



Science for Peace

October 28, 2024

## President's Column



Dear Members,

The Nobel Peace Prize for 2024 has been awarded to the Japanese organization Nihon Hidankyo. This is a grassroots movement of survivors of the atomic bombs launched by the US on Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the end of the Second World war. The members of this organization are also known as Hibakusha. The Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the prize to Nihon Hidankyo for "its efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and for demonstrating through witness testimony that nuclear weapons must never be used again...The Hibakusha help us to describe the indescribable, to think the unthinkable, and to somehow grasp the incomprehensible pain and suffering caused by nuclear weapons".

The Co-chair of the Nihon Hidankyo, Toshiyuki Mimaki, talked to reporters of the current danger of the use of nuclear weapons, warning that if "Russia uses them against Ukraine, Israel against Gaza, it won't end there." He compared the situation of Gaza to "Japan 80 years ago."

In Canada, peace activists have learned first hand about the work of Nihon Hidankyo from Setsuko Thurlow, a Hibakusha who was 13 years old and living in Hiroshima when the atomic bomb destroyed the city. After emigrating to Canada, she worked in Toronto for decades as a social worker in a number of agencies, including the Toronto Board of Education. In addition, she dedicated her life to educating the public on the terrible consequences of nuclear war, and advocating for a treaty to ban nuclear weapons. For her life-long, extraordinary contribution to nuclear disarmament and the ban treaty process, Setsuko was chosen to receive the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) in 2017.

In a recent conversation I had with Setsuko, she mentioned that she has been requesting an interview with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to talk about the possibility of Canada joining the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which has

already been signed by 73 countries. Sadly, so far, her multiple requests remain unanswered.

On October 25, the Toronto Star published an article by Karen Pinchin in which she interviews Annie Jacobsen, an American national security journalist. Jacobsen has spent decades interviewing America's most powerful military leaders, and she has recently published her seventh book, "Nuclear War: A Scenario". In this book the author describes in detail how a nuclear war could start, escalate and devastate our planet. The book contains remarkable quotes from some of her interviews. For example, she quotes the former STRATCOM (the US Strategic Command) commander Robert Keller. During a discussion of a full-scale nuclear war between the US and Russia he says: "Yes, Annie, the world could end in the next couple of hours". Another haunting quote from a former deputy director of STRATCOM, Lt-Gen. Thomas Bussiere: "deterrence will hold, but if it doesn't everything unravels".

Notably, towards the end of the article Jacobsen states "People have to believe that disarmament is possible to actually make it happen. People cannot concede their power". Science for Peace completely agrees with Jacobson.

Freedom of expression at Canadian Universities has been threatened during last year, particularly with regard to the war in Gaza. Science for Peace is organizing a talk on this issue by Jim Turk, the Director of the Centre for Free Expression at the Toronto Metropolitan University. The talk will be held at the Friends House on Nov 26, 5 PM. Registration will soon be available at the Science for Peace website.

*Jorge Filmus*  
President  
Science for Peace

## Recent Events



Conflict Catalyst or Effective War Deterrent? We Ask  
**“SHOULD NATO EXIST?”**  
A Discussion With:



**Dr. Walter Dorn**

Dr. Walter Dorn is a professor of defense studies at RMC and Canadian Forces College. Interested in peacekeeping he participates in field missions and assists international organizations, representing SfP at the UN since 1983.



**Dr. Arnd Jurgensen**

Dr. Arnd Jurgensen teaches international relations at the University of Toronto and is an SfP board member. He writes on topics such as US foreign policy and sustainable development, to regime change and democratization in Latin America.

**Where?**  
Friends House: 60 Lowther Avenue,  
Toronto ON M5R 1C7

**In Person Registration**  
<https://tinyurl.com/4hw4963a>

**When?**  
Monday Oct 21 2024  
5pm - 6:30 pm

**Online Registration**  
<https://tinyurl.com/bd36zf64>

[www.scienceforpeace.org](http://www.scienceforpeace.org)

[View Recording](#)

# The Long Walk to Peace: Stories of the Nova Scotia peace march and planning of future actions

Hybrid Event!

**In person:**  
Dining room, Friend's House,  
60 Lowther Avenue

**Zoom link:**  
<https://tinyurl.com/35xzkkp>



Date  
**October 24**

Time  
**5 PM ET**

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CANADIAN VOICE OF WOMEN FOR PEACE



## Recent Publications



### Richard Sandbrook: Can We Avoid Fascism as the Climate Crisis Worsens?

At a time when global warming stokes ever more extreme weather, the global rise of climate-denialist right-wing populism not only impedes effective responses, but also

raises the specter of a dystopian fascist future.

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