

English bulletin April 1, 2022

. THE RUSSIAN PEACE MOVEMENT . .

As we stated in **last month's bulletin** the mass media is jammed with articles about the war in Ukraine, whether Russian atrocities or Western arms being sent to expand the war.

We see our role in CPNN to provide the other side of the news, the mobilization of the peace movement.

Last month we published information from the peace movement on all sides of the conflict. This month there has been an enormous mobilization of the peace movement in Russia opposing their government's aggression, **despite censorship** and **despite the risks** of loss of jobs, destruction of independent media and imprisonment of those who protest. This has been **expressed in social media**, since mainstream media is government-controlled.

A relatively complete list of Russian petitions, appeals and open letters against the war in social media is published on Google docs and **we have reprinted it in CPNN** along with frequent **updates** to overcome the censure being imposed by the Russian government.

Those aspects of Russian culture that are world-renowned are strongly represented, including science and mathematics, information technology, chess and the arts.

Thousands of Russian **scientists** have signed an open letter condemning the war and saying that it “means that we, scientists, will no longer be able to do our job normally: after all, conducting scientific research is unthinkable without full cooperation with colleagues from other countries.”

Hundreds of Russian **mathematicians** have signed a similar open letter, saying that “our many years of efforts to strengthen the reputation of Russia as a leading mathematical center have been completely depreciated as a result of the unprovoked military aggression initiated by our country.”

Tens of thousands of Russian **IT workers** have signed an open letter, saying that “Progress and development of technologies for the benefit of man are impossible in conditions of war and threats to people’s lives and health, they are possible only in conditions of cooperation, diversity of points of view, information exchange and open dialogue.”

Leading Russian **chess players** have signed an appeal, saying, “The Ukrainian chess team is the reigning European champion, one of the best teams in the world along with ours. We played dozens of matches and hundreds of games. We have always put the game above politics – and the Ukrainians have responded to us in return. We ask you to give teams, players and ordinary people from both countries a chance for mutual respect. We are for peace. Stop the war!”

Tens of thousands of **cultural figures** signed an open letter against the war, saying, “the further escalation of the war will have irreparable consequences for artists and cultural workers. This will take away our last opportunities to fully work, speak out, create projects, popularize and develop culture, take away the future. Everything that has been done culturally over the past 30 years has now been jeopardized: all international ties will be broken, cultural private or public institutions will be preserved, partnerships with other countries will be suspended.”

Other aspects of deep Russian culture are also represented, including the Russian Orthodox Church and schoolteachers and the mothers of Russian soldiers.

Many **priests and deacons** of the Russian Orthodox Church signed an appeal to end the war, warning that “The Last Judgment awaits every person. No earthly authority, no doctors, no guards will protect you from this trial,” and “No nonviolent call for peace and an end to war should be forcibly suppressed and regarded as a violation of the law, for this is the divine commandment: ‘Blessed are the peacemakers.’”





Thousands of **teachers** from all regions of Russia signed a petition against the war but the names were withdrawn after they were threatened. However, some of the teachers who signed it describe the difficulty they face in responding to students’ questions about what is happening.

The **Committee of Soldiers’ Mothers** began during the Soviet war in Afghanistan as a network of locally based initiatives led by the families – principally the mothers – of soldiers to lobby the Kremlin for their safe return. They have become the main contact for tearful family members across Russia frantically tried to figure

out the fate of their sons, brothers and husbands fighting in the Ukraine. And if there is one thing that can effectively counter the Kremlin’s narrative about its use of force in Ukraine, it is personal knowledge from trusted sources of information – such as the testimony of combatants delivered to their parents. And these parents will share this knowledge with their extended family, with neighbours, with co-workers, and with friends.

A public opinion poll in Russia found 72% support for the Ukraine war in Russians over the age of 50. Their opinion is **strongly influenced by state-controlled television**. And this coincides with the fact that **opinions about the United States and its allies**, which were positive 25 years ago, have turned negative in recent years with the increasing menace of the incorporation of Eastern Europe into NATO.

On the other hand, **only 29% of Russians 18-24 years old support the war**. They are more influenced by social media than by television. Hopefully, they will join with the Russian cultural figures mentioned above into a peace movement that can help bring an end to the war.

<p>FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION</p>  <p>Russian anti-war movement takes shape on the</p>	<p>TOLERANCE & SOLIDARITY</p>  <p>Medellín and Barcelona advance in the</p>	<p>WOMEN’S EQUALITY</p>  <p>UN Women: International Women’s Day</p>	<p>DISARMAMENT & SECURITY</p>  <p>Germany: Bodensee Peace Region:</p>
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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Historic day in the campaign to beat plastic

April 1, 2022
d-information
english bulletin

DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION



Brazil : Juiz de Fora City Hall launches culture

HUMAN RIGHTS



Colombia:
Decriminalization
of abortion is a

EDUCATION FOR PEACE



Puerto Rico :
Educate for a
Culture of

English bulletin March 1, 2022

PEACE ACTIVISTS AGAINST WAR IN UKRAINE

(Editor's note: This was originally published on February 21 prior to the invasion.)

The commercial mass media, more than ever an arm of the culture of war, has trumpeted claims that the Ukraine is about to be invaded by Russia in open warfare and that the US and NATO are moving forces into the surrounding countries.

What you don't find in the commercial mass media is any mention of the antiwar declarations by peace activists in all of the countries concerned.

By careful searching we have been able to find these declarations. Here they are.

Ukraine: The Ukrainian Pacifist Movement has published a declaration on their facebook page, demanding

- compliance with the Minsk peace agreement of 2015;
- withdrawal of all troops,
- suspension of all supplies of weapons and military equipment,
- suspension of total mobilization of the population for war, propaganda of war and hostility of civilizations in the media and social media.”

and going beyond the Ukraine they demand:

- global deescalation and disarmament
- the dissolution of military alliances,
- the elimination of armies and borders dividing people.”

Russia: An open letter, signed by many Russian artists, politicians and academics, and even a retired colonel of the armed forces, criticizes what they call “the party of war in the Russian leadership.” “Only one point of view. is presented on state television, and that is the point of view of the supporters of the war. We hear about military threats and aggression concerning Ukraine by America and Western countries. But the most dangerous thing is that war is being presented as an acceptable and inevitable course of events. People are trying to deceive, corrupt, impose on us the idea of a holy war with the West instead of developing our country and raising our standard of living. The question is not discussed, but it is ordinary people who will have to pay this price – a huge and bloody price.”

Ironically, the Google document with the full list of signatures is blocked by Google, with the statement that “You can’t access this item because it is in violation of our Terms of Service.”

*(Editor’s note: More recently, as of March 5, **protests have intensified** including thousands of Russian IT workers, teachers, the directors of LUKOIL, the largest private company in Russia, mathematicians, chess champions, artists and cultural workers and **scientists** who have signed open letters or declarations against the war.)*

United States: The United National AntiWar Coalition (UNAC), which brings together most of the leading antiwar organizations of the United States, has issued a statement recalling that the

United States promised Soviet leaders at the end of the Cold War that NATO would not expand east of Germany, and criticizing the West for breaking this promise and threatening Russia.

UNAC demands:

- No US weapons or military advisors for the Ukrainian military;
- Stop the US saber rattling;
- No war with Russia;
- Keep Ukraine out of NATO.

France: An extensive list of French peace organizations and trade unions have signed a statement condemning the “geopolitical games at work both on the part of the Russian Federation, the European Union, NATO and others” and demanding:

- Immediate negotiations for de-escalation;
- Stopping threats, NATO and Russian troop concentrations and arms deliveries to all parties;
- A ceasefire in Ukraine and the implementation of existing agreements;
- That the United Nations be the privileged framework for developing political and diplomatic solutions to settle the Ukrainian question.

United Kingdom: Stop the War Coalition has issued a statement opposing war in the Ukraine and criticizing the role the the British government has played by talking up the threat of war continually, advancing no proposals for a diplomatic solution and sending arms to Ukraine and deploying further troops to Eastern Europe. Among other demands, the Coalition call for “a halt to the eastward expansion of NATO” and “a new security deal for Europe which meets the needs of all states and peoples.”

Germany: A petition signed by over 200 German politicians and peace activists states that “A one-sided blaming of Russia, as practiced by some Western governments and in the major media, is unjustified and is increasingly taking on the character of war propaganda.” The petition demands:

- Concrete steps to de-escalate, no military supplies to Kiev,
- No more war rhetoric, confrontational politics and sanctions against Russia;
- Active advocacy for the implementation of the Minsk II agreement, which is binding under international law ;
- Negotiations with Russia based on a clear commitment to detente and the principle of common security;
- Active advocacy for arms control and disarmament negotiations.

In addition to these declarations by peace activists, the **European Leadership Network** has published an updated set of seven far-reaching recommendations for reducing the military tensions between Russia, the US and NATO that is signed by 26 leading Russian academicians and 49 leading academicians from the West. In addition to academicians among the signatories from the United States are former ambassadors to Russia, Ukraine and NATO, a former Secretary of Defense, and several retired admirals and generals. On the Russian side there are also very high-placed signatories in addition to academicians, including the former head of the Russian Strategic Rocket Forces, a former Minister of Foreign Affairs, a former ambassador to the United States, a former Chief Military Representative to NATO and a retired general of the armed forces.

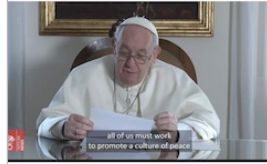
Will the political leaders of Russia, Ukraine, United States and NATO listen to these voices, even though they are not found in the commercial mass media. We can only hope so.

DISARMAMENT & SECURITY



France : War is never the solution. Yes to a

TOLERANCE & SOLIDARITY



The Pope : "The time has come to live in a spirit of

WOMEN'S EQUALITY



United Nations : Commission on the Status of

FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION



The Expert Dialogue on

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Central Africa : Safeguarding the Lake Chad basin, a major regional

DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION



UN chief calls for Olympic Truce to build 'culture of peace' through

HUMAN RIGHTS



Amnesty International : Israel's Apartheid Against Palestinians

EDUCATION FOR PEACE



Mexico : Renowned researchers share their

February 21, 2022
Uncategorized
english bulletin, ry

English bulletin February 1, 2022

. MEDIATION AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE .

While it is difficult to find progress in the culture of peace in international relations, the methods of the culture of peace such as mediation and restorative justice continue to advance at the level of inter-personal relations.

The greatest advances continue to be seen in Latin America.

In Brazil, two years ago CPNN reported that almost all state courts and judicial policy makers took part in a **debate at the Superior Labor Court in Brasilia** on the current stage of restorative justice in the country. And recently we have seen developments in restorative justice aimed at promoting a culture of peace in the Brazilian states of **Pernambuco** and **Ceará**.

In Argentina, the National Directorate of Mediation and Participatory Methods of Conflict Resolution, held the “National Meeting of the Federal Network of Community Mediation Centers and Training in School Mediation”. In the CPNN article they list the advantages of community mediation and the responsibilities of the mediators and the parties concerned.

In Panama, the Coordination Office of the Community Mediation Program presented the main results achieved during the year 2021. Most cases continue to be initiated voluntarily, that is, that

the citizen directly attends the Center to request the conflict management service without the intervention of a judge or other authority.

In Mexico, 13 mediation centers are available in the capitol state. The CPNN article describes the process of mediation in detail.

In the Dominican Republic, the National Conflict Resolution System (Sinarec), reported that in the past year 2021 it trained more than 11 thousand people in its citizen education programs for alternative conflict resolution and culture of peace. Among those trained were members of public ministries, psychologists, teachers, members of the National Police, community and ecclesiastical leaders.





Europe is advancing as well. Ministries of Justice of the Member States of the **Council of Europe** took part in the Conference on the theme of restorative justice, in Venice in December. The two-day Ministerial Conference concluded with the signing of the Venice Declaration, a joint document that stimulates policies aimed at a wider dissemination of restorative justice, access to which “should be an objective of the national authorities”.

In Spain, the Specialized Mediation Group of the Granada Bar Association has discussed and described the transformative practice of mediation. This type of mediation orients the participants towards conflict transformation, maximizing the choice and control of the parties in terms of content and process, increasing the intervener’s transparency, avoiding the use of pressure, manipulation and overreaction and promoting the conversation between the parties.

Over the years CPNN has carried many articles about the use of restorative justice in the United States. And most recently, the **law school of Marquette University** has established a Center for Restorative Justice. The center will train law students in how to use restorative justice at local, national, and international levels in a guided civil dialogue to address conflict, promote healing, and facilitate problem solving.

A bill was introduced in December in the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the bicameral **Parliament of India** to promote mediation (including online mediation), and provide for enforcement of settlement agreements resulting from mediation. The bill sets out the procedures that must be followed in mediation and among other measures, it would require the central government to establish the Mediation Council of India.

If only these principles of mediation and restorative justice could be used at the level of international relations ! For example, Russia has recently proposed **peace treaties with the United States and with NATO**, but so far they are being completely ignored, not only by the USA and Europe, but also by the mass media in these countries.

<p>DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION</p>  <p>Council of Europe : Ministerial Conference on</p>	<p>TOLERANCE & SOLIDARITY</p>  <p>Spain: More than 140 people participate in the</p>	<p>WOMEN'S EQUALITY</p>  <p>Conakry: former deputies launch a new coalition</p>	<p>FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION</p>  <p>US Must Take</p>
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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Mexico: The government integrates the Mayan Train in the program Promotion of the Culture of Peace and Reconstruction of the Social Fabric

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DISARMAMENT & SECURITY



Russia, China, Britain, U.S. and France say no one can win nuclear war

HUMAN RIGHTS



Amnesty International : 33 human rights wins to celebrate this year

EDUCATION FOR PEACE



Dominican Republic: 11 Thousand People Train in Conflict Resolution and Culture of Peace in 2021

English bulletin January 1, 2022

. . THE BIENNALE OF LUANDA . .

For almost a decade now, CPNN has been following the **Biennale of Luanda** as it strives to make Africa the first continent to adopt everywhere a culture of peace.

The process began in 2013 with the Pan-African Forum “**Sources and Resources for a Culture of Peace**” held in Luanda, Angola. It was extended in by the **2nd international conference on the culture of peace in Africa**, December 2016 in Luanda.

The process was formalized to occur every two years as the Biennale of Luanda, and the **first Biennale** was held in September 2019.

Last month, the process culminated in the **Second Biennale of Luanda** held from November 27 to December 2 as a hybrid programme of in-person and on-line events.

The representative of UNESCO who led this process from the beginning, Enzo Fazzino, was honored in a **videoconference**, as he retired after this year’s event. The **account on the UNESCO website** is entitled, Une étoile s’ajoute parmi les grands sages de l’UNESCO (A star is added to list of the great wise men of UNESCO).

This year's Biennale gathered high-level participants from governments, international institutions, the private sector, the artistic and scientific communities, and many more. It was organized as an intergenerational dialogue involving young people from all the countries of the African Union, as well the diaspora.

In the end, 118 young people were selected from 49 African countries and 14 countries of the Diaspora to take part in the Biennale, of whom 10 came in person to Luanda and the others participated virtually. The youth made a number of commitments, including to “Strengthen the capacity of Pan-African youth to promote the culture of peace, identify and support youth initiatives and best practices that work towards the sustainable implementation, individually and collectively, of the concepts of the culture of peace.”


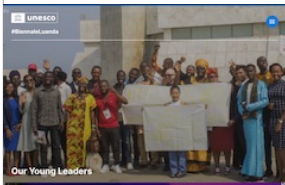


The event included a rich selection of films and shows for culture of peace in Africa. Links to videos of 20 are provided on CPNN, coming from Cape Verde, Congo, Ghana, Morocco, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal and Zimbabwe, as well as the Diaspora in Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Germany, Haiti, Portugal and Sweden.





The Biennale was opened by the President of Angola, João Lourenço, He recognized the involvement of the African Diaspora, “Many of Africa’s children have been leaving the continent in inhumane conditions and at the risk of their own lives in fleeing conflict zones or looking for a job and better living conditions. Regardless of their age, academic or professional background, they are all important and needed for the development of our continent. We always have the expectation that one day they will voluntarily return with the desire to contribute towards leveraging progress and development in all sectors of African national life.

Speaking as the President of the African Union, **Félix Tshisekedi**, assured their continued support and paid tribute to the role of youth, ““Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, in the words of the illustrious Agostinho Neto Kilamba, President and Poet, champion of the liberation of man and human brotherhood, ‘poet of sacred hopes’, we should ‘look at Africa with the eyes of the future’,”

And in her speech, UNESCO Directrice-General **Audrey Azoulay** said “UNESCO will continue to give its full support to this pan-African initiative, so that it is sustainable, in cooperation with the African Union and the Government of Angola. The culture of peace and non-violence is a long relay race ; it takes s a united team, generation after generation, to be victorious.”

The Biennale will be re-convened in two years, again organized by the African Union, Angola and UNESCO. In the meantime, **it is up to the youth to keep the flame going.**

<p>FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION</p>  <p>Highlights of the Biennale of Luanda 2021 : Pan-African Forum for the</p>	<p>TOLERANCE & SOLIDARITY</p>  <p>Youth at the Luanda Biennale – Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace</p>	<p>WOMEN’S EQUALITY</p>  <p>Phyllis Kotite has passed away</p>	<p>DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION</p>  <p>Mercociudades: A Latin American Network to Fight for More Inclusive, Egalitarian, Diverse and</p>
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<p>SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</p>  <p>Indian farmers call off lengthy protest after govt assurances</p>	<p>DISARMAMENT & SECURITY</p>  <p>Bangladesh: Dhaka Peace Declaration Adopted</p>	<p>HUMAN RIGHTS</p>  <p>The Elders: Israel's designation of Palestinian NGOs as "terrorist" undermines core democratic</p>	<p>EDUCATION FOR PEACE</p>  <p>Mexico: Toys and Games as Instruments of the Culture of Peace</p>
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