

A Resolution adopted at the January 25th event in Castlegar and sent to the Prime Minister and all MPs.

No War on Iran

Whereas the USA may launch a war on Iran

And Whereas such a war will involve Canada

And Whereas such a war could lead to a world nuclear war

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Government of Canada and all of the opposition parties in the Parliament of Canada unanimously agree to oppose such a war

And Be It Further Resolved that Canada withdraws all of its armed forces from Iraq and anywhere they may be deployed in the Middle East.

Unanimously adopted on January 25th 2020 in the City of Castlegar at a public meeting representative of the Kootenay/Boundary/Okanagan Regions of British Columbia

THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD SAY: NO WAR ON IRAN

Submitted By: Nadine Padmoroff

In support of the January 25th Global Day of Action calling for No War on Iran, approximately 80 people who gathered at Castlegar United Church urged all Federal party leaders to work to avoid a catastrophic war. They wrote: (the resolution is above)

The attendees learned from and were inspired by a variety of exceptional speakers, the talks interwoven with interfaith prayer and harmonious singing led by a Doukhobor choir.

One of them -- Don Currie, a long standing member of the Canadian Peace Congress and the West Kootenay branch of the Southern Interior Peace Coalition -- addressed "the urgent need for a Canadian foreign policy of peace."

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"Another major war in the Middle East can take human civilization to the brink of world nuclear war in which case there can be no winners," he said. Like what MP Richard Cannings wrote to the gathering, he said: "The role Canada must play is de-escalation of tensions through peace diplomacy."

Lamenting that the government of the USA declared it will not withdraw its forces from Iraq by 2021 as it has been asked to do by the Iraq Parliament, to applause he said "The Canadian government must respect the request of the Iraq parliament and ... withdraw all Canadian troops from Iraq and wherever they may be in the Middle East. Another Afghanistan experience where Canadian armed forces were engaged in a combat role from 2001 to 2014 should not be repeated again in 2020."

Referencing the recent history of "Canadian Government complicity in US and NATO-instigated wars of regime-change," he claimed that "NATO is a war business seeking to expand the immensely profitable business of war. Wherever NATO goes, nuclear weapons go with it."

Robert Macrae, Instructor for the Selkirk College Integrated Environmental Planning Technology Program, focused on the consequences of government expenditures on militarizing the economy at the expense of the social needs of the people and environment. Rob said that "in 2017, Justin Trudeau increased Canada's military budget by 70%". He provided vivid digital data confirming global military expenditures far outweighing most forms of combined global spending towards social needs. Rob said, "every time we choose to invest in the military, we lose an opportunity to invest in peace".

Hannah Hadikin, of Canadian Voices of Women for Peace, spoke about the heart breaking impacts of wars and conflict on women's peace and security. From her personal experiences and discussions with women during her travels and residence in the Middle East, Hannah underscored that "sexual violence was a tactic of war used on women and girls, constituting a war crime." "Boys and men are not excluded from such horrific brutality", she said.

Moving presentations were shared by local Anglican church pastor Reverend Elizabeth Huether and a Kootenay Muslim Association representative Amir Zeb who recited a prayer also spoke of personally-witnessed tragic accounts of children working long days on the streets in war torn

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Afghanistan cities as they attempted to reduce family hunger and starvation following war's destruction of infrastructure and people's livelihoods; and JJ Verigin, President of the Kootenay Region Branch of the United Nations Association in Canada, wrapped up the event.

Laura Savinkoff, Coordinator for the Boundary Peace Initiative and B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition, spoke passionately about the importance and ways to daily commit towards building a living global peace movement, followed by a panel Q & A, moderated by Jennie Barron, Chair of the MIR Centre for Peace.

Following, event coordinators Nadine Podmoroff and Antoinette Halberstadt encouraged people "as groups to write to their federal MP's and government leaders in support of this resolution". They also recommended "alternative media sites like Democracy Now, Radio4all and The Intercept to learn more about the true costs of militarization, Canada's actual roles in foreign affairs and what Canadians can do to help achieve peace through authentic and sincere diplomacy.

To receive electronic copies of Don Currie's and Robert Macrae's presentations, or for further information contact:
**Nadine at: nadia@netidea.com /250-608-0773 or
Antoinette at ahalber@gmail.com**

{Ed. Note: Don's paper is posted on the BPI website}

The BPI and the BCSIPC have signed onto this petition but it is now closed for signatures.

The Honourable Chief Justice Christopher E. Hinkson
BC Supreme Court
800 Smithe Street
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2E1

Honorable Chief Justice of Canada Richard Wagner
Canadian Supreme Court
301 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0J1

January 31, 2020

We the undersigned write in support of the statement of Indigenous Youth issued on January 21st, 2020. In addition, we wish to make a statement of our own. We non-indigenous citizens of British Columbia and Canada, of European and other settler descent, do object to and appeal the BC Supreme Court injunction granted to Coastal GasLink on December 31st, 2019 on the grounds that said injunction is unjust, unconstitutional and racist.

In contrast we wish to affirm our belief that, since time immemorial, the We'suwet'en have held aboriginal title to their ancestral lands - as enshrined in the Royal Proclamation of 1763, as embedded in section 35 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and then as upheld in the Canadian Supreme Court decision in *Delgamuukw v. British Columbia* in 1997.

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(From last column) **We'suwet'en**

We also acknowledge, in accordance with the terms of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, that the We'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs and the We'suwet'en clans and houses are constituted as a legitimate form of government in parallel to that of Canada and British Columbia.

We admonish the Premier of BC and the BC Supreme Court for only recognizing two forms of government: that of BC and Canada, and not appropriately ordering mediation, reconciliation and negotiation with the We'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs and their respective houses, from which their political power derives, and which we believe the government of BC and Canada must recognize in accordance with our constitution and human rights laws.

We further admonish the BC Supreme Court for failing to acknowledge and assist the We'suwet'en Nation in protecting their hunting areas, traplines and archeological sites from destruction by Coastal GasLink, their agents and contractors, in accordance with rights acknowledged by the crown since the issuance of the Royal Proclamation in 1763. What, we ask the BC Supreme and Canadian Supreme Court, is the point of acknowledging aboriginal title if said title does not permit the We'suwet'en Nation to protect their trap lines, hunting areas and archaeological sites from destruction by Coastal GasLink?

Above all we are aghast and angered by the use of court injunctions against the We'suwet'en Nation on their own ancestral lands, and the use of coercion and state sanctioned violence to enforce those injunctions through use of militarized units of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, as we believe that all state sanctioned coercion and violence represents a continuation of colonial subjugation and denial of aboriginal title and rights. (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

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.

(From page 2) **We'suwet'en**

We therefore wish to conclude by again stating that the Royal Proclamation of 1763, section 35 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Canadian Supreme Court decision in *Delgamuukw v. British Columbia* in 1997, and the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination's (CERD) all affirm that resource development projects should not proceed on Wet'suwet'en Nation lands without their free, prior and informed consent.

As such we concur with the statement issued by Kasari Govender, the BC Human Rights Commissioner, on January 10th, 2020, when she stated in part:

"Indigenous peoples who oppose development projects on their traditional territories should never be met with violence for peaceful opposition. I join CERD in urging Canada to immediately cease the forced eviction of Wet'suwet'en and Secwepemc peoples, to prohibit the use of lethal weapons, and to guarantee no force will be used against them. This is a matter of fundamental human rights."

As lawyer Oliver MacLaren observes in his critique of the BC Supreme Court's granting of the injunction to Coastal GasLink: *"The Office of the Wet'suwet'en participated in the Environmental Assessment Office's Working Group for the Project and actively proposed an alternative route for it. Madam Justice Church notes that Coastal GasLink explored this option, but unilaterally rejected it"*.

We therefore believe that Madam Justice Church grievously erred by failing to take into account the findings of the Supreme Court of Canada in *Delgamuukw* which urged *"a process of negotiation and reconciliation that properly considers the complex and competing interests at stake."*

Historical Brief on Iran

By: Laura Savinkoff--Boundary Peace Initiative; B.C Southern Interior Peace Coalition; Canadian Peace Congress

Until 1953 Iran, Persia had a democratically elected parliament with the Shah as monarch, similar to European Monarchies. But with the discovery of oil the British and the USA needed control of that resource but Iran chose to nationalize their most viable resource and expel foreign corporate representatives. Britain then instigated a global boycott of Iranian Oil and so began decades and decades of economic warfare of Iran. The USA became embroiled in this need to suppress a nation in order to gain total access and profit off of another nation's bounty. The USA sent in the CIA and the British Government sent along its agents and engineered a coup.

This was the first covert action in peace time for the USA that ignored the warning from Truman that this type of action would lead to further violations of international law. And so a Shah was installed under the control of the US and the Brits. During this time Iran was encouraged and supported to develop nuclear capability by the US and its proxy NATO.

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But slowly the Iranian people became very unhappy with the situation and this gave rise to a rebellion that grew and grew and resulted in creating the Islamic Republic of Iran. It became a bloody affair with the Shah under the direction of the West killed and imprisoned hundreds of Iranians. In 1979 a group of Iranians took hostage USA citizens in the Embassy and those of us old enough will remember the results. After a number of weeks the hostages were rescued but then began a time of tensions that have brought the world the brink of yet another war.

The West did not dare invade Iran overtly because the Soviet Union supported Iran so the USA instituted a regime of economic warfare on top of what Britain had already begun. Iran continued on its path to developing nuclear capability for medical uses and energy production. It was never clear whether they had reached the level of enrichment for nuclear weapons but it is known that Iran did stop its weapons program back in the 1990s.

US and NATO troops sat along Iran's border on one side and then the US helped create the Iran/Iraq war by supporting Saddam Hussein and then condemned both for carrying out that which the west set in motion. On top of that the US increases its support of Israeli attacks on Palestine and blames Iran for supporting Hamas in Palestine. Oh yes, we cannot forget those sanctions that just kept of growing and growing strangling the people of Iran. But, Iran continued to exist and sustain itself but it was getting increasingly difficult as the US imposed more stringent rules on oil sales.

After the US and NATO invasion of Iraq Bush declares, along with a few other nations, Iran as a State Sponsor of Terrorism giving even more of an excuse to increase the sanctions regime to try to topple the Government of Iran—an economic coup was in the works but for some reason was not successful. The USA could never figure that out. And the world went along with this war on a sovereign nation. The accusations of nuclear weapons development continues and the calls for stopping this rose to a fever pitch to the point where the world feared an invasion of Iran was in the works.

Canada, the USA and other western countries pulled out their diplomats and closed their Embassies in Iran thinking this may spur on the actual military machine but the world didn't react the way Bush administration wanted. Even the Iranian President that spoke with such vitriolic rhetoric did not move the world to jump on board with the USA.

The UN would not approve of invasion. The IAEA, the nuclear watchdog, would not clearly state that Iran had nuclear weapons or not, therefore a stalemate resulted but the simmering tensions continued. The west continued to enforce economic warfare through sanctions. Yet, somehow Iran continued to hold its own and despite some minor incidents did not give any reason for the UN, NATO or the global community to invade.

But covert actions from the west continued trying to incite rebellion through demonstrations that were quickly put down by Iran—whether by violating human rights or not, every time there was a rise within of tensions they dissipated and again the west could not penetrate. Canada put forward a Resolution to the UN accusing Iran of Human Rights Violations and it passes. Yet Canada and the USA and the west either abstain or vote against the Resolutions concerning Israeli, Saudi and others Human Rights violations. But the world does see this and in a quiet way does not react the way the USA with Canada in tow, would like them to. (Continued page 4)



WHAT'S UP?

As promised at Peace In, Peace Out! the BPI will host a conference with knowledge guests from far and near. Join us the weekend of **April 25th**, venue and other details still to be confirmed. Our guests are: Tamara Lorincz, a PHD candidate at the Balsillie School of International Affairs at Wilfrid Laurier University and a member of the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace. As well, Genevieve London from Portland, Oregon who works with organizations to develop energy policies, communication around energy usage and sustainability will be here. We will find someone to scientifically relate local events to climate change from our region. *Watch for information and mark the date.*



Coming in the spring is also the BCSIPC conference this time hosted by the Kelowna Peace Group in Kelowna. Watch for details.

Remember to voice your concern on Iran and the Middle East as well as the topic included here involving the Hereditary Chiefs of BC and the land they are trying to protect.

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>**

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And now enters Obama. Under his tutelage a group of International players form a working group to negotiate the curtailment of uranium enrichment in Iran. It is named the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action with China, Russia, France, Germany, USA and Iran. They work out a plan that takes a few years but is finally accepted by Iran and the UN with the USA reluctantly and narrowly ratifying it. Under this plan Iran is to scale back its nuclear program and lessen the enrichment process in exchange for the lifting of sanctions. Iran compiles but sanctions instituted by the USA are very slow to be lifted, if at all, and for some reason the rest of the world is reluctant to begin trade with Iran.

And then, enters Trump. He pulls the USA out of the deal with Iran, pulls out of most global nuclear treaties, pays lip service to the NPT and increases spending on nuclear enhancement of US weapons systems calling them refitting and modernizing in order to try fool the world. Since 2016 Iran has waited for the world to stand up to Trump's rejection of Iran's compliance with the UN, the NPT, IAEA rules and the newest treaty but they sat and sat and sat some more, not continuing to lift sanctions, going along with the Trump administration's economic war on Iran. Iran warned the world that it would stop its adherence to the Treaty if there was no movement to normalize trade. And so in 2018 and then 2019 it increased its activity but still has not reached weapons grade enrichment nor is there any evidence of weapons development and yet, the USA continues its accusations. And the west, led by the US continues to regard Iran as a Terrorist State.

Yes, Iran does support Iraq, Palestine, Syria with their struggles with the west and may even be providing these states and others with weapons or funds or troops. It is not right but it is really no different than what the west using NATO as its tool around the world, including Venezuela and Bolivia and so many others places, is doing and has been doing for decades.

And now, just a few weeks ago on January 4th Trump orders the assassination of a Iranian General, a beloved citizen of Iran and with him die an Iraqi General and others. Iraq orders the US and other foreign troops, including Canadians, out of Iraq and Iran begins to mow but warns the US that there will be retaliation.

The shooting down of the Ukrainian plane is a tragedy beyond words but whether it was ordered by the Iranian Government or was a reaction from a small contingent of Iranian troops is not yet known. Yes, it took Iran a few days to admit to the mistake, for most of the world accepts that it was not a government sponsored attack, but to this day the USA and the west in general do not admit to their involvement in so many tragedies around the world, so many attacks blamed on others, so many actions that go supposedly unsolved. When Iran did attack USA bases it took care not to kill anyone, at least that is what most of the world sees, because it leaked the information giving time for evacuations. I am not excusing Iran but it has taken a measured response. I do not agree with violence on violence but the world does not function according to me and to the peace movement, sadly.

The Atomic Scientists annually gauge the situation in the world and then set the clock as to the level of danger of world destruction. As of Thursday, we are at 100 seconds to Midnight. The danger of all out warfare and the ability of the world to destroy itself has never been this close. Between climate change and the threat of nuclear war what has the world to offer our children and grandchildren? Yet, it is possible, as Ban Ki Moon stated on Thursday, "we can overcome the existential threat we face, but we must act together, now!"

Are we ready to do that?

You think your pain and your heartbreak are unprecedented in the history of the world, but then you read. It was books that taught me that the things that tormented me most were the very things that connected me with all the people who were alive, who had ever been alive."

James Baldwin

First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win.

Gandhi

