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**NEWS FROM THE CENTER FOR
ACTIVE NONVIOLENCE AND PEACEMAKING**

Week ending 07/28/10

Note: Click on any blue headline for expanded information

<p>TAKING ACTION VIA PHONE</p>  <p>Some of our subscribers have indicated that they would prefer to respond to Action Alerts via phone as opposed to email.</p> <p>Here are phone numbers for our elected officials:</p> <p>President Barack Obama (202) 456-1414</p> <p>Iowa Senators Chuck Grassley (202) 224-3744 Tom Harkin (202) 224-3254</p> <p>Clinton area District 1 US Representative Bruce Braley (202) 225-2911</p> <p>Governor (Iowa) Chet Culver (515) 281-5211</p> <p>For complete contact information on all your elected officials for all states, go to congress.org.</p> <p>The main switchboard for Congress is: (202)224-3121</p>	<p>NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT</p> <p>CLINTON EVENT: Screening of "Nuclear Tipping Point" Nunn-Lugar Program Disarms Six More Nuclear Warheads John Dear SJ: After 65 Years, Retire the Bomb! The Way to End Nuclear Age is Through Moral Activism</p>
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NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT



Hiroshima: August 6th, 1945

CLINTON EVENT: Screening of “Nuclear Tipping Point”

August 6th marks the 65th anniversary of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima. Along with the subsequent attack on Nagasaki, this atrocity resulted in the deaths of over 230,000 innocent people. Please join us on Monday, August 9th for a free screening and discussion of “Nuclear Tipping Point” – a documentary about the state of nuclear weapons in our world today. The event will take place at The Canticle, 841 Thirteenth Avenue North in Clinton, IA at 7:00pm. All are welcome. [MORE](#)

To search for an event in your area, click [HERE](#)

Nunn-Lugar Program Disarms Six More Nuclear Warheads

The U.S. Cooperative Threat Reduction program in June disarmed six strategic nuclear warheads from the former Soviet Union, Senator Richard Lugar (R-Ind.) announced Friday. The Nunn-Lugar initiative's accomplishments last month also included elimination of two ICBMs, six mobile ICBM launchers and 48 metric tons of Russian chemical warfare material. In addition, the program safeguarded four nuclear-weapon train shipments. [MORE](#)

John Dear SJ: After 65 Years, Retire the Bomb!

“The year has turned again, and friends and I are busy completing plans for our annual Hiroshima Day events in Santa Fe and Los Alamos. Our theme this time around: “Sixty Five Years Is Enough! Retire the Bomb! We Want a Nuclear Free World!” What it boils down to is this: nuclear weapons are ruinous for the economy, the environment, our health. They're pernicious for children and creation. The security they lure us with is counterfeit. Nuclear weapons corrupt our souls.” [MORE](#)

The Way to End Nuclear Age is Through Moral Activism

Soujourners observes: “Perhaps the most important sign of the times is a new generation of young Christian leaders who have identified nuclear weapons as an issue of faith -- much as we did as young Christian activists in the 1980s. Their commitment is best exemplified by Tyler Wigg-Stevenson and his [Two Futures Project](#), which calls itself ‘a movement of American Christians for the abolition of all nuclear weapons. We believe that we face two futures and one choice: a world without nuclear weapons or a world ruined by them. We support the multilateral, global, irreversible, and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons, as a biblically grounded mandate and as a contemporary security imperative.’” Wigg-Stevenson recently lectured at the famed Chautauqua Institute in New York. Read what he had to say: [MORE](#)

ACTIVE NONVIOLENCE & PEACEMAKING

Leaked Reports Make Afghan War Policy More Vulnerable

The 92,000 reports on the war in Afghanistan made public by the whistleblower organization WikiLeaks, and reported Monday by the Guardian UK, The New York Times and Der Spiegel, offer no major revelations that are entirely new, as did the Pentagon Papers to which they are inevitably being compared. But they increase the political pressure on a war policy that has already suffered a precipitous loss of credibility this



year by highlighting contradictions between the official assumptions of the strategy and the realities shown in the documents - especially in regard to Pakistan's role in the war. Unlike the Pentagon Papers, which chronicle the policymaking process leading up to and during the Vietnam War, the WikiLeaks documents chronicle thousands of local incidents and situations encountered by U.S. and other NATO troops that illustrate chronic problems for the U.S.-NATO effort. [MORE](#)

Upcoming Iowa Peace Events

The Iowa Peace Initiative Conference -- a statewide conference for all Iowa peace-movement people -- is being planned by representatives of AFSC, PSR, UNA, SOA Watch and several local groups including the Sisters of St. Francis Clinton, IA. The conference will take place on Saturday, Sept. 18th from 10 am - 5pm at Loras College in Dubuque, IA. The program will include a stimulating day of discussions featuring Iowa groups plus a panel of national leaders from NEA Peace and Justice Caucus, Physicians for Social Responsibility and Veterans for Peace. This event is free of charge, open to all and advance registration is not necessary. Lunch will be available for purchase. The goals of the event are: statewide networking for coordinated advocacy and effort and opportunities for meaningful action in common (e.g., local governments addressing costs of war, proclamations for the UN International Day of Peace).

Separately, a consortium of Dubuque area organizations -- including the women religious of that region -- will be recognizing the United Nations International Day of Peace with events on Sept 19th through 21st. The featured speaker will be Ken Butigan, director of Pace e Bene Nonviolence Service. Ken is a long-time peace educator and activist; he has directed the *From Violence to Wholeness program* and is the author of five books. [MORE](#)

Sudan Success: Peaceful Resolution to Cattle Raids

Before Nonviolent Peaceforce arrived in Sudan, tensions were high between agriculturalists and pastoralists. Both communities were prepared to engage in violent conflict over cattle raids. Two months after the deployment of the first unarmed civilian peacekeepers to Mundri, Sudan, the Nonviolent Peaceforce team facilitated a discussion in the village of Kediba between the two communities. The Paramount Chiefs and elders of the two communities agreed that the raided cattle would be returned. As a result, the agriculturalists and pastoralists have returned to living in a state of peaceful coexistence. The success of NP's first intervention in South Sudan demonstrates that the citizens of South Sudan want peace. And they're willing to engage in non-violent methods of conflict resolution. [MORE](#)

TAKE ACTION: Help Prevent a War

A new House resolution could lead to a U.S. war with Iran--even if the bill never becomes law. The resolution, H. Res. 1553, claims to assert Israel's right to defend its sovereignty but actually signals to Israel that the United States will unconditionally back Israeli "use of military force" against Iran. It's a green light to war. Similar extreme resolutions have been introduced before, but this one already has the support of a significant number of representatives-nearly one-third of the Republican caucus. Whatever the conflict between Israel and Iran, war is not the answer. Click to learn [MORE](#) then [TAKE ACTION](#)

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Deportation of Illegal Immigrants Increases Under Obama Administration

In a bid to remake the enforcement of federal immigration laws, the Obama administration is deporting record numbers of illegal immigrants and auditing hundreds of businesses that blithely hire undocumented

workers. The Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency expects to deport about 400,000 people this fiscal year, nearly 10 percent above the Bush administration's 2008 total and 25 percent more than were deported in 2007. The pace of company audits has roughly quadrupled since President George W. Bush's final year in office. The effort is part of President Obama's larger project "to make our national laws actually work," as he put it in a speech this month at American University. Partly designed to entice Republicans to support comprehensive immigration reform, the mission is proving difficult and politically perilous. [MORE](#)



Illegal Immigration in America: "Out of the Shadows," An ABC News Special Digital Series

"Out of the Shadows" speaks to ten undocumented immigrants and families at the center of the U.S. immigration debate, examining who they are, why they came to the U.S. and what their lives here mean for America's future. An estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants— from landscapers to cleaning ladies, to artisans, college students and young parents - live discretely in the shadows of our society. Across all 50 states, these migrants from more than a dozen countries blend in among a diverse U.S. population, building lives and families, often carefully guarding their secret from prying eyes. "Out of the Shadows" illustrates the constant struggle of these individuals and their impact on America. The series is available exclusively on abcnews.go.com [MORE](#)

TAKE ACTION: Support the Refugee Protection Act

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) supports the proposed Refugee Protection Act of 2010 which would ensure that the United States continues to uphold its commitment to protecting refugees, asylum seekers, children and other vulnerable migrants who arrive on U.S. shores in search of protection. The bill would regularly update a per capita grant that provides refugees with financial and case management support as they begin to rebuild their lives in the United States. When in the best interests of the children, the bill would allow migrant children who have been separated from their parents to reunify with refugee family or friends who have been acting as their caregivers. The bill would expand cost effective alternative to detention programs to asylum seekers and would provide released individuals with case management services and referrals to community-based legal and social service providers. Read more [HERE](#) then [TAKE ACTION](#)

ENVIRONMENT



Tips to Ensure an Energy Efficient Rental Home

You know that saving energy at home is important for the environment and your wallet. But if you're renting, practicing energy efficiency can seem like a challenge. When a house or apartment isn't your own, where do you begin? Luckily, there are a myriad of ways renters can save money and energy without major changes or expenses. Whether you pay your own utilities or have them included in your rent, you can still conserve energy while making your home more comfortable. [MORE](#)

TAKE ACTION: Tell Congress That You Want a Fair Deal for Farmers and Ranchers

Farmers and ranchers who raise livestock and poultry deserve a fair deal and a level playing field with meat and poultry processors. However, powerful meat and poultry packers and processors continue to get away with unfair and deceptive trade practices. The USDA has promulgated rules that would restore competition and contract fairness to livestock and poultry markets. However, several members of the House Agriculture Subcommittee have rebuffed the concerns that part of the drastic decrease in our farming population is in response to packer and processor market concentration and the lack of fair prices and fair dealing in the marketplace. All of us who care about our nation's farmers and ranchers must tell our Senators and

Representatives that we support USDA's proposed rules protecting farmers and ranchers from the unfair and deceptive trade practices of livestock and poultry packers and processors. Learn how you can send an urgent message to Congress supporting USDA rules protecting our farmers and ranchers. [TAKE ACTION](#)

Our Incessant Motoring is a Failure to Face Reality

Rich Heffern is a *National Catholic Reporter* staff writer. He shares his observations about the human and environmental effects of the Deepwater Horizon crude oil spill: "Few want to think about living with fewer cars, driving fewer miles. We'll be dragged there kicking and screaming, but that's probably our destination, like it or not. The effort now going into developing alternative fuels and hybrid cars is just a form of bargaining on the Kübler-Ross spectrum of dying. Traveling around the United States, it's not hard to understand our failure to face reality. (Our nation) is fully configured almost everywhere for extreme car dependency."

[MORE](#)

POVERTY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

How People in Poverty Are Struggling During the Economic Recession

Since TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) was created in the 1996 welfare reform law, NETWORK has conducted periodic surveys to evaluate its effectiveness. They have interviewed thousands of families over the years and published reports based on surveys in 1999 and 2001, during times of relative prosperity. Despite economic growth in the nation during the 1990s, they found considerable suffering and poverty. Today, during a period of great economic distress, the stories of families in poverty are more alarming than ever. From February to March 2010, NETWORK surveyed people at 70 emergency service agencies where they sought help, including food pantries and homeless shelters. Adult members of more than 800 families that included 1300 children were personally interviewed. The new report, entitled *TANF Tested: Lives of People in Poverty* during the Recession, provides information about what they told us concerning their day-to-day lives and the struggles they face. [MORE](#)

TAKE ACTION: Support the Local Jobs for America Act

Local Jobs for America is designed to immediately reduce unemployment and ensure that local communities can maintain critical services. It would:

- create or save 750,000 jobs providing local services,
- save 300,000 education jobs, as an investment in our future,
- provide 50,000 on-the-job training positions to help local businesses create employment opportunities and provide new skills to workers,
- target communities with the highest unemployment, focusing on veterans and persons who have been out of work for the longest,

An estimated 40% of the cost could be recouped immediately in:

- reduction of unemployment benefits
- reduction of SNAP benefits
- reduction of other safety net programs
- payment into state and federal revenues
- payment into Social Security

And the spending done by people who are employed through the programs would increase the need for others to be employed. [TAKE ACTION](#)

AIDS Funding Gap Puts Lives at Risk

Caritas warns that a gap in funding for HIV programs worldwide will set back the campaign on AIDS by 20 years. The UN's AIDS program, UNAIDS, estimates that US\$27 million is needed this year to tackle the pandemic, but optimistic estimates of the funds available leave a gap of more than a third. Costs will increase as more people become newly infected, especially if prevention and testing programs are cutback too. The effects of these funding shifts have ranged from people being forced out of ongoing treatment program to policies that block new patients from being enrolled in such medication programs. Besides the cutbacks in funds for health services, support for counseling and help to orphans and vulnerable children could also be affected. [MORE](#)

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