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No 37

February, 2020

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"NO WAR ON IRAN" national rallies across

Australia

and the call to

Bring our troops home from Iraq

was made across Australia on 25th January at IPAN initiated anti-war rallies in Perth, Adelaide, Alice Springs, Melbourne, Sydney, Newcastle and Brisbane



Perth



Adelaide



Melbourne

"About 100 people from several peace and community organisations and unions attended the No War on Iran rally in Melbourne. Speakers from IPAN, Medical Association for Prevention of War, Maritime Union of Australia, Health and Community Services Union, Spirit of Eureka, Worker Student Alliance, ILPS, CICD and others."



Sydney



Newcastle



Brisbane



Alice Springs

Green Left Weekly reported on the Sydney "No War on Iran Rally:

Protestors say no war on Iran

Activists joined in a global day of action against war in Iran, initiated in the United States by United National Antiwar Coalition. One hundred people took part in Sydney on January 25.

The protest took place on the eve of the mobilisations to mark the beginning of the colonial dispossession of First Nation's peoples.

Nick Dean of the organising group, Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN), noted that: "IPAN understands all too well that the independent and peaceful nation we seek cannot be achieved without resolving past injustices and reaching a harmonious relationship between the First Australians".

Deane said the US' assassination of General Qassem Soleimani was not only a crime, it was also a "brazen violation of Iraqi national sovereignty" that was dragging the world into war in the Middle East.

“What is becoming clear is that ordinary people will no longer tolerate the war-mongering that is now such a feature of our times. There is, I believe, a growing realisation that the old ways of resolving differences – by resort to the extreme violence of war – are outdated and redundant. People the world over understand that war is never the resolution, whatever the problem.

“This is especially true now as we enter the climate crisis, evidenced by the ongoing bushfire tragedy. War is a driver of climate change, and climate change brings with it an increased risk of war.”

The rally heard from Pip Hinman from the Socialist Alliance, John Hallam from People for Nuclear Disarmament, Peter Murphy from Sydney Peace & Justice Coalition, Dr Alison Broinowski, a former diplomat, David Shoebridge, Greens NSW MLC, Khaled Ghassan, a Palestinian activist, a former first secretary to the Australian Embassy in Iran Richard Broinowski and Hector Ramage from the Stop the War Coalition.

Speakers called on the Morrison Coalition government to bring the *HMAS Toowoomba* back from the Persian Gulf, for all Australian forces in Iraq to be brought home and for the US bases in Australia to be closed.

[IPAN Petition](#)

No War on Iran

Bring our troops in Iraq home now

Please sign and pass on via your contacts & social media- its on the way to 1,500 signatures; help it get there.

[SIGN HERE](#)

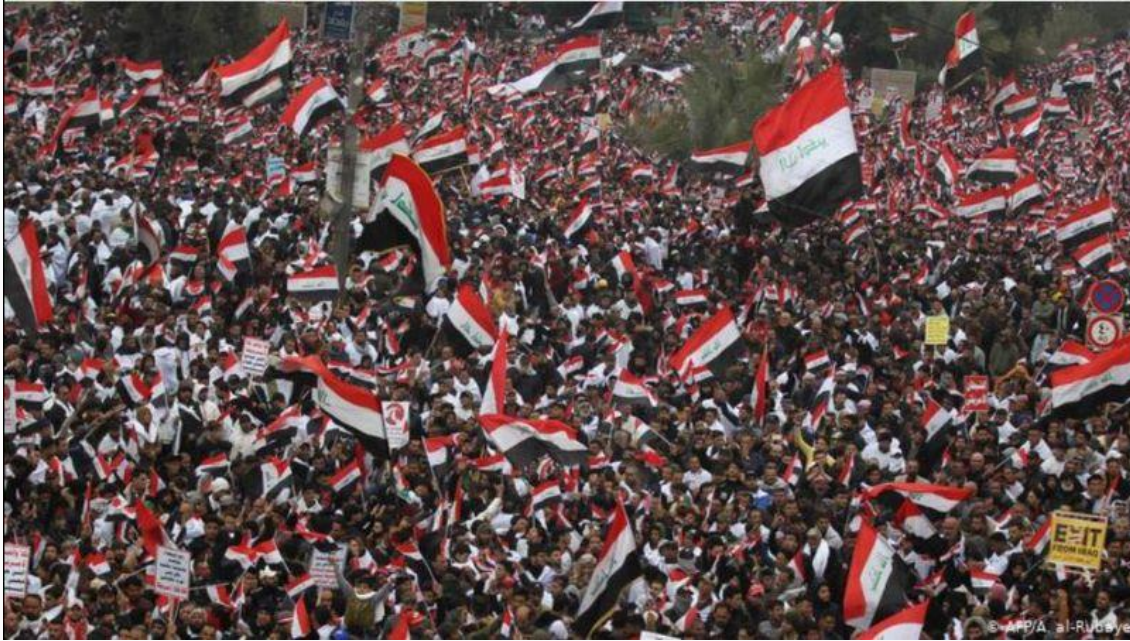
U.S. - Iran Crisis- background and current situation - 4ZZZ PODCAST

Listen [HERE](#)

Reuters:

Iraq: Thousands rally calling for US troop withdrawal

Demonstrators have staged a "million man march" in Baghdad calling for the US to end its military presence in Iraq. Cleric Muqtada al-Sadr called the march after the US killed a top Iranian general on Iraqi soil.



IPAN Letter to the PM

When will you respect the wishes of the Iraqi Parliament and people and bring home Australia's troops from Iraq ?

[READ DETAILS](#)

What are the costs and consequences of

Australia's involvement in U.S.-led wars?

A People's Inquiry into the Australia-U.S. Alliance



A major activity of IPAN in 2020 is instituting, in conjunction with other organisations, an Inquiry into the costs and consequences, for the people of Australia, of the US-Australia Alliance.

The title of the Inquiry is:

**‘What are the costs and consequences of Australia’s involvement
In US-led wars’?**

A people’s Inquiry into the Australia-US Alliance’

The Inquiry will be divided into seven themes:

- Social and community

- Political (including Democratic Rights)
- Military and Defence
- Foreign Policy
- Economic
- Unions and Workers
- Environmental
-

IPAN is seeking to have the Inquiry headed by a lawyer, a QC/SC, with a panel of seven prominent people with expertise in one or more of the themes to receive and read the submissions.

Submissions, preferably in writing, will be sought from a wide range of organisations and individuals and will be a national activity.

It will provide an opportunity for the many who are unable to voice their concerns through the mainstream media/outlets to do so through this Inquiry; hence the title a “people’s Inquiry”.

The Inquiry panel will be responsible for evaluating the submissions and producing a final report (with recommendations) which outlines the view of Australian people on the US Alliance and details what needs to happen to ensure a genuinely independent foreign policy for Australia and to ensure a more just allocation of Australian resources.

The report will be disseminated as widely as possible and placed before the appropriate government and political institutions.

The whole process from initiation to finality is expected to take 18 months.

Further details in the next edition of Voice.

SMH Jan 10, 2020

Why are Australian forces still in Iraq?

Alison Broinowski (ex Australian diplomat)

Immediately after the United States' drone assassination of Iran's visiting senior general Qassem Soleimani, the Iraqi Parliament voted to expel all foreign forces. This includes some 5000 Americans along with more than 300 Australians.

If President Trump gave his allies any forewarning of this act of war against both Iraq and Iran, neither Britain, France, Canada, nor Australia have admitted it. Even his own general in Iraq didn't know, for he had just written to the host government anticipating withdrawal of US troops. The poor man must now be sending a letter about the dispatch of thousands more.

READ ON

SBS News 24th Jan. 2020

Australian Bushfires contribute to record surge in global emissions: UK Met Office

The Met Office in Britain says emissions from the Australian bushfires have contributed up to one-fifth of a record annual increase in global emissions.

Australia's bushfires are contributing to one of the biggest annual increases in the concentration of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere since record-keeping began more than 60 years ago, according to a forecast published by Britain's Met Office.

While human-caused greenhouse gas emissions are responsible for the bulk of the increase in CO2 levels, Australia's bushfires have made the problem measurably worse, underscoring the impact of the catastrophe on the global climate system.....

Last month, the 2020 Climate Change Performance Index rated Australia as one of the worst performers among 57 high-emitters, awarding it 0 out of 100 possible points for its policies.

Acknowledgement to Pearls & Irritations- 10th Kanuary,2020

Who Pays: should ordinary taxpayers foot the bill for bushfires or the fossil fuel giants who pay no tax?

by Micheal West

Five of Australia's top coal companies – Peabody, Yancoal Sumitomo, Citic and Whitehaven – racked up \$54 billion in total income over the past five years and paid zero income tax in Australia, according to Tax Office corporate tax data. Fossil fuel companies should foot the bill for

the fires, not ordinary taxpayers.

READ ON

SBS news January, 2020

World needs to prepare for 'millions' of climate refugees, UN warns

The UN's High Commissioner for Refugees says those fleeing their country as a result of climate change must be treated by recipient countries as refugees.

The world needs to prepare for a surge in refugees with potentially millions of people being driven from their homes by the impact of climate change, the United Nations has warned.



No Extradition of Julian Assange live interview and update tour : .

Featuring Julian's father, John Shipton and Catholic Worker
Ciaran O'Reilly interviewed by Jim Beatson and Mia Armitage: Part 1:
Introduction by Sally Packshaw

VIEW

SBS News 1/2/20

South Australian farming property to become a nuclear waste dump

A nuclear waste dump on South Australia's Eyre Peninsula will be situated at the Napandee farm at Kimba, the federal government says.

A farming property on South Australia's Eyre Peninsula will become a nuclear waste dump, the federal government has announced, as opponents of the facility make a last-bid ditch to stop it.

Federal Resources Minister Matt Canavan on Saturday said 160 hectares of the Napandee property in Kimba would host Australia's radioactive waste, the vast majority of which comes from the production of nuclear medicine and is held across more than 100 sites.

RADIOACTIVE EXPOSURE TOUR
APRIL 10- 19, 2020

A journey into the South Australian desert to visit uranium mining and nuclear sites, to meet people campaigning for a nuclear-free future, and to enjoy Lake Eyre, the Flinders Ranges and other special places.

CONTACT
Lavanya - 0468 490 768
radexposuretour@gmail.com

MORE INFO
melbournefoe.org.au/radtour2020

Report from NZ by Murray Horton NZ

Waihopai Spy Base 'does nothing' to prevent terrorism, protesters say

Protesters at an annual demonstration against the Waihopai Spy Base, in Marlborough, say the base does nothing to prevent terrorism in New Zealand.

More than 30 people gathered outside the station, about 20 kilometres outside Blenheim, on Saturday morning. Police also attended the event.

READ ON



Fund the Climate Emergency with the Money Allocated for Obsolete Attack-class Submarines

Sign: Fund the Climate Emergency, Apply #OurADF resources to the #ClimateEmergency which is unfolding, right now, throughout Australia. Redirect \$225bn for obsolete, pointless #submarines to fire assistance NOW and to recovery and healing of land and people.

Sign Wage Peace Petition [HERE](#)

REDIRECT THE \$225BILLION

**FOR
OBSOLETE
SUBMARINES**



**TO THE
#CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

#CUTMILITARYSPENDING



The Vietnam Moratorium Campaign

A 50 years- on- Celebration is being planned for May next year

Volunteers are needed

To make it **national**, celebration organising committees need to be set up in **all states**.

Melbourne has already established a committee and is in the process of organising.

Can you help or contribute in some way or have memorabilia for a display ?

If so please get in touch with:

Bevan Ramsden 0418 697 528 bevanramsden@gmail.com

The aim of the celebration includes learning from the past and appling those lessons to the present.

Not much has changed since May 1970. Australia is still in a close alliance with the United States and has continued to support and follow the U.S. into wars of aggression; in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and currently there is danger of being drawn into a war on Iran.



Remember Vietnam and keep Australia out of U.S. wars !

Supported by the Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN)



**CLIMATE EMERGENCY
INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES ON HEALING RELATIONSHIPS**

MULLUMBIMBY CIVIC HALL

February 14th 7pm-10:30pm and February 15th 9:00 - 4:00pm



Centre for
Ecological
Learning

Tickets \$35 for Performance

<https://events.humanitix.com.au/climate-emergency-healing-relationship>





Peaceful Pathways

OUR WORKSHOPS

- ✧ Are grounded in the belief that there is power and good within everyone
- ✧ Help participants discover new and creative ways of responding to conflict
- ✧ Help participants uncover strengths and skills within themselves to deal with conflict or potential violence in a positive way

Limited Places Please register Now!

2020 FEB

BASIC WORKSHOP

DATE
8-9 February

TIME
9am -5 pm

VENUE
Lotus Place
46 Cleveland St, Greenslopes
QLD 4120

COST
\$125 waged \$40 unwaged
No cost/donation for those who cannot afford it.

REGISTRATION
Please complete the registration form and send to:
Marian
admin@avpq.org.au
0490 481 828

PLEASE BRING SOME FOOD TO SHARE

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT AVP -ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE PROJECT
WEB: avpq.org.au/
FACEBOOK: Alternatives to Violence Project Queensland

You won't start the year better than by experiencing pathways of peace and discovering how to create them in our BASIC WORKSHOP

- AVP BASIC WPRKSHOP**
- Affirmation
 - Communication
 - Co-operation
 - Community Building
 - Conflict Resolution
 - Trust

RAPID Public Response Arrangements to any imminent major military conflict, invasion or war

In the event of an imminent major military conflict, military invasion or war actually breaking out, IPAN organisations in the following states, urge everyone to rally :

In Melbourne, outside the State Library in Swanston St, Melbourne, from 5pm that evening- bring banners and placards - family and friends

In Adelaide, on Parliament Steps at 4.30 pm that evening – bring banners and placards – family and friends.

In Newcastle, at the Clocktower, Hamilton, 4.30pm that evening- bring banners and placards and tell family and friends

In Canberra, on the median strip at the corner of London Circuit and Northbourne Ave.

COMING EVENTS SUMMARY

Mullumbumby: 5th February, 7pm "Assange -No Extradition : Action for Positive Change". Mullumbimby RSL Ex-Services Club, 58 Dally St.

Mullumbimby: 14th February, 7pm to 10.30pm and Sat 15th

Feb., 9am to 4pm: Indigenous Perspectives, Healing Relationships.
55 Dalley St.

Booyung: Sat 22nd February, Tree Planting, 870 Eltham Rd, 9am to
10am.

Voice is produced and edited by the Media Group of the IPAN co-ordinating committee. It is produced for IPAN affiliates to:

**provide a medium for communication of their campaigns and activities*

**provide a medium for discussion of issues central to IPAN's objectives*

**provide affiliates with details of co-ordinating committee activities, media releases, lobbying activities and other actions taken on behalf of IPAN*

** provide information on issues/events relating to IPAN's objectives*

Contributions to Voice, in information or comment, should be emailed to :

ipan.australia@gmail.com and limited, if possible to 200 words.

The Media Group takes editorial responsibility for choice of content and is responsible to the IPAN co-ordinating committee. **Disclaimer:** Voice publishes a range of articles which reflect the broad movement for an independent and peaceful Australia but not all articles will necessarily reflect IPAN's position."

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