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Special points of interest:

- The Frontline television special, *Showdown With Iran* is available at www.teachpeace.com/teachpeacemoment4.htm
- FEMA broadcast a “fake news conference.” On October 26, White House Press Secretary Dana Perino assured Americans this practice would stop.
- Seymour Hersh visited Davis, California on October 17th and warned that President Bush is ready to strike Iran. He also said, “they want to do something that will probably put us into two or three decades of hell with the Muslim world.”
- The Kyl-Lieberman Amendment declared Iran’s Qods Force and military as a terrorist organization.
- Source articles for the “Special points of interest” are available at www.teachpeace.com.

EVENING OF PEACE

On October 21, 2007, 230 people came together to recognize special peacemakers and promote collaboration among many organizations. In addition, high school students led the evening and inspired us with their creativity for peace. The feedback is uniformly enthusiastic and we have already scheduled the *3rd annual Evening of Peace* for September 21, 2008.

Two special people were unable to attend and are therefore highlighted here. Jeanie Keltner, traveling in Europe at the time of the awards ceremony, has served as the editor of the fantastic *Because People Matter* newspaper. In the 1980’s she founded *Companeros*, a student peace organization. Her lifetime of work for justice as a professor, organizer, and peacemaker is truly inspirational.



The inspirational peacemaker Jeanie Keltner.

We also were unable to have Natalie Wormeli join us, due to illness. Natalie works to educate people about civil rights and the dangers of legislation like the Patriot Act. She is working to protect our Constitution. We thank Natalie for her leadership and amazing work for peace.

Many people commented that every person that received an award shared uplifting insights and wisdom to bring about a more peaceful world. For more information about all the award winners see www.teachpeace.com/eop1.pdf.

We wish to thank everyone who volunteered for the dinner and those who helped deliver over 100 Teach Peace events in 2007 (see <http://www.teachpeace.com/previouspresentations.htm> for more information).

If you are interested in joining us for a weekend of peace action in Washington, DC, see www.teachpeace.com/dctrip.htm. The trip is February 1-5 and the meetings with members of Congress will be led by Teach Peace high school students.

NEW HIGH SCHOOL CLUB

The third Teach Peace high school Peace Club started at Burbank High in Sacramento on October 19, 2007. We are on track to have ten high school Peace Clubs by the end of 2008.

Please tell us if you know of a high school where you would like us to start a club. To learn about our program for high school students, please see <http://www.teachpeace.com/youthforfreedom.htm>.

Special points of interest:

- Three days after the US declared Iran's Qods Force a terrorist organization, Iran's Parliament declared the CIA and US army terrorist organizations.
- Author Fawaz A. Gerges wrote on October 26 that a key mentor of Osama bin Laden, Salman al-Odah, has written an open letter reproaching him for "fostering a culture of suicide bombings that has caused bloodshed and suffering and brought ruin to entire Muslim communities and families."
- On September 25, Houston-based Powered Corp signed a deal to build five nuclear reactors in Yemen. Unlike Iran's efforts for nuclear energy, the US media was silent on the noteworthy development even though Yemen has a large Al-Qaeda presence and is the birthplace of Osama bin Laden's father.
- President Bush has changed from denying global climate change to acknowledging it is a serious problem. In a speech to 17 world leaders at the State Department he said "global temperatures are rising and that this is caused largely by human activities."
- Robert Stormer, a retired Navy lieutenant commander and weapons expert, raised important questions on October 7 in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram about six W80-1 nuclear-armed cruise missiles that in August sat on the tarmac of Barksdale Air Force Base for 10 hours. This article and all sources articles for the Special Points of Interest are available in the Articles section at www.teachpeace.com/articles.htm.

ILLEGAL IMMUNITY

On October 17th, Senate Democrats and Republicans reached agreement with the Bush administration on legislation to grant legal immunity to telecommunications companies that have illegally spied on American citizens.

The provisions of this draft bill would wipe out a series of pending lawsuits alleging violations of privacy rights by telecommunications companies that provided telephone records, e-mail traffic and other information to the government after Sept. 11, 2001, without receiving court warrants.

Warrantless domestic surveillance was exposed as a routine activity in *American Hiroshima* in February 2005 and by the mainstream media about seven months later. In August, a coalition of Republicans and dissident Democrats passed a measure backed by the White House that put the illegal program on legal ground by expressly permitting the government to wiretap foreign targets without a court order, including, under certain circumstances, when those targets are communicating with people in the United States. Let members of Congress know that retroactive immunity for illegal behavior is unacceptable.

MARCH TOWARDS WAR

Will we see a US air and sea attack on Iran before President Bush leaves office?

The Teach Peace detailed timeline to war available at www.teachpeace.com/Iran.pdf makes the case that war is on the horizon and we do not have much time remaining to prevent it.



How do we prevent it? Direct action and let President Bush know that you will not cooperate with his plans to start another war. Everything counts and more than a million lives hang in the balance as the subsequent violence is likely to last many years. Whether you are educating a member of your family, writing to your representatives, working to support a pro-peace candidate, or doing some other non-violent activity, it counts. What we cannot do is sit back and wait for President Bush to leave office. Silence is permission and do not fool yourself that the next president, because he or she may be from another political party, will voluntarily give up excessive executive powers.

While time may be running out to impeach President Bush, there is no time limit for prosecuting him for his crimes. For this reason energy invested in the impeachment process will not be wasted.

As Chris Floyd, author of *Empire Burlesque* observed: "Yet we must keep sounding the alarm, even in the face of almost certain defeat. What else is our humanity worth if we don't do that? And if, in the end, all that we've accomplished is to keep the smallest spark of light alive, to help smuggle it through an age of darkness to some better, brighter time ahead, is that not worth the full measure of struggle?"

Special points of interest:

- The US tortures prisoners in violation of international law, former President Jimmy Carter said on October 10. "I don't think it. I know it," Carter told CNN's Wolf Blitzer. Carter also confirmed the US has abandoned the basic principle of human rights with extreme violations of international law. Carter told Blitzer "We've said that the Geneva Conventions do not apply to those people in Abu Ghraib prison and Guantanamo, and we've said we can torture prisoners and deprive them of an accusation of a crime to which they are accused."
- On October 18th, the Associated Press reported that the Pentagon is preparing to alert eight National Guard units to be ready to go to the Middle East or Central Asia beginning late next summer.
- On October 24 President Bush announced new aggressive measures against Cuba, including a call for the establishment of an international "freedom fund for Cuba." Bush also made a direct appeal to the Cuban military to act against the Cuban government.
- Upon being chosen for the Nobel Peace Prize, Al Gore wrote: "We face a true planetary emergency. The climate crisis is not a political issue, it is a moral and spiritual challenge to all of humanity. It is also our greatest opportunity to lift global consciousness to a higher level."
- On October 17th the Turkish Parliament authorized the government to send troops into northern Iraq to root out Kurdish rebels who've been conducting raids into Turkey. The vote removed the last legal obstacle to an offensive.

TORTURE CONFIRMED

In 2005 people had a hard time believing the section of *American Hiroshima* that the CIA tortures people. Specifically, the US is torturing people and this practice started long before 9/11/2001. Even though the complete and formerly classified CIA "torture" manuals are available on the Teach Peace site as source information for this newsletter, many Americans find it difficult to believe that the US government officially tortured prisoners. Jose Padilla, an American citizen and shown in the photo, was tortured to the point that he lost his mind.



The above image of Jose Padilla is made available according to Fair Use Title 17 Section 107 non-profit educational use.

The history of US torture programs goes back many years. For example, KUBARK, a CIA codename is 127 pages and was written in July 1963. This manual is a comprehensive torture guide discussing details like using electric current to shock prisoners. Section nine in the report provides the specifics of the techniques used at Abu Ghraib (see pages 82-104). In 1983, the CIA Human Resource Exploitation Training Manual was an updated version of the KUBARK manual and an Army Intelligence program codenamed "Project X." This manual was used in many Central and Latin American countries as a source of torture techniques. The public learned of this torture manual when in 1988 Senate Intelligence Committee hearings revealed human rights abuses by CIA-trained Honduran military units such as Battalion 316.

The stories of torture by Battalion 316 are horrifyingly similar to what would occur 20 years later in Iraq when the U.S. military held prisoners at Abu Ghraib. Prisoners in Honduras were hooded, had nooses tied to their necks and wires for shock treatment attached to their bodies. One example of torture identical to Abu Ghraib is the story of Ines Consuello Murillo in *American Hiroshima*.

As of October 4, 2007, CIA torture is no longer deniable. Two secret 2005 Justice Department memos, disclosed by *The New York Times*, confirm the US has tortured people. The memos were issues shortly after then-Attorney General Alberto Gonzales took over the Justice Department. At the same time as authorizing torture, Gonzales was publicly declaring torture "abhorrent" and prohibited. He even promised as a condition of being approved as Attorney General that he would not condone torture. Nonetheless, his memos authorized interrogation tactics including simulated drownings which, according to international law, are absolutely defined as torture.

The American people have a responsibility to every person tortured to hold Bush and Gonzales accountable for violating international law. The CIA officers participating in torture should know they are also accountable for their behavior under the Nuremburg principles. We must stand up against torture or our silence will water the seed of corruption that could end our democracy and destroy whatever moral authority we may still possess.

Peace be with you! Dave Dionisi, Teach Peace National Awareness

Blackwater Update

- The Blackwater USA mercenary firm was ordered by Iraq's government to leave Iraq because of numerous killings of civilians. In a show of who is running the country, the US overruled and Blackwater resumed "security" work.
- Iraq's Interior Ministry expanded its investigation of illegal Blackwater killings. Iraq's Maj. Gen. Abdul-Karim Khalaf said the Moyock, N.C.-based firm has been implicated in seven incidents in the past seven months.
- Federal prosecutors announced they are investigating employees of Blackwater for illegally smuggling weapons into Iraq that ended up in the hands of terrorists.

Teach Peace Meetings:

- See the Teach Peace site for a full listing of presentations, events and movies. Monthly planning conference calls are on the first Saturday of every month from 1 - 3 pm (PST). To participate on November 3rd, call 218-486-1300 and enter the bridge code 720663.

Help Teach Peace grow and call us to start automatic regular donations from your bank account or credit cards.



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WORTH REMEMBERING

"The problem with this country is it would rather create veterans than care for them. I say not another dime for the military until it provides for the people it has used as cannon fodder in the past. All recruiting offices for the armed services should be on the top floors of Veterans Administration Hospitals. All potential recruits should have to walk through the entire facility before they can sign their lives away to Uncle Sam." Barry Crimmins

"Cowardice asks the question, 'Is it safe?' Expediency asks the question, 'Is it politic?' Vanity asks the question, 'Is it popular?' But, conscience asks the question, 'Is it right?' And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but one must take it because one's conscience tells one that it is right." Martin Luther King, Jr.

ENERGY AUTONOMY

From time to time TeachPeace will call attention to books that present important background in a calm and factual manner. Hermann Scheer's *Energy Autonomy* is one example. Scheer, a member of the German Parliament, emphasizes the pertinence of renewable energy (solar, biomass, wind, etc.) to the issue of war and peace. As long as we rely so heavily on petroleum there will always be the temptation to seize it by force. According to Alan Greenspan, former Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, the occupation of Iraq is a vivid illustration.

Scheer also points out that international agreements, such as the Kyoto pact, are so full of compromises that they are almost useless in moving the world toward a dramatic increase in the use of renewable energy. In addition he explores the role of the powerful traditional energy suppliers in slowing down the development of alternative sources of energy. As he mentions, we will run out of petroleum some day, nuclear energy is too risky, and the sooner we move to the massive use of alternative sources, the better for the world.

COST OF WAR

The ultimate cost is measured in human lives lost and human suffering. President Bush and Donald Rumsfeld said the cost of war would be at most \$50 billion. The projected cost published on page 85 in *American Hiroshima* was exceeding \$1.9 trillion because the occupation would last at least until 2017. The latest Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate released on October 24th unfortunately confirmed the cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is on track to total \$2.4 trillion through the next decade, or nearly \$8,000 per man, woman and child in this country. Rep. John Spratt, D-S.C., budget committee chairman, said the new estimate also includes President Bush's request on October 22nd for another \$46 billion in war funding. Rep. Rahm Emanuel, D-III, said "the number is so big, it boggles the mind."

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

The annual planning on November 3rd replaces the monthly meeting. We will meet from 1 to 3 pm in the Davis Library Blanchard Room at 315 E 14th Street. You can also participate by calling 1-218-486-1300 and entering the bridge code 720663. For the agenda and more information please see <http://www.teachpeace.com/meetings&events.htm>.