

Peace Matters

There Is No
Peace Without
Justice

INTERNATIONAL SPACE ORGANIZING CONFERENCE

April 11-13, 2008, in Omaha, Nebraska

By Mark Welsch,
NFP Omaha Coordinator

The Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power In Space will hold its 16th Annual International Space Organizing Conference and Protest in Omaha, Nebraska. The conference begins with a bus trip from Creighton University to a rally at Kinney Gate at Offutt Air Force Base, the home of StratCom. All of the other meetings will be on the campus of Creighton University. Hundreds of people from around the world will come to Omaha from April 11 to 13, 2008, to learn first-hand about StratCom, the military installation that operates in America's heartland. For the first time, world citizens will gather to shine a light on what StratCom has become. Global Network affiliate Nebraskans for Peace is hosting this conference.

This will be a great opportunity to meet peace activists from other countries as they come to Omaha in April for this conference. Better yet, Omaha area people can host one or more persons who are attending the conference. Some have asked for help with housing in order to reduce costs. That also will give them a chance to talk with local people about their efforts to bring peace to the world. If you want to help by providing housing, please send a note to me at NFPomaha@NebraskansForPeace.org. To learn more and to register for this conference go to <http://www.space4peace.org:80/>

Located in the heart of the nation, just south of Omaha, the U.S. Strategic Command (StratCom) for years has been the site from which a nuclear war would be controlled. Since 9/11 its mission has expanded to become command central in the U.S.'s

"War on Terror" and for the U.S. plans to dominate space militarily.

This "New StratCom" is responsible for overseeing any Global "First Strikes," the National Security Agency, and Ballistic Missile Defense.

Thus, StratCom:

Has already drawn up the war plans for a space-directed assault on Iran's nuclear facilities and, upon approval from the President, will execute the attack;

Is spying on Americans from above with its satellite surveillance network by overseeing "warrantless wiretaps" on the ground;

Is authorized to attack any place on earth within one hour (using both conventional and nuclear weapons) under the White House's "Doctrine of Preemption" if the President "suspects" a threat to America's "national interests";

Is reviving the Cold War by pointing anti-ballistic missile installations at Russia from Eastern Europe and by containing China militarily with a ring of bases and naval destroyers from which to launch a first strike.

StratCom today is the most dangerous place on the face of the earth. It is secretive. Its mission is destabilizing. It operates outside the law. And its transformation has

occurred so quickly, most of the people in the world, including those in Nebraska, are completely unaware of its missions and dangers.

As things now stand, the next war the White House initiates will be planned, launched and directed by StratCom. Building global awareness is essential if we are to get StratCom to back away from the brink.

Join us! A form to register for this conference is printable at: <http://www.space4peace.org/actions/Stratcom%20conf%20brochure.indd.pdf>



Continued from page 1



FOURTH OMAHA PEACE AND JUSTICE EXPO

Saturday, April 26

By Elaine Wells,
Chairperson of Peacemakers Group

"I had just the right bank account to make a difference: nearly zero", said Sam Daley-Harris, the expo's anticipated keynote speaker. Director of the Microcredit Summit Campaign, Daley-Harris is living his dream of proving that one person can make a difference. And he has made a difference!

He will tell his story at the next Peace and Justice Expo, to be held at Lewis and Clark Middle School, 6901 Burt Street, from 9:30 a.m. To 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 26. In addition to his keynote address and his two workshops, there will be displays of local groups working for peace and justice, other workshops, live music, theater, food, and sharing of ideas. The expo has over 80 sponsoring organizations.

One of the many organizations that the Microcredit Summit Campaign organized was one called Jamii Bora. Nine years ago Ingrid Munro rounded up 50 beggars in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya, and started up Jamii Bora, which now has 60,000 borrowers and 170,000 savers. One of the fast climbers out of poverty was Joyce Wairimu of Kenya. In 1999 she was a beggar in one of the worst slums. Now she owns six businesses and employs 62 persons. She attributes her amazing success to a five-dollar loan and microfinancing.

Wilson Maina was one of the most wanted criminals. From his first loan of 20 dollars he built four businesses and has convinced hundreds of persons to abandon crime and lift themselves out

of poverty with the help of Jamii Bora.

Jamii Bora founder Munro said the average borrower hires three persons, which means four families have three meals a day and children in school. (The video "Jamii Bora: Reaching the Poorest with Microfinance" is available on Google.)

By the end of 2006 the Microcredit Summit Campaign had made loans to more than 133 million people, 93 million of whom were among the world's poorest. Almost 85 percent are women, and the loan repayment rate is about 98 percent.

Formerly a high school music teacher, Daley-Harris in 1980 started RESULTS, now one of the most effective international grassroots lobbying organizations in the world. In 1994 he wrote *Reclaiming Our Democracy: Healing the Break Between People and Government*, of which President Jimmy Carter said, "Many of the world's problems, including poverty, poor health and ignorance, are correctable... Sam Daley-Harris shows how to take action to eliminate these problems."

Volunteers are welcome. The contact person is Elaine Wells at 573-1702. The Web site is www.peaceexpo.org.

Nebraskans for Peace High School Scholarships

By Carol Windrum, NFP Member



Nebraskans for Peace will award three \$500 scholarships and six \$100 scholarships for high school seniors in the class of 2008 who wish to pursue a college education. The awards, based upon written essays, will be evenly divided among the three congressional districts. The recipients will be students

Answer:

Nicholas D. Kristof, in his article, "When We Torture," that appeared in the New York Times, Feb. 14, 2008, on page 31A

Application To Offer Hospitality For The International Global Network Against Weapons And Nuclear Power In Space Conference

The homes that will be given priority for hospitality for out-of-state and out-of-country guests will provide the following services:

1. Picking up guest(s) at the airport, probably on Friday, April 11 and taking them home (or for a bite to eat on the way home). I can do this: Yes – No ____
2. Transporting them to and from the conference at Creighton University on the 11th, 12th and 13th. (Attending with them would be really nice.) I can transport them: Yes – No ____
3. Taking them to the airport on Sunday the 13th. I can do this: Yes – No ____

We may also need homes that are able to do only No. 1 and No. 3 and other persons to only transport guests from homes that cannot provide transportation.

How many available beds do you have?

____ single beds ____ double beds _____ other (explain, such as futon)

Do you have a dog or cat in your home or car? (Some guests will be allergic to them.) Yes – No ____

Do you smoke in your home or car? (Some guests will be asthmatic.) Yes – No ____

Name (Print) _____

Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phones Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Email address _____

Sent to: NFP, PO Box 6418, Omaha, NE 68106 or email the information to NFPOmaha@NebraskansForPeace.org

who wish to further their education in an area consistent with the mission of NFP: peace with justice through community building, education and political action.

Applications should go within the body of an email (not as an attachment) to NFPScholarship@gmail.com on or before April 10, 2008.

An application must contain the student's full name, address and congressional district, also the name of the anticipated college or university and the name of the high school she or he is attending and when she or he will graduate.

Following are the criteria for the application essay:

Select one of the NFP priorities. In our society these issues are frequently handled using harsh or violent means. Describe an alternative approach to that situation using non-violent or restorative justice techniques.

- Specify the procedures people would follow to implement your approach.
- Describe examples of specific behaviors based on those procedures.
- Identify obstacles to using your alternative approach.
- Evaluate how realistic your approach is.
- Use the Six + 1 Traits of Writing.
- 750 to 1,000 words.

For more details contact Carol Windrum at NFPScholarship@gmail.com.

The Folly of Attacking Iran

By Mark Welsch, NFP-Omaha Coordinator

On Monday evening February 18, it was a standing room only crowd as 80 people packed the room at the University of Nebraska at Omaha to hear Steven Kinzer, former New York Times foreign correspondent, talk about the folly of attacking Iran. He mentioned that many people in Iran like the United States and its people and that bombing it would quickly reduce that number to nearly zero. It is amazing that anyone in Iran likes the United States because in 1953 the CIA lead a coup of the first democratic regime Iran ever had.



The coup ushered in a quarter of a century of repressive rule under the Shah and caused the rise of Muslim fundamentalism and anti-Americanism throughout the Middle East. Kinzer said that our very own Senator Chuck Hagel would be a good person to send to Iran to start diplomatic talks with them. To learn more about Iran, read his book "All The Shah's Men: An American Coup and the Roots of Middle East Terror," a national bestseller.

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Question: Who said, "To stand against torture and arbitrary detention is not to be squeamish. It is to be civilized."? (See *inside*.)

Calendar of Events

Every Monday, 7:45-8:15 a.m. Peace Vigil outside of Kinney Gate at Offutt Air Force Base in Bellevue. Sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters in South Omaha. For more information contact Sr. Marian Klostermann at 731-2910.

Every Monday, 7:00-8:00 p.m. UNO-NFP Chapter meeting in the State Room on the third floor of the Milo Bail Student Center at UNO. Contact Candella Foley-Finchem 712-520-4298 for more information.

Every Wednesday, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Peace Vigil at Strat-Com/UNO, 6825 Pine Street (east of UNO Scott Technology Center). For more information contact Jerry Ebner, cwomaha@gmail.com or at 502-5887.

Every Saturday, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Impeach Cheney and Bush and End the War Demonstration. Contact Elaine at 415-9500 for more information.

March 8, 6:00 p.m. Potluck meal, 7:00 p.m. meeting of the Progressive Omaha group at 4924 Chicago Street. All progressive people are welcome. Contact person is Jack Dunn at 551-2552.

March 12, 6:00 p.m. NFP Omaha Leadership meeting at Augustana Lutheran Church, 3647 Lafayette Avenue. All are welcome. Contact person is Mark Welsch at 453-0776.

March 19, 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. 5th Anniversary of the war in Iraq Peace Vigil at the foot bridge over Dodge Street near 60th and Dodge. Think what the \$495 billion spent on this war so far could have done for people in the United States and around the world! Please join us to show your outrage that the war continues on this important anniversary. Contact Elaine Wells at 415-9500 for more information.

March 28, 7:30 - 10:30 p.m. Take back the night rally, "A place free from sexual assault and abuse" Host: Women's Resource Center at UNO, at Pep Bowl on UNO Campus near 6001 Dodge Street. Contact Candella Foley-Finchem 712-520-4298 for more information.

March 31, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Palestinian Task Force meeting in Sisters of Mercy Apartments common room at 1705 S. 72nd Street. Contact Anne Else at 556-5184 for more information.

April 3 and 4, Dana College NFP Affiliate PeaceFest 9:00 a.m. on Thursday until 10:00 p.m. on Friday. Movies, speakers, music, presentations. For schedule of events contact Jo Peterson at 350-3019 or KJPeters@Dana.edu.

April 9, 6:00 p.m., NFP Omaha Leadership meeting at Augustana Lutheran Church, 3647 Lafayette Avenue. All are welcome. Contact person is Mark Welsch at 453-0776.

April 10, 6:00 p.m. Peace Seekers and Pizza, **7:00 p.m.** discussion, reflection and leadership support at 4924 Chicago Street. Contact person is Jo Peterson at 350-3019.

April 11-13, 2008, Annual Space Organizing Conference and Protest in Omaha. See story on Page 1. Contact person is Mark Welsch at 453-0776. Web site is www.space4peace.org

April 26, 2008, 9:30 a.m. To 5:00 p.m. Fourth Annual Omaha Peace and Justice Expo at Lewis and Clark Middle School, 6901 Burt Street. **See story in this newsletter.**

April Palestinian Task Force meeting. Contact Anne Else at 556-5184 for date, time and location of the meeting.