

**Aida Touma-Suleiman** A 2007 Nobel Peace Prize nominee, Aida Touma-Suleiman is a member of the Israeli Parliament (the Knesset) from the Joint List-Hadash (Democratic Front for Peace and Equality). She is also the Chairwoman of the Knesset's Standing Committee on the Status of Women and Gender Equality — the first MK to occupy such a position in Israel. From 2011-15, she was the Chief Editor of Al-Ittihad, the only Arabic newspaper published in Israel, and is a co-founder and member of International Women Commission for Just Peace Israel Palestine. Aida Touma-Suleiman is currently a Member of the Political Bureau and Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel. She is also President of Peace and Solidarity Committee in Israel.

**Bahman Azad** is the Coordinator of the Coalition Against U.S. Foreign Military Bases, member of the Executive Board and Organizational Secretary of the US Peace Council, and NGO representative of the World Peace Council at the United Nations. He is also Co-Coordinator of the Hands Off Syria Coalition and Chair of Iran Working Group of Veterans For Peace. Bahman has done extensive research on the subject of the Middle East and Iran and has published numerous articles on these subjects (both in English and Persian languages) in various publications in the United States and Iran. His area of research also includes the political economy of Capitalism and Socialism, and his articles on this subject have appeared in such journals as Political Affairs, and Nature, Society and Thought. He is the author of the book: Heroic Struggle, Bitter Defeat: Factors Contributing to the Dismantling of the Socialist State in the USSR, published by International Publishers, New York. He has a Master's Degree in Economics and a Ph.D. in Sociology, and is a retired professor of Economics and Sociology.

**Medea Benjamin** is a cofounder of both CODEPINK and the international human rights organization Global Exchange. Benjamin is the author of eight books. Her latest book is Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control, and she has been campaigning to stop the use of killer drones. Her direct questioning of President Obama during his 2013 foreign policy address, as well as her recent trips to Pakistan and Yemen, helped shine a light on the innocent people killed by US drone strikes.

Benjamin has been an advocate for social justice for more than 30 years. Described as "one of America's most committed -- and most effective -- fighters for human rights" by New York Newsday, and "one of the high profile leaders of the peace movement" by the Los Angeles Times, she was one of 1,000 exemplary women from 140 countries nominated to receive the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the millions of women who do the essential work of peace worldwide. In 2010 she received the Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Prize from the Fellowship of Reconciliation and the 2012 Peace Prize by the US Peace Memorial. She is a former economist and nutritionist with the United Nations and World Health Organization

Facilitated by Ann Wright

**Col. Ann Wright** is a retired U.S. Army colonel, a retired U.S. State Department official, and an outspoken critic of the Iraq war. She was one of three State Department officials who resigned in protest over the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Col. Wright won the State Department Award for Heroism for her assistance in helping thousands of refugees escape the civil war in Sierra Leone. She has been a long time peace activist and was aboard Challenger 1 as part of the Gaza Flotilla. Raised in Arkansas, she received a masters and law degree from the University of Arkansas and later was awarded a Master's Degree from the U.S. Naval War College. Col Wright is a member of Veterans For Peace.