

Science for Peace

September 16, 2022

President's Column



Dear Members:

The end of the summer finds the world in serious trouble. Ukraine's invasion by Russia has significantly increased the risk of nuclear war. Antonio Guterres, UN secretary general, recently stated that humanity was "just one misunderstanding, one miscalculation away from nuclear annihilation". And he added: "Competition is trumping co-operation and collaboration. Distrust has replaced dialogue and disunity has replaced disarmament. States are seeking false security in stockpiling and spending hundreds of billions of dollars on doomsday weapons that have no place on our planet". In addition, the war in Ukraine is having a serious impact on Europe's plans to reduce CO2 emissions, with several countries planning to increase their use of coal. Funds that otherwise would have been used to generate sources of renewable and clean energy are being diverted into the acquisition of lethal weaponry. Another reason of concern has been the complete failure of the 10th Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons. The nuclear-weapon states and their military allies (including Canada) remain firm in their opposition to any kind of nuclear disarmament schedule.

Facing this dark picture of our planet, it is easy to feel hopeless and dispirited. In Science for Peace, however, we strongly believe that it is possible to change this situation if enough people in the world act to revert

this dismal state of affairs. We want to offer our organization as a place where its members feel empowered to make a contribution towards a peaceful world without the risk of nuclear war, a world in which many of the resources currently used for the acquisition of weaponry are invested instead in the reduction of CO2 emissions.

Science for Peace activities are mostly planned by our workings groups. Five of these groups are currently active: Nuclear weapons, Nonviolent Resistance, Climate Change, Critical NATO studies, and Our Right to Know. I encourage you to join any of these groups.

I also invite you to listen to three outstanding authors and thinkers discussing the crucial issues that our world is facing:

September 18, from 1 PM to 2 PM Richard Falk will be talking about the war in Ukraine

October 4 from 5 PM to 6 PM we will have conversation with Michael Beer on Civil Resistance Tactics in the 21st Century

November 7, from 5 PM to 6 PM Maria Stephan will talk about Nonviolence and the Quest for Democracy.

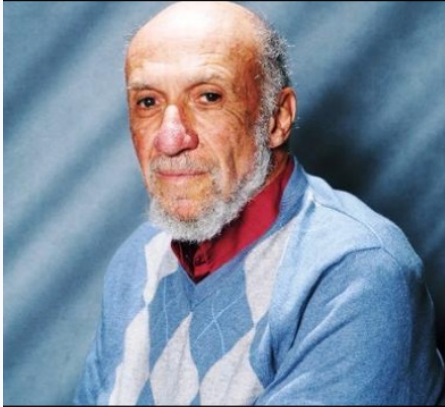
You can register for the first event at scienceforpeace.org.

Jorge Filmus

Upcoming Events



Science for Peace



BACKGROUND

Richard Falk is Albert C. Milbank Professor Emeritus of International Law at Princeton University, Chair of Global Law, Queen Mary University, London, and Research Associate, Orfalea Center of Global Studies, UCSB

**SEPTEMBER 18, 2022
1PM- 2PM ET**

Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88621495346>

Understanding the Ukraine War: The Three Levels of Conflict

A Conversation involving Professor Richard A. Falk, Dr. Arnd Jurgensen and others

The conversation revolves around Falk's contention that the Ukraine war is particularly dangerous and difficult to resolve because it involves conflict at three inter-related levels: Russia versus Ukraine, NATO (US) versus Russia (the geopolitical struggle), and Western Ukraine versus Donbass.

CONTACT US



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[REGISTER HERE](#)

“Civil Resistance Tactics in the 21st Century: A Conversation with Michael Beer”



**OCT 4th
5-6PM ET**

Register for this event using the link below.



<https://bit.ly/3PYuvDH>

Michael Beer, the Director of Nonviolence International, is a long-time global peace and human-rights activist. He has trained activists in many countries and often contributed to recorded discussions of nonviolence. He is the author of *Civil Resistance Tactics in the 21st Century*, which may be downloaded, free.
https://www.nonviolenceinternational.net/nv_book



[REGISTER HERE](#)

Recent Events

An Open Letter to Jagmeet Singh and the Leadership of the NDP

- Nuclear Weapons Working Group

The website of the NDP features a link to your platform, with detailed discussions of policy proposals in a number of categories, ranging from health care, economics to environment and indigenous issues. Oddly, there is no discussion anywhere on your website of Canadian foreign policy or the NDPs' position on matters of foreign and security policy.

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Recent Articles



Richard Sandbrook: 10 Essential Things to Know about Nonviolent Resistance

Two traditions of thinking about nonviolence hold sway. Principled nonviolence: Adherents decide to use nonviolent means on ethical grounds. In the Gandhian approach, nonviolence is a way of



Lee Partera: The Toronto Airshow: Not just noise

Having just heard CBC's Fresh Air's piece on the airshow that included a brief PS about how some people don't like the noise, I want to say: it's not just the noise. It is part of our ongoing slide into the depths of Warrior Nation. It is about militarization. It is about the theft of

living a moral life.
Pragmatic nonviolence: Activists, seeking to win rights, freedom, or justice, choose to use nonviolent techniques because they are more effective than violent means in achieving these goals..

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social uplift (MLK) dollars into the maw of the military industrial complex.

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Focus on Members

Gilles Fecteau



Gilles Fecteau joined Science for Peace to continue the work started by Margrit Eichler.

Very concerned about the destruction of research data in government departments and research bodies they funded, as well as the direction in which the Harper government was taking research funding, Margrit Eichler (then a director of SfP) started the "Scientists for the Right to Know" working group with Phyllis Creighton, Paul Hamel, Michelle Murphy, Sue Kralik and others.

Margrit wanted to take a stronger advocacy position than the rules for charities allowed, which might have compromised SfP's charitable status. In 2014, with the help of several other SfP members, she incorporated Scientists for the Right to Know, an advocacy group, and later registered the name Our Right to Know (as she wanted to get non-scientists involved). I joined Our Right to Know (ORK) in 2015 and took the role of treasurer.

ORK worked with several like-minded organizations to present a consistent set of concerns to politicians. ORK had a list of questions that were sent to all parties, asking for their position.

Another key deliverable from ORK was a timeline of published articles documenting political obstruction and threatened termination of scientific work that did not line up with the government's agenda, as well as government attempts to suppress their own scientists' communications of their scientific findings.

Subsequently, the timeline was divided into several covering provincial and territories' items as well as international incidents.

After Margrit's untimely death, it was decided to terminate the separate ORK incorporation and move the work back to SfP (since the rules now allow a registered charitable organization to undertake it).

I took the chair of the new working group and hope to continue its' important work, documenting inconsistent government actions and presenting our requests to the political parties in time of elections.

Timelines

The Our Right to Know timelines can be found in the working group of scienceforpeace.org under *Analysis and Research*.

While it started for the 2015 federal election, we continue it to this day because challenges, even within Canada, have not disappeared.

Get Involved

If interested in joining the working group – we need help maintaining the timelines and to be active in future elections – please contact me (gillesfecteau@rogers.com). You can see an example of the work we did prior to the 2015 election by watching this youtube titled "[Scientists are not dogs.](#)"

You can also make a contribution to SfP, specifying that it is in support of the ORK working group.

If you come across an article that you think should be added to one of our timelines, send the link and a brief description to gillesfecteau@rogers.com with the subject line "Suggested timeline update".

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