion as candidly saying to him: “If I were an Arab leader, I would never sign an agreement with Israel. It is normal; we have taken their country. It is true God promised it to us, but how could that interest them? Our God is not theirs. There has been Anti-Semitism, the Nazis, Hitler, Auschwitz, but was that their fault? They see but one thing: we have come and stolen their country. Why would they accept that?” Today’s Israeli leaders refuse to demonstrate this degree of empathy. Instead, they provoke and deny the creation of a Palestinian state, envisioned by the Oslo Accords they signed in 1993, hurl the most racist epithets (“animals,” “vermin,” “snakes”), and make sure the politicians in the U.S. Congress never utter the words “Palestinians also have a right to defend themselves” as violently subjugated victims of Israel the superpower.

Many members of Congress who demand giving Israel whatever money and weaponry it wants for whatever it does, violating human rights under international law in its illegal occupations and blockade, turn around and vote against the child tax credit, worker health and safety, universal healthcare, paid family leave, and daycare for Americans. Their viciousness — as with the homicidal outburst of Gen. Lindsey Graham, R-SC, against all Palestinians, and Senator Tom Cotton, R-AR, a Harvard Law graduate, saying “As far as I’m concerned, Israel can bounce the rubble in Gaza...” — set new levels of depravity.

A few Senators see it differently, especially Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who noted “...it is no secret that Gaza has been an open-air prison” with “horrendous living conditions,” and that “children and innocent people do not deserve to be punished for the acts of Hamas.”

Little known is that Israel and the U.S. fostered and funded the rise of Hamas as a religious counterpoint to the secular Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO). It was established in 1987 following the first intifada uprising. A 2009 *The Wall Street Journal* article titled: “How Israel Helped to Spawn Hamas” noted:

“Instead of trying to curb Gaza’s Islamists from the outset, says Mr. Cohen, Israel for years tolerated and, in some cases, encouraged them as a counterweight to the secular nationalists of the Palestine Liberation Organization and its dominant faction...”

To Biden and the Congressional “howlers” for the death of civilian innocents, historical facts matter little. Hamas’ lethal attack on October 7th was preceded by far greater numbers of Israeli violent attacks over the past decades taking four hundred times the number of innocent Palestinian lives, injuries, and other casualties than inflicted on innocent Israelis.

Israel’s carpet bombing of Gaza will take twenty times or more lives of innocent Palestinians than those killed by Hamas on October 7th with the casualty toll of direct fatalities and the loss of life from the devastation of life-sustaining water, food, medicine, shelter, and other hospital/clinic emergency infrastructure.

Also conveniently forgotten is the detailed peace offer to Israel in 2002, by 22 member states of the Arab League to establish diplomatic and trade relations with a recognized Israel in return for its retreating to the 1967 borders and creation of a Palestinian two-state solution. The Israel extremists in Congress and President G.W. Bush declined even to respond to this proposal. (See, the March 29, 2002 *New York Times* article: “Mideast Turmoil; Text of the Peace Proposals Backed by the Arab League”).

It is incumbent on the supreme military superpower in the region to take the initiative for peace over the powerless victims under its thrall. That country is, of course, high-tech Israel, bristling with the latest weapons and nuclear atomic bombs.

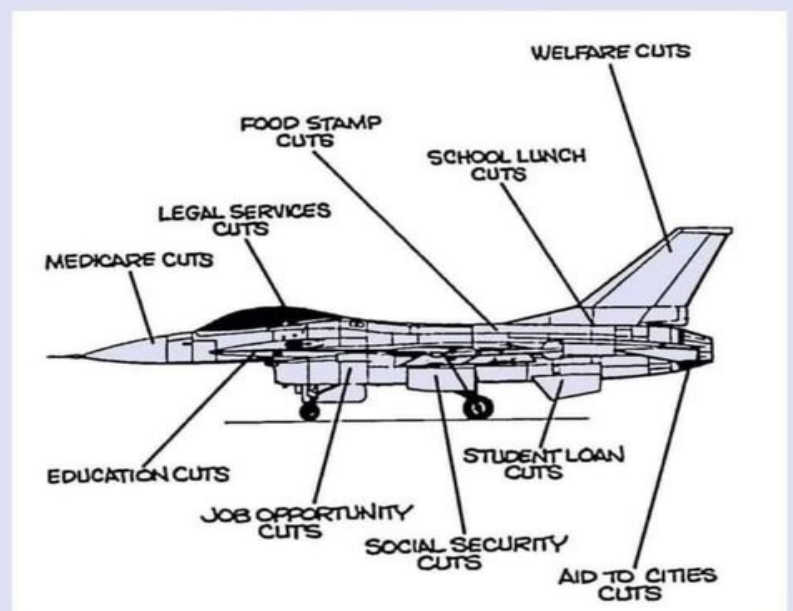
Both the brave Israeli human rights groups and those courageous human rights Israelis standing shoulder to shoulder over the years striving to conduct non-violent civil disobedience at the besieged Palestinian village level, only to be dispersed by Israeli soldiers, know the real obstacle to peace. It is the plan by the right-wing Israeli parties to annex the entire Palestinian West Bank (nearly attempted under Donald Trump) and forcefully drive Palestinians into Jordan and Egypt.

Joe Biden is skilled at shedding tears at memorials of grief in this country. But he runs dry when the recurring catastrophes befalling Palestinians beg for his presidential compassion and actual deeds.

He will not escape history’s judgment.

— **Ralph Nader, the consumer advocate, lawyer, and author with John Abbots of The Menace of Atomic Energy (Norton 1979), wrote this piece for CounterPunch.org.**

Just in case you didn't know what the different parts of a fighter jet are called.



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