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KINGSTON PEACE NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF KINGSTON PEACE COUNCIL /
CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

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‘Winston’ Starmer gets ready for war

Strategic Defence Review great news for the arms industry

A good day for death and destruction and a bad day for peace and security. This was how the Movement for the Abolition of War succinctly summed up the results of the government’s Strategic Defence Review announced last month.

As summer began – and before Israel and the US decided to start a war with Iran - the UK was being transformed to ‘war fighting readiness’.

Sir Keir Starmer visited a Glasgow BAE factory (where else!) and launched the defence review by telling us we must ‘prepare for conflict’, become ‘battle ready’, be put on a ‘war footing’ and that the UK’s technological innovation would be accelerated ‘at a war time pace’.

What on earth is he talking about? Why do so many PMs want to be Churchill but invariably come across sounding like *Yes Prime Minister’s* Jim Hacker?

Why do they always draw on the analogy of Chamberlain and

‘appeasement’ before WW2 and never reflect for a moment on the similarities and lessons to be learned from the run up to WW1 when everyone amassed armaments and became fatally interlocked with allies in a series of mutual assistance treaties where one spark led to a worldwide conflagration.

So now a country that cuts care for the young, the old and the disabled and where two million of its citizens rely on food banks is to

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Davey pressed on arms sales ban

KPC members joined with others (see picture below) outside Liberal Democrat party leader Sir Ed Davey’s Surbiton constituency office calling for urgent action to oppose Israel’s ongoing assault on Gaza.

They presented a letter signed by nearly two hundred Kingston, Richmond and Twickenham residents. Their action coincided with Parliamentary moves to bring in a wide range of measures against Israel.

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'Winston' Starmer

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build a dozen new nuclear-powered submarines and acquire a dozen fighter bombers capable of carrying nuclear weapons (a clear breach of nuclear arms reduction and proliferation treaties). It will also build six new armaments factories to churn out bombs and bullets.

It's the same tired old play book. Leaders facing mounting difficulties and setbacks in domestic policies always emphasise (and exaggerate) an external threat to take (they hope) people's minds off how dire things are getting at home. But extravagant language and 'tough' posturing about fighting wars against foreign enemies can become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

CND described the plan to acquire nuclear armed fighter-bombers thus: "Britain will be paying for US jets, loaded with US nuclear weapons, directed, targeted and controlled by US -led NATO command, stationed at a US airbase (RAF Marham) where Britain has almost no jurisdiction. This has nothing to do with the security interest of British people."

Inhuman, immoral

The *Guardian's* veteran journalist Simon Tisdall was more forthright: the plan to acquire air dropped nuclear bombs and aircraft was "a continuation of a redundant, inhuman, immoral, potentially international law-breaking deterrence policy that cash-strapped Britain can ill afford." It merely "perpetuates illusions about [Britain's] global power status."

Just before Starmer delivered his call to arms in Glasgow it was reported that Ukraine had used swarms of drones to destroy a number of Russian military aircraft in bases, some of which were thousands of miles inside Russia*.

Should not this new reality give pause for thought? Is the Starmer Government's policy actually about defending the United Kingdom or projecting some illusion of power around the globe. How will a fleet of new subs protect Britain's vital domestic infrastructure? While aircraft carriers are sailing the South China Seas to 'send a message to China' what effective protection is planned to deter a swarm of armed drones from attacking the vessels' home dockyard – and most of the British fleet - at Portsmouth?

The defence review - which will add billions to

what we already spend - emphasises war fighting, not defence. No mention of any Iron Dome-type system actually to protect the people of this country from air attack. There's some nonsense about a new Home Guard to protect vital infrastructure but nothing practical.

The Strategic Defence Review urges a government PR campaign to convince the British people of the 'necessity' of maintaining a nuclear arsenal. Tisdall's clipped response to this: "no thanks".

Amen to that!

*FOOTNOTE

The destruction of Russian nuclear bombers parked on airfields deep in the Russian interior has a direct relevance to nuclear treaty arrangements between that country and the US.

The START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) requires strategic nuclear bombers to be parked in open view to permit international verification. If they are now to be hidden away for fear of a drone attack that aspect of the Treaty will have been violated. Also, if the US - whether Trump or the Pentagon or just the CIA - had prior knowledge of, or even assisted Ukraine in planning, the attack on an element of Russia's strategic nuclear force this is in flagrant disregard of the nuclear understanding between the two nations with potentially very serious ramifications. START remains in effect currently until February 2026.

More recent comments from the Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov are also alarming. He has made it clear that he believes the UK was involved in assisting Ukraine in its attack on the Russian strategic bomber fleet. Tiny, ineffectual Britain attacking Russian strategic military aircraft inside Russia is insane.

"The job of the US Armed Forces is ... to spread democracy to everybody around the world at the point of a gun."

Donald Trump, speaking to cadets at the West Point Military Academy

Phoenix of Gaza rises on film

Many local supporters of Palestine attended the showing of a powerful documentary film about life in Gaza before Israel unleashed its genocidal war. Hosted by Richmond & Kingston Palestine Solidarity Campaign the event at Richmond Adult College featured the film made by journalist Yousef Alhelou.

The Phoenix of Gaza is in so many ways the saddest film imaginable giving a vivid account of the colourful, vibrant, friendly, peaceful Gaza Strip only a few weeks before Israel started reducing it to rubble and slaughtering, then starving, the civilian population, an act that Britain and so many other countries still declare as 'Israel's right to defend itself'.

Alhelou, who was present to answer audience questions after the showing, had, after a gap of several years, returned to Gaza, where he was born, and set out to illustrate the day-to-day life of ordinary Palestinians. He described it as "a really painful love letter to my city". He added: "We Palestinians have to prove to the world that we are human beings."

This important documentary certainly achieves that, countering all the misleading and hate-laden propaganda issued by Israel to justify its ongoing, murderous assault on the Strip.

Many of the citizens: men, women and children, shown and interviewed in the film



Yousef Alhelou interviewed by the PSC's Fiona Leach at the film showing

by now have been killed by Israeli bombs and missiles and these include Alhelou's own sister and her seven children.

The film points out that the phoenix is the symbol of the Gaza City municipality representing the many rebirths of Gaza over the past five thousand years.

Alhelou hopes that anyone wishing to host a further showing of the film will contact him, which can be done through Richmond & Kingston PSC. If you search The Phoenix of Gaza on YouTube you can watch the film's trailer.



Music to our ears

KPC members joined other supporters of Musicians for Peace and Disarmament for a concert at St Mary's Church, Barnes, in early June. Flautist Wissam Boustany and pianist Aleksander Szram delighted the audience with a selection of intricate pieces, playing together and as soloists demonstrating a wonderful command of their instruments.

Arms jobs ‘revolving door’ alive and well

The “i” newspaper launched enthusiastically into sabre-rattling territory in a recent edition, carrying on the same two-page spread one article headlined “UK public must be ready for missile attack, warns general” while another opined “UK needs further nuclear deterrent options, experts say”.

The retired general in question, one Sir Richard Barrons, called for the re-introduction of countrywide air-raid sirens and drills and said “families and communities” should learn how to cope with war.

The UK should learn from Nordic countries like Finland which have developed plans for ‘total defence’ said the General, failing to acknowledge that Finland, unlike Britain, shares a land border of 830 miles with Russia and that this tends to provide a different focus for what national defence is all about.

He went on to call for the production of a comprehensive guide for dealing with the worst-case military scenarios, similar to Protect and Survive, the much-derided government published booklet distributed nationwide at the height of the Cold War and which was used to galvanize the Peace movement by being satirised as Protest and Survive.

Let slip

Sir Richard, a former deputy chief of the defence staff, was one of the authors of the newly published Strategic Defence Review. But the article in the “i” lets slip that he is also co-chair of an organisation called Universal Defence and Security Solutions, a UK-based consultancy business whose “diverse expertise enables us to provide in-depth policy, strategy, and technical guidance across the entire spectrum of the defence and security sectors” working closely with the MoD, Department of Business and Trade etc. to “leverage” no-doubt lucrative contracts.

Just across the page from Sir Richard’s views the article on why the “UK needs further nuclear deterrent options” quotes one Tobias Ellwood, former Tory MP, former defence minister, who is in no doubt that the UK must acquire nuclear-bomb carrying aircraft, so-called tactical nuclear weapons, which have “a more localised explosion” than Trident launched missiles. “As a

deterrent it would bolster our defence posture significantly,” says Ellwood.

Intriguingly, this article fails to mention that, last November, Ellwood joined Universal Defence and Security Solutions as a strategic adviser where, says the company, he will be “an invaluable asset” and provide “leverage ... to foster high-level partnerships.” Ker-ching!!

Rearmament and the climate crisis – new figures revealed

Boosting defence spending – which every NATO member seems bent on – will increase climate-destroying emissions by up to 200 million tonnes per year.

This is the prediction of experts at the Conflict and Environment Observatory. “There is a real concern around the way that we are prioritising short-term security and sacrificing long-term security”, said Ellie Kinney, a researcher at the Observatory, quoted in *The Guardian*.

With climate change itself likely to lead to conflict over scarcity of natural resources the damage done to the climate by more armaments creates what some describe as a ‘doom loop’. Wars exacerbate the climate crisis which in turn leads to more wars.

There are currently ongoing more armed conflicts around the world than at any time since WW2. A record \$2.46 trillion was spent on armaments in 2023. Researchers have estimated that collectively fossil fuel usage by the world’s militaries is responsible for 5.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Has the message got through to the military? Well, the Royal United Services Institute, a “defence and security think tank”, hosted a conference entitled Climate Destabilisation: A Core Security Concern in late June. It seems the military has finally recognised that among “evolving threats” is “a new variable”: climate destabilisation. There was no indication in the lineup of speakers from the MoD, the Army and the US Department of Defense that they would actually be addressing their own impact on the problem!

Letter to Sir Ed Davey re. the Police raid on a Quaker Meeting House

Phillip Cooper wrote as a constituent to Sir Ed Davey about the police raid on the Westminster Quaker Meeting House to arrest young peace activists. Here is his letter:

Dear Sir Ed,

I'm writing to you in order to express my outrage at the police raid on a Quaker Meeting House in Central London followed by the arrest of several people meeting peacefully therein to discuss their concerns about the degradation of the climate and the ongoing slaughter of Palestinian citizens in Gaza and the West Bank.

The Society of Friends, the Quakers, has been in existence since 1652. This is the first occasion in living memory when anyone has been arrested in a Meeting House. It must never happen again and this must be made clear to the Police and the present Government.

I am a member of Kingston Peace Council, an organisation that has for many years maintained close links with our local Quakers here in the Borough of Kingston upon Thames. We are expressing our outrage and our support of them in the face of this wholly unwarranted police action which, I'm afraid to say, is symptomatic of the Government's increasingly authoritarian efforts to prevent lawful and peaceful means of demonstration and protest against both the man-made destruction of the natural world and the conflict in Israel/Palestine that has been characterised by the highest court in the world as a genocidal act.

Quakers as a religious organisation are recognised the world over as supporters of the right to non-violent protest, acting from deeply held beliefs, in what they consider to be a moral imperative to stand up against injustice in the interests of peace.

A police raid, in which some 20 officers forced their way into the Westminster Meeting House armed with Tasers, is a gross violation of a place of worship and such behaviour cannot be allowed to stand. Will Anglican churches, Catholic churches, United Reform chapels, mosques, gurdwaras, synagogues also be violated if it is deemed that people in these establishments are daring to discuss and peacefully plan to protest against the excesses of or actions by Government.

I will take the liberty of quoting to you Mr Paul Parker, Recording Clerk of the Quakers in Britain, responding to the police raid. He said: "This aggressive violation of our place of worship and the forceful removal of young people holding a protest group meeting clearly shows what happens when a society criminalises protest.

"Freedom of speech, assembly, and fair trials are an essential part of free public debate which underpins democracy."

I would ask you to raise the concerns expressed in this letter both with the Government and also the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and to press for a guarantee that, in future, the sanctity of places of worship in this country remains inviolable from heavy handed and dubious police action.

Thank you,

Here is his reply: (if you follow the link to Hansard you will see the contemptuous manner in which a Government minister dismissed the Liberal Democrat MP's question)

Dear Phillip Cooper

Thank you for contacting me about the recent police raid on the Westminster Quaker Meeting House.

I find the story deeply alarming. The Home Office and the Metropolitan Police must explain what's happened here.

What has happened looks heavy handed, particularly given that Quakers are renowned for their non-violent and pacifist principles. This incident has raised serious concerns regarding the policing approach towards freedom of assembly, freedom of expression, and the right to peaceful protest.

The Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for London, Luke Taylor MP, asked a question to the Minister about it at Home Office Questions. You can find the full exchange between Luke Taylor MP and the Minister below:

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2025-03-31/debates/C83A95D0-78CB-46EF-9D95-7EAD645F1F1A/TopicalQuestions#contribution-941DA16C-1EA8-476B-8355-7E9801C06EAA>

Thank you, again, for contacting me about the incident.

*With best wishes,
Ed Davey*

A fair day at the unfair Fair

Despite the determination of Ham Fair organisers to ensure the visiting public were spared any mention of Gaza at the event, both KPC and PSC members succeeded in getting the message across to a very receptive local community on Saturday 4th June.

For two years running the Fair's organisers - the Ham and Petersham Assn - has banned both organisations from holding fund raising stalls on the spurious grounds that the event was an 'occasion for families.'

For the second year running Richmond & Kingston PSC were able to set up a stall in the grounds of a supporter whose large property fronts Ham Common just across from where the fair takes place. "We had a great day," reported the PSC.

Separately, KPC members Maggie Rees and Rosemary Addington helped collect signatures near the fairground inviting members of the public to support a letter calling for an end to UK arms sales to Israel, sanctions against the country and its minsters and for Britain to recognise the state of Palestine. The letter was to be delivered to local MP Sir Ed Davey and had been drafted by Kingston resident Paul Tippell.

A total of 106 signatures were collected from among Ham fairgoers who expressed their gratitude that the issue was being raised locally.

Although banning both KPC and PSC from the fair the organisers found space at this 'occasion for families' for a display of military vehicles and weaponry.

Hypocrisy? Yes. Accurately judging the sentiments of local people? Nowhere close!



(left) Is this Ham Arms Fair? And is the comment displayed on the jeep (above) in keeping with an 'occasion for families'?

BBC anti-Gaza bias exposed

BBC bias in its reporting of the Israel-Gaza conflict has been laid bare in a new report.

Key findings in the document, published by the Centre for Media Monitoring at the Muslim Council of Britain include:

- a) giving 33 more times coverage to each Israeli fatality compared with each Palestinian fatality, despite Gaza suffering 34 times more casualties than Israel;
- b) The term 'murder' was used 220 times for Israelis killed and just once to describe the death of

a Palestinian.

c) BBC presenters shut down mention of genocide by interviewees on 100 occasions but never made mention of genocidal statements by Israel's leaders.

d) BBC presenters shared the Israeli perspective on events 11 times more than they did the Palestinian view (2,340 times as against 217 times).

The period studied in the report covered one year from 7 October 2023 and a total of 3,873 articles and 32,092 broadcast segments were reviewed.

The report '*BBC on Gaza-Israel: one story, double standards*' can be viewed on the Centre for Media Monitoring website.



Riot truck for London

The vehicle pictured above is a SandCat armoured personnel carrier used to help police forces quell riots and/or protests. It is manufactured by Israeli armoured vehicle company Plasan. For more than 30 years Plasan has supplied this type of vehicle to the Israeli military including several hundred that have been used by the IDF in Gaza.

London's Metropolitan Police have purchased 18 of these vehicles to suppress 'serious public disorder' in the capital which means that Israeli-built police vehicles used to support the Israeli

genocide in Gaza could be used on London streets to suppress lawful protest against the Israeli genocide in Gaza. No doubt someone in the Met considers that fact hilarious!

Plasan's sales pitch is that the vehicles it sells have been 'battle tested'. That of course means against Palestinian men, women and children. The purchase of the vehicles from this particular manufacturer in these circumstances is nothing short of an obscenity.

Footnote: each SandCat vehicle costs around £200,000. The Met has bought 18 of them thus spending an estimated £3.6million pounds. Meanwhile the Met has complained that budget cuts have meant it has a shortfall of 1700 officers and it is having to close buildings because of the levels of disrepair. Since 2010 the number of buildings operated by London's main police force has shrunk from 620 to 210. Budget cuts mean that buildings that should be refurbished every 25 years can now only be refurbished every 125 years. Hope they have a secure, watertight garage to keep the new SandCats in!

Legal brains challenge Government over Gaza

How often are we reminded that Keir Starmer, a former Director of Public Prosecutions, was a leading human rights lawyer and that Foreign Secretary David Lammy is a barrister, graduating from Harvard Law School no less? What does it say about the reputation of either man when more than 800 UK lawyers, including senior judges, sign a letter demanding that the Starmer Government impose sanctions on Israel to meet international legal obligations?

The letter spells out the fact that "war crimes, crimes against humanity and serious violations of international humanitarian law are being committed in Palestine." The signatories include two former Supreme Court Justices and senior Court of Appeal judges.

And, in case they had forgotten, Starmer and Lammy are reminded that: "All states, including the UK, are legally obliged to take all reasonable steps within their power to prevent and punish genocide; to ensure respect for international humanitarian law; and to bring to an end violations of [the right of self-determination]." The letter continues: "The UK's actions to date have failed to meet those standards. "

Continually ignored

Furthermore, because Israel has continually ignored strictures from the United Nations and has openly attacked UN premises and personnel in Gaza this should be viewed as a challenge to the UN charter system and so, argue the 800-plus lawyers, the UK, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, should consider initiating proceedings that provide for Israel to be suspended from the United Nations. One of the signatories, former Appeal Court judge Sir Alan Moses, told *The Guardian*, "It is an exercise in futility for a government to say it upholds the rule of law, if it then does nothing to demonstrate it." The lawyers' letter was first reported on exclusively in *The Guardian*. It was subsequently covered on the BBC website but took a lot of finding.

At the time of going to press Starmer has not commented on its existence.



Davey pressed on arms sales ban

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All 72 Lib Dem MPs have signed an Early Day Motion condemning the ongoing military action and starvation of Gaza's civilian population.

The residents' letter, organised by Kingston resident Paul Tippell, thanks Davey for his Party's motion but wants it to go further. "Call for a vote in Parliament on recognising the state of Palestine," it says. It also calls on him to demand the Government brings in a wider range of sanctions against Israel and its politicians and a full trade embargo "until it abides by international humanitarian and human rights law".

Both the letter and the Lib Dem motion demand a complete ban on arms sales to Israel by the UK Government.

Davey has agreed to meet Mr Tippell to discuss the contents of the letter.

OBITUARY Monica Cano Villaverde

Monica was born in Peru. Her father was a trade union leader, a committed socialist and activist. Her mother, too, shared these views and Monica was much influenced by them. She went to the Soviet Union on a scholarship to study at the age of 19, first having to learn Russian. There she met her husband who was from Cuba. After graduation they moved to Sweden, where she learned Swedish, and their son Mattias was born. Her siblings also settled in Sweden with just one brother remaining in Peru. Monica and Mattias moved to Britain over 20 years ago: at first, for some months, to the south coast before deciding to move to London.

I first met Monica not long after her move to London and taught her English for several years at Richmond Adult College. Mattias was about 8 or 9 at the time.

She and I were always very much on the same wavelength with similar interests and concerns so remained in touch when I no longer taught her.

Monica lived her life simply, according to her strongly held principles focused on justice, fairness and respect for humanity and the planet, doing everything with tremendous energy, enthusiasm and commitment. She participated in local campaigns concerned with environmental issues, control of the arms trade, peace and nuclear disarmament, Black Lives Matter and justice for Palestine, and joined the Labour Party at a time when she thought that would make a difference.

She was a deep thinker and always well-informed on the causes she championed. I remember a conversation we had once, centred on the most environmentally-sound cleaning materials. When I said I normally go for Ecover products, Monica pointed out that the company had now been taken over by a multinational with dubious credentials so wasn't such a good bet. She introduced me to laundry soap nuts but I confess I've never quite taken to them! On other occasions, she would quote from *Ethical Consumer* and encouraged me to subscribe to the magazine.

She was, too, a skilled homemaker and a keen cook, recognising the importance of fresh, wholesome food with natural ingredients. She told me she had learned to bake in Sweden because that was a popular activity to fill the long dark winter evenings! It's one of those great unanswerable injustices of life that someone who lived so healthily was struck down in the way she was.

She hated waste and was a one-woman recycling machine, turning up on my doorstep quite frequently with discarded items that needed rehoming, ranging from toys for my grandchildren to a sack of parsnips thrown out by a supermarket (I'd never even thought of making parsnip cake before!) A spell working in a local café distressed her because of the amount of wasted food and throw-away cups. So, the Real Junk Food café and the Twickenham Repair Café were natural homes for her!

Monica also took an interest in South American and Swedish cultural events in the London area.

Her warm, kind, generous and cheerful nature together with her active participation in a wide range of interests resulted in a large circle of friends and she will be hugely missed by all.

Hilary Evans

Also last month we were sad to learn of the death of former KPC chair Michael Ayris. An obituary will be published in the next edition of KP News - Ed

Defunding and boycott update

Norway has been leading the world in illustrating how BDS can be applied against Israel on a hugely effective basis. The world's largest wealth fund is the sovereign fund operated by Norway and is worth an estimated \$1.8 trillion. It holds shares in some 9,000 companies globally.

The fund has now divested itself from Israel's Paz Retail and Energy company which owns and operates infrastructure supplying fuel to Israeli settlements in the West Bank. "The settlements have been established in violation of international law, and their perpetuation constitutes an ongoing violation thereof," said the wealth fund.

This decision followed one in December to sell all shares in Israel's largest telecoms firm Bezeq. Norwegian Deputy Foreign Minister Andreas Motzfeldt Kravik denounced Israel's siege of Gaza as "unconscionable and deeply illegal."

The Co-op is to stop sourcing goods from Israel, Iran and 15 other countries where it says there are "internationally recognised" rights abuses and violations of international law.

The supermarket, which operates about 2,300 grocery stores in the UK, has drawn up a list of about 100 products affected by the change, including Israeli carrots and mangos from Mali. Other countries covered by the ban, which will be gradually implemented from this month, include Russia, Syria, Belarus, Afghanistan, Myanmar and Sudan. The Co-op said the ban would cover ingredients for its own-label products as well as whole items.

As *KP News* went to press **Kingston Council** was being presented with a petition calling on it to review its pension fund investments to "identify holdings in companies complicit in violations of international law and human rights in Palestine including Israeli companies operating in occupied territories and international companies involved in the arms trade, settlement support, or resource exploitation."

While the Council does operate what is described as a responsible investment policy that "takes a proactive approach to human rights" the petitioners, Richmond & Kingston Palestine Solidarity Campaign, believe it does not go nearly far enough in respect of Israel. The Council's pension fund is managed through pooled funds with other London authorities but Kingston should nevertheless ensure that investments made in its name adhere to its own stated ethical intentions.

Hear no evil, see no evil

Lawyers representing the Starmer Government have claimed (presumably with a straight face!) that there is no evidence of genocide by Israel in Gaza. The statement was made in the High Court as the Government defended its decision to continue supplying parts of F35 fighter planes sold to Israel.

The hearing was to determine whether the UK government was under an obligation to ensure that weapons or parts of weapons supplied did not breach international humanitarian law as far as British jurisdiction was concerned.

The Government lawyers further claimed there was no evidence that women or children in Gaza were targeted by the IDF. In fact, they said, the IDF had made efforts to limit incidental harm to civilians.

Cruel and criminal

While Foreign Secretary David Lammy, and lawyers acting under his instructions, cannot bring themselves to admit that Israel is committing war crimes in Gaza, a former Israeli prime minister can! Ehud Elmet, prime minister from 2006 to 2009 – and a member of Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party to boot – told the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz*: "Yes, Israel is committing war crimes.

"What we are doing in Gaza now is a war of devastation: indiscriminate, limitless, cruel and criminal killing of civilians. It's the result of government policy – knowingly, evilly, maliciously, irresponsibly dictated."

He described the current ultra right-wing Israeli government as a "criminal gang headed by Benjamin Netanyahu."

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Help with the stall

Our regular KPC stall in
Kingston Market Place is
held on the first and third
Saturday of each month. If
you wish to join us to help
hand out leaflets to passers-
by please let us know.
Contact Angie Cooper on
0208 399 5537 or email:
angecooper47@hotmail.com

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 12th July

Free Palestine. BDS at 20. Conference. Central Hall Westminster, Storey's Gate SW1H 9NH. Organised by PSC to mark 20 years since Palestinian civil organisations in the homeland and in exile called for divestment and boycott campaigns to be established. 10.15am to 4.30pm. Tickets from £7 to £20 to attend. [Book your tickets here.](#)

Saturday 26th July

Lakenheath Alliance for Peace Vigil. Monthly vigil at the main gate of RAF Lakenheath. 12 noon to 2pm.

Contact vigils@lakenheathallianceforpeace.org.uk for more information.

Wednesday 6th August

Hiroshima Day. Commemorating 80th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, and Nagasaki. KPC's silent vigil in Kingston Town Centre followed by event at Canbury Gardens, Kingston Riverside 8pm to 9pm. Contact Phil Cooper (see blue panel opposite)

ends on Friday 22nd August

Women of the world unite: The UN Decade for Women and transnational feminisms 1975 to now. Free exhibition marks 50 years since 1975 International Women's Year. LSE Library Gallery. LSE, 10, Portugal Street WC2A 2HD.

Monday 25th August

EcoFair Carshalton. KPC will host its usual stall in our biggest fundraising event of the year. Hundreds of stalls, demonstrations, eco-projects, craftwork. Organised by local non-profit charity. If you can help set up, serve on or break up our stall contact Maggie on: maggie@galdor.co.uk

KPC FINANCES

Since we have not been allowed a stall at Ham Fair (see article Page 6) and the New Malden street fair no longer takes place, income from sales has decreased considerably. Our subscription rates (see blue panel this page) have remained the same since February 2006, but during that time postage rates have nearly quadrupled.

We do not want to have to increase the subs, but it would be helpful if you were able to receive the newsletter by email (contact gill@gillhurle.plus.com), or make a small donation to help cover the cost of postage. If you would like to pay your subs by standing order, please contact me for a form. This would save us having to remind you when your subs are due.

I would like to thank all the members who already make donations additional to their subs.

We are very grateful for this.

Gill Hurle, Treasurer