No Return
The Civilian Impact of Turkey’s Operation Claw-Lightning

35th Anniversary Peacemaker Congress
DETAILS INSIDE   p. 10
"I wrote Resurrection Peacemaking as a story of my experiences with CPT. I wanted my grandchildren to know some of this history. Other nonviolent practitioners have the documents that add to my story and confirm the strengths of nonviolence in the face of violence. There are many other stories, but Resurrection Peacemaking adds to the amazing collection that exposes the futility of war and violence."

In Harm's Way: A History of Christian Peacemaker Teams
Kathleen Kern
Cascade Books, 2017

Hostage in Iraq (Biography Series Book 2)
Norman Kember
Darton Longman Todd, 2010

Captivity: 118 Days in Iraq and the Struggle for a World Without War
James Loney
Knopf Canada, 2011

Iraq: A Journey of Hope and Peace
Peggy Gish
Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2015
Letter from the editor

We certainly need to rely on the traditions of our prophets: the ordinary people who keep standing up to repressive and oppressive structures. What makes these ordinary people extraordinary is the courage to repeatedly and tirelessly hold to account their governments, who have habitually failed them and unjustly denied them their rights. In these last few months, we have seen people protesting in Palestine and Colombia, while Land Defenders and Water Protectors on Turtle Island have made it clear, "honor the treaties." Migrants and asylum seekers fleeing neocolonialism keep arriving in the Greek isles despite the possibility of criminal prosecution. And in Iraqi Kurdistan, defiance is to stay put in the rugged mountains even as Turkey invades (p.12). To be a prophet is to speak truth to power even when no one is watching. It may even cost you your life. This is where CPT comes in: to build partnerships with local changemakers threatened for being prophets in their own land. In collaboration and through coalition-building, we strive to create space for the local work of peace and justice to thrive. For the last thirty-five years, we’ve been learning from these prophets; learning for us has meant unlearning, growing, and relearning.

In May, in our growth and commitment to "transforming oppression not only in the places we work but also within the organization itself," we decided to implement a living wage model. It took us a while to reach the decision. It was scary. Would it be a viable decision? Looking back thirty-five years, we can say with confidence, yes. You, the reader of this publication and another 1941 supporters, contributed to our work last year, affirming that you stand with our partners and with us. On 25 September we'll be celebrating our anniversary and hosting a half-day online congress. Consider joining us. You can find more about it on page 10.

The relationship between climate change, justice and decolonization has never been more evident. And it has become even more pertinent that we think about it as a global organization. Many of the asylum seekers that CPT accompanies on the US/Mexico Border or on the island of Lesbos in Greece are often fleeing circumstances exacerbated by poisoned rivers, monoculture farming and wars that have diminished the possibilities of living healthy lives in their environment. We accompany partners at the forefront, challenging both economic and governmental callousness on consideration for a sustainable world. We cannot talk about sustainability if we do not talk about borders, migration, capitalism and economic colonization. How then do we talk about sustainability when privilege exists? Rest assured, there are no easy answers. Still, we are committed to a sustainable CPT, and it will influence our decision making on how we contribute to sustainable justice (p.6).

We are grateful to have you on this journey with us. Write to us and let us know what sustainability means to you.

In kindness,

Caldwell Manners
Communications Coordinator

SPONSORS OF CPT

USA
Church of the Brethren / On Earth Peace
Friends United Meeting
Mennonite Church Canada
Mennonite Church USA
Congregation of St. Basil (Basilians)
Deutsche Mennonitische Friedenskomitee
Presbyterian Peace Fellowship

CANADA
103 Bellevue Ave, Toronto, ON MST 2NB
+1-647-339-0991
canada@cpt.org

P.O. Box 6508, Chicago, IL 60680
+1-773-376-0550
peacemakers@cpt.org
CPT celebrates May Day by implementing living wage.
May Day is a day we celebrate workers around the world and their struggle for rights and fair compensation. In the spirit of solidarity and in Christian Peacemaker Team’s commitment to undoing oppressions, it is with great excitement that we announce that CPT will be implementing a living wage model in how we compensate CPTers with no CPTer receiving a pay deduction.

Thirty-five years ago, CPT was formed to bring nonviolent change to lethal conflicts around the world. Over the decades, CPT has grown and shifted, recognizing that violent conflict is rooted in oppression. In this spirit, CPT has dedicated itself to be an organization committed to transforming violence and oppression. This means transforming oppression not only in the places we work but also within the organization itself.

In today’s world, oppression takes on many forms, including the oppression in how workers are compensated for their labor. Pivotal in bringing an end to violence is bringing an end to economic oppression experienced by so many. As we express our solidarity with workers worldwide and advocate for workers’ rights, we look within our organization to see how we can better compensate CPTers for their work.

For decades CPT has operated on a stipend system to compensate its workers, with every worker receiving approximately the same amount of money no matter their location. Yet, we know ‘the same’ does not always mean equal, and some CPTers were struggling to cover their basic expenses. As CPT strives to transform oppression within our world, we admit we need to transform how we compensate CPTers.

Choosing to shift our model to one that provides a living wage was not an issue, but having the financial resources to pay the living wage was the challenge. After thoughtful conversation and pouring over spreadsheets, we knew we had to take the step; the pandemic had reminded us again of why systemic fairness is vital in the work of justice.

In a capitalist society, the value of labour is expressed through financial compensation. Yet, at CPT, we want to acknowledge that the work of every CPTer is invaluable. There is no monetary amount that could represent the quality of this work. So while we do not compensate for the value of labour, we want to compensate so that CPTers can live a healthy life.
Toward a more sustainable future. Pledge with us.

The new CPT Global Sustainability Working Group (GSWG) hopes to support and encourage existing CPT engagement on environmental and climate issues and develop new initiatives. For decades, environmentally destructive practices and corporate interests have been directly impacting every area where CPT works. CPTers have collaborated with communities that experience oppression at the hands of extractive corporations supported by armed actors. Climate change patterns disproportionately impact CPT’s partner communities. Many existing CPT delegates and workers have a passion for addressing climate justice, indigenous land rights, environmental racism, and many other areas of environmental justice. The new working group wants to highlight all the excellent work that has already been done.

There is fortunately much to highlight, even just within the last year! CPT is promoting The Water Pledge, providing resources and encouraging individuals to commit to honouring the Earth’s waters and supporting others who work to protect water and their community’s access to it. The Iraqi Kurdistan CPT team has acted concretely on this commitment, purchasing a water filter that was costly but will allow the team to drink clean water without generating plastic bottle waste. And CPTers are continuing to partner with Land Protectors and Water Protectors on Turtle Island, who are facing down massive fossil fuel pipelines.

CPTers are also reflecting on fossil fuel consumption, calculating and considering the impacts of individual programs. This research is prompting consideration into how CPT can seek savings from energy costs – mitigating environmental impacts and conserving financial resources as well.

A focus for the GSWG has also been considering how CPT’s investments can better reflect and reinforce CPT’s anti-oppression lens and a commitment to environmental practices. We’re also considering the
This year I pledge to make a practice of honoring the Earth’s waters. I will bring attention to the ongoing water crisis and global wars fueled by water extraction. My actions will honor the courageous actions of the Earth’s Water Protectors

Use your phone camera scanner and make your pledge at cptaction.org

possibility that some CPT funds could also be invested directly into concrete, exciting, environmentally and socially sustainable projects rather than in stocks and bonds.

One goal of the GSWG is to highlight individuals and programs that may inspire interest and collaboration across the CPT network. Stay tuned for inspiring stories in future newsletter issues!

We in the GSWG are excited to look at various ways that CPT can better support its workers and partners who are moving in sustainable directions. Much good work has already been done. And as we confront interlocking crises of climate change, destruction and seizure of indigenous land and despoliment of water, and environmental racism and contamination, it is evident there is still much to be done.

Join us on this journey towards a more sustainable future!

Members of the Global Sustainability Working Group:

Mohammed Salah, CPT Iraqi Kurdistan Program (Kurdistan)
Milena Rincon, Program Director (Colombia)
Muriel Schmid, Administrative Director (Turtle Island – United States)
Steve Heinrichs, Steering Committee representative from Mennonite Church Canada (Turtle Island – Canada)
David Stoltzfus Jost, Constituent/Stakeholder and worker with CPT Sponsor DMFK (Germany)
Mark Frey, Finance Manager (Turtle Island – United States)
Living wage as a way out of the social crisis in Colombia.

By Alejandro Pallares

After the end of the binary world (Capitalism vs Communism), the reigning empires consolidated and expanded democracy as a system for organizing the social, political, economic and cultural life of societies across the globe. Thus, peoples and nations on different continents initiated democratization processes promoted by international organizations and States exercising global hegemony. Democratization has indeed brought progress in guaranteeing and accessing fundamental and human rights for many people. However, it has not been possible to dismantle the power structures present in this model that impact the daily societal relationships in the public and private spaces of our lives.

Long before the COVID-19 pandemic appeared, which developed a new economic and social crisis, democracy and the capitalist system of production were already facing another severe crisis evident through local and global increases in poverty rates, together with the resurgence of violence and the emergence of new armed conflicts. These systems are built on distinctions, hierarchies and privileges that are not “natural” or fair. So, as these oppressive structures deepen, subaltern and oppressed sectors offer counter-hegemonic responses that seek to break the power relations that violate human dignity. In this context of resistance, local and international social organizations are advocating for a living wage that would close inequality and inequity gaps driven by privilege and the lack of empathy towards others.

Colombia is a concrete example of what I’ve described above. Since the end of April, diverse social and popular sectors have converged for a National Strike, protesting against decades of abandonment and injustice.
that has affected broad sectors of Colombian society. Today, we see in the streets a variety of expressions of protest that are committed to creating dialogue, which has opened debates on a national level that the Colombian State and its governments have postponed for many years thanks to the use of military and police force.

Included in these debates is the discussion regarding the level of inequality in Colombia and the lack of will of its political and economic elites to find a way out of the country’s social crisis. Faced with this problem, strike leaders proposed a guaranteed basic income, which would enable the sectors most affected by the economic and social inequalities to access fundamental rights and freedoms, seeing as Colombia is a democracy and a social State under the rule of law.

But what is a living wage? And why is it an important measure to solve the crisis? The answer to these questions requires recognition that Colombia is considered a democracy under the auspices of a social State of law, meaning that the State is the only political actor with the responsibility and the duty to protect democratic values such as human rights or freedom. The living wage is a concept that seeks to guarantee people a quality of life that enables them to develop their life projects. Likewise, it is considered a mechanism of social equity, understanding that social transformations occur by removing obstacles that prevent access to better educational, employment and economic opportunities. Furthermore, the debate takes on greater importance at this precise moment, because if we consider a living wage as an inalienable human right, vast sectors of Colombian society, who have historically suffered the effects of injustice, could enjoy a minimum economic security to cover their basic needs arising from the crisis. These injustices are the very reason that today the Colombian streets are a battlefield between those who demand job opportunities, better health and education, and those who seek to prevent any change that affects the status quo.

I want to conclude by noting that the living wage alone cannot stop the deterioration that the crisis has produced in Colombian society as a whole—it is clear that other types of political, social and economic measures are needed to make real and sustained improvement over time—but it is a reminder that those who suffer injustices have the right to a dignified life and to have their humanity respected.

Thank you, Weldon.

Weldon Nisly is a long term supporter of CPT and is also a member of the Iraqi Kurdistan team since 2017. During this last year, Weldon played a crucial role in supporting the Development Working Group and, in particular, liaising with congregations and nurturing CPT’s relationships.

We are also profoundly grateful for his partner, Margaret. She had this to say about what it has meant to accompany Weldon in his journey with CPT:

“Walking with Weldon during his years of working with CPT has been a learning journey for us both. We have learned to support each other; me from home in Seattle and Weldon in places in the Middle East. I provide grounding and presence with our children and grandchildren while he accompanies people whose voices and stories need to be heard. I have learned to depend on and trust God for Weldon’s safety and the safety of the team and the people they accompany and stand alongside.”

Thank you, Weldon and Margaret.

Individual contributions make over 65% of our funding. Will you consider donating?

donate at cpt.org
35th Anniversary Peacemaker Congress

Mobilize for collective liberation

Workshops in Nonviolence and Undoing Oppressions.

Live interactive sessions with our teams in Palestine, Iraqi Kurdistan, Colombia, Lesvos, Greece, and Turtle Island.

Sponsored by:
Irish poet and theologian Pádraig Ó Tuama’s work centers around themes of language, power, conflict and religion. He is the author of four books of poetry and prose: *Daily Prayer with the Corrymeela Community*, *In the Shelter*, *Sorry for your Troubles*, and *Readings from the Books of Exile*. He presents the podcast *Poetry Unbound* with On Being Studios, where he also has responsibilities in bringing art and theology into public and civic life. From 2014-2019 he was the leader of the Corrymeela Community, Ireland’s oldest peace and reconciliation community. He is based in Ireland.

**Guest Speaker**

**Pádraig Ó Tuama**

September 25, 2021

Register at cptaction.org
No Return: The Civilian Impact of Turkey’s Operation Claw-Lightning

On 3 June 2021, the Christian Peacemaker Teams’ Iraqi Kurdistan program published a report documenting the impact of the Turkish Armed Forces’ (TAF) Operation Claw-Lightning on the civilian population living in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI).

Operation Claw-Lightning is a cross-border military operation that Turkey began on April 23, 2021. This is not the first of its kind as Turkey has conducted a similar strategy multiple times since December 2017 and has advanced 6 to 35 km south of the border in some areas, expanding its territory by building bases and displacing civilians in the Kurdistan Region like Sidakan, Haftanin, and Zap.

While Turkey has gained more control over Kurdistan Region territory, clashes between the Turkish military and the PKK have intensified in the region. Turkey has then conducted bombardments in the region targeting the PKK; though, as Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) reports, civilians are most critically impacted by Turkey’s bombings as many of the aerial and artillery strikes have directly targeted villages.

Thousands of dunams of land and approximately 1,300 beehives have been destroyed, all of which are crucial resources for families. Turkey’s bombings not only threaten the livelihood of families, but also their lives. Four civilians have so far been injured by Turkey’s bombardments, and more than 1,500 civilians from 22 villages have evacuated their villages to escape Turkey’s assault. CPT fears that these families may never have the ability to return to their homes, as Turkey has built...
nearby military bases armed with artillery that now threaten the lives of civilians.

Christian Peacemaker Teams calls on Turkey to cease Operation Claw-Lightning in the Kurdistan Region and allow for the unconditional return of all civilian population to their villages and farms. We also call on the Iraqi Government and Kurdistan Regional Government to ensure that the lives and rights of civilian populations in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq are protected and that displaced and otherwise affected families are provided material support and compensation for their losses.

The United Nations, the European Union, and other international organizations must launch an investigation into allegations of violations of the International Humanitarian Law by the Turkish Armed Forces in Iraq, specifically the principles of distinction and proportionality. All countries which provide military support to Turkey should halt their support for as long as Turkey continues to target and displace civilians.

Recommendations

Christian Peacemaker Teams recommends the following:

1. Turkey ceases Operation Claw-Lightning in the Kurdistan Region and allows for the unconditional return of all civilian population to their villages and farms.
2. The Iraqi Government and Kurdistan Regional Government ensure that the lives and rights of civilian populations in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq are protected and that displaced and otherwise affected families are provided material support and compensation for their losses.
3. The United Nations, the European Union, and other international organizations launch an investigation into allegations of violations of the International Humanitarian Law by the Turkish Armed Forces in Iraq, specifically the principles of distinction and proportionality.
4. Countries which provide military support to Turkey halt their support for as long as Turkey continues to target and displace civilians.

Read the report at cpt.org

[QR Code]

[Map of Kurdistan Region of Iraq with marked locations like Avashin, Khuakurk, Mergasor, Sibdakan, and others, showing Turkish military control and expansion in the region.]
ANNUAL REPORT 2020


Thank you.

REVENUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS</td>
<td>631,516</td>
<td>67.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONGREGATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS</td>
<td>96,866</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRANTS</td>
<td>113,179</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DELEGATIONS</td>
<td>4,221</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPECIAL GIFTS</td>
<td>79,868</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHERS</td>
<td>6,535</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PROGRAM & OPERATIONAL COSTS
29%

PEACEMAKER CORPS 61%

CPT’S FINANCIAL MODEL FOCUSES ON EQUIPPING, TRAINING, AND BUILDING A VOLUNTEER BASE OF PEACEMAKER CORPS. THESE FULL-TIME, PART-TIME, AND RESERVISTS VOLUNTEERS ARE OUR PRIMARY RESOURCE.

THE PEACEMAKING WORK OF CPT IS PROFOUNDLY HUMAN IN ITS COALITION-BUILDING AND PHYSICAL/POLITICAL ACCOMPANIMENT WHICH IS FULLY STAFFED BY A CORP THAT RECEIVES STIPENDS AND HEALTHCARE.

FUNDRAISING/ADMIN 7%

OTHER 3%

Balance Sheet as of October 31, 2020

ASSETS
Cash and cash equivalents 513,413
Serendipity Fund - investments in publically-held securities 662,107
Prepays, receivables, deposits 82,331
Fixed assets, net 24,341
TOTAL ASSETS 1,282,192

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS
Liabilities (accounts payable and PPP loan) 80,297
Net assets (unrestricted) 1,201,895
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS 1,282,192

Read the full report at cpt.org
Since 1994, Israel has denied Palestinians access to Shuhada Street, a former central economic hub in Hebron, while Israeli settlers enjoy free reign. The Hebron Fund supports these actions. It’s time to revoke their charitable status and end apartheid.


Learn about our work in Palestine. Join us for webinars and take action for peace.

cptaction.org