

## Saudi's Murderous Regime

by *Brian Garvey and Jacqueline King*

The brutal murder of Jamal Khashoggi, a *Washington Post* columnist and a legal permanent resident of the United States, has captured international attention and sparked outrage around the world.

This flagrant act of violence committed in Turkey October 2nd has revealed the true character of the Saudi government and its de facto leader, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, to many Western governments and media outlets that had managed to overlook much broader Saudi transgressions. A spotlight is finally being shone on the role the Saudi Kingdom is playing in the impoverished nation of Yemen.

For three and a half years, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have been waging a fierce war on the population living in territory controlled by the Houthi-led rebels in Yemen.

Airstrikes conducted by the Saudis in planes armed by the US have killed tens of thousands of civilians—including children—at weddings and funerals, marketplaces, farms, schools, buses, residential neighborhoods, and hospitals. In addition to the immediate deaths and injuries, millions of lives are now threatened by widespread famine and disease. Some 14 million Yemenis could face starvation and 1.1 million have been infected with cholera.



*Saudi Crown Prince and Trump gloat over arms sale*

The mounting death toll is not just caused by “mistakes” made during indiscriminate bombing raids, but is part of a deliberate plan to starve the population into submission. Rural crops, fishing boats, food warehouses and water infrastructure have been targeted and destroyed by Saudis, according to a study by UK anthropologist Martha Mundy, published by the World Peace Foundation at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. Blockades have periodically cut off the crucial Red Sea port of

*cont'd on page 2*



*Renee Kasinsky at Raytheon demo*

## Calling Raytheon to Account

by *Paul Shannon*

The war in Yemen may seem far away, but key material support for that war is being manufactured right in our own back yard.

The Massachusetts-based Raytheon Company is supplying billions of dollars worth of military equipment to the autocratic regime of Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, including thousands of air-to-air and air-to-ground missiles and more than 7000 Paveway laser-guided bombs, according to the Center for International Policy. Raytheon stands to bring in \$6.65 billion out of the \$110 billion arms package Trump offered the Saudis last year.

The Paveway bombs are being used in the bombing campaign the Saudis and the United Arab Emirates are waging against Yemen. Civilians, including children, have been killed and maimed by the tens of thousands in the airstrikes.

Massachusetts peace advocates have launched a campaign to call Raytheon to account. We organized two spirited demonstrations outside the company's Concord Avenue facility in Cambridge – one in August with 75 people and one in September with more than 50. Many

*cont'd on page 3*



*Anti-war demonstration outside Raytheon's Cambridge facility on October 16*

## Saudi's Murderous Regime *cont'd from page 1*

Hudaydah, through which food, medicines, and other aid is imported into northern Yemen.

The US government is deeply complicit in the Saudi assault on Yemen. The US supplies bombs, missiles, mid-air refueling of planes, targeting intelligence, and other military assistance. President Trump has been shameless in touting the venal nature of his support, crowing about the \$110 billion arms deal he made with the Saudis last year.

In an interview on *60 Minutes*, he said he was open to punishing the Saudi government for Khashoggi's death, but then made clear that there would be no sanctions involving weapons deals: "I tell you what I don't want to do. Boeing, Lockheed, Raytheon, all these companies. I don't want to hurt jobs. I don't want to lose a contract like that." Translation: "We'll let Saudi Arabia get away with murder, as long as they buy murder weapons made in the USA."

Saudi Arabia is an absolute monarchy. It lacks democratic institutions and has neither a bill of rights nor a constitution. Wahhabism, the Saudi branch of Islam, is especially draconian. Support for extremists and terrorists, both ideological and financial, has deep roots in Saudi Arabia. Osama bin Laden was the son of a prominent Saudi family. Fifteen of the 19 hijackers on September 11, 2001 were Saudi nationals. Yet for decades, the US has continued to ally itself with this country.

The failure of the Trump administration to hold Saudi Arabia accountable for the Khashoggi murder or the catastrophe unfolding in Yemen is in sharp contrast to the way it demonizes Iran as the world's "leading sponsor of terrorism" that has "spread mayhem across the Middle East." As Stephen Kinzer of the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at

Brown University, points out, all these statements are true – *if they are applied to Saudi Arabia*. But when falsely applied to Iran, they provide a pretext for Trump to pull out of the Iran nuclear deal, reimpose severe sanctions, and threaten to go to war.

However, there are hopeful signs that the tide may be turning in the US Congress. A resolution to cut off US military support for the Saudis while the Yemen war is underway, H.Con.Res. 138, has been introduced by Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA). It is expected to receive a vote during November. Massachusetts Reps. Jim McGovern, Mike Capuano, Joe Kennedy III and Katherine Clark have cosponsored it, but Reps. Bill Keating, Stephen Lynch, Seth Moulton, Richard Neal, and Niki Tsongas have not yet done so. **Call them today at (202) 224-3121 and urge them to sign on!**

Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) plans to press for a renewed vote on his equivalent bill in the Senate, S.J.Res.54, which was supported by 44 senators on a procedural vote in March. Rep. McGovern has also introduced an additional bill to cut off US aid to Saudi Arabia, HR7082. So far, no other Massachusetts member of the House has joined its 26 cosponsors. We have our work cut out for us!

**—Brian Garvey is a Mass. Peace Action member. Jacqueline King is editor of the Mass. Peace Action newsletter.**

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## Raytheon Campaign *cont'd from page 1*

commuters honked their horns in support as they passed the line of protesters holding signs and banners. Raytheon also has facilities in Burlington, Woburn, Tewksbury, Andover, Billerica, Marlborough and Northborough. The campaign so far includes Mass. Peace Action, Veterans for Peace, the American Friends Service Committee, and the Peace and Social Concerns Committee of the Friends Meeting at Cambridge.

The Raytheon Anti-War Campaign was officially launched on Sept. 27 with an event featuring Code Pink's Medea Benjamin at the Cambridge Friends Meeting House. Benjamin described the unholy alliance among the US and Saudis and Israel as they seek to dominate the Middle East; the push toward war with Iran; the billions being made by military contractors; and what we can do to oppose these dangerous developments.

She applauded our organizing against Raytheon and urged us to actively take up a divestment campaign, to organize cities and states, companies and non-profits, to divest from arms manufacturers. "If your business is selling weapons, then your business model is war," she noted.

To illustrate the insidious power and reach of companies like Raytheon, Benjamin pointed out that, after a Yemen school

bus was bombed and 44 children were killed, Raytheon's former top lobbyist (who is now a top State Department official) played a major role in safeguarding new Raytheon arms sales; he convinced the US to certify that Saudi Arabia was taking measures to protect civilians.

At the end of the evening, event organizers laid out the campaign's demand that Raytheon stop selling billions of dollars of weapons and providing other critical support to the Saudis. We signed up more than 40 attendees, about half the audience, to participate in the campaign through various tactics such as rallies, the divestment effort, research and writing for local papers and social media, pressuring Congress to end the Yemen war, mobilizing faith communities, and holding educational events.

Join us now! You can get involved in the campaign by going to <http://bit.ly/raytheon-antiwar> or calling 617-354-2169 or 617-623-5288.

***—Paul Shannon coordinates the Raytheon Anti-War Campaign. He is active in the American Friends Service Committee and Mass. Peace Action.***

## Support our Fund Drive!

A strong peace movement is needed today more than ever! Over the past year, Mass. Peace Action has grown and become even more active. To continue and expand our work, we need funds! The Mass. Peace Action Education Fund has set a minimum 2018 fundraising goal of \$120,600. We need to raise another \$17,000 to reach that goal by the end of the year.

We kicked off our Annual Fundraising Drive with a bang. More than 80 people gathered for a Gala Fundraising Dinner on October 6th at 11 Garden Street to break bread, listen to music by Dean Stevens, laugh with Jimmy Tingle, and honor a group of dedicated citizens who have led our recent protests.

Cambridge City Councilor and MAPA Board member E. Denise Simmons presented "Risk Taker Awards" to Joseph Gerson, Claire Gosselin, Cole Harrison, Rosemary Kean, John McDougall, Thea Paneth, and Jeanne Winner for their non-violent protests and arrests at the State House in support of the Poor People's Campaign and to John Schuchardt, Laura Fillmore, and John Bach for braving arrest outside Hanscom Air Force Base to protest Hanscom's role in nuclear war planning.

Those who were also honored, but not present to receive plaques were Jerry Ross, Pat Ferrone, John Gibbons, Cathy Hoffman, Sherri Hogan, and Daniel Luker. Thanks to former intern Alex Plowden for serving as a skilled chef for the evening



***City Councilor E. Denise Simmons, second from left, presents Risk-Takers Award to John Schuchardt (holding plaque). Cole Harrison, MAPA executive director, far left. Eva Moseley, Board member, far right.***

and to Eva Moseley, Michelle Cunha, Carol Coakley, and Rosalie Anders for organizing the event.

All donations are tax-deductible. Donate by visiting our website at [www.masspeaceaction.org/donate](http://www.masspeaceaction.org/donate), or make checks out to Mass. Peace Action Education Fund and mail to Mass. Peace Action, 11 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138. Please give generously! See page 5 for more info about donating.



# Lessons from Hiroshima and Nagasaki

by *Michelle Cunha*

In the sweltering heat of the Japanese summer, I toured the Hiroshima Peace Memorial. This park commemorates those who died from the atomic bomb dropped by the United States on August 6, 1945. Statues of women trying to protect their children from the bomb's devastation were set near the epicenter of the blast site. A burial mound holds the ashes of at least ten thousand bodies. Later, at the Nagasaki Peace Park, I viewed images of infants, teens and adults burned beyond recognition, lying in the streets.

I was representing Mass. Peace Action, along with fellow member Jerry Ross, as part of a delegation of American peace groups participating in the 2018 World Conference Against A and H Bombs in Japan last August. It was a life-altering experience for me. For the next nine days, spent in both Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we listened to the voices of nuclear abolitionists from around the globe.

We met Hibakusha, survivors of the atomic attack, and heard their stories. They spoke of the deep, unabating grief they felt in the days, months, and decades since the attack. They described the shame of being a survivor; many were unable to marry, find jobs, or live any sort of normal life. They said many Hibakusha never speak of the day, instead choosing to suffer in silence. They told what it was like to be suddenly alone in middle age—to lose their parents, spouses, children, and livelihoods in a single instant.

As we listened, my thoughts kept turning to my own country and my home town of Bedford, Massachusetts. The United States is the only country in the world that has used nuclear weapons, and it has done so not once but twice. An estimated 80,000 people were killed instantly in Hiroshima and another

40,000 to 75,000 in Nagasaki. Added together, a rough total of 145,000 people—similar to the combined populations of Bedford, Lexington, Lincoln, Concord, Carlisle, Billerica, and Burlington—died instantly. It is hard to imagine what it would be like if the people in all these Boston suburban communities near my home were incinerated in a moment.

Yet the madness of the Cold War nuclear arms race has not gone away. During the last phase of his presidency, President Obama initiated a \$1 trillion nuclear upgrade and in 2018, Congress has bumped that number up to about \$1.7 trillion. Millions of those dollars will flow to Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford to upgrade the Nuclear Command, Control and Communications System. In the last few weeks, Congress

passed the National Defense Authorization Act; it includes funding for “low yield” nuclear bombs, which have a greater chance of being used. These low yield bombs have more destructive capabilities than the two dropped on Japan. Earlier this year, after Trump’s Nuclear Posture Review was released, the Doomsday Clock was moved to 2 minutes before midnight. It was the first time since 1953 that *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* has moved the hands so close to midnight: nuclear annihilation.

It is time to put a stop to outmoded and antiquated thinking. It is time for total nuclear disarmament by all nine

of the nuclear states. It is time for the United States to sign on to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and to eliminate every single one of its 4,000+ nuclear weapons!

*--Michelle Cunha is the assistant director of Mass. Peace Action.*



*Michelle at the Nagasaki Peace Memorial*

## The Next Two Years: A Movement Building Conference

**Saturday November 17, 9am-5pm, Simmons University, 300 the Fenway**

**Info: [bit.ly/next2yrs](https://bit.ly/next2yrs) Register: [next-two-years.bpt.me](https://next-two-years.bpt.me)**

**Keynote Speakers:** **John Nichols**, national affairs correspondent of *The Nation*; **Phyllis Bennis**, Institute for Policy Studies; **Rev. Karlene Griffiths Sekou**, Black Lives Matter Boston

Take stock of the political landscape after the midterm election, chart the path towards a unified progressive movement over the coming years, and educate and motivate our supporters toward more effective and unified efforts.

# A Victory for Free Speech

by Jacqueline King

Should the right to assemble and to express political views be subject to “fees” in our democracy?

Mass. Peace Action (MAPA) established a precedent for free speech when we contested fees imposed by the City of Cambridge on the Women’s March in January. We refused to pay more than \$4000 for police coverage of the march, which took place on the Cambridge Common.

Michelle Cunha, MAPA’s assistant director and a leader in planning the march, twice refused to accept paperwork and a bill that Cambridge police tried to hand-deliver to her in the days leading up to the demonstration. (MAPA was the fiscal agent for the January Coalition, which organized the march.)

The city’s policy said that a gathering of 200 or more people “may require a police detail and/or DPW personnel in attendance at the expense of the applicant.”

“If such a policy were allowed to stand, think of how many groups might be prevented from gathering in large numbers or from speaking out, because they couldn’t afford the exorbitant fees required,” Cunha said. “This goes against two of our most precious, constitutionally protected rights – the right to assemble and the right to free speech.”

Charging fees for demonstrations is not an idea confined to Cambridge. The Trump administration has recently proposed limiting the venues of, and charging fees for, demonstrations in public spaces in Washington D.C. – an initiative that has provoked an outcry from civil rights and other groups.

Cunha stressed that Mass. Peace Action has good relations with City of Cambridge departments and officials, but was strongly opposed to the policy on principle. “Other cities, such as Boston, recognize that this is one of the things taxes are for – to let residents exercise their right to express their views,” Cunha noted. “If one municipality decides to charge for the right to rally and protest, then other municipalities may do the same. It could have a domino effect.”

Ruth Bourquin of ACLU Massachusetts represented Mass. Peace Action in its challenge to the City of Cambridge’s policy.



*Thousands gathered on the Cambridge Common last January for the 2018 Women’s March.*

After negotiations, the issue was settled out of court. The City waived the fee for the Women’s March and, equally important, changed its policy going forward: “The City will not impose such charges [for public safety services] on demonstrations or other non-commercial expressive events in city parks,” according to a statement sent to Cambridge city councilors by Lee Gianetti, the City’s director of communications.

The ACLU and the January Coalition issued a press release praising the City for changing its policy. “We are delighted that the City of Cambridge has adopted a policy that will set precedents and guarantee everyone, regardless of means, the right to assemble - and we thank the ACLU of Massachusetts for its work,” said Zayda Ortiz of the January Coalition and Indivisible Mystic Valley. “When freedom of speech comes with a price tag, it especially burdens marginalized groups, who might have fewer financial resources for charges. We hope that other municipalities across the Commonwealth can mirror this policy and safeguard our constitution.”

The January Coalition has already begun to organize next year’s Women’s March, which is scheduled for January 12, 2019 on the Boston Common.

## Make your donations even more effective!

**Sustained Giving:** A monthly credit card charge is the best way to give to Mass. Peace Action. It helps us plan by giving us a reliable income stream. By spreading your donation over the year, you’ll hardly notice the small amount deducted each month.

**Estate Planning:** Remember the next generation, who will carry our hopes and dreams for a peaceful world into the future. Give them the gift of peace by including Massachusetts Peace Action Education Fund in your estate plan.

# Nuclear Disarmament Campaigns...



*Eust Eustis, Renata Rose, and Amy Hendrickson at Paribas demonstration Sept. 26*

## Don't Bank on the Bomb

MAPA organized a spirited demonstration at the BNP Paribas office in downtown Boston on Sept. 26, as part of a global day of action against this massive French bank that provides more than \$8 billion in financing to nuclear weapons companies. Our action was part of the *Don't Bank on the Bomb* campaign, which began in Europe and is organized by the International Coalition Against Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and other disarmament groups. Its focus has been on pressing large banks and investment funds to divest their holdings in nuclear weapons companies.

The demonstration outside BNP Asset Management Offices at 75 State Street was among those occurring at Paribas locations in over 40 countries. The action was held in recognition of the United Nations' International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

In Massachusetts, the Cambridge City Council voted unanimously in 2016 to divest its pension holdings in companies that produce nuclear weapons. That action has been halted by State

intervention. In response, next year MAPA will help file *Don't Bank on the Bomb* divestment legislation with the state legislature. This action will follow the precedent set by state divestment from corporations producing tobacco products, which is now part of Massachusetts law.

—*Jerry Ross, Bedford, Mass. Peace Action*

## Back from the Brink

The *Back from the Brink* campaign, launched in Western Mass. a year ago, has grown dramatically in the past few months. It has been endorsed by unanimous votes of the US Conference of Mayors, the Baltimore City Council, the LA City Council, and—in an overwhelming though not unanimous vote—the California State Legislature. It has been endorsed by Peace Action nationally.

The campaign calls on the US to embrace the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by actively pursuing negotiations with the other eight nuclear armed states for a verifiable, enforceable, time-bound plan to dismantle their remaining nuclear weapons. It calls for the US, while these negotiations are in progress, to:

- renounce the first use of nuclear weapons;
- take its nuclear weapons off hair trigger alert;
- end the unchecked authority of the President to initiate nuclear war; and
- abandon the \$1.7 trillion plan to enhance every aspect of the nuclear arsenal.



The goal is to achieve a national consensus on this set of policy initiatives by the time the next administration takes office in January of 2021. Here in Massachusetts, it has been endorsed by the Northampton City Council, Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse, the Somerville Board of Aldermen and the Town Meetings of Brookline, Amherst, Wendell, Plainfield, Cummington, Leverett, Williamburg, Goshen, and Windsor. The campaign has also been joined by a large number of civic organizations and faith communities. (See complete Mass. and national list at [www.PreventNuclearWar.org](http://www.PreventNuclearWar.org)) We are working to secure the endorsement of other cities and towns and pursuing a resolution in the state legislature.

—*Ira Helfand, Northampton, president of Physicians for Social Responsibility*

# ...Move Forward Locally and Globally

## Restrict Presidential First Strike

MAPA has been campaigning hard for the Markey / Lieu bill, HR669, introduced into Congress in 2017, that would limit the President's ability to launch a nuclear first strike by requiring that he first secure a Congressional declaration of war. We have sent delegations to meet with all our Members of Congress.

Reps. Jim McGovern, Katherine Clark, Mike Capuano, and Joseph Kennedy have thus far responded positively. Among the most resistant has been Rep. Seth Moulton. At a town hall in Newburyport last May, MAPA's Michelle Cunha asked Moulton why he has not signed on to the No First Strike bill. Moulton claimed that deterrence is a viable option and that US treaty obligations to East Asian allies require the US to maintain a nuclear arsenal. Video of the exchange can be found on the Mass. Peace Action YouTube channel.

A similar resolution was introduced in the Mass. legislature, presented by State Sen. Barbara L'Italien and supported by Reps. Mike Connolly, Denise Provost, and Kay Kahn. In the coming legislative session we hope to transform the resolution into a bill asking the state legislature to call upon the US Congress to support a No First Strike bill.

—Jonathan King, Cambridge, chair of MAPA's Nuclear Disarmament Working Group

## Invest in Minds Not Missiles

Mass. Peace Action is engaged in an ongoing campaign to "Cancel the Trillion-Dollar Nuclear Weapons Upgrades" and invest that money in meeting human needs. To that end, in October we held a forum at UMass Boston entitled "Increasing Federal and State Investment in Higher Education: Invest in Minds, not Missiles."

UMass Boston, originally chartered to provide quality education for low-income urban residents, has been subject to repeated budget cuts in recent years by the governor and state legislature. Speakers such as Barbara Madeloni, former president of the Mass Teachers Association, State Rep. Mike Connolly, UMass Profs Tony Van Der Meer and Paul Atwood, and Boston University Prof Jane Regan eloquently expressed the need to protect and expand higher education opportunities, especially for those least able to afford the current costs.

Other participants included UMass faculty, undergraduates and graduate students, members of the Public Higher Education Network of Mass. (PHENOM), Save UMB, and the Professional Staff Union. This forum complemented the work of other MAPA campus groups that are promoting the Congressional Progressive Caucus's People's Budget, which sharply increases federal investment in education.

—Jelena Mitic-Elliott, MAPA intern and UMass Boston student, and Jonathan King

## Trump to Scrap INF Treaty with Russia

President Trump recently proposed pulling the US out of the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty with Russia. The signing of the treaty by Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev significantly reduced the numbers of the world's nuclear weapons. Intermediate-range missiles, launched from a few hundred miles outside a nation's border, leave only minutes for the target nation to decide how to respond. This is a deeply destabilizing situation. Abrogation of the treaty, and deployment of such nuclear-armed missiles, can only increase the danger of an accidental or intentional nuclear exchange, lethal for human society. MAPA's Nuclear Disarmament Working Group, along with our sister peace organizations, will work to develop a response to this new threat.





# Trump's Iran Sanctions and the Threat of War

by George Capaccio

The Trump administration has launched a barrage of verbal attacks against Iran in recent weeks that seem to signal a willingness, even an eagerness, to go to war. The president used hysterical tweets to threaten Iran with “consequences the likes of which few throughout history have ever suffered before” and John Bolton, his national security adviser, has vowed that if Iran “crosses” the US or its allies, “there will indeed be hell to pay.” This bellicose rhetoric, disturbingly similar to that leading up to the US invasion of Iraq, may be preparing the world and the US public for another war of aggression in the Middle East.

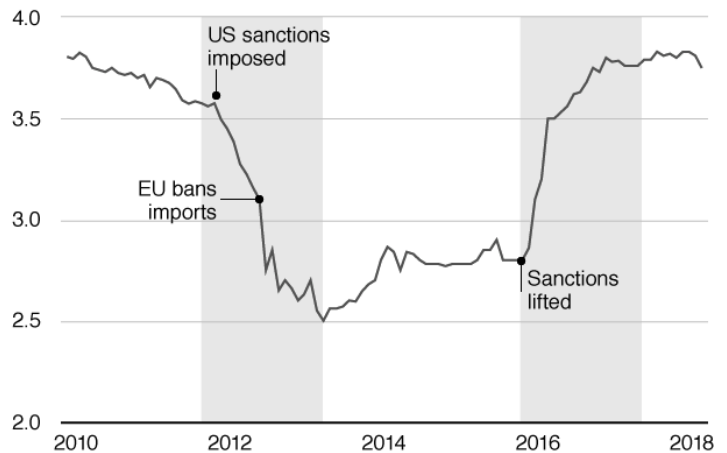
Last May, despite Iran’s internationally recognized compliance with the terms of the Iran nuclear accord—a hard-won compromise negotiated by the Obama administration that promised the lifting of sanctions in return for Iran’s verifiable suspension of its nuclear program—President Trump announced that he would scrap the deal and re-impose US sanctions. He demanded that all other countries and companies comply with US sanctions as well, or be banned from doing business in the US. While all the other signatories to the Iran nuclear deal (or the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action as it is formally known) objected to the US withdrawal and said they would continue to honor the agreement, it is unclear how effectively they will be able to do so.

The restoration of sanctions is occurring in stages. On August 7, Trump banned Iran’s purchasing of US currency and precious metals as well as airplane and auto parts. That action has already had a significant impact on the lives of ordinary Iranian citizens, as the price of cars, electronics and medications has at least doubled. A new set of US sanctions went into effect on Nov. 5, including restrictions on the sale of Iranian oil on the world market, transactions with Iranian banks, and operations of Iranian ports and shipping companies. These “extraterritorial” sanctions will be imposed not only on Iranian companies, but on any companies that do business with Iran. Oil exports make up 20 percent of Iran’s economy, and the Iranian currency, the rial, has already lost much of its purchasing power.

Sanctions are a blunt instrument meant to force the Iranian regime to accede to the demands of the US government. But as is so often the case, they fall most heavily on the people, especially the poorest and least powerful, and not on the government or the elite. During the decade of sanctions leading up to the 2015 nuclear deal, industrial production in Iran plummeted, massive layoffs and unemployment ensued,

## Iran's oil output

Production in millions of barrels per day



Source: Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran, IATBXOIL index

BBC

inflation soared, rents and food prices rose sharply, education and health care were hurt, and the people were subject to widespread hardship.

This time around, despite the claims of the Trump administration that the sanctions will not harm humanitarian aid, the UN’s International Court of Justice has ruled the sanctions both “illegal” and “cruel.” The most damaging effect of sanctions falls on Iran’s health care system. Reduced oil revenues and a declining economy force cuts in funding for national health programs. Those cuts, along with shipping and trade restrictions, lead to critical shortages (and very high prices) of medicines, medical supplies, and medical devices.

According to Jamal Abdi, the president of the National Iranian American Council, “The grievous harm sanctions cause the Iranian people cannot be overstated. As the economy and unemployment levels make daily life unbearable for millions of Iranians, families are choked off from life-saving medicines and starved of critical infrastructure.” Many would agree with Abdi’s conclusion that sanctions on Iran amount to “collective punishment” while the government remains immune to their impact.

The US has a long history of interference in Iran’s economic and political affairs. Seared into the memory of Iranians is the CIA’s role, along with British intelligence, in toppling Iran’s elected prime minister, Mohammad Mossadegh, in 1953 after he nationalized Iran’s oil industry. Following Mossadegh’s removal, the Shah of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, was

*cont’d on page 9*



## Trump's Iran Sanctions *cont'd from page 8*



restored to power. For the next 26 years, he gave US companies unfettered access to Iran's oil and relied upon the infamous secret police (SAVAK) to suppress opposition to his autocratic governance. Pent-up anger against both the Shah and the US helped spark the 1979 revolution, which resulted in the emergence of the Islamic Republic and the student takeover of the American embassy. The hostage crisis, in turn, led to the first American sanctions.

All this history must be kept in mind when attempting to understand the attitudes of Iranians toward the US. And yet, as Professor Val Moghadam of Northeastern University, noted at a MAPA rally in August: "Most Iranians inside and outside the

country want normalized relations with the US, an end to sanctions, regular trade, and civil society relations."

Hostility to Iran is almost an axiom in Washington; it pervades the national security establishment, Congress, and the media. Compare the response to Trump and Bolton's rush to cancel the Iran nuclear deal and impose new, harsh sanctions on Iran with the response to the Yemen war and the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi operatives close to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. Media denunciations of Saudi human rights violations are always coupled with reminders of the long US/Saudi alliance and the need to confront Iran for its supposed misdeeds. In fact, it is Saudi Arabia, not Iran, that is by far the greatest supporter and instigator of terrorism and civil war across the Middle East.

Trump and Bolton have given ample indication they want regime change in Iran. But scrapping the nuclear deal and reimposing sanctions actually strengthens the hand of the conservative clerics and weakens the pro-democracy forces in Iran, while causing untold suffering for the Iranian people. Peace advocates in the US must demand that the President revive the nuclear agreement, end sanctions, engage in talks with Iran and give peace a chance!

*—George Capaccio is a writer, performer, and activist living in Arlington who has travelled to Iraq repeatedly and studied the impact of sanctions on that country.*

### Peace and Justice Calendar

#### **Armistice Day for Peace - Veterans for Peace**

Nov 11, noon, Boston Common, Beacon & Charles,  
March to Sam Adams statue

#### **National Priorities Project 2018 Fall Party**

Nov 13, 6pm, Smith College Conference Center

#### **The Next Two Years and Beyond:**

##### **A Movement Building Conference**

Nov 17, 9am-5pm, Simmons University,  
300 The Fenway

#### **What's Wrong with US policy in Iran?**

A first-hand report, Reese Erlich

Nov 27, 7pm, First Church in Cambridge,  
11 Garden St

#### **Rally to Boycott Elbit Systems**

Dec 7, 11:30am, Merrimack, NH

#### **Boston Women's March 2019: Persistent Resistance**

Jan 12, 11am to 3pm

Boston City Hall, March to Boston Common

See updated events list at [masspeaceaction.org/events](https://masspeaceaction.org/events)

# Peace Voter campaign boosts candidates

by Cole Harrison

Can a politician be progressive without being pro-peace? As the nationwide resistance to Trumpism challenges Republican control of Congress Nov. 6, Peace Action is insisting that peace is a critical part of the progressive agenda. Our national organization is supporting some 30 candidates for Congress this year in states from Arizona to Wisconsin, aiming to elect a new wave of lawmakers who will move Washington in a more peaceful and just direction.

In Massachusetts, we support Reps. Jim McGovern and Katherine Clark, who are expected to cruise to re-election Nov. 6. In the primary we also supported Tahirah Amatul-Wadud in western Mass. and Bill Cimbrelo in southeastern Mass., who made an excellent showing against conservative Democratic incumbents though they did not prevail.

In the 10-candidate primary to replace retiring Rep. Niki Tsongas in the Lowell area, we met with and briefed seven of the contenders on peace issues. We ultimately endorsed state Sen. Barbara L'Italien, a nuclear disarmament and peace advocate who works with our sister disarmament organization, WAND/ WiLL, and introduced a state bill this year to curb the president's power to launch a nuclear first strike. Lori Trahan emerged to win that primary.

In the Boston/Cambridge/Somerville area, Rep. Mike Capuano was ousted by challenger Ayanna Pressley. We endorsed Capuano due to his long record of voting against Middle East



***Nika Elugardo, State Rep.-Elect, 15th Suffolk Norfolk District (Jamaica Plain, Roslindale, Brookline)***

wars and military spending increases, and his longtime support of labor, women, and immigrants' rights. We were unable to secure a meeting with Pressley and we viewed some of her responses to our peace questionnaire as vague. (We appreciated that she met with Dorchester People for Peace.) While progressive constituencies including people of color, women, and young voters supported Pressley—and some of our own members were in her camp or were torn by the choice—our endorsement of Capuano arose from our conviction that progressive candidates must forthrightly address foreign policy issues and be prepared to take tough stands for peace. We look forward to working with both Pressley and Trahan on peace issues as they enter Congress.

## State Legislature

While most peace issues are decided in Congress, we turned increased attention to state offices this year as a way of building grassroots power. In the Nov. 6 election we support State Senators Paul Feeney in the Foxborough area, Julian Cyr on the Cape and Islands, Jamie Eldridge in the Acton area, and candidate Sue Chalifoux-Zephyr in Fitchburg-Leominster. We also support Leominster's Natalie Higgins for State Rep.

We scored two big wins in the primary. Peace activist Jo Comerford won election to the State Senate in the Northampton-Greenfield area, and Nika Elugardo unseated a powerful but cautious incumbent for State Rep in Jamaica Plain.

Reps. Sean Garballey and Marjorie Decker won their primaries with our support and are unopposed in the general, and we continue to support Sen. Pat Jehlen and Reps. Mike Connolly, Denise Provost, Jack Patrick Lewis, Jay Livingstone, and Jon

*cont'd on page 11*



***Jo Comerford, State Senator- Elect of Hampshire, Franklin, Worcester District***

## Peace Voter Campaign *cont'd from page 10*

Hecht, all of whom were unopposed for re-election. Even when pro-peace legislators are unopposed, it is important that we show our support and build up their financial reserves so that they can prevail over any future pro-corporate Democrats.

### Statewide Offices

We were proud to support Bob Massie for Governor, who pledged to help divest state pension funds from military contractors and refuse campaign contributions from them, pull police out of training in Israel, and publish information on how the Federal government uses tax dollars.

We also supported Jimmy Tingle for Lieutenant Governor, and Donna Patalano for Middlesex D.A. While we didn't endorse in the race for Secretary of State, we questioned the decision of some progressive groups to support challenger Josh Zakim, pointing out that he is heavily involved with the pro-Israel lobby.

### Yes on Questions 1, 2, and 3!

We support all three referendum questions on the Nov. 6 ballot. Question 1 would ensure quality health care by requiring sufficient nurse staffing levels in hospitals; Question 2 would prepare a constitutional amendment to limit money in politics; and Question 3 would confirm the trans rights bill enacted by the Legislature in 2016.

Massachusetts Peace Action endorsed more candidates than ever before in 2018, and successfully introduced candidate briefings to our election tool kit. We won some and lost some, but we were able to move the debate on some widely discussed races. Peace is a deep and necessary part of the progressive agenda. Mass. Peace Action will continue to educate and push candidates and elected officials to work for peace and justice in the face of an Administration that seems bent on shredding our democracy and moving the country toward war.

—*Cole Harrison is the executive director of MAPA.*

## Beyond Boston *by Carol Coakley*

The Pilgrim Coalition, the Boston Downwinders and several other anti-nuclear power groups sponsored *Power Struggle*, a full-length documentary, at the Brattle Theater on September 15<sup>th</sup>. The movie recounted the long struggle to close Vermont Yankee and inspires our work on Pilgrim. Gov. Dukakis, Rep. Ruth Balser, activist Diane Turco and movie producer/director Robbie Leppzer spoke. [www.capedownwinders.org/](http://www.capedownwinders.org/)

The Nipponzan Myohoji Grafton Peace Pagoda celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in October and joined with the New England Peace Pagoda to walk to Hanscom Air Force Base with Mass. Peace Action to protest the nuclear command there.

The Peace Abbey held a birthday party at the Peace Memorial in Sherborn on Oct 4<sup>th</sup> for Gandhi and St. Francis and organized a six-mile Stonewalk for Victims of Violence on United Nations Day, Oct 24<sup>th</sup>, from the Peace Garden in Boston to Boston College. <https://www.peaceabbey.org/>

The Bedford UU First Parish Peace and Justice Committee sponsored a Lyceum talk by Chuck Collins on his new book, *Born on Third Base*, about economic inequality and how it damages our democracy, and hosted Hyun Lee of NYC's Nodutol Korean community on a panel discussion about peace in Korea.

The Northampton Committee to Stop Wars showed "Two Towns of Jasper," a documentary on the 20-year-old, horrific murder of a black man in Texas. Two different stories emerge from the storytellers of Jasper, one white and one black. [www.theresistancecenter.org](http://www.theresistancecenter.org)



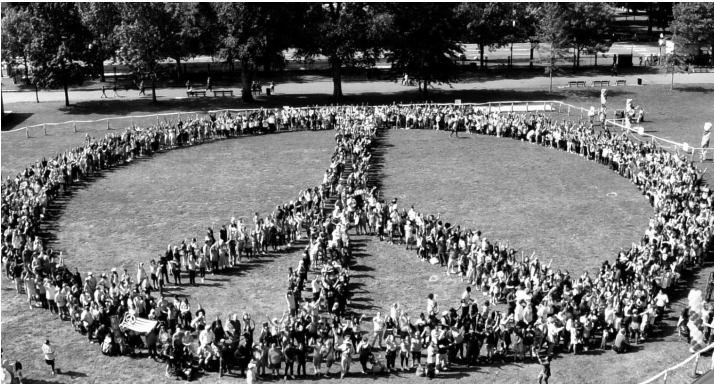
*Demonstration outside Congressman Kennedy's office in Newton for the right to boycott*

Occupy Natick is back from summer vacation and resumed their Monday movie nights in Natick with the film, *Stealing America, One Vote at a Time* on October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Members of Jewish Voice for Peace, Mass. Peace Action, Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East, and the Alliance for Water Justice visited Rep. Kennedy's office in Newton to ask him to vote against HR 1697, the bill that seeks to outlaw the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement, which some of these groups use to persuade Israel to change its policies. Kennedy was not back from D.C. at the time, and the group rallied outside with signs.

—*Carol Coakley is a Mass. Peace Action Board member and the office coordinator.*





### Who We Are

**Mass. Peace Action Board of Directors:** Rosalie Anders, James Babson, Carol Coakley (national board rep), Shelagh Foreman (chair), Bonnie Gorman, Jared Hicks, Rosemary Kean, Jonathan King (vice-chair), Jeff Klein, Maryellen Kurkulos, Valentine Moghadam, Eva Moseley, Guntram Mueller, Jeff Napolitano, Prasannan Parthasarathi, John Ratliff, Pat Salomon, Denise Simmons, Brenton Stoddart, Michael VanElzakker.

**Staff:** Cole Harrison, executive director; Michelle Cunha, assistant director; Carol Coakley, office coordinator; Caitlin Forbes, student outreach coordinator.

**Student Chapter Presidents:** Maria Alegria (Brandeis), Lucy Giorgano (Suffolk), Matthew Jurlait (Tufts), Annie Tsan (Boston Latin HS), Zachary (Newton South HS).

**Interns:** Audrey Holt (BU School of Theology), Shirley Wang (Tufts).

**Newsletter Editor:** Jacqueline King

### Join us!

Massachusetts Peace Action is a nonpartisan, nonprofit membership organization working to develop the sustained political power to foster a more just and peaceful U.S. foreign policy.

We are an affiliate of Peace Action, the nation's largest grassroots peace and disarmament membership organization, with more than 18,000 members and 30 state affiliates across the country.

Our work is funded entirely by donations from our members.

Membership levels (per calendar year):

\$65 Family

\$40 Individual

\$10 Limited income or student

Make tax-deductible donations in any amount to the Massachusetts Peace Action Education Fund. Mail check to 11 Garden St., Cambridge, MA 02138 or go to [masspeaceaction.org/donate](http://masspeaceaction.org/donate). Thank you for your support!

### Get Involved

—Nuclear Disarmament: First Sunday every month, 3pm, Harvard-Epworth Methodist Church, 1555 Mass Ave, Camb, Jonathan King, [jaking@mit.edu](mailto:jaking@mit.edu)

—Middle East: Prasannan Parthasarathi, [prasannan.parthasarathi@bc.edu](mailto:prasannan.parthasarathi@bc.edu)

—Palestine/Israel: Jeff Klein, [jjk123@comcast.net](mailto:jjk123@comcast.net)

—People's Budget: Cole Harrison, [cole@masspeaceaction.org](mailto:cole@masspeaceaction.org)

—Climate and Peace: Rosalie Anders, [rosalie.h.anders@gmail.com](mailto:rosalie.h.anders@gmail.com)

—Racial Justice: Rosemary Kean, [rosemarykean510@gmail.com](mailto:rosemarykean510@gmail.com)

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