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**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**

**If We Don't Who Will?**

By: Laura Savinkoff

The BPI thanks everyone who contributed towards a successful and productive B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition conference: the kitchen helpers, the Slavonic Senior Citizens Center, all who donated food and all who attended. There were delegates from the Kootenays and the Okanagan who braved the mountain roads to join us. Our MP came and shared his insights and heard our comments on the work of Parliament and the NDP. Mayor Brian Taylor joined us for a time and Christine Thompson (candidate for Mayor) shared her regrets for not being able to join us. Simon Shenstone, priest from Holy Trinity Anglican Church stayed as long as he was able to and added to our discussions. Watch for the report of in upcoming issues of this newsletter.

As well, I would like to thank all for your continued support and encouragement as your representative to the Canadian Peace Alliance. Watch also for a report on my participation, as your rep and a Steering Committee member, at Convention in Toronto. I will include, beginning with this issue, the Resolutions passed at convention so you can see for yourself the direction the delegates agreed upon.

Remember that we, the people, can make a difference if we take the time and energy to be involved in the movement to create a world free of violence and abuse based on the principles of peace through social, economic and environmental justice with equality, respect and honor for all locally, nationally and globally. The world is what we make it either through involvement or not, action or inaction, by doing, living and acting peacefully. Will we sit back and let the 1% continue to control and oppress our global family? If we don't stand up then who will?

**To Do**

- Cast your vote in the Municipal & Regional District Elections: Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> @ Perley School from 8 am-8 pm

**Peace is not the absence of conflict but the presence of creative alternatives for responding to conflict - alternatives to passive or aggressive responses, alternatives to violence.**

**Dorothy Thompson**

**2011-01. Proposal for 2011-2013 Campaign Goals, Strategy, and Actions**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the following proposal be adopted as a central approach for the work of the Canadian Peace Alliance for 2011-2013.

**BACKGROUND**

Since 2004, the CPA has adopted central campaigns around the issues of the wars on Iraq and Afghanistan, and Canada's complicity in those wars. This includes:

- The Government of Canada's complicity in the hypocritical subversion of bona fide electoral and political expressions of peoples abroad (e.g., Palestine, Lebanon, Sri Lanka), while claiming to wage war in the name of "democracy."
- The use of terrorist lists, no-fly lists, and other criminalization measures to repress these expressions; and
- The increasing criminalization of dissent at home, such as the military espionage waged on indigenous movements, the G20 arrests in 2010, and the "mission creep" of anti-terrorist legislation measures more and more broadly applied.

As we noted in 2008, while never omitting to connect these central campaigns with other important movements (War resisters, environment, civil liberties, counter-recruitment, Palestine, Haiti, etc), having these two campaigns as our central focus has enabled the CPA to grow in influence and size, and to achieve results in the arena of public opinion which have played a key role in the development of the anti-war movement both in Canada and abroad.

Meanwhile, the war has continued. The Conservative government has launched a series of onslaughts against peace and social justice movements, both here in Canada and internationally. The effect of these attacks has been that movements in Canada have been able to, in a more dramatic way, make connections between democracy at home and abroad.

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(from page 1) **2011-01. Proposal for 2011-2013 Campaign Goals, Strategy, and Actions**

The CPA's engagement in free speech defense, the tours of Malalai Joya and George Galloway, nuclear disarmament and civil liberties campaigns have positioned the CPA as a key leader in multiple domestic movements with links to opposing imperialism and war.

Importantly, the CPA's engagement in climate justice movements has affirmed our long held view that war is also bad for the environment, while enabling us to make connections in arenas and communities, such as Aboriginal organizations and other major climate justice movement groups, with which our earlier relations had lapsed prior to 2004.

Not least significant, a recent wave of popular democracy movements and resistance activities in the Middle East and North Africa has seen a large new layer of activists begin to see links between militarization at home, and economic and military imperialism abroad. These inspiring movements have also made more urgent than ever the need to grow and broaden the Canadian Peace Alliance and its capacity to support self-determination of peoples under attack or threat of attack or control by western governments like Canada's.

We reject the arbitrary listing of resistance movements as terrorism, and reaffirm the right of oppressed peoples to choose their own forms of resistance.

**END THE WAR  
Campaign Goal**

The Canadian Peace Alliance seeks to:

- End the war in Afghanistan by calling for a complete withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan, including Canadian forces;
- End the attacks on civil liberties which have been used to shore up support for the war;
- Secure an arrangement from the Government of Canada that will allow American War Resisters to stay in Canada;
- Continue to oppose the Canada First Defence Strategy and the shameless prioritization by the Government of Canada of military spending over all other priorities; [incorporating 2011-05 from the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition] including campaigning for the government of Canada to drastically decrease the military budget.
- Ensure government spending is de-militarized and is focused on human needs and the environment.

**Strategy**

Through our central campaign of Peace & Prosperity not War & Austerity, the Canadian Peace Alliance will:

- Build links with any and all groups willing to take a stand against the war;
- Use the media to raise awareness about the war and its costs, effects, and real purposes;
- Mobilize the anti-war sentiment by continuing to use successful strategies and by developing new ways to reach people and encourage them to take action;
- Make clear the links between the erosion of civil liberties and the abuse of human rights, Islamophobia, the anti-terrorism act, and the 'war on terror'.

**Action**

To mobilize CPA member groups and the public the Canadian Peace Alliance will:

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(from last column) **2011-01**

- Call for pan-Canadian days of action, normally to occur each spring and fall, and including actions to coincide with international events and days of action;
- Encourage member groups to lobby or otherwise pressure members of parliament according to a strategic assessment of where such pressure would be most useful;
- Encourage anti-war candidates to run in elections;
- Encourage candidates in elections to adopt clear anti-war positions;
- Encourage creativity in mobilizations and actions;
- Support student anti-war and counter recruitment organizing; including working with teachers' federations and unions in opposition to military recruitment in all Canadian educational facilities and diverting these funds towards programs on non-violent peace studies and the climate crisis;
- Continue to build its membership, especially among aboriginal people, students, unions, Muslim organizations and other ethnocultural organizations, and in Quebec;
- Encourage member groups to organize neighborhood-based peace networks;
- Use on-line campaigning to engage wider networks of people, with a view to translating that engagement into real-world mobilizations;
- Support campaigns to defend civil liberties and Muslims and marginalized communities from further attacks by governments and the media, including campaigns against security certificates, in support of Canadians detained abroad, and against Islamophobia; [From 2011-03 from BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition on UNDRIP] Support the rights of Indigenous peoples to self-determination, including free, prior, and informed consent and endorse and urge the government to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- Support and defend the right to self determination of all peoples both domestically and abroad;
- Oppose the criminalization of dissent and social protest, including repression by police and state forces, domestically and abroad;
- Continue to build discourse and analysis on the connections between Canada's increasing military spending and escalating culture of militarism and the climate crisis;
- Support the War Resisters Support Campaign, ensure that the issue of the War Resisters is included in campaign materials, media presence and public outreach activities, and encourage member groups to support the War Resisters Support Campaign.

**Submitted by ACT for the Earth & the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition**

## **Greetings to the Southern Interior Peace Coalition Conference**

By: Aaron Mercredi

Regrettably, I am unable to attend today's conference due to my current work situation. I was looking forward to seeing everyone again and hearing about the activities that have been organized in other communities in the interior. Because I am not there in person, I would like to give everyone a short update on the activities of the BC Aid Network for Cuba (BCANC) and our participation in the 2011 Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba.

As I mentioned in the Spring conference, BCANC is a network that was formed to help support and raise awareness about the Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba which travels through Canada, the US and Mexico every year, taking tonnes of humanitarian aid as well as US citizens, to challenge the inhuman and cruel US blockade on Cuba and the travel ban on US citizens. Historically, supporters from Canada, as well as many other countries have taken part in the caravan, showing our international solidarity with the Cuban people. BCANC's goal is to strengthen that participation.

Our activities in the Okanagan involved having an information table at the downtown Penticton Community Market, as well as an evening information night, including speakers and presentations from previous caravans. We were successful in collecting some quality humanitarian aid as well. The support from the local bicycle and computer shops, as well as the donations of construction supplies and musical instruments from the CCFA-Kelowna, made a large contribution to the aid collected in the Okanagan. Combined with the activities and donations from around the province, it was a successful first year for BCANC.

The Pastors for Peace Caravan, itself, was a huge success with over 100 tonnes of humanitarian aid collected from 13 different bus routes through Canada and the US successfully arriving at the port in Mexico. More than 100 people participated from the US, Canada, Mexico and Europe who showed incredible teamwork and solidarity with the goals of the caravan. Seven activists from BC hopped on an old school bus to join this effort.

Once in Cuba, there was a wonderful program for the Caravanistas, including attending the graduation ceremony of students of the Latin American School of Medicine, who were students from poor communities and countries all over the world (including the US) studying medicine in Cuba for free. There were many educational and cultural activities to participate in, and also many tributes from the  
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## (From last column) **Greetings**

from the Cuban hosts to Reverend Lucius Walker Jr., who started and led the caravans until his passing in September 2010. It was an incredible experience and I look forward to building to next year's caravan, which we hope to build even bigger than this year's.

I would like to finish my report by talking about a very special conference taking place in Vancouver next weekend. The 4th Annual Vancouver International Che Guevara Conference will be taking place on November 11th and 12th, with this year's theme "Cuba Today: The Gains and Challenges." Organized by Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC), we are very honoured to have Aleida Guevara, Cuban leader, prominent author and daughter of legendary revolutionary, Che Guevara, coming from Cuba for the second time to present and participate in the conference. There will be two full days with 10 workshops covering different aspects of Cuba and the world featuring other important speakers who are traveling to Vancouver for the conference. I will also mention that on November 13th, there will be a special 5 Cuban Heroes exhibition and cultural event in honour of the Cuban 5. All the events will be taking place at the Russian Hall in East Vancouver (600 Campbell Avenue). If anyone is interested in finding out more about the conference, they can visit the blog site at <http://vancouverinternationalcheconference.blogspot.com/>. There is also a link to register on-line for this free event. You can also contact me if you are planning on coming out for it.

Thank you very much for the time to report on the activities in the Cuba solidarity work I am involved in. I wish you all a successful conference and look forward to being able to attend the next one to continue our important work together!  
In solidarity,

Aaron Mercredi  
BC Aid Network for Cuba  
Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba



## **Libby Davies urges Minister Baird to ensure safe treatment of Canadians on Gaza flotilla**

November 8, 2011 Open Letters to Ministers & Public Officials

I've had a number of emails from constituents concerning the Canadian Boat to Gaza and the detention of Canadians. Please find below my letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Hon Jon Baird  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
418-N Centre Block, House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister,

I wish to register my concern about status and treatment of Canadians who were aboard the Canadian boat to Gaza - the Tahrir who are now in detention in an Israeli prison.

As you know these Canadians were part of an international, non-violent, initiative to support the people of Gaza who have been living under an illegal blockade since June of 2007.

Constituents have written to me about the actions of the IDF and subsequent detention of peaceful civilians.

Minister, I urge you to demand that the Canadians in detention be immediately released, and that Israel be called to account for its actions. There are a number of reports that the detainees have suffered abuse, physical harm and suffering and family members have not been able to contact them. This is unacceptable and I believe you have a responsibility to uphold the safety and well being of the Canadians involved.

I urge you to take action on behalf of these Canadians.

Libby Davies, MP  
Vancouver East

Source:

<http://www.libbydavies.ca/parliament/openletter/2011/11/08/libby-urges-minister-baird-ensure-safetreatment-canadians-gaza-flo>

## **Windsor Peace Coalition Opposes Assassination and Aggression to Settle International Conflicts: 28 October 2011**

Windsor Peace Coalition denounces the targeted assassination of former Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Gadhafi. The assassination was a NATO operation that began with NATO's bombardment of a convoy of vehicles in which Gadhafi was traveling and concluded with his execution by a mob of National Transitional Council (NTC) fighters. This took place just two days after Hillary Clinton announced publicly while in Libya, We hope he can be captured or killed soon.

Canada is responsible, as are the other NATO powers, for this war crime and its gruesome aftermath and must be held accountable. Canadian Lieutenant -General Charles Bouchard is the Commander of all NATO forces engaged in the air war on Libya and has made it clear he holds final authority for approving all targets. Canadians do not want their military operating as international hit men.

Now there is discussion in the media about whether Gadhafi should have been brought to trial instead of being assassinated. It is NATO that should be on trial for the crimes it has been committing in Libya and elsewhere including the killing of civilians, the violent overthrow of the country's government and the extra judicial killing of Gadhafi and others. Instead of Obama, Sarkozy, Harper and others being charged with war crimes, it is Gadhafi who is presented as criminal while the NATO gangsters, including Canada, are presented as saviors who will now ensure a rule of law by writing the constitution and setting up a justice system for the new Libya which will no doubt favour foreign domination and the criminalization of any resulting resistance on the part of Libyans. What kind of justice and rule of law is it when 'Might makes Right' and the aggressors are presented as saviors?

Canadians must oppose the role that Canada is playing internationally. There is pro-war unity in the Parliament among the Conservatives, Liberals and NDP on the new standard they have jointly set for Canada, by which governments anywhere can be taken out and their leaders assassinated using the pre-text of "protecting civilians".

This is a dangerous situation for world peace. Already there is talk in the Parliament about the need for "action" against Syria. Who is next? At the same time as these troubling developments, preparations for war have been stepped up with new multi-billion dollar contracts for military ships, the F-35 fighter jet purchase and the transformation of the armed forces to make Canada's military more able to wage aggressive war.

This shows that it is the people who have to activate themselves in order to prevent Canada from being embroiled in further U.S.-led wars of aggression. International peace and security are at stake. International law cannot be counted on to keep the warmongers in check. The Windsor Peace Coalition reiterates its stand: No to the Use of Force to Settle Disputes in International Affairs! Get Canada Out of NATO!

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.

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