

Friends, at this time of Thanksgiving, having just received a major blow to so many of our aspirations, and as we continue our organizing with great haste, it is a good time of year to reflect on our blessings and to do what we are able for those who do not share the same bounty. We've been doing this a long time at the Office of the Americas. In the 70s, even before the OOA existed, our focus was on the despicable condition of our own US policies and actions in Central America. OOA brought delegations to Nicaragua to enlighten, to educate the delegates so that they could become messengers of opposition. In the 90s, it was Baghdad, Cuba, Kuwait. It wasn't just our bombs that caused the destruction, but the sanctions the US put in place that killed millions of civilians.

In the 21 century we formed a core group to be in the opposition to the vengeance and aftermath of 9/11. We never had to say we supported the Civil War before we were against it. The fundamentals remain the same. This organization, despite seemingly insurmountable obstacles, continues. If you're someone who doesn't buy into US foreign policy as it stands, and thinks there needs to be a more educated, critically thought out and compassionate debate - well, you need it now. More than ever.

We are so happy about the response of our people. Hundreds of thousands in the street who understand what's going on in our country. Here's Kathy Kelly, with a wonderful quote.

In July [1941, Albert Einstein](#), ten months a U.S. citizen, wrote Eleanor Roosevelt asking her, as First Lady, to raise with the president the matter of lifting bureaucratic hurdles so that Jewish refugees threatened by Hitler's final solution could be granted entry into the U.S. "I know of no-one else to whom to turn for help," he wrote. But the U.S. government chose not to heed Einstein's appeal. The following year, some 2.7 million Jews—nearly half of all Jewish victims of the Holocaust—were annihilated.

Now there are people who understand that. We have groups in protest at this time coming out all over the country. And we have individuals. You might have seen an interesting article in yesterday's LA Times: Man Pleads Guilty to Trump Car Vandalism. James Otis faces felony counts of deliberate property destruction. He took a sledgehammer and a pick axe and attacked the Trump star in the Hall of Fame. I think he was thinking as Albert Einstein thought.

I'm not going to be his lawyer; he has a wonderful attorney, Mickey Portem. I won't be his lawyer, but at the time when people have a right to think of the great necessity defense. We have people in government who are acting illegally and promoting illegality at the expense of our people. So maybe the court will understand what James Otis was trying to say. By the way, the photograph in

the LA Times of James and his attorney is really striking.

Individuals are protesting. Groups are protesting. Both are welcome. So we're in a unique time, and we have to respond in a way that shows we understand what is taking place. Better to light one candle than to curse the darkness, that's our legacy. We're proud of all the demonstrations that have taken place in the past, and we know what to do. The vanguard of justice and peace is now in the streets as never before. They don't have a "dear leader," and they don't want one. They learned much over many years in the streets. They're so young...yes, they have mentors of old ghost writers in the sky. Yes, the ghostwriters have left a legacy. The people who fought back against fanatical McCarthyism during the administration of Dwight Eisenhower, 1953. I think of people like Frank Wilkinson who were jailed for their resistance to unconstitutional witch hunts, like the House Unamerican Activity Committee. Now waiting to *make America great again*, they want to bring back this committee. My goodness.

Horrible aggressive wars took place during the Eisenhower years, including the overthrow of the much-loved Mossadegh, 1953, replacing him with the dictatorship of the Shah of Iran. And then to overthrowing the spiritual socialism which was a Central American imitation of Roosevelt's New Deal. In Guatemala they overthrew the elected leader and replaced him with vicious dictator under the direct control of the US military. 1954. A disaster of torture and racism has continued to the present day in Guatemala. It seems, however, that it dawned on general Eisenhower that he had been used. He'd been used corporate capital interests. So shortly before his time was up as president, and I know you've heard some of his quotes, but maybe you haven't heard the strongest one, which he gave to the press and which is lesser known. He said, toward the end:

Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. The cost of one modern heavy bomber is this: a modern brick school in more than 30 cities.

It is two electric power plants, each serving a town of 60,000 population.

It is two fine, fully equipped hospitals. It is some 50 miles of concrete highway.

We pay for a single fighter plane with a half million bushels of wheat.

We pay for a single destroyer with new homes that could have housed more

than 8,000 people.

This, I repeat, is the best way of life to be found on the road the world has been taking.

This is not a way of life at all, in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron.

It is interesting don't see this quote much, it's not easy to find. You have to do a little searching to find it.

In spite of all that, Eisenhower left John Kennedy with a planned invasion of Cuba and a murderous plan to bomb that nation. The peace ghosts were happy when JFK witnessed the total failure of the Bay of Pigs invasion and refused to bomb Cuba. Why? He said, "There are children there." He went further toward the kiss of death when he said he would bring home our troops from Vietnam. Treasonous insiders killed him. His brothers first call was to the CIA. First question: did you kill my brother. Demonstrations began in earnest. With the coming of Lyndon Johnson, with his servile obedience to the military industrial complex. 500 thousand troops sent to Vietnam, a classic, criminal, aggressive war. Demonstrations mounted from coast to coast, with a moratorium on education. A message of military industrial government to every president since was clear: comply or die.

The Peace Ghosts were viciously beaten at the Chicago convention in 1968. That's were I saw my first police riot. I was there after returning to the US from Guatemala. I'd seen the savagery of security forces in Guatemala, but I was actually stunned by the brutality of security forces in our own country. Then the electoral college begat Richard Nixon and his bloodthirsty aid Henry Kissinger, as they abolished the lives of millions of innocent people. In Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, in bombing that far exceeded the tonnage used in World War II. One of the great war crimes of all history.

Henry continued under Gerald Ford to quietly preside over the massacre of hundreds of thousands of alleged communists in Indonesia. Jimmy Carter arrived and in 1977 helped to end the bloody war in Argentina, and finally turned against Somosa in Nicaragua after the murder of journalist John Stewart. Then there was the October surprise to elect Ronald Reagan president, who later said he was out of the loop in the Iran / Contra scandal. The savage death squad escalation in Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Honduras continued. During those years we developed a whole new form of resistance to aggressive war in solidarity for the victims. Thousands of citizens came to Central America to witness these attacks. Honduras became a US aircraft carrier for attacks on El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua. Five

thousand US troops were in Honduras. This is beyond the endless number of mercenary troops paid with the proceeds of illegal weapons sales to the Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran. The solidarity with the people of Central America was a new non-violent weapon of peace. And then through the help of Father Roy we saw the CIA manual on torture directing the mercenaries to attack religious people and particularly those who advocated liberation theology. At this time mercenaries have become a substantial armed force in our Middle Eastern Wars. But there's something even more profound that took place during the Reagan Years. Together with Vietnam veterans, we began a strategy of accompaniment of endangered individuals and civilians in Central America. We joined them in their areas under attack. Our presence in the war zones, our accompaniment marching through the areas of conflict, have proven to be powerful tools of non-violent resistance. Together with resistance in the streets, we have responded to Washington's ongoing mantra, "We don't care what you want."

That came across loud and clear in these decades of uninterrupted militarism. Need I mention the barbaric, immoral and aggressive war of old Mr. Bush against Panama. Christmas, 1989. Oh yes, did we forget the invasion of the island of Grenada in 1983? The psychopathic act of a sociopathic administration. The Iraq was of 1990 - 2016, that's 26 years and continuing - was opposed by the greatest outpouring of peace in world history. The message of government continues. "We don't care what you want." And now our streets are full of conscious, informed, dedicated people in opposition to the self-evident corruption of the incoming administration. The angry Trump voters did not express their hatred of perpetual war, did they? The appearance was of vote by a fractured middle class together with manufactured racist fears. Why did the people not vote against militarism? Because militarism is the religion of false patriotism fostered in our school system and in our bombs in the air celebration. Militarism an aspect of our religion of American Exceptionalism. False patriotism is the last refuge of scoundrels. Our founders knew that. Aw shucks, Ronald Reagan presided over hundreds of thousands of deaths in Central America while declaring a national emergency because of Nicaragua's "threat" to the US.

Bill Clinton, 1993 - 2001, presided over the starvation of Iraq, which he called "sanctions." Hundreds of thousands of children died during that period in Iraq. What of Obama? I actually voted for him once. We had hope too, but he was victimized by the military industrial system. Any decent domestic plans he had were attacked by a racist group of obstructionists who are now in power. All of the aforementioned atrocities and endless wars have given birth to Donald Trump. A disillusioned people have fallen for a classic scapegoat ranter. Let's blame Islam, which of course has killed far fewer people than Christendom. Let's blame the workers who come here and do all the work that no one else

wants to do. Do you think stock brokers are going to replace farm labor? Actually, we could do very well without the stock brokers. But we can't live without farm labor. We will see the impact of deportations very quickly, and if anyone's interested in truth telling? Certainly not in this new administration. We can easily affirm that immigrants have not cost America one cent. They have energized the economy. I do not know of one university level study capable of demonstrating that immigrants are a harm to our economy. Hitlerian scapegoating savaged the Jewish people during the Third Reich. The people are afraid to look at the truth. Their real enemy is the religion of militarism, and it's heresy to oppose one's religion, right? Our voters don't want to be called infidels. No, it's easier to direct our ignorance toward our guests of color. The vast majority are hard working people who do more than their share for what they earn. By far.

So, friends, we're going to have a tribunal in Washington. It's time for that. It's been called by Code Pink, and will take place in December. It will demonstrate the destruction of the United States and Iraq which has occurred during the years 1990 - 2016. Yes! We've been in the streets from Eisenhower to Obama, and we're returning now with more resolve than ever. We are one with the indigenous people of America. An unprecedented, historic outpouring of solidarity is taking place, and it's so very impressive. So exciting.

We are strongest when we are united.

In December 2016 there will be a tribunal in Washington DC organized by Code Pink. I will testify. And I will share with you my testimony. I was an unembedded witness to the unnecessary aggressive war, the greatest international crime. I testify because I want to see everyone responsible go before national and international courts. I testify because perpetual war has become the focal point of the destruction of innocents internationally and the rapid deterioration of the United States. I testify on behalf of our young people being sent off to die as the enemy in places where they are not wanted. As a witness to war, I cannot see any break between the so-called Gulf War (1990, 91) and the 2003 invasion of Iraq. Those years were a seamless structure of mass murder. There was no break in the mayhem between 91 and 2003. On the contrary.

It was a time of illegally using starvation and epidemic as weapons of war. The so-called sanctions were devastating in the killing of children in Iraq. Lies are the fuel of war. Here are just a few that were used to murder innocent Iraqi people. We thank attorney general Ramsey Clark for his participation in identifying the various lies. The Bush administration said that:

Iraq was responsible for the September 11 attacks;

Iraq and Al Queda were working together;
Iraq was trying to import aluminum tubes to develop nuclear weapons;
Iraq had large stocks of chemical and biological weapons left over from the first Gulf War;
Iraq retained over 20 missies that could contain chemical or biological weapons;
Saddam Hussein had the wherewithal to develop small pox;
The lie that these claims were supported by inspectors;
That previous weapons inspections had failed.

The lies go on and on. War is a lie.

That Iraq was obstructing the inspectors;
Iraq could deploy WMD in 45 minutes;
The war would be easy to win;
That the Shia population of Basra had risen against their Sunni oppressors;
That our troops would face chemical and biological weapons;
That the interrogation of Iraqi scientists would reveal the location of WMD;
That Iraq's oil money would go to the Iraqis;
That Iraq WMD had been found.

And what about that concocted story about Jessica Lynch? These are high crimes and misdemeanours. Democracy is not possible when public servants are liars. And we had the unelected son of the war initiator, George W Bush, unleash his barbaric bleitzkreig and invasion of Iraq. The illegal initiation of an aggressive war at the beginning of the new milennium was preceded by the largest international peace demonstrations in the history of the world. My wife Theresa together with Ron Kovic and Jessica Lange waited in a frigid tent in Washington DC for what police chief Charles Ramsey said was one of the biggest demonstrations he'd ever seen. It looked like the size of the crowd Martin Luther King had for the I Have a Dream speech. If you want to review this, look at the Washington Post for Sunday, January 19, 2003. In spite of the please of hundreds of thousands of people freezing on the streets of Washington DC, the clear message of our government to its people at the opening of the 21st century - once again - "We don't care what you want. We're going to have a war on behalf of the Wall Street, military industrial congressional prison gun pharmaceutical complex. For the 1 Percent. Wages were all but frozen. Prices rose rapidly as financialization took place and took precedence over useful production. Indeed, profit without production led to a huge increase in the price of useful items. Dollars produced by making counterproductive military trash were looking for products of value. A 50,000 home was priced at 500,000 and then at a million. The economy tanked in 2008. The very reality of money is in question. It currently remains solely as a fiduciary instrument with no intrinsic value.

So I testify as a witness to war. Our Global Exchange delegation arrived in Baghdad in late December 1990. We didn't know if we could get in or get out of the country. We were very fortunate to see the most developed country in the Arab world just days before it was destroyed. But it's ironic that the tyrant Saddam Hussein operated within the constitution of 1921. He maintained separation of church and state. There was a high percentage of women in universities, both student and faculty, and they dressed as they wished. It was a successful secular state in the Arab world.

On New Year's Day of 1991 we went to Babylon and celebrated with the Iraqi people. It would be so good for our military to know that if one arrives in a foreign land without arms and without threats, the people are most often friendly and responsive, anxious to know about you and your land. Returning to Baghdad, we spent 5 hours with Yasser Arafat. He explained the irrational "we don't talk with you" position of the US. Andrew Young, our ambassador to the UN, had been fired for talking to Yasser Arafat, who made it clear to us that the key to everything in the Middle East was the criminal war in Palestine. The Arab world demanded that Palestine be free. Why did the United States not talk to Yasser Arafat? Why did we refuse to talk with our longstanding friend, King Hussein of Jordan? Because *we wanted a war, and we're going to have it*. We weren't interested in any relevant facts.

So it was a mentally ill policy. We repeated the deadly crime of the war in Indochina. Rampant torture, endless lies, bombing of civilians, smashing into private homes, killing and terrorizing families. Aggressive war is a form of rape. We knew absolutely nothing about the civilization we were destroying. ISIS is a mirror image of 12th century Christendom with its crusader states in the Levant.

Returning to the United States, we immediately entered in to civil disobedience against the Iraq catastrophe that our nation created. My wife, my son and I were arrested with many others at the Los Angeles Federal Building after being hogtied and on our bellies on the marble floor of that building. We were placed in basement cells. Many hours later, still in our cells, we heard the bombing of Iraq was taking place. 88,000 tons of bombs fell on primarily innocent people. None of the bombs were smart. None of those who created this disaster were smart. It was January 16, 1991.

No friends, there have not been two wars in Iraq. There was just one war that began in 1991 and continues to this day. And we've lost everything since the end of World War II - every unjust war we've launched. We say, cease and desist. This is why we testify.

Well, you got a little advance notice about this. It's happening in Washington. I do hope that you will take part in it if you can. And you'll be in touch with it on the web, if you cannot. Code Pink.org.

We will not tolerate racist thugs in the new administration. No Nazi-like listing of innocent people by racial and religious profiling. End the perpetual war now. Abolish the nukes now. Fear fearing fear is the theme song of this program. It was written by my son. Fear is the glue of corrupt government. Our children are now traumatized. Visit our schools The children are terrified. Obama's been breaking up families for years, and now there's going to be more of this.

It's time to study the underground railroad and establish a counterpart. We're proud of all the young people in the streets today. So grateful that they know the legacy of Dr. King and millions of others who have led on the road to justice. You know, Dr. King was happy that there was a Bull Connor. Can you believe that? The worst Connor was a public safety commissioner in Birmingham who became known as Bull Connor. Just take a look at this guy, and you'll understand what we're doing. Same with the upcoming head of state. Can you listen without nausea? We must watch out for "charisma." We know about positive charisma, but there's also negative charism, diabolical charisma, that can be used for evil. This is what we read Paul saying - "the principalities and powers," a reference to diabolical actions.

And what can we say of our establishment churches? Well, maybe I'll only speak about mine, or maybe the others as well. Congratulations to white Catholics. 60 percent voted for Trump. Sometimes with the encouragement of their bishops. 37 percent voted for Clinton. Hispanics Catholics, however - 67 percent voted for Hillary, 26 percent voted for Trump. Now why in the name of hell would they do this?

Well, I think that we can look to two things. Contraception and abortion. Why is it that church leaders focus so much attention on medical and psychological matters? They do not understand. It's because the churches are great about wholesaling guilt to their people. They create guilt in the individual, focusing attention on the sex lives of good people as a way of diverting attention from war. War is part of our national religion, and for many church people - they're much more dedicated to the war government than they are to the carpenter of Nazareth. It does not cost the church anything to attack individuals who seek help with unwanted pregnancies. It doesn't cost the church dollar and tax exemptions that would be the price of protesting mass murder in Iraq and many other countries. Think about that. That's why I call my new book The Nicene Heresy. The Heresy war for the church to come under the guidance of the Roman Empire. The Roman Imperial strategies, including the fact that you don't criticize the Empire, you criticize the people and make them feel guilty.

A recent report from the Journal of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Maternal Mortality, infant mortality doubled between 2011 and 2014. Texas now has the highest rate of maternal mortality in the developed world. The US in general rate with Qatar and Bahrain. California is the only state to significantly lower maternal mortality. This is the result of a warped and sick religiosity which attack women's rights and support aggressive war. It's unsafe to condemn innocent women and their rights. It's safe to support murder and endless wars. Do you think that politicians are really concerned about abortion? They don't give a damn about how many of our young people and people who live overseas are abolished in war. So thanks to opportunistic bishops who basically told their faithful to vote for what's his name. And thanks to Katha Pollit for her article in the Nation.

Do we hear any protests in any parishes about the 30 million people our government has killed since the end of World War II? Do we think there's anything wrong with giving Saudi Arabia cluster bombs to kill Yemeni children? On the contrary, we've heard hawkish comments from the religious hierarchy in America. We're happy with the Archbishop of Los Angeles, supporting immigrants. But it would be nice if the bishops also could be a strong voice in opposition to perpetual war. They are not, they have not been. Instead they hold onto an imperial just war theory that was used constantly to support the massacres of Christendom. There's no such thing as a just aggressive war. It happens to be the supreme international crime. And the wars that were supported from the days of the Inquisition, the Conquistadores, the Crusaders -- all aggressive war making. The tools for non-violent resistance have been honed for decades. Now is the time to use them to their fullest. These tools are not Mickey Mouse. The boycott. Tax protests. Street demonstrations. Accompaniment of immigrants. Divestment from war corporations. Sanctions on all war mongering politicians. Get them out. Friends, our people have been silenced for years by friend fascism. We are the greatest prison state on earth. A million homeless people, including many children, remain on our streets. Our mentally ill go without treatment. The vast majority of our people do not have adequate access to medical or dental care. We do not have a right to education or medical care or housing - all of this flies in the face of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that is international law. We must put that law into practice.

The fascism is no longer friendly. The fangs are visible. It's time for government to get out of the way and to allow our people their hopes and desires. For this, we pledge our lives and fortunes. Another memo for Mr. Trump: none of the world's major problems can be solved by a dictatorial United States. Each and every crisis, especially that of the environment, can be solved only by international law. The ocean is dying. The air stinks. The flora and fauna are

becoming extinct. Nothing in your plans, Mr. Trump, can save this planet. WE the people have read the constitution and must take our responsibility to govern justly. The electoral college is a remnant of slavery. There are a couple of reasons for it. First, our founding fathers didn't want mob rule (which is what they call democracy). Secondly, the slave states wanted to get more votes, so they counted all the 3/5 persons who were slaves and who couldn't vote and included them in their population count. And this, of course, is going to give them more electoral college votes. This ancient remnant of slavery and lack of democracy has to go. And we're so happy now that there's a very important website, national popular vote dot com. We can abolish the electoral college by way of the states. 11 have already done it. Go to national popular vote dot com and you'll see how. A constitutional amendment is not necessary. This is extremely important. We're the only nation in the world that has this archaic, counter productive system that shows no faith in the people and produces a kind of indirect election. You do not vote for a president in this country. You vote for an elector. And of course we have the fond hope that the electors to use their power not to elect the one who floated to the top in this recent circus.

In case you're not in touch with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, this is international law that our alleged incoming president is going to violate. He said he's going to violate it. What does the declaration say? Article 13 is about refugees.

Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.

Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Article 14:

Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.

This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.

Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled

to protection by society and the State.

Article 9:

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Well, we have a law and it's such a strange law - Obama was supporting it saying well, it won't go into effect on my watch. Isn't that nice. How long is your watch? A couple more weeks? Friends, I'm talking about the 2012 NDAA, sections 1021 and 1022, which authorizes the indefinite military detention without trial or charge of any person, including American citizens, and applies the law of war to US soil making the United States legally a battlefield. Friends, that's in force. It has to be opposed.

Federal district judge Katherine Forest issued a permanent injunction against the enforcement of 1021 and 1022. That was in July of 2013. But the Supreme Court put the final nail in the coffin by refusing to hear the case. The lawsuit was Hedges v Obama, which was brought by in 2012 by a group of journalists, scholars and activists, including people like Noam Chomsky, Chris Hedges, Daniel Ellsberg. The law apparently stands.

So we're in big trouble. WE have to work within and without the government. We have to understand all the various styles of protest. We cannot tolerate increasing fascism in our nation. And we have work to do. We have to become international in our thinking. Nationalism doesn't work, and the problems we have are not national, they are international. War. Climate. Environment.