



Gender and Education Office of the ICAE

VOICES RISING

YEAR II - VOL 2 N° 49– February 2003

A publication of

The International Gender and Education Office (GEO) of the ICAE

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TO SAY NO

by Eduardo Galeano

The planet's president announces his next crime in the name of God and democracy. Thus, God is victim of calumny. And democracy as well, a democracy that has barely survived in the world, despite the dictatorships that the United States has spread everywhere for more than a century. Bush's government, seems to be an oil pipeline rather than a government, he needs to appropriate the second oil reserve in the world, lying beneath Irak's land. Besides, he needs to justify the high amount of money assigned to military forces and to exhibit his latest models of the armaments industry.

This is what is all about. The rest is just an excuse. And the excuses for this slaughtering constitute an offence to intelligence. The only country that has used nuclear weapons against civil population, the country that threw bombs and annihilated Hiroshima and Nagasaki, pretending to convince us that Irak is a threat for mankind. If President Bush loves mankind so much and really wants to conspire the most serious threat against mankind, why doesn't he bomb out himself instead of planning a new extermination of innocent people? Huge manifestations will flood streets around the world this February 15. Mankind is sick and tired of being used as alibi by killers and of crying over the dead at the end of each war: this time they want to stop the war that is going to lead them to death.

News Release

February 13, 2003

Pearson Peace Medallists Speak Out Against War in Iraq

Past recipients of the Lester B. Pearson Peace Medal have added their voices to those who oppose war in Iraq. Flora Macdonald, Gerry Barr and Murray Thomson spoke on behalf of 11 Pearson medallists who co-signed a letter to Prime Minister Jean Chrétien. The medallists expressed deep concern about the "consequences of war which, without question, now poses a grave danger to the human security of millions of Iraqi civilians, particularly women and children".

The Pearson Peace Medal, awarded annually by the United Nations Association in Canada, honours Canadians who have personally contributed to the causes to which Lester B. Pearson devoted his career. Eleven past recipients came together to uphold the Pearson commitment to mediation between those confronting each other with arms, equal rights and justice for all humanity and peaceful change through world law and world organization.

As Dr. Hans Blix is set to deliver his second report to the United Nations Security Council on February 14, the medallists also urged that Canada to use its "significant diplomatic resources in favour of measures that secure peace and lasting stability in Iraq."

"Now is not the time for us to abandon peaceful solutions," says Flora Macdonald (1999 medal recipient). "Contrary to Colin Powell's statement that if the United Nations did not act against Iraq it would risk becoming irrelevant, the United Nations must not be pressured to act hastily, without giving the weapons inspectors the time they need to perform their duties."

"War will produce a humanitarian disaster, with children among those most at risk," says Murray Thomson (1990 medal recipient). "Iraq's 13 million children risk starvation, disease and death."

This is a moment in which world organizations, like the United Nations, are especially challenged to find a peaceful outcome and according to Gerry Barr (1996 medal recipient), "the Security Council is bound by the UN Charter, to seek alternatives to war and is properly obliged to satisfy itself that all other possible remedies have failed before approving military action."

As the medallist said in their letter to the Prime Minister, "Plainly put, war is not a means to peace."

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AGENDA OF CALLS TO ACTION

Boletim FSM

gerente@forumsocialmundial.org.br

International call to action against the war: from February 14 onwards and particularly on February 15 social movements and organizations all over the world are planning activities and marches against the war in Iraq. In Brazil, all the State Committees against the FTAA (see contact details on the web site <http://www.jubileubrasil.org.br>) will be holding local activities on February 15. São Paulo is organizing a big march to leave from the MASP at 10 a.m. heading towards Ibirapuera Park. More information: from Guillermo - Tel. (11) 3105-2516 or e-mail plebiscitealca@ig.com.br. See also the list of contact details for organizers of calls to action around the world (would the remaining organizations please send us their contact details for publication by February 13 at the latest):

Australia: <http://www.vicpeace.org/>; <http://www.greenleft.org.au/>
Austria: <http://www.socialforum.at/>
Belgium <http://www.geenoorlog.be/>
Canada: <http://www.tcaswi.org/index.htm>
Chile: www.attac.cl
Czech Republic: <http://www.mujweb.cz/www/irak/>
Denmark: <http://www.nejtilkrig.dk/>
England: <http://www.stopwar.org.uk>
Finland: <http://members.surfeu.fi/ewk/eiiskuairakiin/>
France: <http://france.attac.org>
Germany: <http://www.15februar.de/>
Greece: <http://users.otenet.gr/~ergatiki/main.htm>
Holland: <http://www.wereldcrisis.nl>
Iraq <http://www.unponteper.it>
Ireland: <http://irishantiwar.org/>
Italy: <http://www.fermiamolaguerra.it>
Norway: <http://ingenkrig.no/>
Poland: <http://www.republika.pl/stopwojnie/>
Portugal: <http://olifante.netropolis.pt/>
Spain: <http://www.noalaguerra.org/>
Sweden: <http://www.stoppakriget.tk/>
Switzerland: <http://www.gssa.ch/antiguerre/>
Turkey: <http://www.iraktasavasahayir.org/>
USA: <http://www.internationalanswer.org/>; New York: <http://www.unitedforpeace.org/>

gab philippines
gab@info.com.ph

Dear Friends,

Last February 6, women from the academe, church, legislation and the entertainment industry in the Philippines successfully launched WWW.PEACE. The coalition was formed with the objective of bringing together voices of women opposing US-led war on Iraq.

War increases the vulnerability of women and girls to sexual abuse. The experience of Filipina overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in Kuwait during the Gulf War and the Comfort Women during the Japanese occupation are clear demonstrations of how the rape of women and children is used as a tool of war.

Filipino women all over the world certainly cannot remain silent as our sisters face the imminent danger here and abroad. And with the threat of war escalating with each day, louder clamour for peace is needed.

WWW.PEACE will join the Philippine Rally to join millions of advocates all over the world who have voiced their opposition to the US-led war on Iraq as part of our contribution to the international day of protest against US' war on Iraq on February 14. It will also be spearheading a Gathering of Filipino families for Peace on February 19 dubbed as the peacelink.

Send the statement to as many women and women's groups as we can for endorsement. Please cut and paste the message into a new message, sign it with your own name, and forward it with the petition on to as many people as you know. If you are the 50th, 100th, 150th, 200th, etc., person to sign the petition, please also e-mail a copy back to the WWW.PEACE Secretariat through gab@info.com.ph

Thank you very much.
Women working for world peace. No to US war on Iraq coalition

**TODAY WE UNITE FOR PEACE
NO TO US WAR ON IRAQ**

Today we unite for peace. Our voices ring in unison with our sisters and brothers all over the world, as we declare NO! to the US war on Iraq.

US President George W. Bush is all set to launch its offensive against Iraq. US and British forces besiege the Middle East while UN Security Council Inspectors search through Iraq for weapons of mass destruction. War looms.

We cannot help but be troubled for the 1.4M Filipinos in the Middle East, 65% of whom are women domestic helpers. They have endured the pains of separation from their families and now they face the consequent violence of an unjust war.

We cannot help but agonize over what lies ahead for our sisters and their children who will directly bear the brunt of the US-led war.

War multiplies the vulnerability of women and children to rape and sexual abuse. Wartime rape is a mode of torture, subjugation and genocide. The rape of women is an acknowledged tool of war. Those left in their communities will endure the bombings and the ravages of war. Women, children and the elderly will face hunger, poverty and disease, the destruction of lives and communities. The destitution that war creates, forces women and children into the global sex trade.

But thousands of miles away from the Middle East, even we in our country do not feel safe. The Philippines' involvement in the US-led war greatly imperils our nation's security.

War impacts greatly on our economy. Prices of oil and basic commodities are expected to rise. The economic slump that our country presently faces will certainly take a turn for the worse.

All over the world as well as in the Philippines, millions have stood and are standing against the US war on Iraq.

Let us resist the US war on Iraq, raise our collective voices and forge our unity today for our children's future, for world peace.

1. Hon Liza Largoza Maza, BAYANMUNA Party List Representative, Philippine Congress
2. Sr. Nila Bermisa, MM, Women and Gender Commission AMRSP
3. Bibeth Orteza, Actress/Writer
4. Mother Clarita Balleque, RVM; Chairperson AMRSP
5. Emmi de Jesus, GABRIELA Deputy Secretary General
6. Monique Wilson, Artistic Director New Voice Company
7. Rosanna Abueva, Executive Producer New Voice Company
8. Sr. Lilian Ocenar, SSJ Provincial Superior, Siena de San Jose
9. Sr. Marianne Felisilda, SDS, REgional Superior, Sisters of the Divine
10. Sr. Ma. Esperanza Principio, RVM, Executive Director, MINSAC-RVM
11. Sr. Rosario Battung, RGS
12. Marita VT Reyes, MD Chancellor, University of the Philippines-Manila
13. Dr. Norma Respicio, Assoc. Dean, College of Arts and Letters, University of the Philippines
14. Sharon Rose Joy Ruiz Duremdez, Secretary General - NCCP
15. Carmencita Karagdag, Co-Convenor - Ecumenical Women's Forum
16. Malu de Guzman, Actress
17. Odette Alcantara, Environmentalist
18. Columbia "Bing" Eclipse, President, Women of Philippine Independent Church
19. Daphne Roxas, Philippine NGO - Beijing Scoreboard
20. Joselyn Navarro, Asian Caregiving Technology and Education Center
21. Evelyn Marasigan, Chairperson, Community Affairs Committee, St. Scholastica's College
22. Baby de Castro, Businesswoman
23. Fanny Abaya, GABRIELA Network of Professionals
24. Helen Mendoza, Anti-Nuke Coalition

- 25. Atty. Corazon Fabros, Nuclear-Free Philippines Coalition
 - 26. Sonia Capio, Broadcaster
-

U.S.A
WEEK OF ANTI-WAR RESISTANCE

<http://www.internationalanswer.org/campaigns/f15/index.html>

FEBRUARY 13-21

February 15-16: STOP THE WAR

Through Mass Resistance and Protest in New York City,
Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Around the World

Support Self Determination for the People of the Middle East

NYC: Feb 15 - gather at noon on 1st Avenue Starting on 49th St and Going North

SF: Feb 16 - meet at Market & Embarcadero at 11 am March at 1 pm to Civic Center for 2pm rally

LA: Feb 15 - assemble Hollywood & Vine at 1 pm. March to the Armed Forces Recruiting Station at Sunset and La Brea for a Mass Rally

Chicago: Feb 15 - 12 noon - Rally at 2200 W. Devon (Devon & Leavitt) (6400N) - about 1 pm - march west to Devon & Washtenaw for closing rally

NYC Feb 14: New York City Teach-in 9-4 pm on Building an anti-war movement that connects the struggle against war on Iraq with the fight for social and economic justice and civil rights at home, followed by an Indoor Rally from 7 to 10 pm on Linking the struggle against corporate globalization, war, militarism and racism.

Community Church: 35th St between Park and Madison

BRUSSELS

Demonstration Saturday 15/02: No War Against Iraq

http://www.motherearth.org/nowar/en/home_en.php

Oslo, Berlin, Rome, Copenhagen, Helsinki, Turku, Stockholm, Glasgow, Amsterdam, Paris, Athens, Skopje, London, Athens, Barcelona, Helsinki, Malta, Belfast, Sao Paulo, Mexico, Ecuador (more...)

AND BRUSSELS: Demonstration, Saturday 15th February: No War against Iraq Join the International day of action against the war

On Saturday 15th February there will be anti-war demonstrations in several European capital cities. Brussels, "the capital of the European Union" will not be left out! The platform against war on Iraq and Stop USA call on everyone to take part in this demonstration. We want a clear signal from these European countries: Together we can stop the warmongers

Meeting point: Brussels North Station, 2pm

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CANADA's CALL TO ACTION

<http://www.tcaswi.org/index.htm>

It appears the war may start before the Feb 15th rallies accross the country. TCASWI is calling on all people to come to a rally at 5 pm at the U.S. Consulate on the day the bombing begins. If it is late at night or in the wee hours of the morning the rally will be called for the next day.

The ant-war momentum is powerful in this country. We need to be on the streets in massive numbers to stop our government from helping George Bush and the US Government commit a horrible atrocity on the people of Iraq. Contact anti_wartoronto@yahoo.com for info