

August 25, 2008

Dear Friends,

We have been overwhelmed with your response to our May letter from Rebekah Wolf of the Palestine Solidarity Project. It's gratifying to know that so many of you are concerned about the situation in the Middle East, and are willing to provide financial as well as moral support for nonviolence efforts there. We also appreciate your continued commitment to our counter-recruitment efforts and other programs against war and militarism.

If you haven't sent in a contribution yet, I urge you to do so. If you have already given, we thank you—and ask you to please consider giving again. Despite responsible budgeting and low administrative costs, the Muste Institute is facing its most serious deficit in years. We will likely have to cut back our general grantmaking in 2009. We urgently need your help to continue promoting nonviolent action for social justice at home and around the world.

Sincerely,

Murray Rosenblith
Executive Director

In the past few months, the *Red de Defensa* has been tested in new ways as ICE turns its attention to tiny Rhode Island with greater ferocity than ever. In the early hours of June 12, ICE agents swept through Newport, grabbing 42 Mexican, Guatemalan and Brazilian immigrant workers from their homes and workplaces, breaking windows, chasing people in a Home Depot, and putting pistols to the heads of unarmed

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Grantee Profile: Defending Human Dignity: The Olneyville Neighborhood Association

The Muste Institute made a \$2,000 grant in December 2007 to help the Providence-based Olneyville Neighborhood Association establish the *Red de Defensa* (Defense Network), a network of immigrants organizing against raids and deportations in Rhode Island. This article is by ONA Strategy and Development Coordinator Shannah Kurland.

Delmy Reyes Urizar, age six, moved her way through the crowd of fifty people to ask for her own packet of Know Your Rights Cards, which give critical info about what to do in case of a raid or other encounter with ICE – Immigration and Customs Enforcement. It was February 14, *el dia de amor y amistad* (day of love and friendship) and the *Red de Defensa* had just kicked off with a brief presentation at an elementary school in Providence. People at risk of ICE raids were joined by folks from community groups, labor unions and churches to mark the opening of this community defense network. Delmy explained that she wanted the cards to hand out at school. Her parents were among dozens of people who helped plan the *Red de Defensa* through community forums and meetings.

But Delmy's connection to the issue ran deeper than most; less than a year before, she was held prisoner with her father at the T. Don Hutto facility in Taylor, Texas, where hundreds of immigrant families are incarcerated by the Department of Homeland Security. Working through the Olneyville Neighborhood Association, Delmy's family and the broader community not only won their release, but came together to create a hotline that families can call in case of raids. The hotline is staffed around the clock by trained vol-

unteers who answer questions and in case of urgent calls notify a team of allies. The "street team" volunteers who have the safety of legal status go to document the immigration raids, and where possible to intervene nonviolently using strategies developed in consultation with legal advisors.

The *Red de Defensa* team has also conducted Know Your Rights trainings with over 300 people at churches and schools, in English classes and living rooms, and has distributed more than 2,500 cards with the phone number and basic info about what to do in case of an encounter with ICE. Expert advice is easily available through the network's legal advisor, and when necessary, phone volunteers provide referrals to immigration attorneys who are screened for competence and honesty. *Red de Defensa* volunteers also work the phones to help families find where their loved one is being held, and to navigate the prison industrial complex and immigration court.



PHOTO BY SARA MERSHA

January 30, 2008: Olneyville Neighborhood Association members and friends take a break from preparing for the *Red de Defensa* kick-off as they welcome the new year.

Counter Recruitment Grants, June 2008

The *Muste Institute's Counter Recruitment Fund* makes small grants for grassroots efforts to inform young people about the realities of military service, help them protect their privacy from recruiters and refer them to non-military education and employment options. Our next deadline for proposals is October 3, 2008. Guidelines are at www.ajmuste.org/counter-recruit.htm.

American Friends Service Committee-Chicago, Chicago, IL: \$1,500 for a three-week summer institute that introduces youth to peace work and trains them in discussing the realities of military service and nonviolent career alternatives.

Brooklyn for Peace, Brooklyn, NY: \$1,500 for expanding outreach to students in Brooklyn high schools and on the subway, to inform them about the realities of military service and educational and vocational alternatives.

Coalition for Peace and Justice, Linwood, NJ: \$500 for tabling at the annual New Jersey Education Association Conference and efforts to develop a statewide network of teachers concerned and informed about military recruitment and alternatives.

Orita Peace and Justice Program, Greensboro, NC: \$1,000 for a project highlighting alternatives to war and militarism through a statewide opt-out awareness campaign, community trainings and career fairs.

Project on Youth and Non-Military Opportunities (Project YANO), Encinitas, CA: \$1,500 to educate youth and parents, especially in African American and Latino communities, about the realities of military service and educational and vocational alternatives.

Muste Building Honored



June 11: Peter Muste accepts an award on behalf of the *Muste Institute for the Peace* Pentagon, "a sanctuary for New Yorkers who are working to make the world a better place." Our building at 339 Lafayette Street was one of 10 places honored by City Lore and the Municipal Art Society for the 10th anniversary of their *Place Matters* program. Handing the award to Peter is Marci Reaven of City Lore. The winners were selected from a list of nearly 650 places nominated by New Yorkers.

Nonviolence Training Grants, July 2007 - June 2008

The *International Nonviolence Training Fund* (INTF) makes grants for nonviolence trainings outside the U.S. or in indigenous communities within the U.S. The next deadline is December 5, 2008. Guidelines are on our website.

Association of Human Rights and Torture Defenders (AHURTOD), Buea, Cameroon: \$3,500 in April 2008 for a "training for trainers" workshop for 30 University of Buea student leaders.

Family Mediation and Conciliation-FAMEC, Nairobi, Kenya: \$2,995 in April

2008 for a nonviolence training for university student leaders in Nairobi.

Love Thy Neighbor, Bethesda, Maryland (USA): \$3,000 in June 2008 for the Living Nonviolence Training and Summer Camp in Ramallah, West Bank, Palestine, teaching Palestinian children and teenagers the skills and principles of nonviolence, and training Palestinian young adults as nonviolence trainers.

Palestinian Centre for Rapprochement Between People, Beit Sahour, Palestine: \$3,000 in June 2008 for the Young

Advocates Program, training young Palestinians in nonviolence, conflict resolution, advocacy, human rights, communication and other skills, in order to help them lead a successful nonviolent movement to end the Occupation.

NOVA TRAVEL GRANTS

The NOVA Travel Fund made 11 grants in June totaling \$10,424. These grants are listed in the web version of *Muste Notes*. The Travel Fund helps grassroots Latin American, Caribbean and indigenous organizations to participate in regional meetings. Guidelines are on our website in Spanish and English.

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New Grants, June 2008

The A.J. Muste Memorial Institute makes small grants to groups engaged in nonviolent education and action for social justice. Our next deadline is October 3, 2008. Guidelines are at www.ajmuste.org/guidelin.htm.

BLUE VEINS

Peshawar, Pakistan: \$2,000

Blue Veins (Women Welfare & Relief Services) was founded in 1999 in the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan. This grant goes to inform women working in Peshawar area factories of their labor rights and maternity protections in the workplace.

CENTRO DE POLÍTICAS PÚBLICAS POR EL SOCIALISMO (CEPPAS)

Buenos Aires, Argentina: \$2,000

CEPPAS, founded in 2002, supports the development of public policies for equality, diversity and sustainability. This grant goes for collaboration with the Central Zone Council of the Neuquén Mapuche Confederation and the Indigenous Advisory Council of Río Negro to nonviolently resist oil company activity in indigenous territory in western Argentina.

FOOD AND MEDICINE

Brewer, ME: \$2,000

Food AND Medicine began in 2001 as an alliance of laid-off workers, union



PHOTO BY PICTURE THE HOMELESS

Picture the Homeless members protest on the steps of New York's City Hall.

members and other social justice activists in response to extensive layoffs in Maine caused by "free trade." This grant goes to foster student activism around labor issues at the University of Maine Orono campus.

NORTHWEST WORKERS' JUSTICE PROJECT

Portland, OR: \$2,000

The Northwest Workers' Justice Project was founded in 2003 to support low-wage workers in defending and expanding their workplace rights. This grant goes to expand the Oregon Immigration "Myth-Buster" Conversations Project, a series of community discussions

seeking to dispel fear and misconceptions around the issue of immigration.

PICTURE THE HOMELESS

Bronx, NY: \$2,000

Picture the Homeless was created by two homeless men in 1999 in response to New York City's policy of criminalizing homeless people. This grant goes for the "Free the M35 Bus" campaign, fighting the unfair ticketing of homeless bus passengers by police.

UNION OF MINORITY NEIGHBORHOODS

Roxbury, MA: \$2,000

Founded in 2002, the Union of Minority Neighborhoods works to ensure that trained, committed grassroots leaders of color effectively organize on issues of concern in their communities. This grant goes for a statewide effort to mobilize Massachusetts residents for reform of the Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) laws.

WESPAC FOUNDATION

Pleasantville, NY: \$2,000

Founded in 1974 as the Westchester People's Action Coalition, WESPAC Foundation works for peace, justice and a sustainable environment. This grant goes to bring together Westchester youth into a strong, county-wide activist network.

Defending

(continued from page 1)

people. ONA members piled into a van and met with families and community activists over the next few weeks, sharing tools and ideas, conducting trainings for volunteers, and helping track down detainees. Working off the *Red de Defensa* model, immigrant workers and allies from religious and small business communities in Newport have built a strong committee and are developing their own system for response and protection against ICE attacks.

Back in Providence, ICE continued to sow terror with a major raid on July 15 against the workers who provide cleaning services in Rhode Island state courthouses. At the time of the raid, a *Red de Defensa* team was picking people up to attend a meeting of the committee

in Newport, but changed course immediately to arrive at the Providence courthouse only minutes after ICE agents had left with their prisoners. The group of three adults (only one of whom had papers) decided to walk the short distance to the immigration office to look for the people. ICE agents confirmed that the workers were being held there, and the cell phones started going into overdrive.

Within hours, the *Red de Defensa* was activated and over 200 people were outside the immigration office. Youth took charge of leading chants on the bullhorn, "*Todos somos libres – nadie es ilegal!*" ("We are all free—no one is illegal!") Undocumented organizers, clergy and students established a blockade as the vans left to take detainees to prisons in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

Over the next several days, ONA members and staff worked with many allies to help get legal help for those who

were arrested and released with ankle bracelets and for those who were still detained, and to support the leadership of the people affected by the raids in carrying out media work, fundraising and oversight of the support fund. A next step is a forum to expose the real criminals: the owners of the cleaning companies TriState and Falcon who have been exploiting immigrant workers by withholding paychecks and not submitting payroll taxes to the government.

In Rhode Island, you can train to be a defense volunteer, or help with publicity, contact management, calls and transportation to prisons, and fundraising. Similar projects exist in other cities but if not, get in touch and we'll share our info with you to start your own! Contact us by email at onaprovidence@gmail.com or by phone at (401) 228-8996.

—Shannah Kurland

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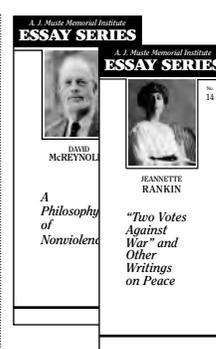
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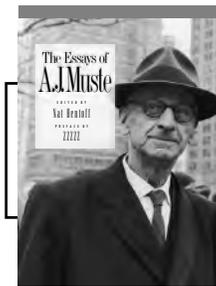


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Peace Agitator: The Story of A.J. Muste, by Nat Hentoff. A 250-page biography with many photos, profiling the ‘grandfather’ of the U.S. peace movement – minister, labor activist, pacifist and resister. Introduction by Larry Gara.



The Essays of A.J. Muste
Edited by Nat Hentoff, preface by Jo Ann O. Robinson. Originally issued in 1967, this new 500-page edition includes Muste's “Notes for an Autobiography,” plus essays on pacifism, civil rights, trade unionism and foreign policy, written between 1905 and 1966.

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