

BOUNDARY PEACE INITIATIVE

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Holding Steady to Mission Statement

By: Executive of the Boundary Peace Initiative

Almost twenty years ago, concern about the proposed invasion of Iraq brought together a number of locals determined to express their opposition. A group of 40, reflecting our community from youth to elders set the seeds. A week later they had grown to 70 and decided to establish a local voice for peace. They formalized the group by setting the group's name, the Boundary Peace Initiative (BPI). To ensure accountability they decided on a Mission Statement, elected an Executive and working groups, developed policy, launched a Newsletter and endeavoured to ensure financial records were accessible, all this by following the guidelines found in the Societies Act, without registering as a Society.

Networking brought affiliations including with the BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition (BCSIPC) who in turn joined the 140 groups making up the Canadian Peace Alliance (CPA) and with whom we shared a focus on non-violence by promoting peaceful resolutions, not military actions; environmental sustainability action on climate change and support for First Nations, Métis & Inuit issues. The BCSIPC and therefore the BPI, disengaged eleven years later over financial issues.

In 2016, the BCSIP affiliated with the Canadian Peace Congress (Congress) Upholding the principles of the BPI and the BCSIPC met many challenges while trying to work congruently with the Congress. In late 2020, circumstances eventually led to a separation of the BPI from the Congress and the BCSIPC, who remain affiliated with the Congress. The decision was at the direction of the executive and membership of the BPI. A determination to hold steady on the BPI's mission statement is the focus of any future efforts.

2020 was a busy year with support for the Wet'suwet'un hereditary chiefs re: pipeline development, restricted access to traditional lands, addressing the attempted coup in Venezuela and Bolivia and other issues. All this followed on the heels of the amazing globally live-streamed 2019 Peace In, Peace Out 24-hr variety show fundraiser. Our Coordinator, Laura Savinkoff, has held us steady, focused and moving forward in our role as Peace Activists.

The BPI has plans for 2021, which include another Peace In, Peace Out! if Covid-19 allows and other activities. To follow our work and access our monthly Newsletter, please go to our website at www.boundarypeaceinitiative.org. If you are interested in contributing personally, financially, or in any other way, please contact Laura at L4peace@telus.net or at 250-442-0434. We are pleased to hear from you.

Remember: Peace lives if we give it space to grow and expand; help us to provide that space.

In Love & Peace,
Executive of the Boundary Peace Initiative

How the TPNW Works

From: ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons)

Dear campaigners,

We're pleased to share with you a new booklet explaining how the TPNW works: https://www.icanw.org/how_the_treaty_works

We hope you'll find this useful as we work to educate the media, parliamentarians and the general public about this major new piece of international law.

It includes sections on:

1. How the treaty came about
2. The activities that are prohibited under the treaty
3. The framework for verifiably eliminating nuclear weapons
4. The framework for assisting victims of nuclear weapons
5. The work to bring all countries on board
6. Arguments for joining the treaty
7. What people can do to help make the treaty work

Kind regards,

Tim

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons Nobel

Peace Laureate 2017

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In war the poor are the first to be killed, in peace the poor are the first to die.

Author Unknown

The only real science is the knowledge of how a person should live his life. And this knowledge is open to everyone.

Leo Tolstoy

Your enemy will pay you back with rage, will make you suffer, but the biggest damage to you will be caused by the rage and hatred existing in your heart. Neither your father, nor your mother, nor all your family can make you more good than your heart can when it forgives and forgets its abuse.

Dhammapada, a book of Buddhist Wisdom

Hibakusha Appeal Signature Campaign

By: Tanaka Terumi

Dear all,

Below I am forwarding the statement of Tanaka Terumi, Co-chair of Nihon Hidankyo and Chair of the Hibakusha Appeal Signature Campaign, about the final number of the signatures collected, over 13.7 million, in acknowledging the worldwide support of the campaign. Thank you for all you have done so far for promoting this campaign. I am very pleased to report this achievement just three days prior to the historic entry-into-force of the nuclear ban treaty. Best regards, Akira Kawasaki

In April 2016, on the call of atomic bomb survivors around the world, the International Signature Campaign in Support of the Appeal of the Hibakusha for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (known as the Hibakusha Appeal) was launched.

Five years on, at the end of 2020 the final count brought the total number of signatures to 13,702,345. We are deeply moved by the fact that so many people both in Japan and abroad added their support to the appeal.

This was made possible by the many proactive initiatives conducted by people in support of the appeal. In particular, regional liaison groups were formed throughout Japan, and collaboration by people from diverse backgrounds over several years was able to raise the movement to a new level.

On 22 January, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) will finally enter into force. From the stage of negotiations of the treaty to the present day, we have submitted the list of signatures on multiple occasions, including to the annual United Nations General Assembly, the TPNW negotiations, and the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The appeal has each time been welcomed at the UN, and has served as an encouragement to government representatives who are promoting the TPNW.

We are now half way along the path to the elimination of nuclear weapons. The remaining half will be challenging, but we are delighted that our efforts have brought us this far. The entry into force of the TPNW is a new starting point for the elimination of nuclear weapons. Let us continue to make use of the networks that have been created through the Hibakusha Appeal, both local and international, and take further steps forward together.

January 15, 2021

International Signature Campaign in Support of the Appeal of the Hibakusha for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons
Chair, Tanaka Terumi

<https://hibakusha-appeal.net/news/20210115/>

Toward a nuclear weapons-free world

From: Peace Quest & Hiroshima Nagasaki Day Coalition

The UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons has been endorsed by 122 nations, and will become international law for more than 51 ratifying States on January 22, 2021. Regrettably, Canada boycotted negotiations in 2017 and has refused to sign or ratify this landmark Treaty.

Nuclear weapons, along with climate change and pandemics are the greatest threats facing human civilization. An exchange of even 1% of the global arsenal of 13,400 nuclear weapons would kill tens of millions of people. It would plunge the planet into a nuclear winter and result in widespread famine, killing billions more.

The world was not adequately prepared for the Covid-19 pandemic. The International Committee of the Red Cross asserts that it is impossible to prepare for nuclear holocaust. Humanity's only hope is prevention through the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Canadians have a right to know, and to hear from our national leaders, how nuclear weapons could impact human health, health care systems, the environment, the economy, the global biosphere and the future of life on earth.

The undersigned, therefore, respectfully call upon the Government of Canada to have Parliament debate the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and to allow the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development to hold public hearings on the Treaty and on Canada's role in advancing global nuclear disarmament.

To view the signatures go to:

<https://www.peacequest.ca/peace-groups-run-3-page-ad-calling-for-nuclear-debate/>

Editor's Note: The Boundary Peace Initiative is among the 100 groups and over 266 individual signatories to this statement as well as a contributor of funds to print this 3-page ad in the Ottawa Hill Times.

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
For info contact Laura at (250) 444-0524 or (250) 442-0434
or email LPeace@telus.net.**

Churches Call for World Free of Nuclear Weapons

By: Canadian Council of Churches (Jan. 19, 2021)

The Honourable Marc Garneau, MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Rob Oliphant, MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs

125 Sussex Drive

Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2

Dear Honourable Marc Garneau and Mr. Rob Oliphant,

The Commission on Justice and Peace of The Canadian Council of Churches urges the government of Canada to sign and ratify the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). In doing so we join our voices with other civil society organizations in Canada and global organizations such as the World Council of Churches (WCC) and other national councils of churches urging their governments to do the same.

For decades, The Canadian Council of Churches has been consistent in our call for a world free of nuclear weapons. Most recently in 2018, the leaders of our 26 member denominations signed a letter to the Prime Minister urging the government to support the treaty.¹ We understand peace to be core to the mission and identity of all the member churches of The Canadian Council of Churches. Peacemaking requires abolishing war and transforming conflict, including eliminating weapons of mass destruction.

On October 24, 2020, the TPNW reached the required 50 ratifications and on January 22, 2021, 90 days after the 50th state ratification, the TPNW will enter into force.

For decades, the CCC has advocated for cooperative efforts to prohibit the development, testing and use of nuclear weapons, and has worked to impress upon the Government of Canada the immorality of nuclear weapons and the need for their total elimination. As a community of churches in Canada, we believe that nuclear weapons are evil and that they present a unique existential threat to humanity. The number of states possessing nuclear weapons continues to grow, and by extension, the possibility of terrorists and other non-state actors acquiring nuclear weapons.

In the early part of 2020, the world as we knew it changed suddenly and radically due to the novel coronavirus pandemic. Thousands are dying every day, up to a quarter of the global population is or has been under some level of confinement, national borders have been closed, and economies ground to a halt. In some parts of the world, public health systems and personnel have been completely overwhelmed.

The impacts of the current global health crisis share similarities with those of any future nuclear attack. Like the COVID-19 pandemic, the health, environmental and economic consequences of a nuclear explosion

(Continued next column)

(From last column) Churches Call for

would not be contained to the city or country where the attack took place. Nuclear tests have demonstrated that radiation can spread into the atmosphere, oceans, plants and animals, and into whole populations. The pandemic has demonstrated – more than ever – how closely linked our economies are, and how interruptions in one place can impact whole chains of production throughout the world. The same consequences could be expected from a nuclear attack anywhere in the world.

But, unlike a pandemic, we know what we have to do to prevent a nuclear attack. We already have the answer in the TPNW, which was adopted by the United Nations in 2017. Now that 50 countries have ratified the TPNW, it will enter into force on January 22, 2021.

We urge our government to use the opportunity of the Treaty entering into force to join the growing community of States which have rejected nuclear weapons entirely. We appeal to you to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

We thank you for your attention and look forward to continued productive engagement by the government in the search for sustainable peace and human security.

Donna Geernaert S.C.

Chair: The Commission on Justice and Peace of The Canadian Council of Churches

CC: Michael Chong, MP, Critic for Foreign Affairs: Conservative Party of Canada

Stéphane Bergeron, MP, Critic for Foreign Affairs, Bloc Québécois

Jack Harris, MP, Critic for Foreign Affairs: New Democratic Party of Canada

Jeff Wheeldon, Critic for Peace and Disarmament: Green Party of Canada

Rev. Stephen

¹ <https://www.councilofchurches.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Canadian-Council-of-Churches-United-Nations-Treaty-on-the-Prohibition-of-Nuclear-Weapons.pdf>

Chinese Bombers Carried Out "Simulated Attack" On USS Roosevelt Carrier Near Taiwan

By: Tyler Durden

Tensions spiked in the South China Sea and near Taiwan over this past weekend and have continued boiling since, after Chinese PLA aircraft made repeat incursions into Taiwan's claimed airspace. In response Taiwan's Air Force scrambled jets in its own 'show of strength' deterrence message, and with the US aircraft carrier USS Roosevelt in the region, China's Defense Ministry [subsequently warned Taipei on Thursday](#) that "independence means war".

A new report in FT that broke overnight now reveals that the Sunday incident **was even more alarming for the prospect of**

(Continued page 4)

WHAT'S UP?

Check out the **Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists** statement as they set the **Doomsday Clock** at **100 seconds to midnight**:

<https://thebulletin.org/doomsday-clock/current-time/>



The BPI looks forward to hosting **Peace In, Peace Out!** on **Sept. 24-25th 2021** at the **Grand Forks USCC Community Centre**, which depends on **Covid-19**. If you have a talent to share contact **Dave** at dave@davesoroka.com or you wish to volunteer, donate to the **Silent Auction** or for information contact **Laura** at L4peace@telus.net.

Watch for the new **BPI Face Book page** where you'll find updates on **Peace In, Peace Out!** and other information including upcoming events and actions and even some general information.

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.

The BPI works with local and global peace, social justice and environmental groups and is an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

Russia's Putin signs law extending New START treaty by five years: Kremlin

By: Reuters Staff

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday signed a law extending the New START nuclear arms control treaty, the last major pact of its kind between Russia and the United States, by five years, the Kremlin said in a statement.

Russia has said the extension will come into effect once the two sides have exchanged diplomatic notes after each completes their domestic procedures. Russia's lower and upper houses of parliament voted to ratify the extension on Wednesday.

Signed in 2010 and due to expire next week, the New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) is a cornerstone of global arms control and limits the numbers of strategic nuclear warheads, missiles and bombers that Russia and the United States can deploy.

Reporting by Gleb Stolyarov and Maria Tsvetkova; Writing by Alexander Marrow; Editing by Hugh Lawson

(From page 3) Chinese Bombers

direct conflict than previously thought. FT cites unnamed intelligence sources [to report that](#) "Chinese military aircraft **simulated missile attacks on a nearby US aircraft carrier** during an incursion into Taiwan's air defense zone three days after Joe Biden's inauguration, according to intelligence from the US and its allies."

We earlier noted that on Sunday Taiwan reported a huge PLA aerial incursion for the second straight day, on Sunday **counting well over a dozen fighter jets that included** six J-10 fighters, four J-16s, two SU-30s, a Y-8 reconnaissance aircraft and two Y-8 anti-submarine aircraft. They were apparently **escorting Chinese H-6 long range bombers.** "Airborne alert sorties had been tasked, radio warnings issued and air defense missile systems deployed to monitor the activity," Taiwan's defense ministry had said.

The FT report adds more previously unknown [context to the incident](#):

*People familiar with intelligence collected by the US and its allies said the bombers and some of the fighter aircraft involved were **conducting an exercise that used a group of US Navy vessels led by the carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt in the same area as a simulated target.***

*Pilots of H-6 bombers could be heard in cockpit conversations confirming **orders for the simulated targeting and release of anti-ship missiles against the carrier,** the people said.*

As the US carrier group observed the inbound Chinese bombers from below, there's little doubt that "fingers were on the trigger" in preparation to respond if all hell broke loose.

An analyst at Taiwan's Institute for National Defense and Security Research cited in the new FT report, Su Tzu-yun, underscored the PLA aircraft are precisely capable of delivering devastating anti-ship missiles.

"The Su-30 [fighters] can carry Kh-31 anti-ship missiles, and the H-6 bombers and J-16 fighters can both carry YJ anti-ship missiles," [said](#) the analyst.

"All three aircraft are clearly a display of threat against surface ships," he added.

There's also little doubt that President Biden has been briefed, and the incident will prove an immense hurdle when it comes to the administration's expressed hopes of improving relations with China following Trump's long-running pressure campaign against Beijing.

This is quite possibly the biggest single act of escalation to date, despite multiple "close calls" and encounters over the past two years in the South China Sea.