



Vol. 10: No. 96: Oct. 01, 2011

Save a tree, share a copy

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 Thursday @ 7 pm. in Selkirk College

Next meeting will be Oct. 27th Sorry for the inconvenience.

To Do

The BPI has launched a **web site** with work still to do on it but check it out www.boundarypeace.20m.com

CPA convention in Toronto Oct 14-16th: check it out at <http://www.acp-cpa.ca/en/index.html>

B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition Conference: Nov. 5 in Grand Forks; details to follow: for info contact Laura @ 250 442 0434 or L4peace@telus.net

A SAFE HAVEN FOR WAR CRIMINALS?

From: Lawyers Against the War—Sept. 21, 2011-09-26

MAYOR WATTS AND SURREY CITY COUNCILLORS--SURREY BC
Is this what you support?

George W. Bush, former US president and notorious accused war criminal, is scheduled to come to Surrey British Columbia on October 20th 2011 as the guest of Mayor Diane Watts and the City of Surrey Councillors.

As a person accused, on reasonable grounds of torture, war crimes and crimes against humanity, Canada is legally bound to ensure that George W. Bush does not receive safe haven from prosecution in Canada. Therefore, Canada's elected representatives—including those of Surrey—must fulfill this duty either by ensuring that George W. Bush is barred from entering Canada, or if he enters the country, taking measures to ensure he is prosecuted in Canada or extradited to a country willing and able to prosecute. See [LAW's August 25/11 letter](#) outlining the facts and law.

http://www.lawyersagainsthewar.org/letters/LAW_letter_re_George_Bush_20110825.pdf

We remind you of the statement of London's mayor Boris Johnson that if George W. Bush were to come to the U.K. or any other European country, "he might never see Texas again," due to the risk of a lawful arrest for authorizing torture.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwWb5jaJYs>

(Continued next column)

(From last column) **A SAFE HAVEN**

We urge the mayor and councillors to take action to ensure that George W. Bush does not receive, in violation of the law, safe haven in Surrey BC from prosecution for torture and other grave crimes.

We call on the Mayor and Councillors to:

Advise G.W. Bush that, as a person accused on reasonable grounds of complicity in torture and other war crimes and crimes against humanity, he is not admissible to Canada unless and until such accusations have been tried and dismissed by a competent court; and, Advise G.W. Bush that the City of Surrey is withdrawing the invitation to speak at the October 20th 2011 event in Surrey BC; and, Remind G.W. Bush that if he enters Canada, he risks arrest and prosecution in Canada or extradition to another country for prosecution and that the Surrey Council will promote this application of the law.

We remind you of your duty as elected representatives to uphold the law and the rule of law, to ensure the equal application of the law and to oppose efforts to flout the law to benefit political or economic allies such as George W. Bush. Your failure or refusal to apply the law coupled with your efforts to shield George W. Bush from the law, effectively provide license to other heads of state to engage in widespread and illegal acts of war, war crimes and crimes against humanity: acts that have caused the death, injury, displacement and enforced disappearances of millions of innocent people in Iraq alone.

DO YOU SUPPORT IMPUNITY FOR THE PERPETRATORS OF THESE CRIMES?

We look forward to receiving your reply.

To reply or receive more information contact Lawyers against the War 604 738 0338; law@portal.ca; www.lawyersagainsthewar.org (Check out the link below)

http://www.livestream.com/w2media/video?clipId=pla_416d2049-7174-4e4b-8825-8295152ffe13

Request for a New Information Policy

By: Martin O'Brien (Sept. 21, 2011)

Mr. Gregor Robinson, Mayor
City of Vancouver, British Columbia
Dear Gregor,

I have just learned of the controversy in your city over next week's visit by the former U.S. Vice President, Richard B. "Dick" Cheney, to promote his recently published memoirs. Another upcoming local event which, it seems, may spark similar protest, is the 2011 Regional Economic Summit, in Surrey, BC, which has invited the ex U. S. President, George W. Bush as one of its keynote speakers. While these two instances of civic dissent will likely pass without anything other than electoral fallout, I believe that they still represent some public conflict issues to which your Council, along with your provincial and federal colleagues, should give attention.

As you know, a large portion of the populace considers the previous public-service activities and instructions of these two men to have been even criminal in nature, while many others would defend their leadership record. Each individual juror bases their judgment on whatever evidence they might accept as reasonably adequate. Other Vancouverites are variously aware of the dissent or of information about these U.S. public figures; they may not be motivated personally or socially, to form an opinion (yet or ever), or to voice it or take action in any particular forum. The current online discussion ranges from the extremes of well-reasoned, respectful debate to reactionary and personal invective... all very 'human' but not always civil.

Yet, the discussion-taking place does raise some specific questions... and an issue that is broader in nature:

The processes under which government workers operate in judicial matters is shown to need better understanding by the public... how the decisions are made. How do they come to entertain suspicions of criminal activity, to then initiate an investigation or arrest, to pursue a conviction or a transfer to another jurisdiction? What makes the process possible or impossible; for instance, does anticipated difficulty in pursuing an investigation preclude any action being taken at all? In this "Cheney" affair, or ones like it, can any citizen attest to acknowledge of criminal action or file a complaint; does the city's Police Chief need to initiate action, or must even he refer it to an R.C.M.P. counterpart? Is there some difference that the public is unaware of between this and similar cases (or so perceived)?

This, Gregor, is only one example from a large ongoing public forum. People talk of many things, of personal matters, of our business, of interests we have in common or shared through our various community organizations. But many discussions are about a public interest that is also the purview of some government department and its 'correct' operations. And, while we do talk politics, as in 'left or right', we are just as often arguing over our understanding of the explicit policies or processes of our governments' operations, not how things would be done if "so-and-so" was in power. (Continued next column)

(From last column) **Request for information**

Might governments now play a more responsible socio-political role in the public's understanding and discussion? Could each Council, Legislative Assembly or Parliament influence the amount of reasoned, informed debate taking place among us, thereby raising our level of social harmony, relative to the occurrence of conflict and insult... just by its actively fostering an understanding of its operations? I know that the public is grateful for your increased Internet use in disseminating government information and in easing our communications with you. Now we are asking, please, that you engage with us actively by monitoring the debates on websites and social media; then, when the conversation obviously includes you, by being proactive in contributing what we need to know.

It's a tough crowd and there will be hecklers. Those who have suffered real or imagined wrongs are a separate issue to be dealt with through your usual procedures, explained. And, while the temptation will be there, we are not looking for government operations to take sides in the public forum. Observe, take note of opinion trends if you will, but we would continue to direct our government through participation and representation. We simply need government input of official data, of policy and process information. The public forum is not a pretty place, as you well know. There is faction and friction, misunderstanding and error, ego, fear and suspicion. It all contributes to increased tensions, to radical or adamant attitudes, to a lack of respect for others and the easy expression of prejudice, even hatred, among people. But, I dare say, it is a dynamic that can be changed and do believe that by our dedication to civil society we will incite an appreciation of human diversity, comprehensive community and sustainable peace.

(Sent to municipal, provincial and federal Ministries of Canada)



Enforcement of Immigration and Refugee Protection Act against Foreign National Dick Cheney

By: Don Davies, MP, Vancouver Kingsway
Official Opposition Critic for Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism

Dear Minister Kenney:

As I am sure you are aware, former United States Vice-President Dick Cheney has publicly indicated his intention to enter Canada as a guest of the Vancouver Club on or about September 26, 2011.

As the Official Opposition Critic for Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, I write to request both your immediate attention to this matter and your appropriate enforcement of all federal government obligations under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act ("IRPA").

Our concerns are as follows.

Section 35. (1) of IRPA declares as inadmissible to Canada a foreign national on grounds of violating human or international rights. Provisions are delineated in that section that set forth specific grounds of inadmissibility, including:

- Committing an act outside of Canada that constitutes an offence referred to in sections 4 to 7 of the Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Act;
- Being a prescribed senior official in the service of a government that, in the Minister's opinion, has engaged in, inter alia, a war crime or a crime against humanity within the meaning of sections 6(3) to (5) of the Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Act.

Section 36 of IRPA further declares as inadmissible to Canada a foreign national on grounds of either criminality, or serious criminality, including:

- Committing an act outside Canada that is an offence in the place where it was committed and, if committed in Canada, would constitute either an indictable offence simpliciter or an offence punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of at least 10 years under an Act of Parliament.

Mr. Cheney has publicly, unequivocally and on numerous occasions admitted to authorizing, approving and failing to prevent acts of torture in circumstances that engage each and every provision of IRPA quoted above. These acts include approving the use of water boarding (simulated drowning), sleep deprivation and other treatments prohibited by both Canadian and international law.

Evidence that is part of the public record far exceeds the "reasonable grounds" required by the inadmissibility sections of IRPA. (Continued next column)

(From last column) **Dick Cheney**

Indeed, the acts of which Mr. Cheney was an integral proponent include acts of torture against a Canadian citizen, Mr. Omar Khadr. The Supreme Court of Canada in *Canada (Justice) v. Khadr* confirmed that the government administration in which Mr. Cheney was a senior official engaged in treatment of prisoners in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, that violated the Geneva Conventions, Canada's domestic law and Canada's international legal obligations.

The Federal Court of Canada has similarly found in *Khadr v. The Prime Minister et. al.* that US treatment against prisoners (and of a Canadian citizen, no less) violated the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Punishment and Treatment ("CAT") and further that Mr. Khadr's detention itself was illegal under international law.

I would note that Canada is a signatory to all of the above referenced international covenants, as well as the Rome Statute for an International Criminal Court. All combine to impose a legal duty on Canada to take effective measures to prevent and deal with crimes against humanity, and war crimes, wherever such crimes occur.

In sum, I would respectfully assert the following principles are self-evident in this case: Canadian law, including IRPA, requires that we refuse entry to or detain for investigation any person or foreign national suspected of committing serious crimes, war crimes or crimes against humanity. Torture is a serious crime, a war crime, and a crime against humanity, and water boarding is torture.

Mr. Cheney has publicly admitted to playing an integral part in torture, and IRPA must be engaged accordingly. In the event that you do not regard water boarding or sleep deprivation as torture (which I respectfully submit is an untenable position), I would assert that these acts constitute criminal acts under the Criminal Code of Canada, an Act of Parliament, both by indictment and punishable by imprisonment exceeding 10 years, respectively.

Minister, may I remind you of your own government's initiatives this summer in which you called on the public to assist your government in removing from Canada those individuals who had engaged in serious criminality, war crimes or crimes against humanity.

(Continued page 4)

(From page 3) **Dick Cheney**

May I also remind you of your own government's actions in denying entry to British MP George Galloway. At that time you stated that:

"It's not about words. It's about deeds."

Your spokesperson, Mr. Alykhan Velshi, on your behalf said:
"We're going to uphold the law."

Minister, the essence of just application of the law is that it is applied evenly and consistently.

I would therefore respectfully request that you deny entry to Mr. Cheney on grounds of inadmissibility under IRPA for having engaged in acts of torture. In the event that you do not do so, I would respectfully request that a report be prepared setting out the relevant facts, and that you refer same to the Immigration Division for an admissibility hearing with a view to issuing a removal order against Mr. Cheney, all pursuant to section 44 of IRPA.

As this matter is of pressing urgency, I look forward to your immediate attention and response.

Yours truly,

Don Davies, MP

Vancouver Kingsway

Official Opposition Critic for Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism

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For years now I have heard the word '**Wait!**'... This '**Wait!**' has almost always meant '**Never.**' The worst stumbling block to freedom's advance, King argued, is the person who "believes he can set the timetable for another" person's freedom.

Letter from a Birmingham Jail

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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.

Peace & Prosperity ~~NOT~~ War & Austerity

Sign the Declaration!

Stop the new Canadian Militarism

Stephen Harper wants to militarize Canada. Under the Conservatives, military spending has reached its highest levels since World War II. There are now plans to expand Canadian military bases around the world. And the military is fast becoming a central thread in the fabric of society.

We need to stop this new Canadian militarism.

The [Canada First Defence Strategy](#) is the Conservatives' blueprint for military spending, which totals \$480 billion. But some costs are already way over budget, including the proposed purchase of F35 fighter jets and the construction of new Canadian warships. That could push military spending over half a trillion dollars!

Wasting money on weapons will not create security. Real security is only possible when the people of the world can meet their basic needs. While Harper spends billions on weapons, which provide few jobs in Canada, he continues his assault on pensions, wages and collective bargaining. Sadly, the Conservatives are increasing funding for the things we need the least, while decreasing funding for the things we need the most.

In addition, Harper plans to expand the reach of Canadian forces overseas. Canada already has agreements to establish bases in Jamaica, Kuwait and Germany and is planning bases for Singapore, South Korea, Senegal, Kenya and Tanzania. This expansion would give Harper the power to embroil Canada in the affairs of sovereign states, and would redefine Canada as an aggressive military power.

The new Canadian militarism also includes dramatically raising the military's profile in more aspects of Canadian life. In the last few years, Canada Day celebrations have been dominated by military displays and recruitment drives. Citizenship and Immigration Canada has decreed that all citizenship ceremonies must include a military speaker, in order to promote military service as the highest form of citizenship. The new citizenship handbook, Discover Canada, emphasizes Canada's involvement in wars abroad and heaps praise on the country's military history.

We, the undersigned, believe that money earmarked for military spending must be reallocated to social and environmental programs: to protect jobs and pensions, preserve public healthcare and education, and create a green economy.

Furthermore, we oppose any attempts by the government to expand Canadian militarism abroad or to entrench it in Canadian society..

Sign the Declaration by going to the CPA website @ <http://www.acp-cpa.ca/en/index.html>

Or contact Laura @ 250 442 3438 or

L4peace@telus.net or go to Boundary peace Initiative web-site boundarypeace.20m.com

Exercise your democratic rights:

Voice your opinion to the Prime Minister

Free postage: Prime Minister, Steven Harper, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Ontario

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Email: pm@pm.gc.ca