



### Our Mission

The Boundary Peace Initiative represents a growing number of area residents of diverse backgrounds brought together over the 2002 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 at Laura's due to health issues. Call 250 442 0434 for directions. No meeting Dec. 25.**

### To Do

The BPI wishes all our Global Brothers and Sisters the very best of the season-Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May we all take time to honor and treat each other with loving kindness, and understanding and dignity; not only our family and close friends but all Creation. Let's work together to create a peaceful world for all that exists.



### Please Canada, Be Kind

\By: Laura Savinkoff

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We plead with our fellow Canadians, our global brothers and sisters, to act with kind understanding. Yes, two soldiers died at the hands of two men who are also dead. Yes, these four deaths are a tragedy for their families as well as many Canadians who feel affected because of the unprovoked nature of the attacks at the war monument and even more so because one attacker entered Parliament Hill and the House of Commons.

Yes, the actions by two young men are criminal but are they terrorism? If these attacks are terrorism then all the attacks on police, teachers, nurses, doctors, in fact any citizen can be classified as terrorism. All the murders and homicides, all the robberies and home invasions and all acts we designate as crime can be deemed acts of terrorism. That would be unreasonable, don't you think? Yes, all these acts do create fear but are not necessarily indiscriminate or necessarily politically motivated, in that the aim is to force a change of a governing system/government through the use of violence or fear of violence--terror. The actions of these two men may be a political statement in that they rejected authority or saw themselves as a victim of the political system, but is it truly terrorist in nature?

The term 'terrorism' has over the years lost its definitive definition. It has been recognized that an action being classified as terrorism depends on which side of a conflict you're on as to whether it's terror or revenge, militancy or personal retaliation for a real or imagined slight, oppression, invasion or victimization. In researching the international definition of 'terrorism' I found the following statements on Wikipedia.

**Although** the Reign of Terror was imposed by the French government, in

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modern times "terrorism" usually refers to the killing of people by non-government political activists for political reasons, often as a public statement. This meaning originated with Russian radicals in the 1870s. [Sergey Nechayev](#), who founded [People's Retribution](#) (Народная расправа) in 1869, described himself as a "terrorist". German anarchist writer [Johann Most](#) helped popularize the modern sense of the word by dispensing "advice for terrorists" in the 1880s. According to Dr Myra Williamson: "The meaning of "terrorism" has undergone a transformation. During the reign of terror a regime or system of terrorism was used as an instrument of governance, wielded by a recently established revolutionary state against the enemies of the people. Now the term "terrorism" is commonly used to describe terrorist acts committed by non-state or sub-national entities against a state.

**As Bruce Hoffman** has noted:

"terrorism is a pejorative term. It is a word with intrinsically negative connotations that is generally applied to one's enemies and opponents, or to those with whom one disagrees and would otherwise prefer to ignore. (...) Hence the decision to call someone or label some organization 'terrorist' becomes almost unavoidably subjective, depending largely on whether one sympathizes with or opposes the person/group/cause concerned. If one identifies with the victim of the violence, for example, then the act is terrorism. If, however, one identifies with the perpetrator, the violent act is regarded in a more sympathetic, if not positive (or, at the worst, an ambivalent) light; and it is not terrorism. For this and for political reasons, many news sources (such as [Reuters](#)) avoid using this term, opting instead for less accusatory words like "bombers", "militants", etc

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**Despite** the shifting and contested meaning of "terrorism" over time, the peculiar semantic power of the term, beyond its literal signification, is its capacity to stigmatize, delegitimize, denigrate, and dehumanize those at whom it is directed, including political opponents. The term is ideologically and politically loaded; pejorative; implies moral, social, and value judgment; and is "slippery and much-abused." In the absence of a definition of terrorism, the struggle over the representation of a violent act is a struggle over its legitimacy. The more confused a concept, the more it lends itself to opportunistic appropriation.

From what we have heard to date, I would recommend reserving judgment or classifying these two separate actions by two young men who did not know each other, as terrorism. It could be that both are a symptom of the cuts to our health care system—psychological as well as medical—that have steadily created a situation where more and more people needing help ‘fall through the cracks’. It seems that those cracks are growing into larger and larger chasms, dangerously deep holes from which too many are unable to return.

Are the victims of the culture of violence, of retribution, of revenge and even entitlement continuing to flourish around the world? It seems to me that the number of violent acts is on the rise and are even gorier than before. There are conflicts raging worldwide, some reported by western media and some not. Some conflicts have been ongoing for a decade or more with no end in sight as the north western world ignores those from which they think they cannot flourish economically or politically and incite other regions in order to overtake the governing bodies and bend the people to their will. All this is perpetuated by statements from our political leadership and spread about by all forms of media.

Ah yes, the political system. At present all the political parties have jumped on board to spread fear and protectionism among Canadians. So many people, who normally are reasonable, have been caught up in the rhetoric of patriotism and fear of ‘the other’. Yes, the attacks were on soldiers, yes they were on Canadian icons, but were they organized actions by members of a group? So far, that has not been proven so I would say these acts were by two individuals maybe spurred on by Canada’s involvement in the oppression of other regions. Sadly, four people died and many will suffer the consequence for a life time. This should give us pause and help us to understand the effects of continual bombing, of ongoing invasion and occupation in so many parts of the world. In Palestine, Israel, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Congo, CAR, Columbia, etc more than one generation has lived with these consequences, of PTSD caused by our Western interference. There are millions of children who have never lived a day without bombs and guns and fear and violence around them.

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Are these children, their parents and grandparents less entitled to peace, security and the human right to food, shelter, and dignity?

We, the Boundary Peace Initiative, are concerned that these acts followed by so much fear mongering are being used to further entrench a state sanctioned and encouraged culture of violent aggression. Will this be used as a pretext to further institute more intrusive ‘security’ measures and more lenient surveillance policies domestically, more tightening up of immigration policy, rejection of refugees, the deportation of war resisters and refugees and the list goes on and on? Will this be another excuse to further erode our civil liberties and human rights? Will this be used to further embroil Canada in the US led war on Iraq and Syria and Iran and who knows where else?

Again, sadly, we see that happening already. In the House of Commons there are bills on enforcing stricter rules on immigration and refugees and more deportations; bills on heightened ‘security’ measures; bills on lessening restrictions on intrusive surveillance; coming out of the Prime Minister’s office a proposal to make replicas of the Tanks and Light Armored Vehicles used in the Afghanistan war as monuments across the country. And we anticipate that the Government will use this as a pretext to extend Canada’s military involvement in Iraq and lift the prohibition on invading Syria as means to gain control over Iran.

Then there is Remembrance Day. Yes, it goes on every year and this was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of World War I. Yes, many lost their lives on all sides of that conflict as did innocent children and civilians whose lives were altered forever by those 4 long years of destruction. The reason given for this day of remembrance originally was as a lesson not to repeat the actions. Well, we as a global community have not learnt the lesson. The wars continue to rage and the insatiable drive to develop more powerfully destructive weapons not only continues but is being intensified by political leaders, worldwide. The weapons industry thrives while a growing number of people suffer hunger, thirst, homelessness, poverty, the erosion of human rights and civil liberties, the dismantling of the social safety net or the refusal to build one. As the wars rage and the cost of weapons rise the vast majority of people die from the effects of intensified militarization and poverty.

Is this the world we want for our children? Is this the life we envision for our grandchildren? More and more war and destruction; more and more state

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imposed violence; more state instituted violations of dignity and honoring humanity and Creation? Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary General of the United Nations stated in 2013, “The world spends more on the military in one month than it does on development all year. And 4-hours of military spending is equal to the total budgets of all international disarmament and non-proliferation organizations combined. The world is over-armed. Peace is underfunded.”

This is not the kind of life a growing number of people are willing to accept. Will you join us in saying no to fear? Will you join us in saying no to the erosion of human rights and civil liberties in Canada and around the world? Will you join us in saying no to the escalation of Canadian engagement in military invasions, at present in Iraq? Will you join us in seeking and urging diplomatic and negotiated solution to the conflicts in the Middle East? Will you join us in calling for non-violent non-military approaches to all the other regions in the world facing the intrusion and invasion of north western states to exploit the poor, developing world?

That is what the peace movement does, you know. We work on a local, national and international level to seek non-violent solutions to disagreements before they become physical conflicts. It is possible. We have seen success within Canadian society. We did, for many years, lessen the incidence of violent crime, including abuse in all its forms. Yes, we still have those who ‘fall through the cracks/chasms’, such as the two young men we began this statement with, and many areas still needing attention and improvement and sadly a growing number of areas that have been eroded and we will need to start all over again to resolve. But, the vast majority of Canadians do not have weapons nor do they resort to abusive behavior to resolve issues. And how did we do that? Well, I think we did that by a concerted effort of many, many players who were willing to sit down, negotiate and mediate agreements honorably and treat each other with dignity.

So, how come we can’t do that on a global scale? We can. We will, if we’re willing to leave our guns at home or even refuse to have any. We can if we are willing to leave aside our overblown protectionism and domination. We can instead work to be the best we can possibly be as human beings in the spirit of love that respects and values all that exists. It is possible. All it will take is the will and the effort to do so. We ask you, sisters and brothers of one global family, let’s put our efforts into working together rather than trying to over power or prove we are bigger, better than someone else. We are equally able to give of ourselves to each other in whichever way we are

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## Book & Film Recommendations



### Books

**Peacemakers How People Around the World Are Building A World Free of War**

**By: Douglas Roche © 2014**

**Publisher: James Lorimer & Company Ltd. Publishers, Toronto**

Hard-headed but idealistic individuals around the globe are succeeding in creating a peaceful future for the world.

Though few of us realize it, today the world is more peaceful than in past centuries. This is no accident—it is the cumulative result of the work of the world’s peacemakers.

To tell this story, Roche profiles many of the leading peacemakers of our time and the work they are doing, including former senior government leaders, senior UN officials, religious figures, women’s organization leaders, and activists. He also interviews keen observers of world politics who offer informed commentary on the work of the peacemakers.

Neither Roche nor the peacemakers shy away from the thorniest issue the world faces— including the threat posed by nuclear weapons, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and multiple threats of cultural violence. Roche shows how new ideas such as the responsibility to protect innocent civilians from genocide or armed attack by their own government, and new institutions such as the International Criminal Court are moving the world along the path to the end of war.

*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.*

Peace is its own reward.

Mahatma Gandhi

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

Ralph Waldo Emerson

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skilled. We are bankers or bakers, mechanics or artists, farmers or teachers, homemakers or politicians, doctors or janitors, nurses or students. Yet, we are all gifted with a valuable skill or ability. We are part of the whole and must stand united as one human family to live in peace and harmony and joy with, for and among Creation. So, please Canada be kind.

In Universal Kinship and Loving Peace,  
On behalf of the Boundary Peace Initiative.  
Laura Savinkoff,  
*ED Note: this letter was sent to all MPs.*

### **Global peace index charts 'staggering' \$9.8tn cost of war**

#### **Annual index shows worldwide peace deteriorated for seventh year in a row because of conflicts in Syria and South Sudan**

From: The Guardian June 2014

The world's costly drift away from peace continued last year, with nations spending an estimated \$9.8trn (£5.8trn) on containing and dealing with violence, according to the latest annual Global Peace Index (GPI).

The 2014 index shows that worldwide peace deteriorated slightly for a seventh consecutive year as a result of the conflicts in Syria, South Sudan and Central African Republic (CAR), tensions over Ukraine and increased terrorism in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Philippines and Libya.

The fighting in Syria saw the country supplant Afghanistan as the world's least peaceful nation, while six months of conflict in South Sudan led to it plummeting 16 places down the index and coming third. Behind it came Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, CAR, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Pakistan, North Korea and Russia.

The cost of violence in 2013 – which was equivalent to 11.3% of global GDP – was slightly higher than the previous year, when the bill came in at \$9.46trn, or 11% of GDP

Steve Killelea, the founder and executive chairman of the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) think-tank, which produces the GPI, described the sums spent on the impacts of violence as staggering.

"This is resulting in very real costs to the world economy; increases in the global economic impact of violence and its containment are equivalent to 19% of global economic growth from 2012 to 2013," he said.

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"To put this in perspective, this is around \$1,350 per person."

However, said Killelea, the true costs could be twice as high as some data cannot be obtained. "We can only count what we can count."

He added that although major international conflicts were becoming less common, the same could not be said of internal conflicts.

"That trend seems to be on the rise, but what's important to realize is that it's still in only a small number of nations and in a small number of regions," he said, adding that Europe, North broadly peaceful.

"There's only 11 countries we describe as being in absolute conflict, but there are 500 million people in those nations – and 200 million of them live on under \$2 a day."

The IEP ranks the peacefulness of nations using 22 qualitative and quantitative indicators, gauging peace in 162 independent states according to safety and security in society, levels of domestic and international conflict and the degree of militarization.

Iceland tops the 2014 index, followed by Denmark, Austria, New Zealand, Switzerland, Finland, Canada, Japan, Belgium and Norway. The UK is ranked the 47th most peaceful nation, one spot above France, while the US is ranked 101st.

The 10 countries identified as most at risk of small to medium deteriorations in peace – classed as a 5% drop on the GPI score – were Zambia, Haiti, Argentina, Chad, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Nepal, Burundi, Georgia, Liberia and Qatar.

Killelea said that although peace in a country such as Argentina (No 43) had improved dramatically over the past few years, the gap between its actual levels of peace and the levels of peace that its institutional strength ought to guarantee suggested a risk of deterioration.

He said that Qatar – another highly peaceful nation according to the index (No 22) – was in the same bracket because of its performance in areas such as corruption and acceptance of the rights of others. Qatar's controversial labour laws, laid bare in a Guardian investigation, have been criticized as the country prepares to host the 2022 World Cup. The bid has also been dogged by allegations of corruption.

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: BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition, Canadian Peace Alliance, Abolition 2000, Lawyers Against the War, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and works with various local and global groups.

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>