

Our Mission

The Boundary Peace Initiative represents a growing number of area residents of diverse backgrounds brought together over the Iraqi crisis.

We support multilateral action for non-violent conflict resolution, human rights, ecological integrity for the planet and international law, through education and dialogue locally and globally.

We encourage everyone's participation as we strive for peace and justice to build a better world for future generations.

The Boundary Peace Initiative meets: 2nd & 4th Thursdays @ 7 pm Selkirk College.

Things To Do

- **June 5 @ 7 pm Memorial Hymn** sing by donation @ Anglican Church in Grand Forks
- **June 5th 10am to 4pm @ Boundary Museum Fructova School;** Doukhobor Prayers with Strawberry Social

Stop the extension of the war in Libya: May 23, 2011

By: The Canadian Peace Alliance

The Government of Canada is set to renew its support for the NATO led bombing of Libya, as the current three-month mandate expires on June 16. The Canadian Peace Alliance strongly condemns the ongoing NATO attacks that have killed hundreds of civilians in the country and calls on the Canadian government to end its support for the bombing.

Canada has already done 300 bombing runs and the cost of keeping planes, ships and more than 500 military personnel in Libya is at least \$100 million a month according to retired Col. Michel Drapeau. Last week, it was reported that the Harper government had purchased an additional 1300 "smart bombs" for a total price of \$130 million.

In total, NATO planes have been on more than 2500 bombing missions. We know from watching the bombings of Iraq and Afghanistan that civilians are inevitably caught in the crossfire despite claims that the bombings only target military facilities. Now British commanders are calling for a much more widespread bombing campaign against the infrastructure in Tripoli – a direct violation of the Geneva Convention. NATO bombs have already targeted some infrastructure such as the bombing of a preschool for children with Down Syndrome.

The NATO intervention in Libya has nothing to do with supporting the legitimate struggle of the Libyan people for freedom and democracy. The attack on Libya has but one goal in mind – control of the Arab uprisings by western nations intent on the

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Stop the extension

plunder of the resources of the region.

The initial enthusiasm shown by some western countries has been tempered as of late, and divisions within NATO are now apparent. There was widespread belief that the war would be short and that Gaddafi would fall quickly. This has been proven false.

Each NATO bomb that is dropped helps to give Gaddafi the false aura of being an anti-imperialist fighter and both sides in the conflict are becoming more entrenched, resulting in a stalemate. NATO planners are scrambling to find a way out of this impasse and calls for boots-on-the-ground from some quarters are becoming ever louder.

There have been multiple proposals for a ceasefire by the African Union and Tripoli has agreed to talks. It is NATO that refuses to enter into any dialogue to stop the killing.

We demand that the government of Canada call for an immediate ceasefire and support talks aimed at a mediated settlement. We demand that the opposition stand against this new war and call for Canadian forces to be brought home.

Take Action:

Send a message to your Member of Parliament and tell them - No to extending the war on Libya.

A complete list of MP contact information can be found here- <http://www.acp-cpa.ca/en/index.html>

Call for Immediate Ceasefire and Negotiated Settlement in Libya

By: Sandra Hartline-- Nelson, B.C.; May 26, 2011

Dear Alex,

I am a member of the Canadian Peace Alliance and I understand the cost of keeping planes, ships and more than 500 military personnel in Libya is at least \$100 million a month, according to retired Col. Michel Drapeau. Last week, it was reported that the Harper government had purchased an additional 1300 "smart bombs" for a total price of \$130 million.

I question whether the NATO intervention in Libya has to do with the legitimate struggle of the Libyan people for freedom and democracy, or if the goal is instead control of Arab uprisings by western nations intent on the plunder of the region's resources.

There was widespread belief that the war would be short and that Gaddafi would fall quickly. This has been proven false. Each NATO bomb that is dropped helps to give Gaddafi the false aura of being an anti-imperialist fighter and both sides in the conflict are becoming more entrenched, resulting in a stalemate.

There have been multiple proposals for a ceasefire by the African Union and Tripoli has agreed to talks. My understanding is that it is NATO that refuses to enter into any dialogue.

What are the chances for the government of Canada calling for an immediate ceasefire and supporting talks aimed at a mediated settlement? Any action you can take in this regard and any thoughts you might have would be very much appreciated.

I request a reply to this letter, and thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

Sandra Hartline

By far the most dangerous foe we have to fight is apathy -- indifference from whatever cause, not from a lack of knowledge, but from carelessness, from absorption in other pursuits, from a contempt bred of self satisfaction"

William Osler

The release of atomic energy has not created a new problem. It has merely made more urgent the necessity of solving an existing one.

Albert Einstein

It is unfortunately none too well understood that, just as the State has no money of its own, so it has no power of its own.

Albert J. Nock

Hands Off Libya! Stop Bombing Libya! No to Sanctions on Syria! May 27, 2011

By: Mobilization Against War and Occupation (Vancouver, B.C.)

STOP Imperialist War and Occupation!

END THE OCCUPATIONS of Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine and Haiti!

STOP Bombing and War on Libya!

US HANDS OFF North Africa & the Middle East!

SELF DETERMINATION for Indigenous Nations & All Oppressed Nations!

US HANDS OFF Iran and Pakistan!

Today Prime Minister Stephen Harper called for an extension of Canadian

participation in the bombing and war on the

people of Libya. Already Canadian

CF-18 fighter jets have dropped at least 240

bombs, after being deployed to Libya

following a unanimous resolution in the House

of Commons to support the

UN/NATO/US attacks.

Over the last 5 months the balance of forces in North Africa and the Middle East

has been shaken to be against imperialist-

backed governments. Mass movements in

Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen, Bahrain, Morocco,

Jordan and Algeria are still fighting for their

basic human rights against decades of US and

imperialist control. In a desperate counter-

offensive, colonial governments began

bombing in Libya and have announced

sanctions against Syria in order to preserve

their interests in the region. Their bloody

campaign that began in Afghanistan and Iraq

has expanded ever further from Pakistan and

threats against Iran to these newest attacks.

Now that a Conservative majority

government has taken power in Canada we

have to send them a clear message to end

Canada's participation in the New Era of War

and Occupation immediately. Our voices must

be stronger and more united in this

coming period of increasing attacks against

poor and working people in Canada

and around the world. We invite all peace-

loving people to join with MAWO on the

streets of Vancouver this Saturday. *[Ed.*

Note—event scheduled for May 28th @

12:00pm Vancouver Art Gallery]

Tahrir poised to make history (update-- May 19, 2011)

From the Canadian Boat to Gaza team

Dear Canadian Boat to Gaza Supporters,

After an amazing collective Canadian effort we are almost ready for our boat to join the international Freedom Flotilla – Stay Human, of which we are a core member. We are due to sail in the last third of June, with your ongoing help and generous support. We have purchased our Canadian boat and selected the name Tahrir (Liberation in Arabic) from the many names submitted by our supporters. Our delegates are now selected and will shortly be making their arrangements to go. As well, we have opened a new website under the boat name www.tahrir.ca.

The Tahrir is a 25-metre boat which will carry 50 people including activists, journalists both from mainstream and alternative media, as well as a few of the many high profile Canadians that have endorsed our campaign. The Canadian campaign has partnered with other countries and will also carry a small number of delegates from Belgium, Denmark, Australia and New Zealand. Tahrir will be joined in the Flotilla by vessels from France, USA, Ireland, Spain, Switzerland, Greece and Turkey among others.

Incredibly, and thanks to the hard work of so many of you, we have now reached our original target of \$300,000. However, there are still some expenses that need to be covered, such as an extra life craft and communication equipment for safety and media coverage. With a larger boat than originally planned, we also need to purchase more medical supplies than initially projected for the people of Gaza. With one final fund-raising effort from all of us, we feel confident that this money can be raised before we sail. Will you please consider making a contribution now, and asking your friends and contacts to do the same?

On the eve of the second Freedom Flotilla, the Israeli government is busy developing an atmosphere of hostility and even threatening to attack the flotilla as it did the Mavi Marmara last May. It needs to be very clear that the Canadian Boat to Gaza campaign will in no way engage in the hostility. Our delegates will participate in non-violence training before sailing. We will give the Israelis no excuse to treat anyone violently or abuse the delegates in any way should they board Tahrir. Furthermore, we are inviting the inspection of the Tahrir by a neutral independent body. Thus we are demanding that the Canadian government takes concrete

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steps to guarantee the safety of the humanitarians headed to Gaza, and as we will be carrying exports from Gaza we also demand that the Canadian government takes concrete steps to ensure our safety on our return voyage.

Despite the proposed plan by Egypt to open its Rafah border crossing, the Palestinians of Gaza are still welcoming the Flotilla as the siege persists by land on the Israeli side, and by air and by sea. These blockades by Israel remain a major obstacle to Gaza's right to import, export and travel freely. It is the only port on the Mediterranean, which is closed to shipping and the only coastal area in the world, which cannot access its own territorial waters. The flotillas will not stop until the Palestinians of Gaza regain their full right to travel freely and trade with the world.

Thank you for being part of Canadian Boat to Gaza campaign. Together, we can end the blockade!

In solidarity,

the Canadian Boat to Gaza team

P.S. Due to the possibility of a negotiating impasse leading to a strike or lockout at Canada Post next week, we urge you to put your cheque in the mail by Thursday May 19 at the latest, or make a donation online or by fax at any time. Thank you!

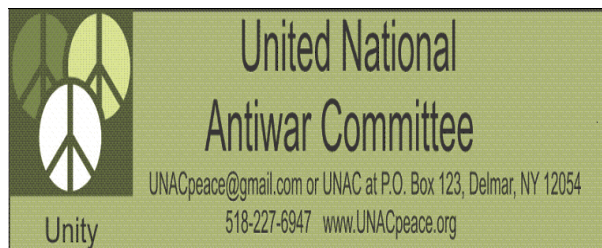
Bring the Troops, War Contractors, Mercenaries

And War Dollars Home NOW!

**U.S. Out of Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan
and Libya NOW!**

NO to Islamophobia!

Hands Off the Arab Spring!



The Assassination of Osama bin Laden

By: United National Antiwar Committee—May 6, 2011 [*Ed. Note: a New York, USA group*]

The U.S. government has used the pretext of finding Osama bin Laden to justify their invasion and occupation of Afghanistan. Now that bin Laden is dead, they can no longer claim this motive. Our demand remains the same: Bring the troops home NOW!

The Obama Administration does not intend to end military operations. The war apparatus of weaponry, drones, bases, mercenaries, and reliance on highly secret special forces like JSOC (Joint Special Operations Command) to do its dirty work with no oversight by Congress or the public has increased along with an escalating war budget. Violence and war are the conflict resolution methods preferred by the U.S. leadership.

In pursuit of oil and domination, the U.S. so-called “War on Terror” has caused the deaths of tens of thousands Afghans, well over a million Iraqis, as well as the loss of 6,000 U.S. soldiers. To pay for this bloodshed and destruction, the U.S. has spent trillions of dollars to expand the war machine and benefit the rich that could have gone for jobs, education, health care and green energy alternatives. As poll after poll has demonstrated, the U.S. population has turned against these wars and wants the troops brought home.

President Obama is using the assassination of bin Laden to re-legitimize U.S. militarism and to build up popular support for U.S. military actions abroad and his own re-election at home. The country is put on high alert to create an atmosphere of heightened fear and anger, a tactic frequently used when Americans turn against government policies. Soon after President Obama announced the killing of bin Laden, hyper-patriotic flag waving demonstrations broke out on campuses, in front of the White House and even at baseball games.

The jingoistic atmosphere engendered by Obama’s extra-judicial assassination of bin Laden has put Muslim Americans in jeopardy. It has increased Islamophobia across America. After the announcement of bin Laden’s murder, racists defiled a mosque in Portland, Maine with the slogan “Osama today, Islam tomorrow.” In Oregon, a Muslim center had to cancel an event after receiving threats. Mosques across the country, fearful of attacks, have increased security. This is the ugly impact at home of the so-called “War on Terror” abroad. UNAC urges the entire antiwar movement to stand with our Muslim brothers and sisters against these racist attacks.

The administration will no doubt use the ‘successful’ mission to justify further secrecy, denying any kind of democratic oversight over U.S. foreign policy. It sets a precedent for saying the U.S. has the right to attack anyone that the administration designates an enemy at any place, any time and legitimizes secret renditions,

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torture and indefinite incarceration without trial. These increased Executive powers are included in current legislation and reauthorization of the USA PATRIOT Act and must be opposed.

Our democracy, civil rights, and civil liberties are threatened. They will argue that the need for secrecy makes it even more important to prosecute Bradley Manning, Julian Assange, and WikiLeaks for publicizing documents that expose the lies and criminal behavior of the government. On top of that, it will be used to further authorize FBI harassment and grand jury probes against antiwar and Palestine solidarity activists. All of these victims of the U.S. government are put in further jeopardy by the atmosphere created by the assassination of bin Laden. Eventually those fighting the massive cutbacks and attacks on unions will become the victims of this restriction of our civil liberties.

The extra-judicial assassination of bin Laden, like the NATO bombing of Libya, is clearly designed to remind the masses of workers and students rising up in the Middle East against U.S.-backed dictators that Washington is still boss. It is also an attempt to roll back the growing opposition to the occupation of Afghanistan by war-weary working people in the U.S. There is no possibility that this assassination will bring security, democracy, or peace in the Middle East or America.

We will not be intimidated. In spite of U.S. grandstanding and the wars without end, millions of people around the world are throwing off the yoke of years of repression and claiming their right to determine their own destiny. The Arab Spring shows that people will not allow fear and militarization to suppress the yearning for freedom. People across the U.S. are not fooled by government lies and have turned against the wars and occupations. The unions and their supporters in the thousands in Wisconsin stood up against the corporate-controlled state government to fight back against the attack on collective bargaining and the cut backs of social services. Their actions inspired many and others will follow.

This is the time to forge unity and to step up our opposition to U.S. wars and occupations. We must stand with those who are victimized and those who struggle for freedom and a better life. We need to build a movement independent of all political parties that mobilizes powerful mass actions to challenge reactionary government policies. We need to march and continue to march until we meet our goals of peace and justice.

The Boundary Peace Initiative (BPI) welcomes articles, which are the sole responsibility of the authors and may not be common consensus. To contribute please contact **Laura** at **250-442-0434** or **l4peace@telus.net**. The BPI is a member of: Southern Interior Peace Coalition, Canadian Peace Alliance, Abolition 2000, Lawyers Against the War, Uranium Free Kootenay Boundary, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace and an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation as well as other local and global groups.

Exercise your democratic rights:
Voice your opinion to the Prime Minister
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