

annual report 2010



Research and action for peace

According to the Project Ploughshares *Armed Conflicts Report*, there were four fewer wars in 2010 than the previous year. Since the 1990s, there has been a steady decrease in the number of wars. This is cause for hope. But while the number of wars and the number of deaths in these wars has decreased, the number of displaced people is steadily on the rise. Outside war zones, gun violence is reaching epidemic proportions. Our work on peacebuilding and disarmament is not finished.

Ploughshares aims to focus on the underlying causes of armed violence by addressing both the supply of illicit guns and the demand for them.

In 2010, we began a three-year project with the security agency of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), which has 15 member states. The goal of the project, “Strengthening CARICOM Cooperation to Reduce Gun Crime,” is to address gun crime in the Caribbean through greater collaboration and increased sharing of information, technologies, and expertise among national crime and security agencies and regional bodies. As part of the project we will work with the University of the West Indies and Caribbean civil society organizations.

Significant progress is being made by the international community to negotiate the text of an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in 2012. Discussions among NGOs, including Ploughshares, started in 1997. In 2009 the process moved from well supported UN resolutions to a plan of action for treaty negotiations.

Project Ploughshares has engaged in research and policy development on nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament since the 1980s. We continue to work nationally and internationally with colleagues outside governments, and sometimes inside, to advance this goal.



Albert Gonzalez Farran/UN

Our Objectives

- Foster binding international standards that control the supply of conventional weapons and promote initiatives that reduce their demand
- Promote stronger and more transparent military export controls
- Support implementation of the UN Programme of Action
- Draw attention to the links between armed-violence reduction and development

Highlights

- January: Co-ordinated the Regional Workshop to Advance Caribbean Action on Small Arms in Port of Spain
- February: Co-hosted round tables in Washington and Cape Town on the ATT
- May: Co-hosted the workshop “Small Arms, Big Impact” during the Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence in Calgary
- June: Attended the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the UN Programme of Action in New York
- July: Participated in the ATT PrepCom in New York

Conventional Weapons

After several years of strong opposition to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), the United States began in 2010 to support the process. This created momentum in the negotiations. With U.S. involvement, the ATT has a better chance of having high standards and wider implementation.

Canada’s approach to the ATT and the UN Programme of Action on small arms continued to be contradictory. While supporting international efforts to reduce the negative impact of conventional arms, Canada’s domestic policies frequently fell short of global commitments and standards.



Suhair Karam/IRIN

Our Objectives

- Reduce the resort to military force by reviewing and proposing changes to Canada's security and defence policies
- Promote reconciliation in the Horn of Africa by strengthening civil society capacity to engage with national governments on security issues

Highlights

- May: Met with officials in the office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, as well as at CIDA and in the Prime Minister's Office to recommend diplomacy and reconciliation in Afghanistan
- June: Spoke at Eyes on Sudan: Working for Peace, an event meant to draw attention to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan
- September: Presented on the announced purchase of 65 F-35 aircraft at the House of Commons Standing Committee on National Defence
- November: Presented on diplomacy and reconciliation in Afghanistan at the House of Commons Special Committee on the Canadian Mission in Afghanistan

Defence & Human Security

Canada's announced purchase of 65 F-35 Lighting II aircraft in July 2010 was made without advance public notice and with sparse rationale.

Ottawa displayed a troubling propensity to emphasize force in response to international threats. Canada's mission in Afghanistan put a priority on military engagement. Though Canadian and U.S. officials acknowledge the limitations of force against the insurgency, it is uncertain whether this acknowledgement made a difference in the primary counter-insurgency mission.

Canadian support for peace in Sudan continued this year. Democratic elections were held throughout the country in 2010 and Sudan carried out a referendum on the secession of South Sudan in January 2011. Sudan's political environment remained tense.



Our Objectives

- Encourage vocal and active Canadian support for the elimination of nuclear weapons
- Contribute, through work with likeminded organizations in Canada and abroad, to international policies that support a more efficient and effective nuclear non-proliferation regime

Highlights

- January: Co-sponsored the conference Practical Steps to Zero Nuclear Weapons in Ottawa
- May: Met with the Canadian delegation to the NPT Review Conference for informal consultations
- May: Presented *Transparency and Accountability – NPT Reporting 2002-2009* at the NPT Review Conference
- June: The Canadian Council of Churches sent a letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, urging his government to take concrete actions toward a world without nuclear weapons

Nuclear Weapons

The 2010 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) reached consensus on a Final Document that includes a reference to a Nuclear Weapons Convention, which would prohibit the use of nuclear weapons and provide for their elimination. In addition, an action plan for the establishment of a Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone in the Middle East is widely considered to be one of the most important achievements of the 2010 NPT Review Conference. Other significant developments this year included a formal review of NATO's strategic concept, as well as the signing of the New START treaty between the United States and Russia.

Unfortunately, the Canadian government has been largely mute with regard to the renewed interest in the U.S. administration and elsewhere to take concrete steps toward the elimination of nuclear weapons.



Our Objectives

- Engage the Canadian government and civil society organizations to support policies aimed at preventing the weaponization of space
- Raise awareness among members of Project Ploughshares' constituencies on the challenges facing outer space security
- Support the development of a multilateral space security treaty or policy instrument as the basis for an effective regime for space activities

Highlights

- January: Presented at a space security event held at the Canadian embassy in Washington
- April: Organized and participated in the annual Space Security Working Group meeting at McGill University in Montreal
- May: Presented on the latest space security trends and developments at the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in Vienna
- September: Published *Space Security 2010*, the seventh annual report of the Space Security Index

Space Security

An increasing number of states are paying attention to the benefits and strategic advantages of space-based military applications.

With an increase in space traffic, and the threat posed by space debris, the chance of orbital collisions continues to rise. Likewise, as barriers to entry steadily drop, the rate at which new spacefaring nations emerge will continue to grow. While it is desirable to expand the pool of stakeholders with a vested interest in the sustainable use of space, the limited nature of some space resources is posing challenges.

The legal framework intended to regulate outer space activities is outdated and insufficient, and there is a lack of consensus among major space actors with regard to the approach that should be taken to develop a more robust regime for space activities.

Armed Conflict

In 2010 there were 24 active armed conflicts worldwide, a decrease of four from the previous year. After no change in the number of active armed conflicts between 2008 and 2009, this decrease marks a return to the prevailing downward trend that started in 2000.

No new conflicts were added in 2010, and conflicts were deemed over in Nepal, Burundi, Sri Lanka, and Uganda. Both Nepal and Burundi signed peace agreements in 2006 that appear to have taken root.

Violence flared up in Burundi in 2008. But for two consecutive years since, the total number of direct conflict-related deaths in Burundi fell below 25.

In Nepal, while human-rights abuses and incidents of violence continued, especially in the Terai region, the violence lacked a political agenda; the number of combatant deaths resulting from conflict between political actors has been below 25 for several consecutive years.

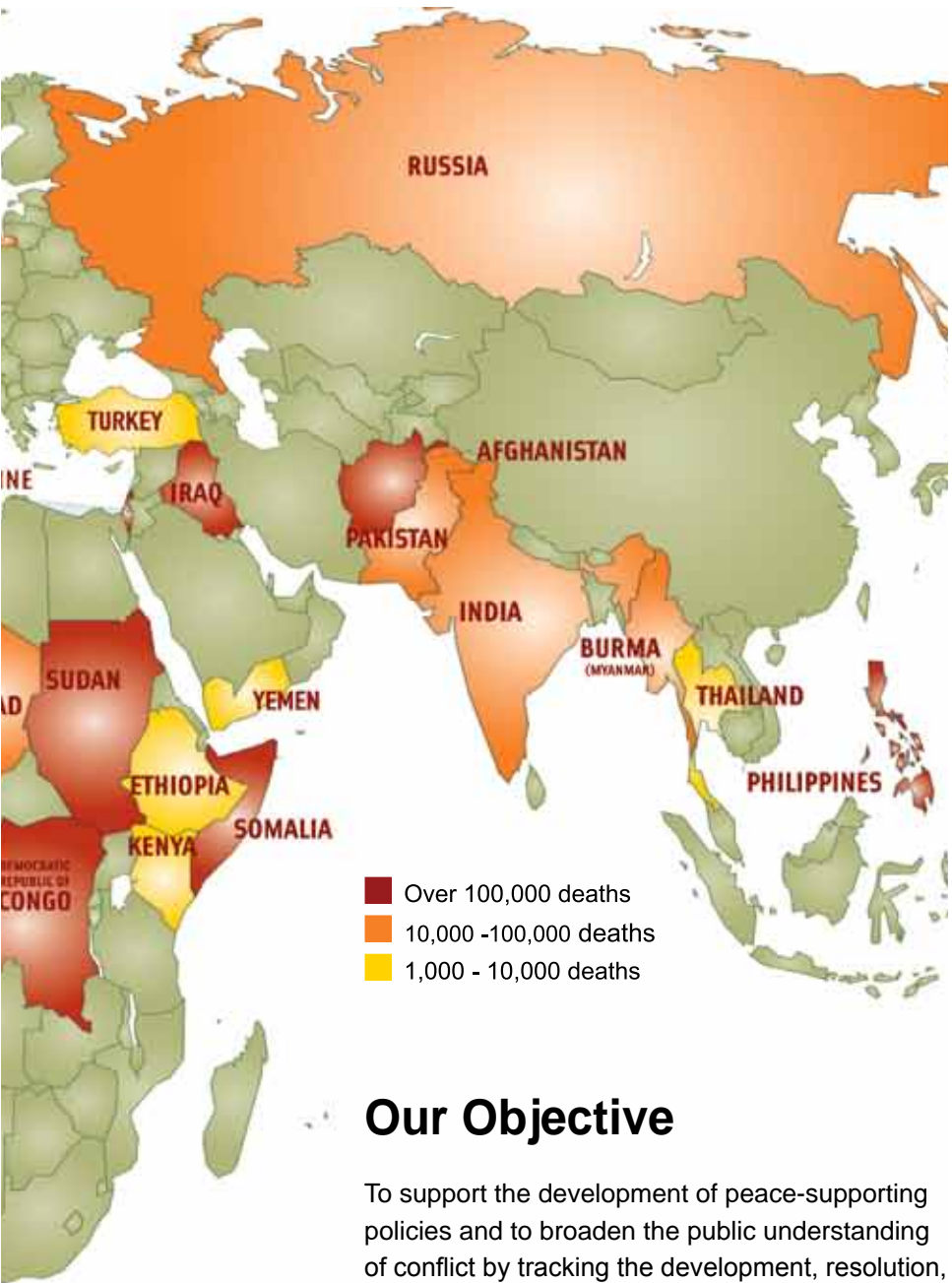
Sri Lanka's civil war came to a decisive end in July 2009 when the government militarily defeated the main rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. The end to Sri Lanka's war marks a rare instance of military defeat of insurgents. The overwhelming majority of conflicts since the 1990s have ended through some type of negotiated settlement.

Although Northern Uganda's Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) continued to commit violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, and Central African Republic, no combat-related deaths have occurred on Ugandan soil in a

number of years. It seems unlikely that the LRA will be active in Uganda again.

The number of armed conflicts in both Africa and Asia dropped by two this year. But these two regions continued to host three-quarters of the world's conflicts. Europe, the Americas, and the Middle East combined to host only one-quarter of the world's conflicts.





Our Objective

To support the development of peace-supporting policies and to broaden the public understanding of conflict by tracking the development, resolution, and impact of armed conflict worldwide and by compiling research into a comprehensive and coherent annual report called the *Armed Conflicts Report*, to be distributed in Canada and abroad.

Founded in 1976

Project Ploughshares is the peace centre of The Canadian Council of Churches, with a mandate to advance policies and actions that prevent war and armed violence and build peace.

Working with churches, governments, and civil society, in Canada and abroad, Project Ploughshares undertakes research, dialogue, and public engagement to prohibit the use, possession, and manufacture of nuclear weapons; prevent the weaponization of space; control the supply and reduce the demand for weapons; reduce the resort to military force; and build sustainable peace in conflict zones.

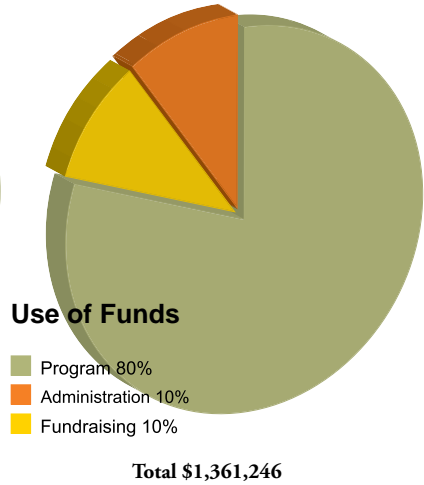
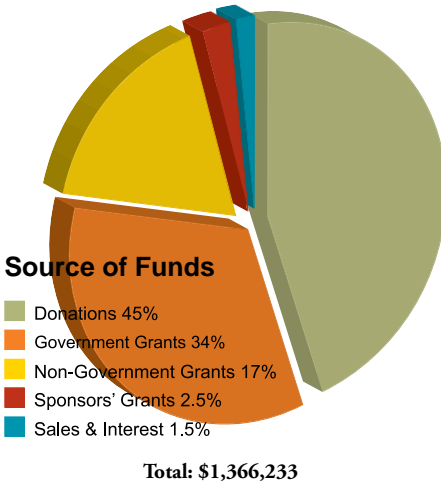
Our print publications include *The Ploughshares Monitor* (quarterly), the *Armed Conflicts Report* (annual), working papers, and briefings, as well as fact sheets and reports. The monthly Ploughshares E-Newsletter is a source of news and information about our programs.

Project Ploughshares is respected by government officials and politicians in Canada and abroad, who have come to expect high quality and accurate research, as well as forthright presentations of concrete policy options. The views of Project Ploughshares are listened to and sought out by decision-makers.

Project Ploughshares consistently provides expert analysis and policy options to the wider NGO community. We help shape debates on issues such as nuclear disarmament, space security, the arms trade, Canada's role in Afghanistan, and Canadian security policy and spending.

Project Ploughshares has a broad and engaged constituency in Canada that includes its nine sponsoring churches, a network of local Ploughshares groups, and a donor constituency of more than 8,000 individuals, as well as foundations, religious orders, congregations, and organizations. This informed Ploughshares constituency contributes generally to a higher level of public debate in Canada on peace and security issues.

Financial Report 2010: Operating Fund



Project Ploughshares is audited each year by an independent accounting firm, and accounts are maintained in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The audited financial statements are available on request.

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*deceased

Thank you

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The Presbyterian Church in Canada funds a Peace and Human Security Internship Program with Project Ploughshares. The internship is for Presbyterian university graduates and funds one 8-month internship annually.

In 2010 grants were also received from the Canadian International Development Agency, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, the Erin J. C. Arsenaault Fund at McGill University's Institute of Air and Space Law, and the Secure World Foundation.

More than 6,000 individuals and organizations supported Project Ploughshares in 2010 at the Contributor, Associate, and Sustaining Associate levels. The following individuals and organizations provided support at the Peace Partner, Peace Builder, and Peace Advocate levels.

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To advance policies and actions
to prevent war and armed violence
and build peace.

Our Vision

A world without war —
a just world at peace.