



## Uniting for Social Justice



**Sharat G. Lin, President**

When mass demonstrations unfolded in the cities and towns of Iran both before and after the elections in June 2009, young voters, and women in particular, played a leading role in challenging what has proven to be an increasingly authoritarian state. They demanded genuine democracy in which candidates are not vetted by a Guardian Council, where tallying of votes is transparent and verifiable, and minority views are respected. Some even demanded “مرگ بر جمهوری اسلامی” (death to the Islamic Republic). What has not been reported so much in the Western media is that, while they welcomed international support for their demands, they also warned the western powers to stay out of Iran. This is an almost universal theme in grassroots democratic movements throughout the world. Reflecting a heritage rich in mass political culture, Iranian demonstrators resurrected many old slogans. One is “اتحاد، مبارزه، پیروزی” (itehad, mobarazeh, piroozi – unity, struggle, victory).

In the course of seven years of the post-9/11 Bush administration, we united and mobilized in a sustained manner not seen since the Vietnam War and the Civil Rights Movement. Now a new administration in Washington is changing course in directions that are both incrementally positive and ambiguous. It is ramping down the war in Iraq, but escalating the war

in Afghanistan. It has ended torture, though is resisting war crimes prosecutions of those responsible. It is advocating a public health insurance option, while keeping single-payer “off the table.” It has continued bailing out the banks, but not the states, not homeowners, not workers, not students. These contradictions can be both deceptive and divisive.

The social justice agenda remains largely unfulfilled. Social justice and peace are our common goals. There may be differences on the route to achieving those goals, but that must not divide us. The vitality of social justice and peace activism comes not from uniting to do the same thing, but from taking up a myriad of different actions that collectively work towards achieving our common objectives. That requires communication, broadened awareness, and understanding the struggles of others within the broad movement for social justice.

To that end, the San José Peace and Justice Center, as an umbrella for an ever-growing number of community partners, attempts to provide a nexus for diverse grassroots organizations to join together in broad efforts to bring about positive social change. We will start with our own town hall meetings to enable supporters to voice their concerns, share their insights, socialize, and forge a broadly unified vision. The Coordinating Council and SJPJC officers, in particular, cannot operate in isolation; they must work with transparency and be firmly rooted in the constituency. Through unity and struggle we will achieve incremental victories that make the world a better place in which to live.

## Jeppesen Protesters Demand Accountability for Torture

**Charlotte Casey**

“Torturers working for the CIA—you’re not welcome in San Jose!” Protesters commemorated the International Day of Solidarity with Victims of Torture (June 26) by rallying in front of the office of Jeppesen, the Boeing subsidiary that has supported the CIA’s torture flights.

Besides demanding that those responsible for torture be held accountable for their crimes, the protesters called attention to the way in which the Obama Justice Department has used the exact argument that the Bush Justice Department used (that “state secrets” would be revealed) to block the lawsuit brought against Jeppesen by the ACLU.

Long-time CIA analyst and now peace activist Ray McGovern addressed the protesters and denounced the “immoral and illegal” torture flights. He pointed out that under



**Ray McGovern speaks against torture at the Jeppesen Protest.**

**Sharat G. Lin**

the Convention Against Torture, which was signed on June 26, 1987, the Obama administration has a legal responsibility to prosecute all those who planned and carried out torture. Besides the individuals in the Bush administration and the CIA, this also applies to corporations that are complicit, as a sign held by one protester made clear: “Obama, prosecute the criminals: Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld, Rice, Tenet, Yoo... and Jeppesen!”

## San Jose Peace & Justice Center Elects New Officers

The Board of the San Jose Peace & Justice Center has elected Sharat Lin as President, Charlotte Casey as Treasurer, and Joan Bazar as Secretary. The San Jose Peace & Justice Center thanks Charlotte Casey (outgoing President), Joan Bazar (outgoing Treasurer), and Anu Mandavilli (outgoing Secretary) for their hard work and commitment to the peace movement and the Peace & Justice Center.

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# Don't Buy Into Apartheid Network Urges Trader Joe's Customers to Stop Buying Israeli Products

**Yasmin Qureshi**

As a follow up to a nationwide action on Saturday, June 20 urging Trader Joe's to stop carrying Israeli goods, the Don't Buy Into Apartheid network urges consumers to keep the pressure on Trader Joe's by not buying Israeli products, namely Israeli couscous, Pastures of Eden Feta Cheese and Dorot Frozen Garlic and Herbs. The group also encourages customers to hand over "Don't Buy Into Apartheid" coupons at the check out counter or leave the coupons in the coupon basket to let the store know that they do not want to buy products from Israel.

On June 20, activists gathered at Trader Joe's in Oakland and San Francisco to demand that the company stop carrying Israeli goods. Protesters removed Israeli products from the shelves in order to show customers which products they should not buy. They also met with the store managers and asked them to notify their headquarters that they no longer wanted to carry Israeli herbs, couscous and cheese. Similar actions were held in Pittsburgh, Seattle, and Sacramento.

"Trader Joe's is a company with an excellent reputation for bringing a diverse array of high-quality foods from around the world to US consumers. As Trader Joe's consumers, we are part of a growing movement of people globally who are calling on businesses to be consistent in following ethical business practices," said Yasmin Qureshi, an organizer of the Don't Buy Into Apartheid national network.

The group chose June 20 for its kickoff action because it is World Refugee Day. Of the 11 million refugees in the world today, over 7 million are Palestinian refugees displaced as a direct result of the founding of the State of Israel. Many of these refugees have been displaced for more than 60 years.

"Consumer boycotts played an important role in bringing about the end of apartheid in South Africa," said Sunaina Maira, Associate Professor of Asian American Studies at University of California-Davis. "Corporations



**Activists remove Israeli products from shelves at a Trader Joe's on June 20, 2009. (Don't Buy Into Apartheid)**

with ethical business practices can stop funding injustice and occupation by refusing to sell products made in states that enact racial discrimination and violations of human rights law, such as Israel. The State of Israel was created in 1948 through policies of ethnic cleansing and apartheid, and still continues to violate countless United Nations resolutions. Consumer boycotts are an effective, nonviolent strategy to pressure states to comply with international law."

The manager at one Trader Joe's told the activists, "If you convince our customers to stop buying these products, we will stop carrying them."

In 2005, a broad coalition of Palestinian groups issued a call for the international community to place boycott, divestment and sanctions on Israel based on its illegal occupation of Palestinian lands and discriminatory laws.

Don't Buy Into Apartheid's letter to Trader Joe's was signed by more than 35 organizations and 135 individuals. The campaign has gained more than 600 members in one month. It hopes Trader Joe's will join them in supporting social justice and racial equality by removing Israeli products from its shelves until Israel agrees to cooperate fully with international law. Leaflets, coupons, press release and other information are available at <http://quitpalestine.org/dbia>.

## SJPJC Community Partners

See [sanjosepeace.org](http://sanjosepeace.org) for meeting times and contact information.

**Association for India's Development**

**Code Pink-South Bay**

**South Bay Awareness Project**

**Friends of South Asia**

**Green Party of Santa Clara County**

**Health Care for All-CA, Silicon Valley**

**Human Agenda**

**Labor Party San Jose Organizing Committee**

**MAIZ**

**National Lawyers Guild**

**Nihonmachi Outreach Committee**

**Older Women's League (OWL)**

**our developing world**

**Peace & Social Order Committee of Friends Monthly Meeting**

**Social Justice Committee of First Unitarian Church, San Jose**

**South Bay Mobilization**

**Veterans for Peace, Chapter 101**

**Women's International League for Peace & Freedom-San Jose Branch**

## Community Rallies Around De-bug's Call for Changes in Police Practices

Anu Mandavilli

In a remarkable show of solidarity, San Jose residents and members of organizations representing various sectors ethnic, faith, labor, and peace communities gathered outside San Jose City Hall on June 30th, 2009 to call for an end to the dangerous "us vs. them" tactics of the San Jose Police Officers Association (SJPOA) and to call for changes in police practices that can lead to mutual trust.

A diverse array of speakers, including Rev. Jeff Moore, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Richard Konda, Asian Law Alliance; Reverend Michael Patrick Ellard, President of the Board of the Santa Clara County Council of Churches; Walter Wilson, African American Center; Aaron R. Resendez, District 5, Neighborhood Commissioner for City of San Jose; Tony



Police accountability rally on June 30

Alexander, UFCW 5 Political Director; Richard Hobbs, Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education Network; Raj Jayadev, Silicon Valley De-Bug; Arturo Gomez, Somos Mayfair; Anu Mandavilli, San Jose Peace and Justice Center; Maria Castillo, Silicon Valley De-Bug and Brian Helmle, Copwatch, spoke about the need for an honest dialogue between the

police and community and for greater accountability on the part of SJPJC. Many individuals shared personal stories of being affected by the discriminatory treatment of the police.

Please visit [sanjosepeace.org](http://sanjosepeace.org) to view SJPJC's statement about Police-Community relations and SJPJC's report about the San Jose City Council meeting on June 2nd, where over 30 community members spoke out about the targeting of De-bug activist Raj Jayadev. SJPOA's video clip is available at [tinyurl.com/mfoca6](http://tinyurl.com/mfoca6).

## Keeping Military Recruiters Away From Children

Dan Mayfield

In November 2008, voters in Arcata and Eureka, California approved identical ballot initiatives restricting military recruiters' contacts with youth under the age of 18. In response, the Attorney General of the United States sued both cities on behalf of the Department of Defense. This spring, without even hearing oral argument, the U.S. District Court upheld the lawsuit and granted a permanent injunction against the two cities.

The federal government brought suit one month later, asserting that the initiatives subverted its right to raise an army. The cities argued in response that the cities had the right – indeed the duty – to protect their citizens, noting that the cities clearly had the right to protect young people from other harmful influences and that the ordinance only affected young people under the age of 18.

Military recruiters have a history of targeting youth. Recruiters are encouraged in their own training manuals to contact minors before the age of 17. Programs such as the JROTC and the Middle School Cadet Corps are in many schools and allow contact between minors and the military well before the age of 17. In addition, recruiters are encouraged to become volunteer coaches at middle schools and high schools so that they can have close (unsupervised) contact with youth.

Unfortunately, in this case the U.S. District Court ignored all Defendants' arguments. However, other avenues of attack still exist for local control over recruiters.

Kathy Gilberd of the Military Law Task Force of the NLG feels that the real issue here is not whether the cities or the voters can win in the courts, but rather the key issue is the attempt to assert local control over the ability of the U.S. Government to recruit youth. "There is no down side to the local control of recruiters issue" said Kathy. "We should raise this issue with the voters, with the schools, and with parents in every possible way."

## Our Backyard Barby Ulmer

Our elected leaders and many appointed ones think of Latin America as "our backyard," and, consequently, think U.S. policy should be to keep those countries functioning as the U.S. wants.

U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency agents inserted into Bolivia could not find the four cocaine manufacturing plants that the Bolivian government uncovered this year. Yet, the U.S. cancelled trade preferences for Bolivia, saying that the Bolivians were not doing enough to combat drug trafficking. Or was it perhaps really because U.S. funding was supporting wealthy dissidents in Santa Cruz province? Interestingly, the cocaine plants were found in the rural areas of Santa Cruz.

If the U.S. government is really so concerned about drug running, why is it funding the brutal government of Colombia? Following Ecuador's decision to expel the U.S. forces stationed in the country, the U.S. military base will close in November and be moved to Colombia. With so many union and human rights activists being killed in Colombia, how can there be a viable free trade agreement?

Having intervened in the Salvadoran election for many years, pressure from human rights activists this year finally elicited a statement from the U.S. State Department the day before the election saying the U.S. would work with whomever was elected. That relieved the fear among Salvadorans that the U.S. might block remittances from family members working in the U.S. The U.S. ambassador made that threat in 2004.

Having engineered the coup in Haiti and funded the one in Venezuela (see Eva Golinger's book *The Chavez Code*), might the U.S. government also be a secret supporter of the Honduran coup? Certainly the U.S. government is related to the new "president" and the leaders of the coup for they are all graduates of the School of the Americas (now called WHINSEC). Why doesn't Secretary of State Clinton call it a coup? Perhaps it is because then the law would require her to end military assistance to Honduras. If the Obama administration really wants Manuel Zelaya back in office as the rightfully-elected president, why doesn't it let him land at the U.S. air base not far from the capitol? Write [mazorcade-maiz@gmail.com](mailto:mazorcade-maiz@gmail.com) for direct updates and photos from two friends who have been eyewitnesses to recent events in Honduras.

With all this, is it any wonder that Latin America is distancing itself from U.S. policy?

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## San Francisco Mime Troupe

Presents

### *Too Big To Fail*

San Jose Peace & Justice Center  
 & the Collins Foundation are sponsoring the  
 San Francisco Mime Troupe performance in San Jose!

Wednesday, July 29 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Arena Green Park, W. St. John & North Autumn St.  
 (Next to HP Pavillion), San Jose

This radical musical comedy is a parable about an African village reeling under the evil spell of credit and one man's effort to reclaim his future from the wicked witch of the Walled Street.

Founded in 1959, the San Francisco Mime Troupe creates and produces socially relevant theater; their work is political satire and anything but silent.

FREE event! Bring friends, family, and food and picnic in the park while you watch the show.

Music begins at 6:30 -- performance starts at 7:00.



*Michael Sullivan performs with other members of the SF Mime Troupe.*

## Cuba Caravan Welcomed to San Jose!

On July 12, 2009, the Pastors for Peace Cuba Caravan stopped in San Jose. By traveling to Cuba with humanitarian aid without a U.S. government license, Pastors for Peace challenges the U.S. economic blockade and travel ban against Cuba. The caravan traveled throughout the U.S. and Canada for two weeks before traveling to Cuba to deliver school buses, construction tools and materials, educational supplies, medicines, and medical supplies. In every place that the caravan stopped, the message was clear: "President Obama, it's time to end this blockade!"

A large group of enthusiastic South Bay community members greeted the caravan as they arrived at the San Jose Peace & Justice Center. Alicia Jrapko and other Caravanistas spoke about the Cuba Caravan and why we should challenge the blockade. Local activist Martha Acevedo also spoke. The Caravanistas and community members enjoyed a potluck dinner and listened to an amazing performance by Chilean musician Rafael Manriquez.

In addition to welcoming the caravan, community members generously donated money to fund the caravan. For more information about the Cuba Caravan, visit [www.ifconews.org](http://www.ifconews.org).



*Nita Palmer (Cuba Caravanista), Mike Beilstein (Caravanista), Sey'a Sangari (Volunteer) and Alicia Jrapko (Caravanista) (l-r) speak to a packed audience at the San Jose Peace & Justice Center.*

Sharat G. Lin