



# FARINGDON PEACE GROUP

FEBRUARY 2021

Newsletter 11

## DIARY DATES

**Fri 22 Jan Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) becomes law**

Mon 25 Jan 'No to War against Yemen'.

Thurs 28 Jan Oxfordshire Peace Campaign meeting. 2.20pm Zoom. Jennie and Helen are our delegates.

Wed 3 Feb Monthly Meeting, via Zoom

Tues 16 Feb Black Lives Matter Workshop 3 7-9pm

Thurs 25 Feb Zero Carbon Webinar 7pm

Wed 3 Mar Monthly Meeting via Zoom.

Speaker: Kate Hudson, Gen Sec. CND

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There was a good turnout for our meeting in January, when we talked about "Hopes and Dreams for 2021". The emerging themes were peace and fairness. Will these dreams be realised? And thank you to Sjoerd for organising.

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Please let me have your contributions for the next newsletter by 20th February.

I'd welcome a few more contributions.  
jennyridd@yahoo.co.uk

## FOCUS ON YEMEN



This newsletter has come out earlier than usual because I want to publicise the Global Day for Yemen on 25th January.  
(details p2)

## MONTHLY MEETING

**Wednesday 3rd February at 7.30pm**

**Speaker Cmdr Robert Forsyth (retd.)**

talking about his time as second-in-command of a Polaris nuclear submarine, and why he now spends his time challenging the government's policy on nuclear weapons.

## FARINGDON U3A

May I draw your attention to the Zoom meeting on THURSDAY 11th FEB at 2.30, when professional photographer Mile Sheil, who is a member of Faringdon U3A gives a talk, accompanied by superb photographs, about World War One and the major photographic exhibition 'Fields of Battle, Lands of Peace'

Why do I include this? I have heard this talk already and it was, in my opinion, exceptionally good so comes highly recommended by me! If you are a member of Faringdon U3A, do Zoom in! (or, of course, join U3A if you aren't)

Jenny

## ZERO CARBON-WHY NOT NUCLEAR?

The link between civil and military use of nuclear power. Webinar

**THURSDAY 25<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY at 7.0pm**

Dr Andy Stirling and Dr. Phil Johnstone from Sussex University speak about their evidence that nuclear power is obsolete in achieving zero-carbon, but exists now purely to underpin military use.

Chaired by Nikki Clark

To register: <https://cnduk.org/salisbury-feb-25>

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Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all the darkness. Desmond Tutu



## **GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION FOR YEMEN**

### **MONDAY 25th JANUARY 7pm GMT**

### **Organisations across the world SAY NO TO WAR IN YEMEN**

The shockingly under-reported war in Yemen has led to the death of 250,000 people and created the worst humanitarian crisis anywhere in the world according to the UN. They estimate that more than 24 million people in the country, which was already one of the poorest on the planet prior to the war, will need humanitarian assistance in 2021.

The war is led by Saudi Arabia, with the involvement of the UAE, but it is backed by some key Western powers – the US, the UK, France, Spain, Italy and Canada. In particular, the US and the UK have maintained unquestioning support for Saudi Arabia since the war began and are both participants in the war.

This protest is timed to take place just days after the inauguration of Joe Biden, who has promised to end US support for the war. This is our one central aim – to hold him to his word and force fellow governments to follow suit.

Over 230 organisations from 17 countries have signed up for a call to action against the war on Yemen so far, making this the biggest international anti-war co-ordination since the campaign against the Iraq war. Unfortunately, due to the circumstances in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic many of the planned physical protests have had to be postponed but our global movement will not be silenced.

For the World Says No to War on Yemen Global Online Rally we have brought together a group of prominent voices from across the world, including Jeremy Corbyn and Yanis Varoufakis to speak out against this utterly brutal war and call for its immediate end.

To register for this event, please go to  
[www.stopwar.org.uk](http://www.stopwar.org.uk)  
[world-says-no-to-war-on-yemen](http://world-says-no-to-war-on-yemen)

## **APARTHEID IN PALESTINE**

Some of you have attended the online series of three seminars organised by Palestine Solidarity. In them we have been shown around Palestine, partly as lessons in both geography and history, but mostly as a means of drawing attention to the Apartheid regime which exists for Palestinians. We have all heard of Israeli settlements and dispossession of Palestinian lands and homes, but how does this impinge of daily life?

Just a few (and there were many) things worth mentioning:

In Gaza, with its already short coastline, fishing boats are now restricted to going no more than 6 nautical miles from the coast, whereas previously it was twelve. This means that they are only able to catch the worst fish, or fish in overfished waters, knowing that the better fish are further out to sea. Israeli boats can go further out.

Health Apartheid exists. Not only are Palestinians denied Covid vaccine, but Palestinians cannot leave their area to access external hospital treatment.

In many places electricity and water are unavailable for two thirds of the day, which apart from the obvious hardships, means that farmers have to water their crops during the night.

In Gaza, herbicides are sprayed on Palestinian crops, which not only destroys crops that are growing, but may also put the land out of action for a season.

75% of the Palestinian population in Jerusalem lives below the poverty line.

In Hebron (the capital of Palestine) there are checkpoints to protect settlers, and a curfew for Palestinians who are physically locked in between 10pm and 6am. Hebron is 30k from Jerusalem, a distance which should normally take half an hour, but because of checkpoints takes up to 2 hours.

Names of streets and of the river have been changed to Hebrew.

I understand that these talks are available online, and would be worth looking at if you missed them.

Either : <https://fb.watch/37NaC3DaiA/>  
if you have a facebook account, or  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-As2qmENSQ>

## HOW THE ARMS TRADE WORKS

Wherever there is war and conflict there will always be arms dealers trying to take advantage of it. Arms companies produce weapons which are sold round the world. None of this could happen without the complicity and support of governments that do everything they can to maximise sales.

The UK government is one of the biggest arms dealers in the world. every year it approves arms sales to human rights abusing regimes around the world. Some of its Arms go to armies, while others go to repressive police forces. There is no such thing as arms control in a conflict zone. Once weapons have been sold there is no way of knowing what abuses they will be used in.

Right now, UK-made weapons are doing a huge amount of damage. Nowhere is this clearer than in Yemen, where Saudi forces are flying UK-made fighter jets and dropping UK-made bombs and firing UK-made missiles. The forces that buy UK-made arms know that they are not just buying the weapons. They are buying the political support that goes with it. They are also buying silence. As John Deverell, the former director of defence diplomacy at the MoD told the Guardian, "We are worried that if we do speak truth to power, we will endanger the commercial relationship". The arms being sold today could be used in atrocities for years to come.

## ARMS TRADE STATS

The arms industry is a multi-billion pound industry that sees weapons transferred across the world. These statistics from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute show the scale of the arms trade.

**\$95bn** estimate total value of arms trade in 2017

**One billion** estimated number of firearms in the world, the vast majority of which are in civilian hands

**2,436,351** people estimated number of people to have died in armed conflicts since 1989.

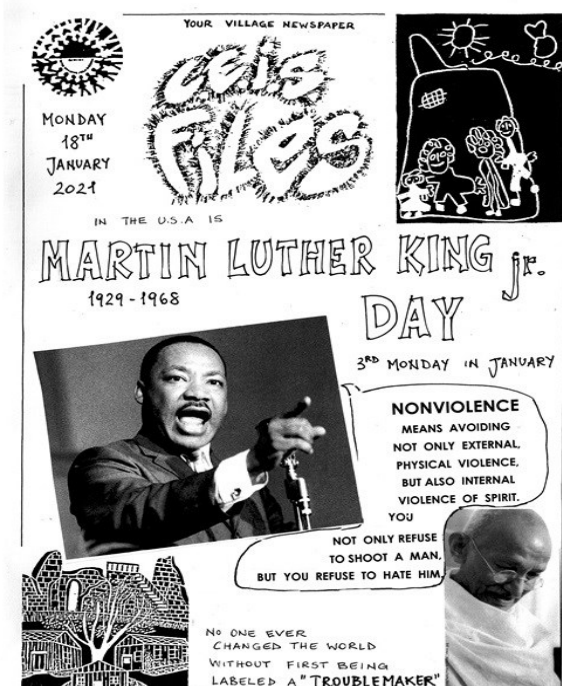
**36%** US accounted for 36% of world military spending in 2018

**\$120bn** From 2009-18 the UK approved over \$120bn worth of arms sales and contracts, making it the world's second biggest arms dealer.

**60%** The arms industry is dominated by sales to the middle east. These weapons have fuelled conflict in Yemen and beyond.

**\$115 bn.** From 2009-19 the largest weapons buyer in the world was the Saudi Arabian regime, with \$115bn worth of deals.

*Thanks to CAAT for this info, and also for the previous article How the Arms Trade Works*



Martin Luther King Jr Day, was at the 'wrong time of the month ' to include in a newsletter, but still worth remembering what he stood for.

I HAVE A DREAM

that one day on the red hills of Georgia  
The sons of former slaves  
and the sons of former slave owners  
Will be able to sit down together  
at a table of brotherhood.

I HAVE A DREAM

that, one day my four little children  
will one day live in a nation where  
they will not be judged by the color of their skin,  
but by the content of their character  
I have a dream today!

*and you all know the rest*



## THE U.N. TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS



On 7 July 2017 – following a decade of advocacy by ICAN and its partners – an overwhelming majority of the world's nations adopted a landmark global agreement to ban nuclear weapons, known officially as the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. On 22 January 2021, the treaty entered into force.

Prior to the treaty's adoption, nuclear weapons were the only weapons of mass destruction not subject to a comprehensive ban, despite their catastrophic, widespread and persistent humanitarian and environmental consequences. The new agreement fills a significant gap in international law.

It prohibits nations from developing, testing, producing, manufacturing, transferring, possessing, stockpiling, using or threatening to use nuclear weapons, or allowing nuclear weapons to be stationed on their territory. It also prohibits them from assisting, encouraging or inducing anyone to engage in any of these activities.

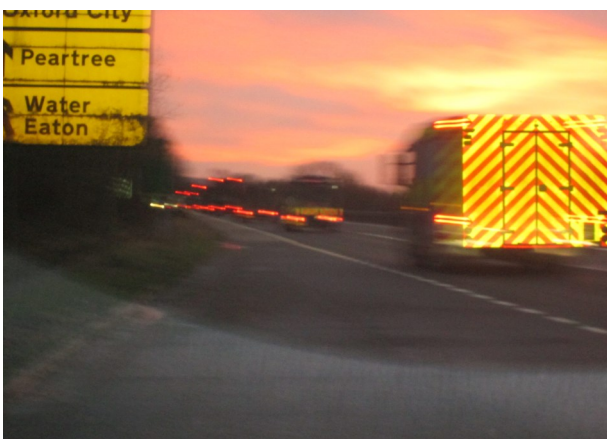
A nation that possesses nuclear weapons may join the treaty, so long as it agrees to destroy them in accordance with a legally binding, time-bound plan. Similarly, a nation that hosts another nation's nuclear weapons on its territory may join, so long as it agrees to remove them by a specified deadline.

Nations are obliged to provide assistance to all victims of the use and testing of nuclear weapons and to take measures for the remediation of contaminated environments. The preamble acknowledges the harm suffered as a result of nuclear weapons, including the disproportionate impact on women and girls, and on indigenous peoples around the world.

The treaty was negotiated at the United Nations headquarters in New York in March, June and July 2017, with the participation of more than 135 nations, as well as members of civil society. It opened for signature on 20 September 2017. It is permanent in nature and will be legally binding on those nations that join

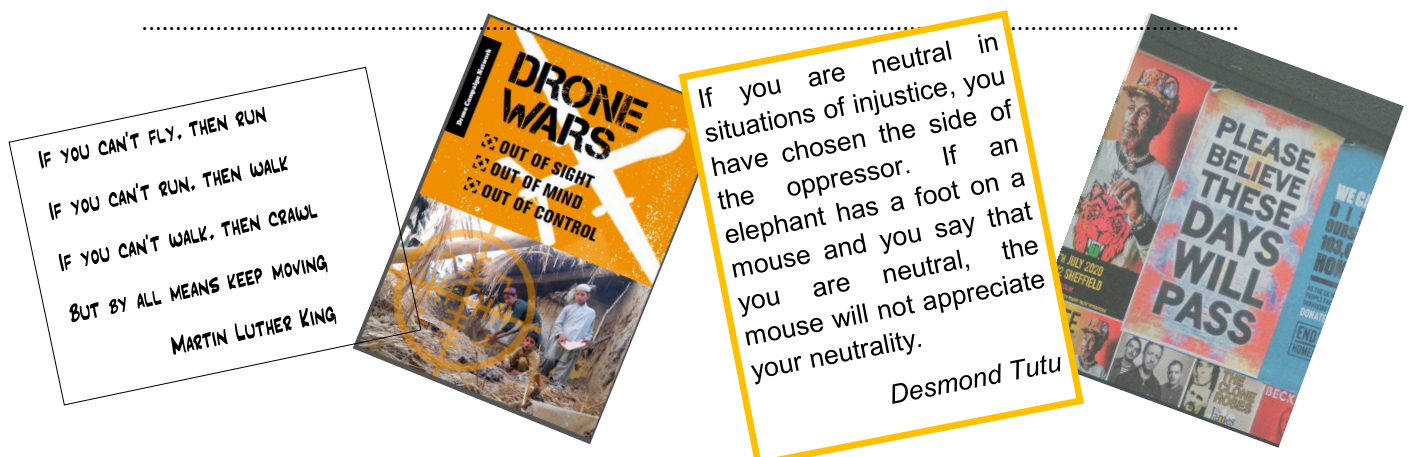
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## The most deadly cargo on our roads, still travelling through national lockdowns



A slightly blurry photo of a nuclear warhead convoy, on the A34 Oxford, on 21<sup>st</sup> January '21. This convoy had travelled during the last week northbound and southbound through English and Scottish lockdowns.

Monitored by Oxford CND nukewatchers, the convoy was travelling to Atomic Weapons Establishment Burghfield, on the return journey from the Royal Naval Ammunition Depot Coulport next to the Trident nuclear submarine base in Scotland.



# QUIZ

## FAMOUS EUROPEANS

Match each person in each section, with their nationality at birth

### SECTION A

1. José Mourinho, Spurs football manager
2. Edith Piaf, singer
3. Georges Remi, Hergé, creator of Tin Tin
4. Seve Ballesteros, golfer
5. Charles Edward Stewart, Bonny Prince Charlie

eg

- Spain
- Portugal
- France
- Belgium
- Vatican City

### SECTION B

1. Anne Frank, diarist
2. Roger Federer, tennis player
3. Marie Antoinette
4. Jean-Claude Junker, ex President of EU
5. William III

- Netherlands
- Austria
- Switzerland
- Germany
- Luxembourg

### SECTION C

1. Christopher Columbus, explorer
2. Melania Trump, former model, and ...
3. Rita Ora, singer
4. Goran Ivanišević, tennis player
5. Novak Đokovic, tennis player

- Italy
- Slovenia
- Serbia
- Croatia
- Kosovo

### SECTION D

1. Hristo Stoichkov, footballer
2. Erno Rubik, inventor of Rubik's cube
3. Nadia Comăneci, Olympic gymnast
4. Sergey Bubka, pole vaulter
5. El Greco, painter

- Greece
- Romania
- Bulgaria
- Ukraine
- Hungary

### SECTION E

1. Marc Chagall, artist
2. Sergey Brin, co-founder of Google
3. Martina Hingis, tennis player
4. Frédéric Chopin, composer
5. Eva Herzigová, model and actress

- Czech Republic
- Slovakia
- Poland
- Russia
- Belarus

### SECTION F

1. Ingvar Kamprad, furniture designer IKEA
2. Björk Guðmundsdóttir, singer
3. Jean Sibelius, composer
4. Edvard Munch, artist
5. Arvo Pärt, composer

- Iceland
- Norway
- Sweden
- Finland
- Estonia

## Answers

- 5 Estonia
- 4 Norway
- 3 Finland
- 2 Iceland
- 1 Sweden
- F
- 5 Czech Rep
- 4 Poland
- 3 Slovakia
- 2 Russia
- 1 Belarus
- E
- 5 Greece
- 4 Ukraine
- 3 Romania
- 2 Hungary
- 1 Bulgaria
- D
- 5 Serbia
- 4 Croatia
- 3 Kosovo
- 2 Slovenia
- 1 Italy
- C
- 5 Netherlands
- 4 Luxembourg
- 3 Austria
- 2 Switzerland
- 1 Germany
- B
- 5 Vatican City
- 4 Spain
- 3 Belgium
- 2 France
- 1 Portugal
- A