Michigan Peaceworks (formerly the Ann Arbor Area Committee for Peace (AAACP)) is virtually SILENT on the Israeli oppression of Palestinians in Israel, the occupied territories, and the Diaspora with the complicity of the US gov't. and American Zionists.

**OUR SEVEN QUESTIONS FOR MICHIGAN PEACEWORKS LEADERS AND SUPPORTERS**

- Why won’t Michigan Peaceworks fully implement its own “Call for Peace in the Middle East” which was duly approved by 78% of voting members?
- Why did a majority of AAACP Directors vote against the “Call for Peace in the Middle East”?
- Why has Michigan Peaceworks removed its “Call for Peace in the Middle East” from its web site?
- Why did the AAACP permit arch-Zionist Joan Lowenstein to speak at its rally on the first anniversary of the US invasion of Iraq while it banned speakers who would not agree to a gag rule against speaking about the plight of Palestinians?
- Why won’t Michigan Peaceworks publicly endorse or promote the Ann Arbor Human Rights Commission’s “Resolution in Support of Ending U.S. Military Support for Israel”?
- Why didn’t Michigan Peaceworks support the divestment resolution put before the Michigan Student Assembly in March 2005?
- Why won’t Peaceworks adopt grassroots democracy and let its members elect its Board of Directors?

**IF YOU WANT ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS THEN PLEASE CONTACT MICHIGAN PEACEWORKS AT 734-761-5922 OR INFO@MICHIGANPEACEWORKS.ORG.**

Contact Break the Silence at breakthesilence@usol.com--

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Strange circus came to Detroit last week, and it was not a sideshow. It was the largest rally for peace in the Middle East ever held in Michigan. The rally was called “Peace on Earth” and was sponsored by the United for Peace and Justice (UPJ) Coalition, an organization that has grown out of the anti-war movement. 

But under the leadership of its Jewish co-chair, Leslie Cagan, UPJ [United for Peace and Justice] has built a reputation for avoiding particularly thorny questions in favor of stating broader opposition to President Bush … This march is a lot more mainstream than the other ones I’ve been to,” said Miriam Steinberg, 23, an activist with the Boston Jewish group Tekiah, who said she had grown increasingly uncomfortable with the anti-Israel message of marches … But, she said, ‘once UPJ took over, they seemed like a real big-tent group.’ … ‘The fact that I have to march with people who stupidly carry signs about ending the occupation and who misunderstand the settler movement saddens me,’ said Yori Hanover, 50, who fought for Israel in the Yom Kippur War.”


**SUPPORTERS OF ISRAEL IN THE U.S. PEACE MOVEMENT**

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

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 SUPPORTERS OF ISRAEL IN THE U.S. PEACE MOVEMENT

"Jewish leaders are attempting to meet the needs of pro-Israel Jews who want to speak out against war by meeting with protest leaders and asking them to keep the Iraq issue separate from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. 'We’re encouraging them to talk with people in the local communities who have connections to the anti-war leadership and educate them,' said Hannah Rosenthal, executive director of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, which serves as an umbrella organization for Jewish community relations groups. ... Rosenthal said she wants local leaders to stress that Iraq and Israel are 'nonrelated issues' ...." by Matthew E. Berger. "Anti-war but pro-Israel: What’s a protestor to do?" Jewish Telegraphic Agency. 2/11/03.

"Through the decades, however, leading American activists have tried to keep Palestinian voices--and the voices of those supporting them--from being heard. ... The peculiar tendency to embrace all other just causes while pretending (at best) that Palestinians do not exist, or blaming Palestine for its occupation--or even vilifying Palestinians as evil terrorists who have no right to the land they have lived on and cultivated for centuries--was exposed as lying deep within groups whose raison d’etre ostensibly was peace and justice." Sara Powell. "Breaching Another Barrier for Palestine--This One in the U.S. Peace Movement." Washington Report on Middle East Affairs. 4/04.

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 August 7, 2005:

- Israelis have killed 3,897 Palestinian adults and 958 Palestinian children; according to B’Tselem “more than fifty percent of the Palestinians killed” by Israelis through 2003 were unarmed
- Palestinians have killed 1,256 Israeli adults and 135 Israeli children
- 77.7% of all those killed have been Palestinians; 22.3% have been Israelis
- 87.6% of all children killed have been Palestinians; 12.4% 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.


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