



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 on the 2nd & 4th Thursday @ 7 pm in the Slavonic Seniors Center on 72nd Ave. & 7th Street

To Do

No planned events in June but watch for announcements if the need arises.

Make the lie big, make it simple, keep saying it, and eventually they will believe it.
 Adolph Hitler

The welfare of the people in particular has always been the alibi of tyrants.
 Albert Camus

Arun Gandhi of Gandhi Worldwide Education Institute Responds:

Brothers and Sisters, in April the USCC Iskra magazine asked the BPI to submit some questions for their interview with Arun Gandhi. The article was published in the May issue but sadly they were only able to use one of our questions. On May 17th Mr. Gandhi was in Castlegar and we took the opportunity to ask if he'd be willing to respond to our questions. He agreed and we received his responses and will share them with you, our readers starting with this issue. Also, Laura will write an article from her notes on Arun's presentation in Castlegar for a future issue.

Question #1: Given the facts that the Nuclear Suppliers Group approved the 123 Agreement between the USA and India for supplying Uranium, now Canada and Australia among other Uranium producing nations; that India does have Nuclear Weapons, yet is not a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty; that India is proposing and is building Nuclear Power Plants with this Uranium thereby freeing their domestic supply of Uranium for weapons production; and that a large sector of the Indian population object to growth of the nuclear industry with the organizations in India protesting/ resisting proliferation, do you have any suggestions as to methods that might enhance the resistance and be more effective?

Answer #1: Following in my grandfather's footsteps I am against nuclear proliferation any where in the world. No country, not even India, can justify building of nuclear weapons or nuclear power facilities.

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(From last column) Arun Gandhi

However, the one important lesson from Grandfather's philosophy of nonviolence that I learnt is that "We must live what we want others to learn.." For the developed nations to say to developing nations that you should not build nuclear plants they must first dismantle their own nuclear plants. If nuclear energy is bad for the developing countries, it must be bad for the developed countries too. The developing countries suffer a shortage of power to drive their industries and light up their homes. It is important for the developed countries to use their technology to develop means to produce electric energy in a safe and clean way and offer it to the developing nations. There cannot be two sets of rules in the world. If I remember correctly the United States too has not signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. So, if the US can exempt itself why should others not take liberty? I am not justifying what India or Iran is doing but the idea that some nations, by virtue of their economic power, consider themselves above the rest of the world will no longer hold good. The protest is weak in India because half the nation is so poor that food is more important to them than the principles of nuclear technology, and the other half of the nation is so starved for energy for their homes, gadgets and industry that they are willing to risk anything to get it. Their logic (I don't subscribe to this) is that if it was good for the West, it must be good for us. With all the protests here the West is not showing any inclination to destroy its nuclear plants or weapons!

(More next issue)

30th Annual Mothers Day Peace Walk at the Osoyoos/US Border Crossing, where we meet as brothers and sisters of one global family. Below is my presentation to the 150 or so who gathered.

I bring you greetings from BPI & CPA & the Gaza Ark Committee to every Mother, parent and Grandparent. (I followed Dr. Dienst as he related his most recent travels to Gaza and his involvement in the Gaza Ark) I was asked to sit on the Gaza Ark Committee as a regional rep and I have agreed to do so, which means Dr. Bill Dienst and I will be working together on this project.

Dear Sisters and Brothers, Mothers and all parents,

Why does the Creator give us this precious gift of children? Are we to love, nurture, guide them? What it is it we take the time and energy to teach them? Do we teach our children to share, to be thoughtful and kind, to be respectful and honest within the family, with friends and casual acquaintances? Some of us extend that to our surrounding communities and some even to our global community. We teach them not hit each other; not bully each other; to treat others with dignity; to be polite and civil with everyone. And then we extend this expectation into our schools and workplaces.

Yet, somehow that honor, dignity, kindness, love slides away when The State decides we must invade, conquer, exploit, occupy someone else's land or culture. I have never been able to understand, why it is wrong to abuse, mistreat, exploit at home, but right when it is sanctioned, promoted, encouraged by government, whether that governing body is a king, a prime minister, or a president. Why does 'national security' warrant the disavowal of our humanity, the putting aside of love and honor and respect? To date, no one has been able to explain why it is okay to murder children and parents in Afghanistan, Syria, Libya, Mali, Iraq or anywhere else, but not in Toronto or Grand Forks or Osoyoos. If it is wrong here why is it not wrong over there? Why is our way of life more important to preserve, is better than lives in other areas of the world.

Do Mothers and Fathers in other parts of the world love their children less? I don't think so. They value the precious gift of children, just as much; they take their job as guide and teacher just as seriously; their love is just as deep and their desire and need to nurture and protect their children is just as vital. So, why do we, as a whole, not recognize this very basic and common understanding? Why do we continue to insist that 'my child' or 'children of my culture' or 'children of my nation' are better, smarter, more important, than yours? I really don't understand this attitude.

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(From last column) **30th Annual Mothers Day**
Of course the child I gave birth to or those whom I grew up with or know more I do have a closer affinity with, but at the same time, the well being of your child, of our global family, needs to be valued and honored and loved and cared for and about by us as the community of humanity in order to ensure that my child is as loved and cared for and about as yours. When we, the peoples of the world, recognize and accept that every child is a precious gift to all humanity, to all Creation, we will live peacefully and in harmony with each other.

Peace will be the prevailing life-style and will no longer need to be sought after or pursued or established or created. In reality Peace exists. It is our collective fear, our collective paranoia of the other that keeps violence, force, abuse, poverty, destruction and war in the forefront of our lives.

That universal love for all children was the original intent of Mothers Day way back in 1870. Julia Ward Howe, along with other Mothers, tried to establish June 2nd as Peace Day but 'the powers that be' refused and instead many years later the present day commercialized celebration arrived on the scene. Yes, it is a good thing to honor our Mothers for the life that they give us, but for me, the best gift would be an end to the violence and abuse and exploitation of which war and imperialism is the ultimate expression. And that is why our gathering here, at this place, at this time, is so important. We join our hands, our hearts, our minds and our spirits as one global family to value, honor and nurture all life and say Peace is, Peace lives, Peace is real. Along with those I represent here today we say Thank You! To the organizers, to all who come every year and to those who have joined us for the first time Thank you.

In Universal Kinship and Loving Peace,

Laura Savinkoff



Global Military Spending

Contributed by: Madelyn MacKay

Today, global military spending is over \$1.7 Trillion. In 2012, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, stated, “The world is over-armed and peace is under funded,” to highlight the global imbalance in the allocation of resources between military expenditures and development.

At the ‘*Arms Down? Global Youth Campaign for Shared Security Summit*’, the UN Secretary-General explained, “Since the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were first articulated a decade ago, world military expenditure has risen by 50% to more than {1.7} trillion. This money could surely have been much better spent on poverty reduction, climate change mitigation and adaptation, food and nutrition security, women’s and children’s health and other global development challenges.”

It would cost approximately \$400 billion or 25% of what countries spend annually on their militaries to meet the MDGs. Instead of spending on armies and weapons, we could eradicate extreme poverty and hunger and ensure every child can go to school.

In 2012, the Canadian government spent \$22 billion on the Department of National Defence and only \$1 billion on Environment Canada. There has been a minimal cut to the current military budget, but the federal government has forecast it will spend over \$20 billion annually for National Defence over the next three years. As well, the government is still planning to spend approximately \$25 billion for warships, \$16 billion of fighter jets, and \$1 billion on armed drones. Canada is ranked 14th for highest military spending in the world, but our government is cutting environmental programs and employment insurance. The greatest human security challenges we are facing are climate change and poverty. In Canada, there are 150,000 people homeless, 15% of children are living in poverty, and there is growing income inequality. Canadians must question whether so many of our tax dollars should be spent on National Defence and so little on the environment and social equality.

Take Action:

Let your MP know your priorities. Call for a green, peaceful & just economy.

Email PM Stephen Harper to redirect military spending: pm@pm.g.ca

Share your support for the Global Day of Action on military spending on Twitter and Facebook.

Sponsors: Canadian Voice of Women for Peace: Halifax Peace Coalition: Canadian Peace Alliance: Global Day of Action on Military Spending. (*Check out the referenced and research websites listed on page 4*)

If you think you are too small to make an impact
Try sleeping in a room with one mosquito !!
(Borrowed from Arun Gandhi’s email signature)

Book & Film Recommendations

Full Planet, Empty Plates

The New Geopolitics of Food Security

Publisher: Earth Policy Institute 2012

By: Lester R. Brown: president of Earth Policy Institute, a research organization based in Washington, D.C., has been honored with numerous prizes, including a MacArthur Fellowship, the United Nations Environment Prize, Japan’s Blue Planet Prize and 25 honorary degrees.

2012, W. W. Norton & Company, NY, 144 pp.: Scientists and many other concerned individuals have long sensed that the world economy had moved onto an environmentally unsustainable path. This has been evident to anyone who tracks trends such as deforestation, soil erosion, aquifer depletion, collapsing fisheries and the increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide. What was not so clear was exactly where this path would lead. It now seems that the most imminent effect will be tightening supplies of food. Food is the weak link in our modern civilization... just as it was for the Sumerians, Mayans, and many others who have come and gone. They could not separate their fate from that of their food supply. Nor can we. Armed aggression is no longer the principal threat to our future. The overriding security concerns in this century are climate change, population growth, spreading water shortages, rising food prices, and politically failing states.



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

Bidder 70: Directors: Beth and George Gage 2012

Bidder 70 centers on an extraordinarily ingenious and effective act of civil disobedience demanding government and industry accountability. In the name of climate justice, University of Utah economics student Tim DeChristopher purchased oil and gas lease rights to thousands of acres of federal land in southern Utah, even though he had no intention of paying for it. Follow Tim (*Bidder 70*) from college student to incarcerated felon. DeChristopher says, “At this point of unimaginable threats on the horizon, this is what hope looks like...With countless lives on the line, this is what love looks like, and it will only grow...” Powerful, intelligent and very entertaining, *Bidder 70* will show you how one person can change the world. This is a truly inspiring story. **Best American Film, Traverse City Film Festival**

Ed. Note: If you have read a book or seen a film that you feel would be of interest or informative please let us know and we will include them in this section. Email the name of the book, the author and the publisher with a brief explanation of the book, and for the film the name, the producer and a brief explanation of the contents to Laura at l4peace@telus.net. Thank you.

Web-site recommendations: We will add to this list but check out past issues for more sites. If you have a site you find of interest and informative, please let us know at email; l4peace@telus.net

Public Accounts of Canada:

www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/recgen/text/72-eng.html

Canada First Defence Strategy:

www.forces.gc.ca/site/pri/first-premier/index-eng.asp

CPA: Redirect Military Spending:

www.acp-cpa.ca/en/Militaryspending.html

Canadian Voice of Women for Peace:

www.vowpeac.org

Halifax Peace Coalition:

www.halifaxpeacecoalition.ca

Global Day of Action on Military Spending:

www.demilitarize.org

Gaza Ark:

www.gazaark.org),

On the 65th commemoration of the Nakba, the struggle continues: We have purchased Gaza's Ark and with your help, we will sail towards justice

When Palestinians and other people of conscience mark Nakba (*Catastrophe*) Day on May 15, they insist that the world acknowledge the history of Palestinian dispossession since 1948. As world leaders have ignored Palestinian dispossession in general, they have also ignored the suffering of Palestinians in Gaza under the Israeli blockade. Gaza's Ark is a people-to-people campaign to force the injustices faced by Palestinians in Gaza back onto the world's agenda.

We are excited to announce today that we have bought the boat that will become Gaza's Ark!

Your **generous support** has allowed us to reach this milestone. Your continued strong support will be crucial to our direct action campaign to **challenge the blockade** by sailing out from the port of Gaza with **Palestinian exports** for international markets.

We have made the down payment to the boat's previous owners but still have to pay the balance of the price, in addition to raising the funds required to rebuild and convert this fishing boat into a cargo vessel.

(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) **Gaza's Ark,**

With the help of donors like you we have raised over \$90,000 to date (of an estimated campaign budget of about \$US 300,000).

Your continued support is the only way to ensure that the work will continue. Any amount is welcome, from \$1 to \$10,000 but if you can afford it, please be generous.

Since there are currently no cargo vessels in Gaza, we have purchased a fishing boat whose previous owners, like all fishers in Gaza, have difficulty making a living because of the **violent restrictions imposed on Palestinian fishing boats** by the Israeli government and we will convert it to a cargo vessel.

Much rebuilding is required and we are pleased that we will provide some work opportunities in Gaza where the **illegal blockade has caused massive unemployment**. Work on the boat will begin in a few days and it is critical that we have money in hand to ensure that the work will not be delayed, in the short term, due to lack of funds. We also need to make the remaining boat payments to the seller on time.

We need you to be a part of this public challenge to the complicity of our governments with the illegal Israeli blockade of Gaza. The Palestinian port of Gaza must be open for marine traffic like every other Mediterranean port. We will not rest until that happens – please help us work towards that goal. The pace of our campaign's progress depends on the generosity of supporters like you, and on your willingness to help us recruit other individuals and organizations.

Please visit **our website**, which features regular updates about the campaign and many ways to donate. There you will also find information about our Palestinian **Trade not Aid** initiative, and links to the ongoing **Freedom Flotilla Coalition** campaigns for **Palestinian freedom of movement**, including freedom of sailing for the Palestinian fishing fleet.

Please support Gaza's Ark in any way you can, spread the word of the campaign to your contacts, friends and family. This will help the project progress as quickly as possible.

Together we can help end the blockade of Gaza!

Please donate generously

<http://www.gazaark.org/donate>



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



