

**PROJECT  
PLOUGHSHARES  
CALGARY**

# Peace News

**JANUARY 2010**



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

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

## **Update on US Iraq War Resisters Wednesday January 13th 7:30pm Parkdale United Church (2919 8th Ave NW)**

The War Resisters Support Campaign has produced a new DVD (an hour-long screening of a 2008 panel discussion of a dozen US Iraq War resisters telling their stories, hosted by CBC radio host Andy Barrie). Ploughshares will screen this DVD at our January monthly public meeting and give you a short update on the status of US Iraq War resisters in Canada.

On September 17, 2009 MP Gerard Kennedy (L – Parkdale-High Park) introduced Bill C-440, An Act to amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act to allow US Iraq War resisters to apply for permanent resident status in Canada. The bill was seconded by MP Bill Siksay (NDP – Burnaby-Douglas). Bill C-440 follows on two concurrent motions passed in the House of Commons calling on the government to cease deportation proceedings against war resisters.



The second parliamentary reading of Bill C-440 could happen when Parliament resumes so now is the time to share your views with the government. At the January 13th meeting Ploughshares will have a petition you can sign and postcards you can send in. More information is available at [www.letthemstay.ca](http://www.letthemstay.ca)

## **The Coordination Challenge in Contemporary Peacebuilding Wednesday February 10th 7:30pm Parkdale United Church**



With guest speaker **Lara Olson** who is an Associate at the Centre for Military and Strategic Studies (CMSS) at the University of Calgary with extensive experience on practical approaches to improving the effectiveness of NGO humanitarian, development and peacebuilding efforts in conflict areas.

Lara is Co-director of the Peacebuilding, Development and Security Program of the CMSS. She will be relating what is known about effective models for civilian and military assistance to countries in transition from war to peace. It will be a summary of what has been learned to date, midstream, through an ongoing multiyear research project, Building Durable Peace: Enhancing Interagency Relationships in Peacebuilding.

# Ploughshares Calgary News

## James Loney Visit to Calgary

James Loney, Christian Peacemaker Teams member who was kidnapped in Iraq in the fall of 2005, was the guest speaker at Ploughshares' November 3rd monthly public meeting. Around 35 people came out to hear James speak on "What I Heard About Afghanistan."

James used the documented statements of politicians, soldiers and civilians to create a narrative dealing with the lead-up to the 2003 attack and invasion of Afghanistan and NATO's ongoing military operations there. Using a similar format as Eliot Weinberger's essay "What I Heard About Iraq" (which has been adapted to a play), James' essay can be described as Lyn Gardner from *The Guardian* described Weinberger's; "Using only fully verifiable facts and quotes, it doesn't just raise one question, it makes you question just about everything you've heard and read. It tells you things that you thought you already knew, and reminds you of things that you once thought but had forgotten." (15 August 2006)

James' visit to Alberta was organized by Ploughshares Edmonton and Ploughshares Calgary.



## Thanks to our many Holiday Peace Fair volunteers!!

The 25<sup>th</sup> annual Holiday Peace Fair on November 14<sup>th</sup> was another wonderful success raising around \$4500 for Ploughshares and thousands of dollars for the 31 other organizations who participated. Ploughshares acknowledged Bev Delong and Trudy Govier (initiators of the Peace Fair), Nancy Hetherington-Peirce (and other former Peace Fair coordinators), Ploughshares program coordinators through the years, and UNICEF—the organization that has been a vendor at every Peace Fair. In the 25 years that the Peace Fair has been around, 117 groups have participated as vendors for one or more years. Thanks to all who have attend the Peace Fair through the years and supported the social justice efforts of all these groups.

Our volunteers made it happen by helping in many ways; food provided by the kitchen crew (with Karen Dickson and Penny Young), sales by the Ploughshares tables (with Larry Kennard), staffing the admission table, money changers, set-up and take down crews and many many more. Your work is peace in action! Congratulations to Larry Negrave whose name was picked for the Ploughshares Peace Fair volunteer gift draw.



Dear Ploughshares Supporters,

Many thanks to those of you who helped to raise the 'individual giving' level by \$8555 this Fall. This was very helpful and needed! We are still \$3200 short of projections for individual giving for 2009, but this is offset a little by kind donations made in the names of Eric Tollefson and our Ploughshares-family baby Hendrix Hrdlicka-Parsons, born in September, son of Julie and Sean! Thank you to those people!

On a different note, we recently heard that many people these days don't own cheques. "They do everything by credit card", says a young Executive member. Project Ploughshares Calgary is now delighted to be able to offer everyone the possibility of donating by credit card. To use this convenient way to donate contact the Ploughshares Calgary office by phone (403-270-7366) or mail with this information:

- \* VISA/MASTERCARD
- \* Card Number and Expiry Date
- \* Name on card
- \* Your phone number in case we need to contact you
- \* Amount of donation
- \* Your address so that you will receive a tax receipt

May 2010 be a year of renewed optimism for you and bring you and your loved ones much peace.

Sally Hodges Chair

# Ploughshares National News

*Below are excerpts from articles in the Winter 2009 edition of The Monitor [www.ploughshares.ca](http://www.ploughshares.ca)*

## **US joins efforts toward a global Arms Trade Treaty: UN resolution promises negotiations to begin in 2010**

*By Kenneth Epps*

In late October the United States joined a large majority of states to vote in favour of a UN First Committee (FC) resolution to establish a timetable for negotiating a “strong and robust” arms trade treaty. The positive vote was a complete reversal of the persistent and solitary “no” the Bush administration had instructed for earlier US votes on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). It meant that for the first time the world’s largest arms exporter was backing the UN process to produce an ATT with the “highest possible common international standards” to control transfers of conventional weapons.

The FC resolution vote was heralded by states and civil society groups alike as a major step forward in the ATT process. Following routine secondary approval by the UN General Assembly in December, the agreement will establish negotiating sessions over the next three years, culminating in a four-week treaty conference in 2012. Beginning in July 2010 all scheduled ATT sessions at the United Nations will be devoted to constructing a legally binding convention.

In discussions with the co-authors (seven states led by the United Kingdom), the United States insisted that the resolution include: “the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty will be undertaken ... on the basis of consensus.” The US made clear that the consensus requirement was non-negotiable and that if it were removed from the resolution text the US would withdraw its support for the ATT process.

Several states and many civil society observers expressed grave concern that the consensus requirement would lead to the opposite of US expectations. They argued that a conference operating “on the basis of consensus” would provide all participating states with the power of veto, leading to deadlocked negotiations or a treaty reduced to the lowest common standards. They cited the experience of UN negotiations in other arms control and disarmament forums – most notably in the UN Conference on Disarmament – where consensus rules of procedure have allowed single states to hold up progress for years.

Despite the efforts of a few supportive states to amend the consensus requirement, the FC resolution with the text the United States required was overwhelmingly approved on October 30 by 153 states. Nineteen states abstained on the vote, including major exporters Russia and China and major importers India and Saudi Arabia and other Middle East states. (Zimbabwe was the sole state to vote no.) The task now for advocates of a strong Arms Trade Treaty is to ensure that the Preparatory Committee sessions established by the resolution for 2011 and 2012 are used effectively to prepare the ground for the 2012 treaty conference.

## **Africa & the roots of Responsibility to Protect**

*By John Siebert*

It may surprise some Canadians that leading African spokespersons have embraced the responsibility to protect, or R2P, as a particularly African contribution to human rights standards. After all, Canada initiated the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS) that led to the foundational report for the concept in 2001.

Africa’s evolving peace and security architecture fits not only within the broader international stream of “humanitarian intervention” that preceded the ICISS, but is considered by some Africans as a specifically African tributary of that stream.

Algerian diplomat Mohamed Sahnoun (2009), a former top UN official and one of the co-chairs of the ICISS, recently wrote that “unlike other regions, our [i.e., African] legal systems have long acknowledged that in addition to individuals, groups and leaders having rights, they also have reciprocal duties. So the responsibility to protect is in many ways an African contribution to human rights.”

In the 1990s African intergovernmental organizations were part of a developing security culture marked by a normative affirmation of the primacy of the needs of citizens. Musifiky Mwanasali identifies a number of factors influencing this changing security culture:

- Emphasis on the protection of civilians in international humanitarian law;
- The democracy movement promoting the rule of law, personal freedoms, and renewed political institutions; and
- Citizen demands for participation and transparency in governance.

To give greater effect to its commitments and provide a means for “African solutions to African problems,” the African Union (AU) is establishing a peace and security architecture, whose centrepiece is the African Standby Force (ASF), targeted to be ready for deployment by 2010. In addition to the ASF, other planned parts of the AU peace and security architecture are an early warning system, as well as a Panel of the Wise to assist with preventing the outbreak or escalation of conflict.



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

# Abolition News

## Canadian priorities for surmounting the obstacles to nuclear disarmament

Excerpts from Ernie Regehr's Disarming Conflict Blog, November 23, 2009 [www.cigionline.org/publications/blogs/disarmingconflict](http://www.cigionline.org/publications/blogs/disarmingconflict)

*The first, and really most urgent, priority is for Canada to rediscover its tradition of disarmament diplomacy.*

Canada has an important history of active support for nuclear disarmament. Of course, there has always been a strong element of ambivalence in Canadian disarmament policy. Remember that, when Canada joined the newly-negotiated NPT in 1968 as a non-nuclear weapon State, some 250-450 nuclear weapons were deployed with Canadian forces in Canada and Europe. While all nuclear weapons had been withdrawn from Canadian territory or deployment with Canadian forces by the early 1980s, direct participation in nuclear weapons-related operations continued, and remains today, through membership in NATO and NORAD. In recent years, certainly at the highest levels of Government, ambivalence seems to have turned to indifference. The Harper Government has not rejected Canadian policy in support of the elimination of nuclear weapons, but neither has it championed it.

*A second priority is to recognize that an important impediment to disarmament is a seriously flawed set of disarmament institutions.*

The Conference on Disarmament has been famously deadlocked for more than a decade. Multilateral disarmament will continue to founder in the absence of disarmament machinery that is effective and trusted. Canada has prominently advanced proposals for shoring up the disarmament institutional infrastructure. An innovative proposal to take key issues out of the CD and pursue them in specially created working groups mandated by the General Assembly, was a case in point a few years back. Canada's effort to strengthen the NPT's institutional and accountability mechanisms is an important initiative that Canada has persisted in throughout the current NPT review process. Some of the most energetic opponents of that effort are members of the G8 – which suggests using the forthcoming G8-G20 meeting in Canada to try to shore up support. To make headway will require Canadian leadership that has the courage of its formal policy declarations, supplemented by a coherent strategy and a diplomatic offensive to gather a credible supporting coalition of like-minded States.

*A sub-element of institution building is the need to enhance and regularize the role of civil society in the NPT review process.*

The Harper Government has not only given up on advocacy on the matter, but has ended the long-standing practice of including civil society representatives on its delegations to the NPT Review Conferences.

*Canada has also championed Transparency and Reporting in the nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation regime.*

*Ultimately, disarmament will require a nuclear weapons convention.*

The nuclear threat is an eminently solvable problem. Compare it with all the other perils this troubled planet faces: from the economic crisis, to climate change, energy deficits, burgeoning pollution, acute water shortages, unrelenting hunger, grossly inadequate health services, and chronic armed conflict. Solving these problems requires a vast array of complex social and behavioral transformations. But nuclear disarmament really only needs a few clear decisions by a relatively small cadre of leaders. A very small number of leaders can decide to take weapons of high-alert and immediately make the world a much safer place. Similarly, it takes only a small number of leaders, most of whom have now declared their commitment to a world without nuclear weapons, to make the decisions needed to progressively remove weapons from deployment and into the dismantling shops.

**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 2010 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)