

BOUNDARY PEACE INITIATIVE

Volume 203:
Oct. 1, 2020

Open letter to the Government of Canada by peace groups across the country.

To be released on Friday, September 25. *(It was done)*

September 26, is the *International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons*, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2013. The objectives of the day are to enhance public awareness about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and encourage action by governments and civil society to prevent nuclear war and achieve the elimination of nuclear weapons.

The organizations that have signed onto this letter are calling on the Canadian government to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

On July 7, 2017, the UN adopted the TPNW. It was an historic achievement with the potential to rid the world of the danger of nuclear weapons. Of the 193 UN member states, 122 voted to adopt the nuclear ban treaty, but Canada was among the 69 nations, including all NATO members, that regrettably withheld support by not voting.

The Treaty opened for signatures at the UN headquarters in New York on September 20, 2017. At the signing ceremony, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said: “The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is the product of increasing concerns over the risk posed by the existence of nuclear weapons, including the catastrophic humanitarian and environmental consequences of their use.”

Currently, there are 84 signatories and 45 states parties of the TPNW including New Zealand, South Africa and Ireland. The Treaty will enter into force 90 days after it has been ratified by 50 countries. However, the Government of Canada is refusing to sign onto this important treaty because of Canada’s membership in nuclear-armed NATO.

Moreover, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will not meet with Japanese-Canadian nuclear disarmament activist Setsuko Thurlow, who survived the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945 and who accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) in 2017. She is appealing to the Prime Minister to show leadership for peace by becoming a state party to the TPNW.

(Continued next column)

(From last column) Open letter to the Government

Public opinion shows that Canadians are overwhelmingly opposed to nuclear weapons and want the federal government to work for the abolition of these weapons of mass destruction (IPSOS 1998 and Environics 2008). In the past Canada has taken significant steps for nuclear disarmament. In 1969, Canada ratified the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Article 6 of the NPT requires state parties to negotiate in good faith and take effective measures for nuclear disarmament.

In 1978 at the United Nations, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau declared: “We are thus not only the first country in the world with the capability to produce nuclear weapons that chose not to do so; we are also the first nuclear-armed country to have chosen to divest itself of nuclear weapons.” By 1984 the last U.S. nuclear weapons stationed in Canada were removed.

This year, on September 21, the International Day of Peace, 56 former leaders and ministers including several eminent Canadians signed an open letter issued by ICAN to urge all countries to join the TPNW. The Canadian signatories include Former Prime Ministers John Turner and Jean Chretien, former Defence Ministers Jean-Jacques Blais and Bill Graham, and former Foreign Affairs Ministers Lloyd Axworthy and John Manley. They are urging current leaders to “show courage and boldness — and join the treaty.” The full letter can be read here:

https://www.icanw.org/56_former_leaders.

For the *International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons*, we too are calling on the federal government to adhere to its legal obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, to abide by the United Nation’s Agenda for Disarmament, to respect the will of Canadian citizens and to honour the desires of the international community to live in a world free of nuclear weapons by signing and ratifying the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as soon as possible.

Signatories:

les Artistes pour la Paix William Sloan

B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition Laura Savinkoff, Coordinator

Boundary Peace Initiative Laura Savinkoff, Coordinator
Canadian Federation of University Women Charlotte Akin, Advocacy Coordinator

Canadian Foreign Policy Institute Bianca Mugenyi, Director
Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers) Matthew Legge, Peace Program Coordinator

(Continued page 2)

(From page 1) Open letter to the Government

Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (CNANW)

The CNANW Steering Committee: Earl Turcotte (Chair), Bev Delong (Past Chair), Rob Acheson (Treasurer), Cesar Jaramillo, Dr. Adele Buckley, Dr. Nancy Covington, Dr. Jonathan Down

Canadian Peace Alliance Leo Broderick

Canadian Peace Congress Miguel Figueroa, President

Canadian Pugwash Group Paul Meyer, Senior Advisor, ICT4Peace, Chair, Canadian Pugwash Group

Adjunct Professor of International Studies and Fellow in International Security, Simon Fraser University

Canadian Voice of Women for Peace National Board

Conscience Canada Murray Lumley, Secretary

Denman Island Peace Group Patti Willis

Geopolitical Economy Research Group Radhika Desai, Director

Hamilton Coalition to Stop the War Ken Stone

Hiroshima Nagasaki Day Coalition Vinay Jindal, MD, Co-chair, Hiroshima Nagasaki Day Coalition Past-president, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War Canada

Just Peace Advocates Karen Rodman, Director

Mouvement Québécois pour la Paix Pierre Jasmin

National Association of Japanese Canadians Lorene Oikawa, President

Ottawa Raging Grannies

Ottawa Quaker Meeting (Religious Society of Friends) Mary Girard

Nowar-Paix

Pax Christi Toronto Rosemary Keenan

Paul Maillet Centre for Ethics Paul Maillet, Colonel (retired)

Peace Alliance Winnipeg Glenn Michalchuk, Chair

Peace Magazine Metta Spencer

Peace Quest

People for Peace London David Heap

Pivot to Peace Helen Peacock

Regina Peace Council Ed Lehman

Religions for Peace Canada Pascale Frémond

Rideau Institute / Ceasefire.ca Peggy Mason, President

Saskatoon Peace Coalition Christopher Hrynkow

Science for Peace Rob Acheson

Socialist Action / Ligue pour l'Action socialiste Barry Weisleder, Federal secretary

Vancouver Peace Poppies Teresa Gagné

Venezuela Peace Committee Henry Heller, Chair

Women's International League for Peace & Freedom - Canada

World BEYOND War Rachel Small, Canadian Organizer

Turner's last political act was for nuclear abolition, Trudeau should take note and say no to NATO

By: Tamara Lorincz, member of the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, and Glenn Michalchuk, member of Peace Alliance Winnipeg

One of the last political acts by former Prime Minister John Turner before he passed away was to add his signature to an open letter calling on current world leaders to abolish nuclear weapons.

(Continued next column)

(From last column) say no to NATO

Turner was one of 56 former prime ministers, presidents, foreign ministers and defense ministers from 20 NATO countries plus Japan and South Korea who signed a letter that was publicly issued by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) for the *International Day of Peace* on September 21.

The other eminent Canadians include former Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, former Deputy Prime Minister John Manley, former Defence Ministers Jean-Jacques Blais and John McCallum and former Foreign Affairs Ministers Lloyd Axworthy and Bill Graham.

These Canadian signatories are all prominent elders of the Liberal Party. Their letter is a direct appeal to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his Liberal government to show leadership on nuclear disarmament.

The former leaders write that the continued existence of 14,000 nuclear weapons poses an unacceptable, existential threat to humanity. They declare that "It is time to bring the era of reliance on nuclear weapons to a permanent end."

They urge countries like Canada to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) that they describe as a "beacon of hope in a time of darkness." The prohibition treaty is a landmark global accord that opened for signature at the United Nations three years ago.

Currently, there are 84 signatories and 45 states parties of the TPNW including New Zealand, South Africa and Ireland. The Treaty will enter into force 90 days after it has been ratified by 50 countries, only five more countries are needed.

However, Canada refuses to sign onto this important treaty because of pressure from the United States and because of our membership in nuclear-armed NATO. In a leaked memo in 2016, the U.S. told alliance members that the treaty delegitimized NATO's nuclear deterrence and should not be supported.

Yet, Turner and the other former leaders argue that countries should not worry about upsetting their allies. In the letter, they write "friends can and must speak up when friends engage in reckless behaviour that puts their lives and ours in peril."

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

From page 2) **say no to NATO**

Canada's allies the U.S., France and United Kingdom are irresponsibly upgrading their nuclear arsenals. The American nuclear modernization program that started under President Obama in 2016 will cost \$1.2 trillion over the next 25 years. Earlier this year, under the Trump administration, the U.S. navy deployed a new low yield tactical nuclear weapon on its Trident submarines that defence analysts claim is destabilizing.

The former leaders warn that a new nuclear arms race is underway and must be stopped. In the past, Canada took significant steps to reduce nuclear tensions during the Cold War. When Justin's father, Pierre Trudeau, was Prime Minister and John Turner was Minister of Justice, Canada ratified the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1969. Article 6 of the NPT requires state parties to negotiate in good faith and take effective measures for nuclear disarmament.

At the first UN Special Session on Disarmament in 1978, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau declared, "We are thus not only the first country in the world with the capability to produce nuclear weapons that chose not to do so; we are also the first nuclear-armed country to have chosen to divest itself of nuclear weapons." He went on to force the removal of the remaining U.S. nuclear weapons stationed in Canada.

While in office in the 1980s, the senior Trudeau also advanced a "strategy of suffocation" to reduce the number and the risk of nuclear weapons. At that time, there were 60,000 nuclear warheads in existence. He went on an international tour meeting with leaders in Washington D.C., London and Moscow to promote his 5-point peace and disarmament plan. The plan involved increased dialogue between East and West, an end to the production of nuclear material, a ban on nuclear weapons' testing and a reduction in defence spending.

In November of 1983, Pierre Trudeau went to India to attend the two-day Commonwealth conference with the leaders of 42 countries and to garner support for his peace plan. The conference's final statement, *Goa Declaration on International Security*, acknowledged Trudeau's influence and adopted elements of his plan. The heads of state declared, "we cannot emphasize too strongly our belief that an ethic of non-violence must be at the heart of all efforts to ensure peace and harmony in the world."

For his efforts, Trudeau was awarded the Albert Einstein Peace Prize in 1984. At the award ceremony, he denounced NATO's "macho posturing" and its reluctance to pursue nuclear disarmament. Trudeau argued that the military alliance should be questioned. The previous year, NATO had moved new American Pershing II missiles into West Germany. The deployment of these nuclear weapons sparked mass demonstrations across Europe and led to a major protest outside the annual NATO summit in Bonn.

Through NATO nuclear sharing agreements, the U.S. continues to store nuclear weapons in five NATO countries: Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Italy and Turkey. (Continued next column)

(From last column) **say no to NATO**

Today, the U.S. is planning to upgrade its controversial arsenal in Germany despite the Bundestag, Germany's parliament, passing a resolution in 2010 to withdraw it.

NATO's current Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said that the alliance's nuclear deterrence is the ultimate guarantee of security. However, Canada's former Ambassador for Disarmament retired Senator Doug Roche recently criticized NATO's nuclear policy as "moribund." He also claimed that the ICAN letter is "the most serious challenge to NATO's nuclear orthodoxy in the organization's 71-year history." NATO's reliance on a dangerous nuclear arsenal is one of the reasons Canadian peace groups such as the Hamilton Coalition to Stop the War, the Regina Peace Council, Peace Alliance Winnipeg, the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, the Canadian Peace Congress, World Beyond War-Canada, and the Canadian Foreign Policy Institute among others are opposed to the military alliance.

In the ICAN letter, the former Liberal leaders call on today's leaders to again "show courage and boldness" for nuclear disarmament and join the new prohibition treaty. They write that the TPNW provides "the foundation for a more secure world, free from the ultimate menace" and that all countries should support it. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the Liberal government should heed their appeal and prioritize nuclear disarmament over its membership in NATO.

To mark the *International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons* on September 26, dozens of peace and justice groups across Canada have followed Turner's final wish and have also released an open letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to show the same leadership for nuclear disarmament like his father and to join the treaty to help eliminate the worst weapons of mass destruction.

The former leaders' ICAN letter can be read here:
www.icanw.org/56_former_leaders

The letter from Canadian peace and justice groups can be read here:
www.worldbeyondwar.org

A Spanish court convicted SOA graduate Inocente Montano

From: School of the Americas Watch (SOA)

On Friday, September 11, 2020, a [Spanish court convicted SOA graduate Inocente Montano](#), a former Army Colonel and Minister of Security in El Salvador, for the November 1989 murders of five Spanish Jesuit priests -- Ignacio Ellacuría, Ignacio Martín-Baró, Amando López, Segundo Montes, and Juan Ramón Moreno -- who were murdered along with Celina and Elba Ramos and Salvadoran Jesuit Joaquín López at the Jesuit-run University of Central America (UCA) in San Salvador. (The Spanish court could only convict for the murders of the Spanish citizens.)

After 30 years, this is an important step towards holding the highest levels of the Armed Forces accountable [for the November 1989 massacre at the UCA](#). (Continued page 4)

WHAT'S UP?

The BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition **Conference** in Kelowna on **Oct. 17, 2020**. Contact Laura for details at: L4peace@telus.net or 250-444-0524.

The provincial **election** is **October 24th** or look for Advanced Poll dates. Remember to vote!

White Poppies to honour all victims of war and violence will be out soon.

If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart?

From *The Gulag Archipelago* by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Courage is an inner resolution to go forward despite obstacles; Cowardice is submissive surrender to circumstances. Courage breeds creativity; Cowardice represses fear and is mastered by it. Cowardice asks the question, is it safe? Expediency asks the question, is it politic? Vanity asks the question, is it popular? But conscience ask the question, is it right?

Anonymous



(From page 3) A Spanish court convicted SOA

However, many more steps towards justice remain to be taken. Montano was part of a **group of high-level military officers** -- including several other SOA graduates -- who gave the order to 'eliminate' Jesuit Ignacio Ellacuría, rector of the UCA, for his leadership in working to broker a peace agreement to end the war in El Salvador. No other members of the military high command have been prosecuted for ordering and planning the massacre. El Salvador refused to extradite members of the military high command to Spain (Col. Montano was extradited from the U.S.) and there has yet to be a trial of the intellectual authors in El Salvador itself.

Furthermore, the U.S. government in general, and the SOA-WHINSEC in particular, have never been held accountable for their role in training and empowering members of the military leadership who ordered the murders at the UCA as well as numerous members of the Atlacatl Battalion -- a counter-insurgency battalion created at the SOA -- who carried out the massacre.

We leave you with words from the Jesuit's University of Central America (UCA) in response to the conviction (original in Spanish [here](#)):

- "1. The UCA has always wanted and continues to want the trial for the intellectual authorship of the massacre of the Jesuits and their two collaborators to be carried out in El Salvador. The process opened in Spain by the relatives of the Jesuits has a subsidiary value in favor of the Salvadoran justice. This trial, whose public hearings could be followed from anywhere in the world, made it very clear the seriousness with which the Spanish justice system took the case and the full procedural guarantees that the defendant had.
2. Although the conviction of Col. Montano is very important to advance justice in the case, and even more important in for its extraordinary service to the truth. Through the evidence and the testimonies presented, the system of cover-ups and impunity of the Armed Forces, and in some ways, the Salvadoran state, in the face of the extremely grave violation of human rights committed during the civil war has been made clear.
3. The case in the National Court of Spain clearly shows that the Armed Forces, and in particular the Military Academy class of 1966, better known as "La Tandoná", functioned as a criminal machine for serious attacks against Salvadoran population and the rule of law, making use of power that goes beyond the functions granted to the military by the Constitution. As long as the Armed Forces do not ask for forgiveness at the institutional level for serious crimes committed in the past and do not cooperate with justice by opening their archives, it can hardly be considered a democratic institution that respects human rights.
4. The resolution of the trial in Spain will help both the national conscience and the Salvadoran judicial system to take real steps in favor of truth and justice, not only in this case, but also in all those related to serious violations of human rights. The State in general and the justice system in particular must be aware of and responsible for their constitutional powers: Article 1 of the Constitution mandates them to ensure the achievement of justice, legal security and the common good.
5. Judicial convictions for homicide or terrorism are never cause for joy. They express the sad reality of a moment in history and the worst of the human condition, its ability to gravely offend life and break with the brotherhood to which we are all called. But they are a formal, legal and democratic recognition of the truth, and an encouragement and a guarantee of non-repetition of these inhuman acts.
6. The judicial resolution of a crime against humanity is a means that allows progress towards the ideal that the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) expressed from the first moment that the massacre occurred at the University: the path of reparation passes through knowledge of the truth, the practice of justice and forgiveness. The continuation of the judicial process in El Salvador, already initiated, but maliciously stopped, to determine who were the intellectual authors of the horrendous crime, is a debt of justice, and should not wait any longer.
7. The UCA will continue working with hope and enthusiasm to contribute to a new reality where love, reconciliation and justice are essential values."

Celina Ramos, ¡Presente! Elba Ramos, ¡Presente! Ignacio Ellacuría, ¡Presente!
Ignacio Martín-Baró, ¡Presente! Amando López, ¡Presente! Joaquín López y López, ¡Presente!
Segundo Montes, ¡Presente! Juan Ramón Moreno, ¡Presente!

SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS WATCH
news and updates!



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 and an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. We also 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>