

Pekka Kallioniemi @P_Kallioniemi May 17 • 24 tweets • <u>P_Kallioniemi/status/1658777562540126208</u>

In today's <u>#vatniksoup</u>, I'll introduce a US non-profit organization CODEPINK (<u>@codepink</u>), and its founders Jodie Evans (<u>@MsJodieEvans</u>) and Medea Benjamin (<u>@medeabenjamin</u>). It's best-known for its anti-US stance & for its support of totalitarian regimes around the world.

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In 2006, Benjamin said in an interview with Tucker Carlson that Hugo Chávez, the President of Venezuela, hadn't eroded freedom of speech and civil rights in the country, calling it a "myth". Carlson blamed Medea for "the squelching of minority views", to which Medea...

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BENJAMIN: Well, there are opposition TV press and print media all over Venezuela. I don't know if you have been there, Tucker, but you can go on a reality tour with us. You will see it everywhere you go.

CARLSON: Why would you-hold on. Why would you make excuses for that?

BENJAMIN: -- that tried to topple a Democratically-

CARLSON: How can a television-let's be real. You are throwing a very serious charge out there, a charge for which people have been killed in Venezuela. I am asking you a very simple question, explain how a television station can cause a coup? They said they did not like the president. Is that the same as pushing a coup? I mean, what the hell are you talking about?

BENJAMIN: They falsified information. They got people out on the street. They falsified footage that showed pro Chavez supporters killing people, which did not happen. They refuse to cover any of the pro Chavez demonstrations. When Chavez–

CARLSON: They refuse to cover pro Chavez demonstrations? I wonder if you are even a tiny bit ashamed that you are apologizing for fascism on national television.

BENJAMIN: I wonder if you are ashamed of calling a Democratically elected government a fascist government.

CARLSON: I want to do something to cruel to you. I want to read your own quote back. Here is what you wrote last year, I believe. Quote, "Another basic myth" – this is a piece about myths about Venezuela–"is that Chavez has limited freedom of speech and eroded civil rights." That was March 4th, 2006. Do you want to revise that given the news that Hugo Chavez has closed the last nationally broadcast opposition television station for criticizing him?

BENJAMIN: Well that's just not true Tucker. What he did is he didn't renew the license. But there are still television shows, and television stations owned and run by the opposition media. I think that you hear more opposition to the government in Venezuela than you would here in the United States. That's in the TV, in the radio and in the print media.

CARLSON: I don't know what you have been smoking, Medea, but you are saying that this president just closed a television station because it criticized him, but somehow Venezuela has a freer press than America?

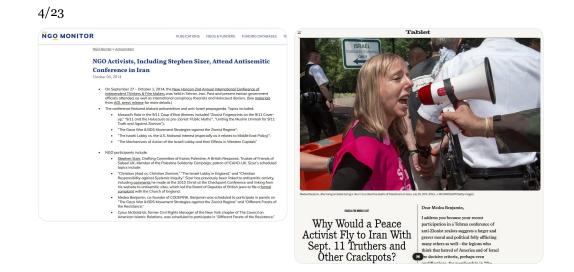
BENJAMIN: He did not close it because it criticized him. He closed it because it participated in a coup against a Democratically elected government, his government. If a television in United States advocated and was part of an effort to topple a Democratically government, the Bush administration let's take–I don't like it–

CARLSON: I am reading now from the 360 page white book on RCTV. This is published by Chavez's government. It accuses RCTVthat's the television station in question—of, quote, showing lack of respect for authorities and institutions. I would think, as a self described liberal, you would stand up for the right of people to, quote, challenge authorities and institutions. And yet, you are apologizing for the squelching of minority views. Why could that be?

..replied: "They [a local TV network] falsified information. They got people out on the street." Later, Chávez's regime seized control of the Supreme Court and undercut the ability of journalists,human rights defenders & other Venezuelans to exercise their fundamental rights.3/23



In 2014, Benjamin attended the New Horizon conference in Tehran, Iran. The event included a panel titled "Mossad's Role in the 9/11 Coup d'Etat", and it hosted figures like Randy Short, who claims that "Boko Haram was created and funded by the CIA", and Wayne Madsen, ...



... who has declared that 9/11 attacks were carried out by Mossad together with CIA and Saudi intelligence. The event also hosted German neo-Nazis Manuel Ochsenreiter & Kevin Barrett, and in 2018 one of the keynote speakers at New Horizon was one Aleksander Dugin.





Benjamin later stated that she was "uncomfortable" but learned a lot.

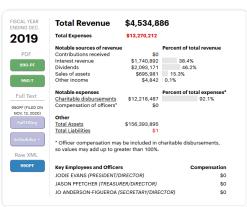
In Mar 2019 while visiting Iran, CODEPINK, a "grassroots peace and social justice movement", voiced their support over Iran's developing missile technology because the US has military bases around Iran.

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Iranians burn a U.S. flag during a protest against President Donald Trump's decision to walk out of a 2015 nuclear deal, in Tehran, Iran, May 11, 2018. (photo credit: REUTERS) People's Support Foundation (PSF), an NGO co-founded by Evans, has invested heavily on companies that cooperate with the Israeli Defense Force, including Israel Chemicals Ltd., Caterpillar, and Atlas Copco. These investments seem strange, when we consider Evans' ...

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PSF further invests in other major BDS targets including Hewlett Packard (\$139,129 in 2019), which has provided technology to aid in the biometric monitoring of Palestinians by the Israeli military, according to multiple articles on the BDS Movement website. Another PSF investment is in Atlas Copco (\$114,222 in 2019), which sold materials "used in the construction of the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem railway, which is partially built on occupied Palestinian territory," according to the American Friends Service Committee's website Investigate, which maintains a list of corporations and banks targeted by BDS.

These investments are not flukes but appear to be the result of conscious choices by $\ensuremath{\mathsf{PSF}}$.

Out of 216 companies recommended for divestment by Investigate, PSF is invested in 51 of them, totaling over \$13.5 million, approximately 8% of the foundation's initial capital fund.

Neither Evans nor PSF responded to numerous attempts by *New Lines* to comment.

Response to the status of the Palestinian cause and a fierce opponent of Israel. She and Benjamin support the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement that seeks to bring about economic consequences for Israel's mistreatment of the Palestinians living under military occupation. Oddly, though, this doesn't seem to apply to investments made by Evans' PSF organization. According to the tax forms examined by *New Lines*, PSF has invested heavily in Israeli companies that openly work with the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF).

In 2017, for instance, PSF held \$59,424 in corporate stock in the firm Israel Chemicals Ltd. – a holding whose worth fell to just over \$48,000 the following year but grew to over \$72,000 in 2019. On its website, Israel Chemicals, Ltd. describes an ongoing collaboration with the IDF in 'erecting a salt wall opposite the border with Jordan." The nearly 10-foot-high wall 'will form a natural and innovative engineering obstacle, contributing to Israel's security in an area that will suffer no major environmental impact and will not be visible from the nearby hotels area or road."

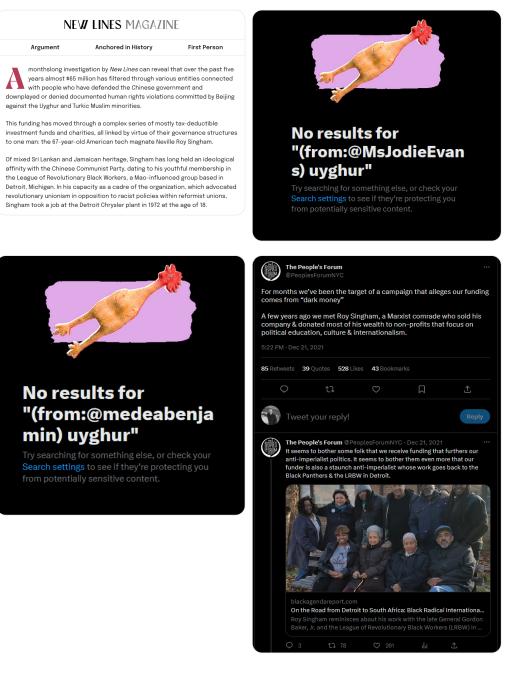
PSF also holds stocks in Caterpillar, the U.S.-based construction vehicle company that is vociferously opposed by pro-Palestinian activists for aiding in the demolition of Palestinian homes in the Occupied Territories. The BDS movement's website hosts a number of articles condemning Caterpillar's fleet of vehicles for participating in these acts. Yet according to its 2019 Form 990 filings, PSF had an investment worth about \$200,000 in the company that year, down from its peak value of \$291,365 in 2017. ..strong anti-Israel and pro-Palestinian stance. PSF has also funneled 700 000 USD into Tricontinental, which describes itself as an "Institute for Social Research". It's ran by Vijay Prashad, a gentleman seen here holding a sign that seems to support both China and Russia.







When there's an actual, well-documented genocide of the Uyghur population going on in China, CODEPINK falls silent. In Jodie's case, this could be due to her personal relations. Her current partner is Neville Roy Singham, a tech entrepreneur who's been connected to the...



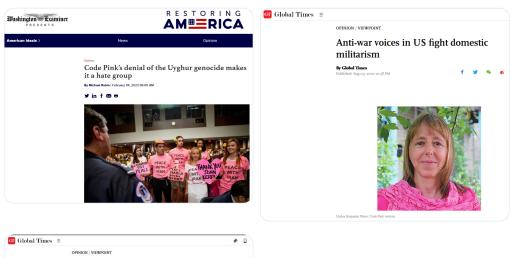
...funneling of 65 million USD to "various entities connected with people who have defended the Chinese government and downplayed or denied documented human rights violations" of the Uyghurs. In Sep 2020, Evans was a speaker at far-left conference, calling for the US to...





..."de-escalate" relations with China. Imagine being a "peace activist" & completely disregarding a genocide involving 2 million people.The genocide denial of CODEPINK key figures has made them popular interviewees on CCP-controlled propaganda outlets like The Global Times.

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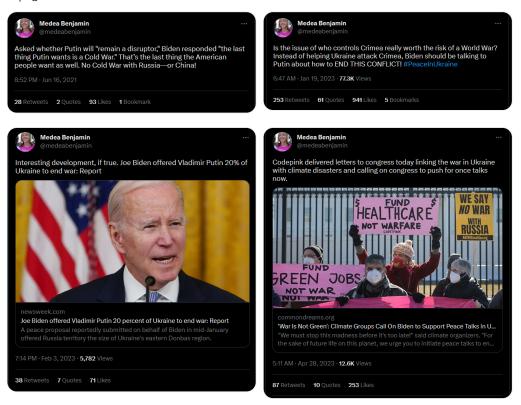




"We know they'd spread more batted and fear about China. So our only way to get in the way of that is to discupt it who run message that 'China is not our emeny.'" said Jodie Evans (Evans), co-founder of Code Pink, a women-led grassroot organization working to end US wars and militation, support pace and human rights initiatives, said atter two portesters from the organization disrupted the first hearing of a House select committee investigating so-called threast inta China poses to the US on Tuesday. In an interview with Global Times (OT) reports Lui Zusan and Yu Jincui, Evans elaborated the purpose of Code Pink to disrupt the hearing and why it advocates "china is not our enemy" in the US.



Regarding Ukraine, both Evans and Benjamin cheer for Russia. By CODEPINK's logic, "If that money flow [to Ukraine] stops, the war will come to an end because both sides will sit down and negotiate." Their coordinator continued that "I don't think that the Russians... 12/23



are that interested in war either." Yet there they are, invading.

In Nov 2022, Medea joined RT journalist Chris Hedges for an interview. By Hedges' view, the invasion itself is a war crime conducted by Putin, but Medea focuses more on the NATO's involvement and "meddling"..



..in Ukraine. The interview is full of false and biased statements, including "Crimea is Russia", oppression against the Russian-speaking population in Ukraine,NATO expansion, calling the events in Donbas in 2014 a "civil war", and of course the "Ukrainian neo-Nazis" trope.

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Benjamin also refers to the controversial CBS report that only 30% of military aid arrives to the front. The article has been partially retracted and updated with the actual data. To summarize the interview, there's only little mention or talk about Russia, and she mostly.. 15/23



..focuses on the "far-right elements" and the coup-that-never-happened in Ukraine. Most of this stuff is also promoted in Benjamin's 2022 book "War in Ukraine: Making Sense of a Senseless Conflict", which again focuses on bashing NATO and the US, & even supports Russia's...

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... intervention in Syria. She also casts doubt on Russian-Syrian chemical attacks on civilians. A common narrative these days is the one where pro-Kremlin propagandists compare the establishment of Russian bases in Canada or in Mexico. The problem with this speculative...

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On page 17, they write: "In 2011, the United States and its allies began supporting and arming Al-Qaeda-linked groups in Syria in a proxy war to overthrow President Assad, a close Russian ally. In its first military response to Western war-making, Russia intervened militarily to defend its Syrian ally."

So making excuses for Russian massive aerial bombardment of Syrian civilians as "defending an ally," and dismissing the Syrian revolutionaries as mere proxies in condescending manner—and, it's not even accurate. The US was supporting (if indeed the reports of support to the rebels are to be believed, of which I am very skeptical) the Free Syrian Army—which was secular-nationalist and led by defectors from the Assad regime itself. And when al-Qaeda-linked elements later got involved in the conflict, with the formation of the Nusra Front, the US didn't back them—the US *bombed* them. Not as aggressively as Russia was bombing the Free Syrian Army and its allies—but nonetheless *bombed* them. Not backed them. A reversal of reality.

In the next sentence we get this: "Putin worked with Obama to resolve the crisis over Assad's alleged chemical weapons use in Syria." So even now, we're casting doubt on Assad's chemical attacks, Medea? Really? Of which there have been hundreds more in the nine years since then.

... scenario is that the US really hasn't had any major conflicts between its neighbors. These countries have had free trade agreements like NAFTA and USMCA since the 90s and there is a lot of immigration coming into the US from both Canada and Mexico.

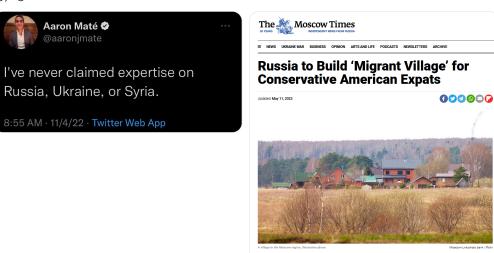




Hell, there's even speculation that the fake news blogger <u>@aaronjmate</u> married a former NPR journalist, Starlee Kine (<u>@StarleeKine</u>), to be able to work in the US, a country that he seems to despise so much.

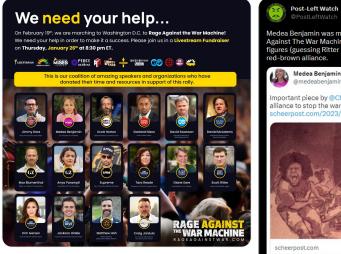
Why don't people flock to Russia the same way they do to the US?

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Russian authorities will launch construction of a village outside Moscow for conservative-minded Americans and Canadians next year, the state-run RIA Novosti news agency reported Thursday.

In Feb 2023, Medea was planned to be one of the speakers at the "antiwar" event Rage Against the War Machine, but she stepped down after she was criticized by her CODEPINK fellows. This didn't stop her from attending the event & even joining the speaker's "VIP area".

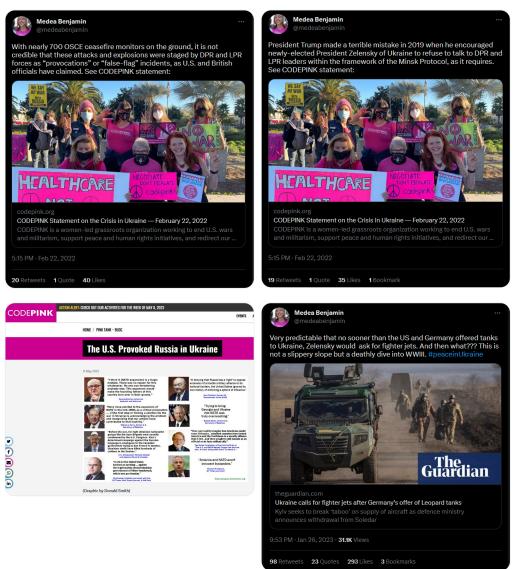








In my mind, there's no doubt whose side in the world stage both CODEPINK founders have taken: they systematically support the anti-West totalitarian and authoritarian regimes around the world. Putin, Xi, Maduro and Chávez are/were the good guys, and US is the actual enemy.



We all know that you're not going to answer any questions, Jodie and Medea, but here's few anyway:

What are your thoughts on the Bucha massacre? What about the mass graves in Izium? Children's torture chambers in Kherson? Why are you so afraid to talk about Putin?

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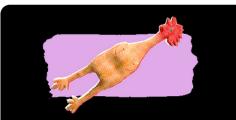
No results for "(from:@medeabenja min) bucha"

Try searching for something else, or check your Search settings to see if they're protecting you from potentially sensitive content.



No results for "(from:@medeabenja min) izium"

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Try searching for something else, or check your **Search settings** to see if they're protecting you from potentially sensitive content.

I know you're busy bootlicking various dictators, but please try and find the time to respond!

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Sources:



The Big Business of Uyghur Genocide Denial A network of charities funnel millions into left-wing platforms that take Beijing's side on the genocide allegations.

https://newlinesmag.com/reportage/the-big-business-of-uyghur-genocide-denial/

Ping: @areidross @mrubin1971 @LavrovsFELLA

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In today's #vatniksoup and another edition of "You pronounced this nonsense, not me", I'll go through some of the most common pro-Russian claims and tropes. I have discussed these in previous soups, but I feel like this type of general collection would be a helpful resource. 1/23

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