

BOUNDARY PEACE INITIATIVE

ICAN Nobel Peace Prize

From: Ralph Hutchison

This morning, at 7:00am EST, the Nobel Peace Prize was presented in Oslo, Norway to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. {Ed note: December 11, 2017}

Here are just a few highlights from the Nobel acceptance speeches of Beatrice Fihn, executive director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and *Hibakusha* Setsuko Thurlow, a thirteen-year old on August 6, 1945, the day she and her city were bombed by the United States.

Beatrice:

Those who say that future is not possible need to get out of the way of those making it happen. This year, the hypothetical marched forward to the actual. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons presents the pathway forward in a moment of great global crisis. It is a light in the darkness. It provides a choice, between the end of nuclear weapons and the end of us. It is not irrational or idealistic. To believe that nuclear weapons states can disarm. To choose life after death. It is a choice, and I call upon every nation to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. To those nations that are under the nuclear umbrella, you not any less complicit in the destruction of others in your name. These weapons are not keeping us safe. They are contaminating our air and water, poisoning our bodies, holding us hostage. We will not rest until all nations have joined on the side of reason. No nation today boasts of having chemical weapons. No nation will in extreme circumstances, use sarin gas. No nation claims right to unleash polio or smallpox. Monumental strides forward never begin with universal agreement, but with every passing year, every new signature, this will take hold. Only one way forward with nuclear weapons: prohibit and eliminate them. Nuclear weapons, like chemical weapons, biological weapons, cluster bombs, and land mines before them, are now illegal. Their existence is immoral. Their abolition is in our hands. Their end is inevitable.

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(From last column) ICAN Nobel Peace Prize:

But will that be the end of nuclear weapons or the end of us? We must choose one. We are a movement for rationality, democracy, and freedom from fear. We are working to safeguard the future. We represent the billions of people who choose life over death and who, together, will see the end of nuclear weapons.

Setsuko Thurlow:

You give me tremendous hope that we can and will bring the era of nuclear weapons to an end. We (she names victims of bombings and bomb tests around the world) were not content to be victims. We refused to wait for fiery end or slow poisoning of our world. Refused to sit idly in terror as the so-called great powers took us past nuclear dusk and brought us recklessly close to nuclear midnight. We rose up and said, "Nuclear weapons and humanity cannot co-exist." Today, I want you to feel in this hall, the presence of all those who perished in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I want you to feel above and around, a great cloud of a quarter million souls. Each person had a name. Each person was loved by someone. Let us insure that their deaths were not in vain. I was just a thirteen-years-old girl when the United States dropped the first atomic bomb on my city of Hiroshima. I remember that morning vividly. At 8:15 I say a blinding bluish-white flash. I remember having the sensation of floating in the air. When I regained consciousness in total darkness and silence, I found myself pinned under the collapsed building. I knew I was faced with death. I heard a voice saying to me, "Don't give up. Keep moving! Keep pushing! When you see the light, crawl toward it as fast as you possibly can." Most of my classmates were burned to death alive. I saw all around me unimaginable and unrecognizable devastation. Grotesquely burned people. With one bomb, my beloved city was obliterated. Most of its residents were civilians who were incinerated, vaporized, carbonized. Among them, members of my own family and 351 schoolmates of mine. In the weeks, months and years that followed, many thousand more would die from the delayed effects of radiation. Still to this day, radiation is killing survivors. Every second of every day, nuclear weapons endanger everyone we love and everything we hold dear. We must not tolerate this insanity any longer. (Continued page 2)



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Through our agony and the sheer struggle to survive and to rebuild our lives from the ashes, we *Hibakusha* became convinced that we must warn the world about these apocalyptic weapons. Time and again we shared our testimonies. But still, some refuse to see Hiroshima and Nagasaki atrocities as war crimes. They accepted propaganda that these were good bombs that had ended the war—just war. It was dismissed, and led to the disastrous nuclear arms race that continues to this day. Nine nations still threaten to incinerate cities, to destroy our beautiful world, to make our world uninhabitable. The development of nuclear weapons represents humankind's descent to the darkest depths of depravity. These weapons are not a necessary evil; they are the ultimate evil. On the 7th of July this year, I was overwhelmed with joy when the great majority of the world's nations voted to adopt the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Having witnessed humanity at its worst; I witnessed that day humanity at its best.

We *Hibakusha* have been waiting for the Ban for 72 years. Let this be the beginning of the end of nuclear weapons! All responsible leaders will sign this treaty and history will judge harshly those who reject it. No longer will the abstract theories mask the genocidal reality of their practices. No longer shall deterrence be viewed as anything but the deterrent to disarmament. No longer shall we live under the mushroom cloud of fear. To the officials of nuclear weapons nations, and to their accomplices under the so-called nuclear umbrella, I say this: Listen to our testimony. Heed our warning. And know that your actions are consequential. You are each an integral part of the system of violence that threatens humankind. Let us all be alert to the banality of evil. To every president and prime minister of every nation of the world, I beseech you: join this treaty. Forever eradicate the threat of nuclear annihilation. When I was a 13 year old girl trapped in the rubble, I kept pushing, I kept moving toward the light, and I survived. Our light now is the Ban Treaty. To all in this hall and all listening around the world, I repeat those words that I heard in the ruins of Hiroshima. Don't give up! Keep pushing! Keep moving! See the light—crawl towards it. Tonight, we march through the streets of Oslo with torches aflame. Let us follow each other out of the dark night of nuclear terror. No matter what obstacles we face, we will keep moving and keep pushing and keep sharing this light for others. This is our passion, our commitment—for our one precious world to survive

How Prime Minister Trudeau is entrenching Canada in the ever more deadly global arms industry

Ed. note: I have taken the liberty of editing this article; access the website at www.ceasefire.ca

Dear Ceasefire.ca supporter

It is one of the most under-reported stories of the year and it is making a mess of Canada's role as a peace-builder.

But hardly any media outlet has said a word about the extraordinary influence of the defence lobby and its military-funded academic echo chambers in Canada.

Early in the New Year I wrote to you raising the alarm over how Prime Minister Trudeau seemed to be bending over backwards to create a Trump-friendly Cabinet geared to "going along to get along". The results have been devastating.

Prime Minister Trudeau has delivered a massive 70% escalation of military spending just as Trump had demanded at NATO; the Prime Minister has mocked a new UN nuclear weapons prohibition treaty that is opposed by Trump; and the Justin Trudeau government has refused to stop arms exports to Saudi Arabia – a close Trump ally – despite clear video evidence that Canadian armoured vehicles are being used to viciously repress the Shia minority in Saudi Arabia's eastern province.

Working for peace from our small office in the historic – and aptly-named – Hope Building, just one block away from Parliament Hill, we can see close-up how our government in Ottawa has been increasingly doing the bidding of Canada's powerful defence lobby, much of which is headquartered in the USA, all the while camouflaging this deadly shift with oh-so-smooth media "spin" about Canada the peace builder.

That's why I am so grateful for your support for Ceasefire.ca – you empower us to track the hidden power plays, and confront the government and the arms industry at every turn.

And now, the Trudeau government is not only backing away from any meaningful effort to halt Canadian arms exports to Saudi Arabia, no matter how damning the evidence of misuse, but is refusing to even consider requiring export permits for Canadian-made weapons being shipped to the United States – the world's largest weapons dealer and our biggest arms export destination.

This refusal to bring arms shipments to the USA within our export control system is a cynical betrayal of the Liberal election promise that Canada would join the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), the first-ever international treaty with binding standards for regulating the global arms trade.

To be sure, the Trudeau government has tabled legislation in Parliament in the form of **Bill C-47** with the stated aim of paving the way for Canada to join the other 92 states parties to the Treaty.

But it falls so far short of the mark that arms control experts question whether it was even drafted in good faith. Is its goal to forestall problematic, but lucrative,

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sales like the Saudi deal from happening again, or are the draft legislation designed to enable the Canadian government, if and when it chooses – to sidestep the obligations set out in the ATT?

Here are some of the glaring loopholes in Bill C-47:

- The majority of Canada’s exports – those to the USA – will remain unregulated and unreported.
- Broad powers are given to Cabinet to completely ignore the ATT obligations.
- The most important element of the legislation – the standards by which the Foreign Minister is to judge whether an arms export permit should be granted – are currently unknown and will only be found in future regulations, to be drafted after Bill C-47 is passed.

These deficiencies are so egregious that they make a mockery of Canada’s purported accession to the ATT, at a time when 3 out of the top 10 buyers of Canadian military goods are countries with bad human rights records.

We, along with other civil society organizations, spoke out vigorously against this terrible draft Bill and many of us gave testimony on how to improve it to the Foreign Affairs parliamentary standing committee during its hearings on the legislation after Second Reading.

As a result of these manifold efforts, the government reversed its initial arrogant refusal to consider amendments. They also tentatively promised to hold civil society and parliamentary consultations on the proposed regulations, but only after the Bill is passed. These are small steps forward and much more is needed! But it is clear the government is feeling the heat. We must keep up the pressure.

Canadians need to be informed how Bill C-47 in its present form will do nothing to promote greater responsibility and transparency in Canada’s arms export policy.

Then, we need to help people like you to take effective political action so your voices can be heard despite the power of the defence lobby and of weapons corporations.

That is why we have never sought charitable status – so that we can **speak out loudly, and strongly**, without fear of being silenced by the Canada Revenue Agency. For the same reason we do not accept donations from government or industry. It is just too hard to remain independent when you are afraid that “speaking truth to power” will compromise your funding. Shockingly, some of the organizations with whom we work, who do receive government funding for important humanitarian projects, have even found themselves cautioned by officials about speaking publicly against Bill C-47 in order not to “jeopardize their relationship with the government going forward”.

How can Canada continue to provide arms to Saudi Arabia when the coalition it leads is accused by

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(From last column) **Canada—global arms industry** the UN of committing war crimes against children in Yemen? That country is on the brink of man-made famine and has a massive cholera outbreak. Does our small amount of humanitarian aid wipe out our complicity in causing this terrible suffering?

In our vital work for peace, I have gone head to head – at conferences, in government consultations, in Parliamentary committee hearings and in countless media interviews – with defence lobbyists and right wing think tanks. I have engaged in constant outreach with Members of Parliament in both the House and the Senate, as they consider their vote on Bill C-47.

We joined with a dozen other organizations to present the government with a searing analysis of the shortcomings of Bill C-47 and, on our own; we produced a trenchant report questioning the very intent of Bill C-47, which we launched at a Press Conference on Parliament Hill itself.

Our organization will push for the strongest possible accession legislation to the Arms Trade Treaty, obligating Canada to adhere to the highest standards when considering the export of arms.

- We will provide you with tools to make your voice heard in Ottawa.
- Working with other likeminded organizations, we will be able to brief Members of Parliament of all parties, as well as journalists, about the vast gap between Trudeau’s promises and his actual foreign and defence policies.

Canada is at a crossroads – we can cash-in on global fear and insecurity, or we can seize every opportunity to make Canada a peace leader again. Our choice is to work for peace – so let me thank you once again for your support as we prepare for another year working for peace and justice in 2018. We know that, together, we can help ensure that “sunny ways” and “Canada is back” are not cynical slogans but visionary guideposts to help us build global peace and security.

Thank you for everything you do for peace. Onward!

**Peggy Mason,
President of the Rideau Institute
Ceasefire is a project of the Rideau Institute**

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 monthly. For information call (250) 442-0434 or email L4peace@telus.net.

What's Up?

As we enter the New Year let us commit ourselves to Social Justice and Environmental Sustainability guided by the principle of non-violent intervention and diplomatic resolutions. Let's speak the truth and uncover corruption and lies; let's stand tall and truly mean the words--Enough violence, abuse, disrespect, hate, racism, etc ; let's put down our destructive weapons-- physical, verbal, economic--locally and globally by using our physical, mental, emotional and spiritual energy to build communities devoted to walking, talking, living peace in loving kindness. Is that enough for What We Are and Can Be Up To as we begin 2018?

Video of the Sept. 21, 2017 Walk the Drum and Peace Concert are available. To order call Laura at 250-442-0434 or email Laura at L4peace@telus.net



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Go to the Government of Canada website for MP contact information at <http://www.canada.gc.ca>



Book Recommendations

Hiroshima in America

By Robert J. Lifton (Author), Greg Mitchell (Author)

Publisher: Harper Perennial (Aug. 1 1996)

President Truman was ambivalent about the decision to drop atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Yet, according to this unsettling study, Truman, influenced by army general Leslie Groves and Secretary of War Henry Stimson, went into denial and developed a sense of omnipotence that allowed him to deploy weapons that killed vast numbers of civilians. Eminent psychologist Lifton (whose National Book Award-winning *Death in Life* dealt with Hiroshima survivors) and former *Nuclear Times* editor Mitchell (*The Campaign of the Century*) draw on primary sources, including the diaries of Truman and other decision-makers, in an attempt to refute the widely held belief that the atomic bombings hastened WWII's end, thereby preventing an invasion of Japan and saving countless American lives. The authors demonstrate that the U.S. military and media for decades systematically suppressed on-site photographs, as well as American and Japanese documentary films, that showed the devastation produced by the bombs. They argue that the lasting, harmful impact of Hiroshima on American society includes a defense policy in thrall to nuclear weaponry, self-propelling arms buildups, patterns of psychic numbing and secrecy and denial of the health effects of radiation from bombs and from U.S. nuclear waste dumps.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.
Margaret Mead

Until mankind can extend the circle of his compassion to include all living things, he will never, himself, know peace.
Albert Schweitzer
(Theologian and Nobel Prize recipient, 1950)

The BPI welcomes your input. 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 an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. We work with a wide range of local and global peace, social justice and environmental groups.