

# Peace By Peace

# FOR

Issue 2  
Autumn 2007

## Also inside

Nonviolence in Zimbabwe, Climate Change and the Military, New Resources, Peacemaking in Colombia and lots, lots more



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## What is FoR?

The Fellowship of Reconciliation began as a response to the challenge of the First World War. While opposing war and militarism it strives to promote those things which make for peace and justice, to build – in the words of our founders – ‘a world order based on love’.

Today FoR:

- Undertakes education work within the Christian and wider community on peace, war and nonviolence;
- Seeks to identify the causes of violent conflict and raises public awareness of them, encouraging supporters and the public to challenge the structures, policies and attitudes that lead to violent conflict
- Supports and affirms all those with a commitment to peace and nonviolence;
- Is committed to developing a spirituality of peace, justice and nonviolence in witness to Christian faith and gospel values.

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# Welcome

Welcome to the second issue of Peace by Peace. Thank you to everyone for the very positive feedback on our first issue – we are considering introducing a letters page so if you have any feedback on any of the articles in this issue, or for that matter on any issue relating to peacemaking or the Fellowship of Reconciliation – please do contact us by post or email.

In this issue we have an interview with Netsai Mushonga from FoR Zimbabwe. Netsai talks about why she is committed to nonviolent change within Zimbabwe and about her arrest by the Mugabe regime. She also talks about why its so important to tackle gender violence in her home country. We also have an eye-witness account of the work of the peace community of San Jose de Apartadó in Colombia from a recent visitor. The community is one of our International Peacemakers Fund partners and FoR USA also send volunteers to support this brave community who have rejected violence from all sides – government forces, left-wing guerillas and right wing paramilitaries.

Closer to home we preview a new report co-authored by FoR's Martha Beale on military research taking place in British universities; we look at the exciting work of a new initiative called Peace School, we examine the connection between war, militarism and climate change and review some new peace resources. Our Comment piece this issue is by Fr Martin Newell who urges people to come to the protests planned for the massive DSEI arms fair in his local neighbourhood – the east end of London – in mid-September.

Over the autumn and winter FoR is beginning work on a new strategic plan to take our work forward over the next few years. FoR has gone through many different phases and undertaken much work in its 90 year history. From challenging two world-wars and conscription at the beginning of the twentieth century, speaking out against the evils of nuclear weapons from the day of the bombing of Hiroshima; supporting nonviolent liberation and civil-rights movements around the world in the 50's and '60 and undertaking peace education work and supporting peacemakers more recently. Today, in our broken and war-torn world there is much peace and reconciliation work to be done. How best can we as an organisation and as indivudal members and supporters respond with the



resources that we have? I would be very interested to hear your views and ideas on what FoR should be to build peace and justice in our world over the next few years. Please do contact me here at the FoR office.

**Chris Cole, FoR Director**

## Pass it on

**Once again we are distributing Peace by Peace magazine free of charge in order to reach as many people as possible. If you would like additional copies for friends, other church members or colleagues (within the UK) please do let us know.**

# Keeping the fire of nonviolence burning in Zimbabwe

## An interview with Netsai Mushonga

Netsai Mushonga was born in 1969 in Bindura, Zimbabwe. In 1996 Netsai joined the Fellowship of Reconciliation in Zimbabwe, and in 1997 she started the women peacemakers program of FORZ. She works as a social worker for young people with disabilities. Netsai is a member of the International Committee of International Fellowship of Reconciliation. Chris Cole from FoR England interviewed Netsai at a recent IFoR meeting.

### Can you tell us about your family background and growing up in Zimbabwe?

I was born in 1969 and grew up in rural Zimbabwe. I was the fourth child – the fourth girl in a row – in a family of six girls and two boys, so when I came along I guess my parents weren't too pleased about having me, so my name actually means 'trouble!' (laughs).

Growing up in the rural areas was difficult because you have to fetch water, firewood, you have to make fires for cooking, there is so much for the girl to do. The traditional roles was still practised – the girl does a lot, and the boys usually don't do much. When I was about 7, one of my brothers was born, there was so much celebration, the mood was so happy that finally a boy had come, and I could see it in my father's face. So I grew up with lots of questions about issues of gender discrimination, gender equality, the unequal treatment of the boys and the girls.

Also I remember when I was about 10 years old, one of my cousins was beaten to death by her husband. I remember was that she was a cheerful woman and she liked me. I heard that she had passed away and my mother said she was beaten up by her husband, and after he beat her up he refused anyone permission to come and help. After two days she passed away. Somehow I thought someone would call in the police and something would be done, but nothing really was done. I remember when my parents came back from the funeral they said the man had been made to pay a cow to the family, and afterwards they gave

him another woman, a young woman. It happened a long time ago, but it still makes me very angry.

The time I grew up was also the time of the liberation struggle, it was quite a vicious war. The black guerrilla fighters were literally living with the people, and the soldiers were coming and trying to sniff them out, so it seemed that the people were in the middle of the struggle. The guerrillas would come and demand food, and the



support of the people. At the same time the soldiers would come and demand information about the movements of the guerrillas. In my village at one point there was a group of about 15 unruly guerrillas who came and stayed. They would demand that nice food be prepared for them, and in the night they would demand girls to sleep with them. In the end the soldiers from the Smith regime got to know that this was happening, so one morning, we were bombed and the soldiers came. 22 people were killed in my village during that period, we were so scared. I was 6 at the time. So that's my background as far as war is concerned. I grew up with the gender and the war situation.

### Can you say a little about the work you do now?

I joined FoR in 1997 – I just came across an issue of the International FoR magazine Reconciliation International,



and it made a lot of sense. It talked about the elimination of domestic violence and it talked about nonviolent civil protest. Instead of fighting wars, it talked about the abolition of war, the abolition of nuclear weapons, and it made a lot of sense to me. So I made contact with the Zimbabwe branch and found out they were already doing election monitoring and nonviolence training. I joined and soon suggested that we should look at issues affecting women and dealing with them as issues of peace. At first people said "But what does gender have to do with peace? It's not really an issue." So the next time, we had a meeting I brought lots of literature on domestic violence. I asked them to go and read it. I said "If you think it's not a peace issue then we can discuss that in our next meeting." They then said, "Yes, if anyone is suffering, even in private sphere any form of violence then that's an issue of peace."

So I got other women together and we started developing the programme on gender based violence. Our first work was with the church community but now we go beyond that. What we find is that on the first day there is a lot of resistance from the men (laughs!). At times you also become angry because you can see the way these people are talking, they are abusers in their private life. If we see there is a big male audience, we invite a male trainer to come in because he helps a lot with the men. If another man is

saying it, it has more credibility than if a woman is saying it.

We also discovered that Zimbabwe is a country that has been living with violence for a long time - from 1890 which was when the white people came. All during colonialism there was trouble between the government and the population. Even the liberation was attained through a bitter war, so we have a very strong culture of violence.

After Operation Murambatsvina ('Clean up rubbish' - when Mugabe destroyed thousands of 'illegal' homes and businesses in urban areas) last year many people started calling for weapons to fight the regime. Hence then the need to build a capacity of nonviolent resistance in the population and we thought we could do that really well, by targeting the leaders in civic society, church leaders, women's leaders, and so on and bring them together to raise awareness of the issue of violence, the history of violence, in our country, the lack of justice and the lack of reconciliation. We talk about the six principles of nonviolence from Martin Luther King, the meaning of nonviolence, the mobilising techniques you can use. We also look at the issue of fear that so pervades the Zimbabwean population today, there is so much fear of confronting the Mugabe regime, because they have been militarised for such a long time, they have brutalised the population with any small opportunity they get, they make sure they descend so heavy on the population.

**There have been consequences of the training for you, do you want to talk about that?**

Yes, I was picked up by the police, they weren't happy that we'd mentioned the culture of violence in Zimbabwe.

**Do you think there was an informer in the training, someone who reported what was going on?**

Yes, definitely there was an informer in the training, and later they went and informed the police about the training that had taken place. So at first the police started by phoning up the people who had participated in the training. One pastor had committed himself to doing something about the violence in his community. His community has gone on and protested against the lack of services from the city council, even when the council continues to collect money from them. That's when they closed me in for two days, but they really couldn't charge me with anything. When I got inside there was a group of women who had been arrested on the same day, they had done a protest in another small town. When I said I was coming in because I was arrested, they started clapping and

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# Study War No More: Nottingham's Secrets

This autumn the Fellowship of Reconciliation and Campaign Against Arms Trade will be publishing 'Study War No More', a research project examining military funding of research and development in UK universities. In a sneak preview of the report, Martha Beale looks at one of the universities examined, and what the report's data reveals.

The University of Nottingham is pretty standard when it comes to universities across the UK. It has a good academic record, and is popular with students who want to study and play hard. Nottingham also has good prospects, and is a member of the Russell Group the prestigious association of research-intensive universities which boasts of securing "65% of UK Universities' research grant and contract income".<sup>1</sup> But for many students, a university's reputation isn't enough: they want to know more about where the university's money is coming from, and the often unacknowledged influences on their education. Study War No More looks in detail at twenty-six universities from across the UK, including the twenty members of the Russell Group, revealing the extent of their links with military organisations, and the influence of these companies on campus. Data on each of the universities has been collected from a wide range of sources including Freedom of Information (FoI) requests, university websites, annual reports, financial statements, newspapers, press releases, and many others.

The research has revealed that between 2001 and 2006 the University of Nottingham has received a minimum of

around forty different contracts for research and development from military organisations across its departments, which include Nottingham's Institute of Engineering, Surveying and Space Geodesy, School of Mathematical Sciences, Innovative Manufacturing Research Centre, and George Green Institute. These contracts are for varying time periods, and values which range from £15,000 to almost £10 million. The military organisations discussed in the report are private companies or government departments who dedicate a significant amount of their work to the design, development, production and/or selling of weapons. At the University of Nottingham R&D funders include BAE Systems, the 4th largest arms company in the world, and the biggest within the UK, Rolls Royce, QinetiQ, and many more.<sup>2</sup>

## Universities focused on:

Belfast  
Birmingham  
Bristol  
Cambridge  
Cardiff  
Cranfield  
Durham  
Edinburgh  
Glasgow  
Hull  
Imperial  
Kings College, London  
Leeds  
Liverpool  
Loughborough  
London School of Economics  
Manchester  
Newcastle  
Nottingham  
Oxford  
Sheffield  
Southampton  
Swansea  
Univeristy College, London  
Warwick  
York



A Nottingham University physics student who has been shown the data said, "I was surprised by how much there was going on" before continuing to admit "most of the team don't consider it military research and certainly haven't thought through the

consequences of it in that context." Study War No More aims to contribute to the growing awareness and concern for transparency and accountability within university research and development. It seeks to challenge the secrecy which has traditionally surrounded military research and development, so that future generations of students can make informed choices about their education, and how it is provided.

# FoR youth events

However, the current reality is that while trying to cover as many sources of information as possible, Study War No More is certain not to have revealed the complete extent of military funding within many of the universities. Tim Street, one of the authors of the report, said “Study War No More will act as a foundation document: providing data which students can develop; use as a base for discussions on ethics and accountability; and as a base for student campaigns. We aim for the report to develop into a self-updating record of military funding of research and development within UK universities.”

Study War No More will be published in the autumn. To learn more about what it reveals, and details of funding provided to a university in your region and to know how the campaign is developing, visit <http://www.for.org.uk/swnm>.

**See [www.for.org.uk/yjn](http://www.for.org.uk/yjn) or email [martha@for.org.uk](mailto:martha@for.org.uk) for coming events**

1 “The Russell Group”. The Russell Group Website.

<http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/index1.html>. 19 December 2006.

2 “World Top 10 Arms Companies, 2004”. Campaign Against Arms Trade.

<http://www.caat.org.uk/issues/facts-figures/top-world-cos.php>. 7 June 2007.



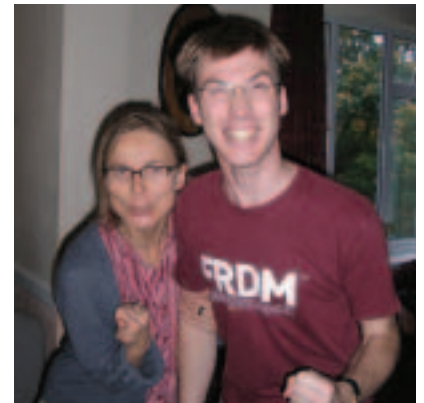
Working together



Different perspectives



Interfaith dialogue



Igniting passions



Heated debates



Having fun

For details of FoR youth events please see [www.for.org.uk/yjn](http://www.for.org.uk/yjn)

# Ten Years of Peace, Ten

The Peace Community of San Jose de Apartadó Celebrates its 10th Birthday

FoR branches in the US and the UK work to support a small peace community in Colombia which, following the assassination of its community leaders in 1997, rejected violence, agreed to farm co-operatively and committed not to co-operate with any parties involved in armed conflict. Earlier this year, Pete Bearder from the Colombia Solidarity Movement visited the community and its 10th anniversary celebrations.

It is the 23rd March, and in the searing heat of Colombia's banana growing region of Uraba, a procession of 170 people descend from the mountains to the town of Apartadó. Completing the four hour walk are international solidarity activists, supporters from across Colombia and proud campesino families marking their tenth anniversary of resistance - the peace community of San Jose de Apartadó.

On arriving in the town over a hundred cardboard coffins were placed at the gates of the cemetery and then the office of local justice in a powerful act of symbolism. Written on the coffins were the names of the assassinated. Some bore the dates of the recent massacre of September 2006. The surprise march of remembrance was a brave move by the community. Whilst police took photos from the periphery, plain clothes members of the army and likely a few civilian informants infiltrated the crowd. The message however was delivered loud and clear: we are still here, we will not forget and we want justice. Walking back from the town the procession hammered crosses on trees that marked the location of murdered compañeros.

In February 1997, paramilitary forces entered San Jose claiming guerilla involvement. They closed down the market, ordered the community to

displace and murdered four of its leaders. On March 23rd they declared themselves a peace community. In doing so they removed themselves from the grasp of armed groups that militarize and exploit their society. In ten years San Jose has suffered 35 new assassinations - 33 of these by paramilitaries and the Colombian army and 2 by FARC guerillas. To date the Government maintains these crimes in total impunity.

Around one hundred visitors came to express their support and participate in the week of events, workshops and talks from community leaders and Colombian human rights NGOs. "We live in the age of the globalization of violence", said one German delegate in a message of solidarity, "your community shines a light on the path to peace". In equal number were members of other Colombian communities. Some belonged to the embryonic national network of 21 peace communities. One young farmer came from a community that was considering following San Jose's example. One-by-one they stood up and told of the requisitioning of their lands, the dislocation of their way of life by war and their attempts to construct alternatives to cycle of violence that subjugates them.

By far the largest perpetrators of these crimes are Colombia's right

wing paramilitary death squads. Throughout their 15 year history they have committed around 14,000 human rights abuses including 3,300 homicides against civil society: trade unionists, indigenous groups, politicians, judges, journalists, human rights defenders, peasants and social movements. According to one leaked Government report they are also responsible for at least 40% of drug trafficking in the country. The recent para-politica or 'Para-Gate' scandal involving the Government of Alvaro Uribe (a recipient of British military aid) serves only to further expose the use of paramilitarism as an instrument of state terror.

Their economic power has grown in strength alongside their involvement with transnational mega-projects and the displacement of over 3.5 million Colombians. In March this year, Chiquita fruit brands (formerly United Fruit Company) agreed to pay a fine of \$25 million to the US Department of Justice for financing the AUC paramilitary organization between 2001 and 2004. Chiquita are one of the largest trans-national corporations operating in San Jose's Uraba region where the level of internally displaced persons is comparable to that of Rwanda.

Today the tentacles of para-state violence in Uraba stretch further than ever. Community members recount tactics such as planting

# Years of Impunity



Children play outside FoR's office in Colombia

camouflage on the corpses of their victims and passing them off as insurgents. Another is the active encouragement of coca production amongst peasants with the end of using this as an excuse for the seizure of their land. In recent years, Government amnesties have served only to re-construct paramilitary activity. Many groups have reformed under new names such as Aguillas Negras or Black Eagles. Human rights groups worldwide also condemn the controversial Justice and Peace Law (2005) which offers death squads virtual immunity from justice. The peace community stands at the forefront of social movements actively campaign against this policy of impunity.

The community serves to illustrate that in Colombia, as in Chile and elsewhere, society cannot move forward silently in peace under a state that maintains an absence of truth and reconciliation. The National Movement of the Victims of State Crimes looks beyond the apparatus of state justice with bodies such as the Inter American Court of Human Rights. It has created an Ethics

Commission made up of 25 international and 5 national members. Over 10 years it will document testimonies, animate it in the public consciousness and create proposals for justice and reparation.

On a grassroots level, popular tribunals encourage political participation and clarification of the facts. It has become necessary to unite diverse sectors of social, ethnic and political groups in Colombia preserve la memoria and prevent further para-state genocide. "We are all sons and daughters of the victims" were the words of the movement leader Ivan Cepeda Vargas, who came to speak at the anniversary.

In San Jose la memoria is a living, daily reality and is central to their sense of identity and autonomy. Plans are currently underway to construct a new park of commemoration in the town. Aside from the therapeutic effect of remembrance, the act of reconstructing the past gives vitality to the present struggle for justice. In this sense la memoria and la resistencia are two sides of the same coin.

## FoR Office in Colombia Attacked

On June 2nd, the FOR office in Bogotá Colombia was robbed and human rights records were stolen. FOR's two central computers were stolen which contain the organisation's records, including information on the accompaniment of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó. Recently, FOR has worked on delicate issues such as the May 13th murder of a member and ex-leader of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, Francisco Puerta; the use of demobilized combatants in army operations; and the presence of and threats by paramilitaries in the San José de Apartadó district

Please write to the Colombian Embassy in London to express your concern about this attack on peace work in Colombia. Write to His Excellency Dr Carlos Eduardo Medellín Becerra at Flat 3A, 3 Hans Crescent, London SW1X 0LN. Alternatively you can send an email to: [mail@colombianembassy.co.uk](mailto:mail@colombianembassy.co.uk)

As the community enters its second decade, it is building new bridges of solidarity and seeking new paths to justice. They continue to be vocal in linking their struggle to the fight against the impunity of state terror. Their bravery in doing so continues to inspire Uraba, Colombia and indeed the World. The challenge is nothing less than to create a peaceful reality in a country where violence and amnesia is a prevailing norm.

For more information visit, [www.cdpsanjose.org](http://www.cdpsanjose.org) (español) or [www.forcolombia.org](http://www.forcolombia.org) (english)

# For Peace, Say No to the Arms Fair

In September the East End of London will once again be the place to be seen by the 'Masters of War' as one of the world's largest arms fairs – the Defence Systems and Equipment International Exhibition (DSEi) – comes to town. Every two years the Excel Centre in the heart of the Docklands hosts the fair which brings together salesmen from the worlds largest arms companies with buyers from armed forces from around the world all carefully facilitated by our governments own arms department, the Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO). Many organisations including the Fellowship of Reconciliation and Campaign Against Arms Trade have been campaigning to close DESO down and end its push of weapons around the world.

I live in a Catholic Worker community here in Newham a relatively short distance from the ExCel Centre. We have a House of Hospitality which opens its doors to just a tiny fraction of those who need refuge from the world's conflicts. According to the World Health Organisation, the number of refugees fleeing from conflict has dramatically increased over the past 30 years from 2.5m in 1970 to almost 25m in the late 1990's. Since the invasion of Iraq this number will have increased of course. And it ignores those who have not fled their country but are merely internally displaced within their own countries - about 22m people. This increase corresponds with the dramatic rise of the modern arms trade since the late 1960s.

So we had some very personal reasons for vigilling every week for a year outside the HQ of Reed Elsevier – who have been running DSEi – until they announced they are pulling out of the arms trade. And we will have some very personal as well as principled reasons for our presence and witness at this years DSEi, too.

Here at the Catholic Worker, we have a completely different vision and practise of peace and security than that which underpins the DSEi arms fair. We believe that peace and security comes not through fear and mistrust of neighbour but rather through openness, hospitality and love of neighbour. We practise voluntary poverty, works of mercy and manual labour. But it is not enough as Dietrich Bonhoeffer said "to help the victims who have fallen under the wheel" we also need to "put a spoke in the wheel itself" and that is why we are committed to undertaking nonviolent action to stop the war machine.

At the last arms fair here in Newham in 2005, torture equipment including electric-shock batons, stun guns and leg irons – all of which are banned for export under British law – were on show alongside other weapons. The UK government invited countries with appalling human rights records such as China, Saudi Arabia and Colombia to shop for these weapons at the event. That is why I and many others will be taking part in the nonviolent protests at the DSEi arms fair. We have to say a clear 'No' to the push of weapons around the world and to a philosophy that builds international security on the threat and practise of injury, death and destruction. And we have to say a clear 'Yes' to a vision of peace and security built on the practice of love and justice. **Fr Martin Newell is a Passionist Priest who lives and works in the East End of London.**

The DSEi Arms Fair takes place between 11–14 September 2007 in Docklands, London. For details of protests see [www.caat.org.uk](http://www.caat.org.uk)



**Transforming Peace  
Conflict by Peace**

**How can we transform the world around us? What is conflict transformation? And how does it apply to our daily life?**

The Fellowship of Reconciliation's Called to be Peacemakers Conference is a residential weekend for 18 to 30 (ish) year olds who want to be challenged, gain practical skills and meet others who share their concern for peace. Places are only £40 before 1st Oct. Bursaries & subsidised places are available. Please come join us!

For more details call 01865 748 796  
email [martha@for.org.uk](mailto:martha@for.org.uk) or visit  
[www.for.org.uk](http://www.for.org.uk)

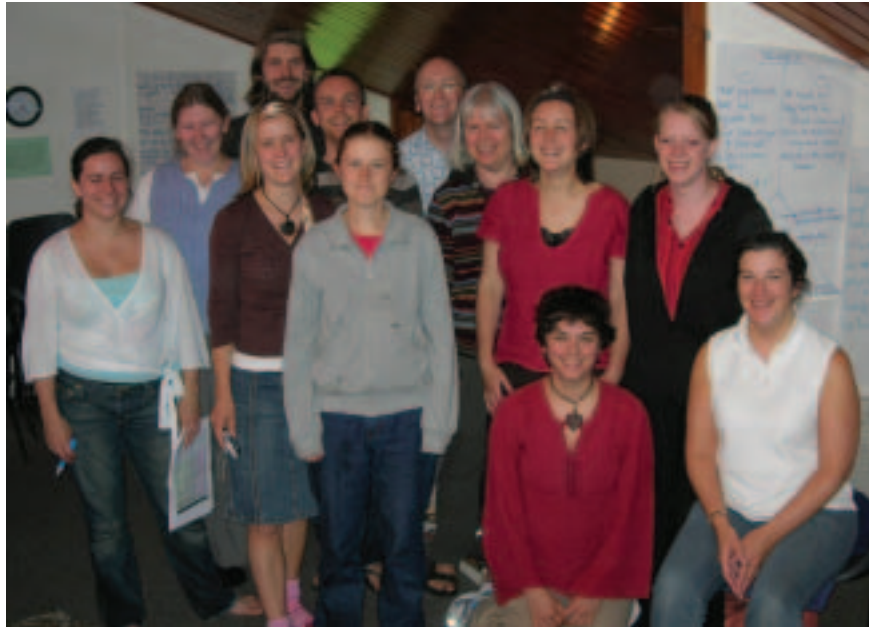
**Called to be 26-28  
Peacemakers Oct 2007**

# Activists Graduate From Peace School

For the past two years, FoR has been supporting Peace School, a new initiative exploring what it means to be a peacemaker in our world today.

The emphasis of Peace School is on creating a community of peacemakers to support and encourage each other. The year-long programme is focused on a 10-day summer school and three residential weekends spread throughout the year. Peace School co-ordinator Jon Dorsett says "Peace School is very much a community of learning; the residential are the gathered times of the community, with the initial summer school a time of building relationships as much as a time of learning and discussion. The weekends bring the community back together again to reflect on, learn from, and support one another on our own journeys." Peace School continues throughout the year through a number of different formats including web-based interaction, exercises, group reflection and mentoring.

Peace School's study of peace is focused on the exploration of the biblical understanding of peace as 'Shalom'. Jon explains "The English word 'peace' is too often taken to simply mean the absence of conflict; shalom on the other hand is a positive term denoting the creation of something good and complete, not merely the absence of something bad." Peace School suggests that 'shalom' unites the whole of life in one all embracing concept. Rather than 'peace activists' then, Peace School is producing 'shalom activists'. "Shalom activist" was coined by Noel Moules, founder of



Some of the participants in Peace School

Workshop, as an alternative description of 'pacifist' and 'nonviolent activist' which some people see as passive or negative whereas 'shalom activism' is a positive, assertive, disturbing and active statement of intent" says Jon.

**'Peace School is a voyage of discovery to the root of what it means to live as, and to be, a Shalom Activist.'**

The Peace School programme focuses on a number of areas grouped under four exploration areas: Principles and Strategies; Creativity and Expression; Theology and Values and finally, Spirituality and Character, each of which are in turn rooted in and connected through Stories of God, Us and Creation.

Peace School is open to people from all backgrounds and participants do not need to have any prior qualifications, or experience of peacemaking. Instead what's needed is a willingness to journey together to a deeper understanding of peace and justice and how that relates to people's individual life's and the lives of those around. The philosophy of Peace School is that everyone has experience of being peacemakers whether they recognise it as such or not, and each person's thoughts, experiences and reflections will be a valued part of the joint exploration into what it means to be a shalom activist.

In keeping with the values of Peace School, there is no fixed fee for participating in the year long course. Instead participants are asked to reflect on what the costs of running

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# Resources

## Remembrance For Today: Remembering War, Making Peace

A new resource is now available for those seeking material to use at Remembrance time, which emphasises the need to prevent war, not celebrate it. 'Remembrance For Today - remembering war, making peace,' is a booklet produced by the Movement for the Abolition of War, containing a variety of readings, reflections, prayers, songs, liturgies, poems. The material includes both religious and secular items (some of the material comes from FOR's catalogue of worship resources!)

Edited by Christine Titmus of MAW, and with a foreword by General Sir Hugh Beach, the 40 page A5 booklet is available from MAW for £3 per copy plus £1 p&p (reduction for bulk orders).

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Send your order to MAW Publications Office, 1 Thesinger Road, Abingdon, Oxford OX14 2DY. Telephone Christine on 01767 651136 for further information, or email her at [Christine.Titmus@abolishwar.org.uk](mailto:Christine.Titmus@abolishwar.org.uk).

## Peacemakers: An Education and Action Pack

Peacemakers is a new education and action pack from Feed the Minds containing a DVD, photographic exhibition booklet and guide booklet. The DVD contains music, photographs, a documentary exploring peacemaking at home and abroad and a number of 'hard-hitting viral clips'. Feed the Minds say the pack is aimed at breaking down a

climate of fear, suspicion and division following the July 7th bombings in London and to help people see through community stereotypes. The accompanying booklet for educators containing lots of activities suitable for children and adults which can be used in a formal or informal setting on the same theme.

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Peacemakers is available for £12.99 (a discount is available for community groups) from the website [www.peacemakers.tv](http://www.peacemakers.tv) or by calling 08451 212102.

## Refusing to Kill

While millions killed and died at the height of the First World War, sixteen thousand men in Britain stood up for the right to

refuse to kill other human beings. They believed there were better ways to deal with disputes than the slaughter of war. Many suffered terrible human rights abuses for their beliefs.

Refusing to Kill follows the story of conscientious objectors through the First World War. From the moment they received call-up papers to the day they were released from prisons, army units and work camps they faced personal dilemmas, violence, humiliation and hardship. But they were admired by many.

Original letters, court-martial statements, diaries, documents and poetry bring their dramatic story of



resistance to life. Ideal material for History, Citizenship and English at Key Stages 3 and 4. A free Activity CD (Key Stages 3 and 4) is available for teachers and students. In addition to Questions & Activities based on Refusing to Kill, the CD includes Teachers' Notes, National Curriculum links, the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights (full and simple version), a play script of a Tribunal hearing for use in English and Drama, plus copies of original documents from the First World War.

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Refusing to Kill is available from the Peace Pledge Union 1 Peace Passage, London N7 0BT tel 020 7424 9444 Price £15.00

## Stop the DSEI Arms Fair: 11-14th September

Once again the world's largest arms companies will be gathering in London's East End to show off their wares to military buyers from around the world. Many groups will be organising in various ways to protest the continued push of arms around the world. For details see [www.caat.org.uk](http://www.caat.org.uk) or [www.dsei.org](http://www.dsei.org). Also see Comment on page 10.

## Peacemaker Briefings: Iran; West Papua; Zimbabwe

Peacemaker Briefings are short and simple briefings which provide an analysis of a situation or conflict, as well as recommending further resources and opportunities for activism. So far FoR has produced Peacemaker Briefings on Iran; West Papua and our last covers the growing conflict in Zimbabwe. All three Peacemaker Briefings are available on our website and are emailed out when produced. If you would like to receive notice when they are published please email [martha@for.org.uk](mailto:martha@for.org.uk) or contact the office.

# Take My Breath Away

## Top Guns and Climate Change

Climate change has become a real hot topic this year with both government and the private sector keen to get us as individuals to take personal responsibility for reducing climate change. Whilst it is perhaps easier for us as individuals to recycle or to buy more organic and locally produced food, government and industry also needs to seriously address the issue of climate change and not leave it all up to consumers.

Before taking up my current post at Friends of the Earth I worked at the Fellowship of Reconciliation for almost a year and during this time I began looking into the connections between militarism and climate change and would suggest this is an area where green and peace campaigners could work together. In my research I have explored increasing militarism as both a cause and consequence of climate change and would suggest that military flights, like commercial flights, deserve our scrutiny, particularly as they are rarely included in official figures or in international agreements on climate change. This has been a fascinating journey of discovery and a fuller briefing will be available from the FoR website in the near future.

### Emissions Flying High

The aviation industry is highlighted as a key actor in accelerating climate change because it's the fastest-growing source of greenhouse gases and there is no technological fix.<sup>1</sup> Government figures show that in 2005 aviation accounted for 13% of total UK climate change damage.<sup>2</sup> However according to Airport Watch an umbrella organisation uniting environmental and community groups resisting airport expansion, this is an understatement as it is based only on flights departing the UK. If return flights are factored in to the calculation, the figure would be nearer 20%.<sup>3</sup> Another reason to focus on aircraft emissions is that they have a greater warming effect because they are released at altitude. Even conservative estimates calculated by the Government put the total cost of aviation's climate change impacts at £69.5 billion for the period 2000-2060. Whilst commercial flights have come under a lot of scrutiny, military flights have yet to receive the same level of examination.



Follow that trail!

The military are large emitters of carbon dioxide. According to Scientists for Global Responsibility the UK military as a whole was responsible for 5 million tonnes in 2006. A Ministry of Defence report from 2005 suggests that the "current best estimates of emissions [from the RAF] ... would equate to 2,220,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide".<sup>4</sup> The report from the Royal Commission On Environmental Pollution into aircraft emissions in late 2002 stated that "The performance requirements of military aircraft suggest that, compared to civil aircraft, they are likely to produce proportionately more emissions of some climate-changing pollutants, oxides of nitrogen in particular."

As well as military aircraft, jet fuel is now used for armoured vehicles, on the basis that battlefield logistics are aided by a uniformity of fuel for army helicopters and tanks. The use of jet fuel for military purposes depends on the level of war activity which has been exceptionally high over the last decade.<sup>5</sup>

In 2001 hijackers turned a commercial aeroplane into a weapon of war in the attacks on the World Trade Centre. This horrific act reminded us of the original military purpose of the aeroplane. (When Wilbur Wright was asked, in 1905, what the purpose of his machine might be, he answered simply, "War".) When it comes to climate change however, even military aeroplanes that are not dropping bombs become weapons of destruction. The World Health Organisation concluded that up until 2000, 150,000 deaths have been caused by climate change and noted that deaths will increase in the future.<sup>6</sup>

Ironically, whilst Tom Cruise flies combat aircraft in the Hollywood blockbuster, 'Top Gun', 80's band Berlin sing 'Take My Breath Away'. If we want to make a real impact on climate change we do have to do what we can at a personal level but we also have to ensure that major producers of carbon emissions - like the military - are also challenged. Indeed, to build a peaceful and sustainable world for everyone - not just those in the west - we have to tackle militarism and climate change together.

Maud Grainger

(Notes continued on page 14)

## Netsai. Continued from page 5

welcoming me. The support of these women was really good and helped me on that first day when I was still in shock. Everyone was saying to me that I didn't look like someone who would come to prison!

### How was it for your family?

I have two children, fortunately one was away so there was only one at home. In fact she wasn't told. She is nine years, she is very close to me. So when I go to trips, I usually explain to her way in advance that I will be away for such a long time. So when I got arrested, my husband told her that I had to go for a trip very suddenly, and she didn't believe it. She could also sense how sad her father was and she concluded that I had a terrible accident, and maybe that I had died or had become really seriously sick. When I came out of prison and I heard that, it was really terrible. It was the most sad of all the jail experience, to know that she had been in so much pain.

### With this work we get inspired and we want to change the world, but often it's hard and it wears us down. What keeps you going?

Like I said I grew up in a war situation and I think just those experiences have given me a very strong conviction that there has to be justice in our community. We have to drop the culture of hating one another or resorting to war or violence when things get tough. So my wish is actually for the women's movement, the peace movement to just grow and really be there for everyone to see. Do people want to fight or do they want peace? I think many people will chose to live peacefully. We have lived through many wars and we have seen what war does to populations. The resources that war uses up can be used for so many other good things. Young men go into the military and their minds are turned around into machines, that's not good for our society. So I think that conviction that we need peace at all levels in our society just keeps me going. I think that one day we will strike the very right chord, and we will have so many people talking about peace and nonviolence we will realise our dream. Maybe it won't happen in our life time, but we keep the fire burning.

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FoR England's latest Peacemaker Briefing focuses on the current situation in Zimbabwe and is available on our website: [www.for.org.uk](http://www.for.org.uk). You can support the work of FoR Zimbabwe through our International Peacemakers Fund. See back cover for details.

## Peace School. Continued from page 11

Peace School are (at the moment about £800 per person) and to pay more or less according to their means. Donations towards covering the cost of someone participating in Peace School are of course always welcome

Peace School finds inspiration from all Christian traditions and endeavours to nurture a 'one church' understanding. While the programme is rooted in a Christian understanding of shalom, and explores shalom activism from a Jesus-centred Christian perspective, it aims to provide a friendly and welcoming environment for people from any background or faith.

The first intake of Peace School are just coming to the end of their year long course and will soon graduate. It will be some time yet before we know what the impact of this new generation will be but seeds have been planted and we look forward to the harvest.

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For more details or to register for the next intake for Peace School, contact Jon Dorsett at Peace School, 4 Park Avenue, Pudsey, Leeds, LS28 7TE or call 0113 257 4572. Alternatively visit their website: [www.peaceschool.org.uk](http://www.peaceschool.org.uk)

## Flights. Continued from page 13

1 Flights reach record levels despite warnings over climate change Wednesday May 9, 2007; The Guardian

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,,2075288,00.html> David Adam, environment correspondent

2 Answer to Parliamentary Question 2 May 2007. This figure includes the greater damage done by aircraft emissions at high altitude (the radiative forcing effect), but excludes the damage caused by the formation of cirrus clouds.

3 The method of calculation adopted by the government is to count emissions caused by all aircraft departing from UK airports. But 70% of passengers using UK airports are UK citizens, and it is more logical to say that the UK should be responsible for their outward and inward flights, but not to count any flights by foreign nationals

<http://www.airportwatch.org.uk/#CO2%20emissions>

4 Ministry of Defence, 2005 Sustainable Development Report, Operational Delivery: Section 3.3, pg 20.

<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/WhatWeDo/HealthandSafety/DSC/SustainableDevelopmentAnnualReport2005.htm>

5 <http://www.after-oil.co.uk/runways.htm>

6 <http://www.who.int/globalchange/news/fsclimandhealth/en/> Climate and health Fact sheet, July 2005

# What you can do

## Join FoR

As FoR member Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." To build real change for peace and justice in our world we need to work together. The Fellowship of Reconciliation has always recognized the importance of working with others. Why not join us? For more details on becoming a Member or a supporter of FoR, please use the reply slip below or see <http://www.for.org.uk/join>.

## Support FoR's Campaigns

FoR seeks to challenge the causes and structures that lead to violent conflict. In addition we aim to be advocates for the victims of war and conflict by enabling their voices to be heard. Currently we are campaigning on the arms trade through our 'Living by the Sword campaign'; we are supporting the people of West Papua in their struggle for independence through the 'Papua: Land of Peace campaign; and we shall shortly be launching a new campaign called 'Study War No More' which is looking at military research being undertaken in British universities. For more details on these campaigns see our [www.for.org.uk/campaigns](http://www.for.org.uk/campaigns) or contact us at the office.

## Donate to International Peacemakers

Our International Peacemakers Fund (IPF) makes grants directly to small grassroots groups who are working for peace and justice in regions of conflict. Because administration is covered by a Trust every penny you donate will go directly to these projects. For more details see the back cover.

## Email News

About once a month FoR sends out an email newsletter with details of coming events, publications, resources and other information in relation to building peace in our world. You can see a copy of the latest FoR email news on our website [www.for.org.uk](http://www.for.org.uk), where you can sign up for further issues.

## Join FoR Young Peacemakers Network

FoR is committed to supporting young peacemakers and one way we do this is through our Young Peacemakers Network. YPN is an association of young people (18- 30ish) interested in peace and conflict issues. If you are interested, please use the reply slip below to receive more information and an invite to a YPN gathering.

## Invite an FoR Speaker

FoR is always very happy to provide a speaker for your church, school or group to speak about our work or about peace and conflict issues in general. Ideally we would like at least six weeks notice but you can always contact us to see if we have someone available. Please contact us at the office on 01865 748796 or email [office@for.org.uk](mailto:office@for.org.uk)

## Join FoR

- I would like to join FoR as a Member/Supporter/Group affiliate (please delete)
- I enclose a donation towards the work of the Fellowship of Reconciliation
- I am a UK tax payer. Please treat my donation as Gift Aid and reclaim tax on all donations until I notify you otherwise (please sign and date below)
- I would like to make a regular donation. Please send us a standing order form
- I would like to subscribe to FoR's monthly Email News
- Please send me more details about the Young Peacemakers Network

We are interested in a speaker for our church/group/school. Please contact me.

I enclose a donation of £ \_\_\_\_\_ towards the work of the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

My denomination is \_\_\_\_\_

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Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*The Fellowship of Reconciliation is a registered charity no. 207822*



# Give peace a fighting chance

If peacemaking were given a real chance, it could transform our global society, relieve human suffering and make our communities more secure.

This is why we established the International Peacemakers Fund

FoR's International Peacemakers Fund provides essential support to war-torn communities who dare to realise their own potential to end conflict. Often local people are already working hard to build peace in their own communities and simply need our support. The projects, in Colombia, Palestine, Zimbabwe and West Africa use nonviolent methods to address the causes of conflict, promote dialogue and build reconciliation. Often these peacemakers are putting their lives on the line to disseminate peacebuilding skills amongst their communities.

In Palestine for example, where the community has been severely weakened by thirty eight years of Israeli military occupation, International Peacemakers Fund partner 'Wi'am' helps to resolve disputes by complementing the traditional Arab form of mediation, called Sulha, with Western models of conflict resolution. Wi'am challenges violence in the region on many levels. Wi'am mediates Israeli-Palestinian disputes, issues relating to Israeli military, youth delinquency as well as domestic conflicts.

Because they work against the odds, amidst political and social upheaval, with extremely limited financial resources, the International Peacemakers Fund is a crucial lifeline.

**Return to: Freepost RLYH-ABXY-YJZG, FoR, St. James' Church Centre, Beauchamp Lane, Oxford OX4 3LF**

*The Fellowship of Reconciliation is a registered charity no. 207822*

## Please support our International Peacemakers fund by giving today

- I would like to make a donation to FoR's International Peacemakers Fund of  £20  £50  £100  other.  
I enclose a cheque for £\_\_\_\_\_
- Please send me a Standing Order form
- I have made a donation by credit card online at [www.for.org.uk](http://www.for.org.uk)
- I am a UK tax payer and would like FoR to treat my donation as Gift Aid and reclaim tax on all donations until I notify you otherwise (please sign and date below)

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Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

All the costs of the Peacemakers Fund have been covered. This means that every single penny you donate is guaranteed to go directly to supporting international peace projects.