

**PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY**

Peace News

FEBRUARY 2009



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

Office hours:
Mon, Tue, Thurs
10:30am - 3pm
Wed 2 - 6pm



Peace Reflections from Ottawa February 18th 7:30pm

Parkdale United Church 2919 8th Ave NW



At Ploughshares' monthly public meeting (3rd Wed this month) come and hear reflections from Diane Janzen, Ploughshares' Program Coordinator, after attending the "Women Building Peace" conference the previous weekend in Ottawa. The conference is organized by the Civilian Peace Service Canada (CPSC) and the Canadian Department of Peace Initiative.

The conference is to include:

- expert presenters on the impact of diplomacy, and cultural and structural norms on the role of women in conflict
- issues specific to women faced within conflict settings, domestic and international
- blocks to women's increased participation in leadership and decision making
- opportunities and challenges presented by the CPSC initiative to "professionalize" peace work through an accreditation program

THE STRANGEST DREAM

Sunday March 8th, 12 noon, FREE

Plaza Theatre 1133 Kensington Rd NW



Ploughshares is pleased to work with the National Film Board of Canada on the Calgary premiere of a new film, *The Strangest Dream*.

The Strangest Dream tells the story of Joseph Rotblat (1995 Nobel Peace Prize winner), the history of nuclear weapons and the efforts of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs—an international movement Rotblat co-founded—to halt nuclear proliferation.

After the film there will be a comments from, and a time of question and answer with several experts including Mike Wallace, professor of political science at the University of British Columbia and a member of Pugwash Canada. Donations will be welcome at the Ploughshares table to defray travel expenses.



Ploughshares Calgary News



Making Nonviolence Work: *History and Conflict Intervention Training*

Ploughshares' Annual Spring Workshop

Friday April 17th 7:30pm and Saturday April 18th 9am to 5pm
The Village Park Inn - 1804 Crowchild Trail NW

Our guest speakers/facilitators will include:

- Madelyn MacKay, board member, Nonviolent Peaceforce Canada; Nonviolent Conflict Intervention (NCI) workshop leader
- Sandra Hoenle, Prof of German, U of C; board member, Consortium for Peace Studies; will speak on non-violent resistance in Germany before and after World War II
- Diane Janzen, Program Coordinator, Project Ploughshares Calgary; will bring practical experience from her work with Christian Peacemaker Teams

Learning from the world's rich nonviolent history on Friday night will illumine the day of nonviolence training on Saturday. NCI training explores nonviolent methods for preventing or lessening conflict— at home, at work, in public places or around the world.

Full Workshop: \$40 (lunch included)

Student and Low Income: \$20

After April 3rd: \$45

Friday evening only: \$12

Register for the conference by contacting the Ploughshares office at 403-270-7366 or office@ploughsharescalgary.ca

Calgary's Energetic Peace Scene—Ploughshares' January 14th Monthly Meeting

Kelly Dowdell, Program Manager of the **Consortium for Peace Studies** and the **Dr. Irma Parhad Programmes** at the U of C gave updates on the efforts of these two programs. The Consortium is continuing with their regular events (see pg 4 for upcoming ones) while at the same time working on setting up an academic program and considering the possibility of planning a Summer Institute in 2010. Peaceful Solutions, a new student group at the university, creates partnership opportunities for the Consortium. The Parhad Programmes, whose focus on human health and wellbeing, continues to sponsor studentships and work towards the creation of the Calgary Center for Global Community (CCGC). A pilot project of the CCGC is the creation of Networking Neighbourhoods which encourages individuals to gather regularly with their neighbours to discuss various topics.

Collette Lemieux, Co-Chair of the Canadian Peace Alliance (host of the Building the Peace Movement meetings—see pg 4) encouraged attendees to participate in the **War Resister's Support Campaign's** "Let Them Stay", a national week of action from Jan 19-26th. There were 5 deportations of war resisters scheduled for the latter part of January. A distinction that Collette mentioned, is that in the US, conscientious objector status is difficult to obtain after an individual joins the army. However in Canada, military personnel are able to file for conscientious objector status for a specific war/mission. More information about war resisters can be found at www.resister.ca (including updates, two resisters were granted stays of removal by the Federal Court), and a report of a resister's presentation in Calgary is available in the Oct 2008 edition of *Peace News*.

Sally Hodges, Chair of Ploughshares Calgary, provided information about the Canadian Centres for Teaching Peace and their organization's planning for a **Peace Café** in Calgary. A Peace Café is a community space that recognises that peacebuilding begins from grass roots. It is a safe space, where visitors can participate in workshops, make use of the peace café library, or find out more about local, provincial, national, and international peacebuilding organizations. Those working to set-up the Calgary Peace Café are currently doing a culture of peace assessment of Calgary, creating a local board, recruiting volunteers and researching location possibilities.

Syed Soharwardy, Imam of the Al Madinah Calgary Islamic Centre, walked over 6,500 km across Canada from April 14 to October 27, 2008 for the **Multifaith Walk Against Violence** that he initiated. Syed felt the need to do this walk for two reasons: (1) violence is not endorsed by any religion, (2) violence is on the rise in the world in it's different forms. He felt that the walk was successful in raising awareness about violence, and there were many individuals across Canada who came out to meet the walkers, offer support and share their stories. "You don't need to experience violence to be touched by it." Syed is now organizing an annual day for a multifaith walk in Calgary.

Ploughshares National News

First audit of Canada's military exports released

Project Ploughshares has released a detailed audit of the government's report on Canada's military exports. The data, published by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), is for the period 2003–2005.

Although Canada is generally a responsible arms exporter relative to other military suppliers, the audit found that Canadian export control practices, and particularly reporting standards, need to be strengthened. Changes are required to guard against exports to states in conflict and human rights abusing states and to conform to emerging international standards being negotiated through the United Nations.

The major findings of the audit:

- There is no data in the report on Canada's military exports to the United States. Yet, the US is by far the largest recipient of Canadian arms, importing more than double the total value of shipments to all other countries combined. The lack of US data is a major lapse in transparency.
- Canada does not always adhere to its own guidelines when authorizing military transfers. The shipment of armoured vehicles to Saudi Arabia – worth over \$400 million during the 2003 to 2005 period – is the most prominent example. Despite clear risks of use of the vehicles against civilian populations, Canada continues to approve shipments to a government regularly cited for human rights violations. Canada's own export control guidelines call for close control in such cases.
- Although Canada was one of the first states to report arms export shipments beginning in 1991, today several states report more comprehensively on their exports. The Canadian record falls short of transparency standards now used by other military supplier states such as Sweden.
- During the report period 2003-2005 there were documented cases of unregulated and unreported civilian equipment shipped by Canada for military end-use. For example, Canadian helicopters were delivered to the armed forces of Pakistan but these were not reported as a military export.
- Canada has been a strong supporter of the proposed international Arms Trade Treaty, but its own export control policy and practice needs to be tightened to meet the emerging international standards that Canada advocates.

“**On the Record: An audit of Canada's report on military exports 2003-2005,**” released January 27th, is available from the Project Ploughshares website at: www.ploughshares.ca/libraries/Control/Audit2003-05MilitaryExports.pdf

Also available on the Ploughshares website is a Working Paper on “**A Roundtable on Nuclear Issues in Relation to Iran**”. The roundtable was hosted by Project Ploughshares and Mennonite Central Committee Canada in cooperation with the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Ottawa.

Amnesty International, Calgary chapter, starts Book Club

Excerpt below is from Amnesty International Calgary's email updates

We thought we'd only read a book every two or three months and we've picked the first one: *The Translator* by Daoud Hari (about Darfur, Sudan). Please pick up a copy of this book if you're interested in joining us in April (date & location TBA) for a discussion about this book and Darfur.

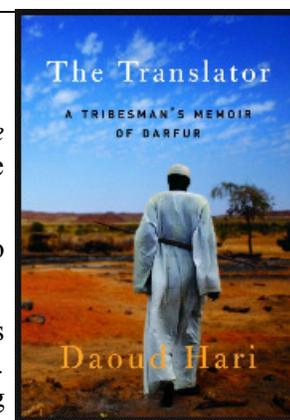
The young life of Hari has been one of bravery and mesmerizing adventure. He is a living witness to the brutal genocide under way in Darfur.

The Translator is a suspenseful, harrowing, and deeply moving memoir of how one person has made a difference in the world—an on-the-ground account of one of the biggest stories of our time. Using his high school knowledge of languages as his weapon—while others around him were taking up arms—Hari has helped inform the world about Darfur.

Hari, a Zaghawa tribesman, grew up in a village in the Darfur region of Sudan. In 2003, this traditional life was shattered when helicopter gunships appeared over Darfur's villages, followed by Sudanese-government-backed militia groups raping and murdering citizens and burning villages.

Though Hari's village was attacked and destroyed, he was able to escape and lead survivors to safety. When international aid groups and reporters arrived, Hari offered his services as a translator and guide. He risked his life again and again, for the government of Sudan had outlawed journalists in the region, and death was the punishment for those who aided the "foreign spies." And then, inevitably, his luck ran out and he was captured. . . .

The Translator tells the remarkable story of a man who came face-to-face with genocide—time and again risking his own life to fight injustice and save his people.





Project Ploughshares Calgary

2919 8th Ave. NW

Calgary AB T2N 1C8

(403) 270-7366

office@ploughsharescalgary.ca

www.ploughsharescalgary.ca

Special thanks to Diane Janzen, Sally Hodges and Larry Kennard for their work writing and editing this issue of the newsletter.

Upcoming Events

February 8th 1pm - 3pm

Building the Peace Movement meeting

Arusha Centre (Old Y Building, 223 12 Avenue SW)

In an effort to help build relationships within the peace movement in Calgary, we are holding regular events to bring different groups and individuals together. For more information, please contact candil@shaw.ca

February 10th 7pm

Film Screening of ***Standard Operating Procedure***

Plaza Theatre, 1133 Kensington Road NW. Admission is by donation.

Amnesty International, Calgary branch

Documentary filmmaker Errol Morris (The Fog of War, The Thin Blue Line) examines the context of the twelve notorious photographs from Baghdad's Abu Ghraib.

March 2 - Haiti: We must Kill the Bandits

Time & location to be confirmed, PeaceFilm hosted by the Consortium for Peace Studies

Filmmaker Kevin Pina challenges the contemporary view of Haiti, revealing the hidden role of the 'international community' in Haitian politics. This provocative and lively film takes the viewer into parts of Haiti where few Western journalists dare to tread, and includes shocking footage of unreported human rights abuses, some which have been astonishingly conducted by UN forces. Pina's film stands out because it connects the tragic events in Haiti with what he assesses as foreign intervention designed to deter democracy. Learn the side of the Haiti coverage not seen in the corporate news media. Kevin Pina will be on hand to facilitate a discussion following the film screening.

March 5th 7pm - Women of Courage Building Peace A celebration of International Women's Day.

Carpenter's Hall, 301 - 10 Street NW

March 18 - Drums for Diversity, Voices for Change

A participatory musical event on the University of Calgary campus called to commemorate March 21st, the *United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination*

March 30 - 3rd Annual Calgary Peace Prize Dinner

Calgary Zoo—Safari Lodge Cocktails 6pm, Dinner & Presentation 7pm

The Consortium for Peace Studies at the University of Calgary is pleased to officially announce **Ms. Louise Arbour**, former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights as the recipient of the third Calgary Peace Prize. It is our privilege to recognize Ms. Arbour who, in addition to her role with the UN, also served as justice of the Supreme Court of Canada and Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

Tickets \$150.00 (see www.ucalgary.ca/~peaceuc/pprize_2009.htm for a ticket order form)

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 2009 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 (requires \$35 donation)