



MAKING THE LINKS,  
WAGING PEACE

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# PEACE & JUSTICE NEWS

FEB - MAR - APR 2021



***In this Issue:***

***Militarism & the Climate Crisis: The  
Imperative for Action***

***Carbon Footprint of the Military***

***How the climate crisis causes conflict***

***French Conscientious Objection to the  
Algerian War***

***Unsung Heroes: COs in Turkey***

## Peace & Justice *Building a Culture of Peace in Scotland*

**Nonviolence ♦ Conflict Resolution ♦ Human Rights ♦ Advocating Disarmament  
Protecting Mother Earth ♦ ♦ Challenging Militarism  
Challenging Systemic Injustices**

Peacebuilding for Primary Schools – Stop Climate Chaos Scotland Coalition Member  
ICAN Member - Peace Cranes Project - Don't Bank on the Bomb  
Opposing War Memorial – Global Campaign on Military Spending  
Peace & Justice News – Online Community Events Calendar

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**JOIN US for the  
Peace & Justice AGM.**

**Monday 24 May.  
6 – 6:30pm. Online.**

**Followed by a talk by  
Paul Rogers and Jenny  
Pearce. See Peace &  
Justice News section  
inside for details.**

**Real security will be achieved  
by meeting real human needs**

Talk by Prof. Paul Rogers and Prof. Jenny Pearce

## Editor's Introduction

In this Issue of we look to address two themes. First is the intersection of militarism and the climate crisis. Secondly, with International Conscientious Objectors Day coming on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May we have two articles on conscientious objection.

In *Militarism & the Climate Crisis: The Imperative for Action* Peace & Justice Coordinator and XR Peace campaigner Brian Larkin explains why he took part in a blockade of BAE Systems HQ in London during the 2019 Extinction Rebellion and in doing so makes the case that militarism is a key pillar that is upholding the resource intensive and destructive system that is driving the climate crisis.

Our Opposing War Memorial intern Alex Raboisson retells the story of *French Conscientious Objection to the Algerian War* and reports in *Unsung Heroes* on contemporary COs in Turkey. We invite readers not only to attend our collaborative UK International Conscientious Objectors Day Vigil, organised with Peace Pledge Union and others, but to take action in solidarity with COs in Turkey.

We offer some key facts on *the Carbon Footprint of the Military* and Jane Tallents from Trident Ploughshares and XR Peace writes about some of the many ways that *the climate crisis causes conflict*.

There's also a roundup of all our Peace & Justice activities and events. From an invitation to the Peace Cranes exhibition that will take place as part of the Just Festival in August, to great guest speakers Paul Rogers and Jenny Pearce at our upcoming REAL Security event, to the publication of *Made in Scotland* and a workshop we're organising with Campaign Against Arms Trade Edinburgh on the arms that are made here and being used in Yemen, it's all go.

*The Editors*

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## Editorial: Britain can be a global leader but not this way

By Brian Larkin

In March the government published *The Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy*, “Global Britain in a competitive age”. The very title belies its misguided assumptions, rooted in a desire to return Britain to its 19<sup>th</sup> century role as a global power through unsustainable force projection abroad at the cost of real human and earth security.

In the Foreword Boris Johnson says “we must be willing to change our approach and adapt to the new world emerging around us.” Instead of demonstrating adaptation here is retrenchment committing the UK to “the biggest programme of investment in defence since the end of the Cold War.” In 2021 the PM tells us, “the aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth, one of the two largest warships ever built for the Royal Navy, will lead a British and allied task group on the UK’s most ambitious global deployment for two decades, visiting the Mediterranean, the Middle East and the Indo-Pacific.” There is new funding for high tech warfare and Trident nuclear warheads will be increased from 180 to 260.

This review follows a budget announcement that boosted military spending by more than £6 billion this year, the largest increase since the Korean War. Over the next four years, MoD spending is being boosted by £24 billion even as development aid is to be cut by some £4 billion, as much as 90% in some conflict zones, roughly 50% for humanitarian efforts in Yemen where a humanitarian crisis has been caused by a Saudi bombing campaign for which the UK has provided the bombs.

The review brings defence spending up to 2.2% of GDP, increasing it by about 10% per year, and prioritises expensive kit such as aircraft carriers and nuclear weapons that do nothing to address the greatest threats to our security, climate change and pandemics, just as government has refused an adequate pay rise for NHS nurses and while it is failing to adequately fund climate solutions.

This new spending comes at the expense of infrastructure investment needed to tackle the climate crisis. In December the government pledged £12 billion to help the UK achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. The Committee of Climate Change (CCC) however has estimated that spending to hit reduction targets for carbon emissions for 2020-21 was just £5bn. This included £2bn devoted to the Green Homes Grant scheme for which only £0.1bn will be spent this year, so total spending is only £3.1bn. We must ask why it is necessary to militarize space at a time when we can’t find the funds needed to save the earth from climate catastrophe?

The decision to increase the number of UK Trident nuclear warheads is dangerous and destabilizing. It reverses decades of disarmament and makes a mockery of the

government's claims to be in compliance with the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) under which it promised it would disarm. This move is likely to provoke other countries to increase their own numbers of nuclear weapons and contradicts the UK's own assertion that the 180 nuclear weapons in its present arsenal represent a "minimum credible deterrent". Studies have shown that the nuclear warheads on one Trident submarine are enough to cause a nuclear winter that would cause crop failures and lead to famine and could mean the death of over a billion people. The UK's current stockpile is enough to ensure that three of its four Trident submarines are fully armed at all times. If the existing capacity to cause such destruction several times over is not a sufficient credible "nuclear deterrent" then what is?

The [UN Secretary General's spokesperson](#) expressed "our concern at the UK's decision to increase its nuclear weapons arsenal, which is contrary to its obligations under Article VI of the NPT. It could have a damaging impact on efforts to pursue a world free of nuclear weapons. At a time when nuclear weapon risks are higher than they have been since the Cold War, investments in disarmament and arms control is the best way to strengthen the stability and reduce nuclear danger."

Sixty years ago as he left office President Dwight Eisenhower said "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed." Yet we fail to learn. Surely, now, as the world is passing through a pandemic that threatens us all and a climate crisis that will destroy the living systems of the earth we can recognise that real security does not come from high tech weapons, a space force and more nuclear bombs. Surely now we can rethink our security policies and build a better future with real security for every human being on this shared planet.

In this year, when the UK will host the COP26 climate conference, Britain has the opportunity to lead the world away from imminent climate catastrophe. Only by scrapping these worthless military plans and instead fully funding the infrastructure needed to address the climate crisis and pandemic response and committing to do our part to support sustainable development can we be a truly global Britain.

## Peace & Justice News

### Challenging Militarism

Peace & Justice is a member of the Steering Group of the Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS). We've helped organise this year's Global Days of Action on Military Spending. On 26 April we took part in a Tweetstorm using the #DefundTheMilitary & #HealthcareNotWarfare hashtags. The former shows over 3 million impressions on the 26th and 5 million over the course of the week.

**Please write to your MP to** call on them to support reducing military spending. It's easy and quick. **Just go to:** <https://caat.org.uk/defund-email-your-mp/>

## ***Peace & Justice AGM with Paul Rogers***

**Join us online for the Peace & Justice AGM. Monday 24 May. 6 – 6.30pm.**

And stay with us to hear two great talks and join the discussion on how

## ***Real Security will be achieved by meeting Real Human Needs***

With: **Paul Rogers**, Emeritus Professor of Peace Studies at Bradford University and President of the Movement for the Abolition of War and Professor **Jenny Pearce**, Latin America and Caribbean Centre (LACC). London School of Economics.

Register at [https://human\\_security.eventbrite.co.uk](https://human_security.eventbrite.co.uk)

*Either join at 6pm for our AGM, or from 6.30pm for the talks and discussion.*

### **Keynote: Paul Rogers:**

*To address COVID, climate and the ecological emergencies we must move from an outmoded model of national security towards human security*

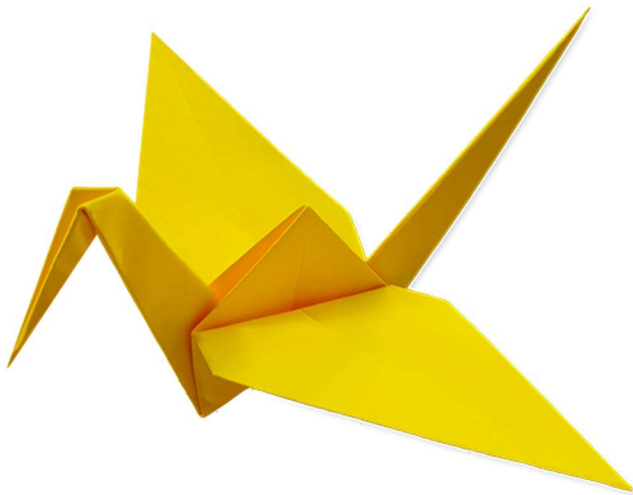
This year the UK increased military spending by about 10%. It plans to build 80 new nuclear warheads while continuing to supply arms to Saudi Arabia and cutting aid to Yemen by half. Globally, military spending is nearly \$2Trillion, while \$1.2 Trillion is needed to ensure we reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions. And wealthy nations, who also spend the most on weapons, are failing to commit the funds needed to ensure that the poorest countries get COVID19 vaccinations. Isn't it time to cut funding to the military and prioritize human security and a future for life on earth instead? With the UK hosting COP26 in November, shouldn't we lead a shift from the failed model of military security toward real human security and a just green recovery from COVID and the climate and ecological crises?

### **Response: Prof Jenny Pearce**

*Rethinking Security as a Means to Reduce not Reproduce Violence*

In her monograph *Politics without Violence?* Jenny Pearce asks: "As climate change differentially impacts on the globe, will violence be the way the privileged protect themselves from the human struggle that climate change will mean?" Indeed, while recognising the common global threat to security posed by climate change, in "Global Britain", the Integrated Review of Security, Defence and Foreign Policy, with its increases in military spending and push toward greater force projection, we are already seeing this. Professor Pearce will speak on how peace building is impeded by a focus on militarist solutions to security, with specific reference to Central America, particularly Columbia.

## Peace Cranes update



We are delighted to announce that after a few nail biting months we have secured funding from Creative Scotland through their Open Fund: Sustaining Creative Development programme, as well as from the William Syson Foundation for our *Peace Cranes* exhibition to take place in partnership with and as part of the Just Festival in August at St John's Episcopal Church in Edinburgh.

We are also seeking further funding that will enable us to extend the exhibition dates from August until November leading up to the UN COP26 Climate Change Conference to be held in Glasgow.

The *Peace Cranes* exhibition will allow us to use the underexplored dual power of contemporary public art and the peace movement to address the twin existential threats of nuclear war and climate change through the works of international artists online, and a visually arresting installation of 140,000 origami cranes spanning the entire space of Edinburgh's St John's Church.

The origami cranes not only represent the number of victims lost to the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945 but also the great acceleration of species extinction through the symbol of the endangered red-crowned crane. We believe that by exposing the cultural legacy of the first atomic bomb which killed 140,000 people in Hiroshima, our large-scale contemporary public artwork will also remind visitors of the nearly 130,000 lives lost to the COVID-19 pandemic in the UK alone.

### SAVE THE DATE

*Peace Cranes* exhibition private view is on 6 August 2021 both online and at Edinburgh's St. John's Episcopal Church as part of Just Festival – Edinburgh's social justice and human rights festival. It has been an important part of the Edinburgh International Fringe Festival for over twenty years. It's also worth remembering that 2021 is the UN International Year of Peace and Trust. Please email [admin@peaceandjustice.org.uk](mailto:admin@peaceandjustice.org.uk) to sign up to receive an invitation to the *Peace Cranes* private view.

### DID YOU KNOW

The *Peace Cranes* exhibition is dedicated to teacher and pacifist, Atsuko Betchaku (1960-2016). As a teenager she visited Nagasaki where the atomic bomb was estimated to have killed 40,000 people and injured a further 60,000. But it was not until after arriving in Scotland, and four decades following her Nagasaki visit, that she was compelled to launch a poignant project commemorating each of the



140,000 Hiroshima victims and illustrating our shared desire for peace and disarmament.



*Image of #CranesforPeace Challenge courtesy of Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament*

In 2015, as the global peace movement marked the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Japan, as a member of Peace & Justice Atsuko embarked on an international collaborative project of folding 140,000 origami peace cranes.

In 2017, as a partner to the global International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) movement, Peace & Justice became a joint Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, reinvigorating Atsuko's vision for a nuclear weapons

free world. In 2019, with the support of Peace & Justice members, volunteers and other activists from Scotland, Japan, England, Wales, France and Canada, Peace & Justice realised Atsuko's goal of folding 140,000 peace cranes.

With official ceremonies restricted and other commemoration events taking place online in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Peace & Justice marked the 75th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki with a five hour pre-exhibition Peace Cranes programme that ran from 6 to 22 August 2020. It features live theatre performances, artist's films, storytelling sessions and curatorial talks, artist's Q&A and an origami peace crane folding masterclass, all available at [iliyananedkova.wordpress.com/2021/01/21/peace-cranes/](https://iliyananedkova.wordpress.com/2021/01/21/peace-cranes/).

## GET INVOLVED IN PEACE CRANES

Do you want to contribute to the *Peace Cranes* exhibition? **All you need is a few hours or days in May and June 2021** to help thread some of the thousands of origami cranes which will transform the entire space of St. John's Church into a bird sanctuary to peace and hope. We'll cover your travel costs and provide refreshments. **To sign up email [admin@peaceandjustice.org.uk](mailto:admin@peaceandjustice.org.uk)** and we will be in touch with details about our **initial artist-led Peace Cranes workshop in the week beginning 17 May 2021 followed by others on Zoom**. The on-site workshop will adhere to all Public Health Government Guidance.





If threading origami cranes is not your forte – then join our team of volunteer exhibition guides during the *Peace Cranes* exhibition. We are currently planning our daily rota 10:00 until 17:00 from 7 August until 31 August 2021. Please [email us to sign up](#) and we will be in touch with further details during July 2021.

For those that can help us get closer to our exhibition funding target and enable us to extend the Peace Cranes until November 2021, please [Donate here](#), putting “Peace Cranes” in the Comment box.

**Heather Kiernan** and **Iliyana Nedkova**, *Peace Cranes* co-curators

## PeaceBuilders

### Video Series for Primary Schools

Our *PeaceBuilders* team have produced a series of short videos for use in the classroom, based on our *Cooperative Games and Conflict Resolution* course. Our facilitators have run this course in 25 schools. The programme helps teachers and pupils develop skills to resolve conflict and create more peaceful learning environments.



The videos consist of cooperative games, circle time conversations and other activities and are a resource for teachers to help children in managing emotions, respect, empathy, and conflict resolution. **A companion manual** is included to allow teachers to facilitate along with the films. **To discuss how you might use the videos in your schools**, contact [peacebuilders@peaceandjustice.org.uk](mailto:peacebuilders@peaceandjustice.org.uk)



See a **sample video** and find more information about our PeaceBuilders programme at [peaceandjustice.org.uk](http://peaceandjustice.org.uk). **If you're a parent or work in a school can you help spread the word by emailing your Head Teacher this link?**

**Made in Scotland: The deadly relationship fuelling the crisis in Yemen** is the first in a Campaign Against Arms Trade research series uncovering the role that Scotland plays within the UK's arms trade. Peace & Justice (Scotland) contributed substantial research to this briefing. [Download the Briefing at peaceandjustice.org.uk](#)

## Stop Climate Chaos Scotland and COP 26 Coalition

Peace & Justice is a member of the Stop Climate Chaos Scotland network and as a member of XR Peace we're working toward a day of action in Glasgow and around the country to challenge the intersection between militarism and the climate and ecological emergency.



**We worked with Scottish CND and Trident Ploughshares to present a workshop on militarism and climate change at the From the Ground Up gathering. We looked at the environmental impacts of military activity, how militarism is a pillar of the system that is causing the environmental and climate crises, how climate change**

causes conflicts and how the concept of “security” leads to usage of vast resources to make constant preparation for war in order to ensure control of the resources that consumer economies demand.

**Don't Bank on the Bomb Scotland's new report** is now online at

[www.nukedivestmentscotland.org](http://www.nukedivestmentscotland.org) The report featured on the front cover of the Sunday National: [www.thenational.scot/](http://www.thenational.scot/) and was covered in The Ferret: <https://theferret.scot/>. **Peace & Justice** is active in the **Don't Bank on the Bomb Scotland network** along with SCND and Medact. Find out more about the campaign and **take action at:** [nukedivestmentscotland.org/](http://nukedivestmentscotland.org/)



## Peace & Justice is *Building a Culture of Peace in Scotland.*

**Will you become a Member?** Individuals who support our Vision, Mission and Values are invited to support our work by becoming a member. Membership is a minimum donation of £24 / £12 (unwaged). Families £36. To join us go to [peaceandjustice.org.uk/become-a-member/](http://peaceandjustice.org.uk/become-a-member/) or complete the Membership form on the back page of this magazine.

Members receive *P&J News* 3 - 4 times per year and can sign up to our email list for regular announcements of P&J and relevant community events, notice of actions you can take to promote peace, justice and ecological sustainability. Plus support for engaging in advocacy in these areas.

**Will you consider becoming a Peace & Justice Trustee?** We aim to expand our Board to become more diverse. Application form is available on our website.



## Peace and Justice Partnerships

Are you a local organisation campaigning for peace, social justice and ecological sustainability or a small national advocacy group? Why not consider joining Peace & Justice as a peace partner?

**We create [partnerships](#) with organisations that want to help build a culture of peace in Scotland.**

As a peace partner we can help you to link up with other like-minded organisations, be part of and share information from the wider movement through our involvement in UK and international coalitions, and be supported to extend your local message of peace, justice and sustainability.

By becoming a peace partner you will:

- Receive our publication, *Peace & Justice News* three to four times a year by email or post
- Get support for organising local events including help finding speakers, promotion on our website, email and social media and resources for organising events such as access to our zoom account
- Have a chance to spread the word at a national level about what your organisation is doing through blog posts on our website and articles and news contributions to P&J news
- Get advice and support on relevant campaigning and on developing your group locally
- Help us to strengthen our democratic accountability and contribute to P&J's organisational direction through a peace partnership position on our Board, an opportunity to vote at P&J AGM and involvement in planning P&J events and projects.

Our peace partnership is for local peace organisations, small Scotland-wide advocacy organisations, socially-committed religious organisations, and trade union branches. Larger organisations may want to consider affiliation in order to support the work of the P&J.

**Fees (negotiable), depending on your organisation's ability to pay:**

Peace partner (small, local): £25 Medium size regional/national) £100

National organisation affiliation: £250

**To become a peace partner email: [admin@peaceandjustice.org.uk](mailto:admin@peaceandjustice.org.uk)**



## Upcoming Peace & Justice Events

### Embroidery Workshops. Saturday 15 May. 2 – 4pm. Online. With Opposing War Memorial artist Kate Ive.

Create a peace handkerchief of your own design with Kate's help. She will give some background to the memorial to be installed in Princes St Gardens and help you design your handkerchief.



Kate's memorial design is to be a bronze representation of the Davidia involucrata - or handkerchief tree - with 'bracts' embroidered with symbols of individuals and organisations that oppose war. Some of the handkerchiefs created will inspire designs for the bronzed bracts. A kit will be sent to you beforehand with the thread, needle and handkerchief you need to take part in the workshop.

Register at <https://peacehandkerchief.eventbrite.co.uk>

### 15 May. UK Conscientious Objectors Day Vigil. Time 4:30pm – 5:30pm.

Join us online on to remember all those who have refused to bear arms and participate in war, throughout history and today. This year's National Ceremony will be online, with a live stream from the Conscientious Objectors' Commemorative Stone in Tavistock Square, London, and contributions from other cities around the UK where events usually take place. Simply visit [www.CO-Day.org](http://www.CO-Day.org) at the time to watch the live stream. There will be a minute's silence, songs and speeches including:

- Israeli conscientious objector Atalya Ben-Abba
- Natalia García Cortés from War Resisters' International in Colombia
- Brad Oliver, Veterans for Peace from Princes St Gardens in Edinburgh
- Actor Michael Mears live from Tavistock Square, London

*Peace & Justice* will contribute to this event

**Spirituality & Nuclear Weapons:** The Spiritual, Ethical, Legal, Political, and Practical Response to Humanity's Greatest Threat.

**Wednesday 19 May 2021. Online Zoom Forum: 7pm-8.45pm.**

**Brian Larkin.** Coordinator of Peace & Justice (Scotland). Member of Trident Ploughshares. Brian has been arrested for civil resistance to nuclear weapons and arms sales around twenty times. He was jailed indefinitely for 3 months for blockading a Cruise missile engine factory. **Other speakers tbc.**

**Cost: £5/£3 (Concessions)/£1 (Students). Online Zoom Forum.**

**Organised by EICSP.** Book a place at <http://eicsp.org/events/>:

**Contact: Neill Walker, [mesp2021@hotmail.com](mailto:mesp2021@hotmail.com), 0131 331 4469.**



**Made in Scotland** A workshop on arms being made in Scotland, sold to Saudi Arabia & used in the war on Yemen.

**Wednesday, 9 June. 7 - 8:30pm with Edinburgh CAAT. Online**

**Tickets:** <https://made-in-scotland-arms-used-in-yemen.eventbrite.co.uk>

**Speakers:** **Melanie Scott and Yasmin Luqman**, with facilitators from Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) Scotland / Edinburgh CAAT.



Scotland could be leading the way in opposition to the UK's arms industry; but the Scottish government has poured millions from the public purse into companies that fuel conflict and support repression around the world.

This event aims to develop our knowledge of the arms trade in

Scotland and its impact on countries such as Yemen. How we can engage the public, affected communities and defence workers, build resistance and end the arms trade.

Organised by *Peace & Justice* and *Edinburgh Campaign Against Arms Trade*.

### ***Upcoming Community Events***

***There are lots of Community Events on the Peace & Justice website***

***Community Events Calendar. Send your events to***

***[contact@peaceandjustice.org.uk](mailto:contact@peaceandjustice.org.uk) and we'll post them on the Calendar.***

### ***Welcome & Thanks to Interns***

**Thanks to** University of Bradford Peace Studies post grad **Meklite Balcha** who completed a student work placement with us. Meklite drafted briefings to support advocacy on refugee issues. Meklite hails from Addis Ababa.

**Grace Shook** has just completed her MA in International Relations and Law at University of Edinburgh and will build on Meklite's work by developing plans and coordinating advocacy on refugee issues.

**Alexander Raboisson** will do research and create materials on conscientious objectors for the educational component of the Opposing War Memorial. Alex has an MA History: Colonial and Global History from Leiden University, Netherlands.

### ***Volunteer Opportunities***

There are lots of volunteer, internship and student work placement opportunities.

[See our website for details and an online application form](#) or for more information email [coordinator@peaceandjustice.org.uk](mailto:coordinator@peaceandjustice.org.uk)

## Militarism and the Climate Crisis: The Imperative for Action

By Brian Larkin

A version of this article first appeared at <https://rethinkingsecurity.org.uk/blog/>

**War and climate change are intimately linked, argues Brian Larkin. He explains why he and fellow activists from XR Peace blockaded BAE Systems London headquarters in 2019 over its links to the bombing of Yemeni civilians and the UK nuclear weapons programme.**



Image credit: An RAF F-35B jet refuels mid-air during a 2018 training exercise. RAF. Crown Copyright.

In 2019 a small group of people from [Trident Ploughshares](#) set up [XR Peace](#) to bring peace movement groups together to raise awareness of the overlooked intersection between militarism and the climate crisis. Our message: *War causes climate change. Climate change causes war.* In October that year, during the second Extinction Rebellion in London, demanding that government recognise the seriousness of the threat to global security posed by

the climate, six of us blocked the entrance to the head office of BAE Systems, the UK and Europe's largest military industrial company. We were arrested and charged with obstructing lawful activity. We were due in court on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, Earth Day. The case was discontinued at the last minute. Here is what I wanted to tell the Court.

With government approval BAE is supplying weapons to Saudi Arabia that have been used in killing thousands of civilians in Yemen and building the submarines for Trident nuclear weapons system. My defence will be that, since there is a clear record of violations of international humanitarian law – of civilians killed, schools, weddings, hospitals bombed -the UK is acting unlawfully in continuing to provide jet fighters and support for Saudi bombing sorties over Yemen. It's a breach of UK obligations under the Arms Trade Treaty and should not be permitted under the UK's own arms export regulations.

But what do the military sector and nuclear weapons have to do with the climate emergency? Why target BAE Systems? Aren't fossil fuel companies the problem?

### The Intersection between the Military and Climate Change

Foreign and defence policy and the arms trade constitute a deeply intertwined and multi-faceted pillar of the global system that is driving the climate crisis. This triumvirate is responsible for a significant portion of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that governments have only begun to consider mitigating. Their activities,

largely to ensure access to oil and other resources vital to over-consumptive industrial societies, drive insecurity and generate conflict.

Part of the problem is that the military sector consumes large amounts of oil. It has been estimated that global military GHG emissions may be as much as [6% of total global emissions](#). The US Department of Defense is the world's largest institutional user of petroleum and the [single largest producer of GHGs in the world](#). If the US military were a country it would be the [world's 55th largest CO<sup>2</sup> emitter](#). Its [fuel usage alone would rank above 142 countries including Sweden](#).

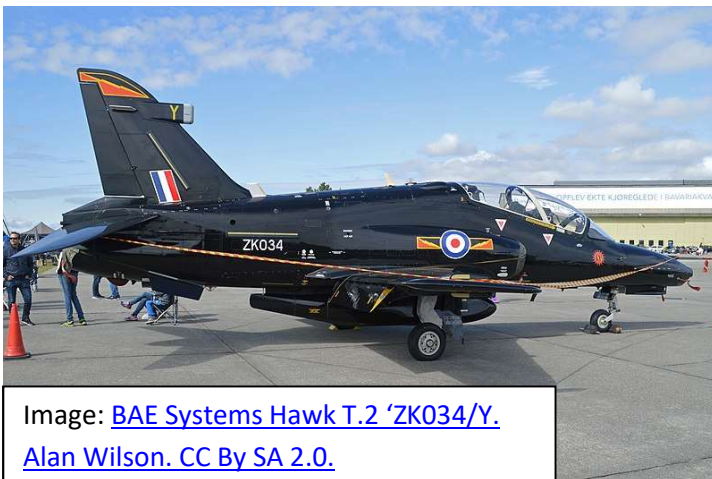


Image: [BAE Systems Hawk T.2 'ZK034/Y](#).  
[Alan Wilson. CC By SA 2.0.](#)

The biggest factors in this vast consumption of fossil fuels is [moving troops and equipment around the world](#) and conducting big military exercises. Military equipment has poor fuel efficiency. [The F-35 fighter-bomber gets just 0.6 mpg emitting 28 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e per mission](#). [Humvees get just six miles per gallon of diesel fuel](#). The US maintains [more than 800 bases around the world](#). The UK too aims to project force dramatically around the world with

[troops stationed in 145 locations across 42 countries](#).

In the government's recent [Integrated Review of Security, Defence and Foreign Policy](#) Boris Johnson's promises to project power will push the budget up and consume vast quantities of fuel "[T]he aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth, one of the two largest warships ever built for the Royal Navy, will lead ... the UK's most ambitious global deployment for two decades, visiting the Mediterranean, the Middle East and the Indo-Pacific."

Johnson's vision of a "Global Britain" is rooted in a desire to return the UK to its 19th century role as a global power, when what is needed are forward looking solutions to the greatest threat to security in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, climate change. Increasing military spending by £24 billion above previous commitments over the next four years to an average of about £47 billion or nearly 10% of the total spending, leaving less for addressing climate change.

The Climate Change Committee – an independent statutory body tasked with advising government - has estimated that annual government spending on climate change needs to increase to £9-12bn. The government has budgeted an additional £12bn over the next four years [while "defence" spending is rising by about £6bn](#).

But this is not only a matter of resource allocation and fuel consumption. There is no foreseeable way to power HMS Queen Elizabeth or jet fighters that won't spew

massive amounts of GHGs. Instead, government must re-evaluate the underpinnings of its security strategy.

As Nick Buxton [wrote](#): “The military is not just a prolific user of oil, it is one of the central pillars of the global fossil-fuel economy. Today whether it is in the Middle East, the Gulf, or the Pacific, ... military deployment is about controlling oil-rich regions and defending the key shipping supply routes that carry half the world’s oil and sustain our consumer economy.”

I took action at BAE because they are the key business partner in the UK’s strategic relationship with Saudi Arabia, providing arms and military support to ensure our continuing access to oil and gas – and control of access for other countries more dependent on fossil fuel imports - through those critical energy transit lines, ensuring continuing consumption of the oil that’s driving climate change that will lead to the future deaths of millions of people.

In July 2019 I met the families of Yemenis who have been affected by Saudi bombing and was shown video of a bombing near their home. They were experiencing the grim terror of now more than six years of war.

I took action at BAE because it is [supplying the Tornado and Typhoon jet fighters](#) that are being used to drop bombs on Yemen making them complicit in [the killing of more than 230,000 people, including tens of thousands of civilians, with 3,153 children killed in the five years from 2015](#).

I also took action at [BAE because it builds the submarines](#) armed with Trident missiles with which the UK is prepared to unleash a nuclear winter that could end life on earth as we know it. What else could I do?

We purchase what we are told is our security at the cost of human lives. This version of national security is coming back to haunt us in the already imminent climate emergency. As extreme weather impacts the global south, in places like sub Saharan Africa and Central America there is an increase in conflict. In large part the migration of people from these regions is fuelled by food insecurity due to climate change, by crop failures due to drought, and by conflicts that are exacerbated by those same conditions.

For the hungry millions of Yemenis, for the children who are being killed by Saudi bombing and on this Earth Day for the children of future generations, we must re-evaluate our definitions of security and create it, not with warships, but by addressing inequality and ensuring we prevent a climate disaster.

**Brian Larkin** is a member of Trident Ploughshares and XR Peace and Coordinator of [Peace & Justice \(Scotland\)](#).



## French conscientious objection to the Algerian War

*By Alexander Gunnar Raboisson. Alex is the Peace & Justice Opposing War Memorial intern and is developing educational materials for the Memorial website.*

The full text of this article with links to references can be found at <https://opposingwar.scot/>

The right to refuse military service in France was only recognised after the Algerian war of Independence (1954-1962) during which France first witnessed a considerable amount of “réfractaire”, those who refused to perform military service for any reason.



[Photo: Soldiers of the National Liberation Army during the Algerian War of Independence; By Zdravko Pečar; Museum of African Art \(Belgrade\); 1958. CC BY SA 4.0.](#)

The military archives show that out of 1,200,000 young French men called for service 12,000 or about 1% refused to go to war, [a rate about as high what the USA witnessed in Vietnam](#). The wars in Algeria and in Indochina were particularly unpopular. Many French people believed it was time to relinquish the colonies which made them unwilling to partake in the conflict. Many young men that felt that this was not of their time, the government was holding on to colonies

that belonged to the ancient order. But the price for disobedience was high; the only alternative to military service was 5 years in prison which was repeated in some cases, similar to what conscientious objectors (COs) currently face in Turkey. Support for the cause of COs was low; the government was unwilling to provide any legal protection and the general population was not necessarily supportive. A study done in 1962 amongst older college students found that 43% found that refusing to perform military service was an inexcusable fault.

While at first those who refused to serve did not label themselves as COs, a group of Christian soldiers in 1955 stated in a text distributed during a mass at the Church of Saint-Séverin, that their “conscience rises up” and that they refuse to fire upon their Muslim brothers. Discontent continued to increase as several hundred demonstrations by soldiers who were called up again occurred from April to July 1956. The conduct of the war was unacceptable, with accounts of many atrocities coming back across the Mediterranean strengthening the resolve of those who believed the war was wrong. Stories of torture and rape were common, and many ex-soldiers [returned traumatized](#)

from the war. In June 1956, the ACJF (Association Catholique de la Jeunesse Francaise) issued a circular that intended to guide soldiers on how to react to “immoral orders”. It was a Christian duty to not conduct “collective repression and other war crimes”. The association deemed that disobeying immoral orders was not a choice but a necessity, as “nothing is lost before Christ should a soldier not give a Christian response in any given situation.”



Photo: Baricades set up during the Algerian War of Independence. January 1960. Street of Algier; Michel Marcheux, C By SA 2.5.

Many of the groups that advocated for the right to not serve stemmed from Catholic ideals, yet they did not find support within the Church. In fact, the Church at the time was critical of those who refused to serve and reminded the faithful of their duty to the nation. At first the Church even refused to condemn torture with officials stating that it was sometimes a necessity to protect the interests of the state. The Church eventually reversed this stance, as the French Assembly of Cardinals and Archbishops condemned torture and other

abuses, but still prohibited disobedience to “legitimate” authority even though the same authorities perpetrated such crimes. A conflict was breeding within the Church with dissident clergy and Catholic activists advocating for conscientious objector status to be officially recognised and the hierarchy of the Catholic Church staunchly against it. Cardinal Feltin felt that every man owed it to his country to defend it, and that a strong army is necessary to impose the peace. He also condemned Catholics who drew their own conclusion about the war: It was the duty of the Church to teach the truth, not for the faithful to make their own truth.

This division became more prevalent during the trial of Jean Pezet, as he refused to serve on the basis that he could not reconcile military service with his Catholic conscience. This trial raised the question as to what it means to be a Christian. The court and the Church held that his reasoning was unchristian as Christendom entails that you must always obey the state. Pezet’s lawyer, Jean-Jacques de Felice, [a protestant lawyer who during the war defended those who refused to serve in the army](#), wanted to demonstrate to the court and the jury that his client was a genuine Catholic not despite this stance, but because of it. The aim was to make the court and the government

commissioner change their understanding of Catholicism on obedience to authority, to a new model in which individual conscience held primacy, allowing the faithful to choose between obedience and disobedience. Jean Pezet was at the end of the trial sentenced to 18 months in prison. The prerogative to punish Pezet remained, but the testimony of Catholic witnesses belied the commissioner's claim that Catholics must reject conscientious objection. Pezet and his followers anticipated the eventual reorientation of the Catholic Church during the Second Vatican Council when the Church accepted conscientious objection in 1965. The number of individuals that refused to serve increased right after the war, [as the graph below shows](#), but also up until conscription was scrapped in 1997.

DEMANDES DE STATUT D'OBJECTEURS DE CONSCIENCE ET ADMISSIONS  
(1964-1972) :

	Nombre	Admissions	Refus	% refus
1964	348	274	74	21,26%
1965	67	28	39	58,21%
1966	59	42	17	28,81%
1967	65	55	10	15,38%
1968	101	65	36	35,64%
1969	151	103	48	31,79%
1970	263	175	88	33,46%
1971	621	481	140	22,54%
1972	829	536	293	35,34%
TOTAL	2504	1759	745	29,75%

The trial was one of many events leading to eventual legal recognition of COs by the French state but the catalyst was the hunger strike started by anarchist and pacifist activist Louis Lecoin at the age of 74 in protest against the imprisonment of 150 COs.

His strike lasted for 22 days until Prime Minister George Pompidou introduced a bill to parliament. That enabled those that did not want to serve to opt out, though it entailed an arduous process that would often take months or years. Jean-Jacques de Felice continued to fight for those that refused to serve until long after the war, but his goal was nevertheless quite successful.

## Unsung Heroes: Conscientious Objectors in Turkey

*By Alexander Raboisson*

This 15th of May for the International Conscientious Objector (CO) Day, Turkey will be in the spotlight. Turkey is the only country in the Council of Europe that has not recognised the right to conscientious objection in the face of military service. Since the early 1990s about [1000 conscripts](#) have declared their conscientious objection and hundreds of thousands have evaded military service by defecting or hiding. This situation has led the European council to urge Turkey to stop prosecuting COs and address the judgements of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) as it has ruled several times against the court regarding the [treatment and status of COs in Turkey](#). COs in Turkey face what has been called a “civil death”, with continued harassment by the authorities against those that refused to serve, effectively prohibiting COs to seek help with the police or the gendarmerie.





I believe it is fit that I now discuss some examples of COs in Turkey to illustrate what the consequence of declaring your conscientious objections entail. The first example I want to bring forth, is Hüseyn Civan who is a self-declared anarchist and antimilitarist. His political beliefs are the motivation behind his conscientious objections as he believes that rejecting militaristic policies and practices are “important for the

construction of a new social life”. He also describes the challenges and “civil death” he faced on a daily basis, his inability to work while being insured, impossibility to check in at hotels using his name or the risk of being arrested whenever he gets checked by the police. As a fellow Turkish CO explained, any CO that walks off, for example, a metro or bus would first check that there are no police officers performing identity checks.

The state of civil death is for many Turkish COs the motivation behind their exile. The constant risks that COs face in Turkey push them to seek asylum in Europe, as their condition is untenable. Beran İşçi is a Turkish CO who currently resides in Germany as he chose to leave the country due to the persecution and harassment he faced by the Turkish authorities. His political beliefs led him to declare his conscientious objection, yet his status as a political refugee in Germany has not been recognised, as Germany does not consider conscientious objection as a political crime.

The conditions or the existence of COs is ignored as much as possible by the Turkish authorities, so as to keep public opinion in the dark and obstruct any debate or recognition of conscientious objections. Halil Savda describes how he first declare himself a CO in 2004, this led to him eventually being tried and arrested in a military court. In total he spent 17 months in prison. He was eventually exempted from military service in 2008 as the Çorlu Military Hospital Medical Council gave him a report that he is not fit for military service, based on “anti-social behaviour and lack of masculinity and of Turkishness”. The article by the Guardian from which this is cited, explains how these “not fit for service” reports are used by the authorities as part of the strategy of ignoring and silencing the claims by conscientious objectors.

The motivations by these COs to refuse military service are all similar, they all uphold the sanctity of life, and deem that the army and forced conscription are part of a system that produces destruction and devastation. As an example of this I want to draw our attention to two final examples of COs in turkey as their story are particularly interesting. The first reported conscientious objector in Turkey was Osman Murat Ülke who in 1995 burned his conscription paper. His conscientious objection led him to be imprisoned on multiple occasions, this is



where he met Mehmet Bal who at the time was imprisoned for murder and a fascist. But after witnessing the unwavering conviction of Osman Murat Ülke Mehmet Bal was inspired and started reading books that his cellmate recommended. This eventually led to him declaring his conscientious objection and refusal to serve.

Let these stories be an inspiration to us and a reminder of what COs go through due to their beliefs.

## Take Action: Support Conscientious Objectors in Turkey

In support for the coming Conscientious Objectors Day the 15th of May, War Resisters International (WRI) has called for support this year for conscientious objectors in Turkey. The conditions that COs face when refusing to serve in the Turkish army has come under greater scrutiny. Those refusing to serve face “civil death”, as their names are put in the criminal records, so whenever they are faced with a police check or any other situation which requires them to register their name they are at risk of being arrested, receiving an additional fine or even face jail time.

Through a number of webinars publications and video interviews WRI will amplify the voices of COs in Turkey. WRI calls on everyone who wants to be part of the campaign to organise online or physical events with COs from Turkey, or invite them to events. Anyone can contact WRI on [info@wri-irg.org](mailto:info@wri-irg.org) for available speakers or ideas for themes.

To show your solidarity with COs from Turkey you can also follow WRI on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and share posts using the hashtags: #CODay2021, #COinTurkey. To support COs WRI are asking people to send an email to the Turkish Embassy. There is a template email available at <https://wri-irg.org/en/story/2021/co-day-2021-solidarity-conscientious-objectors-turkey>.

## Carbon Footprint of the Military: A few Facts

*The following information is excerpted primarily from Environmental Impacts of the Military Sector by Scientists for Global Responsibility. Download the full report at: <https://www.sgr.org.uk/publications/environmental-impacts-uk-military-sector>*

Global military sector's contribution to GHGs is usually not accounted for in national efforts to reach Net Zero. The UK Govt's recent [Environment Bill](#) explicitly exempts armed forces / defence / national security.

UK military-industrial sector emissions are greater than the direct CO2 emissions of 60 nations.

GHG emissions of UK military sector in 2018 – using the consumption-based approach – were approximately 11 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent aka the ‘carbon footprint’ which includes all lifecycle emissions, e.g. those arising abroad from raw material extraction. This is equivalent to total CO2 emitted by mileage driven by over six million UK cars.

Jet fighters, warships, troop movements and tanks consume vast quantities of fuel.

- F-35 fighter bombers get just 0.6 mpg
- Humvees get 4 – 6 mpg of diesel fuel - remember those from the Iraq war? (the US Army has 60,000)

“Force Projection” is main driver of military sector GHG emissions. Cutting the Military Carbon Footprint cannot be addressed through technological solutions because it is driven by the concept of force projection – the need to project power in order control and ensure access to resources, especially oil.

In the Budget the UK announced planned increases in military spending which will mean increases in activity: greater deployment of high-energy consuming vehicles, the Queen Elizabeth-class aircraft carrier seen here in the slide and featured in Boris Johnson’s Integrated Review steaming around the world on diesel fuel; expansion of overseas military bases and military exercises.

## **How the climate crisis causes and will increasingly lead to conflict**

*By Jane Tallents*

Throughout history wars have been fought over control of territory or valuable resources. Now already conflicts are triggered by competition for more basic human needs such as food, water and habitable land. As the climate crisis deepens this will only get worse unless we learn to co-operate rather than use military force.

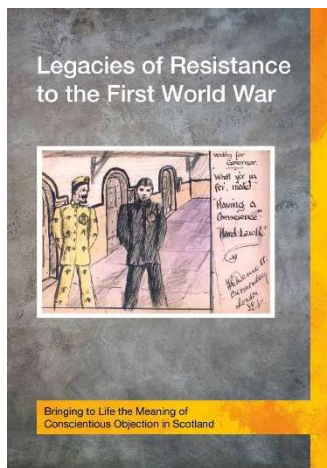
(food) The covid pandemic has brought home to many people in Scotland just how reliant we are on continual food imports to keep our supermarket shelves stocked. But as we had a less choice in our diets we need to remember that right now more than 10 percent of the world’s population is undernourished. As floods, drought, storms and other extreme weather events threaten to disrupt, and over time shrink, the global food supply we could see the richest countries using militaries to protect food supplies like they currently protect fossil fuels.

(water) The most intensive drought ever recorded in Syria lasted from 2006 to 2011. Water scarcity hit households, businesses and infrastructure, while in the countryside crops failed, livestock died, and entire families moved to the country’s cities. The subsequent eruption of civil war in 2011 led to as many as half a million deaths, as well as massive migration flows to neighbouring countries and

beyond. Syria's war has been a tragic illustration of the central, driving role that water insecurity can play in instability and conflict.

(land) An article in the New Scientist from March warns us that the tropics could become uninhabitable if we don't limit global warming to less than 1.5°C, the target set in the Paris Agreement. Above this, the equatorial region, which is home to around 43 per cent of the world's population, could see air temperatures increase beyond the limit that the human body can withstand. Together with people having to relocate due to sea level rises and increasing extreme weather events this pressure on inhabitable land will inevitably lead to conflict around the globe. <https://www.newscientist.com>

## Conchie - An extraordinary man



*By Brian Batson.*

*Brian was an adult learner on the WEA Scotland / P&J Legacies of*

*Resistance Course.*

*This new poem is inspired by the CO that he researched for the course. The*

*Legacies of Resistance book is available to download at [peaceandjustice.org.uk](http://peaceandjustice.org.uk) or from the P&J and is a resource for schools.*

You look like an ordinary man  
Stock still smile  
Watch the birdie  
One for the album  
A proud eighteen year old,  
A barber just like your Dad.

Before the panel stiff and funeral formal  
How did you feel  
When you said no  
No I won't go and kill others like me?

How did you feel when shouted at  
Bullied, insulted and hit?

How did you feel  
Stood stock still  
Naked in the razor cold  
The uniform you refused  
Folded at your feet?

How did you feel  
When told you were a coward  
To be shot at dawn?

How did you feel  
When stood stock still  
Before the firing squad  
And they did not shoot?

How did you feel  
Banged up for years  
For standing stock still  
Your beliefs intact

When you finally got home  
How did you feel  
Meeting others that had gone  
And remembered others  
That never came back?

So many questions for an ordinary man.  
Just one more before I fold you away  
What would I have done, do you think?

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