

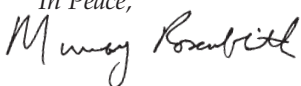
August 17, 2005

Dear Friends,

Let me start off by thanking all of you who responded so generously to our June fund appeal. Your contributions have gotten our new fiscal year off to a good start. However, as you can tell from reading this newsletter and keeping up with current events, the demand on our resources for nonviolence and peace is growing rapidly. For those of you who did not take the opportunity to contribute, and those of you who already did, please send in a donation now to help us prepare for a very active fall.

This issue of Muste Notes is full of information about the results of our work. We are pleased to report on how the Institute's programs are helping to bring nonviolence into conflict situations in Palestine and Latin America, to build the growing movement to counter military recruitment around the country, and to continue to expand efforts to end the death penalty, oppose racism against immigrants and protect women's rights.

We expect the coming months to be very busy, with several major demonstrations against the Iraq war and a new round of local projects to fund. As the Muste Memorial Institute's message of nonviolent action for social change takes on greater importance, your support will play an important role in sustaining our ability to keep this movement growing.

In Peace,


Murray Rosenblith
Executive Director

PHOTO COURTESY OF HOLY LAND TRUST



Trainer Husam Jubran (right) with participants in the February 2005 nonviolence training at the American Arab University of Jenin in the West Bank.



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Grantee Profile:

Palestinian Students Get Nonviolence Training

In May of 2004, the Muste Institute made a \$1,000 grant to Holy Land Trust for a nonviolence training at the American Arab University of Jenin. This article about the training was written by trainer Husam Jubran. Founded by Palestinians in Bethlehem in 1998, Holy Land Trust supports the Palestinian community in developing nonviolent resistance approaches to ending the occupation, and assists in building an independent Palestine founded on the principles of nonviolence, democracy, respect for human rights, and peaceful means of resolving conflicts. Holy Land Trust also organizes a "travel and encounter" program in Palestine. For more information, see www.holylandtrust.org.

On February 11 and 12, 2005, Holy Land Trust's Peace and Reconciliation Department carried out a student Nonviolence Core Training in partnership with the American Arab University of Jenin. The two-day workshop was attended by 27 students from villages across the West Bank, including the cities of Ramallah, Jenin, Nablus, and Tul Karem. Holy Land Trust trainer Husam Jubran developed the training content and hosted the workshop. In the first three sessions, students confronted such topics as conflict analysis and understanding; structural violence as opposed to personal violence; and non-violence. A fourth workshop session, co-led by Holy Land Trust's Executive Director, Sami Awad, was dedicated exclusively to an interactive nonviolence discussion and action planning.

In a noteworthy development, participants in the training included students affiliated with a spectrum of political parties not normally associated with nonviolence. Several students identified

with the Hamas organization, while others were linked to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Palestine Liberation Organization's Fattah Movement. It was exciting to see students affiliated with such parties joining eagerly in the workshop's debates on the legitimate value of nonviolence as an alternative to violent approaches in the Palestinian liberation struggle.

In the final workshop session, the Nonviolence Core students devised plans for how to practically implement nonviolent resistance to the occupation while strengthening local community. In the end, the students agreed to form a Nonviolence Club which they would register with the university in order to carry out nonviolence education and activism on campus. The students also came up with an action plan: they decided to initiate a nonviolent campaign within American Arab University of Jenin to boycott the sale and use of Israeli goods on campus—the first attempt at a divestment campaign at the university.

At the conclusion of the workshop, all 27 participants were accredited as Jenin Nonviolence Core group members and future members of the American Arab University of Jenin nonviolence club (later officially registered under the name Green Resistance Club). Many of the trainees also enthusiastically invited Holy Land Trust to host additional non-violence trainings in their home villages, opening the door for the continued spread of Nonviolence Core groups across occupied Palestine.

Holy Land Trust is continuing to work with these students to ensure ongoing support for their efforts to build the Palestinian nonviolence movement.

—Husam Jubran

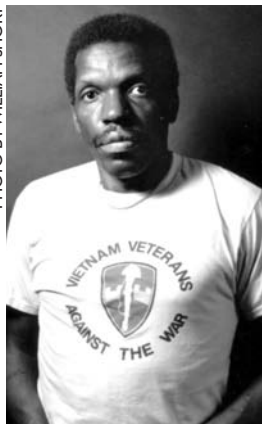
New Developments

An Update on Projects Funded by the Muste Institute

The eleventh "Jerusalem Women Speak" tour organized by **Partners for Peace** is now scheduled for October 14-29, 2005, with stops in Iowa, Texas, Colorado, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Washington DC. Since 1998, Partners for Peace has been organizing these US speaking tours featuring three women of different backgrounds—a Muslim Palestinian, a Christian Palestinian and a Jewish Israeli—who talk to US audiences about the harsh realities faced by Palestinians living under Israel's Occupation, and share their vision for building peace. The Muste Institute helped fund the eighth "Jerusalem Women Speak" tour, which traveled through Washington DC, San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle and Chicago in October 2004. For information call 202-863-2951, email info@partnersforpeace.org or visit www.partnersforpeace.org.

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The award-winning video documentary **Another Brother**, about the life of black Vietnam veteran and anti-war activist Clarence Fitch, is now available in DVD and VHS formats. The 50-minute film illustrates Fitch's struggles as an 18-year-old marine in Vietnam, then dealing with racism in Jersey City, recovering from heroin addiction, mentoring high school students, working as an antiwar activist and facing AIDS, the disease which took his life in 1990. The Muste Institute supported "Another Brother" with a \$1,000 grant in 1994. As a new crop of veterans returns from Iraq,



Vietnam veteran and anti-war activist Clarence Fitch

this film provides a timely resource. Copies can be ordered for \$40 plus shipping from Transit Media (1-800-343-5540, info@transit-media.net). A discussion guide can be downloaded free at www.andersongoldfilms.com. To schedule speak-



Despite Israeli government policies designed to keep Palestinians and Israelis apart, participants in the October 2004 "Jerusalem Women Speak" tour managed to reunite this past July in Jenin at the home of one of the tour's speakers, Muslim Palestinian engineer Hidayat Said Najmi. From left: Jewish Israeli peace activist Gila Svirsky; Christian Palestinian human rights activist Marianne Albina; Najmi's daughter Leem; former Partners for Peace program director Susanne Waldorf; and Najmi with her daughter Dahlia.

ers to accompany the film, contact AndersonGold Films, 718-789-2168, info@andersongoldfilms.com.

• • •

The San Diego Military Counseling Project, which received a Muste Institute grant in April 2004, organized a public event in San Diego last May 10 in support of Bronx sailor Pablo Paredes on the eve of his court martial for refusing to deploy to Iraq. The "Voices of Resistance" event also featured speakers including Fernando Suarez del Solar, who became an anti-war and counter-recruitment activist after his son was killed fighting in Iraq, and Camilo Mejia, an Iraq war veteran who was court-martialed in May 2004 and sentenced to a year in prison for refusing orders to return to Iraq (he was released in February 2005). At Paredes' trial, the government cross-examined international law expert Marjorie Cohn about the illegality of war, allowing her to put forward a strong anti-war position—an exercise which ended with the judge stating: "I believe the government has just successfully proved that any seaman recruit has reasonable cause to believe that the wars in Yugoslavia, Afghanistan and Iraq were all illegal." In the end, Paredes received no jail time, only two months' restriction to base, extra duty and a reduction in rank.

Sheilah's Fund East in 2005

The Muste Institute's donor-advised Sheilah's Fund East has made six grants so far this year in support of nonviolence work in Latin America:

Secretariado Internacional de Solidaridad, SICSAL (Managua, Nicaragua): \$1,000 for this regional group's work promoting peace, social justice and solidarity with the peoples of Latin America.

SER PAZ (Guayaquil, Ecuador): \$10,000 for peer conflict resolution, artistic expression, self-esteem and education toward a culture of peace among gang members and other young people in Guayaquil.

Servicio Paz y Justicia (SERPAJ)-América Latina (San José, Costa Rica): \$12,500 for regional coordination of this Latin American network of nonviolence organizations founded in 1974.

SERPAJ-Costa Rica (San José, Costa Rica): \$5,000 for an educational and organizing project to create a National Center of Promoters of Active Nonviolence and Human Rights.

SERPAJ-Ecuador (Quito, Ecuador): \$5,000 for educational materials and organizing for a campaign against implementation of the Andean "free trade" agreement being negotiated with the US, Peru and Colombia.

SERPAJ-Morelos (Cuernavaca, Mexico): \$5,000 for the "Think Out Loud" SERPAJ-Morelos/Gandhian Collective, carrying out research and education on social conflict and nonviolence in Mexico.



From left: anti-war activists Pablo Paredes, Fernando Suarez del Solar and Camilo Mejia at the "Voices of Resistance" event.

New Grants, June 2005

ARISE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Springfield, MA: \$1,500

Founded in 1985, Arise for Social Justice is a membership organization of low-income people standing up for their rights. This grant goes for the Western Massachusetts Center for Counter-Recruitment, a collaborative effort run by and for inner city youth in Springfield, Chicopee and Holyoke, raising awareness about the cost of war and alternatives to the military. The campaign includes a pledge drive in which young people sign statements declaring: "I refuse to enlist."

COORDINADOR NACIONAL AGRARIO

Bogotá, Colombia: \$1,500

The National Agrarian Coordinating Committee (CNA) was formed in 1995 by campesino organizations from throughout Colombia. This grant goes for Asociación vía Sumapaz, a CNA affiliate, to carry out community workshops with people who settled in rural Pandi municipality, outside Bogotá, after being displaced by violence from other areas of Colombia. The workshops seek to train 80 community members on such issues as free trade agreements, debt, militarization, alternatives for self-sufficiency and nonviolent resistance; participants will then spread the project into neighboring communities.

IDAHO COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK

Boise, ID: \$1,000

Idaho Community Action Network is a grassroots statewide organization committed to progressive social change. It was founded in January 1999 through a merger of two low-income advocacy organizations, the Idaho Citizens' Network and Idaho Hunger Action Council. This grant goes for Immigrant Voices for Justice, using leadership development, media, coalition building and mobilization to promote immigrant rights and fight racism in Idaho.

MASAR INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATION

Nazareth, Israel: \$1,500

Founded in 1998, Masar Institute seeks to develop an education system which meets the needs of Palestinians and promotes respect and appreciation for difference. This grant goes for Radical Education and Social Change: An Activist-Teacher Training Program, educating 24 teachers on how the Israeli school system disempowers Palestinians, how radical education can trigger social change, how to teach through dialogue, and strategies for fomenting social change activism.

SOCIAL HARMONY AND DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

Punjab, Pakistan: \$1,500

SHADO has been carrying out community programs in the Punjab province of Pakistan since 1999. This grant goes for women's rights awareness trainings and street theater plays in the rural areas of Sialkot district to educate disadvantaged women about their rights.

TORTURE ABOLITION AND SURVIVORS SUPPORT COALITION INTERNATIONAL

Washington, DC: \$1,500

Founded by a group of torture survivors in 1998, TASSC has grown to a nationwide community of survivors from sixty countries and ethnic groups who seek to work for justice and to end the practice of torture everywhere. This grant goes for a power-point projector and other expenses of Truth Speakers, a public speaking network of torture survivors who have chosen to speak out about their experiences to promote the campaign against torture.

WITNESS TO INNOCENCE

Philadelphia, PA: \$1,500

Witness to Innocence was founded in January of 2005 to challenge the US public to consider how innocent people are put to death as an inevitable result of a flawed justice system, and to push for an immediate nationwide moratorium on executions. This grant goes for the Training for Outreach, Organizing, Leadership and Speaking (TOOLS) Gathering, in which exonerated former death row prisoners learn to become spokespersons for human rights in a campaign against the death penalty.

The A.J. Muste Memorial Institute makes small grants to groups engaged in nonviolent education and action for social justice. Our next deadline for proposals is October 21, 2005. Guidelines are on our website at www.ajmuste.org.

March on Washington
END THE WAR ON IRAQ!
SATURDAY Sept. 24



unitedforpeace&justice
www.unitedforpeace.org

If you are making up your will, we hope you will consider leaving a bequest to the Muste Institute to ensure the continuation of our work in the future. A suggested simple wording to use in making bequests is: "I bequeath ___ dollars (\$) or ___ percent of my estate to the A.J. Muste Memorial Institute, Inc., a charitable, not-for-profit organization located at 339 Lafayette Street, New York, New York, 10012, to be used for its general purposes." To discuss other types of bequests, such as those directed toward a specific purpose, please contact our office.

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 Edited by Nat Hentoff, preface by Jo Ann O. Robinson. Originally issued in 1967, this new edition includes Muste’s “Notes for an Autobiography,” plus essays on pacifism, civil rights, trade unionism and foreign policy, written between 1905 and 1966. qty: _____

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