



VETERANS FOR PEACE
HUMBOLDT BAY
CHAPTER 56

THE FOGHORN

FEBRUARY
2015

“Cutting Through the Fog of War”

What They're Not Telling You About Monsanto's Role in Ukraine. Will this be a takeover of Ukraine's farmland?

by Christina Sarich

There are many facets to the conflict in Ukraine that have been overlooked by most media outlets. The role of western biotech firms is just one of them.

The World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) is helping biotech run the latest war in Ukraine. Make no mistake that what is happening in the Ukraine now is deeply tied to the interests of Monsanto, Dow, Bayer, and other big players in the poison food game.

Monsanto has an office in Ukraine. While this does not shout 'culpability' from every corner, it is no different than the US military's habit to place bases in places that they want to gain political control. The opening of this office coincided with land grabs with loans from the IMF and World Bank to one of the world's most hated corporations – all in support of their biotech takeover.

Previously, there was a ban on private sector land ownership in the country – but it was lifted 'just in time' for Monsanto to have its way with the Ukraine.

In fact, a bit of political maneuvering by the IMF gave the Ukraine a \$17 billion loan – but only if they would open up to biotech farming and the selling of Monsanto's poison crops and chemicals – destroying a farmland that is one of the most pristine in all of Europe. Farm equipment dealer, Deere, along with seed producers Dupont and Monsanto, will have a heyday.

In the guise of 'aid,' a claim has been made on Ukraine's vast agricultural riches. It is the world's third largest exporter of corn and fifth largest exporter of wheat. Ukraine has deep, rich, black soil that can grow almost anything, and its ability to produce high volumes of GM grain is what made biotech come rushing to take it over.

As reported by The Ecologist, according to the Oakland Institute:

“Whereas Ukraine does not allow the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in agriculture, Article 404 of the EU agreement, which relates to agriculture, includes a clause that has generally gone unnoticed: it indicates, among other things, that both parties will cooperate to extend the use of biotechnologies.

There is no doubt that this provision meets the expectations of the agribusiness industry. As observed by Michael Cox, research director at the investment bank Piper Jaffray, 'Ukraine and, to a wider extent, Eastern Europe, are among the most promising growth markets for farm-equipment giant Deere, as well as seed producers Monsanto and DuPont'.”

The nation WAS Europe's breadbasket – and now in an act of bio-warfare, it will become the wasteland that many US farmlands have become due to copious amounts of herbicide spraying, the depletion of soil, and the overall disruption of a perfect ecosystem.

The aim of US government entities is to support the takeover of Ukraine for biotech interests (among other strategies involving the prop-up of a failing cabalistic banking system that Russia has also refused with its new alignment with BRICS and its own payment system called SWIFT). This is similar to biotech's desired takeover of Hawaiian islands and land in Africa.

The Ukraine war has many angles that haven't been exposed to the general public – and you can bet that biotech has their hands in the proverbial corn pie.

CHANGE OF MEETING PLACE: VFP56 MEETINGS WILL AGAIN TAKE PLACE AT THE UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP HALL, AT 24 UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP WAY, BAYSIDE, JACOBY CREEK ROAD 7:00 PM



FEBRUARY GOLDEN RULE REPORT

by Chuck Dewitt

To All:.....

Happy New Year to all. The holidays were especially good to us this year, we have money in the bank, not enough to finish the project but certainly enough to continue.. Several small grants and many lesser donations add up to approximately 50% of what we need to splash in June. What we must find very soon are semi qualified workers to help out. Our usual crew has disappeared for the holidays and I don't know when they will return. I'm making a list of things that need doing and I'll send it out very soon. Much of what needs done is work that anyone could do like sanding, oiling and painting of tackle blocks or polishing small brass fittings that will be used. There's a lot of interior woodwork that must be finished and of course painting. So if any one can help or knows of some one that can help call me or come on out, we're down to about 180 days till the dead line.

The gluing party was a great success. I wasn't sure enough people would show up but come Saturday over 20 folks

Pete Aronson at the gluing party, (Photo by Nate Lomba)





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More Golden Rule fans at the gluing party, (Photo by Nate Lomba)



Mike Gonzales inspecting the rough mast, (Photo by Nate Lomba)

Next VFP56 meeting will be held on Thursday, February 5th at 7:00 PM. Meeting will be held at 24 Unitarian Fellowship Way, Bayside, Jacoby Creek Road. Veterans and non-veterans are more than welcome to come and help us dialogue about what we together can do to bring about peace in this complex world.



2015 Redwood Coast “Peace through Art” Contest



“Lennon Wall” – Prague, Czech Republic (2009)

The Humboldt Bay Chapter of Veterans For Peace

Invites

Humboldt County High School Students

to

submit an original piece of artwork or photography depicting and focusing on peace; the abolition of war, hate, or violence; or peace-making in our communities.

Individual, Group or Class Projects are encouraged.

Entries must be received not later than 5 p.m., Friday, March 6, 2015

Cash prizes will be awarded.

Entrants will receive a copy of the **2015 Redwood Coast Peace Poetry Anthology**.

and are encouraged to introduce their artwork/photography at the

Sixth Annual Peace Poetry & Art Celebration to be held Sunday, May 10, 2015.

All entries will be displayed during the **Sixth Annual Peace Poetry & Art Celebration**.

One entry may be chosen for the cover of the **2015 Redwood Coast Peace Poetry Anthology**.

Other entries may be used inside the anthology and selected entries may be exhibited at public venues.



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Sixth Annual Redwood Coast Peace Poetry Contest



The Humboldt Bay Chapter of Veterans For Peace

Invites

Humboldt County High School Students
to

submit an original poem directly focusing on peace; the abolition of war, hate, or violence; or peace-making in our communities.

Entries must be received not later than 5 p.m., Friday, March 6, 2015

Cash prizes will be awarded.

Entrants will receive a copy of the **2015 Redwood Coast Peace Poetry Anthology** and are encouraged to present their poetry at the **Sixth Annual Peace Poetry & Art Celebration** to be held Sunday, May 10, 2015.

GO TO <http://www.vfp56.org> FOR FURTHER DETAILS, RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Redwood Coast Peace Poetry Contest is organized by the Humboldt Bay Chapter of Veterans For Peace, Inc., and co-sponsored by the Buddhist Peace Fellowship Humboldt Chapter, Humboldt Unitarian Universalists Fellowship Social Action Committee, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Humboldt Chapter, and The Ink People Center for the Arts. Submissions remain the property of the author. Veterans For Peace Humboldt Bay Chapter 56 is granted an unrestricted license for reuse of submissions at its discretion.



GI Rights Hotline: Still Answering the Call

Barbara Goldberg. HCCO Hotline Counselor and GIRN Board Secretary

HCCO, the Humboldt County branch of the GI Rights Hotline, answers calls from service members whether Active Duty, Reserves, National Guard, or DEP, from young people considering military enlistment, and from veterans. Our goal is to provide accurate, comprehensive, objective information to callers and to empower them to make informed decisions for themselves. We are advocates rather than advisors, helping callers, who often are confused or disheartened, to see that they do have choices. We work with callers step by step, providing information, support and referrals as appropriate.

HCCO has been a member of the National GI Rights Network (GIRN) since November 2001. Local peace activists, veterans, and former draft counselors formed our group in response to the immediate need for information and support for service members and their families following the Sept. 11th attacks and subsequent military build-up to war in the Middle East. After rigorous training in military law and enforcement policies, we began taking calls in our local office, located then in the Redwood Peace and Justice Center in Arcata on January 15, 2002, appropriately, the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Today we are located in the Greenways Building, 1385 8th Street, Suite 123 Arcata. Local phone number: (707) 826-0165 or toll free at (877) 447-4487. Website: <http://www.girightshotline.org>.

In 2002, calls to the Hotline primarily came from service members worried about upcoming deployments, facing family hardships or issues of conscience, and parents concerned about military recruitment of our kids. These types of callers still remain, and many others have joined them as war has continued and escalated: service members who have served multiple deployments, those suffering both physical and mental injuries in war, those caught up in a military bureaucracy unable or unwilling to offer them justice, those who have experienced military sexual assault or trauma, and those facing a crisis of conscience as they realize the true human and moral costs of war. Increasingly too, we are receiving calls from veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan who have been discarded with less than honorable discharges or the medical or disability benefits they earned. Over the last 14 years, HCCO counselors have assisted over 20,000 callers to the GI Rights Hotline from our office in Arcata alone.

As I am sure you can imagine, the increasing types and complexity of calls and ever-changing military regulations and policies of enforcement demand ongoing training to assure callers get the best information. We do this through sometimes extensive research

on cases, collaboration with other counselors in the Network, and guidance from medical, psychological, and legal professionals who volunteer to work with counselors in the Network. As needed, we can refer callers to these professionals for specific types of support beyond our expertise. We also gather once each year with counselors across the GI Rights Hotline Network for intensive training during four days of workshops and networking, invaluable sources of both up-to-date information and support.

Perhaps a few examples of recent cases will help readers understand the Hotline work we do. Currently, we are working on Conscientious Objector claims for two soldiers, one who is a very patriotic person who served 9 years and three deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan but who grew increasingly uneasy about the destruction and human suffering caused by war. Finally, he knew his continued participation in war was morally unjustifiable. When he returned from his third deployment, he called the Hotline for help. As we talked, he was able to clarify his beliefs and understand his options. He decided to seek discharge as a CO. The other service member is a young man with strong religious beliefs who has just finished his military training. He enlisted for all the "right" reasons, believing that the military protected our citizens. Early in his training, he found military culture was quite different from what he expected. He knew, of course, that he might have to kill in the service of his country, but the bloodthirsty approach in training disturbed him. He realized during his final training mission, as he was ordered to kick over the body of the "enemy" and shoot two rounds into his heart, that he couldn't morally justify this act. He put down his rifle and called the Hotline shortly thereafter.

In another recent case, a woman soldier called the Hotline after going AWOL. She had been sexually assaulted by a superior in her chain of command. Initially she decided to file an informal complaint, hoping that this would protect her anonymity, because she had 11 years in the military and didn't want to jeopardize her career. However, word got out and she became the victim of retaliation. Unable to get her commander to support her, she went AWOL. We helped her to get the medical/psychological support she needed and were able to resolve the AWOL charge with some legal help that resulted in an honorable discharge. By the time the case was resolved, she was glad to be out of the military but was still angry at the betrayal by the system.

We also are working with another service member who has been in the military 8 years and has served in two deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan. Following the first, he experienced symptoms of PTSD, but was not given proper care before he was deployed again. During the second deployment, he faced a number of disciplinary problems stemming from substance abuse and anger issues. He sought help for PTSD on his return, but was told he had a "personality disorder" and would be given a bad discharge. One of his therapists for drug counseling told him he was suffering from PTSD but that his base was losing too many people and had declared a moratorium on PTSD discharges. We are working to get him a thorough medical evaluation, confirmation of his PTSD diagnosis, and an appropriate discharge with medical disability.

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Fortunately, we have access to a network of legal and medical professionals who are advising us on this case.

Because our Hotline work can be both intellectually and emotionally challenging, a network of support is critical for both counselors and our Hotline callers. For myself, I know I would not have been able to persist in this work over the last 14 years without the support of others who have been there. So many of our callers turn to us as a last resort: they may feel hopeless, depressed, desperate, or even suicidal. Often there are no easy answers to “solve” their problems, but our work is to inform them, help them to advocate for themselves, and walk with them as they face the military bureaucracy. Even in cases where service members ultimately face harsh outcomes, many have told us that it meant everything to understand the process and know they weren’t alone.

Over the years, HCCO has received both financial and moral support from the Redwood Peace and Justice Center, the Andrea Wagner Foundation, the Humboldt Friends Meeting, Veterans for Peace Chapter 56, Seth Rick’s Family Foundation, and many friends in the local community whose small donations help pay the bills. We want to acknowledge Dave Meserve, who has paid our office phone bill since we moved from the RPJC to our new location, and Felicia Oldfather, whose musical talent over the years helped us raise much needed funds. As with many service organizations, HCCO has struggled during these hard economic times, but always we have managed to be here to answer the calls with the support of the community.

A few months ago, the GI Rights Hotline Network adopted a new system of routing calls from service members to the toll-free number. This has resulted in an increase in the number of calls that can be answered “live” rather than through follow-up calls. Now, instead of receiving calls from 10 Western States, we are receiving calls from across the country and abroad. The more “live” coverage the Hotline can offer, the greater the chance to help a caller in crisis immediately. We encourage anyone who might have an interest in training as a Hotline counselor or any local professionals who may have medical, psychological, or legal expertise to contact one of our counselors. We also encourage anyone with fundraising experience or a good fundraising idea to contact us. Anyone who can help with even a small donation can make one to VFP Chapter 56 with a notation to the GI Rights Hotline.

Barbara Goldberg can be reached via email at bag4@humboldt.edu, by phone in our Hotline office (707) 826-0165, or by mail c/o HCCO 1385 8th Street Suite 123, Arcata, CA 95521.

***Poem - Tommy by VFP member Barry
Reece***

January 14, 2015

***Barry Reece is a veteran member of North
Carolina Triangle Chapter 157***

TOMMY

***The rhythmic cadence of knitting
needles slows, then stops. Maude
thinks about Tommy. Is he safe?***

***Toby sleeps near Maude’s feet. Dark
dreams trigger occasional whimpers.
Why hasn’t Tommy come home?***

***Letters from Iraq are piled neatly on
the kitchen table, bound by a
yellow ribbon. Was his last letter his
last letter?***

***The Bible on the lamp table lies open
to Matthew, Chapter 5: Blessed are the
peacemakers for they shall be called
God’s sons. Why are warriors our he-
roes?***

***Toby rises quickly and runs to the
door. Head cocked, he listens
attentively. What does he hear?***

***Silence is broken by a loud knock.
Maude steps to the window and
pulls back the curtain. Two soldiers
stand erectly.***





**Veterans For Peace
Chapter 56**

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WE'RE ON THE WEB:
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LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

If you would like to submit an article, opinion, comment or response to anything you have read which might interest the members of VFP-56, please e-mail it to turtldncer@aol.com, in word format, or mail to Jim Sorter at 1762 Buttermilk Lane, Arcata, CA 95521. Submissions will be included on a first come basis until the newsletter is full. Late arriving submissions will be archived for future issues.



877-447-4487

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Your
Rights
FROM OVERSEAS
202-483-2220**

The GI Rights Hotline

girightshotline.org girights@girightshotline.org

Discharges/DEP/Hazing/Discrimination/Gay

**Call for information from a network of nonprofit
non-governmental organizations.**

The service is free. The call is confidential.

**You have the right to keep one copy of this or any other
information at any time (DOD Directive 1325.6).**

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