

## IRAQ: OVER 30,000 DEAD

Earlier this year I approached the British Foreign Office asking for advice and assistance in travelling to Iraq, as I had done before the attack by Britain and the United States, in order to view the humanitarian situation and state of the country.

I was also anxious to meet with the families of Iraqis who had been killed in Basra who alleged that the killings were unlawful. This time we were denied any assistance and told not to go for security reasons in spite of the British Government facilitating visits for pro-war politicians and journalists. I, along with Adam Price MP, also asked for a public investigation into alleged

mistreatment of Iraqi prisoners and alleged unlawful killings in Iraq almost a year ago. The photographs and evidence from the Red Cross now coming to light confirms what eyewitness accounts and families of Iraqis killed in Basra were telling us then.

### Counting the dead

War is by definition brutal and for every case of mistreatment we hear of there are hundreds of civilian and military deaths that get little attention. 10,000 civilians and at least 20,000 Iraqi soldiers have been killed, and these can only be estimates as there are no official figures – as General Tommy Franks of US Central Command said “we don’t do body counts”.

The onslaughts on Falluja and Najaf will have increased those totals by around a thousand.

### No walking away

This confirms the worst fears of those of us across Wales who were marching against this war a year and more ago. An immediate handover to a UN peacekeeping force with a significant role played by Muslim countries is the only way ahead to rebuild trust and the international community’s credibility in Iraq now. The sooner Iraq can be returned to Iraqi rule the better but we cannot destroy a country then walk away.

Jill Evans, MEP Chair of CND Cymru



Aberystwyth - All Wales Rally for the Global Day of Action against War March 20th  
Photo: Avid Parry Jones

## WHY THE OCCUPATION OF IRAQ ISN'T ENDING

### The bogus 30th June 'sovereignty transfer' in Iraq

On 30th June the US will hand over 'sovereignty' to a so-called Iraqi Interim Government (IIG). The US and British governments will no doubt make a big song and dance about this being the 'end' of the occupation. In reality it will be nothing of the kind:

- The US/British military occupation of Iraq will continue and the US will remain in control of the Iraqi army.
- The IIG will be a selected - not elected - body with zero democratic mandate. The deadline for the first elections (for a so-called Iraqi Transitional Government) is not until 31st Jan 2005 - if they ever materialise.
- The IIG is prohibited from reversing any of the laws that the US has passed since it occupied Iraq.
- The US will 'still control the bulk of Iraq's capital budget, largely funded by US taxpayers' (Economist, 24th April).
- The US is creating a new secret police force for Iraq which 'the Pentagon and CIA have told the White House ... will allow America to maintain control over the direction of the country' (Sunday Telegraph, 4th January).
- The US will simply be moving to an "embassy" with about 1000 US - and 700 foreign - employees (New York Times, 28th April) where 'most power will reside' (Associated Press, 21st March).

## FOUND! weapons of mass destruction\*

USA: 10,640  
Russia: 8,600  
China: 400  
France: 350  
Britain: 200  
Israel: 100-200  
India: 30 - 35  
Pakistan: 24 - 48

\*and that's only the nuclear weapons

cnd cymru  
campaign for nuclear disarmament  
www.cndcymru.org (01550) 750 260



## Weapons of Mass Destruction the Placards

This simple yet effective display board (left), together with a sister board adding to these details are available in English and/or Welsh in A1, A3, or A4, sizes for use on street stalls, on exhibitions or at other events. They are laminated. Alternatively the digital text/artwork is available on disk or email. Please contact CND Cymru for details. (Contacts Page 3)

### heddwch action:

26TH JUNE - 4TH JULY

### THE OCCUPATION ISN'T ENDING

A week of protests, non-violent direct action & occupations co-ordinated by VoicesUK, to expose the bogus June 30th 'power transfer' in Iraq

On 30th June the US is supposed to be handing over 'full sovereignty' to a so-called Iraqi Interim Government. The propaganda is that the occupation is 'ending'. The reality is that the occupation will continue, as will the corporate invasion of Iraq and the killings and human rights abuses by 'coalition' forces.

Voices in the Wilderness is encouraging groups and individuals to take action during the extended week 26th June - 4th July to expose this fraud and to demand an end to the US/British military occupation. Non-violent occupations of a relevant space (eg. your pro-war MP's office, the office of a corporate war-profiteer etc...) are especially encouraged.

An action pack - including further information about the 30th June handover, and advice on press work, places to occupy and non-violent direct action (NVDA) and the law, is available from VoicesUK. Contact Voices in the Wilderness, 5, Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX (0845) 458 2564 voices@voicesuk.org www.voicesuk.org



# A new generation takes a stand against a new generation of British nuclear weapons

Wales was well represented at the 'Aldermaston 2004' events which took place over the four days of the Easter weekend in April. CND Cymru Chair Jill Evans MEP addressed the 'send off' rally in Trafalgar Square, London on Good Friday, condemning British Government plans to develop new nuclear weapons. She said: "Such weapons are no defence against terrorism but are themselves weapons of terror."

"We in Wales have made crystal clear our opposition to the Iraq war, and now we will continue our long-standing opposition to the development and deployment of any nuclear weapons."

Some of the 500 or so people who then walked to the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) at Aldermaston in Berkshire, over 4 days, following the route of the first London to Aldermaston march of 1958, included peace and justice activists from Pontardawe, Aberystwyth and Wrecsam. The walk took the moving rainbow of protestors of all ages and backgrounds 50 miles across South east England. Some had been on the first ever Aldermaston March in 1958, others were campaigners making the connections between international injustice, globalisation, the arms trade and nuclear weapons. A bus-full of Bro Emllyn Peace and Justice Network members were among those from all over Britain who gathered to meet the marchers as they arrived at Aldermaston on Easter Monday.

Genny Bove of Wrecsam commented:

"I am proud to have taken part in a march; in such good company; along such a historic route, but sad and angry that it is still necessary to protest so long after Britain has put its name to a treaty to ban nuclear weapons. It is sheer hypocrisy to expect other countries to decommission their nuclear arsenals when we are not prepared to do the same."

"I will continue to take part in protests like this until Britain fulfils its obligations under the Treaty and I would willingly walk 50 miles again - miraculously I didn't sustain a single blister!"

## What is going on at Aldermaston?

■ In December 2003, a British Government Defence White Paper stated that a decision about a replacement for Trident would be made in the next parliament.

■ In April 2004 The Ministry of Defence resubmitted their Notice of Proposed Development to the West Berkshire Council for the installation of a high-powered laser (Orion laser facility). This laser would enable AWE to replicate the conditions of a nuclear explosion, and enable the construction of predictive models for nuclear explosions.

■ The new laser is the first stage of a massive development plan which will equip AWE Aldermaston to produce a new generation of nuclear weapons, which - if developed - would violate the international Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

■ AWE claim that this new development is necessary for the current Trident (British nuclear weapons) programme. However, combined with proposals for a new hydrodynamics facility, a supercomputer and other testing facilities, and the recruitment of over 80 new scientific posts, observers believe that AWE is equipping itself to produce a new generation of nuclear weapons.

■ All these obscene plans are being made 'in our name' and with our money by our elected representatives whom we employ.

**The USA currently has military bases in 70% of countries (i.e. 135 out of 192 countries) world-wide.**

heddwch action:

## The Next Generation Campaign

We need to sustain opposition to the new developments.

■ Please ask your family and friends to sign and return the enclosed petition: No to nuclear weapons!. If you can use more petitions please contact CND Cymru (see Contacts page 3).

■ Keep in Touch : If you use the internet and would like to receive alerts on action you can

take, subscribe to the 'tng\_alerts e.list' (this is a notifications list, not a discussion list). To subscribe send an email with the subject line 'tng\_subscribe' to [info@aldermaston.net](mailto:info@aldermaston.net)

■ A 'No new nukes' updated campaign briefing (english only) is available from British CND (020) 7700 2393, or can be downloaded from: <http://www.cnduk.org/pages/campaign/nonukesupdate1.pdf>

■ Read monthly updates on AWE Aldermaston from the Nuclear Information Service <http://www.nukeinfo.org.uk/updates/index.htm>

■ The Aldermaston Women's Campaign can be contacted by telephone: (mobile) 07969 739 812 or email: [Info@aldermaston.net](mailto:Info@aldermaston.net)

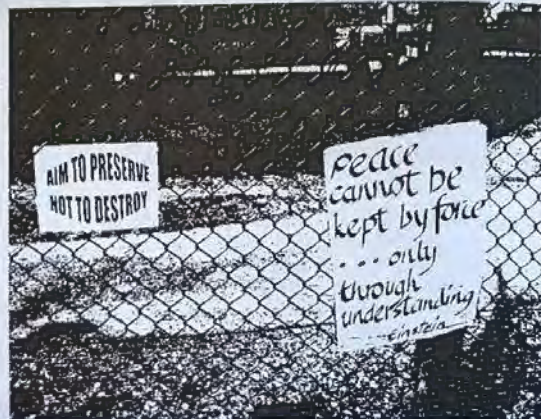


photo: Ben Freeman

## From trees to killing-machinery at Blackwood

After ten years of campaigning and protest, the oldest trees in St David's Wood, Blackwood, Gwent were among the last to fall.

As the bailiffs moved in to remove the last fifteen or so people trying to save the woodland, both local protestors and supporters were in tears. The ancient silver oak in the final protest camp - gone. The giant, perfect beech which stood alone in the centre of a field - gone. 'That one will definitely stay' a representative of Caerffili Council had promised, just weeks before.

### Might is wrong

Hundreds of other trees, bat residences, dormouse habitats, buzzard roosts - gone. And never mind the legality. Appeals had been put in to stop the eviction of the protestors, and to preserve the dormouse sites (dormice, unlike protestors, being a protected species in Britain). But Costain, the construction company, had gone ahead anyway, presumably reckoning the costs of a fine (in the thousands) against the far higher costs of not completing the work on time.

### Our money

But, say locals and supporters, the resistance is not over. The trees may be dead, and the road itself underway, but there is still the question of the two bypasses, which are due to connect to the road. They will be built over the small, hitherto peaceful valley, thereby turning it instantly into a miniature of Spaghetti Junction. Unwanted, unnecessary, destructive to local trade, polluting, hazardous and an eyesore are how most of the Blackwood locals see the bypasses. Not that this has stopped their local council from going ahead with it. 'It makes you wonder why we vote' said a local mother, angrily. Questions abound about the £54 million in 'regeneration' money this exercise will cost, and why it could not be spent on other, more productive local projects. Rumours are a rife about local corruption.

### War - made in Wales

Add to this unease the fact that this whole construction is intended to service two American arms manufacturers - and people are confident that the protests will not die.

The people who clung onto the trees may have been pulled down to earth, somewhat battered and exhausted. But that, many say, is not the end of the story. In the meantime, the construction's destruction continues.

### Jobs at any cost

Forcing people in areas of low employment into manufacturing weapons of destruction is nothing new, of course, but one wonders how the promised local jobs (which range from hundreds to thousands, depending on the degree of hyperbole) will affect the unskilled teenagers and redundant miners in need of employment.

**note:** Behind the road are two corporations already known for being among the most destructive on the planet. On one side of the road is General Electric - chief war profiteer and manufacturer of jet engines. While on the other side, on the estate in Oakdale - is General Dynamics which manufactures, among other things, 'Advanced Precision Kill Weapon Systems' as well as battle tanks, assault vehicles, nuclear submarines and destroyers. The General Dynamics UK site boasts of delivering



'world class C4ISTAR capability vital to customer needs'. Officially, C4ISTAR stands for Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance. When asked what, precisely, the branch in Wales would be making, an employee replied that he 'wasn't allowed to say'. Grace, a protestor at Blackwood commented: "It wasn't easy but it was amazing, it inspired a lot of people; locals became active. We may not have saved the trees but we cost Costain at least £5,000 a day. We made great friendships and we will always remember it. People had their priorities right up there, we took back a little bit of the world for ourselves and even though they've torn it down now it's still brought people together and still changed things."

Thanks to Corporate Watch <http://www.corporatewatch.org/index.html>

heddwch action:

contacts:

Grace (07719 726 861)

[gracefromnewport@yahoo.com](mailto:gracefromnewport@yahoo.com)

or Bob: 07745681373



# Around the country

## Cyflawnder a Heddwch Bro Emllyn for Peace

The group, based in Newcastle Emllyn recently held a special public meeting with active peace campaigner and advocate of children's Rights Professor Thomas Nagy from Washington DC. as guest speaker. During the 1990s Professor Nagy spoke out against UN sanctions on Iraq and the effects inflicted on the civilian population. Adam Price, MP for Carmarthen East and Dinefwr also addressed the meeting. Mr. Price has been a prominent opponent of the Iraq war and since last November has consistently drawn attention to the unacceptable number of civilian deaths at the hands of British soldiers. More information about Thomas Nagy and Adam Price's paper "Can Kill Won't Count" can be found on [www.bepj.org.uk](http://www.bepj.org.uk)

**Contact Jeremy Clulow:** (01239) 698 488  
[jeremy@better-wales.com](mailto:jeremy@better-wales.com)

## Aberystwyth Peace and Justice Network

Aberystwyth hosted a brilliant rally and Symposium on March 20th, which included speakers Corin Redgrave, Azmet Beggs and Jill Evans when hundreds of campaigners from all over Wales marched through Aberystwyth on the Global Day of Action. Thanks to everyone especially Bangor Peace and Justice Group, who helped organise this brilliant day.

**Contact:** (01970) 610 185  
[heddwch@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:heddwwch@yahoo.co.uk)

## Wrecsam Peace and Justice Forum

Wrecsam Peace and Justice Forum's beautiful new banner (see left or right or below), designed and completed by Genny Bove in March has been out and about campaigning. The group holds regular meetings and has been campaigning to highlight the atrocities being carried out in our names, in Iraq; marched against the developments of new British nuclear weapons at Aldermaston AWE, promoted the launch of Wrecsam as a Fair-trade town and ensured that huge banners painted with pertinent slogans appear regularly alongside local

roads. Wrecsam Peace and Justice Forum (WPJF) produce a brilliant newsletter (free or donation), which is well worth reading wherever you live.

**Contact: Genny Bove:** (0845) 330 4505  
[wrexham@yahoo.com](mailto:wrexham@yahoo.com)  
**WPJF, PO Box 661, Wrecsam LL11 1QU**  
**Back issues of the Newsletter and up to date information can be found at**  
[www.wpjf.org.uk](http://www.wpjf.org.uk).

## Mehdi of Machynlleth

Mehdi El-radhi, a British Iraqi living in Machynlleth was found guilty at a crown court in England in February for taking non-violent direct action at the DSEi Arms Fair in London in September last year. Mehdi had locked himself onto the train carrying delegates to the Arms Fair which is an event supported by the British Government and markets killing machines.

Representatives from a third of the world's governments including several with documented records of human rights abuses, such as Israel, Syria, Turkey, Indonesia, India and Pakistan were invited to the trade fair. Mehdi has family living in Baghdad and said that their lives have been endangered by the proliferation of weapons and the blatant buying and selling of death with countries with terrible human-rights records. He campaigned and continues to campaign in Wales and beyond for the prevention of and an end to the continuing war in Iraq.

## Bangor & Ynys Môn Peace and Justice Group

This group continues to meet weekly and holds a regular stall under the Town Clock Bangor. Recent social/fundraising events have included "Give Peace a Dance - Wales against the Wall". Local MP Albert Owen has not yet responded to an invitation to meet the group and discuss his support for Blair's backing of Ariel Sharon's unilateral actions in Palestine. Mordechai Vanunu has been invited to speak in Bangor, and at the same time Israeli authorities have been contacted with notice of

the invitation. A Public Meeting has been organised about the current situation in Iraq, with Kevin Williams (Welsh Human Shield and more recently an Aid worker in Iraq) and Ewa Jasiewicz (Voices UK and Occupation Watch Centre) as speakers (see Diary dates page 4).

**Contact: Linda Rogers** (01248) 490 715  
[phil@tyocrig1.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:phil@tyocrig1.freeserve.co.uk)

## Borders Peace and Justice Network

This is a new (cross-border) network covering an area south of Wrecsam, Llanfyllin, Bishops Castle, Oswestry and Newtown. It will be launched on July 14th when Kevin Williams from Newport will speak on working with street children in Iraq. **Contact: Marjie Sweet:** (01691) 780 593 for more information

## Honouring Welsh Peacemaker Henry Richard

A tribute to a Welsh peacemaker and internationalist, Merthyr Tydfil MP Henry Richard (1812 - 1888), took place on 1st April at his graveside at Abney Park Cemetery, Stoke Newington, England. British CND chairperson Kate Hudson was amongst those joining Simon Thomas MP and Richard Livsey, Rhian Medi Roberts of the Catrin Glyndwr Society and children from Ysgol Uwchradd Tregaron (Tregaron Secondary School) who paid their respects to Richard at the mausoleum erected for him by public subscription. **Contact for future events:** (020) 7219 5021 or (020) 8347 6162

## De Cymru Earth First!

This newly-formed group of activists nourished by the Blackwood anti-road protest this year are keen to use direct action to challenge the unjust and mindless values which are destroying this beautiful planet. They are entirely committed to non-violence and opposed to abuse of the environment and all living things - human and otherwise.

**Contact: Grace** 07719726861 or **Bob** 07745681373 evenings only or email: [gracefornewport@yahoo.com](mailto:gracefornewport@yahoo.com)

## Recognising the right to refuse to kill

On 15th May two events took place in Wales to honour conscientious objector (CO)s past and present. International Conscientious Objectors' Day was first observed in 1982 and continues to serve as a focus for the right of objection to taking part in war, to be established where it is lacking, and as support for objectors everywhere.

At an informal gathering organised by Cynefin y Werin, at the Temple of Peace, Cathays Park, Cardiff, statements about Welsh COs from the Second World War, some of whom died as the result of mistreatment, and also one from the Israeli Refusenik movement were read out. A Welsh CO, Bishop Mear told the group that it was the early days of the war when he had only just been accepted as a trainee for the priesthood that he received his call up papers. He could have claimed exemption on health grounds but he was not willing to dodge the issue of conscience. The Bishop then detailed the derisory and contemptible questioning to which the Tribunal subjected him. Needless to say his application was refused and he had to suffer the consequences. Even his church refused to allow him to read the lesson in services.

In Tregaron, Cymdeithas y Cymod, the Fellowship of Reconciliation in Wales held a Public Meeting to remember conscientious objectors. This was followed by a presentation, "Cefn Coed" scripted by Wilbur Lloyd Roberts remembering Kitchener Davies, Waldo Williams and Islwyn Ffowc Ellis.

**heddwch action:** Cynefin y Werin is raising money for the creation of a permanent memorial to Conscientious Objectors in the Garden of Peace **Contact:** 029 2082 1055 or [clare@wcia.org.uk](mailto:clare@wcia.org.uk)



## Women to Women for Peace

Women to Women for Peace are inviting a group of eight women, four from Palestine and four from Israel, as guests to Britain in October this year. The visit will take place in the Bristol and Cardiff areas and also in Brighton and London.

The main aims of the visit are to:

- Support women in Israel and Palestine who are working for peace;
- Give them a chance to get to know one another in a safe place;
- enable them to be heard by a wider public in this country;
- link with those responsible for the Middle East at the Foreign Office and with others working for peace in the region in order to raise the profile of the women's peace work and to seriously take on board their wishes and demands.

During their stay Women to Women for Peace will arrange a series of formal and informal meetings and visits, social activities and 'media events' for the women. It is hoped that the programme will reflect the visitors' interests and concerns and will aim to focus attention on their peace work in the Middle East, and bring it to attention of those who influence policy and decision-making.

## heddwch action:

Women to Women for Peace are organising fundraising activities and also seeking women to help with hosting and organising the programme. If you would like to know more, can offer help or would be interested in hearing the women speak please contact the project co-ordinator, Jane Harries, 42, St. Patrick's Drive, Bridgend CF31 1RP (01656) 654 462 or 07779 010206 [ejharries@hotmail.com](mailto:ejharries@hotmail.com)

## WAR NO MORE

A 14 minute educational and campaigning video and accompanying booklet "War No More" bearing the message that war is never inevitable and we can take steps to resolve conflict in other ways" is available for £8.00 (including p&p) from: Movement for the Abolition of War, 11, Venetia Road, London N4 1EJ (cheques payable to 'MAW')

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If you have any queries or ideas or want information please contact your nearest vice chair. For more information about CND Cymru, or how to receive 'heddwch' regularly please contact the CND Cymru Membership Secretary.



## diary dates

**June 11th Menai Bridge.** Bangor Peace and Justice Group Benefit Gig, Anglesey Arms, Menai Bridge 8.00pm Cane Toads and Noise at Work. Entry £5 (concessions) be there. Contact: BPJG, (01248) 490 715 phil@tycarrig1.freemove.co.uk

**June 14th Wrexham. Public Meeting with Kevin Williams** (worker with Iraqi street children) Trinity Presbyterian Church, King Street, (next to bus station) 7.30pm Contact: WPFJ 0845 330 4505 wrexhamsaw@yahoo.com

**June 15th Mold. Public Meeting with Kevin Williams** Daniel Owen Community Centre, 7.30pm. Contact 07775 784 063 or david@mlwr.freemove.co.uk

**June 16th Bangor. 'Eye- Witness Accounts from Occupied Iraq'** Ewa Jasiewicz (recently returned from Iraq with the Occupation Watch centre) and Kevin Williams (worker with Iraqi street children) will give a talk about their experiences. Actual venue and time to be confirmed. Contact BPJG as for June 11th.

**Until June 16th Cardiff. "Circles of Belonging"** Exhibition of paintings (with peace and justice theme) by artist Tim Rossiter at Norwegian Church, Cardiff Bay 9am-5pm. Working residency Weds. June 9th 10.00am - 4.00pm.

**June 18th Aberystwyth David Rovics & Attila The Stockbroker** The Bay Hotel, Marine Terrace 8:30pm to 12:00pm. Fundraiser Gig in aid of The Guantanamo Human Rights Commission, which seeks justice for those illegally, detained in Guantanamo and Belmarsh prisons. Organised by Aberystwyth Peace & Justice Network. Contact: Kelvin Mason (01970) 610 185 kelvin.mason@tiscali.co.uk

**June 19th Rhaeadr CND Cymru Annual Meeting followed by Cyngor. Brynafon Hotel 11.00am - 4pm.** All members of CND Cymru and delegates of paid up affiliated groups welcome. Annual reports will be heard and campaigning plans discussed. Nominations for chairperson and 4 vice chairpersons received until June 11th. Contact CND Cymru National Secretary for further information (see page 3).

**June 19th Denbigh Sierra Maestra** - World class nine piece Cuban salsa band. Town Hall 8pm Tickets £10 (£7 unwaged). A Cuba-Cymru event. Contact: David Jones (01745) 813402.

**June 30th-July 4th Week of Action The Occupation isn't Ending** (see page 1)

**June 23rd - 27th Barcelona Conference 'Towards a world without violence'** Come to Barcelona, to participate in a major international conference organised by the International Peace Bureau and Fundacio per la Pau. For information and to register: <http://www.peacedialogue2004.org> <http://www.ipb.org>.

**July 4th Menwith Independence from America - Annual Demonstration** Main Gate, Menwith Hill US Military Base, Nr. Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 12:00pm onwards Come in your ball gown/costume to the 'Ugly Bug Ball' (in gratitude to Katharine Gun GCHQ Whistle Blower) Contact: Campaign For The Accountability Of American Bases (CAAB), 8, Park Row, Otley, West Yorkshire, LS21 1HQ, England (01943) 466 405 OR (01482) 702 033 email: annielindis@caab.org.uk or caab@btclick.com <http://www.caab.org.uk>

**July 17th Launch of Borders Just and Peace Network** (see Page 3)

**July 31st - August 7th Newport (Gwent) National Eisteddfod**, help from Welsh speakers and/or learners needed for the CND Cymru stall in the Peace and Justice Tent. Contact CND Cymru Trading (see Contacts Page 3).

**August 6th Hiroshima Day** 59 years after the first nuclear bomb was dropped deliberately on a civilian population by the US military. Photographs of Hiroshima (and Nagasaki) and briefings are available from CND Cymru. If you are organising an event please let CND Cymru know (Contacts Page 3)

**August 9th Nagasaki Day** the second nuclear bomb dropped on Nagasaki was of a different type to the Little Boy Hiroshima bomb, the US scientists and military wanted to test the effects of each upon civilian populations. Nagasaki survivor Sakue Shimohira who was 12 years old and lost her mother, brother, sister and school friends in the nuclear devastation recently warned of the horror of such weapons. She remembered: "Mothers cried for their children and children for their mothers, but no matter how loud they cried or how far they stretched their arms they could not be comforted."

**18th August - 1st September Coulport International Disarmament Camp 2004** Peaton Wood, Coulport, Scotland The camp is sited in, on the shores of Loch Long just half a mile from the Trident warhead depot, and a few miles from Faslane naval base, home to Britain's Trident nuclear weapon submarines. Bring your own tent. Communal vegan food is provided on a donation basis. Disarmament actions at the Trident bases and workshops on non-violence and other campaign issues will take place. You will be very welcome even if you can only manage some of the time. Help with accommodation off-site for those who find it difficult to camp is available. (see below for contact details)

**23rd August - Faslane and Coulport, Scotland.**

**Carry-On Up the Clyde Non Violent Direct Activities.**

This year's event will include a blockade and other forms of peaceful direct action including break-ins and swimming actions. Materials are currently being produced and should be available soon from the website. Contact for both events above: Trident Ploughshares, 42-46 Bethel St, Norwich NR2 1NR Tel: (0845) 45 88 366 [info@tridentploughshares.org](mailto:info@tridentploughshares.org) <http://www.tridentploughshares.org/coulport/index.php> or [coulport@tridentploughshares.org](mailto:coulport@tridentploughshares.org)

**heddwch news 4**

## Messy ending to Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Meeting

The two week international conference of the 189 signatories to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) which was held in preparation for the main 2005 NPT conference, ended in disarray after failing to agree on important decisions some as basic as an agreed timetable for the 2005 Conference. One participant at the meeting described the event as a 'bad tempered shambles'.

### Nuclear Weapons Free Zones

Carol Naughton of West Midlands CND who attended the Conference in New York reported that there were calls for India, Pakistan and Israel to be brought under effective control of the NPT and the International Atomic Energy Authority (IAEA). Existing nuclear weapons free zones (NWFZ) were praised and many nations called for the implementation of the 1995 NPT Resolution on a NWFZ in the Middle East (originally proposed by Iran). Iran was also congratulated for signing nuclear safeguards protocols. The US accused Iran of lying.

### US dreams of new nuclear weapons

Ways to strengthen surveillance and control in relation to terrorist threats was discussed and particular disquiet expressed about new US nuclear weapons developments. The US stated that their research into new nuclear weapons was 'entirely conceptual', while at the same time denying that there was anything in the NPT prohibiting them from carrying out such research or developing new or modified nuclear warheads.

### No place for nuclear weapons anywhere

Tariq Raul of the IAEA put forward seven proposals to strengthen the NPT and commented: "The global community has become irreversibly interdependent, with the constant movement of people, ideas, goods and resources. In such a world, we must combat terrorism with a security culture that transcends national and political borders - an inclusive approach to security based on solidarity and the value of human life. In such a world, nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction would have no place." The NPT 2005 Review Conference will be held from May 2nd to 28th.

## The EU Constitution Tony's Referendum

*Reading some of the small print*

The current draft Constitution of the European Union, a subject of much recent media attention, holds major implications for those of us who care about true peace and justice. While in theory the concept of a referendum on a potential Constitution holds signs of public accountability and sound democratic principles, the complexity of any such document would clearly make it difficult if not impossible to endorse or reject as a whole. The referendum could therefore become a battle ground for those who approve or disapprove of the European Union for any particular ideological, political, self interested or simply fashionable reason. What is a truth is that whatever the political set-up, we in Wales are historically and geographically Europeans, we are all connected, if not friends and colleagues. It is also true that exclusive economic 'clubs' can work against the economic, environmental and human rights of those outside (and even inside) such clubs.

### Militarised Europe

The current draft EU Constitution aims to develop a military arm of the European Union. States are to "progressively improve (sic) their military capabilities" and establish an "European Armaments Research and Military Capabilities Agency". It calls on member states to act against 'terrorism' and the 'threat of terrorism' jointly with the Union; "enabling the Union to mobilise all instruments at its disposal, including military resources". This would presumably mean that British and French nuclear weapons could be at the disposal of European militarists.

Erik Wesselsius from the Corporate Europe Observatory has pointed out that such a military policy would "provide a carte blanche for EU military operations around the world" and would have allowed the EU to become directly involved in attacking Iraq or Afghanistan. And remember, all this is in an EU with a more powerful un-elected European Commission with the corporate business lobby whispering in their ears.

### Nuclear Power

The draft Constitution also includes provision for the promotion of civilian nuclear power. This is another can of mutant worms we certainly don't want opened and further, it would open the door for the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

### Accountability?

The draft Constitution proposes to increase the powers of the un-elected European Commission in EU trade policy. Increasing corporatisation is already evident in the new European states, and the big companies involved will hold sway over the Governments involved, with the attendant weasel words and coercion. The draft Constitution diminishes controlling powers of the national parliaments by dropping the national veto power in several key areas including trade in services (GATS). In such an environment, justice for all people is clearly not at the top of the agenda.

### Trade injustice

There are signs that trade impacts on so called 'developing' countries outside the EU could be deeply affected by the enlargement of the Union. Money alone can never be the solution to the problems of a postcolonial world. However, it is already feared by some developing countries that the 'new' European subsidised states will offer too much competition. We need local production for local consumption, not globalisation and the daily hauling of food and consumer items across the world.

So if and when the referendum on the European Constitution does come there are plenty of questions to be asked. It would be up to each voter to be aware of the propaganda and think for her or himself. To be 'against Europe' is not possible - we already are Europe, but there are peace and justice issues involved for all the peoples of the continent and worldwide that we dismiss at our peril.

Jill Staillard

**heddwch action:** Watch this space. CND Cymru works for peace, justice and disarmament with other peace organisations all over Europe and worldwide. The World Development Movement is working on this issue. Contact them: WDM, 25, Beehive Place, London SW9 7QR (020) 7737 6215 [www.wdm.org.uk](http://www.wdm.org.uk)