

PROJECT  
PLOUGHSHARES  
CALGARY

# Peace News

WWW.PLOUGHSHARESCALGARY.CA

JUNE 2007



## Derek Evans & AGM June 11th 6:00pm

at Parkdale United Church

**WE ARE  
LOCATED:  
PARKDALE  
UNITED  
CHURCH**

**2919 8 AVE  
NW**

**270-7366**

**OFFICE  
@PLOUGHSHARES  
CALGARY.CA**

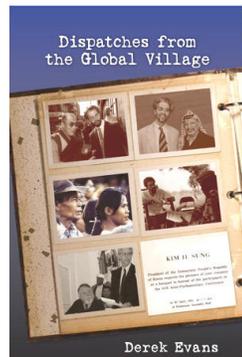
**VISIT US:**

**MON, TUE, THURS**

**10:30-2:30**

**WED 2-6PM**

Our good friend Derek Evans is in town promoting his new book. We welcome you to join us to listen to Derek read from his new book and to join us for a brief AGM.



### **The Book: Dispatches from the Global Village**

*Dispatches from the Global Village* is a collection of 30 columns by Derek Evans, former Deputy Secretary General of Amnesty International.

While the entry point for these columns (first published by the Naramata and Penticton, B.C., newspapers) is often something seemingly innocuous, perhaps even mundane – like a cup of tea, a croissant, a picture on a wall – the essays themselves are not for the faint of heart. As the leader of more than 60 Amnesty International delegations, and more recently as a consultant to the United Nations and other international organizations, Evans has travelled the globe to meet with African warlords and the Dalai Lama, heads of state and the leaders of rebel armies, victims of torture and peasant farmers; his single-minded objective, to challenge the forces of injustice, violence, and all things that separate people and nations from each other. Yet what shines through in each story – whether he's negotiating with rebel factions in the Sudan; or meeting, under threat of death and in the dead of night, with the families of "disappeared" children in Sri Lanka – is Evans' unfaltering hope that people can find within themselves the wisdom to choose a different path, that somehow we can learn to live in peace despite our differences.

## Summer Office Closure

The Ploughshares office will be closed during the summer as usual, starting June 22nd. Phone and e-mail messages will be picked up once a week. We do not have regular meetings during the summer. Regular office hours and meetings will resume in September. We wish our members a wonderful and peaceful summer and look forward to seeing you in the fall.

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## Fall Events

### Peace Pole Unveiling and walk for Peace Sept 21st International Day of Peace

We hope that we will be ready to unveil the peace pole on September 21st which will create a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the International Day of Peace. All our logistics may not be in place, in which case we will have a walk for peace to the site of the location of the peace pole. Check in our September newsletter for information on this event.

### Ploughshares 25th anniversary

Can you believe it? Ploughshares Calgary is 25 years old! Ernie Regher will be in town to celebrate with us. Look for details about a dinner celebration in October.

### MP visits to raise concerns about Canada's mission in Afghanistan

We will be visiting our MPs in the fall to discuss Canada's mission in Afghanistan. If you are interested in helping us out by meeting with your MP, please contact the office.

## Art of Peace Day Camp

Day camp for kids 9-13 July 9-13<sup>th</sup> 9am noon \$50/child for the week music art and acting  
For more information [www.carolynpogue.ca](http://www.carolynpogue.ca) Call Carolyn at 228-1791

## Ploughshares Calgary News

We had a successful spring workshop on May 4th and 5th with four amazing speakers. Our speakers encouraged us to get involved in three campaigns to promote peace in the world.

- We encourage you to join the campaign to seek a **fair trial and investigation of torture** into Canadian citizen being held at Guantanamo- Omar Khadr- who was a child of 15 when he was taken into custody.  
[http://www.amnesty.ca/take\\_action/actions/canada\\_omar\\_khadr.php](http://www.amnesty.ca/take_action/actions/canada_omar_khadr.php)
- Join the Mines Action Canada campaign to **ban cluster bombs**: [www.minesactioncanada.org/](http://www.minesactioncanada.org/)
- Join the Amnesty International campaign to **protect the people of Darfur**– [www.amnesty.ca](http://www.amnesty.ca)  
(click on Priority Concerns, Sudan)

**Puppets for Peace** are actively searching for a puppeteer and persons willing to commit to sub-committee work such as recruitment, critiquing shows and promotion. One to two meetings per month, usually at the Red Cross, 1305 11 Ave SW. This is challenging, enjoyable work. Call Sally at 247-1653 or email [puppets@ploughsharescalgary.ca](mailto:puppets@ploughsharescalgary.ca) with your interest or questions.

### Buy a \$2 hot dog and support Puppets for Peace!

Sobey's 11300 Tuscan Blvd NW is supporting Puppets for Peace with a BBQ outside the store Sunday July 1st 11am to 3pm. Come and support us!



**Thanks to everyone who has donated to our special appeal campaign.** We have raised over \$3000 since the start of our campaign so we are well on our way to our goal. We encourage those who are still thinking about donating to do so before the summer office closure. Your generosity helps us to continue our work for peace.

The Dr. Irma M. Parhad Programmes and the Consortium for Peace Studies at the University of Calgary are pleased to invite applications for the following position: Program Manager <http://www.ucalgary.ca/md/PARHAD/index.html>

Date: Aug 15, 2007 - April 30, 2008 (renewal subject to funding)

Faculty: Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Communication and Culture

Department: Consortium for Peace Studies (PFB 4210A)

Contact Jamie for more information

Phone: (403) 220-2136 Fax: (403) 282-7269 E-mail: [Parhad@ucalgary.ca](mailto:Parhad@ucalgary.ca)

# Global News

## Peace Maker—Mayor Itoh of Nagasaki Remembered

On April 17, 2007, Iccho Itoh, mayor of Nagasaki and vice president of Mayors for Peace, was struck down by an assassin's bullets. He passed away in the morning of the 18th. Mayor Itoh contributed enormously to the growth and development of Mayors for Peace. If you would like to send messages of condolence, the email address for the Mayor's Office of Nagasaki is: [hisho@city.nagasaki.lg.jp](mailto:hisho@city.nagasaki.lg.jp). Ploughshares Calgary has already sent condolences on behalf of our membership in honour of the peace work of Mayor Itoh.

### SMALL ARMS: 400 Million People Live in "Minefields": Report *source Reuters*

Some 400 million people around the world live and work in what are effectively minefields, at daily risk of death or maiming by cluster bombs, according to a report. The report, from the campaign group Handicap International, said over 13,000 civilians are known to have been killed or injured in recent years by the bombs, but that the real figure was probably many times higher. In the wake of armed conflicts "unexploded cluster submunitions turn homes, livelihoods and social areas of 400 million people living in affected countries into de facto minefields," the report said. Nearly 50 states meet in Lima, Peru, on May 23-25, to discuss a draft of a treaty to ban the weapons, which have been used widely in Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon and the Russian region of Chechnya. In February, 46 countries meeting in Oslo pledged to aim for an international ban by next year that would prohibit the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of the munitions, which can be set off years after they are dropped. But major cluster bomb-producing states, including the United States, Russia and China, were not in Oslo and have made clear they oppose a blanket ban, arguing that they need to keep the option of using the weapon for defense.

**One of Project Ploughshares Calgary's executive members is also a member of the Christian PeaceMaker Team. She is currently back in Palestine doing her peace work. Below is a portion of a letter she sent us describing life in the midst of a chronic conflict zone...**

This last week was my first week on the Christian Peacemaker Team again in At-Tuwani. The past month and a half has been quite busy for the team as it is harvesting season (of lentils, hay, wheat and barley). The team has not only accompanied At-Tuwani villagers when they harvest fields close to the nearby Israeli settlement and outpost, but also farmers from other villages in the south Hebron Hills harvesting fields close to other settlements and outposts. When there are problems - soldiers or Israeli settlers coming to the fields (sometimes to stop or harass the Palestinians), we try to prevent the harassment, and document with cameras.

The villagers know that there is still a chance of settler and military interference when they work on the land in this valley, so they asked us and volunteers from an Israeli peace group, Rabbis for Human Rights to accompany them. The villagers started early in the morning, harvesting the fields closest to the outposts first (and working quite quickly). After harvesting a section, shepherds would move their sheep onto the section to eat any leftover stalks. Several settlers watched from the trees of the outpost to begin with, and an Israeli military jeep arrived and parked between the outpost and the fields. And we gave a sigh of relief when the 3 Israeli peace activists finally arrived. Soon after this 3 young settler men came out of the outpost onto the top field and started to try and chase the sheep down the valley.

One of us internationals continued video taping while another volunteer and I tried to stay in between the settlers and the Palestinians. The Israeli soldiers came down to the field and tried to encourage the settlers to go back up towards the outpost. The Palestinians chased the sheep back onto the fields, and there was a lot of heated discussion between the Palestinians, soldiers, settlers and Israeli peace volunteers. The most understandable bit for me was the fact that the Palestinians wanted the sheep to remain grazing on Palestinian land. After a time the Palestinians decided to move the sheep down a field, the soldiers convinced the settlers to move back to the outpost and things calmed down a bit. The Israeli police arrived, spoke to the settlers, soldiers and Palestinians and then monitored the area for a bit. The settlers went back into the outpost, the military left and finally too the police.

I think I'll stop now, but I invite you to pause for a second and think about this harvesting story before you take a bite of bread at your next meal.

Peace,  
Diane Janzen



## Project Ploughshares Calgary

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[www.ploughsharescalgary.ca](http://www.ploughsharescalgary.ca)

## 2007 NPT PrepCom

**Our very own Ploughshares Calgary Executive member Bev Delong was the only NGO representative on the Canadian delegation to the NPT Prep Com at the UN . She reports on the conference...**

I had the honour of participating in meetings in Vienna from April 30 to May 11th preparatory to the 2010 Review conference for the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The meetings opened with position statements by many of the governments then stalled out for 5 days while objections to the agenda (mainly from Iran) were dealt with through a lengthy consultations process handled by Amb. Amano of Japan, the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee meeting. Thereafter the delegations engaged in discussions on the obligation to disarm, the need for nuclear weapons not to be spread to more countries, the possibility of a multinational system for ensuring nuclear fuel supplies, the importance of the existing and future nuclear weapon-free zones (over 100 states are now in these zones) and so on. States questioned what process is appropriate when a country gives notice that it wishes to withdraw from the NPT. Should the problem automatically be referred to the Security Council? Should that state be allowed to retain any technology or equipment they acquired as a NPT member group? Many, many issues were raised. All the statements made and working papers filed are available on the Internet (<http://www.un.org/NPT2010/>) The Chairperson prepared a summary report which contains an overview of issues considered.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were strongly represented during the meeting. NGO leaders presented their views to the governmental delegations for a 3 hour period. The new International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) was launched as was the revised version of Securing our Survival: The Case for a Nuclear Weapons Convention. Several panels were organized each day on topics such as fissile materials, space issues, the model Nuclear Weapons Convention, as well as hosting off-the-record briefing sessions by several Ambassadors. The Middle Powers Initiative and Mayors for Peace provided updates on their progress. I have reported on these sessions through a listserve; contact me if you would like more information.

Special Thanks to Diane Janzen, Bev Delong, Tracey Pickup and Sally Hodges for contributions 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 #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

The Canadian government focused its attention again on proposals for addressing the "institutional deficit" of the NPT regime. They urged that there be annual decision-making meetings (not once in every 5 years, as it currently stands.) Canada called for a standing bureau to be established to handle the work between the meetings and to call meetings when emergencies arise. They are encouraging also increased NGO engagement in the meetings.

In their speeches the Canadian Government spoke for the elimination of nuclear weapons, called for de-alerting, transparency and accountability, and expressed concern about the upcoming expiry of the START agreement. They spoke firmly in favour of making best use of the time available for discussion during the Prep-Com.

While Canada's position is a constructive one and our officials are clearly extremely pressed to handle the work necessary for such a large conference, one can only be saddened by the contradictory position they are forced to act within - speaking out for nuclear disarmament while at the same time accepting Canada's role as a member of NATO's Nuclear Planning Group which insists on the maintenance of nuclear weapons for Alliance "security".

We as NGOs need to increase our work to make clear to our MPs that we want Canada to play a stronger leadership role in the development of agreements for nuclear disarmament. And we need to learn more about the role Canada is playing and the conditions it is placing on the supply of nuclear materials and technology around the world.