

PEACE CAUCUS

Autumn 2001 Newsletter

American Public Health Association and Physicians for Social Responsibility Call for Justice and Security, Not Revenge

In response to the September 11 attacks on the United States, Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) initiated a statement urging restraint and respect for law for the widest possible sign-on by individuals and organizations in the medical and health community. The American Public Health Association and its Executive Director Mohammad N. Akhter, M.D., M.P.H. agreed to be initial signers.

As individuals and organizations drawing upon the ancient tradition and values of physicians and health professionals as healers, teachers, and servants of the health and well-being of individuals and societies regardless of their condition or beliefs, we members of the medical and public health community call upon President Bush and the nation to exercise restraint in seeking to bring to justice those responsible for the heinous terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001. We specifically are concerned at this critical moment that the nation live up to its highest ideals which include respect for human life, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. We call for justice and security, not revenge. We therefore do not believe that terrorism is best prevented by the massive preparations for retaliatory air strikes and other large military operations currently underway.

(APHA/PSR statement continued on p. 2)

ADD YOUR NAME TO THE CALL FOR JUSTICE AND SECURITY, NOT REVENGE

e-mail your name to: response@psr.org

PEACE CAUCUS PROGRAM AT-A-GLANCE

3067.0 WAR AND PUBLIC HEALTH
3219.0 VIOLENCE: A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO PREVENTION
4162.0 PUBLIC HEALTH AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS
5132.0 PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT OF CONFLICT IN PALESTINE
5248.0 DYING FOR GROWTH

<p>BUSINESS MEETING Wednesday 6:30 - 8:00 Marriott V: State</p>
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APHA/PSR STATEMENT continued from p. 1

In an interdependent world where cities, financial systems, communications, mass transportation systems, and the infrastructure of advanced societies are so easily attacked and disrupted, traditional military responses and outmoded security thinking are of rapidly diminishing value. Indeed, most casualties in conflicts of all kinds have, in recent history, been suffered by civilians, especially the most vulnerable (women, children, the elderly and the infirm) across the globe. Broad scale military attacks on nations harboring terrorists run the risk of creating civilian casualties and provoking further cycles of revenge and terror. Our response must not lead to escalation that risks the use of weapons of mass destruction whether nuclear, chemical, or biological in the future. What is needed at this turning point in American history is a reassessment and redefinition of our national security policy. America needs to reassume its role of cooperative leadership with the rest of the international community in building an interdependent, just, peaceful and sustainable global society. This will, indeed, require patience and perseverance from us as a nation. However, if these horrific events of indiscriminate violence against America teach us anything, it is that the old security paradigms of the 20th Century no longer suffice.

Goals for Security and Justice

We therefore believe the United States should work persistently and patiently with a broad international coalition under international law to trace and capture those responsible for the September 11 attack. We further believe that such actions should be carried out without infringing upon or reducing the civil liberties and freedoms of the American people. The current national security emergency must not be used as an excuse to undermine the long-range interests of the American people in

maintaining their freedom, their human rights, an equitable and just society, and a sustainable and healthy environment. As physicians and health professionals, we are committed to the promotion of human health in this country and the rest of the world, and to the prevention of violence. In the coming weeks and months, we will work with concerned Americans from all walks of life to promote and implement the following goals:

Renew America's commitment to international cooperation, international institutions and international law. The elimination of terrorism and the building of a more safe, secure, healthy and equitable world can only be carried out with proper regard for principles embodied in the United States Constitution, the United Nations Charter, and the Declaration of Human Rights. In the latter two documents, the US and its allies codified their efforts after World War II to prevent war and genocide and to promote global equity and justice. We need a renewed commitment from America and the international community to put these principles into practice.

American foreign and economic policy must be restructured to prioritize international cooperation and economic aid to reduce poverty and inequity, hunger and disease, and to increase education and human rights at home and around the globe. High tech weapons and withdrawal from international treaties and agreements will not protect us from terrorism, nor create a more just and peaceful world.

Restrict the use of force to actions sufficient to apprehend and bring to justice those responsible for terrorist attacks on the United States. We must not validate the values of the terrorists themselves by using indiscriminate violence in pursuit of our goals.

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US CONGRESSWOMAN BARBARA LEE: COURAGEOUS VOICE OF RESTRAINT:

“As we act, let us not become the evil that we deplore”

On September 14, 2001 US Congresswoman Barbara Lee, (D, CA) was the lone vote among the US Congress (vote: 420:1) against resolution (H.J. RES 64) authorizing military force in response to the September 11 attacks. This is Barbara Lee's speech to the House of Representatives. You can call or write to your member of Congress to let them know that Rep. Lee should not have had to vote alone.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart, one that is filled with sorrow for the families and loved ones who were killed and injured in New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. Only the most foolish or the most callous would not understand the grief that has gripped the American people and millions across the world. This unspeakable attack on the United States has forced me to rely on my moral compass, my conscience, and my God for direction.

September 11 changed the world. Our deepest fears now haunt us. Yet I am convinced that military action will not prevent further acts of international terrorism against the United States. I know that this use-of-force resolution will pass although we all know that the President can wage a war even without this resolution. However difficult this vote may be, some of us must urge the use of restraint. There must be some of us who say, let's step back for a moment and think through the implications of our actions today—let us more fully understand its consequences.

We are not dealing with a conventional war. We cannot respond in a conventional manner. I do not want to see this spiral out of control. This crisis involves issues of national security, foreign policy, public safety, intelligence gathering, economics, and murder. Our response must be equally multi-faceted. We must not rush to judgment. Far too many innocent people have already died. Our country is in mourning. If we rush to launch a counter-attack, we run too great a risk that women, children, and other non-combatants will be caught in the crossfire. Nor can we let our justified anger over these outrageous acts by vicious murderers inflame prejudice against all Arab Americans, Muslims, Southeast Asians, or any other people because of their race, religion, or ethnicity.

Finally, we must be careful not to embark on an open-ended war with neither an exit strategy nor a focused target. We cannot repeat past mistakes. In 1964, Congress gave President Lyndon Johnson the power to “take all necessary measures” to repel attacks and prevent further aggression. In so doing, this House abandoned its own constitutional responsibilities and launched our country into years of undeclared war in Vietnam. At that time, Senator Wayne Morse, one of two lonely votes against the Tonkin Gulf Resolution, declared, “I believe that history will record that we have made a grave mistake in subverting and circumventing the Constitution of the United States ... I believe that within the next century, future generations will look with dismay and great disappointment upon a Congress which is now about to make such a historic mistake.” Senator Morse was correct, and I fear we make the same mistake today. And I fear the consequences.

I have agonized over this vote. But I came to grips with it in the very painful yet beautiful memorial service today at the National Cathedral. As a member of the clergy so eloquently said, “As we act, let us not become the evil that we deplore.”

APHA PEACE CAUCUS PROGRAM OCTOBER 22-24, 2001

Monday 12:30 - 2:00

CE credits: CME, Community Health Education Specialist (CHES), Pharmacist, Registered Nurse, Social Worker

Cosponsors: Caucus on Refugee and Immigrant Health; Environment; International Health; Occupational Health and Safety; Social Work; Socialist Caucus; Women's Caucus

3067.0

War and Public Health

Presiders: Victor W Sidel, MD and Barry Levy, MD, MPH

- 12:30 War and Public Health
Barry S. Levy, MD, MPH, Victor W. Sidel, MD
- 12:35 Assessing the Public Health Response to U.S. Bioterrorism Initiatives, Robert Gould, MD
- 12:50 War and Human Rights, H. Jack Geiger, MD, ScD
- 1:05 An Update on the Taliban's War on Women,
Zohra Rasekh, MPH
- 1:20 Conflict in the Former Yugoslavia and the Palestinian Territories, Richard Garfield, RN, DrPH
- 1:35 TBA
- 1:50 Discussion

Monday 4:30 - 6:00

CE credits: CME, Pharmacist, Registered Nurse, Social Worker

Cosponsors: Community Health Planning and Policy Development; Occ. Health and Safety; Social Work; Socialist Caucus; Women's Caucus

3219.0

Violence: A Public Health Approach to Prevention

Presider: Joy Marshall, MD

- 4:30 Peer mediation of disputes in secondary schools
Harry Perlstadt, PhD, MPH, Margie Betz, Angela Pok
- 4:45 Public Health & Violence: A "Countervailing Force" To The Criminal Justice System? Richard G. Wright
- 5:00 TBA
- 5:15 TBA
- 5:30 Discussion

Tuesday 12:30 - 2:00

CE credits: CME, Pharmacist, Registered Nurse, Social Worker
Cosponsors: Caucus on Refugee and Immigrant Health; Environment; Occupational Health and Safety; Social Work; Socialist Caucus; Women's Caucus

4162.0

Public Health and Nuclear Weapons

Presider: Robert Gould, MD

- 12:30 Nuclear Weapons and Public Health, Patrice Sutton, MPH
- 12:45 Playing With Fire On A Remote Plateau: The Coming of Genetic Susceptibility Testing at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Ken Silver, SM
- 1:00 Directly Affected Individuals, Trisha Pritikin, JD
- 1:15 Ballistic Missile Defense and the social production of disease in the Marshall Islands, Seiji Yamada, MD, MPH
- 1:30 Discussion

APHA PEACE CAUCUS PROGRAM OCTOBER 22-24, 2001

Wednesday 12:30 - 2:00 5132.0

CE Credits: CME,
Pharmacist, Regis-
tered Nurse, Social
Worker

Cosponsors: Caucus
on Refugee and
Immigrant Health;
International
Health; Social Work;
Socialist Caucus

Public Health Impact of Conflict in Palestine

President: H. Jack Geiger, MD, ScD

- 12:30 Overview of Palestinian Population Health, Mustafa Barghouthi, MD
- 12:50 Human Rights Issues in the Occupied Territories, TBA
- 1:10 Health under siege: Palestinian health during the second Palestinian uprising, Lama S Jamjoum, PhD, MPH
- 1:30 Political Geography and Problems with Economic, Education, Water and Sewage Infrastructure, TBA
- 1:50 Discussion

Wednesday 4:30 - 6:00 5248.0

CE Credits: CME,
Community Health
Education Specialist
(CHES), Pharmacist,
Registered Nurse,
Social Worker

Cosponsors: Interna-
tional Health; Social
Work; Socialist
Caucus; Women's
Caucus

Dying for Growth

President: Seiji Yamada, MD, MPH

- 4:30 Jim Yong Kim
- 4:50 Joyce V. Millen
- 5:10 Industry and the mother - to - child transmission of HIV
Arachu Castro, PhD, MPH
- 5:30 Discussion

**Wednesday 6:30 - 8:00 Peace Caucus Business Meeting
Marriott V - State
Please join us! Get involved!**

**Be sure to visit the Peace Caucus at the
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Booth in the Exhibition Hall**

APHA/PSR STATEMENT continued from p. 2

We must be willing to be both patient and persistent to achieve these fervently desired results.

Weapons of mass destruction (WMD) are the ultimate vehicles of indiscriminate violence. They are useless to prevent or to respond to acts of terrorism. The proliferation of WMD is the single greatest threat to American security and to human survival worldwide. America must now move on an urgent basis to eliminate nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction from the face of the earth, including chemical and biological weapons. America must lead the international community to immediately renounce their use. We must begin by implementing Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and signing, ratifying and abiding by currently existing treaties banning the production, stockpiling or use of other weapons of mass destruction. As the leading military power on earth at this time in human history, America is in a unique position to lead this major step in the evolution of humanity. We must do this now, not after a terrorist attack using weapons of mass destruction that could destroy a large city, or more. Our medical infrastructure would be rapidly and completely overwhelmed and totally unable to deal with even one such catastrophic event. The only prevention is elimination through verifiable treaties and unanimous international participation. It is in no one's interest for WMD to exist.

America must stop the development and deployment of national missile defense systems and preserve the ABM Treaty. We must forgo the temptation to unilaterally place offensive weapons in space. This is incompatible with our highest purpose in leading the world to abolish all weapons of mass destruction. The tremendous resources involved can

be used instead to combat the real threats to American security: the proliferation of WMD, environmental degradation and pollution, overpopulation, hunger, disease and gross economic inequity in the world.

As physicians and health professionals, we hold that life on Earth is precious, powerful and vulnerable and that human life draws vital sustenance and coherence from the ecological and social systems in which it participates. Our commitment to future generations requires that we respond with vigilance, security and justice to terrorism. At the same time, our response must strive to lessen the problems of violence, militarism, global environment degradation and social inequities rather than increase them. Mere revenge will only leave our children and grandchildren with a more dangerous, destabilized and chaotic world.

Respectfully,
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Robert K. Musil, Ph.D., M.P.H., CEO and Executive Director
Lee Francis, M.D., M.P.H., President
Roy Farrell, M.D., President-Elect

American Public Health Association
Mohammad N. Akhter, M.D., M.P.H., Executive Director
Michael E. Bird, M.S.W., M.P.H., President

Please respond as rapidly as possible if you want to sign this letter as an individual and please list your name, degrees and any affiliation as you would like it listed. This letter is designed to include health care professionals (namely physicians, nurses, doctorates in health sciences, M.P.H.s and other public health professionals, and graduate and professional level degree students in related fields). Please note that PSR will include a disclaimer stating that affiliations are for identification purposes only. PSR plans, at a minimum, to deliver this statement to President Bush and the Congress and, if it gains sufficient response, to the media and possibly in display ads.

Please respond by e-mail to: response@psr.org

APHA Peace Caucus
2644 Sherwood Drive
Salt Lake City, UT 84108

"The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it. Through violence you murder the hater, but you do not murder hate. In fact, violence merely increases hate...Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

Martin Luther King, Jr.