



## The People of Yemen Suffer Atrocities, too

by Kathy Kelly

The United Nations' goal was to [raise](#) more than \$4.2 billion for the people of war-torn Yemen by March 15. But when that deadline rolled around, just \$1.3 billion had come in.

"I am deeply disappointed," [said](#) Jan Egeland, the secretary general of the Norwegian Refugee Council. "The people of Yemen need the same level of support and solidarity that we've seen for the people of Ukraine. The crisis in Europe will dramatically impact Yemenis' access to food and fuel, making an already dire situation even worse."

With Yemen importing [more than 35%](#) of its wheat from Russia and Ukraine, disruption to wheat supplies will cause [soaring increases](#) in the price of food. "Since the onset of the Ukraine conflict, we have seen the prices of food skyrocket by more than 150 percent," [said](#) Basheer Al Selwi, a spokesperson for the International Commission of the Red Cross in Yemen. "Millions of Yemeni families don't know how to get their next meal."

The ghastly blockade and bombardment of Yemen, led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, is now entering its eighth year. The United Nations [estimated](#) last fall that the Yemen death toll would top 377,000 people by the end of 2021.

The United States [continues](#) to supply spare parts for Saudi/UAE coalition war planes, along with maintenance and a steady flow of armaments. Without this support, the Saudis couldn't continue their murderous aerial attacks.

Yet tragically, instead of condemning atrocities committed by the Saudi/UAE invasion, bombing and blockade of Yemen, the United States is cozying up to the leaders of these countries. As sanctions against Russia disrupt global oil sales, the United States is [entering talks](#) to become increasingly reliant on Saudi and UAE oil production. And Saudi Arabia and the UAE don't want to increase their oil production without a U.S. agreement to help them increase their attacks against Yemen.

Human rights groups have decried the Saudi/UAE-led coalition for bombing roadways, fisheries, sewage and sanitation facilities, weddings, funerals and even a children's school bus. In a recent attack, the Saudis [killed](#) sixty African migrants held in a detention center in Saada.

The Saudi blockade of Yemen has choked off essential imports needed for daily life, forcing the Yemeni people to depend on relief groups for survival.

There is another way. U.S. Reps. Pramila Jayapal of Washington and Peter De Fazio of Oregon, both Democrats, are [now seeking cosponsors](#) for the Yemen War Powers Resolution. It demands that Congress cut military support for the Saudi/UAE-led coalition's war against Yemen.

On March 12, Saudi Arabia [executed](#) 81 people, including seven Yemenis – two of them prisoners of war and five of them accused of criticizing the Saudi war against Yemen. Just two days after the mass execution, the Gulf Cooperation Council, including many of the coalition partners attacking Yemen, announced Saudi willingness to host peace talks in their own capital city of Riyadh, requiring Yemen's Ansar Allah leaders (informally known as Houthis) to risk execution by Saudi Arabia in order to discuss the war. The Saudis have long insisted on a deeply flawed [U.N. resolution](#) which calls on the Houthi fighters to disarm but never even mentions the U.S. backed Saudi/UAE coalition as being among the warring parties. The Houthis say they will come to the negotiating table but cannot rely on the Saudis as mediators. This seems reasonable, given Saudi Arabia's vengeful treatment of Yemenis.

The people of the United States have the right to insist that U.S. foreign policy be predicated on respect for human rights, equitable sharing of resources and an earnest commitment to end all wars. We should urge Congress to use the leverage it has for preventing continued aerial bombardment of Yemen and sponsor Jayapal's and De Fazio's forthcoming resolution.

We can also summon the humility and courage to acknowledge U.S. attacks against Yemeni civilians, make reparations and repair the dreadful systems undergirding our unbridled militarism.

*Kathy Kelly, a peace activist and author, co-coordinates the [Ban Killer Drones](#) campaign and is board president of [World Beyond War](#). A shortened version of this article was produced for [Progressive Perspectives](#), which is run by [The Progressive magazine](#).*

## **Good Friday 2022**

by Adel O'Regan

On Friday, April 15, 2022, over 150 individuals gathered on zoom or through Facebook to participate in the Pax Christi Metro New York (PCMNY) Good Friday Way of the Cross. This gathering, traditionally done in person along 42<sup>nd</sup> Street in Manhattan, New York, was held via zoom due to continued concerns of COVID 19. While not ideal (we always love gathering in person), having it done via zoom allowed individuals who have health challenges as well as folks from across the United States to participate.

Forty years ago, PCMNY was born with the first Good Friday Peace Walk, a Way of the Cross that over 600 people attended. Today, the tradition continues with our 40<sup>th</sup> consecutive walk. This was our second Zoom walk. PCMNY works daily to spread the message of Gospel nonviolence and to teach the rich body of Catholic Social Teaching. PCMNY gives life to our Church through prayer, study, and action in small local groups and large regional gatherings. PCMNY brings caring, compassionate believers together for spiritual nourishment, educational programs and public witness. On Good Friday, various communities from around the New York City area (including upstate New York) presented reflections based on themes that the PCMNY Witness Committee selected. Themes this year included reflecting on the degradation of the earth's biosphere, burdens of migrants, efforts toward reconciliation, distribution of health care, economic justice, the basic right of housing, the unequal distribution of nutritious food and clean water, domestic violence, inequities in education, racial justice, militarism, the death penalty, mental illness, incarceration, and nonviolence. We were so grateful that two high schools were able to participate: Cristo Rey New York High School and Marymount School of New York.

This year's reflections and petitions were thought-provoking and challenged each of us, in light of the information presented, to consider how can we make things new?

We are grateful for all those who participated and those who assisted in making it happen, especially Kirin Taylor and Michelle Macias, who provided technical assistance, as well as the Interpreters from Mill Neck Interpreter Services who provided sign language throughout the event. We were also blest to have Bud Courtney lead us in song as he has done for so many years.

We look forward to seeing everyone next year on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, for our 41<sup>st</sup> Good Friday Way of the Cross. Our plan is for it to be in person and if possible to have some sort of live streaming of the event so that people will be able to participate if they are unable to come in person.

If you were unable to attend and would like a prayerful opportunity to do the Stations of the Cross, we invite you to look for the PCMNY Good Friday Way of the Cross on our Facebook page and/or YouTube.

*Adel O'Regan is a member of the Witness Committee*



## **Peacemaker Awards Celebration**

by Margaret Flanagan

We are happy to announce that Pax Christi Metro New York (PCMNY) is returning to an in-person Peacemaker Awards Celebration this year, three years after our last in-person Reception. We also plan to offer our Celebration via Zoom for those who can't make it in person. We're excited to be honoring Brendan Fay, anti-nuclear weapons and gay rights activist, filmmaker, and author; Sr. Mary Galeone, co-founder of Mercy Center in the Bronx and peace advocate; and Pierre Fidelia, our PCMNY Service honoree for his many years on the Witness Committee and now Board Vice-President and member of the Development Committee as well. And we'll be honoring our Young Peacebuilder from Marymount School of New York, Caroline Costigan.

This year's reception will be at a familiar and welcoming location, Xavier High School's Keenan Commons on 31 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan. It will be on June 11 from 2 to 4:30 pm. Our raffle will be a 50/50 money prize that anyone can win, whether present or not. We will also have gift baskets to win for people who are present. They will be donated as always, and we are already promised some good books and wine, so come ready to bid! We will create a Journal with biographies of our honorees and the list of former honorees, as well as a short review of what we have been up to this year at PCMNY.

Music will be by PCMNY favorites Bud Courtney and Anthony Donovan and their cohorts in the Filthy Rotten System band.

We hope you join us, and feel free to invite others who might be interested to attend in person or by Zoom, if that is more comfortable for you or them. This is our chance to have some fun and raise needed funds so we really appreciate your participation. Only with your help can we continue to work for peace and justice. Our world needs us more than ever.

*Margaret A. Flanagan is the Chairperson of PCMNY's Development Committee*

## **Book Review**

# ***After Cooling: On Freon, Global Warming, and the Terrible Cost of Comfort***

**By Eric Dean Wilson. Simon and Schuster, 2021. \$19.99**

Reviewed by Marian Ronan

As Catholics, we understand what “Laudato Si” is calling us to, in order to reverse climate change. Cut back on plastics; fly less or stop altogether. Walk or take public transportation instead of driving. Eat less (or no) meat.

But most of us have heard much less about air conditioning. In his galvanizing new book, *After Cooling*, Eric Dean Wilson explains why this is the case, and why such an omission is a grave mistake.

*After Cooling* is, in one sense, a study of Freon, the gas that drove the turn to air conditioning. The study begins with efforts at artificial cooling as far back as the 19<sup>th</sup> century and continues through the invention of Freon gas (CFCs—chlorofluorocarbons) in the 1930s. From there it moves through the banning of Freon by the 1987 Montreal Protocol to the contemporary turn to air conditioning in many parts of the world. For Wilson, air conditioning is at the very heart of today’s climate and cultural crises.

Wilson includes many fascinating details in his history. One of the first buildings to switch to temperature reduction by artificial refrigerants was the New York Stock Exchange. Why? Because the summer heat deterred stock traders from making money! Also entertaining is the story of the invention of Freon by the chemist, Thomas Midgely, who inhaled and breathed it into a glass pail in front of an audience to demonstrate its effectiveness.

Midgely died 30 years before scientists determined that Freon was destroying the ozone layer, however. This discovery led to its banning by the Montreal Protocol in 1987. Many consider this agreement to be the most inspiring international environmental action imaginable because it literally saved human life. But while the ban protected the ozone layer, its replacement, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), actually gave off huge amounts more greenhouse gases than Freon, increasing global warming, not to mention all the electricity used as homeowners increasingly purchased the air conditioners that had previously been used only in commercial spaces.

One fascinating sidebar to Wilson’s book is that the U.S. and Europe were much more supportive of the Montreal Protocol than of later international climate agreements because it was widely believed that the destruction of the ozone layer would expose people with white skin to much higher levels of skin cancer than darker people. Climate change, however, is more a problem for the (darker) Global South, so who needs international controls?

Wilson weaves together these multiple layers of air conditioning history by means of a personal narrative. The Montreal Protocol banned the production of Freon, but not the huge amounts of Freon that remained in the possession of businesses and individuals. So there emerged a huge black market of people willing to pay for Freon to run the equipment they still owned. Wilson travels around the country with a friend, Sam, who works for an environmental group that buys up the remaining Freon and destroys it. Ironically, however, Wilson’s friend’s company functions only by selling the carbon credits from their destruction of Freon to corporations who use the credits to legalize their own emissions of greenhouse gasses--“cap and

trade.” So, just as the replacement for Freon is worsening the climate crisis, so is Sam’s work to destroy Freon.

As informative and nuanced as Wilson’s history is, the most important part of *After Cooling* is its analysis of the cultural changes that drive our addiction to air conditioning. That cultural shift is the massively increasing belief, since World War II, that we in the West are entitled to personal comfort. Until 1950s suburbanization, most Americans did not believe there was any need for cool temperatures throughout the summer. Instead, they chose community solutions to the heat—going outdoors, fanning themselves, swimming, even sleeping on porches. And, ironically, the more we become accustomed to being artificially cooled, the weaker our physical capacity for living with the heat becomes.

This increasing fixation on “cooling” has also harmed us psychologically, isolating us indoors, cut off from others. And the image of the privilege of coolness is spreading to middle-classes around the world, even as the emission of green-house gases by air conditioners is making the planet hotter.

What is the solution? As people committed to saving creation, we must work to change the widespread belief in the right to individual comfort. And we have to turn our air-conditioners up, or off.

*Marian Ronan is a member of Pax Christi Downtown Brooklyn.*

***A Gift of Peace*** has been given in memory of:

Ignacia Andujar  
Regina Arias, ACM  
Gilman Benitez, ACM  
Sandra Castro  
John Fogaros  
Christopher Gage  
Arthur Giron  
Mary Kennelley  
Catherine F. Krasnansky, MCA  
Anna G. Lee  
Shirley Mitchell  
Camille M. Pelaez, ACM  
Frank Searing  
Christopher Thomasson



***A Mother’s Day Gift of Peace honored:***

Meredith Drum \* Brenda Flanagan  
Linda Flanagan \* Theresa Hagan  
Holly Higgins \* Dawn Murdock  
A. Julie Cruz Molette, MCA  
Kathryn Sanders \* Suzanne Sajewski

***Kerux No. 129***

**2022 Spring**

“Kerux” is the Greek word meaning “herald.” As the name of our newsletter, it reminds us that we are to be heralds of God’s nonviolent love. We welcome letters, articles, and reviews.

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## **Announcements--Save the Dates**

**Peacemaker Awards Celebration**, June 11<sup>th</sup>- 2:00 – 4:30 PM. In person and on ZOOM. Xavier High School's Keenan Commons, 31 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan. See article on page 3.

**40-Day Fast for Christian Nonviolence: July 1<sup>st</sup>-August 9<sup>th</sup>**. Join us in an annual fast for Christian Nonviolence. This fast is an opportunity to remember, repent, and resolve to transform our culture of violence. It begins July 1<sup>st</sup> and ends August 9<sup>th</sup>, the tragic triple anniversaries of the executions of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein), Jewish convert to Catholicism and holocaust victim; Blessed Franz Jaegerstaetter, martyr for refusing to serve in Hitler's army; and the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, Japan, the largest Christian community in Japan. We frame it with prayers. Please sign up to fast with us at [contact@paxchristinys.org](mailto:contact@paxchristinys.org).

**Hiroshima/Nagasaki Memorial**: Still in the planning stage, we hope to hold this annual memorial the weekend of August 6-7 to commemorate the 77<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and to advocate for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Please keep in touch for details at [info@nypaxchristi.org](mailto:info@nypaxchristi.org) or [www.nypaxchristi.org](http://www.nypaxchristi.org).

**The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pax Christi USA (PCUSA)**: Help celebrate in person or virtually at this conference and gala dinner. The theme is "Seeing through the Prism of Justice." The keynote speaker will be Archbishop John C. Wester who recently published a pastoral letter on nuclear disarmament. There will also be break-out sessions on a wide variety of peace and justice issues, the commissioning of 20 new Ambassadors of Peace, and the honoring of the 2022 Teacher of Peace. Among those Ambassadors of Peace is PCNYS's own Maryknoll Sister Jean Fallon. For children 4 to 11 years old, Little Friends for Peace will be offering its wonderful Peace Camp. Of course, there will be plenty of opportunities to celebrate liturgy together, as well. This exciting event takes place from Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup> in Washington, DC. Contact Pax Christi USA for more details and to register at: 202-635-2741, [info@paxchristiusa.org](mailto:info@paxchristiusa.org), or [www.paxchristiusa.org](http://www.paxchristiusa.org).

**UN International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons**: We will mark this important day, September 26<sup>th</sup>, with our now annual Interfaith Prayer gathering. Still to be determined whether this will return to in-person or be on Zoom and Facebook (or all three!), so stay tuned through the Pax Christi New York State website, Facebook page, or e-mail: [www.paxchristinys.org](http://www.paxchristinys.org); [contact@paxchristinys.org](mailto:contact@paxchristinys.org).

### **Also join our colleagues in the Peace Movement:**

**Vigil For Yemen**: Every Saturday, 11 AM-12:00 PM ET. In person in NYC at Union Square steps (south side of 14th St.) NYC.

**Ban Killer Drones Leafletting**: Every Saturday through August, 2022. 1 PM-2:30 PM ET. In person in Manhattan at the High Line Drone Sculpture, located on the Plinth, West 30th Street and 10th Avenue, New York, NY. Contact Zool at [zoolzulkowitz@icloud.com](mailto:zoolzulkowitz@icloud.com).

For even more opportunities to act locally, keep checking websites: [www.nypaxchristi.org](http://www.nypaxchristi.org), [www.paxchristinys.org](http://www.paxchristinys.org), and our partners listed at our websites.

**Annual Appeal**: If you haven't already done so, please reflect on the many reasons you value PCMNY, especially in the current political climate, and respond as generously as possible to our annual appeal. If you did respond, THANK YOU!

**“Gifts of Peace”:** Donate to PCMNY in honor of those you love, whether they’re celebrating a special holiday, a birthday, anniversary, jubilee, or new baby, are in need of encouragement, or mourning a loss. Cards are available from the PCMNY office for a recommended donation of \$5 each.

**Pennies for Peace:** On your own or with others, collect pennies throughout the year. Convert them to dollars and send them to PCMNY as a year-end gift.

**Matching Gifts:** Ask your company if it will match your gift to PCMNY.

**Bequests:** Please remember PCMNY in your will. Our legal name is Pax Christi Metro New York and our tax ID number is 13-3424349.

**Volunteers Needed!** Volunteers are always welcome... indeed, PCMNY cannot succeed in peacemaking without volunteers. If you are interested in joining the Education, Witness, or Development committees and help plan some of Pax Christi’s events, or help with the newsletter, please contact the office by e-mail. Help is also needed for mailings and other office activities. If you would like to be placed on the volunteer list, contact the office.

## Nonviolence in a Time of War

by Rosemarie Pace

The war in Ukraine has horrified much of the world. Reports indicate that most people believe it is absolutely necessary to arm Ukraine as much as possible to fight the Russian assault. At the same time, we also hear many people say the only way wars ever end is with diplomacy. Nevertheless, while people call for peace, we hear only a minority advocating for nonviolence as a viable way to achieve it, a seeming contradiction. To address this seeming contradiction, we offer some references that present a different perspective. We recommend:

**A Force More Powerful**, a documentary series on one of the 20th century’s most important and least-known stories: how nonviolent power overcame oppression and authoritarian rule. It includes six cases of movements for India, the U.S., South Africa, Denmark Poland, and Chile. Each case is approximately 30 minutes long and can be watched here: <https://www.nonviolent-conflict.org/force-powerful-english/>.

**Danish Citizens Resist the Nazis, 1940-1945**, an article available at: <https://nvdatabase.swarthmore.edu/content/danish-citizens-resist-nazis-1940-1945>.

**Bringing Down a Dictator**, a documentary about a student movement called *Otpor!* (‘resistance’), who, in 2000, nonviolently attacked the regime of Slobodan Milosevic in Yugoslavia with ridicule, rock music, and a willingness to be arrested. Their courage and audacity inspired others to overcome their fear and join the fight. The indicted war criminal Slobodan Milosevic fought to hold power. He controlled a battle-hardened army, a tough police force, and most of the news media. But he underestimated his youthful opponents. Watch it at <https://www.nonviolent-conflict.org/bringing-dictator-english/>.

**Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict** (Columbia Studies in Terrorism and Irregular Warfare) by Erica Chenoweth and Maria Stephan

## **All Good Wishes to Elda Luisi**

On behalf of the entire Pax Christi Metro New York organization and its members the Board wants to take this opportunity to thank Elda Luisi who has been our Office Coordinator. Elda was a remarkable resource during our unexpected search for a new office space and during the challenges of the pandemic. Elda was enthusiastic, talented, joyous and ever willing to advance the cause and spread of PCMNY. She was a key player in making our recent symposium on Catholic Social Justice Teaching a wonderful success. We wish Elda well as she moves to a new chapter of her life.

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