



INTERFAITH PEACE MINISTRY OF ORANGE COUNTY

" Doing the work of faith-based peace with justice "

ANNUAL DINNER PLANNED FOR APRIL 11, 2010

By Bev Weatherill, Board Member, IPMOC

Sunday, April 11, 2010, 5:30 PM at Chapman University is the date you want to save for IPM's Annual dinner. Our program is one you will not want to miss!!

The speakers will be representatives from the organization, Olive Tree Initiative. This is a diverse group of UCI students who, in response to Jewish/Muslim conflict on campus, decided in March 2007, to create a forum where they could discuss and learn about different perspectives on the situation in Israel/Palestine. On their own initiative this group of students from Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Druze, and non-religious backgrounds, decided to raise funds for a trip to Israel/Palestine where they could see first-hand what was happening in that region.

Rev. Dr. Dennis Short, our Co-Founder, heard six students speak at the Newport Mesa Irvine Interfaith Council Luncheon last fall and was deeply moved by their presentation. The students' brief video and personal statements about how they saw with "new eyes" this complicated situation, and how the trip changed some of their pre-conceived ideas was extremely powerful!

The Paul Delp Award, annually given to recognize individuals or groups working for peace and justice is also being awarded to the Olive Tree Initiative. More details, including menu selection, and cost will be sent out in February. Please share this event information with friends who do not receive our newsletter.

There is no way to peace, peace is the way.
A. J. Muste

WORLD MARCH FOR PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE

By Jeanne Whitesell, Board Member, IPMOC

The World March for Peace and Nonviolence was the topic of Nancy Nolan's presentation to the Interfaith Peace Ministry Board meeting in October. This March is a historic, three-month worldwide march involving more than one million participants. Its objective is to generate a global consciousness that universally condemns all forms of violence: physical, psychological, racial, sexual, economic and religious.

From October 2, 2009 to January 2, 2010 an international team of marchers will cross the planet from New Zealand to Argentina raising awareness of the dangers of a renewed arms race, the military occupation of foreign territories and the heightened probability of nuclear conflict.

Simultaneously, an unprecedented social mobilization will be taking place in more than 100 countries, where marches, festivals, exhibits, concerts, forums, conferences and social, cultural, educational and athletic events will take place calling for an end to wars, nuclear arms and all forms of violence.

The World March came through Los Angeles on December 2, 2009, where there was a Press Conference at City Hall, Greeting by the Tongva Nation (the indigenous people of what's now Los Angeles), a Potluck, a March down Wilshire Boulevard, and a Peace Concert at Immanuel Presbyterian Church.

For more information about the World March: <http://www.theworldmarch.org>,
www.worldmarchusa.net

*Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek,
but a means by which we arrive at that goal.*
Martin Luther King, Jr.

MURDER IN THE NAME OF HONOR

Rana Hussein visited Orange County on November 5, 2009. Jordanian in nationality, Palestinian by background, journalist by profession, Ms. Hussein appeared at St. Mark Presbyterian Church at the invitation of its pastor, Rev. Gary Collins, and its Peace and Justice Commission. Ms. Hussein tumbled into journalism almost by accident and into her investigation of honor killings because she felt compelled to. Rana's first story about a young woman of 16, Kifaya, who was raped by an older brother, compelled to abort the resulting fetus, and then forced to marry a man 34 years older than herself appeared in 1994. When Kifaya left that marriage after six miserable months and returned home, the family's "honor" was at stake and another brother murdered her. This story took place in Amman, Jordan, and was printed by a courageous editor of the newspaper, the *Jordan Times*. Soon Rana Hussein found herself investigating similar crimes in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Ecuador, Egypt, Palestine, India, Israel, Iraq, Morocco, Pakistan, Turkey, Yemen, and Uganda, even in European countries and the USA.

As a result of her many investigations, Ms. Hussein decided to publish these stories in a book entitled *Murder in the Name of Honor*. It was not easy for a woman to pursue these cases. For a long time, so-called "honor killings" were traditionally recognized as justified to protect the family reputation. It has been accepted that women are the victims in situations as minor as chewing gum in public, wearing make-up or a short skirt, but also include choosing her own boyfriend/husband, and rape and pregnancy outside of marriage. Rarely are the men who kill them punished but instead they receive light sentences for murder if they are detained at all.

It became Ms. Hussein's passion to tell the stories of these women and girls in spite of the fact that she received many threatening letters and she as well as her newspaper, encountered much opposition. Claiming that five thousand women are killed every year, Ms. Hussein has also worked to change the laws that permit these killings and expose their double standards. Her book has placed violence against women on the public agenda around the world. She has received

numerous awards for bravery in journalism, accepts speaking engagements near and far, and has been interviewed by CNN and BBC, to mention a couple. Her work has been endorsed by Jane Fonda, Queen Noor, the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Human Rights, and Amnesty International. This is a must-read book!

IRAN

By Jeanne Whitesell, Board Member, IPMOC

At the November IPM Board meeting, Sunny Zia spoke to members about Iran, the country of her heritage, the movement that was formed to oppose Ahmadinejad's crooked elections and the religious theocracy, and finally how we can be supportive.

While the following information about the Green Movement obtained from <http://www.payvand.com/news/09/nov/1157.html> was not specifically discussed by Ms. Zia this explanation (next three paragraphs) might be helpful as background information.

"The Presidential election of June 12, which Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was declared to have won, gave birth to a grassroots movement that has been evolving politically, embracing broader segments of the population, discovering new methods of struggle, and refusing to die despite widespread government violence. It has bewildered the conservatives, surpassed the political limits of the reformists, and become a wildcard with a potential to change Iran in profound ways.

The **Green Movement** began when millions of people poured into the streets in the belief that Ahmadinejad had rigged the election. The repression that followed forced the movement to retreat underground, but it stayed alive. It sought different arenas in which to pursue its goals and spread deeper into society.

Less than five months after its birth, the Green Movement has transcended its original objective of restoring people's stolen votes, to openly questioning the cornerstone of the Islamic Republic, the absolute power of the supreme religious leader. Taboos are broken."

Another article that gives more information on Human Rights in Iran. "*Global outpouring of*

solidarity with Iran's human rights defender" can be accessed at <http://www.iranhumanrights.org/>

Ms. Zia suggested five ways we in the U.S. could help the people of Iran as they fight for freedom from the absolute rule of the supreme religious leader.

1. Support H.R. 3284*, Iran Cyber Suppression Act by calling our U.S. Representatives and asking him/her to co-sponsor this Resolution as well as support it. We also need to urge our Senators to take up this issue in the Senate.
2. Focus on exposing human rights violations in Iran. The U.S. media has put these rights violations on the 'back burner' so to speak.
3. Support targeted sanctions against the moneyed/ political sectors of Iran but not general and economic sanctions that harm the general populace and weaken the pro-democracy movement.
4. Expose and question Western businesses that support Ahmadinejad and his government by their invasive aid that hurt the people of Iran.
5. Strategically invest in Iran (but **NOT** militarily) and rule out the influence of Russia, China, and the EU.

* H.R. 3284, Reduce Iranian Cyber-Suppression Act, prohibits the heads of executive agencies from entering into or renewing contracts for the procurement of goods or services from a person that exports sensitive technology (technology that restricts the free flow of information) to Iran.

Authorizes the President to waive such requirement if: (1) it is in the national interest of the United States; and (2) the President reports to Congress the reasons for such determination.

ANNUAL SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS PROTEST, November 22, 2009

By Robert Brophy, Board Member, IPMOC

Ongoing, the U.S. image as a defender of democracy and justice is continually eroded by the School of the Americas (SOA/WHINSEC), which trains Latin American and Caribbean military officers and soldiers to subvert democracy and kill hope in their own countries. The school's "Torture Manuals" were "outed" and officially repudiated in

the 1990s, but their intent and outcome are still the same, course titles merely nuanced.

SOA's curriculum, hidden among courses falsely implying peace-making and human rights, has included psychological warfare, counterinsurgency, interrogation techniques, and infantry and commando tactics. As SOA contends, its students are presented with the most sophisticated and up-to-date techniques by the US Army's best instructors. Sadly, one finds these courses enable military officers and soldiers of Third World countries to subvert the truth, to muzzle union leaders, activist clergy, and journalists, and to make war on their own people. It prepares them to subdue the voices of dissent and to make protesters targets. It instructs them in techniques that ensure marginalizing the poor, the hungry, and the dispossessed. In effect, it tells them how to stamp out freedom and terrorize their own citizens. It trains them to destroy the hope of democracy.

Its graduates have been largely involved in two coups within recent years-in Venezuela and, presently, in Honduras. Grads have been arrested for killing youth and presenting their bodies as of terrorist insurgents in Colombia. And so it goes throughout Latin America! They work most efficiently through collaboration with paramilitary armies funded by big business and other advocates of oppression. Find more at www.soaw.org.

On Sunday, November 22, 2009, thousands, including human rights defenders and torture survivors from Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, and Immokalee, gathered at the gates of Fort Benning, Georgia, to describe in detail oppressive U.S. foreign policy and speak out in defense of democracy and for life, justice, liberty, dignity and peace as threatened by the SOA. Four arrested for "crossing the entrance line," Nancy Gwin, Ken Hayes, Fr. Louis Vitale, and Michael Walli, will be tried in January and expect federal prison terms from two to six months. In parallel support, five protesters were arrested at Arizona's Ft Huachuca where the SOA's torture manuals were created: Fr. Bob Carney, Joshua Harris, John Heid, Mariah Klusmire, and Fr. Jerry Zawada. The massive confrontations and puppetista pageants this year commemorated specifically the

six intellectual Jesuit Central American University professors killed in November 1989 for their advocacy and implementation of "Liberation Theology" for the poor and oppressed.

Fr. Roy Bourgeois and SOA Watch, meanwhile, have been nominated by the American Friends Service Committee for the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize for "sustained faithful nonviolent witness against the disappearances, torture and murder of hundreds of thousands of civilians by foreign military personnel trained by the U.S. military at U.S. taxpayer expense at the SOA" [aka WHINSEC].

Readers are urged to counter Pentagon propaganda and denials. Call the State Department at 202-647-4000 and the White House at 202-456-1111. Contact Senate and House Representatives. Contribute at School of the Americas Watch, PO Box 4566, Washington, DC 20017, email info@soaw.org, or call (202) 234 3440.

COLUMBIA – What You Can Do

By Jeanne Whitesell, Board Member, IPMOC

Representatives McGovern, Schakowsky, Payne, and Honda have written a Dear Colleague letter, which calls for change in U.S. policy towards Colombia. This letter to Secretary of State Clinton asks that our government be honest about the human rights conditions in Colombia and make changes in the aid package. The U.S. should stop spending taxpayer dollars on the military, which has been found to be killing innocent civilians and illegally wiretapping human rights defenders, journalists, and Supreme Court judges. Instead, we should be supporting refugees and displaced people, Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities, and small farmers who are trying to turn away from coca.

Please contact and strongly urge your Representative to take a stand for human rights and sign on to this letter. They can get a copy of the letter and sign on by contacting Cindy Buhl in Rep. McGovern's office.

Also advocate with your senators, representatives, Secretary of State Clinton, and the president of the United States to lay down the weapons of violence and support the nonviolent

struggle of the churches and civil society of Colombia and those in the U.S. who stand beside Colombians to end the violence by:

1. Withdrawing military support to the government of Colombia.
2. Reorienting U.S. policies toward Colombia in such a way as to encourage a more equitable distribution of that country's immense wealth, and to protect the rights of groups threatened by the interests of large corporations, including indigenous people, Afro-Colombians, labor leaders, human rights workers, and many campesinos.
3. Ending the aerial fumigation for coca crops and focusing on programs that provide higher levels of support for farmers to convert to alternative crops and that reduce demand for drugs in the United States.
4. Transferring U.S. support to the growing civil society committed to democracy and nonviolence.
5. Providing aid to strengthen health care, education, and nutrition, especially among the displaced.
6. Increasing aid for resettlement of displaced persons in their homelands.
7. Channeling aid through nongovernmental organizations.

ACTION OPPORTUNITIES:

WEEKLY ORANGE COUNTY PEACE EVENTS

Go to <http://ocpeace.org/calendar.html> for more details.

EVERY SUNDAY at noon: "Enough" demo at HB Pier.

Contact by email: afitguy@excite.com

Website: www.theyoungturks.com/section/Enough

EVERY SUNDAY at 3pm: Food Not Bombs in Santa Ana

Contact by e-mail:

santaanafoodnotbombs@riseup.net

EVERY SUNDAY at 7pm: Peace Vigil at HB Pier

EVERY FRIDAY at 5pm: Anti-War/Anti-

Imperialism Protest at Bristol & Anton in Costa Mesa. Contact by e-mail Chuck Anderson -

QUETZALCOATL38@aol.com.

EVERY SATURDAY at 11am: Peace Demo at Main Beach, Pacific Coast Hwy and Ocean Ave in Laguna Beach. Contact is Jeanie Bernstein.

EVERY SATURDAY at 12pm: Anti-War Demo at Brea Blvd & Imperial Highway in Brea. Contact: Marcus Gourley runningdeeractivist@yahoo.com.

TWICE MONTHLY ORANGE COUNTY PEACE EVENTS

Go to <http://ocpeace.org/calendar.html> for more details.

EVERY FIRST AND THIRD WEDNESDAY at 5:30pm: Code Pink Antiwar Protest in Orange at Glassell and Chapman (Orange Circle). Contact by email: kathy@codepinkoc.org
Website: www.codepinkoc.org

EVERY FIRST AND THIRD FRIDAY at 5pm: Women in Black Demo at Harbor and Newport in Costa Mesa. Contact: Carlene at 949-720-7065 or Lilian at 714-545-1450

SECOND AND FOURTH SATURDAYS at 10am: OC Peace Coalition general meeting at the St. Joseph Center, 480 S. Batavia in Orange.
Website: www.ocpeace.org

MONTHLY ORANGE COUNTY PEACE EVENTS

Go to <http://ocpeace.org/calendar.html> for more details.

EVERY FIRST MONDAY at 7pm: OC Recruitment Awareness Project Meeting at 310 W. 5th St, Santa Ana

EVERY SECOND TUESDAY at 7pm: Military Families Speak Out monthly meeting at the Spires Restaurant, 990 S. Euclid Ave, Anaheim. Contact: www.mfsooc.org

OTHER EVENTS COMING UP

2010 First Friday Night Film Series - *The Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange* promise to be women of unity and reconciliation, stand with people who are poor by working with others to alleviate conditions of poverty and oppression and promote ecological justice by educating and advocating for the sustainability of our planet. They make these films available to bring unity, stir passion and enlighten minds, give both courage and gentleness... and bring our world into the

healing power of God's great love. –Directional Statement 2006

The film series in 2010 will focus on children and their struggles to survive while facing the consequences of their inability to abandon their impoverished living conditions. Children world wide are being forced into slavery and live in hopeless deteriorating environments influenced by the aftermath inexcusable wars, unfair persecution and unavoidable migration.

Films showing on the first Friday of each month include:

January 8th – The Devil's Miner

February 5th – Children of the Amazon

March 5th – The Invisible Children

April 9th – Children of the Congo: From War to Witches

May 7th – The Least of These

June 4th – Which Way Home

Contact the Justice Office for more information at (714) 633-8121 x7716 or by email justice@csjorange.org.

REGISTER NOW for the Conference, **"DEVELOPING HEARTS THAT YEARN FOR JUSTICE: JUSTICE FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN"**, to be held **January 18-21, 2010** in San Diego and Tijuana, Mexico. It is an ecumenical theological reflection in a third world setting for clergy and lay church workers. Speakers include Lauran Bethell, Matthew Fox, Giselle Stern Hernandez, Frances Moore Lappe, Megan McKenna, Elizabeth S. Tapia, and Renita Weems. The conference costs \$250 and includes the program, meals, room, and transportation from San Diego to the Casa Del Migrante. "Truly a landmark conference...on the economic, ethical, and spiritual dimensions of immigration and globalization," says Rosemary Radford Ruether.

United Nations Association USA Orange County Chapter Annual Campaign Brunch/Meeting/Silent Auction



Jane Roberts, known worldwide for her tireless efforts in the field of international family planning will be the keynote speaker. Roberts, co-founder in 2002 of the grassroots movement known as "34 million friends of the United Nations Population Fund," was nominated

for the Nobel Peace prize in 2005. Go to <http://www.34millionfriends.org> to see a short video of Roberts explaining her work.

The UN Population Fund report, *The State of World Population 2008*, can be downloaded from www.Unfpa.org/swp/2008/en/index/html. It gives an in depth look at this important issue.

The event will be held at 11:30 on **January 24, 2010** at the **Hacienda Restaurant**, 1725 College Avenue, Santa Ana.

The Orange County Interfaith Committee to Aid Farm Workers will hold its fundraiser to benefit the United Farm Workers on Saturday evening, **February 6**, 5:00 – 8:00 pm, Carpenters' Hall, 1916 W. Chapman, Orange. Free parking in the rear. Arturo Rodriguez, the President of the UFW, speaker, will be preceded by a dinner and a social hour and silent auction. The cost is \$20 prepaid or \$25 at the door. Contact Suzanne Darweesh for more info or to make a reservation at sdarweesh@aol.com or call 714-738-1785.



Check out IPMOC.org!

Articles and suggestions for both the website and newsletters may be sent to jswhitesell3211@yahoo.com. Please send an email to katbowland@hotmail.com (put IPMOC in subject line) if you wish to receive email copies of future newsletters – less paper copies = less costs.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING Symposium, Saturday, **February 27, 2010** at Mount St. Mary's College Doheny Campus, 8:30 – 3:00 p.m. Keynote speaker will be E. Benjamin Skinner author of *"A Crime So Monstrous: Face-To-Face With Modern Slavery"*. There will be interactive workshops about Modern Day Slavery and its costs to:

- The Human Person
- Children
- Family & Community Relationships
- The Moral Fabric of Society
- The Economy
- The Environment
- The UN Millennium Development Goals

This Symposium is sponsored by the Southern California Partners for Global Justice. For more information contact: justice@csjorange.org.

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