

CENTERINGS



a quarterly publication of the 8th Day Center for Justice

Las niñas de Santa Domingo recuerdan...



Las niñas de Santa Domingo recuerdan la masacre del 13 de diciembre de 1998 en sus dibujos.



At left, judges of the *Stop Impunity Colombia Demands Justice* Tribunal held at Northwestern University Law School listen to the testimony of witnesses. [See story on pages 6-7.](#)



Above is a depiction of the Dec. 13, 1998 massacre at Santa Domingo, Colombia drawn by children of the village. In the lower right of the poster are photos of the seven children killed.

Center sets goals, welcomes new interns

In the last few years several religious congregations have contributed funds to the Center for hiring paid interns to help with staff duties. Last year's interns, Haley Moreland and Tim Armbruster, CPPS, have moved on to other ministry activities.

Haley married Matt Gross in early August and both are continuing volunteer work with other social ministries in the Chicago area. Tim Armbruster, CPPS, a member of the Missouri Province of the Precious Blood Congregation, is continuing studies at the Catholic Theological Union.

This Fall 8th Day welcomes two other interns, Patrick Chee and Bob Link.

Patrick Chee, a June Creighton University graduate, comes to 8th Day as a Providence Volunteer Minister with the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods, IN. Patrick brings a passion for environmental concerns and all its connections, as well as an interest in alternative media possibilities. Patrick's knowledge of computer technology has quickly moved him into becoming the staff's "web master" for the year.

Bob Link joins 8th Day as a Dominican Apostolic Volunteer from Sacramento, CA. Bob and his wife, Nancy, a Dominican Volunteer working with Deborah's Place, an advocacy ministry for homeless women, both had the desire to spend their post-retirement year in a community setting



8th Day Center staff 2000-2001: (front) Mary Ellen McDonagh, BVM, Kathleen Desautels, SP, Dolores Brooks, OP, (middle) Mary Martin Colbert, SSND, Mary Kay Flanigan, OSF, Bob Link, Patrick Chee, Dorothy Pagosa SSJ-TOSF, John Gonzalez, (back) Christy Lytle, CSA, Bob Bossie, SCJ, Martha Green.

while involved in social justice ministry. Bob's main interests are in global economic issues as they affect people who are in poverty and in finding connections to human rights issues such as closing the School of the Americas, lifting Iraq sanctions, and monitoring U.S. militarism in Colombia.

Each year the staff revisits its mission, vision and goals. In one sense the mission and vision change little, but act as the container that holds the "stuff" of goals/strategies/actions of our work.

Mission Statement

As religious communities of men and women grounded in the hope of the Scriptures and our Christian faith tradition, we collaborate in the struggle to provide a critical alternative voice to the systems that suppress the human community and environment and to work for the structural changes which will hasten the arrival of a more just world.

Vision Statement

The spirituality of justice calls 8th Day Center to envision a world of right relationships in which all creation is seen as sacred and interconnected. In

such a world, all people live in harmony with the cosmos, are free from oppression, and have a right to a just distribution of resources.

Goals 2000-2001

We promote justice by...

- ◆ Working for dignity among people and celebrating their ethnicity, cultural backgrounds, gender, sexual orientation, and age.
- ◆ Modeling in our work the justice and right relationships we seek and evaluating this experience.
- ◆ Raising awareness about the value, integrity and interconnectedness of all natural creation.
- ◆ Fostering the mutuality and cooperation in local, national and international coalitions with which we work.
- ◆ Supporting 8th Day member congregations relative to our mission.
- ◆ Developing education and awareness of justice and nonviolence through center outreach, publications and technological resources. □

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Editorial Board: Kathleen Desautels, SP; Mary Kay Flanigan, OSF; John Gonzalez; Mary Ellen McDonagh, BVM.

‘No time to yawn’

Toward a spirituality of right relationships

Kathleen Desautels, SP

At times 8th Day Center has been criticized for being too broad in its approach to justice work. Choosing too many issues to think about seems overwhelming, say critics. “Why not pick one or two on which to focus your work for the year?” We’ve resisted. Resisted primarily because 25 years of experience of systemic justice work confirms the simple belief that all life is interrelated and so are the issues.

Touch one strand of a spider web and the whole web is affected. The globalization of the economic world order creates benefits for the elite few and agonizing poverty for two-thirds of the world and the “Fourth World” in the United States. Lack of decent public housing, low paying jobs, inadequate health care, substandard public schools, environmental devastation, military intervention abroad and police brutality at home are but a few of the results of this cycle of violence. Life is interrelated and so, too, the systemic injustices.

The future 8th Day Center longs for in transforming systemic injustices is one in which the value of right relationships is considered paramount. (See Vision Statement on page 2) It means government policies and programs would reflect an attitude, a belief in the integrity of all creation where the health of the earth is protected, where everyone has clean air to breathe and pure water to drink. It means a world where no child goes hungry, where workers have the right to organize without fear, where access to health care is determined by medical need, and where funding for free public education isn’t questioned.

To work for such a future calls for a shift in the prevailing world view. It is a shift from the dualistic, anthropocentric/patriarchal paradigm toward a more relational or partnership model promoting inclusivity and interdependence.

Relational power fosters systems of accountability, transparency, democratic participation in decision-making. It advances human rights, labor rights, living wages, environmental protection, sustainable livelihoods, and all the political, social, and economic rights that ensure lives of dignity. Working for right relationships means being intentional and sensitive to the “power-with” questions: who’s included, who’s excluded, who benefits, and who has to bear the greatest burden?

The future is now. Glimpses of this nonviolent relational power is evident in the many global resistance movements that are mobilizing to resist the present economic world order.

Some examples of 8th Day’s partners in this international solidarity movement for global justice are: Students Against Sweatshops, School of the Americas Watch, 50 Years Is Enough Network, Jubilee 2000, Death Penalty Moratorium Project, Voices in the Wilderness, Colombia Support Network, Women-Church Convergence to name a few. All life is related - systems of domination, yes, but also movements working for creative alternatives.

We believe in this vision both in theory and in practice. The equalitarian, decentralized organizational style of the Center is based on this belief. For 25 years the Center has never had a director. Instead its operational responsibilities are shared among staff members according to one’s gifts and interests.

Tom Joyce, CMF, a longtime staff member, coined this operational style a “prairie model.” The prairie model celebrates the unity of purpose while at the same time reverencing the diversity of individual talents of each staff member. Whatever one wants to name such a model, 8th Day knows from experience that it works.

The collaborative model is not without its challenges. The work of creating right relationships at the Center, or with grassroot organizing groups, coalitions and networks with whom we are active demands a commitment of time and energy. It presumes one has a passion for “hanging-in” with others in these groups in the transforming efforts. Mistakes occur, often when we least expect them, but the work of transformation is a process, not an end product. It takes more than a pinch of patient-creativity, imagination and a willingness to begin again and again.

A spirituality of relatedness is the capacity both to influence and to be influenced by others. 8th Day intentionally brings this spirit of interdependence to each organizing or decision making table with which we work.

Ivone Gebara, a leading Latin American theologian, in her recent book *Longing for Running Water: Feminism and Liberation* talks about relatedness as the primary reality of all of life. “Relatedness, or the interdependence among all beings,” Ivone says, “is a constitutive experience of the very universe in which we live. It is a constitutive reality for the universe and for life ...a certain collective consensus about what should be regarded as the common good ...respect for the various social groups and the communities of living things that share the same planet.”

One of 8th Day’s efforts in promoting the constitutive element of relatedness is through the publication of the booklet, *Creating Just Language*. This resource is the third revision of a nearly twenty year old work first entitled, *Cleaning Up Sexist Language* and later called *Cleaning Up Biased Language*. Barbara Fiand, SNDdeN says, “language is the house of being.” Language shapes the way one thinks. If relatedness among all beings is to be mutual, our language needs to mirror the reality we seek. The primer, *Creating Just Language*, attempts to offer its reader help toward this end.

What 8th Day seeks is justice for the Sacred Earth and all its inhabitants. We live in a critical period of history. Fiand adds on a related topic - “we don’t have time to yawn.” It is with hope and urgency that 8th Day continues to envision a universe of right relationships, “knowing that the way we work together for justice is itself the justice we seek.” □

It's mealtime; Do you know what's in your food?

Genetically engineered crops or food (GE), Frankenfoods, genetically modified organisms (GMO's) -- whatever they are called, Europeans don't want to eat them and the furor has spread to the United States.

Strong arguments are made both for and against these foods, based on health, environmental and ethical concerns. This first article of a series will focus on GE food -- its nature and its probable harmful effects to health and environment. Other articles will consider GE crops, especially seeds, corporate roles and ethical concerns.

What are GE Foods?

Genes are the blueprints of life. Genetic material found within cells determines the differences between all living organisms -- plants, animals, humans and microorganisms. Genetic engineering is the process by which scientists artificially alter this information. It is accomplished by introducing selected genes into the host DNA. Given the complexity of DNA material, most of which is still unknown, this procedure has the potential to cause unexpected problems.

GE foods are different from traditional breeding techniques that exchange genes between the same species in that genes are combined from completely different species. For example, fish genes have been spliced into tomatoes, human genes into pigs, and insect genes into potatoes.

Such engineering is a new, relatively untested technology which has enormous impact on the very fabric of life. It may offer benefits along with its risks. But, given many unanswered questions it widespread application to agriculture and food makes it a risky experiment that is being tested on consumers the world over frequently without knowledge or consent.

The issue has become the focus of international debate, lawsuits and activist campaigns.

According to 1999 estimates, GE crops cover one-fourth of US cropland. That's more than 35 percent of all corn, almost 55 percent of all soybeans and nearly half of all cotton. It is safe to say that never before has such a

rapid and large scale revolution occurred in a nation's food supply.

Labeling Issues

Currently, US laws do not require labeling GE Foods and allow the industry to police itself almost entirely on the honor system. The Food and Drug Administration requires that GE foods be thoroughly tested, but leaves it up to the industry to conduct and define the rigor of testing.

The discovery of an unapproved variety of genetically engineered corn in a box of taco shells in September has prompted new calls for labeling of bioengineered foods.

The case, which led Kraft to announce a nationwide recall, also points to some of the difficulties involved in labeling. Among questions are the reliability of labeling, the degree to which conventional grains and foods can be separated from genetically engineered ones, and even the definition of genetically modified food.

A Sampler of Foods Made from GE Crops

Crisco
Fritos, Doritos and Ruffles chips
Green Giant Harvest Burgers
Isomil infant formula
Jiffy corn muffin mix
Kraft Salad dressings
Nestle's chocolate
Old El Paso taco shells
Ovaltine Malt mix
Parkay margarine
Pillsbury products
ProSobee infant formula
Wesson vegetable oils

In the United States, it is estimated that two-thirds of processed food contains ingredients made from genetically modified corn, soybeans, potatoes or other crops. The US Agriculture Departments is scurrying

to set up a laboratory to develop standardized tests, yet maintains the GE food is no different from conventional food. Nevertheless, American crops will have to be tested for export to countries with labeling laws. In addition, no special regulations apply to imported GE food.

The obvious result of no labelling is that the public has little or no knowledge that GE food products are already being sold in grocery stores, and that soon few traditional forms of food may remain on the shelves.

Health Dangers

Because genetic engineering involves splicing genes that have never been part of the human food supply, the process can result in unforeseen allergic reactions. Without labeling, even those with known allergies will be unaware of harm from food being eaten.

Some companies claim the genetically engineered fish can grow 4-6 times faster than their natural counterparts. These "Super Salmon" have been engineered with a growth hormone that salmon ordinarily produce once annually. Companies expect to gain super-profits if they can get regulatory approval to sell these fish in US supermarkets.

In addition, antibiotic resistance genes are used by scientists as "marker" genes to indicate whether or not cells in a receiving organism have accepted foreign DNA. The trait could be spread to humans via GE foods, thus resulting in increased resistance to antibiotics.

European and Canadian scientists have found that dairy products from animals treated with a genetically engineered growth hormone (rBGH), that is injected into cows to increase milk production, may increase the risk of breast, prostate and colon cancer. There is a ban on rBGH in all industrialized countries except the United States.

A recent United Kingdom study reported that GE potatoes were poisonous to mammals, damaging the vital organs and immune systems of lab rats. In fact, McDonald's and other fast food franchises have recently

Do you know where/how it was grown?

Mary Ellen McDonagh, BVM

banned using GE potatoes.

Furthermore, GE foods that are modified to look fresher may have a longer shelf life, resulting in reduced nutritional value. Of even greater concern is the possibility GE foods may have less nutritional value to begin with.

Environmental Harm

Crops engineered to be herbicide resistant accounted for 70% of all GE crops in 1998. It is feared that farmers may use herbicides more liberally on such crops perhaps even tripling usage. Many GE crops are designed to produce their own pesticides. Thus, a Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) potato was classified by the Environmental Protection Agency as a "plant pesticide" rather than as a food regulated by the FDA. In a highly publicized study, in the journal *Nature*, Cornell researchers found that pollen from genetically engineered Bt corn was poisonous to Monarch butterflies.

A further danger involves GE pollen which can cross-pollinate with wild fields and neighboring farms of organic and conventional crops. This will also lead to a new generation of herbicide resistant "superweeds" and "superpests" which could require even stronger toxic chemicals to eliminate them.

Regulatory Nightmare

Three federal agencies regulate GE crops and food--the US Dept of Agriculture (USDA), the Food and Drug Administration, and the Environmental Protection Agency. The directors of all three are on record with statements that make them sound more like cheerleaders rather than impartial judges of a powerful new technology. As in the potato example mentioned, each agency also passes

the burden of responsibility to another.

Overall policies or lack thereof both keep the public in the dark about the spread of GE foods onto the dinner table and prevent epidemiologists from being able to trace health effects, should they appear, because no one will know who has been exposed to the gene products and who has not. Current policies certainly reduce regulatory costs for corporations, but leave the public unprotected.

All of this seems rather inconceivable when one realizes that the FDA requires orange juice to be labelled as to whether or not it is made from concentrate. The FDA and other agencies also seem not to anticipate possibilities. For example, although humans do not eat cotton, traditional silage for cattle contains up to 50% cotton slash and debris. Calgene (now owned by Monsanto) developed a strain of cotton plants that modifies the pesticide bromoxynil turning it into an even more toxic byproduct. It is likely this byproduct will enter the human food chain through meat consumption.

Imprecise Science

Overall the genetic engineering process is much less precise than corporations would like to admit publicly. Essentially, a plant's genome (all of its genes taken together) is a mystery box. Genetic engineering takes a gene from one mystery box and puts it into another, hoping the new gene will "take," but most of the time it fails. Maybe once in a thousand tries, the new plant gains the desired trait. But, technicians actually have no idea where in the receiving plant's genome the new gene has found a home.

Genes don't necessarily control a single trait and without more careful study, plants with undesirable characteristics may be launched into the global ecosystem. Secondly, how a gene affects a plant depends on its environment. What appears safe and predictable after a few years of observation of a small test plot may have

vastly different consequences when introduced into millions of acres of cropland.

Given the negligent attitude of the three regulatory agencies, it would come as no surprise that early in 1999 the New York Times reported, "Attempts to forge the world's first treaty to regulate trade in genetically modified products failed this morning when the United States and five other big agricultural exporters rejected a proposal that had the support of the rest of the roughly 130 nations taking part (February 24, 1999)."

Worldwide worry about GE products began as early as 1992 at the Rio Earth Summit and its creation, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Then President Bush refused to sign partly on the grounds that the CBD "threatened" US biotechnology industry (read profits)."

In spite of a Goliath-like industry, there are some hopeful signs. There is a labeling bill before Congress. Some companies such as Frito-Lay and Seagrams have recently told suppliers to provide non-GE corn in response to consumer worries.

There is an order to the universe, a seamless web that connects us all. In fact, as part of its vision statement, 8th Day Center envisions "a world of right relationships in which all creation is seen as sacred and interconnected." Every time we act without reference to this reality, we harm ourselves, each other and our planet.

We must both acknowledge and act out of this intimate relationship. That means abandoning quick-fix solutions that reap corporate profits at the expense of embracing technologies that support all life without harm. □

Resources

Against the Grain: Biotechnology and the Corporate Takeover of Your Food. Marc Lappe, Ph.D. and Britt Bailey 1998 Common Courage Press

<http://www.bio-integrity.org>

<http://www.cetos.org>

<http://www.environmentaldefense.org>

<http://www.foe.org/safefood>

<http://www.foodfirst.org>

<http://www.psafe.org>

<http://www.purefood.org>

<http://www.safe-food.org>



The "Hope in God" community which lives on the bank of the Cacarica River gathers around visiting Rochester Franciscans (front) Mary Kay Flanigan and Joan Brown and (back) Carolina Pardo (seventh from left) and Patricia Schlosser (fourth from right).

Wake up to dubious US Role in Colombia

A radio, tuned to the small community run station, began broadcasting news and music from 4:30 to 5 a.m. This station is run by older teens, and is also on the air at 8:30 p.m. The next day a rooster started crowing right in my ear at 5 a.m., and continued for a long time. I've never been that close to a crowing rooster. I know now what a huge effort goes into its low guttural sound and especially the final doooooooooooooooooo. Radio and rooster were the wake up calls in the two communities on the Cacarica river bank which I visited last June along three other Rochester Franciscans, Joan Brown, Patricia Schlosser and Carolina Pardo, a Colombian native. The area is in a jungle area in the department of Choco, Colombia near the Panama Border.

I believe those wake up calls were strong, symbolic sounds, doing so much more than signaling the beginning of the day. They could easily have been saying "Wake up! Wake up people of the United States! It is in your own best interest to change how you, how your government, interacts with us."

Colombia has been experiencing an internal war like condition for over forty years, since the US government advocated a counterinsurgency program there in the early 1960's. We learned of this from Fr. Javier Geraldo S.J. of Colombia, an expert witness on Human Rights at the recent Colombia Tribunal in Chicago (see article on page 7). The United States has exploited the people and the rich resources of Columbia for economic reasons, for the benefit of transnational companies and for American lifestyles.

Is it in the best interest of the United States to have played a role in bombing and forcibly displacing 3,500 persons from their river bank homes three and one half

Mary Kay Flanigan, OSF

years ago carried out by the Colombia military and paramilitary? Seventy-three civilians died in the process.

On this same trip we also met African Colombian people whose ancestors had lived on the river banks for generations. They spent three years in devastating shelter conditions in Turbo, a city six hours away by boat. Having only returned to their own land three months before we met them, they spoke of having a commitment to living nonviolently in the "midst of war" with the military, paramilitary, local authorities and guerrilla forces armed around them. The people know this commitment has personal and communal internal meaning.

They further told us of a desire to live in justice, truth, solidarity, and fraternity, without arms or without permitting arms in their territory. The women expressed an interest in learning information and skills that can help with economic development. They desired such development, they said, because, "even if we are forced off our land again, they will not be able to take what we have learned away from us." Is there another wake up call in this for Americans?

Furthermore, is it in the best interest of the United States for its government to have played a role in the bombing in Santa Domingo, on Dec. 13, 1998? Santa Domingo is a small farming town in the Department of Auruca, Colombia near the Venezuela border. Nineteen persons died, seven were children and 25 more were wounded. This is the massacre for which the Tribunal was recently held in Chicago.

One Tribunal witness who came to Chicago from the town told about the morning of the massacre. Helicopters had been flying over the area the night before and early on

the morning of the attack, she testified. She told of preparing breakfast for her children and grandchildren out of the leftovers from the day before while standing at the door of her home. Someone called, asking her to put more wood on the fire and, as she did, she stated that she heard an explosion. Two of her children and one grandchild playing in the home near the door were killed.

Through letters between Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy, the American Embassy, and F.B.I reports, there is documented evidence that US manufactured bombs were used as were US manufactured helicopters. Is this a wake up call, too?

I believe that these involvements and actions by the US government with US money are not in our best interest. Why not?

* All the religions of the world have some form of a call for people to love their neighbors. Through many years of funding to Colombia and providing armaments, the US has contributed to the human rights abuses and violence.

According to witnesses from Colombia, Plan Colombia is much more about getting instruments of warfare into the country for political reasons, than it is about the "drug war." Such activity poses a moral and spiritual issue for Americans, and one that offers opportunities for personal and systemic conversion and change. We can move to right relationships with all in the world.

*Release of the money for Plan Colombia depended on certification, or a waiver of seven human rights considerations. Although six of the conditions could not be met,

President Clinton, nevertheless, released funds on waiver.

This directly connects with Colombia having sent the largest number of military to the School of the Americas. Over ten thousand leaders have been trained there in counterinsurgency techniques.

What will it do to us in the United States for being a part of the human rights abuse happening in Colombia and for providing money for more to happen? Won't indifference and lack of action against this involvement mean that Americans are being abusive and violent people both in Colombia and at home, when we really want to be loving, nonviolent persons?

In what ways can we take a stand for integrating religious, spiritual and moral lives with US government policies? In what way can each of us in his/her own way bring about change? Can you hear the wake up call? □

ACTIONS

Contact: Honorable Peter Romero/Acting Ass't Sect. for Western Hemispheric Affairs/US Dept of State/2201 C St NW/Washington, DC 20520/Fax:202-647-0791.

Next decision on releasing Plan Colombia funding in Dec., 2000. State your objections to human rights abuses to your US Senators and to President Clinton. White House Comment line: 202-456-1111.

See also: <http://www.colombiasupport.net/tribunal/>
<http://www.hrw.org>

Tribunal hears Colombian human rights abuses

John Gonzalez

Impunity refers to not addressing justice in the midst of horrific human rights violations and thus allowing such rampant violations to continue unabated. That a deliberate strategy of governmental impunity exists in Colombia has been identified by several Colombian and International Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) of the United Nations..

When the Colombian Military, paramilitary, or national police massacre or displace peaceful Colombian citizens and their actions are not in any way held accountable by the judicial structure, impunity is the only accurate term.

In dealing with such a strategy of impunity, human rights organizations in Colombia initiated two local projects. The *Nunca Mas* project documented thousands of cases of human rights abuses that have never been brought to justice. The *Stop Impunity, Barranconermeja Demand Justice* campaign attempted to address the paramilitary violence.

Following that, a consortium of over

a hundred Colombian organizations began to look for a broader international campaign to address this atrocious strategy.

Thus began the *Stop Impunity, Colombia Demands Justice* Campaign, an international effort to highlight various cases of human rights violations that have not been addressed by having those cases heard in the international arena through a Tribunal of Opinion. These Tribunals, held throughout the world, would each focus on one particular case.

The overall goals were: to educate the international community about impunity in Colombia; to focus international pressure on the Colombian judicial system so that it would function in a manner in which victims might gain some form of reparation; and to promote better policies within Colombia in light of rampant human rights abuses.

One of these Tribunals was held in Chicago at the end of September under the sponsorship of the International Human Rights Department of Northwest-

ern Law School and the Chicago Campaign for Justice in Colombia, a coalition of several national NGO's of which 8th Day Center is a member. This Tribunal heard the case of a massacre in the town of Santo Domingo on Dec. 13, 1998. Some nineteen villagers were killed, including seven children.

This case was chosen because bombs used in the massacre were made in the United States and the battalion that launched them received US aid in the form of helicopters.

Eight witnesses from Colombia testified, four of whom were victims in the incident. A panel of 11 judges heard the case including retired Illinois Supreme Court Justice Seymour Simon who presided.

The verdict and recommendations of the judicial panel will be presented in December. The week following the announcement of the verdict, a delegation will travel to Colombia. Check the 8th Day web site (www.8thday.org), as the date will be posted.

US continues decade of Iraqi 'genocide'

Bob Bossie, SCJ

The US has led a ten year war against Iraq using weapons of economic sanctions and repeated bombings. Today, Iraq's infrastructure is in shambles, 500,000 children have died, and Iraq is cut off from almost all contact with the West. Essentially, this war of sanctions and bombing is in direct violation of the Geneva conventions. Some now call it "genocide" because it fulfills international norms for such a claim.

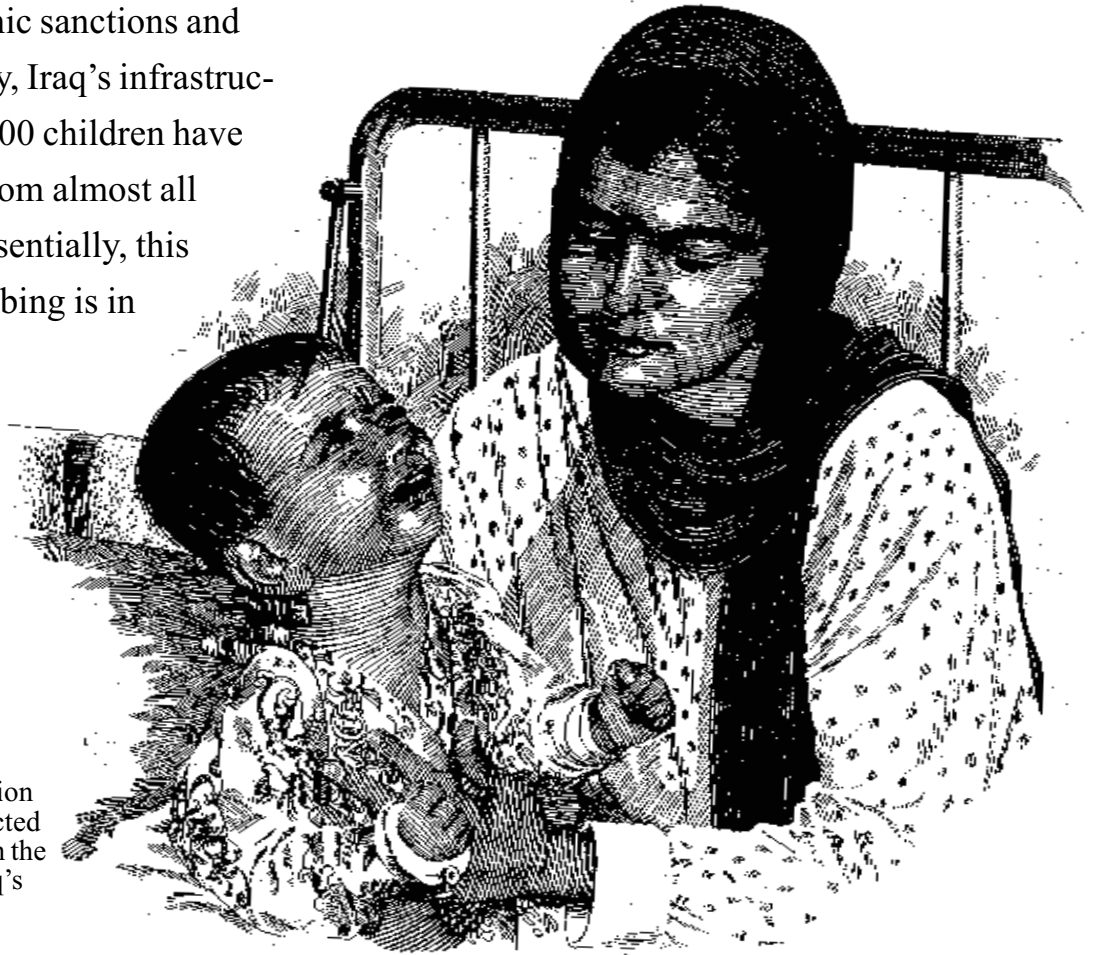
The announced goal of this carnage was to reverse the invasion of Kuwait, the result of a protracted and complicated dispute between the two countries, and eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Actually, the real goal has always been to maintain control of Middle East oil and oil revenues which shore up western economies.

"Jobs, jobs, jobs," was how Secretary of State James Baker sought to explain it to the US public in 1990. To win support for waging the gulf war, however, Washington had to demonize Hussein. Today, the US admits sanctions will remain in place until Hussein's government is replaced by one amenable to its interests. In 1996, when questioned about the value of all these deaths, then US Ambassador to the UN, Madeleine Albright said: "We think the price is worth it."

Signs of Hope

In the face of these genocidal policies, signs of hope are emerging. Within the UN Security Council itself, France, China and Russia continually lobby against sanctions. Two directors of the UN's oil-for-food program, who resigned within 18 months of each other in protest of the sanctions, continue to speak against them. Former chief weapons inspector Scott Ritter also has called for the end of sanctions, saying that Iraq is virtually disarmed.

In August, a Russian delegation flew into Baghdad,



Sabah Jasim tends her dying 18-month-old son Khalid in Basrah's Pediatric Hospital in Iraq in this 1998 photo. Most likely, Khalid has died by now. From a photo by Chuck Trapkus of Rock Island, Illinois.

breaking the travel embargo a week after a defiant visit to Iraq by Venezuela's president angered the United States. Meanwhile, France, Iceland, Yemen, Morocco, Jordan and India have joined in attempts to break the air embargo. The President of Indonesia also announced that he will fly to Iraq saying Indonesia is not a stooge to anyone. More and more religious and congressional leaders are speaking out against sanctions.

Additionally, a grass-roots, anti-sanctions movement has gained such momentum that in September, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright found it necessary to disparage its influence by vigorously dismissing as "Alice in Wonderland" contentions by religious groups and others that U.S.-engineered sanctions were starving the Iraqi people (AP - Sept. 9, 2000).

Anti-sanctions Struggles

Meanwhile, differences within the anti-sanctions movement are sending mixed messages to new and old opponents of this slaughter being conducted in our names. While it seems clear that only the complete ending of sanctions will allow Iraq to fully reconstitute its economy, some opponents to sanctions are calling for an end to economic sanctions, but the retention of military ones. Others are calling for the lifting of only medical and food sanctions. Still others are calling for military sanctions for the entire region (Israel, Saudi Arabia, etc.), which is more in line with the UN resolutions; plus they are calling for the use of sanctions against nations (US, Britain, etc.) and corporations that supply weapons to Iraq.

One likely objective of these strategies is to respond to the question: what should we do about Saddam Hussein? Another might be simply to bring as many persons on board the anti-sanctions movement as possible.

Some Concerns

In the interest of dialogue, let me suggest that these strategies seem to ignore several factors. First, Hussein was a US ally when he served US interests by containing the Iranian revolution from spreading across the Middle East oil fields, even though he used gas against the Iranians and the Kurds. Once he failed to serve US interests, he was conveniently demonized. While concern for the human rights violations of the Iraqi government are more than appropriate, proponents of this “delinking” of economic and military sanctions must ask themselves to what extent they are playing into US oil-war propaganda.

Second, another oversight in this “delinking” strategy focuses upon who gets to decide what are economic and what are military resources. Even now, within the UN 661 committee that oversees contracts under the oil-for-food deal, the US has used its veto power to stop all, so called, dual-use items (e.g., chlorine to purify water, pencils) to the tune of over \$1 billion dollars to date. This amount is equal to more than 15% of those resources approved by the same committee.

Related to this concern, those who seek region-wide disarmament plus sanctions against the arms suppliers, need to ask who is going to enforce these sanctions when the US, which is the largest weapons supplier to the region, essentially controls the Security Council.

Third, we should not underestimate the extent to which US policy makers and oil companies will go to protect their oil interests. In addition to the death of a million Iraqis from sanctions and bombing, another clear indicator of this resolve can be found in the 1979 threat by President Carter to use nuclear weapons against the USSR to protect its interests in the Gulf, following that nation’s invasion of Afghanistan. Most foreign policy observers judged this to be the closest we have come to nuclear war, not the Cuban missile crisis. Oil is worth any price.

Another case in point, especially regarding the weapon of sanctions, is the 40 year old US embargo against Cuba which continues to strangle that impoverished nation.



This banner depicts the connection between two types of weapons of mass destruction: nuclear weapons and sanctions. It was displayed at the Aug. 6 rally in Washington, D.C. which marked the Tenth Anniversary of the Iraq Sanctions and the 55th Anniversary of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima.

Fourth, one must ask if conditions for the ending of sanctions will demand that Iraq allow Western oil companies control of its oil. What role will the International Monetary Fund and World Bank play in the “reconstruction” of Iraq? Will the lot of the ordinary Iraqi change any under this likely scenario? One need only look at Eastern Europe, Russia and the global South for an answer.

Perhaps it is this scenario that prompts the observation that even should a highly democratic government come to power in Iraq, popular pressure would force it to develop its military and Weapons of Mass Destruction following Iraq’s impotence in the last decade.

Ending Sanctions

The struggle to end sanctions is intricately linked with the new world economic order wherein the multinationals and their minions (World Trade Organization, International Monetary Fund and World Bank) attempt to determine who wins and loses. Recent efforts to link issues of militarism, human rights, economic justice and eco-justice, across all boundaries, is key to ending sanctions on the terms most beneficial to the people of Iraq. The anti-sanctions movement would also do well to call us citizens of Western nations to examine our own insatiable appetite for oil. □

Info and actions:

Voices in the Wilderness

<http://www.nonviolence.org/vitw>

Education for Peace in Iraq Center

<http://leb.net/epic/>

International Action Center

http://www.iacenter.org/anti_sanc.htm

Campaign of Conscience

<http://www.afsc.org/conscience/Default.htm>

Right Relationships Include Dissent

Dorothy Pagosa, SSJ-TOSF

During the summer a number of political conventions occurred, but the two that became the focus of press attention were the Republican (July 31 - August 3) and Democratic (August 14 - 17) ones.

Outside of both conventions halls, protestors brought up issues that were not being addressed by either party in their scripted conventions.

Many American youth were involved in these demonstrations in numbers that have not been seen in a long, long time. Their concerns revolved around the death penalty, the tactics of the IMF and World Bank, environmental issues, living wages, police brutality, and sanctions against the people of Iraq.

A Different Story

While the information news viewers and readers received was that demonstrators had become violent and that the police responded in kind, the reports 8th Day received from Philadelphia and Los Angeles told a totally different story. The police conducted what they called "preemptive strikes" confiscating puppets and banners that were going to be used at the demonstrations. This is tantamount to arresting someone before they do anything in order to stop them from doing something.

Americans are supposed to have Constitutional rights against such unlawful search and seizure. If the results of the lawsuits filed are similar to Seattle the demonstrators will win, but the damage has been done.

Stories of police brutality against demonstrators who had been arrested came over 8th Day e-mail fast and furiously. Messages described a male demonstrator in Philly being dragged past other cells screaming in pain. He was dressed only in boxer shorts. Bruises were visible on his back; he was bleeding from his shoulder to wrist and his fingers were blue.

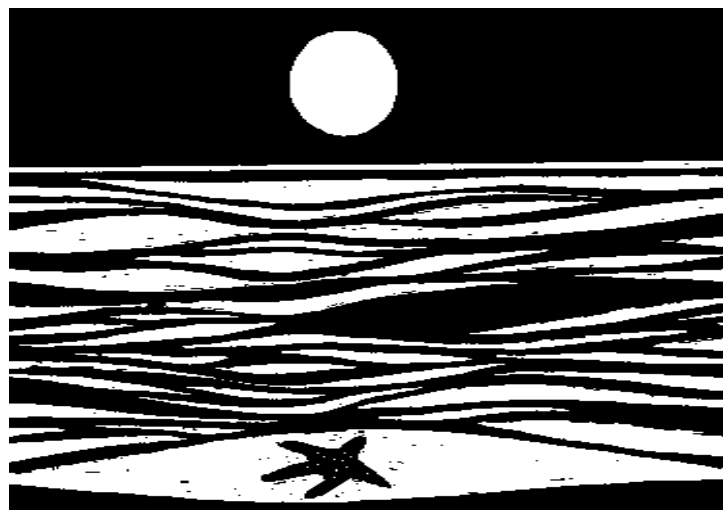
Water was withheld from many of the over 400 arrested and women were not allowed to use restrooms for a long time. Even people who were not involved in any illegal activities, but were using cell phones of the type used by the strategic team for the demonstrators found themselves arrested as well.

Los Angeles conducted similar preemptive strikes. The city called off the concert being staged by "Rage Against the Machine." When several demonstrators climbed a fence, newscasters called this a violent act. Immediately after police gave protestors fifteen minutes to leave an area, they surrounded protestors, cutting off any chance of escape. The police then began using tear gas and rubber bullets on the crowd.

These examples are only a few of the many human rights violations that occurred at both conventions.

Right Relationships

What does this all have to do with right relationships? The issues addressed by the demonstrators dealt with



issues of justice significant to people throughout the world and to the environment. Millions of people in countries plagued by debt payments to the IMF and World Bank do not have basic necessities of life. Five thousand children per month are dying in Iraq because of the US/UN imposed sanctions against that country. People in sweatshops and in minimum wage jobs cannot afford to feed their families and provide basic necessities.

There have been a large number of people released from death row because of new evidence (DNA), incompetent lawyers, or biased trials. How many people have been executed who did not commit the crime for which they were convicted? What is the United States doing to the health of the world's environment? Why are there continuous reports of police brutality throughout this country? People are dying because these issues are not being given serious consideration.

These very same issues are the ones not addressed at either "major party" convention. These were the issues that demonstrators desperately wanted to hear comments about from the potential leaders of the United States. But in the well scripted events called political conventions, there was no room for this type of dissent.

Where is the room for dissent in a world of right relationships? Temptation is great on both sides to up the ante. For police and government officials, extreme violence has been used to stop any questioning of the status quo. For demonstrators, frustration has led at times to outbursts which in the final analysis might not help the cause of justice in the world. Violence has no place in a world of right relations.

The reaction of the police and the city governments where demonstrations have occurred remind me of a scene from the "Wizard of Oz." Coming upon the Wizard, Dorothy is told to ignore the man behind the curtain. Instead, she is told to enjoy the Emerald City and note how pretty everything is. All citizens, need to pull back that curtain and look at what's really going on in the world. Then, political leaders must be challenged to enter into real discussion, debate and change. From this beginning, the hope for a world of right relations can be realized. □

DOVETALES

★ New Resources

For Poor and Rich Alike: Understanding Globalization. This video produced by Network has been added to the 8th Day library. In it, economist Amata Miller, IHM spells out the perils and the promise of globalization, and a strategy for harnessing its forces for the good of all humankind. Includes two 50-minute segments, discussion guide and handouts for viewers.

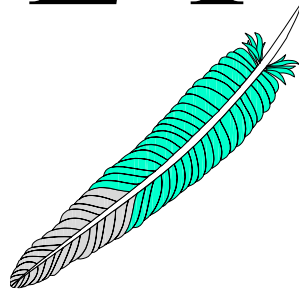
A reminder that 8th Day videos are available to congregational members for the cost of postage. They can be sent and returned by mail. For non-congregational members they are available for loan at a nominal fee. A complete listing of the video library will be sent on request.

★ Congratulations

Congratulations to Marygrace Puchacz, SSJ-TOSF who received the Peacemaker of the Year Award from the Franciscan Federation at its summer meeting. She received the award for her holistic work at the East Bay Services for developmentally disabled individuals in Concord, CA and use of nonviolent conflict resolution as a Commissioner on the city planning commission.

★ Thanks

The 8th Day Center for Justice wants to thank all the donors who remembered the Center during its 25th anniversary year. Special recognition is given to two funds established this fall. Gifts were received in celebration of the Silver Wedding Anniversary of Jim Finnerty, a movement lawyer, and his wife Janet. Also, a memorial



was established in honor of Dorothy Eber, a longtime peace activist who died in September.

★ Turning WebLeaves

Coming soon to an 8th Day Center Website near you: New more user friendly navigation bar; Staff Photos; Information on in-house resources; Online versions of 8th Day's Social Analysis tool "Toward a Spirituality of Justice." Stop by the 8th Day website at <http://www.8thdaycenter.org> and see the progress.

★ Media Blahs?

Tired of the same old corporately controlled media? Want to find up to date news from around the world, on the land, and in the street? Independent Media Center (IMC) at <http://www.indymedia.org> could be the answer. IMC is an alternative media source with news submitted by "real" people.

One can choose from over 35 IMC city and national sites worldwide from Sydney to Prague, from New York to LA. Can't read a story in a foreign language? Click a link and the translation is instantly there! Got a story, photo, or video that the mainstream media won't pick up? Submit it to IMC and you will probably get it published. So check it out and participate in the media revolution!

★ Plowshares Action

Five women religious took hammers to military aircraft at Petersen Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, CO on Sept. 9. The five, calling the action the "Sacred Earth and Space Plowshares 2000," were Elizabeth (Liz) Walters, IHM; Jackie Hudson, OP; Anne Montgomery, RSCJ; Ardeth Platte, OP; and Carol Gilbert, OP.

After six days in the El Paso County jail, they were released unexpectedly after the prosecutor decided to drop charges pending a formal report from the military.

They hit a fighter jet and a satellite receiver. Entering an air show, they said they picked their targets: a Marine Corps \$24 Million F/A fighter jet, which has been used to bomb Iraq, an action they strongly oppose; and a ground station for the \$32 billion Milstar satellite communications system. Their aim, was to symbolically disarm the equipment but avoid injuring anyone or acting in a threatening way.

★ 20th Anniversary

Maura Clark, MM, Ita Ford, MM, Dorothy Kazel, OSU, Jean Donovan. Presente!

The lives of these four American martyrs will be celebrated worldwide Dec. 2. SHARE Foundation is leading a delegation to El Salvador to coincide with the observance there. The Religious Task Force on Central America/Mexico is planning a memorial service. A group of Chicago faith based women is planning a celebration Dec. 2. For more information, call 8th Day Center.

Subscribe to 8th Day e-mail Bulletin

Send your e-mail address to 8th Day Center in order to receive Weekly Action Bulletins. Updates and suggested actions on a variety of social issues addressed by the Center Staff are posted weekly/periodically.

Recent topics have included "Mayhem in Sierre Leone, SOA Clone, IMF/World Bank, Colombian Military Aid, Jubilee 2000.

If you want to receive these Bulletins, send your name and e-mail address to: 8thday@claret.org. In the subject line write "Bulletin."

Visit our web site for more resources: 8thdaycenter.org

A subscription to 8th Day *Centerings* is available for \$15 per year or \$25 for two years. To subscribe, send a check payable to 8th Day Center for Justice at the address below. Additional donations to further our work of social justice are appreciated.

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