

## Boundary Peace Initiative Meets with MP, Richard Cannings.

From: The BPI Committee on Palestine

On December 18th, a few members of the Boundary Peace Initiative (BPI), had the opportunity to meet with NDP Member of Parliament for South Okanagan—West Kootenay, Richard Cannings.

The BPI, a few weeks ago, submitted a petition calling for a humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza to Mr. Cannings. Because of a Conservative filibuster, Mr. Cannings was unable to speak to the petition in the House of Commons, but he tabled it and is awaiting a response from the government. If a further petition comes his way, Mr. Cannings will fulfill his obligation to his constituents and speak to it in the House when Parliament resumes in February.

The NDP Caucus, we've been informed, voted unanimously to endorse a Ceasefire in Gaza and NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh has sent an open letter to the Prime Minister that can be found at [www.ndp.ca/news](http://www.ndp.ca/news) Gaza. Heather McPherson the NDP Critic for Foreign Affairs, and International Development presented a compelling statement to Parliament asking for a Ceasefire and has continued to repeatedly press the Government; her speeches can be viewed on *YouTube* at *Heather McPherson Gaza*.

Daily the world is witnessing the war crimes that are being committed on the Palestinian people. Over 20,000 have been killed—two thirds women and children and thousands are unaccounted for under the rubble and over have been 50,000 wounded, included in the death toll are at least 90 Journalists, 238 Health Care workers, 135 UN workers at present but the numbers keep climbing every day. The continuous bombing of hospitals, schools, churches, mosques, institutions and infrastructure leaves over 2 million homeless. Forced evacuation of thousands to 'safe zone' become unsafe very quickly. Palestinians are being deprived of clean water, food and medicine along with no sanitation thus creating a condition for disease and death of even more people—a whole people are being eliminated. Is this not Genocide?

In the West Bank Zionist settlements keep popping up despite the UN designating them illegal.

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(From last column) **MP, Richard Cannings.**

These settlers attack Palestinians with impunity. Houses are demolished by bulldozers and tanks as settlers and soldiers shoot at children. Palestinians are regularly arrested, including children as young as 12 years old with many held indefinitely without charges.

This war between Palestine and Israel can never bring peace to the region, only more suffering and distrust, more war. The healing can begin with an immediate and permanent Ceasefire and negotiations to resolve the issues plaguing the region for the last 75 years.

If you would like to see the end of war in Palestine, please write to the Prime Minister, Member of Parliament Richard Cannings or any other MP. Postage is free and the address is: *Name of MP or the PM*, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6. Or email the Prime Minister at [justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca) or MP Richard Cannings at [richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca](mailto:richard.cannings@parl.gc.ca). Write letters to the Editor of your local paper and post to social media. These are actions each of us can take to have our voice heard.

Watch for further actions by the BPI and participate to join our voices together for peace.

For More information contact Laura at [l4peace@telus.net](mailto:l4peace@telus.net) or by phone at 250-444-0524 or 250-442-0434.

## *How can we call ourselves civilized and watch this happen?*

Those who love peace must learn to organize as effectively as those who love war."

*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

The deeds of a person become his life, become his fate. This is the law of our life.

*Leo Tolstoy*

If all knowledge were good, then pursuit of every sort of knowledge would be useful. But many false meditations are disguised as good and useful knowledge; therefore, be strict in selecting the knowledge you want to acquire.

*Leo Tolstoy*

## **A Plea for an end to War in Palestine**

**To: Prime Minister Justine Trudeau: add name of your MP as well**

The latest round of violence in the occupied Palestinian territories has caused death and destruction at a rate that surpasses the world's deadliest wars in history. By now, more than 20,000 civilian Palestinians have been killed. Mostly women and children, these numbers include medical staff, doctors, nurses, and ambulance drivers. Also, many civil service members were killed; firemen often rushed into bombed buildings to rescue survivors, if they could find any, only to get bombed again by American-made bombs. Teachers and even United Nations employees and diplomatic envoys did not escape the onslaught. The genocide committed by the Israeli forces backed by US, UK, Canada, Australia, and Germany, to name a few, is in its third month, and the way things are going it's looking likely to continue into the year 2024.

While people around the world are getting ready to welcome a new year with festivities, Israeli forces continue to bomb Palestinian hospitals, clinics, schools, bakeries, and all signs of life in the occupied Palestinian territories. This is not limited to Gaza; this Israeli criminal conduct is carried out regularly in the occupied West Bank as well.

Canada proclaims itself to be a country of laws. Canada is a signatory to the Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Act, which is designed to prosecute those individuals and organizations involved in such crimes. Canada went further by implementing this into domestic law. There have been people charged in Canada under this section.

It is the opinion of NGOs such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, which are entrusted with looking into and keeping track of such violations, that Israel committed war crimes during the last few months in Gaza. The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) called on Israel to respect the international rules of war and said he was accelerating his investigation into violence by Israeli settlers against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank.

"In Gaza, there is no justification for doctors to perform operations without light, for children to be operated upon without anaesthetics. Imagine the pain," ICC prosecutor Karim Khan stated.

These crimes committed by Israel include but are not limited to:

-**War crimes** in the form of murder, extermination, deportation, imprisonment, torture, and persecution. The evidence for these crimes is documented daily by media, international NGOs, and world governments. Many UN council meetings have been held in order to stop them, only to be thwarted by the blood-thirsty US with its veto powers. Not surprising as US President Joe Biden is a self-proclaimed Zionist.

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## **(From last column) A Plea for an end to War**

- **Genocide** means an act or omission committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, an identifiable group of persons. Many statements been made by a plethora of Israeli officials and from the varying levels of the government, including the disgraced Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, declaring their intent to do this very act. To date, the Israeli mercenaries have been carrying out the Israeli government's orders.

It was considered whether to include the sections and articles that Israel has violated in this Act, but there is not one section of this act that has not been desecrated.

This brings us to the importance of this letter: If Canada is a country of laws, then all these companies offering financial support to the entity committing these crimes should cease their action. In all honesty, they should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Furthermore, many Israelis are dual citizens and some have left Canada to fight alongside the Israeli forces; the very forces committing genocide and crimes against humanity and war crimes. Upon return to this country these mercenaries should be arrested and prosecuted. Judging by the high number of Palestinian children murdered at the hands of the Israeli forces, the returning combatants would have most certainly killed children and I would not feel that Canadian streets, schools, and hospitals will be safe with these criminals who bombed such places with impunity walking around.

While Canada and South Africa sit far apart geographically and politically, they share a common vestige. South Africa is well-situated to identify apartheid practices with the world organizations and governments recognizing the ongoing genocide. On December 18, South Africa moved to warn its citizens who have gone to fight alongside the Israeli forces that they will be prosecuted upon return. It is time for Canada to step up and do the right thing too. For the past few decades, Canada has lost its way on the world stage. It's time to get back on the right side of history. It is time to do all we can to stop this genocide and bring those who perpetrated it to justice.

*Ed. Update: South Africa, supported by Malaysia has referred Israel to the International Court of Justice charged with Genocide. The court will convene the week of January 8, 2024.*

**Prime Minister and MPs address: Name, 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>**

### 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)

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

### UN International Days

**Jan. 24:** International Day of Education

**Jan. 26:** International Day of Clean Energy

**Jan. 27:** International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the victims of the Holocaust

### Today, I am Taking Side

*By Rabbi Irwin Keller (October 17, 2023)*

Today I am taking sides.  
I am taking the side of Peace.  
Peace, which I will not abandon  
even when its voice is drowned out  
by hurt and hatred,  
bitterness of loss,  
cries of right and wrong.  
I am taking the side of Peace  
whose name has barely been spoken  
in this winnerless war.  
I will hold Peace in my arms,  
and share my body's breath,  
lest Peace be added  
to the body count.  
I will call for de-escalation  
even when I want nothing more  
than to get even.  
I will do it  
in the service of Peace.  
I will make a clearing  
in the overgrown  
thicket of cause and effect  
so Peace can breathe  
for a minute  
and reach for the sky.  
I will do what I must  
to save the life of Peace.  
I will breathe through tears.  
I will swallow pride.  
I will bite my tongue.  
I will offer love  
without testing for deservingness.  
So don't ask me to wave a flag today  
unless it is the flag of Peace.  
Don't ask me to sing an anthem  
unless it is a song of Peace.  
Don't ask me to take sides  
unless it is the side of Peace.

### Pope Francis blasts the weapons industry as he makes a Christmas appeal for peace in the world

From: The Associated Press: Dec. 25, 2023

ROME - Pope Francis on Monday blasted the weapons industry and its "instruments of death" that fuel wars as he made a Christmas Day appeal for peace in the world and in particular between Israel and the Palestinians.

Speaking from the loggia of St. Peter's Basilica to the throngs of people below, Francis said he grieved the "abominable attack" of Hamas against southern Israel on Oct. 7 and called for the release of hostages. And he begged for an end to Israel's military campaign in Gaza and the "appalling harvest of innocent civilians" as he called for humanitarian aid to reach those in need.

Francis devoted his Christmas Day blessing to a call for peace in the world, noting that the biblical story of the birth of Christ in Bethlehem sent a message of peace. But he said that Bethlehem "is a place of sorrow and silence" this year.

Francis' annual "Urbi et Orbi" ("To the City and the World") speech typically offers a lament of all the misery facing the world, and this year's edition was no different. From Armenia and Azerbaijan to Syria and Yemen, Ukraine to South Sudan and Congo and the Korean peninsula, Francis appealed for humanitarian initiatives, dialogue and security to prevail over violence and death.

He called for governments and people of goodwill in the Americas in particular to address the "troubling phenomenon" of migration and its "unscrupulous traffickers" who take advantage of innocents just looking for a better life.

He took particular aim at the weapons industry, which he said was fuelling the conflicts around the globe with scarcely anyone paying attention.

"It should be talked about and written about, so as to bring to light the interests and the profits that move the puppet strings of war," he said. "And how can we even speak of peace, when arms production, sales and trade are on the rise?"

Francis has frequently blasted the weapons industry as "merchants of death" and has said that wars today, in Ukraine, in particular, are being used to try out new weapons or use up old stockpiles.

He called for peace between Israel and Palestinians, and for the conflict to be resolved "through sincere and persevering dialogue between the parties, sustained by strong political will and the support of the international community."

## WHAT'S UP?

A New Petition calling for an Immediate and Permanent Ceasefire in Palestine/Israel will be circulated, so watch for it.

In this issue is a **Letter** on the Palestine/Israel issue that we encourage you to send to your MP, the Prime Minister and your local media. It will be available on our Website to print out or email Laura at [L4peace@telus.net](mailto:L4peace@telus.net) for a copy. You can add content to make it more personal or send as is. The BPI Committee on Palestine/Israel encourages you to voice your concern. Our website address is: [www.boundarypeaceinitiative.org](http://www.boundarypeaceinitiative.org).

A **Conference** with panelists from International Jewish Vocies for Peace-- Vancouver, Canadian Boat to Gaza, and the BPI is planned for **March**. Watch for details. Come learn about the history of Palestine/Israel and actions taken and to be taken by these long time activist organizations.

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](mailto:L4peace@telus.net).

The BPI is an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Peace Pledge Union, Abolition 2000, CNANW and works with various local and global peace, social justice and environmental groups such as Jewish Voices for Peace.

## Broken. A Plea for Immediate Ceasefire in Palestine

By: S.G. Shore

Today the world is broken.  
It is broken in half.  
It is broken in quarters.  
It is completely shattered.

Citizens slaughtered  
Children fleeing, tears streaming down  
dusty cheeks, running through bombed streets  
Children trapped under bombed rubble, women screaming  
arms raised to the heavens

Meanwhile we watch in horror  
on flickering screens that spew American foreign policy  
Today we judge  
and take sides and rant and debate  
and feel our hearts bleeding and our guts wrenching  
Today they are not us  
Today we are safe  
Today we have a buffer zone  
Of wealth, of water, of food, of safety, of health care, of family, of rest

Today we watch screens and decide who is the worst monster  
The baby killers, kidnappers, murderers or  
The bomb droppers, murderers, baby killers  
One hundred recent years of conflict  
The world's largest concentration camp  
is quickly becoming the world's largest grave

And feeling helpless and torn we may even  
shed a few tears  
And send money to the Red Cross or anyone who says they will help  
Yet most assistance is futile  
Because war is always more profitable  
than an innocent child's life

The monsters in power, the military monsters,  
the fourth largest army in the world  
have decided to eliminate, to liquidate  
an entire people  
In retaliation to a horror, and so  
have become the monster they most fear  
Apartheid is still apartheid.  
A genocide is still a genocide.

I don't know what to do with this pain  
There is a line in the sand that  
has already been crossed,  
humanitarian blockades and collective punishments are war crimes  
Hopes and prayers, hopes and prayers  
Hope to comfort but are useless now

Today this is not a war.

Today this is a massacre.