



Science for Peace

November 15, 2023

President's Column



Dear Members,

In the October newsletter we included the Science for Peace statement on the conflict in the Middle East. Since we published this statement the situation of Gaza has worsened dramatically. We need an immediate ceasefire. Every additional day without a ceasefire means: the death of an average of 120 Palestinian children as a result of the Israeli bombardment, the demise of dozens of patients, including babies, in Gaza's hospitals as a consequence of the lack of electricity and medical supplies, and the continuation of the suffering of hundreds of thousands of civilians who have been displaced from their homes, and lack sufficient food and drinkable water. Furthermore, every day without a ceasefire increases the risk for the lives of the Israeli hostages held by Hamas, who find themselves in the middle of the crossfire.

I would like therefore to renew our call for our members to distribute our statement to family and friends, and to your local MPs.

On October 24th Science for Peace held the first of our Fall lectures on Peace and Conflict Studies. Cesar Jaramillo presented an excellent summary on the current risks of the use of nuclear weapons. If you missed the lecture, you can watch it [here](#).

We invite everybody to the next lecture, which will be presented by Dr.Vladimir Zhagora with the title "*The challenges of forging peace in Sudan*".

This lecture could not be timelier. Sudan, as you know, is currently undergoing a deadly struggle for power between two branches of the armed force, leading to a rising toll of deaths, rapes and dislocation. Please, see the poster below for details about registration.

Jorge Filmus
President, Science for Peace

Upcoming Events



SCIENCE FOR PEACE
PEACE AND CONFLICT LECTURES, FALL 2023

DR VLADIMIR ZHAGORA:
**"THE CHALLENGES OF
FORGING PEACE IN
SUDAN"**

**TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 21
5-6:30PM**

Location: Hybrid session: in-person at the Paul Cadario Conference Centre, University College at U of T, and on Zoom

To Register
In Person: <https://shorturl.at/dzGKX>
On Zoom: <https://shorturl.at/ekJUX>

SCIENCEFORPEACE.ORG

Vladimir worked on Sudan for over 14 years, with the Department of Political Affairs, United Nations, mainly in mediation efforts. He spent the equivalent of 8 years in the North, South, and East of Sudan, and in Darfur. In 2004-2005, he was the Regional coordinator for Southern Sudan with the UN Peacekeepers (UNMIS).

Register below:

[In Person](#)

[Online via Zoom](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Registration Codes 5–6:30pm

Oct 24th Cesar Jaramillo: "Ticking Time Bombs: Escalating Global Tensions and the Nuclear Threat"

In person:



On Zoom:



Nov 21st Dr Vladimir Zhagora: "The Challenges of Forging Peace in Sudan"

In person:



On Zoom:



Dec 5th Dr Jill Carr-Harris: "Nonviolent Social Action: Sharing Experiences in War, Conflict and with Climate Change"

On Zoom:



Blumenfeld Junior Fellows 2023-24

Mary Kazek

Hello everyone! I'm Mary Kazek, a graduate from the University of Toronto Mississauga, where I completed a specialization in International Affairs and majored in Economics. Despite my program focussing on the commercial and economic relationships between nations, I found myself developing a passion for global governance, international law, and foreign policy. In my final year, I had two experiences that opened my eyes to glaring issues related to global conflict and impunity. First, was a course in global governance led by Professor Arnd Jurgensen, whose vibrant teaching and criticism of the global conflict sphere sparked an interest in peace politics-or rather, the lack thereof-and a desire to research and raise awareness for this issue. The second was my participation in a research project centered around transitional justice mechanisms and accountability for past human rights abuses following political change. As I researched criminal trials for human rights violations during repressive regimes, I was shocked and horrified to see who were and were not held accountable for their crimes and that many high-ranking state agents avoided prosecution entirely.

To me, Science for Peace is an important intersection between education and politics, using facts and rational arguments to urge our government to make decisions that will benefit Canadians and the rest of humanity for years to come. Moreover, I heavily admire the organization's dedication to education since I believe it is the only way to spread awareness of denuclearization, pacifism, and social justice, and to gain more popular support. I believe that if you are able to change the mind of or educate even just one person on an important issue, then you have made a valuable difference, and I want to contribute to this bold mission.

As a member of the Nuclear Weapons Working Group, I have decided to explore the human cost of proliferation domestically and abroad. Given that the nuclear powers are increasing investments in their nuclear programs, how many taxpayer dollars are being used to fund these programs and what are these countries sacrificing to do it? And on the other hand, how much destruction have these billion-dollar tools of violence wrought abroad on the infrastructure, lives, and livelihood of foreign citizens? I would like to conclude with a discussion on why domestic citizens are largely indifferent to proliferation despite its destructive implications.

I also hope to examine the injustice of negative security assurances and how nuclear powers are able to start conflicts then use the threat of nuclear weapons to prevent foreign military intervention.

Ella Levin

Dear SfP Members,

My name is Ella Levin, I am one of the junior fellows this year with the Nuclear Weapons Working Group. I recently completed my undergraduate degree at U of T, where I majored in Political Science and Sociology. During my final year of undergrad, I enrolled in a course on the politics of nuclear weapons regulation, which I found fascinating. After coming across a posting by

Science for Peace for junior fellows, I was eager to apply and continue pursuing this topic.

As part of my fellowship, I will complete an article discussing Canada's role (or lack of one) in participating in international efforts to regulate nuclear weapons. I am focusing on Canada's refusal to sign the most recent UN treaty called the "Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons" (TPNW). This treaty was created in response to pressure from NGOs and activists who argued that international law had yet to prohibit the possession of nuclear weapons altogether. NATO and the United States have spoken out against the TPNW, arguing that it is an unrealistic approach to international safety. As a result, Canada has also refused to sign, despite the urging of activists, scientists and political leaders. Many have argued that instead of signing, Canada could become an observer to the TPNW as other NATO allies, such as Norway, have done. By becoming an observer Canada would be at the forefront of the fight to change the status quo regarding nuclear weapons, which would ensure a more peaceful world for all. This topic was central to last month's guest lecture by Cesar Jaramillo. He noted that efforts have been made to encourage Canada to attend the upcoming meeting of states parties to the TPNW, which is taking place late November. Despite these efforts, Canada will not be in attendance.

I am very excited to have joined Science for Peace as a junior fellow, and I look forward to meeting more members at upcoming events!

Sincerely,
Ella Levin

Past Webinars



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