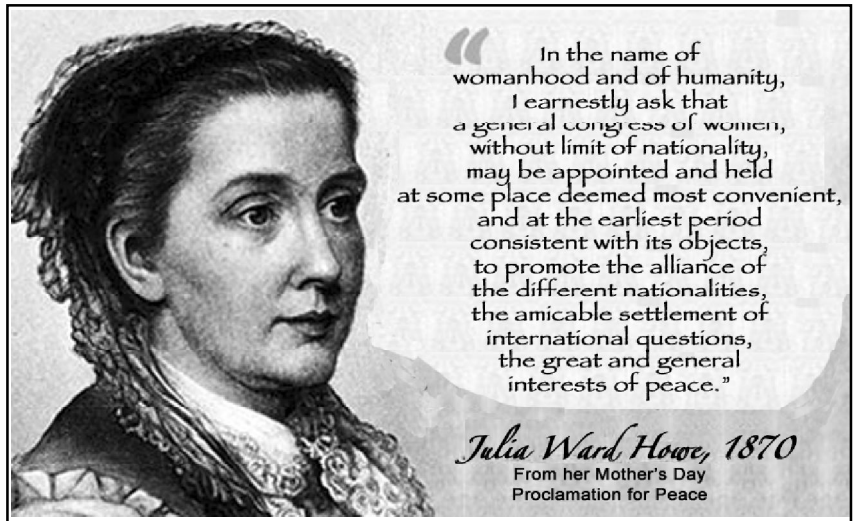


May 14,
2017

THE MOTHER OF ALL PROTESTS reclaiming Mother's Day for Peace

Peace and Justice Works rejects the terminology and use of the "Mother of All Bombs" in Afghanistan on April 13, dropping bombs on Syria on April 6 (and at other times), killing civilians in Iraq, rattling the sabre in North Korea, and other warmongering by the US government. The militarism is connected to other domestic and foreign policy issues that are quickly taking us further into the World War the US started after 9/11.

Today's Mother's Day march is to foreground women and women's roles in creating Mother's Day over 100 years ago as a day for world peace. Julia Ward Howe wrote in 1870 about an international women's congress which would "promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of Peace."



Part of the reclamation is to stop using the term "the Mother of" to mean "the largest of" or "the event to end all other events." It means the origin of, or one who gives birth to— as the origin of Mother's Day gave birth to this demonstration.

With regard to the Massive Ordnance Air Blast bomb (the true definition of the MOAB acronym), the most powerful non-nuclear explosive in the US arsenal, multiple sources gave reasons to question its use. Marvin Weinbaum, who used to work in the State Department on Afghan issues, said "the lasting effect of the [MOAB] is not so much strategic or tactical, but political. With this and [the strikes in] Syria, the Trump administration is demonstrating that it is prepared to use the military much more freely. I think that is the message now" (McClatchy, April 28). Journalist Jeremy Scahill wrote that "Dropping a 21,000 pound bomb is not exactly a battle, it's a mass killing machine" (Business Insider, April 13). Former Afghan President Hamid Karzai said the U.S. "committed an immense atrocity against the Afghan people" (The Hill, April 18). On May 6, Pope Francis condemned the US' naming of its bomb, saying: "I was ashamed when I heard the name. A mother gives life and this one gives death, and we call this device a mother. What is happening?" (Reuters, May 6).

The blast was said to have killed 94 ISIS fighters, though the US doesn't want to report body counts because Defense Secretary Jim Mattis wants to avoid echoes of Viet Nam (Politico, April 20). Civilians living in the area where the bomb was dropped described the blast as "the sound of hell," saying it shattered the windows in their homes (UAE National, April 15).

With the bombing of a Syrian airfield, the US raised the stakes of a possible conflict with Russia, which claimed their troops were put at risk by the cruise missiles (Reuters, April 26). Other results of the recent US military actions included a bump in President Trump's poll ratings (from 42% to 48%— Rasmussen, April 14) and a heightened fear that Trump will lead us fully into WWII (39% of Americans— USA Today, May 3). Congressman Earl Blumenauer and Senator Jeff Merkley both praised Trump's bombing of Syria, only wishing he had asked for premission from Congress first— even though experts say that action was against international law (Deutsche Welle, April 11). Join our call for an end to war, respect for the planet, and money for human needs!

Today's event was coordinated by Peace and Justice Works Iraq Affinity Group. Cosponsors include Women's International League for Peace and Freedom-Portland, Veterans for Peace Chap. 72, Recruiter Watch PDX, Portland Fellowship of Reconciliation, War Resisters League-Portland and the Portland State University Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department. Endorsers include Women's March on Portland and Little Light of Mine Friends Worship Group.

This flyer was prepared
in May, 2017 by the

Peace and Justice Works Iraq Affinity Group

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Meetings usually 2nd Mondays, 7 PM; next one is June 12.

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Contact us about our meetings !