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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.**

**The Crisis in Ukraine**

By: the Canadian Peace Alliance

There is a need at this time to go into the facts about the crisis in Ukraine. The simple arguments about "democracy", "sovereignty", "independence" put forward by Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs John Baird and Prime Minister Stephen Harper are a prescription for disaster. Their treatment of the crisis is a disservice to Canadians and a manipulation of the struggle of the Ukrainian people against internal corruption and foreign domination.

The election of oligarch Petro Poroshenko as President of Ukraine is a continuation of what came before. He is closely tied to the ruling circles in Ukraine with links to Yulia Tymoshenko, the neo-liberal Orange Revolution in 2004 and former President Viktor Yanukovich.

In fact, the people of Ukraine rejected the May elections as representing any real change. Voter turnout in the eastern regions of the country dropped significantly. Young voters expressed disdain of the choice between billionaire politicians who have no concern for the people. None of those vying for President were seen as capable of uniting the divided country.

The political, military and economic crisis which is emerging out of the conflict in Ukraine shows the dangers of the present era. It shows that the end of the Cold War did not usher in a new and less dangerous period. Russia, the EU, the United States have been locked in a strategic battle for control of the former republics that made up the Soviet Union and the nations that were aligned with it.

The people of Ukraine are caught in the middle between the maneuverings of Russia and the Western powers. Neither can guarantee them peace, freedom and security so long as the objectives remain that of control and domination.

(Continued next column)

**(From last column) The Crisis in Ukraine**

Internally, the forces which promised neo-liberalism as the measure of democracy have failed. The current crisis is a continuation of the struggle that emerged in the Orange Revolution of 2004 and pitted pro-Western forces in Ukraine against those closely tied to Russia and its interests.

Canadians can take no heart in the alignment of the Canadian government with the forces that are in power in Ukraine or its continuing incitement of confrontation with Russia. These actions are not about support for national rights, freedom or democracy. They represent the fault lines of a new and catastrophic confrontation which is in the making. The danger reaches from Central Europe, through the former Yugoslavia, Georgia, Syria, the Middle East and Central Asia. Ukraine is the most recent pressure point in this geo-political wrangling.

The Canadian government is fully engaged in this dangerous game through NATO and its support for U.S. policy to heighten these tensions. Much of the mainstream Canadian media has filtered the content of its reporting on Ukraine in order to support these tensions. The danger is in accepting the narrative which is pushed – whether it is "weapons of mass destruction" as was the case in Iraq or "freedom and territorial integrity" as in Ukraine. It is important for Canadians to take a stand against this manipulation.

Canadian Peace Alliance website:

[www.canadianpeace.ca](http://www.canadianpeace.ca)

French version: [www.pourlapaix.ca](http://www.pourlapaix.ca)

Email: [info@canadianpeace.org](mailto:info@canadianpeace.org)

**To Do**

- **August 6<sup>th</sup>**—  
Hiroshima Day,  
**Castlegar:**  
details  
TBA.
- **August 9<sup>th</sup>**—  
Nagasaki Day,  
**Grand Forks;**  
details  
TBA.
- **August 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**Watershed**  
Workshop  
in **Nelson**  
info on  
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## Sweden to investigate Israel's attacks on Gaza-bound ships

By: Gaza's Ark Steering Committee

Israel has attacked several Gaza-bound ships over the last few years. Swedish prosecutor Henrik Attorps has launched an investigation into suspected criminal offenses ranging from aggravated assault, aggravated unlawful threats, theft, and other crimes under international law. "We have grounds to believe that such crimes were committed," the office of the public prosecutor said in a statement. More details: <http://www.gazaark.org/2014/06/26/sweden-probes-ship-to-gaza-boardings/>

This shows that efforts to challenge the illegal and inhumane Israeli blockade of Gaza are of vital importance. They are crucial in bringing the world's attention to Israeli atrocities - even though that is not happening fast enough. The Swedish investigation follows action by a Turkish court, which issued arrest warrants for Israeli senior officers over their role in ordering the 2010 attack on the Mavi Marmara while bound for Gaza. The matter has also been referred to the International Criminal Court.

This news comes as we are rebuilding Gaza's Ark and repairing the damage caused by the cowardly attack on it that occurred when we were almost ready to sail: (<http://www.gazaark.org/2014/04/28/gazas-ark-attacked/>) this news encourage us to persevere despite the difficulties and the challenges.

We continue to count on your support to finish the building of Gaza's Ark and sail it out of Gaza as a new challenge to the unjustified blockade.

Please help us continue this important work:  
<http://www.gazaark.org/donate/>

I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

The real and lasting victories are those of peace, and not of war.  
Ralph Waldo Emerson

If someone thinks that peace and love are just a cliché that must have been left behind in the 60s, that's a problem. Peace and love are eternal."

John Lennon

## Dominican Republic citizenship law ends limbo for Haitian descendants

By: [theguardian.com](http://theguardian.com): 23 May 2014

Alejandro Pierre, centre, attends a street procession in Santo Domingo during Holy Week. The aspiring bartender was born in the Dominican Republic, as was his mother; his father was born in Haiti. Photograph: Alessandro Vecchi.

Alejandro Pierre is known as the king of [bachata](#) in his neighborhood, on the outskirts of Santo Domingo. He loves the swaying hip movements of this uniquely Dominican dance.

Pierre was born in the [Dominican Republic](#), as was his mother. But his father was born in neighboring [Haiti](#), and his maternal grandfather emigrated decades ago to work in the sugarcane fields. Until this week, Pierre's Haitian origins made him ineligible for Dominican citizenship.

A constitutional court ruling eight months ago rendered stateless an estimated 210,000 people like Pierre, according to the UN refugee agency (UNHCR). Governments and human rights organizations have decried the policy and warned that the ruling could have unforeseen economic consequences.

This week, after intense pressure, Congress passed a law that will regularize children of irregular migrants who have birth certificates and allowing descendants of irregular migrants who never had papers to naturalize.

The law addresses an eight-month legal standoff. In September, the constitutional court legalized actions the Dominican authorities [had been making for the past 15 years](#) – arbitrarily and then systematically [denying citizenship to descendants of Haitian immigrants](#).

The court ruled that the plaintiff, a woman born in the republic to Haitian parents, was not Dominican. It also ordered a scan of the civil registry to identify anyone else born to irregular migrants since 1929. The court ruling, which cannot be appealed against, sealed years of deprivations of papers and legal amendments to justify the country's citizenship policies.

The government claimed it was simply addressing longstanding immigration issues and asserting its sovereignty to manage citizenship. "Birthright is not a reason to grant Dominican nationality," said a staff member at the Central Electoral Board, which manages civil registration. He requested anonymity as he did not have permission to grant interviews.

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## (From page 2) **Dominican Republic citizenship**

But researchers have already noted the impact of the ruling. "The deliberate creation of a stateless underclass increases the already formidable risks of exploitation," said a recent report by the [American Federation of Labour and Congress of Industrial Organizations](#). It warned that the ruling could worsen poverty among those affected, because without an identity card people are relegated to informal jobs and have little bargaining power in relations with employers.

That was one of the main complaints the new law addresses. Advocates are cautiously optimistic and say that the next challenge will be the implementation process.

For the past six years, Pierre has been trying to secure a national ID card so he can work. The card is necessary for myriad bureaucratic tasks, including marriage, registering children, opening a bank account and entering public university.

Each time Pierre has gone to request his ID, he has been told to wait or to bring more documents. Once the staff told him to go to the Haitian embassy to apply for a passport.

Pierre, who has never been to Haiti, found the suggestion absurd, but he tried it anyway. At the Haitian embassy, "the lady told me 'you can't get a passport, you're Dominican'", he said. When he returned to the registry he was told his papers were not ready, without further explanation.

Now 26, he still has no ID. Because he has a birth certificate, he should be able to get his ID under the new law. Those without a Dominican birth certificate may have to register to enter into the naturalization process. This is a particularly vulnerable group going forward, as naturalization is a discretionary process. Pierre has already wasted years waiting.

The fields that once surrounded Pierre's [batey](#) – a town for sugarcane workers – are gone and Bienvenido has morphed into a bustling urban pocket. The younger generation has moved on, along with the Dominican economy; as the sugar industry has shrunk in recent decades, tourism has blossomed.

With his knock-off Dolce and Gabbana belt, gold chain and fake Ray Ban sunglasses Pierre does not look like a rural worker, and he wants to be a bartender. "Since I was a kid, I have always wanted to find out how to make my own drinks," he said.

Perhaps he has been inspired by the vibrant dance halls he frequents on Bienvenido's main street, where the scent of fried chicken permeates the air and women in bright spandex saunter by while men lounge at the roadside sipping rum and beer.

After training to become a waiter and bartender, Pierre had a successful trial run in a resort in Cabarete, a tourist hub in the north. But he could not sign a contract without ID. "These are young people who want to study, they want to go to university, they know about technology, they want to get out of the batey and go and work. For those people it's terrible that they don't have a document," said Gonzalo.

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## **Book & Film Recommendations**



### Books

#### **Reclaiming Higher Ground**

#### **Creating Organizations that Inspire the Soul**

By: Lance H.K. Secretan © 1996

Publisher: Macmillan Canada

Lance Secretan presents the chilling scenario that we've hit the wall with current management theory: we can't go on doing "More of the same, only faster: We have been catering to the personality and its desire for ego-gratification at the expense of the soul. He writes that individuals and organizations will flourish once again when we restore respect for the soul and create workspaces that are sanctuaries by reclaiming the higher ground that will make their lives whole again.



### Films

No new films at this time.

***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. 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](mailto:l4peace@telus.net). Thank you.*

#### **Watershed Stewardship Workshop—August 9, 2014 in Nelson**

Look at a watershed map of Canada, and you will see how deeply connected we are, by the ponds, lakes, streams, and rivers that flow out into our five major watersheds—the Atlantic Ocean, Hudson Bay, Arctic Ocean, Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico.

Our watersheds connect us, here in Canada and around the world. How we relate to them is a measure of how we respect each other, locally and globally.

Forest ecologist Herb Hammond of Winlaw, who has worked for many years with First Nations and other rural communities to develop

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(From page 3) **Dominican Republic citizenship**

Vargas Llosa, head of the Dominican office of the UNHCR. "Especially the younger generation, it breaks my heart ... [they] are losing the future."

Unemployed and bored, Pierre has passed many listless hours in his neighborhood. During Holy Week in April he danced and sang his way through a local batey in a traditional carnivalesque street procession called *gagá* in the Dominican Republic, *rara* in Haiti. He shouted songs in Haitian Creole – with some of the only words he speaks in the language. Above the musicians playing bass drums and handmade metal trumpets, a Dominican flag waved in the thick tropical breeze.

Pierre sees no conflict between his Dominican and Haitian identities; he switches easily from the culture of *gagá* to *bachata*. "I would like to visit Haiti and learn more about the culture because it's my family," he said, "but I'm from here."

Finally, with the law his social integration may be reflected in his documentation.

Now the question that we face this evening is this: In the light of the fact that the oppressed people of the world are rising up against that oppression; in the light of the fact that the American Negro is rising up against his oppression, the question is this: How will the struggle for justice be waged? And I think that is one of the most important questions confronting our generation. As we move to make justice a reality on the international scale, as we move to make justice a reality in this nation, how will the struggle be waged? It seems to me that there are two possible answers to this question. One is to use the all too prevalent method of physical violence. And it is true that man throughout history has sought to achieve justice through violence. And we all know the danger of this method. It seems to create many more social problems than it solves. And it seems to me that in the struggle for justice that this method is ultimately futile. If the Negro succumbs to the temptation of using violence in his struggle for justice, unborn generations will be the recipients of a long and desolate life of bitterness, and his chief legacy to the future will be an endless reign of meaningless chaos. And there is still a voice crying into the vista of time saying to every potential Peter put up your sword. And history is replete with the bleached bones of nations and communities that failed to follow this command.

**Martin Luther King, Jr., Justice Without Violence-April 1957**

*Ed. Note: Substitute 'negro' for any race, religion or culture and insert today, the same choice applies. Would you agree?*

The Boundary Peace Initiative (BPI) welcomes articles. All articles are the responsibility of the author and may not be common consensus. To submit an article, 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, and Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and works with various local and global groups.

(From page 3) **Watershed Stewardship**

ecosystem-based conservation plans, will be one of several noted speakers at a Watershed Stewardship Workshop in Nelson on Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 10 am to 3 pm in St. Saviour's Anglican Church, 701 Ward Street.

"Water is life," notes Hammond, 'yet in legislation and in human developments, we treat it like an engineering commodity. Every crease, no matter how small, on earth is a watershed for some beings and the whole earth is a watershed for all of us.

"Intact ecosystems are the best providers of high quality water. However, we ignore science and common sense when we suggest that modified ecosystems have little impact on the functioning of watersheds to provide water."

"We don't own the earth," says Nadine Podmoroff of the community based Duhamel Watershed Alliance. "We have to behave responsibly." At the workshop, Podmoroff will trace the history of economic activities in local watersheds, and speak of the impact of logging in watersheds in our area.

Sara Stratton, national program coordinator for KAIROS, and Vicki Obedkoff of Trinity-St. Paul's United Church in Toronto will lead the workshop, along with Barb Pistak of Rossland, an elder of the Okanagan Nation who will discuss the traditional importance of water to Indigenous peoples.

The workshop is presented by KAIROS, an ecumenical organization working for peace, human rights, social and environmental justice in Canada and throughout the world.

Cost is \$20, including a catered lunch, and preregistration is required. For further information please call Sandra Hartline at 250 352 9871 or email [Sandra@netidea.com](mailto:Sandra@netidea.com)

Voice your opinion to the Prime Minister and all MPs. Free postage: {Name of MP}, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6

Go to the Government of Canada website for emails of all MPs, Ministers at <http://www.canada.gc.ca>