



MAKING THE LINKS,
WAGING PEACE



PEACE & JUSTICE NEWS

JUNE 2014



IN THIS ISSUE:

**Is Use of Force by UN Peacekeepers
in CAR the Best Way Forward?**

Trident: "Reason to Vote YES"

Unsung Heroes: Peace Brigades International

Film Review: Warriors

Reflection: Gandhi on Nonviolent Peace Forces

Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre

Nonviolence ♦ Conflict Resolution ♦ Alternatives to War

Human Rights ♦ Environmental Responsibility

Providing analysis of the causes of war and advocating peace & disarmament.

Networking in Edinburgh & across Scotland.

Organisational affiliation open to groups which share our values.

Nonviolence Training & Education Programme –

Counter Recruitment Campaigning -Postcards, badges and books for sale

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Opening hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10.00am – 4.00pm.

Peace and Justice News is the monthly publication of the Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre. While individual contributions do not necessarily reflect the views of the Centre, we encourage contributions which support and explore our aims and values relative to contemporary events. Submissions by email to news@peaceandjustice.org.uk by 5pm on the 22nd of the month for inclusion in the next issue. We may need to edit for length.

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Editor's Introduction

The 28th June is Armed Forces Day, a national day, established in 2006 as Veterans Day, to remember those who served in the armed forces and changed in 2009 to Armed Forces Day, described by the government as "a day to show support for the Armed Forces." This year Armed Forces Day is in Stirling, conflicting with Bannockburn Day, and, in celebrating the role of the forces for "the whole of the UK" has ramifications for the independence debate. Responding to this the Scottish Peace Network is holding a No More War vigil. The EP&JC will be there.

Raising awareness of the alternative to the use of armed force to resolve conflict in this issue we include articles which address the ongoing suffering and plight in the Central African Republic and whether arming the UN Peace volunteers is the right decision. We also profile Peace Brigades International, which deploys unarmed peace keepers in conflict situations worldwide, while Douglas Shaw writes about Gandhi's non violent volunteer peacekeeper program which sought to minimize communal violence in India.

In a timely article Maire-Colette and Alan Wilkie argue that getting rid of Trident is reason to vote YES in September. And we cover Wool Against Weapons Scotland's activities and the plan for a 7 mile long scarf that will stretch between Aldermaston and Burghfield, as well as recent P&J activities, our Cooperative Games Workshop, the CO Day Vigil and a talk

on Drones. Plus details of our upcoming events: Penny Stone's (musical) Report from the Peace Conference in Sarajevo; the Launch of World in with Angie Zelter and Rebecca Johnson and 'Divergent Voices from the First World War' with Gerda Stevenson and poet Aonghas Macneacail 19th July, Scottish Storytelling Centre.

Emma Logan and Brian Larkin



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Editorial: Pope Francis' act of Solidarity

In a controversial action during his visit to Israel/Palestine Pope Francis followed the way of symbolic nonviolent direct action forged by Christ when he departed from the planned itinerary. In an act of solidarity, surrounded by flag waving Palestinian children, he placed his hand and touched his head on a section of the Separation Wall which bore the graffitied words "Free Palestine". It was a transgressive action worthy of the Prince of Peace himself. Francis the peacemaker broke with diplomatic protocol and politics in that moment touching the pain of the Palestinian people embodied in that terrible scar upon the Holy Land.



Photo Credit : Mashable.com

The Vatican's spokesman said of the action: "It was planned by him the day before ... It was a very significant way to demonstrate his participation in suffering ... It was a profound spiritual moment in front of a symbol of division." In taking that action Pope Francis emulated Jesus who himself engaged in similar symbolic actions, demonstrating the

injustice of the Roman Empire and the religious authorities who collaborated with it and who benefitted from religious practices which oppressed the poor people of his own time. Just as Jesus demonstrated solidarity with the poor and marginalised by eating with them the Pope shared a meal with Palestinian families in a community centre on the edge of Deheishe refugee camp before travelling to Israel.

Significantly the Pope entered the West Bank directly, not by way of Israel, and in a carefully worded statement, referred to "the state of Palestine". Then, responding to the concerns of Israelis about his action the Pope visited an Israeli memorial to victims of terrorist violence, and meeting with Holocaust survivors he prayed "Never again". Finally, speaking to the grand Mufti of Jerusalem and other Muslim authorities, Francis urged non-violence: "Dear friends, from this holy place I make a heartfelt plea to all people and to all communities who look to Abraham. May no one abuse the name of God through violence. May we learn to understand the suffering of others. May no one abuse the name of God through violence."

This Pope has demonstrated a deep understanding that only by understanding the suffering of others and active nonviolence can we achieve peace. And, that non-violence requires demonstrating solidarity with the oppressed through symbolic action.

Brian Larkin

Centre News

New Volunteer

Dominique A. Mason

Volunteer Translator with the Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre

Born and raised in Edinburgh, I graduated with an MA in Applied Languages and Translation (French/German) from Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh (2012) and an MSc in Applied Linguistics from Edinburgh University (2013). Since finishing my studies, I've taken on a

number of posts as a volunteer translator, working with NGOs and charities (mostly French-English).

I offered my time as a translator to the EPJC because I like to use my languages to help those who don't have a voice to find theirs. I have been translating a set of cooperative games (Spanish-English). Recently, a selection of the games in English was included in the EPJC Cooperative Games Day. We are planning to put these on the website and hopefully also compile them into a handbook. I am also translating the Games and proposal for the Nonviolence Education project proposal for schools.



Upcoming Peace and Justice Events

Peace & Justice Centre AGM

24 June, 7pm, St John's Church Hall

7:30pm. Penny Stone: Report from Sarajevo International Peace Conference

Penny is travelling to this First World War Peace Gathering Centenary Conference with her workshop Sing Louder than Guns, and will be gathering peace songs from every country that was involved in the First World War. Please come for both the AGM and Penny's talk if possible. There will be a break at 7:20pm for entrance for those not coming to the AGM.

New Management Committee Members, Website Volunteer and Social Media Volunteer wanted. If interested contact Brian Larkin at the P&J.

Book Launch: *The Chains of War: Nuclear Weapons, Militarisation and their Impact on Society*. Edited by Angie zelter.

with Angie zelter, Rebecca Johnson and Pete Roche.

6:30pm Thursday 26 June.

Word Power Books in collaboration Word Power Books.

NO MORE WARS

**Scottish Peace Network Demonstration at the UK Armed Forces Day Event
Saturday 28 June, 11am – 1pm. Stirling Smith Museum, Dumbarton St. Stirling.
For further information contact the Peace and Justice Centre.**

SAVE the DATES:

Divergent Voices from the First World War

Saturday 19 July. 7:00 – 9:00pm.

Scottish Storytelling Centre

*The Great War has been called 'Unspeakable' yet volumes have been written about it. Join actress, director and playwright Gerda Stevenson, Gaelic poet Aonghas Macneacail, and friends, for an exploration of less familiar responses to the war and its lasting impact. Poetry, letters, memoirs, trench journals and 'conchies' prison papers in English, German, Scots and Gaelic against a backdrop of images from the war. Tickets £6 / £4 concessions from the Scottish Storytelling Centre and the Peace and Justice Centre. **Produced by and a fundraiser for the P&J.** This is also a No Glory in War Edinburgh event.*



Scots soldier reading letter.

Photo Credit: :

.gwpda.org/photos

Conscientious Objectors and Women's Opposition to the First World War

A Just Festival Conversation with Lesley Orr and Brian Larkin.

Wednesday 20 August. 3:30 - 5:00pm. 121 George St, Rm 1.

Tickets from Just Festival Box Office at St John's or www.justjust.org/
The 4th of August marks the Centenary of the First World War. Across the country those who fought and died in the war will be remembered in many ways. But what about those who refused to fight? What are the stories of the women who, rather than urge their men to go to war, organised to oppose it and supported men who refused to go? What consequences and difficulties did they face? Feminist historian Lesley Orr and Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre Coordinator Brian Larkin will share some of these lesser known stories.

Conscientious Objectors Day

Vigil On 15 May, International Conscientious Objectors' Day the Peace and Justice Centre and Fellowship of Reconciliation held a Vigil on the Mound in Edinburgh to honour the memory of all conscientious objectors past and present. It started with the reading of the names of 235 Edinburgh area COs, accounts of



of the experiences of Scottish COs and recollections from some of their descendants... Between these readings the gathering paused for silence and intermittent singing by Protest in Harmony, including the new song 'Tell me the Names', written for the occasion by Jane Lewis. The Edinburgh vigil, believed to be the first in Edinburgh, coincided with a CO Day vigil in London and concluded with the announcement of the formation of a **committee for an official memorial to Conscientious Objectors in Edinburgh by February 2015, the centenary of the Conscription Act.**

Andrew Farrar (Edinburgh) told of his grandfather **Stanley Farrar** who was a WW1 and 2 CO. Stanley had had to give up his job as a teacher but became Secretary of the Northern Friends Peace Board from 1942. Joyce Taylor-Richards from St Andrews remembered two generations of her family who were conscientious objectors.

John's son Tom, Joyce's father Tom also became an Independent Labour Party councillor in Glasgow and refused to fight in the Second World War. Joyce said: "I think it's an important part of my family history to have these very principled people and wonderful examples of the way we should live our lives, holding fast to principles despite really quite difficult times.



Joyce's story and that of David Turner were covered in depth in the Edinburgh Evening News, 16 May. "During the Second World War" Joyce said, it wasn't just unpopular, it was very, very difficult. The propaganda was that other people were giving their lives, but you weren't prepared to do that. The imprisonment of people and the divides it caused in families were enormous."

David Turner, a Quaker and anti war activist from Portobello was 15 when the Second World War broke out. He was sheltered by a friend in Glen Nevis for two months, then returned to Glasgow and worked for another objector doing decorating work until the end of the war. David said: "My moral and humanitarian views were formed in my home. My mother always said, 'Follow your conscience in everything



that you do. If your conscience tells you something, you must do it, otherwise you'll regret it all your life.'" He mentioned also that he was influenced by Gandhi's ideas of nonviolence. Elisabeth Allen of North Berwick also spoke of her grandfather, and David Mumford, Chair of Fellowship of Reconciliation Scotland, spoke about faith based conscientious objection. Rev Mumford, Rector of Brechin

Episcopal Church said that members of the Fellowship of Reconciliation insisted that the refusal to kill was central to their Christian faith even though mainstream Christian churches did not generally accept this. He also reflected on Martin Luther King's insistence that peace could not be attained without justice.



Photo credit : Edinburgh Evening Times

Lesley Orr of Fellowship of Reconciliation reminded us of the tragedy of Dyce Camp which opened in late 1916 where 250 conscientious objectors were sent as an alternative to prison. We read the names of 5 other Scots who died in prison or following imprisonment.

Shereen Benjamin called our attention to the courage of the Shimitzim, high school seniors who refused to serve in the

Israeli military and who are jailed repeatedly.

The names of scores of men and women currently imprisoned were lifted up. Especially poignant is the plight of Jehovah's Witnesses Paulos Eyassu, Negede Teklemariam and Isaac Mogos all currently imprisoned at Sawa Camp in Eritrea since 1994. Anyone wishing to write to them can find details at: <http://wri-irg.org/node/4718> There were nearly 20,000 conscientious objectors in the First World War. They took a variety of stands, some accepted conscription but refused to take up arms and were assigned duty in the Non Combatant Corps, some joined the Friends Ambulance Unit, some who joined the FAU as volunteers but refused to continue as conscripts, some went underground and tried to get out of the country. 6,000 went to prison as

absolutists or because they refused to fight even after being exempted. They were subjected to harsh treatment in prison and 73 died.

Nonviolence Education Project

Six people took part in our exceptionally fun daylong Cooperative Games Workshop in May. The workshop was led by Elena Ramos who is leading the P&J's Non Violence Education Project. The games included Chicken and Egg, Crossing the River, Quick Flamenco Lesson and many more in which we broke down the usual barriers, built confidence and cooperated in solving problems. There will be a full report next month. And the Games



Photo credit : BLarkin

will be going on the P&J website and into a print handbook as a resource. Several of those who took part in the workshop will be helping to carry this project forward as future workshop leaders as we move into the phase of taking Nonviolence Education to schools and the community. The team will be offering its first **Cooperative Games for Children** session at the **Meadows Festival, 11am - 1pm, Sunday 8 June** in cooperation with Children's Group at the **Meadows Pavilion Cafe**.

Chris Cole: Drones Forever?

Chris Cole spoke on the subject of Drones for the second time in 6 months, this time in a talk organised jointly by the P&J and Stop the War. Beyond rehearsing the basic arguments against drones Chris offered a disturbing glimpse into the imminent future. Drones will be flying fully autonomous missions, raising the spectre of these machines carrying out lethal missions with no human in the "kill chain". Another drone using the combined power of some 380 mobile phone cameras will soon be capable of permanent surveillance above a small city. Remote staff will be able to open some 60 separate surveillance windows capable of seeing individuals waving their arms on the street below. Britain is already the most surveilled society on the planet. Serious questions are now being asked about the erosion of civil liberties with these developments. A full report on this talk is available at: www.peaceandjustice.org.uk

A Briefing on Drones from Drone Wars UK is available at the P&J plus our own **New Fact Sheet on Drones**. *****

The P&J has space on the CND stall at the Meadows Festival. Saturday & Sunday 7 – 8 June. Volunteers needed to help cover the stall. Please contact the Centre if you can help for an hour or more. 0131 3229 0993.

Peacekeeping in CAR

When Imam Oumar Kobine Layama of the Central African Republic was targeted by a coalition of Christian militias, called the Anti-balaka, for his faith, his house was looted and burned to the ground. Many international commentators such as Amnesty International are painting the current conflict in the Central African Republic as a religious or ethnic cleansing in need of immediate attention. Indeed the targeted killing by Christians against Muslims with the clearly stated goal of driving people of the Islamic faith from the country was a motivating factor for the United Nations to authorize the use of force to disarm the forces attacking civilians. The United Nations hopes that this effort will bring peace and stability to the country and prevent further atrocities from taking place (MISCA website).

Yet the top religious leaders in the country weave a different narrative. The Central African Republic is predominantly Christian, with the *CIA World Factbook* estimating that 25% of the population is Catholic, 25% is Protestant, 15% is Muslim and 35% hold animistic beliefs. In the current climate, it is dangerous for any citizen to protect one of the 15% of the population that is Muslim. Even so, after Imam Layama and his family lost their home, Archbishop Dieudonné Nzapalainga welcomed them



Photo Credit: thestar.com

graciously into his own household. These two men do not focus on religious divides when discussing the conflict. Rather, they tell a story of only 20 registered companies in the entire country: a country where the median age is 19.4. By comparison the median age in the United Kingdom is 40.4. There are simply few opportunities for employment in the country that ranks 180th on the Human Development Index, according to the United Nations Development Program, and throughout history few opportunities coupled with low median age has been a proven mix for instability.

It is in this context that the United Nations has decided to increase the military presence of foreign forces. The General Assembly is placing the forces in a country with a complex recent history. The current conflict is an extension of a rebellion by The Seleka, a coalition of mostly Islamic militias, in 2012 which arose against President Bozize. This action by the United Nations is marked by the decision to

authorize the use of force to protect civilians. In the tradition of the principles of United Nations peacekeeping, an operation must engage the consent of the parties, remain impartial, and maintain non-use of force except in self-defense and defense of the mandate. To authorize the use of force is a daring move, prompted most likely from fears of ethnic cleansing and the long history of violence that has marked the Central African Republic since its independence from France.

Now, as the Anti-balaka retaliate for offences perpetrated against Christians, this coalition of militia's states that it seeks the removal of all Muslims from the Central



Photo Credit: whatiftheyweremuslim.com

African Republic. The Security Council Resolution 2149 has decided that the new mission, authorized 10 April, 2014, will include tasks such as protecting civilians, ensuring the disarmament of former combatants and supporting national and international justice. This action was endorsed by Touissant Kongo-Doudou, minister of Foreign Affairs of the Central African

Republic, as well as the French and United States governments. By taking this step, the United Nations has decided to focus its efforts on calling attention to religious differences. By using the particular language in engaging peace between Christians and Muslims, it builds a narrative of religious divide.

And yet, given the emphasis that began this story, with religious leaders framing the conflict quite differently, it bears thinking about whether the United Nations is taking the correct approach. Focusing on the religious differences, while an immediate problem, may not be engendering the most effective process of healing. And while this is an immediate problem, the response of the United Nations, the nearly 12,000-strong U.N. peacekeeping force, will not take over for the 5,000 African Union soldiers until September 15. In a conflict that has changed dramatically from month to month, proposing a solution that will take effect five months from the authorization date for a problem seen as immediate does not create confidence in the response. The citizens of the Central African Republic need economic opportunities, and they need strong, transparent political institutions. It remains to be seen how this mission will help facilitate a transition process towards opportunity and empowerment for the people of the Central African Republic. That is where the true healing can begin.

William Duncan

Trident - an extremely important reason to vote YES in September

The Scottish Government's White Paper "Scotland's Future" proposes that the constitution of an independent Scotland should include a clause which bans nuclear weapons. It further proposes they should be removed within four years i.e. by 2020. Why is this so important?

A Brief History of Nuclear Weapons

On 6th and 9th August 1945, the Americans dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, ostensibly to end the war with Japan. In fact, the main purpose of the two bombs was to demonstrate the superior military power of the US to influence negotiations with the Soviet Union about East v West spheres of influence in Europe in the prelude to the "Cold War". They were also "live tests" of the lethality of the two different types of atomic weapon. Japan had made a formal approach to Moscow "that the emperor is desirous of peace" on 13th May two and a half months before the bombs were dropped.

In the four days following the attacks body counts revealed that the 12.5 kiloton Uranium-235 bomb dropped on Hiroshima killed more than 130,000 people and destroyed two-thirds of the city and the 22 kiloton Plutonium bomb on Nagasaki killed another 75,000. These are underestimates since many victims were completely vaporised by the heat and the blast. Fatal infections, disabling diseases and birth defects have continued to occur in the second and third generations of the survivors. (A kiloton = 1000 tons of the conventional explosive TNT.)

By the end of the 1950ies 5 states, US, Soviet Union, France, China and the UK, all members of the UN Security Council, had developed and tested nuclear weapons. By the mid 1960ies India, Pakistan and Israel had joined the nuclear club. In 1968, prompted by the fears of the rest of the world, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty was signed to try to stop the spread to other countries. This Treaty included a commitment by the nuclear



Photo Credit: <http://www.defencetalk.com>

powers to start disarming, a pledge which has been largely ignored ever since. In Oslo in March 2013 and last month in Mexico 146 nations renewed demands for a ban on these weapons but the “nuclear five” boycotted both conferences.

Trident; Armaments

Britain’s strategic nuclear force is a submarine- launched ballistic missile system consisting of four Trident submarines. At any one time three of these submarines are operational. They are armed with a total of 42 missiles which are US built and maintained. It is assumed that each submarine carries 14 missiles and 48 nuclear warheads of 100 kilotons, each of which can hit a different target within an accuracy of 120 metres over a range of 4000 + nautical miles. It should be noted that each Trident warhead is eight times more powerful than the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima and that a total of 144 are deployed with 30 or 40 held in reserve. Each submarine is also equipped with four torpedo tubes and conventionally armed torpedoes.

Location

The submarine fleet is based at H.M. Naval Base Clyde at Faslane on the Gare Loch where their routine maintenance between patrols is carried out. A few miles away on Loch Long is the Royal Navy Armaments Depot at Coulport which stores and inspects the warheads and removes small numbers from the submarines to send them for “refurbishment” to the Atomic Weapons Establishments in Berkshire, to Burghfield where they were assembled and to Aldermaston where they were constructed. Several times a year convoys carrying 100 kiloton warheads travel between Coulport and Burghfield along main roads through major population areas. Accidents have occurred! Trident missiles can also be removed and stored but normally they remain on the submarines until they are returned for servicing to US Navy’s Base at King’s Bay, Georgia. It is widely accepted that it would be very difficult and extremely expensive for the Ministry of Defence to build a new Trident base anywhere in England.



Photo Credit : thetimes

Scottish CND has published a detailed report “Trident: Nowhere to Go” which looks at what will happen if Scotland votes YES. In 1963 the Ministry of Defence shortlisted four potential sites in England and Wales. Each was rejected. Today the grounds for dismissing each are much stronger than they were in the 1960ies. The report concludes that Scottish independence is likely to lead to Britain considering unilateral nuclear disarmament.

Cost.

The cost of maintaining the current submarine fleet is at least £2 billion per annum. It was first deployed in December 1994 with an operational life of 30 years. In 2007, with the support of the Conservatives, the Labour government pushed through the controversial decision to renew the Trident system. The cost of replacement has been officially estimated at £25 billion but over its projected 30 year lifespan the total would be close to £100 billion. The final decision to go ahead with the replacement is not scheduled until 2016 after the next General Election but in each of the last three years £1 billion has been spent upgrading the bomb-making facilities at Aldermaston. This does not include the cost of Project Hydrus now under construction which will provide a laboratory for the test explosion of warheads in contravention of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Many more millions have been spent on research and design for the new submarine reactors.

Strategic Purpose and Control.

Trident is officially described as our” independent nuclear deterrent”, but how independent is it? Britain leases its nuclear missiles from the US and relies on US software and US satellites for missile-targeting information. Our warheads are built at Aldermaston but two American companies Lockheed Martin and Jacobs Engineering own and operate a substantial part of that factory. This is all part of the “special relationship” and Britain’s subordinate place within it.

Is deterrence the sole purpose of Trident? On 21st June last year President Obama published a “Report on the Nuclear Employment Strategy of the United States”. On page 5 it states “The 2010 Nuclear Posture Review established the Administration’s goal to set conditions that would allow the United States to safely adopt a policy of making deterrence of nuclear attack the sole purpose of US nuclear weapons.

Although we cannot adopt such a policy today, the new guidance re-iterates the intention to work towards that goal over time.”



Photo credit : bbc

So under President Obama deterrence is not now and has not been the sole purpose of the US nuclear arsenal. It follows then, by default, that an offensive first-strike nuclear war fighting capability is being pursued by our American allies. Is Trident linked in any way to that capability? We are not told but clearly, with a target accuracy of 120 metres our British warheads are eminently suitable for use as first strike weapons. If deterrence is the sole purpose of Trident its effectiveness must be questioned.

The terrible atrocities of 9/11 in the US and 7/7 in London and the attack on Glasgow Airport on 30th June 2007, demonstrate that nuclear weapons do not deter terrorists.

Nuclear armed nations are actually more vulnerable to pre-emptive strikes and terrorist attacks than non-nuclear countries.

Legality

Any use of Trident would be a grave violation of international humanitarian law which prohibits the use of weapons that are incapable of distinguishing between civilians and combatants and are disproportionate in their effects. On 8th July 1996 as part of their Opinion on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons, the 15 judges of the International Court of Justice were unanimous when they pronounced that “There exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.”

A YES vote by Scotland on 18th September will force the United Kingdom government to begin to take some notice of the World Court’s decision after 18 years of obstruction and delay. As all three main political parties in the Westminster parliament are currently committed to the replacement of Trident a NO vote will condemn Scotland for the next 50 years to a continuation of the health and security dangers and exorbitant tax expenditure that are the inevitable consequences of basing Trident on the Clyde.

Maire-Colette and Alan Wilkie

Sex Trafficking in Kenya

In the February edition of P&J News William Duncan wrote on Human Trafficking. Here, Marco Gori interviews a journalism student in Kenya for another perspective on this difficult issue. Trigger warning: This article contains material that may cause difficulty for some readers.

A 2003 survey showed that almost half of women in Kenya reported having experienced violence and a quarter of women aged between 12 and 24 had experienced sexual violence.¹ Sex tourism in Kenya is a crude reality. Girls dreaming a better future are conned by local human traffickers, usually mature women, claiming to offer work in Europe, and sent abroad with the promise of a good job, but the reality once outside Kenya is very different. Having arrived at destinations in Europe young women are deprived of their passport, beaten up, raped, sold and forced to sell their bodies on the Southern European streets or in the Northern European brothels. For those who remain in Kenya life is not easier, especially if they are young: it is estimated that up to 30,000 girls between 12 and 14 years are sexually exploited in the country annually, mainly in the coastal area around the capital Mombasa.²³⁴ In May I interviewed Sayoon (not her real name) a young woman who lives in Kenya and whose dream is to be a journalist.

Sayoon, have you ever been approached by someone who offered you a suspicious job abroad?

Yes. Quite recently. About two months ago to be precise. I was coming from class with my friends.....then a smartly dressed woman approached us. Then she said in Swahili "Hello girls, my name is mother Jane, I am looking for young girls of age 19 to 25 to give jobs to. The jobs are abroad like in Dubai and Saudi Arabia. Don't worry about passports and fare I will provide all of that for you. You will go do house work, mostly, but with good pay". We told her we were not interested so she said she would have paid us to look for other girls around that age who wanted the jobs and take them to her. She said she needed like 30 girls and more and she told us she would give us 3.000 KES (about 35 USD) for every person we took to her. We rejected the offer.

Have you ever been asked to have sex for money?

Yes, by a tourist about a week and a half ago he was an Italian in his thirties. I live in the coast and we have a lot of tourists in this part of the country because of the beaches and all round good weather. I was at a public beach with some friends when this guy came close to me and said: "Hi I'm new here and looking for someone to show me around Mombasa and I will pay you" I asked the guy if he wanted me to direct him or suggest some place he could go without him having to pay me and he insisted it had to be me. Almost instantly I understood what he was looking for so I asked him "What do you exactly want?" and he replied "just spend the night with me and I'll pay you 20.000 KES (about 230USD)". I told him I was not a prostitute, then he raised offering me 25.000 KES and giving me his phone number and when I told him I was not interested he asked me if I knew a friend of mine who was interested in him.

You mentioned brothels, are brothels legal in Kenya? What is the status of prostitution in your country?

Prostitution is illegal but there are brothels masked as normal bars or shops, there are even streets purely known to harbour prostitutes.

Who is the average sex tourist in Kenya?

White: American or European mainly from Italy and Germany and usually over 30 year old.

Do tourists look for underage girls?

Tourists always target underage girls because they are more vulnerable especially those who are from poor backgrounds or orphans. Mature women strive for relationships and do not fall victim to one night stand.

What is the Kenyan government doing against sex tourism?

Any act of prostitution was made illegal in the country and anyone found encouraging it or practising it is brought before a court of law. The government is also providing

free education and special attention to the young girls because they are the most affected by the practice. The situation would be greatly improved if the Government enforced its own laws with much more vigour, and took a deeper look at the whole issue, a look which is long overdue.

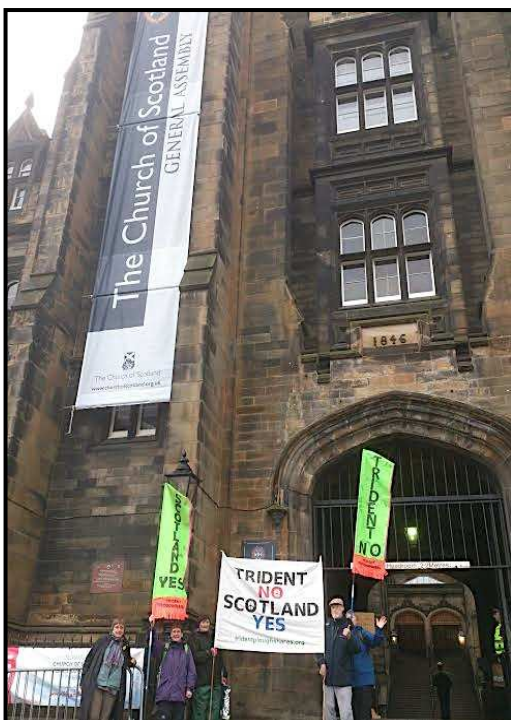
Marco Gori

- 1 www.avert.org/hiv-aids-kenya.htm#footnote12_zxds1be (EN)
- 2 www.newsfromafrica.org/newsfromafrica/articles/art_10656.html (EN)
- 3 www.unicef.es/actualidad-documentacion/noticias/la-explotacion-sexual-de-menores-en-kenia-alcanza-una-dimension-ho (ESP)
- 4 www.news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/6193563.stm (EN)

News from Around the Movements

Scottish CND Registered as Campaigning for a YES Vote

The Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament has been registered by the Electoral Commission as a campaigning participant for a Yes vote in the referendum on Scottish independence. Arthur West, Chair of Scottish CND said, "We have registered with the Electoral Commission in order to be fully transparent about our participation in the referendum campaign. Scottish CND agreed to support the Yes campaign at our annual conference in 2012."



Trident Ploughshares Demo at Scottish Assembly on 23 May

In very wet weather, members handed out leaflets about the Independence Referendum in September ,where a YES vote will get rid of Nuclear Weapons in Scotland for good. The delegates had already discussed the referendum 2 days earlier, but we made our presence known.

WILPF News

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom will participate in the upcoming Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict in London June 10th - 13th. The summit will be the largest gathering ever brought together on this subject, and as Sexual Violence in War and Conflict has been a primary concern for WILPF throughout the years. Further details available from Scottish WILPF.

May Day march and rally in Edinburgh

Edinburgh's 2014 May Day march and rally on Saturday 3rd May attracted hundreds of people. The many various groups included pro-independence campaigners, anti-war groups, Palestine Solidarity, opposition to welfare cuts, opposition to Trident and hostility to privatisation of essential services etc. The general theme of the day was welfare not warfare. Stockbridge Pipe band led the march from the Hub, down the Royal Mile to The Pleasance, a crowd of 300 attended a rally with a number of speakers. More here

<http://www.edinburghandlothiansmayday.org/index.html>



Photo Credit : Indymedia

Israeli women's football team play Scotland at Tynecastle ground

According to the [Herald on Sunday](#), "It wasn't much fun being an Israeli footballer at Tynecastle yesterday. Lashed by the rain, barracked by pro-Palestinian demonstrators – and seven goals down at half-time...against a noisy backdrop of protests about the imprisonment of Palestinian footballers. The Israeli national anthem was jeered, and the players booed...the demonstrators' chants for Scotland to score 10".. Despite incessant heavy rain, 200 Scots protested without ceasing for ninety minutes against Israeli internment of Palestinian football players, and the imprisonment and violation of Palestine. A 2-minute video clip available here..[here](#). And a match report here

<http://www.scotsman.com/sport/football/latest/scotland-women-8-0-israel-women-sodden-saunter-for-slick-scotland-1-2360016>

Take Action

Wool Against Weapons Scotland

Across Scotland knitters and crocheters have been busy creating sections for the giant pink scarf that will stretch between Aldermaston and Burghfield, nuclear weapons production sites in Berkshire on August 9th 2014. The Scottish Wool Against Weapons scarf will run down from Edinburgh Castle on Saturday 28 June before joining knitting from all over the UK.

Wool against weapons is a loose network and has engaged knitting groups in libraries, book groups, craft groups in addition to church and Quaker groups. Our oldest known contributor is 90 and our youngest is just 4 years old. The finished pieces, which need to be 60cm x 100cm, can be any design and loosely based around pink. Some are stunning works of art whilst others are plain garter stitch. All are welcome and after the Aldermaston event they will be sewn into blankets for homeless people and other community groups.

Sat 28th June 10am – 12noon. Royal Mile Scottish scarf roll-out Please join us if you can for our Scottish scarf roll-out on Sat 28th June - and bring your family and friends. We need as many people as possible to come and hold up the scarf. We think we need at least 3 people per 10m, so that is at least a few hundred for 500m. Please let us know if you and others in your group are planning to come by filling in the form here:

<http://wawscotland.wordpress.com/2014/05/09/scarf-on-the-royal-mile-28-june-we-need-your-help/>

Come to the Augustine Church at 10am where we will hand out sewn up sections of the scarf to groups of people and indicate where each group should go and stand.

And there is still time to knit or crochet another section. We currently have about 200m of scarf that have been sent in from across Scotland, which is fantastic. We have decided to go for a grand target of 500m for the event on 28th June - so we are still in need of more! Word on the street is that crochet is much faster than knitting.

Sat 9th August Aldermaston

Please consider going down to Aldermaston to help us hold up the Scottish scarf. A group of us is planning to go down and are looking in to the logistics of hiring a minibus. If you think you might be able to come with us please contact Jane at <jane@gn.apc.org>

WAW Scotland welcomes donations, for (yet more) wool, publicity, and transport to Aldermaston. If you would like to donate, please contact <jean.oliver49@yahoo.com> for details of how to donate via Trident Ploughshares' bank account, or where to send a cheque. Big woolly thanks!

For more information: <http://wawscotland.wordpress.com/> or contact Jane Lewis <jane@gn.apc.org>



Faslane Peace Camp

On the 12th June Faslane Peace Camp will be hosting 4 days of workshops, fun and direct action. This is to celebrate 32 years of the camp resisting nuclear weapons.

Accommodation is available and they intend to put on entertainment on the weekend evenings. They are inviting folk to help run workshops; etc. open to the public who are invited to join at the camp. If it is possible for you to run a workshop or if you can suggest others then please get in touch to discuss further.

Amnesty International Nigeria: Find And Protect Abducted Schoolgirls

Over 240 schoolgirls are still missing, one month after they were abducted from their school by armed militant group Boko Haram. Nigerian security forces had more than four

hours warning, but did not do enough to stop their abduction. Call on the Nigerian government to do all they can to find the girls.

Sign here

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/nigeria-abducted-schoolgirls-boko-haram-find-our-girls>

Scottish PSC residential weekend - politics to sustain effective solidarity

Gulabin Lodge, From 5pm Friday 20th-1pm Sunday 22nd June 2014

Take time to discuss and debate important issues that inform nature of our solidarity with Palestinians. Registration £40 / £30 unwaged - fee includes accommodation & meals for the whole weekend. Register now and we will help to organise car share. Limited places available! To register send your details to campaign@scottishpsc.org.uk, then follow the link to pay the registration fee OR send a cheque, payable to 'Scottish PSC' and send to: Scottish PSC,

c/o Peace & Justice Centre

Princes Street

Edinburgh EH2 4BJ

We are also organising a group activity on Friday 20th June during the day - if you are interested in joining us email campaign@scottishpsc.org.uk. (There will be an extra charge for this depending on the activity).

<http://scottishpsc.org.uk/index.php/32-campaigning/coming-events/1620-scottish-psc-residential-weekend-politics-to-sustain-effective-solidarity>

No Faith in Trident

Bruce Kent's recent national No Faith in Trident tour has helped raise public awareness of the UK's Trident replacement plans. The next step is a national lobby of parliament for people of all faiths and none who are opposed to Trident. Make sure that your MP is lobbied on 11th June. Read CND's briefing so that you are confident to talk about the issues and to get ideas for points to raise with your MP. CND will also be joining friends from Stop the War and other peace groups to form an anti-war and anti-Trident bloc at the No More Austerity National Demonstration on 21st June in London. Find us with the CND placards and lengths of knitting for Wool Against Weapons!

SELEX

Edinburgh CAAT group are meeting to plan the next stage of their campaign to persuade EISF directors to stop accepting sponsorship from Selex ES, 12.30pm on Monday June 9th in the National Library cafe; at a table towards the back of the sitting/eating area. Also Forces Watch have a new play about Drones that's on tour & there is a possibility of putting it on in Edinburgh.

Unsung Heroes – Peace Brigades International

Coinciding with UK Armed Forces taking place at Stirling 28 June we are highlighting Peace Brigades International as an example of Unarmed Forces. The following comes from the PBI website:

Peace Brigades International provides protection, support and recognition to local **human rights defenders** who work in areas of repression and conflict and have requested our support. We advocate at

all levels – from the soldier at a local checkpoint to national governments and international bodies like the UN – for international human rights accountability. Our international volunteers on the ground send a powerful message that the world is watching and prepared to act.

PBI UK is one of 16 PBI country groups whose work complements and supports our field **projects** in Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico and Nepal (as well as our new projects in Kenya and Honduras). PBI field volunteers are

walking symbols of **international support** for human rights defenders at risk.

Establishing ongoing dialogue and relationships with political decision makers is a key element of PBI UK's support for threatened defenders. Through our support network, PBI can call upon influential individuals and groups in times of emergency or heightened threat.

Increasing the profile of human rights defenders and their work helps to protect them. Through traditional and online media, social networks and a programme of speaking tours by visiting defenders and returned field volunteers, we reach out to the general public, the legal community, universities, religious groups and others.

International protective accompaniment

International protective accompaniment is a strategy pioneered by PBI for protecting human rights defenders (HRDs) and communities whose lives and work are threatened by political violence. PBI sends teams of volunteers backed up by an international support network to accompany human rights defenders and communities in areas of conflict. For more than 30 years, PBI has protected the lives of hundreds of human rights defenders in 11 countries. The presence of PBI's international volunteers has enabled them to continue and expand their work with greater confidence despite threats. Those accompanied have included indigenous communities, environmental organisations, lawyers, women's organisations, trade unions and relatives of people



Photo Credit : Peacebrigades.org

who were forcibly disappeared. Accompaniment has proven to be very effective protection, even where the overall human rights situation was deteriorating and where death squads seemed impervious to external pressure.



Photo Credit : Peacebrigades.org

What difference does accompaniment make?

Protective accompaniment has three simultaneous and mutually reinforcing effects. The presence of international volunteers protects threatened HRDs by raising the stakes for potential attackers. It provides moral support and international solidarity for civil society activism by protecting the political space of threatened organisations, thereby

giving them the confidence to carry out their work. In addition, it strengthens the international movement for peace and human rights by giving accompaniment volunteers with a powerful first-hand experience that becomes a sustained source of inspiration to themselves and others upon their return to their home countries. The premise of accompaniment is that there will be an international response to whatever violence or potential violence the volunteer witnesses. Behind such a response lies the implied threat of diplomatic and economic pressure—pressure that the sponsors of such violence prefer to avoid.

Moral support

Victims of human rights abuses are frequently those attempting to organise for social justice, nonviolence and respect for human rights, thus challenging the interests of powerful elites. An international presence can be a source of hope. It assures HRDs that they are not alone, that their work is important and that their suffering will not go unnoticed by the outside world. Thus the volunteer's presence not only protects, but also provides moral support for the growth of civil society activism in repressive situations.

Building Political Networks

Establishing ongoing dialogue and relationships with political decision makers is a key element of PBI UK's support for threatened human rights defenders. In times of emergency or heightened threat to the people we protect, PBI can call on the influential individuals and groups that make up our support network.

In the UK, this network consists of more than 80 MPs, ministers and peers of the realm, as well as members of the legal community. Support network members can use their influence to protect threatened defenders in various ways, including through diplomatic channels or raising the issues in Parliament.

Readers can learn more about PBI at <http://www.peacebrigades.org.uk/>

Film Review – Warriors

Warriors (1999) is a British [television](#) drama serial, written by Leigh Jackson, produced by [Nigel Stafford-Clark](#) and directed by [Peter Kosminsky](#). It starred [Matthew Macfadyen](#), [Damian Lewis](#) and [Ioan Gruffudd](#). The music was written by [Debbie Wiseman](#).^{[2][3]} It was screened on [BBC One](#).

Warriors is a harrowing story of the young British army personnel who were deployed to Bosnia in 1992 as Peacekeepers in the UN Protection Force. They arrive knowing the place as Yugoslavia, ill prepared and with maps that are changing by the day. It illustrates their tragic frustrations and ineptitude. On their first outing they pile people into their vehicles, only to be told to get them out and leave them to their fate. Their mandate as peacekeepers forbids them to rescue anyone as this would be interpreted as helping with the ethnic cleansing. They are forced to leave people helpless or have to observe the atrocities being perpetuated on civilians feeling helpless and frustrated themselves. Only once do they turn off their radios and disobey the orders. Later during army questioning of the officers actions a young man answers, ‘In terms of the

mandate, he was out of order, in my book, he was a hero.’

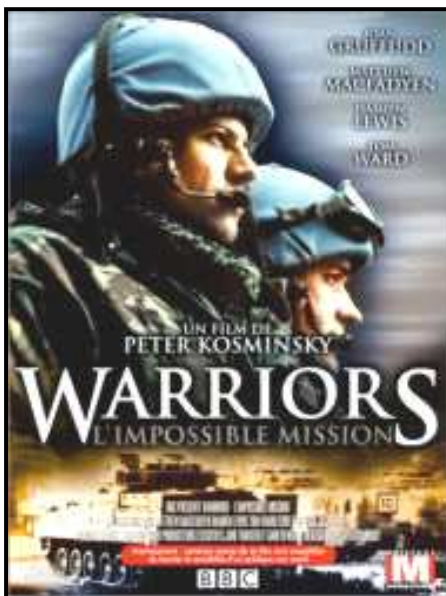


Photo Credit :
<http://www.kiseljak.nl>

The film focuses on committed young men, three of whom end up tragically scared by what they have witnessed. They are subjected to deliberate provocations against which they are unable to retaliate. They are not allowed to intervene to protect women and children who they later find burned alive in buildings. They also participate in a body swop of military victims that turn out to include women and children. Grim viewing indeed; but with excellent acting that portrays loyal, enthusiastic and very real people. The film starts and ends with their civilian lives which makes it all the more poignant to watch.

Brilliantly produced, directed and written from true accounts. Yet it is not surprising that the BBC have chosen not to repeat this film originally shown over two

nights in 1999. It could make young people think again about joining the army and could certainly make their families try to stop them. It is essential viewing for understanding the changing faces of Wars today and the questionable ability of Peacekeeping forces to protect people when their mandate contradicts what needs to be done.

A video copy and a DVD (in English but imported from Amsterdam) of Warriors are available to borrow from the Peace and Justice Centre Library. The Library is now newly reopened. Library membership is £3 per year, or included with P&J Membership. This film won Peter Kosminsky numerous awards.

Reflection – Gandhi’s Peace Army

The Shanti Sena or "Peace army" was made up of Gandhi's followers in India. Its non-violent methods have been adopted by other movements such as the World Peace Brigade, Nonviolent Peaceforce, Swaraj Peeth, Peace Brigades International, and the Rainbow Family of Living Light, and have served as a basis for the practice of



Photo Credit : mettacenter.org

Third Party Nonviolent Intervention. "Shanti Sena" is a term first coined by Gandhi when he conceptualized a nonviolent volunteer peacekeeping program dedicated to minimizing communal violence within the Indian populace. The words "Shanti" and "Sena" both come from **Sanskrit**. Shanti means peace and Sena means army, or a drilled band of men. In the Harijan, for March 26, 1938, Gandhi wrote:

“The Congress should be able to put forth a non-violent army of volunteers numbering not a few thousands but lakhs [tens of thousands] who would be equal to every occasion where the police and the military are required. Thus, instead of one brave Pashupatinath Gupta who died in the attempt to secure peace, we should be able to produce hundreds. And a nonviolent army acts, unlike armed men, as well in times of peace as disturbances. They would be constantly engaged in activities that make riots impossible. Theirs will be the duty of seeking occasions for bringing warring communities together, carrying on peace propaganda, engaging in activities that would bring and keep them in touch with every single person, male and female, adult and child, in their parish or division...”

<http://mettacenter.org/definitions/gloss-concepts/shanti-sena/>

Douglas Shaw

Become a Member! Support the Peace and Justice Centre. The P&J needs your support to continue our work promoting nonviolence, alternatives to war and ecological sustainability in Scotland. Membership is £20 per year (£12 unwaged). Donate online at www.peaceandjustice.org.uk Send cheques to : **Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre, St John’s Church, Edinburgh EH2 4BJ**