

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.” — Margaret Mead



# Grandmothers for Peace International

Barbara Wiedner, Founder, 1928 - 2001

Lorraine Krofchok, Director

November 2003

Founded 1982

## Iraq Infant Care Project

# GRANNIES WITHOUT BORDERS



*Members of the Indiana Chapter, GFP, display completed kits for the Iraq Infant Care Project: Seated, left to right: Christie Stephens, Sandra Clark, Norma Abbey, Gail Smith; Standing, left to right: Lois Rockhill, Dondeena Caldwell, Kay Shively, Nancy Hoffman, and Juanita Leonard. Photograph by Christina Accornero.*

Less than a month ago, I was alerted to the Iraq Infant Care Project that was sponsored by American Friends Service Committee. Thanks to two Grandmothers for Peace members in Sacramento, CA, Mary Bisharat and Sally Weinland, for calling this to my attention, we “jumped” on board.

The response was instantaneous. I immediately heard from chapters in Northern Virginia, Indiana, and Florida. Locally, Sacramento supporters and **Women in Black** responded and individuals nationally are participating, with inquiries from our international members. I also contacted acquaintances outside of the organization.

Because Friends had a time limit, there was no time for a mass mailing. As I write this, I am surrounded by kits and I know individuals and



*The Indiana Chapter of Grandmothers for Peace organize their Iraq Infant Care Project kits for shipment.*

chapters are still working to meet the Friends’ deadline. Hundreds of kits will be sent or delivered to them from Grandmothers for Peace. These infant kits will go to Iraq’s hospitals. I thank each of you!

This project was perfect for us. Grandmothers for Peace International has no borders, children are the same all over the world. Grandmothers make no distinction of whose children are whose and where they are. We can say we did “our small part” to help, but nothing is small if done from the heart! I encourage you to help within your community or wherever you choose. We can all make a difference. Each of us can make a contribution - no matter how small YOU may THINK it is, it means you have tried.

Our newsletter is filled with participation and activism. Please take the time to read about some of our members. **Sandra Patton** from New Zealand has a beautiful article — New Zealand is the seed from which all countries should grow! **Ellen Murphy** wrote “from the heart” about why she protested. There is also an update from **Veterans for Peace** on the **Iraq Water Project**.

Please consider signing the enclosed letter to “60 Minutes” - it is simple activism, (sign, fold, stamp, and mail!) yet can make a huge impact on getting the SOA issue before the public. The letter is courtesy of **SOAWatch, Placer County, CA**.

Our newsletter is rich with the idea of forming alliances and reaching out to other groups. Be a “Grandmothers for Peace,” the permanent structure to be a part of, but participate and also become part of the whole. We surely all need each other.

**Peace to all of us, Lorraine**



*GFP Director Lorraine Krofchok surrounded by completed kits for the Iraq Infant Care Project.*

## GFPI CHAPTER ACTIONS

# FROM COAST TO COAST AND BEYOND

### Superior, Wisconsin *Jan Provost*

Recently members of our Northland Chapter joined **Women in Black** to protest at the Air Show in Duluth, Minnesota. The air show featured many (armed) war-planes. This is a very popular event here and the brave Grannies faced a very hostile crowd. They persevered with dignity and grace. Bravo!!

In October, we held our 18<sup>th</sup> Afghan Raffle. Proceeds from our raffle go into the **Barbara Wiedner Peace Fund**, which awards cash scholarship checks to area high school and college students who are engaged in peace and social issues in their communities. This year's chairperson was **Clarice Peterson**. GFP member **Toddy O'Neill** of Indiana made and donated the beautiful afghan. Toddy has given her talents for this worthwhile cause for all 18 years!

Also in October, some members wrote letters to the editor concerning the "Keep Space for Peace" week. This awareness week was sponsored by **Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space**.

November 1<sup>st</sup>, we Grannies attended an anti-war rally in Duluth, MN.

Toward the end of November, we hold our **Annual No War Toys Drive**. We put collection boxes all over Superior, WI, and Duluth, MN, with signs specifying: "*Please Donate Only Peaceful Toys.*" These toys are distributed to agencies that care for low-income and homeless children. **Dorothy Wolden**, Superior, WI, and **Penny Cragun**, Duluth, MN, are this year's chairpersons.

We continue to support all other peace and justice groups and their activities in our area. Together we are strong! Pax, Jan Provost

### Rossmoor/Walnut Creek, California *Nancy Landfield*

We continue to meet monthly and to attract new members at each meeting. This is heartening given the state of the world today.

Several members contributed panels to the Peace Panels' collection. They were displayed at the Peace Center two weeks ago along with those from Oakland. The group also made many school and medical kits for

the children of Iraq.

Recent meetings have included speakers who covered such topics as "Non Defensive Communication," "A Spiritual Approach to Peace," and "Conflict Resolution." In November, we will co-sponsor a dinner with the Peace Center with the proceeds going toward a program aimed at eliminating landmines in Vietnam.

### Anderson, Indiana *Christie Smith Stephens*

The Indiana Chapter met this evening and made 50 Infant Kits for the babies of Iraq. We also donated \$500.00, the requested \$10/per kit for additional items and shipping. We are delivering the kits to the **American Friends Service Committee's** collection site in Richmond, Indiana. We are happy to have had the opportunity to participate in this project. We send our kits with our hopes for peace and our love. We are proud to be Grandmothers for Peace. God bless the children of the world!

Peace, **Christie Stephens, Lois Rockhill, Juanita Leonard, Christina Accornero, Nancy Hoffman, Gail Smith, Kay Shively, Sandra Clark, Norma Abbey, Dondeena Caldwell, Cheryl Surbaugh**

### London, England *Jean Stead*

This has been an autumn of many actions within the UK. Our Grandmothers for Peace are in the forefront of them.

**Helen John**, who is also chairperson of national CND, the **Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament**, is leader of the long-running women's protest at Menwith Hill - the "listening post" for the US in this country. Its space-based infrared system was used massively during the Iraq war and there are plans to increase this high-technology listening station to be included in the US plans for Star Wars and weapons in space. The Ministry of Defense has given £5m (approximately \$8,250,000.) to examine the part Menwith Hill could play in this.

In October, a large national demonstration against the plan was held at Menwith Hill, on the Yorkshire moors near Harrogate. A nationwide notice went out calling on CND members and others to take part. **GFP Helen John** was one of the leaders.

Fylingdales, nearby, site of the old early warning nuclear attack station, has already been given permission to take part in the space programme this year. The CND and the Menwith protesters are on red alert over these dangerous plans — which have received little national publicity — and are hoping for a large turnout. The rallying call is "Don't take the peace out of space!"

In the south-west of England, protest has centred on the stationing of the Trident missile submarines near Plymouth. Twenty-seven submarines, with their dangers of nuclear radiation, are being stored there long-term. Protests have centred on the plans for disposal of fifteen redundant nuclear submarines and their radioactive dangers. A public consultation on their disposal was held, but the safest method has yet to be decided by the Ministry of Defense and its advisers.

There were several large protests and some smaller ones during the summer, in which **Shirley Matthews**, our newest Grandmother for Peace, took part, as well as one of our first members, **Phyllis Quick**. There were several arrests.

**Shirley and her husband Sandy** are organisers of an important annual peace conference in St. Ives, Cornwall, due to take place this year in November. An important development is the possibility of Britain being sued in the European Court for endangering Continental neighbours by nuclear discharges into the English Channel from the Devonport dockyard at Plymouth. This may also include the Sellafield nuclear waste disposal plant (where the rods out of the submarine nuclear reactors would be taken by rail) and the Aldermaston weapons research establishment.

My information has been supplied by **Phyllis Quick, Shirley and Sandy Matthews, Di McDonald** of the **Campaign against Nuclear Storage and Radiation**, and the **Yorkshire Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament**.

According to a report in the *Western Morning News* (10-07-2003), the Devonport dockyard is owned by the US firm Haliburton (isn't Dick Cheney still on the board?).



# DAVID vs. GOLIATH in New Zealand

By Sandra Kay Patton, GFP  
Wellington, New Zealand

*Tena koutou katoa.* Greetings to you all — my Grandmothers for Peace Friends —



Sandra Kay holding a Kiwi statue.

from New Zealand. I've been enjoying my messages from Lorraine and Sarah and would love one day to meet up with at least some of you - I'll have to keep feeding the travel piggy bank!

First, to give some context to my article, a very brief history lesson. New Zealand is at the bottom of the Polynesian triangle which runs north to Hawaii and then east to Easter Island. Our nearest neighbour is Australia, 1200 km to the west, but our two cultures are very different, although both are very multi-cultural.

New Zealand's indigenous people are the Maori who migrated down through the Pacific approximately 800-1,000 years ago. There were no people living in the land before then and many of our flora and fauna are unique because of so many millennia of being undisturbed by people.

Probably our most well known icon is the Kiwi, a flightless bird from which all New Zealanders take their nickname. We call ourselves Kiwis and one of our favourite analogies is to call any of our successful people "flying Kiwis" (impossible, so it's absolutely wonderful when it happens!).

Because the Maori were a warlike people and there were frequent clashes between the different tribes, when the Europeans came they met with stern resistance and with some ferocious wars. Eventually a treaty was signed whereby everyone agreed that England would govern New Zealand, and although there are still settlements for land and other resources being negotiated, generally the nation has absorbed the best of both Maori and European culture. Many Maori words are part of our everyday language. This year our population reached four million, but probably another million of us live in countries all over the globe.

For a tiny place, we have had a pretty good rate of success in many disciplines: academically (Sir Ernest Rutherford, who first split the atom), sporting (Sir Edmund Hillary, who - with Sherpa Tensing - first

In 1987,  
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Nuclear-Free Zone (NFZ) ...

Even today, our nuclear-free zoning is used constantly by the United States government as a reason to limit our respective countries' relationships.

climbed Mt Everest, artistically (Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, opera diva) to name just a few.

During both World Wars, New Zealand supplied - and lost - proportionately more service personnel than most other countries. New Zealand and Australian forces often fought side by side in the most desperate battles and the ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) tradition of "mateship" was born when they landed at Gallipoli in 1915. Following WWII, in 1951, another alliance - ANZUS - a Pacific defense security pact was formed between Australia, New Zealand and the United States of America.

In 1987, New Zealand became a Nuclear-Free Zone (NFZ) and since then, our traditional alliances have been strained. Both Australia and the USA claim that New Zealand - by declaring itself nuclear free - was opting out of the coalition and its status as a valued ally was very much in doubt. Even today, our nuclear-free zoning is used constantly by the United States government as a reason to limit our respective countries' relationships.

The Australia government is very pro-US and does not believe we can pull our weight in times of war because (among other reasons) nuclear-armed and nuclear-powered vessels would not be able to use our ports.

When the *Greenpeace* vessel, *The Rainbow Warrior*, was bombed in Auckland harbour, neither the USA nor Australia was interested in assisting to find the perpetrators. (History shows that France was the culprit, due to New Zealand's protests against French nuclear testing in the Pacific.)

At the time of the NFZ declaration, I was living and working in Australia. In 1988,

Australia celebrated its bicentenary and the Prime Minister at the time thought it would be a great idea to invite the navies of the world to visit Australian ports, with their warships. A very large slice of the population did not believe that was an acceptable birthday present! Greenpeace, along with many other organisations and individuals, mounted a nationwide protest. While collecting signatures for a petition against the ships' visits to Newcastle, one of Australia's port cities, I was quite proud to be told by some of the signatories that they wished "their Prime Minister was Mr. Lange" [New Zealand's PM who championed the nuclear-free legislation], and "that Australia could also be nuclear-free."

I also remember ringing Newcastle's central fire service and asking the chief executive what plans he had in place in case there was a nuclear disaster while these vessels were in the port. "I'd run," he said. That made a good news story when I was interviewed on the radio!

During the event, because of our protests, only one American vessel out of the five originally scheduled to visit Newcastle came into port. Greenpeace and other supporters painted a huge banner and draped it around the headland at the entrance to the harbour. It read: "American sailors are welcome - but not nuclear ships." The vessel had to be berthed by the police because the wharfies would not touch it. Newcastle harbour was crowded with kayaks all flying the rainbow flag of peace.

We went down to the wharf and climbed the gangplank to voice our protest to the captain and officers, who listened very politely and said not a word. Then we talked to the sailors and I will recall until the end of my days the very young man I spoke to. He looked about 14 but was probably 17 or 18. I smiled at him and said, "Welcome to Newcastle, but can you tell me, how can you possibly feel safe sailing on a nuclear armed and powered ship?" Tears sprang into his eyes and he said, "I don't want to be here, ma'am: it's just that this was the only job I could get." Well, of course, he had to have a big hug. He could have been my son, then. Today he would be my grandson.

One of the reasons for my return to New Zealand to live and work is its nuclear-free policy. There have been many, over the years, who consider it outdated and that it

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would be in my country's best interests to have that legislation removed. As recently as last Thursday, (9 October), the United States Ambassador to New Zealand was prevented by protestors from giving a speech at one of our universities. The speech notes, which had been given out, showed he would mention that "the nuclear issue is not cost-free" and that it "places limits on our relationship" (between the USA and New Zealand).

It is true that, over the years, New Zealand's weapons for war gradually have deteriorated. We have virtually no strike air force. We have two frigates which are mostly used for patrolling our coast to ensure there are no infringements in our national fishing zone, but which have - on numerous occasions - been sent to assist in theatres of conflict (the Gulf, for example).

Whether by design or default, we have become a peace-keeping nation and we are very proud of our men and women who serve either in the United Nations' blue beret or as New Zealanders, in places such as East Timor, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Fiji and the Solomon Islands. Right now, we have army personnel in Iraq - and many other countries around the world - who are assisting with the rebuilding of schools, hospitals and public infrastructure. Yet the United States still feels (to quote the Ambassador) "as if there were someone missing when we finally moved against Saddam Hussein."

Of course, New Zealand is a tiny, miniscule player in the world. Still, like David against Goliath, we are not afraid to make a stand against war or go where we can make a positive difference. That is why we volunteer to keep peace, not make war. It would have such a difference on the lives of the children and grandchildren of this world, if those nations who see war as the initial response and the only answer could first consider **Mahatma Gandhi's** advice: **"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."** The change he wished - as do so many of us - was peace. And, it was **J. F. Kennedy** who said, **"Change is the law of life. Those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future."**

The past has been war and we recognise how little good that has done the world. The future, no question, is peace.

(Sandra Kay's email: [escapee@paradise.net.nz](mailto:escapee@paradise.net.nz))

## Smedley Butler on Interventionism

War is just a racket. A racket is best described, I believe, as something that is not what it seems to the majority of people. Only a small inside group knows what it is about. It is conducted for the benefit of the very few at the expense of the masses.

I believe in adequate defense at the coastline and nothing else. If a nation comes over here to fight, then we'll fight. The trouble with America is that when the dollar only earns 6 percent over here, then it gets restless and goes overseas to get 100 percent. Then the flag follows the dollar and the soldiers follow the flag.

I wouldn't go to war again as I have done to protect some lousy investment of the bankers. There are only two things we should fight for. One is the defense of our homes and the other is the Bill of Rights. War for any other reason is simply a racket.

There isn't a trick in the racketeering bag that the military gang is blind to. It has its "finger men" to point out enemies, its "muscle men" to destroy enemies, its "brain men" to plan war preparations, and a "Big Boss" Super-Nationalistic-Capitalism.

It may seem odd for me, a military man to adopt such a comparison. Truthfulness compels me to. I spent thirty-three years and four months in active military service as a member of this country's most agile military force, the Marine Corps. I served in all commissioned ranks from Second Lieutenant to Major-General. And during that period, I spent most of my time being

a high class muscle-man for Big Business, for Wall Street and for the Bankers. In short, I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism.

I suspected I was just part of a racket at the time. Now I am sure of it. Like all the members of the military profession, I never had a thought of my own until I left the service. My mental faculties remained in suspended animation while I obeyed the orders of higher-ups. This is typical with everyone in the military service.

I helped make Mexico, especially Tampico, safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefits of Wall Street. The record of racketeering is long. I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1909-1912 (where have I heard that name before?). I brought light

to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests in 1916. In China I helped to see to it that Standard Oil went its way unmolested.

During those years, I had, as the boys in the back room would say, a swell racket. Looking back on it, I feel that I could have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate his racket in three districts. I operated on three continents.

— Excerpt from a speech delivered in 1933 by Major General Smedley Butler, USMC.

*There are only two things we should fight for. One is the defense of our homes and the other is the Bill of Rights. War for any other reason is simply a racket.*

### Pamphlet to help your brother-in-law understand why you go to all those demonstrations

*"War and Peace and Democracy,"* not to be confused with that earlier work by Tolstoy, is a slim 32-page pamphlet penned for those who agree with Smedley Butler that "war is a racket."

Written by **Veteran for Peace** member, **Mike Ferner**, it contains four essays guaranteed to get you thinking about why we find ourselves in another war, and how our peacemaking needs to be rethought if we're to break this sad cycle.

Simply written and accessible enough to help even your brother-in-law understand why you go to all those demonstrations.

**To order:** single copy, \$3.00 incl. postage; bulk prices available from: OCLAD, POB 246, So. Yarmouth, MA 02664; phone: 508-398-1145; [ww.poclاد.org](http://ww.poclاد.org) (Editor: This review appeared in a recent *Veterans for Peace* newsletter.)

## The Arrest and Trial of Ellen Murphy

By Ellen Murphy



On November 12, 2002, when the Bellingham Military Recruiting Center reopened after the Veterans' Day holiday, I was there.

The Bush Junior administration was hounding the world for another oil-and-empire war, ostensibly over the imminent danger of

Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. The hypocrisy had to be exposed in as many ways as possible: the only WMDs used in the first Gulf War were the uranium munitions of the United States, and that horrible fact was about to be repeated.

I went into the building with informational leaflets about depleted uranium (DU), a statement demanding that new recruits be informed of these deadly hidden hazards, and an invitation to hear **Dr. Doug Rokke** speak in Seattle on the use and effects of DU, “A Crime Against Humanity.” Little did I know that Dr. Rokke, in three months, would be testifying at my trial!

All the recruiters accepted the information and said they would pass it on to their Public Affairs Officers. One of them sincerely repeated, “Yes, ma'am,” as I told him about shells that explode into fine radioactive and heavy metal dust, which contaminates forever the air, water, soil, civilians, soldiers and their offspring.

I gave them statistics from the Government General Accounting Office showing that the Army's protective gear is not effective, and statistics about the more than one-third of Gulf War I veterans who are terribly disabled from all kinds of toxic exposures.

I told them about the government cover-up, the “lost” medical records. I told them about the media's failure to examine the document that said the startling increase in gross malformations of ex-GI's infants was just Saddam's propaganda, and of the 8,000 young vets who had died in the years since the war ended (now estimated at twice that number).

One conversation is particularly memorable. A young man who said he was there to “re-up” shared his story a bit, argued the government's case that DU is harmless, talked about his spiritual beliefs and, finally, said he wanted to go home and do some

thinking. Now that the second invasion has happened, using three to six times the DU tonnage as the first war, I sometimes think of him and hope he, indeed, did change his mind that day.

When the discussions ended, and as I prepared to leave, I felt the action had been successful. I had so wanted to do something meaningful for Veterans' Day, rather than attend the flag-waving civic ceremony, where the great war cliché would reign and denial of reality would pervade.

How many times I had helped vets break through the denial of their pain in my counseling practice! I knew I had been up against profound conditioning and fear in the recruiters' center, but I believed something real had happened and some doors had cracked open.

However, one door that wouldn't open was the front door through which I wanted to exit the building. In a separate but related action, some women had blocked the door. When they eventually let me out, we were all promptly arrested.

Though I had not planned to do civil disobedience that day, I recognized the arrest as a “coyote moment” – one in which a person is called to do more. I instantly saw that this unexpected arrest would far better expose the Pentagon's plan to use weapons of mass destruction than would my little handouts, so off we went to jail.

My friends had planned to plead guilty and do community service, but at the arraignment I entered a plea of not guilty and was thus set on the road to a jury trial.

The trial took place on February 11, 12 and 13, 2003. Dr. Doug Rokke flew from his home in Illinois to testify on my behalf - but it was really on behalf of humanity; it was depleted uranium that was on trial.

Our defense of “necessity” was an old stand-by for anti-nuclear activists, and one fraught with failure. It means that an infraction, or a lesser harm is undertaken in order to prevent a greater harm. We believed we could prove (whether I broke a law being immaterial) that the government was not following its own directives to train troops about DU, to protect its own people from grave dangers, and that a citizen then had the duty to educate and warn.

The Judge, Deborah Lev, threw out our defense, and thus Doug was not allowed to testify before the jury. However, he was

allowed to testify in court regarding his own illnesses from uranium exposure in Iraq, and those of the team he commanded. He brought forth a great deal of evidence that the government knew perfectly well of the dangers of uranium use in munitions well before the 1991 war, and that clear military directives, based on his own recommendations as leader of the Army's official DU clean-up team, were ignored.

At the end of the trial, the prosecutor, Jeff Lustick, told the jury (who had not heard the Rokke testimony), to “send a message” about protest. He pointed at me and labeled me “the woman who went too far.” The jury meekly came back with a conviction resulting in a fine and probation. The case is currently under appeal.

Now, a few months since the third invasion of Iraq (the second one was 12 years of murderous sanctions and bombing), the reports on veterans will begin to come in: the traumas, the mystery pneumonias, the suicides, the toxic and radiation exposures, the illnesses, the deaths.

These young people need to be embraced, not judged, and listened to, if only they will talk. Never again will the Pentagon get away with saying we don't support the troops, when it's the war we hate.

We must continue to expose this administration and the war machine. They are the ones who happily sacrifice the lives and souls of our youth. They are the ones who don't support the vets. They are the ones who betray and abandon them and leave them in the dust.

Only one thing will be superior to uranium in penetrating armor, and that will be when the veterans of the peace movement and the veterans of war become allies in the fight to save Mother Earth and all her children.

**FYI:** DU ([www.traprockpeace.org](http://www.traprockpeace.org))  
[www.umrc.org](http://www.umrc.org); Military Families Speak Out  
([www.mfso.org](http://www.mfso.org)); VFP ([www.veteransforpeace.org](http://www.veteransforpeace.org))

*“A nation's military personnel cannot willfully contaminate any other nation, cause harm to persons and the environment and then ignore the consequences of their actions. To do so is a crime against humanity.”*

— **Dr. Doug Rokke**, ex-director  
of the Pentagon's  
depleted uranium project

# Iraq Water Project: An update

By Barry Riesch

The Veterans For Peace Iraq Water Project (VFPIWP) began as a project to make Americans aware of the effects of U.S. policy on the ordinary people of Iraq. After the recent Shock and Awe assault on that country, that work was done for us. Those few who

## Barry Riesch

*of St. Paul, Minnesota, 53, served in the U.S. Army from 1968-70: one year in Vietnam. He joined VFP in 1991 just prior to Operation Desert Storm.*

*Now a lifetime member of VFP, he served one year as President of the National VFP, two years as VP of MN Chapter 27, and two years as its President.*

*He does all he can to stop wars, to give meaning to his survival in Vietnam and to honor the memory of all his brothers and sisters who died there.*

*Since Operation Desert Storm, the People of Iraq have been in Barry's heart and he focuses on doing what he can to end their suffering.*



## Veterans for Peace

*is a national organization founded in 1985. It includes men and women veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War, other conflicts and peacetime veterans. Our collective experience tells us wars are easy to start and hard to stop and that those hurt are often the innocent. Thus, other means of problem solving are necessary. Veterans for Peace is an official Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) represented at the UN.*

*Veterans for Peace, World Community Center, 438 North Skinker Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63130; [www.veteransforpeace.org](http://www.veteransforpeace.org)*

read halfway reliable news accounts must be aware of the chaotic and dire conditions prevailing throughout Iraq today.

At this point, few Iraqis are feeling in any way rewarded by their country's new status as an American dependency. Also, American GI's feel increasing animosity toward Iraqis - who are not thanking them for their liberation. Not knowing who is friend or foe brings back feelings of Viet Nam, where we would be fighting the villagers in the evening that we bought soda from in the day.

Of course, our Washington administration is proclaiming its intentions to rebuild the desolate land into a new

Garden of Eden, a political and material Light unto the Nations, a gift from us, America, beneficent and pure. We at VFP know the real intentions of this administration - a hidden agenda to ensure massive privatization of public services for the benefit of primarily U.S. corporations. In a closed-door process that was restricted to a handful of U.S. companies, Bechtel was awarded a 680 million dollar contract for rebuilding Iraq. In the case of water, it is possible they will have the exclusive contract.

It is useful to know that Bechtel was recently expelled from Bolivia after taking possession of public water services, and then raising rates to a level beyond the reach of the poor. Bechtel is now suing impoverished Bolivia for millions of dollars in lost profits. The only freedom happening from "Operation Iraqi Freedom" is freedom for corporations to profit and loot.

The U.S. invasion and military

occupation has caused a major dislocation in the purposes and direction of VFP Iraq Water Project. We have a quite different agenda than our government. Our entire purpose is to benefit the people of Iraq, not shareholders, not free-market ideologues. Once again, we find ourselves crossing philosophical swords with this present administration. If, in fact, privatization is the future being offered the desperate Iraqi people, we hope to make our little collection of water treatment plants a demonstration of a very different way of doing things. We plan to be noticed.

Tom Sager, VFPIWP project coordinator, has just returned from Iraq, where he assessed the damage done to our plants. Of the six plants previously rehabilitated, some suffered damage from shelling, others were looted, and all require continue maintenance. We, as a committee, have decided to continue to raise funds to bring these facilities back to reliable service and keep them going.

As before, work on the ground will be contracted and supervised by LIFE for Relief and Development, an American Islamic charity that has toiled tirelessly in Iraq for a decade. LIFE was one of the first Non-Government Agency (NGO), to plunge into the dangerous chaos of Iraq when the bombing ceased. It is the sense of the committee that this approach satisfies our strong resistance to the American occupation, while at the same time keeping faith with the Iraqi people we have tried to help with this project. We thank all those that have supported this project in the past and hope you will see our difficulty and hope through the

same lens and will continue to support the VFP Iraq Water Project.

We at Veterans for Peace are convinced that military intimidation and violence are more likely to aggravate than resolve conflict and know that countless Americans, like millions of people around the world share this vision.

The Iraq Water Project is intended to become a model for a sustainable and independent life in that desert land. It will also serve a more immediate and pressing purpose: it will save lives. I personally am very gratified for the continuance of this project, as it gives me a vehicle to feel that, in some small way, I am helping our brothers and sisters in Iraq. **"Water is God's gift, not merchandise; water is life."**

## The World's Thirstiest Children

The world's children feel the burden of the world's water crisis more than anyone. Each day it is estimated that 6,000 people lose their lives to diarrheal disease. Most of these people are children under the age of five.

Visit **Earth Day Network**, [www.earthday.net](http://www.earthday.net), to learn about the challenges faced by a child living near the **Mexico - U.S.A. border**, a young girl in **Tanzania**, a 12-year-old girl in **Ghana**, an 11-year-old boy in **China**, an orphan child in **Kenya**, school children in **Romania**, and other countries: **India, Togo, Jordan, and Somalia.**



## In the spotlight

Selma Blackburn and I have known each other since kindergarten in New Jersey. We are our “oldest” friends - no one else knows either of us longer. That is quite a friendship considering I moved around many, many times and Selma moved once - to Little Rock! Selma joined GFP a few years ago, and we continue to chat via e-mail about our issues, peace, justice, politics, and of course her “other life.” Her pictures are vibrant with life and color - the mark of an artist truly engaged. While we can only print her picture in black and white, please imagine the burst of colors in the image! — Lorraine Krofchok

*“The laws of design govern my artistic efforts. Subject matter is a starting point as I begin using the tools at my disposal. But subject matter is not the sole reason a work is painted. My urge to know more, to understand, to see more clearly, and to enlighten the inner self keep my spiritual search alive, and keep my painting and teaching activities energetic.*

*My focus on subjects real and imaginary sparks compositions, ideas, and experiments that eventually become visual images. Among other areas of pursuit, I am intensely interested in light, color, peace, politics, family, music, science and religion, all of which work their way into my creations. A sense of humor about life, nature, words and people often takes precedence over strictly classical statements and images in my paintings. It seems to me that creative endeavor is a poetic way to pursue adventure!*

*Full engagement in the process of meaningful living, as well as in the process of painting itself, is the compelling force that characterizes my work. Making art is an emotional, spiritual, physical and intellectual act that provides a means for exploring and expressing my understandings about the human condition and the natural world. Interpreting life and communicating a personal vision are the results.”*

— Selma Blackburn



| Chicken Motif, by Selma F. Blackburn |

(Selma maintains a studio in her home and is represented by a local gallery. sblackburn@comcast.net)

## SOA WATCH STATEMENT on AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL USA INVESTIGATIVE REPORT January 22, 2003

### Introduction

We of SOA Watch have long claimed that the foreign military training school located at Fort Benning, Georgia, for Latin American soldiers should be closed down. Our claims have been thoroughly researched and corroborated by the renowned independent human rights organization, Amnesty International USA.

### First

The Amnesty International investigative report is titled ***UNMATCHED POWER, UNMET PRINCIPLES: The Human Rights Dimensions of US Training of Foreign Military and Police Forces***. The US military claims that the School of the Americas (SOA) has been closed and that the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC) is an entirely new institution. However, the AI report specifically states:

*“...WHINSEC is essentially the same school as the SOA, with the same primary mission— conveying military skills to members of Latin American armed forces.”*

### Second

The AI report recommends that the US government take immediate steps to **establish an independent commission to:**

- 1. investigate past activities** of the SOA and its graduates;
- 2. suspend training at the WHINSEC**, pending findings of this inquiry; and
- 3. recommend appropriate reparations** for any violations of human rights to which training at the SOA contributed, including **criminal prosecutions, redress for victims and their families, and a public apology.**

*We of SOA Watch support congressional legislation to close WHINSEC and to establish an independent commission to investigate past atrocities committed by graduates of the SOA.*

### Third

The AI report recommends increased transparency, accountability and more oversight for the training of foreign militaries.

*We of SOA Watch demand that the Department of Defense annually provide the US Congress and the general public, specific reports tracking applicants and graduates of WHINSEC.*

*(Editor: This synopsis provided by SOAWatch, West [www.soaw.org]; FYI: www.amnestyusa.org/arms\_trade/)*

The Bill to Close the SOA is in the House of Representatives; there are 90 co-sponsors so far. Contact your representative to thank her/him for sponsorship, or to encourage his/her sponsorship.

### H. R. 1258

To repeal the statutory authority for the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (the successor institution to the United States Army School of the Americas) in the Department of Defense, to provide for the establishment of a joint congressional task force to conduct an assessment of the kind of education and training that is appropriate for the Department of Defense to provide to military personnel of Latin American nations, and for other purposes.

## International Office

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## United States

### Local Chapters/Contact People

#### **Alabama:** Area Contact Person

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 3103 McMillan St.  
 Evergreen, AL 36401  
 Phone: (251) 578-2350 [home]  
 (251) 578-2670 [work]  
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 E-Mail: [dianesosebee@hotmail.com](mailto:dianesosebee@hotmail.com)

#### **California:** Hayward Chapter

*Focus* includes canceling construction of the Nuclear Ignition Facility at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.  
 Corine Thornton  
 24417 Margaret Drive  
 Hayward, CA 94542  
 Phone: (510) 582-7699

#### **California:** Rossmoor/Walnut Creek Chapter

Nancy Landfield  
 E-Mail: [unclnan@attbi.com](mailto:unclnan@attbi.com)

#### **California:** San Luis Obispo Area Chapter

*Focus* includes Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, Vandenburg and "Star Wars," GMO's in food, Military Toxics Campaign, and DU (depleted uranium); weapons' testing.  
 Molly Johnson  
 6290 Hawk Ridge Place  
 San Miguel, CA 93451  
 Phone/Fax: (805) 467-2431  
 E-Mail: [peacegrannie@hotmail.com](mailto:peacegrannie@hotmail.com)

#### **California:** Sacramento Area Chapter

*Focus:* Under construction! In the past, members contacted each other informally to attend events and actions. This past year, many new members have expressed a need for "solidarity and community." Our "official" chapter has had three meetings; the people are energetic, enthusiastic and very supportive of each other.  
 Lorraine Krofchok, GFPI Director  
 P.O. Box 580788  
 Elk Grove, CA 95758  
 Phone: (916) 685-1130  
 E-Mail: [lorraine@grandmothersforpeace.org](mailto:lorraine@grandmothersforpeace.org)  
 Bernice Kring  
 Sacramento, CA 95814  
 Phone: (916) 443-4553  
 E-Mail: [bernicerose@earthlink.net](mailto:bernicerose@earthlink.net)

#### **Florida:** Grandmothers for Peace

##### (Young Women's Auxiliary)

Mary Provost Sellers  
 3500 Gulf Blvd., Unit 411  
 Bellaire Beach, FL 33786  
 Phone: (727) 596-2701

#### **Florida:** St. Augustine Chapter

*Focus* includes Children's Peace Camps.  
 Peg McIntire  
 Grandparents for Peace (Peg's name for her local group)  
 21 Village Las Palma Circle  
 St. Augustine, FL 32080-3590  
 Phone: (904) 471-1986  
 E-Mail: [peg@aug.com](mailto:peg@aug.com)

#### **Florida:** Cocoa Area Contact Person

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 Phone: (321) 639-2078  
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#### **Florida:** Venice Area Contact Person

June Forsythe  
 316 Park Blvd. N  
 Venice, FL 34285

#### **Indiana:** Indiana Chapter

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 1821 West Tenth Street  
 Anderson, IN 46016  
 Phone: (765) 644-0069  
 E-Mail: [ecstephens1@aol.com](mailto:ecstephens1@aol.com)

#### **Maryland:** Maryland Chapter

Deborah Matherly  
 Phone: (410) 730-6049  
 E-Mail: [grannys4peace@aol.com](mailto:grannys4peace@aol.com)

#### **Massachusetts:** Cape Cod Area Contact Person

Peggy Prichett  
 E-Mail: [pprichett@capecod.net](mailto:pprichett@capecod.net)

#### **Minnesota:** Minnesota Chapter

*Focus:* We are a group — not all of us have grandchildren — who get together with others to share our concerns about nuclear issues, the environment, justice, poverty, war, violence, and the legacy we will leave future generations.  
 Marilyn Jones  
 P.O. Box 24251  
 Minneapolis, MN 55424  
 E-Mail: [minnesota@grandmothersforpeace.org](mailto:minnesota@grandmothersforpeace.org)  
 Website: [minnesota.grandmothersforpeace.org](http://minnesota.grandmothersforpeace.org)

#### **Minnesota:** St. Paul Chapter

*Focus* includes the education of individuals, colleges and organizations concerning peaceful protesting and peace issues awareness; the

James William Fleisher/Marjorie Hedrik Sibley annual award given to a student, K-college senior, who has demonstrated, in any manner, an interest in International Peace, Peace Studies, Environmental Concerns or Social Justice issues.

Constance Fleisher  
 Towers of Galtier  
 172 E. 6th Street #1206  
 St. Paul, MN 55101  
 Phone: (651) 227-4619  
 E-Mail: [CBF36@aol.com](mailto:CBF36@aol.com)

#### **Nevada:** Las Vegas Chapter

*Focus:* We are a group of Grandmothers who hope to leave the world a better place for all children. Our aspirations are for peace and justice throughout the world; for a safe environment that is nuclear free; and for every child to have their basic needs met so they have the opportunity to realize their potential.  
 Ginny Beamer  
 Phone: (702) 631-3560  
 E-Mail: [ginnylv@juno.com](mailto:ginnylv@juno.com)

#### **New York:** Mohawk Valley Chapter

Diane Stebbins  
 7 French Rd.  
 Utica, NY 13502  
 Phone: (315) 735-3112  
 E-Mail: [ddstebbins@adelphia.net](mailto:ddstebbins@adelphia.net)

#### **Oklahoma:** Tulsa Area Contact Person

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 E-Mail: [hut2nanapapa@webtv.net](mailto:hut2nanapapa@webtv.net)

#### **Texas:** Amarillo Area Contact Person

Pam Allison  
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 Amarillo, TX 79120  
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#### **Virginia:** Northern Virginia Chapter

Suzanne C. Doherty  
 9873 Lakepointe Dr.  
 Burke, VA 22015  
 Phone: (703) 978-5178  
 E-Mail: [scdoherty@cox.net](mailto:scdoherty@cox.net)

#### **Wisconsin:** Northland Chapter

*Focus* includes shutdown of Project ELF at Clam Lake, Wisconsin; No War Toys.  
 Janet Provost  
 2614 N. 22nd Street  
 Superior, WI 54880  
 Phone/Fax: (715) 394-7929  
 E-Mail: [G4Peace1@aol.com](mailto:G4Peace1@aol.com)

#### **Wisconsin:** Milwaukee Area Contact Person

Verdell De Yarman  
 Phone: (414) 562-8014



**Fort Benning, Georgia**

**November 22-23**

**Justice for the People of the Americas!**



Join thousands at the gates of the U.S. military base at Fort Benning for a rally and nonviolent civil resistance action to demand justice for the martyrs and for the thousands who continue to suffer the brutal consequences of the combat training at the SOA/WHSC.

Graduates of the School of the Americas/Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation are linked to almost every major human rights violation in Latin America since the school's inception over 50 years ago.

The SOA/WHISC has to close its doors for good and oppressive U.S. foreign policy needs to change. **Your TAX \$\$\$\$\$ support it.** Ask Your Representative To Sponsor **H.R. 1258**, the New Bill To Close The SOA/WHISC.

**Contact:** SOA Watch: PO Box 4566, Washington, DC, 20017; (202) 234 3440; info@soaw.org; www.soaw.org

**Maine**

**April 23-25, 2004**

**Global Network Annual International Conference**



Help build this vital global movement to stop the nuclearization and weaponization of space.

**For more informa-**

**tion:** Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space, PO Box 652, Brunswick, ME 04011; phone (207) 729-0517; globalnet@mindspring.com; www.space4peace.org

**Worldwide**

**2001-2010**



**"International Decade for a culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World"**

**Contact:** The United Nations' General Assembly concerning resolution 53/25, adopted November 10, 1998. www.un.org

**NO GFP POLITICAL ENDORSEMENTS PERMITTED**

**Grandmothers for Peace, as an organization or chapter, can not endorse any political candidate or group due to our non-profit status.**

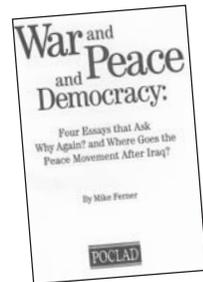
**The Peace Book**, by Louise Diamond, provides simple, everyday tools that can help us have more peace in our lives and in the world.

The assumption behind this book and *The Great Peace Give-Away* is that if we put the same basic principles and tools in the hands of enough people, we can lay the groundwork for wide-spread action that arises from shared experience - i.e., a culture shift. We have seen this in the environmental community; now we can make it happen for a culture of peace - *Changing the World, One "Peace" at a Time.*

**The Peace Book** is not sold in bookstores: it can only be sponsored and given away.

**To order:** single copy is \$5, plus \$3.50 S/H. The Peace Company, 54 Maple Street, Bristol, VT 05443; Tel: Toll Free 1-888-455-5355; www.thepeacecompany.com; info@thepeacecompany.com

**War and Peace and Democracy,**



by Mike Ferner; is reviewed on page 4. Please see the article, *Pamphlet to help your brother-in-law understand why you go to all those demonstrations.*

**Lubbock, Texas Pollution Issue**

Toxic rocket fuel was found in milk samples from Texas supermarkets. Read the article: <http://www.globenet.freeonline.co.uk/articles/pollution/perchlorateinmilk.htm>

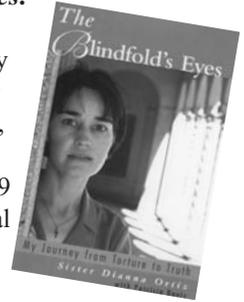
**Contact:** Dr. Purnendu K. Dasgupta, Texas Tech University (806) 885-4567; Sandy.D-@ttu.edu

**Barbara Wiedner and Dorothy Vandercook Memorial Scholarship Foundation**

for information, and/or donation, **Contact:** Leal Portis, 16335 Patricia Way, Grass Valley, CA 95949, USA, phone (530) 273-6018, fax (530) 274-3284; e-mail: hopione@mindsync.com.

**The Blindfold's Eyes:**

**My Journey from Torture to Truth**, by Sister Dianna Ortiz with Patricia Davis, is the account of Sister Dianna's 1989 abduction and brutal torture by security forces in



Guatemala. This American Ursuline missionary nun's story will stun, frustrate, and inspire you.

It received international attention, not because she was abducted, but because she escaped to give details, and because the man who intervened with her captors may have had connections with the U.S. Embassy.

**Contact:** local bookstores; it is available in hardcopy.

**Toward Nuclear Abolition: A History of the World Nuclear Disarmament Movement, 1971 to the Present,**

by Lawrence S. Wittner. This book concludes the author's award-winning anti-nuclear trilogy *The Struggle Against the Bomb.*

In *Toward Nuclear Abolition*, Wittner, a professor of history at State University of New York in Albany, NY, presents the story of how citizen activism helped curb the nuclear arms race and prevent nuclear war. It is available in a paperback edition.

**Contact:** local bookstores or from the Stanford University Press Chicago Distribution Center, 11030 South Langley Avenue, Chicago, IL 60638; Tel: 1 (800) 621-2736.

**Worldwide**

**April 22 = EARTH DAY**

Join the **Earth Day Network**, an alliance of 5,000 groups in 184 countries working to promote a healthy environment and a peaceful, just, sustainable world.

Each year, Earth Day inspires a groundswell of grassroots action in communities around the world. People from Peru to India, and from Ireland to the USA take part in Earth Day events and actions which educate, spread awareness and push for tangible change.

Every voice counts; every action matters - ordinary people, acting together, can achieve extraordinary things.

**Contact:** Earth Day Network USA, 1616 P Street NW, Suite 200, Washington, D.C. 20036 USA; Tel: 1 (202) 518 0044; earthday@earthday.net; www.earthday.net

# Grandmothers for Peace

P.O. Box 580788  
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 e-mail: lorraine@grandmothersforpeace.org  
 web: http://www.grandmothersforpeace.org

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 & Bumper stickers*

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 e-mail: sarahjohnson@att.net



**Children's  
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 &  
 Sweatshirts**

See Above Order Form for details.

### Hats on to GFP

We have new items for peaceful protesting — an adjustable Baseball Cap with the GFP Logo — \$11.00 each.

**&**

### Bumper Stickers

\$2.00 each, postage included.  
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*Carry Our Message ~  
 Wherever You Go!*



**Navy Tote  
 with  
 colorful  
 GFP logo**

# Grandmothers for Peace International

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## The U.S. Occupation of Iraq

### Our \$6 Billion Per Month Price Tag

“... A central goal of the war is to privatize (i.e. steal) Iraq's vast oil fields for the benefit of U.S. corporate and banking elites who in turn are plowing hundreds of millions of dollars into George W. Bush's campaign coffers.

“At the cost of \$6 billion per month (that is \$1.5 billion each week) the price tag for the U.S. occupation of Iraq is being paid for by dramatic budget cuts in primary education and at the college level, as well as in health care, housing, veterans benefits, and other programs that assist working and poor people.

“The occupation of Iraq must end. While we demand that the obscene expenditure of \$6 billion each month be used instead for jobs, education, housing and health care, we are clear that our opposition to the occupation is not simply that working people in the U.S. have to bear the financial burden. The occupation is a violation of the Iraqi people's fundamental right to self-determination by the U.S. government which pursues Empire in the interests of the U.S.-based corporate and banking elites.

“This was never a war to defend the United States from the supposed "grave and imminent danger" posed by Iraq. That claim was a bold-faced lie. Killing tens of thousands of Iraqis and sacrificing a growing number of U.S. soldiers - who are being killed or maimed in the interests of Halliburton, Bechtel, Exxon/Mobil, Citibank and Chase - is what reveals the criminal character of the whole endeavor.”

— *From the website of The A.N.S.W.E.R. Coalition  
at [www.internationalanswer.org](http://www.internationalanswer.org)*

### Numbers You Need

It is important that President Bush, key people in his Administration, and members of Congress hear from you. 

#### **President George W. Bush**

Phone: (202) 456-1111 [comment line]

Fax: (202) 456-2461

e-mail: [president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov)

#### **First Lady Laura Bush**

e-mail: [first.lady@whitehouse.gov](mailto:first.lady@whitehouse.gov)

#### **Vice-President Dick Cheney**

e-mail: [vice.president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:vice.president@whitehouse.gov)

#### **Secretary of State Colin L. Powell**

Fax: (202) 261-8577

e-mail: [secretary@state.gov](mailto:secretary@state.gov)

#### **Secretary of Defense**

#### **Donald H. Rumsfeld**

Phone: (703) 697-5737 [Dept. of Defense]

#### **Members Of Congress**

(Capitol Switchboard)

Senate & House: (202) 224-3121

Place  
Stamp  
Here

60 Minutes  
CBS News  
524 West 57th St.  
New York, NY 10019

Dear 60 Minutes Staff:

In response to President Bush's call to shut down **ALL** terrorist training camps, I am writing to ask that you produce a program on the **School of the Americas**. I believe Americans would appreciate learning why **a recent report released by Amnesty International<sup>1</sup>** called for an immediate suspension of military training there, recommending the US establish an independent commission to investigate activities of the SOA due to human rights abuses by its graduates.

This November, thousands are expected to gather peacefully outside the SOA but most Americans remain uninformed about the AI report or why fellow citizens are participating in an annual protest against the SOA, or of a bill pending in Congress to shut down this facility. Why will students, grandparents, veterans and others converge in Columbus, Georgia, from November 21-23, 2003? They'll come to be "Presente" ... to remember, in a mock funeral procession with coffins and crosses, the thousands who have died at the hands of SOA graduates. They'll come to protest an American "school" that has trained 60,000 Latin American soldiers in combat, counter-insurgency, and counter-narcotics techniques, entirely with US tax dollars. They'll come out of a moral responsibility, to say, **"No, not in my name."** They'll come because they know their country is responsible for training terrorists who have been implicated in some of the worst human rights abuses in Latin America<sup>2</sup>, including the El Mozote Massacre of 900 civilians, the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero, the murder and rape of four US nuns, the murder of six Jesuit priests, their co-worker and her daughter, and the Segovia massacre in Colombia. They'll come to speak out in solidarity with the people of Latin America, to speak against humanitarian crimes.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of presenting this important national topic to the American public. If you wish to learn more, please visit [www.soaw.org](http://www.soaw.org).

Sincerely,

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Grandmothers for Peace

---

<sup>1</sup> "Unmatched Power, Unmet Principles: The Human Rights Dimensions of US Training of Foreign Military and Police Forces"

<sup>2</sup> Manuel Noriega, Omar Torrijos, Leopoldo Galtieri, Roberto Viola, Juan Velasco Alvarado, Guillermo Rodriguez, Hugo Banzer Suarez.