



May 2023 Newsletter

INSIDE THIS

ISSUE:

World

Fair Trade Day 2023

P.1

War in Sudan & Dangers

P.2

The Washington Declaration

P.3

Peace Table Report

P.4-5

China and India Vote for UN Resolution

P.6

The Global Cost of the Ukraine War

P.6

Ploughshares Meetings in 2023

P.7

Events

P.7

Good News

P.8 & P.9

Want to donate to Ploughshares Calgary? If you haven't yet made your 2023 donation, please consider doing so soon! Email office@ploughshares.ca for more information on how to donate.

PEACE MUSEUM UPDATE

Our Peace Museum Committee is moving to pursue new potential avenues of support.

UKRAINE TRIVIA

There is a new website which which aims to dispel disinformation about Ukraine in a trivia quiz format.

How much do you think you know?

Click [here](#) to play!



Contact Us:



World Fair Trade Day is Saturday, May 13 !

Villages Calgary + Fair Trade Calgary =



Join us Saturday for Fair Trade BANANA SPLITS & AFFOGATOS (coffee over ice cream)!!

Then come into the store and shop an amazing selection of Fair Trade goods from around our world!

There will be **LIVE Music** by our drumming friends - **Dibon**, a fun **kid activity**, info about joining us as a **volunteer** PLUS we will have **Ploughshares Calgary** to inform us about PEACE in our world!

There will also be a sale on Level Ground coffee 300g bags!!



Saturday, May 13th, 2023

12:00 to 4:00pm

Villages Calgary is Your Fair Trade Marketplace

220 Crowchild Trail NW

Ask us: info@villagescalgary.ca or visit villagescalgary.ca





WAR IN SUDAN AND DANGERS

Summarized by Haylie Smith

Report by Kate Bartlett & Michele Kelemen, NPR, April 27, 2023.

On April 15th violence erupted in Sudan between the country's army and a paramilitary group called the Rapid Support Forces. The two groups are struggling for power over the resource-rich nation. The warring groups were once allies who united back in 2019 to overthrow longtime dictator, Omar al-Bashir. They had promised the Sudanese people a transition into democracy, but did not deliver on their promise.

Since the beginning of their fight, more than 400 people have lost their lives and the warring has caused a humanitarian crisis as Sudanese people have been unable to leave their homes to gather essential supplies like water, food & medicine. Gun battles and bombings have been taking place in Khartoum injuring thousands of people who are now unable to access medical care. According to Dr. Attiya Abdullah (secretary of the Sudan Doctors Trade Union), around 70% of hospitals are not functioning and hospitals are out of electricity or water, with no fuel for generators. The World Health Organization says that one of the warring groups has seized a laboratory that contains polio, cholera isolates and measles which has created a high risk of biological hazard.

Tens of thousands of Sudanese people are fleeing their homes for safety and are arriving in Chad and South Sudan, which is causing an additional strain on countries with already overstretched resources.

To learn more about the crisis in Sudan, click [here](#).



THE WASHINGTON DECLARATION

Summarized by Haylie Smith

Report by Anthony Kuhn, NPR, April 28, 2023.

On April 26, 2023, The United States and South Korea marked the 70th anniversary of their alliance by announcing the Washington Declaration. The Washington Declaration opens a new chapter to extend deterrence with South Korea, reaffirming that they will not pursue the creation of their own nuclear weapons in exchange for a greater level of participation in the U.S. nuclear planning to respond to North Korea.

One key aspect of this declaration is that the United States will send a nuclear ballistic missile submarine to South Korea for a visit (at an undisclosed date) in hopes to deter North Korea and demonstrate Washington's promise to defend its ally. Many believe that this symbolic gesture will come with great risks.

President Joe Biden has promised that any North Korean nuclear attack against the United States or their allies will result in the end of the regime responsible for the launch. However, some in South Korea do not find this promise of nuclear retaliation comforting. Opposing Democratic Party member Youn Kun-young says that the moment North Korea launches a nuclear attack, no one in Korea will be spared, so what is the point in striking back?

To learn more about the Washington Declaration, click [here](#).





PEACE TABLE REPORT

Ceasefire for Ukraine & Russia – Not ripe?

“There is always a time for peace” – Sergio Duarte

Introduction

As a community of peace, we are deeply concerned about the continuing deaths, as well as physical and environmental destruction occurring due to the Ukraine crisis. Most critically, we are alarmed by the heightened risk of the use of nuclear weapons.

A discussion entitled “Peace Table for Ukraine and Russia”, a project of the Canadian Pugwash Group (CPG), was hosted via Zoom on 27 April 2023 to discuss a path towards a ceasefire. One goal was to find options that might inspire Presidents Zelensky and Putin, and indeed all the involved governments, as well as civil society, to support a ceasefire.

We were pleased that Ernie Regehr (a CPG member and author of Disarming Conflict: Why Peace Cannot Be Won on the Battlefield) agreed to serve as moderator. Dr. Sylvie Lemieux (CPG member and co-chair CNANW) agreed to be the facilitator of the discussion.

The four guest speakers were:

1. Wolfgang Sporrer, Adjunct Professor- Conflict Management, The Hertie School, Berlin/German (OSCE, Minsk Accords),
2. Sergio Duarte, former UN High Representative for Disarmament,
3. Sergey Batsanov, Russian diplomatic service from 1975 to 1993, former Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament, currently Director of the Geneva Office of Pugwash Conferences, and
4. Dr. Mariia Levchenko, Peacebuilding Officer with Peace Action, Training and Research Institute of Romania (PATRIR).





PEACE TABLE REPORT

Peace Table Process

A war in Europe was thought unthinkable at the onset of the 21st Century and now, over a year in the making, the war in Ukraine stands as a failure in international diplomacy. Various states recount the reasons for this war, they join one side or the other, and some insist on an uncompromising victory.

The planning committee of the Peace Table focused on trying to find informed interlocutors with a range of perspectives, but all with a shared passion for peace. Because war is a complex endeavour with many actors, agendas and factors, untangling the conflict is difficult but can also offer opportunities. Achieving a ceasefire alone, however, and from there begin the process towards peace negotiations, is a complex project in itself.

Therefore, identifying core obstacles was chosen as the topic of the Peace Table discussion. A ceasefire would be sought to enable an end to the killing, but not to lock in the status quo, nor to validate losses or gains on the ground.

The programme's questions were selected, as follows:

- Q1. "What are 2-3 obstacles to stopping the war and getting to a ceasefire?"
- Q2. "We have identified obstacles to a ceasefire. Which obstacles, if mitigated, would best pave the way to a ceasefire?"

The guest speakers were invited to address these questions with a first round of seven minutes each and a second round of five minutes. Following their presentations, a session of 15 minutes was allocated for the panelists to address each other's points. And, finally, a session for questions from the invited audience closed the discussions.

The video arising from this discussion should be available shortly and the Food for Thought paper setting out recommendations is planned for the end of May. We are encouraging peace, faith and community groups across Canada to use these resources and to develop through discussion your own ideas on what steps might encourage a ceasefire.



THE GLOBAL COST OF THE UKRAINE WAR

The Russia-Ukraine war has been a disaster for not only Ukraine, but for the entire world. This conflict and the economic warfare involved have driven up both food & energy prices worldwide. It has also directly affected post-pandemic recovery and has drawn resources away from other humanitarian crises.

Human lives lost:

- So far, the average level of monthly fatalities due to this war has been 27,000 people.

Economic Losses:

- Volume of global trade has declined 3.4%, energy prices have doubled worldwide, food prices grew by 14% in 2022 – more than that for poor countries (25%)

Food Inflation:

- The rise in food prices had an incomparable negative impact on the Global South. There the rise was 25% [11]. Also affecting access to food and fertilizer was reduced supply and disrupted international transport. The UN estimates that as a result the number of people suffering acute food insecurity jumped from 282 million at the end of 2021 to a record 345 million in 2022 – an increase of 63 million

To learn more, click [here](#).



CHINA AND INDIA VOTE FOR UN RESOLUTION

China and India, two countries that have avoided any condemnation towards Moscow for the invasion of Ukraine have voted in favour of a United Nations resolution which acknowledges “the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine.”

Though both countries have consistently abstained from UN resolutions that focus on the Ukraine war (especially those that condemn Russia), they voted in favour of the resolution. Other countries to do so were Kazakhstan, Armenia and Brazil.

Russia, Belarus, Syria, Nicaragua and North Korea opposed the resolution.

To learn more, click [here](#).



UPCOMING PLOUGHSHARES MEETINGS 2023

- On June 14th, Ploughshares Calgary Society will hold their annual AGM, in person, at the Parkdale United Church. The meeting will feature a viewing of selected excerpts from the video of the “Peace Table on Ukraine and Russia” as described on page 4-5, a panel discussion, and an opportunity for all to engage in a facilitated discussion of these important ideas. Please watch for more details to follow.



EVENTS

- On Friday, May 12th & Saturday, May 13th, Calgary Reads will be hosting their Big Book Sale located at Calgary Curling Club. Proceeds from this event will go to support the Rotary Club of Calgary Early Literacy Fund. Tickets are available on eventbrite.ca.
- On Saturday, May 13th, Parkdale United Church will be hosting a garage sale. Donations are welcome and you can sign-up to volunteer by emailing parkdaleuc@telus.net.
- On Wednesday, May 17th, The United Way of Calgary & Area will be hosting a thank-you card making day to celebrate the staff and volunteers at Women In Need Society (WINS)! WINS has been a funded partner of United Way of Calgary and Area since 1994. To sign up for free, go to eventbrite.ca
- On Thursday, May 18th, the 2023 Calgary Peace Prize will recognize Mohammed El-Kurd, who has worked tirelessly for oppressed people in Palestine and beyond. To listen to the virtual presentation, and panel discussion, register at mru.ca/PeaceTickets
- On Tuesday, May 30th, Pathways to Prevention will be celebrating their one year anniversary with featured speaker, Dr. Michael Ungar. Attend to hear his exclusive talk on How Families, Schools and Communities Build Children’s Resilience. Tickets are available on eventbrite.ca.



GOOD NEWS

- A 44 year old welsh woman named Lucy Humphrey has lived her entire adult life with lupus. Back in 2017, doctors told her that if she did not receive a new kidney in five years time, she would die. During a trip to the beach with her partner and two dobermans, she noticed that her one dog, Indie, would not stop going over to another woman nearby. After apologizing to the woman, 40 year old Katie James, the two struck up a conversation that led to the topic of kidney donation. As it turns out, Katie signed up to be a kidney donor and the two swapped phone numbers. Blood tests later revealed that the two were a perfect match. The transplant took place in October of 2022 and the two women have created a lasting friendship. (Good News Network, April 28th, 2023)
- A Saskatchewan First Nations woman's story about her father's residential school experience has won the world's top journalism award. Stolen: Surviving St. Michael's, a podcast by journalist Connie Walker and the team at Spotify's Gimlet Media, won the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for best audio journalism. Walker said it's important to recognize the history and stories of Indigenous communities, and that these stories are increasingly being told by Indigenous people themselves. (CBC News, May 8th, 2023)



Pulitzer Prize winner, Connie Walker
Photo Credit: Connie Walker



GOOD NEWS

- For individuals with spinal cord injuries, catheters are essential medical equipment. Brittney Neunzig, a teacher, YouTuber and mom of two from Spruce Grove estimates that she urinates 15 times a day which could cost her an additional \$1,500 a month in medical catheters. Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL), a provincial program that pays for medical equipment, has only allocated funds for one catheter a day. Working with the advocacy group Wheels of Change, Neunzig took the fight directly to AADL last July. They organized a "pay to pee" protest in front of AADL's offices and cameras recorded the action as the group went inside to talk directly to members of the organization. This April, Neunzig and her group received some very good news. AADL announced that it had increased coverage for up to four medical catheters a day, including hydrophilic (pre-lubricated) catheters, which have been shown to reduce the risk of infection. (CBC News, May 4th, 2023).
- Murphy, a male bald eagle, has successfully adopted an orphaned eaglet after staff at the World Bird Sanctuary in Missouri noticed that he was doting attention to a rock that he thought was an egg. On April 1st, the sanctuary received its first bald eagle nestling in more than eight years. Bald Eagle 23-126 had broken its wing when the tree it was born in was blown over in a storm. It took just a day for Murphy to transfer all those fathering instincts from the rock to Eaglet 23-126. (Good News Network, April 17th, 2023).



Murphy & Eaglet

Photo Credit: World Bird Sanctuary Facebook

