

**PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY**

Peace News

MARCH 2012



We are located:

**Parkdale United
Church
2919 8th Ave NW
T2N 1C8
403-270-7366**

Office hours:

**Mon & Thurs
10:30am - 3pm**

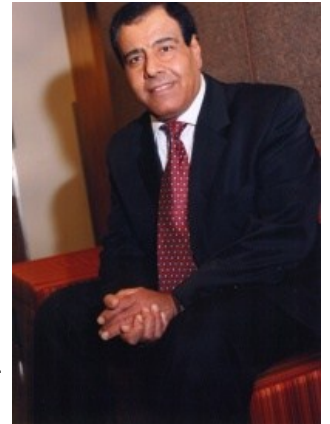
Tues. - 11:30 - 4

Wed 2 - 6pm

**Consortium for Peace Studies
2012 Calgary Peace Prize Recipient:
Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish**

March 8, 2012, 5:30 PM, Calgary Golf & Country Club

The Consortium for Peace Studies at the University of Calgary is pleased to announce its sixth annual Calgary Peace Prize recipient. Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish, MD, MPH, a Palestinian medical doctor who was born and raised in the Jabalia refugee camp, is a passionate and eloquent proponent of peace between Palestinians and Israelis. His condemnation of violence and his unwavering commitment to promoting peace makes him an outstanding nominee. We are honoured to recognize the strength of his conviction to neither hate nor seek revenge, and the multiple ways in which he brings this vital message not only to Israelis and Palestinians, but also to the global community.



The awards ceremony will take place at the Calgary Golf & Country Club, 50th Ave & Elbow Dr SW on Thursday, March 8, 2012 at 5:30 pm. Tickets are available now for \$175.00.

There is also a public talk (by donation) on Wednesday March 7th at 7:30 PM in Science Theatre 140. There are only 400 seats available for this event, so please arrive early!



**Project Ploughshares Spring Workshop
Can Peace Be Green? Using Nonviolence to Support the Earth
Friday April 13th, 7:00—9:00 pm (Auditorium)
Saturday April 14th, 9:00 am—3:30 pm (Labyrinth)
Parkdale United Church, 2919—8 Avenue NW**

Recognizing that more and more conflicts locally and globally have a fundamental environmentally-related root cause, we want to look at nonviolent strategies that have been used throughout history and discuss how they are or are not relevant in the context of environmental conflicts. We also want people to have the chance to discuss and develop new non-violent strategies that are relevant particularly to those contexts.

Our confirmed speakers include the Very Rev. Bill Phipps, local Calgary author Chris Turner, and Deborah Sword of Conflict Competence. All of the speakers bring a wealth of experience to the area of environmental issues and the conflicts we see in the news over resources, land, and often the resulting displacement of populations. Join us to learn more about dealing with these conflicts successfully and nonviolently. For more info, contact Karen at 403-270-7366 or office@ploughsharescalgary.ca or see our website at www.ploughsharescalgary.ca.

Ploughshares Calgary News



Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon Tuesday February 7,

The Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was attended by about 18 of our fantastic volunteers! It was a lovely gathering of people who enjoyed the company of like-minded individuals over a salad and sandwich lunch - with a delicious cake to top off the afternoon! Thank you to all those who attended as well as to those who couldn't make it. Without your help, Ploughshares Calgary would not be able to achieve nearly as much as we do! Your help in building a more peaceful world is so important to our work, and very much appreciated!

Wednesday February 8, 2012

Parkdale United Church Conference Room Modelling Global Citizenship – The Oasis of Peace Calgary Centre for Global Community

This talk by Kelly Dowdell of CCGC and Brenda Dushinsky of the Canadian Friends of Oasis for Peace was well-received by an audience of approximately 40 people, who were very engaged in the discussions that took place in a World Café model. The story of the village in Israel, Wahat al-Salam-Neve Shalom, the “Oasis of Peace”, was truly inspiring as a living example of the possibility of peaceful coexistence between Jews and Palestinians. Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam is a cooperative village of Jews and Palestinian Arabs of Israeli citizenship that incorporates studies of both languages, religions and cultures in their school system. Additionally, they have a Humanitarian Program whereby people from the surrounding areas can access health care for their families.



Volunteers Needed!

- ◆ We are still looking for a volunteer who would be interested in sitting on the Committee for the Calgary Peace Run & Walk, taking place next September 23rd. If you are enthusiastic and have a knack for identifying and talking with potential sponsors for this event, we'd love to have you on board!
- ◆ If you don't have time to sit on a committee, we would love to hear from you if you have any ideas regarding businesses, companies, or organizations that you think might be willing to help sponsor the Calgary Peace Run.
- ◆ Please watch your inboxes for info on volunteer opportunities with Project Ploughshares Calgary. We are developing a listing of upcoming possibilities and would love to have you on board!



Please email Karen at office@ploughsharescalgary.ca or phone her at [403-270-7366](tel:403-270-7366).

Bullets cannot be recalled. They cannot be uninvented. But they can be taken out of the gun. ~ Martin Amis

Donations

We received \$400 from individuals during the month of February. From organizations, we have received \$350. Please consider Project Ploughshares Calgary when you are planning your charitable giving for 2012, and help us develop a true Culture of Peace! Our heartfelt thanks to all those who continue to give to Project Ploughshares on a regular basis.



Conscience Canada—www.consciencecanada.ca

For many of us it is not enough to avoid personal military service because we know that funds taken from us in the form of tax will be used for war and other violent purposes. In other words, we know that we will be made complicit in war through our taxes no matter what our beliefs and values might be. As Conscientious Objectors we want to know that all funds that we turn over to government will be used only for peaceful purposes. We therefore call ourselves **Conscientious Objectors to Military Taxation (COMT)**.

Conscience Canada has worked since 1978:

- to promote a change in law to allow all Canadians the right to conscientiously object to military taxation as a right of conscience guaranteed in the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*;
- to educate Canadians about freedom of conscience and conscientious objection to military taxation;
- to support conscientious objection to military taxation; and
- to defend freedom of conscience.

Daryl G. Kimball - www.change.org

You may have seen the recent news reports about how the Obama administration is weighing steep cuts in U.S. nuclear forces. He will be making key decisions soon on the Presidential "guidance" that determines the role and the number of U.S. nuclear weapons.

This guidance affects everything from war plans to the size, structure and cost of the nuclear arsenal. It will help determine whether we continue to live with the threat of nuclear annihilation by accident or by design--or move closer to a world free of the danger of nuclear war.

Now is our opportunity to make our voices heard, to press President Obama to make good on his pledge to "put an end to Cold War thinking" and pursue further, dramatic steps that would make us all safer from the threat of nuclear weapons. Please join thousands of Americans by adding your name to the following petition to the President: <http://www.change.org/petitions/president-obama-take-action-now-to-move-us-closer-to-a-world-free-of-nuclear-weapons>



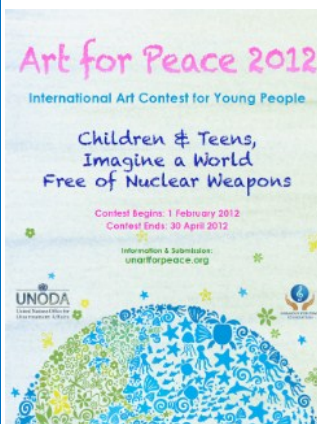
President Obama, take action now to move us closer to a world free of nuclear weapons

Law never made men a whit more just; and by means of their respect for it, even the well-disposed are daily made the agents of injustice. A common and natural result of an undue respect for law is that you may see a file of soldiers, colonel, captain, corporal, privates, powder-monkeys, and all marching in admirable order over hill and dale to the wars, against their wills, ay, against their common sense and consciences, which makes it very steep marching indeed, and produces a palpitation of the heart. They have no doubt that it is a damnable business in which they are concerned; they are all peaceably inclined. Now, what are they? Men at all? or small movable forts and magazines, at the service of some unscrupulous man in power? The mass of men serve the State thus, not as men mainly, but as machines, with their bodies.... In most cases there is no free exercise whatever of the judgment or of the moral sense; but they put themselves on a level with wood and earth and stones; and wooden men can perhaps be manufactured that will serve the purpose as well.



"Resistance to Civil Government"
Or
"Civil Disobedience"

~Henry David Thoreau, *On the Duty of Civil Disobedience*



asked to create and upload online original artwork.

Youth from ages 5 through 17 are being urged to be creative and tap into their imaginations to draw, paint, sketch, use pens, pencils, crayons, charcoal, oil, acrylic paint or watercolours to illustrate a world free of nuclear weapons, without wars, without fear — no photography or computer-generated images.

All the works will be judged based on the criteria of creativity, composition, theme and technique.

When your art is ready, you may upload a photo or scanned .jpg file of your artwork to the site's submissions page. Your art will be posted on the website, for you to share your dream of peace with friends, family, and the world.

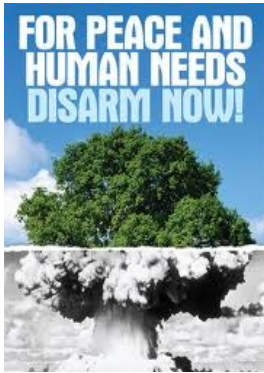
Once the artwork is posted, family and friends can vote on the UN Peace Day Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/unpeaceday>

The videos, rules and uploading form are available on the website: <http://www.unartforpeace.org>



I hate it when they say, 'He gave his life for his country.' Nobody gives their life for anything. We steal the lives of these kids. We take it away from them. They don't die for the honor and glory of their country. We kill them

Admiral Gene LaRocque



Peace Activists Push for Nuke Abolition Summit in 2015

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=106738>

By Thalif Deen

The 2010 High-level Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) at the United Nations.

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 13, 2012 (IPS) - A coalition of anti-nuclear peace activists and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) is launching a global campaign for a summit meeting of world leaders calling for the total elimination of one of the world's most devastating weapons of mass destruction: the nuclear bomb. The Tokyo-based Soka Gakkai International (SGI), one of the lead campaigners, wants the summit held in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 2015, the 70th anniversary of the nuclear bombings that virtually annihilated the two Japanese cities. The year 2015 will also mark the next five-year Review Conference the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

In a 23-page peace proposal titled "Human Security and Sustainability: Sharing Reverence for the Dignity of Life", SGI President Daisaku Ikeda says, "In my proposal for nuclear weapons abolition issued in September 2009, I called for a movement that would manifest the will of the world's people for the outlawing of nuclear weapons. This, I argued, would establish and clarify by 2015 the international norm that will serve as the foundation for a Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC), formally banning these weapons of mass destruction."

The campaign has strong support from several NGOs and anti-nuclear groups, including Mayors for Peace, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) organised by the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW). Additionally, it is also backed by Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament and the Western States Legal Foundation (WSLF), a founding member of the Abolition 2000 Global Network to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons, described as a coalition of more than 2,000 peace activists.

Jackie Cabasso, executive director of WSLF, told IPS Daisaku Ikeda's call for a nuclear abolition summit in 2015 is consistent with a plan by Mayors for Peace to hold a high-level meeting of disarmament ambassadors, U.N. officials, parliamentarians and NGO representatives, to develop a clear roadmap that will lead to a nuclear-weapon-free world by 2020. She said it will be developed in conjunction with the Mayors for Peace General Conference in Hiroshima in August 2013. Cabasso, who also serves as North American coordinator for Mayors for Peace, said this will include preparation for the 2015 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference and planning for a second high-level summit meeting in Hiroshima later that year. The Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign has set 2015 as the target year for conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention (NWC treaty) leading to the global abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020, and Mayors for Peace would like to see the convention signed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, she added.

A third initiative, the Hiroshima for Global Peace Plan, was launched by Hiroshima prefecture Governor Hidehiko Yuzaki in October of last year. The plan, formulated by the governor and a group of former government officials and academics from the United Nations, United States, Australia and Japan sets forth a central role for Hiroshima as a global peace hub to, among other things, support a roadmap for the abolition of nuclear weapons and contribute to the promotion of a concrete and sustainable process for the abolition of nuclear weapons with a view towards governmental negotiations (Track I).

In his wide ranging peace proposal, Ikeda, who is also an eminent Buddhist philosopher, expressed confidence over the proposed summit, even though some peace activists predict it may receive only lukewarm support from the five declared nuclear weapon states, namely the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia.

Since 1996, the U.N. General Assembly has adopted annual resolutions calling for the start of negotiations on an NWC. Ikeda pointed out that support for this resolution has continued to grow; last year 130 member states supported it, including China, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Iran. In 2008, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon proposed negotiations on an NWC or a framework of separate, mutually reinforcing instruments. And the 2010 NPT Review Conference noted this proposal in the final outcome document it adopted with the unanimous consent of all participants. In September 2009, the U.N. Security Council held a special summit session in which it adopted a Resolution (1887) pledging efforts to create the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons.

The year 2015 will also mark the 70th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and underscored by the continuing Fukushima nuclear disaster, there is a palpable sense of urgency among the aging hibakusha (A-bomb survivors) that nuclear weapons must be eliminated before the last of them dies along with their first-hand memories of the unprecedented horrific events of August 1945 that opened the door to the nuclear age.

Mayors for Peace was established in 1982 by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki following the U.N. Second Special Summit on Disarmament in 1982. On Sep. 21, 2011, the International Day of Peace, Mayors for Peace announced that its membership had grown to more than 5,000 cities in 151 countries and regions.



60:1 Preventing war is 60 times cheaper than fighting it.

Friends Committee on National Legislation
245 Second St., NE • Washington, DC 20002

Research has indicated that investing early to prevent conflicts from escalating into violent crises is, on average, 60 times more cost effective than intervening after violence erupts. Still, the world spends just \$1 on conflict prevention for every \$1,885 it spends on military budgets. In the U.S., less than 2% of income tax goes to civilian foreign affairs agencies; meanwhile, 39% goes to the military. And though taxpayers provide almost \$1 billion per year for military academies, they pay only about \$40 million for the United States Institute of Peace—the only U.S. agency dedicated to conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

The World Bank's 2011 Development Report notes that one quarter of the world's population now lives in a conflict-affected or violence-ridden country, highlighting that cycles of poverty and disease cannot be broken without also breaking cycles of deadly conflict. With the cost of global violence reaching \$8 trillion in 2010 alone—having a negative impact equal to 13% of global GDP—the need to invest in effective conflict prevention and peacebuilding is only growing.

What about job creation? Believe it or not, military spending is not only costly when it comes to hardware and intervention—it's also less effective than non-military funding at creating jobs. Investing in education results in two and a half times more employment opportunities than investing in the military, while investing in clean energy production creates one and a half times more.

Is preventing war possible? Following a devastating electoral crisis in late 2007, Kenya was concerned about the potential for renewed violence during its constitutional referendum in August of 2010. Efforts to prevent violent conflict were made both nationally and internationally, including U.S. initiatives made possible through the Complex Crises Fund. Investment in prevention proved successful—as well as cost-effective. While the economic cost of Kenya's crisis in 2007 was \$3.6 billion, the cost of preventive action supported by the U.N. during the peaceful referendum was just \$5 million.



From Dr. Lisa Schirch and Dr. Michael S. Lund's May 2009 Statement to the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats, and Capabilities. The average is based on research found in the Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflict's The Cost of Conflict: Prevention and Cure in the Global Arena (Ed. Michael E. Brown and Richard N. Rosecrance, 1999).

A line of U.S aircraft that can cost up to \$100 million each

Keeping the Peace *(excerpt from <http://globalsolutions.org/blog/2012/02/keeping-peace>)*

Carolyn Blake, February 7, 2012,

This weekend, Secretary of State Hilary Clinton was in Germany speaking at an event supporting women in international security. Secretary Clinton remarked "that when we think about peacemaking, which is, after all, one of the critical tasks of any of us in international security, that something is missing. And that is women. There are not enough women at the table, not enough women's voices being heard". Women are underrepresented in peacekeeping forces and in international peace negotiations. This is an unfortunate revelation, considering studies and experiences have shown that the presence of women in peacekeeping operations can be extremely beneficial to the success of the effort.

In the report "U.S. Engagement in International Peacekeeping," launched by Citizens for Global Solutions, the benefits of female peacekeepers are explored. The report notes that women peacekeepers can relate to local women and are less intimidating than male forces. Female peacekeepers have made great strides in preventing sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) in the communities in which they are placed. According to the report, a force of Indian women police officers arranged night patrols that prevent SGBV. Female officers also inspire local women to become involved in security forces.

Clinton also mentioned United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, which recognizes the importance of women's rights in conflict areas and addresses the gender imbalance in peacekeeping forces by calling for women to play a larger role in the peace process. The Peacekeeping Report also suggests certain actions that should be taken by the United States in order to promote women in peacekeeping.

The Peacekeeping Report recommends that Congress fully fund the National Action Plan [on Women, Peace and Security]. These objectives are vital for our current and future foreign policy goals. Secretary Clinton confirmed the importance of these efforts when mentioning the steps that have been taken to promote women in Afghani police forces. As the Secretary said, "part of what we have to do as we try to test whether peace is possible in Afghanistan, is to make it very clear that peace will not come at the expense of women's rights and roles. They have suffered too much for too long".



Project Ploughshares Calgary

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Special thanks to Karen Huggins & Nicole Enns-Fehr for their work writing and editing this issue of the newsletter.

Calgary Peace Events

FESTIVAL OF FAITH AND JUSTICE

share stories, live faith, celebrate hope



free, drop-in event
including coffee and light lunch

explore and discuss...

- children's rights
- human trafficking
- homeless in Calgary
- government corruption
- international development

connect with...

- Action Coalition on Human Trafficking - Alberta
- Association for a More Just Society
- CAUSE Canada
- Consortium for Peace Studies
- International Justice Mission
- Monksite Central Committee
- The Mustard Seed
- Project Ploughshares
- Stephanie Jager photography partner with AltheaWorks
- World Vision

Festival of Faith and Justice

Thursday March 1

8:30 am—4:30 pm

Rozsa Centre, U of C

The Faith & Spirituality Centre, UC along with the Consortium for Peace Studies presents The Festival of Faith & Justice. It is a free, day-long, drop-in celebration of the work of justice done locally and around the world. We envision stories being shared and imaginations evoked. We plan on eating, wondering, and questioning together. Throughout the day, there will be time for table conversations, informal dialogue, as well as plenary-type sharing. And all of this in the context of the question: how does faith intersect here? In what ways does faith inspire or direct? How has it been found as a support to the work of justice.

Social Justice Encounter: Love, Hope and Optimism

Saturday March 17, 2012—9 am—4 pm—Main Branch, Calgary Public Library

Social Justice Encounter is a unique event! Its purpose is to contribute to a just society by highlighting social justice issues and by bringing people together to learn, engage, inspire and strategize for change.

All Calgarians, including people who have experienced social injustice in their lives, students, faculty, and people who work with organizations advocating for social justice will have opportunities to share their stories and their ideas.

The SJE emphasizes participation with panels, speakers, theatre, music and a range of experiential activities related to social justice issues. A resource fair with organizations involved in advocacy and social justice in Calgary, nationally and internationally is featured each year. SJE is open to the public, with no fee for any participant.



Building trust across the world's divides

Initiatives of Change International



Trustbuilding Leadership Workshop

Saturday, March 31, 2012

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

University of Calgary, Room PFB 4251 - Charge: \$20.00

The Trustbuilding Leadership Workshop is being offered through collaboration between the Consortium for Peace Studies at the University of Calgary and the international NGO Initiatives of Change. This is an informative workshop that will help students to understand the importance of trust in healthy, productive relationships in their own lives and in the broader community context. It is a half-day interactive workshop using information-sharing and activities proven effective over 20 years of international practice. It introduces the concept and importance of honest conversation in extending and receiving trust. The Workshop is being facilitated by Janyce Konkin, MA in Peace and Conflict Studies, and an alumnus of The University of Calgary, 2006 with a BA in Communications and Culture.

Calgary Peace Run & Walk, September 23, 2012

Organized by Project Ploughshares Calgary, the Consortium for Peace Studies, and cdpeace (Sierra Leone)

Project Ploughshares Calgary is the lead organization for this unique running and walking event, designed to promote healthy lifestyles and to highlight the importance of peaceful relationships—locally, nationally, and globally. We welcome all Calgary runners and walkers!



Yes! I want to become a Project Ploughshares Calgary donor and partner in building peace.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Here is my donation for 2012 of:

\$35 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$_____

(donations of \$10 or more will receive a tax receipt)

I'd like to become a Friend of Ploughshares and give a monthly pre-authorized debit donation, please send me an application form:

I'd like to receive the monthly newsletter by:

Email (recommended) Mail (with \$35 donation)