

PEACELINE



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Newsletter of London Region CND • Mordechai Vanunu House, 162 Holloway Road
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Focusing His Fire on the Middle East

On 12 June Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un held their summit meeting in Singapore. Kim agreed to the goal of the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. Trump suspended the 'provocative' war games the US stages in Korea, the largest in the world. Trump tweeted "everybody can now feel much safer. There is no longer a Nuclear Threat from North Korea". But then he extended the 10-year-old "national emergency" with an order which says that North Korea "continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States".

On the one hand Trump was bowing to the reality of a peace process led by the two Koreas themselves and which is out of his hands. On the other he was putting the issue on the back burner while he has other fish to fry.

On 9 May Trump announced that the United States was pulling out of the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran. He said this was because of "the regime's dangerous pursuit of nuclear weapons and the means of delivering them". He said that calling Iran's nuclear programme "peaceful" was the "giant fiction at the heart of the deal". He said "today, we have definitive proof that this Iranian promise was a lie.

Last week, Israel published intelligence documents conclusively showing [that Iran had] pursued nuclear weapons".

He echoed George W Bush's 2002 'Axis of Evil' speech which paved the way for war on Iraq. He said "if we do nothing, in just a short period of time, the world's leading state sponsor of terror will be on the cusp of acquiring the world's most dangerous weapons".

Iran's constantly repeated position is that it "has never pursued and will never pursue nuclear weap-

ons. The Islamic Republic considers the possession of nuclear weapons a grave sin and believes the proliferation of such weapons is senseless, destructive and dangerous".

It says eliminating nuclear weapons is an "urgent necessity and a universal demand". It has repeatedly backed the setting-up of a Middle East nuclear-weapons-free zone and has championed the treaty banning nuclear weapons which was agreed by the large majority of countries in 2017.

Iran signed a 'Safeguards Agreement' with the International Atomic Energy Agency in 1974. Under it IAEA inspectors have reported no diversion of Iran's nuclear facilities to producing nuclear weapons.

Iran calls the story of the "laptop of death", which is used to justify the charges against it, ludicrous.

But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been warning of the 'Iranian nuclear threat' for more than for 26 years. In 1992 he told the Israeli parliament that Iran was "3 to 5 years away" from having nuclear weapons. In 1995 he put that claim in his book. In 1996 he told the US Congress that the "catastrophic consequences for all of mankind" of Iranian nuclear weapons were "getting extremely close."

Friday 13 July

No to Trump's Visit!

Mon 6 – Thu 9

August

**Remember
Hiroshima and
Nagasaki**

See page 2

In the run-up to the Iraq war he switched to warning of 'the Iraqi nuclear threat'. He said there was "no question" that Iraq had a nuclear weapons programme. In 2002 he told the US Congress that this was highly advanced.

Iraq was invaded and set ablaze. No signs of nuclear weapons were found. Netanyahu returned to warning of the 'Iranian nuclear threat'.

In 2012 he went to the United Nations and drew a "clear red line" on a cartoon bomb which he said Iran must not be allowed to cross. In 2015 he told the United States Congress of the danger of "Iran's quest for nuclear weapons" saying that, like the Nazis, "Iran's regime poses a grave threat to the peace of the entire world".

For 50 years Israel has been the Middle East's only nuclear weapons state. And it claims the right to attack any other country in the region which it says is developing

them. In 1981 Israel bombed an Iraqi nuclear research reactor using that justification.

The UN Security Council, including the US and Britain, "strongly condemned" that attack "in clear violation of the Charter of the UN and the norms of international conduct" and called on Israel to open its nuclear facilities to international inspection. It hasn't.

The 2015 deal went ahead. Iran is one of 44 officially 'nuclear-capable' states. But it was singled out for "the most intrusive inspections regime ever agreed to" and the world's "most robust nuclear verification regime".

Iran plugged its heavy-water reactor with concrete and mothballed most of its centrifuges. Weapons inspectors declared it to be in full compliance with the agreement. Global sanctions were lifted.

Following the US pull-out from the deal the US Secretary of State said the Trump administration was pre-

paring to impose "the strongest sanctions in history" on Iran. It has already tightened some of them. In August it will curb Iran's purchase of dollars and sale of gold. From early November it will impose sanctions on anyone importing Iranian oil.

And if sanctions fail the 'military option' remains ever-ready. The combined military spending of the United States and its Middle East allies, especially Israel and Saudi Arabia, is 60 times that of Iran's.

Militarisation is key to Trump's agenda. As he told US Navy cadets on 25 May "We have begun the great rebuilding of the United States military. No money for the military? Those days are over. We have just secured the largest-ever amount of money to support our great war fighters. We will have the strongest military that we have ever had".

Jim Brann

No to Trump's Visit

Friday 13 July

Demonstration

Assemble 2pm

Outside the BBC Building

Portland Place

W1A 1AA

(Oxford Circus Tube)

Rally

5-7pm

Trafalgar Square

(Charing Cross Tube)

Remembering

Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Mon 6 – Thu 9 August

Monday August 6 • Noon-1pm • London CND Hiroshima commemoration in Tavistock Square with guest speakers Bruce Kent and Rebecca Johnson, opened by the Mayor of Camden and followed by a picnic and entertainment

Monday August 6 • 10am • Hiroshima and Nagasaki information stall in the Piazza, Westminster Cathedral, Victoria Street, SW1. Pax Christi.

Mon-Thu Aug 6-9 • International fast for nuclear disarmament in Embankment Gardens behind the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall

Thu Aug 9 • 7.30pm • Peace Walk from Westminster Cathedral to Peace Pagoda for dusk lantern-floating ceremony on Thames

In Memoriam: Isobel McHarg

Isobel McHarg died peacefully at the University Hospital Lewisham on 6th June aged 67.

She was a dedicated campaigner, CND Council member and Treasurer of London region CND for many years until ill health caught up with her. She was also a long-time member of the Nuclear Trains Action Group and before that of the Nuclear-Free Thames Campaign.

Kate Hudson, General Secretary of British CND said "Isobel was a determined and extremely positive campaigner. I have very happy memories of working with her and Pat Allen in my early years in Hackney and Islington CND."

Ann Garratt, Bromley CND secretary, said "Her dedication, courage and determination in her campaigning is an example for us all. She will be sorely missed".

David Leal recalls Isobel walking very slowly and determinedly to a flooding River Quaggy in torrential rain to throw chrysanthemums into it on Nagasaki Day, putting folk song requests to Jim Radford on Hiroshima Day and joining in - knowing all the words.

Isobel was a Scottish National Party supporter and one-time Treasurer of its London branch. Fraser Serle remembers her as "completely committed to the causes she supported ... always talking about the various demonstrations, meetings etc that were happening". John Green recalls her as "a party stalwart through some very difficult times for the party". David Nummey remembers her very well and helped her move from north London into her last home in Grove Park.



Isobel was an ardent Arsenal FC fan and season ticket holder. On one occasion her interests clashed when she was stuck in traffic going to a London CND meeting because Arsenal were playing Galatasaray at home!

Her funeral was on 27th June in Stranraer, Dumfries and Galloway. Ann Garrett represented CND. Isobel is survived by her mother Catherine.

Despite several bouts of ill health in recent years, she maintained her ironic good humour to the end, and will be missed by all.



Isobel McHarg

*Our CND campaigning colleague
has died*

*A vibrant Scottish SNP anti-
nuclear voice*

*A sharp scientific retentive mind,
Able to comment with insight and
acerbity*

*Treasurer of London Region CND
National Council member for
many years*

*This shrewd observer of world
events
leaves us all bereft*

*Struggling with poor eye sight,
she always found the energy to
rant and rage against injustice*

*An Arsenal addict, former
resident of Holloway,
She came to us in Grove Park
Not far from the Hither Green
railway sidings
Where nuclear trains once were
stationed,
on their hazardous route to
Sellafield*

*She was steadfast and strong
A firey beacon in the dangerous
darkness
of a nuclear obsessed world*

Ann Garrett Ashley; June 6th 2018

Coming Events

London CND Events

020 7607 2302

www.londoncnd.org.uk

Mon Aug 6 • Noon-1pm • Hiroshima commemoration in Tavistock Square with guest speakers Bruce Kent and Rebecca Johnson, opened by the Mayor of Camden and followed by a picnic and entertainment • **Thu Aug 9** • We will join commemorations from Westminster Cathedral to the London Peace Pagoda – see below

Local Group Events

Bromley

Sat Aug 4 • 12.00-3.00pm • Hiroshima vigil outside the Churchill Theatre, Bromley followed by procession of banners and placards and floating of chrysanthemums on a lake; **Thu Aug 9 • 1.30-3.30pm** • Nagasaki peace picnic in the Archbishop Tutu peace garden, Chinbrook Meadows, Grove Park with poems and statements; **Fri Sep 21 • 7.30-10.00pm** • Peace Day Event at Bromley Parish Church Rooms, Church Road, Bromley Ann Garrett 020 8460 1295 / anncgarratt@yahoo.com

Finchley

Sat Aug 11 • 11am • Hiroshima and Nagasaki ceremony by the commemorative cherry tree in Victoria Park, Ballards Lane N3. Info: Charles finchley@traknat.org.uk

Haringey

Mon Jul 16 • 7-9pm • Public Meeting: “World War One Conscientious Objectors in Haringey.” Speaker: Jennifer Bell MBE, Haringey WW1 Peace Forum. Followed by questions At Earl Haig Hall, 18 Elder Avenue N8 (bus W7 from Finsbury Park Station) davidtrpolden@gmail.com

Kingston

Mon Aug 6 • 8.30pm • Hiroshima commemoration; Canbury Gardens on the river bank. Bring white flowers and candles; 020 8399 5537 phillipjcooper@hotmail.com

Sydenham and Forest Hill

Mon Aug 6 • 6.00pm • Hiroshima Day commemoration in Charlton House Peace Garden, Peace St, Woolwich SE18 goteamgini@hotmail.com 020-8690 6117 • **Thu Aug 9:** See Bromley

Wimbledon

Fridays • 6-7pm • “Vigil for Peace” outside the library in St. Mark’s Pl • **Thu Jul 26 • 11am-3pm** • Collateral Damage: drop-in poppy-making workshop Merton Heritage Centre, Morden Library SM4 5DX • **Mon Aug 6 • 6.30pm** • Hiroshima Day commemoration on Wimbledon Common; candle-floating on Rushmere Pond, music and poetry. Joanna 020 8543 0362; www.wdc-cnd.org.uk

Other Events

Fri Jul 13 • Together Against Trump’s visit: **2pm** • Portland Place WC1 for March to Trafalgar Square • **5.30pm** • Rally Info: <https://www.facebook.com/events/176581893155207/>

Sun Jul 15 • 2.30pm • Concert for Peace: A recital by Syrian pianist Riyad Nicolas, including works by Scarlatti, Beethoven, Ravel, Schumann, Ligeti and Paganini-Liszt. Proceeds to UNHCR. Speaker: Catherine West, MP for Hornsey & Wood Green; At Rosslyn Hill Chapel NW3 1NG; Organised by Musicians for Peace and Disarmament; £15/£10 cash on the door or visit www.mpdconcerts.org

Tue Jul 17 • 10am • appeal by Maria Gallastegui against sentence for obstructing DSEI arms fair last September. At Snaresbrook Crown Court, 75 Hollybush Hill, London E11. Info: davidtrpolden@gmail.com

Thu Jul 19 • 7pm • “War to Windrush: Black Women in Britain, 1939 to 1948.” Speaker: Stephen Bourne. £3 redeemable against purchase. At Housmans Bookshop, 5 Caledonian Road, N1 9DX. 020-7837 4473 shop@housmans.com

Thu Jul 19 • 7pm • Meeting of Kick Nuclear and Nuclear trains Action Group at CND Office, 162 Holloway

Road N7. davidtrpolden@gmail.com

Sat Jul 28 • 2.30pm • “No More Arms Fairs at ExCel.” Musical Protest outside ExCel. From Prince Regent Docklands Light Railway Station follow the signs to ExCel. Info: www.elaaf.org

Mon Aug 6 • 10am • Hiroshima and Nagasaki information stall in the Piazza, Westminster Cathedral, Victoria Street, SW1. Org. Pax Christi.

Mon-Thu Aug 6-9 • International fast for nuclear disarmament in Embankment Gardens behind the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall, with vigils on Hiroshima and Nagasaki Days and protests near Parliament and Downing Street. Non-fasters welcome: Marc 07563-725 829

marcwmorgan@btinternet.com;

Thu Aug 9 • 7.30pm • Peace Walk from Westminster Cathedral to Peace Pagoda for dusk lantern-floating ceremony on Thames. 020-7228 9620 londonpeacepagoda@gmail.com

Regular events

Every Wed • 6-7pm • Women in Black silent vigil against militarism & war; Edith Cavell Statue, St Martin’s Pl WC2 wibinfo@gn.apc.org

Every Fri • 10am-12.30pm • Vigil in solidarity with Japanese activists against nuclear power; Outside Japanese Embassy, 101-104 Piccadilly. Green Park Tube **1-1.30pm** • Vigil at Tokyo Electric Power Company offices, 14-18 High Holborn (Chancery Lane tube); Info: David 020 7700 2393; www.kicknuclear.com

2nd weekend each month • Women’s peace camp at Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Factory; 07969 739 812; www.aldermaston.net

1st Sun each month • 10.55am • Walk in Peace; Slow, silent one-hour walk for peace; Speakers’ Corner café, Hyde Park (Marble Arch tube) Clare 020 8755 0353 walkinpeace@hotmail.com