



## World March for Peace and Nonviolence

**The World March for Peace and Nonviolence** is a global connection of people marching from New Zealand on October 2 – Gandhi’s birthday – to January 2 in Argentina. The core group will jump from place to place with other marches in various places. They will arrive in New York City on November 30<sup>th</sup> and go to the United Nations on December 1. It is a remarkably open-ended plea with encouragement for diversity and imagination. Above all, the organizers are encouraging local groups to do marches and other events in conjunction with the primary march, but also to combine resistance with cultural events, and anything else that might catch their imagination. The whole project has been endorsed by an impressive list of well-known peace activists and political and cultural figures. More information is on the website: [World-Marchusa.net](http://World-Marchusa.net).

The primary thrust of anticipated political dialogue of the March is to talk about Gandhian nonviolence, and then translate it to our own time and place. The idea is to take satyagraha — truth-telling, and swaraj — self-rule, and move these forces from religious and philosophical principles into a political force that everybody can use. We all need to confront the powers of war, violence, and exploitation with a vision of what a future there can be where we are human with each other with sanity and justice. Our situation is not Gandhi’s, but we can learn from his “experiments in truth” (the name of his autobiography) to conduct our own experiments in building our future.

To be more specific. The Campaign calls for:

1. world wide nuclear disarmament
2. the ending of all occupations of nations and peoples by other nations and

- peoples
3. the ending of the conventional arms race which so floods troubled areas of the world,
4. the signing of nonaggression pacts,
5. the elimination of war as a tool of resolving conflicts.

This listing is not only breathtaking in its audacity to connect issues, but is really very doable. And we know our survival and the survival of our planet depends on it.

Broome County Peace Action (BCPA) has endorsed this campaign and will participate in it. In particular, BCPA is looking to connect these points to the Israel-Palestine conflict, especially in connection to Israeli nuclear arms and occupation of Palestinian lands. The whole Middle East is awash in weapons. There is no overall authority for peaceful resolutions of conflicts. War seems to be all but inevitable and natural. We do not believe blood-letting is ever inevitable or necessary, and we call especially on United States and Israeli policy makers to really listen to the voices and needs of other peoples besides our own — for all our sakes.

The insert in this issue of *UPDATE* is a petition looking for individual and group sponsors of the World March. One side is for group sponsorship, the other is for individuals. We are using this as an organizing and recruiting tool to get as many people as possible to participate. The petition itself, along with others gathered throughout the world, will be taken to the United Nations in early December by Marchers. Feel free to make copies and send signed copies to Broome County Peace Action.

For more info, contact Jim Clune at 773-0246.

## Chris Hedges to speak in Binghamton

Chris Hedges, award-winning journalist and author will talk about the crises in our society with references, to his new book, *The Illusion of Empire: The End of Literacy and the Triumph of Spectacle*, in the context of local events scheduled as part of **350.org’s International Day of Climate Action**. Saturday, October 24, 7:00pm, at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton, 183 Riverside Dr. (next to Lourdes Hospital.) Sponsored by **Broome County Peace Action** in coordination with **Binghamton Regional Sustainability Coalition**.

Hedges, former Middle East bureau chief for the New York Times, is a senior fellow at The Nation Institute; his articles appear regularly in *The Nation* magazine. His incisive critiques are also a weekly feature on [Truthdig.org](http://Truthdig.org). For instance, two recent articles are: “**Go to Pittsburgh, Young Man, and Defy Your Empire**” — Voices of change who speak in powerful and yet unfamiliar words, are on their way to Pittsburgh. They will cry out to defy the heads of state, bankers and finance ministers meeting there for the G-20; and “**This Isn’t Reform, It’s Robbery**” — The proposed health reform plans rattling around Congress all ensure that the profits for corporations will increase and the misery for ordinary Americans will be compounded.

## Calendar

Sept. 23: Fr. Roy Bougeois (Page 3)

Oct. 24: Chris Hedges (Page 1)

Nov. 5: Kathy Kelly (Page 2)

## Fr. Roy Bougeois here Sept. 23 - 25

Fr. Roy Bourgeois has lived in a small apartment next to the main gate of the world's largest military training base for the past 18 years. His concern is the US Army training of Latinos at Ft Benning, Ga. **School of the Americas** Graduates (renamed WHINSEC) are trained in combat arms with a sprinkling of "new" human rights courses. Graduates have gone back to their own countries to commit horrendous crimes against their own people. A blood trail left by graduates of the U.S. Army School of the Americas extends from Central to South America. America tax payers subsidize the horror.



Long before Abu Ghraib, Roy Bourgeois knew well the tactics of teaching torture by the U.S. Military. When Americans began to realize that our claimed moral superiority was a false assumption, Roy Bourgeois and others had long pointed to our history of terror teaching at the U.S. Army School of the Americas. Back in the 1990's Roy spent a total of over four years in federal prison in his attempt to publicize the crimes of American foreign policy in Latin America.

Long a supporter of human rights, Roy has also taken the struggle of women within his church to a controversial high in American Catholicism. His support for the ordination of women has made him a

target of derision by church hierarchy.

Come and hear Fr. Roy at First United Methodist Church, McKinley Ave. Endicott, Wednesday evening, 7PM, September 23rd. (easy parking behind church)

Fr. Roy will also speak at a Clergy breakfast at First Presbyterian Church, Chenango St, Binghamton on Friday morning, September 25th, 8:15 AM — just a block from the County Court House and adjacent parking ramp.

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## The Southern-Tier Peace Makers Fund in Action

Mari Pfingston-Bigelow

This spring, eight students and community members in Binghamton were able to attend protests and social forums in Washington, DC due to the generosity of the Southern-Tier Peace Makers Memorial Fund. This event was in protest of the spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank. Unfortunately many people do not know of the existence of the IMF and World Bank, but we felt it was very important to be among the people visibly protesting their existence.

We are so strongly against these entities because they are the two leading global financial institutions whose international policies have had disastrous effects upon many countries and has been a leading factor in the global economic collapse. These institutions gain power by loaning money to many countries that have no means of paying the money back, at which time the IMF and World Bank institute structural adjustment policies (SAP's), which then enables them to control almost all of the economy of entire countries.

During the weekend of protests, there was also a people's economic forum as a means of discussing alternative visions of how we would like to see the world operate. It was very inspiring to meet so many people from all over the country who care so strongly about the same issues as us: globalization, social justice, and seeing fundamental change in the world.

After our weekend in Washington, DC, we

came back to Binghamton both humbled and inspired. The strong police presence and brutality left some of us anxious and upset, while the progressive ideas and people that we met created a great sense of community and motivation. Some of us shared our experiences through the local blog "Essential Dissent" and other progressive news outlets. The meetings and discussions that we have had since the IMF and World Bank protests has led to our formation as a permanent action collective, simply titled "Autonomous Action."

We wholeheartedly appreciate the support of Broome County Peace Action in supporting our efforts, and we look forward to working more closely in our shared efforts in the Binghamton community and beyond.

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## Kathy Kelly to Speak Nov. 6

Kathy Kelly, Director of the Center for Creative Non-Violence (<http://vcnv.org>), will be at First Presbyterian Church, Chenango St Binghamton, at 7:00 pm on November 6th. The topic will be about the ten month program of Creative Non Violence to end the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. She has recently visited Gaza and Pakistan, writing eyewitness accounts of war's impact on civilians. She believes that non-violence necessarily involves simplicity, service, sharing of resources and non-violent direct action in resistance to war and oppression. Kathy hasn't paid federal income taxes since 1980.



## Terrorism at a Glance

George Haeseler

On September 11, 2001, 19 zealots committed suicide by hijacking four American Passenger jets and crashing three of them successfully into three buildings. Fifteen of the hijackers were Saudis, none of them Iraqis or Afghans. Instead of using a sympathetic and willing international justice system to track down those still alive who planned or abetted this crime, the Bush administration attacked Afghanistan when the Taliban government refused to hand over Osama Bin Laden, who was being blamed for the event. The Taliban stated they might comply if they were shown proof he was responsible. They also offered to turn him over for trial to a neutral country, as well as to negotiate the matter. Bush remained inflexible and ordered the bombing of Northern Afghanistan, killing about as many innocent people as those who had died in 9/11 and subsequently ordered the invasion of that country. On March 19, 2003, the US invaded Iraq on pretexts that were all false. Our troops remain in both countries in search of terrorists our government claims will harm us here if we don't stop them there. Osama Bin Laden is still at large and members of al Qaeda are increasing, now established in Pakistan, as well. Our Special Forces and drones have been used there, to kill members of al Qaeda, the Taliban, or any other "terrorists" that might pose a threat to our country. Over 700 Pakistanis have been

killed by drones, with only 14 of them certified as "terrorists."

Meanwhile, "terrorists" have killed people in Spain, England, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Japan, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia (to name a few countries that come easily to mind) and the US has not seen fit to invade those countries. Without a clear definition of who the "terrorists" are and absent any international organization to pursue them, it seems as though the US "War on Terrorism" can never have an end. It would also seem that the labeling as "terrorists" by any government is now sufficient justification for them to be assassinated or imprisoned without trial. The fact that many, many more innocent people are killed by governments than by "terrorists" seems to be of no concern to anyone except the families and friends of those killed, many of whom then become "terrorists," themselves. Absent from the mainstream media is any explanation as to why "terrorists" do what they do; often sacrificing their own lives. However, one thing has been established: terrorists can not be categorized by gender, age, educational level, or social standing. There also appears to be a thread common to Islamic terrorists; they resent the forced encroachment of Western values on their culture and the sell-out of Moslem leaders to Western demands. In the Middle East, there is certainly widespread hatred of foreign occupation and those of their countrymen that support it. The fact that "terrorists" do not possess the sophisticated lethal weaponry used against them

by government forces has made it necessary for them to resort to more primitive, less discriminating methods of killing people.

The purpose of this essay is not to recruit support for terrorists, only to try to understand them and perhaps provide a glimpse of a solution before the nuclear weapons they seek come into their hands. As is true for an end to all international political violence, it can only come with the cooperative establishment of a strong, objective, democratic international organization and court of justice. What exists now, the UN and the World Court, is a sham requiring reform before they can fulfill their mission. If reformed and strengthened, the UN and the World Court would then have the power to prevent, adjudicate, and punish terrorism, whether it be committed by countries or individuals. Is there any other alternative?"

## Membership Committee Report

Of our 127 current members, all but 38 have renewed their membership for 2009. If you are among them, you can save us the time and cost of billing you by completing the form on page 3 and mailing it with your check to the address indicated. If you are not a member, please do the same to show your support for our many activities.

Susan McAnanama, Chair

### Broome County Peace Action

Here are my dues. They entitle me to local, state, and national membership in **Peace Action**. Make check payable to: **BC Peace Action**. **If you are not already a member, you can select a free, one-year-only trial membership.**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$35 household      \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 individual      \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 student/low-income      \_\_\_\_\_ Free, trial membership

I would like to make an additional **tax deductible** contribution to Broome County Nuclear Weapons Reduction Campaign, the educational arm of B.C. Peace Action. Make check payable to: **BC NWRC**.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total (enclose)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail to: **BC Peace Action, P.O. Box 1611, Binghamton, NY 13902**

## Broome County Peace Action Board meetings

The Board meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation on Riverside Drive in Binghamton. Most meetings are followed by a speaker on a topic of interest to the peace community. Occasionally plans change (weather, illness, scheduling conflicts) so you may want to call President Tarik Abdelazim at 221-0893 or e-mail him at [modocpress@yahoo.com](mailto:modocpress@yahoo.com). The talks start about 8:00. pm Talks are listed on our Web site:

[bcpeaceaction.org](http://bcpeaceaction.org)

## Calendar

See page 1.

### What Does Code Mean On Your Mailing Label?

Take a look at the letter code on your mailing label. It tells if you have a paid-up membership in Peace Action or if you need to contribute to stay on the mailing list. The different codes are:

- 09: You have already paid your membership in 2009. THANK YOU!**
- 08, 07, 06: Your last paid membership was in 2008, 2007, 2006, etc. Please renew using the form on page 3.**

Letter code and year added to mailing list:

**D: 2002, E: 2003, F: 2004, G: 2005, H: 2006, I: 2007, J: 2008, K: 2009**

If you would like to continue receiving **UPDATE** but feel you cannot make a membership payment at this time, just give us a call (729-1044) and we will keep your name on the mailing list.

### UPDATE

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[bcpeaceaction.org](http://bcpeaceaction.org)

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