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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](http://www.boundarypeace.20m.com)**

**Boundary Peace Initiative meets on the 2nd & 4th Thursday @ 7 pm in the Slavonic Seniors Center on 72<sup>nd</sup> Ave. & 7<sup>th</sup> Street**

#### **Justice for Indigenous Peoples Solidarity with Idle No More Movement Canadian Peace Alliance December 20, 2012**

[www.acp-cpa.ca](http://www.acp-cpa.ca) | [@CanadianPeace](https://twitter.com/CanadianPeace)

The Canadian Peace Alliance, Canada's largest peace network stands in solidarity with the Idle No More movement and encourages all our member groups and supporters to participate in ongoing actions and protests.

We honour Chief Theresa Spence and her actions to demand the rights of Indigenous Peoples. Her courage and dignity as she is present on Victoria Island is in stark contrast to the arrogant and racist actions of the Harper Government.

The CPA rejects agendas of successive Canadian governments which have abused, ignored or steamrolled over indigenous rights. This history of abuse and conquest is the same being against first peoples the world over. It is done in the name of war, of money and of commerce.

This Harper government is seeking to spend half a trillion dollars on militarism and war as articulated in the Canada First Defence Strategy while at the same time perpetuating the lie that there is no money for things like great lakes protection, or proper support for Indigenous communities.

Harper's military agenda was outlined in the Canadian Forces Counter-Insurgency Manual's targeting of Indigenous peoples as military adversaries. An early draft of the manual cited "ambush, deception and killing" as potential tactics that may be used against "insurgents" including Indigenous peoples in Canada. While this was removed after public outcry, that it was included at all in the earlier draft speaks volumes about this government's view of Indigenous peoples.

Fundamentally, the CPA supports the right to self-determination for all peoples whether in Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine or anywhere they are fighting against occupation.

Indigenous people in the Middle East, Central Asia and here at home have seen the real face of the federal government's disdain for human rights and basic human decency – the road to Kandahar passed through Gustafsen Lake, Ipperwash, and Oka.

The Harper government shamefully obstructed the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and even though the government has finally adopted it, still refuses to abide by the central principle of free, prior, and informed consent.

Specifically, the CPA calls on the federal and provincial governments to uphold Indigenous people's rights to say no to "development" on their traditional lands.

#### **Land acquired over past decade could have produced food for a billion people**

**By: John Vidal, environment editor**

The Guardian, Thursday 4 October 2012

Oxfam calls on World Bank to stop backing foreign investors who acquire land for biofuels that could produce food

International land investors and biofuel producers have taken over land around the world that could feed nearly 1 billion people.

Analysis by Oxfam of several thousand land deals completed in the last decade shows that an area eight times the size of the UK has been left idle by speculators or is being used largely to grow biofuels for US or European vehicles.

In a report, published on Thursday, Oxfam says the global land rush is out of control and urges the World Bank to freeze its investments in large-scale land acquisitions to send a strong signal to global investors to stop "land grabs".

"More than 60% of investments in agricultural land by foreign investors between 2000 and 2010 were in developing countries with serious hunger problems. But two-thirds of those investors plan to export everything they produce on the land. Nearly 60% of the deals have been to grow crops that can be used for biofuels," says the report.

Very few, if any, of these land investments benefit local people or help to fight hunger, says Oxfam. "Instead, the land is either being left idle, as speculators wait for its value to increase ... or it is predominantly used to grow crops for export, often for use as biofuels." The bank has tripled its support for land projects to \$6bn-\$8bn (£3.7bn-£5bn) a year in the last decade, but no data is available on how much goes to acquisitions, or any links between its lending and conflict.

Since 2008, says Oxfam, 21 formal complaints have been brought by communities affected by World Bank investments, in which they claim that these have violated their land rights. Oxfam's chief executive, Barbara Stocking, said: "The rush for land

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#### **To Do**

**No Boundaries Film Festival: Feb. 22-24.** Watch for announcements. The BPI will again provide the concession and lunches. We call on our supporters to **donate food items.** Call Laura at 250-442-0434 to arrange food pick-up or delivery. Thank you.

**Peace Café-- The Economics of Happiness.** Facilitator Roly Russell: Feb 12 @ 6 pm at G.F. **Public Library Meeting Room, \$5 at the door.**

(From page 1) **Land acquired**

is out of control and some of the world's poorest people are suffering hunger, violence and greater poverty as a result. The World Bank is in a unique position to help stop land grabs becoming one of the biggest scandals of the century."

She added: "Investment should be good news for developing countries – not lead to greater poverty, hunger and hardship." According to the International Land Coalition, 106m hectares (261m acres) of land in developing countries were acquired by foreign investors between 2000 and 2010, sometimes with disastrous results.

Nearly 30% of Liberia has been handed out in large-scale concessions in the past five years, and up to 63% of all arable land in Cambodia has been passed over to private companies. Oxfam dismisses the claim made by the World Bank and others that lots of available land is unused and waiting for development. "It is simply a myth. Most agricultural land deals target quality farmland, particularly land that is irrigated and offers good access to markets.

"It is clear that much of this land was already being used for small-scale farming, pastoralism and other types of natural resource use."

A 2010 study by the Independent Evaluation Group (IEG) – the World Bank's official monitoring and evaluation body – stated that about 30% of bank projects involved involuntary resettlement. The IEG estimated that at any one time, more than 1 million people are affected by involuntary resettlement in active World Bank-financed projects.

Oxfam urged the UK government, one of the bank's largest shareholders, to use its influence to persuade it to implement the freeze. "It can also play a crucial role as president of the G8 next year by putting food and hunger at the heart of the agenda, and addressing land grabs as part of this. Critically, it can also press the EU to reverse biofuels targets – a key driver of land grabs." Stocking said: "The UK should also show leadership in reversing flawed biofuels targets, which are a main driver for land and are diverting food into fuel."

In a statement to the Guardian, the International Finance Corporation, the World Bank's private lending arm, said: "IFC does not finance land acquisitions for speculative purposes. We invest in productive agricultural and forestry enterprises that can be land intensive to help provide the food and fibre the world needs. IFC has roughly a \$4.85bn portfolio of agri-related investments. Of that, roughly \$600m has a land component. Total land holding related to those investments total 0.7m hectares.

"Competition for scarce land resources has spurred rising investment in land. This competition can fuel conflict with existing users. Inevitably, bank group involvement in forestry and agriculture is not without risk, particularly given the fact we are operating in imperfect governance environments. But the total number of complaints received gives no explanation as to their validity."

Such is the irresistible nature of truth that all it asks,  
and all it wants, is the liberty of appearing. Thomas  
Paine

The only solution is love. Dorothy Day

**Hunger falls but still unacceptably high-FAO chief**

**By Jose Graziano da Silva ROME: Oct 9, 2012**

(Jose Graziano da Silva is the director-general of the U.N's Food and Agriculture Organization. The views expressed in this article are those of the author and should not be seen as representing the views of Reuters News.)

Achieving the first Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of halving the prevalence of hunger in the world by 2015 is still within reach, but a strong, sustained acceleration of efforts is needed. Progress made in the fight against hunger since the middle of the last decade has lost steam, and it is time to regain momentum.

The global number of chronically hungry people has declined by 130 million since 1990, falling from a little over one billion people to 868 million - 852 million of them in developing countries.

Progress was made not only in terms of overall numbers, but also in the proportion of the population who are undernourished. This has dropped globally from 18.6 percent in 1990 to the current level of 12.5 percent, and from 23.2 percent to 14.9 percent in developing countries.

That is better news than we have had in the past, but it still means that one person in every eight goes hungry. That is unacceptable, especially when we live in a world of plenty.

Particularly appalling is the situation in Africa, where the number of hungry has gone up in the last 20 years - from 175 million in 1990 to 239 million.

These figures are included in this year's The State of Food Insecurity in the World (SOFI) -- the world hunger report published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme. In this edition, SOFI uses better data and an improved methodology, developed with the help of experts from around the world to estimate hunger.

The figures show that most of the progress in hunger reduction was made until 2006, as food price levels continued to decline. With the rise in food prices and the economic crisis that followed, there have been many fewer advances.

This slowdown in the pace of hunger reduction confirms that, in a world with sufficient food for everyone, the main cause of hunger is a lack of access: Worldwide, millions of people are unable to buy the food they need to survive!

With the benefit of hindsight, we now know that the combined effects of the international food-price spikes in 2007-2008 and the subsequent economic crisis were not as great as was feared at the time.

The spikes in world food prices were apparently mitigated by coping responses from governments and households, and the spread of the economic slowdown to developing countries was slower than originally expected.

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## (From page 2) Hunger falls

However, higher food prices can have other consequences for poor families, as they may switch to higher-energy, but less nutritious, foods to maintain their caloric intake.

In the present context of uncertain economic growth in addition to higher and more volatile food prices, reinvigorating broad-based economic growth will be crucial to making further progress towards the MDG hunger target.

It will depend on whether we can enable the two billion people who earn their living from agriculture, and who account for most of the poor in the world, to benefit from rural growth. Let's not forget that high agricultural prices can be an opportunity for poor farmers, provided conditions allow them to seize that opportunity.

This involves, inter alia, creating the conditions for development of the productive sectors, especially smallholder agriculture; ensuring equitable access to resources for the poor and for women in particular; building resilience in poor rural families; and designing, financing and implementing social protection for the most vulnerable.

Improved governance - based on transparency, participation, accountability, rule of law and human rights - is also essential.

Among other priorities, we must reduce the huge amount of food lost or wasted every year - estimated at around a third of total production!

We must also start paying more attention not only to the quantity of food available to people, but also to its quality. Increasingly, the world is faced with a double burden of malnutrition, a cruel caricature of inequality in the world today. Chronic undernourishment co-exists with micro nutrient malnutrition, which affects well over 1.4 billion adults worldwide, with all that it implies in terms of diet-related diseases, such as obesity.

Even if we halve the world's hungry by 2015, what do we say to the other half? We need to start looking beyond the MDGs and towards the total eradication of hunger, answering the call made by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in his "Zero Hunger Challenge" at the Rio+20 Summit. It links the achievement of food security to the elimination of childhood stunting through sustainable production and increased small-scale productivity.

Bold goals are needed so that society as a whole can embrace this cause, supporting and pushing governments to transform political will into action on a broad enough scale to eradicate hunger.

With hunger, the only acceptable number is "zero". (Editing by Keiron Henderson)

## Iraq conflict: Crisis of an orphaned generation

**By: Caroline Hawley (BBC News Baghdad)**

A recent survey in Iraq found that between 800,000 to a million Iraqi children have lost one or both of their parents.

According to aid workers this figure is a conservative estimate of the many thousands growing up in the shadow of violence.

Twelve-year-old Saif lost both his parents in a bomb attack - in which he was also injured - in the province of Diyala in 2005.

"I don't remember what happened," he says, quietly. "I was small. A man came and took me away and afterwards told me what had happened to my mother and father. There is no life when you've lost your mother and father."

Saif is now being brought up in a private orphanage, where, despite the trauma he has been through,

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**Web-site recommendations:** *We will continue adding to the list, check out last months list and look for more in subsequent issues*

Council of Canadians: [www.canadians.org](http://www.canadians.org)

United National Anti-War Committee:

War Resisters Support Campaign: [www.resisters.ca](http://www.resisters.ca)

Global March to Jerusalem: [www.gm2j.com](http://www.gm2j.com)

Conscience Canada: [www.consciencecanada.ca](http://www.consciencecanada.ca)

Canadian Voice of Women for Peace:

[www.vowpeace.org](http://www.vowpeace.org)

Ceasefire: [www.ceasefire.ca](http://www.ceasefire.ca)

Global Network—Keep Space for Peace:

[www.space4peace.org](http://www.space4peace.org)

Beyond Nuclear: [www.beyondnuclear.org](http://www.beyondnuclear.org)

Tamil Network: [www.tamilnet.com](http://www.tamilnet.com)

The Activist Magazine: [www.activistmagazine.com](http://www.activistmagazine.com)

The School of the Americas Watch:

[www.SOAWatch.org](http://www.SOAWatch.org)

International Coalition Ban Depleted Uranium:

[www.badepleteduranium.org](http://www.badepleteduranium.org)

United for Peace & Justice: [www.unitedforpeace.org](http://www.unitedforpeace.org)

International Action Center: [www.iaccenter.org](http://www.iaccenter.org)

## Book & Film Recommendations



### Days of Destruction, Days of Revolt

**By: Chris Hedges, Joe Sacco (Illustrator)**

Published; June 2012 by Nation Books/ Knoph Canada

Two years ago, Pulitzer Prize winner Chris Hedges and award-winning cartoonist and journalist Joe Sacco set out to take a look at the sacrifice zones, those areas in America that have been offered up for exploitation in the name of profit, progress, and technological advancement. They wanted to show in words and drawings what life looks like in places where the marketplace rules without constraints, where human beings and the natural world are used and then discarded to maximize profit. *Days of Destruction, Days of Revolt* is the searing account of their travels.

The book starts in the western plains, where Native Americans were sacrificed in the giddy race for land and empire. It moves to the old manufacturing centers and coalfields that fueled the industrial revolution, but now lie depleted and in decay. It follows the steady downward spiral of American labor into the nation's produce fields and ends in Zuccotti Park where a new generation revolts against a corporate state that has handed to the young an economic, political, cultural and environmental catastrophe.

*Editor's Note: Although this book is about the US, the situation in Canada is so similar as to be a carbon copy*



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

**Ed note:** *After the club purchases new films*

*recommended by you, the viewer, we will list them.*

*Remember to join us at the Film Festival this February.*

**Stop Canada's support for the War on Mali  
Canadian Peace Alliance: January 24, 2013**

The Government of Canada has decided to extend its support for the French led mission in Mali. The peace movement in Canada is far too familiar with the "mission creep" that accompanies these military interventions by the Harper government. The mission was to be one week long and now has been extended to at least one month. There is also speculation that Canada may send another plane to aid in the assault on the people of northern Mali.

This is part of a larger trend of Canada supporting wars with vague timelines and murky goals. As we begin the 12th year of the open-ended "war on terror", our government and the opposition believes that they no longer need to have any discussion or debate before sending Canadian forces overseas. It needs to stop.

Although simply described as an "anti-terror" mission by Stephen Harper, the situation in Mali is significantly more complicated.

Among other things, Canada and many other NATO countries have extensive mining and oil and gas claims in the area. There is also a long story of people in the region fighting to maintain some control over their lands against colonial occupiers.

We urge you to sign the online petition, send a letter to your MP and to read the following links to understand why Canada and all NATO countries need to get out of Mali and Northern Africa.

**What can you do?**

1- Sign the Online Petition Here! [cpa@web.ca](mailto:cpa@web.ca)

2- Share the CPA's "Stop the War on Mali" web page and links

3- Write to your Member of Parliament and urge them to call for an end to Canada's support for the war in Mali. You MP's e-mail address can be found using your postal code at this link:  
<http://www.parl.gc.ca/Parlinfo/Compilations/HouseOfCommons/MemberByPostalCode.aspx?Menu=HOC>

(From page 3) **Crisis of an orphaned generation**

he enjoys playing computer games and singing, and dreams of becoming an actor.

No-one knows the exact number of Iraqi children who, like Saif, have been orphaned by Iraq's unrelenting violence.

**Social crisis**

But with bombs and assassinations still a daily occurrence, the number of orphans is continually growing. Children in this private orphanage have better facilities than those in the state-run institution, which the BBC visited.

Beyond the individual tragedies, the sheer number of Iraqi orphans has created a social crisis in a country that has less than 200 social workers and psychiatrists put together, for a population of 30 million people. It has no child protection laws.

Officials say that desperately needed welfare legislation has been held hostage to sectarian squabbling in parliament.

The orphanage in central Baghdad where Saif lives was set up by Hisham Hassan and funded by private donations.

(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) **Crisis of an orphaned generation**

He told the BBC he could not stand by and watch the suffering of a generation of young Iraqis.

"The government has not grasped the size of the problem," he says.

Among the 32 boys he looks after are brothers Mustafa and Mortada, aged 10 and 11.

Their mother was killed in a shoot-out and their father disappeared during the height of Iraq's sectarian war.

They remember and miss a "good mother" and a father who used to play football with them.

Hisham Hassan and his small staff have done their best to create a homely atmosphere at the orphanage.

There is one room for the boys to create art, and a computer room where games are allowed once homework is done. And they are taught to sew and even cut hair.

After the harrowing experiences of their past, they are being encouraged to prepare for a better future.

"If they're not properly looked after, when they grow up they will be exploited by terrorists and they will be like bombs - a threat to the security and future of the country," says Mr. Hassan.

**'Caged bird'**

On the other side of the city, in a state-run orphanage for 12- to 18-year-olds, a desperate 17-year-old Mustafa is terrified about his own future.

"I need someone to give me psychological care. Maybe we'll be involved in crimes because there is nothing good in our future," he says.

Many of the play facilities at Baghdad's Dar al-Waziriya orphanage need updating

Mustafa was brought to Dar al-Waziriya orphanage after he lost both his parents in a bomb attack when he was 12 years old.

"I feel like a bird in a cage here," he says. "I wish there was someone to listen to us."

The orphanage, home to 52 boys, is a dilapidated and disconsolate place - the playground has fallen into disuse, there is no light in the downstairs toilet, and no sink in the bathroom upstairs.

The steps to the boys' dormitories are crumbling and a broken door has not been fixed.

"I would like this to be a nice place to live," an eight-year-old boy tells me, shyly.

Iraq's Deputy Minister for Social Affairs, Dara Yara, told the BBC that he and his staff are doing their best, in difficult political circumstances.

"We're are working day and night to improve the services we provide to orphans. But the money I'm allocated for this is very limited. And the whole social security system in this country needs reform.

"This is a humanitarian issue and it's not being prioritized by parliament. We need laws and we need money from the ministry of finance to deal with the problem."

And he, too, worries about the security consequences if Iraq's orphans are not given the long-term care that they need.

"They are," he says, "very easy targets for recruitment by terrorists."

**Exercise your democratic rights:**

Voice your opinion to the Prime Minister

Free postage: Prime Minister, Steven Harper, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6

Phone: 613-992-4211 Fax: 613-941-6900

Email: [pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca)