Christian Peacemaker Teams • www.cpt.org • January-March 2013 building partnerships to transform violence and oppression Vol. XXIII, No. 1

Signs of the **Inside: Year in Review** 2012

BOMBS IN THE BACK YARD

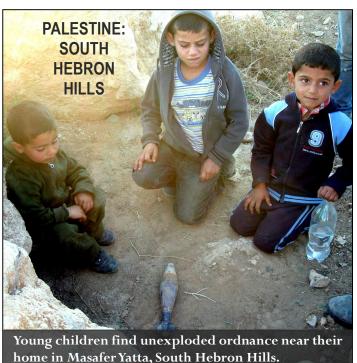
Imagine that armed men in uniform show up in your neighborhood and declare it a firing range. They threaten you and your neighbors with forced evacuation. They post demolition orders on your house, your church and the school your children attend.

That is what a thousand Palestinians living in eight villages in the Masafer Yatta region of the South Hebron Hills face

today. Their villages lie within the area Israel claims as Firing Zone 918. Residents could lose their homes, schools, crops, livestock, mosques and their way of life within the year.

----- COLOMBIA -WOMEN LEADERS THREATENED

Two leaders of the Popular Women's Organization (OFP), National Director Yolanda Becerra and Regional Coordinator Gloria Amparo Suárez, have been threatened with violence against them and their children. *(cont'd page 3)*



On 16 January 2013 the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) filed a petition on behalf of Masafer Yatta residents, and the Israeli court granted a temporary order preventing forcible evacuation of the families for now.

cont'd page 2

- ABORIGINAL JUSTICE - WELCOME TO IDLE NO MORE

I grew up in the Canadian north of Watson Lake, Yukon. My elementary years were spent in a public school with children of the Kaska Nation.

(cont'd page 4)

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cont'd from page 1

Meanwhile, the Israeli military conducts training operations in the area night and day. Soldiers drive large vehicles across planted fields, confiscate residents' cars, cameras, phones and livestock, land helicopters next to dwellings, and threaten families with eviction and home demolition. Children stumble upon unexploded ordnance on their way to school. The sounds of helicopters and repeated gunfire awaken families in the middle of the night.

CPTers recently visited a family in the village of Jinba. After a nice meal and playing with the kids, it was bedtime.

No more than five minutes after head touched pillow they heard gunfire in the distance. They got up and looked out the window but couldn't see anything in the dark. After about fifteen minutes the gunfire stopped and they went back to bed.

Two hours later they were awakened by a flare followed by another round of distant shooting.

After another two hours they bolted out of bed at the sound an explosion. It

was loud and close. It was past 1:00 a.m. so they couldn't make out anything.

They went back to bed but CPTer Jonathan Brenneman said:

There was no chance of falling back asleep. Paranoia had sunk in. Every sound worried me. Were soldiers moving toward the house? Was that tap on the roof a misguided explosive?

As I lay wide awake I thought about how the family in the next room has to deal with this every night. How do any of them ever sleep? I realized that these friends are some of the bravest people I've ever met. And I am honored to walk beside them in their struggle.

See a short video called Save Masafer Yatta at http://goo.gl/E5TfV and sign a petition at http://goo.gl/jGMxz.

Ten CPTers from England, Palestine, Philippines, Sweden, the USA, and Wales served the Palestine team January-March 2013. 5-18 March delegation: six members came from Australia, Canada, the UK and the USA. Names withheld due to the State of Israel's policy of denying entry to many peacemakers.



COLOMBIA

cont'd from page 1

WOMEN LEADERS THREATENED

The OFP, one of CPT-Colombia's partners based in Barrancabermeja, has defended women's rights in the Magdalena Medio region for forty years. As part of their work they have publicly denounced violations against women perpe-

trated by both government forces and illegal armed actors. Because of this work, OFP leaders have suffered numerous threats and several have had to flee to other cities for their protection.

On 11 February a man came into the OFP office asking for information about their high school diploma program for adults. After speaking with Suárez, he asked her "Why don't you stick with this instead of [messing] around at the national level and stirring up trouble?"

The man then asked Suárez if she knew where her children were. He said, "We do." Then he pulled out his mobile phone and showed her pictures of her sons. He also showed her a picture of Becerra getting out of a car which she uses as part of a government protection program. He said, "Tell Becerra ... we know all of her movements. So, now that you know, stop this [crap] and shut up because we do not want to have to [mess] with you."

ACTION

Please raise your voice to help protect Gloria, Yolanda, their families and their colleagues. Send an e-mail to Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos Calderon via the Colombian Embassy or Consulate nearest you. See http://goo.gl/OXZiJ for e-mail addresses.



Crafting your message:

- Start with Dear President Santos / Estimado Sr. Presidente.
- Describe briefly who you are and where you are writing from.
- Express your deep concern for the safety of Gloria Amparo Suárez and her children, Yolanda Becerra, and other members of the OFP due to the threats against them.
- Ask President Santos to arrange for whatever kinds of protection the women request.
- Urge him to order a full and impartial investigation into the threats, to publish the results and to bring those responsible to justice.
- Please note that Colombia has free trade agreements with the USA, Canada, the EU and South Korea. Citizens of these places may mention the expectation that, in light of this relationship, any such threat against human rights defenders will be treated as a matter of the highest priority.
- Ask for a reply to let you know what steps have been taken. (?)

CPTers serving the Colombia team January-March 2013 were Lorena Castilla, intern (Colombia), Julie & Phil Hart (Ohio, USA), Drew Herbert (California, USA) Evarossa Horz (Frankfurt, Germany), Caldwell Manners (Meghalaya, India), Hannah Redekop (Ontario, Canada), Sandra Milena Rincón (Colombia), Pierre Shantz (Colombia) and Stewart Vriesinga (Ontario, Canada).

(cont'd from page 1)

WELCOME TO IDLE NO MORE

by Kathy Moorhead Thiessen

As I became an adult I was pretty proud of my exposure to and knowledge of indigenous people.

But after returning from a sevenyear sojourn away from Canada, I realized that I knew very little. I did not like the discomfort I felt as I walked the streets of Winnipeg, Manitoba, home to the largest urban indigenous population in Canada. It was then I decided I had to learn. Over the last two years I have pushed myself to read and sit and listen.

The Idle No More movement, which captured world attention, has provided many opportunities to do just that. It was amazing to join the round dance that stopped traffic at Winnipeg's biggest intersection on 31 December 2012, especially since two weeks before I had never even heard of a round dance. Indigenous and non-indigenous alike were welcomed and joined in the joyous event.

At a public forum on 24 February, six local indigenous leaders from different walks of life shared their stories and commitment to Idle No More. Chickadee Richards of Bear Clan sees the movement as "a way to rebuild relationships." "We have forgotten how to care for one another," she said.

Michael Champagne, who grew up in North Winnipeg, added "If you are hurting, I am hurting. If I am hurting then we all are hurting. Idle No More hopes to connect our young people to the [indigenous] teachings. Then they can share these teachings with the rest of the world."

Grandmother Lori Mainville reflected, "We are all learning together. We are running to catch up on hundreds of years of history."

All six speakers stressed that this movement is essential for all who live on this land called Turtle Island. "We need to work together as People." They have a dream that "people of African heritage, of Chinese heritage, of Indigenous heritage, of Ukrainian heritage ... will one day all sit together at the table to hear each other's stories and work together to provide a safe and sustainable world for all those to come." (**P**

Kathy Moorhead Thiessen, from Manitoba, Canada, works half time with the Iraqi Kurdistan team.



more Aboriginal Justice page 5



Christian Peacemaker Teams

FYE 2012 • 1 November 2011 - 31 October 2012



building partnerships to transform violence and oppression through faith-based peacemaking and creative nonviolent action



Transforming Violence in 2012



established a protest camp to stop clear-cut logging on their territory without their consent.

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

In 2012, CPT and our partners around the globe bore witness to and participated in God's "new thing."

ABORIGINAL JUSTICE

Grassy Narrows First Nation marked the 10th anniversary of the Slant Lake blockade, making it the longest-running indigenous logging blockade in Canadian history.

The community invited CPT to accompany their blockade when it began in 2002 and we were honored to join in celebrating their resistance, their sovereignty, and their nonviolent action in defense of the earth in 2012.

COLOMBIA

The Las Pavas community (116 families) finally received the "definitive decision" from the government they had waited for so long - the land is theirs!

The community's faith, hope and gutsy nonviolent resistance together with the accompaniment, advocacy and arrests of CPTers and many others helped give birth to God's new thing.

IRAQI KURDISTAN

Turkish and Iranian cross-border attacks in Iraqi Kurdistan had been intensifying since 2007. After a focused grassroots action campaign by CPT and local partners, civilian casualties ceased for nearly a year.

- Isaiah 43:19

PALESTINE

When the Israeli military's notorious Golani Brigade arrived in Hebron, CPTers documented a sharp increase in serious human rights violations against Palestinian civilians. They launched an intensive media and advocacy campaign and the Golani Brigade left Hebron a month early.

A WAY IN THE WILDERNESS

With more prayer and more financial support, CPT can continue bearing witness to God's new thing in these places and with these partners. How might you partner with God to make a way in the wilderness? If everyone receiving this Year in Review could contribute, CPT could move to a place of abundance rather than scarcity in our planning for peacemaking.

Aboriginal Justice

an ongoing presence since February 1999



CPTers at River Run 2012. For a week in June, members and supporters of Grassy Narrows First Nation took to the streets of Toronto to call attention to mercury poisoning in their river system and their struggle for self-determination and environmental justice.

"CPTers walk beside us and support us, but they do not try to make us Christians or change us." - Judy da Silva, Grassy Narrows First

CPT's Aboriginal Justice Team (AJT) supports Indigenous communities seeking justice and defending their lands against corporate and government exploitation. Based in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, AJT partners with First Nations communities to:

- advocate for the basic and collective human rights of indigenous peoples;
- build relationships between settlers, indigenous peoples and the land;
- become effective and visible political allies to indigenous peoples.

"We're still asking the government to recognize



we are a nation and we have a government and we have indigenous laws."

> - Cecilia Begg, Band Councilor Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug

In FYE 2012, 77 people participated in ten short-term CPT delegations (7-14 days). Delegations offer participants first-hand experience in supporting local partners' nonviolent struggle for human rights and serve as a primary mechanism for further involvement in CPT's peacemaking ministry. Delegates serve an important advocacy role back home on behalf of communities resisting violence.

– Colombia –

a continuous presence since February 2001



CPT-Colombia partners with communities throughout the Magdalena Medio region who organize to overcome fear, assert their rights and nonviolently resist ongoing assaults on their dignity and their livelihoods.

Violence continues in the region with threats against individuals, assassinations, massacres, disappearances and torture.

Your advocacy efforts on behalf of subsistence farmers, indigenous communities, artisan miners, women's groups, displaced persons, and conscientious objectors make a difference. "This decision reflects the justice previously denied us ... which will contribute to the peace we Colombians so desperately need."

- Las Pavas community response to government decision restoring their land rights

"After 40 years we continue to resist violence and abuse [against women]. Thanks to the ... international organiza-



tions that accompany us and give us the strength to continue fighting for peace and social justice in Colombia."

- Popular Women's Organization (OFP) on their 40th Anniversary

Iraqi Kurdistan

a continuous presence since October 2002

"We will continue here. These [attacks] won't break us. This has been our ancestors' land for several thousand years. This is our life."



an Iranian rocket attack in her village of Sunneh.

- Sabir, Kurdish shepherd injured by shrapnel from Iranian shelling in 2009, speaking about his family's determination to return to their traditional lands even in the face of cross-border attacks from Turkey and Iran.

CPT-Iraqi Kurdistan accompanies villagers living in conflicted border regions, documents human rights violations against civilian populations, and works with local partners to end violence by Turkey and Iran against the Kurdish people.

The team's report, "Disrupted Lives: the effects of cross-border attacks by Turkey and Iran on Kurdish villages," documents the impact of cross-border attacks in northeastern Iraqi Kurdistan's Pshdar district. The attacks caused civilian injuries and deaths, destruction of homes, livestock and crops, and contamination of land, water, and air. The report also shows how ongoing military operations threaten the very existence of the villages and jeopardize an important part of Kurdish national identity. Available at http://goo.gl/O9EQf.

CPT's presence and reporting continues to be one of the few outlets that local peacemakers can access to tell their stories.

"We hope that the shelling and bombing do not start again because our life here is very

nice." - school children from the mountain village of Sunneh whose families fled to an IDP camp in 2011 when cross-border attacks by Iran and Turkey damaged their school, homes and crops.



CPTers help students in Sunneh make a video about their experiences living in IDP camps during cross-border attacks in 2011.

Palestine a continuous presence since June 1995



CPTers monitor soldiers' treatment of Palestinian students going to school in Hebron.

"We thank CPT for supporting the teachers and students of our school and especially for their efforts to monitor the violations happening on a daily basis."

- Principal, Al-Ibrahimi School

CPT-Palestine supports Palestinian-led, grassroots, nonviolent resistance to the Israeli Occupation and the unjust structures that uphold it. Based in the Old City of Hebron (al-Khalil in Arabic), team mem-



CPTers visit the Jawdi Jaber family after Israeli settlers from Kiryat Arba firebombed their car and stoned their house.

bers accompany school children harassed by Israeli soldiers, monitor military checkpoints, and document abuses by Israeli soldiers and settlers. Team mem-

"CPT's dedication to the people of Hebron in their nonviolent struggle against the injustices and oppressions of the Israeli occupation is to be honored and respected."

bers also visit communities in the South Hebron Hills and respond to specific requests for support.

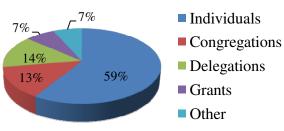
- Hamed Qwasmeh, Palestinian Advisor and Partner

Financial Summary

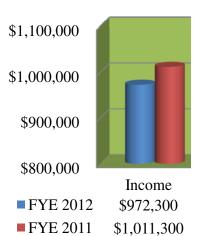
FYE 31 October 2012

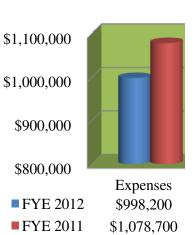
Income		
Individuals	\$571,100	
Congregations	\$133,200	
Delegations	\$134,900	
Grants	\$ 67,100	
Other	\$ 66,000	
TOTAL INCOME	\$972,300	
Expenses		
Program	\$482,600	
Peacemaker Corps	\$439,000	
Administration	\$ 60,500	
Other	\$ 16,100	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$998,200	

FYE 2012 Income - Percent

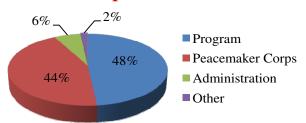


Income/Expense Comparison





FYE 2012 Expenses - Percent



Contributions	FYE 2012	FYE 2011
Individuals	3,196	3,188
Churches & Groups	298	340
Delegations	300	493



Personnel

CPT's Peacemaker Corps is made up of trained peacemakers committed to full-time, part-time, or Reserve service. In FYE 2012, 205 people, including seven interns, served in CPT. Corps members and interns came from Australia, six Canadian provinces, four Colombian departments, Czech Republic, Egypt, England, Germany, India, Iran, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Palestine, Philippines, Scotland, Sweden, Taiwan, Uruguay, Wales and 30 U.S. states plus Washington, DC.

Steering Committee

CPT is sponsored by • Church of the Brethren/On Earth Peace (COB/OEP)

• Friends United Meeting (FUM)

• Mennonite Church Canada (MC-Canada) • Mennonite Church USA (MC-USA) • Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America (BPFNA) • Basilian General Council (BGC) • Presbyterian Peace Fellowship (PPF).

The work of CPT is guided by a Steering Committee representing

MC-USA • Adriana Cabrera, RRC • Julián Gutiérrez, PC/RRC • Omar Harami (Jerusalem), AL • Rachel Long, COB • Rafael Lopera, BGC • Carol Mason, OEP • Eric Olfert, MC-Canada • Garland Robertson, PC • Rachel Stacy, FUM • Inger Styrbjörn, PC • Wilson Tan (Singapore), AL • Sarah Thompson (California), AL • Terra Winston, PPF • Brian Young, FUM.

sponsoring denominations and groups, CPT's Peacemaker Corps (PC) and Race Relations Council (RRC), and members at-large (AL).

Steering Committee Members serving in FYE 2012 were • Jason Boone, MC-USA • Tony Brown,



Contact CPT • www.cpt.org

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TWO ROW WAMPUM RENEWAL CAMPAIGN

by Chris Sabas

Haudenosaunee Nations and their allies in the Hudson River region marked the 400th anniversary of their first covenant with European settlers by launching the Two Row Wampum Renewal Campaign in February in Syracuse, New York, USA.

The Onondaga Nation and Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation (NOON), primary sponsors of the campaign, hope to "polish the chain of friendship" between the peoples by promoting understanding and respect through lectures, concerts, celebrations, historic reenactments and other events.

The Onondaga is one of six member nations of the Haudenosaunee ("People of the Longhouse"), also referred to as the Iroquois Confederacy or Six Nations. Allied for hundreds of years and united by common traditions, beliefs and cultural values, the Haudenosaunee also include the Mohawk, Oneida, Cayuga, Seneca and Tuscarora Nations.

The Two Row Wampum Belt ("Guswenta") is the Haudenosaunee record of the agreement between the Haudenosaunee and the Dutch settlers. It formed the basis for all subsequent treaties with the French, English, and United States.

The agreement outlines a mutual, three-part commitment to friendship, peace, and living in parallel forever (as long as the grass is green, as long as the waters flow, as long as the sun rises). Throughout the years, the Haudenosaunee have sought to honor this mutual vision. They have increasingly and consistently emphasized that ecological stewardship is a fundamental prerequisite for this continuing friendship.

The belt has three rows of white and two rows of purple beads made



photo courtesy of Two Row Wampum Renewal Campaign

from quahog clam shells. One purple row represents the Haudenosaunee in their canoes and the other represents the Europeans in their ships, each carrying their way of life, culture and government. Both paths, or vessels, move side by side in the same direction, neither interfering with the other, moving into the future, into infinity. To this day the Haudenosaunee consider it the basis of diplomatic relations with the United States.

The Haudenosaunee Grand Council calls on the United States and Canada to "polish the Covenant Chain that binds this agreement and provides a process to work as Brothers and Sisters to resolve our issues such as jurisdiction, land, water, treaty rights, selfgovernance and peace between all nations and Mother Earth."

Follow the campaign at www.HonorTheTwoRow.org (?)

CPTers serving the Aboriginal Justice team January - March 2013 were: Emily Green, intern (Ontario, Canada), Julián Gutiérrez (Risaralda, Colombia), Peter Haresnape (Cambridgeshire, England), Rebecca Johnson (Ontario, Canada), Chris Sabas (Iranian national & naturalized U.S. citizen living in New York, USA).

5

WINDS OF CHANGE

by Garland Robertson

A refreshing and gentle breeze is being felt above the plains of Iraqi Kurdistan. It brings with it courage and enthusiasm and the prophecy of a new generation of human relationships. It affirms the wisdom within every human spirit that all persons are equally positioned by the Great Creator. It declares that everyone is worthy of dignity and respect. It informs all individuals of their right to self-expression. And it challenges every structure in the community – political, economic, and religious – that represses the opportunity for all persons to share in the same privileges.

This breeze is brought into being by a group of sensitive and compassionate members of the community raising their voices together. Their witness echoes across the land. Their courage is contagious. They are announcing the dawning of a new day and inviting others to join them in the dance.

This breeze is the voice of passionate women speaking on behalf of other women who are suppressed by prevailing culture and family tradition. Their voices encourage others to embrace the coming age when human rights and equal respect shall be extended to all members of the human family. The work of these women has not been graciously received. Their work has been threatened and characterized as degrading. They have been accused of undermining the culture and displacing important values set in place by those before them.

In spite of concealed threats and public insults, and even a suspicious gunshot directed toward them, these women continue, inspired by the conviction that everyone shares a common origin and a common destiny. They refuse to let prevailing culture and family tradition continue to dictate a discriminating pattern of structuring community. Just as the transforming word of wisdom birthed forth from Elizabeth and Mary before, so it is coming again from these and other women like them across the earth.

The breeze is blowing and soon it shall be a wind capable of displacing every inequity and disrespectful policy and privilege and law that may stand in its way.

In the wisdom of the human spirit resides the voice of the Creative Sprit. Everyone has the same capacity to hear it, women and men alike. But only the courageous have the capacity to act on it. To these the future belongs.



CPT accompanies women's rights activists protesting the honor killing of Nigar Rahim, 15.

CPTers serving the Iraqi Kurdistan team January-March 2013 were: Bud Courtney (New York, USA), Lukasz Firla (Cesky Tesin, Czech Republic), Carrie Peters (Pennsylvania, USA), Sandra Milena Rincón (Colombia), Garland Robertson (Texas, USA), Annika Spalde (Mjölby, Sweden), Kathy Moorhead Thiessen (Manitoba, Canada), Patrick Thompson (Cardiff, Wales).

CPT's partnership with Ted & Company TheaterWorks continues to put the "fun" in fundraising. The U.S./Canada tour combines theater and comedy with a "stealth" pie auction. 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.

Shows are currently scheduled for:

- April 5 Waterloo, Ontario, Canada (http://goo.gl/cy3KA)
- April 12 Toronto, Ontario, Canada (http://goo.gl/ljbCT)
- April 13 Learnington, Ontario, Canada (http://goo.gl/8v4GD)

To bring Peace, Pies & Prophets to your community, contact Megan at Ted & Company TheaterWorks; email: office@tedandcompany.com; phone: 540-560-3973.





CPT SUSTAINER TEAMS

Sustainer Teams are groups of CPT Reservists and supporters who wish to see CPT maintain financial viability and expand visibility. Our Sustainer Team for Speaking Tours includes Reservists ready to promote and coordinate logistical arrangements for itinerating fulltime and part-time CPTers. A Pennsylvania-based group called the 1040 Sus-

tainer Team helps with donor cultivation, promoting war tax resistance and making hundreds of follow-up phone calls to contributors. A few other Sustainer Teams are emerging. If you are interested in being part of a Sustainer Team, please contact Sarah Thompson at outreach@cpt.org.

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 16,500 copies of Signs of the Times. The work of CPT is guided by a 14-member Steering Committee. CPT's Peacemaker Corps includes 30 stipended workers and 165 Reservists living in Australia, six Canadian provinces, four Colombian departments, Czech Republic, Egypt, England, Germany, India, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Palestine, Philippines, Scotland, Sweden, Taiwan, Wales and 30 U.S. states plus Washington, DC.



Seven people participated in CPT's January 2013 peacemaker training and committed to serve with CPT as Reservists or stipended Corps members. Clockwise from top: Sarah Sommers (Ohio, USA), Hannah Redekop (Ontario, Canada), Cory Lockhart (Kentucky, USA), Sandra Stevens (Indiana, USA), Cody O'Rourke (Michigan, USA), Muriel Schmid (Switzerland via Utah, USA), Gabriel Soarez (Santa Catarina, Brazil).

KEY EVENTS 2013

See www.cpt.org for more information

Peacemaker Delegations

- Aboriginal Justice: 9-19 August; 27 September-7 October
- Colombia: 30 May 12 June; 17-30 July; 19 September - 2 October
- Iraqi Kurdistan: 25 May 8 June (German

Language only); 14-28 September

• **Palestine/Israel:** 21 May - 8 June; 13-26 August; October & November 2013 dates to be announced

Peacemaker Training

• July/August: 19 July - 19 August 2013; Chicago, Illinois, USA (apply by 1 May 2013)

Steering Committee Meetings

- 16-20 April; Toronto, Ontario
- 15-19 October; Conference Call

CPT European Convergence

• 9-12 May: Malmö, Sweden



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