

Campaign

No war on Iran

CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** examines the ongoing crisis with Iran.



THE crisis that has unfolded around Iran in recent weeks has seen equal measures of tragedy and criminal irresponsibility. The accidental shooting down of the civilian flight with its terrible loss of life has touched us all, and our hearts go out to those affected. This is a devastating reminder of how war affects the innocent and we renew our commitment to working for peace through diplomatic and negotiated solutions. This tragic accident was a direct result of the heightened regional tension following the US killing of Iranian general Qasem

Soleimani and six others in a drone strike in Iraq. This was an act of state terrorism – extra-judicial killings that are illegal under international law. The US acted as a rogue state and our government’s support for this crime – on the basis of the US right to self-defence – makes a mockery of international legal norms.

The US has a long history of intervention in the Middle East and of hostility to Iran, but at the heart of these recent developments lies Trump’s trashing of the Iran nuclear deal. This was agreed in 2015 under the leadership of President

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Obama and signed by Iran, the US, UK, Russia, China, France and Germany. The deal ensured restraints on the Iranian civil nuclear programme to prevent any possible military developments, and in exchange sanctions on Iran were lifted. Trump pulled the US out in 2018, saying it was ‘the worst deal ever’, but in fact it was completely effective in its aims and Iran was in full compliance and other signatories continue to support it.

Clearly Trump pulled out for other reasons, most likely that Iran’s economy was recovering with the sanctions lifted and it was re-emerging as a regional power. Boris Johnson suggests a different motivation – that Trump doesn’t like it because it was negotiated by Obama. In a recent interview the prime minister said, “Let’s replace it and let’s replace it with the

Trump deal.” If it wasn’t such a dangerous situation this would really be laughable – the politics of the playground writ large: never mind the content, he just wants his name on it.

But Trump and his supporters – in Downing Street and elsewhere – are really playing with fire. The great danger now is that Iran will finally decide that it needs to develop nuclear weapons to ensure its own security – much as North Korea did when it found itself part of Bush’s Axis of Evil. It is profoundly to be hoped that it does not do so.

If the international community values peace and security – and indeed the future of our planet – then it must act to reign in Trump and put a stop to his fast track to disaster. Particular pressure needs to be applied to our government to prevent Johnson just becoming a cheer leader for US actions. Strengthening the movement against war on Iran is crucial and we were very pleased to co-organise the recent No War on Iran demonstration in London.

■ Many thanks to all those CND groups taking action on this issue – and I urge all members and supporters to take action to lobby the PM via our website:

<https://cnd.eaction.org.uk/no-waroniran2020>.

Spotlight

This month:
Bath CND



Many CND groups were active in lobbying their election candidates at the end of year. Bath CND, for example, arranged a local hustings meeting to make sure all the candidates were properly grilled on the issues of nuclear weapons and war. This was just one of many interesting initiatives the group was involved with in 2019.

If you are a CND member or supporter who lives in the Bath area and want to find out what the group has in store for 2020, then they would be delighted to hear from you.

Get in touch by phoning 01225 312574 or emailing monica_cnd@hotmail.com

Ban treaty to enter into force?

CND Campaigns Officer **Sara Medi Jones** looks at what developments we can expect in 2020 in regard to international nuclear disarmament.

WHILE the start of this new decade hasn't been the most peaceful, it can be reassuring to remember that there is some good news to be shared. A new generation of activists has been mobilised by the climate protests, medical developments showed huge progress in 2019 in the battle against Aids and malaria in particular and for anti-nuclear campaigners, we could soon see the entry into force of a UN treaty banning nuclear weapons.

From its founding meeting, CND has championed the global abolition of nuclear weapons. Britain's Trident nuclear weapons system is a relatively small part of a massive global problem. For many years we have argued that nuclear weapons must be banned in the same way that chemical and biological weapons have been banned – or more recently cluster munitions and landmines have been outlawed.

And in 2017 we celebrated as the United Nations adopted the historic Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), supported

by 122 countries. In fact, the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), of which CND is a partner organisation, for our work in campaigning for this momentous achievement. The treaty will make it illegal under international law for its signatories to develop, test, possess, use or threaten to use nuclear weapons. It will enter into force when ratified by 50 states. At the time of writing, 34 countries have ratified the TPNW while 80 have signed.

International campaigners are confident that 2020 will be the year that we achieve the necessary 50 ratifications. This will be a momentous event, one we should enjoy as campaigners, and a giant step forward on the road towards global abolition. The treaty is a significant pointer towards changing international attitudes to nuclear weapons and could help stigmatise them in the minds of the public.

But what would this mean in practice for the nuclear weapons states, including the UK? When the TPNW was

negotiated, our government boycotted the talks and of course, it plans to build a new £205 billion nuclear weapons system.

We must do all we can to put this treaty right at the top of the political agenda. And very helpfully, there are provisions in the TPNW for nuclear states to sign up prior to disarmament, by removing their weapons from operational status and providing a detailed plan for getting rid of them.

Adding to the pressure on the nuclear states is the fact that towns and cities around the world are becoming Nuclear Ban Communities as they sign up to support the TPNW. Large cities including Washington D.C., Paris, Berlin and Edinburgh have all adopted motions declaring their support. Other towns and cities in the UK to join the campaign include Manchester, Norwich and Renfrewshire. CND is encouraging all our groups to raise this with their local councils in 2020 – see the Nuclear Ban Communities page on our website for more information.

For a full, updated list of events, see cnduk.org/events/

Oxford CND meeting

January 16th, 6:45pm
Oxford Town Hall, St Aldate's,
Oxford OX1 1BX

■ Contact 01865 248357 or
oxfordcnd@phonecoop.coop

West Midlands CND meeting, January 18th

10:30am, Cafe Zest, Rackhams
(House of Fraser), Corporation
Street, Birmingham.

■ Contact
wmcndall@gmail.com

Abingdon Peace Group meeting, January 21st

8pm, The Northcourt Centre,
Northcourt Road, Abingdon.

■ Contact 01235 526265 or
sallyreynolds@btinternet.com

London CND New Year Social, January 24th

7pm-9:30pm, Ev Café, The
Arches, 97-99 Isabella Street,
London SE1 8DD

■ Contact 020 7607 2302 or
info@londoncnd.org

Militarism and the Climate Crisis: Yorkshire meeting, January 25th

3pm-6pm, Mill Hill Unitarian
Chapel, City Square, Leeds.

■ Contact 01274 730795 or
info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

Leicester CND fundraising evening, January 28th

7pm, Chef and Spice,
1 Andrewes Street, Leicester.

■ Contact 07414 465695 or
pennywalker@riseup.net

Meet the staff

This month:
Ian Chamberlain,
CND Press and
Communications Officer



"The press part of my job involves responding to journalist enquires about CND and our campaigns, and providing them with quotes, photos, facts and figures for their news stories. When there is news about Trident or nuclear power, I pitch articles to editors and I prepare press releases to send to journalists to make sure our perspective is covered in the stories they write.

I'm also responsible for CND's social media channels, I produce videos, create graphics, I write most of the ecampaigns you receive from CND, as well as news items and articles for the CND web site. I also support local CND groups with their press and communications work."

The Middle East, Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear Disarmament: Cardiff

January 30th, 7pm
Temple of Peace and Health,
King Edward VII Avenue, Cardiff

■ Contact 01239 851188 or
email:heddwch@cndcymru.org

Faringdon Peace Group meeting, February 5th

7:30pm, Friends Meeting
House, Faringdon SN7 8AL

■ Contact 01367 710308 or
steve.jenny@hotmail.com

London Region CND AGM and Conference

March 7th, location TBC
■ Contact 020 7607 2302 or
info@londoncnd.org

Peace Camps Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp

Second weekend of every month.

■ Tel: 07946 676761
info@aldermaston.net
www.aldermaston.net
[@Peace_women_AWE](https://www.facebook.com/Peace_women_AWE)

Faslane Peace Camp

Permanent. A814,
Shandon, Helensburgh,
Dumbartonshire G84 8NT.

■ Tel: 07376 188216
faslanepeacecamp@protonmail.com

Menwith Hill vigil

The weekly vigil is now switching days – please contact Sarah:

■ Tel: 01765 600928 or
sswift64@gmail.com