



Sykes-Picot & Trump: disastrous deals

By: Ehab Lotayef : As published in Huffington Post

President Donald Trump visited the Middle East and met with leaders of many countries in a few short days. During this brief visit he seems to have solidified his position and his influence to an extent that makes it possible to push a deal between the Israelis and the Palestinians. Something that eluded many consecutive US administrations.

Good news? I am not so sure. It may be very bad news, actually. For what may be presented to the world as a "Peace Deal" could be nothing but a path to instability and bigger wars.

And there are many examples in history, fresh in mind are those Peace treaties signed after the Great War (World War I) only to bring a more fierce war a mere twenty years later.

Another deal (this one happened while the Great War was still going on) dividing areas of influence in Middle East between Britain and France following negotiations between Mark Sykes of Britain and François Georges-Picot of France (and thus known as the Sykes-Picot agreement) is sometimes traced back as the source of all instability, troubles and wars that plagued the Middle East, and had effects felt, and still being felt, all over the world till this day.

The problem is that most of the leaders Trump met during his visit do not have the long term interests of their people or the stability of the region and the world in mind. Some came to power through military coups and others depend on outside powers for their existence. They all lack the vision, the will and the determination to take the difficult decisions and the ability to stand up to the US or other dominant world power.

Among the direct stakeholders involved in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, if we exclude Benjamin Netanyahu, we will not find one leader who is in a strong negotiating position and who cannot be pressured by Trump to accept a deal that could be bad for his country, his people, the region and the world as a whole.

(Continued next column)

(From last column) **Sykes-Picot & Trump**

Other than war mongers, who benefit from wars one way or another, and racists, who have a sick view of others, no one denies that injustice, hopelessness and poverty are what fuels terrorism in today's world. Yet here we see Donald Trump and Middle Eastern leaders touching a glowing orb at the new Global Center for Combating Extremist Ideology in Riyadh, as if these theatrics are the solution to the terrorist attacks that are hitting the world day in and day out, right after signing arms deals worth billions of dollars. This happens while millions in refugee camps cannot find basic needs and while hunger, plagues and diseases are spreading in war torn countries a few hindered kilometers both to the north and to the south from Riyadh, where the "orb" glows.

The "peace" deal which Trump maybe able to shove down the Middle East countries throats will not bring any peace because the stake holders, the people of the Middle East and the people of the world, have no one at the table advocating for them and their interests. It will not solve the problem of terrorism that will continue to hit us all around the world, it will not end the sectarian violence and wars we are witnessing today, and will probably bring bigger war, suffering, violence and terror, not to the Middle East alone, but to the whole world, even if that takes a while to happen. Twenty years?

The unfortunate reality is that this seems to be where things are heading, whether we like it or not.

Keep your thoughts positive because your thoughts become your words. Keep your words positive because your words become your behavior. Keep you behavior positive because your behavior becomes your habits. Keep your habits positive because your habits become your values. Keep your values positive because your values become your destiny.

Mahatma Gandhi



Warring and War Making?

By: Laura Savinkoff Speech at the 34th annual Mothers Day Walk for Peace, Osoyoos, B.C.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I bring you greetings from the Boundary Peace Initiative and the B. C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition as well as gratitude for your ongoing participation and support. The Canadian Boat to Gaza Committee also sends its greetings and its gratitude for your support as we work with the Freedom Flotilla Coalition to break the Israeli siege of Gaza and end the occupation of Palestine. As you representative on the Canadian Boat to Gaza Committee I seek your support for our new endeavour—Solidarity with Gaza Fishers that is being officially launched this month; for more information and details go to the Canadian Boat to Gaza or Freedom Flotilla Coalition websites.

It is good to *stand* before you once again—literally stand. The last time I spoke here it was from a wheelchair but life brings many changes, gives us opportunities to arise out of difficulties and calls on us to arise, as Julie Ward Howe called for ‘Arise, then, women of this day’. This call out is still relevant and sadly must still go out because the world continues to be embroiled in fear and hate, in abuse and violence, in warring and war making.

That is something to contemplate isn’t it--Warring and war making? Is there a difference? I think there is. Warring are the soldiers who are sent to kill and die by the war makers; and war making is done behind closed doors for some imagined profit—things, resources, power. My heart cries and my soul aches for the soldiers. Why? Because they have been convinced by the ‘powers that be’ that they are doing the right thing but are considered dispensable fodder, something to throw away like garbage by the war makers. No matter how you spin it--ultimate sacrifice and heroism—these young people are sent by governments and the behind the scenes war makers, to kill or die or be crippled physically and emotionally for the rest of their lives. And who is the government? Well in essence we are for we elect these people and give them free rein to do as they please because the majority sits back after they vote feeling powerless. And these war mongers get away with murder, for that is what military training really is—the ability and skill to commit murder. The soldier is the tool used by the power hungry. As the soldiers are tools so sadly, are our elected officials who serve as the mouth piece of those truly pulling the strings to gain or retain power and control?

(Continued next column)

(From last column) **Warring and**

Julie Ward Howe and most of us here today think all Mothers abhor war and will do whatever it takes to prevent their children from becoming society sanctioned murderers. I wish that were so, my dear friends. It is not only men, the Fathers, who take pride and glorify the military. Women now sit in Parliaments, in Legislatures, in Senates, but have we seen a decline in warring and war making? Have we seen a decline in violence and abuse? Have we seen a decline in inequality, in racism and discrimination, in force and fear of force? Is there any part of our Earth Mother that is not soaked in blood and tears? Is there any nation that is not in some way affected or affecting the constant warring and war making? I would venture to say that not even the Arctic or Antarctica is immune anymore for there are arguments going on as to who is going to control the resources of those regions as the ice melt.

So what do we do? Well, I encourage us to continue to speak out in any way we can. Let’s say No to the war mongers; No to the destroyers of Mother Earth; No to the greedy power hungry racists, misogynists and violators of humanity; No to the self righteous, greedy profiteers. I encourage us to sign petitions, write letters or emails to our elected representatives of all levels of Government, to organize or take part in events and actions locally and link them nationally and internationally.

I encourage us to live among ourselves guided by the vision we express here today—one of peace and social justice and equality that values every being, every part of Mother Earth as valuable and not disposable, as precious and not garbage, as an integral part of the whole of all life. I would suggest that we even consider those warring and war making people as our brothers and sisters who are here to teach us what we do not want to be, to teach us how to love and be loved, to show us the vision of loving peace and true justice and maybe, just maybe by us loving them these misguided members of our global family will come to realize that all life is precious and stop war making that exploits and robs the majority of humanity and destroys our planet of the fullness of life. (Go to page 3)

(From page 2) **Warring and War Making?**

Now back to Mothers Day. Despite the fact that the original intent of Julie Ward Howe has been dispensed with by the majority, we who come here year after year and those who have come for the first time, do strive, as Ms. Howe said for ‘women of one country will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs’ but I will add—women and men will not allow our sons and daughters--. As I said earlier the myth continues that all women, as mothers or potential mothers, are against war. This is not true and I don’t think it was ever true. Of course all parents and grandparents do not want their children to die but many do willing encourage and expect their child to join the military with great pride and will display medals received while destroying and killing others with great enthusiasm and arrogance. That is our greatest challenge my dear friends—dispelling the myth that military service is a source of pride, that the numbers of kills are worth a medal of honor, that all women, mothers are against war.

We have much work still to do my spiritual family. We must stand firm and strong and speak loudly and lovingly for peace rather than against war, for love rather than hate, for kinship rather than racism and misogyny, for honor rather than destruction, for respect for all life rather than power and control over others. Are we up for the challenge? Will you join me in this challenge?

Before I sit down I wish to honor those who are not here this year; those who died still standing and working for peace and love and justice and equality--Dorinda and Phyllis and Jack and Leonard along with so many, many others. They have embarked on a different journey and hopefully they will guide us as we continue to work together as one family for a global community of loving peace.

In Universal Kinship and Loving Peace,
Laura Savinkoff

The Canadians walking to be met at the border by those who can’t walk and the our American family



Women Rising

Women rising
depths of Gaia churning
fertility of magnificent soil
transformation to hope

Mother rising
sewing her fields
of wildflowers
scattered across lands
bountiful and free

Divine Feminine rising
cosmic consciousness upon us
casting shadowy glances
to our future
foreboding harbinger

Women rising
ancestor wisdom harmonizing
collective spirit dawning
the dance never ends

Mother rising
gathering the indigos
telling stories of survival
tending the heart fires
fiercely passionate, fiercely resolved

Divine Feminine rising
overcoming hatred and fear
singing icaros of our souls

By: Wendy Newton

(Member of the Canadian Boat to Gaza
Committee)

Our Mission

The Boundary Peace Initiative represents people of diverse backgrounds officially brought together in 2002 because of our mutual concern for the rise in world conflict. Our mandate is to participate in multilateral non-violent conflict resolution in support of global human rights, ecological and environmental sustainability and international law through education, sharing of information, dialogue and activism locally and globally. We encourage and seek your participation in our mutual work for true peace based on social justice, equality, accountability, integrity, honor, respect, etc in order to build a better world today and future generations.

BPI web site: www.boundarypeace.20m.com
BPI meetings are suspended until at least 3 people commit to meet regularly monthly. For information call (250) 442-0434 or email L4peace@telus.net.

What's Up?

Another delay in publishing the April 8th BCSIPC minutes because this current content takes precedence. I promise we'll begin next issue.

National Aboriginal Day is June 21st. Watch for announcements from our local Aboriginal Community for events to honor our First Peoples, Inuit and Metis.

Father's Day is June 18th. Take the opportunity to honor and enjoy time with your Father and remember to also honor the joint effort of Mother Earth and Creator Father that make all life possible.

Most of us have been conditioned...Since armies are legal; we feel that war is acceptable; in general, nobody feels that war is criminal or that accepting it is a criminal attitude. In fact, we have been brainwashed. War is monstrous. Its very nature is one of tragedy and suffering.

Dalai Lama

Voice your opinion to the Prime Minister and all the MPs. Free postage: {Name of MP}, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6
Go to the Government of Canada website for MP contact information at <http://www.canada.gc.ca>

Book Recommendations



Guantanamo Diary

by Mohamedou Ould Slahi
Little, Brown and Company -2015

Excerpts from a Review by Matthew Behrens--Stop Canadian Involvement in Torture

Following December's release of the U.S. Senate report on American complicity in torture, Prime Minister Stephen Harper quickly declared, "It has nothing to do whatsoever with the government of Canada." Despite the CIA's close relationship with Canadian state security agencies, as well as two judicial inquiries finding Ottawa complicit in the torture of Canadian citizens in Syria and Egypt, Harper preferred to ignore the facts.

At about the same time, a stunning memoir was published that paints another damning portrait of Canadian authorities from even before September 11, 2001. *Guantanamo Diary* was originally composed by hand in 2005 from a cell at the infamous U.S. torture camp, which remains open despite President Obama's promise to close it eight years ago. It tells the remarkable story of Mohamedou Ould Slahi, a Mauritanian national who remains detained there despite a 2010 U.S. release order.

Indeed, readers familiar with Canadian human rights abuses against Arab Muslims will recognize in Slahi's memoir a similar pattern that reveals the dangers of "information sharing" with foreign governments, "intelligence" data dumps that are full of inflammatory and false allegations, "co-operation" with secret police, and using the fruits of torture.

Canadians wondering what the future will look like with passage of new anti-terrorism legislation (Bill C-51) have another frightening roadmap with Slahi's must-read memoir.

The BPI welcomes your input. But articles are the author's responsibility and may not be common consensus of members. To submit articles contact Laura at **250-442-0434** or **L4peace@telus.net**.

The BPI is a member of: BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition, Canadian Peace Congress, Abolition 2000, Lawyers Against the War and affiliate of Fellowship of Reconciliation. We also work with a wide range of local and global peace, social justice and environmental groups.