



Peace and Justice  
Commission

**PEACE & JUSTICE COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA**  
**Monday, March 4, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**Berkeley City Hall,**  
**2180 Milvia, Cypress Room Berkeley, CA**

**SECTION A. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

1. Roll Call
2. Announcements
3. Comments from the Public (*subject to time limits applicable to all speakers as necessary*)
4. Review and approval of meeting minutes - see attachment 2
5. Commission Updates & Chairperson's Report (5 minutes)
6. Secretary's Report (including status of passed items from previous meetings)

**SECTION B. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND OTHER COMMISSION BUSINESS**

7. Subcommittee on The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Commissioner Maran) discussion and potential appointments
8. Subcommittee on Socially Responsible Investments and Procurement (Commissioner Bohn) discussion and potential appointments
9. Discussion of convening a BUSD subcommittee and potential appointments

**SECTION C. ACTION ITEMS**

10. Discussion and possible action on letter to Council regarding environmental consequences of US military bases in Okinawa (Commissioner Bohn) – see attachments 3-6
11. Resolution opposing US withdrawal from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (Commissioner Bohn) - see attachments 7-8
12. Recommendation to bring justice to Mr. Leonard Powell and to institute certain policies that provide housing stability for homeowners and tenants (Commissioner Tregub) – see attachment 9
13. Review and provide comment to the City of Berkeley Fire Department regarding citywide disaster preparedness efforts using a social justice lens (Commissioner Lippman)

14. Resolution re Venezuela (Commissioner Bohn) - see attachment 12

## **SECTION D. COMMUNICATIONS**

15. Communication from CODEPINK - see attachment 10
16. Communication from community member – see attachment 11

## **SECTION E. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

## **SECTION F. ADJOURNMENT**

### **Attachments:**

1. Roster, enabling legislation, work plan, and commission status of items
2. Minutes of February 4, 2019 meeting
3. Cover letter to City Council about Okinawa
4. Okinawa letter from Hideki Yoshikawa
5. Article by Hideki Yoshikawa
6. Resolution opposing helipad construction at Takae, Okinawa
7. Tim Wallis article
8. Resolution opposing US withdrawal from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty
9. Recommendation to bring justice to Leonard Powell and to change policies that provide housing stability for homeowners and tenants
10. CODEPINK Letter
11. Letter from community member
12. Resolution against US intervention in Venezuela (Commissioner Bohn)

The next meeting of the Peace & Justice Commission is scheduled for April 8, 2019. All proposed Commission agenda items should be submitted to the Commission Secretary by or before March 29 2019. Dates are subject to change, please contact the Commission Secretary by email at [bslimick@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:bslimick@cityofberkeley.info) to confirm receipt of submitted items.

### **ADA Disclaimer**



*"This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at 981-6342 (V) or 981-6345 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting."*

### **Communications Disclaimer**

*Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. **Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to a City board, commission or committee, will become***

**part of the public record.** *If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the relevant board, commission or committee for further information.*

**SB 343 Disclaimer**

*Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at Old City Hall located at 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704.*

**Commission Contact Information**

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## Peace and Justice Commission Roster

Name	Appointer	District
<b>VACANT</b>	Levy-Cutler	BUSD
Zo Pancoast	Alper	BUSD
Zaira Rodriguez	Student Director	BUSD
Rachel Pierce	Julie Sinai	BUSD
<b>VACANT</b>		BUSD
Grace Morizawa	Appel	BUSD
<b>Igor Tregub (Chair)</b>	Arreguin	Mayor
Rita Maran	Maio	1
Dr. Hatem al-Bazian	Davila	2
<b>J. George Lippman (Vice Chair)</b>	Bartlett	3
Diana Bohn	Harrison	4
<b>Judith Gussman</b>	Hahn	5
Robert L Meola	Wengraf	6
Denny Han	Worthington	7
Angie Chen	Droste	8

## Chapter 3.68 PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMISSION

Sections:

- [3.68.010](#) Findings.
- [3.68.020](#) Established--Membership--Appointment.
- [3.68.030](#) "Peace and justice" defined.
- [3.68.040](#) Automatic termination of appointment.
- [3.68.050](#) Liaison representative to other City entities.
- [3.68.060](#) Organization, meetings, rules, and procedures.
- [3.68.070](#) Functions.

### **3.68.010 Findings.**

The council finds as follows:

- A. The intentional destruction of cities in war is the rule and not the exception.
- B. State, national and international governmental bodies have failed to control war and in fact, have in many cases, been responsible for war and the conditions of war.
- C. The wealth that could be spent to help the poor, heal the sick, house the homeless, educate the children, and care for the elderly is now spent on ever more costly weapons of mass destruction.
- D. Peace is not a fictitious tranquil end-state, but the process of solving differences constructively, creatively, and non-violently.
- E. Peace is inseparable from justice.
- F. The present threat of nuclear or biological holocaust is not peace, but a condition of war against all humanity.
- G. Initiatives are needed to reverse the drift toward war and to remove the causes of war.
- H. Our best protection lies in initiating, devising, and promulgating peaceful and just policy alternatives.
- I. Individual citizens, unless organized, are virtually powerless in confronting and influencing larger governmental bodies.

J. It is the responsibility of one and all to labor hard for peace and justice within forums of appropriate scale.

K. The residents of Berkeley have continually demonstrated their concern for peace and justice based on equality among all peoples.

L. The residents of Berkeley have welcomed to our City those who have been forced into exile, and who have come fleeing torture and death.

M. The Berkeley City Council, to act successfully in furthering peace and justice, must have wise counsel, accurate research, vigorous analysis, articulate formulation of issues and proposals for action, and thus the establishment of a Peace and Justice Commission is proper. (Ord. 5705 § 1, 1986)

### **3.68.020 Established--Membership--Appointment.**

A Peace and Justice Commission is hereby established. The commission shall consist of fifteen members. Six members shall be appointed by the Berkeley Unified School District Board and nine members shall be appointed by the Berkeley City Council. Commission members shall have a demonstrated interest in the area of peace and social justice. It is suggested that the commission should have some representation of political refugees and political exiles who are residents of Berkeley and otherwise eligible to serve on the commission. Berkeley City Council appointments to the commission shall be made, and vacancies shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of Sections [2.04.030](#) through [2.04.130](#) of the Berkeley Municipal Code enacted as Ordinance No. 4780-N.S. by the voters of the City. (Ord. 5705-NS § 2, 1986)

### **3.68.030 "Peace and justice" defined.**

For the purpose of this chapter, "peace and social justice" shall refer to the goal of creating a world community in which the relations between people are based on equality, respect for human rights, and the abhorrence of exploitation and all forms of oppression. (Ord. 5705-NS § 3, 1986)

### **3.68.040 Automatic termination of appointment.**

A. The appointment of any member of the commission who has been absent from three consecutive meetings shall automatically terminate as set forth in Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 3.02 unless: (i) the absence of the commissioner is due to incarceration for acts of conscience or is due to absence from the City for work related to that of the commission, (ii) in the case of absences for reasons stated in item (i) it is strongly urged that in accordance with Section [3.02.030](#) of the Berkeley Municipal Code the appointing councilmember grant a leave of absence for not more than three months, and fill the vacancy with a temporary appointment to the commission.

B. The chairperson of the commission shall report the attendance records of each member of the commission to the City Clerk monthly for each regularly scheduled meeting.

C. Any member absent as noted in items A (i) and A (ii) above shall be recorded as "excused". Any member absent without being recorded as excused from three consecutive regular meetings as reported monthly shall be terminated automatically after the third missed meeting.

D. The City Clerk shall notify any member whose appointment has automatically terminated and report to the appointing City Councilmember or School Board that a vacancy exists on the commission and that an appointment should be made for the unexpired term. (Ord. 5705-NS § 4, 1986)

### **3.68.050 Liaison representative to other City entities.**

The commission may designate one or more of its members to act as a liaison representative to any other board, commission, or committee of the City. The functions of the liaison representative may include:

A. Attendance at meetings of such other boards, commissions or committees;

B. Advising the Peace and Justice Commission on the background behind those recommendations to the City Council of other boards, commissions or committees; and,

C. On request of any member of such other board, commission or committee giving advice to such other board, commission or committee of policies, and procedures and recommendations to the City Council of the Peace and Justice Commission that may bear upon matters under discussion by such other board, commission or committee. (Ord. 5705-NS § 5, 1986)

### **3.68.060 Organization, meetings, rules, and procedures.**

A. The commission shall organize by electing from its members one chairperson and one vice-chairperson and such other officers as may be necessary, who shall hold office for one year and until their successors are elected unless their terms as members of the commission expire sooner. An officer or employee of the City designated by the City Manager shall serve as secretary to the commission.

B. The commission shall establish a regular place and time for meeting. All meetings shall be noticed as required by law and shall be scheduled in a way to allow for maximum input from the public. The frequency of meetings shall be as determined by City Council resolution. The scheduling of special meetings in addition to those established by City Council resolution, except special meetings that take the place of cancelled regular meetings, shall be subject to approval by the City Council. A request for a special meeting shall include the

reason for the proposed meeting and should be expedited on the City Council' s agenda, or in the alternative, placed before the Agenda Committee for approval.

C. The commission shall establish internal working rules and procedures which do not violate those rules of governance existing in the City Charter, the Commissioner's Handbook, or established through the authority of the City Council. (Ord. 6899-NS § 1, 2006: Ord. 5705-NS § 6, 1986)

### **3.68.070 Functions.**

The commission shall perform the following functions:

- A. Advise the Berkeley City Council and the Berkeley Unified School Board on all matters relating to the City of Berkeley's role in issues of peace and social justice, including, but not limited to the issues of ending the arms race, abolishing nuclear weapons, support for human rights and self-determination throughout the world, and the reallocation of our national resources so that money now spent on war and preparation of war is spent on fulfilling human needs and the promotion of peace.
- B. Help create citizen awareness around issues of social justice and develop educational programs for implementation by the City Council and the School Board.
- C. Help develop proposals for the City Council and the School Board for actions in furtherance of the goals of peace and justice, and help publicize such actions in the community.
- D. Hold public hearings and community forums on issues that fall within the charge of the commission, and call on appropriate witnesses to provide pertinent information.
- E. Initiate and encourage research programs to collect and assess information relevant to the functions of the commission including the effect of the arms race and military spending on funding for City and school programs and on the quality of life for citizens of Berkeley.
- F. Develop ways to resolve conflict which do not involve violence and which may be applied on a local level as well as a national level.
- G. Initiate and develop cultural and educational foreign exchange.
- H. Act as a liaison between community groups organizing around issues of peace and social justice and City government.



I. Prepare inventories of City resources, both public and private that are available for furthering the work of promoting international peace and social justice.

J. Provide information to other municipalities and school districts on the work of the commission, and exchange information on actions taken by cities and the School Board in furtherance of the goals of the commission.

K. Assist the Director of Finance in the annual evaluation of financial institutions for qualification of City investments; complete development and assist in the implementation of a linked deposit program; encourage target investments; coordinate with City agencies, appropriate community organizations, public and private investors, and the Governor's Public Investment Task Force; and advise the City Council on matters relating to the responsible investment of public funds in accordance with the responsible investment policy established by Resolution No. 55,141A-NS.

L. Perform such other functions and duties as may be directed by the City Council or prescribed or authorized by any ordinance of the City, and such other functions and duties not prohibited by City Council which the commission should decide are consistent with its overall function of promoting peace and social justice.

M. In prescribing the above duties and functions of the commission, it is not the intent of the council to duplicate or overlap the functions, duties, or responsibilities heretofore or hereafter assigned to any other City board or commission or to a City department. As to such functions or responsibilities above set forth which are partially or wholly the responsibilities of another board or commission or of a department of the City, the commission will render such assistance and advice to such board, commission or department as may be requested. (Ord. 6017-NS § 1, 1990: Ord. 5705-NS § 7, 1986)

Peace and Justice Commission  
2018-2019 Annual Work Plan

Mission Statement:

The Peace and Justice Commission advises the Berkeley City Council and the Berkeley Unified School District Board on all matters relating to the City of Berkeley's role in issues of peace and social justice. (BMC Section 3.68.070.A.) Under its mandate, the Commission also helps create citizen awareness around issues of social justice, holds public hearings and community forums, initiates and encourage research programs, develops ways to resolve conflict which do not involve violence, acts as a liaison between community groups organizing around issues of peace and social justice and City government, and assists the Director of Finance in the evaluation of financial institutions for socially responsible investing.

I. Resolutions and communications to Council and the Board of Education.

Address homelessness, racial and gender justice, policing policy (including external BPD relationships such as NCRIC and UASI), protection of Ohlone sacred sites, civil liberties, international peace with justice, and other social issues as they arise throughout the year with proposals and communications as appropriate.

II. Other existing responsibilities and subcommittees.

- a. Continue the established responsibility for Nuclear Free Berkeley Act oversight and waiver process, as proposals are submitted to the Commission by City staff. Continue to collaborate with the international movement against nuclear weapons.
- b. Subcommittee on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

The Subcommittee held a successful forum on the CRPD in 2018, and plans to hold a follow-up forum in 2019.

- c. Socially Responsible Investing and Procurement Subcommittee (SRIP).
  - i. Improve and institutionalize the City's commitment to Socially Responsible investing, banking, and procurement.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> BMC Section 3.68.070.K: "The [Peace and Justice] Commission shall perform the following functions...K. Assist the Director of Finance in the annual evaluation of financial institutions for qualification of City investments...and advise the City Council on matters relating to the responsible

Develop a resolution to propose a mechanism to fulfill the Commission's mandated advisory role.

- ii. Work with the Mayor's Task Force on Banking to strengthen and make effective the SRIP program, especially with regard to Procurement
- iii. Work with the BUSD School Board Policy Committee to establish an effective Sweatfree Berkeley Schools Policy.

### III. Proposed expansions of responsibility.

The Commission has proposed two areas in which it could assist the Council in support of its Sanctuary City/City of Refuge declaration. As Berkeley has no Immigrant Rights Commission, Peace and Justice functions in that capacity on a de facto basis.

- a. Regional Sanctuary Community Working Group. The Commission offered to take on coordination with other Sanctuary communities (cities and counties) in a resolution passed July 9, 2018. Mayor Arreguin asked the Commission to do this work through the Mayor's Sanctuary City Task Force.
- b. Sanctuary City Contracting Ordinance — Ban ICE data brokers from city contracting. The Commission reviewed the ordinance referred to it by Council, and responded with suggested language giving the Commission a role in vetting contracts, patterned after its role in the Nuclear Free Berkeley Act. The Commission's letter appeared in a subsequent Council agenda packet as a communication and is pending Council action.

- IV. Cooperate with the school board and the BUSD community on social issues of mutual interest affecting students and youth, with special consideration to the problem of the educational opportunity gap and sexual harassment in the schools, in the context of Title IX. Success of this initiative depends on School Board members fully appointing membership of the Peace and Justice Commission (to its statutory number of six BUSD-appointed commissioners from the present two).

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investment of public funds in accordance with the responsible investment policy established by Resolution No. 55,141A-NS.”)

The Commission will support the development of the African American Holistic Resource Center.

Background:

#### CRPD

The Peace & Justice Commission established the Subcommittee on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Subcommittee) in 2014, in order to institutionalize the City of Berkeley's long-standing focus on promoting and protecting the legal rights of persons with disabilities. The City has held a leading position in the field of disability rights for many years, and is well-known nationally and internationally as an unusually fruitful breeding ground for grassroots non-profit organizations working in that field.

Together with representatives from four other City of Berkeley Commissions: the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Disability, the Commission on Mental Health, and the Commission on Aging, the Subcommittee published its Mission Statement; requested the Peace & Justice Commission to ask the City Council to write to the U.S. Senate urging ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (duly done in 2015); and held a public Forum at the Ed Roberts Campus in May 2018.

The Subcommittee is working on plans to hold another public Forum in 2019.

The Honorable Jesse Arreguin, Mayor of the City of Berkeley, welcomed the Forum participants at this successful Subcommittee initiative that extended knowledge and applicability of the international treaty in Berkeley.

#### Nuclear-Free Berkeley

The Nuclear Free Berkeley Act came into force in 1986 (Chapter 12.90.070 Section 030D). The Peace & Justice Commission established the Subcommittee on The Nuclear Free Berkeley Act (NFBA) to oversee and reinforce compliance with the terms of the Act. The Subcommittee's activities have included:

- recommendation against a waiver for continuation of the Berkeley Public Library's contracts with 3M (2009-2010);
- consideration of a waiver for the City of Berkeley Public Health Division's proposal on medical supplies (2012);
- recommendation of a waiver for the SkyDeck Business Incubator-Accelerator Contract (2012);
- recommendation (February 7, 2013) to the Regents of the University of California that it phase out responsibility for operating the Nuclear Weapons Laboratories in Livermore and Los Alamos;

- a letter from the City of Berkeley to President Obama in 2014 urging support of a ban on nuclear weapons.

More recently, in light of the Award of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), whose goal is international adherence to and full implementation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (the Treaty), the Peace and Justice Commission will seek to collaborate further with ICAN on activities of mutual concern. We would note that the California State Senate and the California State Assembly voted affirmatively on a bill in September 2018 to urge U.S. Senate adoption of the Treaty. Strong support comes also from the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement; NuclearBan.US, The City of Los Angeles, California; the City of Takoma Park, Maryland; Physicians for Social Responsibility; and the U.S. Conference of Mayors, among others.

#### Indigenous Peoples:

Between December 2015 and January 2016, the Berkeley City Council, upon the recommendation of the Peace and Justice Commission, adopted five important resolutions supporting the treaty rights of indigenous people in Berkeley. The resolutions included: recognition of the Ohlone people as the original inhabitants of Berkeley and the Bay Area, pledging to work in good faith with Ohlone representatives; implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as municipal policy; endorsing the upgrading of the Declaration to a Convention; honoring the Berkeley Shellmound indigenous site; and urging the East Bay Regional Parks District to protect the Ohlone place of origin sacred site.

The resolution on the Berkeley Shellmound mandated that “free, prior, and informed consent of the Ohlone and other indigenous peoples of the region should be integral to any alteration planning for the Berkeley Shellmound site, in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.”

In 2018-2019 the Peace and Justice Commission will support the implementation of these resolutions with particular attention to proposed development of the Berkeley Shellmound site.

#### Sweatshop-Free Berkeley:

The Sweatshop-free Berkeley Policy now has a zero dollar threshold per supplier per year for textile products purchased by the City. This threshold is an improvement over the previous minimum of \$1,000 purchase per supplier for the Policy to apply. However, the policy is complaint-driven, so the burden is on community members to research the supply chain for each supplier. The SRIP Subcommittee proposes to establish a mechanism for suppliers to show that they are using Sweatshop Free products for City purchases.

The Policy governs textile purchases only. The goal is to identify sweat-free alternatives for technology purchases so tech can be covered as well.

The BUSD, through the School Board Policy Committee, is in the process of establishing a Sweatfree Schools Policy for athletic supplies. The SRIP Subcommittee and the Commission are supporting the BUSD to ensure the development of an effective policy.

	Item Name	Date Passed by Commission	Council Meeting Date	Action Taken by Council/Staff	Final Status
1	Resolution declaring Berkeley's opposition to fascism	9/11/2017	12/19/2017	Resolution adopted #68,268 - N.S.	Completed
2	Letter to Council resisting white supremacy and fascism	9/11/2017	9/12/2017	Letter received by Council	Completed
3	Resolution in opposition to the US military helipad construction and training operations in Takae, Okinawa	10/17/2017	12/19/2017	Resolution adopted #68,269 N.S.	Completed
4	2017-18 PJC Work Plan adopted	10/17/2017	4/24/2018	Info item to council received	Completed
5	Approval for COSOW to present joint council report and resolution Freedom from Domestic Violence is a Human Right	11/6/2017	1/23/2018	Resolution adopted #68,301 N.S.	Completed
6	Resolution allowing PJC to endorse and sponsor the film "The Boys Who Said NO!"	11/6/2017	12/19/2017	Resolution adopted #68,267 N.S.	Completed
7	Resolution calling on the federal government to extend Temporary Protected Status	11/6/2017	1/23/2018	Resolution adopted #68,302 N.S.	Completed
8	Resolution allowing establishment of a sister city relationship with Gonju, Republic of Korea	1/8/2018	2/27/2018	Resolution adopted #68,340 N.S.	Completed
9	Resolution on Emergency Outdoor Shelters for the homeless	2/5/2018	5/1/2018	Companion report recommended alternate action. Council voted to refer to the City Manager to develop health and safety standards as called for under AB 932 for alternative housing models.	Completed
10	Resolution declaring itself strongly supportive of the UN Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons	4/2/2018	5/15/2018	Resolution adopted #68,447 N.S.	Completed

	Item Name	Date Passed by Commission	Council Meeting Date	Action Taken by Council/Staff	Final Status
11	Letter to Council proposing "Sanctuary City Contracting Ordinance"	6/4/2018	2/26/2019	Letter received by Council. PJC ordinance to be considered. Councilmembers Worthington, Davila, Bartlett, Harrison. Pending council action .	
12	Letter to Council supporting Berkeley Community United for Police Oversight proposed charter amendment for a new police commission	6/4/2018	6/12/2018	Letter received by Council	Completed
13	Resolution Bay Area Working Group on Immigration Resistance	7/9/2018	7/24/2018	Resolution adopted #68,575 N.S.	Completed
14	2018-19 PJC Work Plan adopted	9/17/2018	10/30/2018	Info item to council received	Completed
15	Resolution to establish policy against City of Berkeley investment in weapons and weapons systems	9/17/2018	2/19/2019	Commission made revisions to this item at the 1-7-19 meeting. Companion report drafted by staff. Both items heard by council on 2-19-19.	Completed. Approved by Council with Amendments
16	Letter to Council regarding Comprehensive Investment Policy based on ESG Principles.	11/19/2018	11/27/2018	Letter received by Council	Completed
17	Resolution on Socially Responsible Investment and Procurement (SRIP)	11/19/2018	TBD	Report submitted by the commission. Companion report is being drafted by staff. Staff will provide the commission an oppty to view concerns/questions prior to item being seen by Council	
18	Letter to Mayor and Council: Reiterate Commission Mandate to Advise on Human Rights Worldwide	1/4/2019	2/19/2019		Completed. Letter appeared in 2/19 Council packet





**Peace and Justice Commission Meeting  
 Regular Meeting – Monday, February 4th, 2019  
 City of Berkeley City Hall, 2180 Milvia, Berkeley CA, Cypress Room**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

The meeting convened at 7:03pm with Chair Lippman presiding.

**1. Roll Call**

Present: al-Bazian, Bohn (7:06), Chen (7:09), Gussman, Han, Lippman, Maran (7:35), Meola, Morizawa, Pancoast (7:06), Pierce, Rodriguez, Tregub

Absent: Chen, Han

Excused: Bohn, Pancoast

**2. Announcements (No Action Taken)**

**3. Comments from the Public (No Action Taken)**

Public Attendance: 5

Public Comments: 3

**Action Items**

**4. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Item #4: The Peace and Justice Commission adopted minutes for January 7, 2019 meeting.

M/S/C: Meola/Morizawa

Ayes: al-Bazian, Bohn, Chen, Gussmann, Han, Lippman, Meola, Morizawa, Pancoast, Pierce, Rodriguez

Noes: None

Abstain: Tregub

Absent: Maran

Excused:

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**5. Commission Updates and Chairperson’s Report (No Action Taken)**

**6. Secretary’s Report (No Action Taken)**

- 7. Subcommittee on The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Commissioner Maran) (No Action Taken)**
- 8. Subcommittee on Socially Responsible Investments and Procurement (Commissioner Bohn) (No Action Taken)**
- 9. Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Item #9: The Peace and Justice Commission elected Igor Tregub as the commission Chair

M/S/C: Meola, Han  
 Ayes: Chen, Gussmann, Pancoast, Pierce, Tregub  
 Noes: al-Bazian, Lippman, Maran, Morizawa, Rodriguez  
 Abstain: N/A  
 Absent: N/A

Item #9: The Peace and Justice Commission elected George Lippman as the commission Vice Chair

M/S/C: Pancoast, Rodriguez  
 Ayes: al-Bazian, Bohn, Gussmann, Han, Lippman, Maran, Morizawa, Pierce,  
 Noes: Gusmann  
 Abstain: Tregub  
 Absent: N/A

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The meeting was adjourned in honor of the fire victim and first responders from the devastating fires this season at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Breanne Slimick, Secretary  
 Peace and Justice Commission

Peace and Justice Commission

Draft Cover Letter to Berkeley City Council

Appreciation from Okinawans resisting U.S-Japanese militarization of their island

March 4, 2019

Hon. Mayor Arreguin and Council Members:

The Peace and Justice Commission is pleased to forward you this letter of appreciation received from Mr. Hideki Yoshikawa, a leader among activists in Okinawa who are defending their land from militarization and environmental and human rights abuses at the hands of the U.S. Government. Mr. Yoshikawa also wanted to call our attention to the UNESCO decision regarding the Yanbaru Forest, which the City of Berkeley had highlighted in a resolution of support dated December 19, 2017.

This kind of appreciation affirms the value of solidarity on the part of the City of Berkeley with human rights and environmental struggles in Okinawa and around the world.

Signed,

x/ for Berkeley Peace and Justice Commission

(Attach Hideki Yoshikawa letter and article)

1  
2 On Feb 20, 2019, at 6:31 PM, Hideki Yoshikawa <[yhidekiy@gmail.com](mailto:yhidekiy@gmail.com)> wrote:

3  
4 Dear Diana and George,  
5 Mariko (NACS-J) Mel (IPP and IUCN EMS)

6  
7 On Feb. 1, the Japanese Ministry of the Environment submitted its nomination of four areas (Amami-Oshima Island,  
8 Tokuno-Shima Island, Northern Part of Okinawa Island, and Iriomote Island) in the Ryukyu archipelago for UNESCO  
9 World Natural Heritage Status [WNH].

10 See the nomination document <http://www.env.go.jp/press/files/jp/110737.pdf>

11  
12 In the nomination dossier, we see improvements from the Ministry's previous nomination, especially regarding the issues  
13 of the U.S. military's Northern Training Area (NTA) sitting next to the nominated area of the "Northern Part of Okinawa  
14 Island" or Yambaru forest.

15  
16 These improvements are results of the help from you and the resolution by the Berkeley city council as well as the hard  
17 work of local residents and NGOs in Okinawa, Japan and the U.S.

18  
19 I just want to say Big Thank You to you.

## 20 21 22 **Background**

23 In Feb. 2017, the Ministry submitted to IUCN [International Union for Conservation of Nature] the nomination of these four  
24 areas for WNH status.

25 But the nomination dossier rarely mentioned the presence of NTA.

26 In fact, in the dossier, there was no information on whether the U.S. military or government was collaborating, no inclusion  
27 of US military documents/information regarding NTA.

28  
29 By the time of the Ministry's submission, we had already engaged in a letter-writing campaign, asking the U.S.  
30 government to collaborate for the nomination and in lobbying with the Japanese government.

31  
32 Upon reviewing of the dossier, we began sending additional information to IUCN.

33 Our information included our letters to the U.S. government and U.S. military and the U.S. Marines' Integrated Natural  
34 Resources and Cultural Resources Management Plans (INRCRMP), which were in fact first obtained via FOIA for the  
35 Dugong case.

36 <https://www.nacsj.or.jp/archive/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/201703IUCNrequestJapanese-NGOs.pdf>

37 <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/community/2017/02/01/voices/u-s-military-must-not-jeopardize-okinawan-forests-bid-world-heritage-status/>

38  
39  
40  
41 In June 2017, at the meeting of the World Heritage Committee in Krakow, a U.S. NGO helped distribute to attendees  
42 copies of the information package we had prepared regarding NTA and other issues.

43 k9bRKT3XSi9IHnOmEikVYctVlbopNET

44  
45 In December 2017, the City Council of the City of Berkeley California adopted a resolution endorsing the Japanese NGO's  
46 request for the U.S. government and military to collaborate for the nomination and inscription of the Northern Part of  
47 Okinawa Island as a WNH site.

48 <https://www.cityofberkeley.info/recordsonline/paFiles/cqFiles/index.html>

49  
50  
51 In May 2018, the IUCN recommended that the nomination should be "deferred."

52 <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2018/whc18-42com-inf8B2-en.pdf#page=51>

53  
54 The issues of the NTA is one of the main reasons for IUCN's recommendation for deferral.

55 Interesting, the IUCN recommendation mentioned that there is a "collaboration agreement" between the Japanese and  
56 US governments regarding the nomination of the "Northern Part of Okinawa Island" or Yambaru forest. Apparently, the  
57 Japanese government submitted this information on the existence of the agreement after it had submitted the nomination.

58  
59 In June 2018, the Japanese Ministry withdrew the nomination.  
60  
61

**New Nomination**

On Feb. 1, 2019, the Japanese Ministry of the Environment re-submitted its nomination.

This time, the nomination dossier includes information on NTA, (contents of) the "collaboration agreement" issued by the Japan-US Joint Committee and U.S. military's INRCRMP, etc.

<http://www.env.go.jp/press/files/jp/110737.pdf>

<https://www.env.go.jp/press/files/jp/110738.pdf>

It should be emphasized that the inclusion of such information in the new dossier is significant.

The Japanese government is extremely reluctant (and discreet) to provide information on agreements made in the Japan-US Joint Committee.

However, given what is at stake in its WNH nomination, the Ministry of the Environment decided to include the collaboration agreement and other information on NTA in the dossier.

The collaboration document and information on NTA in the dossier are tools that should be made the best use of to help get the Yambaru forest inscribed as a WHN site.

**Challenges**

Of course, a lot of work still remains ahead of us.

The Okinawa Defense Bureau is working on construction of roads linking the existing roads to the new helipads in NTA.

The U.S. military's aircraft flight training in NTA is intensifying, creating more "noise pollution" than before.

Also, despite the nomination dossier's claims that the Japanese Ministry of Defense has conducted surveys and has confirmed that the returned area is "free from soil pollution and water contamination" (p.128), it has become apparent that the "returned area" of NTA, which is now included in the Northern Part of Okinawa Island nominated for WNH status, is littered with bullet shells, unexploded ordinance, and other military training related or non military related discarded materials including chemicals.

<https://ryukyushimpo.jp/news/entry-853147.html>

However, at this juncture, I am proud to say that we have made a significant step forward.

For that, I want to say thank you to you.

Hideki

# **Abe's Military Base Plan for Okinawa Sinking in Mayonnaise: Implications for the U.S. Court and IUCN**

**<https://apjff.org/2018/04/Yoshikawa.html>**

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## **[Yoshikawa Hideki](#)**

### **Abe Government's Reluctant Admission**

After a long silence, the Abe government has finally admitted that the construction of a U.S. military base at Henoko-Oura Bay in Okinawa requires significant changes to the original land reclamation plan (see [Asahi Shimbun](#)). Parts of the seafloor of the construction site have proven to be extremely fragile, having the consistency of mayonnaise. To solidify the seafloor sufficiently to support a functional airport, a "sand compaction pile method" needs to be carried out (see [this video for sand compaction pile method](#)). Casing piles will be driven into the seafloor as deep as 60 meters (or 90 meters below the [water](#) surface), and the piles, which are hollow, will be filled from the top with sand and other compacting materials. Then the piles are raised or removed slowly leaving the compacting materials in the form of a pillar, thus solidifying the seafloor. This procedure is to be repeated 76,000 times, implanting 76,000 compacting pillars in the seafloor (see [Ryukyu Shimpo](#)).

Reclamation experts have said that while the sand compaction pile method has been successfully carried out in other regions within Japan, it has never been done to a depth of 90 meters, and there are no pile drivers in Japan capable of reaching to that depth. On this problem the government has so far offered no comment.

The government's admission has critical implications not only for the Japanese government but also for the U.S. and international institutions.

### **The Japanese Government's Pretense: No Adverse Impact on the Environment**

The Abe government's admission has placed the government in a difficult situation.

### **Oura Bay and Base Construction (Feb. 3, 2019) © H. Yoshikawa**

First, implanting 76,000 piles into the seafloor is certain to have a tremendous impact on, and cause irreversible changes to, the environment of Henoko-Oura Bay, one of the most biodiversity-rich marine environments in the world (see [Okinawa Prefectural Government](#)). This poses a significant challenge to the Japanese government's pretense that the construction and operation of the base will not create adverse effects on the environment (hence base construction is legal).

The pretense was made possible by the Okinawa Defense Bureau's Environmental Impact [Assessment](#) (EIA) (2012), which has been vehemently criticized for numerous flaws by experts and environmental NGOs. The government's admission is the latest blow to the tainted EIA and to the government's environmental claims concerning the viability of the Henoko-Oura Bay project. The EIA made no mention of the mayonnaise-like condition of the seafloor.

Second, the proposed changes (or any change of this magnitude) to the original construction plan require a new environmental impact study and approval from local governments. Given that Okinawa Governor Denny Tamaki was elected in a special gubernatorial election in September 2018 on his pledge to fight the base construction, he is expected to deny any proposal for changes (see [Ryukyu Shimpo](#)). His refusal to permit construction will drag the entire base construction plan down, causing a halt or a long delay.

### **Japanese Government Resorts to its Usual Tactics**

At this juncture, the Abe administration is downplaying the magnitude of its admission, insisting that construction work will [continue](#). In fact, the Okinawa Defense Bureau is starting to build a new seawall in the area near the fragile seafloor (see [The Japan Times](#)). Many see this as the government's attempt to [create](#) a *fait accompli* by giving the impression that construction work has passed the point of no return.

In short, the Japanese government is resorting to its usual tactics. Throughout its reckless pushing of the construction plan, every time environmental issues came to light, the Japanese government has attempted to sweep them under its administrative rug. It has repeatedly prevented examination of the issues and continued to insist that the "no environmental impact" study was sufficient, thus enabling construction to move forward despite engineering evidence of the dangers.

Most recently, in August 2018, when the Okinawan prefectural government revoked the land reclamation permit for base construction on the grounds of serious environmental and civil engineering problems (see [the Okinawa Prefectural Government's Revocation Documents in English](#)), Ishii Keiichi, the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Technology, and Tourism, came to the rescue, and denied the revocation. The Minister claimed that revocation of the permit would negatively impact the U.S.-Japan alliance and make it difficult to eliminate the dangers posed by the Futenma base at its current location (see [The Japan Times](#)). The suspension allowed construction work to resume while stifling the environmental and technical issues raised in the revocation documents.

Despite the Japanese government's tactics, however, environmental issues persist. New problems are emerging and old problems are coming back to haunt the Japanese government.

### **U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Judicial System**

The Japanese government's admission of the fragile seafloor and the need to implant 76,000 piles to solidify it has far-reaching implications beyond Henoko-Oura Bay, Okinawa, and Japan.

First of all, it challenges the claims made by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) in the U.S. court and could test the integrity of the U.S. judicial system.

In August 2018, the U.S. Federal District Court of Northern California ruled in favor of the DoD (the defendant) (see [the Court Ruling](#)), and against the coalition of civil society members from Okinawa, Japan and the U.S. (the plaintiffs), in a case fought under the jurisdiction of the U.S. National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The Court accepted the DoD's claims that prior to the start of base construction work, it had conducted a proper

study regarding possible impact of the construction and operation of the base on the dugong, a manatee-like marine mammal, which is an internationally endangered species, Japan's natural monument, and Okinawa's cultural icon. The court accepted the DoD's 2014 conclusion that the base would have no adverse impact on the dugong. It was this conclusion that finally allowed base construction work to [start](#) in July 2014.

### **Okinawa Dugongs. The Japanese Ministry of the Environment**

Now the Japanese government's admission calls into question the validity of DoD claims since the DoD heavily relied upon the Okinawa Defense Bureau's EIA in conducting its study and reaching the no adverse impact conclusion. As mentioned above, the EIA did not mention the fragile seafloor or the need to drive 76,000 piles in the Dugong habitat.

More importantly, the fact that the DoD did not have this information puts the US court system in a complicated situation, as the case is now being reviewed in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. (see the [Plaintiffs-Appellants' Opening Brief](#)).

In an appeals court, documents and evidence to be reviewed are usually limited to those that had previously been examined in the district court. In the dugong case, most of the documents and evidence examined in the district court came from the period before the DoD completed its environmental study and reached the 2014 no adverse impact conclusion. The current critical status of the dugong - no dugong has been observed in Henoko-Oura Bay since construction started and Dugong C has been entirely missing from the waters of Okinawa since 2015 - was not taken into consideration by the district court (see then [Governor Onaga Takeshi's letter to the DoD describing the current status of the dugong](#)).

It is not known whether the appeals court will take the Japanese government's admission into consideration. Nonetheless, the situation presents a critical test of the very objectives and mechanism of the National Historical Preservation Act (NHPA) and the integrity of the entire U.S. judicial system.

### **International Union for Conservation of Nature and UNESCO World Natural Heritage Nomination**

The Abe government's admission also presents a difficult test to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) because, as an advisory body to the UNESCO World Heritage programme, IUCN is involved in the nomination process of the "Northern part of Okinawa Island" for UNESCO World Natural Heritage status.



**World Natural Heritage Nomination Document (Feb. 2019). The  
Japanese Ministry of the Environment**

On February 1, the Japanese Ministry of the Environment submitted to IUCN its nomination of Amami-Oshima Island, Tokunoshima Island, the Northern Part of Okinawa Island, and Iriomote Island for World Natural Heritage status (see [the Nomination document](#)). This nomination is the Japanese government's second attempt in the last two years and could be the last. In May 2018, the IUCN recommended that the nomination be

“deferred,” (see [the IUCN Evaluation 2018](#)) and the Japanese government withdrew it. Among other things, the presence of the U.S. military’s Northern Training Area (NTA) located right next to the nominated area of the Northern Part of Okinawa Island made it difficult for the IUCN to approve the nomination.

Henoko-Oura Bay is not included in the nominated area of the “Northern Part of Okinawa Island.” However, Henoko-Oura Bay is just 10 miles away from the nominated area, and is an integral part of the ecosystem of northern Okinawa. It is inconceivable that the World Heritage nomination process (which will include IUCN experts’ field trip to the nominated area of the Northern Part of Okinawa Island) and the drilling of 76,000 piles into the seafloor in Henoko-Oura Bay can take place simultaneously without each affecting the other.

The Japanese government’s admission of the fragility of the seafloor and its relentless push for base construction in Henoko-Oura Bay is a stark reminder that when U.S. military base issues are at stake, Japanese environmental protection measures including EIA cease to function properly, and the Ministry of the Environment no longer behaves as a good steward of the environment. (For the honor of the Ministry, it should be emphasized that it did a fine job of preparing the environmental case for the other four areas inscribed as World Natural Heritage sites and is well-maintaining them).

The situation tests the integrity of IUCN as the world’s trusted institution for the conservation of nature.

### **U.S. and International Institutions Need to Call on the Japanese Government to Abandon its Destructive Plan**

For more than twenty years, the people of Okinawa and members of international civil society have been urging the Japanese and U.S. Governments to abandon the base construction plan.

### **Save the Dugong Rally in San Francisco (June 2018) © Center for Biological Diversity**

Okinawa already has too many U.S. military bases on its soil. The environment of Henoko-Oura Bay, with some 5,300 marine species including 262 endangered species and peaceful communities with rich cultural traditions, is by no means an ideal site for an environmentally intrusive military base and training area. It should be a place for international collaboration for environmental protection and conservation. It is time for the U.S. Government (the executive, legislative, and judicial branches) and IUCN to tell the Japanese Government to abandon this costly and destructive plan.

1 Resolution Opposing the Resumption of Helipad Construction at Takae, Okinawa

2  
3 WHEREAS, the Peace and Justice Commission advises the City Council on all matters relating to the City of  
4 Berkeley's role in issues of peace and social justice (Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 3.68.070); and

5 WHEREAS, since 2011, the United States Government has been carrying out a focus on Asia, (aka the Pacific  
6 Pivot<sup>1</sup>, and Presidential Candidates of both the Democrat and Republican parties are committed to expanding  
7 the U.S. military presence in the South China Sea;<sup>2</sup> and

8 WHEREAS, on September 15, 2015, the Berkeley City Council passed a Resolution supporting the people of  
9 Okinawa in their opposition to the U.S. Marine Base under construction at Henoko, Okinawa;<sup>3</sup> and

10  
11 WHEREAS, as a result of the Council action, a 27-member delegation of Okinawan elected officials, business  
12 and community leaders came to Berkeley to thank the Berkeley City Council for their action;<sup>4</sup> and

13  
14 WHEREAS, on July 11, 2016, the Okinawa Defense Bureau re-started preparation work for construction of  
15 U.S. Marine Corps helipads in Takae, Higashi, Okinawa<sup>5</sup> and residents immediately began to gather to protest  
16 the construction;<sup>6</sup> and

17  
18 WHEREAS, the "Helipads" (which will add six new helipads, two of which were complete in 2015 and four  
19 which are under construction) are vehemently opposed because they're seen as an expansion of the U.S.  
20 military presence in Yanbaru Forest, 40 percent of which is occupied by the U.S. military, and where two  
21 endangered species of bird reside;<sup>7</sup> and

22  
23 WHEREAS, the United States agreed to return about half of the Northern Training Area (NTA) on condition  
24 that Japan build six helipads on the remaining training area;<sup>8</sup> and

25  
26 WHEREAS, at the National Conference of Veterans for Peace, a resolution, introduced by the Veterans for  
27 Peace Ryukyu-Okinawa Chapter, entitled, "Emergency Resolution Opposing Arbitrary Resumption of Helipad  
28 Construction at Takae, Okinawa", passed unanimously;<sup>9</sup> and

29  
30 WHEREAS, that Resolution stated, "as former members of the US military feel shame and outrage that the US  
31 military is complicit in this blatantly discriminatory treatment of the Okinawan people;  
32 Now therefore, be it resolved that Veterans for Peace condemns the renewed helipad construction at Takae, and  
33 urges the US Government, and in particular the US military, to communicate to the Japanese government that  
34 the US wants no part of this shameful, anti-democratic and discriminatory action, that it does not want new  
35 bases at such a price, and that it wishes Japan to abandon the plan to construct new US bases at Henoko and  
36 Takae;

37  
38 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council join  
39 Okinawan citizens in opposing the Takae helipad construction and supports the Okinawa Chapter of Veterans  
40 for Peace resolution; and

41  
42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council directs the Clerk to send copies of  
43 this resolution to the Okinawa Chapter of Veterans for Peace and to Representative Barbara Lee, and Senators  
44 Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer as well as to Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter, Secretary of State John  
45 Kerry, and President Obama,

---

<sup>1</sup> The Obama Administration's Pivot to Asia | Foreign Policy Initiative,  
<http://www.foreignpolicyi.org/content/obama-administrations-pivot-asia>

“CRS Report for Congress, Pivot to the Pacific? The Obama Administration’s “Rebalancing” Toward Asia”, <http://fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/R42448.pdf>

“The Pacific Pivot”, Clyde Prestowitz, March 13, 2012, *The American Prospect*, <http://prospect.org/article/pacific-pivot>

<sup>2</sup> *Wall Street Journal*, October 24 -30, “CLINTON VS. TRUMP, Where They Stand on Foreign Policy Issues”, By Damian Paletta, <http://graphics.wsj.com/elections/2016/donald-trump-hillary-clinton-on-foreign-policy/>  
*New York Times*, October 21, 2016, “Philippines ‘Separation’ From, U.S. Jolts Hillary Clinton, Too”, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/22/us/politics/philippines-china-us-asia-pivot.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=photo-spot-region&region=top-news&WT.nav=top-news&r=0>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City\\_Council/2015/09\\_Sep/City\\_Council\\_\\_09-15-2015\\_-](http://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2015/09_Sep/City_Council__09-15-2015_-)

<sup>4</sup> OCTOBER 14, 2015, “Urgent Statement Regarding Nullification of Reclamation Permit by Okinawa’s Governor Takeshi Onaga”, *Counter Punch* by Hiroshi Ashitomi

"Resolutions urging that Okinawa’s right of self-determination be respected, expressing support for the Okinawan people, and opposing the construction of the new base at Henoko and Oura Bay, have been adopted by the city council of Berkeley in the U.S., and in Japan by the city and town councils of Suita, Amagasaki, Iwakura, Musashino, and Hakuba. We strongly urge people all over the world to press their local government councils to adopt similar resolutions. In this way we can promote the return of the right of self-determination to the hands of the citizens, and a democracy that truly serves the needs of the people."

<http://www.counterpunch.org/2015/10/14/urgent-statement-regarding-nullification-of-reclamation-permit-by-okinawas-governor-takeshi-onaga/>

*Okinawa Times*, "AOC highly values the Berkeley resolution." (Translation from Japanese by the author), Sumiyo Heiana, <http://www.okinawatimes.co.jp/articles/-/21279>

<sup>5</sup> “Tensions between protesters and riot police mount over construction of U.S. Marine Corps helipads in Takae”, July 12, 2016 *Ryukyu Shimpō*, <http://english.ryukyushimpo.jp/2016/07/17/25465/>  
 Riot police remove sit-in protestors who are opposing the construction of U.S. Marine Corps helipads in front of the main gate of the Northern Training Area, at Takae, Higashi, on the afternoon of July 11.

<sup>6</sup> “About 400 people united to hold a protest rally against the construction of new helipads in the U.S. military's Northern Training Area in Takae, Higashi on August 19”, <http://english.ryukyushimpo.jp/2016/08/25/25639/>  
 and

“Fighting To Save A Remote Okinawan Forest”, *Honolulu Civil Beat* August 12, 2016, By Jon Letman, <http://www.civilbeat.org/2016/08/fighting-to-save-a-remote-okinawan-forest/>

and

“Opponents step up protest against US helipad plan on Okinawa”

Mari Yamaguchi, *Associated Press*, September 15, 2016

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/news/world/article/Opponents-step-up-protest-against-US-helipad-plan-9224072.php>

<sup>7</sup> 4.022 Promotion of Dugong during the UN 2010 International Year of Biodiversity  
 RECALLING Recommendation 2.72 . Conservation of Dugong ... (Sapheopipo noguchii) and Okinawa Rail ...  
 Dugong dugon, Okinawa Woodpecker . Sapheopipo noguchii,

[http://jelf-](http://jelf-justice.org/prefecture/map/documents/res_4_022_promotion_of_dugong_during_the_un_2010_international_year_for_biodiversity.pdf)

[justice.org/prefecture/map/documents/res\\_4\\_022\\_promotion\\_of\\_dugong\\_during\\_the\\_un\\_2010\\_international\\_year\\_for\\_biodiversity.pdf](http://jelf-justice.org/prefecture/map/documents/res_4_022_promotion_of_dugong_during_the_un_2010_international_year_for_biodiversity.pdf)

and

<https://portals.iucn.org/congress/motion/017/1289>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.japanupdate.com/2016-07/takae-helipad-construction-to-resume-this-month/>

<sup>9</sup> Takae August 15, 2016 Ryukyu Shimpo, Washington special correspondent Sakae Toiyama reports U.S. veterans' group passes resolutions calling for abandonment of base construction at Henoko and Takae

<http://english.ryukyushimpo.jp/2016/08/23/25627/http://english.ryukyushimpo.jp/2016/08/23/25627/>

See Veterans for Peace Ryukyu-Okinawa Chapter Resolution in “background”.

## BACKGROUND:

Veterans for Peace Resolution:

Emergency Resolution Opposing Arbitrary Resumption of Helipad Construction at Takae, Okinawa

Whereas, in Japan's upper house election of July 10, Okinawan voters elected the candidate opposing construction of new US bases at Henoko and Takae by a margin of 59% to 41 % over his government-supported pro-base opponent; and

Whereas, before dawn on the following day, the Japanese Government began trucking construction materials into the helipad site at Takae, sending a clear message to the Okinawans that their opinions don't matter; and

Whereas, the out-of-court settlement agreed to by the Government and Okinawa Prefecture stipulates that the Government must halt construction related to the proposed base at Henoko; and

Whereas, the helipads at Takae are, like the airstrips planned for Henoko, designed to accommodate the Osprey aircraft, so the two are operationally related and resuming construction on the former illegally violates the settlement; and

Whereas, on July 22, at dawn, reportedly as many as 800 riot police, collected from all over Japan, swarmed into the tiny village of Takae (which is surrounded by a sub-tropical forest that could qualify as a world heritage site), dragged away the protesters, tore down their tents and towed away their cars, reaffirming that the Government views Okinawa as a colony; and

Whereas, we as former members of the US military feel shame and outrage that the US military is complicit in this blatantly discriminatory treatment of the Okinawan people;

Now therefore, be it resolved that Veterans for Peace condemns the renewed helipad construction at Takae, and

urges the US Government, and in particular the US military, to communicate to the Japanese government that the US wants no part of this shameful, anti-democratic and discriminatory action, that it does not want new bases at such a price, and that it wishes Japan to abandon the plan to construct new US bases at Henoko and Takae.

1  
2  
3 They expected the INF treaty to be enforced by the most advanced methods of verification  
4 available. And therefore the idea that one side might decide to cheat, or the other side to pull out  
5 because they suspected cheating, was ruled out as a reason for allowing either side to withdraw  
6 from their treaty obligations.

7  
8 **The INF Treaty was specifically written to ensure that the only way either side could**  
9 **withdraw from this treaty was if some new unforeseen set of circumstances arose that**  
10 **fundamentally changed the relationship of the parties and rendered the treaty no longer**  
11 **in their ‘supreme interests.’** Nothing short of this is permitted by the terms of this treaty.

12  
13 *US withdrawal from the ABM Treaty*

14 The language of Article 15 is, in fact, the exact same language used in the ABM Treaty of 1972.  
15 That treaty was also meant to be of unlimited duration, unless ‘extraordinary events’  
16 jeopardized the ‘supreme interests’ of one of the parties.

17  
18 The US unilaterally withdrew from the ABM Treaty in 2002, after giving 6 months notice as  
19 required by the treaty. In justifying the US withdrawal from the ABM Treaty at that time,  
20 President George W. Bush referred very specifically to the ‘extraordinary events’ that had  
21 occurred just 3 months prior to his announcement. He was referring, of course, to 9/11.

22  
23 *“Today, as the events of September the 11th made all too clear, the greatest threats to both our*  
24 *countries come not from each other, or other big powers in the world, but from terrorists who*  
25 *strike without warning, or rogue states who seek weapons of mass destruction... We know that*  
26 *the terrorists, and some of those who support them, seek the ability to deliver death and*  
27 *destruction to our doorstep via missile. And we must have the freedom and the flexibility to*  
28 *develop effective defenses against those attacks...”*

29  
30 Whether or not 9/11 was the real reason for wanting to abandon the ABM Treaty, the fact is that  
31 to do so required an ‘extraordinary event,’ and George W. Bush just happened to have one  
32 available. He was also able to use that extraordinary event to explain why the supreme interests  
33 of the United States had changed, from needing to defend itself against missile threats  
34 emanating from the Soviet Union to needing to defend itself from missile threats potentially  
35 emanating from other hostile states or ‘terrorists.’

36  
37 *Does deployment of a new Russian missile qualify as an ‘extraordinary event’?*

38 Like the United States, Russia has been developing and deploying shorter-range missile systems  
39 (with a range of 500 km or less) as well as longer-range missiles (with a range of 5,500 km or  
40 more) since long before the INF Treaty outlawed the missiles with ranges in between these two  
41 limits (with ranges between 500-5,500 km).

42  
43 The Russian 9M729 missile is the one that the US alleges to be a violation of the INF Treaty  
44 and its sole justification for withdrawal. This particular missile is an upgrade of the 9M728  
45 missile, which is itself an upgrade from other missiles stretching right back to the 1980s.  
46 Throughout this entire period, many of these missiles have had ranges of ‘up to’ 500 km, in  
47 other words, right up to the line defined as allowable under the INF Treaty. The 9M728, for  
48 instance, has been deployed by Russia since 2009 and has a reputed range of 500 km. **The US**  
49 **has never raised an objection to any of these other missiles as being in violation of the INF**  
50 **Treaty limitations, despite their ranges being very close to maximum allowed under the**  
51 **treaty.**

52  
53 *Has Russia violated the INF Treaty?*

54 Russia began testing the 9M729 in 2014 and starting deploying this missile in 2017. According  
55 to the Russians, it is 530 mm (1½ feet) longer than the previous 9M728 missile. They claim  
56 that the extra length is to fit in a more complex guidance system, and that its range is actually  
57 slightly less than range of the 9M728 – in other words, still just within the range allowed by the  
58 INF Treaty. US intelligence sources claim that the extra length means this missile is capable of  
59 a much greater range than the Russians claim, which would put it beyond the range allowed by  
60 the INF Treaty. The evidence for this claim has not been made public.

61  
62 Interestingly, at least according to some reports, the US has *not* said that they have seen this  
63 particular missile actually fly further than 500 km. It is very difficult for the US or the Russians  
64 to test a missile without the other side monitoring the results very closely. If the Russians had  
65 flown this missile further than 500 km in a test flight, that would have been known and easily  
66 made public. But that is not what the US is claiming.

67  
68 What the US is claiming about this particular missile is that they have seen an ‘equivalent’  
69 missile tested to a much greater distance (for other purposes that are allowable by the INF  
70 Treaty). The US says this other missile test confirms the ‘real’ range of the 9M729, and makes  
71 it a system *not* allowed by the INF Treaty. The US claims Russia did all the testing for this  
72 missile in an underhanded way in order to prevent the US from detecting the ‘true’ range of the  
73 9M729 missile. This is an extremely convoluted claim, which may be true, but has yet to be  
74 proven. The only way to prove the actual range of this missile would be through a technical  
75 inspection by military experts, followed by a closely observed test firing of the missile.



77 The INF Treaty provides the mechanisms for verifying whether this particular missile is outside  
78 the acceptable range or not. If were clearly demonstrated that this missile is in violation of the  
79 treaty, the next question is whether it constitutes an ‘extraordinary event’ sufficient to justify  
80 withdrawal from the treaty. But in addition to that is the question of whether deployment of this  
81 missile ‘jeopardizes the supreme interests’ of the United States.

82  
83 Even assuming the greater range that the US claims this missile has, it still would not reach the  
84 United States from where it is being deployed. As one defense analyst has put it, this missile is  
85 “a minor accessory to the nuclear wardrobe of the Russian Federation.” In other words, this  
86 missile is militarily insignificant. And it is a minor development on top of other developments  
87 which have not caused the US to complain up to now, **so it would be extremely difficult to**  
88 **argue that the deployment of the 9M729 is sufficient grounds for withdrawal from the**  
89 **treaty.**

90 WHEREAS, Simultaneous with his announcement that the US was giving notice that it would  
91 ‘withdraw’ from the INF Treaty in 6 months, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo also announced  
92 that the US was ‘suspending’ its obligations under the treaty with immediate effect.

93  
94 The INF Treaty itself makes no mention of allowing either party to ‘suspend’ its obligations  
95 under the treaty. Therefore, the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties kicks in with its  
96 generic rules about treaty suspension. A suspension is generally allowed in order to resolve a  
97 dispute about the treaty itself. This might mean, for instance, taking a case to the International  
98 Court of Justice or another outside body to determine if one side or the other is in material  
99 breach of the treaty.

100  
101 However, an important condition is laid upon the parties to a treaty suspension by the Vienna  
102 Convention. “*During the period of the suspension the parties shall refrain from acts tending to*  
103 *obstruct the resumption of the operation of the treaty.*” In other words, when it comes to  
104 suspension of the INF Treaty, neither side should develop or deploy missiles that would make it  
105 impossible to resume operation of the treaty were the suspension to be lifted.

106  
107 Even if it were proven that Russia is violating the INF Treaty, which so far is only an unproven  
108 allegation, that alone would be insufficient legal grounds for withdrawing from the treaty. The  
109 Trump administration would need to demonstrate that some extraordinary event relating to the  
110 deployment of intermediate range missiles has now jeopardized the supreme interests of the  
111 United States to such an extent that it must withdraw from this particular treaty.

112  
113 In the meantime, serious politicians, diplomats, academics and journalists from all sides of this  
114 issue should be demanding that the current ‘suspension’ of the treaty be used to investigate and  
115 clarify whether either side is currently violating the treaty, and to come up with a plan, within

116 the terms of the INF Treaty itself, for how to deal with that. And, of course, neither side should  
117 deploy any further missiles that might contravene the treaty while it remains suspended.

118  
119 *Dr. Timmon Wallis is Executive Director of NuclearBan.US and author of Disarming the*  
120 *Nuclear Argument, Luath Press, 2018.*

**Draft Resolution opposing US withdrawal from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF Treaty)**

WHEREAS, the Peace and Justice Commission advises the City Council on all matters relating to the City of Berkeley's role in issues of peace and social justice (Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 3.68.070); and

WHEREAS, On February 1, 2019, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that the US would withdraw from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF Treaty) in 6 months, in accordance with Article 15 of the treaty<sup>1</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Article 15, paragraph 1, says that the INF Treaty is of “unlimited duration.” Paragraph 2 then goes on to say: “Each Party shall, in exercising its national sovereignty, have the right to withdraw from the Treaty if it decides that extraordinary events related to the subject matter of this Treaty have jeopardized its supreme interests. It shall give notice of its decision to withdraw to the other Party six months prior to withdrawal from this Treaty. Such notice shall include a statement of the extraordinary events the notifying Party regards as having jeopardized its supreme interests.”<sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the INF Treaty was the first in history to have such a comprehensive and intrusive inspection and monitoring system for verifying the compliance of each side to the terms of the treaty; and

WHEREAS, nowhere in the INF Treaty or in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties is it accepted that one party to this treaty may withdraw on the grounds that they have reason to believe the other party is in material breach of the treaty provisions, since this is expected to be dealt with by the monitoring and inspection system provided in the treaty itself; and

WHEREAS there exist numerous international fora, including but not limited to the International Court of Justice and the UN Security Council, for resolving a dispute over interpretation of a treaty text or a technical dispute concerning the range or capabilities of a particular missile system,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley calls on President Trump to rescind his notice of withdrawal from the INF Treaty, and to confirm that the United States will continue to comply with the said Treaty until such time as extraordinary events related to the subject matter of this Treaty have demonstrably jeopardized the supreme interests of the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley calls on Congress to fully investigate the alleged INF Treaty violations by Russia as well as by the United States, and to recommend the appropriate international procedure for verifying and rectifying these alleged violations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley calls on Representative Barbara Lee to support H.R. 1249, the “INF Treaty Compliance Act of 2019,” which would prohibit funds being made available for any missile prohibited by the INF Treaty.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley send a copy of this  
40 resolution to Representative Barbara Lee, and Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris,  
41 Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and President Trump.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley send a copy of this  
43 resolution also to Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, with a formal request  
44 that he, too, rescind his notice of withdrawal from the INF Treaty and commit to fully  
45 complying with the terms of this Treaty, including taking the appropriate steps to address any  
46 alleged violations of the Treaty.

47

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<sup>1</sup> [Secretary of State Mike Pompeo says U.S. plans to withdraw ...](https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/secretary-of-state...)  
[www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/secretary-of-state...](https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/secretary-of-state...)

<sup>2</sup> Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF Treaty): [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov)

and

The Treaty Between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, commonly referred to as the INF (Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces) Treaty, requires destruction of the Parties' ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges of ...

INF Treaty: Treaty Text - [acq.osd.mil](http://acq.osd.mil)

[www.acq.osd.mil/tc/inf/INFtext.htm](http://www.acq.osd.mil/tc/inf/INFtext.htm)

This Treaty shall enter into force on the date of the exchange of instruments of ratification. 2. This Treaty shall be registered pursuant to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations. DONE at Washington on December 8, 1987, in two copies, each in the English and Russian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

1987 INF Missile Test Ban Treaty | Missile Types | Treaty

[www.scribd.com/.../1987-INF-Missile-Test-Ban-Treaty](https://www.scribd.com/.../1987-INF-Missile-Test-Ban-Treaty)

and

: <https://safna.org/2019/02/20/too-much-policy-not-enough-law-us-suspension-and-potential-withdrawal-from-the-inf-treaty-is-not-only-unwise-but-also-problematic-under-international-law/>



Peace and Justice Commission

To: Members of the Peace and Justice Commission

From: Chair Igor Tregub

Subject: Recommendation to Bring Justice to Mr. Leonard Powell and to Change Certain Policies that Provide Housing Stability for Homeowners and Tenants

### RECOMMENDATION

The Peace and Justice Commission (PJC) recommends that the City Council send a letter to the Superior Court Judge overseeing Mr. Leonard Powell's receivership case that implores him to, in light of the full history of the circumstances which befell him and in the spirit of fairness and justice, to rule in a way that allows Mr. Powell to retain possession of his home in a manner that is affordable and attainable to him.

PJC also recommends to the Berkeley City Council that it set in place the following policies that would provide housing stability for homeowners. In particular, when legal action is being attempted by the City as a result of code enforcement violations, the following practices should be put into place:

- 1) Punitive actions that result in the displacement of a homeowner presently occupying their home or renting it out (i.e., not intentionally leaving it vacant for an extended period of time) is the very last resort that city staff should take; should only be conducted if all other attempts to resolve the situation have been unsuccessful; and should only be a response to severe code enforcement violations that cause immediate danger to life safety or have been determined by a quasi-judicial body (e.g., Zoning Adjustments Board, City Council) to cause a nuisance to the public;
- 2) The Mayor, Councilmember representing the district of the address in question, and HAC are notified of the address, the nature of the alleged code violations, and a report detailing the status of the matter and any past, ongoing, and anticipated future attempts to resolve the matter; and
- 3) Should the homeowner cite a financial hardship to their ability to on their own bring his or her property into compliance with applicable code, the City shall explore the use of anti-displacement funds to assist the homeowner and/or tenant residing on the premises with legal matters, relocation expenses, and/or other needs as applicable and appropriate.

## FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Staff time and the possible use of available anti-displacement funds

## CURRENT SITUATION AND EFFECTS

The first recommendation above is being proposed to bring fairness and justice to the case of Mr. Leonard Powell. The next three recommendations above are being simultaneously sent to the Housing Advisory Commission and are proposed to in the future prevent displacements such as the one that has befallen a 76-year-old black veteran and 44-year owner of a South Berkeley residence. According to news sources such as the Oakland Post, “[his] family has lived there for 44 years and owned the house free and clear. By a legal process called receivership, the city has succeeded in placing Mr. Powell in a financial position beyond his means, in order for him to lose the house to foreclosure or sale. Receivership means that the house, after it is found to be in violation of the city’s housing code, is placed under the control of a ‘receiver,’ who then takes over the job of repairing the house.”<sup>1</sup>

According to sources, “at no time did Mr. Powell object to doing the repairs on his house. He simply asked the city for assistance and negotiation, which the city subtly declined.”<sup>2</sup> Following an allegedly no-notice city inspection which found 23 code violations, all of which related to housing maintenance, and with alleged knowledge of Mr. Powell’s precarious financial situation, city staff nonetheless allegedly refused negotiations on city-imposed deadlines, which in turn led to the declaration of the property as a public nuisance.

The home is currently under receivership. Allegedly “the court-appointed receiver ... violated his mandate by having his contractor reconstruct the house rather than simply repair the code violations.”<sup>3</sup> According to the Oakland Post, “this is what tripled his expenses, and tripled the debt placed on Mr. Powell. The receiver admitted, in a report that in shifting the work on the house from repairs to reconstruction, he was following city directions.”<sup>4</sup>

The recommendations above, if adopted, would lead to changes in city policy so that the situation that befell Mr. Powell is avoided in the future.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.oaklandpost.org/2018/12/15/city-agency-set-seize-black-veterans-home/>

<sup>2</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *ibid.*

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Efforts that prevent displacement have been found to contribute to reductions in vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emission reductions.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

These recommendations are an important complement to ongoing local, regional, and statewide efforts to prevent displacement and keep individuals and families in their homes.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None

Dear Igor, George and Diana,

Sincere thanks to you from CODEPINK Golden Gate Chapter for your work on the City of Berkeley [Weapons] Divestment Resolution. We are thrilled at its successful passage last night! It was a relatively short time from when I requested the Resolution to its passage, and this shows once again how responsive the Peace and Justice Commission is to citizen concerns.

Igor and George, I am so impressed with your skillful negotiation to reconcile the issues presented by the City Manager. This brief statement so excellently clarified our purpose:

"We would like to underline the primary purpose of the resolution, which is to participate in the national movement for cities to divest from weapons manufacturers. We recognize that Berkeley has already taken a leading position in this direction. Signing on to this resolution will give support to other cities across the country."

George and Diana, thank you so much for your hard work, for keeping us in the loop and for your dedication.

Once again Berkeley can be proud of its leadership and commitment to peace.

With the passage of the Berkeley Divestment Resolution we are indeed moving the CODEPINK and Coalition Partners "Divest From War" Campaign forward in a concrete and positive way. (<https://www.divestfromwarmachine.org/coalition>)

With deep appreciation,

Cynthia Papermaster  
Coordinator, CODEPINK Golden Gate

Cynthia Papermaster, 510-365-1500 [codepinkgg@gmail.com](mailto:codepinkgg@gmail.com)

Facebook [Codepink Women for Peace, Golden Gate Chapter](#)  
**Take the pledge to divest from the war**  
**machine:** [http://www.divestfromwarmachine.org/take\\_the\\_pledge](http://www.divestfromwarmachine.org/take_the_pledge)  
**RISE, LOVE, RESIST!**





This weekend, our nation learned of shockingly racist photos that appeared in Governor Ralph Northam's medical school yearbook. There have been widespread calls for him to resign. The take home lesson of the Civil Rights movement has always been zero tolerance to bigotry.

We have come far as a nation, but there is still much further to travel to achieve a society that is fully inclusive and just for all of its people.

Open bigotry exists closer to home and is tolerated in, of all places, the Berkeley Peace and Justice commission.

As documented in the May 19 2004 East bay Express, Hatem Bazian has promoted a reprehensible anti-Semitic trope about Jewish power, addressing a crowd at Cal, saying "Take a look at the type of names on the building around campus — Haas, Zellerbach — and decide who controls this university"

<https://www.eastbayexpress.com/oakland/berkeley-intifada/Content?oid=1074117>

Hatem Bazian has openly called for an "intifada" in America, glorifying an uprising that has left thousands of Israelis and Palestinians dead.

A few months ago, Bazian retweeted a horribly offensive, racist image of a traditionally observant Jew. Like Gov. Northam, he has since apologized. UC Berkeley administrators condemned the tweet as "unacceptable anti-Semitism" but took no further action.

An op ed in the Daily Cal was headlined "UC Berkeley ought to hold Hatem Bazian accountable for anti-Semitic discourse" <http://www.dailycal.org/2017/12/05/uc-berkeley-hold-hatem-bazian-accountable-anti-semitic-discourse/>

The local Jewish newspaper has also noted this shameful tolerance of anti-Semitism <https://www.jweekly.com/2018/10/22/berkeley-city-councils-shameful-tolerance-of-anti-semitism/>

Three Berkeley congregational rabbis, representing thousands of families in our community have written to Mayor Arreguin, stating "Prof. Bazian has a history of encouraging and personally engaging in speech which is offensive, uncivil and encourages demonization of others, including many citizens of Berkeley."

<https://www.jweekly.com/2018/08/02/berkeley-rabbis-object-to-bazian-as-standby-for-city-councils-davila/>

In a recent interview, Mayor Arreguin has stated "There's documentation showing things he has said that are very offensive and inappropriate and anti-Semitic and on that basis, I think it's a very serious issue about whether this person should be in public office."

<https://www.jweekly.com/2018/11/09/berkeley-mayor-objects-to-appointment-of-bazian-to-city-commission/>

Berkeley has always been a leader in promoting tolerance, diversity and inclusivity. As our community institutions work hard to promote a climate of inclusion, I urge Hatem Bazian to resign this commission

Peace and Justice Commission  
Draft Resolution “No U.S. intervention in Venezuela”

WHEREAS, the Peace and Justice Commission advises the City Council on all matters relating to the City of Berkeley's role in issues of peace and social justice (Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 3.68.070); and

WHEREAS, Trump administration officials have openly declared their intention to overthrow the democratically elected government of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro,<sup>1</sup> and have urged the Venezuelan military to overthrow the duly elected government; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. has tightened economic sanctions, including the seizure of Venezuela's oil properties in the United States, increasing the hardship on the people of Venezuela, and such sanctions have historically been used to destabilize independent-minded countries, most famously Chile in the early 1970's, and these sanctions are a significant contribution to the economic misery that is then used as an argument for military intervention;<sup>2</sup> and

WHEREAS, Venezuela has the largest oil reserves in the world, and leading administration foreign policy officials have made clear their intention to privatize Venezuela's oil and open it to exploitation by the U.S. oil companies if their coup strategy succeeds;<sup>3</sup> and

WHEREAS, Elliott Abrams has been named President Trump's Special Envoy to Venezuela, and is notorious for his central role in the 1980's as a top advisor to Presidents Reagan and Bush in the Iran-Contra scandal, which led to his conviction on criminal charges, and arming of the Nicaraguan contras, the Salvadoran death squad government, and the genocidal regime in Guatemala responsible for the massacres of hundreds of thousands of indigenous people in that country;<sup>4</sup> and

WHEREAS, the U.S. campaign of regime change in Venezuela is against the interests of the people of Venezuela and the people of the United States;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley affirms the sovereign right of the Venezuelan people to continue their political and social process free from foreign intervention, and demands that the U.S. government refrain from military, economic, or diplomatic intervention in the internal affairs of Venezuela; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley requests the City Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Kamala Harris, President Trump, and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

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<sup>1</sup> “Trump's declaration on Venezuela sets stage for 'confrontational moment',” CNN, January 24, 2019,

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/01/23/politics/venezuela-us-showdown/index.html>

<sup>2</sup> “These sanctions have cut off the means by which the Venezuelan government could escape from its economic recession, while causing a dramatic falloff in oil production and worsening the economic crisis, and causing many people to die because they can't get access to life-saving medicines. Meanwhile, the US and other governments continue to blame the Venezuelan government — solely — for the economic damage, even that caused by the US sanctions,” Noam Chomsky, former UN Rapporteur Alfred de Zayas, Phyllis Bennis, Boots Riley, and some 65 other academics and experts, January 24, 2019,

<https://www.commondreams.org/news/2019/01/24/open-letter-over-70-scholars-and-experts-condemns-us-backed-coup-attempt-venezuela>

“The threats, the economic war, the financial blockade and the sanctions violate both the UN Charter and the OAS Charter.”

<https://dezayasalfred.wordpress.com/2019/02/23/open-letter-to-the-united-nations-secretary-general-antonio-guterres-and-to-the-high-commissioner-for-human-rights-michelle-bachelet/>

<sup>3</sup> Perhaps most brazenly, [National Security Adviser John] Bolton appeared in [an interview on Fox Business](#) and disclosed that the U.S. government was in talks with American corporations on how to capitalize on Venezuela's oil reserves, which are proven to be the [world's largest](#). We're in conversation with major American companies now," he said. "I think we're trying to get to the same end result here. ... It will make a big difference to the United States economically if we could have American oil companies really invest in and produce the oil capabilities in Venezuela," Time Magazine, January 30, 2019, <http://time.com/5516920/inside-john-boltons-month-long-p-r-campaign-against-venezuelas-government/>

<sup>4</sup> "Why Ilhan Omar and Elliott Abrams Tangled Over U.S. Foreign Policy," <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/14/us/politics/ilhan-omar-elliott-abrams.html>

"Guatemalan Army Waged 'Genocide,' New Report Finds," <https://www.nytimes.com/1999/02/26/world/guatemalan-army-waged-genocide-new-report-finds.html>