

Exercise Trident Fury Rogue States engaged in Propaganda for War

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PEJ News - Joan Russow - In the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, to which Canada is a Signatory, there is a clear obligation reflected in the statement: "Any propaganda for war shall be prohibited by law". The Exercise Trident Fury is a blatant demonstration of propaganda for war, at a time when Canada is playing an offensive role in Afghanistan and the US is rattling its sabers, even contemplating using nuclear devices against Iran.

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EXERCISE TRIDENT FURY - ROGUE STATES ENGAGED IN PROPAGANDA FOR WAR

Joan Russow PEJ News

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In the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, to which Canada is a Signatory, there is a clear obligation reflected in the statement: "Any propaganda for war shall be prohibited by law".

Propaganda for war is evident in cases where states are militarily involved in current and future acts of aggression and war making

The Exercise Trident Fury is a blatant demonstration of propaganda for war, at a time when Canada is playing an offensive role in Afghanistan and the US is rattling its sabers, even contemplating using nuclear devices against Iran.

The Exercise Trident Fury also violates the long standing principle of international law: the precautionary principle. This principle holds that where there is a threat of harm to the environment and [human health] the lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason to postpone measures to prevent the threat.

In 1991, the federal government under the Rt Hon Brian Mulroney issued an Order in Council to bypass the statutory requirements to carry out an environmental assessment review of the

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"visits" of nuclear powered and nuclear arms capable vessels circulating in the waters of BC, and berthing in the harbour of the Greater Victoria Area. This case was brought to Court and the Judge, ignored the precautionary principle and held that it was "cabinet prerogative" to decide that these visits were so important that a statutory requirements could be bypassed.. In 1992 eight out of the ten municipalities in the region supported motions calling for an environmental review assessment of visits of nuclear powered and nuclear arms capable vessels in the port of greater Victoria area.

In 1992, the BC legislature declared BC to be a nuclear arms free zone, The US has a policy of "neither confirm nor deny" the presence of nuclear arms, and the Canadian Department of Defence continues to accept this policy, and is thus unable to assure citizens that there are no nuclear arms in Canadian territory during these visits and exercises. In the case of the nuclear-powered vessels there is also the possibility of accidents causing release of radiation.

It is not in the area of impossibility that accidents occur during exercises; in fact an accident in Russia/Japan military exercises happened on May 13 2006.

THE FOLLY OF DEEP MILITARY INTEGRATION

Canadian citizens are concerned with Canada's increasingly deeper military integration with the US, reflected in Canada's now prominent offensive role it is playing in Afghanistan, most recently illustrated by the photographs of the Canadian force's embracing the US-kicking-in-doors style, and exposing -prisoners-to-ridicule stance, which has raised question of legality under Article 13 of the Convention against Torture

"prisoners of war must at all times be protected particularly against violence or intimidation and against insults and public curiosity." In the photograph by John D. McHugh from AFP, a Canadian soldier is lording over its prey - a bounded display of prisons.

Proponents of the Exercise Trident fury proclaim that Canada's International reputation and identity on the international stage depends on its military prowess and effectiveness. After attending years of international conferences, Canadian citizens have become fully aware that Canada has only been perceived to have a real identity and a positive international reputation when Canada stands firmly for the rule of international law, and demonstrates compliance with obligations incurred through treaties, Conventions and covenants, and with commitment made through UN Conference Action plans, and with expectations created through UN General Assembly Resolutions. At these international conferences, the US has sadly distinguished itself as a rogue state in defiance of the rule of international law.

Canada needs to have a truly independent foreign policy and abandon its close association with the international negotiating block JUSCANZ (Japan, US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand) that has generally been subservient to US interests.

MISGUIDED NOTION OF PREVENTION OF TERRORISM BEING "FORTRESS US-CANADA"

Proponents of Exercise Trident Fury and of deep military integration with the US, endorse a

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"Fortress US-Canada" with increased military expenditures and increased potential involvement with US-led operations. The right to security enshrined in the Canadian Charter. will not be furthered by a fortress mentality and increased display of militarism . Many citizens have expressed concern about the flaunting of militarism and the close integration with the US and have pointed out that terrorist attacks have occurred in England, Spain and in Bali (where there were many Australians.), -- all members of the "coalition of the willing" it should be noted that the archbishop of Australia even pointed out the risk that Australians face by being in the "coalition of the willing".

CANADA NEEDS TO CHART A COURSE OF TRUE SECURITY

Canada's international reputation depends not on its contribution to global militarism or on establishing "fortress Canada-US" but on its pursuit of true security "common security":

"Common security" involve the following objectives:

? to promote and fully guarantee respect for human rights including labour rights, civil and political rights, social and cultural rights- right to food, right to housing, right to universally accessible not for profit health care system , right to education and social justice;

? to enable socially equitable and environmentally sound employment, and ensure the right to development;

? to achieve a state of peace, social justice and disarmament; through reallocation of military expenses

? to create a global structure that respects the rule of law ; and

? to ensure the preservation and protection of the environment, respect the inherent worth of nature beyond human purpose reduce the ecological footprint and move away from the current model of over-consumptive development.

FORCE OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE RULE OF INTERNATIONAL LAWS WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE FURTHERANCE OF COMMON SECURITY AND INCREASE CANADA'S REPUTATION INTERNATIONALLY.