

# BOUNDARY PEACE INITIATIVE

## America violates UN Charter

By: The Canadian Peace Congress—Jan. 6, 2020

Dear Friends for Peace,

The Canadian Peace Congress condemns the murders of Iranian General Soleimani and others in the motorcade leaving Baghdad International Airport on January 3rd, 2020 as an act of war by the United States against Iraq and Iran.

This American criminal action is an act of aggression, a violation of the UN Charter and every norm of international law. It places the entire world at risk of a generalised war.

The excuses offered by the United States government for this barbarity reflect their hypocrisy, their complete lack of morality, their contempt for law, their contempt for civilized behaviour.

We must remember that the US forces in Iraq are invading and occupying forces that destroyed Iraq in the years since their invasion of 2003. The invasion, undertaken under the false pretext that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction, began with the murders of thousands of people in the "shock and awe" campaign on the very first day, continued with their show trial and murder of President Hussein and continues to the present, along with their invasion and occupation of Afghanistan and their invasion and occupation of Syria. Millions have died as a result.

The untold suffering caused by the illegal US economic embargo on Iran, in violation of the UN Charter and the Rome Statute concerning collective punishment of civilian populations, is well known and is also an act of war.

This is not the first assassination of Iranian citizens by the United States. The Americans, with Israeli help, have carried out multiple assassinations of Iranian scientists and officials in the past and have repeatedly threatened to kill the country's leadership.

These are the actions of criminals. Therefore, we call on the International Criminal Court to condemn the American actions as a war crime even if it has no jurisdiction over them and we call on the Security Council to refer the matter to the ICC, thereby giving the ICC the jurisdiction it needs to file war crimes charges against Donald Trump and all the officials involved.

We also call on the Canadian government to withdraw all its forces in Iraq, which are in violation of the UN Charter and the National Defence Act.

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## (From last column) America violates UN Charter

Peace can only come from international cooperation, diplomacy and adherence to international law. It does not come from acts of war and murder.

We call on the USA to abandon its aggressive policies towards Iran and hope that Iran can find a way to avoid a general war even in the face of these grave provocations by the United States.

On behalf of the Executive of the Canadian Peace Congress,

Laura Savinkoff  
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We have to face the fact that either all of us are going to die together, or we are going to learn to live together and if we are going to live together, we will have to talk!

Eleanor Roosevelt

## Beyond the Stigma of Drug Use

By: Community Action Team: Dec. 18, 2019

### Greetings,

The Grand Forks Community Action Team (GFCAT) has been formed as a means to assist our community in addressing the opioid overdose crisis. Grand Forks has a high rate of overdoses. We are seeking your support to aid us in our prevention and educational endeavors within our community.

We are very lucky to have access to a video series called, "Beyond the Stigma of Drug Use" that was developed by ANKORS and the Nelson area's team. We invite you to view the videos, and assist us in the manner most fitting for your organization.

We recognize that it may not be feasible for your group to view, or share, the series in its entirety at one time. In this circumstance, we would suggest perhaps a video rotation with one per week to allow comprehension and discussion. We would welcome those who've digital signage or displays available, to utilize these for this purpose. Please note, closed captioning is available within the YouTube videos. There may be another format available for those requiring one. Please contact us if this is the case.

Organizations are also encouraged to distribute these with their staff, clients/programs, and members. This can be done in group settings, newsletters, posting on websites or Facebook pages, or e-mailed to individuals.

Everyone may also participate in the efforts to raise awareness by sharing the link with their families and friends.

AIDS Network Kootenay Outreach and Support Society, ANKORS Beyond the Stigma of Drug Use Video Series:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLdpQAmZUr\\_nVNcvFfbafTWv4qSBYDa754](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLdpQAmZUr_nVNcvFfbafTWv4qSBYDa754)

We are thankful to all the people that appeared in the video series and those who worked on its development. We acknowledge and honor the courage & wisdom shared in the expression of their experiences.

Thank you for considering your involvement. We appreciate all efforts made in this regard.

With gratitude,

On Behalf of, the Grand Forks Community Action Team, Prevention and Education Sub-committee

Tanis Carson, Melissa Shulga, and Angela Nichols

*Ed. Note: Laura Savinkoff sits on this committee on behalf of the BPI and the USCC.*



## NATO is a threat to the climate

By: Tamara Lorincz; December 9, 2019

Last week, the 29 leaders of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) went to celebrate their alliance's anniversary in London, but snubbed the opening of United Nations climate conference where the other 164 world leaders and their delegations are meeting in Madrid.

Despite several scientific reports urgently warning about the devastating impacts and security implications of rising carbon emissions, climate change was not even on the NATO agenda.

Instead, the *alliance leaders* discussed Russia and China as adversaries, space as a new warfighting domain, greater warfare readiness and more defence spending.

Yet the Euro-Atlantic alliance instigates conflict with its combat troops along Russia's borders and its containment measures against China. Space is a fragile global common that is already contaminated by debris and should be protected not weaponized.

It is NATO that is dangerously diverting our attention and resources to war and away from the grave threat of global warming.

NATO members spend approximately \$1 trillion annually on their militaries, which is more than 50% of global military spending. At the 2014 NATO Summit in Wales, members made a commitment to spend 2% of their GDP on defence by 2024 with 20% of that amount to be on equipment.

At this year's London summit, Canada was repeatedly *admonished* for not spending enough on defence.

However, the *latest NATO expenditure report* shows that Canada spent \$29 billion on the Department of National Defence, which is 1.31% of GDP. On a cash basis, *Canada* is now ranked 6<sup>th</sup> highest among NATO members and 14<sup>th</sup> highest in the world for military spending. (Continued page 3)

### 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](http://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***

***[L4peace@telus.net](mailto:L4peace@telus.net)***

(From page 2) **NATO is a threat to the climate**

By contrast, according to the *Public Accounts of Canada*, the federal government spent only \$1.8 billion on the Department of Environment and Climate Change, which is 0.08% of GDP. Very little is allotted to the principal department tasked with protecting our natural environment.

Moreover, under the *2016 Pan-Canadian Framework for Clean Growth and Climate Change*, \$132 billion of new spending over the next eleven years was announced by the federal and provincial governments. However, Canada's 2017 defence policy, *Strong Secure Engaged*, promised more than \$553 billion to maintain "high-end warfighting" to meet NATO's requirements.

To stay interoperable, NATO members have to constantly upgrade their military capabilities. This procurement primarily benefits the big US arms manufacturers, which is why President Trump pushes alliance members to spend more on defence.

Yet, fighter jets, attack helicopters, warships and armoured vehicles are *petroleum-powered* and notoriously energy-inefficient. Within NATO countries, it is the military that is the largest institutional consumer of oil and largest emitter of greenhouse gases.

Worse, in Canada like in other NATO members, the Canadian Armed Forces are exempted from reducing their emissions for their military vehicles and operations.

On the eve of the Madrid climate conference, the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said, "Our war against nature must stop." It is NATO that is perpetuating this war against nature by fuelling a carbon-intensive arms race and fomenting an expensive new Cold War.

Unsurprisingly, the recent *UN emissions gap* report explains that Canada and the other NATO countries are not on track to limit the global mean temperature rise to 1.5°C. This past decade while NATO has fought its deadly and destructive global war on terror, the planet has warmed to the hottest on record.

Shamefully, NATO countries have also failed to meet their climate financing commitments. These wealthy, polluting countries have not adequately invested in the UN Green Climate Fund and have only pledged a paltry \$7.5 billion over the next four years to help poor, developing countries adapt to climate-induced droughts, fires and flooding.

Outside the NATO Summit, *thousands of people* from across the United Kingdom and Europe converged to call for the dissolution of the military alliance and for greater climate action. In Canada, we demonstrated in solidarity against the NATO Association of Canada, an institution funded by the US weapons giants Lockheed Martin and General Dynamics, in Toronto.

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(From last column) **NATO is a threat to the climate**

As revealed by a recent *YouGov* poll, support for NATO is waning in key members' states: the UK, France and Germany. People are starting to see the military alliance as an aggressive, unaffordable anachronism that is polluting the climate and impeding progress on the Paris Agreement.

A rapid reduction of greenhouse gases and a robust green new deal are not possible with rising military emissions and expenditures. We must work peacefully and cooperatively through the UN system with Russia, China and the entire international community on solving our common security challenge – averting catastrophic climate change.

*Tamara Lorincz is a PhD candidate in the Balsillie School of International Affairs at Wilfrid Laurier University and a member of the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace. She used to live in Halifax. We miss her.*



**UK banks and insurers to be tested on climate crisis response plans**

Bank of England to force firms to say how they would respond to temperature rise of up to 4C

By: Kalyeena Makortoff From: The Guardian, Dec. 18, 2019

UK banks and insurers will be forced to reveal how exposed they are to the climate crisis and how they would respond to the effects of a temperature rise of up to 4C under the Bank of England's first climate stress tests.

The Bank has put forward proposals to test the performance and health of the UK financial system for a range of climate-linked financial risks, including the failure of governments and consumers to take action.

The tests are expected to uncover the extent of the financial sector's exposure to climate risks, and gauge company responses that could cause spillover effects for the global economy.

However, the Bank will not identify individual businesses through the tests and will release only aggregate results for the banking and insurance sectors.

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## WHAT'S UP?

Remember it is vital that you voice your concern and opposition to the current attacks on Iran and Iraq. Canada can make a stand and not support this illegal action by the USA Government. Let's do what we can to support our brothers and sisters of the USA condemning their Government's illegal action and calling on their Government to stop the aggression that can lead to yet another unnecessary war. Call, email or write a letter to your MP and PM voicing your stance and remember mail is free to the PM and all MPs. You can use the statement from the Canadian Peace Congress, from the front page here, as a template. There is an International Call for Action on January 25<sup>th</sup>; depending on the weather, the BPI may call for your support in a rally, so watch for posters and announcements on social media.

As promised at Peace In, Peace Out! the BPI will bring you a conference with knowledge guests from far away and close to home. We are still working out details. The date will be in the early spring. Watch for further announcements as we set things in motion. Again thank you for the support as we work together to create a better world for all of us.

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) **UK banks**

Threadneedle Street has, however, not ruled out releasing individual results in the future, and plans to use the initial reports to inform how it supervises each company.

The tests, to be released for the first time in 2021, will cover the same UK banks subject to *financial stress testing*, including HSBC, Barclays, Standard Chartered, Royal Bank of Scotland, Santander UK, Lloyds and Nationwide. By 2021, CYBG – rebranded as Virgin Money – will also be included. About 39 insurers are expected to be tested on their climate resilience.

The testing will cover three scenarios, including “early policy action”, where the transition to a carbon-neutral economy is clear and decisive, resulting in the global temperature rise staying below 2C, in line with the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

In a second “late policy action scenario”, global climate targets will also be met, but the transition will have been delayed by 10 years, leading to more drastic and immediate action that could cause an economic shock.

In the final scenario, governments fail to introduce policies to address the climate emergency, and companies and consumers do not change their behaviour. Global temperatures increase “substantially” – by about 4C – by 2080, resulting in rising sea levels and more frequent, extreme weather events such as flash floods.

Drastic environmental changes around the world would damage property, infrastructure and farmland, disrupt business supply chains, and lead to mass migration and deaths, the Bank said.

“This reduces asset values, results in lower profitability for companies, damages public finances and increases the cost of settling underwriting losses for insurers,” it said. Spillover effects such as lower output and productivity would compound those problems.

The environmental risks of climate change are already affecting financial companies in the UK, with about 10% of domestic mortgages exposed to properties in flood-risk zones. Some British banks are also exposed to regions extremely vulnerable to climate change, such as south-east Asia. Countries along the equator are expected to be uninhabitable for much of the year due to high humidity under a 4C-rise scenario.

If temperatures increase *to that level*, rising ocean acidity would wipe out coral reefs, shellfish and plankton, starving the oceans of oxygen and leading to a decline in sea life, environmental experts have warned. Saharan deserts are expected to expand into southern and central Europe, while the vast majority of the global population would have to migrate to northern regions, where farming would be viable.

According to a study by Solomon Hsiang and Edward Miguel of University of California, Berkeley, and Marshall Burke of Stanford University, unmitigated global warming would lead to a 23% loss in per capita earning globally by the end of the century.

The Bank's proposals will go out for consultation until March and it is requesting feedback from financial companies, climate scientists, economists and other industry experts.

The Bank's governor, Mark Carney, said the tests were a “pioneering exercise, which builds on the considerable progress in addressing climate-related risks that has already been made by firms, central banks and regulators. *Climate change* will affect the value of virtually every financial asset.”

He added that the tests would “help ensure the core of our financial system is resilient to those changes”.

Carney is taking on the role of UN special envoy for climate action and finance after he steps down from the Bank next month. His main focus will be on mobilising private finance to invest in schemes that will help achieve the Paris goal of limiting *global temperature rises* to 1.5C.