

NON-VIOLENT RESISTANCE NETWORK NEWSLETTER

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CEASEFIRES?

On April 7 Trump announced that unless Iran agreed to a ceasefire by 1am BST the next morning “a whole civilisation will die tonight”. 90 minutes before this deadline Trump and Iran both announced a ceasefire of (only) 2-weeks. Almost immediately the supposed deal fell apart. In truth is that there was no agreement. The two sides’ very different demands were fudged rather than any compromise reached.

Israel ignored a section of the agreement, as understood by Iran and ceasefire brokers Pakistan, that the ceasefire included Lebanon. (Was Israel even consulted?) Israel showed its defiance in what must be a move to sabotage the deal, by launching on April 8 its heaviest attack on Lebanon since attacks began in November, striking 100 targets, killing over 300 people and wounding over 800. Trump dismissed this as “a separate skirmish” also denying, with Israel, that a ceasefire in Lebanon was part of the deal.



Destruction in Beirut

Iran responded to this continued bombing of Lebanon by saying that though it would open the Hormuz strait to shipping it would retain control of it and charge tankers a £1.5 million toll each for passing through, thus negating a major part of the deal from the US’s perspective, free movement of ships through the strait. Iran also fired missiles and drones after the ceasefire supposedly had started.

Trump had announced on the evening before the agreement that the 10-point Iran plan was a “working basis on which to negotiate”, even though it contains points anathema to the US, such as Iran’s control over the strait of Hormuz, US withdrawal from the Middle East, acceptance of Iran’s right to enrich uranium and reparations to Iran for the damage caused during the war. Trump’s press secretary on the 8th stated, in stark contrast to Trump’s above claim, “The Iranians originally put forward a 10-point plan that was fundamentally unserious, unacceptable, and completely discarded...The idea that President Trump would ever accept an Iranian wish list as a deal is completely absurd.”

Trump, for his part, subsequently implied that the agreement was based on the US’s extremely different 15-point plan. The actual ceasefire agreement is reported to involve: 1. Complete cessation of the war on

Iraq, Lebanon, and Yemen. 3. Ending all conflicts in the region. 4. Reopening the Hormuz Strait. 5. Establishing conditions to ensure freedom and security of navigation in the Strait. 6. Full compensation to Iran for reconstruction costs. 7. Lifting all sanctions on Iran. 8. Release of Iranian funds and frozen assets held by the US. 9. Iran committing itself to not seeking possession of nuclear weapons. 10. Immediate ceasefire taking effect on all fronts upon approval of the above conditions.

If this is accurate, it still means an extraordinary step-down by Trump and the US government from its apparent grandiose aims in the war, which included the military defeat (or rather annihilation) of Iran and the replacement of the Iranian government by one acceptable to the US.

Under these circumstances it seems very likely that this “ceasefire” will go the same way as the supposed ceasefire in Gaza which has never actually taken place in spite of all Trump’s boasting.

On April 8, Pakistan’s Prime Minister, who mediated the ceasefire deal, invited Iranian and US delegations to meet in Islamabad to iron out remaining differences. The delegates came and talks continued overnight but no agreement was reached. Trump then announced that the US would itself blockade the Strait completely; this was later modified to blockading all ships carrying cargoes to and from Iran. If successful this will just increase the price of petrol and gas and inflation generally all around the world. Trump said that “other countries” will take part in this blockade though this seems to have been wishful thinking; even Starmer, Trump’s erstwhile poodle, refused to do so.

A few days later Trump announced a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Lebanon, but for only 10 days. Israel had clearly been leant on by Trump. Negotiations between Iran and the US were also resumed. Iran responded by then announcing that the Hormuz Strait was now fully open; however Trump said the US blockade of it would continue “until the war is over”.

A major factor forcing Trump to end the war is the increasing unpopularity of both the war and Trump in the US. In April a *YouGuv* poll found that 34% of Americans supported the war, with 53% opposed. An *Economist* poll of polls on April 8 found only 37% approved of Trump, with 56% disapproving. Many US demonstrations have been held against the war, including “No War” protests over the US on March 28 in which eight million (!) took part. The same day some half-million marched against the war in London. Republicans will likely lose control of the House of Representatives in mid-term elections this year. So Trump has every incentive to try to end the war.

Netanyahu however enjoys broad support in Israel for his war. An Israeli poll in March of 600 citizens, Jewish and Palestinian, found 82% of Israelis



Destruction in Gaza

supported the war (and 93% of Jewish citizens!) and few Palestinian citizens. Netanyahu’s poll ratings are even lower and there’ve been demonstrations against the war by both Jewish and Palestinian citizens. The poll also found that 74% of Jews polled felt protected against Iranian attacks but most Palestinians did not, reporting lack of access to shelters and safe rooms due to discriminatory building policies.

MIDDLE EAST AND EUROPE BLOOD-FEST

In Gaza a ceasefire agreement was signed on October 9 last year. Since then Israel has largely ignored its terms, and, according to the *Gaza Ministry of Health*, has killed some 734 people in Gaza since ceasefire began, including over 100 children, and injured 2,034 more. In all, according to the Gaza Health Ministry more than 73,459 people had been killed in Gaza by April 6 2026 since the war began on October 7, 2023. This included over 21,000 children. And 172,137 were injured There has also been enormous destruction of property, with over 90% of residential buildings being destroyed or damaged.

There is famine in Gaza due to continuing Israeli blockades and occupation and destruction of most of Gaza's farming areas. This has had led to 361 Palestinian deaths by starvation by September last, including that of 130 children, in figures issued by the *World Health Organisation*. A total blockade of aid into Gaza begun on March 2 2026 seems to be still in operation. Such a blockade is another breach of the ceasefire terms and starving a population during a war is a war crime.

75,498 people (73,459+ Palestinian and 2,039 Israelis) have been reported killed in the Gaza war according to the *Gaza Health Ministry*.

Meanwhile some 2,039 Israelis (presumably all military after October 7 2023) have died in the war by February 2026 according to the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (I think this figure includes the 1,200 killed in the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7 2026)

In Palestine's West Bank and East Jerusalem areas under Israeli occupation, deemed illegal by the *United Nations*, between October 7 2023 and March 7, 2026, 1,071 Palestinians, including 233 children, have been killed by Jewish settlers and Israeli military, according to the *UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs*.

In a blatant illustration of the much greater importance Israel attaches to Jewish lives than Palestinian ones, it has introduced the death penalty (by hanging) for deadly terrorist attacks, but only for Palestinians, to be carried out within 90 days of a guilty verdict,. The provisions of the law will allow courts to impose the penalty without the prosecution calling for it, on the basis of a simple majority verdict by the jury and without the right to appeal against such sentences, Meanwhile similar acts committed by settlers and soldiers in the West Bank and indeed by Israel in Gaza remain virtually unpunished. Indeed no Israeli has been charged with homicide in the West Bank since 2019, let alone found guilty.

Violence by Jewish settlers and military action by the Israeli army in the West Bank forced 44 whole Palestinian communities from their homes between October 2023 and January 2026 with more 36,000 Palestinians being displaced in total. The violence has involved destruction of Palestinian properties, the confiscation of Palestinian owned land, the setting up of new Jewish-only settlements and the destruction or stealing of Palestinian crops, olive trees and livestock.



Tehran under bombardment.

In Iran, an attack by the US and Israel started in December 2025.

Around the beginning of April 2026 various different estimates were given for the number killed in the war, ranging from Iranian government figures of 3,527 to 32,000 given by "Iranian health officials". The attacks have been directed largely at Iran's military, government and nuclear facilities, but there's also been massive destruction of civilian property, The *UN High*

Commission for Refugees estimates that 3.2 million Iranians have fled from their homes to try to escape the bombing, especially homes in Tehran and the south part of Lebanon as they are bearing the brunt of the attacks.

In Lebanon the country's Health Ministry said on April 5 that 1,460 people had been killed, 130 of them children, by Israel's current series of attacks that began on March 2 and 4,430 have been injured. Also Israeli troops are aiming to occupy an area of south Lebanon that contained some 20% of Lebanon's population who have now been ordered by Israel to leave the area, As a result of all this, over a million Lebanese people, including over 350,000 children, have fled from their homes.

In Ukraine, in an invasion by Russia that started in February 2022, the US *Center for Strategic and International Studies*, estimated that by January 2026 Ukraine had suffered between 500,000 and 600,000 deaths of which between 100,000 and 140,000 were killed in action, the rest being civilians. Russia seems to have suffered vastly higher casualties, with the Kremlin estimating that by March 2026 some 1,315,000 Russian soldiers had been killed or wounded in action since the start of the invasion.



60 dead in attack on Ukrainian railway station

UK, THE US AND ISRAEL

The UK, along with the US and most of Western Europe, has long considered itself an ally of the state of Israel. The UK and other European countries have continued to do so while Israel is committing genocide in Gaza and using similar tactics in Lebanon and now Iran.

Thus in the UK's case, though Starmer has made the symbolic gesture of "recognising" the Palestinian state along with other countries, even though such a state does not exist, the UK government has done nothing to help bring about its existence, such as by imposing economic and other sanctions on Israel.

Recently the government has made great play of refusing to join in the war by the US and Israel on Iran. In fact virtually no other country has agreed to do so. But this claim on the UK's part is not actually true. The UK continues to supply arms to Israel except for a few banned items, and shares intelligence with it; it also allows the US to use UK airfields such as Lakenheath, Akrotiri in Cyprus and the Chagos Islands in the Indian Ocean as bases for US attacks on Iran. The UK says that the US only has permission to use these bases for "defensive" purposes, but since these purposes include knocking out Iranian rocket and drone launch sites and Iranian missiles in flight, they are in fact actually aiding the US and Israel in their war. The UK is even itself taking an active part in the war on Israel and the US's side by itself destroying missiles in flight, again claiming it is for "defensive" purposes.

In this the UK differs sharply from Spain. Spain has banned US aircraft used in the bombing of Iran from using Spanish airspace and from using jointly owned-military bases in Spain.

DEFENDING PALESTINE ACTION

The law making *Palestine Action* (PA) a terrorist organisation came into force on July 5 last year. Since then the campaign *Defend our Juries* (DOJ) has organised many demonstrations challenging this law. These involve people sitting silently together while holding up posters reading "I oppose genocide; I

support Palestine Action." The aim of the campaign is to both show opposition to the proscription of PA and to try to make its enforcement impossible.

So far these actions have resulted in 3,300 arrests, including some people arrested several times. So far very few of those arrested have

been charged; most have been bailed to attend a police station at a future date.

On February 13, three judges at the Divisional Court ruled that the proscription of PA was unlawful, mainly because it offended against the *European Court of Human Rights*, to which the UK is a signatory, sections 10 and 11, the rights of assembly and protest. However the judges did not have the courage of their convictions and ruled that the finding was suspended till the government and its opponents on the issue had an opportunity to make further representations. In any case the government issued an appeal against the ruling. Meanwhile the law remains in force with the appeal not to be heard until April 28-29 with result some time later.

The affect of this ruling meant that dates for those arrested for supporting PA having their dates for attending a police station postponed till later in the year till after the appeal has been heard and upheld or not. The Metropolitan Police after the High Court ruling said that under the circumstances they would cease arresting people under that Act but on March 25 said they would resume doing so. Had they been leant on too?

The most recent demonstration by DOJ was held on April 11 when police, many drafted in from outside London, arrested 523 people holding signs saying “I support Palestine Action” at a large demonstration in Trafalgar Square. Seven people on the same day were arrested for taking similar action in Hastings.

And on April 5th in a blockade of Lakenheath US nuclear base in Suffolk by people, during a peace camp being held there organised by *Lakenheath Alliance for Peace*, seven people were arrested for supporting a proscribed organisation (Palestine Action) by holding the signs. Two others were arrested for obstructing the highway during the blockade.

This Act seems to be part of a clampdown on the many protests, especially held in London, against the war in Gaza. Thus police have been given the rights to decide the start and end point for marches, the route, the area in which a static demonstration can take place, the numbers taking part and even to ban marches entirely on the grounds of the their “cumulative effect”. This is so vague (how many marches is “too

many”) and it seems to give the police the right to ban any march it chooses.

An egregious example of the use of these new restrictions is the police banning a pro-Palestine march in January 2025 from the BBC studios (The BBC is criticised for biased coverage of the Gaza conflict) to Whitehall on the grounds



Trafalgar Square, April 11 2026

that the route passed near a synagogue.

The end rally in Whitehall was allowed, but when at the end of it some of the speakers made a symbolic attempt to lead a walk out of Whitehall towards the BBC, they were stopped and two organisers of the demonstration, Ben Jamal, Director of PSC and Chris Nineham, National Officer of Stop the War, were arrested. On April 1 2026 they were both found guilty of breaching Public Order Act conditions imposed ahead of the 2025 protest, and Ben was also found guilty of inciting others to do so. Ben was given an 18-month conditional discharge and Chris a 12-month one and each were ordered to pay £7,500 in prosecution costs.

The second example is the banning of the annual Al-Quds pro-Palestinian march planned for 15th March 2026 from Marble Arch to the US embassy south of the Thames. The police with government approval only allowed instead a static rally on the Albert Embankment well away from Parliament. Moreover this venue was selected by the police only on the morning of the demonstration, thus cutting down the number of attendees. The reason the police gave for the ban was “to prevent ‘serious public disorder’ given the conflict in the Middle East”. It is notable that the police gave as a reason for banning the marc that a far right march was

taking place in London the same day, which they allowed in preference!

And the police have also banned a planned national “march for Gaza” planned for May 16 on exactly the same grounds.

criminal damage at an Elbit arms factory at Filton in Bristol. This was that if the six were found guilty, they, as well as the other 16 Filton-24 yet to be tried, were likely to be sentenced as terrorists and thus risk a maximum of 14 years imprisonment, even though they are

In reporting its April 11 demo, the DOJ also reported “worrying news” about the re-trial of six PA activists the named the “Filton 24” who had been acquitted by a jury in February of

not charged with terrorist offences. Moreover the court will not inform jurors of this fact about sentencing. This means that the jurors could reach “guilty” verdicts on the charges of “criminal damage”, etc. totally unaware that those on trial would be sentenced as terrorists.



The Filton 6

Your editor is not entirely convinced that the judiciary would allow itself to be leant on by politicians to this extent. However, the judiciary have form in this respect in recently refusing to allow PA defendants to defend themselves against charges of criminal damage at arms factories given the reason that they were trying to stop arms being sent to Israel to aid Israel’s genocide in Gaza. Defendants have even been sentenced to prison for contempt of court for even mentioning Gaza in their defences. This followed cases where juries had on occasion found PA and climate activists who had admitted to causing such damage not guilty of criminal damage even though the judge had directed the jury to find the defendants

guilty. But it has always been understood that juries can disregard judges’ directions on grounds of conscience after hearing all the evidence. How can they do this when courts refuse to allow defendants’ to explain the moral or political motives for their actions, which surely is part of evidence the jury certainly ought to hear?

SHOOTING ONESELF IN THE FOOT



Asylum seekers rescued in the Channel

With the *Reform Party* gaining strong electoral support through demonising immigrants and demanding them being stopped from entering Britain, or reduced greatly in number, the current Government has tried to compete by introducing rules that limit the number accepted and which also aim to dissuade them from coming by making it longer and more difficult for them to gain the right to remain, or to gain British citizenship. In the case of those “illegally” crossing the Channel, the attempt made to dissuade them from doing so is partly by paying France to forcibly stop them before they set off from the beaches and by threats of deportation if they arrive and making life unpleasant for them in terms of accommodation and support if they make it across.

UK Immigration Rules 2025 require degree-level qualifications for immigrants to be accepted in the UK and as of April 2026, for a “Skilled Worker” to be given a visa to work in the UK they have to have secured a job in the UK earning them over £41,700 year. Another requirement is that employers and candidates must check the salary being offered by the employer is above that required. Showing a higher level of competence in the English language than previously is also now required.

The trouble with this is that what the UK has a great shortage of is workers paid under these thresholds, such as nurses, care and agricultural workers. Indeed the above policies have reduced the take-up of such jobs: thus Home Office figures show the number of nurses granted entry to Britain has fallen 93% between 2022 and 2025 while the number of care workers granted entry has fallen 97% between the same years. The Royal College of Nursing’s chief nursing officer said last December, that “At the current rate, the number of nurses joining will nowhere near make up for the collapse in overseas nursing staff coming to the UK...” The government is also proposing that foreigners living in the UK will have to have lived here 10 years rather than the current five years before they can apply for citizenship.

The UK has also been successful in reducing the number of foreigners coming to Britain to study, which is unfortunate since most universities depend on the high fees paid by foreign students for their incomes. The requirements for a student visa which must be applied for abroad, is an unconditional offer from a licensed sponsor, proof of funds for tuition fees and living costs, proof of skills in reading, writing, speaking and understanding English and paying an immigration surcharge to access the NHS. And to help put off foreign students even more from applying to study here, in January 2024 the right for them to bring their partners and children with them to the UK was abolished.

Treatment of asylum seekers: you must apply for asylum as soon as you arrive in Britain. You will be interviewed to see if you qualify for asylum. You are required to report to the Home Office every 30 days, when you will be returned to your country of origin if it is considered you will no longer be in danger there. Those waiting for a decision on their asylum application, which may take over a year, and those not able to be returned to their home countries are not generally allowed to work but “may be eligible for accommodation and support if destitute” as indeed most are. The money they are paid for living expenses is only £49.18 per person per week, reduced too £9.95 per week if accommodated at full board. The accommodation provided is generally sub-standard, such as in ex-army barracks.

Housing, feeding and supporting thousands of asylum-seekers for long periods without allowing them to do paid work is very costly; if they were only allowed to do paid work, they could cover these expenses themselves, just as giving asylum-seekers “legal” routes to apply for asylum (eg. by facilities for applying abroad) the need for such people to hazard their lives in the Channel, and indeed the expense born by the UK government of trying to stop them, would be saved.

The situation in the US for migrants to the US is much worse with US *Immigration and Customs Enforcement* (ICE) having become, under Trump, a militarised force that is charged with carrying out mass deportation of immigrants who can’t prove they have been in the country for two years, involving the detention and expulsion of thousands of immigrants and their families from the US. By January 2026 the number of people that ICE had deported since Trump came into office had risen to roughly 540,000.

Trump is even trying to get the right to birthright citizenship (the right to US citizenship for everyone born in the US), enacted in the US Constitution, revoked, but it seems likely the US Supreme Court will rule against this, in spite of Trump himself arguing for this change before the Supreme Court itself.

NVDA IN BRAZIL

This took place in early April, with more than 7,000 Indigenous people occupying Brazil’s capital Brasilia. The organising group called themselves the *2026 Free Land Camp* which aims to pressure Brazil’s government to uphold native land rights while denouncing the predatory advance of agribusiness and mining projects threatening their territories and futures.

Two particular projects were targets for the resistance – one for a railway to transport soy and corn through the forest and the other for an open-pit gold mine. *The*



Association of Brazil's Indigenous Peoples are meanwhile challenging the Supreme Court's authority to rule on these matters without first guaranteeing Indigenous consultation, stressing that no future exists without land demarcation and respect for Indigenous peoples' constitutional rights.

SPY-COP INQUIRY LATEST

The inquiry that began in March 2014 into a police scandal in which Met. police infiltrated mainly left-wing non-violent protest organisations under false identities still continues. Many of the police involved developed sexual relationships with members of these organisations under these assumed identities and some of them fathered children with such partners before vanishing.

This March the inquiry examined the case of the Jean Charles de Menzies support campaign. Jean was a Brazilian who was shot and killed on a tube train in 2005 by 7 police, having been mistaken for a suicide bomber. The campaign was infiltrated by a spy cop who provided Scotland Yard with a log of their activities and identities. A spy also infiltrated the campaign by Stephen Lawrence's family to identify and get prosecuted the six racist youths who murdered Stephen in 1993 after police culpably failed to do this.

COMING EVENTS

April

24, Milton Keynes, all day: "Joint Peace Conference 2026." With *Pax Christi*, *Christian CND*, *FOR*, *Anglican Pacifist Fellowship*, etc. At Kent Hills Park Conference Centre. Info. Pax Christi, 020-8203 4884.

25, Fairford, noon-4pm: "No War In Iran" demo. Fairford airbase is used by US craft being used to bomb Iran. Org. by CND, STWC and *Fairford Action* Coaches from London, Birmingham and Bristol. To book seats or for info contact information@cnduk.org

25, Manchester, 1.30pm: showing of film "Gentle, Angry Women" remembering Greenham Peace Camp. At Cultplex, M4 4HF. Org. Manchester CND. For info e-mail gmdcnd@gn.apc.org or phone 07840-303 539.

28, Online, 5-6pm: "Nuclear Disarmament, not Nuclear Hypocrisy." Side-event to UN nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference at UN. With eminent speakers. Org. CND. For info or to register parliamentary@cnduk.org

30, London, noon: demos outside Russian Embassy, 6/7 Kensington Palace Gardens – near Notting Hill Gate tube, (on 30th) and US Embassy (on May 21st) calling on both to extend the *Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty* which limits each of their nuclear weapons. Info: CND on information@cnduk.org

May

2, Birmingham: "Unite the People Against Racism & the Far Right." Demo, rally and festival in Chamberlain Square. Org. by Stand Up to Racism. Enquiries: info@standuptoracism.org.uk

4, London: annual May Day march on 100th anniversary of General Strike. Assemble noon at Clerkenwell Grn for march to Trafalgar Square rally.

14, London, 7-11pm: "Voices of Solidarity 11." Fund raising event for health workers in Gaza marking 78th anniversary of the Nakba. Music,

comedy and culture at the Troxy., 490 Commercial Rd. E1. Info: PSC, 020-7700 6192

15, London & Manchester, noon-1pm: Conscientious Objectors' Day ceremonies. In London at CO Memorial in Tavistock Square. Queries re London one contact CND as above; in Manchester: for venue and other queries contact gmdcnd@gn.apc.org

21, London, 2pm: "No Nuclear War" demo. Outside US Embassy, Nine Elms Lane (nr. Nine elms stn.) making same demand as outside Russian Embassy on April 30 (qv). Info: contact CND as above.

30, London, all day: "Children's Mystery Walk." Three-mile guided walk along London's Peace Trail. Bring picnic. To register e-mail timmon.wallis@gmail.com. Org. *Movement for the Abolition of War*,

Every Tuesday, 6-7-30pm, Menwith Hill: peaceful witness at the main gate of the surveillance base. Org. *MH Accountability Campaign*. Contact: sswift64@gmail.com

Every Wednesday, 6-7pm: Women in Black silent vigil against militarism and war by Edith Cavell statue in St. Martin's Place, WC2. Wear black. Info: www.london.womeninblack.org

Second weekend of every month, Friday to Sunday (Next: February): Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp. Meet like-minded women; take part in workshops and talks etc. Contact: 07852 293 386

Third Tuesday of each month, 6.30pm, on ZOOM: Planning meetings of London Campaign Against the Arms Trade. Contact: londoncaat@riseup.net

Every Friday, 1-2pm, Brighton: *Women in Black* silent vigil at the War Memorial, Old Steine. Info: brightonwib@11qp.co.uk

Every Saturday, Oxford, 2-3pm: *Women in Black* silent vigil for Peace and Justice at the Martyrs Memorial, bottom of St Giles, Oxford. Info: oxfordwib@gmail.com