

CPT and the struggle to end all wars



community peacemaker teams
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Letter from the editor

When Russia began its offense against Ukraine earlier this year, and much of the world condemned the attacks, including CPT, an apparent dichotomy emerged. On the one hand, countries, institutions and corporations coalesced together to boycott and sanction Russia for its brutal invasion. And on the other hand, despite the clear evidence of Israel's ongoing armed occupation of Palestine, there was no inkling of interest in condemning Israel's systemic violation of Palestinian human rights. In their reflection, "It doesn't add up: From Ukraine to Palestine," B.S. asks, "Why is the world leaving Palestine and the Palestinian people to suffer?" The answer they suggest "stems from a culture of racism and discrimination based on ethnicity." In fact, companies have further invested in businesses operating in illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank, and companies like Google and Amazon have gone even further by fortifying Israel's surveillance systems. "The world refuses to hold so-called Israel accountable to international law." B.S. further writes, "Decisions that Palestinians have waited to see implemented for seventy years were applied in Ukraine in seven days. Why? Is the Palestinian inferior to the Ukrainian? Why this discrimination?"

How, then, can we draw attention to this discrimination? How can we learn about the realities not mentioned in the news to understand the oppression experienced by Palestinians? How can we be allies to their resistance and efforts to challenge and dismantle the settler state forced upon them? Answer: Join a CPT delegation.

A vital component of CPT's work is to host delegations. A delegation is an opportunity to spend a couple of weeks with a team to learn about on-the-ground realities rooted in a contextual understanding of the dynamics of history, politics, conflict and oppression. Since

the pandemic, travel and hosting delegations have been challenging, but they're back on our calendar. We host both in-person delegations and virtual delegations. Visit our website, cpt.org/delegations, for further details and dates.

When the United States invaded Iraq in 2003, CPT sent multiple delegations to live alongside Iraqis during that period. Kathy Kelly wrote about her experience. "Day and night, we heard sickening thuds, gut-wrenching explosions and ear-splitting blasts." Kelly, the founder of Voices for Creative Nonviolence, reflects in her piece, "CPT and the struggle to end all wars," the crucial role delegations played in the direct defiance of economic sanctions and violence while building bridges that affirmed humanity and collaboration against imperialism and oppression. She writes, "The call to truly turn away from dominating others while also struggling to end all wars requires a tremendous reckoning. We must grapple, personally and communally, with dark stains of colonialism, racism, and falsely presumed superiorities. At the same time, we must recognize our fundamental interconnectedness."

We are grateful to share these stories with you and thankful for your support. Consider joining an upcoming delegation or investing in peace by supporting someone else's delegation experience.



In kindness,
Caldwell Manners
Communications Coordinator

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Community Peacemaker Teams recipients of the International Peace Award 2023

Community of Christ and the Shaw Family Foundation have announced Community Peacemaker Teams as recipients of the International Peace Award 2023.

The two organizations recognized CPT's thirty-five years of commitment to "the transforming power of nonviolence through activism grounded in partnerships with grassroots peace movements."

Upon the announcement, CPT's Administrative Director, Muriel Schmid, said, "CPT is honored for the recognition this Peace Award represents. We receive it on behalf of all our partners who have resisted violence and oppression in creative and strong ways. We are grateful for the many years of solidarity accompaniment with them and for learning from them. We look forward to the world of peace we are all working toward."

CPT is honored to join the long list of awardees that includes Leymah Gbowee, Dolores Huerta and Father Virgilio Elizondo, to name a few.

CPT will receive the award during the Community of Christ World Conference in April 2023.

About the Award

The International Peace Award has been presented annually since 1993. Award recipients are individuals or organizations doing important work in justice and peace not currently associated with Community of Christ. Through awareness and recognition, the award helps promote the importance of partnerships beyond the boundaries of Community of Christ.

Honorees represent diversity in ethnicity, gender, and faith. Their work aligns with Community of Christ's efforts to 'Pursue Peace on Earth and Abolish Poverty and End Suffering' by seeking avenues of peace amid conflict, injustice, and suffering of persons, creatures, and the environment.

The award includes a financial gift to be donated to the charitable peace, justice, or environmental organization(s) of the recipient's choice. Honorees also receive a sculpture created by Wyoming artist Gail Sundell. Each is made slightly different to honor the specific peacemaking contribution of the recipient.

"We could not do the work without you...and we could not do the work without our workers either." - Muriel Schmid

CPT is a **living wage employer**; we care about our workers.

As an organization centred in **justice**, we are proud to provide excellent **health care benefits**, an emphasis on **self- and community-care** practices, and last year we made a **commitment** to become a living wage employer. Unfortunately, with the rise of basic living costs due to inflation, providing a living wage has had a large impact on our budget.

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CPT and the struggle to end all wars

By Kathy Kelly

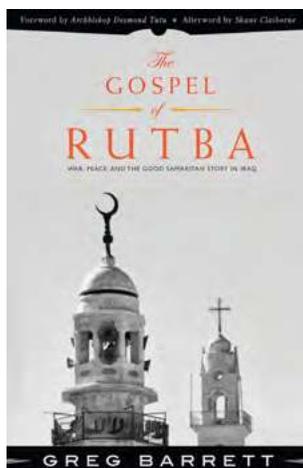
I was fortunate to be in Chicago during CPT's early years and to revel in friendships with some of the founding members. I remember a surprise visit from Gene Stoltzfus in 1994. "Kathy Kelly, the Lord is calling you to go to Haiti!" I laughed and asked him when. "Tomorrow," Gene said. At the time, the U.S. was ratcheting up economic sanctions against Haiti, and within a few days international bank transactions would be prohibited. CPT needed someone to hop a flight, carrying funds to its team there, before borders crossings were also prohibited.

I spent close to three months living with the team in Jeremie, a southern province of Haiti, in an area where Ton Ton Macoute militants routinely attacked people. Eventually, we learned that local Ton Ton Macoute were anxious about our team's weekly reports via ham radio to CPTers in the U.S. Apparently, these reports caused declining attacks amid rumors that if the U.S. military were to invade Haiti, Ton Ton Macoutes could be targeted. The local military commander, Rigeau Jean, said he was "ashamed and embarrassed that it was left to those "blans" (foreigners) on the hill to preserve the peace and security of this region."

Yet CPT could do nothing to ease the terrible poverty afflicting neighbors in Saint Elen. I left Haiti with a lifelong remembrance of a young boy doubled over in hunger, moaning, in Creole, "I'm hungry. I'm hungry."

CPT members again encountered lethal consequences of economic warfare through participation in delegations to Iraq where economic sanctions, first imposed in August of 1990, directly contributed to the deaths of over 500,000 children. CPT and Voices in the Wilderness (VitW) collaborated in defying the U.S./UK led economic sanctions by delivering medicines and medical supplies to families and hospitals in cities throughout the country.

After a decade long economic siege, infrastructure had deteriorated. Maintaining machines and equipment or even getting decent tires for vehicles was nearly impossible. In January of 2002, a CPT delegation traveled in a convoy from Basra to Baghdad. The drivers had safely delivered over seventy delegations to various locales, but in the scorching heat of southern Iraq, roads became dangerous because the hot pavement affected vehicle tires. One of the SUVs carrying CPT members turned over when a tire exploded, killing a Canadian team member, George Weber, and hospitalizing one of the U.S. members, Charlie Jackson. The drivers were briefly jailed and one of them faced serious legal charges. I remember learning about the tragedy from Gene Stoltzfus who called me in NYC, where I was planning, in several days, to depart for Iraq. I boarded my flight carrying a letter from George Weber's



widow, whom CPT leaders had respectfully asked to exonerate the drivers from blame. The letter, crucial for the remorse filled drivers, exemplified CPT's attentiveness to caring personal relationships even in the midst of tragedy.

Returning to Iraq, I rejoined CPT and VitW to live alongside Iraqis as the entire country awaited what seemed an inevitable U.S. led bombing and invasion. In Chicago, the CPT and VitW offices worked hard to form and prepare delegations heading to Iraq while activists in Baghdad earnestly sought visas for prospective travelers.

Dozens of team members were in Baghdad throughout the March 2003 "Operation Shock and Awe." Day and night, we heard sickening thuds, gut-wrenching explosions and ear-splitting blasts. Lacking phones and electricity, we lost touch with everyone we knew, and communication between our team members, occupying several different hotels, became difficult. We finally managed to set up a meeting with a grim reality topping the agenda. The danger and expense of road travel

out of the country was increasing each day. What would we do if medical evacuations were needed? Unfortunately, the delegation staying at the Al Dar Hotel, while walking to the planned meeting, was detained by Iraqi authorities for photographing a site which had been bombed overnight. Iraqi authorities insisted those whom they had detained must leave, - immediately. And so commenced a dangerous journey from Baghdad to Amman. A bomb hit the road along which the CPT convoy was traveling, and a driver lost control of his car. Several CPT members were severely injured in the accident. Cliff Kindy suffered a head wound and was bleeding profusely. Fortunately, several Iraqis who had passed the overturned car risked their lives to help get the passengers to a hospital. Years later, the team members returned to Iraq, seeking to thank all who had helped them survive.

Greg Barrett's *The Gospel According to Rutba* narrates this riveting and yet heartening story.

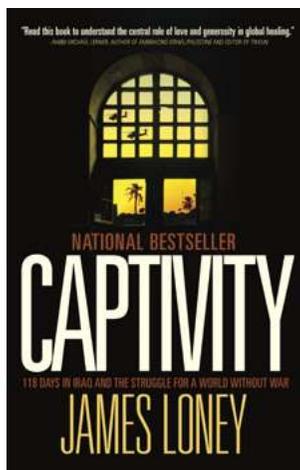
Following the Shock and Awe bombing, several CPT members began to vigil outside of detention centers where Iraqis, rounded up by U.S. military forces, had been imprisoned. Iraqi families often had no idea what their loved ones were charged with or where they were taken. CPT decided to accompany families in their efforts to follow imprisoned Iraqis. Carefully and steadily, team members approached detention sites and built relationships with the U.S. military officials in charge. They interviewed dozens of families, helped develop support networks, and kept track of seventy-two cases of Iraqis detained in U.S. prisons.

Two Palestinian who had been students at an Iraqi University visited our VitW team in Amman, Jordan, shortly before we headed to Iraq in December of 2003. The young men talked about their harrowing six months as prisoners in the U.S. Bucca Compound, south of Basra. They had been arrested as "third country nationals," TCNs, detained because their ID cards identified them as Palestinians. Perhaps their ability to speak English helped them persuade a three-judge tribunal to release them. Several of their friends still endured deplorable conditions in the makeshift desert prison. The students begged us to visit them. CPT's data base identified the officer in charge of the prison

and also helped us connect with the brother of one prisoner. With him, we traveled to the Bucca Compound and were able to witness the tearful reunion of the brothers and learn from the visit with all three prisoners about the awful conditions they endured. Later we learned that Ali Baghdadi, the founder of ISIS, had been imprisoned both there and in Abu Ghraib.

CPT, through interviews, was already learning about horrendous conditions inside Abu Ghraib. The team conveyed their concerns to journalist Seymour Hersh, sparking eventual condemnation, worldwide, as the scandal of U.S. human rights abuses inside Abu Ghraib was exposed.

Another imprisonment deeply affected all who were involved with the Christian Peacemaker Teams during the chaos which followed the U.S. invasion and occupation. Four CPT members were taken hostage, in Baghdad, on November 26, 2005. Tom Fox was killed and the remaining three were released, after 118 days, on March 23, 2006.



Jim Loney's gripping memoir of the ordeal, *Captivity*, is the most challenging reflection on war and peace I've ever read. "Whenever we soil someone else with violence," Jim wrote in a later essay, "whether through a war, poverty, racism or neglect, we invariably soil ourselves. It is only when we turn away from dominating others that we can begin to discover what the Christian scriptures call 'the glorious freedom of the children of God.'"

The call to truly turn away from dominating others while also struggling to end all wars requires a tremendous reckoning. We must grapple, personally and communally, with dark stains of colonialism, racism, and falsely presumed superiorities. At the same time, we must recognize our fundamental interconnectedness. With profound regard for CPT's resilience and treasuring the role it will play in the further invention of nonviolence, I'm reminded of Dag Hammarskjöld's words: "For all that has been, thank you. To all that shall be, yes." ■

Kathy Kelly co-coordinates the Ban Killer Drones campaign which seeks an international treaty banning weaponized drones. In 1996, she co-founded Voices in the Wilderness which was succeeded by Voices for Creative Nonviolence (2005 - 2020).



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It doesn't add up: From Ukraine to Palestine

By B.S.

War, whatever its causes, produces pain and crimes against humanity. The only winners of war are the politicians, and the victims are the innocent people—those who suffer trauma, displacement, starvation, and death. Through the news and social media, we are bombarded with daily accounts of killing and violence. We all sympathized with the victims of Russia's invasion of Ukraine as residents fled their homes and innocent people were killed. This war has continued for months. I hope it stops soon and that all residents can return to their country safely and peacefully. I hope the tears of every child who has been afraid of this ugly war are wiped dry. We, as Palestinians, are the most empathetic toward those who suffer from and resist war. We have been through many wars.

We have cried, we have suffered, and we continue to be forcibly displaced from our lands. Our homes are being demolished and many of us are trapped, homeless or stateless. We have been torn apart from other citizens residing in Palestine in 1948: the Palestinians of Jerusalem, the Palestinians of the West Bank, and the Palestinians of the Gaza Strip. Some Palestinians from Palestine 48 have become internally displaced persons in the West Bank. Others have been forced out of Palestine. To this day, we are being divided and our land is being occupied. We are prevented from entering our country and our lands except

when we get permits and approval from the Israeli occupation.

During the first days of the war between Russia and Ukraine, we watched the world's reaction. Many countries condemned and denounced Russia's invasion and began imposing economic sanctions on Russia. Since the fifth day of the war, sanctions have been imposed on the Russian president and Russian politicians. International giants like McDonald's, Starbucks, and Kentucky Fried Chicken closed all their branches in Russia, and even Apple, FedEx, Netflix, and MasterCard pulled out. Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter put restrictions on Russia's use of their platforms. Sanctions were imposed on the Russian press, and many countries froze Russian assets and Russian accounts at international banks. Many countries closed their airspaces to Russian airlines, Russia's participation in global sports was prohibited, and Russian diplomatic missions and ambassadors in foreign countries were expelled. The International Criminal Court is preparing to investigate Russia's war crimes.

These are all important ways to put pressure on Russia to stop the war. But why does the world not take a similar position regarding the Israeli occupation of Palestine? On topics of Palestine, the world is silent, seldom daring to condemn or denounce Israeli violence. While the countries of the world race to provide



Photo: Laura W Hudson / Flickr

material and food aid—even military aid—in extensive international relief operations for Ukraine, Palestine continues to call for international protection from Israeli settler violence and attacks. In the Gaza Strip, under a suffocating siege, there are two million citizens who have been trapped for years, and yet nothing changes.

Why is the world leaving Palestine and the Palestinian people to suffer? The reason stems from a culture of racism and discrimination based on ethnicity. Ukraine is a European country and Palestine is an Eastern and Arab country; this is why the world has responded differently to the situation in Ukraine.

Palestinian refugees have been waiting seventy years for their right of return, as defined by international law, so what about them? Why has the world ignored Palestine but rose up together against Russia? Why have giant companies remained in so-called Israel instead of pulling out as they did in Russia? Instead, these companies have worsened the situation in Palestine as they support settler-colonialism by opening offices in illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank. The world refuses to hold so-called Israel accountable to international law, the United Nations, or their decisions. But the decisions that Palestinians have waited to see implemented for seventy years were applied in Ukraine in seven days. Why? Is the Palestinian inferior to the

Ukrainian? Why this discrimination?

Meanwhile, the Israeli government has followed the example of the international community and dealt humanely with Ukrainians in crisis. While the Israeli occupation has received many Ukrainian refugees and provided them with food, shelter, and health services, it continues to prevent Palestinians from moving freely.

Every day in Palestine the Israeli occupation arrests, beats, and kills people and seizes and demolishes Palestinian homes. In Jerusalem, the Israeli government makes it very difficult for Palestinians to get permits to build houses. When Palestinians build a house without a permit, the Israeli government demands that they demolish their house and pay the cost of the demolition while simultaneously building illegal settlements across East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

The Israeli occupation confiscates lands from Palestinians. Israeli soldiers intimidate and detain children, and a wall divides Palestine and cuts Palestinians off from each other. A person who lives in the Gaza Strip cannot visit their relatives in the West Bank or even in Palestine 48. Stories have been shared of peoples' suffering since 1948, but to this day the world only sees what it wants to see. Come to Palestine to see what is really going on here. ■



Mariela Jimenez, president of El Guayabo Community Action Committee. Photo: Caldwell Manners/CPT



Let dignity be custom for all

By Pierre Shantz

On 7 August, Gustavo Petro and Francia Márquez were sworn in as President and Vice-President of Colombia. They were elected in a historical election, receiving over 11,000,000 votes, the most votes ever cast for a winning candidate. Colombians elected Petro and Márquez under the Historical Pact coalition of left-wing progressive political parties and social movements working tirelessly against a wealthy and corrupt system that has held political and economic control of Colombia since its foundation.

Gustavo Petro, a political activist from a young age, joined the M19 guerrilla group in the late 1970s. In 1990, the M19 signed an agreement to disarm and continue their struggle through politics. After the demobilization, Petro was elected to several public office positions serving as a senator and later as mayor of Bogotá. A key victory of the M19 was the formation of the National Constituent Assembly of 1991, which created the new Constitution replacing the markedly outdated constitution of 1886. The 1991 constitution provided significant guarantees

for fundamental rights for all citizens, which was missing from the previous document.

The vice-presidential candidate, Francia Márquez, is an Afro-Colombian woman who grew up amid poverty and violence of war. She is from the pacific region that is predominantly populated by Afro-Colombians and Indigenous peoples. It is one of the most abandoned regions of Colombia due to institutional and societal racism. From a very young age, she assumed leadership to defend the rights of her community and the environment. Her leadership in the struggle to protect the environment led to her receiving the Goldman Environmental Prize in 2018. She was recognized as “a formidable leader of the Afro-Colombian community, [who] organized the women of La Toma and stopped illegal gold mining on their ancestral land,” reads the Goldman website. “She exerted steady pressure on the Colombian government and spearheaded a 10-day, 350-mile march of 80 women to the nation’s capital, resulting in the removal of all illegal miners and equipment from her community.”

During the presidential campaign, horrible racist remarks were made on social media against Márquez, comparing her to a gorilla and ridiculing the expression “vivir sabroso” used by her community and campaign. The phrase translates literally to “living deliciously,” which people interpreted as lazy black people who simply want to party all the time, living off the back of the state without working. Márquez patiently explained throughout the campaign that to ‘live deliciously’ means to live with dignity. She also replied to a famous singer who compared her to King Kong, sending the singer an “ancestral embrace” so she could find healing.

During her swearing-in ceremony, Francia Márquez repeated the oath, “I swear to God and to the people to faithfully fulfil the constitution and laws of Colombia.” Then she added, “I also swear before my ancestors until dignity becomes custom.”

Petro opened his inaugural speech by recognizing several foreign dignitaries present. Then, in a beautiful recognition of the grassroots people who participated in the mass movement to elect him, he saluted everyday ordinary folks including a fisherman, a young Afro-Colombian woman leader, a domestic worker, a small farmer, a traditional flower artist, and an informal street vendor. Then he continued to recognize the different dignitaries present, both foreign and national.

Continuing with his speech, Petro named several policy changes he plans to implement. He spoke about Colombia being a World Power of Life, ending decades of violence and inequality (armed, economic, cultural, societal) that has killed hundreds of thousands of people.

He committed to fully implementing the Peace Agreements signed with the FARC in 2016. The former government had promised to do everything in its power not to implement the agreements and, sadly, fulfilled its promise. According to the most recent report by the University of Notre Dame Kroc Institute which has monitored the implementation of the agreements, only 30% of the stipulations have been completed, 19% are at an intermediate level of completion, 37% are at a minimum level, and 15% have not yet been initiated.

One of Petro’s main goals is to challenge northern countries to rethink their policies on drugs and recognize that the war on drugs is not the solution. On inauguration day, Petro stated, “It is time for a new international convention that accepts that the war on drugs

has failed, that it has left a million dead Latin Americans during 40 years and that it leaves 70,000 North Americans dead by overdose each year. The war on drugs strengthened mafias and weakened states.”

Since Latin America gained independence from European countries, the economic and social elite have held power. Short attempts of progressive political movements have succeeded in reaching the highest office, but most have faced severe opposition from traditional elite and foreign governments and industry. This opposition manifested itself through coups d’état, economic sanctions, and the funding of armed groups to overthrow the government, among other tactics. Millions of people have died due to civil wars in the region, and millions more have died because they didn’t have their basic needs met. All of these millions died because of injustice and greed.

Colombia’s civil war is the longest in the Americas and will probably continue for many more years. Petro and Márquez are hoping to implement processes that will lead to a disarming of all current armed groups: “La Paz Total” (Total Peace). This will not be an easy road.

As the Historical Pact comes to power, they receive a country facing major levels of violence. According to IndePaz, in 2022, 128 social leaders were assassinated, and there were 79 massacres to date. The newly elect also must bolster a fragile economy that has been looted by decades of corruption as evidenced by a 2017 report from Comptroller General Edgardo Maya. Several more recent reports have revealed that money destined for the implementation of the 2016 Peace Agreements was stolen by government officials at all levels, leaving the new government with dramatically reduced coffers to move forward with genuine implementation of the 2016 agreements. On 7 August, Petro declared, “the objective of the State’s intelligence community is to investigate corruption,” sending a clear signal to those who have held onto their political and economic power through corrupt means.

Changing a system so deeply entrenched in racist, colonial, and capitalist policies will not be easy. Petro and Márquez both recognized it will be impossible to undo hundreds of years of violence and corruption in four years, but it has to start somewhere. So let us all make an oath like that of newly elected Vice-President Francia Márquez: to work and struggle to ensure dignity be the custom for all. ■

Guests on the Yintah

By Dan Huizenga

In May 2022, I spent two weeks at the Gidimt'en village site to support Wet'suwet'en Land Defenders in their struggle for sovereignty as they resist the development of the Coastal GasLink pipeline through their Yintah (territory). While there, I witnessed 7-12 Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) officers trespassing on the site three times a day. They would arrive at any time, walk through the village, take photos, and write in their notebooks. Seemingly simple activities were asserted routinely and aggressively. Their role was to criminalize, intimate, and harass the Wet'suwet'en who lived there and pressure their supporters to leave.

The role of the RCMP is to impose the settler state on Indigenous peoples living on their lands. They forcibly and routinely performed the falsehood that the Crown has ultimate authority over the Yintah.

Despite the constant presence and pressure of the RCMP, the Wet'suwet'en are building a Feast Hall at Lamprey, a site just across the

road where the Lamprey Creek enters into the Wedzin Kwa, the sacred river that runs through the Yintah. The Feast Hall will be a site for Wet'suwet'en governance and celebration.

One evening I played a few songs on the community guitar for Auntie Janet, the Matriarch who lives in the cabin at Gidimt'en, as well as a few others around the fire. Auntie Janet must routinely confront the RCMP as they trespass on her private residence. She asked me to write a song about the Wedzin Kwa. This song is a product of that request. It is a song about the settler violence I witnessed and the resistance that continues. As an ally and settler, it is my interpretation of the land and Wet'suwet'en law. It is an attempt to connect with all our relations, with the plants, animals, the water of the Wedzin Kwa, the history of the Yintah, and one another. It is about the practices that affirm a world much different than the one the Canadian government and the RCMP are attempting to naturalize. ■

An excerpt from *Guests on the Yintah*

*Law comes from the land, it's woven through with
Wet'suwet'en stories*

*Traditions, across generations, being carried forward in
love*

*If you arrive in uniform, badges, and boots
Carrying barrels for bullets and pipelines*

If you come close the Matriarch will tell you clearly:

*"Get off the Yintah, this is our home on the Yintah
The Wedzin Kwa on the Yintah has millennia on you"*

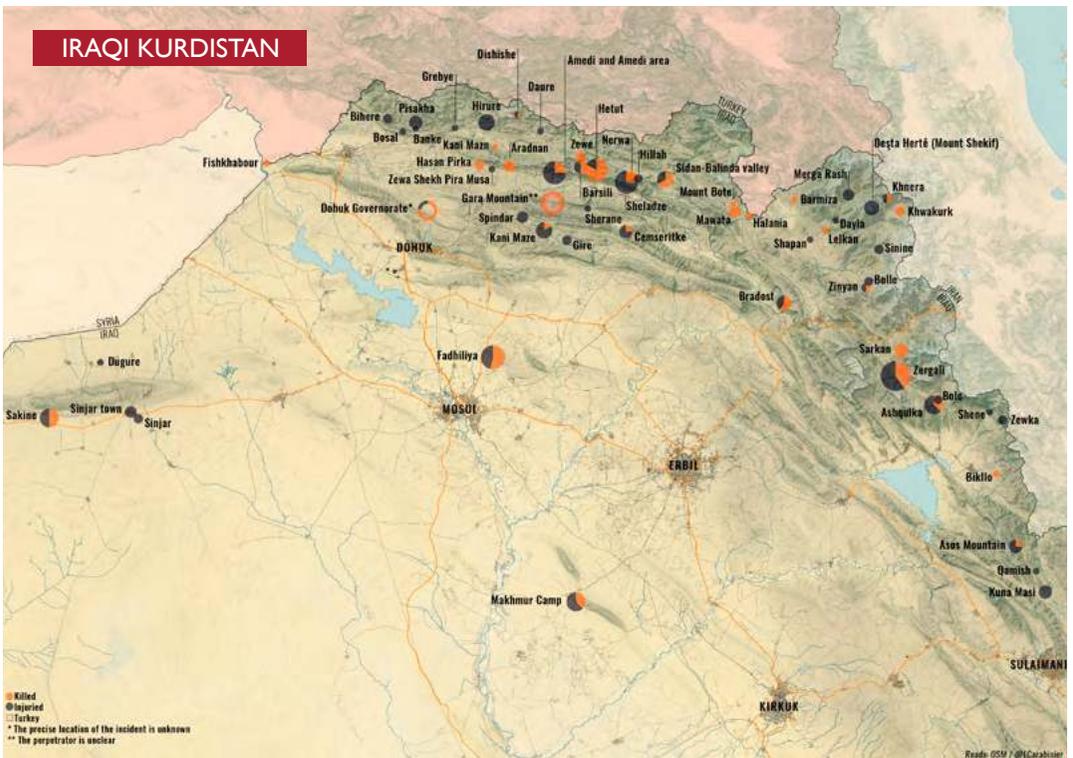
*We hold this space to let all our relations expand
We hold this space with love for the land*

There's a path from the Healing Lodge to the Feast Hall

Scan the QR code to watch Dan perform
Guests on the Yintah



IRAQI KURDISTAN



New report reveals civilian victims of Turkey's cross-border attacks

On 19 July 2022 an attack was recorded in the village of Parakhe, near Zakho (Duhok province). The attack saw 9 civilians killed and 24 wounded. This kind of attack by Turkey, which targets civilians, has been taking place for seven years in northern Iraq, and have killed a minimum of 98 civilians, also causing thousands of displaced persons. These are the main findings of a new report published today, 23rd August 2022.

The research, by the international civil society coalition End Cross Border Bombing Campaign (ECBBC), lays out for the first time and in meticulous detail the civilian impact of an often underreported aggression.

Since 2015 Turkish forces have launched more than 4,000 aerial, artillery, and ground attacks within the borders of Iraq, of which 1,600 were registered in 2021 alone, the report documents.

Not solely have these operations fueled insecurity and instability in the area, but they disproportionately impact the lives of civilians living in the region, as the report points out.

Among the key findings of the report are:

- Turkish military actions have killed

between 98 and 123 civilians and in at least 88 incidents since 2015.

- Those incidents involving civilian harm have been on the rise, at least 40 incidents have taken place in the 2020-2021.
- More than 55 civilian farmers and livestock owners were killed or wounded by Turkish forces while farming or tending their livestock.
- 13% of those killed are women, with 87% men. In addition, at least six children were killed in the attacks, with a further 14 injured.
- An estimated 500 villages have been abandoned during the same period.

“Every story mentioned in this report matters, and we should not wait longer to document more stories. Instead, we all together as human beings must seek and take action for peace for the Iraqi people. Only together can we work to not let the tragedy of history repeat itself on this land,” states Mohammed Salah with Community Peacemaker Teams, an ECBBC member organization. “There has been much discussion of the disastrous US-led invasion of

Iraq, but this is in many ways the forgotten invasion of Iraq.” he added.

Diverse mosaic

The region of Iraqi Kurdistan and the governorate of Nineveh are home to a diverse mosaic of communities, many of whom live in mountain villages and practice agro-pastoral activities for a living. For many, airstrikes pose a tangible and all-too-frequent risk to their sustenance and even to their own life. An unknown yet significant number of families have been forced to leave their home as a result of the destruction caused by the bombings, or in fear for their lives, and relocate to neighbouring cities or IDPs camps where no basic service or infrastructure is present.

Under the justification of fighting militants from the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK), for more than thirty years Turkey’s aerial forces have carried out cross-border military operations within the borders of Iraq. Ankara has faced few consequences for these aggressions, and in recent years according to local sources more than 60 Turkish military bases and outposts have been built inside Iraqi territory – from which operations are frequently launched with devastating effects.

Since 2015 the Turkish military has launched a number of named campaigns that have involved operations further and further into Iraqi territory. The most recent of these, Operation Claw Lock, was launched earlier in 2022 and has seen Turkish forces operating established only 40 kilometers from major Iraqi Kurdish cities, including Erbil – the de-facto capital of the semi-autonomous region.

The ECBBC report does not only detail the incidents and provides numbers of killed and wounded civilians but also analyzes the circumstances of all incidents and presents the identities of 155 of the victims.

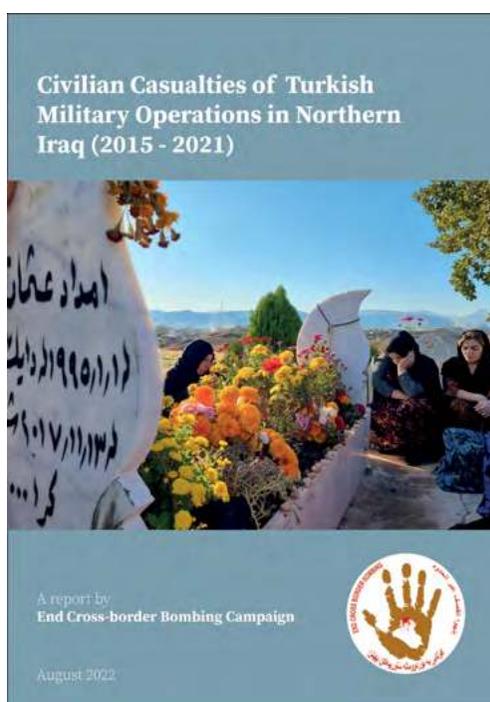
The collection of the data has been done primarily by interviews with survivors of the attacks and their relatives and community members, by interviews with local government representatives and analysis, as well as cross-checking of publicly available media and social media publications.

The databases on incidents and casualties, along with other findings of the present report represent a valuable and unique record of the civilian harm caused by Turkish military incursions within the borders of Iraq, and sheds light on the extent and seriousness of the crimes which such operations produce.

There exists a serious gap between the extent of the Turkish operations and their civilian harm, which goes far beyond individual death and injuries, and its documentation. The civilian impacts of Turkish operations remain underreported. Civilians lack channels of reporting the harm and receiving necessary support. We believe that this report will bridge some of this concerning divide.

The Campaign appeals to the international civil society and organizations to help individuate and encourage the parties involved in the conflict to find a peaceful solution to the current situation in the best interest of the civilians who are paying the highest price for the belligerent/bellicist policies adopted by the state actors involved.

End Cross Border Bombing is a campaign born two years ago and it’s an international coalition of local and international that have the aim to advocate and creating awareness on the topic of bombardments in the region of Iraq. The coalition is composed by: Iraqi Civil Society Solidarity Initiative, Community Peacemaker Teams, Iraq Body Count, CODEPINK, NOVACT, Un Ponte Per, Solidarity with Kurdistan/Solkurd.



Read the report at cpt.org
or scan the QR code to access
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Trauma-informed resources needed at the US/Mexico border. Many migrants uprooted from their homes in Central America and Mexico do so to escape the trauma of gang threats and violence, domestic abuse, or extreme poverty. Yet, their journeys bring the additional trauma of assault, threats and intimidation by local officials or cartels, and physical hardships and injury.

Support CPT's solidarity accompaniment on the US/Mexico Borderlands by donating at cpt.org



Building Partnerships to Transform
Violence and Oppression

community peacemaker teams
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Return Service Requested