



**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. Due to health issues meetings are postponed until further notice.**

**To Do**

**Naomi Klein @ the Brilliant Cultural Center** in Castlegar on **April 11<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 pm.** Get tickets in Grand Forks at Selkirk College. *Adults \$32, Seniors \$26, Students \$26.*

Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing it is stupid.

Albert Einstein



**National security oversight: Rights groups welcome statement from eminent Canadians calling for review and oversight of national security activities**

**From:** International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group (ICLMG)

February 19, 2015 - Today, a group of 22 eminent Canadians, comprised of former Prime Ministers, Ministers of Justice, Ministers of Public Safety, Solicitors General, Supreme Court of Canada Justices, and members of national security, law enforcement and privacy review bodies, published a statement in The Globe and Mail and La Presse calling urgently for an enhanced approach to national security review and oversight in the country. The group includes men and women whose public service, in areas where they have been responsible for addressing wide-ranging national security challenges, stretches from 1968 to 2014.

This important statement comes at a time when Canada is considering a radical expansion of national security powers across government, but has made no equivalent proposals for strengthened review and oversight of the agencies and departments responsible for national security.

Amnesty International, the BC Civil Liberties Association, the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group, La Ligue des droits et libertés, and the National Council for Canadian Muslims strongly support this statement, which highlights the importance of robust review and oversight for the three critically important and inter-connected reasons of protecting human rights, strengthening national security, and building public trust and governmental accountability. (Continued next column)

(From last column) **National security**

This statement, endorsed by eminent Canadians who have served in public positions of authority and expertise relating to national security, law, and government accountability, makes clear that strong accountability mechanisms lead to better security for all Canadians: "Canada's national security policies and practices must be effective in order to protect public safety. Independent oversight and effective review mechanisms help ensure that resources devoted to national security activities are being utilized effectively and efficiently."

**Ed. Note: Read the full statement on page 2**

The **ICLMG** is a national coalition of Canadian civil society organizations that was established in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States. The coalition brings together some 38 NGOs, unions, professional associations, faith groups, environmental organizations, human rights and civil liberties advocates, as well as groups representing immigrant and refugee communities in Canada. The mandate of ICLMG is to defend the civil liberties and human rights set out in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, federal and provincial laws, and international human rights instruments in the context of the war against terrorism. (The Canadian Peace Alliance is one of the NGOs at the table)

**Email:**

Roch Tassé, National Coordinator  
[coordination@iclmg.ca](mailto:coordination@iclmg.ca)

**Website:** <http://www.iclmg.ca/>

## **A close eye on security makes Canadians safer (Feb. 19 2015-- The Globe and Mail)**

By: Jean Chrétien, Joe Clark, Paul Martin and John Turner

The four of us most certainly know the enormity of the responsibility of keeping Canada safe, something always front of mind for a prime minister. We have come together with 18 other Canadians who have served as Supreme Court of Canada justices, ministers of justice and of public safety, solicitors-general, members of the Security and Intelligence Review Committee and commissioners responsible for overseeing the RCMP and upholding privacy laws.

Among us, we have served in our various public office roles from 1968 to 2014. Over that time we were faced with, and responded to, a range of pressing security concerns. We all agree that protecting public safety is one of government's most important functions and that Canada's national security agencies play a vital role in meeting that responsibility.

Yet we all also share the view that the lack of a robust and integrated accountability regime for Canada's national security agencies makes it difficult to meaningfully assess the efficacy and legality of Canada's national security activities. This poses serious problems for public safety and for human rights.

A detailed blueprint for the creation of an integrated review system was set out almost a decade ago by Justice Dennis O'Connor in his recommendations from the Maher Arar inquiry, which looked into the role that Canada's national security agencies played in the rendition and torture of a Canadian citizen. Justice O'Connor's recommendations, however, have not been implemented; nor have repeated calls from review bodies for expanded authority to conduct cross-agency reviews.

Meanwhile, efforts to enhance parliamentary oversight of national security agencies have also been unsuccessful. For example, in October 2004, a report calling for parliamentary oversight over national security activities was presented to the minister of public safety; this report contained an oversight structure that was agreed upon by representatives of all parties in both the House of Commons and the Senate. Legislation was introduced at the time, but not adopted before the next election.

Canada needs independent oversight and effective review mechanisms more than ever, as national security agencies continue to become increasingly integrated, international information sharing remains commonplace and as the powers of law enforcement and intelligence agencies continue to expand with new legislation.

Protecting human rights and protecting public safety are complementary objectives, but experience has shown that serious human rights abuses can occur in the name of maintaining national security. Given the secrecy around national security activities, abuses can go undetected and without remedy. This results not only in devastating personal

(Continued next column)

(From last column) **Makes Canadians safer..** consequences for the individuals, but a profoundly negative impact on Canada's reputation as a rights-respecting nation. A strong and robust accountability regime mitigates the risk of abuse, stops abuse when it is detected, and provides a mechanism for remedying abuses that have taken place. In the years since the Arar inquiry, international human rights experts – including the UN Committee against Torture – have called on Canada to improve oversight of its national security agencies.

Canada's national security policies and practices must be effective in order to protect public safety. Independent oversight and effective review mechanisms help ensure that resources devoted to national security activities are being utilized effectively and efficiently. The confidential nature of national security activities means that it is more difficult to rely on the usual public checks on government performance, such as scrutiny from Parliament, civil society, media and the general public. Security-cleared review bodies play crucial roles in catching and correcting operational and structural problems before they become full-blown national security failures, leading to better security for Canadians.

National security agencies, like all government institutions, must be accountable to the public. Accountability engenders public confidence and trust in activities undertaken by the government, particularly where those activities might be cloaked in secrecy. Independent checks and balances ensure that national security activities are protecting the public, and not just the government in power. Oversight and review mechanisms are necessary to make sure that powers are being exercised lawfully, and that government officials are not called upon to undertake activities that might expose them or Canada to legal liability either at home or abroad.

The Right Honourable Jean Chrétien, Prime Minister of Canada (1993-2003), Minister of Justice (1980-82); The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Prime Minister of Canada (1979-80), Minister of Justice (1988-89); The Right Honourable Paul Martin, Prime Minister of Canada (2003-06); The Right Honourable John Turner, Prime Minister of Canada (1984), Minister of Justice (1968-72); The Honourable Louise Arbour, Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada (1999-2004); The Honourable Michel Bastarache, Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada (1997-2008); The Honourable Ian Binnie, Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada (1998-2011); The Honourable Claire L'Heureux Dubé, (Continued page 3)

(From page 2) **Makes Canadians safer..**

The Honourable Claire L'Heureux Dubé, Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada (1987-2002);The Honourable John Major, Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada (1992-2005);The Honourable Irwin Cotler, Minister of Justice (2003-06);The Honourable Marc Lalonde, Minister of Justice (1978-79);The Honourable Anne McLellan, Minister of Justice (1997-2002), Minister of Public Safety (2003-06);The Honourable Warren Allmand, Solicitor General of Canada (1972-76);The Honourable Jean-Jacques Blais, Solicitor General of Canada (1978-79);The Honourable Wayne Easter, Solicitor General of Canada (2002-03);The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Solicitor General of Canada (1998-2002);The Honourable Frances Lankin, Member, Security Intelligence Review Committee (2009-14);The Honourable Bob Rae, Member, Security Intelligence Review Committee (1998-2003);The Honourable Roy Romanow, Member, Security Intelligence Review Committee (2003-08);Chantal Bernier, Acting Privacy Commissioner of Canada (2013-2014);Shirley Heafey, Chairperson, Commission for Public Complaints against the RCMP (1997-2005);Jennifer Stoddart, Privacy Commissioner of Canada (2003-2013).

**Ed. Note: Send your own letter or email to your MP and state your concerns. By reading this newsletter, under this proposed legislation, you can be classified as a 'terrorist' or 'radicalized' person.**

### **Canadian Boat to Gaza joins Freedom Flotilla III Together let's end the Blockade of Gaza**

How many more generations of Palestinians must live in the oldest and largest open-air prison in world history, a manifestation of 66 years of occupation, and a crime against humanity that is increasingly more oppressive? Israeli settlements in the West Bank expand as Palestinian access to water and land, food and sea diminishes. Trade in and out of Gaza is all but prohibited, while the economy and well being of the people languish. The desire and need for contact with the world outside this prison exists. Their need to use and hone their natural skills increases. The need for education increases. The need for good health care increases. The need for children to play and grow without the threat of bombs and tanks and guns increases.

This is why a growing number of people, worldwide, have been working together to help our brothers and sisters in Palestine, especially in Gaza, where the noose is being tightened much more stringently, nearing suffocation. Three times the Freedom Flotilla attempted to break the blockade by sailing *into* Gaza. And just last year the Gaza's Ark attempted to sail *out* of Gaza.

In 2008, five voyages reached Gaza safely, without any violence or threat to anyone security. Then in 2009 Israel stopped the next voyage. The world responded with the Freedom Flotilla of 2010.

(Continued page 4)

## **Book & Film Recommendations**



### **Books**

#### **The Personalized Medicine Revolution How Diagnosing and Treating Disease Are About to Change**

By: Pieter Cullis

Publisher: Greystone Books.

An incisive look at how personalized medicine is revolutionizing health care for everyone. In this persuasive and compelling book, Pieter Cullis argues that personalized medicine, also known as precision medicine, is the biggest revolution of our time. By replacing the current one-size-fits-all approach to medicine with medical treatment based on a patient's unique molecular makeup, personalized medicine will radically change the role of doctors and patients and even the future of our species. Increasingly, instead of focusing on the treatment of chronic diseases, as they do today, doctors will focus on helping people prevent disease. The end result will be to dramatically extend and improve our lives, creating a minefield of practical and ethical issues. Written in clear, accessible language, the book explains what personalized medicine is, how it will change healthcare, and what it means for humanity's future.

**Ed. Note:** *If you have read a book or seen a film that you feel is 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.*

Let the first act of every morning be to make the following resolve for the day:

- I shall not fear anyone on Earth.
- I shall fear only God.
- I shall not bear ill will toward anyone.
- I shall not submit to injustice from anyone.
- I shall conquer untruth by truth. And in resisting untruth, I shall put up with all suffering.”

Mahatma Gandhi

## (From page 3) **Together let's end the Blockade of.**

This time Israel attacked, leaving 10 dead and many wounded. Again the world heard and responded with even more international support for the Freedom Flotilla II. The November 2011 action resulted in the seizure of the Canadian Boat to Gaza and the Irish Boat to Gaza. In 2012, the Estelle was also stopped. It was evidently time to rethink our strategy; the idea came about to sail out of Gaza with export products produced, grown, manufactured, created by the Palestinians of Gaza. And Gaza's Ark was born.

A fishing boat was bought, to be refitted into a cargo vessel. Palestinian labour was hired in Gaza, as well as a Palestinian engineer, along with farmers, orchardists, manufacturers and crafts people to produce exports. Funds were donated <http://www.gazaark.org/donate/> to cover all of these costs and products were bought, knowing they might not be received. And they weren't. Why? Because the Ark was attacked -twice within 3 months. In April 2014 Gaza's Ark was on the water, with very little left to complete the refit when it was bombed. Even so, it was still repairable. Then, Israel's summer 2014 attack completed the job by totally destroying this international effort for **Trade Not Aid**. After thorough consultation, it was decided to share the food products with 400 local Palestinian families, while the crafts and non-perishable products are being stored, to be shipped out when possible. The remaining funds will go towards the next Flotilla effort.

<http://www.freedomflotilla.org/>

**And what is the next effort?** Together with the Freedom Flotilla Coalition, to sail into the Gaza Strip and **Open the Port to Trade Not Aid**.

We ask for your support, financially, physically, politically, and spiritually to help us build on the links created through Gaza's Ark and previous efforts with our Palestinian family. We seek volunteers to help pressure our elected officials in our respective countries to stop the stranglehold of the Israeli occupation on the Palestinian people, both in Gaza and the West Bank.

**Find your Member of Parliament here:**

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/Parliamentarians/en/members>

As plans are solidified the Freedom Flotilla Coalition and the Canadian Boat to Gaza Committee will share them with you. At this time we are hoping to sail in the 1st half of 2015. We urge you to sign onto our email list: [canadaboatgaza@gmail.com](mailto:canadaboatgaza@gmail.com) or go on-line for further information

at: <https://www.facebook.com/CanadaBoatGaza>

**Ed. Note: the BPI is a member of the Canadian Boat to Gaza and Gaza's Ark committees.**

## **What does it mean to be poor?**

By [Lean Alfred Santos](#)-- June 2014

**Being poor is more than just the amount of money a person has.**

Poverty is a multidimensional issue that concerns a person's level of health access and coverage, available educational opportunities and quality of life, according to the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative. The U.K.-based think tank released on Tuesday the [Global Multidimensional Poverty Index](#), which helps provide a better understanding of the causes of poverty to better address the issue. The index offers a more in-depth measure on poverty through a checklist of "deprivations."

OPHI classifies poverty at an individual level and determines whether they are "MPI-poor" or not. The 10 indicators of poverty are subdivided into three dimensions. For the health dimension, the measures are nutrition and child mortality, while for education, the indicators are the years of schooling and school attendance. The living standard dimension is more specific; indicators include cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, flooring and assets (property).

The survey considers a person MPI-poor if he or she is deprived or lacks access to three or more of the 10 indicators simultaneously. The MPI is seen to complement the traditional poverty measure based on income.

"The Global MPI is an important tool to measure and tackle poverty," OPHI said in the report. "It shows us who is poor, how they are poor, where the poor live [and] how poverty has changed over time."

OPHI's data shows that more than a fifth (22 percent) or 1.6 billion people are considered MPI-poor, and 40 percent of them live in India. Geographically, roughly 85 percent are from the rural areas where development progress remains elusive.

Regarding the kinds of poverty MPI-poor people experience, more than half are deprived from health, education and standard of living. They are the ones living in households where educational attainment is less than five years, at least one member of the family is undernourished and at least one child has died. Inadequate sanitation posted the biggest number with 81 percent.

OPHI noted, however, that poverty statistics in several countries such as Nepal, Rwanda and Ghana have improved on aspects like sanitation, education and health.

But challenges remain for policymakers and the rest of the development community on tackling poverty, especially since higher income does not always translate to reduction in multidimensional poverty, as the data suggests.

*Lean Alfred Santos is a Devex staff writer focusing on the development community in Asia-Pacific, including major players such as the Asian Development Bank and AusAID. Prior to joining Devex, he covered Philippine and international business and economic news, sports and politics. Lean is based in Manila.*

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>