

**White Poppy Campaign 2020**

By: Laura Savinkoff, BPI Coordinator

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Boundary Peace Initiative (BPI) has taken part in the White Poppy Campaign since 2002. We distribute this symbol to honour all victims of war and conflict to some venues in Grand Forks where you can donate towards our mutually beneficial work.

The BPI we give of our time and energy to create a world of peaceful living where socio-economic justice and environmental sustainability are guided by the principles of non-violence, equity and equality, respect and honour, treating all with dignity, standing for accountability and integrity as our mandate.

You can support our work by donating \$2.00 for a White Poppy at the following locations: Joggas, Beyond Computers, New West Trading Company and the USCC Office. We donate half of our sales to the Peace Pledge Union.

The Peace Pledge Union (PPU) is the oldest secular pacifist organisation in Britain. Since 1934 it has been campaigning for a warless world: from anti-bombing campaigns during WW2 to protest at the remote controlled military drone assassinations of today: from campaigning against the militarisation of Armistice Day in the 30s to the militarisation of society today. White Poppies were founded by the Women's Co-operative Guild in 1933. Money raised through white poppy sales goes towards promoting nonviolent approaches to conflict and producing educational materials. Many white poppy wearers also donate to charities supporting veterans or other victims of war. For more information go to: [www.ppu.org.uk](http://www.ppu.org.uk).

*Members of the PPU adhere to the following:*

*War is a crime against humanity.*

*I renounce war, and am therefore determined not to support any kind of war. I am also determined to work for the removal of all causes of war.*

*Human security* we believe means individual freedom from basic insecurities. Human beings have a right to live with dignity and security, and an obligation to help each other when that security is threatened.

*All human life is of equal worth, and it is not acceptable that human lives become cheap in desperate situations. War - we say no.*

(Continued next column)

**(From last column) White Poppy Campaign 2020**

*White poppies* commemorate all victims of all wars, including wars that are still being fought. This includes people of all nationalities. It includes both civilians and members of armed forces. Today over 90% of people killed in warfare are civilians. In wearing white poppies, we remember all those killed in war, all those wounded in body or mind, the millions who have been made sick or homeless by war and the families and communities torn apart. We also remember those killed or imprisoned for refusing to fight and for resisting war.

*White poppies* symbolise a commitment to peace and to finding non-violent solutions to conflicts. A hundred years after the end of the "war to end all wars" we still have a long way to go to end a social institution that even in the last decade has contributed to the killing of millions. By struggling for peace and opposing current wars, we reassert the original message of remembrance: 'never again'.

*The white poppy* challenges attempts to glorify or celebrate war, as well as nationalist narratives of remembrance that focus mainly on military victims on one side. By encouraging us to resist the normalisation and promotion of military values at remembrance time, the white poppy helps build a culture of peace.

*The best way to respect* the victims of war is to work to prevent war in the present and future. Violence only begets more violence. We need to tackle the underlying causes of warfare, such as poverty, inequality and competition over resources. A temporary absence of violence is not enough. Peace is much deeper and broader than that, requiring major social changes to allow us to live more co-operatively.

*So why, in the 21st century, with all our skills, knowledge and resources, are we still waging war?*

The Boundary Peace Initiative supports this pledge and will continue to work with organizations that work towards the same goal, be they local, regional, national or global. We thank all those who support our work and look forward to joining hands and hearts and minds and energy to create a world of peaceful living in harmony with all Creation.



## Free Meng Wanzhou

From: Ken Stone of the Hamilton Coalition to Stop War: October 4, 2020

Dear Laura:

I would like to take this opportunity to keep you abreast of the latest developments in our Coalition's campaign to free Meng Wanzhou.

This past Tuesday, to coincide with the approval by the Clerk of Petitions at the Canadian House of Commons of our **parliamentary petition e-2857**, the HCSW issued our statement to free Meng on our website and on our FB and Twitter accounts. Here is the statement:

<http://hamiltoncoalitiontostopthewar.ca/2020/09/30/hcsw-statement-on-free-meng-wanzhou/>

And here is the parliamentary petition (in English and French). We are looking for at least 500 Canadian residents to sign either of the petitions below within the next 120 days for our sponsoring MP, Niki Ashton of the NDP, to present the petition in the House of Commons and for the Government of Canada to deliver a formal response:

<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-2857>

<https://petitions.noscommunes.ca/fr/Petition/Details?Petition=e-2857>

The arrest of Meng is, of course, part of the developing new cold war on China and we hope the campaign to free her will help to deflate that development.

Would you please help to circulate our statement and petition in the next issue of BP!?

In solidarity,  
Ken Stone

## Historic milestone: UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons reaches 50 ratifications needed for entry into force.

From: ICAN—International Campaign Abolish Nuclear Weapons

*On October 24, 2020, the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons reached the required 50 states parties for its entry into force, after Honduras ratified just one day after Jamaica and Nauru submitted their ratifications. In 90 days, the treaty will enter into force, cementing a categorical ban on nuclear weapons, 75 years after their first use.*

This is a historic milestone for this landmark treaty. Prior to the TPNW's adoption, nuclear weapons were the only weapons of mass destruction not banned under international law, despite their catastrophic humanitarian consequences. Now, with the treaty's entry into force, we can call nuclear weapons what they are: prohibited weapons of mass destruction, just like chemical weapons and biological weapons. ICAN's Executive Director Beatrice Fihn welcomed the historic moment. "This is a new chapter for nuclear disarmament. Decades of activism have achieved what many said was impossible: nuclear weapons are banned," she said.

Setsuko Thurlow, survivor of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, said "I have committed my life to the abolition of nuclear weapons. I have nothing but gratitude for all who have worked for the success of our treaty." As a long-time and iconic ICAN activist who has spent decades sharing the story of the horrors she faced to raise awareness on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons this moment held particular significance: "This is the first time in international law that we have been so recognized. We share this recognition with other hibakusha across the world, those who have suffered radioactive harm from nuclear testing, from uranium mining, from secret experimentation." Survivors of atomic use and testing all over the world have joined Setsuko in celebrating this milestone.

The three latest states to ratify were proud to be part of such a historic moment. All 50 states have shown true leadership to achieve a world without nuclear weapons, all while facing unprecedented levels of pressure from the nuclear armed states not to do so.

(Continued page 3)



Youth voice  
their stand on  
the purchase  
of Fighter Jets  
by 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: (250) 444-0524 or (250) 442-0434 or email [L4peace@telus.net](mailto:L4peace@telus.net).**

(From page 2) **Historic milestone:**

A recent letter, obtained by AP only days before the ceremony, demonstrates that the Trump administration has been directly pressuring states that have ratified the treaty to withdraw from it and abstain from encouraging others to join it, in direct contradiction to their obligations under the treaty. Beatrice Fihn said: “Real leadership has been shown by the countries that have joined this historical instrument to bring it to full legal effect. Desperate attempts to weaken these leaders’ commitment to nuclear disarmament demonstrate only the fear of nuclear armed states of the change this treaty will bring.”

This is just the beginning. Once the treaty is in force, all states parties will need to implement all of their positive obligations under the treaty and abide by its prohibitions. States that haven’t joined the treaty will feel its power too - we can expect companies to stop producing nuclear weapons and financial institutions to stop investing in nuclear weapon producing companies.

How do we know? Because we have nearly 600 partner organisations in over 100 countries committed to advancing this treaty and the norm against nuclear weapons. People, companies, universities and governments everywhere will know this weapon has been prohibited and that now is the moment for them to stand on the right side of history.

*ED Note:* Check out the Treaty on the United Nations website. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2017/07/561122-un-conference-adopts-treaty-banning-nuclear-weapons>

**Statement on the Imminent Entry into Force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons From: International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms**

As of 24 October, 50 States have ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). By its terms (Article 15), the treaty will enter into force in 90 days, becoming legally binding for states that have joined the treaty.

The treaty was negotiated in 2017 and adopted in New York on 7 July 2017 by 122 states voting in favour (one against and one abstention), none of them possessors of nuclear arms. They took responsibility for creating a path toward the global elimination of nuclear weapons, essentially because the world’s most powerful states—all nuclear-armed—are failing to do so despite the disarmament obligation set forth in Article VI of the Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT). The central theme of the process leading to the adoption of the treaty was the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of use of nuclear weapons.

The TPNW robustly recognizes and reinforces existing international law requiring the non-use and elimination of nuclear weapons. That law applies to states whether or not they join the treaty, as the treaty’s preamble recognizes. (Continued next column)

(From last column) **Imminent Entry into Force**

- The preamble reaffirms the need for all states at all times to comply with international humanitarian law forbidding, *inter alia*, the infliction of indiscriminate harm and unnecessary suffering, as well as with international human rights law, and considers that any use of nuclear weapons would be contrary to international humanitarian law.
- It also reaffirms the universal obligation to pursue in good faith and conclude negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

This obligation was affirmed in a unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice in the 1996 Advisory Opinion on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*.

In an innovation in the nuclear weapons sphere reflecting the rise of human- and victim-centred disarmament, the TPNW sets forth obligations of assistance to victims of testing and use of nuclear weapons and of environmental remediation of areas affected by testing and use (Article 6). It also requires states parties in a position to do so to assist affected states parties with victim assistance and environmental remediation (Article 7). These provisions are important because they recognize and address concretely the unacceptable suffering and devastation that have resulted from the use and testing of nuclear arms, and which could result again if current trends in global affairs are not reversed.

China, France, the Russian Federation, United Kingdom, and United States are the five states acknowledged by the NPT to possess nuclear weapons pending their elimination in accordance with its Article VI, and also the permanent members of the Security Council. They have repeatedly and jointly stated their opposition to the TPNW and their intention not to join the treaty. The United States reportedly has gone so far as to press states that have ratified the TPNW to withdraw their ratifications so that the treaty does not enter into force.

The Permanent Five’s opposition to the TPNW is counterproductive to the cause of disarmament. They instead should welcome the treaty as a reinforcement of obligations of non-acquisition of nuclear weapons set out in the NPT and regional nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties and as a powerful statement of the moral, political, and legal principles that should guide the abolition of nuclear arms.

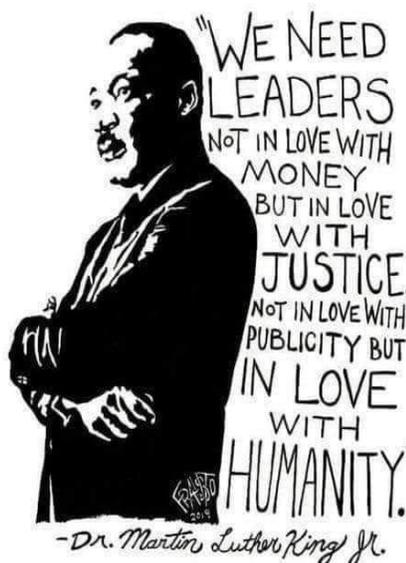
IALANA welcomes the ratification of the TPNW by 50 states triggering its entry into force in 90 days. We encourage other states to consider ratification in the near future.

*IALANA is a partner of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.*



## WHAT'S UP?

**White Poppies** to honour all victims of war and violence are available in Grand Forks at New West Trading Company, Joggas, Beyond Computers and the USCC office for \$2 to cover cost. Thank you for your support.



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>

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 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.

## OPEN LETTER TO HARJIT SAJJAN [MENG WANZHOU]

By: Henry Evans-Tenbrinke OCTOBER 11, 2020

Harjit Sajjan  
Minister of Defence,  
Canada  
Sir:

As a former member of the Canadian Forces, I'm appalled by your brazen lack of judgment. On Oct 7, 2020, during a widely-reported panel discussion hosted by Slovakian think tank Globesec, you claimed that China was engaged in "hostage diplomacy."

It's frightening that you cannot distinguish between the actions of your own government and those of China. I wish to remind you that, on Dec. 1, 2018, *your* government acted upon a request of the Trump Administration to arrest Meng Wanzhou, CFO, Huawei Technologies. The US indictment was approved by a New York State court on Aug 22, 2018,<sup>1</sup> and the US tried unsuccessfully following that date to pressure dozens of countries, through which Meng travelled, to arrest her. Every single country refused until Meng arrived in Vancouver on December 1, 2018, and *your* government slavishly acceded to the "urgent" US extradition request.<sup>2</sup>

Developments following Meng's arrest confirm her arrest was politically motivated. On December 6, 2018, Trump declared he might release Meng if he secured a favourable trade deal with China.<sup>3</sup> He also told John Bolton that Meng was "a bargaining chip" in his trade negotiations with China.<sup>4</sup> In fact, in *The Room Where it Happened*, Bolton reveals that Trump privately gave Meng Wanzhou the nickname, "the Ivanka Trump of China", a moniker indicating Trump understood he was asking Canada to take a high-value hostage in the person of Meng Wanzhou to be leveraged against the People's Republic to get a trade deal favourable to the USA.<sup>5</sup>

So, it was *your* government, Mr. Minister, which first initiated "hostage diplomacy" in relation to China. It was only following the arrest of Ms. Meng that the Chinese government arrested Michael Spavor and Michael Kovrig on espionage charges. Mr. Sajjan, you are the proverbial pot calling the kettle black.

While I have no opinion on the justifiability of the charges against the Two Michaels, I believe the fraud charges against Meng are unwarranted. After all, they arise from Huawei's alleged dealings with Iran, in violation of US unilateral sanctions against that country. In the first place, the US unilateral economic sanctions against Iran are illegal. According to the UN Charter, only the UN Security Council has the authority to impose coercive economic measures against member states. And all those UN-approved measures against Iran were lifted in the JCPOA (Iran Nuclear Agreement) which came into effect in 2016. When Trump abrogated that agreement in 2018 to the chagrin of the entire world, *your* government also expressed regret. It stated it hoped that the other parties to the JCPOA would continue to honour its provisions.<sup>6</sup>

In effect, then, Meng, a Canadian permanent resident, has violated no Canadian law. She's being held under house arrest by your government for violating a US sanctions regime on Iran that no other country in the world recognizes, including Canada. This bizarre situation is termed US "extraterritoriality", in which the US tries to enforce its domestic laws on other countries. Canada should not play along!

The arrest and extradition proceedings against Meng have contributed to deteriorating Canada-China relations. At various times following Meng's arrest, China, which is Canada's second-largest trading partner, banned importation of Canadian canola, pork, and lobsters. Since livelihoods of thousands of Canadian farmers and fishers depend on the export of these products to China, they were severely affected. 30% of Canadian exports go to China, but Canadian exports only account for less than 2% of China's imports. So the potential of even more harm is possible. In addition, the promising Chinese-Canadian collaboration on a Covid-19 vaccine collapsed.

Canada and its people paid dearly so far and gained nothing from your government's decision to hold Meng as a hostage for the USA in its trade negotiations with China.

My specific objection to your remarks regarding "hostage diplomacy" last week arises from your apparent failure to be able to distinguish between cause and effect, a very worrisome trait in a minister of defence. The arrests of the Two Michaels on espionage charges has been widely seen in Canada as tit-for-tat retaliation for *your* government's unjustifiable arrest and extradition of Ms. Meng. Many Canadian experts in foreign policy have widely predicted that releasing Meng would result in the release of the Two Michaels and argued therefore for her release.<sup>7</sup>

Instead of railing publicly against China's alleged "hostage diplomacy", I urge you to persuade Prime Minister Trudeau and your cabinet colleagues to drop extradition proceedings against Meng and release her at once.

Please note that I initiated a parliamentary petition, sponsored by NDP MP Niki Ashton, to release Meng Wanzhou: <https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-2857> I have strongly urged Canadians to sign and share it.

Yours truly,

*Henry Evans-Tenbrinke is a long-time labour, Palestinian, and indigenous solidarity activist resident in Hamilton. He is currently an executive member of the Hamilton Coalition To Stop The War. For more information, contact Henry ET: henryevansten@sympatico.ca*