

Peace Tax Fund

Quarterly Update

National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund & The Peace Tax Foundation

Statement of the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund ~ on events of September 11, 2001

None of us will forget the horror of the September 11 attacks on New York and the Pentagon. We commend the administration and Congress for responding compassionately and swiftly to assist the rescue efforts and provide resources for recovery and rebuilding. We support the administration's efforts to mobilize U.S. law enforcement agencies to investigate and find the hijackers' accomplices; We hope that those who helped to plan and carry out these atrocities will soon be brought to justice before a court of law.

However, we oppose the current mobilization for war. War is not the answer to these crimes against humanity. The U.S. must not avenge these murders by means that result in the death and suffering of other innocents - even those who may share the same nationality, faith, or ethnic group as the alleged perpetrators. This would only result in an escalation of the tragic cycle of violence and hatred.

We have also grieved for others who suffer as a result of U.S. military actions, such as the many thousands of Iraqi children who have died as a result of our years-long embargo on food and medicine. Surely these actions are experienced as acts of terror. We must come to understand why there is such hatred directed against the U.S. Hatred does not justify evil actions. But it does not arise without some cause, and we must understand those causes, and act to ameliorate them.

Even though it is possible that the terrorists may have been guided by a vision of mortal conflict between Islam and the West, neither Islam nor Islamic peoples are our enemy. As we pursue those responsible for terror, we need to take care not to further inflame hatred between peoples - for that is the seed of future terrorism.

The U.S. has played a historic role in advancing freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. In this time of unprecedented catastrophe and sorrow we face many difficult decisions. The U.S. must not abandon these core values in the process of defending them; we must not sacrifice our own civil liberties in our search for security; we must not use instruments of totalitarianism or assassination in pursuit of justice. Our means must be consistent with our ends.

We must recognize the good that can come from the steady application of wisdom, compassion, and determination to live up to our highest and most humane ideals. Nonviolence is a force more powerful than actions based on a resort to violence.



In This Issue

Open Letter to President Bush.....	2
Exec Director's Column.....	3
Messages from the Front Line.....	4
Explaining the Inexplicable.....	5
Violence Begets Violence.....	9
Letter from the UN.....	11
They Can't See Why They Are Hated.....	12
Afghan Perspective.....	14
Left and Right Seek Balanced Response.....	15
Not In Our Name.....	16

Open letter to President G.W. Bush

Regarding the heinous attacks on New York and Washington

Dear Mr. President,

...You, as President of the nation, now face the unenviable question of how to react to this tragedy. Because your reaction will also affect our future, and the way we all live together on this world, we ask you to consider the following:

- There is no military 'answer' to terrorism...this only lays the foundation for more hate. The only way to really reduce the threat terrorists pose, is to take away the causes upon which they feed.
- The fight against terrorism should be one against the causes of injustice. We therefore ask you to take the lead in this fight.
- Your NATO partners, and indeed all other countries, would help you more by assisting with your legal investigation and with extraditions. Strengthening, not breaking, the international legal order will provide better protection for everyone against the terrorist threat and wanton violence.

[We urge you] to urgently forbid all secret services from arming, giving military training to, or financing groups. Violence spirals out, and gets bigger.

You have spoken of America leading the world to justice and peace. It could indeed be possible! With the amount the US spends every 92 days on military expenditure, we could ensure a decent human life for every person on this planet for one full year. It would pay for the costs of food, shelter, safe water, literacy, and health care for all in need.

Mr. President, wouldn't the world be a much safer place if none of our fellow human beings lived in misery? Conversely, will increasing the money for military spending really be able to protect your people more effectively than now?

America also exports more than half of all the arms exported worldwide. These weapons are used to kill and maim tens of thousands of men, women and children, each year. We are truly one humanity, all interconnected.

The blind and horrific violence and scale of these attacks borders on the unbearable. Our human minds can barely take it in.

We urge you, and all other governments with nuclear weapons under their control or on their soil, to immediately decommission the nuclear warheads and eliminate them as fast as possible. Mr. President, is this in reality not a time to repent? To repent of all violence?... A time to show the world, and the American people, a ray of hope where there is now only darkness? Terror, violence and hate must not prevail



We look to you.

Respectively,
Koen Moens, Leuven, Belgium
Helmar Lorenz, St. Odilienberg, Netherlands
Else Tonke, Germany
Klaus Waiditschka, Storkow-Hirchluch, Germany

The National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund & The Peace Tax Foundation



*Executive Director: Marian Franz
Outreach & Development: Tom Kierans
Editorial Assist.: Jennifer Beall
Administrative Asst: Greg Reagle
Chair: Steve Ratzlaff
Honorary Chair: David Bassett*

This newsletter is published quarterly. Annual membership of the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund costs \$35.

Since the Campaign advocates for the rights of conscience legislatively, gifts are not tax deductible. Tax-deductible contributions can be made to the Peace Tax Foundation, which educates the public about issues of taxes and war.

2121 Decatur Place, NW
Washington, DC 20008-1923
Phone: (202) 483-3751
Toll-free: (888) PEACE-TAX
Fax: (202) 986-0667
E-mail: info@peacetax.com
Web: <http://www.peacetax.com/>
Legislative Update Hotline (24 hr): (800) 550-6039

You are welcome to use or otherwise reproduce in other publications any or all of the contents of this newsletter, and we appreciate receiving copies of such uses.

Cassandra's Dilemma

Cassandra was the beautiful daughter of the last king of Troy. The god Apollo fell in love with her, but she refused his advances. To win her affections, Apollo made a proposal: if Cassandra agreed to love him, he would give her the gift of prophecy. Cassandra accepted the bargain, and was granted the ability to see the future. Now she could warn people of impending catastrophes and save the world!

Still, she could not bring herself to love Apollo, a fact that filled him with rage. Cassandra's gift could not be taken back, but the god took cruel revenge. He begged her for a single kiss. She consented. When their lips touched, Apollo breathed into Cassandra's mouth in such a way that no one would ever believe her prophecies.

Thereafter the doomed Cassandra could see dangers threatening others, but could not prevent them. She warned the Trojans that the Greeks would attack. They did nothing because they did not believe her. She warned that enemy soldiers were hidden inside the Trojan horse. Her warnings were unheeded and Troy fell forever.

I've never spurned Apollo as far as I know, yet even without his kiss, I know how Cassandra feels. Surely you too are familiar with Cassandra's dilemma of issuing unpopular warnings of avoidable danger and having them go unheeded.

In Alan AtKisson's book, *Believing Cassandra: An Optimist Looks at a Pessimist's World*, (which I owe for the ideas in this article) the author spells out Cassandra's global concerns: "At risk today are thousands of species, billions of people's lives, not to mention humanity's collective innocence." Many would also see a dire warning in the violence of still more increases in military spending when human needs and nature's need are so great. This can only create intolerable problems of pollution, economic distress and festering conflict over dwindling supplies of income and resources.

Our dilemma is ancient. The Old Testament/Torah informs us that Biblical prophets were well versed in Cassandra's dilemma. The slave-holding Egyptians were warned to let the Israelites go, but they ignore Moses and lose their first-born sons. The inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah orgy on toward destruction, despite warnings. There are many similar stories.

I find Noah's story particularly poignant. "In the days of Noah people were eating, drinking, marrying" and going about business as usual. They thought Noah's ark a folly.

Why was survival on earth threatened? According to the ancient text (Genesis 7,8) "The earth was corrupt...and full of violence" [emphasis added]. Our calling is like Noah's, to shepherd all species (including ours) to a safe ark away from this flood of violence and its repercussions. The planet is our ark and we're on it for keeps.

Why is it so hard to alert the body politic to global trouble? Why are warnings are so notoriously ineffective, and why do people, even those who believe you, still do nothing? One answer is that people simply don't want to know. We are resistant to hearing things that could be devastating. In his book on the environment, Al Gore suggests, "The minds of the people are unprepared to accept the political leadership that these conclusions would compel."

Cassandra's dilemma comes with weighty emotions of fear, anger and sadness, which can frighten and overpower us. We shake our heads in puzzlement. We cry. We sigh. In sharing these emotions, we discover a surprising new sense of hope and purpose.

Postscript 9-11-01: We too were "going on with business as usual." Rosa Packard and I were minutes outside New York City on our way to represent Conscience and Peace Tax International at a UN conference. As news of what had happened so near us dawned, fear took hold. Rosa's daughter-in-law worked on the 47th floor of the World Trade Center building. After several intense hours, we finally learned that she was safe, having escaped death by only a few minutes. My friend's daughter at the Pentagon was also safe.

Now we could mourn for the thousands we do not know. As prophets we must also consider the death of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi children suffering from an embargo on food and medicines. Certainly this is seen as terrorism by those who suffer. When we see outcomes we predicted, it would seem cathartic to shout a self-righteous, "I told you so!" Remember, however, that "success" for the prophet is measured by repentance, a turning back, a change of behaviour that will avoid further steps to catastrophe.

It seems appropriate to end with the words of Phyllis & Orlando Rodriguez whose son, Greg, is missing in the World Trade Center: "Not in our name...Our government is heading in the direction of violent revenge, with the prospect of sons, daughters, parents, friends in distant lands dying, and nursing further grievances against us. It is not the way to go. It will not avenge our son's death."



Marian Franz is Executive Director of the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund



Messages from the Front Line

~ *Extracts from e-mailed messages received by this office immediately after the terrorist attacks*

However understandable anger and a desire for revenge are, this desire cannot and should not guide my response. Nor should it govern the response of the United States and its allies such as Canada. What happened in New York and Washington and near Pittsburgh and possibly elsewhere are unacceptable acts of violence. But threatening war is a conscious escalation and addition to violence. It will not heal the victims of violence. It will not prevent future attacks. What will be the inevitable results of any retaliatory attack by the U.S. will be yet additional deaths of innocent people and a growth in fear and anger around the world. In these times of growing violence, in our homes and between nations, it is time to seriously reflect on our personal and collective desire to meet violence with violence. This is not a time to have political leaders claim that they will take revenge for the attack. It is not a time to accept cracking down on dissenting voices or accepting increased police powers in the name of security. It is time for reflection. It is time for consideration. It is time to understand that the experiences in New York and Washington are not unique and perhaps it is time to finally seek to put an end to violence as a political tool. It may be an idealistic demand—but it is perhaps time to be realistic and demand the impossible.



Things are quiet in Brooklyn, although we have all our windows closed because the smoke is still blowing this way, and I can't tell you how freaky it was to look up in the sky and see papers with burn marks blowing over our home (4 miles from the Trade Centers, which we could see from our roof). I said things are quiet, but actually we have heard sirens all day. I have sent my letter to the NY Times regarding the lack of "reassurance" I feel when official after official says that the U.S. will retaliate with all means necessary, etc. I said how reassuring it would be if the U.S. president said "we will not respond with violence." I hear there are some people planning a peace vigil tomorrow morning in front of Rockefeller Center. Not sure if the subways will get me there or not, but perhaps I will get some

more emails off to government officials with my pleas for nonviolence.



There is much to be said about this tragedy, and also nothing can be said, but this below is something. May cooler heads prevail over those focused on finger-pointing and retribution. Remember, though, the first casualty of war is truth and the chickens always come home to roost.



What Reem and I thought would be an ordinary day took a very tragic turn. After hearing what we thought was the sonic boom of a jet, reports of the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon began pouring in. A state of emergency was called. Federal workers were sent home. Emergency crews could be heard throughout the city. In the wake of today's terrorist attacks, we remain in deep shock. Tragically, we are hearing that the death toll is expected to be in the thousands. The grief is overwhelming. We encourage all people of faith and conscience to redouble efforts to foster a more peaceful, beloved world. In the face of such violence, compassionate voices for peace become all the more important.



I am still shocked by the images that have come into my house today. No matter that they are not strange—I have seen similar from Vietnam, the Gulf War, ex-Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Israel, Palestine and other places of war and violence. What was so frightening was really how close to home the actions were. A complex of buildings I've visited was destroyed by hijacked planes. A building I've protested at was damaged by a hijacked plane. Other places, including an airport near Pittsburgh, were mentioned by news broadcasts as being attacked by a hi-jacked plane. Friends of mine have flown out of that airport. There are images of women and children and men injured. There are reports of thousands of fatalities. I am frightened and angry and confused. I understand, viscerally, the desire for

(continued on page 6)

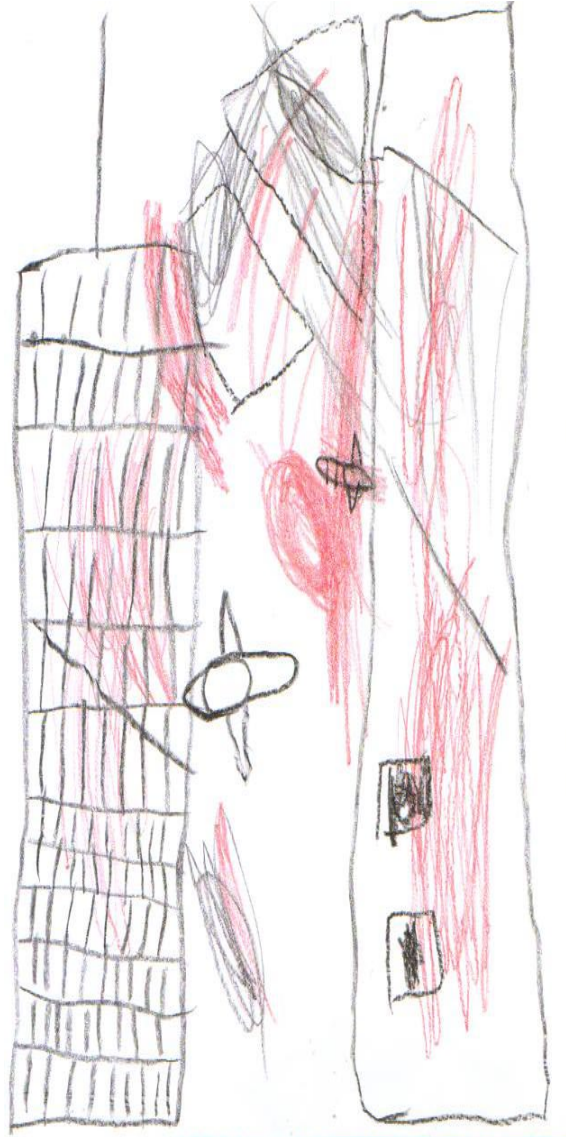
Explaining the Inexplicable

BY TOM KIERANS

“I didn’t even have my nap yet!” announced my delighted 5 year old son when I collected him from school on September 11, 2001. His school is 4 blocks from the dome of the US Capitol building, and three planes had hit New York and DC about an hour before. As we walked home, I realized that I hadn’t thought about how to explain his brief school day to him.

“There were some airplane crashes, and with all the confusion it is just better for people to be at home” was the best I could come up with. We fly quite frequently, including home to Ireland, and I want to do what I can to avoid him being anxious about such journeys. “Where were the crashes?” He was so disappointed; just weeks ago he had visited New York with his maternal grandparents and had dithered before electing to visit the Statue of Liberty instead of the World Trade Center twin towers. Now they were gone. “Were people killed?” I said that I didn’t know. “It might have been just full of packages,” he speculated, “who did it?” “It seems that some very mean people did it on purpose,” I told him. I really should have collected my thoughts before collecting him. “But, wouldn’t they be dead then themselves? Why would anyone do that?” I couldn’t think of an appropriate answer, beyond “politics”. I diverted instead to what a mean thing it was to do to the people in the buildings. It

didn’t take long for his attention to wander from the news coverage to wanting to watch children’s television and to play with his toys. He built a Lego tower and smashed it with a toy plane, over and over.



*The world according to
Liam Kierans, aged 5 1/2*

and destruction, when a sane world would allow him to focus on his lawyerly arguments against going to bed on time.

I haven’t heard of anyone I know personally being a victim of the attacks in NY or DC, and I hope I don’t. Life will gradually return to normal for my family and for that we’re very grateful. I am bracing myself, though, for the anticipated “retribution” bombing somewhere else, when my son will see misery inflicted on other people he doesn’t know. I know that he’ll want to know, since the NY and DC attacks were so obviously terrible, why anyone could think it a good idea to attack people somewhere else. I’ll have to avoid a “they did it first” explanation, since we don’t allow him to use that about his little brother. The diplomatic equivalent of sending the perpetrators to their collective room doesn’t quite seem appropriate or likely, so I expect to have many more difficult conversations about death



revenge, to track down those responsible for causing so much suffering. Until I was able to talk directly to friends in the United States I was close to panic wondering if those I care about were injured or dead. I never want to go through that sensation again. But I am sure that there are people in East Timor and Tibet and Chiapas and Zimbabwe who have felt that sensation before, repeatedly and without the hope that fear was a response to an isolated effort. Perhaps they learned anger and a desire for revenge due to their exposure to political violence. I certainly felt it with my small experience.



Today we have the opportunity to forgive. We have the choice to respond to violence with more violence or to find a new way. Today we have the choice to love. Nonviolence is love. It is the loving choice. Every day we have choices. We make choices about the way we treat ourselves, the way we speak to ourselves, the way we think about others. Every day we have the opportunity to move the world in a direction of peace through our nonviolent choice and action. Today I make the choice to forgive. Not because the terrorists have earned it, but because it is the only loving choice. I forgive even my leaders who are, at this moment, responding in fear and anger.



No words can express what all of us are feeling right now, but we wanted to take a moment to reach out to you. I don't know exactly how to say this, but the people on this list, and the organizations and ideals they represent, are stronger than what happened here today. Wherever you are, we hope that you and your family are well.



It appears that the media are giving a great deal of play to talk of revenge and retaliation. Two networks I have watched are even fanning the flames by replaying the tape of Palestinians celebrating the tragedy over and over again. I would like to ask you all to think of what we might do to calm this rhetoric and help raise the awareness

about trading hate for hate. I also think we might think about how to help protect people who might be targeted, such as Arabs and Muslims. While no blame has been laid for this act yet, it appears that Osama bin Laden is the prime suspect and many on the street are blaming Palestinians. We may need to put peace witnesses in front of mosques and Arab businesses or something of that ilk.



Today's attacks were major atrocities. In terms of number of victims they do not reach the level of many others, for example, Clinton's bombing of the Sudan with no credible pretext, destroying half its pharmaceutical supplies and probably killing tens of thousands of people (no one knows, because the US blocked an inquiry at the UN and no one cares to pursue it). Not to speak of much worse cases which easily come to mind. But that this was a horrendous crime is not in doubt. The primary victims, as usual, were working people: janitors, secretaries, firemen, etc. It is likely to prove to be a crushing blow to Palestinians and other poor and oppressed people. It is also likely to lead to harsh security controls, with many possible ramifications for undermining civil liberties and internal freedom. The events reveal, dramatically, the foolishness of ideas about "missile defense." As has been obvious all along, and pointed out repeatedly by strategic analysts, if anyone wants to cause immense damage in the US, including weapons of mass destruction, they are highly unlikely to launch a missile attack, thus guaranteeing their immediate destruction. There are innumerable easier ways that are basically unstoppable. But today's events will, nonetheless, be used to increase the pressure to develop these systems and put them into place. "Defense" is a thin cover for plans for militarization of space, and with good PR, even the flimsiest arguments will carry some weight among a frightened public. In short, the crime is a gift to the hard jingoist right, those who hope to use force to control their domains. That is even putting aside the likely US actions, and what they will trigger — possibly more attacks like this one, or worse. The prospects ahead are even more ominous than they appeared to be before the latest atrocities.

(continued on page 7)

We condemn without reservation attacks such as those which occurred today, which strike at thousands of civilians; may these profound tragedies remind us of the impact U.S. policies have had on other civilians in other lands. We also condemn reflexive hostility against people of Arab descent living in this country and urge that Americans recall the part of our heritage that opposes bigotry in all forms. We are one world. We shall live in a state of fear and terror or we shall move toward a future in which we seek peaceful alternatives to violence, and a more just distribution of the world's resources. As we mourn the many lives lost, our hearts call out for reconciliation, not revenge.



September 11 was a day of sadness, anger and fear. Like everyone in the United States and around the world, I shared the deep sadness at the deaths of thousands. But as I listened to people around me talk, I realized the anger and fear I felt were very different, for my primary anger is directed at the leaders of this country and my fear is not only for the safety of Americans but for innocent civilians in other countries. It should need not be said, but I will say it: The acts of terrorism that killed civilians in New York and Washington were reprehensible and indefensible; to try to defend them would be to abandon one's humanity. No matter what the motivation of the attackers, the method is beyond discussion. But this act was no more despicable than the massive acts of terrorism — the deliberate killing of civilians for political purposes — that the U.S. government has committed during my lifetime. For more than five decades throughout the Third World, the United States has deliberately targeted civilians or engaged in violence so indiscriminate that there is no other way to understand it except as terrorism. And it has supported similar acts of terrorism by client states. To the president, I can only say: The stilled voices of the millions killed in Southeast Asia, in Central America, in the Middle East as a direct result of U.S. policy are the evidence of our resolve for justice and peace.



Sept. 11 will go down in infamy, along with Dec. 7. Our first inclination is to bomb those who are of the same nation or faith, to get even, for revenge. But, if we bomb somewhere, many people will be killed who had no part in the crime. This is an irrational emotion that needs to be repressed. Our true enemies are those who preach hatred, violence and terrorism and we need to focus on educating them to the error of their ways. Hamas, Hezbollah, Taliban, Tamil Tigers, Armed Islamic Group and many similar terrorist groups are preaching that God approves of their hatred and terrorism. This is not true religion. They are teaching the opposite of what the true religions teach. At an international conference of Muslims in 1998, they issued a statement that Islam does not approve of terrorism. Few people know that Islam teaches kindness, tolerance of other religions and equality of men and women. The deviations we are seeing are distortions of true Islam. The Koran approves of war under certain conditions, but war must be limited to warriors, not innocents. Our revenge should be focused on teaching the whole world that Hamas, Hezbollah, Taliban, etc. are teaching a false belief. Teaching hatred and violence should be outlawed. The concept of freedom of religion must not be based on a definition of religion which would allow the preaching of breaking secular moral laws. It needs to be common knowledge in all the world that suicide bombers are not heroes.



I have noticed such immense clarity among my friends and colleagues about how to look at the tragedy. Along with the pain and shock that everyone feels, I have heard a universal sense that we need to find out why our country has created such hatred, and a need to rethink our foreign policies that often promote bombing or other harm to civilians. Then, if you listen to the popular media, there is almost total consensus that revenge is justified and that we have to go to war over this. If we knew who had done this, it might already be happening. I want to urge all my clear thinking colleagues and friends to WRITE to the US

(continued on page 8)

president, vice president and to Colin Powell, RIGHT NOW!!! It would also be good to contact NATO leaders, if someone could find contact information for them. Please let them know that we need to be civilized, and to seek justice, not revenge. Please urge them not to give up the democratic principles they cherish in reaction to this tragedy..



I can't describe what's going on in my mind. It's so terrible. All the people in Germany are shocked, filled with indignation and are very, very sad. All TV and radio channels are sending news around the clock about what's going on in your country. Many people are crying for you. Nobody is talking about anything else. I'm thinking of everyone there in these awful hours and days. I am afraid of the consequence of this terrorism. Will there be a third world war? I can't describe what's going on in my mind. It's so terrible. All the people in Germany are shocked, filled with indignation and are very, very sad.



Didn't the US bring the Taliban to prominence in the first place, to counter the communists? Sounds a bit like Israel furthering Hamas some years ago, as a counter-weight to the PLO. As ye sew.



We reject all violence as a political weapon. We especially abhor and reject attacks on civilians. No political cause, no historic injustice, and no political goal or religious belief, no matter how lofty, can possibly justify the inhumanity of today's violence. In light of the bewilderment and understandable anger caused by today's violence, we encourage people to avoid hasty conclusions and racial or religious stereotyping. We encourage support for our political leadership in the hope that they develop a humane and prudent response. We warn against a spirit of revenge or counterproductive acts of counter-violence. Religious fanaticism and bigotry, political demagoguery, opportunism and belligerence, violence and terrorism are antithetical

(continued from page 10)

To get any troops to Afghanistan, we'd have to go through Pakistan. Would they let us? Not likely. The conquest of Pakistan would have to be first. Will other Muslim nations just stand by? You see where I'm going. The invasion approach is a flirtation with global war between Islam and the West. And that is Bin Laden's program. That's exactly what he wants and why he did this thing. Read his speeches and statements. It's all right there.

At the moment, of course, "Islam" as such does not exist. There are Muslims and there are Muslim countries, but no such political entity as Islam. Bin Laden believes that if he can get a war started, he can constitute this entity and he'd be running it. He really believes Islam would beat the west. It might seem ridiculous, but he figures if he can polarize the world into Islam and the West, he's got a billion soldiers. If the West wrecks a holocaust in Muslim lands, that's a billion people with nothing left to lose, even better from Bin Laden's point of view. He's probably wrong about winning, in the end the west would probably overcome - whatever that would mean in such a war - but the war would last for years and millions would die, not just theirs but ours. Who has the belly for that? Bin Laden yes, but anyone else?

I don't have a solution. But I do believe that suffering and poverty are the soil in which terrorism grows. Bin Laden and his cohorts want to bait us into creating more such soil, so they and their kind can flourish. We can't let him do that. That's my humble opinion.

Tamim Ansary is an Afghanistan writer, now living in the US



Violence Begets Violence

BY JENNIFER BEALL

Our nation and the world are in shock after the events of September 11, 2001. The news networks have given the tragedy labels such as "Attack on America". The front pages of newspapers everywhere have fiery pictures and headlines ranging from "UNDER ATTACK" to one British tabloid's headline "IS THIS THE END OF THE WORLD?" Although there have been many threats against our country, it is hard for us to believe that such an attack could actually happen here. As each event was announced in the continuing radio and television coverage that morning, it became more unbelievable. At one point, it was thought that several targets in Washington, DC had been attacked, including the White House and the State Department. We wondered what would come next. I'm writing this shortly after the tragedy, and I do not want to imagine what the aftermath will be.

When it first became clear that the planes did not crash into the World Trade Center by accident, I thought immediately that this gave the lie to the assertion that a National Missile Defense would make our country safe from attack. I took it as support for my belief that violence is not an effective solution. After all, if men with knives can hijack a commercial airliner and crash it into the World Trade Center, is it not hard to believe that there is a workable military solution to the world's problems?

We are not accustomed to such acts taking place on our soil. Across the country, airports, schools, federal buildings, financial markets, skyscrapers, shopping malls, and amusement parks were closed. Major league baseball games were all postponed, the first time this has happened since D-Day in World War II. It is also the first time since the end of World War II that U.S. financial markets have been closed for two consecutive days.

As I left my office to go home on the 11th, I carefully studied the faces of the others I saw on the street. Did this person laughing with her friend not know what had happened? Was there anyone who was still unaware? What should we say to each other? What was an appropriate response to the greeting "How are you?" I half expected people to be panicking; after all, at one point it was thought that there were multiple targets in the District of Columbia. Who knew whether there would be further attacks? I thought the Metro (Washington's underground rail system) would be jammed with people fleeing the city. Neither of these turned out to be true; the biggest crowds I saw were in Union Station, where people who needed to take Amtrak and commuter trains out of the city were waiting for service to resume.

My reaction to the tragedy (in addition to shock and grief) was to think that this was clear evidence that we should explore non-military solutions to the world's problems. I thought of the saying "Violence begets violence." These attacks did not come out of a vacuum. If the world had not established the idea that violence was a way to be noticed and to achieve one's goals, this would not have happened. Unfortunately, not everyone shared my reaction. I was chilled to hear the first commentator who declared that this was an act of war similar to, yet worse than, the attack on Pearl Harbor. If we knew now, as we did at Pearl Harbor, who was responsible for the attack, would we react similarly to the way we did then? I hope not, but I am far from certain; the President, in his remarks, has made clear that he wants and expects to achieve vengeance. I was disturbed when another commentator declared that the perpetrators must have been from a religious group, as no one else would do such a thing as this. It is painful to think that belief in God, which gives comfort to so many of us in a time like this, can also inspire violent acts.

(continued on page 13)

to a humane and democratic society. We must remember that the strength of our nation is rooted in our peoples' religious and cultural diversity, our mutual tolerance and understanding, our pragmatic approach to solving problems, the rule of law and our constitutionally protected freedoms.



The Washington Peace Center would like to offer our support and deepest condolences for those lost and injured in the attacks of the Pentagon and the World Trade Center on Tuesday, September 11th.

The Washington Peace Center condemns the terrorist attacks on civilians in New York and Washington. In the wake of such violence, we call for people of conscience to come together and redouble our efforts to foster a just and peaceful world. We call for U.S. officials to step with trepidation and not retaliate violence with vengeance.

Violent tactics employed in yesterday's attacks cannot be used to find the perpetrators. We stand in solidarity with our American-Arab and American-Muslim friends in urging communities to create environments free of racism and religious persecution.



Unsure of the right response to the situation, but I do know that years of tit-for-tat have not ended terrorist acts between both sides in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. When a "side"/group/cause feels deep injustice, be it those in the Middle East, American slavery abolitionists, or pro-lifers, there are always some folks ready to do battle over the decades, no matter the cost to themselves.



We are concerned, however, about how the U.S. government responds now. First, we are concerned that the U.S. not avenge these attacks with attacks upon other innocent people who may happen to be of the same nationality, faith, or ethnic group as the alleged perpetrators. This concern extends to protecting the safety and rights of people here at home. Many in this country of the Islamic faith or of Middle Eastern descent are worried that they may now become the unwarranted focus of suspicion in their communities or, worse, the subjects of unjust persecution. Second, many in the administration and Congress have declared that a state of war now exists. We are concerned that these public statements may be stirring the popular will and expectation for war. We wonder: War against whom? Cooler heads must prevail in the U.S. government during this time of crisis. War will only compound the tremendous assault on humanity that has already occurred. War is not the answer. The people who committed these acts struck with hatred. They saw the people in the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the aircraft as faceless enemies. They denied the humanity of their victims. The U.S. must not commit the same sin by compounding the hatred, violence, and injustice of these attacks with its own acts of terror and war against another people, most of whom are innocent of these crimes. Finally, the people who planned these suicide attacks were able to draw volunteers from a growing number of people around the world who harbor deep resentment and anger toward the U.S. It is important that we in the U.S. try to hear and understand the sources of this anger. If we in the U.S. do not seek to understand and address the roots of this anger--poverty, injustice, and hopelessness--then the violence may well continue, no matter what the U.S. does to try to prevent it.



Letter from the UN

BY ROSA COVINGTON PACKARD

The National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund (NCPTF) is the U.S. member of Conscience and Peace Tax International (CPTI). Marian Franz, Rosa Covington Packard, and John Randall, who are board members of the NCPTF, represent CPTI at the United Nations in New York. *Quarterly Update* carries Rosa's regular 'Letter from the UN' column.

Marian Franz joined me in attending the annual conference for NGOs Monday September 10th at the United Nations in New York. We made plans to meet with other NGO representatives Tuesday and Wednesday and attended a gathering organized by the Hague Appeal for Peace to discuss their Global Campaign for Peace Education. They have just published a 60 page magazine for youth, entitled *Time to Abolish War*, compiled by Jo Tyler and Adam Berry. It is filled with resources and positive examples of ways to be involved in working for peace and justice. The right to refuse to kill - conscientious objection- is discussed on page 38. On page 51 there is an excellent piece by Martin Kelley defining direct action and mentioning that "If you want to stop military spending, it might be refusing to pay your income taxes." A teacher resource is soon to be published and an annual institute for educators is planned. This year it was in Lebanon and next year it will be in the Philippines.

On Tuesday September 11th as we went in to New York City on the train from Connecticut to Grand Central Station, we were told that the subways were not working. The train was stopped at Pelham and we gradually began to hear reports of the disaster at the World Trade Center. With other passengers we boarded a train returning to our points of origin. It was then that other passengers with cell phones coming out from the city told us bits of the dreadful news. I froze with concern because my daughter-in-law's office was on the 47th floor of the World Trade Center. We returned to my home to vigil. Later that day I learned that because she had voted in the primary and was delayed going to work and because she had ignored the request of the subway operators to remain in the subway at the stop near

the World Trade Center "because of a problem", she walked, saw the devastation and walked north away from the building area before it collapsed. With others I wept with relief for those safely home and with grief for those who did not come safely home.

The UN was evacuated that day and the conference did not continue. The Special Session on Children has been postponed. Marian returned to Washington Wednesday when we learned that Amtrak trains were following their regular schedules. Like everyone else we have been in touch with friends and family to learn of their condition. In talking with others we remind them of the futility of military solutions which escalate the violence and put us all at increased risk and we remind them that the United States has committed numerous acts of violence in the Middle East, killing civilians and destroying infrastructure. Those affected by US bombs regard these acts as terrorism and as war. Whoever commits violence anywhere in the world needs to be stopped from doing so and to be held accountable without resorting to further violence.

With the help of Heather Ostman and funds from the Peace Concerns Committee of New York Quakers, copies have been made of the tapes of the panel held at the UN in June: "Educating Children about Their Human Right to Conscience Objection". We are preparing a written transcript of the talks by Michael Hovey (Pax Christi), Betty Reardon (Global Campaign for Peace Education), and Janet Chisholm, Douglas Hostetter and Ibrahim Ramey from the Fellowship of Reconciliation.



They Can't See Why They Are Hated

BY SEUMAS MILNE

Americans cannot ignore what their government does abroad

Nearly two days after the horrific suicide attacks on civilian workers in New York and Washington, it has become painfully clear that most Americans simply don't get it. From the president to passersby on the streets, the message seems to be the same: this is an inexplicable assault on freedom and democracy, which must be answered with overwhelming force - just as soon as someone can construct a credible account of who was actually responsible.

Shock, rage and grief there has been aplenty. But any glimmer of recognition of why people might have been driven to carry out such atrocities, sacrificing their own lives in the process - or why the United States is hated with such bitterness, not only in Arab and Muslim countries, but across the developing world - seems almost entirely absent. Perhaps it is too much to hope that, as rescue workers struggle to pull firefighters from the rubble, any but a small minority might make the connection between what has been visited upon them and what their government has visited upon large parts of the world.

But make that connection they must, if such tragedies are not to be repeated, potentially with even more devastating consequences. US political leaders are doing their people no favours by reinforcing popular ignorance with self-referential rhetoric. And the echoing chorus of Tony Blair, whose determination to bind Britain ever closer to US foreign policy ratchets up the threat to our own cities, will only fuel anti-western sentiment. So will calls for the defence of "civilisation", with its overtones of Samuel Huntington's poisonous theories of post-cold war confrontation between the west and Islam, heightening perceptions of racism and hypocrisy.

As Mahatma Gandhi famously remarked when asked his opinion of western civilisation, it would be a good idea. Since George Bush's father inaugurated his new world order a decade ago, the US, supported by its British ally, bestrides the world like a colossus. Unconstrained by any superpower rival or system of global governance, the US giant has rewritten the global financial and trading system in its own interest; ripped up a string of treaties it finds inconvenient; sent troops to every corner of the globe; bombed Afghanistan, Sudan, Yugoslavia and Iraq without troubling the United Nations; maintained a string of murderous embargos against recalcitrant regimes; and recklessly thrown its weight behind Israel's 34-year illegal military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza as the Palestinian intifada rages.

If, as yesterday's Wall Street Journal insisted, the east coast carnage was the fruit of the Clinton administration's Munich-like appeasement of the Palestinians, the mind boggles as to what US Republicans imagine to be a Churchillian response.

It is this record of unabashed national egotism and arrogance that drives anti-Americanism among swaths of the world's population, for whom there is little democracy in the current distribution of global wealth and power. If it turns out that Tuesday's attacks were the work of Osama bin Laden's supporters, the sense that the Americans are once again reaping a dragons' teeth harvest they themselves sowed will be overwhelming.

It was the Americans, after all, who poured resources into the 1980s war against the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul, at a time when girls could go to school and women to work. Bin Laden and his mojahedin were armed and trained by the CIA and MI6, as

(continued on page 13)

(continued from page 7)

A man who called in to an evening television show said what I was thinking, even that "Violence begets violence" and that we as a nation must take some of the responsibility for having created an atmosphere that makes such attacks possible. One of the guests on the television show responded to the man's remarks by saying that he hated those who had done this; the caller continued to maintain his position that hate is not a solution. I felt like cheering; I was happy to hear someone express my feelings in a public forum. Of course, I cannot blame people for feeling hatred towards the attackers; it is a natural human reaction, and it is not healthy to suppress such feelings where they occur. Still, I hope that these feelings will not lead to rash actions on the part of our leaders that will exacerbate, not alleviate, the situation.

As with many tragedies, this one has also inspired some positive reactions. One of the news stations here in Washington, DC pointed out that people waiting for Metro trains were talking to each other, which is not usual. People are lining up at medical centers all over the country to give blood, whereas blood banks typically experience shortages. Mayor

Giuliani of New York expressed thanks for all of the help that has been offered and said that no more volunteers are needed; they already have more than they know what to do with. Most countries have temporarily forgotten their differences with the United States as the world mourns with us. I have heard religious and other leaders express a need to forgive our enemies and to avoid violence; this gives me hope.

At the time of this writing, no one has come forward to claim responsibility. Of course, the president has declared that he will find and punish the guilty parties and "those who harbor them." There is a scramble to find a scapegoat, with Osama Bin Laden being the most talked-about candidate. I'm afraid that without specific culprits (and even with them), there may be generalized anger against those of Arab or other Middle Eastern descent. My husband told me he thought it would probably be best if we never did find out who did this. I tend to agree. Let us grieve, dig out from under the rubble, and continue with our lives, suddenly aware that even we are vulnerable.



(continued from page 12)

Afghanistan was turned into a wasteland and its communist leader Najibullah left hanging from a Kabul lamp post with his genitals stuffed in his mouth.

But by then Bin Laden had turned against his American sponsors, while US-sponsored Pakistani intelligence had spawned the grotesque Taliban now protecting him. To punish its wayward Afghan offspring, the US subsequently forced through a sanctions regime which has helped push 4m to the brink of starvation, according to the latest UN figures, while Afghan refugees fan out across the world.

All this must doubtless seem remote to Americans desperately searching the debris of what is expected to be the largest-ever massacre on US soil - as must

the killings of yet more Palestinians in the West Bank yesterday, or even the 2m estimated to have died in Congo's wars since the overthrow of the US-backed Mobutu regime. "What could some political thing have to do with blowing up office buildings during working hours?" one bewildered New Yorker asked yesterday.

Already, the Bush administration is assembling an international coalition for an Israeli-style war against terrorism, as if such counter-productive acts of outrage had an existence separate from the social conditions out of which they arise. But for every "terror network" that is rooted out, another will emerge - until the injustices and inequalities that produce them are addressed.

from The Guardian, Britain, September 13, 2001



Afghan Perspective

BY TAMIM ANSARY

Yesterday I heard a lot of talk about "bombing Afghanistan back to the Stone Age." Ron Owens, on KGO Talk Radio allowed that this would mean killing innocent people, people who had nothing to do with this atrocity, but "we're at war, we have to accept collateral damage," and he asked, "What else can we do? What is your suggestion?" Minutes later I heard a TV pundit discussing whether we "have the belly to do what must be done." And I thought about these issues especially hard because I am from Afghanistan, and even though I've lived here for 35 years I've never lost track of what's been going on over there. So I want to share a few thoughts with anyone who will listen.

I speak as one who hates the Taliban and Osama Bin Laden. There is no doubt in my mind that these people were responsible for the atrocity in New York. I fervently wish to see those monsters punished. But the Taliban and Ben Laden are not Afghanistan. They're not even the government of Afghanistan. The Taliban are a cult of ignorant psychotics who captured Afghanistan in 1997 and have been holding the country in bondage ever since.

Bin Laden is a political criminal with a master plan. When you think Taliban, think Nazis. When you think Bin Laden, think Hitler. And when you think "the people of Afghanistan" think "the Jews in the concentration camps." It's not only that the Afghan people had nothing to do with this atrocity. They were the first victims of the perpetrators. They would love for someone to eliminate the Taliban and clear out the rats nest of international thugs holed up in their country. I guarantee it.

Some say, if that's the case, why don't the Afghans rise up and overthrow the Taliban themselves? The answer is, they're starved, exhausted, damaged, and incapacitated. A few years ago, the United Nations estimated that there are 500,000 disabled orphans in Afghanistan—a country with no economy, no food. Millions of Afghans are widows of the approximately two million men killed during the war with the Soviets.

And the Taliban has been executing these women for being women and has buried some of their opponents alive in mass graves. The soil of Afghanistan is littered with land mines and almost all the farms have been destroyed.

The Afghan people have tried to overthrow the Taliban. They haven't been able to. We come now to the question of bombing Afghanistan back to the Stone Age. Trouble with that scheme is, it's already been done. The Soviets took care of it. Make the Afghans suffer? They're already suffering. Level their houses? Done. Turn their schools into piles of rubble? Done. Eradicate their hospitals? Done. Destroy their infrastructure? There is no infrastructure. Cut them off from medicine and health care? Too late. Someone already did all that. New bombs would only land in the rubble of earlier bombs.

Would they at least get the Taliban? Not likely. In today's Afghanistan, only the Taliban eat, only they have the means to move around. They'd slip away and hide. (They have already, I hear.) Maybe the bombs would get some of those disabled orphans, they don't move too fast, they don't even have wheelchairs. But flying over Kabul and dropping bombs wouldn't really be a strike against the criminals who did this horrific thing. Actually it would be making common cause with the Taliban—by raping once again the people they've been raping all this time.

So what else can be done, then? Let me now speak with true fear and trembling. The only way to get Bin Laden is to go in there with ground troops. I think that when people speak of "having the belly to do what needs to be done" many of them are thinking in terms of having the belly to kill as many as needed. They are thinking about overcoming moral qualms about killing innocent people. But it's the belly to die not kill that's actually on the table. Americans will die in a land war to get Bin Laden. And not just because some Americans would die fighting their way through Afghanistan to Bin Laden's hideout. It's much bigger than that, folks.

(continued on page 8)

Left and Right Seek Balanced Response

One of the comments I have most frequently heard lately is that we should “thank God that *we* live in a country where we can criticize our government”. Someone should pass the word to those who have made death threats to Rep. Barbara Lee. She had had the tenacity to urge things like “let’s show some restraint,” and she stuck her head above the political parapet by being the sole member of either the U.S. House or Senate to vote against the resolution authorizing President Bush to use military force against anyone associated with the recent terrorist attacks. Now the police believe she is in sufficient danger to require a personal police bodyguard.



Representative Barbara Lee is a Democrat, representing California's 9th district

Rep. Lee, a cosponsor of the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund bill (H.R. 1186), said that her vote was “not poll-driven”. In the current atmosphere, her courage could hardly be more under-stated. She has received “thousands of calls and thousands of e-mails”, many of them irate, some downright nasty, from frustrated and angry people.

“I agonized over this vote all week,” she said, “I searched my conscience. I talked to many people. Ultimately, on some votes, you have to vote the way your conscience dictates.”

Despite Rep. Lee’s vote to condemn the attacks and to allocate the \$40 billion to fight terrorism, she has actually had to respond to accusations that she is a communist. “I’m just as American and just as patriotic as anybody else” she said. “Whether [people] agree with me or not, they’ll understand that I want to bring these [terrorists] to justice as much as anyone else does.” But she believes that war is not the most effective way to fight terrorism. “Military action is a one-dimensional reaction to a multi-dimensional problem”

While Rep. Lee may be experiencing the wrath of those who value “unity” over reasoned debate, she has also earned the respect and admiration of countless others who yearn for some sign of humanitarianism in the US response to the attack upon humanity.



BY TOM KIERANS

Representative Dana Rohrabacher made a speech on the floor of the House of Representatives on Monday, September 17th regarding the attacks against the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. His remarks included the following:

“We must not permit our rage ... [to] lead to actions that will strengthen the hand of the fanatic terrorists These monsters [sic] are counting on us to strike out blindly and to attack people who are our potential allies and friends, thus alienating them and turning them into enemies ...

“Our greatest strength as a Nation is that America is a land of people of all races and religions and ethnic groups. At the prayer service at our National Cathedral, all faiths [sic], including Islam, were represented; and we can be very proud of that...



Representative Dana Rohrabacher is a Republican, representing California's 45th district

“We cannot permit ourselves to strike out blindly, to hurt people who have nothing to do with this We need to lead this world ... to set a new moral standard That new moral standard has got to be that noncombatants will not be attacked. We will not kill unarmed innocent people in order to achieve a political objective ...

“The new standard should be for this world that we will not tolerate women and children be used as targets or unarmed combatants being used for targets for any reason And by affirming that the targeting of unarmed combatants anywhere in the world for whatever reason will not be tolerated, we have taken a major step forward. We will be building a better world even if it is being built on the ashes of this tragedy.”



BY GREG REAGLE



National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit #8702
Washington DC

2121 Decatur Place NW, Washington, DC 20008-1923

*ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED.
FORWARDING AND RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED.*

The National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund advocates for legislation enabling conscientious objectors to war to pay their federal taxes without violating their beliefs about not participating in the military. Contact us at the address above or at (202) 483-3751; toll free: (888) PEACE-TAX; Fax: (202) 986-0667; Email: info@peacetax.com; Website: www.peacetax.com. Printed on recycled paper.

Issue iii/2001

Not In Our Name

Dear President Bush,

Our son is one of the victims of Tuesday's attack on the World Trade Center. We read about your response in the last few days and about the resolutions from both Houses, giving you undefined power to respond to the terror attacks.

Your response to this attack does not make us feel better about our son's death. It makes us feel worse. It makes us feel that our government is using our son's memory as a justification to cause suffering for other sons and parents in other lands.

It is not the first time that a person in your position has been given unlimited power and came to regret it. This is not the time for empty gestures to make us feel better. It is not the time to act like bullies. We urge you to think about how our government can develop peaceful, rational solutions to terrorism, solutions that do not sink us to the inhuman level of terrorists.

Sincerely,

Phyllis and Orlando Rodriguez

Peace Tax Fund Fact Sheet

The Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Bill would allow conscientious objectors to pay their full federal taxes into a separate fund which could not be used to support the military.

Conscientious objectors are people whose consciences forbid participation in war in any form, because of their deeply held religious or moral beliefs.

In the 107th Congress, the ReligiousFreedom Peace Tax Fund bill (H.R. 1186) was introduced to the House by Rep. John Lewis (D-GA-5th) and has 24 cosponsors.

Contact Points

Senator _____

U.S. Senate

Washington, DC 20510

Representative _____

U.S. House

Washington, DC 20515

Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121

President George W. Bush

The White House

Washington, DC 20500

White House Comment Line: (202) 456-1414

White House Fax: (202) 456-2883

