

Merseyside CND Newsletter



Autumn 2024

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Editorial—MCND CO-Chair, Peter Wilson

WHY IS CND MARCHING FOR GAZA?

*“There is no flag
large enough
to cover the shame
of killing innocent
people.”
(Howard Zinn)*



*On average, one Palestinian
child was killed in the West
Bank including East Jerusa-
lem, every two days since
October 2023
(UNICEF)*

As a peace movement, CND cannot stand by and watch the genocide in Gaza, in which the UK and US Governments are complicit, without marching in solidarity with those peace, anti-war and faith groups who are demanding a stop to the slaughter and justice for the Palestinians.

CND call on the UK and US Governments to stop selling arms to Israel and to denounce Israel's destruction, displacement and starvation of the people of Gaza. We support the UN's call for the indiscriminate shelling to stop and humanitarian aid to be allowed in to relieve the suffering .

We believe that Israel's collective punishment of the people of Gaza amounts to a war crime which, rather than bring victory will only succeed in stoking the anger and defiance of the Palestinian people and ensure that the violence will be perpetuated for generations to come.



Contents: In this edition you can read

- ◆ About the award of the Nobel Peace Prize (page 2)
- ◆ MCND's Book Shelf- suggested reading (page 2)
- ◆ About MCND's campaigning activities (pages 3, 4 & 5)
- ◆ About the campaign to stop nuclear weapons coming to Lakenheath (page 5)

The Nobel Peace Prize 2024

NIHON HIDANKO

“For demonstrating through witness testimony that nuclear weapons must never be used again.”

(The Norwegian Nobel Committee)

Survivors

The two American atomic bombs dropped over Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, killed over 250,000 people, either immediately or later of burn and radiation injuries. Some 650,000 people survived the attacks and are known as Hibakusha in Japanese.

Founding of Nihon Hidankyo

The fate of survivors was long concealed and ignored. In 1956, local Hibakusha associations, along with victims of nuclear weapons tests in the Pacific, formed The Nihon Hidankyo organization. This grassroots movement soon became the largest and most representative Hibakusha organization in Japan.

Terumi Tanaka,
co-chair
Nihon Hidankyo
who was 13
when Hiroshima
was bombed.



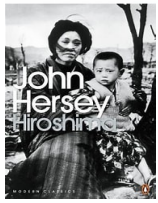
Objectives

Nihon Hidankyo has two main objectives. The first is to promote the social and economic rights of all Hibakusha, including those living outside Japan. The second is to ensure that no one ever again is subjected to the catastrophe that befell the Hibakusha.

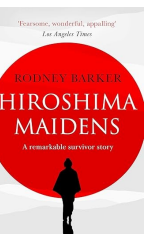
Bearing Witness

Nihon Hidankyo members have travelled world wide, giving powerful personal witness statements and carrying out extensive educational work on the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. Hence the motto “No more Hibakusha”.

MCND BOOKSHELF - books to beg, borrow or buy



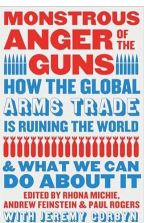
Written only a year after the bombing, John Hersey’s *Hiroshima* was a phenomenon. It quickly became a bestseller and an acknowledged classic. In lucid prose and with an emphasis on eye witness testimony, it made clear the horror of nuclear weapons and the incredible danger this new technology posed to humanity. (Penguin Classics, January 2001)



Out of the devastation of the first atomic bomb, this book is about survivors, *The Hiroshima Maidens*, 25 courageous women who survived horrific injuries. Schoolgirls when the bomb destroyed their future, they undertook years of reconstructive surgery. This unflinching, compassionate account tells how they slowly and with heroic determination, rebuilt their lives. (Lume Books, June 2015)



In *The Insecurity Trap*, Professor Paul Rogers tackles head on the major global insecurities that increasingly alarm and bewilder people (wars, climate change, poverty, inequality etc). He explains that, to understand and break free from this “crowded glowering world” we need to address three questions—the environmental limits of growth, the social transformation of the world’s economy and a move away from militaristic definition of global security. (Hawthorn Press Sept 2024)



The Monstrous Anger lays bare the dark and sinister world of the global arms trade. Leading activists, including Jeremy Corbyn and Professor Paul Rogers (Bradford University) expose a business which counts its profits in billions and its losses in human rights. An angry and devastating and extremely urgent book which should alert the public and shame mainstream politicians. (Pluto Press August 2024)

Out and About with MCND



MARCHING FOR GAZA!

On 21 September, MCND took part in a massive demonstration in Liverpool in support of victims of the Gaza genocide. The march/demo which CND helped to organise, took place the day before the Labour Party Conference in Liverpool. As you can see, we provided banners and helped to steward the event.



HIROSHIMA DAY AUGUST 2024

MCND held our annual vigil to remember the victims of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Lord Mayor of Liverpool Councillor Richard Kemp laid our wreath and spoke. While the event was reasonably well attended, we hope to organise something special next year to mark the 80th anniversary of the bombing.

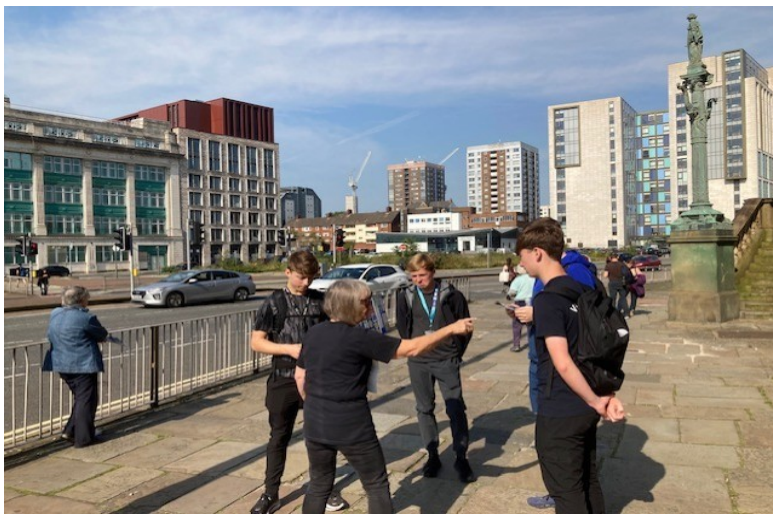


Out and About with MCND (continued)



THE LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

The Labour Party held their annual conference in Liverpool this year. Once again MCND was there on the opening day. The two MCND co-chairs distributed leaflets and attempted to chat to delegates. Unfortunately under Sir Keir Starmer's 'New Labour' regime, most were as unresponsive as under Blair. Too many smooth young men! Disappointing but not unexpected.



Reaching the Younger Generation (or not!)

MCND have made a great effort this year to try to reach young people. Hence our stalls on William Brown Street to catch students on their way to town. As you can see, Barbara managed to engage with a group of lads but, generally the age gap (about 50 years!) continues to be a problem.



THREADS - AN ANTI - NUCLEAR DRAMA

On 9th October, Channel 4 broadcast *Threads*, a 1984 apocalyptic war drama showing the potential effects of nuclear war on the city of Sheffield. The film depicts in uncompromising detail, the medical, social, economic and environmental consequences of nuclear war and carries a powerful anti nuclear punch.

On the day after the showing MCND were out on the streets hoping discuss the implications of the film, particularly with young people. Unfortunately, very few of them had seen the film. Now, if it had been on YouTube....



LOCAL BRANCHES IN ACTION

MCND's local branches have been active this year. Photograph to the left is of Birkenhead CND's stall at the Earth Festival in West Kirkby in September
Then we have Wallasey CND's 9th August stall to mark the atomic bombing of Nagasaki



PEACE CRANES IN WELSH PARISH CHURCH

While on holiday in Wales, MCND Co-chair Barbara was pleasantly surprised when she walked into St Mary's Parish Church in Conwy and found herself overwhelmed with peace cranes. They were hoping to make 1000 and invited visitors to make their own. As you can see, they make a stunning display. As 2025 is the 80th anniversary of Hiroshima, it would be amazing if we could involve our local places of worship to do the same.

ON THE NUCLEAR FRONT LINE !

US Nukes - No Thanks!

Since April 2022 there has been growing evidence that the US intends to use RAF Lakenheath as a major part of NATO's nuclear weapons infrastructure in Europe. US budget documents show that the weapon's storage silos at the base at Lakenheath are being upgraded to store the new B61-12 guided nuclear bomb. Washington also intends to double the number of nuclear-capable F-35 aircraft stationed at Lakenheath to 54, as part of strengthening its military presence in Europe.

CND Campaign

CND are campaigning strongly against this extremely dangerous and destabilising development. They have organised days of action and a peace camp. They have called for a national day of action on 2 November and are organising a second peace camp at the base in April 2025.

Labour Party Collusion

Unfortunately, under Keir Starmer, the Labour Party has become even more militaristic. He has even, shamefully, described the development of Britain's nuclear deterrent as one of the "Towering Achievements" of the 1945 Labour government! So we can expect no help there.

We did it Once

110 nuclear bombs stored at the airbase were removed in 2008 following persistent popular protest. So, with enough support from all lovers of peace, we could do it again. So join us and help.



Quotation Corner

Birkenhead CND

Had a busy season of fairs in Ashton Park, Neston and the Earthfest and joining for a stall with Wallesey for Nagasaki Day. We have also been out on the streets with the Gaza marches on Sundays 2pm from RC Cathedral and on the streets of Liverpool If anyone would like notice of when we are doing stalls and would like to help please let me know
Cath.page@phoncoop.coop

Wallasey CND

Saturday 11 January 2025 AGM 2pm followed by social 3.30pm, food drinks, games. All welcome.
Monday 3rd March 4pm first planning meeting of 2025
Both meetings to be held at
4 Taunton Road Wallasey CH45 3JN

Pax Christi

Meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month 7pm at St Michaels Irish Centre, Boundary Lane Liverpool 6. All welcome. We are looking for other meeting places too.

Merseyside CND 50 Club

£5 per month; £50 monthly draw, Annual draw £250, £100, £50. Annual draw 1st Angela Lansley, 2nd Wylie, 3rd Loretta Humphries; April Alan Derrick, May Lorna Froome, June Judy Patterson, July, Lorna Froome, August, Alan Derrick, September Ruth Mullins.
Contact CND for details
Merseysidecnd@gmail.com
151 Dale St. L2 2AH

There is always an easy solution to every problem, neat, plausible and wrong.

(H L Mencken)



The role of the intellectual cannot be to excuse the violence of one side and condemn that of the other.

(Albert Camus)



America is the most grandiose experiment the world has seen, but I am afraid it is not going to be a success.

(Sigmund Freud)



War against a foreign country only happens when the moneyed classes think they are going to profit from it.

(George Orwell)



Conventionality is not morality
(Charlotte Bronte)

MERSEYSIDE CND MEMBERSHIP FORM

To receive regular newsletters please complete form and return to address below.

Name..... Phone.....

email.....

Address.....

I/we wish to *join/ rejoin Merseyside CND.

Subscription rates: *waged-£5/ family-£6/ unwaged or youth (under 22) £2.

I/we *would/ would not also like a new member's pack at a cost of £1.

I/we understand that Merseyside CND needs funds for its campaigns and donate £_____

Total Enclosed £..... (Please make cheques payable to Merseyside CND)

Signed..... Date.....

(* Delete as appropriate)
Merseyside CND, 151 Dale St, Liverpool L2 2AH

MCND Co-ord:
next meeting:
Wednesday January
8th 2025 14:00 CND
Office 151 Dale St.
L2 2AH
All members welcome

