

**PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY**

Peace News

MAY 2013



We are located:

**Parkdale United
Church
2919 8th Ave NW
T2N 1C8**

403-270-7366

Office hours:

**Mon Tues & Thurs
9:30 am - 2 pm**

Wed 12 - 4 pm

**Empowering Children in the DR Congo: The Gilbert Care Centre
Wednesday May 15, 2013, 7 :30 PM
Parkdale United Church Auditorium, 2919 – 8 Avenue NW**



**A Project Ploughshares Calgary Presentation
by Emmanuel Dumbi**

Emmanuel will share the history of the DR Congo, as well as the impacts that war has on the population – particularly the children. He has plans to establish the Gilbert Care Centre in Boma, DRC, and will share his vision for this centre. This project will help extremely poor, mostly orphaned street children in Boma by

providing basic needs like food, clothing, education and medical assistance; mental, emotional and psychosocial needs; and spiritual support.

Please come to this important presentation and invite your friends and colleagues.
For more info, contact Karen @ 403-270-7366, office@ploughsharescalgary.ca



**Please note that Project Ploughshares Calgary's AGM will take place
immediately after the above presentation, from 9 - 9:15 PM.**



10th Anniversary of United Nations
Security Council resolution 1325 ▶

**The 1312 Key to Peace - Readers' Theatre
Wednesday June 12, 2013, 7:30 PM**

Parkdale United Church Auditorium, 2919 - 8 Avenue NW

In 2000 the United Nations Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 1325, a miracle for that body. Women are to be equal partners in peacemaking to both prevent and solve conflicts, but *how to do it* is the question. This play shows the way. Three women in a Peace Room use the 1325 golden door key to enter the War Room, to the surprise of the General, the Tycoon, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The women transform the political process in 30 minutes. "Impossible!" you say. Yet all wars do come to an end sooner or later. Why not stop wars before they start and have some fun doing it?

This play was first performed on November 13, 2010 in Toronto at the 50th Anniversary celebration of the founding of the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, and now Calgarians will be able to benefit from the wisdom offered in this play!



How to Start a Revolution

Wednesday April 17th, 2013, 7:30—9 PM
Parkdale United Church Conference Room

Approximately 35 people attended the showing of 'HOW TO START A REVOLUTION' the remarkable story of Nobel Peace Prize nominee Gene Sharp, the world's leading expert on nonviolent revolution. The film details how an obscure list of nonviolent actions authored by Sharp in 1973 has served as a blueprint for anti-authoritarian revolts everywhere from Eastern Europe and the Balkans to the Arab Spring. Dr. Pablo Policzer, a political science professor and Canada Research Chair in Latin American Politics at the University of Calgary, spoke to what he saw as both the strength and weakness of the film. While he noted that the thing that political scientists often miss is the power of the citizenry to act to change the system, and how potent that voice can be - he felt that there were instances in the film where dictators were often painted with the same brush, when in fact dictatorships can take many different forms, from the brutal dictatorships in Latin America throughout the 1970's and 80's, to the populist dictatorships such as those of Hugo Chavez or Fidel Castro. A lively discussion followed Dr. Policzer's comments, with several people staying on to continue the discussion following the presentation.

Building Alliances for Change: Nonviolent Popular Action

Friday April 26th & Saturday April 27th, Parkdale United Church Auditorium

A collaborative workshop with Project Ploughshares and NextUp



Facilitators Ben West from Vancouver, Jill Crop-Eared Wolf from the Peigan nation and Mike Byerly from NextUp (a social justice leadership training group) led forty interested participants through the factors involved in building campaigns. Here's what we heard.

All social movements start with a handful of people, sometimes just one person. If they are passionate about their cause, and build their campaign knowledgeable and carefully the results can be impressive.

Campaign plans or 'Strategies' involve goals and political analysis; organizational aspects such as resources and needs; understanding and nurturing constituents, allies and opponents; targets and power considerations; tactics and their dynamics; campaign communication; and evaluation. Tactics are particular actions done as part of the overall strategy. Gene Sharp's 198 methods of Nonviolent Action were tactics. Targets are always people, not institutions or elected bodies. Will the message of the tactic you choose pressure the target person to capitulate? dialogue? or encourage them to dismiss you or retaliate? The timing of tactics is important. Choose a time when your opponent is more open or vulnerable. Choose a time when the topic is in the news: to ride the wave is easier than to make the wave. Understand how to approach allies, neutrals and opponents.

As an example of a tactic for a particular campaign, the workshop started with a showing of the film On The Line. This film reveals the countryside that would receive the Northern Gateway Pipeline; the channel oil tankers would take; and the diverse opinions of people along its proposed path. It is an understated but powerful film. In itself it exemplifies several of the key elements of a campaign strategic plan.

A good strategic plan starts with a clear goal and what could constitute small victories along the way. The goal of the film is to win people to the cause of stopping the Gateway pipeline. It does so by laying out many of the ways in which the pipeline will affect the people and environment on its route. It gives facts eg. there are 26,000 jobs related to the salmon industry in the BC coastal area. Even if the film and other tactics succeed in bringing a delay in the pipeline's approval or further study of certain aspects, these would constitute partial victories and be supportive for the campaign.

The element of allies and opponents is a theme in the film. It shows a spectrum of views about the pipeline, from full endorsement through both questioning and concerned 'neutrals' to extremely concerned 'allies' taking action. It showed the many groups of constituents affected and ways in which some of them have gathered power. In the workshop the importance of making genuine friendships with allies and understanding what the opponent will lose and might do if they lose, was emphasized. Having a campaign sometimes means going out of one's comfort zone to learn about and appreciate others.

The Northern Gateway protest campaign is an example of how a campaign can be built, even in the face of a seemingly impossible goal.



Ploughshares Calgary News



Please look at the last page of this newsletter for ordering information for our annual Spolumbo's fundraiser. Order deadline is Monday May 6th.

We'd Love to Have YOU on Board!

We are looking for energetic, committed people to help out on the following committees for the **2013 Calgary Peace Run: Volunteers (for the race day and other related activities during the summer), Fundraising, Draw Prizes, Food & Beverage, Marketing & Promotions, and Social Media.**

We are also looking for about 10 volunteers to help out with our **Toy Audit**, which will take place towards the end of October 2013. Training will be provided for this exciting new initiative.

We are planning an information session for interested volunteers on Tuesday, May 28th at 4:30 PM at Parkdale. We need you! If you're interested, please send your contact info to **Karen** at **403-270-7366** or **office@ploughsharescalgary.ca**



Reaching Critical Will releases update of report on nuclear weapon modernization - www.reachingcriticalwill.org

Reaching Critical Will has published a new report on nuclear weapon modernization, *Still assuring destruction forever*.

All nuclear-armed states have plans to modernize their nuclear weapons, delivery systems, and related infrastructure. They will spend billions of dollars over the next few years extending the lives of these weapons of terror.

In 2012, Reaching Critical Will published the first report on global nuclear weapon modernization. Non-governmental researchers and analysts, leading and knowledgeable experts about nuclear weapons programmes and policies, provided information on the plans of China (Hui Zhang), France (Hans Kristensen), India (M.V. Ramana), Israel (Merav Datan), Pakistan (Zia Mian), Russia (Pavel Podvig), the United Kingdom (John Ainslie), and the United States (Andrew Lichterman). *Still assuring destruction forever* provides an update of the summaries of each of the countries

Donations

We received \$615 during the month of April from individual donors. When you're planning your springtime charitable donations, please think about Project Ploughshares and give generously! We value your contributions, and would like to thank all those who continue to contribute

big-heartedly to Project Ploughshares. We can't continue to do the important and meaningful work of peacebuilding without you!



"I saw science as being in harmony with humanity. I did not imagine that the second half of my life would be spent on efforts to avert a mortal danger to humanity created by science. The practical release of nuclear energy was the outcome of many years of experimental and theoretical research. It had great potential for the common good. But the first the general public learned about the discovery was the news of the destruction of Hiroshima by the atom bomb. A splendid achievement of science and technology had turned malign ... Let me remind you that nuclear disarmament is not just an ardent desire of the people, as expressed in many resolutions of the United Nations. It is a legal commitment ... for the sake of humanity - we must get rid of all nuclear weapons." --- **Joseph Rotblat** (1908-2005), from his [1955 Nobel Prize Acceptance speech](#).

Reflections on Omnicide, Nuclear Deterrence and a Maginot Line in the Mind

by David Krieger, March 14, 2013

This article was originally published by [Truthout](#).



I offer a few reflections in an effort to separate fact from fiction with regard to nuclear weapons, their capacity for devastation and our ability to assure global security by preventing their use. First, today's nuclear arsenals are capable of omnicide, the death of all. In that sense, nuclear weapons are not really weapons but instruments of annihilation. They place all complex life at risk of extinction.

Omnicide is possible because of the unique capacity of nuclear weapons to cause a "nuclear winter" and to trigger "nuclear famine." In addition to the ordinary ways that nuclear weapons destroy - blast, fire and radiation - they have the capacity to block sunlight from reaching the earth, shorten growing seasons, and lead to the destruction of crops, resulting in global nuclear famine.

Second, nuclear weapons are justified by their possessors by their belief in the effectiveness of nuclear deterrence. We must always keep in mind that nuclear deterrence is not a fact; it is a hypothesis about human behavior. It is a hypothesis that posits rational leaders; and it is, in fact, highly irrational to believe that humans will behave rationally at all times under all conditions. How many national leaders are you aware of who always act rationally, regardless of the circumstances?

It is also true that humans are fallible and prone to error, even when they construct elaborate safeguards. Examples of human fallibility are found in the nuclear power plant accidents at Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and Fukushima, and in numerous accidents with nuclear weapons in transport, such as the refueling accident over Palomares, Spain.

As Ban Ki-moon said earlier this year in a speech at the Monterey Institute of International Studies: "Nuclear deterrence is not a solution to international peace and stability. It is an obstacle."

Third, I urge you to remember the Maginot Line. It was a high-tech wall that French leaders believed would prevent another invasion of their country, as had occurred in World War I. The Maginot Line was highly regarded right up to the time that it failed, catastrophically for France, when the German attackers simply marched around it.

I view nuclear deterrence theory as a Maginot Line in the mind. It is likely to be relied upon right up until the moment it fails, and when it fails it will be catastrophic, far more so than in the French case. Like the original Maginot Line, it will seem clear after the fact that it was destined to fail.

What is missing from the discourse on nuclear armaments among national leaders is political will for nuclear weapons abolition, a sense of urgency and the courage to lead. Mr. Obama spoke in his 2013 State of the Union Address about the US "leading the global effort to secure nuclear materials that could fall into the wrong hands." The problem with the president's perspective is that all hands are the wrong hands.

Who will make this clear to Mr. Obama and to the leaders of the other nuclear weapons states? This is a role for the citizens of the nuclear weapon states and for the leaders of middle-power countries. It is necessary if we are to preserve our world and pass it on intact to new generations.

Mr. Obama also said that "our ability to influence others depends on our willingness to lead." Who will step up and lead on this most-critical of all issues for humanity's future?

Strategies for nuclear weapons, based on nuclear deterrence, have been MAD (Mutually Assured Destruction). MAD has given way to SAD (Self-Assured Destruction), as today's arsenals of thermonuclear weapons have the capacity to trigger Ice Age conditions (leading to nuclear famine) that would assure the destruction of the attacking nation, even without retaliation.

We must have the courage to move past MAD and SAD to PASS (Planetary Assured Security and Survival). This will require moving rapidly but surely to the total abolition of nuclear weapons, as required by the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

I urge national leaders and security specialists, as well as the public, to base their strategic thinking, leadership and action regarding nuclear weapons on three basic understandings that separate fact from fiction, truth from hypothesis. First, nuclear weapons are capable of omnicide. Second, nuclear deterrence is only a hypothesis about human behavior, not a fact that can be relied upon for the indefinite future. Third, the Maginot Line was fancy and high-tech and was thought to be foolproof by most security experts, but it failed to provide a defense when it mattered, and its failure was devastating for France.

Nuclear deterrence is a Maginot Line in the mind, and its failure would be devastating, not only to nuclear armed countries, but to people everywhere, as well as to the future of complex life on the planet.



David Krieger is President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation.

U.N. Treaty Aims to Limit Arms Exports for Rights Abusers

By NEIL MacFARQUHAR (excerpted)

http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/people/m/neil_macfarquhar/index.html>



UNITED NATIONS The United Nations General Assembly voted overwhelmingly on Tuesday to approve a landmark treaty that tries to regulate the enormous global trade in conventional weapons, for the first time linking sales to the human-rights records of the buyers. The 154-to-3 vote for approval of the Arms Trade Treaty<<http://www.un.org/disarmament/ATT/>>, the culmination of years of negotiations, was regarded as a victory by rights groups that called it at least a first step toward limiting commerce in illegal weapons that kill thousands of people every day. But many questions remain about the treaty's effectiveness, which would essentially rely on a transparent system of compliance that embarrasses violators.

And although the United States, the biggest arms exporter, voted for the treaty, 23 countries abstained, including China and Russia, which also are leading sellers of weapons, raising concerns about how many countries would ultimately ratify the accord. Even with American support at the United Nations, prospects for ratification of the treaty by the Senate are considered dim at best, partly because of opposition by gun-rights advocates.

The General Assembly vote was held after efforts to achieve a consensus on the treaty among all 193 member states of the United Nations failed last week, with Iran, North Korea and Syria blocking it. Those three countries, often ostracized as pariahs, contended that the treaty was full of deficiencies and had been structured to be unfair to them. The treaty requires states exporting conventional weapons to develop criteria that would link exports to avoiding human-rights abuses, terrorism and organized crime. It would also ban shipments if they were deemed harmful to women and children. Countries that join the treaty would have to report publicly on sales every year.

Although the treaty has no enforcement mechanism, it exposes the arms-trade process to new levels of transparency that proponents of the treaty say could help severely limit illicit weapons deals by shaming violators. Treaty proponents pinned their hopes on a quick ratification by a large number of countries, anticipating that would put pressure on the large countries that abstained to ascribe to it as well. But such significant abstentions could also signal that transforming the treaty into international law will be a more arduous process than if consensus had been achieved.

Vitaly I. Churkin, the Russian envoy to the United Nations, said Russian misgivings about what he called ambiguities in the treaty, including how terms like genocide would be defined, had pushed his government to abstain. Support was particularly strong among many African countries, even if the compromise text was weaker than some had anticipated, with most governments asserting that over the long run the treaty would curb the arms sales that have fueled so many conflicts.

Nations can begin joining the treaty in early June, and it goes into effect as international law once 50 have ratified it. Given that the vote in the General Assembly was so overwhelmingly in support, it is expected to go into effect within the next few years.

In the run-up to the vote on Tuesday, numerous states objected to the treaty because they said it was heavily weighted in favor of the exporters, allowing them to make subjective judgments about which states met the humanitarian guidelines. The treaty could be abused in the future as a means to foment unjust political pressure, said several countries, including Cuba, Nicaragua and Syria.

Those who pushed hard for the treaty, especially among rights groups, thought it would have an important long-term impact, however. "The Arms Trade Treaty provides a powerful alternative to the body-bag approach currently used to respond to humanitarian crises," said Raymond Offenheiser, the president of Oxfam America. "Today nations enact arms embargoes in response to humanitarian crises only after a mass loss of life. The treaty prohibits the weapon sales in the first place. It should help shut down safe havens where rogue arms dealers can sell weapons to war criminals with impunity," he said.

Frank Jannuzi, head of Amnesty International's Washington office, said the final draft of the treaty was not perfect but represented what many rights groups considered an enormous advance. "To the extent that there's any enforcement mechanism in this treaty, it's an actual benchmark in which we can judge states' behavior, whereas before it was extremely subjective," he said. "Now there's a process. So that's a step forward. For all those unlicensed exports that end up fueling violence, this treaty begins to get a handle on that through much more rigorous licensing and reporting." The treaty covers trade in tanks, armored combat vehicles, large-caliber weapons, combat aircraft, attack helicopters, warships, missiles and launchers, small arms and light weapons. Ammunition exports are subject to the same criteria as the other war materiel. Imports are not covered.

Asked about the potential impact of the treaty, Thomas M. Countryman, the assistant secretary of state who led the American delegation to the talks, said he did not expect an instant impact on the level of trade nor the level of violence around the world. "But over a longer period of time," he said before the vote, "I think it will contribute to a reduction in violence."

Mr. Countryman played down any negative effect on the American arms industry, which accounts for about 30 percent of the \$60 billion to \$70 billion annual trade in conventional arms. "This treaty will bring much of the rest of the world not up to the American standards but much closer to the American standards," he said. "In that sense, I believe it levels the playing field and gives American manufacturers a better competitive position in the world."

There were also doubters. The seven years of negotiations and repeated efforts to water down the treaty raised doubts about just how sincere the implementation might be. "It is clear that while many countries want a strong and robust treaty," said Lyndira Oudit, a senator from Trinidad and Tobago and a member of a group of international legislators who pushed for passage, "some actually seem to want a weak one, with vague language and narrow definitions, which allow for wide interpretation and maintenance of the status quo, both of players and of process."

Indonesia, Russia, Syria and others objected to the fact that the treaty did not ban outright arms transfers to rebel groups and other nonstate actors. Western nations, including the largest arms exporters, opposed any specific reference to nonstate actors because they argued that there were times when national liberation movements needed protection from abusive governments. Supporters said the treaty covers nonstate actors because all conventional weapons sales will be judged under the same criteria, and refers to 'unauthorized end user or end users.'

Rick Gladstone contributed reporting.



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Special thanks to Karen Huggins & Sally Hodges for their work writing and editing this issue of the newsletter.

Calgary Peace Events



Calgary Peace Run Festival
Saturday September 21, 2013
International Day of Peace
Starting Point: Festival Market
Square (outside of the Eau Claire
Market Running Room)

Warm-Up: 9:30 AM / Race Start: 10 AM

Register on-line now at <http://www.events.runningroom.com/site/?racelid=9173> for this year's run! This year's Peace Run Festival will include some events during July and August, such as Dance Walks on Stephen Avenue Mall, a Memorial Lantern Event for the victims of Hiroshima & Nagasaki on August 9th, as well as Yoga for Peace at Olympic Plaza on Thursday, August 22nd. On September 21st, the running and walking event will include a zumba warm-up, activities for children, music, fabulous draw prizes, and many other surprises. Watch the Ploughshares Peace News for more info over the next few months, or call Karen at 403-270-7366.



Circle Dances to Celebrate May Day

Sunday, May 5, 2013, 2 - 5 PM - Maypole Dance at 3 PM

Scarboro United Church, 134 Scarboro Ave. SW

What is being reborn in you this spring? We meet in the time of flowering, when all of nature is renewed, to dance the dance of life. Circle Dances are based on folk dances, both ancient and modern. The steps are easily learned and everyone is welcome. Please bring flowers and other symbols of Spring & new life for our circle. Please bring a healthy snack to share. Suggested donation of \$5-\$10 to support the dance. We gather for circle dancing in the Gymnasium. Please enter side door of church (located near 15 Ave. & 16 St. SW). For more info, contact Ronnie Joy Leah ~ Rainbow Dancer Tel: (403) 670-0883 Email: ronnijoy@telus.net

Marda Loop Justice Film Festival

Bitter Seeds - May 14, 2013, 7:00 pm

River Park Church, 3818 - 14A Street SW

Bitter Seeds depicts the bleak situation for cotton farmers in India pressured to buy genetically modified (GMO) seeds from Monsanto that promise higher yields. Seed-pushers urge women to tell their husbands to "plant Bt seeds," and to illiterate farmers, they hand out leaflets with photos and testimonials from other Indian "farmers," until against their own better judgment, the farmers inevitably succumb to the salesman's pressure. Traditionally, Indian farmers used seeds from the previous year's crop, and fertilizer made from cow dung and compost. The film explains that the GMO seeds are designed to be sterile for only a single year's use so farmers are forced to buy new seeds every year. The GMO seeds also require expensive pesticides and chemical fertilizers. Traditional seeds have disappeared. With no other seeds available, farmers become trapped in a cycle of debt trying to make a living growing genetically engineered crops. Many farmers have nothing to offer as collateral besides their land, so if a crop fails due to lack of rain or parasite infestation, and they can't pay back the loans, they lose everything. Completely broke, broken, and desperate more than 250,000 farmers have killed themselves since 1995, many by drinking the pesticide they spreads on their crops.



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

Name: _____

Address: _____

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E-mail: _____

Here is my donation for 2013 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)



**SPOLUMBO'S SAUSAGES FOR SUMMER
ORDER NOW!!**

**Deadline for ordering: Monday May 6, 2013
Orders ready: May 23 – 24, 2013**

Spolumbos is kindly making a Project Ploughshares fundraiser possible with nine types of their delicious, renowned sausages - all natural, gluten-free with no fillers, binders or preservatives. A Calgary homegrown business and 100% prime Alberta pork and poultry. Enormous savings over store prices for you!! Trays contain 18 fresh sausage-links. A slight reduction for a case (two trays).

Collagen casings available (please state on form) to replace pork casings.

#	Sausage Type	Price per 2.75 kg (1 Tray)	Quantity Ordered	Price per 5.5 kg (2 trays = 1 case)	Quantity Ordered
911	Spicy Italian Sausage	34.40		68.50	
909	Mild Italian Sausage	34.40		68.50	
901	Bratwurst Sausage	35.10		70.00	
930	Chicken Apple Sausage	41.25		82.00	
938	Chicken Sundried Sausage	45.50		90.50	
200	Maple Breakfast Sausage 35g	38.50		76.00	
932	Red Wine & Orange Pork	39.10		78.00	
9212	Spolumbo's Burgers	39.60		78.00	
9238	Chicken Sundried Tomato Burgers	47.30		94.00	
SUB-TOTALS					
GRAND TOTAL DUE					

You will be called or emailed about the exact day of availability closer to the day. Spolumbo's requires two weeks to four weeks to process the order. **PICK UP LOCATION:** Distribution will be in Varsity.

Please send the following info along with your cheque to the address below with this completed order form

Name: _____
Email address: _____
Phone number: _____
Cheque amount enclosed: _____

**Project Ploughshares Calgary
c/o Rashi Ghai
103 Citadel Grove NW
Calgary, AB T3G 4G8**



***Thank you for supporting the cause of peace! Help us find more customers?!
May you have a peaceful summer!***