

WHY WE'RE STILL STANDING OUT HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF A PANDEMIC

This vigil for peace and justice has been observed every Sunday from 12 until 1 p.m. since May of 1999. 20 years and four U.S. presidential administrations later, we are still here.

Often people ask us what we mean when we say, “RESIST THIS ENDLESS WAR.” What we mean is that the serial wars fought by the U.S. and its allies are one war being waged on many fronts. Men, women, and children are being slaughtered, maimed, traumatized and driven from their homes all over the world so that immense wealth and power can be concentrated in the hands of a very few people.

The weapons of this war are many. Here are just some examples: continued development and production of an ever more deadly nuclear arsenal; drone attacks against human beings many thousands of miles away (targets whose bodies the bombardiers, operating their weapons by remote control, will never have to see); mass incarcerations and deportations of immigrants and refugees (condemning them, in many cases, to a future of torture or death); the systematic dismantling of an infrastructure and social programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security that most of us not only depend upon but have funded with our hard-earned tax dollars all our lives; the destruction of our environment; and the undermining of workers' rights and the refusal to pass a national minimum wage that is a living wage.

In 2016, we had a presidential election in which the issues of war, peace and economic justice were never seriously addressed. The state of endless war was accepted as the norm. Now we are dealing with an administration that in its nearly four years in power has exponentially escalated on all fronts this war that we have been describing and resisting for two decades and more.

With its bloated military budget; its global saber-rattling; its support for bloody dictatorships; its blatantly racist and xenophobic rhetoric and policies; its utter disregard for the U.S. Constitution and international law; its attempt to roll back even the modest attempts at addressing the climate crisis that are embraced by the Paris Agreement; its utter disregard for human rights at the borders; its criminal negligence with respect to the COVID-19 crisis; and its unapologetic war against poor, working-class and non-white people on behalf of the billionaire class it represents, the Trump administration has made transparent the existential threat posed by the 1% to all our lives and to the future of our planet.

RESIST THIS ENDLESS WAR September-October 2020

As we approach this crucial election, we ask you to think about the issues this vigil has been trying to address in a very modest way over the past 20 years. The war we now face on all fronts transcends partisan politics, and we didn't get here merely as the result of one terrible election in 2016. Vote in 2020 as if your life depends on it- it does! But remember that simply voting, while important, will not resolve this existential crisis or lead us to a just, peaceful and healthy world. Only a truly engaged citizenry, able and willing to think critically and to use every nonviolent tactic we can muster, will be able to make the serious, deep, systemic changes that are so very long overdue, changes upon which our very survival depends.

We invite you to join the conversation any Sunday, here at Broadway, Park and Elm Streets in New Haven, 12 to 1 p.m.

<http://newhavensundayvigil.wordpress.com>