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**Want to donate to  
Ploughshares Calgary?  
If you haven't yet made your  
2024 donation, please  
consider doing so soon! Email  
office@ploughshares.ca for  
more information on how to  
donate.**



# February 2024 Newsletter

PLOUGHSHARES CALGARY SOCIETY  
PRESENTS:

## SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONTEXTS OF MASS ATROCITIES

JOIN US FOR AN EDUCATIONAL  
MEETING FEATURING DANIELA  
KRAVETZ



JOIN US ON  
ZOOM

7:00 PM MDT

FEB  
7

**Contact Us:**



OFFICE@PLOUGHSHARESCALGARY.CA



@PLOUGHSHARES CALGARY



@PLOUGHSHARES\_CALGARY



# Volunteers Needed

## We need help with

- Organizing and/or digitizing our library resources
- Reviewing our existing resources on various topics to see how they could be used, digitized, publicized, and updated where needed
- Helping to create new resources
- Creating items that could be used for fundraising
- Sharing ideas for workshops, events or speakers
- Helping with planned events such as the Lantern Festival and Pathways to Peace Walk
- And more!

## Get involved with us!

 [office@ploughsharescalgary.ca](mailto:office@ploughsharescalgary.ca)

 [www.ploughsharescalgary.ca](http://www.ploughsharescalgary.ca)

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## EMISSIONS FROM ISRAEL'S WAR IN GAZA HAVE 'IMMENSE' EFFECT ON CLIMATE CATASTROPHE

**Nina Lakhani**  
**The Guardian**  
**January 9th, 2024**  
**Summary**

- The planet-warming emissions generated during the first two months of the war in Gaza were greater than the annual carbon footprint of more than 20 of the world's most climate-vulnerable nations.
- Over 99% of the 281,000 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide estimated to have been generated in the first 60 days following the 7 October Hamas attack can be attributed to Israel's aerial bombardment and ground invasion of Gaza.
- According to the study, the climate cost of the first 60 days of Israel's military response was equivalent to burning at least 150,000 tonnes of coal.
- Hamas rockets fired into Israel during the same period generated about 713 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, which is equivalent to approximately 300 tonnes of coal.
- Benjamin Neimark, a senior lecturer at Queen Mary, University of London said, "This study is only a snapshot of the larger military boot print of war ... a partial picture of the massive carbon emissions and wider toxic pollutants that will remain long after the fighting is over."
- Previous studies suggest the true carbon footprint could be five to eight times higher, if emissions from the entire war supply chain were included.
- The new research calculates that the carbon cost of rebuilding Gaza's 100,000 damaged buildings using contemporary construction techniques will generate at least 30m metric tonnes of warming gases.
- The climate consequences of war and occupation are poorly understood. Thanks in large part to pressure from the US, reporting military emissions is voluntary. Only four countries submit any data at all, though incomplete, to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which organizes the annual climate talks.





## EMISSIONS FROM ISRAEL'S WAR IN GAZA HAVE 'IMMENSE' EFFECT ON CLIMATE CATASTROPHE

- Even without comprehensive data, one recent study found that militaries account for almost 5.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions annually – more than the aviation and shipping industries combined. This makes the global military carbon footprint, even without factoring in conflict-related emission spikes, the fourth largest after only the US, China and India.
- The US plays an oversized role in military carbon emissions and supplies Israel with billions of dollars of military aid, weapons and other equipment that it deploys in Gaza and the West Bank.
- By 4 December, 2024, at least 200 American cargo flights were reported to have delivered 10,000 tonnes of military equipment to Israel. The study found that the flights guzzled around 50m litres of aviation fuel, spewing an estimated 133,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.
- The release of this data comes amid growing calls for greater accountability of military greenhouse gas emissions, which contribute significantly to global warming and yet are largely kept secret (and therefore unaccounted for) in the UN's annual negotiations on climate action

To read the full article, click [here](#).



Photo Credits: Mahmud Hams/AFP/Getty Images





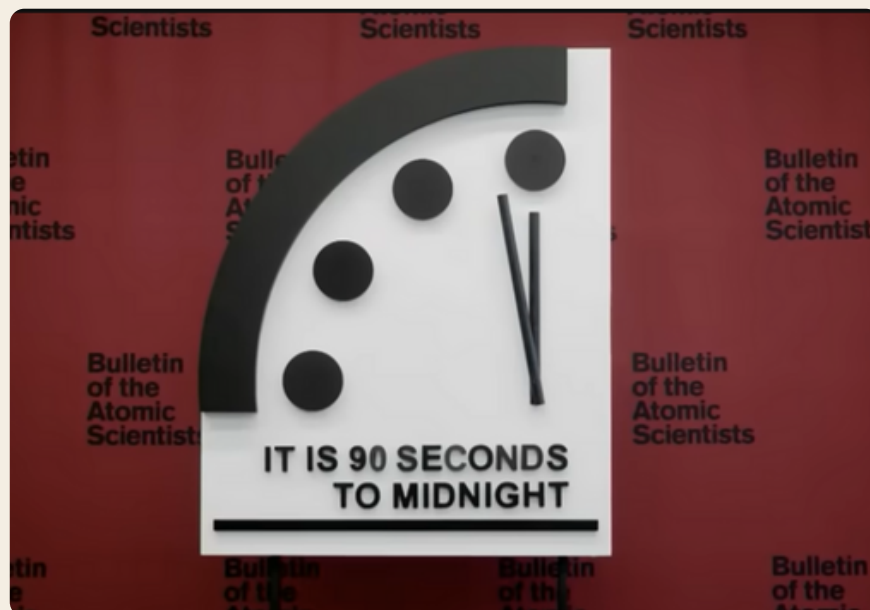
## 2024 DOOMSDAY CLOCK ANNOUNCEMENT

**January 23, 2024**

This year, the Science and Security Board of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists leaves the hands of the Doomsday Clock unchanged due to ominous trends that continue to point the world toward global catastrophe.

The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists stated, “Today, we once again set the Doomsday Clock at 90 seconds to midnight because humanity continues to face an unprecedented level of danger. Our decision should not be taken as a sign that the international security situation has eased. Instead, leaders and citizens around the world should take this statement as a stark warning and respond urgently, as if today were the most dangerous moment in modern history. Because it may well be.”

To watch the full video and read the full statement, click [here](#).





## **A COLLECTIVE 'NO': ANTI-PUTIN RUSSIANS EMBRACE AN UNLIKELY CHALLENGER**

**Paul Sonne, Alina Lobzina & Ivan Nechepurenko**  
**New York Times**  
**January 27th, 2024**  
**Summary**

Boris B. Nadezhdin seeks to run against Putin on an antiwar platform in an upcoming elections in March, 2024. "Russians who are against the war have rushed to sign his official petition inside and outside the country, hoping to supply enough signatures by a Jan. 31 deadline for him to succeed in joining the race." Doing so is a way of indicating opposition to the war. Mr Nadezhdin is a 60-year-old physicist and former member of the Russian parliament. He argues for ending the war, making peace with Ukraine, and freeing political prisoners, arguing that the conflict is driving Russia off a cliff. It is unclear whether that he will be allowed to stand as a candidate, given that the Kremlin tightly controls the electoral process in Russia.



## **HOW LEADERS AND DIPLOMATS ARE TRYING TO END THE GAZA WAR**

**Patrick Kingsley & Edward Wong**  
**New York Times**  
**January 28th, 2024**  
**Summary**

Top officials from at least 10 different administrations are trying to forge a head-spinning set of deals to end the Gaza war and answer the divisive issue of how the territory will be governed after the fighting stops. Efforts are being made regarding: a) A ceasefire with hostage and Palestinian prisoners to be released; b) reshaping the Palestinian Authority regarding leadership and governance; c) pushing for a Palestinian state while allowing Saudi Arabia to have formal ties with Israel. Relevant ideas include sending an Arab peacekeeping force to Gaza to bolster a new Palestinian Authority there and establishing a ceasefire for as long as two months.





## UPCOMING PLOUGHSHARES CALGARY MEETINGS IN 2024

- On Wednesday, February 7th, **Calgary Ploughshares Society** will host **Sexual Violence In Contexts Of Mass Atrocities** featuring **Daniela Kravetz**, an attorney with experience in human rights, accountability, gender-based violence and access to justice in conflict and post-conflict settings. Women and girls are all too frequently targets of sexual violence in contexts of mass atrocity. What is being done in the world to address this, how are these crimes being documented and prosecuted, and what are gaps to better protection? Please join us for this presentation by Daniela Kravetz, international human rights attorney and law professor, who will share her extensive knowledge of this important but often overlooked topic. This event takes place on Zoom starting at 7:00pm. Please register for free on our Eventbrite page or by emailing our office at: [office@ploughsharescalgary.ca](mailto:office@ploughsharescalgary.ca).
- On Wednesday, March 13th, **Calgary Ploughshares Society** will host **People Power Peace: How Civil Society Stops War** featuring **Rivera Sun**, award-winning author, internationally-respected nonviolent strategy teacher and program director for Pace e Bene/Campaign Nonviolence.







## EVENTS

- On Sunday, February 11th, **Charbar Restaurant** will be hosting their first annual **Puppy Bowl in support of Alberta Animal Rescue Society**. Come hungry because this event will be serving up tasty burgers and spicy sausage dogs from Alley Burger and CHARCUT. They will also have beverages from Cold Garden and bark-worthy treats by Cheddar Dogs, giveaways and more! This event takes place at Simmons Building (618 Confluence Way, SE ); this event starts at 11:30am. No ticket purchase necessary!
- On Sunday, February 11th, **McDougall United Church** will be hosting **Songs For Peace Interfaith Concert**. In a time of division, let us come together to listen to music and songs of peace from a variety of religious communities. This event takes place at McDougall United Church (8516 Athabasca St, SE).
- On Wednesday, February 20th, **Kinette Club of Calgary** will be hosting **2024 Comedy for Kin Causes**. Kinette Club of Calgary will be partnering with Yuk Yuk's for this annual fundraising Comedy Night. Kin Canada is a nation-wide non-profit organization that is made up of smaller clubs across the country for women, men, post-secondary students and children. All proceeds raised through this event will support Kin Canada Bursaries! This event takes place at Yuk Yuk's Comedy Club (218 18 Avenue, SE); doors open at 7:00pm. Tickets are available on Eventbrite.ca.







## GOOD NEWS

- Strolling behind his 3-wheeled walker, Lance Corporal Harold Jones, a 100-year-old WWII veteran, circles his back garden 30 times every day no matter the weather, to raise money for charity. He was inspired by the worldwide media stories during the early days of the pandemic that hailed the late 'Captain Tom', who did the same thing and raised a huge amount for hospitals. Lance Corporal Harold began fundraising for the MND Association (Motor Neuron Disease Association) and has since raised over £43,000 in just under four years. (Good News Network, January 22nd, 2024).
- For over 23 years, members of the Rajpoot family collect donated coats at their Dolphin Dry Cleaners outlets around Calgary. The Rajpoots and some of their staff head downtown in a company van each Saturday afternoon to distribute the coats and other winter clothing items to those living on the streets. Along with collecting, cleaning, repairing & distributing the winter clothing, the Rajpoots also make sandwiches and other food items to hand out. The family says support from the community has played a key role in the effort to help struggling Calgarians. "All of our locations, all eight of them, have a donation bin at the front counter," Kamran Rajpoot said, "and they're full every week." (Global News Calgary, January 10, 2024).



Members of the Rajpoot Family  
Photo credits: Global news calgary



## GOOD NEWS

- A new cross-provincial culinary education program could help create employment and training opportunities for Métis youth. The program, called Me-yaw-sin Micowin (Good Food), is a collaborative effort from four partners: the Further Education Society of Alberta (FESA), Manitoba Métis Federation, the restaurant Bistro on Notre Dame and RRC Polytech. The 12-week program is designed specifically with the tourism and government sectors in mind and features traditional Métis cooking methods, mentorship, life skills, work experience and referral opportunities. "The goal really is to, hopefully, create a culinary path for indigenous or Metis youth," says Elizabeth Ojei, the assistant project manager at FESA. (CTV News Calgary, February 1st, 2024).
- A professional ice hockey team in Pennsylvania broke a franchise record last week, not for goals scored, but for the number of teddy bears tossed onto the ice by fans to help local kids. The plush pandemonium broke out in the second period as the Hershey Bears scored a goal to trigger the annual Teddy Bear Toss that collects toys for charity. The exuberant downpour of plushies began 4 minutes into the second period at the Giant Center last week, with 74,599 stuffed toys raining down. The event surpassed the club's previous record of 67,309 teddies collected last year for donation to more than 35 local charities as part of the club's Hershey Bears Cares program. Since its inception in 2001, the tradition has collected nearly a half million cuddly creatures for children in need. (Good News Network, January 13th, 2024).



Photo Credits: Goods News Network

