

BOUNDARY PEACE INITIATIVE

Earth Day 2023: INVEST IN OUR PLANET

More info at: <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2023/>

Get Inspired. Take Action. Be a part of the green resolution.

For Earth Day 2023, we need to act (boldly), innovate (broadly), and implement (equitably). Businesses, governments, and citizens — everyone accounted for, and everyone accountable. A partnership for the planet.

Every April 22nd, stakeholders of all backgrounds come together to advance sustainability and climate action in commemoration of Earth Day. Our world needs transformation. It's time for the people of the world to hold governments and the private sector accountable for their role in our environmental crisis while also calling for bold, creative, and innovative solutions. This will require action at all levels, from business and investment to city and national government. That's where you come in: as an individual, you yield real power for change through your influence as a consumer, a voter, and a community member. Don't underestimate your power. When your voice and actions are united with millions of others around the world, we can create an inclusive and impactful movement that is impossible to ignore. Throughout April, we commemorate Earth Month with marches, rallies, volunteer events, and more. United together, we'll drive a year of energy, enthusiasm, and commitment to a sustainable and equitable future for our planet.

Suggested actions: Plant trees and gardens; Reduce plastic consumption; create environmentally sustainable homes and businesses; organize a community clean up; use sustainable products including clothing; get involved with advocacy for a clean and safe environment to avert climate change or at least mitigate its effects to local, provincial and federal governments and businesses; learn more about what affects climate change and what you can do to change things.

It's high time to defuse the military carbon bomb--25 Nov 2022

By: Nick Buxton Researcher at the Transnational Institute (Aljazeera)

We cannot tackle climate change, and save our collective future, while increasing military spending.

The annual United Nations climate talks, known as the Conference of Parties (COP), have traditionally promised much but delivered little. This year's COP27 was no different, with most observers noting that it even backtracked on commitments made at COP26 in Glasgow.

What was less observed was that the summit faced a major additional obstacle in 2022. This year, the climate crisis was overshadowed by the war in Ukraine which has been the foreign policy priority of the United States and the European Union since the beginning of Russia's invasion in February.

The difference between the way the world's richest countries responded to the Ukraine war and the carbon war on our whole planet is undoubtedly stark.

Since the beginning of Russia's invasion, the US and its NATO allies provided Ukraine with military assistance worth more than \$25bn, welcomed nearly seven million refugees, and willingly absorbed severe economic shocks caused by energy price increases triggered by the war.

Despite a global recession looming on the horizon, these countries did not hesitate to increase their military expenditure. Germany allocated 100 billion euros (\$104bn) of its 2022 budget for the armed forces, for example, and the US House of Representatives approved a record \$840bn military spending.

Yet at COP27, these same wealthiest nations were not even able to deliver the \$100bn in climate finance that had been promised as far back as 2009 to the world's most climate-vulnerable countries. A recent report co-published by the organisation I work for, the Transnational Institute, found that the richest countries spent \$9.45 trillion on their militaries between 2013 and 2021 compared with an estimated \$234bn on climate finance – in other words, they have spent 30 times as much on the military as climate finance.

After many years of pressure, at COP27, nations finally agreed to create a loss and damage mechanism to provide funds to impoverished countries suffering severe climate

(Continued page 2)



(From page 1) It's high time to defuse the military impacts, but it is so far just an empty pot. The accelerated arms race that has emerged since the Russian invasion and rising US-China tensions signal that filling that pot will not be a priority for most wealthy nations in the near future.

These spending choices matter not just because they are diverting resources from urgently needed climate action, but also because every dollar spent on the military is worsening the climate crisis. Most militaries consume significant amounts of fossil fuels. One estimate calculates that military emissions may make up **5.5 percent** of global emissions. If the global military were a country, it would be the fourth biggest emitter in the world, ahead of Russia.

Furthermore, most of the world's military spending goes towards the purchase of equipment and vehicles that are among the worst offenders when it comes to carbon emissions. In 2022 alone, for example, 475 new F-35 fighter jets, which use a whopping 5,600 litres (1,480 gallons) of oil per hour of flight, have been ordered. These fuel-guzzling planes could be flying for the next 30 years.

The emissions increase even further when war breaks out. The Ukrainian government at COP27 presented research showing that the first eight months of war had already led to 33 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, equivalent to adding 16 million cars to the United Kingdom's roads for two years.

US and UK military chiefs **argue** that they are committed to reducing military emissions, but their plans so far remain undetailed, opaque and unconvincing. Adding solar panels to a military base is easy to do, but does nothing to tackle the main challenge, which is fossil fuel consumption by military jets, ships and tanks. For now, there is no alternative, green fuel that can be produced at the scale needed and without triggering unacceptable social and environmental consequences, such as increased deforestation and the dispossession of Indigenous peoples.

The uncomfortable truth is that there is no way of ensuring that our planet remains habitable in the long term while continuing to increase military spending. In the midst of an intense and brutal war in Ukraine, this fact is too easily lost as governments are able to justify any increases in military spending to deal with the new immediate "threats".

Moreover, the military spending of many rich countries is already way out of proportion to any real or perceived threat. NATO member states, for example, already spend 17 times as much on the military as Russia. The US spends more on its military than the next nine countries combined.

Meanwhile, the world has an ever smaller window to tackle climate change – the most pressing threat to our collective future. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change says the world must cut emissions by 45 percent by 2030 to have any chance at keeping global average temperature increases below 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit). When every month counts, embarking on an accelerated arms race is the worst path the world's most powerful nations can take.

(Continued next column)

(From last column) It's high time to defuse the military

It diverts money and attention from urgent climate action, it increases emissions and it fuels conflicts at a time of increased climate instability.

Climate change can teach us a critical lesson about security. Carbon emissions do not recognise borders. It is not possible for any nation to shield itself from the effects of climate change using tanks or fighter jets. The only way to tackle the climate emergency is through global cooperation. Demilitarisation and peace are the best and perhaps the only ways to ensure that humanity has the capacity and resilience to respond to this crisis.

Only if the world's leaders recognise that uniting to confront the threat of global heating is more important than any imperialist strategy or narrow economic interest, may we have a chance to avoid climate catastrophe. A secure nation in the end depends on a secure planet.

The views expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect Al Jazeera's editorial stance.

Nick Buxton Researcher at the Transnational Institute
Nick Buxton is a researcher at the Transnational Institute and co-editor of *The Secure and the Dispossessed: How the military and corporations are shaping a climate-changed world* (Pluto 2015).

(From last issue) "We Want to Live in Peace!"

The people are sovereign and they demonstrated it last November 28, supporting my victory, the largest in history. And the resistance that fought against the imposed dictatorship during these 13 years accompanied me en masse in the streets this September 15, the day of our independence, casting out the public threats and the custom of delivering national assets to the highest bidder.

Never again will we carry the stereotype of the Banana Republic; we will end the monopolies and oligopolies that only impoverish our economy.

A generous people, who have defended our forests and rivers, will not forget the hundreds of murders of young people and of our comrade Berta Cáceres, nor the forced disappearance of Honduran men and women because of their way of thinking, like the five Garífuna comrades two years ago.

Every millimeter of the homeland that was usurped in the name of the sacrosanct freedom of the market, including the Zones for Employment and Economic Development (Zedes) and other regimes of privilege, was irrigated with the blood of the original peoples. My social and democratic government will return to a state of justice and law, so that this does not happen again.

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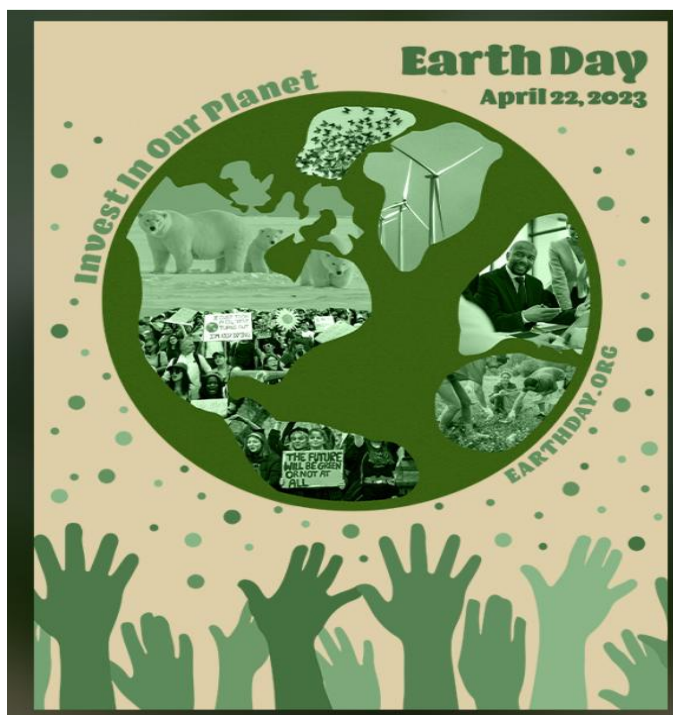
Our Mission

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: L4peace@telus.net.**

UN International Days

- Ap. 4:** International Day for Mine Awareness and assistance in Mine Action (Land Mines)
- Ap. 5:** International Day of Conscience
- Ap. 6:** International Day for Development and Peace
- Ap. 7:** World Water Day
- Ap. 7:** International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda
- Ap. 14:** World Chagas Disease Day
- Ap. 22:** International Mother Earth Day
- Ap. 24:** International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace
- Ap. 26:** International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day



(From page 2) “We Want to Live in Peace!”

We are working hard to prioritize stimulus and the elimination of fiscal abuses. We have already started promoting a law for energy as a public good, the restoration of rights to workers, support for our internal market by investing in agriculture for food security, and subsidizing the poorest so they no longer pay for electricity.

We have proposed renegotiating free trade agreements. We have made the sovereign decision to invest in our development with import substitution, competing in international markets without subsidizing the excesses of developed nations.

For women, who have been denied their inclusion in development for centuries, we will recognize their importance in society as part of its backbone. We will provide health, quality education, security and food sovereignty to our children and youth.

For Honduras, each caravan of migrants fleeing from the dictatorship that was set up for more than a decade is a hard loss for our country and for their families. This exodus, caused by neoliberal injustice, generates more unemployment and binds us to an undesirable dependency.

In our country, paradoxically, emigrants generate more foreign currency income than many of the traditional exports. Our solidarity and accompaniment are with the TPS*** recipients.

In Honduras we cannot continue to support the hypocrisy of a system that now judges a few people for crimes related to drug trafficking, but supported them for more than a decade in the commission of criminal actions, two electoral frauds, and crimes against the homeland and against millions of Hondurans.

For all this, we are going to set up an international commission to combat corruption and impunity with the support of the Secretary General of the United Nations. Honduras will only have a future if it takes firm steps to dismantle the neoliberal economic dictatorship.

That is why we have already begun the refoundation of our homeland and of education with the ideals and values of our national hero, Francisco Morazán Quezada.

*Rentier capitalism describes the economic practice of gaining large profits without contributing to society.

**Lawfare is the use of legal systems and institutions to damage or delegitimize an opponent, or to deter individual's usage of their legal rights.

***Temporary Protected Status (TPS) allows people to live and work in the US for a period when their country is experiences war or environmental disaster.

If only our eyes saw souls instead of bodies. How different our ideas of beauty would be.

Taken from--Humanity

WHAT'S UP?

April 29th—Peace Gathering: 8:30 am @ USCC Community Centre, Grand Forks. Pre-registration required, forms at Grand Forks Public Library, Dave Dale Insurance, USCC Grand Forks office or email: peace.conference.gf@gmail.com

PEACE GATHERING ~2023~



Saturday, April 29
USCC Community Centre
Doors open at 8:30 am
Program 9 am - 4 pm

Sponsored locally by: Baha'i Community, GF Rotary, USCC Organization, Boundary Peace Initiative, the Indigenous community and GFSS Global Citizenship Club.

Keynote Presenters

David Langness – “How You Can Make World Peace a Reality”
Editor, journalist, peace and community advocate

Maria Kliavkoff - “Healthy Conversations in Difficult Times”
Co-chair of Rotary District 5080 Peace Speakers Bureau,
President of Waterton Glacier International Peace Park

Rocio Graham - “Expressing our ‘Piece of Peace’ Through Art”
Multidisciplinary artist and art educator

The program will include music, drumming, an interactive break-out session and a collaborative art project. Lunch will be served: “Borscht and Bannock”

Registration forms are available at the GF Public Library, Dave Dale Insurance, and the USCC office, or email: peace.conference.gf@gmail.com

Registration is required and closes April 25
This is a no-fee event - Donations are appreciated

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 email and phone contact at:
<http://www.canada.gc.ca>

The BPI welcomes your input. Articles 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 an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Peace Pledge Union, Abolition 2000 & CNANW and works with local and many global peace, social justice and environmental groups.

“IN THE TIME OF QUIET”

By: PABLO NERUDA

No one's told the daffodils about the pause to Spring
And no one's told the birds to roost and asked them not to sing
No one's asked the lazy bee to cease his bumbling round
And no one's stopped the bright green shoots emerging
through the ground

No one's told the sap to rest, deep within the wood
And stop the sleepy trees from waking, wreathed about in bud
No one's told the sky to douse its brightest shades of blue
And stop the scudding clouds from puffing headlong into
view

No one's asked the lambs to still the springs beneath their feet,
To stop their rapid rush and quell each joyful bleat
No one's told the stream to halt its gurgle or its flow
And warned the playful breezes, not to gust and blow
No one's asked the raindrops not to fall upon the earth
And fail to quench the soil in the season of rebirth
No one's locked the sun down, or dimmed the shimmer of the
moon

And even in the darkest night, the stars are still immune
Remember what you value, remember who is dear
Close the doors to danger and keep your family near
In the quiet all around us take the time to sit and stare
And wonder at the glory unfurling everywhere
Look towards the future, after the ordeal
And keep faith in Mother Nature's power
And will to heal

Native Americans United

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“Before I was six years old, my grandparents and my mother had taught me that if all the green things that grow were taken from the earth, there could be no life. If all the four-legged creatures were taken from the earth, there could be no life. If all the winged creatures were taken from the earth, there could be no life. If all our relatives who crawl and swim and live within the earth were taken away, there could be no life. But if all the human beings were taken away, life on earth would flourish. That is how insignificant we are.”

Russell Means, Oglala Lakota Nation (November 10, 1939 – October 22, 2012).

The more a person analyzes his inner self, the more insignificant he seems to himself. This is the first lesson of wisdom. Let us be humble, and we will become wise. Let us know our weakness, and it will give us power.

William Ellery Channing