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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. Due to health issues meeting are at Laura's. For directions call 250 442 0434.**

**White Poppies are for Peace**

From: the Peace Pledge Union/White Poppy Campaign. <http://www.ppu.org.uk> (go to the website for more info)

The idea of decoupling Armistice Day, the red poppy and later Remembrance Day from their military culture dates back to 1926, just a few years after the British Legion was persuaded to try using the red poppy as a fundraising tool in Britain.

A member of the No More War Movement suggested that the British Legion should be asked to imprint 'No More War' in the centre of the red poppies instead of 'Haig Fund' and failing this pacifists should make their own flowers.

The details of any discussion with the British Legion are unknown but as the centre of the red poppy displayed the 'Haig Fund' imprint until 1994 it was clearly not successful. A few years later the idea was again discussed by the Co-operative Women's Guild. In 1933 the first white poppies appeared on Armistice Day (called Remembrance Day after World War Two). The white poppy was not intended as an insult to those who died in the First World War - a war in which many of the white poppy supporters lost husbands, brothers, sons and lovers - but a challenge to the continuing drive to war. The following year the newly founded Peace Pledge Union began widespread distribution of the poppies and their annual promotion.

*Ed. Note: The BPI distributes white poppies every year. We ask \$2 each to cover our costs. Wear the White Poppy by itself or along with the red poppy—the choice is yours.*

**Why are there Canadian Troops in Iraq?**

**By: Boundary Peace Initiative**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

How sad that once again we need to plead with you, our elected representatives to seriously look at the ramifications of your decision to further push Canada into a deeper war/military mentality. Of course, we do acknowledge that all the opposition parties, for various reasons, did not support the Conservative Government this time, but none the less Canada is in the US led war on ISIS/ISIL. The deployment of 69 'military advisors' and now at least 600 troops onto a base in Kuwait in order to attack Iraq with an eye to also invade Syria, does not truly reflect the wishes of a vast number of Canadians, despite a recent poll where supposedly over 60% of Canadians agreed with military action to stop ISIS/ISAL. The questions within the poll do determine the response because the parameters of some polling/survey questions cannot truly be answered 'yes or no' nor within a narrow scale of 'strongly agree to strongly disagree'. This question of Canadian military involvement is not simple because of the history that has brought us to the present circumstances. It is critical that the past 20 years or more of the West's interference in the affairs of Iraq and the whole Middle East and even going back over the last century needs to be taken into account. The present underlying intent of the geo-political stance must be analyzed minus patriotism and biased rhetoric. The past disregard for the honor and value of the Muslim and Arab world has brought us to today's situation. Unless we change our own attitude and behavior by employing well researched and accepted best practices of psychological methodology to defuse conflict, misunderstanding and the bigotry of all the parties involved, the threats, the deaths, the destruction will continue. (Continued page 2)

**To Do**

White Poppies are available at the following places in Grand Forks:

- Kocomos**
- Jogga**
- New West Trading Company**
- Women's Resource Center**
- Wooden Spoon**
- USCC Office**
- Holy Trinity Anglican Church**



(From page 1) **Why are there Canadian Troops in Iraq?**

Or, maybe that is the point. It is in the interest of some, like the arms manufacturers/dealers, and political financiers, to keep war on the front burner in order to gain power and control and monetary gain. We who find violence, of which war is only the ultimate expression, abhorrent, do find the plans and schemes to incite and promote conflict and violent responses to misunderstandings, miscommunication, even more disturbing and sad.

Canada's involvement in the continuing invasion and occupation of Iraq, which in reality has been ongoing since 1991, is not new. Although Canada did not directly send troops in 2003 our occupation of Afghanistan aided and abetted the US war on Iraq and the other countries of the region. We also had 'advisors' on site beginning in 2003. Our verbal and monetary support for the Israeli occupation of Palestine, feeds the conflicts that rage in the area. The more prevalent our racism and our disrespect for Islam the more radicalized the population becomes and so we get ISIS/ISIL out of Al Qaeda and before that the Mujahedeen and other rebels who fought the West (Britain, France, even Russia etc) who continually sought to rule over the people in order to control the resources. I wonder what reaction would be if some nation invaded and occupied Canada or the U.S.? Actually, we don't have to wonder, for we know that the big guns would roll out and maybe even the nukes. Just look at our reaction when a verbal threat was voiced? Here we are sending gunships to further bomb and destroy the little that the Iraqi and Syrian people have left. In response to the 3000 people killed on 9/11 we bombed into oblivion two countries and killed millions and continue to bombard them some more. The US used 'Depleted Uranium' weapons, which continue to emit radioactive poisons that maim and kill the people of Iraq and Afghanistan and beyond, since DU travels on the wind, the air and clothing to infect the far reaches of the world (it takes 6 months for DU dust to reach the western shores of Canada). And their neighbor, Pakistan, well we must ensure that they don't have an outlet either since they may be harboring some of 'our enemies; so let's send in armed drones to bomb their weddings and gatherings as well. And of course we must make sure Iran is put in its place, we must destroy them as well and then the rest of the region will simply fall into our hands.

We ask the question, why? If we seriously and honestly look at our own country and you, as our elected representatives and our Government, truly wish to improve the lives of Canadians, then you would see the struggle we face daily. The cuts to social programs, to health care, to education are continuing to make life very, very difficult for a growing number of Canadians. These cuts are justified with statements that there is a shortage of funds. Then, this begs the question, if there is no money for our children's education and our senior's care and every other program or need of the vast majority of Canadians, why is there money to go to war, to buy more and more military equipment? How come there is money to destroy, to kill but very little to support and care for people? And if we truly do care about the well being of children and women worldwide, then why are we destroying their homes and means of survival? This simply does not make sense, it is illogical.

(Continued next column)

(From last column)**Canadian Troops**

In our daily lives we are advised by Psychologists and Psychiatrists that when we repeat behaviors we are assured of getting the same results. So why is it that in the political realm somehow this methodology is either ignored or sidelined or unacceptable or not employed? But I guess we should not be surprised, since, again in our personal lives we teach our children that bullying is wrong but they see that states and governing bodies do so with impunity; the more militarily and financially powerful the entity the more it is respected or valued. Or is it simply feared? In societal law we prosecute those who use violence in relationships, we fine or imprison those who destroy or steal or infringe on other people's possessions or lives. On the one hand killing for any reason in our everyday lives is wrong but is an honorable thing when it is sanctioned and encouraged by the state government. It is abhorrent to steal or destroy or disfigure possessions or people, but as long as the theft or destruction is versed in some patriotic rhetoric it becomes honorable and valued, whether the method is economic sanctions or invasion or occupation, beatings or torture or killing. This duplicitous attitude is confusing to say the least. In reality it is unacceptable to those of us who understand that violating the 'human rights' of any person is unacceptable. Humanity has the capacity to apply the same laws internationally and globally as we do, or at least strive to do, in our everyday lives. We are urging you, pleading with you, our elected representatives, to look at upholding and living the principle of the human right of every individual to respect, honor, and treat with dignity all people and the environment. We ask you to take seriously the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Please, bring back the contingent of young men and women you have sent in to kill and maim and destroy the brothers and sisters of our global family. Stop being part of the problem. Let's create a safe place for the people who do not want to take up guns and bombs. Instead of sending troops to kill let's send Workers to set up safe places for those fleeing the carnage, the death and destruction wrought by misguided and angry people bent on revenge. Yes, the women, children, elders and those who refuse to kill need our help.

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## (From page 1) **Why are there Canadian Troops in Iraq?**

That help need not be death machines—bombs and guns. Our help should and could be in setting up living quarters, and not the typical tents of refugee camps with no sanitation and no safety from rape and theft, or clean water or warm beds. It is possible to use actual buildings to house all the refugees, those actively seeking peaceful living. Many buildings could be converted into living quarters rather quickly, if the will is there. And where would the buildings come from? Well, there are many empty buildings in every town and village that the owners could be compensated for by Government or the world community, or the owners could be encouraged to donate these buildings to help their brothers and sisters. And the angry revengeful people would run out of reasons to kill each other at some point. Maybe the same psychology, behavior modification, would work here as well. We no longer recommend capital punishment, hitting, strapping, spanking, for misbehaving children, right? So why do we use revenge and retaliation with adults? And if the angry continue to kill each other, there is little we can do except plead with them, same as we are pleading with you, to stop, look and listen to the spirit of love and creation, that is waiting to be tapped into living a life of peace with social and economic justice, integrity, accountability, and mostly love for all existence. We can do it when we truly set our minds to it. And we ask, what is stopping us except ourselves and our fear of using a method and approach that has not been truly tried by the world? The idea of negotiations and mediation and diplomacy with the threat of force is not truly trying to resolve issues with honor. Let's negotiate, mediate, without resorting to any threats of military retaliation and without threatening economic ruin. Let's appeal to the inherent goodness of every living being on this planet. We may be pleasantly surprised by the action of loving kindness waiting to be unleashed in a positive and creative way of living. Until we make a concerted effort to live peacefully and approach all conflict with peaceful solutions, we will not realize the depth of our human potential.

In Universal Kinship and Loving Peace,  
On behalf of the Boundary Peace Initiative,  
Laura Savinkoff

*Ed. Note: This statement was sent to all MPs to coincide with the Call to Action from the CPA for the Oct. 25th & 26th*

Nonviolence is the first article of my faith. It is also the last article of my creed.

Mahatma Gandhi

Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding.

Albert Einstein

## **Book & Film Recommendations**



### **Clayoquot Mass Trials; Defending the Rainforest**

By: Ron MacIssac and Anne Champagne ©1994

Publisher: New Society Publishers

What made over 800 people of all ages and backgrounds stand on a logging road at dawn in the morning band be arrested? What was it that prompted otherwise law-abiding citizens to become participants in civil disobedience? And how was it that they were charged and convicted of criminal contempt of court?

Clayoquot Mass Trials is about defending the rainforest....the summer of 1993 when an overwhelming number of people from all walks of life and from all parts of the world, joined together in the biggest nonviolent protest in Canada's history....

Royalties from the sale of Clayoquot Mass Trials will go to the Friends of Clayoquot Sound.

*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.*

### **Info on attacks on Soldiers & Parliament**

David Petrasak: <http://cips.uottawa.ca/ottawa-attacks-what-we-must-do-and-not-do-in-response/>

Andrew Coyne:

<http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2014/10/22/andrew-coyne-we-cant-stop-every-terror-attack-so-lets-brace-ourselves-and-adapt/>

John Ivison:

<http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2014/10/21/john-ivison-in-response-to-quebec-terror-attack-we-must-remember-a-healthy-balance-between-security-and-freedom/>

Matthew Behrens:

<http://taqbble.ca/columnists/2014/10/reflections-on-violent-day-ottawa?winst=1413596394223&of=0>

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## STOP ALL KILLING FROM IRAQ TO SYRIA TO CANADA: RALLY TO STOP THE VIOLENCE

**From: the Canadian Peace Alliance**

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

We cannot let the attacks in Ottawa and St-Jean-sur-Richelieu perpetuate the cycle of war, violence and Islamophobia.

The killing of two soldiers in Ottawa and in Quebec must be condemned, as we oppose all acts of violence against innocent people. This was a tragic loss of life. Moving forward, we cannot let these killings become fodder for a pro-war, militaristic agenda in Canada.

There is little information on the motivations behind the killings and whether they were connected. Yet this did not stop Harper from jumping to the conclusion that these attacks were part of a larger terrorist conspiracy against Canada. Already, CSIS' powers of spying are being increased, and the government is planning new legislation that would further erode our civil liberties if it is allowed to become law.

Muslim Canadians are already being increasingly demonized and dissent increasingly criminalized, which would escalate as a result of these measures. The expected legislation will likely also be used to silence Indigenous opposition to government policies, while expanding the already unacceptable level of surveillance of Indigenous communities. We must stand united in support of Muslim Canadians, Indigenous peoples, and in defence of what is left of our Canadian democracy.

Harper and other politicians will use these attacks to justify the war on Iraq and Canadian participation in it. We must keep in mind the broader context in which these attacks occurred. Canada has been at war for more than 13 years, invading and bombing Afghanistan and Libya, threatening to attack Syria and Iran, and supporting brutal dictatorships in countries like Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. And while taking us to war in Iraq, war resisters living in Canada are being punished with deportation orders.

The Islamic State itself is a creation of the West's foreign policy. Sectarian divisions were entrenched and inflamed through the Afghanistan and Iraq wars, and bombing of Syria.

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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 email **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 last column) **STOP ALL KILLING**  
These groups would not have come to power had it not been for the wars of the last thirteen years.  
What we need right now is peace, not more war. There needs to be justice, both for the soldiers killed this week, and all of the victims of Canadian foreign policy.

Social and economic policies play a large role in the development of hatred and alienation. If these men had access to services, there may have been a chance to change course. But according to the Canadian Psychological Association, "Canadians, in particular those in lower and middle income levels, face significant barriers when it comes to accessing psychological services due to their cost."

The Harper government is making this problem worse with roughly billion in annual cuts to the Canada Health Transfer. It is interesting to note that this is the same amount that Harper increased military spending since taking power in 2006. We need to call for military spending to be re-directed to essential services in Canada.

There is way to end the violence we have seen this past week, and over the last 13 years. We must work for Peace and Prosperity, not War and Austerity. We must unite in opposition to racism and Islamophobia. Solidarity is the answer to injustice.

### Resources on Ottawa and Quebec

Glenn Grenwald:

<http://firstlook.org/theintercept;2014/10/10/narrative-destroyed-edward-snowdens-girlfriend-lindsay-mills-moved-live/>

Walkom:

[http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2014/10/22/ottawa\\_attack\\_threatens\\_to\\_panic\\_canadians\\_walkon.html?app=noRedirect](http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2014/10/22/ottawa_attack_threatens_to_panic_canadians_walkon.html?app=noRedirect)

David Moscrop & Amanda Watson:

<http://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/david-moscrop-amanda-watson-the-shootings-in-ottawa-wont-change-this-country>

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>