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**No 46**

**October, 2020**

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## **IPAN People's Inquiry Launch**

**Wed., 11th November, 2020 at 7pm**

**Zoom details to be provided**



### **The Case for an Independent and Peaceful Australia:**

**IPAN's People's Inquiry: What are the costs and  
consequences of Australia's involvement in U.S.-led wars  
and the U.S.- Australia Alliance and what are the  
alternatives?**

All readers of Voice would be most welcome to attend the Inquiry launch and details for launch meeting access on Zoom will be provided shortly to all readers.

After the launch, submissions can be made in writing or verbally by concerned individuals and organisations. Submissions can be made via the Inquiry web site (currently in development stage) or via surface mail.

IPAN will be publicising the Inquiry nationally and seeking submissions from a wide range of organisations and individuals to stimulate a conversation on these issues of concern and provide a voice to the many who normally are unable to publically have their concerns heard.

IPAN has identified eight areas potentially impacted by the Alliance with the United States. These are:

Impact on First Peoples

Foreign Affairs

Environmental

Workers and Unions

Economic

Social and community

Military and Defence

Political (including Democratic rights)

However **submissions** may be of a **general** nature **or** may address all or any of these areas of concern.

IPAN has appointed an Inquiry Chair and eight panel leaders; one for

each of these areas of concern. Each panel leader will read the submissions addressing their area and compile a report encompassing the submissions.

The final report under the leadership of the Chair will combine the individual area reports which will be then be issued as a public document.

The final report will be publicised and distributed widely in the community and to politicians, public figures and the media and is aimed at stimulating a public conversation addressing the need for alternative approaches to foreign policy and defence which make for a more independent and peaceful Australia.

### **TIME LINE FOR INQUIRY**

VIEW [HERE](#)

## **Chair and Panel Leaders for the Inquiry**

### **INQUIRY CHAIR**

**Kellie Tranter, Lawyer & Investigative Journalist**



**Kellie Tranter** is a lawyer and activist who stood as an Independent candidate for the NSW Parliament. Kellie regularly contributes political and social commentary to public affairs websites like ABC's The Drum, Independent

Australia, National Times and Online Opinion and has written for New Matilda and the Australia Institute.



## WORKERS & UNIONS

### Associate Professor Jeannie Rae

Associate Professor Jeannie Rea chairs courses in International Community Development and in Planetary Health at Victoria University, Melbourne, and has been a peace and labour activist all her life. She was formerly president of the National Tertiary Education Union and a member of the ACTU Executive.

## IMPACT ON FIRST PEOPLES

### Terry Mason

**Terry Mason** is from the land of the Awabakal language group and has worked advising on and delivering curriculum at Deakin University and lecturing/coordinating in the Badanami Centre, Western Sydney University. [READ ON](#)



## FOREIGN POLICY

**Dr Alison Broinowski AM:** Visiting Fellow, Coral Bell School, ANU; Vice President, Australians for War Powers Reform  
Formerly an Australian diplomat, Alison is the author or editor of 14 books about Australia's dealings with the world, Asian countries in particular. [READ ON](#)

## **SOCIAL & COMMUNITY**

**Peter Catt** is currently Dean of St John's Anglican Cathedral, Brisbane. He is President of A Progressive Christian Voice (Australia), Chair of the Social Responsibilities Committee for The Anglican Church Southern Queensland. [READ ON](#)



## **ENVIRONMENTAL**

**Ian Lowe AO** is emeritus professor of science, technology and society at Griffith University and an adjunct professor at two other universities. He has published extensively and filled a wide range of advisory roles for all levels of government, including chairing the advisory council that produced the first independent national report on the state of the environment in 1996. [READ ON](#)

## **MILITARY & DEFENCE**

**Dr Vince Scappatura** teaches Politics and International Relations at Macquarie University. His latest book is *The US Lobby and Australian Defence Policy*





## ECONOMICS

**Dr. Chad Satterlee** is an independent political economist. His main research interests concern the design of collective ownership. He has previously consulted for government and not-for-profit organisations on energy and labour relations issues.

[READ ON](#)

## POLITICAL INC DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

**Greg Barns** SC, is a democratic and human rights barrister. He's an advisor to Julian Assange Campaign. Past President Australian Republican Movement and Australian Lawyers' Association.



## Oppose Legislation to enable foreign troops and foreign police be used in Australian “emergencies”

by **Bevan Ramsden**

*A bill is before federal parliament to enable the ADF, Reserves and foreign military forces and foreign police to be used in Australian emergencies. It gives them immunity from civil or criminal prosecution for actions arising in performance of these emergency duties.*

*“Emergencies” are undefined. Could they include industrial actions or large scale climate change protest actions?*

There are very worrying implications in a Bill being considered in Federal Parliament.

It is called the “Defence Legislation Amendment (Enhancement of Defence Force response to Emergencies) Bill, 2020”.

### **READ ON**



**Defence Forces Amendment Bill enabling foreign military forces and police to be used in Australian “emergencies**

## **You can help halt this legislation and have it reviewed and amended**

Write to/email or call your Member of Parliament.

Urge your organization to write to/email your Member of Parliament.

List of MP's email addresses [HERE](#)

Read IPAN's letter to MP's [HERE](#)



Listen to Gillian Triggs and view this IDP event

[HERE](#)



**Remembering and learning:**

## **The Vietnam Moratorium Campaign - 50 Years on**

4

This event was held on Sunday 20 September, in Adelaide. Around 80 people turned up and the feedback about the event was overwhelmingly positive. The special speaker for the commemoration was Lynn Arnold, leader of the VMC in Adelaide and a former premier of South Australia.. Stephen Darley from IPAN also spoke and his speech can be read [HERE](#).

**Vic IPAN - Zoom meeting 19th September**

## Will the US alliance drag Australia into another war?



75 people attended this Zoom meeting and heard Greg Barns and Vince Scappatura speak and participated in the subsequent discussion.

The meeting was recorded and can be viewed [HERE](#)



## Pacific Webinar Post RIMPAC war exercises off Hawaii

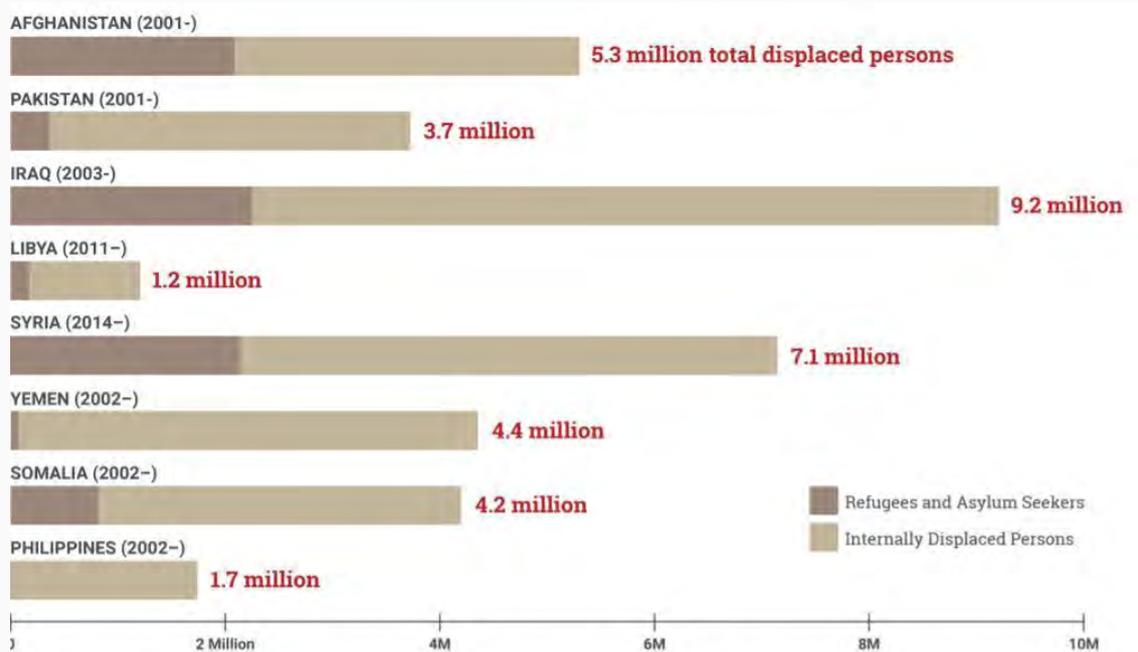
Reps from NZ, Australia, Hawaii, ROK and Guam were on the webinar- a good consolidation of the networking that happened around RIMPAC.

View and listen to the webinar [HERE](#)

**COSTS OF WAR**



Wartime displacement (alongside war deaths and injuries) must be central to any analysis of the post-9/11 wars and their short- and long-term consequences. Displacement also must be central to any possible consideration of the future use of military force by the United States or others. Ultimately, displacing 37 million—and perhaps as many as 59 million—raises the question of who bears responsibility for repairing the damage inflicted on those displaced.



Key source: David Vine, Cala Coffman, Katalina Khoury, Madlison Lovasz, Helen Bush, Rachel Leduc, and Jennifer Walkup, "Creating Refugees: Displacement Caused by the U.S. Post-9/11 Wars," Costs of War Project, Brown University, Sept. 8, 2020.

Map and graphics by Kelly Martin/IRW

**David Vines discusses this report on Democracy Now.**

Listen [HERE](#)

**Quaker Peace & Legislation Committee**



## QUAKER ACTION ALERT AA 20-4: ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES

September 2019 This action alert identifies the key issues surrounding the status of refugees and asylum seekers in Australia, the role of the Australian Government and organisations involved in these issues.

[READ ON](#)



Here is an update to bring you the good news that Malaysia has ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, becoming its 46th state party! After the treaty was adopted at the UN in 2017, Malaysia stated that “the political and legal impact of this treaty will steer the international community collectively towards the elimination of nuclear weapons”. It also noted that the treaty “sends a powerful political message that nuclear weapons are categorically unacceptable”.



*Image: Malaysia's Minister of Foreign Affairs Hishammuddin Hussein hold up the instrument of ratification.*

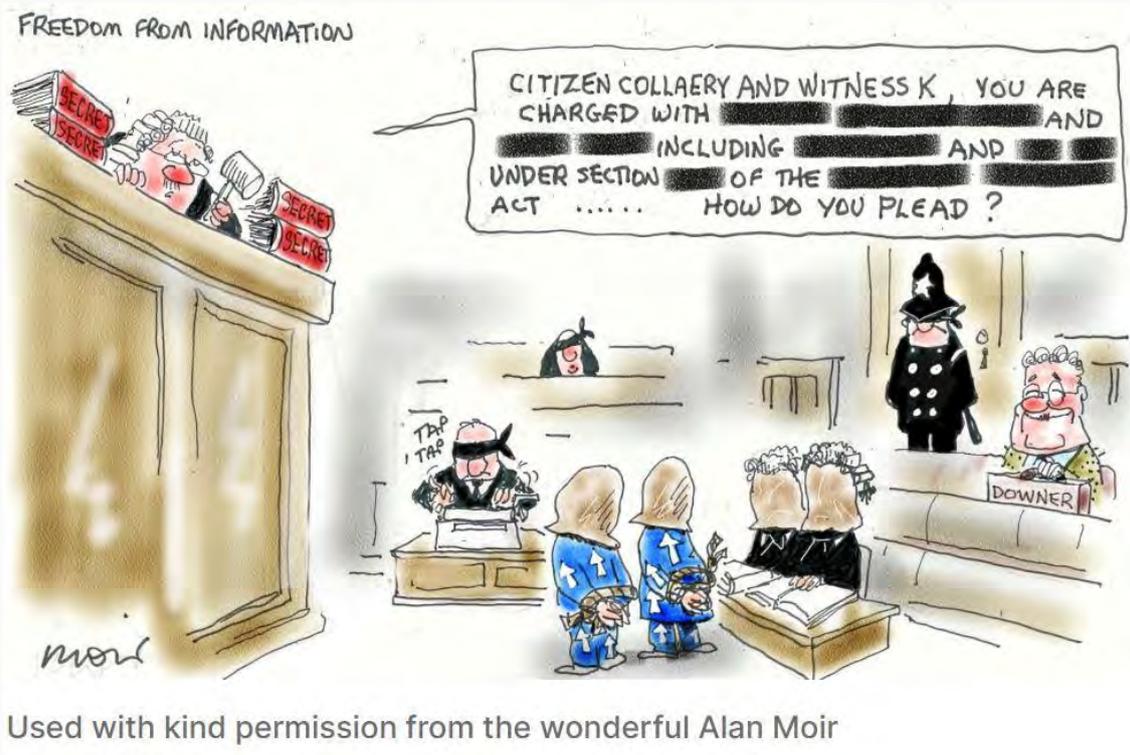
with 04 signatories and now 40 states parties, we are getting very close to the 50th ratification and subsequent entry-into-force of the treaty 90 days later. Stay tuned, as this exciting time will be well worth celebrating and a key opportunity to agitate for Australia to get into line with international law.

From Margie Beavis and Ruth Mitchell

**Drop the prosecutions of Bernard Collaery and**

## Witness K.

Secret trials have no place in an open and democratic society such as Australia.



## Drop the Prosecutions

Australians from all walks of life are ashamed and angry when they learn that the Australian Government spied on the East Timorese Government offices during oil and gas negotiations in 2004, under the guise of implementing an Australian aid program. This act of spying cannot be justified as protecting Australia's defence or security interests. It was a deceitful act performed against an impoverished trading partner where both sides had promised "good faith" negotiations. It was espionage aimed at gaining commercial benefit on behalf of resource companies to the disadvantage of the people of East Timor—our close neighbour, loyal ally in World War II, and the

poorest country in South East Asia. It has damaged Australia's reputation for honest and fair dealings with our neighbours.

This activity may have remained secret but for the courage and integrity of one of the spies, "Witness K", and his lawyer, Bernard Collaery. These men acted in good faith at a time when our government failed to do so. They bravely stood up to government wrongdoing. The Australian government commenced prosecutions against them in May 2018, without explanation. Internationally accepted minimum standards for fair trials are challenged by the numerous hearings held since charges were laid, constant delays and postponements, strict secrecy provisions concerning evidence, and frequent closures of the court to the public.

All of this is claimed to be required by national security. These dubious prosecutions threaten the rights and values of every Australian. The Attorney-General has the power to discontinue the prosecutions under the Judiciary Act 1903 – Section 71. We call on him to drop the prosecutions of Witness K and Bernard Collaery immediately.

**Authorised by Coalition of Supporters of Bernard Collaery and  
Witness K**

[www.bernardcollaerysupporters.org](http://www.bernardcollaerysupporters.org)

**The next Witness K rally is 9am, Monday 12th October.**

For details: Kathryn: 041726998



## **Palestine: A Turning Point?**

**A keynote address**

**by Dr Chandra Muzaffar**

**Sunday 18 October 2.00 pm - 3.30 pm AEDT**

**An event not to be missed**

I warmly invite you to a public forum on the explosive situation in Palestine. The renowned Asian intellectual, Dr Chandra Muzaffar, will give the keynote address. Pax Christi in Australia is hosting the event on Zoom on 18th October. Attached is the flyer giving details.

For Palestinians, an intolerable situation dating back to 1948 has got progressively worse. In 1948 Palestinians 'lost' their homeland, with almost a million Palestinians expelled from their homes and made refugees, and countless villages destroyed.

This wholesale displacement of people was and remains for Palestinians a personal and national 'catastrophe', known as *Nakba*. And now with no end in sight to the occupation of Palestinian territories, appalling living conditions, a deepening environmental crisis, and the Covid-19 pandemic, tensions are at boiling point.

If the international community does not rise to the challenge, we face the prospect of renewed armed hostilities, likely to heighten the already dangerous rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia, and fuel regional nuclear ambitions, the arms spending spree and the threat of further military interventions.

And for many countries, Palestine raises the critical question of settler colonialism. The Palestinian experience of Nakba is not unlike the experience of our First Nations in Australia, who have had to endure the European invasion, the frontier wars that followed, and more than two centuries of dispossession and physical and psychological trauma. The issues could not be starker. They provide the focus of the public forum which it will be my privilege to moderate. This is a unique opportunity to hear from Dr Chandra Muzaffar, who has over many years sought to raise the profile of the Palestine question, and its implications for justice and world order. He speaks with insight, eloquence, and deep conviction.

This will be an online event via Zoom, for which you need to register (see attached flyer). Please feel free to pass on this invitation to your friends and colleagues

I look forward to your participation on **18th October**.

Joseph Camilleri

**Emeritus Professor Joseph A. Camilleri OAM**

**La Trobe University, Melbourne**

Fellow, The Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia

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Visit my personal website [here](#)

Alexandria Agenda website [here](#)



Australian Anti-Bases Campaign  
Coalition

**Peace is Union Business**

**Create jobs in manufacturing  
for peaceful not war-making  
purposes**

### **Letter to AMWU & Centre for Future Work**

We have viewed the webinar *Winning a Fair Share: Rebuilding Australia's Manufacturing Base*, hosted by The Australia Institute and featuring you and Dr Jim Stanford

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lv-UByNRDY4>. We have also viewed the AMWU website and have noted comments by you over the time of the pandemic on the need for a stronger manufacturing sector in Australia. We basically agree with your comments and fully support your union's long and ongoing campaign to retain and increase manufacturing skills, training and jobs in Australia. We also share your dismay as State Governments buy trains and ferries from overseas which are inappropriate in a number of ways. We agree that such purchases should be made in Australia.

**READ ON**



## **COVID-19: PROFIT SYSTEM HAS FAILED THE PEOPLE**

### **COVID-19: PROFIT SYSTEM HAS FAILED THE PEOPLE**

The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed the economic and social system built on exploitation, privatisation, casualisation, insecure work and class injustices in our society. It has laid bare the deadly consequences of a system that exploits and profits from the caring of our elderly, while providing inadequate funding for our public health system and decent public housing. It is a class system that depends on these economic and social inequalities which enable the 1% super rich to live in luxury while the majority of people of the world struggle to survive.

**READ ON**



**We must work  
towards sustainable  
and just societies  
founded on peoples'  
sovereignty and  
participation.**

**Friends of the Earth**

## **Principles for a Just Recovery from the COVID-19 crisis**

Recovery does not mean going 'back to normal'. This is the time to prioritise justice, sustainability, human rights, and the protection of livelihoods and the planet. This article is the culmination of collective debates and work from Friends of the Earth International voices around the world.

The Covid-19 crisis is the result of an economic system that prioritises profits over peoples' rights and the environment.

The systemic, inter-related socio-ecological crises we face — climate, biodiversity, food, water, economic and care — and this global coronavirus pandemic share the same root causes: a capitalist, patriarchal and racist system designed for capital accumulation and neoliberal, corporate-led globalisation.

**READ ON**

With Acknowledgement to Pearls and Irritations 2nd September, 2020

## **Australia's policies towards China have little support in the region**

by Mike Scrafton

The Southeast Asian states see themselves as being in a region where China and Japan have the most influence, and where the US's influence is declining. The foundations of Australia's strategic logic are very shaky.

It's worth running a reality check over assumptions underlying Australia's strategic thinking. Shaping Australia's immediate region is first of the three strategic objectives set out in the 2020 Defence Strategic Update. Whatever this means, it seems clear from recent surveys that the government is overestimating its influence and underestimating the capacity of the ASEAN states, in particular, to recognise their own strategic interests.

**READ ON**

With Acknowledgement to Pearls and Irritations 3rd September, 2020

# **The Australian Government is pursuing economic suicide**

by James O'Neill

The prime objective of a country is to maximise the interests of its inhabitants. That objective is met in trade by selling its goods at the best possible price. What the countries leaders may think of the politics of their trading partners is an irrelevant consideration. When one looks at Australia's trading statistics it is immediately obvious that a political affinity or otherwise with its major trading partners is not a relevant consideration. Eleven of Australia's top 15 export markets are in Asia. The remaining four are the United States, fourth overall with 5.3% of Australia's exports; New Zealand, which has 1.3% of the United States' population, takes 3.4% of Australia's exports; the United Kingdom 2.9% and the United Arab Emirates 1%. China is by far Australia's most important trading partner, taking just under one third of all exports, a percentage more than two- and one-half times the proportion of the next largest market, Japan, which takes 13.1%.

**READ ON**

With acknowledgement to Pearls and Irritations, 2nd October, 2020

# War Crimes in Afghanistan: where will justice fall?

by William DeMaria

One year out from the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the Australian occupation of Afghanistan, a report is about to explode like a cluster bomb, showering shrapnel of guilt, denial, blame and even deep sorrow.

For more than four years Mr Justice Paul Brereton of the NSW Appeals Court, who is also a Major-General in the Australian Reserve, has been examining 55 allegations of war crimes committed by Australian Special Forces in Afghanistan. There is little misdemeanour stuff in these allegations. We are talking about serious breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention and the rules of engagement that were in place at the relevant time. In other words, unlawful assaults and killings of unarmed Afghani non-combatants.

**READ ON**



PAX CHRISTI VICTORIA  
*International Christian Peace Movement*



Invites you and friends  
to an online Zoom Forum

## Palestine: A Turning Point?

**Sunday 18 October 2.00 pm–3.30 pm AEDT**  
New Delhi 8.30 am KL 11.00 am Auckland 4.00 pm Los Angeles 8.00 pm

Palestine is one of the pivotal conflicts of our time. Since 1948 the Palestinian people have experienced dispossession and violation of their most basic rights, not unlike Australia's First Nations.

Until the injustice is remedied, there is little prospect of peace in the Middle East. Is a Just Peace possible? How can we in the West, in Australia play a constructive role?

### **Dr Chandra Muzaffar**

one of Asia's leading public intellectuals  
will address these questions and engage us in conversation



Dr Chandra Muzaffar is the President of the *International Movement for a Just World (JUST)*, an international NGO based in Malaysia, which seeks to critique global injustice and develop an alternative vision of a just and compassionate civilisation guided by universal spiritual and moral values.

He has written extensively on civilisational dialogue, international politics, religion, human rights and Malaysian society. He has authored and edited 32 books in English and Malay, with several translated into other languages. One of his latest publications is *A World in Crisis: Is There a Cure?*

Chandra was Professor and Director of the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue, University of Malaya (1997-1999) and Professor of Global Studies at Universiti Sains Malaysia (2007-2012)

**To register:** email [camrita44@gmail.com](mailto:camrita44@gmail.com) or phone +61 (0)448701877 giving the names of those wishing to participate and their emails. You will then be provided with instructions on how to join and participate in the Zoom Forum (by phone if preferred).

**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.

**In Brisbane**, at King George Square, 5 pm

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](mailto: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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