

United Nations International Day of Peace 2022 Theme: End racism. Build peace.

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire.

But achieving true peace entails much more than laying down arms. It requires the building of societies where all members feel that they can flourish. It involves creating a world in which people are treated equally, regardless of their race.

As Secretary-General António Guterres has said:

“Racism continues to poison institutions, social structures, and everyday life in every society. It continues to be a driver of persistent inequality. And it continues to deny people their fundamental human rights. It destabilizes societies, undermines democracies, erodes the legitimacy of governments, and... the linkages between racism and gender inequality are unmistakable.”

As conflicts continue to erupt across the globe, causing people to flee, we have seen race-based discrimination at borders. As COVID-19 keeps attacking our communities, we have seen how certain racial groups have been hit much harder than others. As economies suffer, we have seen hate speech and violence directed at racial minorities.

We all have a role to play in fostering peace. And tackling racism is a crucial way to contribute.

We can work to dismantle the structures that entrench racism in our midst. We can support movements for equality and human rights everywhere. We can speak out against hate speech – both offline and online. We can promote anti-racism through education and reparatory justice.

The 2022 theme for the International Day of Peace is “**End racism. Build peace.**” We invite you to join the efforts of the United Nations as we work towards a

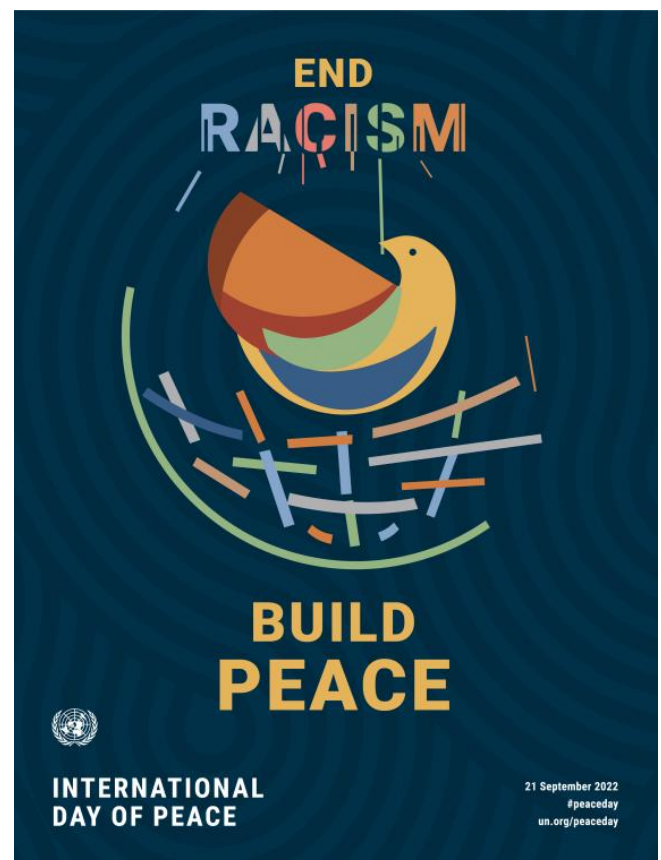
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(From last column) **End racism. Build peace.**

world free of racism and racial discrimination. A world where compassion and empathy overcome suspicion and hatred. A world that we can truly be proud of.

Now is the time for a collective new push for peace and reconciliation. And so I appeal for a stepped-up international effort — led by the Security Council — to achieve a global ceasefire by the end of this year. [...] The world needs a global ceasefire to stop all “hot” conflicts. At the same time, we must do everything to avoid a new Cold War.

Secretary-General António Guterres
SECRETARY-GENERAL



Quotes/Statements from UN International Day of Peace Website

"To silence the guns, we must raise the voices for peace"

Fight Inequality, Fight Racism

Racism, xenophobia and related discrimination and intolerance exist in all societies, everywhere. Racism harms not just the lives of those who endure it, but also society as a whole. We all lose in a society characterized by discrimination, division, distrust, intolerance, and hate. The fight against racism is everyone's fight. We all have a part to play in building a world beyond racism.

Wherever we see racism, we must condemn it without reservation, without hesitation, without qualification.

ANTÓNIO GUTERRES,

United Nations Secretary-General, 2021

No country can claim to be free of racism, racism is a global concern, and tackling it requires a universal effort.

Durbin Declaration and Program of Action (DDPA)

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Every day, each and every one of us can stand up against racial prejudice and disrespectful attitudes.

Let's build a world beyond racism and discrimination, where we all exercise our human rights.

Be a human rights champion! Join us in fighting racism!



9/11 aftermath — A life destroyed by the 'War on Terror'

By: **Monia Mazigh** Sept. 2021: The Ottawa Citizen

In their haste to act, governments swapped the illusion of rights for the illusion of security. And their populations bought into that narrative: you give security to some by grabbing it from others.

*Saturday marks the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on New York City and Washington. In 2002, **Monia Mazigh's** husband, **Maher Arar**, was swept up in the anti-terrorism crackdown that followed — an innocent man flown to Syria where he was imprisoned and tortured before finally being returned to Canada. She writes today about the short and long-term impacts of the War on Terror.*

I remember my mother calling me from Ottawa in September 2002. I was in Tunis with my five-year-old daughter and my eight-month-old son. I was discouraged, confused and exhausted. My husband had disappeared a few days earlier.

"Your wedding picture ...," she said sheepishly. I didn't understand. "It is on the front page of the Ottawa Citizen," she continued. "I hid all the copies I have found at my ESL class ... I didn't want people to know about the case ... My God, what are we going to do?"

She was crying. I was silent listening to her sobbing. The emptiness of the long-distance call was agonizing for both of us.

Shame. Yes, we felt shame. My mother was ashamed that my wedding picture — meant to capture a private, happy moment in our lives — was now being used as public, creepy evidence that my husband, Maher Arar, allegedly associated with al-Qaida, had disappeared. A bearded young man and his young smiling bride with her beige headscarf, now a Muslim couple separated by forced physical distance and skewed international laws.

A life was destroyed. A new one arose. That is what the post-9/11 period meant for my family.

Nineteen years later, I still envision the moment of this phone call in my mind. Over and over.

The year when my husband was arrested by the FBI at John F. Kennedy Airport and subsequently "rendered" to Jordan, then to Syria, was a ghost year for me. Exactly like the "ghost plane" that transported him from New Jersey to Amman. It was a real plane, owned by a shadowy corporation whose registration didn't exist, a stratagem to avoid accountability. A sneaky tool adopted in the "War of Terror" to transport prisoners to torture so nobody could see, nobody could hear, nobody would be held accountable.

Maher was imprisoned and tortured in Syria for almost a year before finally being released. A commission of inquiry in Canada cleared him of any links to terrorism and the government apologized.

But that year was a ghost year for me.

(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

For info contact Laura at (250) 444-0524 or (250) 442-0434 or email: L4peace@telus.net.

UN Days International Days

Sept. 5: International Day of Charity

Sept. 7: International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies

Sept. 12: United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation

Sept. 15: International Day of Democracy

Sept. 16: International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer

Sept. 21: International Day of Peace

Sept. 26: International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

Sept. 29: International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste

Sept. 30: Canadian National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

(From left column) **A life destroyed**

It is time to look at our common humanity and know each other not through bombs, drones or infrared goggles, not through the “clash of civilizations” but rather through common dreams for a better world for our children.

Perhaps, a world where wedding pictures stay safe inside family albums and continue to remind us of happy moments in our lives.

Monia Mazigh is an academic, writer and human rights activist.

(From page 2) **A life destroyed**

I lived through it without realizing the daunting task in front of me. A single mother of two children living on social welfare. The wife of a now-suspected terrorist who split her time between writing letters to politicians, giving interviews to journalists and meeting human rights activists to tell them about my husband's case.

Once an aspiring academic, I realized that my career would never be back on track; my reputation would never be the same as before.

That “before” that I cherished in my worst moments when I watched my children growing up under the cloud of shame and fear. That same “before” that made me believe the illusion that Canada was a country of rights and would protect all its citizens.

Instead, the illusion of rights was swapped for the illusion of security. Security became a commodity sold by governments to their populations. And the populations bought into that narrative. For decades, many believed in it. They gave mandate after mandate to policymakers who issued law after law to “protect us” from “them” — the terrorists. Unbeknownst to some, this illusion of security was built by confiscating and violating the rights of the “others.” You give security to some by grabbing it from others. ... *the illusion of rights was swapped for the illusion of security.*

We were the “others.” Four governments conspired to “erase” my husband's rights: Canada, the U.S., Jordan and Syria. These governments had never previously totally agreed on common values, but they arrested, rendered in the middle of the night, tortured, blindfolded and imprisoned in dungeons without charges. Cooperation in the age of the “War on Terror.”

That same sort of cooperation in the “War on Terror” killed — both directly and indirectly — close to two million people, the majority in Muslim countries, and created 38 million refugees and displaced persons worldwide.

At home, it started with Bill C-36, the first anti-terrorism legislation in Canada, passed by the Jean Chrétien government in 2001, and ended with Bill C-51, the anti-terrorism act 2.0 version passed by Stephen Harper in 2015. Each time a bill like this is made into law, a right is taken from some groups to satisfy the rest. At the beginning, the evil had one image: Muslim terrorists. But over the years, it has become anyone who challenges prevailing norms. Environmental groups? Charitable organizations? Indigenous groups? Gradually, they became the “other.” A perfect recipe for a polarized world. A scary world.

With the fall of Kabul into the hands of the Taliban and thousands of questions in the minds of many about the future of the civilians, very few words have been said about the human consequences of the “War on Terror.” Was it really worth it? Did it make our world a better place?

Perhaps after 20 years of craziness and devastation, it is time to properly examine this orgy of destruction and abuse.

(Continued column on right)

WHAT'S UP?

Rotary Club **Peace Stone**: the article here explains the event although it may be over by the time you read the Newsletter.

Sept. 21st @ 6 pm for
International Day of Peace @ the
USCC Cultural Center in
Castlegar, B.C.

**Sept. 24th @ 1 pm @ Grand
Forks Public Library Meeting
Room**; panel and interactive
discussion on International Day of
Peace to
End Racism! Build Peace!



Check out **Nagasaki Day Report** on the
BPI website at:
www.boundarypeaceinitiative.org

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
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, Stop Ecocide Canada,
Abolition 2000 & CNANW and works
with local and global peace, social
justice and environmental groups.



Rotarians
Working For
World Peace 2040



August 11, 2022

The Rotary Club of Grand Forks invites you to participate, with us, in a Peace Stone dedication ceremony on Friday, September 2, 2022, at 4:30 pm at the west end of Lois Haggan Park (located on the west side of the City Hall). We are delighted to be part of the official 125 Year Celebration of the City of Grand Forks.

As a humanitarian organization, peace is a cornerstone of Rotary International's mission. We believe when people work to create peace in their communities, that change can have a global effect.

By carrying out service projects and supporting peace fellowships and scholarships, our members take action to address the underlying causes of conflict, including poverty, discrimination, ethnic tension, lack of access to education, and unequal distribution of resources.

Our commitment to peace building today answers new challenges: how we can make the greatest possible impact and how we can achieve our vision of lasting change. We are approaching the concept of peace with greater cohesion and inclusivity, broadening the scope of what we mean by peace building, and finding more ways for people to get involved.

Rotary creates environments where peace can happen.

Today, a Peace Pole/Stone Monument is an internationally recognized symbol of the hopes and dreams of the entire human family.

As Rotarians, we refuse to accept conflict as a way of life. Through our service projects and community outreach, we are taking action to address the underlying causes of conflict. Sometimes, it's just a matter of using the right words.

A Peace Pole/Peace Stone is a monument declaring the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in the language of the country in which it is planted and usually several other languages. Peace Poles were created in 1955 in Japan by Masahisa Goi, in wake of the destruction wrought by World War II and the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Devastated by the repercussions of war, Goi wished to spread a message of peace worldwide

The power of the message lies in its capacity to bring people of various cultures, faith traditions and political ideals together as one united global heart and mind. May Peace Prevail On Earth, allows us to sincerely focus on our mutual desire to serve, create and manifest true peace on earth while transcending our differences and celebrating our common humanity.

Dedicating our Peace Stone is a simple yet powerful step toward opening the doors for peaceful community dialogue and your participation will greatly strengthen the vision and actions throughout our community and ultimately, the world.

Your participation can be as simple as attending the Ceremony on Friday, September 2, 2022 at 4:30 pm.

Through our interaction with the City of Grand Forks, it has been determined that we will be 'planting' a Peace Stone in Lois Haggan Park.

The Rotary Club of Grand Forks looks forward to welcoming your participation in our community event. Please contact me, Don Colclough (dsc@nethop.net) or our Peace builder Committee Chair, Maxine Ruzicka (maxruz@telus.net), at your earliest convenience if you are able to join us.

Warmest regards,
Don Colclough,
President, Rotary Club of Grand Forks