Just Peace? or Just A Piece?

Something--something big--is missing from the otherwise good and important work of the Ann Arbor Area Committee for Peace (AAACP)

The AAACP is SILENT on the illegal killing, maiming, home destruction, and occupation of Palestinians by Israeli soldiers and settlers and on the crucial complicity of the US government and American Jewish and Christian Zionists

The [AAACP] recognizes that the conflict in Palestine/Israel is an issue of great concern in our community. . . . We consider a peaceful resolution to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict to be an important element in curtailing the cycle of violence worldwide.

--“Call for Peace in the Middle East” adopted November 11, 2002 (not yet implemented)

• Why won’t the AAACP Board of Directors implement the AAACP’s own “Call for Peace in the Middle East” which was duly approved by 78% of the AAACP members who voted on the issue?
• Why did a majority of AAACP Directors vote against the “Call for Peace in the Middle East”? 
• Why did the AAACP ban speakers who would not agree to a gag rule against speaking about the plight of Palestinians at its March 20, 2004, rally on the anniversary of the US invasion of Iraq?
• Why did the AAACP permit militant Zionist Joan Lowenstein to speak at the March 20th rally?
• Why won’t the AAACP endorse or help publicize the Ann Arbor Human Rights Commission’s “Resolution in Support of Ending U.S. Military Support for Israel”?

If you want answers to these questions then please call the AAACP at 734-332-9047. Please help us break the silence.

Silence Kills

Our purpose is to encourage the AAACP to become a better, more democratic peace organization and one that will implement its own "Call for Peace in the Middle East"

--Contact Break the Silence breakthesilence@usol.com--
Unbalanced Power, Unbalanced Suffering

From 1987 through 2000, Israelis killed 386 Palestinian children and Palestinians killed 18 Israeli children (all 404 of these children were aged 16 or younger).

From December 1987 through September 2004:
- Israelis have killed 3,547 Palestinian adults and 863 Palestinian children; according to B'Tselem “more than fifty percent of the Palestinians killed” by Israelis through 2003 were unarmed
- Palestinians have killed 1,211 Israeli adults and 128 Israeli children
- 76.7% of all those killed have been Palestinians; 23.3% have been Israelis
- 87.1% of all children killed have been Palestinians; 12.9% have been Israelis.
- In 2002, the worst year for the killing of children on both sides, Israelis killed 153 Palestinian children; Palestinians killed 37 Israeli children.

Palestinian & Israeli Death Toll, Dec. 1987-Sep. 15, 2004
Based upon data from the Israeli human rights group, B’Tselem (www.btselem.org)

- Since 1967, Israel has illegally occupied and settled hundreds of thousands of its citizens on Palestinian and Syrian land; no Palestinians or Syrians illegally occupy Israeli land.
- Since 1987, the Israeli government has destroyed more than 3,000 Palestinian homes leaving thousands homeless; Palestinians have destroyed few or no Israeli homes.
- There are scores of Israeli checkpoints in the occupied territories. B’Tselem reports, “At least 38 Palestinians, including 14 minors [7 were newborns], have died after IDF soldiers delayed or denied them passage at checkpoints.” There are no Palestinian checkpoints in Israel.
- Israel has one of the world’s most formidable militaries, including tanks, jet fighters, helicopters, missiles, submarines, and nuclear weapons in its arsenal; the Palestinian Authority has a paramilitary police force armed with small arms; Palestinian irregulars have small arms and improvised explosives.
- Israel is building a “security barrier” encircling Palestinian communities in the occupied West Bank, essentially creating large open-air prisons; Palestinians have erected no barriers in Israel.
- A 2002 US AID study found 19.5% of Palestinian children under age 5 suffered from moderate or severe malnutrition. In 2004, a UK Parliamentary committee concluded after, a six-month inquiry, the malnutrition was the result of “a deliberate Israeli strategy of putting the lives of ordinary Palestinians under stress . . .”

We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. Sometimes we must interfere.

--Elie Wiesel, 1986 Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech