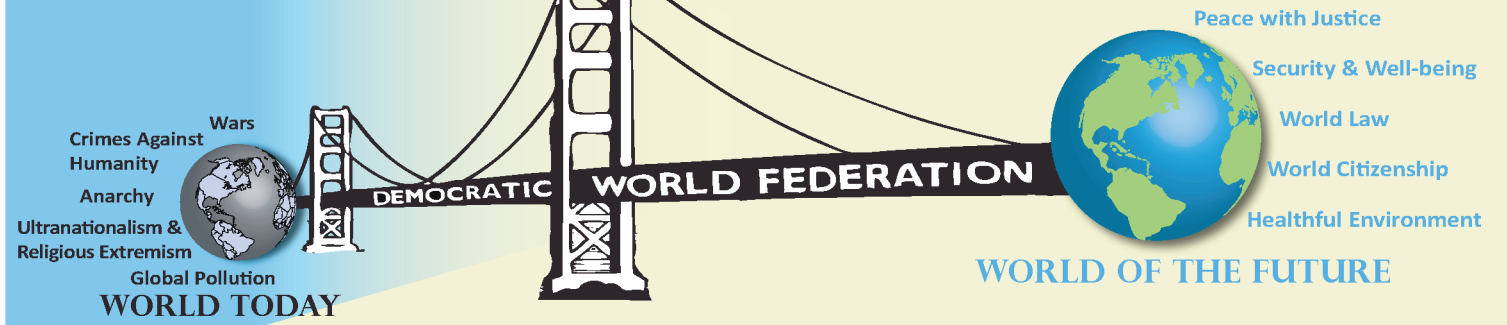


TOWARD DEMOCRATIC WORLD FEDERATION

Winter 2011 – Vol. 20, No. 1

Bridging Worlds Through Democratic World Federation



World Day of Social Justice: The People's Revolution is On The March by Rene Wadlow

The United Nations General Assembly, on the initiative of Nurbich Jeenbrey, the Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to the U.N. in New York, has proclaimed 20 February as the “World Day of Social Justice” with an emphasis on the reduction of poverty. The “war” on global poverty has had its share of victories. Life expectancy at birth has risen in many developing countries. Education for some has resulted in rising incomes, but such education has left the uneducated further behind.

Economic growth does not help the poor much in countries where the distribution of wealth is highly unequal. The poor in many countries do not enjoy the benefits of boom times, but they shoulder the costs when there is an economic recession. As traditional family or clan-based welfare systems decline without new government-funded institutions put into place, many are marginalized.

This year the second World Day of Social Justice comes as the people's revolution sweeps through the Arab lands of North Africa and the Middle East. The cry of the Tunisian uprising — “Liberty-Work-Dignity” — finds its expression in many countries as people organize non-violently for new societies.

The term “the People's Revolution” was officially used by Henry A. Wallace, then Vice-President of the United States in setting out US war aims in 1942. This was the first time that the war aims of a country were not stated in terms of “national interest” and limited to the demands that had produced the start of the war. Wallace, who had first been the Secretary of Agriculture and who had to deal with the severe Depression facing US agriculture, was proposing a worldwide New Deal based on the cooperative action of all of humanity. Wallace said, “The people's revolution is on the march. When the freedom-loving people march — when the farmers have an opportunity to buy land at reasonable prices and to see the produce of their land through their own organizations, when workers have the opportunity to form unions and bargain through them collectively, and when the children of all the people have an opportunity to attend schools which teach them truths of the real world in which they live — when these opportunities are open to everyone, then the world moves straight ahead...The people are on the march toward ever fuller freedom, toward manifesting here on earth the dignity that is in every human soul.”

Today in the demands of “Liberty-Work-Dignity” we hear the demands of farmers to own land under sure conditions, to receive a fair price for their crops as well as the right to organize to protect their interests. We hear the cries of industrial and urban workers to be able to organize and to have their work appreciated for its full

value. We hear the demands of students and the young for an education that opens minds and prepares for meaningful work.

The people's revolution is on the march. While the forces of the status quo are still strong and often heavily armed, the energy has shifted from the rulers to the people. The demands of those in the streets of Tunisia and Egypt have given courage to others who now are in streets where few ever expected to hear cries of protest.

The governments of the USA and Western Europe, who spend a good deal of money on “intelligence agencies,” were largely surprised by the speed with which the protests have spread. No doubt the Chinese and the Russians were also surprised but have been less willing to admit that they do not understand social movements unrelated to their old ideologies.

It is also probable that the Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan, when he helped celebrate the first World Day of Social Justice in 2010, did not think he was setting the stage for the people's revolution. The U.N. General Assembly proclaims a good number of Days without creating many waves beyond New York City. But the concept of Social Justice has articulated and focused deep demands for liberty, jobs, and dignity.

Some have been surprised — even alarmed — that the people's revolution in Tunisia and Egypt did not have recognized leaders or an organized political party structure. But the people's revolution is not that of an elite willing to replace the existing ruling elite. The people's revolution is a wave of all moving together, with deep currents below the surface. The tide moves with only a few visible waves but the aspirations are collective. No doubt, there will be individualized leadership, and demands will be formulated into political-party platforms, but the collective demands for social justice and dignity is what makes the difference between the people's revolution and a military coup. This is the true meaning of this year's World Day of Social Justice. -- Rene Wadlow, Representative to the United Nations, Geneva, Association of World Citizens

Editor -- Is there a lesson for a people's revolution, not only in the Maghreb, but also during the Great Recession in the United States -- 70 years after Wallace's admonition?

“Unless we establish some form of world government, it will not be possible for us to avert a World War III in the future - **British Prime Minister Winston Churchill.**”

Toward Democratic World Federation

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The Purposes and Objectives of Democratic World Federalists are:

A. To promote an understanding of the following principles:

- Common Humanity** The people of the world, as interconnected members of a common humanity, must recognize that the well-being and safety of anyone should be of concern to everyone.
- Global Problems & Benefits** The people are confronted by global problems, such as war and civil conflict, crimes against humanity and anarchy, large-scale poverty and disease, and degradation of the environment. These can be dealt with, and peace and the well-being of the people promoted, through enforceable world laws.
- Sovereignty & Citizenship** The people, as sovereign citizens, are inherently endowed with the authority and the duty to govern themselves, either directly or through elected representatives, on all levels of society and ultimately the world. As citizens, they should respect the rule of law, which their civic participation creates and legitimizes.

Good Government The government of all political units must be open, democratic, and accountable to the people and have effective legislative, executive, and judicial branches, with checks and balances.

Federation Planet Earth, with unity in its diversity, requires a democratic, federal system of government, where problems from local to global are dealt with by governments at the appropriate level.

Constitution A world constitution with a declaration of rights should be promoted by any means possible, e.g., restructuring and democratizing the United Nations, federating a number of regional unions, expanding a community of democracies, or building a new set of institutions of government through a world convention.

B. To develop an organization/movement without borders and spread its message throughout the world via contacts with other civil-society organizations, educational institutions, the media, lawmakers, and the general public.

The Unspoken Truth by Gary Shepherd, Carbondale, Illinois

There has been a great deal of sound and fury related to Wikileaks' recent release of confidential communications from the U.S. State Department. Much ire has been directed at the founder of Wikileaks, Julian Assange, and debate has ranged between whether he should be left alone, prosecuted for espionage by the U.S. Government, or simply 'whacked' by the CIA. He has been condemned by many, even called un-American by one right-wing columnist – although how someone who is not an American could be un-American is an open question.

Likewise, there has been debate about just how serious the implications of the leaked communications are. Although they were marked at the lowest level of confidentiality, and although only a small fraction of the messages available have actually been published, many commentators say they have, at the minimum, damaged the ability of the U.S. Government to interact with some foreign governments. A small number of people have claimed that Assange was only ex-

ercising his First Amendment rights as a journalist. An even smaller group claims that he is a hero, an internet David standing up to the American Goliath. Regardless, there seems to be general agreement that publicly telling the truth about what the United States Government was doing and saying is bad for the U.S. and its operations, although the extent of the damage is a matter of disagreement.

Yet there is a greater issue here, that most commentators have ignored. The great unspoken truth of the Wikileaks controversy is that in the modern nation-state system, the truth goes unspoken. No one has claimed that what Wikileaks has published is a fabrication. The fact that it is true is exactly what makes it so egregious. Removing all the extraneous adjectives and nouns from the last sentence in the paragraph above, we can pare it down to the bald statement: "telling the truth is bad."

-- Reprinted from an editorial in *United World: CDWG News & Views for Jan-Feb 2011*.

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GLOBAL MARSHALL PLAN by Robert Hanson of Walnut Creek, CA

Many of us in the peace movement have bumper stickers that say "War is Not the Answer." This, then, invites the question "What is the Answer?" I believe that it is a national policy of generosity, which would replace our current policy of global domination.

Perhaps, the leading advocate of making this change is Rabbi Michael Lerner and his Network of Spiritual Progressives, which is advocating a Global Marshall Plan. Lerner is editor of *Tikkun Magazine*.

Many of us are old enough to remember the end of World War II. At that time, Secretary of State (General, Ret.) George Marshall suggested that U.S. interests would be best served by a massive project to provide economic aid to Western European countries, including Germany.

The motivation at that time, was to make Western Europe strong economically, so that it did not turn to communism. Needless to say, the plan was highly successful.

Today, we face a different set of circumstances, but the need is as great. Communism is no longer viewed as a threat, but terrorism and religious fundamentalism have managed to keep us living in fear. For the arms manufacturers and militarists, this provides great opportunities for endless war.

After 9/11, President George W. Bush said that they had attacked us because they "hated our freedoms and way of life." Most serious scholars who have studied the terrorist's motivation, feel that that is about 180 degrees off the mark. Osama Bin Laden stated repeatedly that he hated America because we were stationing troops in his homeland of Saudi Arabia and because we were constantly defending Israel, even in the face of United Nations resolutions condemning their actions. Fortunately, our military decided to leave Saudi Arabia for the more friendly confines of Kuwait, but Islamic militants are still fanatic about our uneven support for Israel, our invasions of largely Muslim Afghanistan and Iraq, and our support of autocratic regimes in many Muslim nations, such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt. We can hope that the recent revolutions in Egypt and Tunisia will lessen their talking points, but our persistent support of Israel continues to be the major problem.

The Global Marshall Plan would demonstrate to the world that America (and hopefully, other developed nations) is truly interested in ending world poverty and improving the lives of the billions of persons

living on less than a dollar a day.

This would cause the world to like, if not love, America, rather than fear her. Recruitment of terrorists would shrink to nothing.

Here are the essentials of the plan:

1) Provide enough funding to once and for all eliminate global poverty, homelessness, hunger, inadequate education and inadequate health care.

2) Create an international, nongovernmental agency for receiving and distributing the funds or utilize existing agencies of the U.N.

3) Change all global and regional trade agreements in which the U.S. is currently involved, so they no longer unfairly benefit the most powerful and successful Western countries at the expense of the poor of the world.

4) Ensure hands-on involvement from peoples of the Western World, starting with the United States. Think expansion of the Peace Corps. Students coming out of high school could be guaranteed financial assistance to attend college, the way the G.I. Bill helped many of us get our educations.

5) The Global Marshall Plan would build the capacities of people around the world to ensure their own future economic well-being as well as provide short-term aid in food, shelter and safe drinking water.

6) Retrain the armies of the world to become experts at serving the needy, rather than killing their "foes." I'll guarantee there will be fewer suicides and mental health problems among our veterans. We can never militarily defeat an enemy that believes in their cause so much that they are willing to blow themselves up. Our only hope is to change their minds.

Any terrorists who still persist should be dealt with by an international police force. U.S. military preparedness is still geared toward fighting the Soviet Union, not some follower of Bin Laden holed up in a cave in the mountains, or living in a London slum.

Expensive? Of course. But much less expensive than trying to be the unofficial, un-elected world policeman. There is little doubt that the Global Marshall Plan would function best under a system of Democratic World Federalism. -- *Dr. Hansen is D.W.F. Treasurer.*

DEMOCRATIC WORLD FEDERALISTS SPEAK OUT

Continuity of Government Plans

by John O. Sutter

American nuclear bombs virtually demolished Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945. But the U.S. monopoly did not last long, for in 1949 the Soviet Union acquired the ability to make nuclear weapons. Consequently, the United States -- whose national security on the mainland between two oceans had thitherto hardly been affected -- now felt vulnerable to a nuclear attack or other form of devastation against important sites in the United States, especially the national capital.

Through an executive order, President Eisenhower provided for measures to assure continued operation of the government in case of a nuclear war. Underground facilities were constructed at Mount Weather in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia and at Camp David in northern Maryland, that might serve as the President's command post at time of war.

In 1979 President Carter, again through an executive order, provided for the **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** to coordinate relief from disasters that overwhelm the resources of local and state governments. Thus, it was called in when Hurricane Katrina nearly destroyed New Orleans in 2005.

It was especially President Reagan's secret executive order that established the more complex **Continuity of Government (C.O.G.)** program, with Col. Oliver North serving as "action officer." **Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld had key positions in C.O.G.** Cheney had been Chief-of-Staff for President Gerald Ford, and after a stint as a Congressman from Wyoming, became Secretary of Defense under President George H.W. Bush. Rumsfeld had also been Chief-of-Staff to Ford, before being named as his Secretary of Defense. Both had also worked as C.E.O. of major companies.

As part of the C.O.G. plan, Cheney and Rumsfeld every year during the 1980s would head two of **three teams** and join fifty or so federal officials from the capital including representatives of the Departments of Defense and State, the C.I.A., and three cabinet members, and in the middle of night move to underground bunkers. In a catastrophe, **one of the surviving teams would run the emergency or shadow government, with the cabinet member of that team acting as President and the senior official as his Chief-of-Staff.** Meanwhile, while U.S. presidents through Obama have renewed the Executive Order authorizing the C.O.G., the Congress has been prevented from playing a direct role in this extra-constitutional, if not unconstitutional, operation.

Of the three sites with underground bunkers for C.O.G. in case of an emergency, staff of the Executive Office would go to the one at Camp David. The large underground facility at Raven Rock Mountain Complex just across the border in Pennsylvania was intended primarily for the Department of Defense. FEMA had primary access to Mount Weather.

In addition, the **North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD)** had access to Cheyenne Mountain outside of Colorado Springs, and the **U.S. Strategic Command Center** operated out of Offutt Air Force Base outside Omaha. There was even the **National Airborne Operations Center, consisting of a Boeing E-4B**, which could serve as an emergency mobile command post. One was flying over the White House around the time something hit the Pentagon on September 11, 2001.

One other thing. Under the C.O.G. plan, in case of a national catastrophe that might temporarily wipe out the regular communications, the **System Restart Ancillary Services (SRAS)** -- a secret alternative and safe communications system -- is put into operation. Coincidentally, the SRAS was turned on and operative on September **10th**, 2001. Was this in order to be ready for a disaster the next day, on 9/11?

Also, under the C.O.G., state and local security forces would be federalized. On September **5th**, 2001 the brother of President Bush, **Governor Jeb Bush of Florida** (who happened to be a member of the Project for the New American Century), issued an order calling on all members of the Florida National Guard to prepare for training Florida's state and local law-enforcement and emergency-management personnel in the event of "civil disturbances or natural disasters." Could this have been in case of a disaster several days later, on 9/11?

In view of the absence of a major foreign enemy after the collapse of the Soviet Union, there was a decline in concern about the Continuity Of Government plans under President Clinton. However, Vice President Cheney -- to all appearances acting as President on 9/11 with President Bush away (out of the way?) visiting a grade school -- took charge and operated out of the Presidential Emergency Operations Center bunker beneath the White House. He then ordered several cabinet members, Speaker of the House Hastert and selected Congressional leaders to the underground C.O.G. bunkers; meanwhile, Rumsfeld ordered Deputy Secretary of Defense Wolfowitz into one of them. Thus, it was not surprising that the two men, Cheney and Rumsfeld, brought the C.O.G. plans back into operation with 9/11.

This is from a paper presented at the Diablo International Resource Center in Walnut Creek, CA on 8 February. It was inspired by a talk given by Prof. Peter Dale Scott at a program of the Commonwealth Club of California on 23 November 2010 organized by Dr. Sutter, D.W.F. President

Governments' Muted Response to Egypt

by Kevin Yarbrough

The U.S. Government's public balancing act regarding recent political upheaval in Egypt is well-established, as the White House and State Department attempted to weigh decades of rhetoric championing the onward march of free expression and democracy against decades of direct support for a regime which valued neither. American diplomats walked a fine line in an effort to pay more than lip service to universal human rights without alienating undemocratic allies valued for maintaining regional stability, while notably chastising the Iranian government for declaring its support of the Egyptian people before outlawing similar protests within its own borders. The United States may again face a similar dilemma in the near future, as the Sunni regime of strategically-important Bahrain (home to the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet) cracks down on protests inspired in part by those in Tunisia, Egypt, and elsewhere.

Continued on page 6.

Libya, Intervention, and the Need for Global Governance by John Bunzl of London

As we sit by and watch as many Libyans and others in North Africa and the Middle East die or suffer at the hands of autocratic governments, it's painful not to be able to offer them practical support; it's *painful* to have to watch helplessly as they're murdered in the streets. To avoid being charged as intervening "imperialists" other governments and the UN are reduced to communiqués denouncing violence -- and we, the people, must stand by and watch while our fellow humans are slaughtered.

This situation, we should realise, is only to be expected. It is entirely inherent in a world which, although it increasingly espouses *world-centric* values -- values such as human rights and democracy -- is still inextricably stuck in a *nation-centric* world of national governments; a world, that is, which because it possesses no form of essentially democratic global governance, of course has no political legitimacy able to justify intervention in places like Libya.

This shows that world-centric values can never be made a practical reality all the while the world fails to develop a form of essentially democratic -- and therefore politically legitimate -- global governance. Rather than stand by feeling guilty at our impotence, then, shouldn't we be channelling our outrage into the positive aim of achieving global cooperation and governance?

For the struggle of our Arab brothers and sisters is, if only we would realise it, our own struggle too. Because just as they struggle to throw off the bonds of paternalistic autocracies which no longer work, we too are stifled under the weight of a democracy which, because of the ability of capital and corporations to move their operations across national borders, also no longer has any meaning.

For as long as governments fail to cooperate globally, they must compete nationally; and that means each government, regardless of the party in power, has no choice but to implement only those policies which attract globally mobile corporations and investors and, by the same token, weaken society and the environment. Little wonder, then, that whoever is in power, the policies delivered remain substantially the same and our votes count for little.

But is this the kind of democracy we really want? Is this pathetic, hollowed out pseudo-democracy what we want for ourselves or, for that matter, for our Arab brothers and sisters? For if we in relatively free countries fail to achieve democratic global governance, pseudo-democratic national governance is what we -- and they -- will be left with. Don't they -- and we -- deserve better? Don't we all deserve the real thing?

Global governance, we should be aware then, is the route to actualising world-centric values, so providing the necessary political legitimacy to allow intervention in places like Libya. Equally, however, it is the route to restoring our democratic ability to change the disastrous course our own western -- and indeed all nations -- are on.

With the opportunity Simultaneous Policy (Simpol) gives us to bring about an essentially democratic form of global governance by using our nationally valid votes in a new, transcendent and powerful way, what are we waiting for?

Simpol <http://www.simpol.org> - please spread the word.

-- John Bunzl is founder of the *International Simultaneous Policy Organisation* and authored *People-centered Global Governance -- Making it Happen!* (2009).

Shahriar's Activities in 2010

Vice President Shahriar Sharei has been dividing his time between graduate studies at the University of Kent campus in Brussels and representing Democratic World Federalists at a number of conferences abroad. Here are some highlights of his activities.

Academic -- Received a LL.M degree in International Law and evaluated the legal implications and solutions available to a world government scheme. Further, in all my class discussions I have presented to the professors and the students the illegitimacy of the current international law and its shortcomings and the alternative of true rule of law under a democratic federal world government. However, in the process I have mostly encountered muteness, rather than the light bulb glowing! However, I have managed to make a couple of the professors sympathetic.

Lecture in Cyprus -- On 29 May 2010 I delivered a talk at the International Security Forum-sponsored European Security Conference. My subject, which related to the N.P.T. Treaty and disarmament, was entitled "The Challenges of Nuclear Disarmament: Dis-invent the Bomb, or Reinvent the U.N." Dr. Yiorghos Leventis, the Director of the I.S.F., was sympathetic. In addition to the I.S.F. site, the text of my talk was published in two Greek and one Cypriot WEB sites.

Attended the Five-Year Review Conference of the N.P.T. (Treaty on Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons) at the United Nations in New York as a World Federalist Movement (W.F.M.) delegate and D.W.F. representative for three days in May. To the N.G.O. attendees at the Conference my message was clear: "You will never see nuclear disarmament, unless you have world government."

Attended the UN Reform preparatory meeting in Tripoli, Libya in September. On behalf of D.W.F. I agreed to a U.N. Reform conference (subject to our Board approval) in 2011. Later, however, although the conference would have been very beneficial to D.W.F. conceptually, there has been a communication blackout from our Libyan counterparts. [Note: The popular uprising in Libya apparently precludes having such a conference in the near future.]

Represented D.W.F. in the W.F.M. and United Nations Parliamentary Assembly annual meetings in Buenos Aires in October. At the W.F.M. Council event I was busy building alliances with some of the W.F.M. members in anticipation of the next Congress in 2012.

Represented D.W.F. and the World Alliance to Transform the United Nations (WATUN) in Parlamento Latino Americano (PARLATINO). In Argentina, I was also a guest speaker at PARLATINO. As Vice President of D.W.F., I presented to the 20--30 M.P.'s and Senators from all over Latin America, the notion of the 1945 San Francisco Promise and the role of the Latin American countries in introducing Article 109 Sec. (3) for a UN Charter Review Conference. The audience loved it!

With the support of Chairperson Sonia Escudero a resolution was passed in support of revisiting the U.N. General Assembly Resolution 992 (X), which was passed in 1955 calling for a Charter Review. Sonia Escudero and the Argentine's U.N. Mission Representative stationed in New York agreed to cooperate with us, after I proposed that we should discuss the feasibility of taking political action on calling a Charter Review Conference. I sent the Spanish text of the resolution to Francisco Plancarte (who was not at the PARLATINO), and I think we should discuss and have a joint D.W.F.-WATUN action plan in utilizing PARLATINO as part of a wider plan to re-invoke Article 109 (3).

Continued from page 4.

Much less has been said of the United Nations' response to the crisis in Egypt, however, in large part because it was insubstantial. The UN Security Council did not release a statement or pass a resolution. During Mubarak's brief attempted-crackdown on the media and hundreds of thousands of protesters, Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and Human Rights Chief Navi Pillay joined the broad chorus of condemnations of violence and demands that Egypt (and now Bahrain and others) respect human rights, but otherwise offered relatively little input or insight into the matter.

It has been noted that the Secretary General and Security Council's roles have traditionally been suited toward addressing interstate conflicts as opposed to nations' domestic affairs, and therefore Ban Ki-moon's hesitance to wade into the conflict simply reflects the relative limits of his office. Ban has developed a reputation for failing to adequately speak out against human rights abuses over the course of his term, but was also somewhat hamstrung by Russian and Chinese criticism over his suggestion that Mubarak should have stepped down.

Security Council members are frequently reluctant to comment on the internal crises of other states out of fear that they themselves may one day fall under scrutiny, and also owing to the aforementioned threat of alienating one or more allies by making a statement. Russian Ambassador to the United Nations Vitaly Churkin stated that he thought that "the United Nations should be dealing with its many tasks, which do not include poking fingers in the eyes of leaders in other countries." Churkin suggested that Security Council members make a trip to Egypt (albeit before Mubarak had resigned), and framed the troubled Arab state as "a country which is very friendly to Russia and very friendly to many of us."

In practical terms, the United Nations may have been unable to exert meaningful influence on Egypt as the protests built because its own relations with the country paled in comparison to Egypt's comparatively strong relationships with prominent Security Council members. This contrasts with other African crises like that in Ivory Coast, in which the United Nations plays an active role in the election process and has a several thousand-strong peacekeeping contingent present in the country.

The African Union's biannual summit of African leaders took place in Ethiopia in late January, as Egypt's protests gained momentum. The summit almost completely skirted the issue, with Chairman of the African Union Jean Ping explaining that the situation in Egypt was too recent and fluid to take a primary role at the meeting. Interestingly, the summit also neglected to address the fall of the Tunisian government, which culminated on January 14 and 15.

It looks as though the only foreign governments capable of shifting or shaping the dialogue on Egypt, to the extent that any foreign government could, have arguably had a greater vested interest in maintaining Egypt's "stability" rather than in nurturing its historic protest movement. Conversely, the only foreign organizations willing and able to open up about the conflict do not appear to command the clout or resources to significantly influence the issue. -- Kevin Yarbrough of Alameda, CA is D.W.F. Program Officer.

"I am a citizen, not of Athens, or of Greece, but of the World. - **Socrates.**"

GLOBAL ANARCHY WATCH

This column focuses on some problems that remain incapable of being addressed by the current system of international governance (or complete lack thereof). One may ask, isn't it time for the people of the world to have a government with democratically enacted and enforceable world law for the benefit of all humanity?

Afghanistan, Pakistan: The UN's deputy special representative in Afghanistan claimed that the security situation there is in its worse condition since Taliban rule, with as much as 40 percent of the country off limits to UN resources. A NATO statement also claimed that the attrition rate in the Afghan armed forces is over 30%, mostly in the south of the country, although the Afghan army is still meeting its recruiting goals. Pakistan's ISI security service has also broken off its relationship with the American CIA after a CIA-contracted American spy was arrested for murder after shooting two armed men to death in Lahore, Pakistan.

Bahrain: Bahrain's monarchy initiated a violent crackdown on anti-government protests in Manama, the capital. Riot police attacked protesters in the night and the army opened fire on protesters on February 18. The two sides seemed to reduce hostilities somewhat. On February 22, more than 100,000 of Bahrain's 500,000 citizens protested in Manama. The government released well over 300 political prisoners the following day.



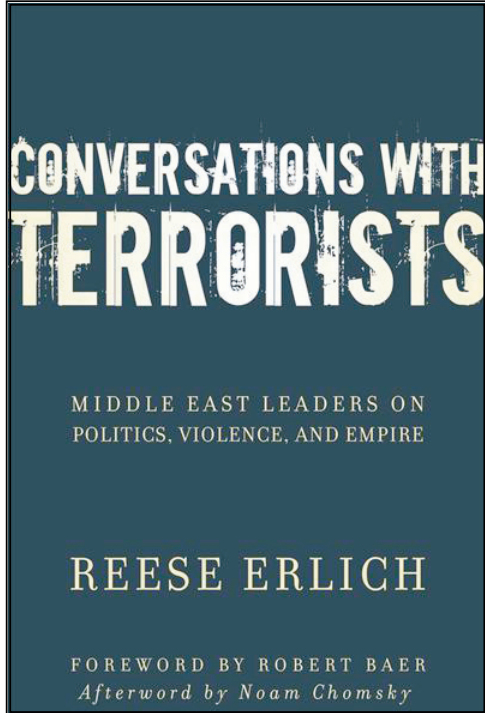
Protesters in Bahrain -- Courtesy CTV

The Korean Peninsula: Tensions between North and South Korea remain volatile since the two countries exchanged artillery fire last November, killing four South Koreans. North Korea also disclosed the existence of a uranium enrichment program last November, and it is estimated that the country has the material for as many as half a dozen nuclear weapons. China, which plays host to six-party talks offering North Korea economic incentives in exchange for disarmament, stands accused of blocking a U.N. Security Council report declaring North Korea's uranium enrichment to be a contravention of various U.N. resolutions.



Damage from North Korean shelling -- Courtesy BBC

Government and Media Distortions on the War on Terror



by Reese Erlich.
 2011 Good Government Luncheon Lecture
 Presented by the Democratic World Federalists
 Sunday, 17 April 2011
 at Bucca di Beppo Restaurant
 855 Howard St., San Francisco, CA 94105
 (Between 4th and 5th Streets)

Reese Erlich's history in journalism goes back 42 years. He first worked as a staff writer and research editor for *Ramparts*, an investigative reporting magazine published in San Francisco from 1963 to 1975. Today he works as a full-time print and broadcast, freelance reporter.

Erlich's fourth book, *Conversations with Terrorists: Middle East Leaders on Politics, Violence and Empire*, came out in September 2010 and will be available for purchase.

Erlich reports for National Public Radio (USA), CBC (Canada), ABC (Australia), Radio Deutsche Welle and Market Place Radio.

Program:

11:30 am	Registration (Tickets will be held at the door)	12:50	Introduction by John O. Sutter, President
12:00 pm	Luncheon		Presentation by Reese Erlich, followed by Q&A
	Welcome by Roger Kotila, Chairperson, Master of Ceremonies	1:50	Intermission
12:45	Announcements	2:00	Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors (open to supporters)

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"The only ultimate alternative to war is the abandonment of the principle of coercion of sovereigns by sovereigns and the adoption of the principle of the just enforcement upon individuals of world federal law, enacted by a world federal legislature with limited but adequate powers to safeguard the common defense and the general welfare of all mankind... Beyond an effective United Nations lies the further possibility of genuine world government." - **Henry A. Wallace**



REESE ERLICH CONVERSES WITH "TERRORISTS"

On Sunday, 17 April, Reese Erlich will be the guest speaker at the Good Government Luncheon Lecture of the Democratic World Federalists at Buca de Beppo Restaurant in San Francisco. (See page 7 for details.) He will be speaking on "Government and Media Distortions on the War on Terror," taken from his new book *Conversations With Terrorists*.

From Friday prayers in Tehran and the back streets of Afghanistan to the strife-torn streets of Belfast, veteran foreign correspondent Reese Erlich has covered U.S. foreign policy for decades. Now he brings the audience face to face with six Middle Eastern leaders sometimes labeled as terrorists, offers each a chance to explain his or her positions, and subjects those explanations to critical scrutiny.

Drawing on firsthand interviews and original research, he shows that yesterday's terrorist is often today's national leader -- and that today's freedom fighter may become tomorrow's terrorist. By labeling virtually every opponent a terrorist, Erlich concludes, the United States makes fighting real terrorists all the more difficult (witness the slow official response to popular uprisings in some Arab countries).

He concludes that the "global war on terror" has diverted public attention from its real goal -- expanding U.S. influence and interests

in troubled regions -- and offers policy remedies going forward.

Reese Erlich's previous books include *Dateline Havana* (2009), *The Iran Agenda* (2007), and *Target Iraq* (2003), co-authored with Norman Solomon. He reports regularly for Marketplace and National Public Radio, and writes for the *San Francisco Chronicle* and the *Dallas Morning News*. In 2001, he produced a one-hour radio documentary, "The Struggle for Iran," hosted by Walter Cronkite.



Erlich takes us on "a fascinating journey inside the heads and homes of those we are taught to hate and fear -- from Hamas to the Taliban to Hezbollah. Erlich's book is a must read for all who want to live in a world where we rely on diplomacy, not war, to resolve our differences."--*Medea Benjamin, cofounder, CODEPINK and Global Exchange.*

Erlich "cuts through the fog of the 'war on terror,' providing readers with a searchlight to see beyond propaganda. The resulting clarity will transform views of what is -- and what is possible."--*Norman Solomon, War Made Easy.*

"As usual, Reese Erlich is right on target."--*James Abourezk, former U.S. Senator, South Dakota*