

Kill Malarial Mosquitoes NOW!

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A Declaration of the Informed and Concerned

UPDATED June 2007

We, the undersigned, are justifiably concerned, anguished and outraged that:

- Over 500 million human beings suffer from malaria in Africa and around the world annually. This is more people than live in the United States, Canada and Mexico combined.
- Well over a million of these people – mostly children and pregnant women – are killed by malaria each and every year.
- Malaria wreaks an enormous economic toll, incapacitating otherwise productive people, leaving thousands with brain damage, and keeping millions at home to care for the sick, instead of producing goods and services to lift Africa and other regions out of unacceptable, abject poverty.
- The United States, Europe and other advanced economies failed to use every available means to stop the devastation that malarial mosquitoes inflict upon the world's poorest citizens. They are the same methods we used to eradicate malaria in our countries. Yet, we mindlessly withheld them from other people for over 30 years – to tragic, almost genocidal effect.
- Until 2006, almost *none* of the \$200 million that US taxpayers contribute to world malaria control each year was actually spent to kill or repel the deadly mosquitoes that inject parasites into the bloodstreams of their victims. These shortsighted policies failed to recognize that spraying small amounts of DDT on the interior walls of homes can effectively kill or repel malarial mosquitoes – giving long-lasting protection to the families within.
- Amazingly, some in government even opposed using malaria control monies to kill the parasite that malarial mosquitoes transmit from person to person! These individuals were blocking or limiting funds for the purchase of medicines, such as artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs), which cure malaria and inhibit its spread wherever they are used.

However, we are elated to report that:

- DDT now plays a crucial part in the program, announced by President Bush in 2005, to spend an additional \$1.2 billion on malaria control over the next five years. Without DDT and ACTs, this spending would have been needlessly wasted, along with millions of additional lives.
- In November, 2005, Congress passed malaria control appropriations that encouraged the US Agency for International Development (USAID) to begin offering “considerable support” for lifesaving commodities for malaria control, including insecticides.
- In December, 2005, USAID reversed its longtime opposition to the purchase of DDT, ACTs, and other lifesaving commodities for killing malarial mosquitoes and parasites. Although such spending shifts fall short of the proportions we seek herein, they nonetheless represent a heartening, humane turnabout in US policy.

- In August 2006, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso made clear that the European Union will not impose trade sanctions on countries that use DDT for disease control in accord with the Stockholm Convention. African nations have a right and responsibility to use appropriate measures, including DDT and other insecticides, to control diseases like malaria, Barroso said, in a welcome statement that superceded prior threats from EU figures against African nations seeking to save the lives of their own children.
- In September 2006, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations agency for best international health practices, explicitly endorsed indoor DDT use for malaria control.

We applaud this progress, and all of the courageous people behind it. But, we also understand the facts about DDT and longstanding opposition to its use, as summarized in the Background that follows the Signatories to this Declaration. We continue to seek humane, heroic action by US and world leaders to alter the ugly course of human history with regard to malaria.

To end malaria's worldwide reign of terror and slash disease and death tolls worldwide, therefore, we seek to change the way the US government funds malaria control. We want cost-effective measures that actually kill and repel malarial mosquitoes, eliminate parasites, cure malaria patients and save lives – and we want them in proportions that minimize waste and overhead.

We therefore ask Congress and the President to:

- Ensure that at least **2/3** (two-thirds) of annual Congressional appropriations for malaria control are allocated for insecticidal and medicinal commodities – with up to half of such monies targeted to the treatment and cure of infected patients.
- Specifically direct such funds to the actual purchase and deployment of: (1) DDT, or any other proven, more cost-effective insecticide/repellent, for Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) in any given malarial locality; and (2) ACTs, or other equally effective and durable drugs, for treatment of malaria patients and reduction in disease transmission rates – in accord with WHO guidelines.
- Require that this **2/3** formula be mirrored in the total annual malaria control spending of agencies receiving US malaria control monies – such as US Agency for International Development, World Health Organization, World Bank, UNICEF, Roll Back Malaria, and Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis – in programs coordinated with health ministers in affected nations.
- Direct that this **2/3** proportion will be subject to reduction **ONLY** if replaced by corresponding expenditures for any malaria control measure that has been proven equally or more cost-effective in reducing malaria morbidity and mortality rates in specific localities – as certified, in advance of such expenditure and replacement, by the directors of the US Centers for Disease Control, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences or similar independent agency, based on controlled epidemiological studies in the field.

In full accord with the UN Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, this objective contemplates DDT use *only* for indoor residual spraying (which results in zero-to-negligible external environmental residue) – and *not* for aerial or any other form of outdoor application.¹ It does *not* contemplate the use of insecticides, including insecticide-treated mosquito nets, not shown to be *more* cost-effective than indoor residual spraying with DDT for all members of affected populations.

In the absence of empirical evidence to the contrary, we the undersigned regard as inadequate – and therefore morally unacceptable – any policy that permits any sum in excess of one-third of US anti-

malaria funding to be expended on contractors, consultants, “technical assistance,” conferences, “capacity building,” overhead, bed nets or any measures other than the proven insecticidal and medical interventions described above.

Bureaucrats, contractors, academics, insecticide companies, anti-pesticide activists and other self-interested parties have frequently protested that DDT for indoor residual spraying is no panacea – and falsely claimed that alternative methods work equally well in controlling malaria. However, the fact is, *nothing* in the history of man has proven more effective than the combination of insecticides such as DDT and effective medicines, like ACTs, for saving human lives from the scourge of malaria.

DDT enabled the United States, Europe and most advanced economies to eradicate malaria. It must now be permitted and encouraged to start saving lives in Africa, Asia, Latin America and other parts of the world where malarial mosquitoes continue to kill thousands of innocent children and parents every day. Because:

- Allocation decisions on US appropriations for malaria control must be made by Congress and the White House;
- Until recently, the US foreign aid and multilateral aid bureaucracies had proven themselves incompetent or unwilling over many years to make effective commodity purchases and allocation decisions;
- Most of the world, including the World Health Organization, has *endorsed* DDT for indoor residual spraying through the UN Stockholm Convention; and
- Americans and most of the world embrace health, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness as fundamental Human Rights – and yet the effect of current malaria policies is to *deny* those Human Rights to billions of the world’s poorest people;

Now, therefore, we the undersigned Coalition of the Informed and Concerned hold that the burden of scientific and moral proof rests with any who would argue that more than one-third of US and world malaria control spending should support measures *other than* DDT and ACTs (or any other proven, more cost-effective interventions) for combating this horrific disease.

If and when the opponents of DDT and ACTs can show and obtain certification as provided above that something else works better to save human lives from malaria, we the undersigned will readily – even eagerly – accede to something less than this *two-thirds* formula.

Until then, however, we will fight furiously for every human life now hanging in the balance as a function of any errant US and global malaria control policies.

We urge all people of conscience, moral conviction and human decency to join us in ending malaria’s reign of terror in Africa and the developing world. We hereby implore the Congress and President of the United States; leaders of the European Union, Africa and other nations; and leaders of the World Bank, UNICEF, Roll Back Malaria, Global Fund and other agencies and philanthropies, to stop the misguided malaria spending, stop the talking, and finally take real action to:

Kill Malarial Mosquitoes NOW!

Signatories:

Note: Organizational affiliations are for identification purposes only and do not necessarily imply any formal organizational endorsements of the Declaration.

<i>Name and degree:</i>	<i>Title, affiliation(s) and state or country of residence:</i>
Desmond M Tutu	Nobel Peace Laureate (1984), Archbishop Emeritus, South Africa
F. W. de Klerk	Nobel Peace Laureate (1993), Former President of South Africa
Norman E. Borlaug, PhD	Nobel Peace Laureate (1970), Professor of International Agriculture, Texas
Admiral Harold M. Koenig, MD	Former Surgeon General of the US Navy (retired), Maryland
Andrew Spielman, PhD	Professor of Tropical Public Health, Harvard School of Public Health
Kenneth D. Christman, MD	President, Association of American Physicians and Surgeons, Ohio
Robert S. Desowitz, PhD	Professor Emeritus, Tropical Medicine, U of Hawaii and N Carolina
Professor Gilbert Bukenya	Vice President, Republic of Uganda
Dr. Sam Zaramba	Director General of Health Services, Republic of Uganda
Dr. Stephen Mallinga	Minister of Health, Republic of Uganda
Dr. J.B. Rwakimari	National Malaria Control Program Manager, Republic of Uganda
Theeraphap Chareonviriyaphap	Professor of Entomology (PhD), Kasetsart University, Thailand
Abere Mihrete, PhD	Director, Anti-Malaria Association, Ethiopia
M. Fazlur Rahman	Former Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Bangladesh
Patrick Moore, PhD	Co-founder of Greenpeace; forest ecologist, British Columbia, Canada
Elizabeth Whelan, ScD	President, American Council on Science & Health, New York
Edwin Meese III	Former Attorney General of the United States
Ed Crane	President, Cato Institute, Washington, DC
David M. Stanley	Chairman, National Taxpayers Union, Washington, DC
David M. Beasley	Former Governor of South Carolina
T. Kenneth Cribb, Jr.	Former Domestic Policy Advisor to President Ronald Reagan
Harry C. Alford	President & CEO, Natl Black Chamber of Commerce, Washington, DC
Roy Innis	National Chairman, Congress of Racial Equality, New York
Rev. Rick Warren	Pastor and Author, <i>The Purpose Driven Life</i> , California
The Rev. James Tonkovich	President, The Institute on Religion and Democracy, Washington, DC
Rabbi Daniel Lapin	President, Toward Tradition, Washington
E. Calvin Beisner, PhD	Associate Professor, Knox Theological Seminary, Florida
Rev. Robert Sirico	President, Acton Institute for the Study of Religion & Liberty, Michigan
Rev. Ren Broekhuizen	Retired Pastor and former African Missionary, Michigan and Wyoming
Samuel C Wolgemuth	Vice Chair, World Relief Corporation, Illinois
Daniel Wolgemuth	President and CEO, Youth for Christ/USA

For more information, see “Background: Facts about DDT,” following the signatories

To learn more about malaria and this declaration, visit www.FightingMalaria.org

To endorse the Declaration, send your personal information to pdriessen@cox.net

Signatories:

Physicians, infectious disease experts and scientists 1

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<i>Name and degree:</i>	<i>Title, affiliation(s) and state or country of residence:</i>
Amir Attaran, D Phil, LLB	Canada Research Chair, Institute of Population Health; Faculty of Law University of Ottawa, Canada
Roger Bate, PhD	Fellow, American Enterprise Institute, Washington, DC
Norman E. Borlaug, PhD	Distinguished Professor of International Agriculture, Texas A&M Univ 1970 Nobel Peace Laureate and Father of the “Green Revolution, Texas US National Medal of Science laureate, 2005
Theeraphap Chareonviriyaphap	Professor of Entomology (PhD), Kasetsart University, Thailand
Kenneth D. Christman, MD	President, Association of American Physicians and Surgeons, Ohio
Robert S. Desowitz, PhD	Professor Emeritus, Tropical Medicine and Medical Microbiology, University of Hawaii, and ScD (London), North Carolina
Ildefonso Fernández-Salas	Director, Laboratory of Medical Entomology and Graduate Program in Medical Entomology, University of Nuevo Leon, Mexico
Mary R. Galinski, PhD	Associate Professor, Medicine & Infectious Diseases, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia Founder & President, Malaria Foundation International
Nancy Kerkvliet, PhD	Professor of Toxicology, Oregon State University, Oregon
Admiral Harold M. Koenig, MD	Former Surgeon General of the US Navy (retired), Maryland
Patrick Moore, PhD	Co-founder of Greenpeace, forest ecologist Chairman and Chief Scientist, Greenspirit Strategies, Canada
Paul Reiter, PhD	Professor of Medical Entomology, Institut Pasteur, Paris France
Andrew Spielman, PhD	Professor of Tropical Public Health, Harvard School of Public Health
Donald E. Waite, DO, MPH	Professor Emeritus, Michigan State University, Michigan Author of <i>Environmental Health Hazards: Recognition and Avoidance</i>
Elizabeth Whelan, ScD	President, American Council on Science & Health, New York
Robert J. Cihak, MD	Past President, Association of American Physicians and Surgeons Columnist for NewsMax.com and JewishWorldReview.com, Washington
Sylvie Manguin, PhD	Research Professor in Medical Entomology, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD), France
Jane M. Orient, MD	President, Doctors For Disaster Preparedness, Arizona
Donald R. Roberts, PhD	Professor of Health, Specialty in tropical public health, Maryland
Yasmin Rubio-Palis, PhD	Chief Biologist, Ministry of Health, Venezuela
Leslie M. Burger, MD, FACP	Major General, U.S. Army (Ret), US Veterans Health Administration
Maj. Gen. Vernon Chong, MD	U.S. Air Force (retired), California
Capt. Thomas J. Contreras, PhD	Medical Service Corps, United States Navy (retired) Former Commanding Officer, Naval Medical Research Institute
Admiral W J McDaniel, MD	United States Navy (retired), Washington
Admiral Melvin Museles, MD	US Navy (ret), former Assoc Dean, Military Medical School, Florida
Richard Andre, PhD	Professor, Medical Zoology and Emerging Infectious Diseases, Maryland

Signatories:

Physicians, infectious disease experts and scientists 2

Note: Organizational affiliations are for identification purposes only and do not necessarily imply any formal organizational endorsements.

<i>Name and degree:</i>	<i>Title, affiliation(s) and state or country of residence:</i>
Mushtuq Husain, MBBS, PhD	Senior Scientific Officer, Department of Medical Social Science, Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control & Research, Bangladesh
Monthathip Kongmee, MS	Entomologist, Department of Entomology, Kasetsart Univ, Thailand
Jean Mouchet	Professor of Public Health, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD), France
James L. Pendleton, MD	Past President, Assn of American Physicians & Surgeons, Pennsylvania
M. Fazlur Rahman	Managing Director, Ahsania Mission Cancer/General Hospital Project Former Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Former Secretary, Ministry of Science & Technology (now ICT), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Gilbert Ross, MD	Executive and Medical Dir, Amer Council on Science & Health, NY
Jerome C. Arnett, MD	Private practice, internal and pulmonary medicine, West Virginia
Sir Colin Berry	Professor of anatomy and histopathology, University of London Former Dean of the London Hospital Medical College
Paul K. Branch, MD	Private Practice, Madison, Wisconsin
John W. Brimmell, PhD, MPH	Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, Georgia
Richard E. Brown, MD	Pediatrician, Mesa, Arizona
Pablo Gonzalez Casanova, MD	Malaria project. researcher, Nat Med Sciences Institute, Mexico
Melanie Confusione, RN	After-Hours Pediatrics Urgent Care, Florida Participant in periodic healthcare missions to Africa
Robert F. Conkling, MD	Private Family Practice, Virginia
Ruth R Currin, RN	Grosse Ile, MI
Cheryl Durstein-Decker MD	Director, Shattering Darkness, Inc, Florida and Burkina Faso
Charles G Erickson MD	Pediatric Consultant, Lincoln, Nebraska
Abraham S. Feigenbaum, PhD	Nutritional biochemist (retired), Highland Park, NJ
Sarah P. Fellows, MPH	Preventive Medicine and Community Health, Missouri
Major Shormin Ara Ferdousi, MD	Child Specialist, Combined Military Hospital, Bangladesh
Dr Valeria Frighi	Department of Psychiatry, University of Oxford, England
Scott Geller MD	Private practice in ophthalmology, Fort Myers, Florida
Bruce Goldman, PhD	Science journalist (medicine and cancer), California
Jeffrey M. Hartog, DMD, MD	Plastic Surgeon, Winter Park, Florida
Marjorie Mazel Hecht	Managing Editor, <i>21st Century Science & Technology</i> , Virginia
Peter H. Helseth, MD,	Minneapolis, MN
Sandy Hoar, MPAS, PA-C	Asst Clinical Professor, George Washington Univ, Washington, DC
George Isajiw, MD	Private Practice, Upper Darby, Pennsylvania
Rajiv Jain, MD, DO	Emergency room physician, Virginia Associate Professor, Marshall U Medical Center, Lavalette, WV
James Johnsen, MD	Private practice, Fairfax, Virginia
Kusuma Johnsen, MD	Cardiac care nurse, Fairfax, VA and Bangkok, Thailand

Signatories:

Physicians, infectious disease experts and scientists 3

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<i>Name and degree:</i>	<i>Title, affiliation(s) and state or country of residence:</i>
Robert Muhia Karanja, MSc	Parasitology Research Officer, Kenya Medical Research Institute
Jeffrey Kemprecos	Director, Merck Sharp & Dohme, Turkey
Jay Lehr, PhD	Science Director, Heartland Institute, Illinois
Christiane J. Levine, RN	Coordinator, Student Leaders Against Malaria, Emory Univ, Georgia Former chair, International Affairs, Atlanta Women's Club
Russell C. Libby, MD	Pediatric medicine, Fairfax, VA
Joyce Lockard, PhD	Virologist (retired), Oregon Member, American Association of University Women
Angela Logomasini, MS	Director, Risk and Envir Policy, Competitive Enterprise Inst, Virginia
Brian MacWhinney	Professor of Psychology, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh
Jack D. McCarthy, MD	Private practice, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Tomas McFie, PhD	Owner and director of wellness centers in Oregon, Virginia and Idaho
Wilbur K. Milhous, PhD	Chief Science Officer for Therapeutics Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Maryland
Henry I. Miller, MD	Fellow, The Hoover Institution, Stanford University, California
Lorraine Mooney	Medical Demographer, Africa Fighting Malaria, England
Charles F. Morton, DDS	Union City, MI
Neil D. Nickerson, MD, FACP	Medical Director (emeritus), Minnesota Int'l Health Volunteers
Frank J. Petrone, MD	Commonwealth Orthopedics & Rehabilitation, Fairfax, VA
Daniel Pasquier, MD, PhD	Neurologist, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia
Arthur B. Robinson, PhD	President, Oregon Institute of Science and Medicine, Oregon
Mauricio Humberto Rodriguez	Chief of Public Health, Amazon Region, Colombia, South America
Professor Gustavo C. Rossi	Mosquito Taxonomist, Centro de Estudios Parasitológicos y de Vectores, Argentina
Marvin R. Rush, MD	Huntingburg, Indiana
Sally L. Satel, MD	Resident Scholar, American Enterprise Institute, Washington, DC
Amma A. Semanya	PhD candidate, Emory Vaccine Center, Emory University, Georgia
Aye Yu Soe, MBBS, DMA	Humphrey Fellow, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory U, Georgia Former researcher in clinical malaria, Burma
Dr. Oscar Daniel Salomón, MD	Centro Nacional de Diagnóstico e Investigación de Endemo-epidemias, Argentina
Hugo Schmidt	Molecular biologist, Great Britain
Roy W. Spencer, PhD	Principal Research Scientist, Earth System Science Center, The University of Alabama in Huntsville
Philip Stevens	Director, Health Programme, International Policy Network
Anwarul Hasan Sufi, PhD	Professor and former chairman, Department of Psychology, University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh
D. Rutledge Taylor, DO/MDCRT	Private practice, Los Angeles, CA
T. Stephen Thompson	President & CEO, Immtech International, Inc, Illinois Former GM, Hepatitis & Infectious Disease Unit, Abbott Laboratories

Signatories:

Physicians, infectious disease experts and scientists 4

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Name and degree:

Title, affiliation(s) and state or country of residence:

Hans van Dijken, PhD
John J. Verdon, Jr, MD

Professor of Microbiology, Delft Univ of Technology, Netherlands
Private practice, Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine, New Jersey
Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Univ. of Dentistry & Medicine of NJ
Clinical Professor of Plastic Surgery, University of California at Irvine

David L. Wood, MD

For more information, see “Background: Facts about DDT,” following the signatories

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Signatories:

Religious and human rights leaders 1

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<i>Name and degree:</i>	<i>Title, affiliation(s) and state or country of residence:</i>
Harry C. Alford E. Calvin Beisner, PhD	President & CEO, Natl Black Chamber of Commerce, Washington, DC Associate Professor, Knox Theological Seminary, Florida Member of Advisory Board, Interfaith Stewardship Alliance
John L. Boone	Director, Institute on Religion and Democracy, Washington, DC Chairman and Founder, Presbyterian Action for Faith and Freedom Director, The Presbyterian Lay Committee
Rev. Ren Broekhuizen J. Ligon Duncan III, PhD	Retired Pastor and former African Missionary, Michigan and Wyoming Senior Minister, First Presbyterian Church, Mississippi President, Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals
Roy Innis Rabbi Daniel Lapin	National Chairman, Congress of Racial Equality, New York President, Toward Tradition, Washington Member of Advisory Board, Interfaith Stewardship Alliance
Garry J. Moes	Advisory Board member, Interfaith Stewardship Alliance, California Editor/Publisher, Graybrook Institute; Former editor, Associated Press
Reverend Robert Sirico	President, Acton Institute for the Study of Religion & Liberty, Michigan Member of Advisory Board, Interfaith Stewardship Alliance
Rev. Rick Warren Daniel Wolgemuth Samuel C Wolgemuth	Pastor and Author, <i>The Purpose Driven Life</i> President and CEO, Youth for Christ/USA Former President and CEO of Freedom Communications, Inc, Illinois Vice Chair, World Relief Corporation (relief and development arm of The National Association of Evangelicals)
Mary Jo Anderson Reverend Paul W. Baer	Contributing Editor, <i>Crisis Magazine</i> Host, Pediatric Ward, University Medical Center, Arizona Pastor Emeritus, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Arizona
Michael Bauman, PhD Reverend John Michael Beers	Professor of Theology and Culture, Hillsdale College, Michigan Dean, Ave Maria University, Florida Member of Advisory Board, Interfaith Stewardship Alliance
Rabbi Joshua Ben-Gideon Rabbi Joel Berman Corbin Boekhaus Ray Bohlin, PhD Istvan Borzasi Pastor Ren Broekhuizen	Assistant Rabbi, Congregation Olam Tikvah, Fairfax, VA Ohev Tzedek – Sha'arei Torah Congregation, Ohio Student, Divinity School of Wake Forest University, North Carolina President, Probe Ministries, Texas President, Convention of Hungarian Baptist Churches of Romania Former missionary to Africa (retired), Michigan
Raquel Burciaga Scott Bryant Reverend Jeffrey E. Carroll Reverend David F. Chandler Mary Connelly Father Stuart Cranshaw	Mission Amen Lima, Peru Westminster Theological Seminary Trinity Community Church, Maryland Pastor, Trinity Covenant Church, Connecticut Cathedral of St. Paul, Minnesota Priest in Charge, Holy Trinity Church, Wyoming Spiritual Advisor, Welch Cancer Center

Signatories:

Religious and human rights leaders 2

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<i>Name and degree:</i>	<i>Title, affiliation(s) and state or country of residence:</i>
Rev. Ronald T. Davidson	President and Founder, Gleaning for the World, Virginia
Donald A. DeSmith	The Servants of the Word, Michigan
Father Phillip W. DeVous	Chaplain, Thomas More College, Kentucky
Maxie D. Dunnam	Chancellor, Asbury Theological Seminar, Tennessee
Trenton D. Eastman	Pastor, Beverly Hills Baptist Church, West Virginia
Scott Erbe	InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Western Michigan University
Todd R. Flanders, PhD	Headmaster, Providence Academy, Minnesota
Doug Floyd	President, Spring of Light Ministries, Tennessee
Pheiga Gabispou	Relief & Development Coordinator, Asian Baptist Federation
Joseph E. Gorra	Managing Editor, <i>Philosophia Christi</i> , California
Reverend Scott R. Greenway	Pastor, Caledonia Christian Reformed Church, Michigan
Reverend Bo Helmich	Associate Pastor, Grace Church of the Roaring Fork Valley, Colorado
Ismael Hernandez	Exec Director, African Caribbean American Catholic Center, Florida
Reverend Irfon Hughes	Pastor, Hillcrest Presbyterian Church, Volant, Pennsylvania Member of Advisory Board, Interfaith Stewardship Alliance
Jerry Johnson, MACS, MPhil	Director, The Apologetics Group, Virginia
Lynn Kennedy	Founder and missionary, Shattering Darkness, Inc, Burkina Faso
John R. Khushal	Associate Director, India Campus Crusade for Christ, India
Reverend Malcolm M. King III	Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Tennessee
Reverend David S. Klompfen	Pastor, Dutton United Reformed Church, Michigan
Henry Krabbendam	Chairman, Africa Christian Training Institute, Georgia
Scott B. Luley, PhD	Director, Christian Leadership Ministries, Eastern Region, New Jersey
Sister Mary Louise Matt	Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Minnesota Retired teacher and diocesan director of religious education
Kris Mauren	Exec Dir, Acton Institute for the Study of Religion & Liberty, Michigan
MaryJo Meyer	Elder of First Presbyterian Church, Mental health psychologist (retired), Fort Wayne, Indiana
Father C. Eugene Morris	Director, Office of the Permanent Diaconate, St. Louis, Missouri Asst Professor of Sacramental Theology, Kenrick-Glennon Seminary
Rev. Nathan Ogan	Senior Pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Los Banos, CA
Harold Orndorff	Campus Minister, Christian Student Fellowship, Northern Kentucky U
Father Hector R G Perez, STD	St. Stephen Congregation, Florida
Rabbi Gary Perras	Temple Israel, Daytona Beach, Florida
Scott Rae	Professor, Talbot School of Theology, Biola University, California
Rolf and Sherri Ronstadt	Directors, International Ambassadors for Christ, Illinois
Austin Ruse	President, Catholic Family and Human Rights Initiative
Nelda Smothers	Int'l Service Corp missionary, Southern Baptist Convention, Illinois
Jude Chua Soo Meng, PhD	Assistant Professor, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
William Sweetman, PhD	Lecturer in Theology, University of Otago, New Zealand

Signatories:

Religious and human rights leaders 3

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<i>Name and degree:</i>	<i>Title, affiliation(s) and state or country of residence:</i>
Kenneth Gary Talbot, PhD	President and Professor, Whitefield Theological Seminary, Florida
Matthew A. Tapie	Assistant Minister, Farmers Branch Church of Christ, Texas
David Thurman	Chaplain
Bekeh Utietiang	Student in Theology and Religious Studies, Catholic U of America
Peter H. VandeBrake, MDiv, PhD	Headmaster, North Hills Classical Academy
Michael Voet	Chair, Wisconsin Social Concerns Ministry
Reverend Curtis Walters	Pastor, Covenant Christian Reformed Church, Michigan
Rabbi Daniel M. Zucker	Chairman, Americans for Democracy in the Middle-East, New York. Professor of Hebrew Language, Long Island University
Linda Bly	Healthcare and women's rights advocate, Vermont
Cyril Boynes, Jr.	Director, Global Role Models Fund, New York International Affairs Director, Congress of Racial Equality
W. Ronald Evans	President, National Business League, Washington, DC
Niger Innis	National Spokesman, Congress of Racial Equality, New York
Dr. Rosemary M. Jensen	President and General Director, Rafiki Foundation, Inc., Texas
Joseph Lovece, Jr.	President and CEO, Northstar-Foley Contracting Group, New York Board Member, Congress of Racial Equality
Norris McDonald	President, African American Environmentalist Association, Maryland
Carl L. McGill	CEO and Chairman, Black Chamber of Commerce of Los Angeles, CA Assistant Western Regional Director, Congress of Racial Equality
John Meredith	Member, Project 21, Virginia Empowerment, Washington, DC and Kenya
Sam Togba Slewion	Social worker, journalist, anti-malaria activist, Liberia & Pennsylvania
Lee H. Walker	President, New Coalition for Social and Economic Change, Illinois

For more information, see “Background: Facts about DDT,” following the signatories

To learn more about malaria and this declaration, visit www.FightingMalaria.org

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Signatories:

African clergy, disease experts, scholars, and political and business leaders 1

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<i>Name and degree:</i>	<i>Title, affiliation(s) and state or country of residence:</i>
Desmond M Tutu	Archbishop Emeritus, Cape Town Diocese, South Africa 1984 Nobel Peace Laureate
F. W. de Klerk	Former President of South Africa 1993 Nobel Peace Laureate
Hon. Professor Gilbert Bukenya	Vice President, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Apollo Nsibambi	Prime Minister, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Dr. Sam Zaramba, MD	Director General of Health Services, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Dr. Stephen Mallinga, MD	Minister of Health, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Dr. Emmanuel Otalla, MD	Minister of State for Primary Health Care, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Dr. J.B. Rwakimari, MD	National Malaria Control Program Manager, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Richard Nduhura	Minister of State for Health, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Sulaiman Madada	Minister of State for Disabilities, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Dorothy Hyuha	Minister Without Portfolio, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Maria Mutagamba	Minister of Water and Environment, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Kahinda Otafire	Minister of Local Government, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Ruhakama Rugunda	Minister of Internal Affairs, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Beatrice Wabudeya	Minister for the Presidency, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Adolph Mwesigye	Minister for General Duties, Office of the PM, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Kabakumba	Minister for Chief Whip, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Kasirivu Atwooki	Minister of State for Lands, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Kamanda Bataringaya	Minister of State for Minerals, Republic of Uganda
Hon. John Byabagambi	Minister of State for Works, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Simon D'ujanga	Minister of State for Energy, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Musa Ecweru	Minister of State for Disaster Preparedness, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Ephraim Kamuntu	Minister of State for Industry, Republic of Uganda
Hon. James Kinobe	Minister of State for Youth, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Ssemakula Kiwanuka	Minister of State for Investment, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Omwony Ojok	Minister of State for Planning, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Mwesigwa Rukutana	Minister of State for Labor, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Bright Rwamirama	Minister of State for Animal Industries, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Urban Tibamanya	Minister of State for Urban Development, Republic of Uganda
Hon. David Wakikona	Minister of State for Northern Uganda, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Michael Werikhe	Minister of State for Housing, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Edward Ssekandi	Speaker of Parliament, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga	Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Republic of Uganda
Hon. General Elly Tumwine	Senior Presidential Adviser and Member of Parliament., Uganda Chairman, The Creations Ltd.

Signatories:

African clergy, disease experts, scholars, and political and business leaders 2

Note: Organizational affiliations are for identification purposes only and do not necessarily imply any formal organizational endorsements.

<i>Name and degree:</i>	<i>Title, affiliation(s) and state or country of residence:</i>
Hon. Katongole Badhul	Member of Parliament, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Chris Baryomunsi	Member of Parliament, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Nathan Byanyima	Member of Parliament, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Bahati David	Member of Parliament, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Dombo Lumala Emmanuel	Member of Parliament, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Okot Ogong Felix	Member of Parliament, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Epetiat Francis	Member of Parliament, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Guma Gumisiriza	Member of Parliament, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Banyenzaki Henry	Member of Parliament, Republic of Uganda
Hon. K Tumwebaze Kagiigi	Member of Parliament, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Rwebembera Kiiza James	Member of Parliament, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Kasaija Stephen Kagwera	Member of Parliament, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Kiboijana Margeret	Member of Parliament, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Wasiki Stephen Mugeni	Member of Parliament, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Mary Mugyenyi	Member of Parliament, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Sebuliba Mutumba	Member of Parliament, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Jim Katgugu Muhwezi	Member of Parliament, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Adolph Kasaija Mwesigye	Member of Parliament, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Mafabi Nathan	Member of Parliament, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Mbagadhi Frederick Nkayi	Member of Parliament, Republic of Uganda
Hon. John Ogwang	Member of Parliament, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Kahinda Otafiire	Member of Parliament, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Kamba Saleh	Member of Parliament, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Byanagwa Samuel	Member of Parliament, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Kabuus Moses Wagaba	Member of Parliament, Republic of Uganda
Hon. Okecho William	Member of Parliament, Republic of Uganda
Fiona Kobusingye	Businesswoman, coordinator of Congress of Racial Equality Uganda
Dr. Kaggwa N. Lawrence, MD	Senior consultant and Director of Health Services, Republic of Uganda
John P. Kabayo, PhD	Coordinator, Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign, African Union, Ethiopia
	Former Member of Parliament of Uganda
Reverend Chanshi Chanda	Acton International Affiliate, Zambia
Bishop Bernard Njoroge	Episcopal Bishop of Nairobi, Kenya
	Member of the Kenyan Constitutional Commission
Christina Dlamini Irvin	Member, Royal Family of Swaziland
John Dada, PhD, RN, MPH	Programs Director, Fantsuam Foundation, Nigeria
Dzabu Dlamini, MBA	Financial analyst, Swaziland

Signatories:

African clergy, disease experts, scholars, and political and business leaders 3

Note: Organizational affiliations are for identification purposes only and do not necessarily imply any formal organizational endorsements.

<i>Name and degree:</i>	<i>Title, affiliation(s) and state or country of residence:</i>
Dr Fatai A. Fehintola, PhD	Senior Lecturer and Consultant Physician/Clinical Pharmacologist Dept of Clinical Pharmacology, University College Hospital, Nigeria
Joseph Harvey, MD, MPH&TM	Diplomate ABFP Medical Director, Pioneer Christian Hospital, Impfondo, Republic of Congo (Brazzaville)
Rebecca S. Harvey, RN	Missionary Nurse, Republic of Congo (Brazzaville)
Robert T. Jensen, MD	Founder, Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center, Moshi, Tanzania
Dr. Njunwa Kato Jonas	Associate Professor, Entomology and Parasitology, Kigali Health Institute, Rwanda
Dr. Ronel Kellerman	MBChB (Pretoria), DTM&H (Liverpool), MSc (LSTMH) Specialist, School of Public Health, Wits University, South Africa
Professor Wen L. Kilama	Managing Trustee, African Malaria Network Trust (AMANET), Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology, Tanzania
Cindy Korir, PhD	Malaria Research Program, Vaccine Center, Emory Univ, Georgia Native of Kenya
Makundi Emmanuel, MPhil	Medical Sociologist, Health Systems and Policy Research Department National Institute for Medical Research, Tanzania
Mamane N. Garba, PharmD	Research scientist, Niger, and Graduate Student, Emory Univ, Georgia
Abere Mihrete, PhD	Director, Anti-Malaria Association, Ethiopia
Pauline NM Mwinzi, PhD	Senior Research Officer, Kenya Medical Research Institute, Kenya
Paul Ndebele	Bioethicist, Medical Research Council of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe
Syrulwa Somah, PhD	Professor of Environmental Health, North Carolina A&T State Univ. Executive Director, Liberian History, Education Development, Inc.
John Spurrier, MD	Medical Advisor to the Executive Director, Macha Mission Hospital, Zambia
Antoine Leonard van Gelder, MD	Professor and Head of Internal Medicine Department, University of Pretoria, South Africa
Akinyi J. Arunga	Inter-Region Economic Network, Kenya
George Ayittey	President, Free Africa Foundation, Washington, DC
Thompson Ayodele	Director, Institute of Public Policy Analysis, Nigeria
Olanrewaju Bamgbose	Chief Operating Officer, Development Concepts, Inc, Nigeria
Bitrus Cobongs	President, Africa Center for Mentorship, Texas
Franklin Cudjoe	Director, Imani Ghana Centre for Humane Education, Ghana
Darius Coulbaly	President, Empowering the Poor and high school teacher, Virginia
Eustace Davie	Director, Free Market Foundation, South Africa
Hajiya Ashe Galadima	Bama Local Government, Nigeria
Simon Gusah	Project Manager, People-Centered Development for Tivland, Nigeria
William Hearmon	Director, Red Chilies Enterprises, Botswana
Busisiwe Irvin	Film Co-Star, <i>Roll Bounce</i> , Swaziland
Kelvin Kemm, PhD (physics)	CEO, Stratek Business Strategy Consultants, South Africa

Signatories:

African clergy, disease experts, scholars, and political and business leaders 4

Note: Organizational affiliations are for identification purposes only and do not necessarily imply any formal organizational endorsements.

<i>Name and degree:</i>	<i>Title, affiliation(s) and state or country of residence:</i>
Gertrude Kihunrwa	Mother and malaria control advocate, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Titus Korir	Corporate Affairs Director, James Finlay, Ltd., Kenya
Ponsak Luka Kudor	Travel Agent, Tim Tali Travels, Nigeria
Leon Louw	Executive Director, Free Market Foundation of South Africa
Jojo Mulunda	Board member, African Student Association, Emory Univ, Georgia Native of Democratic Republic of Congo
Mulekye T. Mukoko, MIS, BAC	Founder, Uzima International Inc (NGO), Maryland Associate, Avmark, Inc, United States; native of Congo
Oliver Mupila, PhD	Executive Director for the Network of Asylees and Advocates Against Terror and Torture, Texas Former Commissioner General, Afro-Elder International, Zambia
Vincent Kasuende Ntambwe	Master in Tropical Medicine, Medical Demographer, native of Congo Chairman of Board, Uzima International (NGO), Belgium
Anthony Okonmah	Executive Director, Foundation for Democracy in Africa, Florida
Fred Oladeinde	President/CEO, Foundation for Democracy in Africa, Washington, DC
Rosemary S. Segero	President & CEO, Humanitarian Initiative for Community Development
Professor Themba Sono	President, Alliance of Free Democrats, South Africa President, University of South Africa Convocation
Hoangizaw Tegegne	Coordinator, Canadian Initiative Against Malaria, Ethiopia
Fatou Traoré	Ashesi University, Accra, Ghana
Richard Tren	Director, Africa Fighting Malaria, South Africa
Jasson Urbach	Coordinator, Africa Fighting Malaria, South Africa
H. Christo Viljoen, PhD	Deputy Vice Chancellor (emeritus), Stellenbosch Univ, South Africa
Mabe Akhos Wathysa	General Secretary, Grapedeco International, Nairobi, Kenya
Mohamed Woni	Professional basketball player, Virginia, Ivory Coast and the world
Muna A. Wreh, MPA, CSAC	Development Economist, Women & Youth Advocate, Liberia
Tawanda Zidenga	PhD candidate in Biosciences, Ohio State Univ, Ohio and Zimbabwe
Edmund Zingu, PhD	Past President, South African Institute of Physics, South Africa

To endorse the Declaration, send your personal information to pdriessen@cox.net

Signatories:

Educators and public policy experts 1

Note: Organizational affiliations are for identification purposes only and do not necessarily imply any formal organizational endorsements.

<i>Name and degree:</i>	<i>Title, affiliation(s) and state or country of residence:</i>
Mattias Bengtsson	President, Centre for the New Europe, Belgium
Ed Crane	President, Cato Institute, Washington, DC
T. Kenneth Cribb, Jr.	President, Intercollegiate Studies Institute, Delaware Former Domestic Policy Advisor to President Ronald Reagan
Thomas R. DeGregori, PhD	Professor of Economics, University of Houston, Texas
Paul Driessen	Senior Policy Advisor, Center for Defense of Free Enterprise, Virginia Senior Policy Advisor, Congress of Racial Equality Director, Economic Human Rights Project
Hannes Gissurarson	Professor of Environmental Studies, University of Iceland Former Chief Advisor to the Prime Minister of Iceland
Deepak Lal	Professor of International Development, U of California at LA (UCLA) Professor Emeritus of Political Economy, University College, London
Herb London	President, Hudson Institute, New York
Shamim ul Moula, PhD, MBBS	Chief Executive, Parallel Force for Development, Bangladesh Chairman, Safe Life (national Bangladesh NGO)
Benny J. Peiser, PhD	Faculty of Science, Liverpool John Moores University, England
C. S. Prakash, PhD	Director, Ctr for Plant Biotechnology Research, Tuskegee U, Alabama
David M. Stanley	Chairman, National Taxpayers Union, Washington, DC
Brian S. Wesbury	Adjunct Professor of Economics, Wheaton College Member, Academic Advisory Council: Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago
Talal Abu-Hassan	Program Officer, Center for International Private Enterprise, Virginia
John Adams, PhD	Emeritus professor of geography, University College of London, UK
Nizam Ahmad	President, Free Bangla Market, United Kingdom and Bangladesh
James Ahiakpor, PhD	Professor of Economics, California State University East Bay, CA
Paul J. Allen	Fisheries Research Biologist, Ball State University, Indiana
Dora Ampuero	Exec. Director, Instituto Ecuatoriano de Economia Politica, Ecuador
Abdullahi A. An-Na`im, PhD	Charles H. Candler Professor of Law, Emory School of Law, Georgia
Alex Avery	Research Director, Ctr for Global Food Issues, Hudson Inst, Virginia
Dennis Avery	Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute, Virginia
Charles Baird	Co-Chairman, Dept.. of Economics, Cal State University at East Bay
Whitney L. Ball	Executive Director, Donors Trust, Virginia
Thomas Behr, PhD	Professor, Department of History, University of Houston, Texas
George Bennett	Associate Professor of Pharmacology, Millikin University, Illinois
Eneas Biglione	Latin American Fellow, Atlas Foundation, Virginia and Argentina
Mr. Greg Blankenship	Executive Director, Illinois Policy Institute
Karol Boudreaux	Senior Fellow, Mercatus Center at George Mason University, Virginia
Hardy Bouillon, PhD	Director of Academic Affairs, Centre for the New Europe, Belgium
Peter J. Brown, PhD	Professor of Anthropology and Global Health, Emory Univ, Georgia
David Burgess	Adjunct Professor, Institute of World Politics, Washington, DC
Peter Burgess	CEO, Transparency and Accountability Network, New York

Signatories:

Educators and public policy experts 2

Note: Organizational affiliations are for identification purposes only and do not necessarily imply any formal organizational endorsements.

Name and degree:

Title, affiliation(s) and state or country of residence:

H. Sterling Burnett, PhD
Paul Caprio
Kenneth W. Chilton, PhD

Senior Fellow, National Center for Policy Analysis, Texas
Executive Director, Family-PAC Federal, Illinois
Director, Institute for Study of Economics and the Environment
Associate Professor of Management, Lindenwood University, Missouri
Professor of Economics, Birmingham-Southern College, Alabama
Communications Director, Competitive Enterprise Institute, Virginia
Senior Fellow, Competitive Enterprise Institute, Virginia
Researcher, Africa Fighting Malaria, Maryland
Professor of Economics, University of Delaware
Reader in Public Accountability, Newcastle Business School, England
Professor of Political Science, Loyola University Chicago

Paul A. Cleveland
Jody Clarke
Gregory Conko
Philip Coticelli
Eleanor Craig, PhD
Barrie Craven, PhD
John W. Danford, PhD

Karen P. Danford, PhD
Douglas E Daugherty, Sr.
Henry L. Deneen
Philip E. Devine, PhD
Thomas DeWeese
G. Edward Dickey, PhD
Vicki Dunne, MLA
Richard T. Dykema

Adjunct Instructor, University of Chicago
Coordinator, Chattanooga Resource Foundation, Tennessee
Executive Director, Center for Global Strategies, South Carolina
Professor of Philosophy, Providence College, Rhode Island
President, American Policy Center, Virginia
Affiliate Professor of Economics, Loyola College of Maryland
Member for Ginninderra, Shadow Minister for Education, Australia
Chief of Staff/Legislative Director, Representative Dana Rohrabacher
U.S. House of Representatives, California
Adjunct Fellow, American Enterprise Institute, Ohio
President, Andes Libres, Peru

Jon Entine
Edwar Escalante

Cesar Fernandez-Stoll
Duggan Flanakin
Michael Fumento
Castle J. Funatake
Glenn Goforth
John C. Goodman
Mark Y. Herring
Peter Holle
Waldemar Ingdahl
Lene Johansen

President, Ferstoll Management Consultants, Ontario, Canada
Regional Director, Committee For A Constructive Tomorrow, Texas
Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute, Virginia
Grad Research Asst, Envir & Molecular, Toxicology, Oregon State U
Headmaster, Providence Classical School
President, National Center for Policy Analysis, Texas
Dean of Library Services, Winthrop University, South Carolina
President, Frontier Centre for Public Policy, Manitoba, Canada
Director, Eudoxa think tank, Stockholm, Sweden
Director of US Operations, The Eudoxa Think Tank, Missouri

James L. Johnston
Daniel Kahn
Robert O. Kalbach, Ph. D
Joel M. Kauffman, PhD
Ruth Kava, PhD, RD
Drew L. Kershen
Piotr Kowzan

First Vice President, Heartland institute, Illinois
Research Assistant, Resources for the Future, Washington, DC
Assoc. Professor of Chemistry, Finger Lakes Community College, NY
Professor of Chemistry Emeritus, University of Sciences, Philadelphia
Director of Nutrition, Amer Council on Science & Health, New York
Professor of Law, University of Oklahoma College of Law, Oklahoma
Teacher, Gdansk, Poland

Signatories:

Educators and public policy experts 3

Note: Organizational affiliations are for identification purposes only and do not necessarily imply any formal organizational endorsements.

Name and degree:

Title, affiliation(s) and state or country of residence:

Henry Lamb	President, Environmental Conservation Organization, Tennessee
Thomas D. Lancaster, PhD	Senior Assoc Dean for Undergraduate Education, Emory Univ, Georgia
Carl Lecher, PhD	Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Marian College, Indianapolis, IN
Michael Lee	Department of Finance, Johns Hopkins University, Maryland
Leonard P. Liggio	Professor and Executive VP, Atlas Economic Research Fdn, Virginia
Christopher Lingle, PhD	Senior Fellow, Centre for Civil Society, India
Brad Lips	Chief Operating Officer, Atlas Economic Research Fdn, Virginia
Romulo Lopez-Cordero	Senior Fellow, Atlas Economic Research Foundation, Virginia
Ashley March	Director of Foundation Relations, Cato Institute, Washington
Joseph P. Martino, PhD	Yorktown University, Colorado
Bob McClure	President and CEO, James Madison Institute, Florida
Alister McFarquhar, PhD	Downing College, Cambridge University, England
Robert and Mary McIntyre	The Oakwood School, Virginia
Tracy Miller	Assoc. Professor of Economics, Grove City College, Pennsylvania
Steven Milloy	Investment Advisor, Free Enterprise Action Fund, Maryland Publisher, JunkScience.com
Alberto Mingardi	General Director, Istituto Bruno Leoni, Italy
Barun Mitra	President, Liberty Institute, India
Deroy Murdock	Senior Fellow, Atlas Economic Research Foundation, New York
Sultana Nazneen, PhD	Directing Staff, Higher Secondary Teachers Training Inst, Bangladesh
Nick Nichols	Crisis Management Instructor, Johns Hopkins University, Maryland
C. R. Nicolaysen	University Registrar, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia
Juan Jose Ramirez Ochoa	Assistant Professor, Universidad Francisco Marroquin, Guatemala
Eric O'Keefe	President, Parents in Charge Foundation, Illinois
Gary J. Palmer	President, Alabama Policy Institute, Alabama
E. C. Pasour, Jr.	Agricultural and Resource Economics, North Carolina State University
Sylvia Chafuen de Pasquier	President, Instituto de Ciencia, Economía, Educación y Salud, Bolivia
Joel Patrick	Admissions Coordinator, Criswell College, Texas
Daniel S. Peters	President, Ruth & Lovett Peters Foundation, Cincinnati, Ohio
John G. Pierce	Adjunct Professor, Modern Languages, Columbus State Comm. College
William S. Pierce	Professor Emeritus of Economics, Case Western Reserve University
Daniel D. Polsby	Dean and Foundation Professor of Law, George Mason University School of Law, Virginia
Arthur Pontynen, PhD	Professor, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh
Scott A. Pullins, Esq.	Executive Director, Consumer Alert, Ohio and Washington, DC
Howard S. Rich	President, U.S. Term Limits, Washington, DC
Jay W. Richards, PhD	Research Fellow, Acton Institute for Study of Religion & Liberty, MI Co-author, <i>The Privileged Planet</i>

Signatories:

Educators and public policy experts 4

Note: Organizational affiliations are for identification purposes only and do not necessarily imply any formal organizational endorsements.

<i>Name and degree:</i>	<i>Title, affiliation(s) and state or country of residence:</i>
John H. Riskind, PhD	Professor of Psychology, George Mason University, Virginia Editor, <i>Journal of Cognitive Psychotherapy</i>
Brooke Rollins	President Texas Public Policy Foundation, Texas
Jeffrey A. Rosensweig, PhD	Assoc Professor, International Business and Finance, Emory U, Georgia
James Roumasset, PhD	Professor of Economics, University of Hawaii
Richard O. Rowland	President, Grassroot Institute of Hawaii
Craig Rucker	Executive Director, Committee For A Constructive Tomorrow, Virginia
D. Eric Schansberg, PhD	Professor of Economics, Indiana University at New Albany, Indiana
Stephen Suleyman Schwartz	Executive Director, Center for Islamic Pluralism, Washington, DC
Todd Seavey	Editor, HealthFactsAndFears.com, New York
Holli A. Semetko, PhD	Vice Provost for International Affairs, Emory University, Georgia
Tracie Sharp	President, State Policy Network
Thomas R. Simmons, PhD.	Professor, Greenfield Community College, Greenfield, Massachusetts
Daniel Mead Smith	President, Washington Policy Center, Washington
Carlo Stagnaro	Director, Free Market Environmentalism, Istituto Bruno Leoni, Italy
Patti Strand	Executive Director, National Animal Interest Alliance, Oregon
Suprada Sukonthabhirom	PhD candidate in Entomology, Kasetsart University, Thailand
Priscilla Tacujan	Atlas Economic Research Foundation, Virginia and Philippines
Jose L. Tapia-Rocha	President, Instituto de Libre Empresa, Peru
Steve Ugbah, PhD	Professor, College of Business & Economics, California State Univ
Geert van Calster, Dr. PhD	Co-director, Institute of Environmental and Energy Law, Belgium
John Valentine	Associate, Athena Capital Partners, Florida
Elena Draghici Vasilescu, PhD	University of Oxford, England
Mario Villarreal	Research Fellow, American Enterprise Institute. Mexico
Bob Williams	President Evergreen Freedom Foundation, Washington
Whitney Tilson	Board Member, Fistula Foundation, New York (supports Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia)
John D. Willis, PhD	Director, Graduate Studies in Dispute Resolution, Sullivan Univ, KY
Xu Yiqiao	Program Manager, Atlas Economic Research Fdn, Virginia and China
Malgorzata Zielinska	Teacher, Gdansk, Poland

For more information, see “Background: Facts about DDT,” following the signatories

To endorse the Declaration, send your personal information to pdriessen@cox.net

Signatories:

Business, political and government executives, and other people of conscience 1

Note: Organizational affiliations are for identification purposes only and do not necessarily imply any formal organizational endorsements of the Declaration.

<i>Name and degree:</i>	<i>Title, affiliation(s) and state or country of residence:</i>
David M. Beasley	Former Governor of South Carolina
Zbigniew Jaworowski	Former Chairman, UN Scientific Committee on Effects of Atomic Radiation. Poland
Steffond Johnson	CEO, The O'Shea Group, and former NBA basketball player, Texas Supporter and participant, "Dunk Malaria" initiative
David Keene	Chairman, American Conservative Union
Lance Laifer	Co-Founder, Hedge Funds vs. Malaria, Connecticut
Tibor R. Machan, PhD	Professor of Economics, Argyros School of Business and Economics Chapman University, California
Edwin Meese III	Former Attorney General of the United States
Alan Oxley Chairman, Australian	APEC Centre, Monash University, Australia
David M. C. Robertson	Drive Against Malaria, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Peter A. Samuelson	President, Americans United for Life
Robert Whelan	Deputy Director, Civitas: Institute for the Study of Civil Society London, UK
Amb. Curtin Winsor, Jr. PhD	Ambassador to Costa Rica (1983-85), Virginia Trustee of William H. Donner Fdn and Former Trustee of Africare
Dr. Robert D. Wolgemuth, LHD	Wolgemuth & Associates, Inc., Florida
Jennifer Burr Altabef	Attorney, Dallas, Texas
Kalajine Anigbogu	President, Global Real Estate Services Ltd, Illinois and Nigeria
Ararat Ayob	Eritrean-American poet, Virginia
Steven Baer	Trustee, Chicago Freedom Trust, Illinois
Doug Badow	Columnist and economic analyst, Virginia
Alexander Barnett, PhD	Artistic Director, Classic Theatre International. Maryland
Kalman Lee Benuska	Structural Engineer, California
Stuart L. Berman, MSc	Steelcase, Inc, Michigan
Richard & Joanne Beyer	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Donovan R. Bigelow, LLM.	Psychotherapist and lecturer, Seattle, Washington
Randal & Deborah Birkey	Oak Park, Illinois
Brian Bloss	Student and member of Western Kentucky University forensics team
Russell Boast	Associate Producer, <i>The Malaria Project: 3 Billion and Counting</i> , Calif
Keith W. Boatow	Blue Magic Music, Inc., New York
Richard J. Boerner	President, Seco Investments, Inc.
Thomas Borelli, PhD	President, Free Enterprise Action Fund, New York
George Borgen	Political organizer, Hialeah Florida
Sussy Borgen	Consultant /Branch Manager, TS Consulting International, California
James T. Brankin	CEO NetWeavers, Texas
Matthew J. Brouillette	CEO, Commonwealth Foundation for Public Policy Alternatives, PA
Samuel A. Brunelli	Senior Vice President, Team Builders International, Florida

Signatories:

Business, political and government executives, and other people of conscience 2

Note: Organizational affiliations are for identification purposes only and do not necessarily imply any formal organizational endorsements of the Declaration.

Name and degree:

Title, affiliation(s) and state or country of residence:

Marcel D. P. Burgler, CCIM	Principal Associate Broker, Prime Development Grand Rapids, MI
Wesley Calhoun	Student and member of Western Kentucky University forensics team
Jessie Cantrell	Administrative Assistant, Pfizer Pharmaceutical, New York
Christina Carroll	Murray State University, Murray, KY
Alan Caruba	President, The Caruba Organization, New Jersey
Ralph W. Conner	Former Mayor, Maywood, Illinois
Phyllis Kurlander Costanza	Advocate for children's health and rights, Atlanta, Georgia
Ann Wilson Cramer	Corporate Community Relations and Public Affairs, IBM Company
Mark R. Crovelli	PhD candidate, University of Colorado at Boulder
Paolo Cugnasca	New York, NY
James M Currin, PE	Consulting mechanical engineer, Michigan
John D'Aloia, Jr.	Captain, US Navy (retired), Columnist
Crystal A. Daly	Computer Technician, Florida
Gene F. Danforth	Paralegal and US Marine Corps (retired), Danbury, NH
Philip De Beer	Progressive Architect, Self-Sustainable Ecological Housing, London
Michael F. Denny	President, American Wine Distributors, San Francisco, California
Michael K. Doane	Director, Biotechnology Acceptance, Monsanto Company
John Dziak	Graduate student in statistics, Penn State University, Pennsylvania
Timothy M. Egan	President, High Park Group, Canada
Randy Eminger	Energy and Environment Analyst, Texas
Karl B. Erickson	Oregon State Government, Independent Writer, Oregon
Arit Essien	Business Mgmt. Account Coordinator. Coca-Cola Company, Georgia
Luis Felipe	Student in business administration, Santiago, Chile
Peter Flaherty	President, National Legal and Policy Center, Washington, DC
Elizabeth A. Foreman	Public Educator, Tucson, Arizona
Angela French	Carlisle, Ohio
Maura C. Furey	Chicago, Illinois
Gus Gianello	Day Trader, Ontario, Canada
Roger and Jeannie Giellis	Denver, Colorado
Indur Goklany	Environmental Policy Analyst, Virginia
Nancy Watson Good	Co-Founder, ChicagoCare Crisis Pregnancy Centers, Illinois
Gary J. Green	Consultant, Energy, Environmental, Health & Safety Risk, Arizona
Nancy & Lucien Grimm	Frederick County, VA
Roland Gunn	Vice President, Peterson Companies, Virginia
Marc Daniel Gutekunst, PhD	Co-Founder and CEO, Dekalb International Training Center, Georgia
Ivan Habanec	Consultant, London, UK
William Hennen	Pre-med, public health student, Utah
	Member of Amnesty International
David Hogberg, PhD	Senior Research Associate, Capital Research Center

Signatories:

Business, political and government executives, and other people of conscience 3

Note: Organizational affiliations are for identification purposes only and do not necessarily imply any formal organizational endorsements of the Declaration.

<i>Name and degree:</i>	<i>Title, affiliation(s) and state or country of residence:</i>
Jenny Hone	Editor, <i>Scrip Magazine</i> , United Kingdom
Carl F. Horowitz	National Legal and Policy Center, Washington, DC
Devin Hosea	Managing Director, Ritchie Capital Management, New York
	President and CEO, American Biophysics Corporation, Rhode Island
Barbara Howard	Barbara Howard & Associates, Miami Beach, FL
Richard & Barbara L. Hubbard	Associate Real Estate Brokers, Cirrus Realty Group, Phoenix, Arizona
Soleman A. Idd	Rainforest conservation director, Gabon and New Jersey
Ralph K. Iler, Jr.	Architect, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
Paul Jacob	Citizens in Charge Foundation, Virginia
Alexander Jech	Graduate student in philosophy, Notre Dame University, Indiana
Frances Brigham Johnson	International Property Rights Working Group, Virginia
James and Ulrike Karanja	Bad Endbach-Hartenrod, Germany
Rick Klemm	Exec Dir, Hawaiian Alliance for Responsible Technology & Science
Carol W. LaGrasse	President, Property Rights Foundation of America, New York
Neal J. Lang	Vice President for Information Systems, MWI Corporation, Florida
Johnny Lattner	1953 Heisman Trophy Winner (Notre Dame)
Flo Limehouse	Real estate broker, Tyler, Texas
Pierre Little	Publisher, <i>Atlantic Business Journal</i> , New Brunswick, Canada
Michael W. Lutke	Republic, Missouri
James & Mary Martorana	Lakewood, California
Jeff Maslan	President, Maryland State Pest Control Association
Mark Mathis	Exec. Director, Citizens' Alliance for Responsible Energy, New Mexico
Don McGuire	Information technology architect, Tennessee
Lawrence P. Meriage, PhD	VP Communications & Pub Affairs, Occidental Petroleum Corp, Calif
Robert Migliori	Boynton Beach FL
Roy Miller	Phoenix, Arizona
Henry K. Mngerem	Georgia and Nigeria
Martha Montelongo	Commentator and radio host, California
Deneen Moore	Free Enterprise Action Fund, New York
Charles F. Morton	Union City, Michigan
William Nesler	CEO, West Coast Aerial Applicators, Liberia
Mark Nichols	President, Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs, Oklahoma
Diana A. Oleskow Lubich	Florida
David Petch CBE	London, England
William Pickell	CEO, Washington Contract Loggers Association, Washington
Isaac Post	Regulatory Analyst, Competitive Enterprise Inst, Washington, DC
Franklin Raff	Executive Producer, Network Radio, Radio America, Virginia
Francesco Ramella, PhD.	Freelance Consultant, Italy

Signatories:

Business, political and government executives, and other people of conscience 4

Note: Organizational affiliations are for identification purposes only and do not necessarily imply any formal organizational endorsements of the Declaration.

Name and degree:

Title, affiliation(s) and state or country of residence:

Admiral Michael Ratliff	Former Director of Naval Intelligence, US Navy (retired)
Ramon Reblora	LCDR Ramon B Reblora PCG, Coast Guard, Philippines
Marjorie Ridley	Comfort, Texas
Peter Schaefer	International Development Specialist, Virginia
Justin Schwab	PhD Candidate, University of California at Berkeley
Barre Seid	CEO, Tripp Lite, Illinois
Jeffrey C. Silleck	Executive Director, Pregnancy Decision Health Centers
John R. Slagle	Tech Community College, Indiana
Sebastian Soto	Fulbright/APSA Congressional Fellow, Washington, DC and Chile
Chauncey Starr	President Emeritus, Electric Power Research Institute, Palo Alto, CA
Louis A. Stock	Chemical Industry Engineer (Retired)
Garnett Stover, Dr.	President, Stover Chiropractic, Virginia
Dale Stuart	CPA, Rogers, Arkansas
Jernej Šuštar, MAE	Walsh College, Troy, MI
James E. Swinnen	McGlinchey Stafford, PLLC, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Tom Tevlin	President & CEO, Greenspirit Strategies Ltd, British Columbia, Canada
John Tillman	President, Americans for Limited Government, Illinois
Greg Valentine	VP of Business Development, SEEGRID Corporation, Pennsylvania
Michael Vassar	Actuary, Aon consulting, New York
Vaclav Venc	Partner, Customs Business Solutions, Olomouc, Czech Republic
Sarah Weathersby	CEO, JSS Enterprises water purification systems, California
Christine C. Weber	Systems Consultant, Cincinnati, Ohio
Michael R. Wetzel, ACF, CF	Forester, Richardson Bell & McLeod, Georgia
Jeffrey Widmann	Operations director, West Coast Aerial Applicators, South Dakota
David Williams	Forth Worth, Texas
Amy Wombwell	Realtor, Louisville, KY
Linda Yarbrough`	Widow of American relief worker and malaria victim, New Mexico
Jerry Zandstra, PhD	Candidate for United States Senate, Michigan
Taras & Christina Zvir	Washington DC
Jeffrey C. Zysik	Managing Director, Tax & Administrative Services, Charitable Entity Administration, Florida

To endorse the Declaration, send your personal information to pdriessen@cox.net

Kill Malarial Mosquitoes NOW!

Background: Facts about DDT and opposition to it

The wide-ranging attacks on and near-banning of DDT represent history's most devastating embrace of junk science. DDT is one of the single most effective tools for fighting malaria, a disease that *kills over 1 million people annually*. Most of these deaths are among children and pregnant women, and those lucky enough to survive malaria are often left brain-damaged and facing a blighted future.²

About *2.2 billion people* live in malarial regions, and over *half a billion people* suffer acutely from the potentially fatal disease every year. Well over 70 percent of them live in Africa.³

Malaria is not just an unnecessary human tragedy. It is also an economic disaster. The disease imposes a huge economic toll on malarial countries – discouraging foreign investors, keeping tourists from visiting countries, incapacitating otherwise productive people, keeping millions at home to care for the sick, instead of producing goods and services, and exacting enormous healthcare costs that reduce budgets needed for other health, social and environmental programs.⁴

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that malaria may exact an economic cost on impoverished African nations in excess of \$12 billion per year.⁵ Others say the disease's total economic impact on Africa may be four to eight times this amount annually.

On a cost-benefit basis, malaria control ranks among the top priorities for measures to improve the world, according to the Copenhagen Consensus 2004, a panel of world-leading economists sponsored by *The Economist* magazine.⁶ Controlling this disease would bring innumerable benefits, it said.

Malaria is transmitted by mosquitoes, which carry deadly or debilitating protozoa from infected to non-infected people. Killing or repelling malarial mosquitoes has the bonus effect of halting other mosquito-borne diseases such as yellow fever and dengue fever. Shortly after the Second World War, DDT was used to eradicate or dramatically reduce malaria in the United States, Europe, Canada, Australia, Brazil, Sri Lanka, India, and many southern African countries.

In 1971, WHO said DDT is the “major single factor that made the concept of time-limited eradication possible.” It recommended continuing insecticide availability, “particularly DDT.”

Why? Because sprayed once or at most twice a year on mud-and-thatch huts and cinderblock homes common in Africa and other poor countries, DDT keeps mosquitoes from even entering, irritates those that do so they rarely bite, and kills most that land on the walls.

DDT both repels AND kills mosquitoes. Even mosquitoes resistant to DDT's insect-killer properties are repelled from homes and buildings whose walls have been sprayed with the insecticide, thereby protecting all the people therein. It's like putting giant mosquito nets over entire dwellings.

No other pesticide – at any price – is as effective, long-lasting, cost-effective and safe as DDT for repelling and killing malarial mosquitoes. In fact, DDT keeps up to 90 percent of mosquitoes from even entering a home. However, to kill (but generally not repel) DDT-resistant mosquitoes, alternative pesticides like synthetic pyrethroids and carbamates are effective and should be used.

No anti-malaria vaccine exists today, and there is little prospect of an effective vaccine being commercially available in the next ten years. Until that day, as history has shown, the best way to reduce or eliminate the incidence of malaria is to prevent the disease in the first place, by controlling the *Anopheles* mosquitoes that carry it.

This strategy works. Today, it can be combined with new and extremely effective Artemisinin-combination therapy (ACT) medicines, which both cure malaria in afflicted patients, and interrupt the chain of malaria parasite transmission from an ill person to another mosquito, and then to the next uninfected victim. DDT targets mosquitoes, and ACTs target malaria parasites. Used together, they are stunningly effective, as recent studies from Southern Africa dramatically demonstrate.

Many malarial countries have woefully inadequate healthcare and transportation systems. As a result, millions of doses of drugs expire before they can be used, many of those in need of treatment for malaria go without, and countless people die. If proper malaria controls were in place, fewer people would be infected, and those that are infected would have a better chance to receive effective drugs and treatment.

Government agencies have long promoted the use of anti-malarial drugs and insecticide-treated nets. These have a place in malaria control. But they cannot and should not replace other interventions, such as indoor spraying with insecticides, which dramatically reduce malaria cases and deaths.

In fact, indoor residual spraying with DDT reduced malaria cases and deaths by nearly 75 percent in Zambia over a two-year period – and by over 80 percent in South Africa in just one year.⁷

Having reduced malaria rates so dramatically, South Africa was then able to provide ACT medicines to a much smaller number of people who still became critically ill. In just three years, it slashed malaria rates by an astounding 96 percent!⁸ Other countries successfully followed South Africa's lead, and others want to do so. That is a primary reason why the WHO and USAID changed their policies.

It is critical that the UNICEF, Roll Back Malaria, World Bank and other agencies follow the USAID and WHO lead – and help ensure that malaria endemic countries have ready access to DDT. Both WHO malaria director Dr. Arata Kochi and the WHO website emphasize that “the WHO recommends indoor residual spraying of DDT for vector control.”⁹ By following WHO, USAID and Stockholm convention guidelines, other agencies can and must help countries reduce their malaria levels far enough that all who nevertheless get the disease can be treated with ACTs (or other equally effective) therapies that will remain in extremely short supply for the foreseeable future.

Insecticide-treated nets certainly help to a limited degree. However, they often get torn. They only protect one or two people at a time. People often don't use them, because the insecticide irritates their skin – or they forget ... kick them off when it gets too unbearably hot under the net to sleep ... don't have enough for every family member ... have no way to hang them up properly ... or are still doing homework or housework when mosquitoes arrive.

Sleeping under a bed net is nearly impossible during torrid African nights, says Omololu Falobi, a journalist in Nigeria. Use the net anyway, and you get heat rashes all over your face and body. Most villages have no electricity to power fans or air conditioners, and many of the same environmentalists who oppose pesticides also oppose electricity generation on any scale that would power these cooling systems. Even in cities like Lagos, power outages are frequent, rendering fans and AC useless. “Even if you have a generator,” says Falobi, “you don't want to put it on throughout the night, for fear of carbon monoxide poisoning.”

Medicines that actually cure malaria (mostly Artemisinin-based) are in critically short supply. In the past, some agencies opposed spending money on ACT medicines. However, the USAID has said 55 million pediatric treatments will be available in 2006, and more in subsequent years. But those treatments must reach 500 million critically ill malaria patients worldwide every year. That means 445 million will have no chance to get treated. Indeed, even under the most optimistic scenarios, there will be sufficient supplies of ACT drugs to treat fewer than 1 in 4 patients for at least the next several

years. DDT is absolutely critical to preventing malaria and reducing the number of patients needing these drugs. Treatment alone will never control the global malaria crisis.

Expanding the production of Artemisia is critical, however, and USAID, pharmaceutical companies and others are working hard to do so. More resources must be devoted to these efforts, too.

In highly endemic areas, people can get 1,000 *infectious* mosquito bites in a single year! Even with a 90% reduction in mosquitoes in the home (via DDT indoor spraying) or outside (through the use of other insecticides), they could still get 100 infectious bites per person per year. It is certain that some people will get malaria even with regular, effective spraying programs. That was and is the experience in South Africa and other countries, and those patients must have access to the very best medicine treatments in our repertoire.

Because they massively or completely eliminate malaria parasites (gametocytes) from the victim's blood, ACTs have another equally vital benefit. They significantly reduce the probability that a malaria-infected person can pass the infection to a mosquito, and in turn to the next person who gets bitten. Indeed, the gametocidal effect of Artemisinins may be comparable in magnitude to entomological (insecticidal) effects of DDT. Some research has found that one ACT drug (Coartem) slashed the proportion of patients carrying transmissible parasites to around 1/25 of what it had been when using older malaria medicines, such as SP or Chloroquine, which are no longer clinically appropriate. In fact, these obsolete medicines may fail in 50 to 80 percent of the cases.

Recognition of these facts is the principal reason that South Africa was able to go from an 80 percent reduction in malaria disease and death rates, using DDT alone – to a 96 percent reduction over 3 years, using DDT in combination with Coartem.

Drugs designed to prevent (through prophylaxis) the onset of malaria (Chloroquine, Malarone, Doxycycline and others) are likewise inadequate for 2.2 billion people who are at risk from malaria worldwide. In any event, people living in malarial areas cannot take malaria prophylaxis over an extended period of time, because of the expense and the often nasty side-effects they would suffer.

Only by slashing the number of people getting malaria, can malaria-wracked countries get the best drugs to those who still get sick. To do that, they need insecticides, especially DDT.

DDT and other insecticides helped eradicate malaria in the United States and Europe, saving countless lives. Today, insecticides are still America's first line of defense against West Nile virus and other diseases. It is callous and hypocritical to tell African and other malarial endemic nations that they cannot spray insecticides, when others use aerial and ground spraying every day. Moreover, we spray insecticides directly into the environment, whereas spraying DDT for malaria control only sprays insecticides inside houses.

The USAID once funded very effective indoor residual spraying programs around the world. Thankfully, in conjunction with the WHO and other agencies, it is now helping to revive America's and the world's once-proud anti-malaria programs.

Used by trained specialists in indoor residual spraying programs, almost no DDT gets into the environment. It's safe for humans, too. In its latest review of DDT, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences admitted it cannot prove that DDT harms human health.

Indeed, about the worst thing opponents can say is that "measurable quantities" of DDT are "present" in human fatty tissue and mother's breast milk, and "could" inhibit lactation or cause low birth weight babies. But these alleged problems are all but irrelevant compared to the risk of losing hundreds of thousands of children to malaria, year after year – especially in countries like Kenya, Uganda and Sierra Leone, where more than 50 percent of childhood deaths are due to this disease.

To a large extent, Rachel Carson's 1962 book *Silent Spring* launched the modern environmental movement and inspired the US EPA's 1972 domestic ban of DDT. After that, the US ban was expanded into a de facto global ban, with devastating effects. Carson's facts, however, were wrong.¹⁰

Extensive hearings on DDT before an EPA administrative law judge occurred during 1971-1972. The EPA hearing examiner, Judge Edmund Sweeney, concluded that "DDT is not a carcinogenic hazard to man DDT is not a mutagenic or teratogenic hazard to man The use of DDT under the regulations involved here does not have a deleterious effect on freshwater fish, estuarine organisms, wild birds or other wildlife."¹¹

Overruling the EPA hearing examiner, EPA Administrator William Ruckelshaus banned DDT in **1972**. However, Ruckelshaus never attended a single hour of the seven months of EPA hearings on DDT. His aides reported that he did not even read the transcript of the EPA hearings on DDT.¹²

How could this have happened? Because banning DDT was a political, not a scientific, decision. And its real author may have been President Richard M. Nixon.

"On February 10, **1970** he announced: 'we have taken action to phase out the use of DDT and other hard pesticides.' In December 1970, the administration created the EPA to implement executive environmental policy. A 1975 study out of Northern Illinois University notes: 'This is important. Long before the EPA hearings were convened and even before the EPA was created, Ruckelshaus' boss, President Nixon, had stated that DDT was being phased out. This leaves the hearings themselves superfluous, satisfying only a court requirement.'¹³

The DDT ban by EPA was followed by a USAID and WHO shift away from killing mosquitoes and toward other methods of malaria control (drug treatments, mosquito nets and more nebulous notions like "capacity building" and "integrated vector management"). However, these methods have not proven even remotely as effective as indoor residual spraying and other pesticide programs.¹⁴

A now debunked, odiously Malthusian population control logic also supported the de facto DDT ban in Africa and other poor regions. One USAID official reportedly said of those whom malaria would kill as a result of the ban on DDT: "Rather dead than alive and riotously reproducing." Others have made similar statements.¹⁵

Physician-author-medical researcher Michael Crichton has said the de facto ban on DDT to control malaria "has killed more people than Hitler."¹⁶ This is all the more tragic because, in the nearly half-century since *Silent Spring* was written, no connection between DDT and cancer, birth defects or any other human malady has ever been scientifically demonstrated. The only documented environmental effects of residual DDT are possible reproductive harms to raptors, including thinning of their eggshells, and even these have not been demonstrated conclusively.¹⁷

DDT junk science drove the world to the brink of imposing a universal ban on DDT via the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. The convention, known as the POPs Treaty, would have made the de facto ban legally binding and permanent. However, conscientious scientists and public health officials rallied to carve out a "DDT exemption" in the treaty. That exemption:

- 1) restricts DDT use and production to disease vector (*e.g.* mosquito) control only and does not permit the insecticide's renewed use for agriculture;
- 2) requires that countries using DDT must follow WHO guidelines for disease/vector control;
- 3) requires that countries notify the WHO if they use DDT;
- 4) requires that rich countries pay the "agreed incremental costs" of more expensive alternatives to DDT (this is located elsewhere in the treaty); and

- 5) encourages rich countries to support research and development of alternatives to DDT.

What the treaty does NOT require is equally important.

- 1) It does NOT require that a country notify WHO before it sprays DDT; thus, in an epidemic, a country may spray first and report to the WHO later.
- 2) It does NOT require that a country obtain the WHO's approval at any time.
- 3) It does NOT require that poor countries bear the added cost of alternatives to DDT.
- 4) It does NOT set a deadline by which countries must stop using or producing DDT.
- 5) It does NOT restrict DDT use to malaria control, but allows its use for controlling any vector-borne disease.¹⁸

(The POPS treaty was signed in 2001 by the Bush Administration, but has not yet been ratified by the US Senate. The KMMN Coalition believes US ratification, if it occurs at all, must be conditioned on prior legislation tying US aid funds to continue using DDT to repel and kill malarial mosquitoes.)

And yet for years, environmental imperialist ideology and inertia within aid agencies kept ensuring the deaths of millions each year. In 2004, USAID spent \$80 million on malaria, but *not a dime of it actually purchased insecticides* – and only \$4 million may have gone toward promoting or buying insecticide-treated bed nets. Most was spent on conferences, consultants and training programs.¹⁹

Overall, prior to 2006, the world was spending about \$200 million annually on malaria, most of it US money. Almost none of it was spent on actually killing or repelling mosquitoes.

These policies were met with outrage by infectious disease experts and many others. The *New York Times*, *Washington Times*, *Newsweek*, *Forbes*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Chicago Sun-Times* and other papers ran editorials strongly advocating the use of DDT to control mosquitoes and reduce malaria. *The New York Times Magazine*, *New Yorker*, *Time*, *Washington Monthly*, *Washington Post*, *Christian Science Monitor* and numerous other periodicals carried articles and opinion columns advocating expanded DDT use to combat malaria and save lives.

Even some Greenpeace and World Wildlife Fund officials have conceded the life-saving need for DDT. “If alternatives to DDT aren’t working, you’ve got to use it. If there’s nothing else and it’s going to save lives, we’re all for it,” their spokesmen have said.²⁰

Even Environmental Defense, which helped launch the original campaign against DDT, urged USAID to reconsider its policies. In a May 2004 letter, it pointed out that DDT’s primary role was repelling mosquitoes and asked the agency “not to forego consideration of indoor spraying of small quantities of DDT in developing countries areas where malaria is spread by indoor-dwelling mosquitoes.”²¹

DDT proponents advocate using it for indoor residual spraying on unpainted mud or cinderblock walls, which usually is the most cost-effective way to repel and kill malarial mosquitoes. This is akin to Americans spraying Raid insect killer and DEET repellent on the walls of their homes, though DDT application typically would not involve aerosols and would have to occur far less often. With indoor spraying, there is a vanishingly-small risk that DDT will even reach the environment.

DDT opponents, however, downplay or ignore the undeniable disease, disability and death tolls that their anti-DDT policies have wreaked in Africa and other malaria-endemic regions. They rail about alleged risks of using DDT – but ignore the life-or-death risks of not using it.

They falsely equate indoor residual spraying (IRS) with aerial spraying – which itself involves only hypothetical, unproven risk to birds, and may be cost-effective and appropriate (using insecticides other than DDT) in mosquito breeding areas near human population centers.

They emphasize minor hypothetical health and environmental risks from pesticides – and ignore the major, very real human risks that those pesticides would reduce or eliminate.

DDT opponents ignore the fact that Dade County, Florida and numerous other US communities routinely spray insecticides to control mosquitoes and other insects that carry far less lethal diseases, like West Nile virus, or simply prove irksome to residents and tourists. They refuse to acknowledge that, in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the US government sprayed much of the flooded and devastated areas with insecticides, to halt the spread of insect-borne diseases.

DDT opponents choose birds over little boys and girls, in a false dichotomy that requires the sacrifice of neither. They advocate the development and distribution of vaccines, bed nets and treatment drugs, plus the implementation of sanitation and other programs. But these interventions will likely take decades to become effective, if they ever do so – and during that time malaria will needlessly slaughter millions more people, who would live if their countries could acquire and deploy DDT and other pesticides now.

These callous, obstinate, ideological groups include the Pesticide Action Network, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Environmental Working Group, and allied individuals and organizations that they support in malarial countries like Kenya and Uganda. They receive millions of dollars annually from wealthy foundations like the California Endowment, Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund, Cedar Tree Foundation and many others like them. They are also supported by the Earth Communications Office (ECO), which recruits Hollywood and other celebrities to campaign against DDT.

As malaria survivor and activist Fiona Kobusingye-Boynes has said, these organizations are “killing African babies.” They rabidly oppose DDT, but they have “never contributed even one shilling toward finding a substitute.”

Even now – despite USAID, WHO, Global Fund and Environmental Defense endorsement of DDT for indoor spraying to control malaria – these anti-insecticide zealots are willing to sacrifice the lives of countless millions of men, women and children in Africa and on other continents, on the altar of junk science, nature worship and callous eco-imperialism. They must and will be exposed and held accountable for their actions, which violate the most basic of all human rights: the right to life.

Deploying DDT in developing countries is vital for Africa and other malarial regions. It is also good for the United States. Cutting malaria and other mosquito-borne disease rates:

- 1) reduces or eliminates the misery and non-productivity that often underlie regional unrest and result in requests for US military intervention; and
- 2) diminishes the ever-present danger of outbreaks, and even pandemics, of exotic, insect-borne diseases in the United States as a result of global travel by infected persons;
- 3) makes parents, teachers, students and workers healthy enough to be productive year round, thereby fostering huge strides in education, individual productivity and economic growth in Africa and elsewhere – and reducing foreign aid claims on US politicians and taxpayers.

Probably no other single action by the United States, World Health Organization or Europe has the potential for saving more lives, reducing or eliminating more disease, curtailing more human misery, and promoting greater development and prosperity than support for DDT use to control malaria.

Adding this insecticide to the world’s disease control arsenal – by compelling healthcare agencies to support its use – would arguably be the greatest single humanitarian and human rights action taken in the past quarter century. Its potential for changing world perceptions about the United States and other donor nations is likewise incalculable.

By contrast, failing to *Kill or Repel Malarial Mosquitoes NOW* will clearly and inevitably result in the needless sickness of billions of children and parents in Africa and other malaria endemic regions of the world ... needless endemic poverty – and the needless deaths of millions. It will be seen by the world as a callous continuation of a DDT ban that Michael Crichton properly called “one of the most disgraceful episodes of the twentieth century history of America.”

It is fraudulent science, incompetence and adamant refusal to face reality – rather than deliberate, calculated murder – that has spawned and perpetuated this slaughter.

But the death toll equals or exceeds that of the Holocaust (6 million men, women and children) every five years. Since the ban on DDT was first implemented, the body count has surpassed that of all World War II.

We recognize that DDT is no panacea or silver bullet. DDT alone cannot control or eradicate malaria and other killer diseases. However, DDT and ACT drugs are vital components of any comprehensive, cost-effective, life-saving disease control program. Their use must be fostered and encouraged, and all opposition to their use must end – or countless additional lives will be needlessly lost. That would be unconscionable and intolerable.

People of compassion and conscience simply cannot permit the slaughter of innocents to continue.

We know we can safely use DDT and other insecticides to save lives through humanitarian and environmentally sound programs.

We must muster the moral clarity and political willpower to do so – NOW.

To endorse the Declaration, send your personal information to pdriessen@cox.net

References:

- ¹ However, insecticides/repellants other than DDT are contemplated herein for outdoor or indoor applications, including rotation with DDT for IRS, if adjudged most cost-effective for malaria control by national health administrators for any given country.
- ² Testimony of Dr. Anne Peterson, Assistant Administrator for Global Health, USAID, before the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Committee on Foreign Relations, October 6, 2004.
- ³ Murru, Maurizio, "Malaria and DDT: Myths and Facts," *Health Policy and Development*, Vol. 2, No. 2, August 2004.
- ⁴ *Ibid.* See also Roger Bate and Richard Tren, *Malaria and the DDT Story*, Institute of Economic Affairs (2003), www.iea.org.uk and Roger Bate, "The Blind Hydra: USAID policy fails to control malaria," testimony before the United States Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs, Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information & International Security, May 12, 2005.
- ⁵ WHO, Fact Sheet on Malaria, www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs094/en/ and <http://www.who.int/malaria/>
- ⁶ See *The Wall Street Journal*, June 8, 2005 (editorial): "The brainchild of Danish statistician Bjorn Lomborg, the Consensus is an attempt by leading economists (including three Nobel Prize Laureates) to set priorities for spending on development using traditional cost-benefit analysis. 'We need to know what we should do first,' says Mr. Lomborg. 'Not being willing to prioritize does not make the problem go away: It simply becomes less clear – and, most likely, more expensive to solve in the end.'" In a responsive June 21, 2005 letter to the editor of the same periodical, physician James Horton said that malarial "disease control was crucial to the rise of the [American] South. The lesson from Southern history is that Third World economies improve when we address the burdens of diseases like malaria." Malaria and yellow fever may have reduced the South's productivity by one-third.
- ⁷ See Richard Tren and Roger Bate, "South Africa's War on Malaria" *Policy Analysis* No. 513, March 25, 2004, Cato Institute, Washington DC; Gautam Naik, "Novartis drug shows promise against malaria," *Wall Street Journal*, October 3, 2005 ("Malaria infections and deaths plunged 96% in a three-year period," Naik noted, when South Africa combined new Artemisin-based drugs with DDT indoor spraying in KwaZulu-Natal Province, a region the size of Indiana.)
- ⁸ See Karen Barnes, David Durrheim, et al., "Effect of Artemether-Lumefantrine policy and improved vector control on malaria burden in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa," *PLoS Medicine* (Public Library of Science), Volume 2, Issue 11, November 2005; <http://medicine.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1371/journal.pmed.0020330>
- ⁹ See <http://www.who.int/malaria/docs/FAQonDDT.pdf>
- ¹⁰ For example, Carson claimed DDT exposure "may seriously affect" bird reproduction," even when it causes "no observable harm. Quail into whose diet DDT was introduced throughout the breeding season survived and even produced normal numbers of fertile eggs. But few of the eggs hatched." In fact, the *Journal of Agriculture and Food Chemistry* study she cited actually determined that, when birds were fed high doses of DDT throughout their breeding season, 80% of the quail eggs hatched (compared with "control" birds that were fed no DDT and hatched 84% of their eggs), and 80% of pheasant eggs hatched (compared with "control" birds that hatched only 57% of their eggs). See Edwards, J. Gordon, "DDT: A case study in scientific fraud," *Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons*, Vol. 9, No. 3, Fall 2004; <http://www.jpands.org/vol9no3/edwards.pdf>; Alexander Gourevitch, "Better Living Through Chemistry: DDT could save millions of Africans from dying of malaria – if only environmentalists would let it," *Washington Monthly*, March 2003; Tina Rosenberg, "What the world needs now is DDT," *New York Times Magazine*, April 10, 2004.
- ¹¹ Sweeney, EM. 1972. EPA Hearing Examiner's recommendations and findings concerning DDT hearings, April 25, 1972 (40 CFR 164.32, 113 pages). Summarized in *Barrons* (May 1, 1972), *The Oregonian* (April 26, 1972) and J. Gordon Edwards (*op. cit.*). But in 1970, then Assistant US Attorney General Ruckelshaus said: "DDT is not endangering the public health and has an amazing and exemplary record of safe use. DDT, when properly used at recommended concentrations, does not cause a toxic response in man or other mammals and is not harmful. The carcinogenic claims regarding DDT are unproved speculation."
- ¹² *Santa Ana Register*, April 25, 1972 and Edwards.
- ¹³ Bate, Roger, "The Worst Thing Richard Nixon Ever Did," 4/15/2004 at <http://www.techcentralstation.com/041504I.html>
- ¹⁴ See Donald Roberts, Professor of Tropical Medicine, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (Bethesda, MD), testimony before U.S. Senate Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Committee on Foreign Relations, October 6, 2004.
- ¹⁵ Desowitz, R.S., *Malaria Capers*, W.W. Norton Company, 1992. Jacques Cousteau told *Nouvelle Observateur*, "In order to stabilize world populations, we must eliminate 350,000 people a day." Asked whether banning DDT would result in more deaths from disease, Environmental Defense Fund scientist Charles Wurster once said, "People are the cause of all the problems. We need to get rid of some of them, and this is as good a way as any." Club of Rome director Alexander King wrote in *The Discipline of Curiosity*, "My chief quarrel with DDT in hindsight is that it greatly added to the population problem." Sierra Club director Michael McCloskey opined, "By using DDT, we reduce mortality rates in underdeveloped countries, without the consideration of how to support the increase in populations."
- ¹⁶ In a 2003 speech to the San Francisco Commonwealth Club, Crichton said: "Banning DDT is one of the most disgraceful episodes in the twentieth century history of America. We knew better, and we did it anyway, and we let people around the world die, and we didn't give a damn."
- ¹⁷ Further details on the faulty science behind claims against DDT can be found on CATO Institute adjunct scholar Steven Milloy's website: <http://junkscience.com/ddtfaq.htm>
- ¹⁸ Attaran, Amir, Malaria Foundation International website, at <http://www.malaria.org/DDTpage.html>
- ¹⁹ Bate, Roger, "The Blind Hydra," testimony before U.S. Senate Subcommittee, as cited in note 4 above.
- ²⁰ Kristof, Nicholas, "It's time to spray DDT," *New York Times*, January 8, 2005.
- ²¹ See www.environmentaldefense.org/documents/5046_DDT-letterUSAID.pdf