

# Challenges for Ending the War in 2023. The Road to Peace Paved by “Russian Collaborators?”

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“I don’t want anybody to win! I do not think of this war in these terms! I want this war to end as quickly as possible!”

Dimitri Lascaris, from his speech at the conference “[Making Peace with Russia, One Handshake at a time](#).”

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The War in Ukraine, or “Special Military Operation” or whatever one wants to call it, has lasted as of the date this is published over 570 days. More than a year and a half. [1]

NATO, an organization sold to nations as “[securing a lasting peace in Europe](#)” has had its members spend billions and billions of American dollars supplying tanks, infantry fighting vehicles, armored personnel vehicles, anti-tank systems, surface to air missile systems, F-16 fighter jets and other weaponry to the country of Ukraine. All this has likely done, however is extend the fight and the suffering. [2][3]

According to the estimates from [Mediazona and Meduza](#), independent Russian media outlets, by May of this year, nearly 50,000 Russian soldiers have perished. And Retired US Army Colonel Douglas MacGregor estimates that over 400,000 Ukrainians in the conflict will not see the sun rise again over the land of their birth. [4]

Ukraine is now completely dependent on international aid from Western countries for their financial survival. According to a Swiss Bank report, European economic growth has been

reduced and inflation pushed up considerably since the invasion started. [5]

All the evidence is that, with the current trajectory of forces on the ground, the U.S., NATO, and Ukraine are not turning the tide. The best that they can do, short of having NATO's forces actually joining the fight and turning this conflict into World War III, is draw out the war. Continue to shed more and more blood. [6]

Citizens abroad, even in America, are starting to grow weary of the conflagration draining their own resources. The dying continues. And their own cost of living is soaring. And in Europe, with another cold winter on the horizon, peace is no longer a dirty word spoken only by "Russian collaborating traitors."

October 1st to October 8th is slated to be a Global Week of Action to end the war in Ukraine. The Global Research News Hour will try to shift our listeners' attention to this dynamic and explore the many different ways to achieve peace as soon as possible, and resist wars whose only profiteers so far has been weapons contractors and the investors who derive wealth from them.

In our first half hour, with a Canadian activist perspective, we are joined by Ken Stone and Glenn Michalchuk, members of the Canada-wide Peace and Justice Network. They explain what makes the Ukraine war different from other wars taking place historically. They also talk about the impact of their recent tour by recent visitor to Russia Dimitri Lascaris. And they go through the various Canadian events planned in Canada during the first week of October.

And in our second half hour we speak to conscientious objector and pacifist based in Ukraine: Yurii Sheliashenko. He was arrested on August 3 by the Security Service of Ukraine for opposing participation in the war. He was accused of 'justifying Russian aggression' in spite of his personal opposition to Russian special military operation. He will speak about how the Ukrainian officers violated his rights with his arrest, and about the roots of his own personal convictions regarding fighting in all wars.

The [European Bureau for Conscientious Objection](#) (EBCO), [War Resisters' International](#) (WRI), the [International Fellowship of Reconciliation](#) (IFOR) and [Connection e.V.](#) (Germany) strongly condemn the actions of the Ukraine government toward Mr Sheliashenko and are calling for his release. The [World BEYOND War](#) launched a petition to the Ukrainian Government entitled "Tell the Ukrainian Government to Drop Prosecution of Peace Activist Yurii Sheliashenko".

*Ken Stone is a long time antiwar, anti-racism, environmental and labour activist, and resident in Hamilton. He is also Treasurer of the [Hamilton Coalition to Stop the War](#). He currently coordinates the Canada-Wide Peace and Justice Network.*

*Glenn Michalchuk is the Chair of [Peace Alliance Winnipeg](#) and also the National President Association of United Ukrainian Canadians. He is a member of the Canada-Wide Peace and Justice Network.*

*Yurii Sheliashenko is a conscientious objector, pacifist, human rights defender and the Executive Secretary of the [Ukrainian Pacifist Movement](#).*

(Global Research News Hour Episode 401)

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Caper Radio CJBW 107.3FM in Sydney, [Cape Breton](#), Nova Scotia airs the Global Research News Hour starting Wednesday afternoon from 3-4pm.

[Cowichan Valley Community Radio CICV 98.7 FM](#) serving the [Cowichan Lake](#) area of Vancouver Island, BC airs the program Thursdays at 9am pacific time.

Notes:

1. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/07/1138442#:~:text=The%20war%20began%20on%2024%20February%202022%2C%20and,though%20the%20real%20number%20could%20be%20much%20higher.>
2. <https://www.cnn.com/2023/09/21/politics/war-funding-ukraine-what-matters/index.html>
3. <https://www.cnn.com/2023/08/17/politics/us-f-16-fighter-jets-ukraine/index.html>
4. <https://www.globalresearch.ca/ukrainian-military-contemplating-depose-zelensky-former-us-army-colonel/5832241#popup-maker>
5. <https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2022/06/30/tracking-changes-to-ukraines-economy>
6. <https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2023/09/19/akof-s19.html>

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