



**American Friends
Service Committee**

INSPIRING
PEACE & JUSTICE
in the Pacific Northwest
Spring/Summer 2010

An Intolerable Cost



43 years ago, when Dr. King said “A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual doom,” he could not have imagined the circumstance of endless war we find ourselves in today.

The National Priorities Project anticipates that by September

2010, our country will have spent over \$1 trillion on the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. The FY2010 war tab for Pacific Northwest residents stands at more than \$35 billion. As we imagine the numbers of people who could be fed, housed,

educated and healed with these funds, questions about our nation’s deeply entrenched dependence on militarism and war come into sharp relief.

The US death toll has exceeded 5,400 for both wars, with a wider circle of soldiers and contractors who have committed suicide or survive

with profound physical and psychological injury. Estimates indicate that over a million casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan —most of them civilians— can be attributed to these US-led wars. US drone attacks are estimated to have killed 700 Pakistani civilians last year.

There’s something wrong with this picture, and you CAN do something about it:

1. Urge President Obama to honor his commitment to withdraw all combat forces from Iraq by the end of August 2010 and to comply with the bilateral security agreement requiring all US forces to

withdraw by December 30, 2011.

2. Urge the President to stop sending US troops into Afghanistan and to negotiate a speedy withdrawal of troops.
3. Urge Congress to expand civilian-led diplomacy, economic development and humanitarian aid in Iraq and Afghanistan.
4. Urge Congress to redeploy military spending to meet human needs here at home, and in Iraq and Afghanistan.
5. Visit www.afsc.org to see how you can make your voice heard for peace!

HOW MANY JOBS FOR 1 BILLION?	MASS TRANSIT	EDUCATION	HEALTH	MILITARY
	19,759	17,687	12,833	8,555



Stopping War One Person at a Time

Looking for ways to expose young people to truth about military recruitment and service while developing youth skills and leadership? Launch a youth produced ‘zine

with information young people need to know if they are considering military enlistment! AFSC’s United Voices youth group did just that, and also conducted a workshop about creating ‘zines for peace and social justice activism at the 2009 National Network Opposing the Militarism of Youth Counter-Recruitment

and Demilitarization Conference. Attracting activists of all ages from around the country, the NNOMY conference was an exciting way for United Voices members to connect with other youth, spark their knowledge about militarism and war, and take home exciting new strategies for waging peace in the Pacific Northwest.

As I led the Zine Workshop it made me feel like I actually took part in something successful. For the first time I wasn't nervous, I actually felt comfortable and like I belonged up there in front of about 30 people. We taught people the snippets on how to make a zine, edit, and how they could contribute to our upcoming zine. Most of the people seemed psyched... Facilitating came to me instantaneously, most likely because I was with people I spend some of my free time with and have learned to trust in. I feel proud of the finished product.
Indasia S. - age 16

It's The Economy Stupid!

Susan Segall

When Jim Carville posted these words on the wall of Bill Clinton's campaign headquarters in 1992, he may not have realized the full breadth of their meaning. Virtually all of the issues AFSC works on can be linked to economic systems and conditions that promote violence, inequity and suffering.

Youth group member Rebecca desperately needed funding for school and a way to support herself, and so she enlisted in the military. Human Rights Promoter Maria fled Mexico when the North American Free Trade Agreement decimated sales of Mexican grown corn, only to be detained in a raid here. Youth group leader Zack

is frantic to make ends meet because he has not been able to find a job for over a year. Prisoner Rasheed survived by dealing drugs and petty theft when educational supports and a living wage job were unavailable to him and the other kids in his neighborhood. The problems caused by our unwillingness to devote the fullest measure of our hard earned treasury to the common good are not abstractions but real, flesh and blood stories.

The American Friends Service Committee has been impacted by this latest economic crisis too, compelling us to decrease staffing and consolidate programs across the organization. What hasn't decreased is our determination

to wage peace and stand for justice—developing the skills our youth need to become activists for change; encouraging our neighbors to ask hard questions about policies and priorities; and urging our legislators to step up and do the right thing.

Here's how you can help sustain our work in the Pacific Northwest:

\$75 ensures that 750 people receive Cost of War brochures.

\$200 funds a youth to attend Freedom School.

\$500 enables a group of immigrants to participate in Know Your Rights training.

\$750 supports a young person's involvement in our Youth Undoing Institutional

Racism group for one year.

\$1,000 sponsors a Beats for Peace Alternatives to the Military event.

Your gift of any amount helps enormously. Remember, we can't do it without you!

Susan Segall

Youth Speaks!

Crystal Ybarra

Growing up in gang country, USA (California's central valley), the expectation of success is minimal. Discouragement heavily outweighs encouragement. When I said I wanted to join Americorps VISTA, I heard, "They'll never hire you, you've documented your mental illness too well." The internalized oppression that myself and the community as a whole had experienced brought about collective surprise when AFSC's PNWR's Indian Program hired me.

The oldest of seven children, my father was sentenced to life in prison when I was 12; I experienced homelessness for the first time at 13, and my mother died of AIDS when I was 14. The odds seemed to be against me. My year of service at AFSC helped me not only succeed, but more importantly, helped me to begin healing from the inside out.

AFSC became the family I so desperately needed. For the first time in my entire life, I received encouragement and support. I learned that not despite, but because of my background, my voice mattered greatly. Engaging in community organizing, I grew in so many ways. Thank you AFSC, you saved my life.



Rashunda Johnson

to allow youth to face and fight racial oppression from systems that set them behind.

Over the years, the knowledge given to me by YUIR about "what it means to have racism in the community" has changed my outlook tremendously.

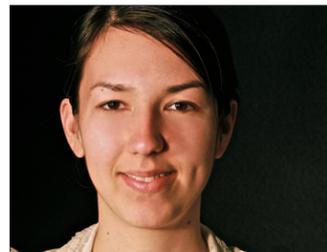
Those who are "disadvantaged" are the ones who don't get a lot of inspiration and or protection which in turn may lead them to exaggerate visibility in the wrong way. Or perhaps those who are "advantaged" feel that they need to be dominant. What I've learned from those who seek change is "building leadership" by being willing to taking action for what is right.

Freedom School/YUIR

Open Word

Rashunda Johnson

Freedom School and the weekly group Youth Undoing Institutional Racism (YUIR) are nurturing places for youth who walk everyday in life surrounded by racism. Freedom School gave me the awareness to enlighten others. As a mentor you look for ways



"Freedom School opened my eyes to the systemic racism within our institutions...[and] made me want to do something! When community organizers told me about YUIR I knew I wanted to be involved. YUIR is a powerful extension of the Freedom School."

-Julia Kirchner

My Native Art's Authentic - Is Yours?

Sally McCollum



Micah McCarty wearing one of his masks (courtesy M. McCarty)

Micah McCarty, 39, is now a councilman for Washington State's Makah Tribe. He became involved with AFSC's Makah Whaling Compassionate Listening Project in 2000 and has sold his traditional art at AFSC's annual Makah & Friends Art Sale. Micah started creating art at an early age, drawing pictures and practicing Indian

designs. As a young adult, he began formal training in Northwest Indian art forms while exploring his own cultural identity. "Indigenous people are manifestations of the natural world and the art forms create a higher level of thinking," he says. Micah observes that Makah art enables him to express who he is and where he comes from, noting "Having other people understand Makah culture by sharing it is powerful." As an artist, Micah "holds this responsibility in high esteem. This life has been a way of better understanding humanity, keeping the art form intact while passing it on to future generations. Our art keeps alive the living breath of our ancestors."

Like other Native artists, Micah's work is vulnerable to

appropriation and exploitation by non-Native artists. The Federal Indian Arts and Crafts Act is a truth-in-advertising law prohibiting misrepresentation in the marketing of Indian arts and crafts. The law does not prevent anyone, Native or non-Native, from producing and selling art; it seeks to stop the selling of arts and crafts which falsely claim to have been made by Natives. Mislabeling lowers the value of authentic Native art and can negatively affect the income that Native artists earn.

To address this economic and cultural injustice, AFSC's Indian Program has convened a group of artists, vendors and



Wolf Mask by Micah McCarty (Jeff Smith)

From Raids to Resistance

Crystal Ybarra

For some who live south of the United States border, "el norte"/"the north" represents opportunity. One person imagined the north as "another planet" that many spoke of as offering so much. For others, the north represented safety; a place to flee kidnap, war, torment and even murder; a place to give their children a better future. But on June

12, 2007, those dreams and perceptions were shattered in one fell swoop when Immigration and Customs Enforcement raided the Del Monte Fresh Foods Plant in Portland, Oregon.

"[The raid] has affected our health. Some of us have developed diabetes, asthma, nerve problems and

depression. We feel insecure about being in this country. Our children will not go with us because they were born here."

Despite the suffering that those who experienced the ICE raid have encountered, they have banded together to form a movement. The movement, aptly named Committee of Solidarity and Mutual Support (CSAM), has become a family of peace to those who face inevitable deportation.

With the help of AFSC, CSAM members feel they have learned to become students as well as teachers, learning their rights in this country while simultaneously becoming promoters and leaders of the Human Rights movement. They have even come together to create a documentary of their collective story entitled,

"Frozen Dreams" through AFSC support, produced by Emiliana Aguilar.

When asked what they would like to see come out of immigration reform, CSAM members say they would like the opportunity to fix their status, regardless of where they came from or the class of work they perform. They feel they have become the "invisible workers" who just want to be taken into account. "We want to live with dignity."

Pedro Sosa, AFSC Project Voice/Immigrant Rights Director, says he identifies with the victims of the raid, having suffered the same experience in 1977. Pedro says he has learned a lot in the process of organizing, walking "shoulder by shoulder" with CSAM.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST STAFF											
Susan Segall	Regional Director										
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Pacific Northwest Region
Quaker values in action

American Friends
Service Committee



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Announcement of Calendar Events

YUIR (Youth Undoing Institutional Racism)

Every Tuesday at Cannon House, for more information contact Dustin Washington 206-632-0500 ext 14 or

dWASHINGTON@afsc.org

Sowing Hope Amidst War and Rape: A Talk by Zawadi Nikuze

May 28, 2010

Questions? Email Jonis Davis at jonis7@comcast.net for more information.

Edmonds Freedom School

June 21-25, 2010

Questions? Call or email Dustin Washington at (206) 632-0500 x 14 or dWASHINGTON@afsc.org

Annual Tyree Scott Freedom School

July 12-16, 2010, For youth ages 15 – 21

Application Deadline: To June 25

Questions? Call or email Dustin Washington at (206) 632-0500 x 14 or dWASHINGTON@afsc.org

Save the Dates!!
Paddle to Neah Bay
2010
Intertribal Canoe Journey
Traveling the traditional highways of our Ancestors
The week of July 19
Canoe Journey Info:
Jeff Smith, AFSC Indian Program 206-632-0500 ext. 17
<http://afsc.org/program/seattle-regional-indian-program> for 2010

**Act now to help us conserve
resources and deliver our news
direct to you!**

E-mail us at PNWNews@afsc.org to receive
an E-version of the AFSC Inspiring Peace &
Justice in the Pacific Northwest Newsletter.

*You're
the Best!*

Over 80% of AFSC's funding comes from individuals like you. Your gifts help us sow the seeds of change. Please take a moment to make a tax deductible contribution to the American Friends Service Committee. And remember, we are deeply grateful to the many compassionate individuals who make our worldwide programs for peace and justice possible.