

# OMNI "NO KILL" NEWSLETTER #1 JANUARY 13, 2012. Compiled by Dick Bennett for a Culture of Peace.

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## A UNIFIED "NO KILL" CAMPAIGN: CONNECTING ADVOCATES OF NONVIOLENCE, FORMING A COALITION AGAINST KILLING

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

PART I: STOP KILLING

THE PEOPLE'S CHARTER TO CREATE A NONVIOLENT WORLD

STOP KILLING HUMANS: ENDING WARS

The literature against all the modes of killing people, particularly anti-war writing, is immense. Here is an example.

David Swanson, *When the World Outlawed War* (2011)

STOP KILLING ANIMALS: ENDING EUTHANASIA

Nathan Winograd, *Redemption: The Myth of Pet Overpopulation and the No Kill Revolution in America* (2011)

RELATED

[The Hindu Ethic of AHIMSA](#)

## INTRODUCTION

Earlier newsletters on KILLING (#2:

<http://www.omnicenter.org/storage/newsletters/2011/2011-12-28.pdf>

) might have been categorized as AGAINST KILLING, but they were focused exclusively on the killing of humans. With this new newsletter, OMNI acknowledges and supports opposition to killing all sentient beings, with special attention, at present, to the United States.

## THE PEOPLE'S CHARTER TO CREATE A NONVIOLENT WORLD

Launch date: 11 November 2011

### Recognising that:

1. The United States government dominates world affairs and is engaged in a perpetual war (sometimes presented as a 'war on terror') to secure control of essential diminishing natural resources (including oil, water and strategic minerals) from what the 2010 United States **Quadrennial Defense Review** [www.defenselink.mil/qdr](http://www.defenselink.mil/qdr) refers to as 'the Global commons' (which means, in effect, anywhere in the world, including the land of other peoples). The USA, with less than 5% of the world's population, consumes 33% of the world's resources
2. The United States government (sometimes together with pliant government allies in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, America and Australia) maintains occupation forces in countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq and the Mariana Islands
3. The Chinese government occupies Tibet
4. The Israeli government occupies Palestine
5. The French government occupies Kanaky and French Polynesia
6. The Indonesian government occupies West Papua
7. The Chinese government violently suppresses the people of China, including practitioners of the gentle, meditative art of Falan Dafa, some of whose imprisoned members are subjected to forced organ removal
8. The populations of many countries including (but not limited to) Burma, China, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, Syria, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe are violently suppressed by militarily-backed dictatorships
9. Indigenous peoples in many countries have been dispossessed of their land, culture, spirituality and human rights by settler populations from other countries
10. The use of nuclear materials to generate electricity and create weapons of mass destruction exposes humankind and other species to unnecessary and unacceptable risks of radioactive contamination
11. The burning of fossil fuels (producing carbon dioxide) and extensive animal agriculture (producing methane) is precipitating catastrophic alterations in climate

patterns

12. The Earth's natural processes are being degraded and destroyed by human violence including (but not limited to) the destruction of ecosystems such as forests, rivers, wetlands, grasslands and coral reefs; the over-exploitation and pollution of fresh water supplies; and the degradation and poisoning of industrial agricultural and fishing systems, all of which are precipitating an unnatural and accelerating rate of species extinctions

13. There is a massive and increasing number of refugees and internally displaced persons caused by the use of military violence and climatically induced 'natural' disasters

14. Many people devote their energy to the design, manufacture and/or use of weapons and torture equipment in order to harm, mutilate or kill fellow human beings

15. The global economic system, maintained by Western military violence, results in the death through starvation-related diseases of one child in Africa, Asia or Central/South America every five seconds, often denies ordinary working men and women a fair return for their labour, forces many people in industrialised economies into poverty and/or homelessness, and ruthlessly exploits the natural environment and nonhuman species

16. Violent and/or discriminatory practices often deny many groups – including (but not limited to) children, aged people, women, working people, indigenous peoples, racial groups, ethnic groups, religious groups, cultural groups, people with particular sexual orientations, people with disabilities, military personnel, incarcerated people and nonhuman species – the opportunities to which they are entitled as living beings on Earth

17. The global slave trade denies 27,000,000 human beings the right to live the life of their choice, condemning many individuals – especially women and children – to lives of sexual slavery, forced labour or childhood military service

18. Terrorist organisations, criminal organisations, drug cartels and cults use terror and violence to exploit ordinary people

19. There is widespread violence in the family home, in schools, at the workplace and on the street

20. All of the violent behaviours described above have their origin in adult violence against children: this violence generates the warped emotional and behavioural patterns that later manifest as adult violence in its many forms. See **Why Violence?** <http://tinyurl.com/whyviolence>

21. It is human violence – against ourselves, each other and the Earth – that threatens to cause human extinction

22. National governments, international government organisations and global institutions (such as the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organisation), all of which represent national

elites, are not capable of addressing the above problems...

### **The Purpose of The People's Charter:**

**This Charter identifies eight aims of a nonviolent strategy to mobilise ordinary people, local groups, communities, non-government organisations and international networks opposed to these and other manifestations of human violence to explicitly renounce the use of violence themselves and to take nonviolent action to strategically resist this violence in all of its forms for the sake of humankind, future generations, all other species on Earth and the Earth itself.**

### **The aims of this nonviolent strategy are as follows:**

1. To convince or, if necessary, nonviolently compel the United States government and United States corporations to no longer use military violence and economic coercion to control world affairs for the benefit of the United States elite and its allied national elites in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, America and Australia
2. To convince or, if necessary, nonviolently compel the United States government and its allied governments to completely dismantle their military (including nuclear) forces and overseas bases, to decolonise or end their occupation of all occupied territories, and to instead adopt a strategy of nonviolent defence
3. To encourage all individuals and organisations currently resisting the military and/or economic domination of the United States elite and its allied elites to recognise the shared nature of our struggle and, when appropriate, to coordinate at local, regional or global level our acts of nonviolent resistance to this domination
4. To support the development and implementation of comprehensive nonviolent strategies for the liberation of Afghanistan, Burma, China, French Polynesia, Iran, Iraq, Kanaky, the Mariana Islands, North Korea, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, Syria, Tibet, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, West Papua, Zimbabwe and all other countries living under the yoke of occupation or dictatorship. (See Robert J. Burrowes, **The Strategy of Nonviolent Defense: A Gandhian Approach**, State University of New York Press, 1996.)
5. To support the development and implementation of comprehensive nonviolent strategies to end violence in the home, slavery, the sexual trafficking of women and children, the use of child soldiers, as well as the existence of terrorist and criminal organisations, drug cartels and cults
6. To support the development and implementation of comprehensive nonviolent strategies to end the marginalisation and exploitation of particular identity groups including (but not limited to) indigenous peoples; women; workers; racial, ethnic, religious and cultural groups; children; aged people; military personnel; incarcerated people; refugees and internally displaced peoples; those who are homeless and/or live in poverty; people with a particular sexual orientation; people with disabilities and nonhuman species
7. To encourage the people of the industrialised world (except those already living

in poverty) to each accept personal responsibility for reducing their consumption of global resources to a level that is commensurate with genuine equity for all human beings on Earth and the ecological carrying capacity of the Earth itself, particularly given the needs of other species. See **The Flame Tree Project to Save Life on Earth** <http://tinyurl.com/flametree>

8. To encourage all adults to understand the violence they (unconsciously) inflict on children and to take responsibility for ending this.

**The methods of this nonviolent strategy are as follows:**

1. To **listen deeply** to ourselves, each other and the Earth
2. To engage in **acts of nonviolent resistance and creation**: acts of nonviolent protest and persuasion, acts of nonviolent noncooperation and acts of nonviolent intervention, including the creation of new organisations, communities, institutions and structures that **genuinely meet the needs of all beings in a just, peaceful and ecologically sustainable manner**. (For ideas about nonviolent actions, see Gene Sharp, **The Politics of Nonviolent Action**, Boston: Porter Sargent, 1973.)

**The People's Charter Pledge:**

Having read and agreed with this Charter:

1. I pledge to listen to the deep truth of myself, others and the Earth
2. I pledge to make every effort to progressively eliminate the violence I inflict on myself, others and the Earth
3. I pledge to engage in acts of nonviolent resistance and/or creation to bring about a nonviolent future on Earth

**Signing The People's Charter:**

If you are committed to acting on this Charter, please add your name and country to the list of Charter participants [HERE](#).

**For Ideas:**

If you need ideas to fulfil your pledge, please consult the websites and books cited in The People's Charter.

You are welcome to invite others to consider signing this Charter.

|                          |        |          |   |           |
|--------------------------|--------|----------|---|-----------|
| Robert                   | J.     | Burrowes | - | Australia |
| Anita                    | McKone |          | - | Australia |
| Anahata Giri – Australia |        |          |   |           |

## ENDING WARS

See OMNI Nonviolence Newsletters: ([#3 June 7, 2011](#), [#4 September 30, 2011](#)) <http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/> (see the [Index](#)).

## NONVIOLENCE

BOOK AND FILM: *A Force More Powerful* explores 6 successful nonviolent movements in the 20th century starting (Disk One) with Gandhi's leadership of the Indian Independence movement/the Salt March, the U.S. civil rights movement/the first Sit-ins, the Anti-Apartheid movement in South Africa/the boycotts in the Eastern Cape Province and (Disk Two) continuing with the Danish resistance to Nazi Occupation, the Polish Solidarity Movement, and the Chilean democracy movement to oust Augusto Pinochet.

### *David Swanson's When the World Outlawed War – Book Salon Preview*

By: [Elliott](#) Saturday January 7, 2012 9:09 am

Saturday, January 7, 2012, 5pm ET>

Tweet

### *When the World Outlawed War*

Chat with **David Swanson** about his new book, hosted by **Scott Horton**.

This is a masterful account of how people in the United States and around the world worked to abolish war as a legitimate act of state policy and won in 1928, **outlawing war with a treaty that is still on the books**. Swanson's account of the successful work of those who came before us to insist that war be outlawed points us toward new ways of thinking about both war and political activism. ([David Swanson](#))

In January 1929 the U.S. Senate ratified by a vote of 85 to 1 a treaty that is still on the books, still upheld by most of the world, still listed on the U.S. State Department's website — a treaty that under Article VI of the U.S. Constitution is the "supreme law of the land." This treaty, the Kellogg-Briand Pact, bans all war. Bad wars and "good wars," aggressive wars and "humanitarian wars" — they are all illegal, having been legally abolished like duelling, blood feuds, and slavery before them.

The wisdom of the **War Outlawry movement of the 1920s** is revived in a new book by David Swanson and titled *When the World Outlawed War*. The full plan to outlaw war has never been followed through on. We have a duty to carry the campaign forward.

**David Swanson** is the author of "[When the World Outlawed War](#)," "[War Is A Lie](#)" and "[Daybreak: Undoing the Imperial Presidency and Forming a More Perfect](#)

Union.” He blogs at <http://davidswanson.org> and <http://warisacrime.org> and works for the online activist organization <http://rootsaction.org>. Swanson holds a master’s degree in philosophy from the [University of Virginia](#). He has worked as a newspaper reporter and as a communications director, with jobs including press secretary for Dennis Kucinich’s 2004 presidential campaign, media coordinator for the [International Labor Communications Association](#), and three years as communications coordinator for [ACORN](#), the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now. Swanson is Co-Founder of [AfterDowningStreet.org](#), creator of [ProsecuteBushCheney.org](#) and Washington Director of [Democrats.com](#), a board member of [Progressive Democrats of America](#), the [Backbone Campaign](#), [Voters for Peace](#), and the [Liberty Tree Foundation for the Democratic Revolution](#), and chair of the Robert Jackson Steering Committee.

Swanson helped plan the nonviolent occupation of Freedom Plaza in Washington DC in 2011.

**[Bruce E. Levine](#)**

## ***When the World Outlawed War: David Swanson's New Book***

Posted: 1/12/12 [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bruce-e-levine/when-the-world-outlawed-w\\_b\\_1199354.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bruce-e-levine/when-the-world-outlawed-w_b_1199354.html)

[Ron Paul](#), [Bruce E. Levine](#), [Kellogg-Briand Pact](#), [Salmon Oliver Levinson](#), [When The World Outlawed War](#), [William Borah](#), [Anti-War Movement](#), [David Swanson](#), [Books News](#)

### ENDING ANIMAL EUTHANASIA

#### **Is pet overpopulation a myth? Inside Nathan Winograd's "Redemption"**

October 02, 2007 | By Christie Keith, Special to SF Gate



Nathan Winograd is the author of *"Redemption: The Myth of Pet Overpopulation and the No Kill Revolution in America"* and director of the **national No Kill Advocacy Center**. He is a graduate of Stanford Law School, a former criminal prosecutor and corporate attorney, and was director of operations for the San Francisco SPCA and executive director of the Tompkins County SPCA, two of the most successful shelters in the nation. Photo courtesy Nathan Winograd.

In the still-heated debate over reducing shelters deaths in California, there is

probably no more polarizing figure than Nathan Winograd, former director of operations for the San Francisco SPCA.

At first glance, Winograd has all the credentials any animal rights activist or shelter professional could ask for. He's a vegan. He left a lucrative career as a prosecuting attorney to devote himself to helping animals. Last year, his income was only \$35,000. He has spearheaded the No Kill Advocacy Center, a national organization aimed at ending the killing of pets in animal shelters. While director of operations at the San Francisco SPCA, he worked with then-president Richard Avanzino to implement a wide variety of animal lifesaving programs, and then went on to achieve similar success as director of a rural shelter in upstate New York.

But Winograd isn't making a lot of friends in the shelter industry these days. That's because he authored a book called *"Redemption: The Myth of Pet Overpopulation and the No Kill Revolution in America"* that challenges the very foundation of nearly every theory and principle of shelter management in this country: The idea that there are more pets dying in shelters each year than homes available for those pets.

In fact, with between 4 and 5 million dogs and cats being killed in shelters nationwide every year, denying the existence of pet overpopulation seems ridiculous. If there aren't more pets than homes, why are so many animals ending up in shelters in the first place?

Conventional wisdom tells us it's because of irresponsible pet owners who aren't willing to work to keep their pets in their homes. It's a failure of commitment, of caring, and of the human/animal bond. If fewer pets were born, there would be fewer coming into shelters. If people cared more about their pets, they wouldn't give them up so easily, would spay and neuter them so they wouldn't reproduce, and wouldn't let them stray.

That is exactly what I always believed, too, for the nearly 17 years I've been writing about pets. And yet, after reading "Redemption," I don't believe it anymore.

#### RELATED ARTICLES

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- [Mandatory spay/neuter bill upsets dog, cat breeders](#)  
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### **Ahimsa by Sri Swami Sivananda**

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[Ahimsa, a Quality of the Strong](#)

[Gradational Practice of Ahimsa](#)

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<http://www.dlshq.org/teachings/ahimsa.htm>