

IF YOU WORK
FOR PEACE



STOP PAYING
FOR WAR.

More than a paycheck

NEWS FROM THE WAR TAX RESISTANCE MOVEMENT

June/July 2012

A Tax Day Speech

By Clare Hanrahan

Delivered on April 17, 2012, at Pritchard Park, Asheville, North Carolina.

“The greatest changes in history have only come when people are willing to put everything on the line.”

—Julia Butterfly Hill

Environmental activist and tree-sitter Julia Butterfly Hill took direct action when the IRS claimed she owed them \$150,000 from a court settlement. Instead of aiding and abetting war, Julia redirected this money to education, arts and cultural programs, community gardens, programs for Native Americans, alternatives to incarceration, and environmental protection.

When war is illegal, isn't paying war tax a crime?

I have refused to pay war taxes since 1981. That's the year I took the pledge. That's when I decided to break the deadly habit of paying for war.

It's not just our federal taxes that fuel war, but our lifestyles of waste and habitual consumption, this privilege that we maintain on the backs of the destitute of the world, is upheld by the Pentagon and its deadly force.

I'm one of thousands of people around this country who openly identify themselves as War Tax Resisters. Some file and refuse to pay. Some refuse to file or cooperate in any way. Some refuse a portion of federal taxes, some refuse to pay any at all.

Most War Tax Resisters are also Peace Tax Payers, redirecting refused war tax dollars to fund community needs. Local alternative Funds throughout the U.S. each year deliver more than \$50,000 in refused war taxes to support constructive projects.



Oakland Tax Day Dance

BAY-Peace: Better Alternatives for Youth and Northern California War Tax Resistance teamed up with Code Pink and others to protest militarism and war at the Oakland Federal Building on Tax Day 2012. The action included street theater, poetry, and this BAY-Peace original song:

People, People, People, can't you see? / They kill around the world with tax money.

Stealing from workers how their money's made, / I guess that's why we're broke and they're so paid!

People, People, People, can't you see? / They tax the poor more, the rich stay greedy.

No money for health or to educate, / I guess that's why we're broke and they're so paid!

Watch the performance at the link on our tax day page – nwtrcc.org/taxday2012-reports.php.

Photo by David Gross.

As we gather here today to call out Bank of America, to demand that they stop participating in this business of death—to demand that they stop funding mountain top removal coal mining enterprises, stop facilitating the buildup and modernization of nuclear weapons, and stop loaning millions to criminal enterprises like Eric Prince and

Blackwater/XE, the largest mercenary operation in the world.

As we say to Bank of America and its shareholders: Stop!

Are we willing to risk our own economic privilege to obstruct this business of death?

Who will block the doors to the post office today when most Americans will

continued on page 4

