

**Appeal to womanhood throughout the world**

By: Julia Ward Howe: written in 1870

Again, in the sight of the Christian world, have the skill and power of two great nations exhausted themselves in mutual murder. Again have the sacred questions of international justice been committed to the fatal mediation of military weapons. In this day of progress, in this century of light, the ambition of rulers has been allowed to barter the dear interests of domestic life for the bloody exchanges of the battle field. Thus men have done. Thus men will do. But women need no longer be made a party to proceedings which fill the globe with grief and horror. Despite the assumptions of physical force, the mother has a sacred and commanding word to say to the sons who owe their life to her suffering. That word should now be heard, and answered to as never before.

Arise, then, Christian women of this day ! Arise, all women who have hearts, Whether your baptism be that of water or of tears ! Say firmly : We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies. Our husbands shall not come to us, reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause. Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience. We, women of one country, will be too tender of those of another country, to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs. From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own. It says: Disarm, disarm! The sword of murder is not the balance of justice. Blood does not wipe out dishonor, nor violence vindicate possession. As men have often forsaken the plough and the anvil at the summons of war, let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of council.

Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead. Let them then solemnly take council with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace, man as the brother of man, each bearing after his own kind the sacred impress, not of Caesar, but of God.

In the name of womanhood and of humanity, I earnestly ask that a general congress of women, without limit of nationality, may be appointed and held at some place deemed most convenient, and at the earliest period consistent with its objects, to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace



## Appeal to the Government of Canada



The Regina Peace Council applauds the efforts of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the Government of Canada for their efforts to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant crisis.

In addition to the current measures we call upon our government to heed the recent appeal of UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to  
**“End the sickness of war and fight the disease that is ravaging our world”**

This means reducing expenditures on preparations for war and increasing investments to protect our healthcare and economic systems. This means abandoning US-led economic warfare and regime-change policies against all countries which refuse to follow its bidding. The current global crisis demands the unity of all humanity.

**The coronavirus does not choose whom it infects on the basis of beliefs or political affiliation.**

Neither should our efforts to defeat it.

Regina Peace Council, 1109 Horace Street,  
Regina, Saskatchewan S4T 5L5.

The difference between real material poison and intellectual poison is that most material poison is disgusting to the taste, but intellectual poison which takes the form of cheap newspapers or bad books, can unfortunately sometimes be attractive.

*Leo Tolstoy*

Kind people help each other even without noticing that they are doing so, and evil people act against each other on purpose.

*Chinese Proverb*

**100 PROMINENT CANADIANS ASK TRUDEAU TO LIFT SANCTIONS NOW!** (Not listing signatures)

Hamilton & Montreal April 13, 2020

The Hamilton Coalition To Stop The War and the Mouvement Québécois pour la paix/Quebec Movement for Peace today are forwarding to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau an open letter from one hundred prominent Canadians, asking the PM to suspend Canada's economic sanctions against the twenty countries against which it currently maintains these "coercive economic measures". The purpose of the request to Mr. Trudeau is to enable the sanctioned countries, and indeed the entire world, to cope better with the Covid-19 pandemic. This request echoes the appeal by United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to G-20 countries on March 23, 2020, for those countries "to waive sanctions imposed on countries to ensure access to food, essential health supplies, and COVID-19 medical support."

For further information, please contact Ken Stone in Hamilton, Ontario, at 905-383-7693 (cell 289-382-9008) or kenstone@cogeco.ca, and/or Pierre Jasmin in Montreal, Quebec, at 819-847-1332 or jasmin.pierre@uqam.ca

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau April 13, 2020  
Prime Minister of Canada

Dear Sir:

In his March 23, 2020, letter to the leaders of the G20 countries, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres declared, "I am encouraging the waiving of sanctions imposed on countries to ensure access to food, essential health supplies, and COVID-19 medical support. This is the time for solidarity not exclusion... Let us remember that we are only as strong as the weakest health system in our interconnected world."<sup>1</sup> At the same time, ambassadors of eight countries currently affected by economic sanctions, namely, Cuba, Iran, Venezuela, Syria, Nicaragua, China, Russia, and North Korea, petitioned the secretary-general for "the immediate and complete lifting of those (coercive economic) measures to enable nations to respond to the coronavirus pandemic."<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, in his Easter message, Pope Francis echoed Mr. Guterres's call to suspend economic sanctions now.

Following upon Mr. Guterres's appeal, we, the undersigned, call upon your government to set a bold example for the G-20 and the world by suspending all of the economic sanctions regimes which Canada currently maintains against twenty sovereign states and/or their citizens, half of which are located in Africa.

Applying economic sanctions is a warlike act, and often kills more people than actual weapons. That's why the power to level economic sanctions is restricted exclusively to the United Nations Security Council. Moreover, these sanctions hurt the poorest and most vulnerable sectors of society by causing hunger, disease, and unemployment. They are explicitly designed to do so. Officials of the US government, which routinely levels sanctions against governments it doesn't like, have spoken openly about using suffering to try and spur ordinary civilians in targeted countries to rebel against their national authorities.

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(From last column) **LIFT SANCTIONS NOW!**

The US government has also forced other countries to obey its sanctions regime against targeted states through the use of extraterritoriality, that is, by penalizing foreign corporations that dare to trade with countries which the USA has sanctioned. Humanitarian goods such as medical supplies, which are exempted from economic sanctions under international law, have consistently been denied to countries such as Iran and Venezuela, despite the crises that those two countries face. That the US government would actually increase the sanctions against those two countries during a pandemic is simply barbaric.

We note that your government has also leveled unilateral, i.e., illegal sanctions. Only in the cases of Iran and North Korea has the UN Security Council authorized multilateral sanctions and, regarding Iran, those sanctions were to have been lifted in 2015 in accordance with the signing of the JCPOA and its ratification in UN resolution 2231. In response to the global pandemic, we believe that Canada's economic sanctions, whether unilateral or multilateral (excluding those sanctions relating to the arms trade) should be suspended in accordance with the wishes of UN Secretary-General Guterres.

Finally, we note that, on April 10, your government publicized its full support for Mr. Guterres's call for a temporary global ceasefire,<sup>4</sup> but announced it would give the green light to new Canadian arms sales to Saudi Arabia.<sup>5</sup> We find these two actions contradictory. We applaud the former and oppose the latter, at least until the government of Saudi Arabia ends its illegal war on the people of Yemen. We further call upon your government to follow action for divestment and disarmament mandated by the United Nations and to adhere to the climate objectives stated in the (COP21) Paris Climate Agreement.

In view of the urgency created by the pandemic, we look forward to your earliest possible reply.

Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/note-correspondents/2020-03-24/note-correspondents-letter-the-secretary-general-g-20-members>

<sup>2</sup> Associated Press,

<https://apnews.com/496de0e2df595e74298265d2e3e3c7b0>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international\\_relations-](https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/sanctions-current-actuelles.aspx?lang=eng)

[relations\\_internationales/sanctions-current-actuelles.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/sanctions-current-actuelles.aspx?lang=eng)  
<sup>4</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/statement-in-support-of-global-ceasefire.html>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/canada->

**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 regular meetings are suspended until at least 3 people commit to meet monthly. To commit or for info call (250) 444-0524 or (250) 442-0434 or email [L4peace@telus.net](mailto:L4peace@telus.net).*

## **World Day of Action in Solidarity with Venezuela**

**From:** Comité de Solidaridad Internacional y Lucha por la Paz and the World Peace Council: April 19, 2020

The below signed movements, organisations and individuals raise our voices in solidarity with the Venezuelan people who today are the victims of a brutal siege and criminal sanctions by imperialist powers. Today, April 19, 2020, as the 210th anniversary of the Venezuelan people's cry for independence against the domination of the former Spanish empire is commemorated, we express our firm support for the struggle of the Venezuelan people to preserve this independence and to exercise their right to sovereignty and self-determination.

In this regard, we reiterate our energetic repudiation of any attempt to meddle in the internal affairs of the people of Venezuela, as well as all plans drawn up from imperialist powers which look to force a violent change of government in the country. Included in these plans is a recent manoeuvre from the US government with its so-called "Transition Plan for Venezuela," to which its European allies and some South American governments automatically joined.

This plan seeks to take a new escalatory step of interference and aggressive actions against Venezuela, which, within the conjunctural framework of the global pandemic, aims to justify the means of escalating the blockade and the illegal unilateral sanctions which complicate the effects of the global pandemic for the Venezuelan people.

For this reason, we denounce that maintaining and widening unilateral and extraterritorial coercive measures constitutes a crime against the people of Venezuela. We call for the immediate lifting of the illegal sanctions of the US and European governments against the country. Likewise, we demand the return of financial resources owned by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela illegally held in international banks so that they can be used in the country's pressing needs in the fight against COVID-19 and in the development of the national productive capacity.

Finally, we alert the peoples of the world to the serious threat of military intervention and imperialist war against Venezuela. The US government is looking to prepare a favourable international stage for war in Latin America and the Caribbean. The US Department of Justice's actions against Venezuela's president and senior officials of the Bolivarian government, the unusual increase in the US military presence in Colombia, the joint US-Colombia military exercises near the Venezuelan border and the recent deployment of the US navy in the Caribbean Sea under the pretext of the fight against drug trafficking are constitute clear evidence of US imperialism's dangerous steps to provoke a war against Venezuela.

We call on the peoples of the world to stop the war-crazed madness of imperialism in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to defend the right of the Venezuelan people to self-determination and peace.

## **End Illegal and Punitive Economic Measures!**

**From:** The Canadian Peace Congress--April 30, 2020

The Canadian Peace Congress calls on the government of Canada to rescind punitive economic measures taken against Iran, Venezuela, North Korea Syria, Russia, China and other countries. These measures are in violation of Article 41, Chapter VII of the *UN Charter* which states that the power to impose economic restrictions on any nation rests solely with the Security Council.

Furthermore, Article 103 of Chapter XVI states that a member's obligations under the *UN Charter* override its obligations under any other treaty or agreement. This includes the NATO Treaty and all other bilateral or multilateral agreements. Canada pretends to rely on its 1992 *Special Economic Measures Act* with regards to its economic measures against Iran and Russia, but that law cannot be applied when it violates the *Charter* of the United Nations which is also a part of Canadian law.

The Canadian government follows the American government's use of the term "sanctions" to refer to these punitive measures in order to provide them with the appearance of legality. The term implies that the measures imposed are legal and that the nation imposing them has the right to dictate to another country how to conduct and govern itself. No nation has that right. And the claim that the USA, Canada or any other country has such a right violates the founding principles of the UN including mutual respect for peoples and nations and respect for the sovereignty of states.

The illegality is made obvious by the fact that no such economic measures would be accepted by Canada or its allies as legal if they were imposed on them by another country. In other words, international laws have to be of universal application. Measures taken by one nation against another are not and, therefore, are a violation of international law and Canada's obligations under international law. Punitive economic measures designed to harm the economy and living conditions of a nation in order to subvert that targeted government are also a violation of Article 6 of the *Rome Statute* of the International Criminal Court. Such measures meet the definition of genocide, which includes "deliberately inflicting on a group conditions of life calculated to bring about the physical destruction in whole or in part of that group", and can therefore be considered a Crime Against Humanity under Article 7, 1(k) and Extermination under section 2(b).

They also meet the definition of the Crime of Aggression as set out in Article 8b of the *Statute* since armed force is used by Canada and its allies to enforce these illegal measures as we have seen, for instance, with the armed seizures of Iranian ships, the attempted naval blockade of Venezuela and on-going military manoeuvres against Russia, North Korea and China.

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## WHAT'S UP?

Do your part to control COVID-19 by following the instructions of our Health Professionals. Continue physical distancing but not social isolation. Call your family and friends, connect through social media platforms and help with what you can. We can meet on line or by phone and only meet in person if necessary abiding by the rules. It may take some time to get back to our normal way of connecting with each other but take this time to look at what is truly important and vital for our wellbeing as humans living on a finite planet. Even though all the concerts, conferences, fairs and sports events are on hold there is much we can do to stay engaged in living and growing as community. Once this is over take the lessons to heart and do what you can to build a world where peace and socio-economic justice prevails, where there are no more homeless or poor, where human needs override the needs of corporate profits and military might, where polluting our planet with fossil fuels and destructive activity begin the journey to elimination and be replaced with sustainable renewal living. So, do your part now. Once all the restrictions are lifted let's work to implement the changes needed to ensure a living, breathing peace that nourishes and values all Creation and moves beyond just an absence of physical war.

### (From page 3) **End Illegal and Punitive Economic Measures!**

There is no legal or moral justification for the imposition of economic measures which amount to collective punishment of a people. The fact that Canada and its allies maintain these measures against other countries suffering from the COVID-19 virus reveals their moral bankruptcy to the world.

All the so-called "sanctions" must be rescinded immediately. Canada must adhere to its obligations and responsibilities under the UN Charter and work for the peaceful resolution of conflicts with nations based on mutual respect for all peoples and the sovereignty of all nations.

*Issued by the Executive, Canadian Peace Congress, April 30, 2020. For more information, contact Miguel Figueroa, CPCCon president at [info@canadianpeacecongress.ca](mailto:info@canadianpeacecongress.ca).*

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Even if we don't want to, we can't help but feel our connection to the rest of mankind: we are connected by industry, by trade, by art, by knowledge, and most importantly, by our common mortality.

*Leo Tolstoy*

We should be ready to change our views at any time, and slough off prejudices, and live with an open and receptive mind. A sailor who sets the same sails, all the time, without making changes when the wind changes, will never reach his harbour.

*Henry George*

Only when we forget what we were taught do we start to have real knowledge.

*Henry David Thoreau*

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](mailto: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>