



## NO TRIDENT REPLACEMENT — the campaign continues

**W**ednesday 14th March saw a huge parliamentary vote against the government's plans to replace Trident, Britain's nuclear weapons system. However, the vote was carried with Conservative MPs supporting the government. On Labour's side, four junior ministers resigned and 95 Labour MPs – refused to back the proposals. Each of the 160 warheads planned for the new submarines are 8 times as powerful as the Hiroshima bomb that killed 140,000. Trident replacement will cost an estimated £76bn. In comparison, scrapping fees would cost less than £2bn a year.

There is widespread public opposition to Trident replacement. A More4/Populus poll show that 72% of people don't support the Government's plan for Britain to have nuclear weapons in 20 years time.

**'Trident replacement will cost an estimated £76bn. In comparison, scrapping fees would cost less than £2bn a year.'**

Over 50 top British bands and musicians including Thom Yorke, Kaiser Chiefs, Damon Albarn, Snow Patrol, Razorlight, Franz Ferdinand and Bloc



Photo: Sheila Velez

Party signed a CND statement opposing Trident replacement and calling on the public to 'choose peace and justice, not nuclear weapons and war.'

On the day of the parliamentary vote, singer Annie Lennox, designer Vivien Westwood and UN human rights envoy, Bianca Jagger joined MPs, students, trade unionists, church leaders and environmental organisations outside Parliament.

These weapons of mass destruction will make the world a far more dangerous place. Former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said that "the more that those states that already have [nuclear weapons] increase their arsenals, or insist that such weapons are essential to their national security, the more other states feel that they too must have them for their security".

Replacing Trident will increase the risk of nuclear weapons being used in war. Tony Blair has previously admitted it will do nothing to deter terrorist attacks.

The British government has now adopted a 'first strike', pre-emptive policy towards the use of nuclear weapons, and it is prepared to use its nuclear weapons against a country that does not have them. Margaret Beckett, in echos of the cold war rhetoric, has cited Russia and China as potential enemies justifying Trident's replacement.

### Trident replacement can still be stopped

There are several years before construction of the new submarines begins, and pressure for further parliamentary debates. This was just the start of campaigning against these new deadly weapons.

Students can play a key role in CND's ongoing campaign against Trident replacement. Join the protests taking place at bases, including Faslane in Scotland and Aldermaston near Reading. Visit [www.faslane365.org](http://www.faslane365.org) and [www.blockthebuilders.org.uk](http://www.blockthebuilders.org.uk) for more details.

**Say no Trident replacement at NUS conference**

- Vote for No Trident Replacement emergency motion
- Kate Hudson, Chair CND as guest speaker

# End the occupation of Iraq — no more wars

**F**our years after the illegal invasion Iraq is in chaos. Yet despite the ever-growing violence, the US seems intent on intensifying its military action in Iraq, and some in the US wish to extend the war to Iran.

The invasion and occupation have created a humanitarian disaster with hundreds of thousands of civilians estimated to have been killed and hundreds more dying on a daily basis. Swathes of the country are in ruins or littered with cluster bombs and contaminated by radioactive depleted uranium. Water and electricity have still not been restored to pre-invasion levels.

The ongoing American and British casualties — including more than 3,000 US and 130 British soldiers — combined with the ever mounting financial cost — are increasing domestic pressure for an end to the occupation.



The British government's decision to begin withdrawing troops recognises that their presence is not making the situation any better.

The Bush administration has become increasingly isolated, with Iraq a major factor in the Republican's defeat in the congressional elections last year. Six out of ten Americans now consider the war a mistake and only 28% believe that the US will win the war.

The administration has even ignored the recommendations of the Republican-led Iraq Study Group to begin withdrawal. Instead 21,500 extra US troops have been announced as part of a 'surge' strategy and frighteningly some US politicians appear to be considering plans for further wars. Alongside Britain and Israel, it is increasing the rhetoric towards Iran with accusations of Iranian attempts to acquire nuclear weapons almost identical to those

used in the build up to war on Iraq.

In contrast to the US claims, Mohammed El Baradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Authority, has stated repeatedly that there is

no evidence that Iran is developing a nuclear weapons system. Military experts have warned that military action would set into motion a confrontation across the Middle East for generations to come.

Students can help send a clear message to the government to break with Bush and pursue a more peaceful Middle East policy. Get involved with Student CND campaigning against war, nuclear weapons and for peace and justice.

## For a nuclear free Middle East

**S**aturday 21 April marks the third anniversary of the release of nuclear whistle-blower Mordechai Vanunu, who spent 18 years in prison for exposing Israel's secret Israeli nuclear weapons.

Hypocritically, the US is silent on Israel, its principal ally in the region. Israel possesses approximately 200 nuclear weapons — and is the fifth largest nuclear power in the world. It has never signed up to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty or allowed inspections to take place, and until recently, had never publicly acknowledged its nuclear weapons. This is despite numerous UN resolutions calling for a nuclear free Middle East and the abolition of Israel's nuclear weapons.

Despite his release, Vanunu is still not free. In clear contravention of his human rights, his freedom of speech, movement and association are all severely restricted.

A Vanunu Freedom Ride is planned from Faslane — Britain's nuclear weapons base near Glasgow, on 7 April, to the Israeli Embassy in London on 21 April. Cyclists are welcome to join the whole journey or small sections, as they feel able!

To join in, call 0845 4581965, e-mail [info@vanunufreedomride.org.uk](mailto:info@vanunufreedomride.org.uk), or visit the website for more details [www.vanunufreedomride.org.uk](http://www.vanunufreedomride.org.uk).

## US prepares for new world war

**P**ress reports suggest Tony Blair has been actively lobbying Washington to ensure Britain hosts a missile interceptor site as part of the US plans for a national Missile Defence System (NMD).

The US development of NMD is part of the Bush administration's plan for global 'full spectrum dominance'. NMD is designed for war on a far greater scale than we have seen in decades by allowing the US to attack another nuclear country without fear of retaliation.

The US is proposing a series of bases across the world to track and intercept missiles. Any country that hosts US NMD makes their populations a potential target for attack during a future nuclear conflict.

Proposals to establish bases in Poland and the Czech Republic are meeting major public opposition. In Poland, despite government support, around 63 per cent oppose having NMD equipment in their country, with only 23 per cent supporting it.

Britain already hosts radar and early warning components of the NMD system at Menwith Hill and Fylingdales based in Yorkshire.

Students should give their support to the international campaigns against US NMD. Here in Britain there are regular protests at Fylingdales and Menwith Hill.

For more information contact Yorkshire CND on 01274 730 795 or visit [www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk](http://www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk).