



IDLE NO MORE

by CPT-AJT

The Idle No More movement surprised many Canadians. Over the winter, native round dances displaying unity took over shopping malls and intersections; teach-ins sprang up in universities and community centres; and Chief Theresa Spence led a high-profile sacred fast, calling for a treaty meeting while enduring 44 days of hunger and media scorn before getting a response from the Government of Canada.

For anyone aware of the growing legislative and public undermining of

indigenous rights, the movement was a welcome sign as both indigenous and non-indigenous groups declared themselves Idle No More.

Besides addressing age-old colonialist injustices, Idle No More specifically addresses the aggressive legislative agenda pursued by the present Harper government. Although the form is new – such as removing environmental protection from 94% of Canada's waterways – the core of the agenda retains the familiar strategy of assimilation. As

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COLOMBIA

LAS PAVAS UNDER ATTACK

On 24 April, armed security guards from the palm oil company Aportes San Isidro fired shots and blew out a tire of the Las Pavas community tractor. The Las Pavas farmers were transporting building materials to repair homes that

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PALESTINE

OCCUPIED CHILDHOODS

On 20 March, Israeli soldiers arrested 27 Palestinian children, ages seven to fifteen, while on their way to school in the West Bank city of Hebron. Three were detained for two days; the other 24 were held for almost 12 hours.

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ABORIGINAL JUSTICE

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policy, this agenda can boast buzzwords like “equality” and “financial transparency,” but below the surface another power is at work. Letters to the Editor openly call for the assimilation and relocation of First Nations. Figureheads like Chief Spence are slandered as attention-seeking, corrupt, and “terrorist.”

It has always been easier to rely on stereotypes to brush aside the truth that Idle No More points to: that the rights of indigenous peoples to practice and protect their chosen way of life are being systematically erased in favour of an economy based on destructive resource extraction.

For now, the furore of round dances and blockades has died down. However, on 19 March 2013, the indigenous rights network Defenders of the Land entered into an alliance with Idle No More, anticipating what is being termed the Spring of Solidarity and a Summer of Sovereignty. Their statement includes a new call for coordinated nonviolent direct action. CPT's Aboriginal Justice Team (AJT) has heard nu-



merous predictions of a “long, hot summer” for grassroots Land Defenders and their allies. Campaigns in cities and towns are expected to focus on educating, rallying, and mobilising support and resistance to unfettered resource extraction that affects indigenous and settler land users.

ACTION

CPT calls upon the whole church to participate in transforming the violence of colonialism – which imposes settler law, language and land use patterns and attempts to erase indigenous societies and bodies – into a new relationship.

- research your particular context as it relates to First Nations peoples.
- join an AJT delegation.
- support movements like Idle No More.

Further reading: *Call to Action from Idle No More & Defenders of the Land* (<http://goo.gl/PqoNr>); “Idle No More gets out of the courts and onto the streets” (<http://goo.gl/hbv4J>)

STOP FRACKING IN NEW BRUNSWICK

by CPT-AJT



Mi'kmaq woman arrested for carrying out sacred duties to protect water

Photo: Timeline Photos

CPT has received an urgent invitation to send a team to the Elsipogtog Reserve in New Brunswick following arrests of Indigenous and non-Indigenous activists who are protesting the threat of the environmentally destructive hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking” process. See <https://www.facebook.com/cptajt> to follow developments.

PRAYER

Pray for Mi'kmaq and Maliseet people and their allies in New Brunswick, protesting seismic testing and plans for fracking that threaten to contaminate land and water. Pray for all involved in the conflict, for courage among supporters, safety for activists, and what our indigenous partners call “a good mind” for police.

UNRIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION

by Joe Heikman

In May, I spent ten days with CPT's Aboriginal Justice Delegation in and around Kenora, Ontario, Canada. The Anishinabe people of the Grassy Narrows community there have been engaged in a decade-long conflict with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and several logging companies over clear-cut logging practices that violate long-standing treaty agreements. We learned about the painful history of human rights infringements against the Anishinabe people and about our own connections to and participation in this systemic injustice.

Our first evening on the Grassy Narrows reserve, we went to the local garbage dump to look for bears. Watching them close-up was awesome, although seeing them in the context of a trash pile was troubling. "So much garbage just dumped right there in the middle of the forest," I thought, "and this from people who are supposed to be defending nature and protecting Mother Earth!" Allowing myself to indulge in some ugly stereotypes of native people, I went back to our guest-house with my nose held high.

On our last day in Grassy Narrows, as we were packing and cleaning up the building in which we were staying, I saw the kitchen garbage can. The thought went through my head, "We should bring this garbage back with us to Kenora. Otherwise they're just going to throw it out there on that garbage pile."

Thankfully, I noticed the gaping hole in my logic before I voiced my thoughts: What would happen to that garbage bag if we brought it back to Kenora? We'd put it out for collection, and the garbage truck would take it away to a landfill, which, of course, is just a glorified garbage pile messing up someone else's forest. Just because it was out of my



Black bear, Grassy Narrows reserve

sight and sphere of awareness didn't make it any less disgusting. It certainly didn't absolve me from my participation.

Open eye, insert plank (see Matthew 7:3-5). My first impression had nothing to do with reality. It was all about making me feel superior and insulating me from my own connection to the root of the garbage problem: reckless consumption. Since I never have to stand on my own garbage pile, let alone face up to scenes of devastation where natural resources are extracted for my benefit, it's easy for me to feel clean, safe, and eco-conscious – which is, of course, nothing more than an ego-protecting illusion. Just because we've outsourced the costs of extravagance doesn't mean they've gone away.

What other harsh truths about my culture and myself do my critiques of others hide? What self-deceptions does my insulated suburban lifestyle perpetuate, and what changes might come from honesty about my participation in systems of violence and destruction? Do we dare allow the scars we've left on the land and people of places like Grassy Narrows challenge our self-image and national myths?

Seeing myself honestly is painful. But it's also a powerful motivator for change. Who's up for a trip to the dump?

Joe Heikman lives and learns in Saskatchewan, Canada. He now thinks twice while taking out the trash.

COLOMBIA

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LAS PAVAS UNDER ATTACK

by CPT-Colombia

the palm company had previously damaged.

On 28 May, around 50 men, women and children from Las Pavas brought a load of palm branches to their land to build a roof for their communal ranch house. As they arrived, a number of armed men came out of the brush and began shooting indiscriminately at the group. They shot out the tire of the community tractor again.

Community members identified the shooters as Mario Marmol Montero, Francisco Flórez Marmol, and Carlos who goes by the name "El Calvo," all of whom work as security guards for Aportes San Isidro.

On 30 May at 5:30 pm, Las Pavas farmer Tito Alvear Perez was returning to Las Pavas after having gone to fetch water for a meal when Mario Marmol, Carlos "El Calvo" and a man who goes by "Gentil" assaulted him. They cut Tito's leg and arm using machetes, and kicked him in the head repeatedly. They threatened his life and that of other community members and shot at him twice.



Tito Alvear Perez

Hearing the shots, Bladimir Alvear rushed to find Tito bleeding as the company guards ran away. Tito is in



Las Pavas community members fix their tractor's flat tire shot out by employees of palm company Aportes San Isidro.

stable condition after receiving nine stitches in his leg.

Marmol and his armed cohorts have threatened and assaulted Las Pavas community members on numerous occasions in recent weeks including firing shots at them as they went about their daily work on the land. These actions jeopardize the communities' livelihood and security and compromise their ability to move without fear on their own land. Local police have done nothing to intervene, granting Marmol's men complete impunity for their actions.

Las Pavas leaders have filed charges for the attack on Tito and the criminal acts against the families of Las Pavas. They hope that this complaint will finally make legal action against Mario Marmol and the other armed assailants, as well as the company Aportes San Isidro possible.



Mario Marmol (right)

CPTers serving the Aboriginal Justice team April-June 2013 were: Robin Buyers (Ontario, Canada), Jill Foster (Quebec, Canada), Emily Green – student intern (Ontario, Canada), Julián Gutiérrez (Risaralda, Colombia), Peter Haresnape (Cambridgeshire, England), Rebecca Johnson (Ontario, Canada), Esther Kern (Ontario, Canada), James Loney (Ontario, Canada), Chris Sabas (Iranian national & naturalized U.S. citizen from New York, USA), Allan Slater (Ontario, Canada). Delegation members 3-13 May were: Sara Brubacher, Cassandra Bangay, Timothy Groves, Nadine Hiemstra, and Menno Meijer (all from Ontario, Canada), Rianna Isaak and Matthew Mayers (both from Manitoba, Canada), Joe Heikman (Saskatchewan, Canada).

COLOMBIA PEACE ACCORD

by CPT-Colombia



In September 2012, Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos announced that the Colombian government would begin talks with the oldest and largest guerrilla group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army (FARC-EP). If these talks lead to some sort of agreement, Colombia could possibly see an end to its sixty-year-old civil war that has left hundreds of thousands of people dead.

In recent weeks, the negotiations have seen some progress. After more than six months of discussions, the opposing parties have come to a decision regarding land reform, the first and most contentious of six points they planned to address in Havana, Cuba.

Land is the root cause of much of the violence in Colombia. The parties have not yet publicized the agreement in detail, but most believe it will include a plan for land restitution through the creation of a land bank where displaced farmers will receive the rights to their land previously seized by paramilitaries, drug traffickers, multinational corporations, and guerilla groups.

"This is the first time in over 30 years of negotiations that significant progress has been made on the issue of land," notes Camilo Gonzales Posso, the director of the Centre for Peace in an interview with Al Jazeera. "For the first time there is recognition of farmer's rights and a plan to redistribute the land," he said.

But many Colombians are wary of putting too much faith in the Havana accords. Past events have embedded a heavy dose of skepticism into most Colombians. All sides have seen the others break agreements. Years of violence have left deep wounds that are far from healing. Experience has shown that government-level actions rarely take effect at the grassroots level.

For example, the community of Las Pavas, in the south of Bolívar, has received much national attention over its long process for land restitution. Unfortunately the community still remains officially landless even though the National Institute for Rural Development (INCODER) has declared the land "property of the state" and therefore making it available for redistribution. The community continues to be threatened and attacked by a company that runs huge palm plantations. Community members get no protection from such aggression because the palm company controls the regional police.

While the land reform agreement is a crucial step, it will only have effect if the parties involved can agree on the remaining five points: political participation, disarmament, illicit drugs, rights of the victims, and a peace deal implementation.

CPTers serving the Colombia team April-June 2013 were: Lorena Castilla, intern (Colombia), Lukasz Firla (Cesky Tesin, Czech Republic), Phil Hart (Ohio, USA), Julie Hart (Ohio, USA), Caldwell Manners (Meghalaya, India), Hannah Redekop (Ontario, Canada), Sandra Milena Rincón (Colombia), Pierre Shantz (Colombia), Stewart Vriesinga (Ontario, Canada). Delegation members 30 May-12 June were all from the USA: Mike Cantley (Maryland), Dale Fast (Illinois), Ruth Fast (Illinois), Chris Knestrick (Illinois), Melva Lowry (Georgia), Grace Moroney (Ohio), Joseph McQueen (Ohio), Elizabeth Nicolas (Pennsylvania).

PALESTINE

(cont'd from p 1)

OCCUPIED CHILDHOODS

by CPT-Palestine

CPT-Palestine has compiled a long litany of such mistreatment and abuse of children's rights in the Old City of Hebron/AI-Khalil and H2 – the portion of Hebron under Israeli Military control. The new report, "Occupied Childhoods," describes the impact of the actions of Israeli soldiers on Palestinian children in H2 during February, March and April 2013 as documented by international observer groups.

Children living in H2 are subject to experiences which violate their rights on a daily basis. Since February, human rights workers in Hebron have witnessed and documented 47 detentions and/or arrests of children under the age of sixteen by Israeli soldiers. A UNICEF document released in February 2013 describes the arrest, interrogation and detention by the Israeli army, police and security agents of approximately 700 Palestinian children aged 12 to 17 each



Israeli soldiers arrest and handcuff young Palestinian boy.

year throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

On multiple occasions during the period of CPT's report, internationals observed soldiers detaining and questioning children in the street, inside checkpoints, inside buildings, in the cemetery and in front of schools. In clear violation of international law, these detained children were not provided with legal counsel, and were held without a parent or legal guardian present. In some cases they were handcuffed, blindfolded, transported, and confined inside metal checkpoint stalls.

Palestinian children living in H2 are experiencing what can only be described as a human rights crisis. Their treatment by soldiers constitutes an inexcusable violation of international law as defined by Article 37 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. As an Occupying Power the State of Israel is responsible for abiding by international law. It is the duty of the State to police its own military, and assure that soldiers stationed in civilian neighborhoods respect the rights of children.

Human rights workers in Hebron call upon consulates, churches and human rights organizations to formally protest the human rights crisis faced by children in Hebron and insist that the rights of children be protected.

See the full report, "Occupied Childhoods," at <http://goo.gl/t4apB>.



Israeli soldiers arrest and blindfold 10-year-old Palestinian boy.

PALESTINE

UPROOTED TREES, UPROOTED LIVES

by CPT-Palestine

Israeli soldiers and border police used a backhoe to destroy 200 young olive trees in the Palestinian village of Susya in the South Hebron Hills on 23 April.

The uprooted trees had been planted about a year ago on land belonging to three families of the village across a valley from an Israeli settlement, also called Susya.

The Palestinian village of Susya has existed since around 1830, and is shown on British maps from 1917. In 1983 Israeli settlers built a settlement at Susya, and many of the Palestinian residents' lives were uprooted when the military forced them from their homes. These families now live nearby in isolated sites to the north of the settlement.

The Israeli authorities have informed residents of Palestinian Susya that they intend to carry out six demolition orders issued in the 1990s and in 2001 despite the fact that Palestinian ownership of the land is well established legally. The orders cover 50 buildings, including homes, animal pens, solar energy panels and water cisterns.

Since 2001 Israel has uprooted, burnt and destroyed more than 548,000 olive trees belonging to Palestinian farmers and land owners in the West Bank and Gaza.

Under the 1995 Oslo II Accords, the West Bank and Gaza were divided into 3 administrative regions known as Area A, B and C. Area C includes 61% of the West Bank and falls under complete Israeli civil and military control.

International law prohibits land appropriation, resource exploitation and population transfer by an occupying power. However, since the 1970's, Israel has confiscated the vast majority of Palestinian land in the South Hebron Hills (Area C.)

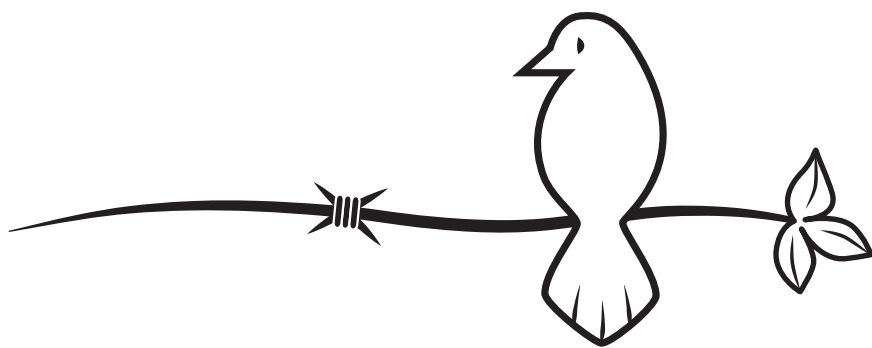
Life for Palestinian residents of the South Hebron Hills is characterized by home demolitions, confiscation of livestock, restricted access to farm land and daily harassment from settlers and Israeli military forces. Most communities lack basic services such as schools, clinics, electricity, telephone lines, running water, or sewage systems. Any infrastructure that Palestinians build to meet these needs is frequently demolished by Israeli authorities.

Despite these egregious human rights violations, Palestinian communities continue to assert their right to exist and survive on traditional homelands.

Ten CPTers from Australia, Brazil, England, Palestine, Philippines, and the USA served the Palestine team April-June 2013. Thirteen delegation members 22 May-4 June came from Canada, Romania, Scotland and the USA. Names withheld due to the State of Israel's policy of denying entry to many peacemakers.



Israeli military uproots 200 olive trees in the Palestinian village of Susya.



christian peacemaker teams

CPT LAUNCHES NEW LOGO

Flowing from a 3 1/2-year Mission and Presentation Re-visioning (MAPR) process that included representation from all parts of Christian Peacemaker Teams, graphic artist Nekeisha Alexis-Baker created a new logo for CPT.

The CPT visual identity, as Alexis-Baker articulates it, “focuses on the organization’s new mission statement, ‘building partnerships to transform violence and oppression.’ Each element of the logo works together to suggest movement from division and strife toward renewal and restoration.” She goes on to describe the various elements:

DOVE

The dove is used as a symbol for peace that resonates within and beyond the Christian tradition.

Within the Christian faith, the Holy Spirit rests on Jesus as a dove when he is baptized into his healing, empowering, transforming, and boundary-crossing ministry. The dove reveals Jesus’ true identity and signals the start of the peacemaking and reconciling work to which his followers are called.

The dove has also been adopted by other faith-based and secular peace organizations as well as anti-war and non-violence campaigns. Consequently, the

dove speaks to Christians, people from other religious and spiritual traditions, and to other groups working for peace and justice. It also alludes to CPT’s origin among the historic peace churches (Brethren, Mennonites, Quakers).

The eye of the dove looks simultaneously at the barbed wire on the left, representing witness and accompaniment in situations of conflict, and toward the leaves on the right, representing CPT’s vision for “a world of communities that together embrace the diversity of the human family and live justly and peaceably with all creation.” The result is a perched dove that is alert and attentive.

BARBED WIRE

The stylized barbed wire hints at the previous “Getting in the Way” logo. The curves of the line suggest movement from violence and oppression to peace and liberation. The three notches in the barb echo the three strokes of the dove’s feathers and the three veins of the leaves, suggesting steady transformation across time and space.

TYPE TREATMENT

The all-lowercase spelling in the wordmark (and the all-uppercase spelling of the acronym) signals equality amidst the diversity of letters and strokes. Using the previous logo’s color for the typeface also creates continuity

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with the past while creating a fresh, bold visual identity for the present and future.

Separating the wordmark from the graphic element allows the logo to be used more easily in different languages. This shift to greater flexibility is a subtle yet practical way of demonstrating CPT's commitment to widening ownership of its work.

Alexis-Baker notes that the identity that comes with a strong logo "helps build loyalty, trust and recognition among supporters and helps maintain workers' safety in the field."

Interim Assistant Director Tim Nafziger suggests that the logo will "help armed groups consistently recognize us and the broader international network of peacemakers that we bring with us wherever we go."

CPT MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

Developing a new visual identity (logo) for CPT was the final stage in the MAPR process which first identified CPT's transformed mission, vision and values.

MISSION:

christian peacemaker teams: building partnerships to transform violence and oppression.

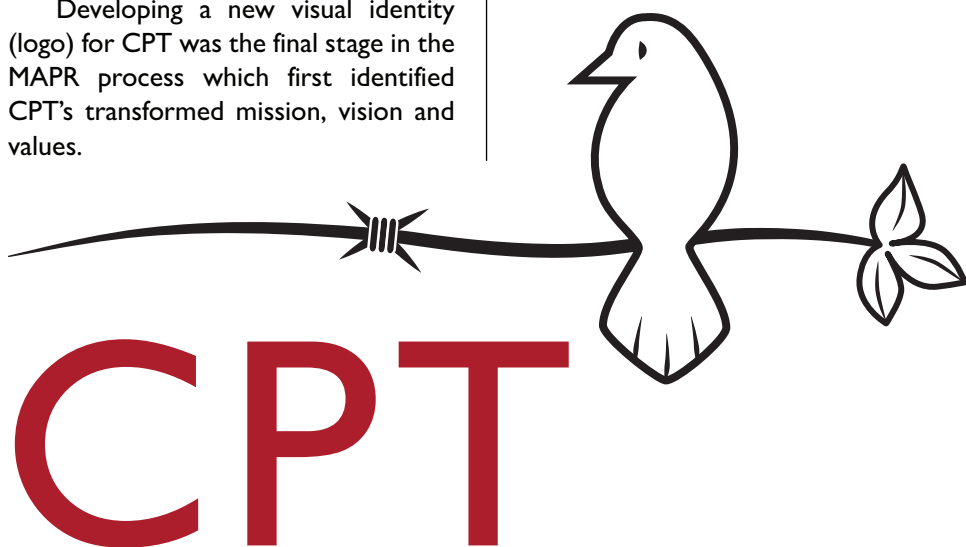
VISION:

a world of communities that together embrace the diversity of the human family and live justly and peaceably with all creation

VALUES:

christian peacemaker teams is committed to work and relationships that:

- honor and reflect the presence of faith and spirituality
- strengthen grassroots initiatives
- transform structures of domination and oppression
- embody creative non-violence and liberating love



Signs of the Times is produced up to four times a year. Batches of ten or more are available to institutions, congregations, and local groups for distribution. Any part of **Signs of the Times** may be used without permission. Please send CPT a copy of the reprint. Your contributions finance CPT ministries including the distribution of 15,000 copies of **Signs of the Times**. The work of CPT is guided by a 12-member Steering Committee. CPT's Peacemaker Corps includes 29 stipended workers and 163 Reservists living in Australia, Brazil, seven Canadian provinces, five Colombian departments, Czech Republic, Egypt, England, Germany, India, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Palestine, Philippines, Scotland, Sweden, Taiwan, Wales and 26 U.S. states plus the District of Columbia.

IRAQI KURDISTAN



“LANDMINES NEAR OUR HOUSE”

by Kathy Moorhead Thiessen

As the recent CPT delegation climbed the road into the Quandil mountains in Iraqi Kurdistan we felt the coolness of snowfields still present at the end of May. The tips of the rocky range marked the border with Iran. We emerged from our minibus in the idyllic mountain village of Kani Spi (white spring).

A blue tractor in the field below us made its way up to the yard and stopped. Fifteen-year-old Halgurd (named for the highest mountain in Iraq) climbed out and greeted us. Speaking through our translator Mohammed, he quietly and matter-of-factly told us that the day before a landmine had exploded under his tractor.

“I was very scared,” he said. “The mine made a big hole deep into the ground but the tractor was not harmed. I was OK too.”

“Thanks be to Allah,” sighed his mother, Maryam.

Halgurd’s father Mahmoud lost a leg to a landmine and he knows people who have lost their lives to the same destructive weapons.

Mahmoud explained that the shelling from Iran has stopped for now, and he hopes it will end forever. “However,” he said, “the mines remain an ever-present danger. We must keep a careful eye on our children. Sometimes even the

adults get absent-minded and walk into the area of mines.”

The mines have been there since the Iran-Iraq War in the 1980s when the mountains were littered with these tiny, inexpensive, and volatile weapons. The weather and seasons sometimes bury them deep or bring them to the surface. Then an incident can happen like the recent explosion.

“The mines far away on the mountains do not bother us. We can avoid them,” Mahmoud explained. “But there are mines close to our house and we have asked [the authorities] many times to clear them. They still have not come.”

He asked the delegation to appeal to the regional office in charge of mine clearing on his behalf. The next day the delegation delivered a letter to the director of the mine clearing office in the nearby city requesting that he consider returning to work in Kani Spi. Mahmoud awaits his reply.

Kathy Moorhead Thiessen, from Manitoba,

“PEACE IS WOMAN, WOMAN IS PEACE”

by CPT-Iraqi Kurdistan

CPT-Iraqi Kurdistan has published a new report summarizing views of fellow activists in the field of Women’s Rights.

“Kurdish Activists’ Observations of Women’s Rights in Iraqi Kurdistan between March 2012 and March 2013 and their hopes for the future” traces positive developments and areas where change is needed to secure the safety and equality of women in Iraqi Kurdistan.

While women’s rights activism is growing and gaining public recognition, problems such as discrimination in the medical and legal systems, honor killings and female genital mutilation remain. Some issues, including domestic violence and court bias, have been addressed by legislation, but not acted on. Women’s oppression results in, among

IRAQI KURDISTAN



International Women's Day march in Iraqi Kurdistan, 8 March 2013

other things, suicides or attempted suicide by about 300 women each year.

CPT is continually encouraged by the activists and organizations who work tirelessly to improve the situation of women in Iraqi Kurdistan, especially given that, for many, this work has brought condemnation and threats to their lives. These activists work under stressful conditions knowing they have an uphill battle, however this has not stopped them.

As one woman from a village in the Qandil Mountains reflected, "We should all work together, women young and old. We need to include more women because peace is a woman and woman is peace."

See the report at <http://goo.gl/sa63f>.

CEASEFIRE = PEACE?

by CPT-Iraqi Kurdistan

After a cold and wet winter, spring's arrival to Iraqi Kurdistan on the vernal equinox (March 20-21) also marked the beginning of Kurdish New Year, the most important and popular Kurdish festival.

The year 2713 (in Iraqi Kurdistan count), also brought new hopes for the future of Kurds in Turkey and in the mountainous border regions. Abdullah Öcalan, a jailed leader of the PKK (Kurdistan Worker's Party), following the long awaited "peace negotiations" with Turkish authorities, called for a historic ceasefire and a full withdrawal of the guerillas from Turkey, saying, "We have now reached the point of 'silence the weapons and let the ideas and politics speak.'"

The three-decades-long war between the PKK and Turkish government, which killed more than 40,000 people (mostly Kurds) and displaced over 3 million Kurdish villagers within Turkey, may soon be over, but caution and uncertainty remain. Since the ceasefire announcement, CPT received news of two instances of Turkish shelling along the border and bombardment within Turkey. Turkish war planes and U.S. drones continue to fly over Iraqi Kurdistan, apparently monitoring the guerillas' withdrawal.

CPTers serving the Iraqi Kurdistan team April-June 2013 were: Laurens van Esch (Zwolle, Netherlands), Lukasz Firla (Cesky Tesin, Czech Republic), Carrie Peters (Pennsylvania, USA), Sandra Milena Rincón (Colombia), Garland Robertson (Texas, USA), Muriel Schmid (Utah, USA), Sandra Stevens (Indiana, USA), Kathy Moorhead Thiessen (Manitoba, Canada), Patrick Thompson (Cardiff, Wales). Delegation members 25 May-8 June were all from Germany: Christine Neff, Volker Ott, Ulrike Schmutz, Winfried Schmutz, Brunhilde Horsch.

CPT EUROPE

WELCOME THE REFUGEES

by CPT-Europe

About thirty people musically “welcomed” refugees to the European Union (EU) during a public witness on 11 May in Malmö, Sweden. They also held a public litany to commemorate more than 16,000 refugees who have died since 1990 as a result of the EU militarizing its borders.

The witness occurred just one week before Malmö hosted the Eurovision Song Contest called “We are one.”

“We wanted people to take notice that it is hypocritical to have such a declaration when Europe’s borders are highly fortified and militarised,” said CPT Reservist Laura Ciaghi.

The public witness was part of the third annual CPT European Convergence titled “Resisting Fortress Europe” held

9-12 May in Malmö. More than 25 CPTers and supporters from seven countries around the continent gathered to strategize, pray, and laugh together.

During the meeting, participants heard the story of Ali, a young refugee from Afghanistan who had survived the arduous and dangerous journey across Europe’s borders. He invited those present to join a coalition of refugees marching on Stockholm, Sweden’s capital, this summer to demand more humane asylum policies. Other European countries have seen similar marches in recent years.

The gathering also hosted the first meeting of the Advisory Committee for the European CPT Outreach Worker, a part-time position sponsored by the German Mennonite Peace Committee starting this summer to intensify CPT outreach efforts in Europe.

A video of the action can be seen at <http://goo.gl/EIvXY>.

CPT INTERNATIONAL

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

by Mark Frey

CPT’s operations are supported by a dedicated group of volunteers who often remain hidden, but who are essential to the on-going infrastructure that supports our field teams. Ruth Fast is one such volunteer.

Ruth and her husband Dale are long-time CPT supporters, and when Ruth retired from a career as a public school social worker, she started volunteering in CPT’s Chicago office two days a week.

Recently Ruth and Dale joined a CPT delegation to Colombia. (Delegations are open to anyone interested in learning about a par-

ticular conflict and CPT’s work. Contact terraw@cpt.org.)

On her first day back in the Chicago office, Ruth exclaimed, “That was a great experience! I am so inspired by how knowledgeable, astute, courageous, diverse, and committed CPT’s partners are; and by how seriously CPT takes their counsel, so that they are always acting in concert with the people and not imposing outside solutions.”

“Now that I know more about CPT’s work in Colombia,” she added, “I really have to volunteer in the office so

I can keep supporting the team. It is a sincere pleasure and honor to be in their service.”

The next time you call the Chicago office, Ruth may likely answer the phone – unless she’s on another delegation.



CPT delegate Ruth Fast (left) with Colombia CPTer Stewart Vriesinga (right).

CPT AMERICAS CONVERGENCE

by Sarah Thompson

Join us this November for the first ever CPT Americas Convergence in Georgia, USA. CPTers and supporters from Turtle Island to the Southern Cone are invited to gather for five days of formative events including worship, public protest, fellowship, accompaniment, and the opportunity for nonviolent direct action Wednesday, 20 November through Sunday, 24 November 2013.

CPT will partner with the Alterna Community and former Steering Committee member Anton Flores-Maisonet based in LaGrange to participate in an annual public witness and civil disobedience action at the Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin. Stewart, a privately-run prison, is the largest immigrant detention center in the United States. Alterna and Georgia Detention Watch have long monitored this facility, documenting violations of human rights and detention standards and organizing vigils to remember the detainees trapped there as well as Roberto Martínez Medina who died while in detention at Stewart.

(See www.alternacomunity.com)

Following the witness in Lumpkin, CPT will join thousands gathered at the gates of Ft. Benning in Columbus to call for the closure of the infamous U.S. Army School of the Americas (SOA). Since 1946, this “School of Assassins” has trained over 64,000 Latin American soldiers in counterinsurgency techniques, psychological warfare, military intelligence and interrogation tactics. SOA graduates have consistently used their skills to wage a war against their own people targeting educators, union organizers, religious workers, student leaders, and others who work for the rights of the poor. Hundreds of thousands of Latin Americans have been tortured, raped, “disappeared,” assassinated,

and massacred by those trained at the SOA. Although the official name changed in 2001 from SOA to WHINSEC (Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation), the school under any name is synonymous with torture and impunity. (See www.soaw.org)

Named in the manner of the CPT European Convergence which just held their third annual meeting in May, this gathering will provide an opportunity for CPTers and supporters to connect with one another, gain strength for the long-haul journey for peace with justice, and reaffirm our commitment to life and creative nonviolent resistance in the face of Empire.

In our efforts to be nimble and flexible during this time of financial constraint, CPT will forgo its traditional biennial Peacemaker Congress in favor of expanding our presence at existing events such as the November gatherings in Georgia.

For more details contact CPT Reservist Beth Pyles (beth.pyles@gmail.com).



CPT NEEDS YOUR HELP

by Tim Nafziger and Sarah Thompson

On 30 May 2013, we got word from CPT-Colombia that Tito, one of the members of the Las Pavas community, had been attacked by workers for Aportes San Isidro, the palm oil company that has been trying to push the Las Pavas families off their land. (See page 4.)

This attack is an escalation of aggression against this community that is deeply committed to nonviolence. The Las Pavas leadership asked CPT to provide increased accompaniment for community members walking to and from their fields. Our team on the ground is already stretched thin and they appealed to CPT Reservists to help. We have people ready to go to Colombia if we can raise the funds. Can you contribute \$10 now to make this possible?

On 8 June, our Aboriginal Justice team sent a group of Reservists to New Brunswick, Canada in response to an invitation 48 hours earlier from Elsipogtog First Nation. Mi'kmaq and Maliseet peoples have been using creative nonviolent direct action to stop shale gas exploration on their traditional lands, including peacefully blockading a truck hired by the exploration company, SWN Resources Canada. (See page 2.)

A third request that same week came from the Owe Aku (Bring Back the Way) International Justice Project.

The community is preparing a response if US President Barack Obama approves the Keystone XL pipeline which would cross treaty lands of Lakota nations. CPT responded to our long-standing relationship with Lakota communities by sending CPTers Carol Rose and Duane Ediger to support a nonviolent direct action training on the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota 14-16 June. See <http://goo.gl/n7pFc>.

Your donations provide exactly what CPT needs to respond creatively and powerfully to these calls from communities to build partnerships with them that transform the violence and oppression they face. Please consider making a special contribution above and beyond your current level of giving to help us answer these urgent requests. Please also extend the invitation to people in your community, congregation, and family to contribute at this time (or regularly!). **You can use the enclosed envelope to send your donation or go online and set up a recurring contribution.**

At a time when industrial agriculture and resource extraction companies are pushing communities harder than ever, CPT comes alongside those using nonviolence in their struggle to live 'neath their vine and fig trees, in peace and unafraid. If we truly believe that there are alternatives to violence, now is the time to step up. Donate at: www.cpt.org/participate/donate. And thank you.



PEACE, PIES AND PROPHETS...

CPT's partnership with Ted & Company TheaterWorks has raised over \$70,000 so far in 2013. Ted Swartz's innovative, interactive satire, "I'd Like to Buy an Enemy," unpacks issues of justice and peace, confronts the fear that is ingrained in North American culture, and gets people laughing. The show combines theater and comedy with a "stealth" pie auction to put the "fun" in fundraising. Stay tuned for a show coming your way in the fall. To bring Peace, Pies & Prophets to your community, contact Megan at Ted & Company TheaterWorks; office@tedandcompany.com; 540-560-3973.



LETTERS

Thank you for your continuing witness in this nightmarish world for Palestinian families. This is exactly the kind of place Jesus wants us [to be].

**George and Judy Homanich
New York, USA**

Where so many are genuflecting to the idols of war/national security in our churches (including the appalling silence of most leaders/hierarchy) you are the "rare-ified air" in an otherwise stale, polluted atmosphere.

**Mark Costanzo
Ohio, USA**

Your prayers are often so profound that I copy them to include in my daily meditations and have read some in the "joys and concerns" part of our church service.

**Linda Larson
Illinois, USA**

Editor's Note: Prayers for Peacemakers is published each Wednesday. To subscribe, contact peacemakers@cpt.org and ask to be added to the distribution list.

Thank you CPT-Colombia. What horrible injustice to people with ongoing military support. Unfortunately so typical of our world - guns protecting greed.

**Dwyer Sullivan
Ontario, Canada**

Thank you for your work of advocacy on behalf of Las Pavas in Colombia and Al-Khalil (Hebron), and the other communities that you partner with. I donate money when I can, and participate in activism sometimes too because I feel angry and hurt as a Christian and as a Canadian when Stephen Harper and his government represent me with things like the Colombian free trade agreement and diplomatic relations with Israel that totally ignore human rights as a factor to be considered in such matters.

**Sandra Streifel
British Columbia, Canada**

Why do you continue to refer to Palestine as "territories?" The Palestinian Authority has declared Palestine to be a state; the UN has accepted Palestine as a "nonmember observer state" the same status that Switzerland held for 57 years; 138 countries in the world have recognized Palestine as a state and have diplomatic relations with it. Although the USA, Israel, and most of Europe have not recognized Palestine as a state, their lack of diplomatic relations with Palestine do not determine Palestine's statehood. Palestine is a state.

**Paul Parker, PhD
Elmhurst College
Illinois, USA**

KEY EVENTS 2013

See www.cpt.org for more information

PEACEMAKER DELEGATIONS

- **Aboriginal Justice:** 9–19 August;
27 September–7 October
- **Colombia:** 19 September–2 October
- **Iraqi Kurdistan:** 14–28 September
- **Palestine/Israel:** 3–26 August; October &
November 2013 dates to be announced

PEACEMAKER TRAINING

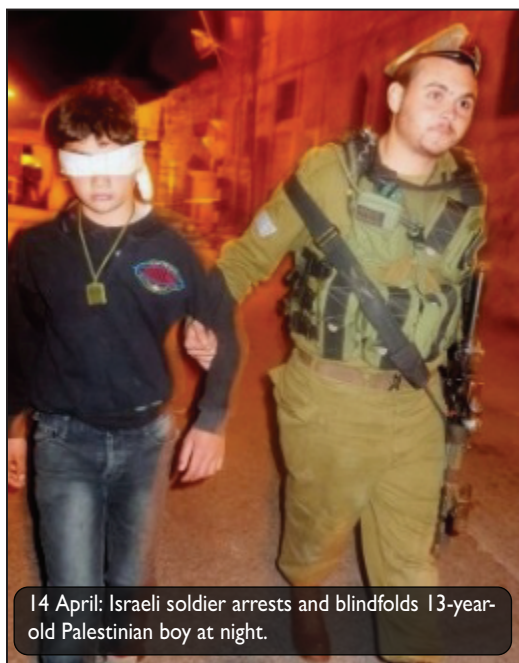
- **July/August 2013:** 19 July–19 August;
Chicago, Illinois, USA
- **July/August 2014:** 11 July–11 August;
Chicago, Illinois, USA (apply by 1 May 2013)

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- 15–19 October 2013; Conference Call
- 19–22 March 2014; Stony Point, New York, USA
- 14–18 October 2014; Conference Call

CPT AMERICAS CONVERGENCE

- 20–24 November; contact Beth Pyles
(beth.pyles@gmail.com) for details.



Christian Peacemaker Teams is sponsored by
• Church of the Brethren/On Earth Peace • Friends
United Meeting • Mennonite Church Canada • Men-
nonite Church USA • Baptist Peace Fellowship of
North America • Congregation of St. Basil (the Basil-
ians) • Presbyterian Peace Fellowship.

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14 April: Israeli soldier arrests and blindfolds 13-year-old Palestinian boy at night.

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