

PROJECT  
PLOUGHSHARES  
CALGARY

# Peace News

JUNE 2015



We are located:

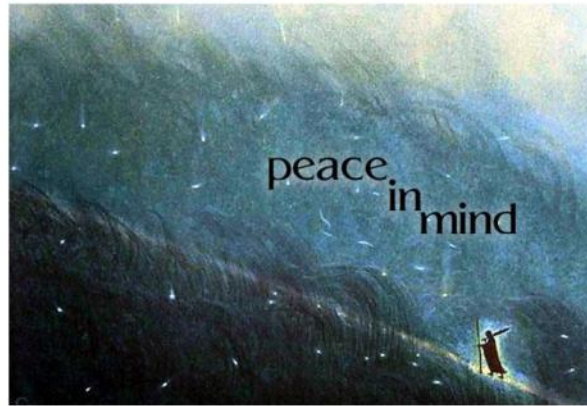
Parkdale United  
Church  
2919 8<sup>th</sup> Ave NW  
T2N 1C8

403-270-7366

Office hours:

Mon Tues & Wed  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Project Ploughshares Peace Education Presentation



## Peace in Mind & AGM

Parkdale United Church  
2919 – 8 Avenue NW  
Wednesday June 10, 2015, 7 – 8:30 PM

You are invited to share poetry, short stories, essays, or art work  
that is related to peace in the world.

(either your own or that of an author/artist you love)

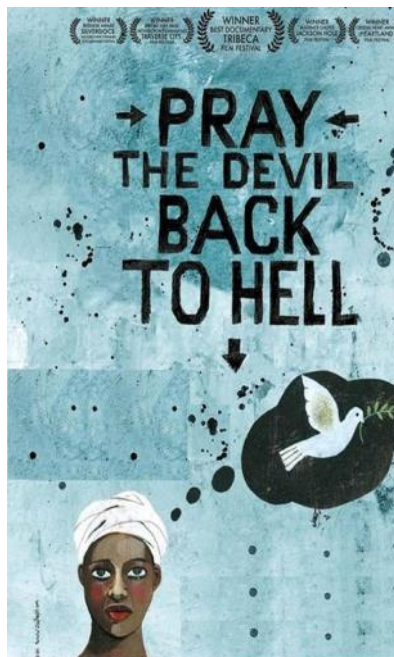
A casual, fun evening, beginning with

### Ploughshares AGM

We'll also talk about our new initiative –  
creating a locally-sourced booklet of stories, poems and art about peace.

Info: Karen at 403-270-7366/office@ploughsharescalgary.ca

# Ploughshares News



## Ploughshares Peace Education Presentation Wednesday May 17, 2015

This documentary about the civil war in Liberia and the strength and resilience of the women who banded together to stop it is both inspiring and thought-provoking. When the atrocities became too much for the women to bear, both Christian and Muslim women worked together to come up with a plan to end the war.

Thousands of women — ordinary mothers, grandmothers, aunts and daughters, — came together to pray for peace and then staged a silent protest outside of the Presidential Palace. Armed only with white T-shirts and the courage of their convictions, they demanded a resolution to the country's civil war. Their actions were a critical element in bringing about an agreement during the stalled peace talks.

A story of sacrifice, unity and transcendence, *Pray the Devil Back to Hell* honors the strength and perseverance of the women of Liberia. Inspiring, uplifting, and most of all motivating, it is a compelling testimony of how grassroots activism can alter the history of nations.

After the film, attendees engaged in a good discussion about the power of everyday people to make change, and the scourge of the arms trade, without which wars could not be waged.

## PROJECT PLOUGHSHARES INITIATIVE - WRITING FOR PEACE

Attention all you literary and artistic people! Submit your work for inclusion in a booklet that we plan to have ready for fall 2015 - in time for you to give a copy to a loved one as a holiday, birthday or anniversary gift. We're accepting essays, poetry, art, short stories...please send your work to

**Karen at Project Ploughshares Calgary, 2919 - 8 Ave. NW, Calgary T2N 1C8,  
or email it to: [office@ploughsharescalgary.ca](mailto:office@ploughsharescalgary.ca)**

**All submissions will be reviewed by the Ploughshares Executive prior to inclusion**



**Deadline: October 1, 2015**

**We would love to hear from you and share your work in a  
meaningful and locally-developed booklet  
based on your own feelings about war and peace.**

### Some ideas for inspiration:

- ◇ What does a 'culture of peace' mean to you, and how do we achieve it?
- ◇ What are the alternatives to war?
- ◇ Write to a soldier as a conscientious objector - what would you say to dissuade militarization?
- ◇ In a poem, talk about the impacts of war on the environment.
- ◇ How does war affect women and children? Write a story from the perspective of a child.
- ◇ Write an essay about the futility of war directed to political leaders.





**DONATIONS** - Please remember **Project Ploughshares** when you are planning your charitable giving. We need your commitment to help us maintain our Peace Education Programs as well as the many community-oriented and educational events that we do every year. We are so appreciative of your donations that help us keep the doors open of your local Peace Education Organization!

During May we received donations from individuals totalling \$280, and another \$700 from organizations, and are deeply appreciative of the support. Thanks so much for your consideration of Project Ploughshares Calgary.



**Floating Lantern Festival**  
**August 6, 2015 - Olympic Plaza**  
**Peace Festival - 5:00 – 8:00**  
**Lantern Memorial - 8:30 - 10:00**

Project Ploughshares and the 2020 Vision for Humanity Network are working together again on this amazing and visually beautiful community event.

This year's event starts with a peace festival that will feature workshops, a family-oriented yoga session, music, and a children's storytelling and craft tent. The lantern memorial later in the evening commemorates all those who were impacted by the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Lanterns will be available for participants to launch on the reflecting pool. Very family-friendly event, so bring your kids and come enjoy the evening!

**Young Women's**  
**Peace Camp**  
**August 25 - 29, 2015 near**  
**Nelson, B.C.**



Young women 13 - 35 years old.  
 Meet women working for peace in different ways in their communities and the world! Build confidence in powerful and clear communication skills. Make friends, plan peacemaking events and express and enjoy yourself in a beautiful natural environment.

Info: 250-505-4122, [peacecampnelson@gmail.com](mailto:peacecampnelson@gmail.com)  
 Early bird registration to May 30th. Email for application.

## EDUCATION



**Mennonite**  
**Central**  
**Committee**

When a child learns, communities benefit and lives change. We work alongside local communities and partners to:

- Increase access to education, especially for low-income families, girls, ethnic minorities and children affected by disabilities, HIV or violence.
- Improve the quality of education through professional development for teachers, educational materials and other support for schools.
- Support vocational training to help youth find work in their home communities.
- Promote peace clubs and other initiatives to help
- develop young people's full potential as leaders.

Contact info: [403-275-6935](tel:403-275-6935) or [officeab@mccab.org](mailto:officeab@mccab.org)

**War is so unjust and ugly**  
**that all who wage it must**  
**try to stifle the voice of**  
**conscience within**  
**themselves.**



**Leo Tolstoy**

*Russian writer*

(1828-1910)

*QuoteHD.com*



## Upcoming Calgary Peace Events



*Building trust across the world's divides*

*Initiatives of Change*

### **HOPES AND DREAMS: Human Rights & Refugees**



*Join us as we invite Augustino Lucano ,  
Pamela Dos Ramos, and Linda Mackay-  
Panos of the Alberta Civil Liberties Research  
Centre to share the challenges faced by  
many immigrants on their journey to settle  
in Canada.*

***A truly motivational and interactive  
story of Diversity and Inclusion!***

***Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2015***

***Time: 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.***

***Place: Conference Room Downstairs***

***Parkdale United Church***

***2919 – 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue N.W.***

***Calgary, AB T2N 1C8***

Light refreshments will be served.

Please sign up as soon as possible as spaces are limited. Maximum 25 participants per session.

**To help defray costs a charge of \$10 is requested. Advance registration is required please.**

Some bursaries are available for those experiencing financial challenges. Please speak to the coordinator.

***For further information and/or to register please contact:***

Ameeta Cordell

[iofcprograms2015@gmail.com](mailto:iofcprograms2015@gmail.com)

(403) 270-0975

## Arms sale to Saudi Arabia lowers the bar on export controls By Cesar Jaramillo, Executive Director, Project Ploughshares - May 27, 2015

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-debate/arms-sale-to-saudi-arabia-lowers-the-bar-on-export-controls/article24638473/>



By any modern standard, Saudi Arabia is a human-rights pariah. Yet the Canadian Commercial Corporation, a Crown corporation, has brokered a deal to supply \$15-billion worth of Canadian-made armoured vehicles to the autocratic kingdom over the next decade, in what is by far the largest military export contract in Canada's history.

While key details surrounding the deal remain shrouded in secrecy, what is known so far raises troubling questions about the effective application, and ultimate worth, of Canada's export controls – which the government lauds as “some of the strongest in the world.” If a country with Saudi Arabia's abysmal human-rights record is eligible to receive Canadian military goods, it is hard to fathom what sort of record a country would need to have in order to be deemed ineligible.

Canada's export-control policy calls for a thorough human-rights assessment to be conducted before a permit can be issued for a military export deal. However, as The Globe and Mail has revealed, the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development was unable to produce any human-rights reports for the year when the deal was announced (2014) or the year before. Further, even if the necessary assessments had been conducted for the Saudi deal, DFATD has said it would keep their contents from the Canadian public, citing “commercial confidentiality.”

The lack of recent human-rights reports for Saudi Arabia is in line with findings by Project Ploughshares, which reported in February that the necessary export permits had not been issued at the time the deal was announced. Evidently, the announcement of the sale was made on the assumption that the export permits would eventually come through – a highly risky assumption for any reasonable observer, given what is known about the recipient nation.

The confidence evident in the announcement makes it hard to conceive that the export permits could actually be denied. This raises questions not only about the thoroughness of the vetting process, but also about the extent to which it is properly shielded from commercial and political interests. Critically, if the deal were found to contravene Canada's export-control safeguards after the official announcement, is there any realistic scenario under which it could actually be reversed?

To be sure, the bleakness of the human-rights situation in Saudi Arabia is hard to overstate. According to Freedom House – a Washington-based organization – the country is among the “worst of the worst” human-rights offenders in the world. Year after year, authoritative organizations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch condemn the consistent, systematic repression of the Saudi civilian population by the governing regime.

Beheadings are a routine occurrence, and there have been more than four per week on average so far this year (an October 2014 feature story in Newsweek was entitled “When It Comes To Beheadings, ISIS Has Nothing Over Saudi Arabia”). Posting online comments critical of the regime can result in the author being publicly flogged. Women cannot drive.

At the same time, Canada's export policy guidelines state that Canada “closely controls” military exports to governments with “a persistent record of serious violations of the human rights of their citizens.” Before export permits can be issued, the Canadian government must determine that “there is no reasonable risk that the goods might be used against the civilian population”.

Given Saudi Arabia's well-documented poor human-rights record, it is hard to see how there can be “no reasonable risk” that the Canadian-made military goods will be used against the civilian population. In fact, documentary evidence shows the Saudi government's proclivity to use force against civilians.

In March 2011, Saudi Arabia sent armoured vehicles to help quell civilian protests in neighbouring Bahrain. Several media outlets referred to reports of human-rights abuses in the crackdown on peaceful protesters, including Britain's Telegraph, which reported that the Saudi troops were in Bahrain to “crush” the protests. According to the Canadian government, however, they were there simply to guard buildings and “did not engage in suppression of peaceful protests.”

Should an Arab Spring-type uprising occur in Saudi Arabia, there is little doubt that the Canadian armoured vehicles would be used to suppress the civilian population.

Canadian considerations of human rights seem to have been lost in the pursuit of the lucrative deal with Saudi Arabia. But it is precisely when there is a prospective deal with an oppressive regime that they become most relevant.

Oddly enough, one of the reasons that the Canadian government has given for not signing the historic international Arms Trade Treaty which came into force last December – unlike 130 signatories thus far, including all NATO members – is precisely that domestic export-control regulations are among the strongest in the world. Perhaps on paper they are. But the known facts, and pending questions, about the deal with Saudi Arabia paint an entirely different picture.

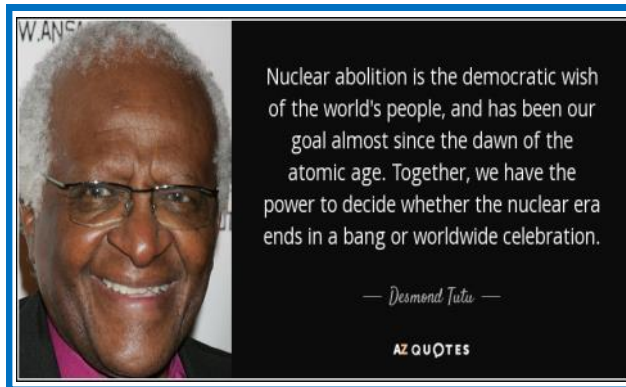


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Special thanks to Karen Huggins, Janyce Konkin & Tracey Braun for their work writing and editing this issue of the newsletter.




**Articles of Interest:**

**The United Nations and Security in a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World.** The Secretary-General's five-point proposal on nuclear disarmament. <http://www.un.org/disarmament/WMD/Nuclear/sg5point.shtml>

**Canada's unjustifiable absence from the global Arms Trade Treaty process.** Cesar Jaramillo. May 7, 2015. <http://arias.or.cr/canadas-unjustifiable-absence-from-the-global-arms-trade-treaty-process/>

**Perspective and Responding to Terrorist Violence.** John Siebert. Spring 2015. [http://ploughshares.ca/pl\\_publications/perspective-and-responding-to-terrorist-violence/](http://ploughshares.ca/pl_publications/perspective-and-responding-to-terrorist-violence/)



**Project Ploughshares Calgary**  
 Yes...I am interested in supporting the peace work of Project Ploughshares!

<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50	<input type="checkbox"/>	I'd like to make a
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/>	monthly donation
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/>	of \$_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$500	<input type="checkbox"/>	I'd like to volunteer
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1000		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Amount (Specify)	\$_____	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Options:  Cheque  PayPal  Cash

**Make cheque payable to Project Ploughshares Calgary or go to [www.ploughsharescalgary.ca](http://www.ploughsharescalgary.ca) to make your payment via PayPal.**

**Please mail completed form with donation to:**

**Project Ploughshares Calgary, 2919 - 8 Ave. NW, Calgary, AB T2N 1C8**

(Project Ploughshares is a charitable organization - we issue tax receipts for all donations over \$20)