

Science for Peace

March 21, 2023

President's Column



Dear members,

After the Trump administration cancelled the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF), the New START was the only arms control treaty remaining in place between the US and Russia. This treaty was signed by presidents Obama and Medvedev in 2010. It was extended in 2021 for five more years after US president Biden took office. The treaty limits, for each party, the number of deployed nuclear strategic warheads to no more than 1,550, and the number of long-range missiles and bombers to 700. In addition, it establishes a limit of 800 deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles. The treaty also allows for onsite inspections to verify that the parties are not breaching the terms of the treaty. The inspections were paused by the Covid-19 pandemic, and have not been resumed.

Last month President Putin announced that Russia is suspending the implementation of New START, arguing that the geopolitical realities underpinning the treaty's signing have changed. The suspension of the only treaty that limits the number of nuclear weapons raises the danger of a resumption of the nuclear arms race, and, in the context of the Ukraine war, increases the risk of a nuclear arms confrontation. Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov has indicated, however, that the suspension of Russia's participation in New START is reversible, though it is not clear what the conditions for a reversal are. Peace activists around the world should call for the

unconditional resumption of New START.

For Science for Peace, March 6th marked the first in our series of three Workshops on “Non-violence: the tactics and strategies of winning campaigns” organized by our Non-Violence Working Group. We watched the documentary “Defying the Crown”, which shows the non-violent campaign deployed by Mahatma Gandhi and the movement to win the independence of India from the United Kingdom. A discussion, ably facilitated by Lyn Adamson and Bill Bhaneja, followed the documentary.

On March 20th the series of workshops continues by focusing on the classic case of the lunch counter sit-ins in Nashville as part of the civil-rights campaign. A brief documentary - “Nashville: We Were Warriors” - will be followed by a discussion facilitated by our own LeeAnn McKenna and the director of Nonviolence International Michael Beer. I invite everybody to participate. To register go to www.scienceforpeace.org.

Jorge Filmus
President, Science for Peace

Upcoming Events

Third Session Session: April 3, 2023, 7 PM ET

Non-violence: The Tactics and Strategies of Winning Campaigns



Science for Peace



CANADIAN VOICE OF WOMEN FOR PEACE

Endorsements:



**Reserve your place!
3 Sessions to
attend!**

**What lessons for effective
action can we draw from
these cases?**

**All meetings will start at 7pm ET
Guest expert and facilitator following
film**

Registration Link:

<https://tinyurl.com/2s3smewb>

- ~~India: Defying the Crown
March 6th~~ ✓
- Nashville: We Were Warriors
March 20th
- Chile: Defeat of a Dictator
April 3rd

[Register](#)

Recent Activities

Non-violence: The Tactics and Strategies of Winning Campaigns: Nashville: We Were Warriors

March 20, 2023

In the 1960s, Gandhi's nonviolent weapons were taken up by black college students in Nashville, Tennessee. Disciplined and strictly nonviolent, they successfully desegregated Nashville's downtown lunch counters in five months, becoming a model for the entire civil rights movement.

Non-violence: The Tactics and Strategies of Winning Campaigns: The case of Gandhi and the Salt March

March 6, 2023

In India in the 1930s, after Gandhi had returned from South Africa, he and his followers adopted a strategy of refusing to cooperate with British rule. Through civil disobedience and boycotts, they successfully loosened their oppressors' grip on power and set India on the path to freedom.

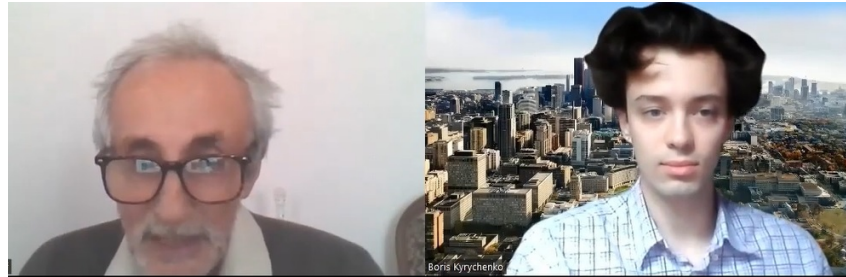
View the recording [here](#).

Recent Articles

Boris Kyrychenko: What are they thinking? - Understanding the Russian academic perspective on Ukraine

In war, the first casualty is the truth. Voices outside national narratives become criticized and discredited, an outside group is formed and individuals are subsequently attacked, regardless of their own personal stances. Such incidents can be seen across Europe and the United States.

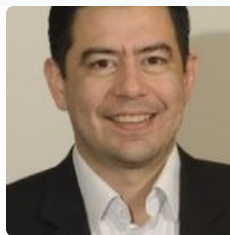
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An interview with Dr. Vladimir Brovkin

View interview recording [HERE](#).

Cesar Jaramillo



A negotiated settlement is the only path to peace in Ukraine

With Ukraine's successes in beating back Russia's invasion thus far, the call for a decisive military win has permeated society, including governments, prominent media outlets and academia. In some sectors, calling for a peaceful settlement has become a fringe position, while support for further militarization hardens. But while it may be a hard pill to swallow for some, the most realistic endgame involves a negotiated settlement. The dogged pursuit of an ill-defined "win" for either Russia or Ukraine will not only prolong the war and increase human suffering - it will heighten the risk that nuclear weapons will be used.

Russia has made well-documented threats to use nuclear weapons in Ukraine. While such threats are unacceptable and demand global condemnation, their being spoken did not create the risk. The risk exists because the weapons exist, justified by a perilous doctrine of nuclear deterrence. This doctrine has been sustained and perpetuated by all states with nuclear weapons, including those now denouncing Russia's nuclear bravado. Indeed, key stakeholders in the conflict - including Russia, the United States and other nuclear-armed NATO members - possess more than 95 per cent of the world's nuclear weapons. Despite differences in policy and ideology, all

states with nuclear weapons ultimately share the belief that, under certain circumstances, they would be justified in considering their use.

A crushing defeat in its most ambitious military operation in more than seven decades would very likely be viewed by Russia as a threat to its vital interests, and by President Vladimir Putin – who has explicitly framed the war as an existential struggle with the West – as a fatal blemish on his legacy. Such circumstances would be dangerously consistent with known Russian policy around its use of nuclear weapons. So the question is not just whether Mr. Putin would succumb to a humiliating defeat with a nuclear arsenal at his disposal – it's also whether this is a gamble the world is willing to take.

While the provision of military aid by the West – NATO in particular – has been critical in bolstering Ukraine's ability to resist Russian aggression, and may strengthen its hand at eventual peace negotiations, the increasing deployment of arms will neither win the war nor resolve its underlying causes. Further militarization could significantly undermine the prospects for a negotiated settlement and continue the cycle of violence and destruction, with no end in sight. Tens of thousands have already perished; how many more could die if this happens? And how much higher would the risk of nuclear escalation be?

A negotiated settlement would not be capitulation, nor a sign of weakness, and agreeing to negotiations would not bind any party to a particular outcome. Rather, negotiations would be a first step in finding common ground and possible solutions.

Points of disagreement include the status of the regions claimed and illegally annexed by Russia – both Crimea in 2014 and the Donbas region in the latest incursion – and Ukraine's prospective NATO membership. Other thorny issues have arisen from the armed conflict itself, including questions of accountability, breaches of international law and war crimes. Unilateral concessions will not be on the table, so compromise will be required.

The nature of the NATO-Russia security relationship will be a key factor in any negotiated settlement. Since 1999, more than a dozen Eastern European states, including former Soviet republics, have joined NATO. And while NATO expansion does not justify Russia's illegal and destabilizing aggression in Ukraine, it is impossible to deny that it has been a known irritant for Moscow. Security assurances that minimize Russia's real or perceived vulnerability to NATO forces in the region would need to be part of a negotiation. Central to this issue is Ukraine's prospective membership in the alliance, which is a known red line for the Kremlin.

Critically, for a negotiated settlement to become a viable alternative, there must first be broad recognition, at high political levels, that this is the desired goal. Thus far, however, that is not the case.

A negotiated settlement is a sensible and realistic approach to ending the war. Efforts to stop the carnage would not constitute a surrendering of principles, but a triumph for humanity, diplomacy and pragmatism. It is high time to end the war in Ukraine.

Cesar Jaramillo is executive director of Project Ploughshares and chair of the Canadian Pugwash Group. This article was first published in The Globe & Mail.

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