



Excerpts from many sources helps connect the puzzles:

[Obama, Clinton, Dems - Show Leadership, Make Change Happen, End the War Now](#)

By Kevin Martin, Executive Director of Peace Action

This publication first appeared in [Common Dreams](#).

I must confess a dirty little secret - I don't care what presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama say they will do to end the U.S. occupation of Iraq if they become president next year. Thousands more Iraqis and hundreds more U.S. troops will be dead by then, and for what? I want to know what Senators Clinton and Obama are willing to do to end the war this year. Surely I'm not alone in this desire, am I? [Take Action: March 19Th](#)

[FULL ARTICLE](#)

[BUSH'S SIGNING STATEMENT OVERTURNS MAJORITY OF CONGRESSIONAL VOTES](#)

In 2005 Rep. Barbara Lee first introduced legislation preventing the U.S. from setting up any permanent bases in Iraq. This critical measure was passed by Congress with an overwhelming majority. It was again brought to the floor in 2006 and passed by the full Congress. In January President Bush issued a signing statement on the 2008 budget proposal for Iraq & Afghanistan virtually eliminating the power of Congress to oppose his plans for a permanent U.S. military and economic presence in Iraq.

[FULL ARTICLE](#)

[LOBBYING FOR CHANGE](#)

Peace Action attacks the problems of our world with a multifaceted approach. We take direct action, we organize & inform the public and we lobby Congress for change. The efforts of the peace movement to spur action in Congress continue to pay off. Whether these measures are vetoed by the President or not, comprehensive legislation on Iraq must continue to be voted on in Congress. Those votes set a precedent for citizens going to the polls in November.

[FULL ARTICLE](#)

We feel to become a truly democratic nation we need:

1. Clean elections with public financing only so that money does not play a role. (Three states have that system now and it works well) Imagine the money saved!!!!
2. Equitably drawn districts by fair elections commissions
3. No electoral college, but rather, popular vote winners (some states are already there)
4. Machines with a paper trail. Venezuela has this system. They automatically count a random twenty percent of the precincts' paper ballots to make sure they agree with the electronic count.
5. Limited campaigns summer and fall or at the most: spring, summer and fall. No paid ads.
6. The same amount of free time on radio and TV for all candidates and primaries all on the same day.
7. The ability to vote for first and second choices (as is done in San Francisco and other places) so small parties candidates and issues are noted for their true following.

WHOSE WATER?

We find the following quotes very frightening and misleading. We learned first hand the struggle Cochabamba had against Bechtel who took over the water and charged people skyrocketing rates for well water out of wells they'd built themselves. In California there have been many struggles: Stockton won after many years of struggle and filing suit, Montera won, Felton, also. Carmel Valley may still fighting big water. And other communities in the US and the world.

Coca Cola got permission from the national government to use water from the mountains in Kerala, thus depriving the locals of their water and leaving them only sludge.

QUOTES FROM SPEECH BY UN GENERAL SECRETARY BAN KI MOON AT THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM IN DAVOS, SWITZERLAND, JANUARY 2008.

"The challenge of securing safe and plentiful water for all is one of the most daunting challenges faced by the world today. Until only recently, we generally assumed that water trends do not pose much risk to our businesses."

"Governments must engage -- and lead. But we also need private enterprise."

"For too long, business has been seen as a culprit. The smokestacks of industry contaminate our atmosphere, the effluents from power plants spoil our rivers. But this is a misleading picture. More often than not today, business is becoming part of the solution, not the problem. All of you in this hall are well aware of the dawning era of green economics. Many of you are part of this great evolutionary wave. Innovative -- and global -- approaches can make a great difference. Here on this panel, Neville Isdell at Coca Cola has been sponsoring local water projects in developing countries. Andrew Leveris at Dow Chemical has been working on innovative ways of getting water to the poor. Peter Brabeck-Letmathe has made water sustainability one of Nestle's core business principles."

"Last July, a small group of top international executives came together to launch the United Nations Global Compact's CEO Water Mandate. Their first working session, coming up in March, will focus on waste-water treatment and helping people in rural areas gain better access to clean water. And they will have to report back on progress, so that non-governmental organizations, citizens groups and others can learn from their experience -- and perhaps join the effort."

"I understand the World Economic Forum has about 1,000 members. Only about 20 companies have joined the CEO Water Mandate. A drop in the bucket, perhaps, but I like to think it is a small wave that will gather force and spread across the globe."

"That's why it feels good to be here with like-minded people working for the global public good. Thank you and, in the spirit of Davos, let us work creatively together."

[B]. QUOTES FROM CEOs OF CORPORATIONS AT THE WEF IN DAVOS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE CEO WATER MANDATE AT THE UNITED NATIONS.

[1] Neville Isdel, CEO of COCA-COLA [Chair of the CEO Water Mandate]: urged the world to "raise the issue of water to the level that we have managed to raise the issue of climate change." ... "this [water] is an issue which ranks next to climate change ... However, water has got lost as part of the climate change debate."

..."the solutions are there," Isdell said. "The awareness globally and the commitment globally is not there yet."

[2] Peter Brabeck-Letmathe, CEO of NESTLE [the world's largest bottled water company]:

..."time is still on our side but time is running out, just like water is running out"

..." If you would allow market forces to define how to define the value of water, you could make a big step forward."

[3] Andrew Liveris, Chairman and CEO of Dow Chemical Co. [world's second largest chemical company with investments in the plastic industry]

..."Water is today's issue. It is the oil of this century, not a question."

..."The technology is there. We need the innovation to get the business model and the delivery systems to the table, and we're very committed to doing that."

Liveris also appealed to the World Economic Forum to take additional measures in saying --- there is a lot of water on the planet and "all of us" should be trying to meet the challenge of affordable desalination of sea water and accessing ground water above and below the bedrock.

Water is the next struggle after oil. And the question again is should it be privatized?

In Venezuela, Ecuador, and Bolivia it is nationalized and the governments are rewriting contracts to get more profit for their countries and less for the multinationals who are fighting them all the way. In fact, Exxon got our government to freeze all Citgo's (Venezuelan Oil Company) assets in the US and other countries (more dollars by far than Exxon will lose with the new contract that Conoco has signed.) The President of Mexico is trying to privatize their oil company Pemex resulting in many protests. The question is: Should the resources of a country benefit that country or multinationals?



February 27 Congress made renewable energy history by voting for important energy tax incentives. H.R. 5351 passed in the House* will take billions of dollars in tax handouts away from oil and gas companies and invest them in low-carbon energy industries such as wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal. It also extends consumer tax credits, making it easier and cheaper to make your home more energy efficient or to purchase a hybrid. Thank your Congressperson.

Speakers, Film, Music and Dinner

Saturday March 8, 2008 Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists Hall
1924 Cedar (at Bonita), Berkeley; 6-10pm

Featured Speaker: Ven Dr. Ashin Nayaka "Burma's Hidden Dimensions: Symbol of freedom"

Dr. Nayaka is a member of the International Burmese Monks Organization (Sassana Moli), and the founder and director of the Buddhist Missionary Society in New York. He wrote various articles on Burma's Saffron Revolution and also testified at the US Congress. He is currently a Visiting Scholar at the Columbia University, New York. His research on the role of Buddhism in conflict resolution of contemporary Burma will be a critical contest to address Burma's compelling dilemma.

Performer/Speaker: Mary Win on "My life and my music"; Win is an eighteen year old Burmese-American, downtempo rock singer-songwriter from Seattle who was born in Thailand while her parents fled Burma to USA in 1989 after the popular 1988 people's uprising (8.8.88) was brutally crushed.

\$15-30 sliding scale donation to benefit BADA; Burmese Traditional Dinner (6-7 pm) (Vegetarian friendly), Speakers, Performers (7:00- 9:00 pm), Film (9:00-9:30), Q&A (9:30-10:00)

Organized by Burmese American Democratic Alliance; Co-sponsored by Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists Social Justice Committee, Buddhist Peace Fellowship.

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Burma, once known as the "Golden Land", is now a land of terror and despair, due to more than four decades of military dictatorship. The Burmese junta has denied human rights of its citizens and has been widely condemned by nations and institutions as one of the most brutal regimes in the world. Join us to see the featured film and to hear the dynamic speakers focusing on the courage and the suffering of the people of Burma and updates on the latest situation in Burma and how the Saffron Revolution is continuing. Your support will help bring attention to the imprisoned democracy activists of Burma, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, 1991 Nobel Peace Laureate and Burma People's leader is again under house arrest in Rangoon.

II Congress: Support the Jubilee Act!

From the Jubilee USA Network, of which the Nicaragua Network is a member

In June Representatives Maxine Waters (D-CA) and Spencer Bachus (R-AL) introduced in the House the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation (HR 2634). On Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2007, the Jubilee Act (S 2166) was introduced in the Senate by Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA), Sen. Dick Lugar (R-IN) and Sen. Chris Dodd (D-CT).

The Jubilee Act would expand access to debt cancellation to the 67 most impoverished countries in the world, including Nicaragua. Most of these countries have substantial debts and the average person earns \$1025 or less per year. Current debt cancellation programs have provided 100% debt cancellation for only 21 of these countries. The Jubilee Act requires the immediate cancellation of the debts of impoverished countries without harmful economic policy conditions attached. Current debt cancellation programs require countries to implement the IMF's economic policy model, based on privatization, liberalization, and cuts in social spending. [Read more...](#)

These loans were given without collateral or plans for use. If the banks that lent would take that risk they should pay the consequences, rather they lent more at an even higher interest rate and put conditions of decreasing government spending (healthcare and education). The poor saw nothing of benefit and fared worse. Editor

No More CAFTAs Pledge for Trade Justice!

The process of negotiating, ratifying, and implementing so-called "free" trade agreements like the DR-CAFTA is out of control, and the time has come to say "enough is enough!" Congress and all elected officials must demand a new approach and should be required to make their positions on trade clear and unambiguous so that people in the United States will know where they stand. With the Pledge for Trade Justice, we are demanding that our public officials start working toward a more just and equitable system. And there is an alternative. Public officials such as the representatives who have already signed the Pledge are vowing to press this administration and future ones for just agreements that support sustainable development goals and equity for all.



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Please be generous to odw's scholarship fund in memory of Stan Seaberg, board member and long time best friend.

Donations to Yachay Wasi are also tax deductible to support this Ecuadoran school of indigenous Quechua who will be the future leaders of their country, we're sure!

Wednesday, March 19, 2008, is the 5th anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, the beginning of the 6th year of war and occupation. It's a day when we should stop "business as usual" and show our opposition to this illegal war that is bringing senseless death and massive destruction and draining our economy in the process.

Initiated by the San Jose Peace & Justice Center to mark the 5th anniversary of the invasion of Iraq is the **San Jose Speak-Out to End the War** -- Weds. March 19 in front of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library from 4 to 6 p.m. this event is getting support from a lot of groups and community members, including CHAM, MAIZ, Human Agenda, Voluntarios de la Comunidad, Debug, Chava Bustamante, and many others. The Voluntarios are asking for 10 thousand flyers to distribute in the community!

We will hold a People's Speak Out Against the Iraq War on that day in front of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. library from 4 to 6 p.m. All are invited to attend, to listen, speak out and demand that American troops be brought home immediately and the billions of dollars that fund the war be applied to human needs in our communities.

We are calling on artists, musicians, and poets, young people, students, workers, veterans, and the community in general to participate by preparing banners, posters, songs, poems, spoken word pieces, and personal statements that can be directed on that day to the Bush administration, to our Congressional representatives, and to the presidential candidates.