



Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice

*...working toward the creation of a sustainable
world, free from violence and injustice...*

Action Alert 1 - Madison: Join local actions to close Guantanamo

Action Alert 2: Oppose employment discrimination bill

Action Alert 3: Colombian communities threatened by mining

Action Alert 1 - Madison: Join local actions to close Guantanamo

Background: The first men arrived at the U.S. detention center at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, on January 11, 2002. Of the 779 people who have been detained there over the years, only six have been convicted of any crime by a military tribunal. Most of the 171 remaining detainees were captured simply for being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Most could leave tomorrow if the blanket ban on repatriations to Yemen were lifted. This month also marks the third anniversary of President Obama's Executive Order mandating the closure of the Guantánamo detention center within one year. Not only has the President failed to carry out the Order, he has extended some of the worst aspects of the Guantánamo system by continuing indefinite detentions without charge or trial, employing illegitimate military commissions to try some suspects, and blocking accountability for torture by refusing to conduct independent and thorough investigations, and by attempting to prevent the courts from reviewing lawsuits brought by formerly detained men.

Take Action: In Madison, three events are planned to call for the closure of Guantanamo: Monday, January 9, 12 noon to 1 pm: Corner of Martin Luther King Jr Blvd and Doty St, Madison Vigil for Peace action to close Guantánamo, including street theater with orange jumpsuits. Tuesday, January 10, 7 pm: Predolin Hall auditorium, Edgewood College - "Guantánamo, Military Tribunals and the Rule of Law," a discussion hosted by the United Nations Association of Dane County and Witness Against Torture - Madison. Wednesday, January 11, at 7 pm at Mother Fool's Coffeehouse, 1101 Williamson Street - Evening of action to close Guantánamo, including writing letters to policymakers and current detainees, and reading poetry written by detainees.

Contact for more info: Joy First, Madison Pledge of Resistance, 608-222-7581, joyfirst5@gmail.com

Action Alert 2: Oppose employment discrimination bill

Background: [Wisconsin Senate Bill 207](#) would allow all employers to either refuse to hire or to terminate from employment any individual who has an unpardoned felony conviction (Currently an employer can only refuse to hire someone with a felony conviction if the nature of the offense is substantially related to the nature of the job/work.) The bill would overturns a nearly 40 year old standard that by all accounts and statistics has worked well for WI employers. It is important to note that on any given day in WI there are 70,000 people in prison or on some form of community supervision, on average there are only 24 pardons offered per year by the WI governor (averaged

over the last 26 years). The discriminatory nature of this bill is even more worrisome when we take into consideration the [racial disparities in the criminal justice system in our state](#).

Take Action: SB 207 has passed out of committee but now must be scheduled for debate on both the Assembly and the Senate floor. Opponents of the bill are urging concerned citizens to contact members of the [Assembly's Committee on Rules](#) and the Senate's [Committee on Senate Organization](#) to express their opposition. Opponents believe there is a chance to stop the bill in the Senate, as they have heard from some Senate staff that there may not be 17 votes in the Senate to support the bill.

Contact for more info: Linda Ketcham, [Madison-Area Urban Ministry](#), (608) 256-0906 E-Mail: mum@emum.org

Action Alert 3: Colombian communities threatened by mining

Background: The Colombian town of Marmato is threatened by a Canadian multinational mining corporation, which proposes to destroy the town in order to develop an open pit mine. The small-scale miners who have lived in the area and have earned their living from mining for 500 years are refusing to leave the town to be resettled elsewhere. Colombia Support Network is planning a delegation to Marmato, and have now learned of another peasant community, Mazamorras, being threatened by the same multinational. The peasant organization from Mazamorras wishes to have a representative meet with the CSN delegation in Marmato. CSN is raising funds to cover the transportation costs for the representative of the Mazamorras peasant organization to Marmato, about \$600 total. Residents of Mazamorras are now reporting that they have begun to receive threats from paramilitaries who have moved into their community.

Take Action: To support the travel fund for the Mazamorras peasant organization delegate, please send a check to Colombia Support Network at the address below and write "Mazamorras" in the memo line of the check.

Contact for more info: Cecilia Zarate-Laun, [Colombia Support Network](#), 608-257-8753, csn@igc.org

WNPJ is forwarding these weekly alerts from member organizations, individual members and national affiliates. If you are a WNPJ member and have an alert you would like posted, please send it to Steve Burns at: outreach@wnpj.org

Steve Burns
Program Director
[Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice](#)
122 State St. #405
Madison, WI 53703
(608) 250-9240