

Sophie Bolt's Speech at USAF Fairford

Why is this protest so important?

This protest is important because this base is critical to the US being able to carry out its illegal wars. Like bombing of Iran.

It's good that the B52s have gone. And the B1s and all the bombers! But we need to make that permanent. And we need to stop the US drones too. We know this is a rapidly accelerating new technology just as deadly as the bombers.

It is still a very fragile ceasefire with the US and Iran.

We can see our planet is burning and we are on the cusp of global recession.

And we know that Trump is pouring millions more into upgrading this base. This shows US is determined to keep it prepared for more wars.

So today, on Independence from America Day, we want an end to this toxic US military alliance - over 77 years old! - which keeps Britain on this war-mongering, war-readiness path to death and destruction.

It is not only is making the world more dangerous and increasing the threats of nuclear weapons being used.

It has brought this British govt into total crisis.

Starmer has been forced to resign due to his failure to improve living standards.

Both he and now most likely Burnham are trying to bankrupt the country with this defence investment plan which pours £398bn into war and nukes over next four years.

Nuke spending £64bn is more than double any other area of MoD budget on procurement.

So no cuts to nukes. Still got everything. Trident replacement. Nuke warheads. Aukus subs. And F35A jets.

Now also £5bn for drone tech.

All at the expense of public services and climate action.

Starmer has made nearly £7bn worth of cuts across all other depts. Including 2bn to end retrofitting insulation in homes. Urgent spending to make our homes more energy

efficient to reduce carbon emissions and make them cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.

This means worsening climate breakdown and fuel poverty. As cap on energy bills has gone up.

And still another £5bn cuts to come this year.

Totally wrong priorities, making world far more dangerous.

This crisis isn't going away for Burnham. On the contrary, it will only get worse if he continues with same direction & spending on war and nukes.

But not popular. Elections show this. Polling shows people don't support increase in military spending.

Only get majority support if think it will create jobs.

New research shows this is false. DIP Will result in net loss of jobs by at least 10k because of impact of cuts.

Opposition to war and genocide is growing in the U.S.

First time ever, Republican-controlled Senate passed the War Powers Act which means Trump has to get congressional permission before restarting a war on Iran.

There is now majority public opposition to nuclear-armed Israel's genocidal regime across all ages and political affiliations.

Today we are part of a global day of action against war, NATO and nukes.

Protests taking place vs NATO summit this weekend in Turkey.

Protests for independence from US in Europe today.

Last week over 250 protested at the US airbase at Ramstein in Germany.

Today also protest at Menwith Hill in Yorkshire.

Following the very successful anti war summit in London last month there is more support across Europe for more coordinated action against US bases.

Critical that we are working together.

Unity means we are strongest to take on huge powers pushing for war.

But we have a stronger power. People power!

So let's build the campaign here at Fairford. Great to keep up presence. Lots more interest and awareness and support for shutting down this US war crimes base.

We can do it!