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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.

BPI web site: www.boundarypeace.20m.com



Boundary Peace Initiative meets @ 7 pm on the 2nd & 4th Thursday @ the Slavonic Seniors Center on 72nd Ave.

To Do International Day of Peace: Sept. 21st 7 pm @ Slavonic Senior Citizens Center: film & discussion: donate for rent. Watch for posters or call Laura @ 250 442 0434 or l4peace@telus.net

For info on Castlegar International Day of Peace call the USCC office @ 250 442 8252

Thanks for your support & participation

By: Laura Savinkoff on behalf of the BPI
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As summer wanes into fall, life gets back to 'normal', so to speak. For gardeners it's time to begin to put our gardens to bed. For youth it's time to resume academic pursuits, connect with old and new classmates. But, for many more than we wish to acknowledge, normal is far from what we in the privileged West consider normal. Too many have no shelter and no food, too many live with the daily threat of death and destruction from foreign military invasion and occupation and others flee from civil war. So, as we 'get back to normal' let's realize we are the minority when we focus on buying the newest school supplies, that new pair of jeans or that funky gadget. And once we realize this fact then we must look at what we can do in solidarity with our global family to stop the wars, the violence, the poverty and social injustice, the destruction of our environment all this is perpetrated for financial gain and power over others.

In our little part of the world there are many who realize and do what they can to stop this madness that seems to have escalated in recent years. This drive to destruction will end when we, the people, say no more, when we demand an end to stop our complicity in the military industrial financial complex run for and by the 1% who's only measuring stick has dollar signs on it.

On August 11th the BPI hosted our annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki Day commemoration and a call to stop the nuclear chain that holds the world hostage by the threat of annihilation by radiation. We appealed to our community to join us and you did. Speakers from the Kootenays, Kelowna and the Boundary and as far away as Vancouver shared their insights and entertainers from across the Boundary graced us with music, song and dance. A young man gave up his summer day to donate his sound equipment and time to ensure that all were heard. Two women devoted their day to overseeing the auction table.

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(From last column) Thanks

As a much needed fundraiser, we host a Silent Auction. The donations, from businesses and individuals, were very generous and provided a good return. It was awesome to see an increase in the number of people who found it important enough to participate and added their voice to the rising tide calling for an end to the nuclear industry as well as a call for peace to become the norm not an occasional phenomenon. We are grateful and thank you from the bottom of our hearts, our neighbors, friends, brothers and sisters. There is a lot of work that goes into organizing an event, so when the community steps forward and contributes it makes all the work worthwhile.

Remember that the BPI meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 7 pm at the Slavonic Senior Citizens Center on 72nd Avenue. We invite you to join us as we continue to establish peace through social, economic and environmental justice and equality with respect, honor, integrity, accountability and love for our global family.

We look forward to seeing you at our next event on Sept. 21st, International Day of Peace, at the Slavonic Senior Citizens Center at 7 pm. Admission will be by donation to cover cost of rental as we view a film (yet to be chosen) followed by a discussion. To mark this day, we call on our Boundary family to participate in a 'Ceasefire' where we make an effort to resolve grievances through respectful dialogue and act with love in our hearts for all that surrounds us. Is this possible? Of course it is! And just imagine if you can do this for one day then why can't we do it every day? We challenge our neighbors to try it. Then let us know what you did and how it went for you. And we may be able to put together a document outlining what was done and what were the results but we will need your input. Contact Laura to share your results at: 250 442 0434 or email

l4peace@telus.net



“Thou Shalt Do No Murder”

From Lev Tolstoy’s book of 1896 ‘The Beginning of the End’

Submitted by: Ellen Tolson

To M. Herman Sneiders, Commandant of the National Guard of the Midleburg District.

Dear Sir—Last week I received a document ordering me to appear at the municipal office, to be, according to law, enlisted in the National Guards. As you probably noticed, I did not appear, and this letter is to inform you, plainly and without equivocation, that I do not intend to appear before the commission. I know well that I am taking a heavy responsibility, that you have the right to punish me, and that you will not fail to use this right. But that does not frighten me. The reasons, which lead me to this passive resistance, seem to me strong enough to outweigh the responsibility I take.

I, who, if you please, am not a Christian, understand better than most Christians the commandment, which is put at the head of this letter, the commandment, which is, rooted in human nature, in the mind of man. When but a boy I allowed myself to be taught the trade of soldier, the art of killing; but now I renounce it. I would not kill at the command of others, and thus have murder on my conscience without any personal cause or reason whatever.

Can you mention anything more degrading to a human being than carrying out such murder, such massacre? I am unable to kill, even to see an animal killed; therefore I became a vegetarian. And now I am to be ordered to shoot men who have done me no harm; for I take it that it is not to shoot at leaves and branches of trees that soldiers are taught to use guns.

But you will reply, perhaps, that the National Guard is besides, and especially, to keep civic order.

M. Commandant, if order really reigned in our society, if the social organism were really healthy—in other words, if there were in our social relations no crying abuses, if it were not established that one man shall die of hunger while another gratifies his every whim of luxury, then you would see me in the front ranks of the defenders of this orderly state. But I flatly decline to help in preserving the present so-called “social order”. Why, M. Commandant, should we throw dust in each other’s eyes? We both know quite well what the ‘preservation of order’ means: upholding the rich against the poor toilers, who begin to perceive their rights. Do we not know the role, which the National Guard played in the last strike at Rotterdam? For no reason, the Guard had to be on duty hours and hours to watch over the property of the commercial houses, which were affected. Can you for a moment suppose that I should shoot down working-people who are acting quite within their rights? You cannot be so blind. Why then complicate the question? Certainly, it is impossible for me to allow myself to be molded into an obedient National Guardsman such as you want and must have.

For all these reasons, but especially because I hate murder by order, I refuse to serve as a National Guardsman, and ask you not to send me either uniform or arms, because I have a fixed resolve not to use them.

I greet you, M. Commandant J.K. Van der Veer.



Canadian War Department drones on with summer splurge (August 20, 2012)

By: Matthew Behrens

With student activists away for summer vacation, it was the perfect occasion in late July for Carleton University to celebrate a new \$40-million war-training contract. In partnership with war manufacturer CAE, Carleton's Visualization and Simulation Centre will enable Canadian Forces to better practice, in the coarse but memorable phrase of former Canadian warlord Rick Hillier, the fine art of killing people.

In a moment that would have done Orwell proud, Carleton President Roseann O'Reilly Runte gushed: "This is about saving lives. This is about saving money." On hand for the announcement was Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird, who boasted this war-training partnership will advance "Canada's security interests and...Canadian values around the world."

If such values are so great, one wonders why they need to come out of the barrel of a gun. But that's a non-issue in a national security state: when everything comes down to the rhetoric of "saving our way of life" from some unknown threat and protecting "our soldiers" from the threats we often arm to begin with, everything becomes justified, from transfers to torture to starving the poor of billions to pay for the War Department's high-tech toys.

Such announcements regularly occur on Canadian university campuses, but hopefully it will spur at Carleton the kind of protest that shut down similar attempts to exploit bright young minds for nefarious purposes (such victories occurred at **OISE and the University of Toronto**).

The Carleton University contract was one of numerous boondoggles announced during summer break by a Canadian War Department that's busily seeking out new enemies and new rationales to shield the lion's share of a \$23-billion budget that is unquestioned by all major political parties. The military is so awash in funds, that last March their expenditures jumped 14 per cent and no one could explain why.

In May, Canada's Parliamentary budget watchdog remarked that the Harper government had deliberately misled the public on the costs of the F-35 stealth bombers (a deception built upon bureaucrats within the War Department also ignoring their own internal warnings that the bomber project was plagued by serious troubles).

Shortly after, we also learned that War Minister Peter MacKay had also low-balled government figures by almost seven times when he discussed how much it cost to drop bombs on the people of Libya (over \$350 million at last count).

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(From page 2) **Canadian War Department drones**

Needless to say, the Libyan "mission," as it was delicately called, was an important benchmark for MacKay and the generals, who got to play with new equipment and push for new weapons programs as a result.

Meanwhile, the draw down in Afghanistan -- where Canadians fired off almost 5 million bullets in one 20-month period -- is making some Canadian soldiers itchy. In one **Ottawa Citizen interview**, a Kingston sergeant explained that garrison life on the home base "really discourages a lot of guys. The question becomes, 'When do we go next?' Adrenalin is a drug and they need the heart-pumping excitement and that level of unknown to keep them happy now." Thus, war is an experience we must incessantly provide to those trained to be warriors, finding new enemies and places to bomb so we can keep our soldiers happy.

Some of the boys apparently got what they wanted when millions were wasted last month as a Canadian contingent of 1,400 soldiers were shipped off to Hawaii to take part in the U.S.-led Rim of the Pacific war exercises, an attempt to remind China of who's boss on the world stage (and perhaps to reassure Canadian mining firms that help is not far away when Asian locals agitate over poor working conditions, toxic spills, or the murder of their union leaders).

The irony here is that at the same time we are preparing for war -- if necessary -- with China -- the busy Mr. Baird signed a deal to export increasing amounts of Canadian uranium to the nuclear weapons-holding government of Beijing, a slap in the face to nuclear non-proliferation.

And while the Pacific was being pounded with ordnance, we also learned the Canadian Forces are working to establish bases in the Caribbean, East Africa, Europe and Southeast Asia. This allows Canada's military to "project combat power/security assistance and Canadian influence rapidly and flexibly anywhere in the world," **according to a memo** signed by Canada's top soldier, Walter Natynczyk.

Part of that power projection will be done not so much with human beings who -- despite thorough indoctrination in home-grown training camps to eliminate their sense of empathy with those they are commanded to kill or transfer to torture -- remain vulnerable to the twinges of humanity that lead to afflictions like post-traumatic stress, depression, and suicide. Rather, the path forward is the remote control warfare that has become de rigueur over the past decade.

Indeed, the eagerness of War Minister Peter MacKay and his cronies to grab their joysticks and bomb from the safety of 5,000 miles away in Playstation fashion is clearly palpable. The U.S. and Israel have long dominated in the global use of drones (unmanned aerial vehicles), but now most countries are getting in on the act because of cost savings (especially relative to multi-billion contracts like the F-35 stealth bomber) and the relatively lower political costs (no troop deployments, no body bags from "our side," no embedded media who might step outside the boundaries and inspect the "collateral damage" on the ground).

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War is organized murder and torture against our brothers.

Alfred Adler

War is not an adventure. It is a disease. It is like typhus.

Antoine De Saint-Exupery

We who engage in nonviolent direct action are not the creators of tension. We merely bring to the surface the hidden tension that is already alive."

Martin Luther King, Jr.



Book & Film Recommendations

Crisis of Conscience {Conscientious Objection in Canada during the First World War

By: Amy J. Shaw (an assistant professor in the Department of History at the University of Lethbridge. UBC Press 2009

The Borden administration's Military Service Act (MSA) of which introduced conscription, included a clause offering limited exemption on the grounds that the conscript "conscientiously objects to the undertaking of combatant service and is prohibited from so doing by the tenets and articles of faith, in effect on the sixth day of July, 1917, of any organized religious denomination existing and well recognized in Canada, at such date, and to which he in good faith belongs."



Films donated by the No Boundaries Film Club to the Grand Forks Public Library.

{Ed note: I am sorry I do not have a description of the below films but they are worth the effort to view}

- Taking Root: The Vision of Wangaari Maathai
- War on Democracy49 Megawatts
- Raised to the Heroes
- You, Me and the SPP

From page 3) **Canadian War Department drones**

And so we have also learned that Canada's poor will have to sacrifice an additional \$1 billion so that armed Predator drones and their Hellfire missiles will be part of Canada's growing arsenal.

The drones are also touted as vehicles by which Canada somehow "saves lives," but this equation always leaves out the lives at risk on the ground. Over 3,000 souls have been slaughtered from the skies in the not-so-secret and clearly illegal drone war waged by Obama and his minions in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and the rapidly evolving technology is also being used to prevent refugees from finding asylum and to target political demonstrations. Drones represent the ultimate tool in a 24/7 surveillance and punishment society: the forces of control can always monitor us and, when convenient, vaporize us, without any sense of transparency or accountability.

They've been used extensively by Obama in his targeted assassination program, and are increasingly privatized to take them out of the already limited loop that would provide any measure of accountability. Indeed, private mercenary firms like Blackwater are deeply involved in arming and conducting drone strikes, thus privatizing larger portions of what's known as the "kill chain." Ironically, by the rules the Pentagon plays, such use of private mercenaries creates a whole new army of "unlawful combatants" who, if captured by the Taliban, would have no rights under the Geneva Convention. But such a scenario is unlikely, since the Taliban cannot invade the safe sanctuaries in New York and Nevada in which drone "pilots" sit in air conditioned comfort and fire the missiles.

The usual rationale for anything military these days is being touted in the drone PR: it is to protect "our Arctic" (and the precious resources that we stole from First Nations) from anyone who'd steal them from us. But even the War Department knows this is a red herring, as an **internal assessment** revealed in late June concluded Russia poses no threat to the region.

But corporations like Northrup Grumman are not letting logic or the facts get in the way of a good profit, and so in June pitched the Canadian government at the annual Ottawa weapons bazaar, CANSEC. War merchants have until September 28 to submit their tenders to provide the Canadian War Department with a fleet of Hellfire-armed Predators.

In addition to the direct damage caused by drone strikes, they play a huge role in projecting psychological torture on those who live beneath them.

(Continued next column)

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, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace and an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation as well as other local and global groups.

(From last column) **Canadian War Department drones**

Last year, Pakistan's Foundation for Fundamental Rights, in conjunction with U.K. human rights group Reprieve, brought together 350 people to discuss the traumas of life under the drones, which many reported seeing 10 to 15 times a day. The anxiety of never knowing when the hovering drones will strike is unimaginable: war by drone is a form of torture, an indefinite death sentence hanging over the heads of villagers that can be executed at any time of the day and night. And the victims never know what hit them, as Hellfire missiles travel faster than the speed of sound. In addition, after a drone strike, villagers often face death squads who believe someone in the village provided targeting data. Kidnappings and torture ensue, a convenient extension of the "kill chain" that begins back in a Nevada bunker.

The social justice group Homes not Bombs has long protested at the site of Canada's largest drone profiteer, L-3 Wescam, located right next door to a private elementary school in Burlington, Ontario. The group conducted their first attempted weapons inspection of the plant in late 2002 and numerous direct actions have followed, but such challenges have not, unfortunately, slowed the relentless search for newer targeting systems (though one employee informed the group of a resignation, spurred to leave when s/he discovered the true nature of their work).

L-3 Wescam announced last month at the U.K.'s annual Farnborough weapons show the launch of its MX™-10D electro-optical/infrared (EO/IR) imaging and designating turret, with their equipment showing, in the lifeless language of murder, "exceptional performance in all modes of flight throughout the HELLFIRE operational envelope." Canadians concerned about remote control murder, the rights of refugees, and freedom to associate would do well to resist Canada's new generation of drone warfare: with this technology, the wars have truly come home.

Matthew Behrens is a freelance writer and social justice advocate who co-ordinates the Homes not Bombs non-violent direct action network. He has worked closely with the targets of Canadian and U.S. 'national security' profiling for many years.

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