

# Faslane 365

## Your Chance to Stop an International Crime



Paul Peter Piech

### Faslane 365 has begun!

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, a group of Greenham Common and Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp(aign) combined with the group Women in Black, launched the year-long protest by blockading the Trident nuclear weapons base at Faslane for 3 days - with music, dancing, knitting and colourful banners.



### Faslane 365

is a civil resistance project which aims to apply public pressure from all over Britain, Europe and beyond, for the disarmament of Trident.

Groups of ordinary people have committed themselves to blockade the base for at least one two-day period each during a twelve month period. It is hoped that this way, there will be a continuous peaceful blockade of the Trident base at Faslane.

Groups in Wales have committed themselves to mobilising as many people as possible to take up this opportunity to make a difference and take steps to stop Trident.

Many will want to take part in Faslane 365 for moral reasons, to prevent a waste of resources and to ensure a safer future for their children and grandchildren, others will be there for environmental reasons, or because they believe that getting rid of nuclear weapons will improve

Since then, over 50 groups as diverse as 'Cyclists', Quakers, a Nordic group, the Green Party, Clergy from Iona and Stop the War have or are each planning to blockade Faslane Base for 48 hours. Faslane 365 is an opportunity for anyone who cares to join in, to express their disgust at British nuclear weapons and to put an end to Trident.

A group of young people from Pembrokeshire are amongst those from Wales who are planning to go.

### Why not you?

### Draig Goch Red Dragon

Each blockading group is at Faslane for 2 days.

South & Mid Wales will leave Wales on the evening of 12<sup>th</sup> to take part in the blockade on 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> November.

North Wales is blockading on 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> November. The two groups will 'overlap' on 14<sup>th</sup> November.

**If you are a veteran direct action campaigner, or if you have never done anything like this before, we would be delighted to have you with us.**

If you want more information, or can commit yourself for two days, please send in your details (see below). The co-ordinators will send you contacts, advice and information, preferably by email, but if you are not on line we still want you on board.

**We are ordinary people from all walks of life: brothers and sisters, parents and grandparents .**



# Please join us!

Coaches or minibuses will take participants from South, Mid and North Wales. The South and Mid Wales Group will leave Wales on Sunday (12<sup>th</sup> November) and return on Tuesday night. The North Wales Group will leave on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November and return on the Wednesday night. Options for accommodation are being arranged. We will need around £35 for each person who takes part, to help cover costs. We do not want anyone to feel they are unable to take part for financial reasons and hope that others will sponsor those who can go but are unable to afford it (see below).

## All we need is you.

Everyone taking part needs to have a commitment to taking non-violent direct action on this issue. This means a positive outlook, mutual respect and self discipline regarding non-use of alcohol and drugs. You are responsible for yourself, no one is in overall charge and we will all look out for each other.

People do not even have to commit themselves to actually being arrested. Why not think up ways to 'decorate' the base as well as other theatrical and innovative ideas? Bring your songs and poems!

**We can be that red dragon....wear something red !**

**'...unacceptably expensive, economically wasteful and militarily unsound.'**

Gordon Brown on Trident, Official Report, 19 June 1984

## Seizing the moment

### Saying No to Nuclear Weapons

Nuclear weapons are weapons of mass murder and destruction. Trident is Britain's shame and is rarely mentioned or discussed in public.

Sufficient people using their right to peaceful protest by hampering activities at Faslane will help to put Trident under the spotlight.

This is an opportunity to inform the public and our friends and neighbours, about the very existence and illegality of these weapons, their pointlessness in the post cold war age and their massive expense to the detriment of public spending on health, education and other public services.



**'The world must aim at achieving a ban on both possession and use of nuclear weapons, in the same way as bans that apply to biological and chemical weapons.'**

**All states — even the great powers — must prepare to live without nuclear weapons and other weapons of terror.'**

Hans Blix, former nuclear weapons inspector, Chair of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission

## Legal Issues

All attending will understandably be concerned about their rights to protest and what will happen if they are arrested. To provide support and protection the Faslane 365 Steering Group have established a Legal Support Working Group to provide advice and support to blockading groups. Legal briefings will also be available.

## Accommodation

A range of accommodation is available in the area, from camp sites or church halls to 'Travel Lodges'. Some groups are even considering the cheaper option of -- sleeping under the stars! The organising committee will arrange accommodation but we can only do this once we have confirmation that you will attend. Please respond immediately so bookings can be made. Information is available for those who prefer to arrange their own accommodation, or see [www.faslane365.org](http://www.faslane365.org).

Briefing meetings and workshops are being held in North, Mid and South Wales. To find out more use the contacts list below.

## Contacts

If you are interested in taking part please get in touch as soon as possible.

### North Wales:

Phil Steele 01248 490 715

[phil\\_steele@btinternet.com](mailto:phil_steele@btinternet.com)

### Mid Wales:

Del Harris 01974 831 575 [coney@gn.apc.org](mailto:coney@gn.apc.org)

### South Wales:

Martin Fitton 02920 481 791

[martin@mfitton.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:martin@mfitton.wanadoo.co.uk)

### More about Faslane 365:

[www.faslane365.org](http://www.faslane365.org)

### Pictures and map of Faslane:

<http://www.tridentploughshares.org/article989>

CND Cymru: 01495 773 180

[heddwch@cndcymru.org](mailto:heddwch@cndcymru.org)





## Other ways you can support Faslane 365

A Statement of Support for Faslane 365 has been signed by over 40 elected politicians, 27 Right Livelihood Award Winners and 3 Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, amongst many others, including writers, academics, lawyers and religious leaders see: [www.faslane365.com](http://www.faslane365.com)

Please join in even if you can't come:

- \* Provide financial support. Sponsor or part-sponsor a Faslane 365 activist. Please send donations to: Faslane 365, c/o 72, Heol Gwyn, Yr Alltwen, Pontardawe, SA8 3AN. Make cheques payable to: *Môr Di-Niwclear*.
- \* Encourage all to join in the CND Big Debate about Trident - see the Big Debate website: [www.bigtridentdebate.org.uk](http://www.bigtridentdebate.org.uk)
- \* Write to your local paper telling them about the Faslane 365 contingent from Wales, why and what they are doing and your reasons for supporting them.
- \* Write to your MP/AMs/MEPs asking them to sign the Statement of Support for Faslane 365 (see [www.faslane365.org](http://www.faslane365.org)) or thank them if they already done so – help to make Trident an election issue!
- \* Consider joining another Faslane 365 group within the next year (see [www.faslane365.org](http://www.faslane365.org))

## The Faslane 365 Demand

*Trident must be taken out of deployment and the government should make a timetable for dismantling the weapons together with a commitment not to develop any new nuclear weapons.*

# Faslane 365 Statement of Support

Like all weapons of mass destruction Trident is illegal under international law and is a complete betrayal of our humanity. In the absence of any genuine intention by the state to undertake disarmament

I/this organisation applaud and support those who respond to this gross evil by peaceful actions of civil resistance, including the nonviolent disruption of the Trident submarine base at Faslane by blockading.

**For Individual Signatory.**

Dated:-

Signed by :-

Name, address, email, profession and position of **individual** signatory:-

**For Organisations .**

Dated:-

Signed by:-

Status in Organisation:-

Name, address, email and website of Organisation:-

Please sign where appropriate and return by email to [reforest@gn.apc.org](mailto:reforest@gn.apc.org) or post to:

Faslane 365, Valley Farmhouse, East Runton, Cromer, Norfolk, NR27 9PN England.

It is also possible to sign this Statement on line, see [www.faslane365.org](http://www.faslane365.org)



# Trident - immoral, illegal and expensive

Four nuclear powered submarines are based at Faslane, one of which is always on 24 hour patrol and on notice to fire.

Each submarine carries up to 16 Trident II D5 missiles, leased from the USA.

3 nuclear warheads are mounted on each missile, each submarine can carry up to 48 warheads.

Each warhead can be aimed at a different target with guidance from US satellites.

Each warhead is 8 times more powerful than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan in 1945 which killed 100,000 people immediately. Each submarine has the destructive capability of 384 Hiroshima bombs.

The British Government is already working on a replacement for the ageing Trident nuclear weapons system - despite the fact that it will

- \* cost billions of pounds of public money,
- \* keep nuclear weapons in Scotland until at least 2055,
- \* break international law,
- \* undermine international arms control treaties,
- \* encourage nuclear proliferation and
- \* has not been discussed or debated in Parliament.

## Trident – against international law

In 1996, the International Court of Justice ruled that: **“the threat or use of nuclear weapons would be generally contrary to the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict, and in particular the principles and rules of humanitarian law”.**

In other words any nuclear attack would be illegal, unless it could be carried out within the confines of humanitarian law, a situation which most people find impossible to envisage.

**‘Nuclear, biological and chemical arms are the most inhumane of all weapons. Designed to terrify as well as destroy, they can, in the hands of either state or non-state actors, cause destruction on a vastly greater scale than any conventional weapons, and their impact is far more indiscriminate and long-lasting’**

The Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission

**‘Can there be any threat more alarming, in today’s world, than that of a nuclear or biological weapon falling into the hands of terrorists, or being used by a State, as a result of some terrible misunderstanding or miscalculation? The more States have such weapons, the greater the risk. And, the more those States that already have them increase their arsenals, or insist that such weapons are essential to their national security, the more other States feel that they too must have them, for their security.’**

Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations

## Trident – against international agreements

- \* Nuclear disarmament would enable Britain to fulfil its 35-year old obligation to nuclear disarmament under Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) which states: **“Each of the Parties to the Treaty undertakes to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control”.**
- \* In 2004 an authoritative legal opinion from Matrix Chambers argued that a renewal of the Mutual Defence Agreement (MDA) with the United States would clearly put Britain in breach of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).
- \* In 2005 the British Government re-iterated the **“unequivocal undertaking”** it had given with 188 other states in 2000 when the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty was reviewed **“to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament”**. Yet when given the opportunity, the Government immediately signalled that it favours buying, deploying and using another generation of nuclear weapons.

