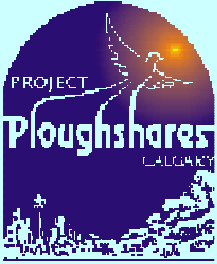


**PROJECT  
PLOUGHSHARES  
CALGARY**

# Peace News

**JUNE 2009**



**We are located:  
Parkdale United  
Church  
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**Office hours:  
Mon, Tue, Thurs  
10:30am - 3pm  
Wed 2 - 6pm**

## **Information on the Cuban Five and Ploughshares' AGM Wednesday June 10th 7:30pm Parkdale United Church**

Ploughshares' June monthly public meeting will begin with a presentation on the Cuban Five by Rick Collier and others from the Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association (CCFA).

In the mid-1990s, five Cuban men (Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González) infiltrated several counter-revolutionary 'terrorist' organizations in Miami; in 1998 they were arrested by the FBI, falsely accused of espionage, conspiracy, and murder, and in a prolonged and flawed trial sentenced to lengthy prison terms. During their incarceration, The Five have repeatedly suffered cruel and unusual punishment inflicted without provocation, one aspect of which is being denied family visits. Both Amnesty International and the UN have complained of this treatment. CCFA representatives will bring the audience up to date on the appeals of the last eight years, show selected portions of two poignant videos, and speculate on what Obama's tentative easing of the 50 year embargo of Cuba might portend.



The evening will conclude with Ploughshares' Annual General Meeting which always includes a brief overview of the past program year, a review of the organization's financial status and the introduction of the executive board members for the 2009-2010 program year.

### **Report from Ploughshares May meeting**

Around 25 people attended Dr. Susan Ross's excellent talk and discussion on "Resistance to News Narratives of War." Dr. Ross presented information and research pertaining to the topic of terrorism in the US since 9/11. She argued that the media is to blame behind an increased global fear surrounding terrorism as the media is what is the intermediary between people around the world—the media is often the constructor of our reality. And the media has focused on the topic of terrorism because government elites have created and maintained this focus by releasing and withholding information to retain control and power.

Dr. Ross suggested that we:

1. Create parallel networks of peace communication.
2. Work with the media to share a different perspective.
3. Monitor the media and talk about the problems we see there.
4. Give timely and pointed feedback to the media using all methods of interaction that the media offer us.

Thanks to Dr. Ross and to the Consortium for Peace Studies at the University of Calgary for inviting her as the 2008-09 Research Fellow.

# Ploughshares Calgary News



## Calgary Mayor signs Cities Appeal in support of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol

As a member of the international Mayors for Peace Campaign, in early May 2009, Mayor Bronconnier signed on to this Protocol which is complementary to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons for achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world by the year 2020. Currently there are 744 signatories from 48 countries who:

- Call upon all people to contribute to the preparations for the UN Decade for Disarmament [2010-2020];
- Pledge to do our utmost to ensure that it will be a decisive decade for nuclear disarmament;
- Call upon the State Parties to the NPT to ensure that the current NPT review process lays the foundation for actual nuclear disarmament during the UN Disarmament Decade and, to that end, urge each Head of Government to lead the government delegation to the 2010 Review Conference and to include in the delegation at least one representative of the nation's cities;
- Recommend for the immediate consideration of all States, not least each of our own, the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol as a direct means of fulfilling the promise of the NPT by the year 2020, thereby meeting the obligation found by the International Court of Justice "to conclude negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspect under strict and effective international control;"
- Challenge all States to adopt the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol without delay and to undertake in good faith to present to the 65th General Assembly in September 2010 the envisioned Nuclear Weapons Convention or Framework Agreement.

More information on the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol is available at: [www.2020visioncampaign.org](http://www.2020visioncampaign.org)

# Ploughshares National News

## Project Ploughshares to manage international civil society efforts in support of an Arms Trade Treaty

Project Ploughshares announced late April that it will manage a one-year program to support international civil society efforts to achieve an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) of the United Kingdom is contributing £323,000 from its Strategic Programme Fund, with an option to renew the funding for a second year. The UK funds will support training for NGOs and allow them to participate directly in activities at the UN and at meetings of states in the Middle East and in Southeast Asia sponsored by the European Union. Support will also be available for civil society efforts in India. Senior Program Associate Ken Epps will manage the program in collaboration with other members of the NGO ATT Steering Committee (members include Amnesty International, the Arias Foundation of Costa Rica, Oxfam, Viva Rio of Brazil, and the International Action Network on Small Arms).

The overwhelming majority of United Nations (UN) member states agree that an Arms Trade Treaty is needed to control the trade in conventional arms so that transfers that aggravate armed conflicts and human rights violations are stopped. The United Kingdom has taken a leading role among states in the campaign to secure an ATT through the UN. This financial support is an acknowledgement of the key role that civil society played in the successful disarmament negotiations that resulted in the Mine Ban Treaty of 1997 (the Ottawa Convention) and the Convention on Cluster Munitions in 2008.

## Responding to North Korea's Nuclear Brinkmanship

*Excerpts from Ernie Regehr's May 27th Disarming Conflict blog entry: [www.cigionline.org/publications/blogs/disarmingconflict](http://www.cigionline.org/publications/blogs/disarmingconflict)*

Clearly, North Korea's actions are a grave challenge to international peace and security and must be reversed. One of the more urgent concerns is that it will expand its role as a clandestine supplier of technology and materials. But the regime is not about to become a direct or imminent nuclear threat to anyone.

Now is the time to move decisively forward with building up the universal and legal nonproliferation infrastructure that must finally treat all states the same and that is an essential vehicle for reining in recalcitrant regimes. The next two essential additions to the nonproliferation regime are entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and negotiation of a fissile materials treaty (FMT).

Effective long-term engagement, multilaterally and bilaterally, will eschew panic, but it must also be rigidly principled – the most fundamental principle in this context being that North Korea's pursuit of a nuclear weapon cannot be tolerated, and under no circumstances can there be normalization with a nuclear North Korea.

# Global News

## Mohamed ElBaradei warns of new nuclear age

The number of potential nuclear weapons states could more than double in a few years unless the major powers take radical steps towards disarmament, the head of the UN's nuclear watchdog has warned. ElBaradei, the outgoing director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said the current international regime limiting the spread of nuclear weapons was in danger of falling apart under its own inequity.

The IAEA director general is the custodian of a global arms control regime that is increasingly beleaguered. It was built around the 1970 nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) and the goal of restricting membership of the nuclear club to five postwar powers. It has been under strain in the last four decades, with Israel, India, Pakistan and North Korea developing weapons outside the NPT. But now ElBaradei says the system is in danger of collapse, with an abrupt spread in nuclear weapons technology. "We still live in a world where if you have nuclear weapons, you are buying power, you are buying insurance against attack. That is not lost on those who do not have nuclear weapons, particularly in [conflict] regions."

He predicted that the next wave of proliferation would involve "virtual nuclear weapons states", who can produce plutonium or highly enriched uranium and possess the knowhow to make warheads, but who stop just short of assembling a weapon. They would therefore remain technically compliant with the NPT while being within a couple of months of deploying and using a nuclear weapon.

"This is the phenomenon we see now and what people worry about in Iran. And this phenomenon goes much beyond Iran. Pretty soon ... you will have nine weapons states and probably another 10 or 20 virtual weapons states." ElBaradei pointed to the spread of uranium enrichment technology around the world, but he was most concerned about the Middle East. "When you see a lot of concern about the Middle East, it's a result of people feeling totally repressed by their own government and feeling unjustly treated by the outside world. This combination makes it a ticking bomb."

ElBaradei described the acquisition of nuclear weapons by a terrorist group as the greatest threat facing the world, and pointed to the rise of the Taliban in Pakistan: "We are worried because there is a war in a country with nuclear weapons. We are worried because we still have 200 cases of illicit trafficking of nuclear material a year reported to us."

He argued that the only way back from the nuclear abyss was for the established nuclear powers to fulfill their NPT obligations and disarm as rapidly as possible. He said it was essential to generate momentum in that direction before the NPT comes up for review next April in New York. "There's a lot of work to be done but there are a lot of things we can do right away," ElBaradei said. "Slash the 27,000 warheads we have, 95% of which are in Russia and the US. You can easily slash [the arsenals] to 1,000 each, or even 500."

Only deep strategic cuts, coupled with internationally agreed bans on nuclear tests and on the production of weapons-grade fissile material, could restore the world's faith in arms control, he argued. "If some of this concrete action is taken before the NPT [conference], you would have a completely different environment. All these so-called virtual weapons states, or virtual wannabe weapons states, will think twice ... because then the major powers will have the moral authority to go after them and say: 'We are doing our part of the bargain. Now it is up to you.'"

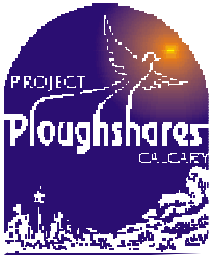
The Guardian, Julian Borger, Thursday 14 May 2009

## Controversial CANSEC arms show opens at Lansdowne Park

The controversial international CANSEC arms show hosted by the Canadian Association of Defence and Security Studies (CADSI) is being held at Lansdowne Park in the city of Ottawa May 27-28. The shows opening Wednesday morning was met by protests and demonstrations from numerous peace and religious groups, including 75 community groups that form the Coalition to Oppose the Arms Trade. This marks the first time in 20 years that an arms show has been allowed to take place on city property due to the 1989 prohibition against defence industry trade shows on city grounds. Luckily for CANSEC Ottawa's Mayor Larry O'Brien declared that the ban was not a comprehensive ban on all defence trade shows. O'Brien has garnered criticism for his support of CANSEC as he remains a shareholder and sits on the board of directors with Calian Technologies a company exhibiting at CANSEC this week.

CADSI boasts that the show is meant for a wide audience of government agencies and departments with "interests in security, public safety, risk mitigation, threat response and emergency planning." What CADSI leaves out is that this arms show represents Canada's contribution to the international arms trade, and CANSEC showcases several of the world's largest war industries including BAR systems, Boeing, Lockheed Martin and Northrop Group, companies profiting extensively from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

www.ceasefire.ca, 27 May 2009



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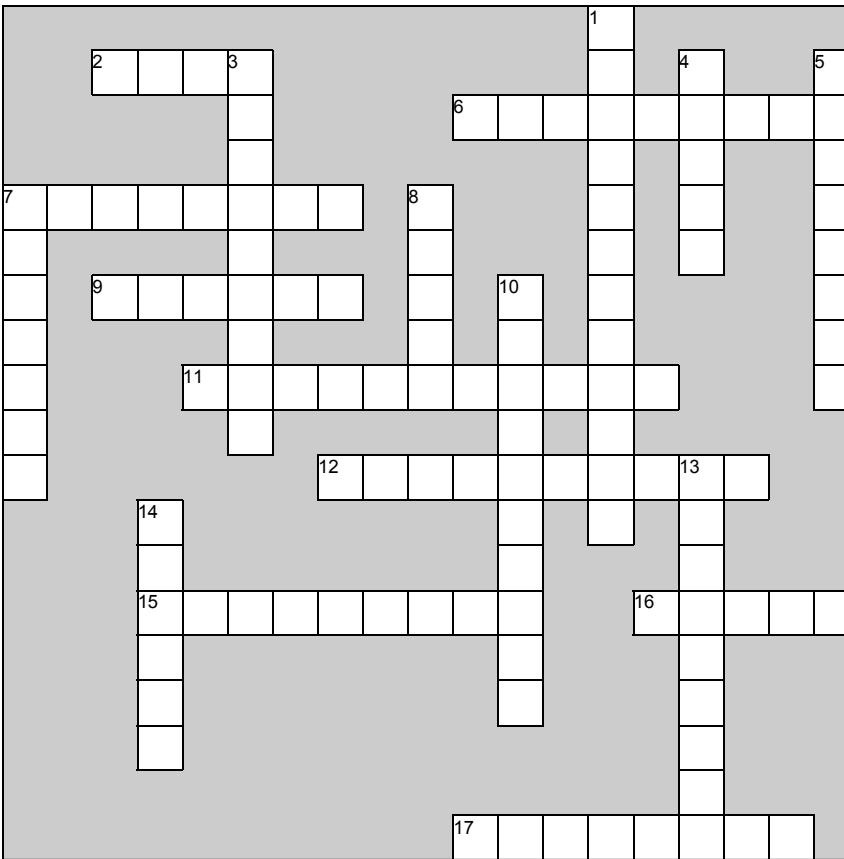
Thanks to Diane Janzen & Larry Kennard for writing & editing this issue.

**NPT PrepComm**

The Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) held its third and final session from 4–15 May 2009 at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

*“The 2009 NPT PrepCom managed to get beyond the rancor and discord that has characterized other recent NPT meetings and to focus instead on concrete discussions and proposals – not enough to guarantee success for the 2010 Review Conference, but certainly enough to set a base for a serious and cooperative effort toward consensus.”* Ernie Regehr

The crossword below comes from *News in Review*, a daily publication produced by Reaching Critical Will during the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty conferences. [www.reachingcriticalwill.org](http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org)



- Answers:**
- 1. Ploughshares
  - 2. Five
  - 3. Epicenter
  - 4. Fermi
  - 5. Pakistan
  - 6. Indonesia
  - 7. (across) Tactical
  - 7. (down) Trinity
  - 8. START
  - 9. Lop Nor
  - 10. Moratorium
  - 11. Secretariat
  - 12. Game Theory
  - 13. Rarotonga
  - 14. Vienna
  - 15. Elbaradel
  - 16. Cohen
  - 17. Nagasaki

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Here is my donation for 2009 of:

\$35    \$50    \$100    \$500    \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (donations of \$10 or more will receive a tax receipt)

I'd like to become a Friend of Ploughshares and give a monthly pre-authorized debit donation, please send me an application form:

I'd like to receive the monthly newsletter by:  
 Email (recommended)  
 Mail (requires \$35 donation)

**Nuclear Crossword**

**Across**

- 2 Number of nuclear weapon states according to the NPT
- 6 From 1966-1990, France conducted 167 nuclear tests in this country
- 7 Non-strategic nuclear weapons are also called \_\_\_\_\_ nukes
- 9 Location of Chinese nuclear tests (two words)
- 11 Currently, the NPT lacks a \_\_\_\_\_ to act as the administrator of the Treaty
- 12 Term used to describe the analysis of strategic interaction among two or more agents taking into account how the different agents will “play” (two words)
- 15 Out-going IAEA Director General
- 16 The “father” of the neutron bomb
- 17 “Fat Man” was dropped on

**Down**

- 1 “From swords into \_\_\_\_\_”
- 3 Centre of a nuclear blast
- 4 Italian physicist who discovered fission in 1934
- 5 Country that acquired nuclear weapons in 1987
- 7 The world’s first nuclear test
- 8 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (acronym)
- 10 The suspension of an ongoing activity
- 13 The adoption of the Treaty of \_\_\_\_\_ in 1985 created the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone
- 14 The IAEA Secretariat is located in \_\_\_\_\_