

**PROJECT
PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY**

Peace News

WWW.PLOUGHSHARESCALGARY.CA

APRIL 2007



**WE ARE
LOCATED:
PARKDALE
UNITED
CHURCH**

**2919 8 AVE
NW**

270-7366

**OFFICE
@PLOUGHSHARES
CALGARY.CA**

VISIT US:

MON, TUE, THURS

10:30-2:30

WED 2-6PM

Global Security Threats

with Dr. Paul Rogers (recorded talk)

April 11th 7:30pm Parkdale United Church

Dr. Paul Rogers, eminent peace scholar from Bradford University gave a talk at the Ploughshares National 30th anniversary on Global security threats. His talk focuses on the inter-related global tensions of limited resources,

the disparity between rich and poor and the effects of climate change and how all of this is contributing to the conflicts around the world.

If you want a big picture view of what's happening in our world, This will be it.

A recorded video and audio presentation.



Relieving Global Tensions: Iran & Sudan

Please post or distribute inserted brochure. And Register today for this important workshop on relieving global tensions in areas of regional conflict.

Our speakers include:
Dr. Jim Whitman from Bradford
And
Dr. Mike Wallace from UBC



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Iraq in Fragments: PeaceFilm Screening

The Consortium for Peace Studies in collaboration with Project Ploughshares:

Date: Wednesday April 4 at 7 p.m.

Location: ST 143 (Social Sciences Bldg) University of Calgary
(2007 Oscar-nominee in the documentary category)

This 1.5 hr. film follows the life of ordinary Iraqis living under the American occupation-
-first in Bagdad, then in the Shia south, and finally in the Kurdish region in the north.

PeacePlay

The Consortium for Peace Studies in collaboration with the Department of Drama and the Faculty of Fine Arts announces the winner of the inaugural PeacePlay competition and the official play reading event hosted by the Taking Flight Festival:

Winner: Darrah Teitel, Montreal playwright, for her play- Corpus

Event: Official play reading and reception to follow

When: Tuesday, April 3rd, 2007 @ 7:30pm, University of Calgary

Where: Boris Roubakine Recital Hall, (Craigie Hall, room C105),

For more information contact 220-2136 or www.ucalgary.ca/~peaceuc/

Art of Peace Day Camp

Day camp for kids 9-13 July 9-13th 9am noon \$50/child for the week music art and acting

For more information www.carolynpogue.ca Call Carolyn at 228-1791

Linda McQuaig

The Parkland Institute presents Linda McQuaig and her new book

Holding the Bully's Coat: Canada and the US Empire

Thursday, May 10

Location To Be Announced Call Julie for details 270-9669

Ploughshares Calgary News

Poets for Peace

We had a great turn out at the Ironwood for the poets for peace with eight poets and three musicians. The inspiring poems spoke for themselves about how deeply war affects and transforms us all. A special thanks to everyone who contributed their poetry and work to make this event happen. One of the poems is included on the back page of this newsletter.

Our poets for Peace were: Dijla Al-Rekabi, Weyman Chan, Richard Harrison, Ismail Khurasanpoor, Jaspreet Singh, Dena Shlah, Lori Villebrun and Sheri-D Wilson

Our Musicians for Peace were: Linda Holden, Kristen Martel and Danielle French

**The Spring 2007 Ploughshares Monitor is now available
on the Ploughshares website www.ploughshares.ca**

Global News

North Korea & US Reach Agreement

After a standoff of almost five years, the United States and North Korea have reached an agreement on taking steps toward the dismantlement of North Korea's nuclear production facilities. On Tuesday, 13 February, chief US negotiator Christopher R. Hill and North Korean negotiator Kim Kye-gwan agreed that the US would supply energy aid to North Korea in exchange for shutting down the Yongbyon nuclear facility and allowing inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency. The US will supply 50,000 tons of heavy fuel oil for the Yongbyon reactor. It will provide an additional 950,000 tons of fuel if North Korea declares and disables its nuclear facilities. The total cost of the fuel is estimated at \$320 million. Source: "Kim, Jack and Chris Buckley, "North Korea nuclear talks poised for accord," Reuters, February 13, 2007.

Media dragged into Afghan conflict

Propaganda has always played an important part in war, but in Afghanistan the battles between NATO forces and the Taliban are being fought not just in the deserts and valleys but in the media. When the war is about hearts and minds, winning public opinion is the be-all and end-all, and there's quite a temptation to interfere in a country with a now thriving media... Last summer, a document was circulated to journalists by intelligence officers, and they were urged to sign up to an order banning criticism of the NATO mission, or of representing the Afghan armed forces as "weak", or leading news bulletins with "terrorist activities" or filming or interviewing "terrorist commanders". The proposed rules and regulations came to nothing, but there was fear among the Afghan media that this was a glimpse of what was to come. Source: Alastair Leithead *Kabul correspondent* BBC NEWS: http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/south_asia/6439121.stm 2007/03/11

Blair forced to rely on Tories for victory in Trident vote

Labour MPs opposed to early modernisation of Britain's Trident nuclear fleet forced Tony Blair to rely on Conservative support to the policy through a divided House of Commons. Ninety-five Labour MP anti-Trident rebels joined forces with Liberal Democrats, most Nationalist MPs and a few Tories in voting either to delay a decision to build three or four new submarines until after 2014 or to abandon the UK's nuclear arm completely. It was defeated with Tory support. The motion in favour of building new Trident submarines passed. Source: March 12, 2007 [The Guardian](#) & March 15 [TheIndependent](#)

Sudan Orchestrated Darfur Crimes: U.N.

A U.N. human rights mission accused Sudan's government of orchestrating and taking part in gross violations in Darfur and called for urgent international action to protect civilians there. The team, led by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Jody Williams, was dispatched by the United Nations Human Rights Council to investigate charges of widespread abuse in Sudan's vast western region, where observers say some 200,000 people have been killed since a revolt broke out in 2003. While rebel groups were also guilty of serious abuses, the "principal pattern is one of a violent counterinsurgency campaign" being waged by government forces and their militia allies, the so-called Janjaweed, the report said. Source: *Mail and Guardian* March 13



Project Ploughshares Calgary

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Special Thanks to Sylvia Hawkins,
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reading and editing this issue!

**Yes! I want to become a Project Ploughshares
Calgary donor and partner in building peace.**

Here is my one time donation

\$25 ___ (includes 1 yr to newsletter)

\$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$500 ___ Other \$ ___

I'd like to become a Friend of Ploughshares

And give a monthly donation

(include void cheque)

___ \$10 ___ \$15 ___ \$20 ___ \$25 Other \$ ___

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

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The Pond by Dijla Al-Rekabi

On the bank of the Euphrates,
About the pond, I complained.
The largest pond my eyes ever seen,
Calm, cold, dark and filthy

By the edge, I kneeled down and at the water I starred
But before I touched it,
Dijla's reflection looked back at me
Water lost in water,
Sighs hugged with comfort sighs

Not long later, waves moved towards me
Along with that, stinky smell rode those waves
In that pond, across from me,
A woman was washing cloth diapers

But wait! I haven't! I screamed...
As she took the cloth and slammed it on the water face,
The waves were moving faster towards me,
But wait, I haven't I screamed....
No use she can't hear

Hesitantly, yet quickly, I grabbed some
water with my hands
It was filthy, stinky and muddy,
But, before it touched my lips, I realized
I could not....
I could not...
I could not....
See Dijla's face again

At the pond,
To the Euphrates about the Tigris
I complained

I wrote this poem when I was thirteen years and a half when escaping Iraq during the First Gulf War in 1991. In the way, we stopped by this pond wanting to have a drink of water. The only words you may not understand the reference of here is Dijla. Dijla is the Arabic name of the Tigris River.