

BOUNDARY PEACE INITIATIVE



Peace In! Peace Out!

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Summer festivals are winding down and we head into fall fair season. And then what?

The Boundary Peace Initiative (BPI) has some fun planned before the autumn chill sets in. **PEACE IN, PEACE OUT!** begins at 4 pm September 20th to continue until 4 pm September 21st at the USCC Community Center in Grand Forks. Being it's the Fall Solstice and International Day of Peace it's a perfect time to support the work of peace, socio-economic justice and environmental sustainability. If you can't come then participate on line because it will be live streamed (details to come).

And what's happening? 24 hours of entertainment, speakers, activities, contests, and a Silent Auction. Who gives the best hugs--Rosemarie Conant from Fort St. James will defend her title as the best hugger and to challenge her are Laura, Ted and maybe others. Then you can pledge who will stay awake the longest—Laura, Dave, Larry and others are up for that challenge. And a few surprises along the way.

A Bistro will offer coffee, tea, homemade juice and goodies for a donation.

And children we haven't forgotten about you. All day Saturday there are fun things to do: like yoga, sign and peace flag making and much more. And hey your talent is not being ignored either. Can you dance, can you sing, can you play an instrument or recite a poem, tell a joke, do a magic trick or a trick with your cat or your dog or something else? Make sure your family comes with you and then hang around for all the other fun things. And guess what Peri the Fairy will be around as well. And kids 12 and older we can use your help, so contact Laura to volunteer.

Who's coming? Well, that is an awesome list. The likes of Doug Koyama from Quesnel, Edith Wallace from Vancouver then add in Raghu Lokanathan from Prince George as well as Rose and Bud from Bella Coola and what about Ross Douglass from

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(From last column) **Peace In! Peace Out!**

Point Roberts, Washington and Ali McCormick from Wells. And don't forget Grand Forks raised Stepan Soroka and Selfist ready to rock your socks off. Do you think that's enough? Well, there may be a few more but we will let you know.

Are you interested? We hope so. Admission is by donation. Be prepared to bid at the Silent Auction, take part in contests and activities while you learn about local groups sharing their information. For those who can't be here in person we're setting up donation access so visit our Face Book Events Page or the BPI website to find out how.

We ask those who join us at the hall to respect USCC policy; no alcohol or drugs, no smoking, toking or vaping, and no meat, fish or poultry will be allowed.

It takes a community to support each other as we strive for a better world. Every event happens with the help of many hands so if you have a wee bit or a lot of time to lend, call Laura at 250-444-0524 or Email Laura at l4peace@telus.net.

Remember this is a fund raiser so we encourage you to donate. We hope to raise enough funds to bring the world to Grand Forks by hosting conferences with global participants. And the world will learn that Grand Forks is a member of the Mayors for Peace, is a nuclear weapons free zone and one of the first cities that insisted Canada stay out of Iraq. Come join us September 20th and 21st for an hour or more.

In Universal Kinship and Loving Peace,

Laura Savinkoff
Coordinator Peace In, Peace Out! Committee
Coordinator Boundary Peace Initiative
Coordinator B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition
Vice-President Canadian Peace Congress

Ed Note: to donate on line go to www.boundarypeaceinitiative.org and click on the link for Go Fund Me or to Face Book Peace In, Peace Out! event page (not the invite one), scroll down to Zak's post and click.

Greta

By: Ehab Lotayef

Two poems I wrote for **Greta Thunberg**, one in English (below) and one in Arabic. Both written while she is crossing the Atlantic on the the environment friendly Malizia II. Welcome to Turtle Island.

{Ed. Note: only the English is reproduced here}

The dream was dying
The sea was drying
The sickly doomed
Then you appeared

They'll point and say
that crazy girl
abandoned school
sat on the street
predicting doom
she's but a fool.

You are the hope
The idea that can save us
part the sea
deliver us

The messiah
who can guide us
awaken us
bless us

Dip your hand in the river
maybe it'll forgive us
Touch the wind that blows
maybe it will absolve us
Block our way
Scream at us

Together we survive
or together
we all die
If we wake up
We'll sing your solemn song
with you

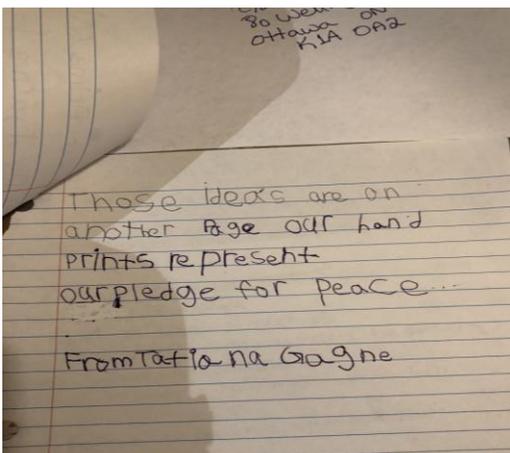
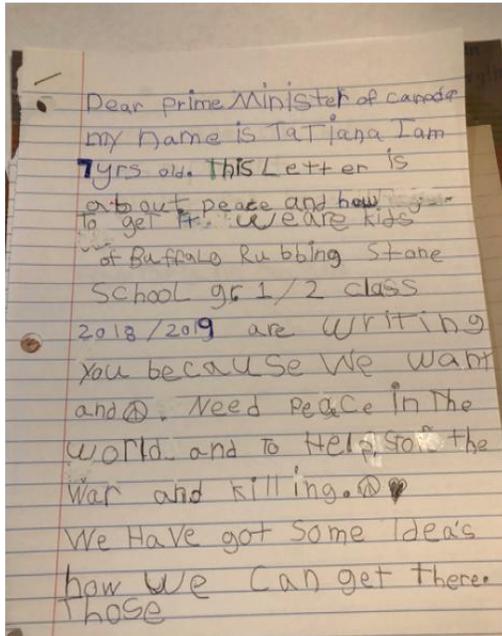
If not
Cry for us

Ed. Note: This is the letter that accompanied the hand prints and list of suggestions sent to the Prime Minister as a follow up from the conversation Laura Savinkoff had with the Grade 1 & 2 class in Calgary as described in the article and the photos of handprints and list of suggestions in the June & July newsletters. I will type in the content and insert a photo of the actual letter.

Dear Prime Minister of Canada,

My name is Tatiana. I am 7 years old. This Letter is about peace and how to get it. We are kids of Buffalo Rubbing Stone School Gr.1 & 2 class 2018/2019 are writing you because we want and (peace symbol) Need peace in the world and to Help Stop the War and Killing. (peace symbol and heart) We have got some ideas how we can get there. Those ideas are on another page. Our hand prints represent our pledge for peace.

From Tatiana Gagne



Netanyahu's Israel will declare an apartheid state. Will the West do nothing? (April 2019)

By: Gideon Levy is a Haaretz columnist and a member of the newspaper's editorial board

The world's leaders will have no choice but to acknowledge that, under their radar, a second South Africa-style apartheid state has been declared.

The world revolves on its axis; nothing has changed, even after the recent election in Israel.

Chosen to lead Israel for the fifth time, Benjamin Netanyahu is poised to install the most nationalist and rightist government in the country's history – and meanwhile the world seems to proceed as usual.

For decades now, Israel has continually spat in the face of the rest of the planet, with casual disdain for international law, and with complete disregard for the explicit decisions and detailed policies adopted by global institutions and by most of the world's national governments.

Out there in the world, however, all that spittle somehow passes for raindrops. The election came and went with no discernible effect on the blindly automatic support for Israel by European governments and, of course, by the Americans too: unconditional, without reservations, apparently unchanged. Evidently what was is what will be.

Israel, though, has changed during the course of Netanyahu's long reign. This talented Israeli statesman is leaving his mark on the profile of his country, with deep and lasting effect – more so than anticipated or is even apparent.

Yes, it's true that leftist governments in Israel also did their utmost to preserve the Israeli occupation forever, and had no intention, not for one moment, of ever bringing it to an end – but Netanyahu is taking Israel much farther afield, to places even more extreme.

He is damaging what constitutes acceptable governance within Israel's recognized sovereign territory, even with respect to its Jewish citizens. The very face of the "only democracy in the Middle East," which has long functioned mainly to the benefit of Jewish Israelis, who comprise its privileged class, is being altered now by Netanyahu and company.

Darling of the West

Meanwhile, incredibly, the response of the world is to alter nothing in the support it has been extending to Israel during all the years of Netanyahu's rule, as if in this latest round he were changing nothing, as if the shifting positions taken by Israel will neither augment nor diminish that support.

French President Emmanuel Macron welcomes Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Paris, France, on 11 November 2018 (Reuters)

With or without Netanyahu, Israel remains the darling of the West. No other country enjoys the same level of military, economic, diplomatic and moral support, no strings attached. But the next Israeli administration, the fifth Netanyahu government, is getting ready to announce a change that the world will finally find difficult to ignore.

The new government is poised to rip the last layer of mask from its real face. Israel's main asset, in casting itself as a liberal democracy that shares values dear to the West, is about to be demolished.

Will the West continue supporting it, then? The West, which demands that Turkey adopt deep changes before according it full admission, which levies sanctions on Russia the moment it invades Crimea, will this West go on supporting the new Republic of Israel that Netanyahu and his governing partners are preparing to launch? (Continued next column)

(From last column) **Netanyahu's Israel**

A radical change

The degree of change expected cannot be overstated. Israel will look different. Where the previous government lit fires, this one will fan the flames as they spread. The judicial system, the media, the organizations defending human rights and the rights of Arabs in Israel will soon feel a scorching sensation.

Op-ed articles will soon be denied publication in Israeli media, by law, if they criticize Israeli soldiers, for example, or support a boycott of Israel. Ben-Gurion Airport will deny entry more broadly to critics of the Israeli regime.

Civil society organizations will be stripped of legal standing. Arabs will be more thoroughly excluded en route to actualizing the vision of a Jewish state all of whose legislators are Jews. And of course there's the annexation currently waiting in the wings.

Israeli soldiers detain a Palestinian during demolition of his house, for which they told him he hadn't obtained a construction license, near Yatta in the occupied West Bank on 20 March (Reuters)

The new government will be the Israeli annexation government. If the anticipated backing from Washington is forthcoming – American recognition of the annexation of the Golan Heights was the first step, the trial balloon – then Netanyahu will take the step he has refrained from taking throughout his reign thus far.

He will announce the annexation of at least part of the occupied territories.

The import will be unequivocal: Israel will admit for the first time that its 52-year military occupation of the West Bank is here to stay; that it is not, as long claimed, a passing phenomenon.

Dramatic policy changes

The territories are not "bargaining chips" in negotiations for peace, as was claimed at the outset of the occupation, but rather colonial holdings meant to remain under Israeli rule permanently. There is no intention that the territories annexed now, which could then be expanded, would ever be returned to the Palestinians.

Thus the new Netanyahu government will declare two dramatic policy changes. First will be an end to the two-state solution which even Netanyahu supported and which all global leaders have declared themselves as favouring. (more page 4)

Our Mission

The Boundary Peace Initiative represents people of diverse backgrounds officially brought together in 2002 because of our mutual concern for the rise in world conflict. Our mandate is to participate in multilateral non-violent conflict resolution in support of global human rights, ecological and environmental sustainability and international law through education, sharing of information, dialogue and activism locally and globally. We encourage and seek your participation in our mutual work for true peace based on social justice, equality, accountability, integrity, honour, respect, etc in order to build a better world today and future generations.

BPI web site: www.boundarypeaceinitiative.org

BPI meetings are suspended until at least 3 people commit to meet monthly. To commit call (250) 444-0524 or (250) 442-0434 or email LPeace@telus.net.

What's Up?

The BPI hosts **Peace In! Peace Out!** Join us from 4 pm **Sept. 20th** until 4 pm **Sept. 21st** at the **USCC Community Center** in Grand Forks, B.C. Admission is by donation. For info, to donate and/or volunteer contact Laura at 250-444-0524 or email: L4peace@telus.net.

International Day of Peace; Sept. 21st in Nelson, B.C. For info contact: sandra@netidea.com

BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition Conference Sept. 28th @ 9 am at the Mir Center for Peace, Selkirk College, Castlegar, B.C. For info contact Laura @ L4peace@telus.net or call Laura @ 250-442-0434

Doukhorbor Discovery Center hosts B.C. Cultural Days **Borscht Cook-Off** in Castlegar, B.C. For info contact: 250-365-5327

The BPI welcomes your input. Articles are the author's responsibility and may not be common consensus of members. To submit articles contact Laura at 250-444-0524 or 250-442-0434 or email L4peace@telus.net.

The BPI is a member of: BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition, Canadian Peace Congress, Abolition 2000, Lawyers Against the War and an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. We work with a wide range of local and global peace, social justice and environmental groups.

Voice your opinion to the Prime Minister and all MPs. Free postage: {Name of MP}, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6
Go to the Government of Canada website for MP contact information at <http://www.canada.gc.ca>

(From page 3) Netanyahu's Israel

At the same time, Israel will declare itself an apartheid state, not just de facto but now, for the first time, also de jure.

Since none of those favouring annexation intend to grant equal rights to Palestinians in the territories to be annexed, and since targeted annexation of the land on which the settlements sit is patently deceitful, the world's statesmen will have no choice but to acknowledge that, under their radar, in the 21st century, a second South Africa-style apartheid state has been declared.

Last time around, an apartheid regime was miraculously brought down without all-out bloodshed. Will the world rally around this time and effect a repetition?

Which Israel do you still support?

This question must be posed first of all to the leaders of Europe, from Angela Merkel to Emmanuel Macron, including Theresa May – to all the EU leaders. They have endlessly repeated the mantra that their support for Israel and its right to exist in security are firm and unchangeable.

A demonstration by pro-Palestinian groups and other civil society organizations, in Durban on 2 June 2018 to protest against the killing of Palestinians by Israeli forces in Gaza (AFP)

They have continually declared their support for a negotiated two-state solution. So whom do you support now? What do you support? Which Israel, exactly? What world do you imagine you are living in? Perhaps in a dream world you evidently find comfortable, but which has less and less of a connection to the real world.

Will Europe manage to continue claiming that Israel shares its liberal values, when civil society organizations are banned in Israel? When nearly all the Zionist politicians in Israel declare that they have nothing whatever to discuss with the elected Arab legislators in parliament?

Try to imagine a European diplomat declaring that the Jewish members of his nation's parliament cannot be party to any political dialogue whatever. Or that a European diplomat would declare the Jewish citizens of his country to be traitors and a fifth column.

This sort of thing is politically correct in Israel, across party lines. And what of freedom of speech, so sacred in European discourse, when the 2019 World Press Freedom Index from Reporters Without Borders already ranks Israel as number 88 – behind Albania, Kyrgyzstan, and Viktor Orban's Hungary.

This is the Israel you are supporting.

Two-state solution is dead

The West's automatic support for a two-state solution also demands updating. Do you really believe, dear statesmen and stateswomen, that this Israel has any intention whatever of implementing such a solution, ever?

Has there ever been a single Israeli politician who wanted to, or could, displace some 700,000 settlers, including from occupied East Jerusalem?

Do you believe that without a withdrawal from all of the settlements, which represents a minimum of justice for Palestinians, there is any prospect that such a solution would take hold and turn into a reality?

One could note that most Western diplomats who are well-informed about what is going on have already known for a long time that such a solution is dead, but none of them has the courage to admit it.

Admitting it would require them to reconfigure all their positions on the conflict in the Middle East, including support for the existence of a Jewish state.

With the advent of the new Netanyahu government, the Western world cannot just continue to turn a blind eye and claim that everything is just fine. Nothing is just fine.

So the question is now: are you prepared to go along with this? Will you remain silent, stay mute, lend your support, and turn a blind eye to reality?

Those of you who are most concerned for Israel's future should be the first to wake up and draw the required conclusions. Indeed, every person of conscience ought to be doing that.

The views expressed in this article belong to the author and do not necessarily reflect the editorial policy of Middle East Eye.