

Study topic for 2010-2011 The Millennium Development Goals

Stopping this war and that war, however necessary, is not sufficient to bring about world peace. In 2000 The United Nations adopted an ambitious and under-publicized project to address the underlying causes of war and instability. SnoCo Peace Action will devote the fall and winter lecture series to examining their eight goals and how we can contribute.

The U.N. Millennium Development Goals are (by the year 2015):

- To eradicate world hunger and extreme poverty
- To reduce child mortality
- To ensure universal primary education
- To empower women and assure gender equality
- To improve maternal health
- To assure environmental sustainability
- To combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
- To secure global partnership among all nations

Modest, huh? But I think we can agree that if we achieved these goals, we wouldn't have to spend our time trying to prevent the next terrorist attack or stopping the next U.S. occupation. So our fall and winter programs will be examining these goals with particular reference to the U.S.'s position and policies, and what we could/should do. We will start in September by looking at part of the environmental component.

Recommended reading: Lester Brown, Plan B 4.0., and the website <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals>

Recommended action: Give the enclosed flyer to a friend or post it where interested people will see it.

Notes from the chair

Terry Williamson



Major combat operations are over in Iraq. Only seven years and one change of U. S. administrations later.

So now we get to end Afghanistan. We need to turn public opinion, and policy-makers' opinions, around on Afghanistan as we did on Iraq. We need a sustained push, by all of us, to bring and keep the costs of war in sight—the costs to our pocketbooks, to our injured (physically and psychologically) soldiers, to the Afghani people, to world opinion and international peace....

Write at least a letter a month to the newspaper, to Congress, to Obama! And then email or call Jonnee Denton, who's tracking it for the group (425-481-8436; jonneedenton@hotmail.com). Our preliminary goal is to generate at least 20 a month to start putting the pressure on our policymakers and to start swaying local opinion. (Note that in the last several months—and not before—I've seen several letters in the Seattle Times decrying the cost of the Afghan war or questioning it's wisdom.)

Here are National Peace Action's talking points: we should focus on diplomatic cooperation and humanitarian aid, mitigate civilian casualties by scaling back military force. The United Nations, U.S. and British generals, peace groups, and 19 members of Congress agree: the war in Afghanistan cannot be won militarily and success is only possible through political means including dialogue between all relevant parties.

This month: Rick Larson seems to believe that Afghanistan is THE primary source of Al-Qaida support and that military force will somehow win Afghani hearts & minds. Disillusion him on both points.

Peace Scholarships! It's time to start collecting for next year's Peace Scholarships to help more students escape the economic draft. Also, we are asking members for donations for a scholarship specifically in memory of Marge Krieger and her lifetime of dedication to peace.

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Calendar—2010

September

Friday, 9/17, 7 pm. Peace Action September potluck and 7:30 meeting. Topic Millennium Development Goals—Environmental Sustainability and action updates. Edmonds Christian Church 23010 84th Ave W Edmonds.

Saturday, 9/18 Veterans for Peace are organizing a **“Blow the Whistle on War Crimes”** rally at Fort Lewis in support of Bradley Manning (the soldier accused of releasing the Wiki Leaks videos on alleged war crimes in Afghanistan), Contact VFP 92 or Cliff for details.

Tuesday, 9/28, 7 pm. The new documentary film **“Little Town of Bethlehem,”** at Trinity Lutheran Church 6215 196th Street Southwest Lynnwood.

October

Wednesday, 10/6, 12:30 Poet Sarah Zale reads from her new collection **The Art of Folding**, inspired by her visits to Israel and the West Bank with the Compassionate Listening Project.. Edmonds Community College, Mukilteo Hall, Black Box Theater, free. <http://www.edcc.edu/artsandculture>

Friday, 10/15, 7 pm. Peace Action September potluck and 7:30 meeting. Topic Millennium Development Goals and action updates. Edmonds Christian Church 23010 84th Ave W Edmonds.

Thursday, 10/21 5:30 pm. Peace Action Scholarship Reception. Meet the scholarship recipients. Edmonds Community College campus. Place TBD. Info from jim@eachus.org

Saturday, 10/ 23, Time TBA. A screening of the documentary on Christian Zionism **“With God on our Side”** (and a discussion of alternative viewpoints for Christians). Westminster Church, 13646 NE 24th Street Bellevue, WA 98005.

Sunday, 10/24 United Nations Day at the Seattle Center.

Ongoing Events

2nd Friday of the month, 7 pm. “Peace and Justice Movie Night” at the Edmonds Unitarian Universalist Church, 8109 224th St SW, Edmonds.

Sundays, 12:30 – 1:30 pm. Women in Black Vigil at Edmonds Ferry Dock.

Sundays, 2 – 3 pm. Greenlake Peace Vigil

Other area events can be found at

Community Network (telnet scn.org or dial 206-386-4199);

World Wide Web <http://www.scn.org/activism/calendar> or

(text version) <http://www.scn.org/activism/PJ-cal.txt>, and also at <http://www.pical.org>