

PEACE CAUCUS

Newsletter • Fall 2008

Arming the Planet:

US Policies Threaten Global Health and Stability

By Robert Gould, MD, Chair, Peace Caucus

Facing intractable conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan that have compounded our fiscal meltdown, and continuing to threaten a possible military attack on Iran, the United States has planted the seeds for unbridled global conflict by aggressively promoting advanced nuclear and arms technology throughout the world.

If You Like War in Iraq You'll Love War on Iran

In a striking display of hypocrisy, the U.S. government is planning a new generation of nuclear weapons production, while continuing to maintain a policy of intense pressure on the government of Iran to immediately cease its uranium enrichment program. This enrichment program is technically permissible, for the purpose of developing "peaceful nuclear energy," under the rubric of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which Iran has signed.

Although Iran is just one of many nations that has engaged in nuclear research, the U.S. has continued to brandish the threat of a military attack—that could be carried out by the U.S. directly, or by Israel. In response to the grave dangers posed by this ongoing threat of war, last year the APHA passed a policy statement drafted by members of the

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Dr Trita Parsi, President of the National Iranian American Council, will speak at APHA on Finding Peaceful Resolution to the US-Iran Standoff, Tuesday at 12:30 PM (see p. 5)

Peace Caucus and Labor Caucus

Building Alliances to End the War in Iraq

Visit Us At Booth 2131

In The APHA Public Health Exposition • San Diego Convention Center

Arming the Planet: U.S. Policies Threaten Health

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Peace Caucus explicitly opposed to a U.S. military attack on Iran. (Resolution 200718, *Opposition to US Attack on Iran*. Available at: <http://www.apha.org/advocacy/policy/policysearch/default.htm?id=1356>).

The U.S.' ultimatums to Iran have only increased tensions in the region. Many experts believe that U.S. policies are inherently counterproductive, guaranteed to bolster hardline elements within the Iranian government that would view attaining nuclear weapons as an ultimate deterrent to an attack. APHA conference participants have a special opportunity to learn of alternative pathways to resolving the U.S.-Iran nuclear standoff. The Peace Caucus, with the support of Physicians for Social Responsibility, has organized a session featuring a lecture by Trita Parsi, Ph.D., President of the National Iranian American Council, and author of *Treacherous Alliance - The Secret Dealings of Israel, Iran and the United States*, (Yale University Press 2007). Dr. Parsi will discuss **"Finding Peaceful Resolution to the U.S.-Iran Standoff"** during the session ***Iran and the Future of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime***, on Tuesday at 12:30 PM (see page 5 for details.)

U.S.-India Nuclear Pact: A Dangerous Military Alliance

While ratcheting up the pressure on Iran, the U.S. has simultaneously pushed for the conclusion of a U.S. – India nuclear pact that would allow the export of advanced nuclear technologies to India in spite of the fact that India is one of the few countries that has not signed the NPT. This deal will ultimately allow India to vastly expand its civilian nuclear power program, at great benefit to a heretofore moribund global nuclear power industry, as well to Indian ruling elites profiting handsomely from the deal. More ominously, the accord will simultaneously free up Indian nuclear resources to strengthen the Indian nuclear weapons program. This can only further destabilize the volatile region of South Asia, currently enmeshed in violent conflicts in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

In order to sweeten the deal for an Indian government that was bitterly divided over the terms of the bargain, the U.S. additionally offered to provide the Indian military with advanced weapons systems, as promised by numerous U.S. government officials during meetings throughout the beginning of 2008, including direct offerings from U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates. According to renowned Indian political analyst Kamal Chennoy, who earlier this year addressed participants at the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) meeting in New Delhi, the nuclear and conventional arms deals are all part of U.S. designs to incorporate a modern – militarized - India into a strategic alliance against a rising China.

Drawing India into such an alliance will further squander Indian resources that could otherwise alleviate much of the intense poverty and suffering of the Indian people. For example, it was recently reported in the *New York Times* that India has begun to refashion itself as an armed power that is willing and able to dispatch troops thousands of miles from the subcontinent, underscored by current and future purchases of aircraft carriers, naval destroyers, nuclear submarines, giant C-130J transport planes and airborne refueling tankers. Analysts estimate that India could spend as much as \$40 billion on military modernization in the next five years, with many of the weapons useful for operations far from home.

Massive Increase in U.S. Global Arms Exports: Unlikely Solution to Climate Change

U.S. policy encouraging the rise of an Indian regional military power is occurring against the backdrop of a massive increase in U.S. arms exports throughout the world. According to the *New York Times*, the Department of Defense (DoD) has agreed so far this fiscal year to sell or transfer more than \$32 billion in weapons and other military equipment to foreign governments, compared with \$12 billion in 2005, including helicopters, fighter jets, missiles, remotely piloted aircraft and warships.

The trend, which accelerated in 2006, is most pronounced in the Middle East, expanding the oil-petro

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Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan

Winter soldiers, according to Tom Paine, are the people who stand up for the soul of their country, even in its darkest hours. Two sessions jointly organized by the Labor and Peace Caucuses will highlight efforts by active duty service people, veterans, and labor, peace and public health activists, to oppose the Iraq war and prevent the war's adverse mental and physical health consequences. The presentations promise to educate, inspire and energize APHA member opposition to the war.

The first session, **Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan**, will show excerpts from a four-day event sponsored earlier this year by **Iraq Veterans Against the War**, featuring testimony exposing the human consequences of failed policy. It was named Winter Soldier to honor a similar gathering 30 years ago of veterans from the Vietnam War. A discussion will follow. The second session, **Labor, Peace and Public Health: Building Alliances to End the Iraq War**, will feature presentations on opposition to military recruitment in schools, the health impacts of the war on soldiers and their families, and opportunities for active duty service people, veterans, labor, peace and the public health community to join forces.

The joint Peace and Labor Caucus booth (2131) at the APHA Public Health Exposition will provide plenty of opportunity to learn more about organizations working to end the war and care for the soldiers and civilians who have suffered its direct and indirect consequences, including:

Physicians for Social Responsibility • <http://www.psr.org>
U.S. Labor Against the War • <http://www.uslaboragainstar.org/>
Iraq Veterans Against the War • <http://ivaw.org/>

Arming the Planet (continued from p.2)

dollar-arms trade cycle that has underscored modern U.S. foreign and military/energy policy that ultimately yielded the horrific "blowback" events of 9-11. However, the scope of expanded arms sales extends into northern Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe and Canada, through dozens of deals that senior Bush administration officials contend will both tighten military alliances and combat terrorism. From 2000 to 2006, the latest year for which the Congressional Research Service has compiled data, the United States' share of the world's arm trade rose from 40 percent of arms deliveries in 2000 to nearly 52 percent, with the next largest seller in 2006 being Russia, with 21 percent of global deliveries. American military contractors have profited greatly from this deadly trade, aided by the \$4.5 billion in annual aid from the U.S. government to 60 foreign countries to help them purchase weapons. In addition, direct commercial sales to foreign governments for less-sophisticated weapons and associated maintenance services has increased from \$58 billion in 2005 to an estimated \$96 billion this year.

The global health impacts of this expanded arms trade can be measured in the direct toll of increased warfare and violence, but also in the indirect costs of wasteful global expenditures in a world that has been far short in meeting Millennium Development Goals of adequate clean water, sanitation, food, etc. for an increasingly impoverished population. In addition, they provide an immense drain from the resources needed to mitigate, and adapt to the impending severe impacts of global climate change.

Rather than creating and arming new alliances to compete for energy, resources and power with manufactured "adversaries" such as China, it would be far better for new U.S. leadership to pull the plug on this paradigm. Instead, we need to figure out how to cooperate with rising, high-energy utilizing nations such as India and China in putting our talents and resources at work to prevent the worst scenarios of climate change from unfolding, and stemming a worldwide descent into predictably increasing violent struggles over the little that will remain for who comes next. Time is truly running out to change course.

Peace Caucus Program

October 27 - 29, 2008 San Diego, CA

Patrice Sutton, MPH, and Kathleen Fagan, MD, MPH, Program Planners

MONDAY (3238.0)

WAR AND PUBLIC HEALTH

• 12:30 PM-2:00 PM • SDCC MEETING ROOM 2 •

V.W. SIDEL, MD AND B. S. LEVY, MD, MPH, PRESIDERS

12:30 – Introductory Remarks. B. Levy and V.W. Sidel

12:40 – An assessment of the extent of projected global famine resulting from limited, regional nuclear war.
I. Helfand, MD

12:55 – Health impacts of war in the Middle East. A. F. Meyers, MD, MPH; A. Rothchild, MD

1:10 – War and public health under a new administration. B. S. Levy, MD, MPH; V. W. Sidel, MD

1:25 – Operation Homecoming: Writing the wartime experience. R. E. Robbins

1:40 – Discussion

CO-SPONSORS: INTERNATIONAL HEALTH, LABOR CAUCUS, MEDICAL CARE, OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY, SOCIALIST CAUCUS, SCHOOL HEALTH EDUCATION AND SERVICES • CE CREDITS: CME, HEALTH EDUCATION (CHES), NURSING

MONDAY (3427.0)

TERRORISM AND PUBLIC HEALTH

• 4:30 PM-6:00 PM • SDCC MEETING ROOM 1B •

B. S. LEVY, MD, MPH AND V. W. SIDEL, MD, PRESIDERS

4:30 – Introductory Remarks, B. Levy and V.W. Sidel

4:35 – Risks of using Highly Enriched Uranium to produce medical isotopes V. W. Sidel, MD; R. Gould, MD

4:50 – Impact of terrorism preparedness on public health J. E. Fielding, MD, MPH

5:05 – “Warrriorization” of military health care during the global war on terror: Are there unintended consequences for civil-military relations? S. K. Trynosky, JD, MPH

5:20 – Human and health consequences of U.S. torture policy L. Rubenstein, JD.

5:35 – “War on Terrorism” and invasion of privacy H. J. Geiger, MD, MSciHyg

5:50 – Discussion

CO-SPONSORS: INTERNATIONAL HEALTH, LABOR CAUCUS, PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING, SOCIALIST CAUCUS, SCHOOL HEALTH EDUCATION AND SERVICES • CE CREDITS: CME, HEALTH EDUCATION (CHES), NURSING

TUESDAY (4076.0)

WINTER SOLDIER: IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

• 10:30 AM-12:00 PM •

APHA FILM AND TECHNOLOGY THEATER

Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan, was a four-day event sponsored by Iraq Veterans Against the War, featuring testimony exposing the human consequences of failed policy. It was named Winter Soldier to honor a similar gathering 30 years ago of veterans from the Vietnam War. Winter soldiers, according to Tom Paine, are the people who stand up for the soul of their country, even in its darkest hours. This session will present footage of the testimony followed by discussion with a member of Iraq Veterans Against the War.

THIS IS A JOINT SESSION ORGANIZED BY THE PEACE AND LABOR CAUCUSES

WINTER SOLDIER FOOTAGE CAN BE ACCESSED FROM THE WEBSITE: WWW.IVAW.ORG

Peace Caucus Program

October 27 - 29, 2008 San Diego, CA

TUESDAY (4208.0)

IRAN AND THE FUTURE OF THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION REGIME

12:30 PM-2:00 PM • SDCC MEETING ROOM 30D •

P. SUTTON, MPH, PRESIDER

12:30 – If you like war in Iraq, you'll love war on Iran. R. Gould, MD

12:45 – Finding peaceful resolution to the US-Iran standoff. T. Parsi, PhD

1:30 PM – Discussion

CO-SPONSORS: LABOR CAUCUS, SOCIALIST CAUCUS, SCHOOL HEALTH EDUCATION AND SERVICES • CE CREDITS: CME, HEALTH EDUCATION (CHES), NURSING

TUESDAY (4373.0)

LABOR, PEACE AND PUBLIC HEALTH: BUILDING ALLIANCES TO END THE IRAQ WAR

• 4:30 PM-6:00 PM • SDCC MEETING ROOM 7A •

A. HAGOPIAN, PHD, PRESIDER

THIS IS A JOINT SESSION ORGANIZED BY THE PEACE AND LABOR CAUCUSES

4:30 – Organizing parents and faculty to limit military recruiting in public schools. A. Hagopian, PhD

4:45 – Addressing the mental health crisis created by the occupation of Iraq. E. Stinson

5:00 – From opposition to action: Transforming antiwar sentiment into antiwar action by union members.
M. Eisenscher, MA

5:15 – Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan. G. Reppenhagen

5:30 – Discussion

CO-SPONSORS: LABOR CAUCUS, MEDICAL CARE, OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY, SOCIALIST CAUCUS, SCHOOL HEALTH EDUCATION AND SERVICES • CE CREDITS: CME, HEALTH EDUCATION (CHES), NURSING

TUESDAY (435.0)

PEACE CAUCUS BUSINESS MEETING

• 6:30 PM-8:00 PM • SDCC MEETING ROOM 15A •

EVERYONE WELCOME!

WEDNESDAY (5182.0)

FROM WAR TO POVERTY: THE IMPACT OF VIOLENCE ON HEALTH FROM BEIRUT TO BAGHDAD, KARACHI TO KABUL

• 12:30 PM-2:00 PM • SDCC MEETING ROOM 7A •
PRESIDER

JOY MARSHALL, MD,

12:30 – Man-made public health disasters. W. Al-Delaimy, MD, PhD

12:50 – Politics, governance and the health system in Pakistan. G. Pappas, MD PhD; A. Ghaffar, MBBS, MHA, PhD; T. Masud; S. Siddiqi; A. Hyder; D. M. Bishai, MD MPH PhD; A. Katrina; M. A. Rab

1:10 – Health, human rights & small arms violence in South Lebanon: Results from a random survey of households. R. Hutson, PhD; A. Kolbe, MSW; B. Stringer, PhD, RN; T. Haines, MD, MSc; H. S. Shannon, PHD; I. Salamey, PHD

1:30 – Middle Eastern wars and humanitarian catastrophes: The role of US Middle East policy in recent history. M. Provence, PhD

1:50 – Discussion

CO-SPONSORS: LABOR CAUCUS, MEDICAL CARE, SOCIALIST CAUCUS

Risks of Using Highly Enriched Uranium to Produce Medical Isotopes

By Victor W. Sidel, MD

Radiopharmaceuticals are extremely important in medical care, but adverse public health consequences must be carefully avoided. The medical isotope technetium 99, useful in the examination of organs such as hearts, lungs and kidneys, is used in approximately 80-85 percent of the world's diagnostic imaging procedures (cardiac perfusion scans and bone scans among them) and 12 million procedures in the United States alone. But use of highly enriched uranium (HEU) to produce technetium 99 is a significant and unnecessary public health hazard that may lead to nuclear weapons proliferation and nuclear terrorism.

“How many doctors are aware that they contribute to a nuclear proliferation and terrorist risk every time they order a nuclear bone or lung scan, or other procedure utilising an isotope produced using HEU, directly usable in a nuclear weapon? Almost certainly very few. How many of the patients involved are aware of this? Probably even fewer.”

Tilman Ruff and Bill Williams
International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War doctors
writing about HEU in Medicine, Conflict and Survival in 2007
For more information see: <http://www.ipnw.org/Programs/ICAN/HEU.htm>

Technetium 99 is derived from molybdenum 99, which is made in nuclear reactors from HEU, which contains more than 90 percent uranium 235. Placing HEU “targets” in or near nuclear reactor cores produces about 95 percent of the global supply of the radioisotope. The radioactive cores produce high neutron fluxes that flood the targets and produce molybdenum 99, a short-lived fission product with a half-life of 2.7 days that decays into technetium 99. However, less than 5 percent of these “targets” are consumed; the rest is stockpiled as waste in Canada, Europe and South Africa, where companies use about 85 kilograms of HEU per year to make molybdenum 99. While the isotope producers provide security for HEU transport and storage, it's unclear whether the security is stringent enough to eliminate the risk of theft. If a sophisticated terrorist group acquired about 50 kilograms of this waste, they could build a simple Hiroshima-type nuclear bomb.

Conversely, low-enriched uranium (LEU) contains less than 20 percent uranium 235 and cannot be used to make a nuclear bomb. But it still can be used to make molybdenum 99. Conversion of use of HEU in production to use of low-enriched uranium, which is not directly usable for weapons, is technically feasible and readily achievable. Converting facilities to use LEU is relatively inexpensive. The security cost savings alone would help defray the cost. This should prompt a global effort to replace HEU with LEU in medical isotope production.

Health professionals have an opportunity and an ethical obligation to close one of the most vulnerable pathways to a terrorist nuclear bomb by ending the use of HEU in the production of radiopharmaceuticals. Efforts are currently underway to bring the issue of the use of HEU in the production of radiopharmaceuticals to the attention of international, national and state societies of medical professionals. **Editors’s note: Dr. Sidel will be presenting a paper, “Risks of using highly enriched uranium to produce medical isotopes” at APHA at the session, Terrorism and Public Health, on Monday, 4:30 - 6:00 PM. See page 4 for more details.**

- •
- Interested in the latest on •
- Bioterrorism? •
-
- **Health Scare vs. Health Care:** •
- **Can Public Health Recover from** •
- **the Bioterrorism Blunders?** •
-
- 3158.0 Monday 10:30-12:00 •
- Organized by the Socialist Caucus •
-
- •

DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY!

AT THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SECTION DANCE PARTY

Note, the annual Occupational Health Section Dance Party will be held this year on Monday night

Where: The Fleetwood (www.thefleetwood.com) in the Wood Lounge 639 J Street (corner of 7th & J) 619.702.7700

When: Monday, October 27th from 8:00PM to 2:00 AM.

Tickets cost \$20 and proceeds will benefit the OHS Section Scholarship fund. Tickets will be available at the OHS Booth in the APHA Exposition Booth 2532

There will be a DJ spinning dance music all night with a cash bar and a substantial lounge menu available.

Get Inspired!

ACTIVIST PHYSICIANS DINNER SUNDAY OCTOBER 26, 2008 6:00-9:00 PM

Dussini Mediterranean Bistro, 275 Fifth Avenue
Across the Street from the Convention Center • Wheel Chair Accessible

• **Cornely Award: Ruth M. Heifetz**, MD, MPH, Dept of Family and Preventive Medicine, • UCSD School of Medicine. Founding member of the SD Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility and of the SD Environmental Health Coalition • **Barsky Award: Les Roberts**, PhD, Dept of Population and Family Health, Mailman School of PH, Columbia University. First person awarded the CDC Paul C. Schnitker Award for Contributions to Global Health. Author of studies published in 2004 and 2006 on civilian deaths in Iraq • **Wellstone Award: Sheila James Kuehl**. Elected to the California State Senate in 2000 and re-elected in 2004 after serving six years in the State Assembly. First openly gay or lesbian person to be elected to the California Legislature • Student Activist Recognition: TBA

\$45 in advance \$50 at the meeting Students \$40
(student scholarships available as well, call office to arrange)
RSVP today! Checks made out to "OHSI-UIC Activist Physician Dinner" University of Illinois at Chicago Medical Center, 835 S.

Manchester Hyatt Boycott Alert!

The Manchester Grand Hyatt been identified by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council as an unfair employer and adversary of the labor movement. The Labor Council urges all union members and friends of organized labor not to patronize this hotel. See <http://unionyes.org/node/343>

The hotel may be picketed during APHA.

The boycott was initiated by UNITE HERE Local 30 because of San Diego hotelier Doug Manchester's support for politicians and voter initiatives like California's Proposition 8 that would amend California's Constitution so that "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California." For more information see UNITE HERE's Sleep with the Right People website at this link: <http://www.sleepwiththerightpeople.org/pages/boycotthyatt/>.

The San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO, and its 119 affiliated local unions fully support the consumer-based boycott sanction organized by UNITE HERE Local 30 against the Manchester Grand Hyatt.

----- DETACH HERE AND MAIL THIS FORM WITH YOUR DONATION -----

PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW YOUR PEACE CAUCUS MEMBERSHIP TODAY !

Send a check made out to the "Peace Caucus" for \$10 to \$ 50 (sliding scale) to:
APHA Peace Caucus c/o SF Bay Area Physicians for Social Responsibility,
2288 Fulton Street, Suite 307, Berkeley, CA 94704

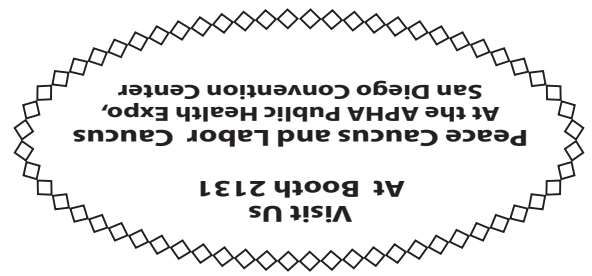
Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Thank You!



APHA Peace Caucus
c/o SF Bay Area Physicians for Social Responsibility
2288 Fulton Street, Suite 307
Berkeley, CA 9470

2008 Peace Caucus Activities At-A-Glance

SUNDAY

6:00 - 9:00 PM Dussini Mediterranean Bistro
Activist Physician Dinner - Eat, meet, and be inspired! (p. 7)

MONDAY

12:30 - 2:00 PM SDCC Meeting Room 2
War and Public Health (3238.0)

4:30 - 6:00 PM SDCC Meeting Room 1B
Terrorism and Public Health (3427.0)

8:00 PM - 2 AM The Fleetwood
Occupational Health Section Dance Party
639 J Street (corner of 7th & J) (p.6)

TUESDAY

10:30 AM - Noon APHA Film and Technology Theater
The Peace and Labor Caucuses Present
Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan (4076.0)

TUESDAY

12:30 - 2:00 PM SDCC Meeting Room 30D
Iran and the Future of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime (4208.0)

4:30 - 6:00 PM SDCC Meeting Room 7A
The Peace and Labor Caucuses Present
Labor Peace and Public Health:
Building Alliances to End the Iraq War (4373.0)

6:30 - 8:00 PM (435.0)
Peace Caucus Business Meeting - All are Welcome!

WEDNESDAY

12:30 - 2:00 PM SDCC Meeting Room 7A
From War to Poverty: The Impact of Violence on Health from Beirut to
Baghdad, Karachi to Kabul (5182.0)