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VOICES OF YOUTH

Another world is possible

Two continents, two seminal gatherings, a world of hope for a more generous future.

In the summer of 2001, more than 10,000 people gathered in South Africa for the Third UN World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance (WCAR). Then, in February 2002, some 80,000 more converged on Brazil for the World Social Forum, which focused on the effects of unrestricted free trade. Both gatherings were momentous because of the opportunities for networking and cross-fertilization at the grassroots level.

The American Friends Service Committee's delegations to both events included sizable numbers of young people connected to our more than fifty youth-related programs worldwide. What they had to say about their experiences paints a picture of a generation that wants to live in a peaceful and just world; a generation that is, above all, dedicated to building that world.

Photo: Demonstration at the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil

World Conference Against Racism

I came away with a strong drive to end militarism and create peace, harmony, and social justice.

Isaiah Brokenleg, Seattle Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, and Questioning Youth Program

Racism contributes to economic and political conditions that produce desperate acts such as the tragic events of September 11. Lasting peace therefore depends on a worldwide movement for racial justice. The WCAR, held in Durban, South Africa, was one of the building blocks for such a movement.

The AFSC's youth participants say that the conference furthered their understanding of other peoples' struggles and the importance of working together:

I will be able to call upon Roma, African, Asian Indigenous, and African descendant friends to lend a helping hand on issues that affect us Native Americans. I know that their struggle is my struggle.

Tansey Smith, American Indian Program, AFSC Pacific Mountain Region

Continued on back page

Welfare reform with justice and dignity

AS THE U.S. CONGRESS considers new welfare legislation this year, Millicent Collins' voice will be one of the most important they hear.

A long-time community activist and volunteer with AFSC's Upper New York State Area Office in Syracuse, New York — and herself a former recipient of public assistance — Collins recently met with aides to senators Hillary Clinton, Charles Schumer, and Rep. James Walsh, as part of a "lobby day" on welfare reauthorization.

Chrissie Rizzo, area program

director in Syracuse; Kathryn Kurtz, associate director of the Community Relations Unit based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Roberta Spivek, who is coordinating welfare advocacy for AFSC's Nationwide Women's Program in Philadelphia, also made congressional visits.

"The key thing for me was that the National Council of Churches hosted this event," Millicent says. "There was an abundance of hearts and minds answering the prophetic call to 'Go and do justice with the poor and disenfranchised of our land.'"

Continued on page three

Palestine-Israel crisis fund

Money is needed for immediate relief, such as medical aid, food, and bedding, to help people in Palestine-Israel. AFSC's Emergency and Material Assistance program has already released \$90,000 to the staff in Ramallah and Gaza.

AFSC staff members are assessing the situation there and planning long-term strategies. As things stabilize, they hope to create opportunities for Palestinian youth to work on reconstruction and rehabilitation of shelled and damaged houses. Such productive experiences will give them chances to serve their communities, take leadership roles, and dispel feelings of helplessness.

Donations in any amount will provide emergency supplies during the current crisis and support long-term reconstruction and peacebuilding efforts. Checks may be made payable to AFSC, earmarked for Palestine-Israel fund, and mailed to:

AFSC-Development
1501 Cherry Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102-1479

To donate by credit card, call, toll-free: 1-888-588-2372, ext. 1, or go to the secure, online donation web page at www.afsc.org/contrib.htm.

For more information and updates, go to www.afsc.org/mideasthome.htm.

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Axis of Evil**

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help to hope**

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**Colombia
campaign**

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Lifting up the voice of dissent

A GROUP OF IMMIGRANTS in Los Angeles — seven Palestinians and a Kenyan — are arrested in a flurry of SWAT teams and helicopters. Their offense? Distributing magazines commonly found in libraries and bookstores. There is no evidence of illegal activity by the "LA8," as they are dubbed.

A federal interagency document leaked to the press after the arrests reveals that the prosecution of the LA8 is part of a plan to deport thousands of Arabs and Muslims, solely on the basis of their religion or national origin. The document includes an analysis of previous efforts by the U.S. government to deport Iranian immigrants, which states clearly that the INS did not know whether the deportees opposed — or supported — U.S. policy toward Iran.

It all sounds like it could have happened yesterday, or at any time since September 11. In fact, these arrests took place in January 1987.

At the time, in keeping with its history of questioning unjust policies in the United States and abroad, the AFSC undertook a lengthy campaign that included media outreach and organizing at the local and national level. Numerous court decisions have confirmed the illegality of the government's actions against the LA8, yet the Justice Department continues to pursue the case.

It's now nearly nine months since the September 11 attacks, the initiation of the "war on terrorism," and the subsequent arrest of more than 1,400 immigrants, most of them from the Middle East and South Asia. Just as in 1987, the AFSC is once again exercising the right to dissent by shining a spotlight on U.S. government actions and

calling on government authorities to respect free speech, due process rights, and other constitutional protections for all people, including immigrants and refugees.

To date, authorities have filed criminal charges against only one man. Nonetheless, even though hundreds of people (no one knows the exact number) are still incarcerated in INS detention centers, the Justice Department will not release their names or disclose any information about their cases. As proposed in the document leaked in 1987, many detainees have been or most likely will be deported. Furthermore:

- some 5,000 Arab and Muslim immigrants have been questioned solely on the basis of their ethnic or religious backgrounds, and
- dozens of searches have been conducted in the homes and offices of prominent U.S. Muslim leaders.

The new USA-Patriot Act also has authorized warrantless searches, detention without charges, and the use of secret evidence. Some of these measures are restricted to noncitizens, while others apply to citizens and noncitizens alike. Staff of AFSC's immigrant rights programs nationwide are working tirelessly to teach immigrants about their rights and what to do if they are arrested in this "war against terrorism." To stretch the AFSC's reach, some immigrants are being trained to help educate others.

In addition, the AFSC Immigrant Rights Pro-



Linda Lotz



Rachael Kamel

gram in Newark, New Jersey, is coordinating the work of various groups in the state to offer "know-your-rights" presentations in INS detention centers. This is the only way advocates can make contact with the detainees to offer them legal representation.

Just as importantly, the AFSC is lifting up the voice of dissent, which is vital at all times, but never more so than in times of war. We support the rights and dignity of all immigrants as an expression of our Quaker values. Our opposition to the recent treatment of immigrants is also based on the fact that the Bill of Rights, in setting forth our most basic democratic protections, makes no reference to citizenship status.

History shows that in time of war, constitutional rights are frequently violated, such as the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. The quest for peace is always most fragile precisely when it is most urgent — and the right to dissent is the most basic tool in the quest for peace.

Linda Lotz is a member of the AFSC International Programs staff. She worked on the LA8 case as part of the Middle East Peace Education Program in Pasadena, California. Rachael Kamel is the education coordinator in the Community Relations Unit.

ONE VOICE

Mary Ellen McNish

The REAL Axis of Evil

In January, I physically recoiled when I heard President Bush in his State of the Union address name Iran, Iraq, and North Korea as the Axis of Evil. The AFSC works in two of those countries — Iraq and North Korea — because we know from 85 years of experience that establishing mutual respect and trust opens the door to making peace.

From our work around the world, we know the real axis of evil is environmental degradation, pandemic poverty, and a world awash in weapons. Our nation should invest its energy and resources in finding ways and means to end these debilitating conditions, which lead to war.

When name-calling is used, it diverts us from our real work — it sets anger in motion, unfairly stereotypes people, and stirs hatred and violence.

My thoughts go back to visiting North Korea last October. Instead of faces of evil, I saw hardworking, dignified people, trying to regain their self-sufficiency after years of flood and drought, and gradually open their culture to the outside world. The AFSC works with three cooperative farms in North Korea, and we have sponsored a number of exchanges of agronomists and medical experts between North Korea and the United States. We have great

respect for the North Korean people.

I think, too, about the people in Iraq, most of whom don't have clean drinking water, medicine, or enough food, due to economic sanctions. Are they our enemies? Do they deserve to be called "evil"? The AFSC's Campaign of Conscience calls for an end to sanctions, has sponsored delegations to visit Iraq, and is raising money for water purification systems. (See page 7.)

No government in the world is without flaw, whether looking at the countries targeted by President Bush — or the United States, to our regret. The issue is, how can we create conditions that will help make needed changes non-

violently? We know from experience that it is possible to identify common interests and negotiate mutually beneficial agreements. Name-calling hoists barriers to communication.

The United States has unparalleled strength and resources, which can be used for good or ill. Let's work to support what is good.

For more information on AFSC's work in North Korea and Iraq, go to these websites: www.afsc.org/iraq.htm, www.afsc.org/conscience, and www.afsc.org/intl/asia/nkorea.htm.



Mary Ellen McNish

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Children in armed conflicts: A worldwide crisis

I joined the army voluntarily... because [they] came to our village and stole our cattle and killed people....I took part in about eight combats....Now I want to go home to my parents and go to school.

THESE REFLECTIONS, from a former child soldier interviewed by AFSC staff in Central Africa, are nearly three years old, yet they remain distressingly current.

Worldwide, there are more than 300,000 child soldiers fighting in conflicts. (Child soldiers are defined as boys and girls under age 18, although many are under 15.) Some are forced into military service — by government and nongovernment troops — at gun point or to protect the lives of family members. Others join because they're desperate for food, medical care, or shelter.

Efforts by AFSC and the broader Quaker community to end this abuse range from advocating for changes in national and international policies to reintegrating

child soldiers into civil society.

The Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) in Geneva, Switzerland, has been especially active at the policy level. Rachel Brett, associate representative in QUNO-Geneva, is chairperson of the international Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers.

One of the coalition's main goals has been to encourage national governments to ratify an optional UN protocol that, among other things, outlaws sending youth under 18 into combat and any recruitment of them except voluntary enlistment in governmental armed forces.

Furthermore, QUNO-Geneva and QUNO-New York have undertaken a pioneering study of girl soldiers. Studies such as this one can affect international policy and assist organizations working to demobilize and reintegrate child sol-

diers. It's a daunting task.

"Some children have been in armed groups since they were eight or nine years old," says Lori Heninger, associate representative in QUNO-New York. "What does this mean for a society where children don't know the rule of law? How do you reintegrate them into civil society?"

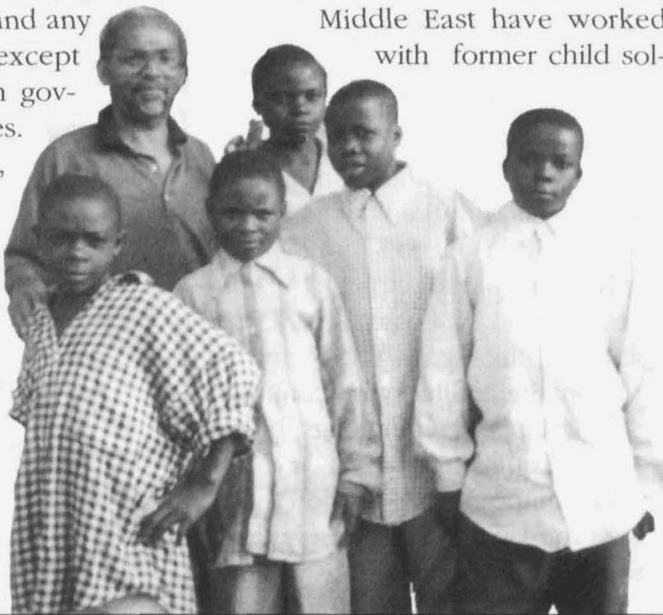
In addition to the QUNO offices, the AFSC Quaker International Affairs Representatives in Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East have worked with former child sol-

diers and/or advocated for the ratification of the UN optional protocol. In the United States, the AFSC National Youth & Militarism Program is active in, and was a founding member of, the U.S. Campaign to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers. The campaign's goals include pressing the U.S. government to ratify the optional protocol and ending U.S. military aid, weapons sales, and training that facilitates the use of child soldiers by other governments or armed military groups.

"The long-term goal is to end war," Lori says. "We have to bite that off a piece at a time. Stopping the use of child soldiers is one of those urgently needed pieces."

Please visit www.afsc.org/youthmil/childsoldiers for more information about efforts by the AFSC and QUNO to end the use of child soldiers and to find out how you can help.

PHOTO: Central Africa QIAR Ahmed Shariff (far left) with a group of former child soldiers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (1999).



Persistence pays off in victories for maquiladora workers

IN A TESTAMENT to persistence, organizing skills, and political savvy, workers at Alcoa Plant #2 in Piedras Negras, Mexico, have recently scored significant victories in their efforts to improve working conditions.

The workers have gained awareness and the confidence to voice their concerns and demands before management, an achievement in itself given Mexico's tight labor controls. The workers reaffirmed their growing power by winning a critical union election earlier this year that installed a new, democratic union executive committee. The election unseated the slate of candidates endorsed by plant management.

The workers' gains have been made possible, in part, with support from the AFSC and its partner organization, the CFO, a Mexican grassroots organization of *maquiladora* workers, both women and men, that promotes union democracy and workers' rights in six cities along the Mexico-U.S. border.

(Maquiladoras are foreign-owned factories along the Mexico-U.S. border. Alcoa is the world's largest producer of aluminum, and Plant #2 in Piedras Negras has about 1,800 employees.)

Together, the AFSC and CFO have helped workers at Alcoa Plant

#2 get organized, publicize their struggles, and make connections with U.S. labor unions as well as Alcoa shareholders and executives.

"During the eight years of NAFTA, only a handful of workers' organizing efforts inside the maquiladoras have resulted in democratic union election victories," says Ricardo Hernández, director of the AFSC's Mexico-U.S. Border Program, which has supported organizing efforts by maquiladora workers since 1979. "The victory of a CFO-supported slate in one Alcoa plant represents a qualitative step forward in workers' unity and empowerment."

A key component of the recent victories has been the pressure exerted by a group of more than a dozen Alcoa institutional investors. Working through the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility, AFSC and other faith-based investors have facilitated direct communications between the maquiladora workers and Alcoa executives.

The workers hope that ongoing conversations with key Alcoa executives will bring a positive response to their demands for the reestablishment of many benefits that were severely slashed last January and full recognition and respect for the legality of the recent election and the democratic union.

Welfare reform with justice, dignity

Continued from page one

An ordained minister, Millicent has been involved with AFSC for almost twenty years. She was drawn to AFSC's youth and militarism work when her son was in high school. Soon, she was asked to serve on the regional board of directors.



Millicent Collins

In 1991, Millicent helped initiate the Syracuse office's Welfare Watchdogs. The Watchdogs grew out of a desire among women receiving public assistance to address concerns about the system.

"We're a close-knit group," Millicent says.

In addition to meeting regularly with the Onondaga County Commissioner of Social Services, the Watchdogs lead workshops for social work students and welfare recipients, invite legislators and church groups to live on a simulated welfare budget, and accompany welfare recipients on office visits.

"It has had a great impact on how people are treated," Millicent acknowledges.

Like Millicent, AFSC is raising a "prophetic voice" in our nation's welfare policy debate.

By September 30, 2002, Congress must reauthorize the 1996 welfare reform law. Under the law's Temporary Assistance to Needy

Families (TANF) program, Congress ended federal cash assistance to impoverished families, required adult recipients to work for benefits, and limited benefits to five years. Many families are now reaching those limits.

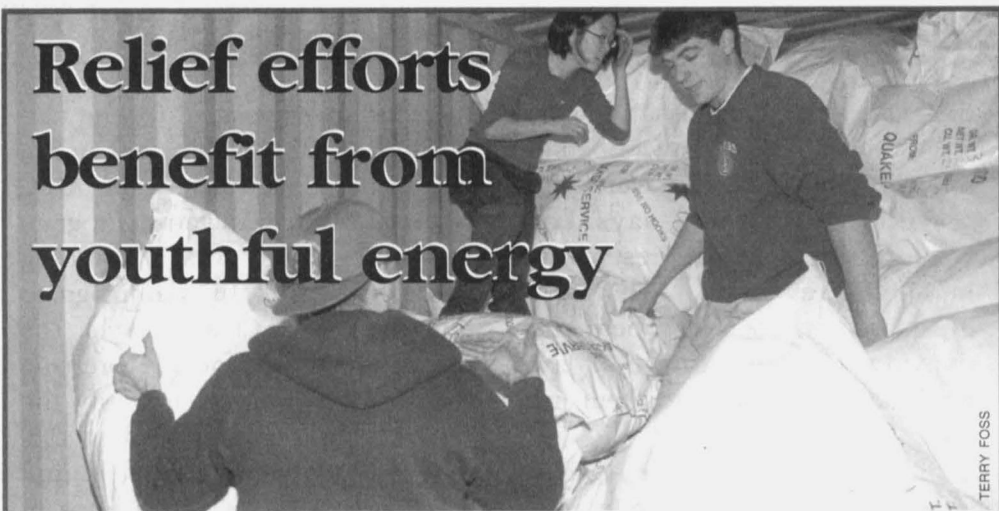
While welfare caseloads have fallen dramatically, U.S. child poverty, food insecurity, and homelessness rates remain shockingly high. AFSC and other advocates are urging Congress to make poverty reduction the goal of welfare reform and to support programs that will help all families achieve economic security.

In addition to working with Welfare Watchdogs and conducting listening projects, AFSC regional staff have played a key advocacy role in West Virginia, New Hampshire, and other states. "Everyone is Deserving," AFSC's welfare "toolkit," has been distributed nationwide.

"Welfare reform affects two million families," says Kathryn Kurtz. "It's one of the most important U.S. economic justice issues in years."

For a copy of "Everyone is Deserving" or to join AFSC's TANF reauthorization listserve, contact Kathryn Kurtz at (215) 241-7125 or KKurtz@afsc.org.

Relief efforts benefit from youthful energy



TERRY FOSS

by M'Annette Ruddell

The kitchen was hot, steamy, and redolent of the fruit and sugar bubbling in a large pot on the stove. Ten-year old Marja Sweet and her mother Julie were busy preparing and bottling homemade peach and plum jams.

A student at the Quaker Moses Brown School in Providence, Rhode Island, Marja and her fifth-grade classmates each chose a service project. After researching charitable organizations, she decided to support Afghan children through AFSC.

At her Friends meeting, Marja sold "Pickles for Peace, Cards for Caring, and Jams for Justice." Jewelry made by her friend, Kaia Simmons, was added to the product line and sold at the local Catholic church. Altogether, Marja raised \$335.

This is just one example of the support the AFSC received from children around the country in the aftermath of September 11. Some, such as Elena Smith of Berkeley, California, asked for contributions to the AFSC instead of Christmas and Hanukkah presents. Peter Croce, a young Friend in Florida, designed and marketed his own "Peter Peace" T-shirt using the uni-

versal peace symbol overlaying the U.S. flag. He's donating all the profits to the Service Committee. Peter reports, "People really like the shirt because it gives an alternative to the encouragement of violence."

In addition to these spontaneous projects, hundreds of children participated in the AFSC's Blankets for Afghanistan Campaign at the end of 2001. With their indispensable help, the AFSC sent 15 forty-foot containers filled with comforters, knit items, sleeping bags, blankets, and quilts.

The outpouring of support from across the United States resulted in nearly 75,000 items sent, valued at more than \$1.3 million. Refugee camp residents in Tajikistan, Iran, and Pakistan received the donated goods.

As AFSC assists in reconstruction and development in Afghanistan, there no doubt will be many other ways that caring children can contribute their energy and commitment to serving others.

M'Annette Ruddell is associate director of donor communications in the Development Department.

PHOTO (top): Volunteers help pack material goods in Philadelphia (Pa.) destined for Afghan refugees.

No More Victims campaign moves into the next phase

The war on terrorism "will change the context" of AFSC's work for years to come, says Mary Lord, interim director of the Peacebuilding Unit. "We need to recognize that this is a longer war than we ever imagined," she says.

That calls for developing a strategy to educate the public about root causes of terrorism, provide training and advocacy for immigrants affected by increasingly repressive federal policies, and explore and publicize alternatives to military force.

This new plan follows the "No More Victims" campaign, launched by AFSC last fall after the September 11 tragedies. That effort tried to deter the U.S. government from declaring war and advocated recourse through international law.

Since then, AFSC programs

throughout the United States have witnessed the grave effects the war is having on civil liberties, especially among immigrants. The AFSC has responded with training programs for immigrants at the Mexico-U.S. border and detainees in the federal detention center in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

In the initial phase of No More Victims, the AFSC rallied like-minded people, resulting in more than a thousand signatures for full-page ads that ran in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Boston Globe*, and *Roll Call*. Future events will expand the circle of support through education, media contacts, and public events, and will strengthen connections with peace groups worldwide.

For more information, please go to www.afsc.org/nomore.

9/11 From

Afghan relief and long-term development form the core of AFSC's international efforts

by Leila Richards

EVEN BEFORE SEPTEMBER 11, more than 3.5 million Afghans were living as refugees in Pakistan and Iran. After the U.S. bombing campaign began in October 2001, another 300,000 Afghans fled across the border, chiefly to Pakistan and Iran. In addition, 300,000 more Afghans gathered at displaced persons camps in Afghanistan where they could receive basic health services and food rations from international aid agencies.

The AFSC has responded to the tremendous need with a humanitarian relief and long-term development effort designed to end the suffering magnified by the bombing.

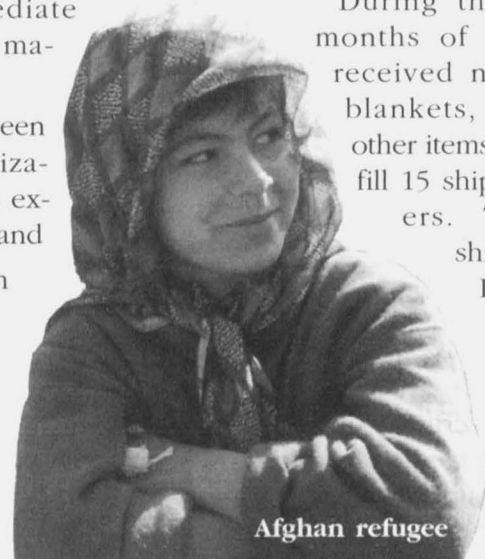
In October 2001, AFSC established its Relief and Reconstruction Program for Afghanistan to

- ✧ respond to the current emergency with immediate relief in cash and material donations,
- ✧ strengthen links between local Afghan organizations and the Afghan expatriate community, and
- ✧ establish a long-term presence in the region by supporting community-based initiatives.

Between October 2001 and January 2002, AFSC organized short-term missions to northern Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran to assess the needs of Afghan refugees and displaced persons forced to leave their homes because of drought, destruction of their homes, poverty, and/or fear of violence. During these missions, AFSC representatives Doug Hostetter, Nancy Smith, and myself worked with local and international humanitarian organizations, using their networks and expertise to supply food, quilts and plastic sheeting, and winter jackets.

At the same time, the AFSC's Emergency and Material Assistance Program (EMAP) organized a blanket campaign that was taken up by Quaker schools and communities in the United States.

During the final four months of 2001, EMAP received nearly 75,000 blankets, quilts, and other items — enough to fill 15 shipping containers. These were shipped to Iran, Pakistan, and Tajikistan, where they were distributed by



Afghan refugee



Many Afghans have fled to refugee and displaced persons camps.

help to hope

AFSC's partner organizations in refugee and internally displaced persons' camps. (For more information, check the AFSC website at www.afsc.org/ematasst.htm.)

Focus on education

Hadi Azimi, an Afghan-American with close ties to the expatriate Afghan community in California, is serving as AFSC's field representative in Afghanistan. During our first mission to Afghanistan earlier this year, Hadi and I concluded that AFSC's long-term work could focus on Afghanistan's educational system.

We met with representatives of local Afghan organizations and discovered a great need for help with rebuilding Afghan schools.

In addition, some organizations have developed a peace education curriculum used in the classroom and for teacher training. This curriculum, which dovetails with Quaker beliefs and principles, opens the door for the AFSC to establish partnerships between Afghan and Quaker schools.

Shortly after arriving in Kabul, Hadi hosted a delegation of young Afghan-Americans visiting the country for the first time. The Afghan Coalition, a California-based organization, and AFSC's San Francisco office sponsored the trip.

The delegation, which consisted of young professionals, spent two weeks in Pakistan and Afghanistan serving as volunteers to assist in the distribution



AFSC relief supplies arrive in Pakistan late last year.



AFSC's long-term work will focus on education.

of blankets sent by AFSC. Hadi hopes that participants will return for a longer stay and encourage other Afghan-Americans to contribute their skills to help rebuild the country.

Hadi will continue to travel throughout Afghanistan to look at the problems faced by refugees and displaced families returning to their homes. In the face of this unfolding human tragedy, the information he gathers will be used to further AFSC's advocacy work in the United States, and to guide the AFSC's humanitarian projects in the field.

Regular updates of AFSC's relief, development, and advocacy efforts are available online at www.afsc.org/no-more/updates.htm.

Leila Richards is the AFSC's field coordinator for Central Asia.

CENTRAL/EAST AFRICA

Bridging religious differences

The September 11 attacks in the United States and the subsequent "war on terrorism" have heightened tensions between Christians and Muslims in Central and East Africa. AFSC's Quaker International Affairs Representative Ahmed Shariff has worked with religious leaders in three countries to promote peace and reconciliation:

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) With AFSC support, religious leaders have formed an interfaith group for peace in Kinshasa, and some women's groups and youth organizations formed respective national organizations for peace. In October 2001, more than 800 women pledged to work together to bring peace and justice in their country. They also thanked the AFSC for providing the vision for this endeavor. The interfaith, youth, and women's groups agreed to form a DRC

Peace Center to coordinate their work.

Kenya In Nairobi, a Muslim/Christian Committee formed with help from the AFSC and the Friends International Center of Nairobi. Muslim and interdenominational Christian committee members celebrated the Muslim holiday of Eid El-Fitri in December and came together again during the Christmas holiday. Ahmed also is engaging local Friends in the Muslim/Christian dialogue.

Uganda The silent intolerance that exists between Muslims and Christians could develop into a serious problem if not adequately addressed. In November 2001, Ahmed helped bring religious groups together in Kampala to address religious intolerance in Uganda with the goal of eventually creating a new interfaith organization.

OPINION

Back to the future in the war on terror

by James Reilly

We're told that the war on terrorism is a new kind of war, yet it has all the foreboding signs of another recent war: the Cold War. Like the Cold War, the fight against terrorism is impeding effective analysis, delicate diplomacy, and patient progress toward a sustainable peace in Asia.



James Reilly

During the Cold War, the U.S. fought wars and established military bases throughout Southeast Asia, only to begin a military drawdown in the 1990s. The war on terrorism has reversed this trend. The United States again has troops in the Philippines, Congress has withdrawn its ban on military aid to Indonesia, and the military hardware has begun to flow back into Southeast Asia after a decade of slowing arms sales.

Also similar to the Cold War, today's alleged terrorist countries are being demonized regardless of their domestic policy trends. In the 1980s, the Soviet Union was dubbed the "evil empire" just as Gorbachev began his policy of openness and reform. President Bush has similarly located Iran and North Korea on his infamous Axis of Evil.

Ironically, in the past two years North Korea has managed to improve its relations with almost everyone but President Bush. In April 2000, South Korean President Kim Dae Jung made his historic visit to Pyongyang. Last year North Korea normalized relations with much of Europe. Its leader, Kim Jong Il, also visited Beijing and Shanghai where he saw first-hand the rewards of economic reform and diplomatic moderation.

Finally, the Bush administration is quietly returning to the early Cold War effort to encircle China militarily. The United States is building new air bases in Central Asia, escalating arms sales to South Asia and Taiwan, and expanding missile defense plans in East Asia. The Pentagon recently listed China as a potential target for U.S. nuclear weapons. These actions, justified through the war on terrorism, threaten to turn the "China threat" into a self-fulfilling prophecy.

So far in East Asia, the chickens of this back-to-the-future policy have not come home to roost. However, this moment will not last forever. The Bush administration should take careful measure before it returns us all to the bad old days of the Cold War.

James Reilly and Wu Na are the new East Asia Quaker International Affairs Representatives (QIARs). Based in Dalian, China, they facilitate regional exchanges aimed at reducing militarism and promoting conflict resolution, and work to improve U.S./China and U.S./North Korea relations.

AFSC makes Colombia a priority as civil war rages on

As the United States began to change its policy toward Colombia under the guise of the "war on drugs," the situation in Colombia became a priority for the AFSC.

Today, the U.S. government is proposing an expansion of military aid to Colombia through its "war on terrorism" despite the Colombian military's close ties to paramilitary groups that commit upward of 70 percent of civilian assassinations there.

These developments are of utmost concern today because the breakdown of the Colombian peace negotiations this past February shattered the fragile hope that the talks would yield a solution to the country's 40-year civil war. In the wake of that breakdown, the already desperate humanitarian situation grew even worse.

In response, the AFSC launched the Paz! Peace for Colombia campaign and released \$25,000 from its crisis fund for immediate humanitarian support to the displaced and grassroots communities working for peace. These actions continue the AFSC's history of work on Colombia and in the Andean region, which includes:

- working to stop U.S. military aid to Colombia through peace education and efforts to change U.S. policy,
- helping to forge a peaceful negotiated solution to the civil war together with the Colombian peace and human rights movement in the United States and Colombia,
- working within Colombia to ease some of the humanitarian needs of the 2.1 million displaced people,
- continuing programs in Colombia that strengthen the efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.

In all its efforts, the AFSC continues to support peace negotiations and initiatives that involve civil society and hold armed groups on both sides accountable for proposals that deal with social and economic issues.



ARTIST: G. ECHEVERRY

PAZ! Peace for Colombia campaign

Children living in war zones are often forced to become soldiers or carry out tasks that put their lives in danger. They may see and do terrible things, afraid they might be killed if they don't. Sometimes, art can help these children heal by allowing them to express how they feel.

That's why the AFSC's Emergency & Material Assistance Program (EMAP) has launched the Paz! Peace for Colombia campaign. The campaign will provide "Creative Kids Kits" to schools in several

conflict areas. Kits include construction paper, colored pencils, pens, and a drawing pad. EMAP also is raising funds to purchase food and medicines for people displaced by the internal warfare in Colombia.

For more information, contact Carlos Mejia by phone: (215) 241-7283 or e-mail: cmejia@afsc.org, or Michael Poulshock by phone: (215) 241-7041 or e-mail: mpoulshock@afsc.org. You also can log onto www.afsc.org/ematasst.htm.

RESOURCES

Echando Raices/Taking Root: Immigrant and Refugee Communities in California, Texas, and Iowa

This one-hour videotape documentary is a collaborative endeavor of AFSC immigrants' rights programs and their community partners in Fresno and Stockton, California; Houston, Texas; and Des Moines, Iowa. Stories and reflections from immigrants and refugees are interwoven with scenes of community life, a vibrant musical score, and perspectives from scholars, union and community activists, local officials, and displaced workers. The accompanying discussion guide includes suggested activities for using this tape with nonimmigrant and immigrant audiences, as well as background information on immigrants in the United States, immigration law and policy, and more. To order, visit www.takingroot.org. **\$99.99 (plus \$15 postage and handling)**. Special rates available for grassroots groups.

AFSC National Youth & Militarism Program

Online versions and the order form to get print copies of the following resources are available at www.afsc.org/youthmil/resources.

- ☐ The Use of Children as Soldiers/**75 cents**
- ☐ JROTC: Sending the Wrong Message About Weapons and Violence/**75 cents**
- ☐ Military and Latinos/**75 cents**
- ☐ High School Students' Rights/**75 cents**
- ☐ What Students and Educators Should Know About Military Testing in our High Schools/**15 cents** (10 cents each for 50 or more)

The Little Book of Peace

Compiled by Patricia J. Chui. This volume is small in size (4 1/4 x 5 1/4 inches) but big in impact as it quotes thinkers and doers throughout history, such as Mohandas Gandhi. The book was born in the aftermath of September 11 and is dedicated to the victims of that tragedy. 184 pages. **\$7.95**

The Wabanakis of Maine and the Maritimes

Newly revised edition of an AFSC bestseller! Written for educators, students, historians, and others interested in Native people. Includes line drawings and photographs, bibliography, resource listings, and a CD of pronunciation of Wabanaki words from the book and several songs. Published by the AFSC Wabanaki Program. **\$30 (plus \$5 shipping and handling)**.

To place an order or get an AFSC resource catalog, contact Literature Resources, AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Phila., PA 19102, or call toll free 1-888-588-AFSC; (215) 241-7048; fax: (215) 241-7275.

Make checks payable to AFSC, Literature Resources.

TITLE / ITEM	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL

Shipping & handling \$3.50 for first book, 50 cents for each additional item. International rates apply for shipping outside the United States.

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www.afsc.org/resource/resource.htm

SPRING 2002

Let peace begin with...the Internet?

By Mark Graham

A REVOLUTION IS IN THE MAKING in the peace movement, but it isn't happening only in the streets. It's happening on the Internet, too.

Technology has enabled activists to instantly share ideas, analysis, and plans, and the AFSC is rapidly expanding its use of this far-reaching organizing and educational tool.

One example is the AFSC's Campaign of Conscience for the Iraqi People (www.afsc.org/conscience).

The campaign is working to lift economic sanctions on Iraq through a combination of public education in the United States and humanitarian relief that includes building a water system in Iraq in open violation of the sanctions. It's cosponsored by dozens of peace and justice groups, Quaker meetings and churches, and religious organizations.

The campaign already has attracted more

than 3,000 supporters online alone.

"The website and e-mail have been our greatest assets," says Peter Lems, program assistant for Iraq in the AFSC's Peacebuilding Unit. "We constantly update our site so anyone can see what the campaign is doing, learn about Iraq, and get involved."

He notes that the campaign's biweekly e-mail newsletter has more than 3,000 subscribers. In addition, the website has a one-stop resource guide and an often-used form to join the campaign. And more than 3,900 people have signed the online peace pledge against expanding the current war into Iraq.

Other examples of the AFSC's dynamic online activism include the following:

- The No More Victims campaign (www.afsc.org/nomore) has used the web to raise money and collect nearly 5,000 names to add to the Nobel Peace Laureates' letter to the United Nations calling for "a culture of peace."
- The website for the National Youth and

Militarism Program (www.afsc.org/youthmil) includes a monthly online magazine, analysis of the military's use of public schools, and resources to help young people find internships or fellowships.

- Grassroots Voices (www.grassrootsvoices.org), produced by staff of the AFSC's Great Lakes Region, hosts compelling digital videos about the effects of the current war. The videos are narrated by Douglas Hostetter, who talks about what he found when he visited Afghanistan late last year.

With technology always changing, who knows what will be happening online a year from now? Stay tuned.

Mark Graham is the web coordinator for AFSC's Peacebuilding Unit.

Join us online!

In addition to the websites listed in the accompanying story, check these out if you want to add cyber-activism to your resume:

- **AFSC Peace Programs**
www.afsc.org/peace

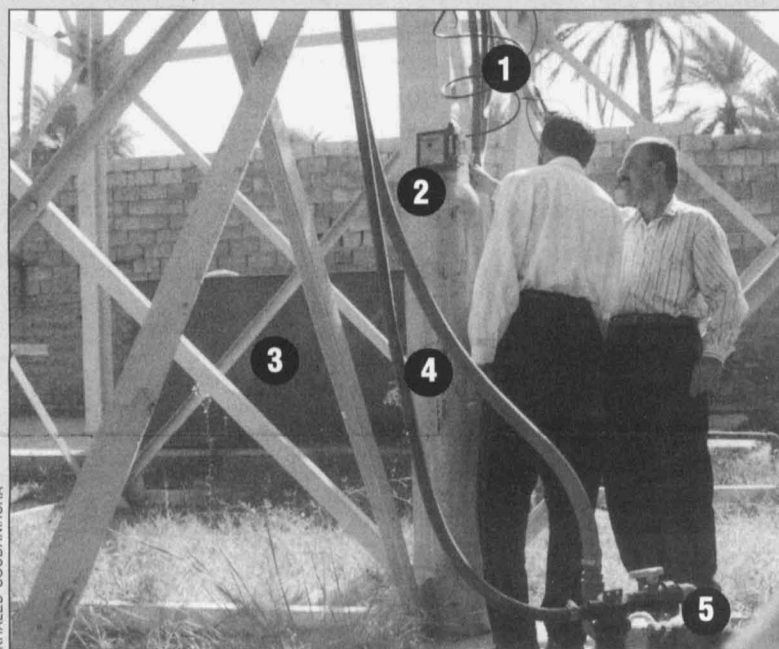
- **Southern Africa**
www.afsc.org/intl/africa/soafrica.htm

Bimonthly reports from the AFSC's Quaker International Affairs Representative

- **Quaker United Nations Office**
www.afsc.org/quno.htm

Reports on UN activities regarding peacebuilding, trade, human rights, disarmament, and development. Includes information about alternatives to military action in response to the events of September 11.

You also can use our congressional e-mail generator (capwiz.com/afsc/issues/alert/?alertid=14&type=CO) to send a message to your representative and use our online media guide (capwiz.com/afsc/dbq/media) to send e-mail messages to local, regional, and national newspapers, radio and TV stations, and electronic media publications.



Water purifiers arrive in Iraq

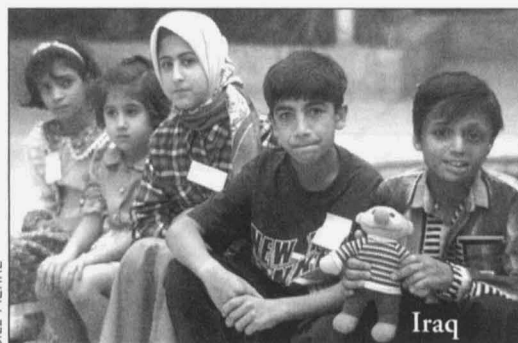
The Campaign of Conscience is a prime example of the power of web activism. Among the campaign's many accomplishments was purchasing, delivering, and helping to install much-needed water purifiers (left).

1. Pipes in and outlet
2. Chlorinator
3. Ground tank (small)
4. Chlorine cylinder
5. Water pump

We're being told that Iraq, Iran, North Korea, and Somalia are our enemies.

The American Friends Service Committee believes that no one is our enemy.

- AFSC is on the ground in North Korea combating hunger by working with collective farms to improve their yield.
- The AFSC-sponsored Campaign of Conscience for the People of Iraq works to end UN sanctions that lead to thousands of deaths each month from malnutrition and preventable disease.
- AFSC is working with the Iranian Red Crescent to provide ongoing relief to refugees in western Afghanistan.
- In Somalia's Lower Shabelle Region, AFSC's Rural Development Training Program works to improve farming in nine villages through improved irrigation and tool banks.



A charitable gift annuity with AFSC underwrites our ongoing work for peace and reconciliation.

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80	8.9
82	9.4
84	10.1
86	10.8
88	11.4
90+	12.0

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For information, call toll-free 1-888-588-2372, ext. 3.

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E-mail: GiftPlanning@afsc.org or mail coupon to AFSC.

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☐ Including AFSC in my estate plan and/or will.

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Name (2) _____ Birth date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Type of asset: ☐ Securities ☐ Cash

Another world is possible



World Conference Against Racism, South Africa



Photos: Isaiah Brokenleg



World Social Forum, Brazil



Photos: Diora Leão da Costa

The bursts of networking and organizing energy that occurred in Durban and Porto Alegre continue to have repercussions for AFSC work.

Continued from page one

Many students feel that Cambodian culture is being destroyed by outside cultures. This experience helped me realize that cultures cannot stand still and that change can be good.

Outh Rene, Youth for Peace, Cambodia

For all the AFSC participants, Durban was just a beginning. AFSC youth delegates, for example, are part of an international network that is continuing its work far beyond Durban.

Some of the most active AFSC groups include the young people from Chicago, Illinois, who have reported back to more than thirty groups and met with the Illinois Black Caucus and local and state politicians. And members of the AFSC-sponsored Roma and Andean delegations are coordinating numerous local, national, and international gatherings and grassroots projects that address various forms of discrimination.

World Social Forum

The World Social Forum, held in Porto Alegre, Brazil, was an extravagant outburst of popular education, organizing, and celebration of global diversity. Focused around the theme "Another World is Possible," the forum blew breezes of hope across a continent concerned about the effects of unrestricted free trade and renewed military intervention by the United States.

Being a major sector of the world's population so directly affected by the devastating results of this "new" economic model has forced young people

from around the world to stand up and oppose these conditions.

Juny, São Paulo Program, Brazil

The AFSC youth delegates were struck by the strong anti-U.S. sentiment at the forum, and they felt that having a U.S. — and AFSC — presence was vital:

If we are going to create a global movement for peace and justice, we need to connect more with people of other countries and let them know that we [U.S. peace and justice activists] are here.

Riva Pearson

AFSC New Hampshire Program

I hope that next year AFSC will make an effort to organize more workshops. The workshops that AFSC did help to organize — such as resistance to the war on terrorism, youth movements, and racial justice in the United States — were all of interest to delegates and observers.

Lincoln Ellis, AFSC Peacebuilding Unit, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The AFSC plans to follow Lincoln's advice and share more of its unique approach to peace and nonviolent alternatives to conflict at next year's forum.

'...a ray of hope for a better world...'

Members of the AFSC delegations to the WCAR and World Social Forum returned home reinvigorated and eager to share what they learned with their local communities. The feel-

ings of the young people who represented AFSC at both gatherings are perhaps best summed up by **Nachilala Nkombo**, a young Zambian woman working with AFSC's Africa Initiative:

We must continue supporting these international endeavors and capitalize on their strengths as they give us a ray of hope for a better world possible for all, regardless of one's gender, nationality, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, or age... But we must remember that the strength of this global phenomenon depends on the work that we do on a daily basis back home.

For more information

Literally thousands of conferences, seminars, and workshops took place at both the World Conference Against Racism (WCAR) and the World Social Forum. An overview of what happened at each gathering and official outcomes such as the Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action from the WCAR are available on the following websites:

www.un.org/WCAR

www.racism.gov.za

www.forumsocialmundial.org.br

To read more about each conference from the AFSC perspective, log onto the AFSC website at www.afsc.org and search for "World Conference Against Racism" and "World Social Forum." You also may call (215) 241-7531 or (215) 241-7150.



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