



# DOVETAIL

**PROVIDING RESOURCES TO IOWA'S PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMUNITY FROM A FAITH PERSPECTIVE.**  
**VOLUME XXX, NO 1** **MAY 2007**

## SAVE DARFUR

According to recent estimates, at least 400,000 people have died in Darfur since the genocide began in February of 2003. It is impossible to know what the final number will be, however, the genocide is still taking place today. What is known is that there are approximately 3.5 million men, women and children in the western Darfur region of Sudan trying to survive the Sudanese government-sponsored campaign of violence and forced starvation. These innocent victims are essentially on life-support, their continued existence dependent on U.S. and international humanitarian aid and the presence of roughly 7,400 African Union peacekeepers. Despite the best efforts of the under-funded and under-manned African Union peacekeeping force, attacks have increased in recent months, leading to tens of thousands of new arrivals at refugee camps in Darfur and across the border in Chad.

After a promised de-escalation of violence failed to materialize following the signing of the stillborn Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) on May 5, 2006, the situation in Darfur grew worse. The Government of Sudan began a military offensive in Darfur in late August 2006 which displaced tens of thousands of additional Darfurians, and the rebel groups, which had numbered just three at the time of the DPA's signing, splintered into more than a dozen factions, further



complicating any potential political solution. The resulting increase in violence has put the humanitarian life-support system at great risk, and the nightmare scenario of a complete security collapse and the spike in death-rate that will surely follow now appears to be a very real possibility. UN officials have previously said that the death-rate in Darfur could rise as high as 100,000 per month if security collapses, creating the sobering possibility that future horrors in Darfur may dwarf all we have seen up to now.

### What you can do:

- Educate yourself and others.
- Lobby Congress and the President.
- Join the groups listed below.

Help increase news coverage of the humanitarian and security crisis in Darfur by writing your own letters to the editor, opinion editorials and blog postings about the genocide and what we can all do to help the people of Darfur.

### See the following websites for more information:

- DesMoines for Darfur:  
[www.DesMoinesForDarfur.org](http://www.DesMoinesForDarfur.org)
- The Darfurian People's Association of Iowa:  
[DarfurianIowa@yahoo.com](mailto:DarfurianIowa@yahoo.com)
- Save Darfur: [www.SaveDarfur.org](http://www.SaveDarfur.org)



# Peace Activities

## MISSION BOTCHED – NEITHER CONGRESS NOR THE PRESIDENT HAS IT RIGHT!

Speech by Renee Espeland, Co-Coordinator, Iowa Peace Network, on May 2, 2007, at Nollen Plaza in Des Moines, IA

OUR FIGHT IS NOT AGAINST HUMAN BEINGS. It is against the rulers, the authorities and the powers of this dark world. (Eph 6:12)

Fran Fuller and I are co-coordinators of Iowa Peace Network. Quaker, Mennonite, Methodist, and Church of the Brethren people support this statewide network. In a peace-church tradition and without hesitation, we are here today to honor the "Divine Spark" or that "Inner Light" inherent in our brothers, Tom Harkin, Leonard Boswell, and Charles Grassley.

This being said, we are here to fight against the actions that our brothers are taking as rulers and authorities and against their participation with the powers that be. We do not want to spend one more dollar. We do not want to lose one more life. Yet as we hear about de-funding and troop withdrawal, our rulers with our tax dollars are building the largest embassy in the world.

One hundred & four acres, twenty-one buildings filled with 5500 employees who will utilize self-contained water wells, a power plant, a wastewater treatment system, fifteen-foot blast walls, and ground to air missiles. All of this is in plain sight of maimed, grieving and displaced Iraqis—all this in plain sight of returning refugees whose visas are now the wrong classification are at least twice displaced because of cruel bureaucratic mismanagement. Also in plain sight are at least four permanent military "Super-bases" that each have a 15-20 square mile footprint. Consider 20,000 troops per base all eating franchised fast food, renting Hertz rent-a-cars, catching the base bus lines, shopping and working out in the fitness center.

Both parties in congress have voted for funding this embassy and these bases. Both parties in congress have voted for legislation which advocates torture, restricts the bill of rights, allows cluster bombs- fuel/air bombs, the use of DU and white phosphorus, —all weapons of mass destruction. Neither party has dealt with the flagrant violation of Habeas Corpus and shut down Guantánamo or acted to close the School of Americas. Both parties are responsible for the mass slaughter of Iraqi citizens and of U.S. soldiers and be-

cause they represent us---so are we. Turn to your neighbor and say "I am complicit in mass slaughter" Who will fight with me and insist that we turn and go in another direction? I don't say this very often but I INSIST ON REPENTING!

We hear that we must be realistic, we must support incremental changes...this is how the system works. I get that--unfortunately, our government and our congress does not intend to leave Iraq--ever. We must wake up! If we are realistic we will apologize to all the widows and orphans, the tortured and impoverished, and all the other victims of American imperialism. We will demand that America's global interventions cease. If we are realistic we will not support political parties that attempt to convince us that policies that are "less obscene" deserve our vote. We may see through a mirror darkly but our sight will not be clouded by this political game of "smoke and mirrors."

I will honor the "Divine Spark" in our brother Osama bin Laden as I read from one of his letters: "And I say that, despite all the barbaric methods, they have not broken the fierceness of the resistance in Afghanistan and Iraq...A swimmer in the ocean does not fear the rain. You have occupied our lands, offended our honor and dignity and let out our blood and stolen our money and destroyed our houses and played with our security. (And) There is no shame in this solution (of withdrawal) which prevents the wasting of billions of dollars that have gone to those with influence and (to) merchants of war in America."

Though we resist and fight against the authority of the presidency we will honor the "Inner Light" of our brother George Bush when we contemplate this misspoken & true statement..."It is better that we don't fight Muslims on their lands and that they don't fight us on ours."

### NOTE FROM EDITOR

Check out Iowa Peace Network's new website at [www.iowapeacenet.org](http://www.iowapeacenet.org).

If you would you like to be added to our email list, send us your email address. If you would prefer receiving your Dovetail by email instead of paper, email us.

We are always open for suggestions. Is there any information you would like to see on our site? Interested in writing a peace-related article for us to post? Send your ideas to [ipnet@earthlink.net](mailto:ipnet@earthlink.net).



## DELAYED ENTRY PROGRAM

### The Real Story

Have you or someone you know signed up for the D.E.P.... And now you don't want to go?

#### ***YOU DON'T HAVE TO!!!***

The oath you take to become a member of the D.E.P. does not make you legally obligated to go to Basic training and be in the U.S. military. Your recruiter wants you to believe that you will get in trouble, even arrested, if you don't go....but you won't!

Your recruiter cannot force you to go to basic training because as a member of the D.E.P., you are NOT subject to military law.

No matter what your recruiter says, until you **report** for Basic Training, you are not in the U.S. Military. If you decide not to join the military after signing up with D.E.P., you are not legally required to have any further contact with your recruiter. You may want to go out of town around your original date of enlistment to avoid pressure from your recruiter. You don't have to answer the door, the phone, or go anywhere with your recruiter.

**So you don't have to go.**

**If you don't go, you are not in the military.**

**It's as simple as that.**

For more information and support, go to:  
[www.girights.org](http://www.girights.org)

Or call the GI Rights Hotline:  
1-800-394-9544  
Center on Conscience & War  
[www.CenterOnConscience.org](http://www.CenterOnConscience.org)

## PEACE RESOURCE CENTER PRODUCTS

Iowa Peace Network has some great new products available for sale in our Peace Resource Center. These products will be listed on our new and improved website in the near future. These products help support our work and peace at the same time.

### ***Zatoun Olive Oil from Palestine***

Help Palestinian Farmers. Buy fair trade extra virgin olive oil from occupied Palestine. The olive tree and its products represent a major source of income for over 100,000 Palestinian families. \$25 per bottle. [www.zatoun.com](http://www.zatoun.com)

### ***Fair Trade Olive Oil Soap***

Fine specialty soap from Nablus—the city where modern soap making began almost 1,500 years ago—to help support the healing work of Project Hope. The gift-boxed collection includes four bars of olive oil soap—made with honey, goat's milk, lemon or mud from the Dead Sea. A set sells for \$25. [www.zatoun.com](http://www.zatoun.com)

### ***ACME Bags—EarthTote***

Heavy duty reusable shopping bag. Lifetime guarantee. Folds up like a paper bag. Made with armor-like, ultra-durable 600 denier Cordura nylon. Same footprint as a classic paper grocery bag. Easy to clean. Can save thousands and thousands of throw-away bags over its lifetime. Fair trade and fair wage. Price: \$15  
More items available!



# Peace Activities

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## Thoughts from Iowa Peace Network's New Coordinator

My name is Renee Espeland. I am new here at Iowa Peace Network. I am delighted to have the opportunity to work with Fran Fuller, I am humbled and honored to be working with you as well.

Should the focus of Iowa Peace Network be singly an anti-war focus? This was a question discussed during my interview for this co-coordinator position.

Answer number one is, NO: We do counter recruitment work in schools in an attempt to mitigate the effect of many recruitment lies. A group of people partner together for the Penalty Sharing Community project which will pay fines for those who choose to withhold federal income tax. We are starting a "tent adoption program" for those without homes or tents. We join with others in standing vigil twice a week; (Wednesdays at the Military Entrance Processing Center and Thursdays at Nollen Plaza) this is an opportunity to have a visible presence in the community—please join us. We have fasted, prayed and rallied in front of the Federal Building for the close of the School of Americas/WHINSC. We partner and act in solidarity with other peace groups for education and fellowship. The new website is under construction and will serve to be a state-wide clearinghouse for information and resources. We hope this new website will put more "network" in Iowa Peace Network. We attend weekly bible studies in an effort to keep our focus clear and to nourish the waging of peace in our own hearts. Peace is: local food, earning a living wage, care for the environment, improved health and healthcare, fair trade with other countries, issues surrounding the bill of rights, the abolition of torture, eradication of racism and domestic/sexual abuse. As you know the list continues.

Answer number two is, YES. Consider the fact that the research that went into the building of the nitrogen-based bombs in WWII was recycled into technology that gave rise to the widespread use of nitrogen-based fertilizer. Nerve gas research morphed into the production of powerful insecticides. With the use of artificial fertilizers and insecticides, seed diversity has been lost. Plant life had to be altered to resist the destructive power of these chemicals, so, 97% of seed varieties are extinct. Corporations have rights and protections previously reserved only for people. Chemical producers now are seed producers who sue farmers who attempt to share harvested seed with each other—wise seed, informed by the land itself. Genetic engineering has produced a corn

kernel that can be registered as an insecticide due to the modifications in its gene structure. Living organisms are now patented and corporately owned, God no longer gets credit for creation. These corporations require assistance from the government to protect and allow this obscene thievery. Governments beholden to corporations will utilize military solutions made possible by the "military industrial complex" (that is corporately structured) to impose these protections...this is only one of many cogs in the war machine. This machine has become the foundation of our country. Given that we are at war, ending the war is one very important place to start in our commission to create peace. The fruits of war are by definition spoils. We will not be meek in our work to end this slaughter and blasphemy.

A "bottom-up" (rather than top-down) structure for action is taught and modeled in the Gospels. I am dedicated to joining with you in getting our bottoms to the bottom and acting up!



### Annual Tax Day Witness at Post Office

Co-coordinators, Fran Fuller and Renee Espeland, along with folks from Iowans for Sensible Priorities and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom remind people mailing their tax returns that almost 50% of tax dollars go towards war and preparing for war.

# Peace Activities

## Penalty Sharing Community

For many years, Iowa Peace Network has facilitated a Penalty Sharing Community (PSC). It's purpose is to provide a basis of support for persons conscientiously opposed to the payment of taxes for war.

We maintain a mailing list of persons who have made a commitment to the PSC to share equally in the penalties assessed to individuals and families who have chosen to resist their war taxes. We currently have 75 families who support this effort.

Currently, war tax resisters seeking financial assistance to pay fines contact us and we notify the Community of the need.

Now we would like to expand both the Community and the scope of the PSC project to include fines and court costs incurred in nonviolent civil disobedience against war. Especially in the current world situation and the ever-growing propensity of the US toward war, we feel the time has come to increase our support of war resistance efforts.

We would set a limit on the amount and frequency of support provided by the PSC. Our goal is to build our group of supporters from 75 to 200 families who could at any given time donate \$5. If you would like to join in this effort, please let us know.

**Renee Espeland or Fran Fuller**  
Iowa Peace Network  
4211 Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50312  
515-255-7114



May 8, 2007, Anti-War Witness at the Military Entrance Processing Center, West Des Moines, IA

## THANK YOU

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who have supported the work and ministry of Iowa Peace Network over the past 30 years. It truly takes a community to build peace.

I'm sorry to say the need for peacemaking seems to only increase. If you would like to help us financially in our work, please send your donation in the enclosed envelope.

Most importantly....please remember to keep us in prayer.



## TEXT ADOPTION

**Do you have gear that you're no longer using? Imagine how much better life is with a tent and a bike!**

**Iowa Peace Network will pick up items (in Des Moines) you are no longer using and give them to homeless folks. Needed are: bikes, tents, sleeping bags, tarps, camp stoves, coolers, ropes, lanterns.**

**We are grateful for complete tents and working bikes. We cannot make repairs. Your donation is tax-deductible.**

**Contact Iowa Peace Network, 515-255-7114, email: [ipnet@earthlink.net](mailto:ipnet@earthlink.net).**



**Some Coming Events - see our new website:  
[www.iowapeacenetwork.org](http://www.iowapeacenetwork.org)**

**June 18 — 3rd Annual Iowa Peace Taskforce Dinner & Fundraiser — Speaker:  
Sue Dinsdale, mother of Iraq War Veteran (Military Families Against Escalation in Iraq)  
Grace United Methodist Church, 37th & Cottage Grove, Des Moines, IA.  
\$10 suggested donation, under age 18—free. 6—8 PM.**

**July 7 — Pastors for Peace Summer 2007 Caravan to Cuba launching their 18th Nonviolent Challenge to Im-  
moral US blockade of Cuba. Presentation and potluck at 11 AM at Friends House, 4211 Grand Avenue, Des  
Moines, IA.**

**August 6 — Annual Observance of Hiroshima and Nagasaki Bombing Anniversary**

**September 22 — Second Annual Peace Fair will take place on bridge in downtown Des Moines. Watch for  
details.**

**Every Wednesday—4—5:30 pm Peace Vigil at the Military Processing Center, 25th & University, West Des  
Moines, IA**

**Every Thursday — 11:30 am—1 pm Peace Vigil at Nollen Plaza, Third & Locust, Des Moines, IA**

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**Iowa Peace Network  
4211 Grand Ave.  
Des Moines, IA 50312**

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