

# PEACE CAUCUS

WINTER 2005

*YOU CAN ADD YOUR VOICE TO THE FOLLOWING APHA PEACE CAUCUS STATEMENT:*

## **OPPOSITION TO THE INITIATION AND CONTINUATION OF THE WAR ON IRAQ BY THE UNITED STATES**

**A**s public health workers and as members of the American Public Health Association, we wish to state our strong opposition to the initiation and continuation of the war on Iraq by the United States. We support the policy statements approved by the APHA Governing Council opposing the war (1)(2). Our opposition to the war includes opposition to the presence of a military recruiting booth in the Exhibit Area of this APHA Annual Meeting. This opposition to the war and to recruitment of military forces for service in it in no way diminishes our support for the welfare and safety of the U.S. troops in Iraq nor does it lessen our desire for their earliest possible withdrawal and safe return to the United States.

Two credible reports with different methodology released since November 2004 have indicated that the U.S.-led military conflict in Iraq since March 2003 has resulted in the estimated deaths of approximately 27,000 -31,000 (3), and 100,000 (4) Iraqi civilians, with untold (and deliberately uncounted) numbers of Iraqi civilians wounded, and with well-documented human rights violations against Iraqi prisoners in Abu Ghraib and other U.S.-controlled facilities.

The military conflict since 2003 has resulted in the extensive destruction of Iraqi society and public health infrastructure, with widespread environmental damage, including the still-unaccounted for dispersal of depleted uranium (DU) in many populated areas of Iraq (5).

The continued U.S. military occupation of Iraq, and reported Pentagon plans to establish "enduring bases" in Iraq (6), has provoked widespread opposition among broad sectors of Iraqi society, engendering continued support for a growing insurgency, estimated in early 2005 at 40,000 active paramilitary insurgents with a base of at least 160,000 supporters (7). The continued U.S. military occupation has undermined U.S. national security by providing fertile ground for the recruitment of global terrorist forces, by building increased hostility to the U.S. throughout the

## **Peace Caucus 2005 Program at a glance**

War and Public Health  
Monday 12:30-2:00 PM  
3213.0

Terrorism and Public Health  
Monday 4:30-6:00 PM  
3379.0

Public Health  
Consequences of Weapons of War  
Tuesday 12:30-2:00 PM  
4151.0

Health Impacts of War in the Middle East  
Wednesday 12:30-2:00 PM  
5130.0

Peace Caucus Business Meeting  
Tuesday 6:30-8:00 PM  
433.0



**VISIT APHA  
BOOTH 130  
PUBLIC HEALTH IN  
SUPPORT OF PEACE**

Highlights existing APHA policy in support of peace and offers additional relevant information regarding public health's role in support of peace.

world, and by damaging U.S. relations with longstanding friends.

The military conflict has already resulted in the deaths of approximately 2,100 U.S. and allied soldiers (8), as well as hundreds of forces serving as private contractors hired by Foreign Military Firms (FMFs) (6). Overall the conflict has resulted in over 15,000 reported injuries to U.S. and allied forces, many of them very serious and debilitating, with likely consequential long-term serious disability and need for rehabilitation services (9).

The military conflict has already resulted in a total estimated \$200 billion in supplemental appropriations beyond the annual approximately \$425 billion U.S. military budget (10) and the fiscal costs of the continued military conflict in Iraq, occurring in the context of large and rising domestic U.S. budget deficits, have already led to proposed slashing of programs necessary to the public health needs of the American people, including the care of U.S. veterans suffering from the consequences of the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as previous wars. The current and anticipated future expanded fiscal costs of the military conflict in Iraq represent resources that could better be used to address current and future global public and environmental health needs, (11) including developing alternative and sustainable energy sources that could address the looming crisis of global climate change while reducing the risks of terrorism.

**We, the undersigned, urge that APHA**

Call on the U.S. government to immediately develop and announce a timeline, with clear deadline dates of phased military withdrawal, whereby all U.S. and allied foreign forces would be removed from Iraq as soon as possible, with commensurate selected deployment of replacement international peacekeeping troops under the command of the United Nations in areas of potential significant risk for inter-ethnic conflict or civil war; and,

Call on the U.S. government to halt plans to establish "enduring" military bases in Iraq; and,

Call on the U.S. government to support a United Nations-led process to oversee the continued efforts to develop an Iraqi constitution that respects the rights and interests of all domestic ethnic and political groupings, generally based on established UN principles of international human and economic rights; and,

Call on the U.S. government to abide by international standards of human rights, the Geneva Conventions, and the U.S. Constitution, by immediately and unequivocally ending such practices as the imprisonment of persons arbitrarily defined as "enemy combatants" without access to lawyers, habeas corpus petitions or judicial review; the use of torture in interrogations, including the outsourcing of torture by so-called "rendition" of prisoners to other nations known for their systematic employment of such abuses in interrogation; the establishment of secret prisons; and to end domestic violations of the civil rights and privacy of our own citizenry

through National Security Letters and other extra-constitutional provisions of the Patriot Act; and,

Call on the U.S. government to guarantee the security of, and priority for, the reconstruction of vital health care infrastructure in Iraq and to ensure safe access to this infrastructure by the Iraqi people, while also guaranteeing that adequate resources are provided for the care and rehabilitation of injured U.S. military personnel and their families; and,

Call on the U.S. government, NATO nations, and regional Mideast allies to provide needed funds for aforementioned reconstruction and security assistance, to be disbursed by UN agencies and Iraqi-acceptable NGOs, with adequate funds to specifically include monies transferred from U.S. companies, private contractors and NGOs currently operating in, and to be withdrawn from Iraq; and,

Call on the U.S. government and allied forces in Iraq to immediately allow United Nations agencies such as the UN Environmental Program to begin to characterize the extent of environmental contamination in Iraq caused by the military conflict, including that caused by DU, and to assist, with adequate funding, in efforts to protect Iraqi civilians and all soldiers involved in the conflict from the consequences of any established or potential environmental exposures; and,

Call on the U.S. government to use the funds saved by the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq to meet the needs of the victims of disasters such as Katrina and its aftermath, and of the earthquakes in Pakistan and India, and to meet other public health needs, including the rebuilding of the public health infrastructure of the United States.

- Victor W. Sidel, MD
  - H. Jack Geiger, MD, MS Hyg
  - Robert Gould, MD
  - Patrice Sutton, MPH
  - Barry Levy, MD, MPH
  - Ann Hirschman RN-C, FNP
  - Joy Marshall, MD
  - Lawrence Egbert, MD
  - Timothy Holtz, MD, MPH
  - Michael McCally, MD, PhD
  - Peter Orris, MD, MPH
  - Lawrence H. Kushi, ScD
  - Catherine Thomasson, MD
  - Robert Musil, PhD, MPH
  - Gwen DuBois, MD
  - Michael Silverstein, MD
  - Rosalind (Bobbie) Singer, MPH
- \*\*\*\*\*

References cited for the statement are listed on page 6.

*If you agree with the  
Peace Caucus Statement ,  
add your name to the list of signatories  
See page 3 for details*

# APHA MEMBERS LEND YOUR VOICE TO PEACE !

TO ADD YOUR NAME TO THE PEACE CAUCUS STATEMENT:

Sign the state \_\_\_\_\_ le at the time  
of printing t \_\_\_\_\_ the Exhibition  
Hall and at t \_\_\_\_\_

**Sign the Peace Caucus  
Statement ONLINE At:**

OR

Email your name \_\_\_\_\_ tion only),  
city, state, a \_\_\_\_\_ yahoo.com.

[http://www.petitiononline.com  
/APHAPC05/petition.html](http://www.petitiononline.com/APHAPC05/petition.html)

## *Jewish American Medical Project* **Medical Solidarity with People in Conflict**

**By ALAN MEYERS, M.D., M.P.H.**

The Jewish peace movement

Aside from the Bush Administration's war on Iraq, the international conflict which is most familiar to the people of the United States is surely that between Israelis (or more specifically, Jewish Israelis) and Palestinians. But most derive their understanding of the situation from the mass media, whose coverage is dominated by graphic violence and heavily influenced by well-funded and connected organizations dedicated to promoting the view of the right wing of the Israeli political spectrum. It might come as a surprise to many that not all Jews support the Israeli government's treatment of Palestinians, just as not all Americans support their government's invasion and occupation of Iraq. In fact, both within Israel and around the world, Jews who are horrified by Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories seized in the 1967 war have organized to oppose it. Within this Jewish peace movement there is a broad range of views on fundamental questions, but it is united in its call for Israel's withdrawal from the Occupied Palestinian Territories and an end to the abuses suffered by the Palestinian population at the hands of successive Israeli governments, all with U.S. government support. One of the largest Jewish peace groups within the U.S. is *Jewish Voice for Peace* (JVP; [www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org](http://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org)), based in San Francisco with chapters around the country. In 2002, the

Boston chapter of JVP, *Visions of Peace with Justice in Israel/Palestine* ([www.vopj.org](http://www.vopj.org)) launched its medical aid effort, *Jewish American Medical Project* (JAMP), together with *Not in My Name* (Chicago; [www.nimn.org](http://www.nimn.org)) and *Jews Against the Occupation* (New York City; [www.jewsagainsttheoccupation.org](http://www.jewsagainsttheoccupation.org)).

Why medical aid?

JAMP represents a gesture of solidarity between its sponsoring groups in the U.S. and organizations working for health and human rights in the region, and the people they serve. JAMP's major partner organizations are *Physicians for Human Rights-Israel* (PHR-Israel; [www.phr.org.il](http://www.phr.org.il)) and the *Palestinian Medical Relief Society* (PMRS; [www.upmrc.org](http://www.upmrc.org)). PHR-Israel is a major Israeli human rights organization. Since its founding in 1988, at the start of the first Intifada (uprising of Palestinians in the Occupied Territories), PHR-Israel has documented the Israeli government's violations of medical neutrality and failure to meet its obligations under international law as occupying power responsible for meeting the health needs of the occupied population, and has worked to force changes, both through the Israeli courts and in public opinion. PHR-Israel intervenes to assist Palestinian health workers obstructed by the Israeli military, and operates a Mobile Clinic jointly with PMRS in the occupied West Bank. PMRS is the largest nongovernmental organization providing health care to the people of the Occupied Palestinian Territories, op-

*Continued page 7*

# APHA PEACE CAUCUS PROGRAM

Philadelphia PA. DECEMBER 11-14, 2005

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*Patrice Sutton, MPH, Program Planner*

**MONDAY 12:30 PM-2:00 PM PCC 204A**

## **3213.0 War and Public Health**

V. W. Sidel, MD and B. S. Levy, MD, MPH, *Presiders*

**12:30 PM** (118897) Consequences of the war in Iraq for active duty military and veterans. A. G. Hirschman, RN-C, FNP

**12:45 PM** (121117) Public health and conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo - Sustained elevations of mortality after 6 years of war. B. Coghlan, MBBS, MPH; R. Brennan, MBBS, MPH; P. Ngoy, MD; D. Dafora, MD; B. Otto, BA; M. Clements, BSc, PhD; T. Stewart, MBBS, MAppEpid

**1:00 PM** (120524) World report on violence and health. A. Reza, MD, MPH; M. Anderson, MD, MPH

**1:15 PM** (120489) Physician-Soldier: A moral dilemma? Victor W. Sidel, MD and Barry S. Levy, MD, MPH.

**1:30 PM** Discussion  
Co-Sponsors: PHN, PHEHP, IH, MCH, COWR, SC

**MONDAY 4:30 PM-6:00 PM PCC 204A**

## **3379.0 Terrorism and Public Health**

B. S. Levy, MD, MPH and V. W. Sidel, MD, *Presiders*

**4:30 PM** (121118) Disaster preparedness: Public health issues and strategies. M. DesVignes-Kendrick, MD, MPH, FAAP

**4:45 PM** (122274) A State Public Health Officer's Perspective on Terrorism Preparedness. Susan Allan, MD, JD.

**5:00 PM** (120526) Torture in the U.S. and Iraq. Leonard Rubenstein, JD, Executive Director, Physicians for Human Rights.

**5:15 PM** (120529) Torture and the Role of Medical Personnel  
George Annas, JD, MPH, Boston University School of Public Health.

**5:30 PM** (120534) Civil Liberties.  
H. Jack Geiger, MD, ScD, Medical Professor Emeritus, CUNY Medical School, City College of New York

**5:45 PM** Discussion  
Co-Sponsors: CHPPD, ICEHS, PHEHP, MCH, COWR, SC

# APHA PEACE CAUCUS PROGRAM

Philadelphia, PA DECEMBER 11-14, 2005

**TUESDAY 12:30 PM-2:00 PM**

## **4151.0 Public Health Consequences of Weapons of War**

P. Sutton, MPH, *Presider*

**12:30 PM** (119721) Small Arms: Redefining "Peace" and "Conflict".  
W. Cukier, MA, MBA, PhD

**12:45 PM** (105835) War and Chemical Attack: Anxiety, Depression, and PTSD among  
civilians of North-Western Iran. F. Hashemian

**1:00 PM** (108859) War, rape and genocide: From ancient times to the Sudan.  
M. T. Donohoe, MD, FACP

**1:15 PM** (119165) Projected casualties among U.S. military personnel and  
civilian populations from the use of nuclear weapons. P. Wilk, MD; S. Stanlick;  
M. Butcher; M. McCally, MD PhD; I. Helfand, MD; R. M. Gould, MD; J. Pastore, MD

**1:30 PM** Discussion.  
Co-Sponsors: ICEHS, PHEHP, MCH, COWR, SC CE credits: RN, CH, MD

<b>433.0</b>	<b>PEACE CAUCUS BUSINESS MEETING</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>6:30 PM-8:00 PM PCC 109B</b>
<b>EVERYONE WELCOME!</b>	

**WEDNESDAY 12:30 PM-2:00 PM PCC 204B**

## **5130.0 Health Impacts of War in the Middle East**

A. Meyers, MD, MPH, *Presider*

**12:30 PM** (120321) Jewish American Medical Project: An effort to promote peace  
through collaboration in health. A. F. Meyers, MD, MPH; E. Isaacs, MD; S. Jilani;  
A. Rothchild, MD; A. Schamess, MD

**12:40 PM** (107348) On Palestine, Health, and Human Rights.  
D. M. Qato, PharmD, MPH

**1:00 PM** (120373) Challenges to health and development in a situation of  
uncertainty and instability: The case of Palestine.  
A. Jarrar, MD; J. A. Mashal, MD

**1:30 PM** Discussion.  
Co-Sponsors: PHEHP, MCH, COWR, SC CE credits: RN, CH, MD

# PEACE CAUCUS STATEMENT OPPOSING THE WAR IN IRAQ

## References cited:

1. APHA Policy Statement 2002-11 Opposing War in Central Asia and the Persian Gulf. <http://www.apha.org/legislative/policy/policysearch/index.cfm?fuseaction=view&id=287>
2. APHA Policy Statement 9923 Opposing War in the Middle East. <http://www.apha.org/legislative/policy/policysearch/index.cfm?fuseaction=view&id=194>
3. Iraq Body Count <http://www.iraqbodycount.net>\_Accessed November 26, 2005.
4. Roberts L, Lafta R, Garfield R, Khudhairi J, Burnham G. Mortality before and after the 2003 invasion of Iraq: cluster sample survey *The Lancet* - Vol. 364, Issue 9448, 20 November 2004, Pages 1857-1864.
5. See, for example, articles from the *Seattle Post-Intelligence* [http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/national/133581\\_du04.html](http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/national/133581_du04.html) ; the BBC [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in\\_depth/2860759.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_depth/2860759.stm) ; and the International Security Network [http://www.isn.ch/news/sw/details\\_print.cfm?id=7393](http://www.isn.ch/news/sw/details_print.cfm?id=7393) .
6. Singer PW, Outsourcing War. *Foreign Affairs*. March/April 2005.
7. *Times of London*, Jan 4, 2005.
8. Names of the Dead. *New York Times*, November 26, 2005; <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/casualty.pdf> Accessed November 26, 2005.
9. <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/casualty.pdf> Accessed November 26, 2005.
10. Budget figures: FY06 Defense Budget at \$419.2 bn, + \$6bn for DOE nuclear weapons, Council for Livable World, April 2005. Three supplemental appropriations for Iraq war (\$30bn + \$75bn +\$82bn). Many more details can be found at [www.clw.org](http://www.clw.org) in the Military Spending section of the website.
11. One Month Later, Death Toll in Asian Quake Surpasses 87,000. (AP) *New York Times*, November 8, 2005; Rohde D. Winter's Cold and Disease Are Raising Quake's Toll. *New York Times*, November 1, 2005; Dao J. Louisiana Sees Faded Urgency in Relief Effort. *New York Times*, November 22, 2005.

-----Detach here and return by mail or in person at the PC Business Meeting Tuesday December 13 at 6:30 PM PCC 109B-----

## The Peace Caucus Needs Your Support! Membership is easy -- Join us today

Yes, I want to join the APHA Peace Caucus!

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Enclosed is my check, payable to the "APHA Peace Caucus" for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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APHA member? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No      Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ New member \_\_\_\_\_

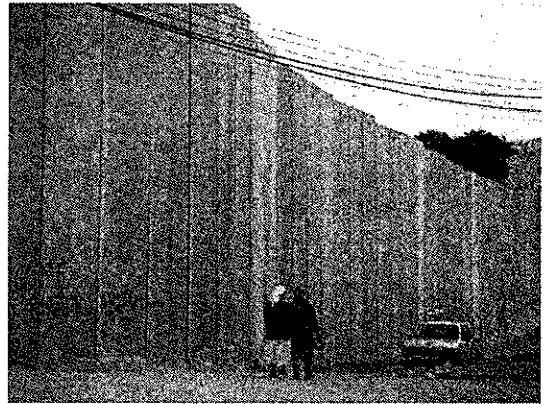
**APHA PEACE CAUCUS**  
**C/O SF Bay Area Physicians**  
**for Social Responsibility**  
**2288 Fulton Street, Suite 307**  
**Berkeley, CA 94704**

erating both fixed and mobile clinics, ambulance services, specialty referral centers, rehabilitation programs, community health worker training, and youth centers.

To date, JAMP has sent three delegations to the region to work with partner organizations. JAMP volunteers have provided clinical care to patients seen at both PMRS and PHR-Israel clinics, and have taught in clinical settings and at Palestine's only medical school, at Al Quds University in East Jerusalem. The importance of these efforts lies beyond their concrete contribution, which is insignificant when compared to the level of need; rather, delegation members witness and experience (if only briefly) the reality endured by a civilian population living under military occupation, and return with personal insights to share with U.S. audiences. Especially when viewed through the lens of public health, this reality is appalling.

Since the beginning of the second Intifada in September 2000, life has become increasingly impossible for the civilian population of the Occupied Territories. Not only are they effectively cut off from Israel, formerly their most important source of employment, but Palestinians cannot move freely within the territories, as over 700 checkpoints, roadblocks, and other barriers obstruct their travel. The construction of a "separation fence" by Israel has cut off thousands of farmers from their fields and divided communities in the West Bank, in defiance of World Court rulings. Even ambulances carrying sick patients are often forbidden passage by the Israeli military, sometimes with serious consequences: during the first three years of the second Intifada, some 56 pregnant Palestinian women were forced to deliver at a checkpoint, resulting in 19 maternal deaths and 29 newborn deaths. The Israeli military has also attacked medical facilities and personnel, resulting in the deaths of 25 physicians, nurses, and ambulance drivers, and the injury of another 425 during this period. Hospitals and clinics have been attacked and ransacked, medical equipment and medical records destroyed. These violations of medical neutrality by the occupying power can only represent Israel's application of collective punishment to the Palestinian population, which is forbidden under international law.

In addition to documenting the impact of the Occupation, JAMP strives to help to "humanize" the conflict. The presence of JAMP volunteers is a visible demonstration to Palestinians that they have real support, even within the American Jewish community. Sharing the experiences of individual Palestinians with a U.S. audience can help promote identification with this population which is all too often left faceless in the sensation-oriented news coverage of the conflict. Furthermore, the work of those struggling to build civil society in Palestine by peaceful means is rarely reported in the U.S. mainstream press. For example, at its youth centers in Nablus, Ramallah, and East Jerusalem, PMRS offers training in English, computer skills, traditional dance, theater, and journalism, and has trained over 25,000 young people in first aid. Their aim is to offer youth an alternative to violence, a constructive outlet for channeling the emotional energy that might otherwise drive them to throw stones at tanks and ultimately self-destruct.



**The Israeli 'security fence'  
as it divides Abu Dis,  
just outside East Jerusalem**

JAMP members have also gathered information on conditions within Israel, visiting Israeli hospitals and engaging in discussions with Israelis representing a wide range of viewpoints. Of special interest has been the living conditions for Israel's large population of immigrant workers, who have largely replaced the Palestinian workforce, and for the Israeli Palestinian population. **Further information can be accessed at the JAMP website: [www.vopj.org/jamp.htm](http://www.vopj.org/jamp.htm).**

#### Future directions

**J**ust as health is defined by the World Health Organization as "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity", JAMP's effort has broadened beyond medical care. Delegation members have included mental health clinicians, labor activists, environmental specialists, educators, lawyers, and others with expertise in human rights and other areas of civil society. JAMP plans to continue its work with a focus on sending multispecialty delegations whose members are paired with their counterparts in Palestinian institutions, and welcomes prospective volunteers, who are encouraged to visit the website, above, for contact information.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION COME TO SESSION  
5130.0**

**Health Impacts of War in the Middle East  
WEDNESDAY 12:30 PM-2:00 PM  
PCC 204B**

Please renew your  
membership—see page 6

APHA PEACE CAUCUS  
C/O SF Bay Area Physicians for  
Social Responsibility  
2288 Fulton Street, Suite 307  
Berkeley, CA 94704

## DON'T MISS THE 2005 ACTIVIST PHYSICIANS DINNER

Sunday December 11, 2005 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania - The Ocean Harbor Restaurant  
1023 Race Street (A few blocks from the Convention Center) Phone: (215) 574-1398

**The 2005 Barsky Honoree: Victor W. Sidel, MD**  
*For his work on world peace and health care for all*

**The 2005 Cornely Honorees: Nathalie Walker, Esq. and Monique Harden, Esq.**  
Founders and co-directors of **Advocates for Environmental Human Rights**, a public interest law firm that provides legal advocacy services to communities toward achieving their fundamental human right to a clean and healthy environment.  
*For their work for the environmental justice and justice*

\$45 per Person, \$20 for Students, \$30 for House Staff (add \$5 at door - RSVP Early!)  
RSVP Dan Lawlor AT AFSCMEDOC@SBCGLOBAL.NET

### FORUM ORGANIZATIONS

The Committee of Interns and Residents, SEIU, AFL-CIO ([www.cirseiu.org](http://www.cirseiu.org)) ♦ The National Union of Hospital & Health Care Employees (1199), AFSCME, AFL-CIO ([www.afscme.org](http://www.afscme.org)) ♦ Physicians for a National Health Program ([www.pnhp.org](http://www.pnhp.org)) ♦ Doctors for Global Health ([www.dghonline.org](http://www.dghonline.org)) ♦ Physicians for Human Rights ([www.phrusa.org](http://www.phrusa.org)) ♦ Physicians for Social Responsibility ([www.psr.org](http://www.psr.org))