

campaign

WORKING FOR PEACE

IN THE MIDDLE EAST



CND online Conference

Sat 22nd May



'Cautious optimism' for nuclear deal

CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** writes with an update on the talks which are deciding the future of the Iran nuclear deal and will have a wider impact on peace in the Middle East.

AS TALKS CONTINUE in Vienna to restore the Iran Nuclear Deal, it seems clear that some progress is being made, no matter how slowly. German news agency Deutsche Welle refers to ‘cautious optimism’, and at the weekend, Russia’s top diplomat Ambassador Ulyanov tweeted favourably, saying ‘The #JCPOA participants noted today the indisputable progress made at the Vienna talks on restoration of the nuclear deal.’

Describing the talks as serious and focused despite ‘outside turbulence’, a source representing France, Germany and the UK said that success wasn’t guaranteed but was certainly not impossible. Outside turbulence

was most likely a thinly veiled reference to the recent cyber-attack on the Natanz uranium enrichment facility in Iran, thought to be perpetrated by Israel, which is opposed to the resumption of the Nuclear Deal.

In fact, the Israeli media reported at the time that the sabotage operation was an Israeli military and intelligence action. It certainly fits into a wider pattern of Israeli extra-legal action, ranging from the Stuxnet computer virus a decade ago to the assassination of the Iranian scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh in November. The recent attack led to Iran enriching small amounts of uranium even further.

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But resumption of the Deal will not solve the most serious nuclear problem in the Middle East – namely Israel's nuclear arsenal.

Reports suggest that President Biden wishes to restore the Deal, but progress is being hampered by the fact that the US does not have a representative at the meeting as the US is no longer party to the Deal, owing to Trump's withdrawal in 2018. So a US delegation is in Vienna but it can only take part in the talks indirectly.

The key roadblock is the sequencing of events: Biden wants Iran to roll back its nuclear programme before it lifts sanctions, and Iran wants the US to lift sanctions before it starts its roll back. The good news is that two working groups have now been established, one looking at what the US must do and the other at the steps for Iran to take. The talks will reconvene at the end of this week, so let's hope for positive news.

But resumption of the Deal will not solve the most serious nuclear problem in the Middle East – namely Israel's nuclear arsenal. Israel's arsenal is outside of any international monitoring, yet no sanctions are placed on it, or punitive action taken as a result. Successive nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conferences have called for a nuclear weapons-free Middle East, and the international community must now take steps to ensure the negotiations to this end are a success. There can be no peace in the Middle East while those weapons of mass destruction remain.

■ CND will be addressing these issues in depth in its forthcoming conference: Working for Peace in the Middle East, on 22nd May. Register here: information@cnduk.org

No new nukes

The UK government has announced it will increase the number of nuclear warheads in its arsenal for the first time since the Cold War.

Put pressure on your MP A cross-party group of MPs has submitted a Parliamentary motion – EDM 1667 – condemning the increase. Write to your MP to ask them to support it.

Contact the Prime Minister Let Boris Johnson know your opposition to his plan and ask him to build the kind of world we want to live in.

Find out more: cnduk.org/no-more-nukes-time-to-scrap-trident/

Spotlight

This month London Region CND



CND groups and supporters across the country supported last weekend's Kill the Bill day of action, to protest against the government's attempt to restrict the right to protest. London Region CND attended the demonstration in Trafalgar Square.

■ If you live in London and would like to join their next action or event, why not get in touch? This fantastic group of people would love to hear from you.
Email info@londoncnd.org or visit their website <https://www.londoncnd.org/>.

Resist the G7

A group of the world's most powerful politicians are coming to Cornwall in June. **Tony Staunton** from Plymouth CND explains why protests are being arranged.

AS IF announcing a 40% increase in the number of the UK's nuclear weapons isn't enough, Prime Minister Boris Johnson is hosting a jamboree of the West's most powerful politicians to further carve out global domination. The 'Group of Seven' is a routine meeting of the Prime Ministers and advisers of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United States of America, and the UK.

This year, Johnson has invited far-right nationalist Prime Minister of India, Modi, and the racist climate denier, Morrison, Prime Minister of Australia, as well as the leaders of South Korea to come to Cornwall.

Their agenda is simple: plans to build economic growth through neoliberal free-market competition and exploitation of the Global South; to reassert the 'Great Reset' plans for making profits out of the deepening climate catastrophe – peddling the myth of net-zero carbon emissions; and fast-tracking the rising military tensions with China and Russia towards a hot rather than cold war.

Johnson's announcements on action for the climate emergency amount to far too little, far too late: reliance on net-zero and Negative Emissions Technologies promoting false solutions of nuclear power, carbon trading, biomass and carbon-capture-and-storage which cannot and will not meet the scale of the challenge.

In the same way, the G7's plans for strengthening NATO and developing new and 'usable' nuclear warheads offer nothing other than increased military spending, tensions and flashpoints towards all-out war. For those of us campaigning for peace, the G7+ represents a threat to the future of the ecology and human societies.

Johnson's choice of Cornwall as the site for the G7+ is another ideological assault on campaigners for progress. The delegates will stay at an exclusive hotel whilst Cornwall is one of the very poorest regions in Europe, with an economy heavily reliant upon seasonal tourism of the type that creates low wages, housing shortages and high rates of poverty. As

with many of the world's most beautiful locations, tourism impoverishes local populations.

G7 delegates will use Newquay Airport, Cornwall's primary air link, passing by the groundworks being laid for one of the UK's new Space Ports, scheduled by 2022 to launch rockets carrying, amongst other things, military satellites as part of the USA's Space Force. The militarisation of space is well under way with every intention to ensure the continued domination of western imperialism.

Locally we have formed the Resist G7 Coalition to organise camp sites for convergence for protest actions, meetings and cultural events to expose the plans of the G7 and call for action for peace and the climate. Due to the pandemic, we are asking those who cannot come to Cornwall, to protest in their community, town or city on Saturday 12th June. There is every reason to protest against the G7 and their plans – join us.

■ Find out more at www.resistg7.org

Nurses not Nukes

Anti-nuclear bloc at People's Assembly national demonstration **26th June 2021**

Join CND and others at the anti-nuclear bloc. We'll be protesting against the government's decision to increase its nuclear weapons while denying nurses – and other public sector workers – adequate pay.

Assemble 12 noon at Portland Place, London; march to Parliament Square.

■ Contact information@cnduk.org with any queries.

Workshop for CND groups: getting press coverage

5 May 7pm-8:30pm

■ Online – to register
contact information@cnduk.org

Conscientious Objectors' Day – Manchester silent vigil

15 May 11am

Meet outside Friends House
Manchester.

■ Contact gmdcnd@gn.apc.org

The UK's nuclear arsenal increase: is it legal under international law?

18 May 2pm

■ Online – to register contact
parliamentary@cnduk.org

'Global Britain' and the Integrated Review

■ 19 May 6pm

Online – to register
contact gmdcnd@gn.apc.org

Working for Peace in the Middle East - CND conference

22 May 1pm-4:10pm

Online – to register
contact information@cnduk.org

West Midlands CND meeting

25 May 7pm

■ Online – to register
contact wmcndlall@gmail.com

Leeds CND meeting

26 May 6pm

■ Online – contact
leedscnd@gmail.com for link

Meet the staff

This month: **Joe Jukes, Peace Education Officer**

"I'm Joe and I run CND's Peace Education programme. I balance my time between workshop facilitation, the peace movement and doing a full-time PhD in Geography & Sexuality Studies. I live in Brighton, but have travelled all over the country to deliver peace education workshops in schools, from Devon to Durham.



Annually, our non-campaigning schools programme reaches about 6,000-7,000 students in England, but the coronavirus pandemic and school closures have certainly posed some unique challenges to our work.

In the past year, we've still been able to deliver interactive peace education workshops by ZOOM, and have delivered our popular 'Teaching Controversial Issues' workshop to hundreds of trainee teachers. Our website now hosts a handful of interesting online learning materials, including our podcast series 'Ask an Activist' which platforms the voices of young changemakers both in the UK and abroad.

To learn more about our programme, visit www.cnduk.org/education; to find out more about how to become a school speaker, email me at peaceeducation@cnduk.org"

Opinions expressed by authors in *Online Campaign* are their own, and do not necessarily reflect the policies of CND.

Covid-19: office update

Due to Covid-19 workplace guidelines, the CND national office in London remains temporarily closed, but we are planning to reopen soon. Staff are currently working remotely, and should be able to get back to you on email. Please email enquiries@cnduk.org or phone 07891 870732 and you will be re-directed to the right person.