



### 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 regular meetings suspended until at least 3 commit to attend. For info call 250 442 0434.**

### To Do

**Lawrence Hill Lecture April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm @ Grand Forks USCC Community Center; tickets at Selkirk College Grand Forks and at the door (\$10 donation requested at the door). See article here.**



shutterstock - 15244655

**Donate** funds, time, and energy to bring 2 Syrian **refugee** families to Grand Forks. See article here for details.

### Syrian Refugees Update

By: Boundary Settlement for Syrian Refugees Committee

The group working to bring two Syrian Refugee families to Grand Forks is diligently proceeding despite some hurdles. Our initial goal was to get everything in place within a few weeks. Sadly that has not come to pass for a few reasons.

The houses are available and prospective jobs, health care and many of other needs. The furniture, linens, food, etc will not be a problem and can be collected within a few days. The volunteers to help our new Grand Forks residents adjust and learn and integrate are waiting to get to work. One of the hold ups is the finances. Donations are coming in but very slowly; we only have \$7000 of the \$20,000 required. A few people have stated that they'd donate when they were certain the refugees would be coming here because they aren't willing for their money to go to another community. Whether this is good is not the point; the point is that our community may be willing to step forward more solidly once they're assured the funds will stay here.

But the most frustrating hurdle seems to be with Government. We've not been able to get a concrete commitment that Grand Forks will be approved as a settlement community nor get all the details of what is required to get that approval. Be assured, Grand Forks, that we are not ready to give up and will continue to make inquiries and do all we can to meet those requirements.

(Continued page 2)

### Lawrence Hill Lecture Comes to Grand Forks

*Brought to us by: Selkirk College, RDKB, and Community Futures Boundary.*

Join us for a public lecture with one of Canada's top literary figures, Lawrence Hill. **Tickets available at Selkirk College Grand Forks and at the door; a \$10 donation is requested at the door** of the **USCC Community Center** (6140 Community Center Rd) in Grand Forks.

The Boundary has this opportunity to show our support of Selkirk College sponsored Lectures by attending. We need to ensure at least 200 participants. If there are not enough tickets picked up/sold the lecture will be cancelled. So please plan to attend and pick up tickets right away. If this works out we may be able to secure more events in Grand Forks and not always have to travel to Castlegar to take in speakers such as Naomi Klein, Stephen Lewis and so many others.

Hill will read excerpts from and discuss his timely and celebrated novel, *The Illegal* (2015; HarperCollins Canada), a fictional narrative inspired by the plight of real refugees. (Ed. Note: Just a few days ago Hill once again won the CBC Canada Reads contest. Previously he won the award for *The Book of Negroes* which was made into a CBC TV 6 part series.)

In recent conversation with the CBC, Hill said that he wanted to write about the struggles of displaced people long before the recent headlines.

(Continued page 2)

### **(From page 1) Syrian Refugees Update**

There are two ways to donate to this community show of compassion. There is an account at the Grand Forks **CIBC** and a **GoFundMe link on Boundary Settlement for Syrian Refugees Facebook** page. For more information and to add your name to the volunteer list contact Ben Jepson at 250-442-7909 or Kerry Martins at 250-666-0552.

We are very grateful for all the support (emotional, financial, physical and spiritual) we've received to date and look forward to continuing to work with a caring community as we move ahead to welcoming two very needy families to the Boundary Sunshine Valley.

### **(From page 1) Lawrence Hill Lecture**

While visiting his sister in West Berlin in the 1980s, he became interested in the Sudanese expats and refugees that she was spending time with. "They couldn't really get their lives going legally once they arrived in West Berlin, so watching how they had to struggle and innovate—and be creative to stay alive and help each other—got me thinking about issues of statelessness," he said. "I've been dreaming about writing a novel about it ever since."

For more information, email: [jwetmore@selkirk.ca](mailto:jwetmore@selkirk.ca)

### **Joining Hands in Peace**

By: Richard Rohr's Daily Meditation October 2015  
(Contributed by Karen Piddock)

As I mentioned last week, nonviolence has been taught and modeled by various individuals and religions throughout history. Yet only in the last century has nonviolence become more widely accepted and practiced. This week I'll briefly introduce several of the "modern peacemakers" whose work has particularly inspired me.

While we are inclined to celebrate individuals as heroes and heroines, we must recognize that alongside each public figure are many nameless people who contributed to the cause. Change happens not because one person was particularly brilliant or unselfish or strong, but because communities joined their energy and wisdom toward a common goal. The full story of change is often longer and wider than a single life.

When we emphasize the individual, there's a danger that people will think they can't make a difference because they're just one person. (Continued page 4)

### **Statelessness is an evil that has been hidden for too long**

By: [Hélène Lambert](#): November 5, 2014

The UN refugee agency is at last grappling with the problem. But eradicating it requires an international movement.

Yesterday, the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) launched its [campaign to end statelessness by 2024](#) – a revival of the dream first conceived by US lawyer and Judge Manley Ottmer Hudson in 1952. This is an ambitious task, almost bold, yet feasible considering UNHCR's achievements in the last three years and its awareness of the need to build an international social movement to "champion" the cause of statelessness, on a par with the work being done on landmines, child soldiers and rape in armed conflict.

Statelessness affects the enjoyment of all the rights which most of us take for granted, for instance the right to work, the right to vote, the right to welfare benefits or welfare and a child's right to education. It prevents people from moving, and increases their chances of arbitrary arrest or detention with no adequate remedies. In short, it marginalizes and makes people feel worthless with no prospect of their situation ever improving, no hope for a better future for themselves or their children. To quote Earl Warren, who served as chief justice on the US Supreme Court, it is "the total destruction of an individual's status in organized society".

States are paying more attention to the problem but the challenge remains great. The causes of statelessness are many: discrimination or the arbitrary deprivation of nationality; the inheritance of statelessness; conflict of nationality laws sometimes resulting from decolonization or a state's dissolution; and even climate change. Because statelessness is often an invisible phenomenon we don't fully know the scale of the problem. The best guess, recently offered by the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion at Tilburg University, puts the number of stateless persons worldwide at [least 10 million](#).

When the UNHCR was established in 1950, the focus was on the humanitarian challenge of providing protection for people who had fled their home countries for fear of persecution. Later, the UNHCR's mandate expanded to promote protection for persons fleeing persecution within national borders; that is, internally displaced persons. The more technical and legal issue of statelessness, that is, persons without a nationality, was largely ignored by the UNHCR. However, things started to change following the dissolution of the USSR, Czechoslovakia, and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In 1995 the UNHCR adopted its conclusion on the prevention and reduction of statelessness and the protection of stateless persons. A few months later, the UN general assembly adopted a resolution establishing a global mandate for the UNHCR on statelessness. (Continued page 3)

(From page 2) (**Statelessness is an evil**)

This UN resolution identified statelessness as a cause of forced displacement and requested the UNHCR to actively promote the two international treaties on statelessness – the 1954 convention relating to the status of stateless persons, and the 1961 convention on the reduction of statelessness – which few states had ratified.

UNHCR's initial engagement with statelessness was slow. Yet a number of post-2010 high-level events, organized to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the 1961 convention and the 60th anniversary of the 1954 convention, led to a significant increase in states signing and ratifying these treaties. While most welcome, the real work must now begin to ensure national laws and practices are in place to put these treaties into effect. To this end, and informed by its work on refugee protection, UNHCR recently released a number of guidelines and handbooks to help national administration and judicial authorities identify and protect stateless persons, and reduce statelessness.

The Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion highlights a whole host of methodological challenges in mapping the worldwide stateless population, from gaps in data collection to hidden statelessness (that is, people not wanting to be identified as such). There are some practical things the UNHCR can do now. For instance, it can persuade states to move towards gender equality when it comes to the inheritance of nationality. At the moment there are still 27 countries that do not allow mothers to pass nationality to children on an equal basis with fathers.

Commendably, the UNHCR plans to “mainstream” the problem of statelessness by locating it within larger challenges of child rights, gender equality and migration, thereby better capturing public and political attention. Statelessness can mean total destitution. Not for nothing, the UK Supreme Court has referred to “the evil of statelessness”. It is an evil that has remained hidden for too long.

And the leaders of the world today talk eloquently about peace. Every time we drop our bombs in North Vietnam, President Johnson talks eloquently about peace. What is the problem? They are talking about peace as a distant goal, as an end we seek, but one day we must come to see that peace is not merely a distant goal we seek, but that it is a means by which we arrive at that goal. We must pursue peaceful ends through peaceful means. All of this is saying that, in the final analysis, means and ends must cohere because the end is preexistent in the means, and ultimately destructive means cannot bring about constructive ends.

*Martin Luther King, Jr., "A CHRISTMAS SERMON"  
December 1967*

## Book Recommendations



### **Hope and Despair: My Struggle to Free My Husband, Maher Arar**

By: Monia Mazigh © Oct. 20 2009

Publisher: Emblem Editions

On September 26, 2002, Maher Arar boarded an American Airlines plane bound for New York, returning early from a family vacation because of work. He was a law abiding Canadian citizen, a telecommunications engineer and entrepreneur. He was pulled aside by Immigration officials at JFK airport, questioned, held without access to a lawyer, and ultimately deported to Syria on the suspicion that he had terrorist links and remained there, tortured and imprisoned for over a year.

Monia returned to Canada and was horrified at the compliance of media and the public willingness to assume that the Canadian and American police and intelligence agencies were correct. She began a campaign to bring public and government action to have her husband returned to Canada and reveal the illegal detention and torture of Maher.

This is a remarkable story of personal courage, and of an extraordinary woman who lets us into her life so that other Canadians can understand the denial of civil rights and the discarding of human rights her family suffered.

*Ed Note: If you read a book or see a film you feel is of value and interest to others, please let me know at [L4peace@telus.net](mailto:L4peace@telus.net).*

## (From page 2) **Joining Hands in Peace**

My intention is not to discourage you from the challenging work of building a peaceful world, but to illustrate how each human being, even with our limitations and weaknesses, can be a vessel of transformative love.

Change really must start with me, with you. Nonviolence begins on the individual level. Gandhi writes, "My optimism rests on my belief in the infinite possibilities of the individual to develop non-violence. The more you develop it in your own being, the more infectious it becomes till it overwhelms your surrounding and by and by might over sweep the world." [1] As more and more people discover their True Selves, grounded in love, nonviolence will continue to multiply. In the words of two other modern peacemakers:

*You can tell people of the need to struggle, but when the powerless start to see that they really can make a difference, nothing can quench the fire.* --Leymah Gbowee (b. 1972), a Liberian peace activist who led women to help bring about the end of the Second Liberian Civil War in 2003 [2]

*Every thought, every word, and every action that adds to the positive and the wholesome is a contribution to peace. Each and every one of us is capable of making such a contribution. Let us join hands to try to create a peaceful world where we can sleep in security and wake in happiness.* --Aung San Suu Kyi (b. 1945), the opposition leader in her home country of Myanmar (formerly Burma) and the winner of the 1991 Nobel Prize for Peace [3]

So I highlight these individuals with hope that you too will be inspired to join the unstoppable movement of peaceful change.

### *References:*

[1] Mahatma Gandhi, edited by Thomas Merton, *On Non-Violence* (New Directions: 2007), 38.

[2] Leymah Gbowee, *Mighty Be Our Powers: How Sisterhood, Prayer, and Sex Changed a Nation at War* (Beast Books: 2013).

[3] Aung San Suu Kyi, Nobel Peace Prize Acceptance Speech, 2012.

## **In the News**

By: Kris Kristofferson

Read about the sorry way he done somebody's  
daughter

Chained her to a heavy thing and threw her in the  
water

And she sank into the darkness with their baby son  
inside her

A little piece of truth and beauty died

Burning up the atmosphere and cutting down the  
trees

The billion dollar bombing of a nation on its knees  
Anyone not marching to their tune they call it

treason

Everyone says God is on his side

See the lightning, hear the cries

Of the wounded in a world in Holy war

Mortal thunder from the skies

Killing everything they say they're fighting for

Broken babies, broken homes

Broken-hearted people dying every day

How'd this happen, what went wrong

Don't blame God, I swear to God I heard him say

### *Chorus*

"Not in my name, not on my ground

I want nothing but the ending of the war

No more killing, or it's over

And the mystery won't matter anymore"

Broken dreamers, broken rules

Broken-hearted people just like me and you

We are children of the stars

Don't blame God, I swear to God he's crying too

Repeat Chorus

Repeat first verse

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, Abolition 2000, Lawyers Against the War, affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation; we work with local and global peace, social justice and environmental 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>