Available for Interviews: Critical Voices

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Author of the forthcoming book Writing Dissent and an associate professor at the University of Texas at Austin, Jensen said today: "The last time the U.S. responded to a terrorist attack, on its embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998, it was innocents in Sudan and Afghanistan who were in the way. We were told that the US missiles hit only military targets but the Sudan target turned out to be a pharmaceutical factory. There are calls for a 'massive response' but let us not forget that, if the pattern of past US actions holds, such a response will kill innocent people like the ones in New York and the hijacked airplanes."

FRANCIS BOYLE, fboyle@law.uiuc.edu, (217) 333-7954

Professor of international law at the University of Illinois College of Law, Boyle said today: "The United States is under an absolute obligation to resolve this dispute with Afghanistan in a peaceful manner as required by UN Charter Article 2(3) and Article 33 Accordingly, this dispute must be resolved by invoking the 1971 Montreal Sabotage Convention and the 1997 UN International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings. Furthermore, the United States should offer to submit this entire dispute with Afghanistan to the International Court of Justice in The Hague (the so-called World Court)."

SIMONA SHARONI, sharonis@evergreen.edu, http://www.evergreen.edu/user/copred Sharoni is director of the Consortium on Peace Research, Education and Development and professor of conflict resolution and international politics at the Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington.

BEAU GROSSCUP, bgrosscup@csuchico.edu, (530) 898-5692, (530) 899-8035 Grosscup is author of The Newest Explosions of Terrorism and professor of international relations at California State University in Chico.

STEPHEN ZUNES, stephen@coho.org, http://www.fpif.org

http://www.commondreams.org/views01/0912-02.htm

Chair of the Peace and Justice Studies Program at the University of San Francisco, Zunes said today: "Military responses usually result only in a spiral of violent retaliation. Similarly, simply bombing other countries after the fact will not protect lives. Indeed, it will likely result in what Pentagon planners euphemistically call 'collateral damage,' i.e., the deaths of civilians just as innocent as those killed in New York City. And survivors bent on revenge."

KATHY KELLY, kkelly@igc.org, http://www.nonviolence.org/vitw

Coordinator of Voices in the Wilderness, a group openly violating the economic sanctions against Iraq, Kelly and her colleagues have been fasting in front of the US mission to the United Nations. She said today: "On Tuesday, Colin Powell condemned 'people who feel that with the destruction of buildings,

with the murder of people, they can somehow achieve a political purpose.' Mr. Powell is correct. But in a sense, he holds up a mirror to US policy of causing massive civilian suffering in Iraq. It's a painful time to look into that reality, but we hope that along with the grief, we can use Powell's sentiment to form deeper compassion and understanding."

G. SIMON HARAK, GSHarakSJ@yahoo.com, (917) 662-5790

A Jesuit priest with the West Side Jesuit Community in New York City, Harak said today: "If we in our turn plan on militarism, vengeance, and retaliation, if we steel our spirits against the suffering which such pursuits always cause to the innocent, in short, if we turn to the tools of death, then whatever hollow triumph we may trumpet, it will have been Death alone which has won." Harak has visited the Mideast many times, he added: "When I've spoken to families in Iraq who have suffered from the economic sanctions and bombings; or with Palestinian fathers and sons tortured by an Israeli government which we back--they asked me the same question people have been asking: 'Why does America hate us?'"

LLOYD J. DUMAS, ljdumas@utdallas.edu

Professor of political economy at the University of Texas at Dallas and author of Lethal Arrogance, Dumas is an expert on terrorism. He said today: "All the money we've poured into missile defense, B-2 bombers and F-22s is of no use in preventing or defending against this kind of horrendous attack...."

PHYLLIS BENNIS, pbennis@compuserve.com, http://www.ips-dc.org (202) 234-9382 ext 206, (202) 667-1650

A fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies, Bennis said today: "We must be careful not to jump to premature conclusions.... This is not a 'war' that can be won by military means."

KIT GAGE, kgage@igc.org

Gage is national coordinator for the National Coalition to Protect Political Freedom, a civil liberties organization.

MICHAEL RATNER, mratner@igc.org, http://www.humanrightsnow.org, (212) 243-3805 Vice president of the Center for Constitutional Rights and an export on war powers, Ratner said today: "The United State should deal with the events of September 11 as criminal acts, investigate and prosecute those guilty and do so with the backing of the United Nations Security Council."

ELEIZA BRAUN, ebraun@gwu.edu, http://www.peacefuljustice.cjb.net, cell: (202) 255-8142 A junior at George Washington University, Braun said today: "Thousands of students across the US held vigils, teach-ins and rallies on Thursday as part of a national day of peace and solidarity. We are shocked and saddened by the events of last week--and are dedicated to working towards policies that do not visit such tragedy upon others throughout the world via military action."

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