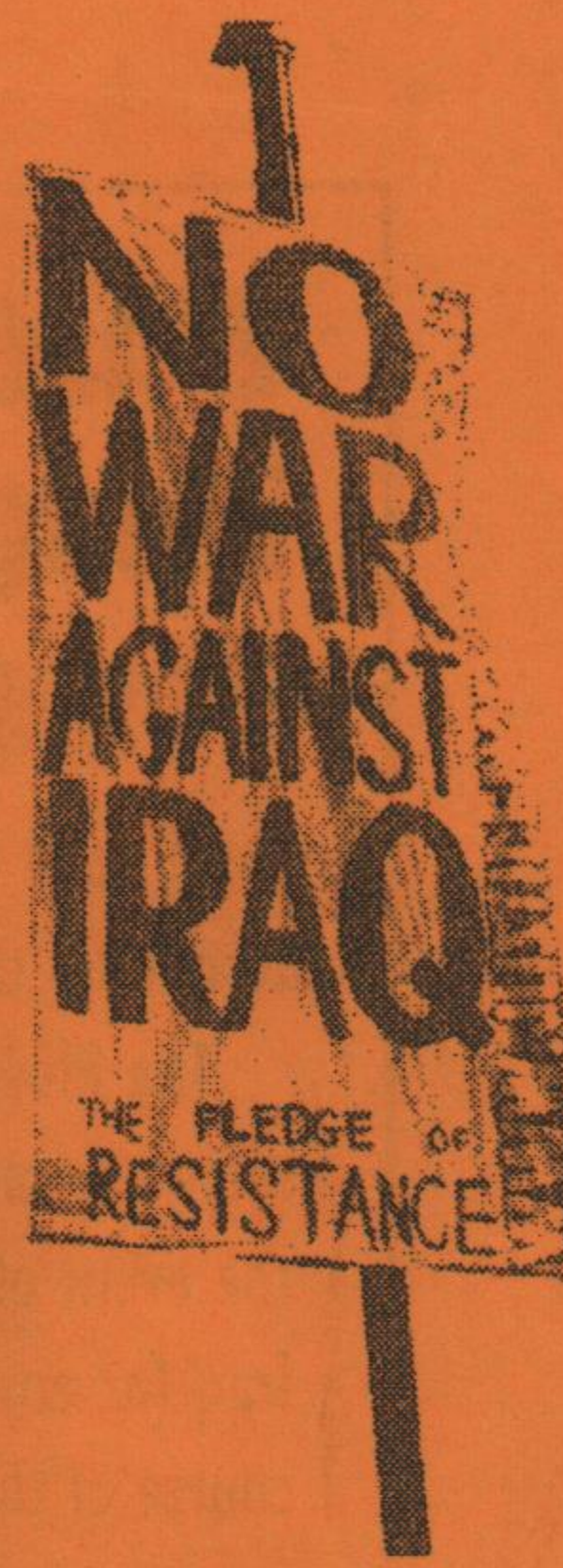


PLEDGE

Newsletter of The Pledge of Resistance No. 4

November 2002

www.justicenotvengeance.org



PLEDGER 'INSPECTS' BASE

Three 'weapons inspectors'—Per Herngren (Sweden), Susan Van De Hijden (Netherlands) and Les Gibbons (UK—a Pledger!)—were arrested at Marchwood Military Port on 20 Oct. during a spot inspection to assess the risk of material being deployed to the Gulf for a war on Iraq.

The inspectors entered through the fence, cutting 'so as to cause minimal damage', and ascertained that Marchwood would be a key UK

port in any war against Iraq. They said later, 'it may be deemed necessary for those seriously committed to civil disobedience to continue to monitor the risk from shipments deployed from there and so be in a state of heightened readiness to act proactively to disrupt war plans using civil disobedience.'

Only Susan was charged (with criminal damage)—court dates to be announced.



WAR ZONE

WHITEHALL

A MASS NONVIOLENT DIE-IN

10.30am, Whitehall Place, London SW1, Monday 2 December

As war approaches, it's time to bring the reality of human suffering to Tony Blair's doorstep and once again block Whitehall—this time on a Monday morning. No More Business As Usual.

Please bring yourself and a group to take part in the die-in or to take a support role—many non-arrestable folk needed as stewards, legal observers, banner-holders, leafleters etc.

**Prop-making, Non-Violent Direct
Action Workshop & Teach-in
11-5 Sun. 1 December 2002
Kingsley Hall, Powls Rd, London E3**

Called by voices uk & ARROW

Ph: 0845 458 2564

E: voices@viwuk.freemove.co.uk

In the event of war

Pledge groups around the country will hold their own forms of nonviolent direct action.

In London, sit-downs will start from the south side of Trafalgar Square, gathering at:

7pm that evening if war starts before 4pm

7pm next evening if war starts after 4pm

AND I am on the first Sat. after war starts
unless first action takes place on Fri., in which
case I am on **second** Sat. after war starts.

3600 HAVE SIGNED THE PLEDGE

ACTION

US PLEDGE

40,000 people, including Susan Sarandon, Martin Sheen, David Byrne, and a 9/11 rescue worker, gathered in Central Park, New York, on 6 Oct. to sign the US Pledge of Resistance: 'speaker after speaker told us her or his tale about why they were there to take the Pledge of Resistance and why they refused to stay silent. After hearing the first few speakers, many of us were in tears.'

ENGLISH PLEDGE CONTACTS

There are now Pledge contacts in Birmingham (0121 449 5683), Bournemouth (01202 822 024), Brighton (hutchings@sniffout.com), Bristol (0117 9514 4744), Cambridge (0845 458 1688), Leicester (0116 247 0121), Liverpool (0151 707 9893), Manchester (0161 286 7950), Oxford (01865 794 504), Portsmouth (01329 312 553), Sheffield (0114 266 2671) and elsewhere.

LOCAL MEETINGS

Happening all over! If you would like to organise a local affinity group, please call 0845 458 2564 to get in touch with local Pledgers.

LET US KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON

Please do let us know of any Pledge-related activities happening in your area so we can publicise them in the next newsletter and on the website <www.j-n-v.org>. Thanks.

What is the Pledge of Resistance?

The Pledge of Resistance is an attempt to oppose the threatened war on Iraq.

The Pledge is a public declaration of intent to carry out civil disobedience in the event of a major US/UK attack on Iraq (or any other country) in the course of the so-called "war on terrorism". (See tear-off slip below.)

So far over 3600 people have signed the ARROW and Scottish Pledges, including Caroline Lucas MEP.

We urge all Pledge signers to form local **affinity groups** and to hold nonviolent direct action preparation workshops. Please check the website for more info (which is coming gradually...)

The Pledge is only triggered in the event of a major military assault, but signing the Pledge now helps to put pressure on the Government and to create a network of affinity groups and individuals willing to risk arrest and trial, who can cooperate to take further **preventive** action, before the war is launched.

The Pledge was started by ARROW (Active Resistance to the Roots of War), a nonviolent direct action affinity group formed in September 1990 to oppose the Gulf War. <www.j-n-v.org>

Pledge Sponsors

Noam Chomsky, Chumbawumba, George Galloway MP, Jeremy Hardy, Caroline Lucas MEP, Adrian Mitchell, Celia Mitchell, George Monbiot, Canon Paul Oestreicher, Will Self, Hans von Sponeck (ex-UN Humanitarian Co-ordinator Iraq), Ralph Steadman, Angie Zelter. ARROW, Brighton & Hove Green Party, Women in Black (Cambridge), G. Manchester Coalition Against Sanctions and War on Iraq, London Region CND, Oxford Campaign Against War in Iraq, Mariam Appeal, Musicians Against Nuclear Arms, Nuneaton & N. Warwickshire Against the War, Oswestry Coalition for Peace, the Pacifist Party, Pax Christi, Reading Roadbusters, Scottish CND, Stop the War Coalition, Sussex Action for Peace, UK Network of Engaged Buddhists, and **voices in the wilderness uk.**

RESOURCES

Legal Briefings for Activists

The Activists' Legal Project has produced some excellent briefings on possible charges for nonviolent civil disobedience, police arrest procedures, and how to run a legal support group (ESSENTIAL if you are expecting arrests).

Briefings are available from **voices** 0845 458 2564 (local rate) or from the ALP website: <www.activistslegalproject.org.uk>

Pledge Postcard

A postcard version of the Pledge form is now available from the ARROW office. Please use the tear-off slip below to order copies.

New Anti-War Book *War Plan Iraq*

By Milan Rai: 'The clearest and most persuasive explanation of the reasons not to go to war with Iraq anyone could wish for.' George Monbiot. £10 post-free ('ARROW Publications') 29 Gensing Rd, St Leonards on Sea, TN 38 0HE.

Monbiot Media Guide

Good press work can make an action ten times more effective. George Monbiot has written a brief, readable and all-round excellent guide for activists doing media work. Pamphlet costs £1.50 inc. p&p from **voices**, 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1 9DX, or read it online at <www.antenna.nl/eyfa/resources/media.htm>

Activist Web Resources

Some accessible, encouraging and just plain practical fruits of a long activist career can be found at <www.starhawk.org>. Good bits include 'How To Plan An Action' and materials for people organising preparation sessions. Wise reflections on tactics/strategy also.

Brilliant stuff on civil disobedience can also be found at the New York ACT-UP site <www.actupny.org>, and the Genetix Snowball site <www.fraw.org.uk/gs/>.

RESISTANCE DIARY

WARZONE WHITEHALL: A NONVIOLENT DIE-IN AGAINST ANOTHER WAR WITH IRAQ
Preparation Sunday 1 December
Action Monday 2 December

Starts 10.30am, Whitehall Place, SW1.
Accommodation available. Org. by **voices uk** and ARROW. Phone: 0845 458 2564.

MASS NONVIOLENT BLOCKADE OF NORTHWOOD MILITARY BASE, LONDON Mid-Jan 2003
Northwood commands UK forces in the Gulf.
Details to be confirmed by end of November.
Action called by **voices uk** 0845 458 2564.

CONTINGENCY PLANS

The Scottish Coalition for Justice Not War (0141 423 1222) will hold a sit-down at noon in George Sq., Glasgow, the Saturday after war begins. ARROW (020 7607 2302) will hold actions in Whitehall the evening of the attack, and the following Sat.

PLEDGE

BADGE

Badges available from address below for just 40p each inc p&p.

**I've Signed
The Pledge
Of Resistance**

Please complete and return this form to ARROW, c/o **voices**, 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1 9DX

I oppose US/UK military retaliation for September 11th. (Please tick ONE PLEDGE ONLY.)

PLEDGE OF ACTION I pledge to take part in nonviolent civil disobedience in the event of a major US/UK attack on Iraq or any other country in the course of the "war on terrorism." ☐

PLEDGE OF SUPPORT I pledge to support people in my community carrying out nonviolent civil disobedience against the US/UK "war on terrorism." ☐

Signed

Please only sign if you agree to have your name and town published on the web and for campaigning purposes. (All other details will be kept confidential.) Please tick box if you don't want your details to be passed on to other local Pledgers ☐ I enclose a donation of £ to help the work of the Pledge. (Please make cheques payable to 'ARROW' and mark them 'Pledge' on the back).

Please send 10 Pledge postcards ☐ ARROW Anti-War Briefing ☐ Pledge badges 40p each inc p&p ☐
Name (CAPITALS PLEASE)

Address (CAPITALS PLEASE)

Phone

Email