

# TRIDENT NO MORE

The July 2006 update sheet from Trident Ploughshares, the campaign to disarm the UK Trident nuclear weapons system in a non-violent, open, peaceful and fully accountable manner.

## **BUILDERS STILL BEING BLOCKED**

Another blockade of Aldermaston, where the UK's new nukes are being developed, took place on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July. Campaigners gathered at AWE's Tadley and Home Office gates and carried out a number of actions which resulted in a musical road blockade, two lock-on blockades and a multi-faith action. The Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp held a women-only blockade

That morning police had informed some campaigners that they had imposed a Section 14 (Public Order Act 1986) notice, which places restrictions on demonstrations. Women who had participated in the musical road blockade, after being removed from the road, were surrounded by police and effectively penned in under the s14. Seven people will appear at Newbury magistrate's court on 21 July. –three others were cautioned

For next blockade see  
<http://www.blockthebuilders.org.uk/>

## **LOCK-ON AT COULPORT**

Following Gordon Brown's wrapping of himself in the Trident flag at the Lord Mayor's banquet, peace activists disrupted the morning shift at the Trident depot at RNAD Couplport on 27<sup>th</sup> June.

Micah and Roz managed to lock-on in front of the main gate, but Joe was grabbed by officers. Police directed worker traffic around one side of the pair in the road and after a while the two unlocked as they were told that the driver, who had been stopped by police, would be arrested and the vehicle impounded if they did not desist.

The police were handed a statement describing how Trident and any Trident replacement, will encourage global instability and proliferation.

## **TP IS ON THE RAILS**

On Friday 30 June Trident Ploughshares organised a nuclear trains day of action highlighting the transport by rail of the old, highly radioactive fuel rods from the Trident submarines being re-fitted in Devonport. They are taken almost the length of the country to Sellafield in Cumbria. We were out in force in Plymouth, Bristol, the West Midlands, the North West, and Glasgow (where the inter-city trains to Penzance which cover the same route start).

In Plymouth banners were hung around the station, and leaflets were given out. The Bristol group also gave out leaflets as people came into the station. In the West Midlands, they travelled on morning commuter trains between Wolverhampton and Stafford giving out leaflets to a captive audience. Travellers between Lancaster and Preston were also given leaflets. In Glasgow, leaflets were given to passengers boarding the morning Penzance trains, and leaflets were also put on the trains. Leaflets were readily accepted and read by passengers. Local newspapers have reported the story.

## **PEACE PIRATES AT DEVONPORT**

The Devonport camp was set up at Torpoint on 18<sup>th</sup> May. We were surprised at the number of local residents who were glad we were there and felt the camp was a good addition to the park. Lots of good discussions were had and even some ex-dockyard workers were quite sympathetic to our cause.

CND had been banned from having a float at the Lord Mayor's Parade on the Saturday so the TP group decided joining right in was required. We were joined by local young people who held our banner high. This colourful cohort of pirates, weapon inspectors, submarine and dedicated police escort followed us through town.



A boats had come down from Penzance for the camp sailed by Peter and Sarah.

A very good camp for networking and building support, and thanks to all who did brave the wild weather.

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## COMING UP . . .

### Trident Ploughshares Camp 29<sup>th</sup> July to 12<sup>th</sup> August at Peaton Wood, Couplport, Scotland

The Peaton Glen Wood campsite is about half a mile from the Couplport base, There is a grassy field at the roadside and beyond that beautiful mixed woodland. At the camp we carry out direct disarmament work at the Faslane and Couplport bases. It's also a time for strengthening our ability to work well together, for bringing new people into the campaign, for renewing our vision and commitment, and for good fun.

You do not have to be a Trident Ploughshares pledger to attend. So long as you are willing to abide by nonviolence you will be very welcome.

Full briefing on website:

[www.tridentploughshares.org](http://www.tridentploughshares.org)  
[info@tridentploughshares.org](mailto:info@tridentploughshares.org)  
08454588361

## 40 GROUPS TO BLOCKADE FASLANE

**Faslane 365** is the plan to disrupt the nuclear weapons base at Faslane continuously for a year, beginning on 1<sup>st</sup> October, as diverse groups contribute two days of blockading. So far 40 groups have signed up for a two-day slot but many more are needed.

Apart from accepting the non-violence guidelines and agreeing the basic demand (see below) it is up to groups to do the blockading as they see fit and to use the occasion to highlight their particular concerns, be it climate change, poverty, the arms trade, racism etc.

Trident Ploughshares actively supports the campaign and has chosen 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December as its blockading days.

[www.faslane365.org](http://www.faslane365.org)  
[info@faslane365.org](mailto:info@faslane365.org)  
08454588365

## FAIRFORD FOLK ON TRIAL

Trident Ploughshares pledgers Margaret Jones & Paul Milling, with Toby Olditch, Philip Pritchard and Josh Richards go on trial in Bristol Crown Court on 1<sup>st</sup> September (or shortly afterwards). In March 2003 they entered the RAF Fairford base and attempted to damage and immobilise

American B52 bombers later involved in the bombing of Baghdad.

On 29<sup>th</sup> March the English Law Lords ruled that despite a crime of aggression being illegal under international law, it is not a crime under UK law, so that defence has been removed from the accused.

At trial, the defendants may still be able use the defence of "lawful excuse", to argue from the Criminal Damage Act of 1971 that, in damaging support vehicles for B-52 bombers, or in breaking into Fairford air base to try and disable a plane, they were defending a "property, right or interest," (i.e. the people of Iraq) that they honestly believed was in need of protection.

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## PITSTOP PLOUGHSHARES TRIAL BEGINS

Trident Ploughshares pledger Karen Fallon, along with Nuin Dunlop, Damien Moran, Deirdre Clancy and Ciaran O'Reilly, are on trial in Dublin's Four Courts from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July.

Before the invasion of Iraq, they made their way into Shannon Airport and disarmed a U.S. navy war plane on February 3rd. 2003.

They have pleaded not guilty to the charge and if convicted face a maximum of 10 years in prison. The group admit the dismantling but claim they needed to damage the plane to prevent further damage being done in the Iraq war. The trial is expected to last about two weeks.

<http://www.peaceontrial.com/>

## INTERNATIONAL NATO COMPLAINT DAY 18TH-24TH NOVEMBER 2006:

Parallel to the NATO summit in Riga, Bomspotting is calling for an international complaint action to place the issue of nuclear weapons on the official agenda of NATO member states. The "Complaint Day", will involve groups of people around Europe to make an official complaint against their government's role in the illegal NATO nuclear weapons strategy, for example by filing a complaint at their local police station.

[http://bomspotting.be/en/novaction\\_en.php](http://bomspotting.be/en/novaction_en.php)