

Subject: <no subject>

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From: Nancy <pinktucson@cox.net>

For Immediate Release
May 7, 2005

Who, what, where, when:

Medea Benjamin (founder of Global Exchange, cofounder of CODEPINK: Women for Peace)
Book Signing
Saturday, May 21, 2005
7:00 p.m.
Reader's Oasis
3400 E. Speedway
Tucson, Arizona

The book:

"Stop the Next War Now: Effective Responses to Violence and Terrorism"
Edited by Medea Benjamin and Jodie Evans, founders of CODEPINK
Published by Inner Ocean
Forward by Alice Walker
Introduction by Arundhati Roy
Released May 1, 2005

More than 70 visionary experts and activists contribute to this new collection of essays addressing how the global peace movement can successfully stop the next war. This book offers a time-sensitive, poignant, and practical examination of the increasing world threat of more war and violence, while providing dynamic tools for change...ranging from personal and daily decisions, to methods of rallying the millions who support nonviolence to effectively take action.

Contributors include the expertise of policy makers and the insights of those experiencing the effects of war first hand:

Congresswoman Barbara Lee on taking risks for peace
Playwright Eve Ensler on the pain of war and need to amplify women's voices
Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai on preventing resource wars
Journalist Helen Thomas on the responsibility of the media
Author Terry Tempest Williams on engaging our hearts for democracy
Analyst Phyllis Bennis on the global peace movement
Activist Leslie Cagan on the importance of organizing
Writer Barbara Ehrenreich on feminism as a counter terrorism strategy
Nobel prize winner Jody Williams on international treaties
Radio host Amy Goodman on the power of dissent
Dr. Helen Caldicott with a prescription for survival in the nuclear age
Columnist Arianna Huffington on overcoming oil addiction
Conscientious objector Camilo Mejia on dissent in the military
Author Naomi Klein on holding corporations accountable
Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto on ending poverty
Writer Sharon Salzberg on spiritual strength and courage
Muralist Juana Alicia on painting for peace

Press release:

CODEPINK: Women for Peace is the most exciting result of the peace and justice movement since Abby Hoffman and the Yippies! Before the Iraq war, CODEPINK inspired thousands of women throughout the United States and the world to make the color pink synonymous with political rabble rousing. They hung 40-foot pink banners with political slogans from hotel windows; distributed pink educational flyers at pink lemonade stands; and awarded "you're fired" pink slips (actual women's lingerie) to political and corporate leaders who were leading the United

States to war.

They yelled out questions during Donald Rumsfeld's testimony in Congress regarding the torture at Abu Ghraib; chained themselves to the entrance of the Halliburton's shareholders meeting; and brought U.S. military families to Iraq to meet Iraqi victims of American bombs.

Now the same women who brought you those high-profile "interruptions" during the George Bush and Dick Cheney prime time speeches at the Republican National Convention, bring you an amazing new book, "Stop the Next War Now: Effective Responses to Violence and Terrorism".

Fittingly, the book was released on May 1, 2005, the second anniversary of President Bush's declaration of "mission accomplished". More than 70 visionary experts and activists contribute to this new collection of essays addressing how the global peace movement can successfully stop the next war. This book offers a time-sensitive, poignant, and practical examination of the increasing world threat of more war and violence, while providing dynamic tools for change...ranging from personal and daily decisions, to methods of rallying the millions who support nonviolence to effectively take action.

The authors are on a 50-city book tour, with CODEPINK chapters throughout the country supporting the tour by holding town-hall style events, book release parties, and political actions.

Medea Benjamin will be in Tucson, Arizona on May 21, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. for a book signing event and party, at Reader's Oasis Bookstore at 3400 E. Speedway. Pink refreshments provided by Wild Oats. T-shirts, bumper stickers and all things pink will be available from CODEPINK Tucson.

For more information about this event, please call Nancy Hill at 520-370-2567 or email: pinktucson@cox.net.

Medea Benjamin is founding director of Global Exchange and cofounder of CODEPINK: Women for Peace. She lives in San Francisco, CA. Jodie Evans, cofounder of CODEPINK and a political activist for 30 years, lives in Los Angeles, CA. They have been featured in numerous national and local media outlets including the New York Times, CNN, ABC News, National Public Radio, and The Village Voice.

"CODEPINK is not an organization but a phenomenon" -The Nation, March 8, 2003

"You pink ladies are everywhere-didn't I see you in Salt Lake City last week?" -White House strategist Karl Rove in Washington DC, Spring 2003

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Contact information:

For more information about Medea Benjamin, CODEPINK and for interview requests or photos, please contact: Rae Abileah, 415-994-1723 or email: rae@codepinkalert.org; or go to: <http://www.codepinkalert.org/> for downloadable resources and historical information.

For more information about CODEPINK Tucson and the Tucson, AZ event please call Nancy Hill at 520-370-2567 or email: pinktucson@cox.net.

If you have any questions about this announcement please reply to this email or call 520-409-9900. Thank you for your consideration.

Elaine Higginbotham-Schramm

Attachments and below:

Photo of Book
Medea Benjamin Bio

ABOUT MEDEA BENJAMIN

Medea Benjamin is co-founder of both CODEPINK and the San Francisco-based human rights organization Global Exchange. For 30 years, Medea has supported human rights and social justice struggles around the world.

Medea is a leading activist in the peace movement and helped bring together the groups forming the coalition United for Peace and Justice (see <http://www.unitedforpeace.org/>). She has traveled several times to Iraq to establish the Occupation Watch International Center in Baghdad. The center monitors the military occupation forces and foreign corporations, hosts international delegations, and keeps the international community updated about the occupation forces' activities through a new website, <http://www.occupationwatch.org> . Medea most recently visited Iraq in December 2003 with a group of US families who have loved ones serving in the military in Iraq.

In 2002, Medea accompanied four Americans who lost loved ones in the September 11th terrorist attacks on a trip to Afghanistan to meet people there who lost relatives during the US bombing of Afghanistan. Their extraordinary journey received such international attention that the US Government was pressured to discuss civilian casualties and to create a compensation fund for Afghan victims.

Medea's previous work has focused on improving the labor and environmental practices of US multinational corporations such as the giant athletic shoe company Nike, and the policies of international institutions such as the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. During the historic World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle in December 1999, Medea and her organization, Global Exchange, helped fix world attention on the need to place labor and environmental concerns over corporate profits.

In California, during the state's devastating energy crisis in 2001, Medea fought the market manipulation by the big energy companies and rate hikes that caused such hardship for low-income ratepayers and small businesses. She headed a powerful coalition of consumer, environmental, union and business leaders working for clean and affordable power under public control.

Medea was the Green Party candidate for US Senate from California in 2000. Her run for U.S. Senate succeeded in mobilizing thousands of Californians around platform issues such as living wage, schools-not-prisons, and universal healthcare. Through her work with the Green Party, Medea has been involved in a variety of electoral reform efforts such as campaign finance reform, same-day voter registration, and instant run-off voting.

While critical of unfair global trade policies, Medea has promoted "fair trade" alternatives that are beneficial to both producer and consumer. She helped form a national network of retailer and wholesalers in support of fair trade and was instrumental in pressuring coffee retailers such as Starbucks to start carrying fair trade coffee.

Medea is a key figure in the anti-sweatshop movement, having spearheaded campaigns against the giant sports shoe company Nike and clothing companies such as the GAP. In 1999 Medea helped expose the problem of indentured servitude among garment workers in the US territory of Saipan (the Marianas Islands), which led to a billion-dollar lawsuit against 17 US retailers.

After several fact-finding visits to China, Medea co-sponsored with the International Labor Rights Fund an initiative to improve the labor and environmental practices of US multinationals in China. The ensuing Human Rights Principles for US Businesses in China have been endorsed by major companies such as Cisco, Intel, Reebok, Levi Strauss and Mattel.

In 1999, San Francisco Magazine named Medea to their "Power List" as one of the "60 Players Who Rule the Bay Area." She serves on the board or advisory council of numerous organizations, including the United National Development Program, the Interhemispheric Resource Center, the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness and Green Empowerment.

Medea helped build US support for the movement to oust General Suharto in Indonesia and for the right of self-determination for the people of East Timor. She supported the Peace Process between the Zapatista rebels and the Mexican government, fought to lift the embargoes against Cuba and Iraq, and was active in cutting US military aid to repressive regimes in Central America. She has been an election observer and led fact-finding delegations to dozens of countries.

She is author of eight books, including "Bridging the Global Gap, The Peace Corps and More," and the award-winning book "Don't Be Afraid, Gringo: A Honduran Woman Speaks from the Heart." She helped produce various TV documentaries such as the anti-sweatshop video Sweating for a T-Shirt.

Medea received a Masters degree in Public Health from Columbia University and a Masters degree in Economics from the New School for Social Research. She worked for ten years as an economist and nutritionist in Latin America and Africa for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Health Organization, the Swedish International Development Agency, and the Institute for Food and Development Policy.

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