

# JULIE HRDLICKA



## GROUP REFLECTION

The most surprising thing that Julie told us was that what the media says about conflict happening in other countries isn't always the truth. Until you experience it firsthand it is difficult to know the truth. She mentioned that George Bush was telling the world that Iraq was getting better and that the United States was trying to implement democracy, however, when she was in the country as a human rights observer, she saw that the situation was far from solved. She opened our group's eyes to the fact that democracy cannot be put in place by outsiders but rather democracy had to be built from within.

One of the things our group learned from Julie was that although there will be hardships along the way, you need to have at least a tinge of hope in order to pull through those hard times. That hope is a source of perseverance and will sometimes be the thing that pulls you out of your comfort zone to bring you out into the world. That bit of hope can help you survive no matter what situation you face.

The most difficult part of the interview was when she got emotional. Our group forgot the Kleenex and only remembered when Julie arrived. Although we stayed quiet and respected her personal space, we thought we should have done something to let her know it was okay to cry.

Advice we would give to other groups is to have everything prepared and remember the key things to say because when we greeted Julie in the office we forgot to tell her she needed to sign in. Another group had to remind us. We also forgot to bring tissues with us, which was important because we were interviewing her about a touchy subject. We were not as prepared as we thought we were. Next time we would double check to make sure we remembered everything.

This interview changed the way we thought about war because we used to think that only people in countries of war were affected. Julie told us that war affects everyone. It affects people directly and indirectly. War spreads negativity all around the world, inflicts harm and includes many innocent people. We were shocked because before this interview we didn't realize the far reaching impacts that war could have on many including those not even there.



# CANADA

Canada was the largest contributor of peacekeepers during the Cold War and the only country to contribute to every United Nations mission until the mid-1990s. From Kashmir to the Congo, from Bosnia to Ethiopia - Canadian soldiers were at the forefront of contributing to peace in war-torn lands.

## WHAT HAS BECOME OF THIS LEGACY?

Canada was among the world's top ten contributors to UN peacekeeping efforts in 1992. Today we're in fifty-third place.

Canadian Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson set the UN target for Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) at 0.7% of a nation's Gross National Income (GNI) in 1969.

Today we spend 0.3% of Canada's GNI on ODA contributions annually.

## CANADA'S RANK AMONG CONTRIBUTORS TO UN PEACEKEEPING



## HOW ARE CANADIANS WORKING ON CRISIS RELIEF?

Canada has more than 800 charitable and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) engaged in international development work.

These organizations employ more than 8,500 full time professionals in Canada.

They mobilize tens of thousands of volunteers, interns and staff in Canada and overseas, where dedicated Canadians provide technical support to development partners.

## WHAT HAPPENED TO CANADA'S FOREIGN AID BUDGET?

In 2010, the Government of Canada froze our ODA at \$5 billion a year for five years. It was the largest government cutback in its deficit-trimming budget.

Within a few months, Prime Minister Steven Harper announced a \$9 billion purchase of F-35 fighter jets from Lockheed Martin. The expected cost had ballooned to \$45 billion by 2013 when the government decided to scrap the purchase.

Despite these cuts, Canadian humanitarian organizations continue to respond to global crises.

## HOW DOES YOUR CELLPHONE CONNECT YOU TO WAR?

Principle deposits of coltan, a conducting element found in almost all our cell-phones, video game consoles and computers, are mined in the Congo.

In 2002, the UN found 114 companies and 54 individuals who were in violation of guidelines established by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) for multinational enterprises in connection with the war in the Congo.

Examples of violations include companies benefiting from the direct assistance of combatants and companies participating in military action.

## HOW IS CANADA CONTRIBUTING TO GLOBAL CONFLICT?

Canada, which is among the world's top ten arms exporters, has one of the lowest International Arms Transparency ratings among industrialized economies.

The Canada Pension Plan (CPP), to which every Canadian earning a paycheque must contribute, holds more than \$200 million in investments in twenty-four of the world's top one hundred arms-producing companies.

The most rapidly expanding weapons market is in developing countries, which currently account for more than 75% of all global arms-transfer agreements.



Scan here to listen to Julie's story.

JULIE HRDLICAKA

**War is in our pockets, generating annual returns for our pension funds, encircling our ring fingers, and filling up our cars, among other luxuries. This means that, both individually and collectively, we have a far more direct influence over armed conflicts in the world than we might otherwise believe. - Dr. Samantha Nutt**

The information in Canada's Peacekeeping profile was taken from Dr. Samantha Nutt's (2011) book "Damned Nations, Greed, Guns, Armies, and Aid".

The information on the section labeled "How are Canadians Working on Crisis Relief?" was adapted from Julia Sanchez's (2012) article "Canada's NGOs aren't Looking For Charity, Mr. Fantino".