

PEACE QUAKE



**American Friends
Service Committee**

**James
Zogby
calls for
diplomacy
rather
than war
with Iran**



Meet Jenna Broghamer, AFSC Spring Service Learning Student

I am a political science and communications studies major at Central College in Pella. AFSC is a great fit to do my service learning because of my interest in politics and because of AFSC's work with things I'm passionate about—peace and justice issues.

In my short time at AFSC, I've learned a lot about effective organizing and the importance of having strong and clear vision.

I've enjoyed meeting and working with enthusiastic and dedicated community members who seek to promote peace and justice for all.



Jenna Broghamer greets Dr. James Zogby after his talk. Through the support of generous donors, AFSC provides a number of internships and service learning opportunities to students each year. To learn more, please visit afsc.org/internships.

By Jenna Broghamer

Dr. James Zogby, president of the Arab-American Institute, called for a decrease in the “hysterical” rhetoric on U.S policy towards Iran recently in Des Moines. Zogby addressed over 100 people at an event sponsored by the AFSC Middle East Peace Education Project and several ally organizations. Noting “hyperbolic rhetoric” from voices within Iran, Israel, and the US, Zogby warned that such language may be putting us on a reckless and highly dangerous collision course.

Zogby advocated, instead, for engagement with Iran as the proper alternative to military action. He discussed the ramifications of the failed Iraq war and the ignorance of entering into a similar situation with Iran. Although candidate Obama supported engagement over military action or sanctions in the 2008 election, pressures from those pushing for war have moved the president to support sanctions on Iran.

Unfortunately pressure continues to build with proposals such as SR 380 which has echoes of the 2002 congressional “authorization” for war

with Iraq. Senator Grassley is one of 60 co-sponsors of this current resolution. All of this aggression comes in spite of the fact that the National Intelligence Estimate has recently concluded that there is no evidence that Iran is developing nuclear weapons.

Given this dismal political climate for peace, Zogby called for an immediate response from peace communities, urging action to make our voices heard. “We have to work with the politics we’ve got, not the politics we want,” Zogby said in urging opposition to SR 380 and support for Rep. Barbara Lee’s HR 4173, which calls for diplomacy with Iran.

We can’t wait any longer. It’s time to come forward and act for peace.

Please contact the House Representatives to urge support for Rep. Barbara Lee’s bill, HR 4173 insisting that “diplomatic options need to be on the table with Iran.” Contact Senators Grassley and Harkin to urge opposition to SR 380, which pushes for a war with Iran. Call toll-free to the Capitol switchboard: 855-686-6927.

Palestinian Youth -- Breaking the Stereotypes

By Kathleen McQuillen, AFSC Iowa Program Coordinator

Through my Middle East peace work with AFSC, I have had the great opportunity to get to know two young Palestinian men who are studying in Iowa. I think you'll enjoy meeting them, too.

Iyyad, a first-year business student at Grandview University in Des Moines, is excited to complete his degree and return to Palestine. "I can't stay away from my home, my people," he says. Iyyad adds that he would like to start a business in his homeland. "Being from a country of conflict, it would be really bad not to return and help my country." He believes that working in international business will open opportunities for him to impact the politics in his country and the region.

"We cannot wait 30 years while people keep dying," Iyyad says. "We can't live with this situation where we are scared that our dad may not return, or worry our mom is harassed at the checkpoints." He wants a peace with justice for both Palestinians and Israelis. Toward that end, Iyyad has participated in the "Seeds of Peace" program and has helped re-establish the International Club at Grandview.



Iyyad, a Palestinian student at Grand View University, joins Cindy Corrie, mother of slain human rights activist Rachel Corrie, at an AFSC-sponsored talk in December.

Thirty miles north in Ames, Sari is working toward a degree in engineering at Iowa State and hopes to return home to Palestine to be with friends and family. He fears that without peace in the land there will be no opportunities.

Palestine will need engineers when "we get to peace," as he puts it, but right now the Palestine economy depends on foreign aid. Sari notes that foreign assistance has been shut off as retaliation for the Palestinian Authority submitting a request to the UN for membership.

Sari expresses pride in the Palestinian people, noting they are among the mostly highly educated in the region. That struck me as amazing given all the strife and challenges, the closures and the Separation Wall built by the Israeli government.

"We want a better life," Sari says, "We want peace. I want to drive to see my family without going through checkpoints. I want to go to the Dead Sea. This [the current reality] is no way to live." Confident in Palestinian resilience, Sari adds, "We can do what we need to do when there is peace."

Iyyad and Sari are doing all they can to help Americans understand Palestinians and Palestine. From Iyyad's work with the International Club to Sari's start-up soccer team; from participation in information forums to congressional office visits and other campus initiatives, Iyyad and Sari are sharing the gifts of their culture, their homeland, and their hopes for peace with people throughout Iowa.

At AFSC, we feel blessed to know them.

Hector helps out



For two months in early 2012, a wonderful group of volunteers assisted Jody Mashek, AFSC's Immigration Legal Services Director, with helping 150 Salvadorans in Central Iowa renew their Temporary Protected Status. Hector, a native of Pueblo, Mexico and one of these volunteers, is shown here with Ramona Gomez, who works part-time with AFSC. A short interview with Hector is online at <http://tinyurl.com/cywnxzk>.

Strengthening the call for immigrant rights

“Secure Communities”? Not hardly

In December, Sandra Sanchez, AFSC Iowa Immigrants Voice Program Director, hosted a radio interview with Polk County Sheriff Bill McCarthy to discuss his position on so-called “Secure Communities,” a federal effort to involve local officials in the enforcement of federal immigration law. The full interview is available online at <http://tinyurl.com/6vjyds8>. Below is an excerpt from Sheriff McCarthy’s remarks.

We’ve been up and down with the federal government in terms of trying to understand what they mean by “Secure Communities.” As you know, they have changed their positions a number of times. We thought initially that Secure Communities would be a good thing... and that everyone brought to the jail would be fingerprinted equally.

The promise from “Secure Communities” was that they would only want to detain those charged with a serious crime. So we thought it would be not only humane, but that it would eliminate issues of racial profiling. But it has not turned out to be the case

So we have to look at what serves best the community. And to that I have to respond in two ways. First off, if we’re asked to detain someone by ICE [Immigration and Customs Enforcement], we’re required to do that.

Secondly, we’re not fingerprinting everyone detained in the jail. Fingerprinting is not the only way ICE can find out about someone in jail, but it’s the majority way.

I had recently asked the under-sheriff to look at that issue in terms of the

numbers we fingerprint. His report indicated that we book between 18,000-19,000 people per year. But approximately 14,000 of those bookings were for misdemeanor offenses. So we are no longer fingerprinting 14,000 on misdemeanor offenses. You can guess, as I do, the significant impact that will have on the Latino community as well as others.

Whether or not we can maintain this position indefinitely, I don’t know. But as you know—and you have talked for years about issues involving immigration and how immigration law tears families apart—we’ve seen the same things at the jail, and we’re human beings too.

Speaking for myself, I want the federal government to take over their responsibility and act accordingly and not expect these issues to be addressed at the local level. I also want us collectively to understand the contributions that the Latino community provides all of us and recognize they are important members of our society.

I hope that when we get through this presidential process that we can have some sanity to talk about these issues again.

Mariposas group spreads its wings

Young Latinas know more about the legislative process in Iowa thanks to a recent workshop on that topic led by Sandra Sanchez. The group of teenage girls is known as the Mariposas (Spanish for butterflies), and is focused on developing leadership skills.

Sandra helped the youth hone their skills through a mock debate about marriage equality and then asked them to identify issues they’d like to discuss with legislators. The group identified immigration status and access to college scholarships and loans as their top priorities.

With Sandra’s guidance, the group plans to lobby for the Iowa Act, a state version of the federal DREAM Act which would provide a pathway to citizenship for undocumented youth. “It’s really important for these young people to know they *can* participate in the process,” Sandra says. “It was wonderful to see how energized and hopeful they became at the prospect of becoming involved.”



Polk County Sheriff Bill McCarthy talks about the problems of so-called “Secure Communities” with Sandra Sanchez of AFSC on La Reina Radio 1260.

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The American Friends Service Committee 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 Quaker belief in the worth of every person and faith in the power of love to overcome violence and injustice.

Windows and Mirrors is Coming to Iowa!



We're excited to announce that a replica of Windows and Mirrors, AFSC's traveling mural exhibit on the human costs of the U.S. war in Afghanistan, is coming to the public library in Coralville for all of September and Simpson College and the Des Moines Social Club in October. See afsc.org/iowa for exact times. We'd love your help planning the exhibit; please contact Kathleen McQuillen at 515-274-4851, ext. 22 or KMQuillen@afsc.org. For more on the exhibit, visit windowsandmirrors.org. (Photos above from a 2011 W&M exhibit in Kansas City)