

## RESIST THIS ENDLESS WAR

### Picasso's *Guernica*



*In 1937 Pablo Picasso painted Guernica, a mural that was the centerpiece for the Spanish Pavilion of the World's Fair in Paris. The official theme of the Paris Exposition was the celebration of modern technology. ..Guernica, the most lasting monument of the exposition, is the Twentieth century's most enduring symbol of the horrors of war and the inhumane use of technology. It is a portent for the terrors of the next decade. The painting is based on the events of April 27, 1937, when the German airforce, in support of the Fascist forces led by Generalissimo Francisco Franco, carried out a bombing raid on the Basque village of Guernica in northern Spain. At that time such a massive bombing campaign was unprecedented. The hamlet was pounded with high-explosive and incendiary bombs for over three hours. The non-combatant townspeople including women and children were indiscriminately cut-down as they fled their crumbling buildings. The town of Guernica burned for three days leaving sixteen hundred civilians killed or wounded in its smoldering remains. The Fascist planners of the bombing campaign knew that Guernica had no strategic value as a military target, but it was a cultural and religious center for Basque identity...* Source:

<http://employees.oneonta.edu/farberas/arth/arth200/guernica.html>

On September 11, 2001, citizens of all the world's nations joined us in our grief and horror at the loss of innocent lives as the twin towers of the World Trade Center toppled. Many of those who wished Americans well in this time of fear and sadness had lived through much greater terror and much

greater fear, beset by enemies (often led by the U.S. government) with far greater technological resources than the suicide bombers who apparently brought down those towers. But they were generous—and forgiving—in their empathy.

On October 9, 2001, the U.S. invaded Afghanistan. Then-President George W. Bush constructed a thin tissue of lies to justify this invasion: the U.S. was going after Al-Qaeda, the supposed perpetrators of the plot to bring down the World Trade center, and they were harbored in Afghanistan. The decision to go to war against Afghanistan—and the subsequent invasion of Iraq in 2003, justified by an equally transparent lie that the government of Iraq possessed “weapons of mass destruction” about to be unleashed on the world—flew in the face of the solidarity that people of the rest of the world had offered us.

Nine years later, the U.S. is now fighting an escalated war in Afghanistan. It is now the Obama administration's war—as is the continuing war in Iraq, the drone bombings against civilians in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and the lies about the real reasons that we make these wars.

The Obama administration has squandered its historic opportunity to change the direction of U.S. foreign and domestic policy, thus betraying most terribly the young idealists who worked and voted for him. Meanwhile, the U.S. drone bombings in Pakistan and Afghanistan mean that fewer and fewer actual human agents of warfare will ever see their victims, even from a height of thousands of feet. Warfare is becoming ever more cynical and inevitable because those who make war pay less and less of a price, while the victims are increasingly random, innocent and undocumented.

On this bitter anniversary, please educate yourself about the realities of the wars being fought in your name throughout the world, and take action to stop them. Join marches and demonstrations to oppose them. Call or write your representatives in Congress and tell them to take leadership to stop funding wars and start funding health care, education, and human needs. Talk to your friends and family and urge them to speak and act. DO NOT BE SILENT!

Connecticut Peace Coalition/ New Haven 10/10/2010

[ctpcnh@gmail.com](mailto:ctpcnh@gmail.com)

<http://newhavensundayvigil.wordpress.com/>

Join us every Sunday here at Broadway, Park and Elm Streets from 12-1 p.m.

**RESIST THIS ENDLESS WAR!**

