

# QuakerAction

**The immigrants' rights movement awakens**

**In Haiti, reforestation project fosters stability and peace**

**Minimum wage victory in West Virginia**

**New network empowers youth in the Middle East**



**American Friends  
Service Committee**

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# QuakerAction

SUMMER 2006  
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## Teaching peace

*A Foot in Both Places* is an interactive educational toolkit featuring stories, photographs, music, games, and more. This toolkit is designed for the classroom or use by faith communities, educators, and activists concerned with civil rights and civil liberties, immigrants' rights, peace education, and anti-Arab racism and Islamophobia.

[www.afsc.org/both-places](http://www.afsc.org/both-places)

## Take action on immigrants' rights

Your voice and our joint actions are critical during the current national immigration debate. We need to let Congress know that any immigration reform legislation must be humane, practical, realistic, and comprehensive.

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## Corrections

In the spring 2006 issue, the photo credit on page 7 should have read "Kristen Petros." The bottom photo on the back page should have been credited to "Jonis Davis." We apologize for the errors.

## On the cover

Scene from Caledonia Farm, a refugee camp in Zimbabwe, where thousands of people have been displaced. See related story on page 9. (AP PHOTO/STR)

## FEATURES

### 3 Nothing to hide

Government spying targets AFSC, other peace advocates

### 4 No human being is illegal

The immigrants' rights movement awakens

### 6 Greener pastures

In Haiti, reforestation project fosters stability and peace



Eduardo Stanley

PAGE FIVE

## DEPARTMENTS

### 8 Currents

*News from around AFSC*

### 10 Words from Our Sponsors

*Volunteers keep AFSC humming*

### 11 Focus on West Virginia

*The story of a minimum wage victory*

### 12 Worldview: The Middle East

*New network empowers youth in the Middle East*



Terry Foss

PAGE EIGHT

### 13 Recommendations

*Three AFSC books illuminate marginalized communities*

### 14 Just Among Friends

*A message from AFSC General Secretary Mary Ellen McNish*



MERVAN

PAGE TWELVE

**Quaker Action**  
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Service Committee  
[www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org)

## Who we are

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) is a Quaker organization that includes people of various faiths who are committed to social justice, peace, and humanitarian service. Its work is based on the belief in the worth of every person and faith in the power of love to overcome violence and injustice.

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# Nothing to hide

## Government spying targets AFSC, other peace advocates

BY ALAN LESSIK

On December 13, 2005, NBC News broadcast a story that the Pentagon had been conducting illegal surveillance of domestic peace organizations, including the AFSC. This blatant abuse of civil liberties targeted the AFSC in the Northeast, Great Lakes, Middle Atlantic, and Pacific Mountain Regions for the vital role we play in developing non-violent alternatives to war and injustice.

All the activities the Pentagon has spied upon were publicly announced and sponsored by AFSC and other peace organizations. As Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) noted during the Senate's confirmation hearings of Samuel Alito's appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court, Friends do not hide their activities and one does not need a secret spy agency to find them out.

"If you want to find out what Quakers are up to," Leahy said, "you turn on CNN."

The database that NBC posted on its website listed a number of "incidents," as the Pentagon calls them, in California, Vermont, and Ohio. Typical of the incidents was an AFSC-endorsed protest at the Armed Forces Recruitment Center in San Francisco. This protest gathered support for Proposition I, a citizen initiative on the city's ballot in November 2005, which stated, "Shall it be city policy to oppose military recruiting in public schools and consider funding scholarships for education and training that could provide an alternative to military service?"

This is not the first time that a government agency has spied on the Service Committee. The first known incident occurred in 1919, just two years after AFSC was founded. Since then, the known



files on AFSC at the FBI alone come to thousands of pages. (See [foia.fbi.gov/foiaindex/committe.htm](http://foia.fbi.gov/foiaindex/committe.htm).) After each investigation, AFSC has been judged to be "a serious pacifist organization" and "a religious, charitable, peace organization."

Yet the spying continues. The current Pentagon database is secret. We do not know what is in it except for the released summaries. We hope to gain some answers through a Freedom of Information Act request that the American Civil Liberties Union filed on our behalf.

In these difficult times, we have found



some light. The Pentagon database refers to a number of these incidents as "counter-recruitment" events. Counter-recruitment describes AFSC's efforts to ensure that youth and their families know about their rights to opt out of the database of

student information that school districts are required to provide to the Pentagon.

AFSC's counter-recruitment efforts have been successful throughout the country. We have worked with school districts large and small on making sure that active opt-out programs are in place. We've also developed resource materials for students on career development and options for financing college, and we help youth make informed decisions about enlisting in the military.

While we look forward to the day when our government does not spy upon its own citizens and organizations, our resolve to continue developing nonviolent solutions for peace and justice remains.

*Alan Lessik is the director of AFSC's Pacific Mountain Region based in San Francisco, California.*

**Photos: Government surveillance has targeted counter-recruitment activities such as a recent demonstration in Pittsburgh by the Pittsburgh Organizing Group, an AFSC partner (top), and a 2005 press conference in San Francisco co-sponsored by AFSC (left).**

# No human being is illegal

The immigrants' rights movement awakens



This past spring, AFSC supported immigration marches and peaceful rallies nationwide, such as this one in Portland, Oregon.

BY ESTHER NIEVES

After months of listening to the nation's elected leaders debate, disagree, and ultimately pursue punitive and disjointed legislative actions, immigrant communities and their allies have joined the fray through an unparalleled series of national and community-led actions.

More than 100 immigrants' rights actions took place between March and May, including marches, peace vigils, public assemblies, and rallies, with millions participating.

AFSC staff nationwide have provided considerable support to local groups pressing for constructive immigration reform measures that do not diminish the rights of immigrant families and un-

documented workers.

AFSC's message, "No Human Being Is Illegal," has been at the center of our work. That work is varied and includes "Know Your Rights" workshops, legal and referral support, legislative information, and organizing support to many of the local mobilizations across the country.

Some might consider that the "awakening" of the nation's immigrant communities is a recent phenomenon, while others might say that this has been a slow and steady process.

What is unquestionable is the energy and transformative impact of these actions. Significantly, these actions were often led by grassroots community members—individuals and entire families—who will be directly affected by whatever policy measures are enacted.

AFSC will continue to call for just and humane legislation that does not create second-class citizens, separate families, or diminish the rights of workers. Global realities, both economic and political, must not be dealt with through punitive and short-term remedies.

The images on these two pages show the people at the center of the current immigration debate. Throughout our nation's history, excluded groups have struggled for equality, inclusion, dignity, and respect. These tenets must fuel our work and the nation's commitment to an immigration solution that affirms that, indeed, No Human Being Is Illegal.

*Esther Nieves is the interim director of Project VOICE, AFSC's national immigrants' rights initiative.*

# Welcoming the stranger

BY PAUL LACEY

Since 1917, AFSC has worked with war refugees and displaced persons, and advocated for the exploited and stateless. It has protested the treatment of Mexicans before the Depression, denounced the Chinese Exclusion Act, helped open doors to Spanish and Jewish refugees, and tried to prevent the uprooting and internment of Japanese Americans in World War II.

For four decades, we also have worked with immigrant workers and refugees from Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central America. In 1986, that long experience led our Board of Directors to mandate noncompliance with the provisions of the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) that require employers to acquire immigration status documentation for every employee.

We argued in court that IRCA meant AFSC would have to implement a law that created inequality and violated the inherent dignity of each person, both of which ran counter to our religious principles. Our case did not succeed, and we remain noncompliant with that requirement.



Paul Lacey (center) with other immigrants' rights supporters in Washington, D.C., in March.

Today, millions of undocumented people struggle to support their families among us. They work for and with us, pay taxes, and contribute to the Social Security system they cannot enjoy.

In March, I participated, along with many of our staff and volunteers, in a rally in Washington, D.C. The rally protested new attempts to criminalize undocumented people and all those—including clergy, social workers, teachers, lawyers, and medical providers—who help meet their human needs.

Some of us wore badges reading, "I am a teacher [minister, priest, social worker, doctor, lawyer], not a criminal," recognizing that, if these provisions become law, we will find ourselves having to be both—ethical servants of our vocations and law-breakers. An estimated twenty thousand people attended that rally.

As I write, a broad movement is unfolding for fair and comprehensive immigration reform that ultimately would enable the nation's immigrants to adjust

their immigration status. Hundreds of thousands have rallied around the country, and AFSC has helped organize many of these actions. We are at the beginning of what many are calling a new civil rights movement.

A center of our present work in migration and immigration is rightly called "Project VOICE." That work begins from the principle, enunciated in the UN's Declaration of Human Rights, that all human beings have the right to have rights—including the right to earn a living, provide for our families, educate our children, have or earn citizenship, participate in civil society, and help choose our leaders.

We work from the conviction that fences that criminalize aspirations for decent, productive lives do not make for good neighbors, and that temporary worker programs exploit people but welcome no guests. We work to monitor how vulnerable immigrant communities are treated, how public services are or are not provided. We offer legal services and referral support to assure that immigrants' rights are protected and respected.

In sum, we help immigrant communities organize themselves, to find and give voice to their aspirations and needs, and make their contributions to the common good.

*Paul Lacey is the Chair of the AFSC Board of Directors.*

*Photos: (inset) A rally in the rain in Farmersville, California. (bottom) Philadelphia rally for immigrants' rights in April.*





# Greener pastures

## In Haiti, reforestation project fosters . . .



A typical vision of the tropics includes lush vegetation, flowering trees, curling vines, and exotic wildlife. Would that were true of Haiti.

As one of the poorest countries in the world, Haiti confronts many of the problems of developing nations, including pervasive and disastrous deforestation. This contributes to chronic erosion of the valuable topsoil, reduces timber available for building homes, and increases the severity of natural disasters such as hurricanes.

A major aspect of AFSC's integrated development project in the Grand 'Anse region of western Haiti is that self-reliance and reforestation efforts are part of the mix. Community groups are trained to raise seedlings and in transplanting techniques.

### **Better nutrition, more income**

Fruit trees are among the varieties planted in the Grand 'Anse. Ultimately, the produce bolsters the nutrition of the families involved and the surplus harvest can be sold in local markets. Increasing income is crucial in areas where AFSC works, as a more stable economy produces a more stable population—one in which individuals are less likely to move and become part of an increasing migrant population.

One woman participant from Dame-Marie, Haiti, notes, "The AFSC reforestation project is very important. It allowed us to sell the saplings and get money to plant cabbages that we sell in the market and then we can feed our children."

"The project is good as we now work together as a group," says another woman who lives in Deremont, Haiti. "I also started to plant cacao that will help me and my family improve our lives."

### **Values-driven approach**

In its international programs, the Service Committee chooses to work in areas of conflict. From a values-driven approach, AFSC plans how to ad-



## ... stability and peace

dress and resolve the conflicts in consultation with the affected communities. This can have a lasting impact in places such as Haiti.

“Participants learn to cooperate and make decisions in a democratic framework,” explains Denise Davis, a program coordinator of AFSC’s Latin America/Caribbean programs. “That reinforces their responsibilities as citizens of an emerging democracy.”

On the surface, reforestation may seem to be merely a reasonable solution to a difficult situation. But Denise notes that AFSC’s methods help address a wide range of fundamental issues.

“What AFSC brings is the human dynamic of peaceful cooperation and the goal of attaining basic human rights,” she notes. “That means the right to live in dignity with enough income for food and shelter, and access to education and good health. It also means the right to vote and, ultimately, to have a voice in one’s own destiny.”

*For more information about AFSC’s work on Haiti, log onto [www.afsc.org/haiti](http://www.afsc.org/haiti).*



### A success story



The community-based women’s group, Fanm Tet Ansanm (Women in Unity), from Dame-Marie profited from their participation in the reforestation project. The group created a satellite nursery, sold saplings, and used the funds to buy agricultural tools and cabbage seeds. They then sold the cabbages at local markets and plan to use the profits to create two more gardens.

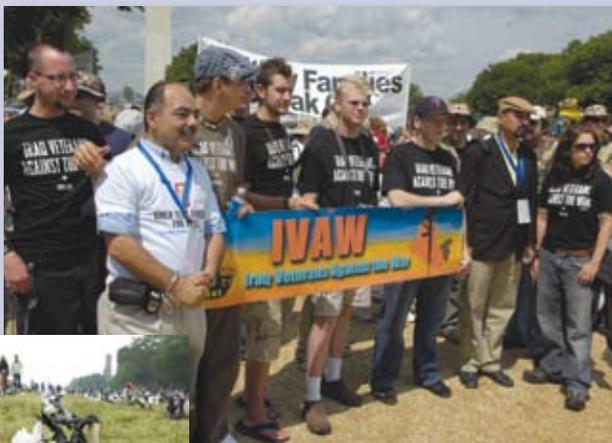
*Photos: Page 6 and 7 (top and middle) Scenes from the project’s satellite nurseries; (above) widespread deforestation contributes to other problems in Haiti.*

Photos: Serge Bordenave, Denise Davis

## News from around AFSC



### A witness for peace in the nation's capital



For four days in May, AFSC's Eyes Wide Open exhibit anchored a witness for peace on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., called "Silence of the Dead, Voices of the Living." AFSC and several partner groups sponsored a march, speaking events, an advocacy day, and a worship service on the Mall and around the district.

Despite intermittent rain, thousands of people saw the Eyes Wide Open exhibit and heard from Iraqis and the families of those who are currently serving in Iraq or who gave their lives there, as well as Iraq war veterans. All were united in the call to bring the troops home now.

On Saturday, a silent march with hundreds of military families, veterans, Iraqis, and peace supporters proceeded from the exhibit to the foot of the Capitol building. Following the march, those who have borne the human cost of the Iraq war spoke at a press conference and rally. The speakers shared the stage with boots and shoes that represented the projected deaths of Iraqis and U.S. troops that could come if the U.S. "stays the course" in Iraq.



"We are here today to stop these deaths from happening and pledge that we will keep on working for peace until the war ends," said Mary Ellen McNish, AFSC's General Secretary.

During the weekend, AFSC and September 11 Families for Peaceful Tomorrows unveiled a new memorial, comprised of photos and personal stories, that tells the story of destruction and loss that is an everyday reality for Iraqis. The Iraqi memorial and state-specific versions of the Eyes Wide Open exhibit will be on tour this summer.



Photos (top to bottom): A section of the new Iraqi memorial; members of Iraq Veterans Against the War gather; Eyes Wide Open boots with one of the thousands of memorial tags sent in by AFSC supporters nationwide; the silent march begins.

See more at [www.afsc.org/eyes/](http://www.afsc.org/eyes/)



The “Go With You” project officially launches in Changsha, China.

**► MIGRATION AND HUMAN MOBILITY**

**Project helps rural Chinese women avoid exploitation**

Some 100-to-200 million people are moving within China, leaving a rural, socialist economy behind for the urban economies that dominate China’s coastal cities. It’s the largest human migration in the history of the world.

The most vulnerable of these migrants, young rural women, often lack the education, economic skills, and legal protections necessary to avoid exploitation. To help them, AFSC publicly announced the “Go With You” project in Changsha, the capital of Hunan Province. This cooperative project with the Hunan Province Women’s Federation has already distributed thousands of small booklets about workers’ legal rights, health and safety, and contact information for health, education, and legal rights organizations.

College students and volunteers distribute the booklets in small toiletry bags to rural young women who are about to migrate for work and ask them questions for research and to improve the program. Bag distribution is expanding to several new sites in Hunan Province.

Photos: (top) James Reilly; (bottom) Sister Helen Prejean

**► HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

**AFSC funds shelters for the homeless in Zimbabwe**

Last year, the government of Zimbabwe launched “Operation Murambatsvina (Restore Order)” which, according to a United Nations report, has resulted in the forcible eviction of approximately 700,000 people from their homes. The evictions and subsequent demolition of homes deepened an already grave humanitarian situation as the newly homeless faced the rainy season without shelter.

The government claimed that it needed to bring order to the capital and enforce building codes, but most observers said

the crackdown was intended to dilute potential anti-ruling party votes.

AFSC, working through faith-based partner organizations in Zimbabwe, has provided 740 temporary shelters for those evicted. The Service Committee is continuing to fund additional shelters and the construction of two-room permanent houses.

Dereje Wordofa, AFSC’s Regional Director for Southern Africa, recently visited the camps for those displaced. After speaking with our partners and UN officials, he reports that “the food pipeline has improved over the last few months, but the need to assist with water and sanitation, shelter, and education remains critical.”

**► CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**Finding receptive moments for a divisive topic**

AFSC has been finding new and strategic ways to raise the issue of the death penalty. Eric Moon, staff with AFSC’s Death Penalty Abolition Program in Oakland, California, points out that the death penalty usually gets noticed in the media only in the heated debate before an execution.

“We’re looking to find other times to look at the death penalty—times when people are more reasonable and fair-minded about the issue,” he says.

One recent opportunity involved Sister Helen Prejean, an advocate for death pen-

alty abolition made internationally famous by the Oscar-winning film *Dead Man Walking*. Building on a long relationship with Sister Helen, AFSC co-sponsored her recent speaking event at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco that drew 350 attendees.



Sister Helen Prejean

Furthermore, actor and activist Tim Robbins has developed *Dead Man Walking* into a play that can be performed, royalty-free, in high schools and colleges. AFSC staff have led workshops and discussions in high schools that are performing the play.

“We’re working to get doubts into the public consciousness,” Eric says, “so those eligible for jury duty in capital cases will understand that the death penalty is cruel and unusual punishment.”



## A second pair of hands

### Volunteers keep AFSC humming

BY M'ANNETTE RUDELL

**H**ere's a case where anatomy analogies are apt: eyes and ears, backbone, a second pair of hands.

These describe the volunteers who fuel AFSC's many programs around the world. From a teenager who answers a hotline in Portland, to a retired business executive who serves on a finance committee, to an avid knitter in North Carolina, the organization depends upon the energy and goodwill of thousands of people.

When AFSC was organized in 1917, the main participants were conscientious objectors looking for alternative service during World War I. They set an example for untold numbers of dedicated people who, decade after decade, followed them. Although the nature of volunteerism has changed, there is no question that



AFSC benefits from and appreciates the contributions of many volunteers. Here are just a few current examples:

As part of a decades-long work camp tradition, young people continue to serve in development and community-building projects in Mexico. And with supplies purchased by AFSC, teams descend on Logan County, West Virginia, to paint, hammer roof shingles, mend windows, and tackle numerous other chores for low-income homeowners who find it difficult to repair their houses. Volunteers also have traveled to the Gulf Coast in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina to aid affected communities.

In many sites, our youth and anti-militarism work relies on volunteers who talk with students about the realities of enlistment and the need to check the promises made by recruiters. In Philadelphia, the program is bolstered by people who fill literature orders and help with research.

One of the most remarkable recent examples of volunteerism is the Eyes Wide Open exhibit. In every location where the traveling memorial is presented, people volunteer to set up boots and shoes that represent the U.S. and Iraqi dead and often are present when visitors come to observe the moving display.

AFSC Ann Arbor partners with the University of Michigan in supporting six students per semester who help the Criminal Justice Program

answer prisoner mail, provide direct advocacy services for people in prison, and conduct research on the prison system.

Volunteers make a significant contribution to the financial health of the organization. "Recycle" sales—similar to a flea market—in our Philadelphia headquarters offer bargains on donated goods. More than \$400,000 has been raised for Service Committee programs from this source. Across the country, Friends meetings and other groups regularly hold sales and fundraising events with the proceeds coming to AFSC.

AFSC is grateful for our volunteers—for the hours of dedicated energy and support they contribute, for the creativity and ideas they bring, and for the vision of a better world that we all share.

*M'Annette Ruddell is a contributing editor to Quaker Action.*



**Photos: (top) Students from Sandy Springs Friends School in Maryland paint and repair a home in Logan, West Virginia, as part of the housing work of AFSC's New Empowerment for Women Plus. (above) AFSC workcamp at PennCraft in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, 1938.**

Photos: (top) Joanne Farmer; (bottom) AFSC Archives



## Let justice roll

### The story of a minimum wage victory in West Virginia

BY RICK WILSON

**A** job should keep you out of poverty, not trap you in it.

That's the rallying cry of the Let Justice Roll Living Wage Campaign ([www.letjusticeroll.org](http://www.letjusticeroll.org)), a national coalition working to raise the minimum wage at the federal and state levels. As part of this coalition, of which AFSC is a founding member, our two West Virginia programs recently helped push for legislation that raised the state's minimum wage.

The urgency of this and similar efforts nationwide cannot be overstated. The federal minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour has declined in value dramatically since Congress last increased it in 1997. (During that time, Congress voted to give itself eight pay raises.) A full-time minimum wage worker earns \$10,712 per year. This is \$5,000 less than the official poverty line for a family of three, and less than the cost of family health insurance.

Recent state victories have given a new boost to the campaign to raise the federal minimum wage. AFSC staff in North Carolina, Ohio, and elsewhere are part of active Let Justice Roll campaigns in those states. The story of how this has played out in West Virginia offers hope to low-income families throughout the United States.

#### Wages to rise gradually

AFSC's West Virginia Economic Justice Project, based in Charleston, addresses issues affecting low-income and working families statewide. For example, the project works to improve policies and restore cuts in the social safety net. It also uses publications, training, and other forms of outreach to provide low-income families with critical information such as

how to buy a home, tax credits for working people, and benefits/programs for which they may be eligible.

AFSC helped launch the statewide minimum wage campaign at a Martin Luther King, Jr., Living Wage Breakfast during the King Holiday this past January. AFSC's partners in this struggle included the West Virginia AFL-CIO, West Virginia Council of Churches, and other advocacy organizations.

Bills were introduced to raise the state minimum in three stages to \$7.25 by June 2008. The House version went to the Senate with less than two weeks to go. However, once there, it got stuck in three committees—usually the kiss of death.

Luckily, AFSC's New Empowerment for Women Plus program based in Logan came to the rescue. Located in the senate president's district, the program's staff and supporters generated calls from local constituents. Combined with similar efforts statewide, the program helped give the bill the final push it needed to pass the West Virginia legislature.

#### Sweet...but incomplete

The victory was sweet but incomplete. Due to exemptions buried in state law, thousands of workers aren't yet covered. However, in the next legislative session, our statewide coalition will push for an amendment to state law so that all workers can benefit from the increased minimum wage.

At the bill signing in April, Governor Joe Manchin said, "I am so proud of this piece of legislation. Some people said it's symbolic. Well, if it's symbolic, it's a good symbol for the State of West Virginia to treat people right and fair."

The West Virginia victory also may be

geographically significant. Most states with higher minimum wages are in the Northeast, Eastern seaboard, or West Coast. To win nationally, victories are needed in the South and Midwest. Since the West Virginia win, Arkansas has joined the growing number of states with higher minimums, by passing an increase to \$6.25 per hour.

*Rick Wilson directs the AFSC West Virginia Economic Justice Project in Charleston ([www.afsc.org/midatlantic/charleston.htm](http://www.afsc.org/midatlantic/charleston.htm)).*

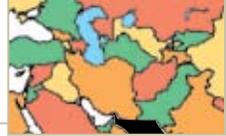


### Extra, extra, read all about it

#### Goat Rope:

1. Appalachian slang for a real mess, a situation out of control.
2. A web log (or blog) devoted to current events, economic and social justice, and culture in West Virginia, the United States, and around the world.

Read Rick Wilson's always entertaining and informative blog, *The Goat Rope*, at: [www.goatropo.blogspot.com](http://www.goatropo.blogspot.com).



## A peace of their own making

### New network empowers youth in the Middle East

BY LINDA LOTZ

**T**oday's Arab world is in turmoil.

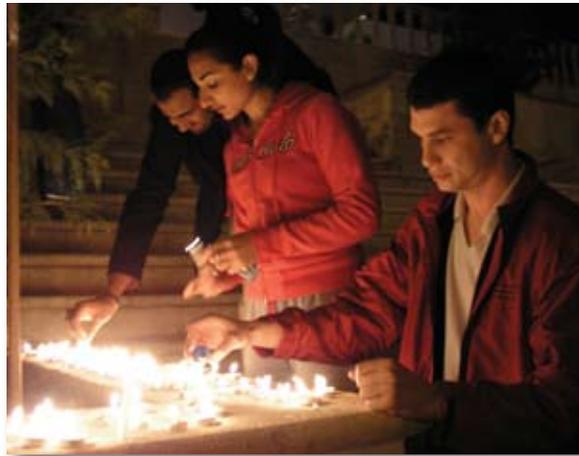
Whether you look at wars, occupations, and violent conflict, or the impact of globalization, high unemployment, and religion, this is a turbulent time in the Middle East—especially for youth, who make up more than fifty percent of the region's population.

In 2004, Tala Sweis, coordinator for AFSC's Middle East regional youth initiatives, observed that young people needed a venue to connect with one another in personal and direct ways. From that seed grew MERYAN, the Middle East Regional Youth Action Network, which helps young activists better understand changes in the region and develop projects to improve their communities.

#### An important forum

MERYAN has become an important forum for discussing issues such as the Danish cartoons that sparked worldwide controversy, the Palestinian elections, and reform in the Arab world.

The network also is demonstrating that contrary to common perception young people in the Middle East have the potential to be agents of peace, stability, and



positive change. With AFSC's help, that potential is already being realized.

On November 9, 2005, bombs shattered the peace at three hotels in Amman, Jordan. For MERYAN members, the bombings were very personal: A network meeting had recently been held at the Radisson, one of the hotels attacked. Friends and acquaintances of network members also were among the 59 people killed and 115 injured.

A flurry of e-mails ensued. Members shared their condolences and supported those living in Amman. They also mobilized dozens of young people in coordinated candlelight vigils in Jordan, Iraq, Palestine, and Lebanon.

"I...felt all of you today," wrote Nellie Ghusayni from Lebanon in an e-mail to network members after she helped organize a vigil in front of the Jordanian embassy. "I felt we were doing this for Palestine, Iraq, Jordan, and, of course, Lebanon. This is our vision, our mission."

#### A sense of responsibility

According to Jason Erb, the Middle East Quaker International Affairs Representative, "Seemingly distant events in different countries have a deep impact on members.

As a result, they feel a greater responsibility to do something to combat the common frustrations and threats they all face."

Connections among members were solidified at the network's first retreat in August 2005. There, 24 participants from Palestine, Iraq, Lebanon, and Jordan learned more about each other and their respective

countries, and developed the network's infrastructure.

They also initiated an assessment to better understand the needs identified by youth. Fifty people in each target country have been interviewed about how to encourage Arab youth to be more conscious of their role as active citizens. Such youth-led research is not the norm in the region.

From AFSC's standpoint, MERYAN is a welcome echo of the organization's past work with youth leaders.

According to Geri Sicola, Associate General Secretary for International Programs, "Much like the young leaders programs sponsored by AFSC in the 1950s, MERYAN and a similar network in Africa are helping youth gain skills and global awareness that will become a vital part of their lives and, ultimately, help them to contribute to the future of their countries."

*Linda Lotz works with International Programs staff in Philadelphia.*

**Photos: (top) A peace vigil in Amman, Jordan, last November; (left) the August 2005 MERYAN retreat.**



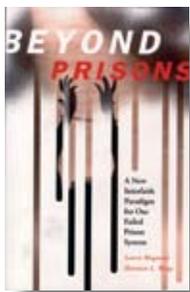
## Reality check

### Three AFSC books illuminate marginalized communities

When organizers are at their best, ideas about the world lead them to action, and engagement with the world generates new ideas. This month's recommendations are products of that process. These works share knowledge, experience, and personal stories from AFSC organizing work.

#### **Beyond Prisons: A New Interfaith Paradigm for Our Failed Prison System**

Paperback, 208 pages, Fortress Press 2006 **\$13**



*Beyond Prisons* is a comprehensive analysis of the penal system, from arrest through court proceedings, sentencing, prison conditions, youth prisons, and parole. It is the product of the

AFSC Criminal Justice Task Force and represents the work of criminal justice staff around the U.S., based on more than fifty years of AFSC prison work.

The authors, Laura Magnani, AFSC's Assistant Regional Director for Justice in Oakland, California, and Harmon L. Wray, Director of the Vanderbilt Program in Faith and Criminal Justice, begin with an historical perspective on incarceration in the U.S. (with particular insights into the role of Quakers in the evolution of prisons). They contend that after the Civil War, prisons became the "new slavery" and communities of color and immigrants have been disproportionately incarcerated since that time. They detail the abuse, violence, and racism that are practiced daily behind bars and argue that the system cannot be reformed. It must be rebuilt from scratch—on new principles.

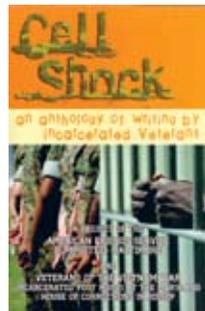
Drawing on a variety of faith traditions, they call for "healing justice" based on the common good. The authors suggest that it might be derived from restorative justice concepts that seek to restore balance and wholeness in a community.

*Beyond Prisons* argues for the abolition of our current punitive prison system, but knowing that prisons will not be shut down overnight it also presents a plan for incremental change. The elimination of both the death penalty and solitary confinement are at the top of the list.

Available from the AFSC Literature Resources Unit. (See page 15.)

#### **Cell Shock: An Anthology of Writing by Incarcerated Veterans**

Paperback, 131 pages, AFSC-Baltimore/Veterans of the Vietnam War IPMDI-01, 2005 **\$12**



Immediate and visceral, *Cell Shock* takes the reader behind prison bars, revealing the cruelty, racism, and waste of human potential that define our failed system of justice.

The essays, poems, and stories expose not only the prison-industrial complex but the military-industrial complex as well, because these authors have experienced both. The authors reveal not only their pain, but also the resilience and determination of men who have seen life from several perspectives.

The book is the brainchild of Veterans of the Vietnam War, Incarcerated Post MDI-01 at the Maryland House of Corrections

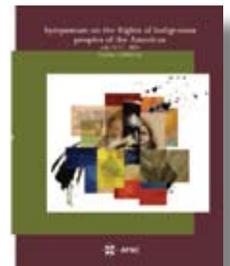
at Jessup. The project came together with the support of AFSC staff Dominique Stevenson and the Baltimore AFSC Office Urban Peace Movement.

Available from AFSC, Middle Atlantic Region, 4806 York Rd., Baltimore, MD 21212; phone: (410) 323-7200.

#### **Symposium on the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas**

Paperback, 156 pages **\$15**

During 2004, AFSC's Pan Valley Institute in Fresno, California, brought together the Central Valley's communities rooted in Mexico (Mixtecos, Zapotecos, Mayan, Nahuatl, P'urhepecha, and Triquie) with communities rooted in California (Chumash, Western Mono, Winnebago, Yaqui-Apache, and Ohlone) to create an indigenous peoples' network.



That summer, the network organized a symposium to explore themes of culture, development, territory, and mobility. This report, *Symposium on the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas*, presents those discussions in the participants' own words, with complete versions in English and Spanish.

As one participant said, "This is an historic moment. It's the only occasion in which there has been a coming together of the indigenous peoples of Mexico and the United States [within the U.S.]."

Order from the Pan Valley Institute, 1440 W. Shaw Ave., Suite A, Fresno, CA 93711.



## No easy answers in difficult times

### A message from AFSC General Secretary Mary Ellen McNish

**A** FSC has long opposed Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) programs in high schools. We have pointed out alternatives to militarizing the U.S. border. We have been clear that asking the armed services to take over humanitarian assistance leads to poorer quality aid and places civilian workers in harm's way. Recently, we learned that the military-industrial complex has crept into our phone lines, when millions of civilian phone records were turned over to the National Security Agency.

For too many of our leaders, the answer to an array of problems is "Send in the Marines!" (or send the National Guard to the border). Too much in our public policy is fearful and reflexive. And many in our society confuse the use of force with courage and simplistic solutions with decisiveness.

Sending in the Marines, building fences, "getting tough" and other simplistic answers sound appealing when we are afraid. We forget the truth expressed so eloquently by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hatred cannot drive out hatred; only love can do that."

Love's work of transformation moves considerably more slowly than an air strike or an army column—we've spent more than thirty years in Southeast Asia, more than twenty in Mozambique, and are approaching a decade in the former Yugoslavia—but the fruit is lasting.

AFSC will never have easy answers to social problems, such as "Send in the Marines!" or "Seal the border!" We know that life and human beings are more complicated than that. We also know that responding to a problem with brute force only spawns new problems. Our experience tells us that the more measured work of patience, hope, and love bear fruit that violence and aggression can never match.

I want to thank all of you who share this conviction and support AFSC's work. Together we have changed the lives of millions of people and will give aid and hope to millions more.

*Mary Ellen McNish*



## REFLECTIONS

### Twenty Years Ago...

## An Academy Award for *Witness to War*



David Goodman with the Oscar

On March 24, 1986, AFSC received an Academy Award for Best Documentary for the film, "Witness to War," which was produced by AFSC staff David Goodman and Skylight Pictures. The film followed the work of Dr. Charlie Clements from Air Force pilot in Vietnam to medical doctor working behind rebel lines in El Salvador.

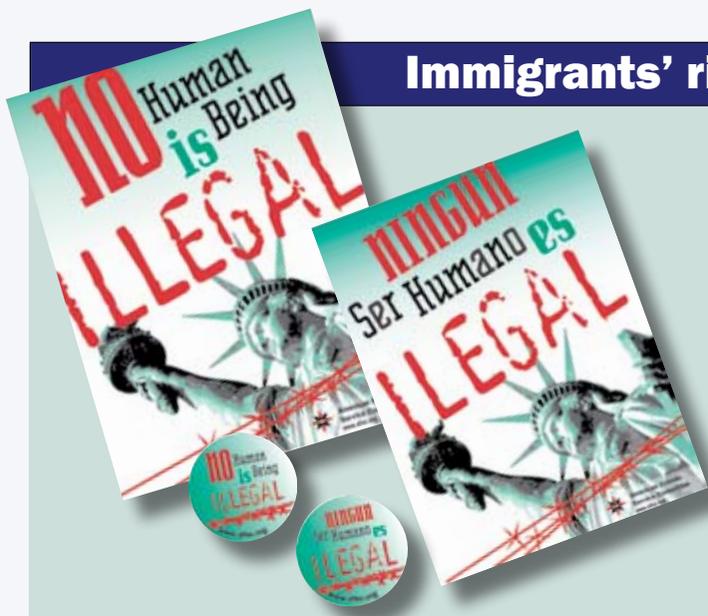
The film combined archival footage of bombings in Southeast Asia with contemporary footage from the rebel-controlled zones of Guazapa where Clements practiced medicine for more than a year—a region which was bombed almost daily by the same planes Clements had flown in Vietnam.

Like Henry Cadbury when he went to receive the Nobel Prize, Goodman borrowed a tuxedo from the AFSC Material Aids program to wear to the awards ceremony. He later said he was relieved to run into Clements in the men's room of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, where Clements showed him how to put in his shirt studs. The film was also nominated for an Emmy and received numerous international awards. Clements is now president of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. David Goodman is touring with AFSC's Eyes Wide Open exhibit and is producing a promotional video about the exhibit.



Dr. Clements in El Salvador

## Immigrants' rights are human rights!




Show your support for immigrants' rights in the U.S. with these items, which proclaim the simple truth that "No Human Being is Illegal." All items are also available in Spanish. Proceeds benefit AFSC programs.

|                        |              |                    |                 |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Bumper stickers</b> | <b>Signs</b> | <b>Buttons</b>     | <b>T-shirts</b> |
| <b>\$10 for 5</b>      | <b>\$5</b>   | <b>\$10 for 10</b> | <b>\$15</b>     |

### Rights On The Line: Vigilantes At The Border

Developed as a tool for community education and human rights advocacy, this provocative video explores the true nature of the vigilante movement along the U.S.- Mexico border. Produced by AFSC, the ACLU, and WITNESS, an international organization that supports video activism to defend human rights.

Available in English and Spanish, and in both VHS and DVD formats, from the AFSC online store at [www.afscstore.org](http://www.afscstore.org); 25 min. **\$25**

### 10 Reasons Why the U.S. Must Leave Iraq

The U.S. occupation of Iraq is wrong and counter-productive. This pamphlet provides ten reasons why the troops must be brought home now. Available as a free online download in both English and Spanish at [www.afsc.org/iraq/activism/10-reasons.htm](http://www.afsc.org/iraq/activism/10-reasons.htm)

For print copies, contact the AFSC Iraq Program at 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102; e-mail: [askaboutiraq@afsc.org](mailto:askaboutiraq@afsc.org); phone: (215) 241-7166.

### Show your true colors

Let everyone know you support AFSC with these attractive items emblazoned with the AFSC star and name.

Jackets **\$50** Caps **\$15**

Also available: Pins **\$5** Pens **\$5**

### Support peace in Colombia

A new "War is Costly, Peace is Priceless" T-shirt from our Latin America/Caribbean Peacebuilding Program focuses on Colombia, where civil war and the "war on drugs" continue to devastate communities.

**\$15**



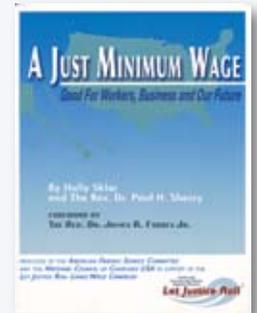
Photo: Terry Foss

### 10 Points to Consider Before You Sign A Military Enlistment Agreement

This 12" x 24" poster helps high schoolers understand the issues related to military enlistment and their options. Available with a 50 sheet tear-off pad that contains the ten points and contacts for more info. Produced by AFSC and the Syracuse Cultural Workers. **\$7** without pad; **\$8** with pad.

### A Just Minimum Wage: Good for Workers, Business and Our Future

Download the AFSC/Let Justice Roll resource, "A Just Minimum Wage: Good for Workers, Business and Our Future" by Holly Sklar and the Rev. Dr. Paul Sherry, at [www.afsc.org/minimum-wage.htm](http://www.afsc.org/minimum-wage.htm). For print copies, call toll-free, 1-800-889-5733. **\$5**



### Special values

- AFSC Wage Peace bracelet  
25 bracelets: **\$55**
- "Love Was The First Motion" T-shirts  
**\$9** (black) and **\$7.50** (white)

Unless otherwise noted, order all items on this page through AFSC's Literature Resources Unit:

1501 Cherry Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102-1403  
Phone: (215) 241-7048  
(or toll-free 1-888-588-2372, ext. 2)  
Fax: (215) 241-7275 or order online at  
[www.afscstore.org](http://www.afscstore.org)

# Build a Future for ... *the* Environment

**W**hen AFSC plans a development project, we not only work with the local community to find what meets its needs, we also think of what is best for the environment.

This commitment to being good stewards of nature ranges from using crop rotation on cooperative farms in North Korea, to reforestation projects in Haiti (see story on page 6), to community latrines that keep local water supplies pure in Mozambique.

All of this is possible, in part, because of supporters like you who remember AFSC in their estate planning.

AFSC values all bequests, whether large or small. Together, these gifts ensure the stability of AFSC's ongoing witness for peace, justice, and human dignity.

By naming AFSC in your will or trust or as a beneficiary of your retirement account, you can both reduce your family's taxes and continue your commitment to Quaker service. Best of all, it's quite easy.



To learn more about including AFSC in your estate plan, call our Gift Planning Office toll free at 1-888-588-2372, ext. 3, check the box on the enclosed reply envelope, or visit our website at: [www.afsc.org/give/planning.htm](http://www.afsc.org/give/planning.htm)

Photos: (top) Haiti Denise Davis, (lower left) Bosnia Davorin Brdanovic, (center) North Korea Randy Ireson



**American Friends  
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