

Suggested Actions for Peace with Iran

The Richmond Peace Education Center is deeply concerned that the decrease in diplomatic options for resolving the perceived differences with Iran increases the possibility of a military intervention by the U.S and/or Israel. We fear that we are moving dangerously close to another irresponsible, unnecessary and costly war.

NOW is the time for each of us to take action, to be a voice for alternatives to violence, and to demand accuracy in reporting, especially regarding any nuclear threat from Iran. RPEC has compiled a list of suggested actions to help our members promote a peaceful solution to the crisis with Iran.

1. Sign onto RPEC's Statement on Iran approved by RPEC's Board of Directors. By adding your name, you are endorsing the statement and allowing RPEC to add your name whenever the Statement is used, e.g. when lobbying legislators, when using the Statement as a handout at workshops, when sending out a news release, etc.
2. Contact Legislators: Call or write your representatives in the House of Representatives and the Senate. Colleagues at FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation) and FOR (Fellowship of Reconciliation), two of the organizations that share RPEC's perspective on nonviolence, provide invaluable resources on their web sites that facilitate contacting your legislator.
 - <http://fcnl.org/issues/Iran>
 - <http://forusa.org/content/for-iran-project-toolkit>

These sites also provide fact sheets, talking points, legislation to support or oppose, and an easy way to contact your legislators.

3. If you would like to organize a visit to your legislators' offices, but need assistance on how to go about it, contact RPEC Board member, Patrice Schwermer, pschermer@comcast.net.
4. Write a Letter to the Editor of local papers and send a copy to the RPEC office. Here is a link to a resource on writing a Letter to the Editor.
5. Sign the Iran Pledge of Resistance, make copies to hand out, encourage others to sign it and send them to your legislator. to sign the Pledge, go to <http://salsa.democracynaction.org/>. This Pledge emerged from the UFPJ (United for Peace and Justice) Peace Summit in Philadelphia in February 2012. It is "modeled after the Central America Pledge of resistance that successfully prevented a U.S. invasion of Nicaragua..." When you sign this Pledge, you are agreeing to be a part of an Emergency Response Network. RPEC is in the process of working with other local organizations to determine what a local response might look like.
6. Educate yourself and others. Read more, view podcasts, form study-action groups. Below are a few resources to get you started.

a. Web sites:

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- RPEC Newsletters
www.RPEC.org/newsletters
Past newsletters contain excellent information on Iran, the costs of war, and peaceful foreign policy alternatives.
- Bill Moyers Journal
<http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/>
For example, see transcripts or video of his interview on April 9, 2012 with Andrew Bacevich, or his April 16, 2012 interview, "True Costs of War."
- CASMII
<http://www.campaigniran.org/casmii>
- David Swanson
<http://davidswanson.org>
- Glenn Greenwald
http://www.salon.com/writer/glenn_greenwald/
- Just Foreign Policy
<http://www.justforeignpolicy.org/>
- Myths & Facts Sheet: "Key Myths About Iran - And the Facts"
<http://americanforeignpolicy.org/iran-gateway/key-myths-and-facts/>
- Seymour Hersh
www.newyorker.com
- Tikkun
www.Tikkun.org (search "Iran 2012")
- Jonathan Schell on the larger issue of nuclear proliferation
<http://www.thenation.com/article/167196/thinking-unthinkable-iran>
- Quiz about Iran:
http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/1170/p/salsa/web/questionnaire/public/?questionnaire_KEY=1363
- Documents on the 1953 US - British coup d'état in Iran:
<http://www.nytimes.com/library/world/mideast/041600iran-cia-index.html>

b. Audio & Videos

- Antiwar Radio with Scott Horton
<http://antiwar.com/radio/>
- Video of Nazgol Bagheri on Legacies of the Iraq War - Lessons for U.S.-Iran Policy (March 2012, AFSC)
<http://afsc.org/audio/legacies-iraq-war-lessons-us-iran-policy-nazgol-bagheri>

c. Books

- *In Defense of Iran*, book that describes the Richmond people's delegation trip to Iran a few years ago, and provides author Phil Wilayto's perspective on the nuclear question and some other issues.
- *Iran Awakening*, by Nobel Prize winning Iranian human rights activist Shirin Ebadi
- *No god But God*, by Reza Aslan. This books gives a comprehensive history of Islam and ends with a description of how Iran became what it is today.
- *A Single Roll of the Dice*, by Trita Parsi. Analysis of the Obama administration's failed early diplomatic outreach to Iran.

d. Information on the Cost of War

<http://nationalpriorities.org/>

<http://costofwar.com/en/>