

NON-VIOLENT RESISTANCE NETWORK NEWSLETTER

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TRUMP SPECIAL EDITION!

Epitaph on a Tyrant

Perfection, of a kind, was what he was after,
And the poetry he invented was easy to understand;
He knew human folly like the back of his hand,
And was greatly interested in armies and fleets;
When he laughed, respectable senators burst with laughter,
And when he cried the little children died in the streets.

W.H. Auden (1940)

Trump's wants

- 1) the Nobel Peace Prize
- 2) to bring "peace" to Gaza and Ukraine on terms acceptable to Putin and Netanyahu
- 3) to control an international "Peace Board" to not only control Gaza but also it seems to act as an alternative UN
- 4) for the US to occupy Greenland and exploit its oil, gas and key mineral reserves
- 5) to control the vast oil reserves in Venezuela
- 6) for Canada to become the US's 51st state
- 7) to take over Mexico
- 8) to attack any country he wishes. Thus he has recently bombed or invaded Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, Nigeria and Venezuela. He has also sent militarised US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers to major cities to round up possible illegal immigrants, deporting large numbers.



And if he doesn't get what he wants, like a spoilt child he gets very angry and threatens terrible consequences to those he regards responsible, which he may or may not actually carry out, but which serves to instil fear in his opponents.

Nobel Peace Prize and Venezuela

A trivial example is the fuss Trump has made about not being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. It's difficult to see how his actions merit it. He claims to have ended eight wars, though these claims are dubious. The *Guardian* did a truth check on this claim and found that though he did help secure a

supposed ceasefire between Israel and Hamas this ceasefire has failed to hold, He has also failed to secure a ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine. His administration did play a role in brokering ceasefires between Israel and Iran, India and Pakistan, and Armenia and Azerbaijan, though the extent of Trump's involvement is questioned. The temporary peace deal between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo fell apart, with fighting killing hundreds of civilians since it was signed in June. Cambodia and Thailand are still trading accusations over broken ceasefires and border clashes. The Egypt-Ethiopia dispute is about a dam on the Nile – a diplomatic problem, but not a shooting war. As for Kosovo and Serbia, it's unclear what brewing conflict Trump is claiming he prevented.

In a message to Norway's Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre in January Trump blamed the country for not giving him the prize, saying as a consequence he no longer feels obliged to think only of peace (as if he ever did!) after he was not awarded the Nobel Prize last year. In his reply to Trump, Støre explained that an independent committee, not the government of Norway, awards the prize.

To help assuage Trump's anger, last year a friend of his who just happens to be the current President of FIFA invented a new prize called the FIFA Peace Prize which FIFA duly awarded to Trump.

It was Venezuela's opposition leader María Corina Machado who had actually been awarded the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize "for her tireless work promoting democratic rights for the people of Venezuela and for her struggle to achieve a just and peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy".

In 2024 Machado won the primary for the presidential election against the dictator Nicolas Maduro, but she was then banned from standing in the election itself, which was widely claimed as rigged against Machado's party member who stood in her place..



Peace Prize hand-over

In a bizarre episode after US troops had abducted the president of Venezuela and his wife to be put on trial in the US for being “narco-terrorists”. Machado met Trump to presumably try to get his support for her to be the real elected president of Venezuela, handing over to Trump her gold Nobel prize medal. Trump happily accepted, but the prize committee pointed out that though the medal could be given away that didn't make the new recipient the winner of the peace prize!

Trump anyway had decided to support the current government of Venezuela, with the previous Vice-President as President, even though he had previously described the government as a whole of being made up of “narco-terrorists”, seemingly on the understanding

that US energy companies can exploit Venezuela's vast oil reserves.

Greenland

Trump, ever since his first Presidency, has said the US needs to annex Greenland for US national security and to protect Greenland particularly from Russia and China. Greenland just happens to be very rich in valuable rare earths and oil. If it's really a question of defending Greenland, or indeed America, the US already has a military base in Greenland and Greenland and Denmark have both said they would allow the base's expansion. Greenland is currently a semi-autonomous Danish territory and the Danish PM Frederiksen has continued to insist that Greenland is not for sale. Trump refused to rule out using force to take over Greenland. Thus, In January this year the White House announced that Trump has been discussing "a range of options" to acquire Greenland, including use of the military.

Since Denmark is a member of NATO this would involve a NATO member attacking another member. In response to such threats, in February NATO members joined Danish forces in a 550-strong military exercise in Greenland named *Operation Arctic Endurance* to show support for Greenland's independence. The countries taking part or in supporting the exercise in addition to Denmark were Sweden, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway and the UK – though the UK only sent one officer!

Trump responded to say he would, from February 1 2026, impose a 10% import tariff on goods from the above countries increasing to 25% on June 1 unless Denmark agreed to sell Greenland to the US.

However four days after making this threat and after meeting world leaders at the World Economic Forum at Davos and with Mark Rutte the Secretary-General of NATO, he withdrew it as well as the threat to use military force to take over Greenland, saying he had reached the “framework” of a deal over Greenland.

Trump did not give details of the deal except to say that it would be “for ever”, but according to a report in the New York Times, at a meeting on January 21 of military officers from NATO countries, a deal was suggested in which the US would be granted sovereignty over parts of Greenland, presumably to be used for US military bases in the way that the UK has sovereignty over its military base in Cyprus and also that there would be a deal over minerals. However members of the Danish and Greenlandic parliaments both rejected these suggestions on the grounds that any deal over the sovereignty of Greenland could not be struck without Greenland being party to the negotiations.

Trump has also threatened to take over Mexico and Canada, another NATO member, and make Canada the US’s 51st state, and also to resume control of the Canal Zone in Panama. though he has as yet not done anything yet towards achieving these aims. Trump has spoken in support of the *Monroe Doctrine*, which was enacted by President Monroe in 1823. This declared the whole of the Americas to be the US sphere of influence, which the rest of the world could not interfere with. The implication of the Monroe Doctrine being that the US should be able to do as it pleases in the Americas.

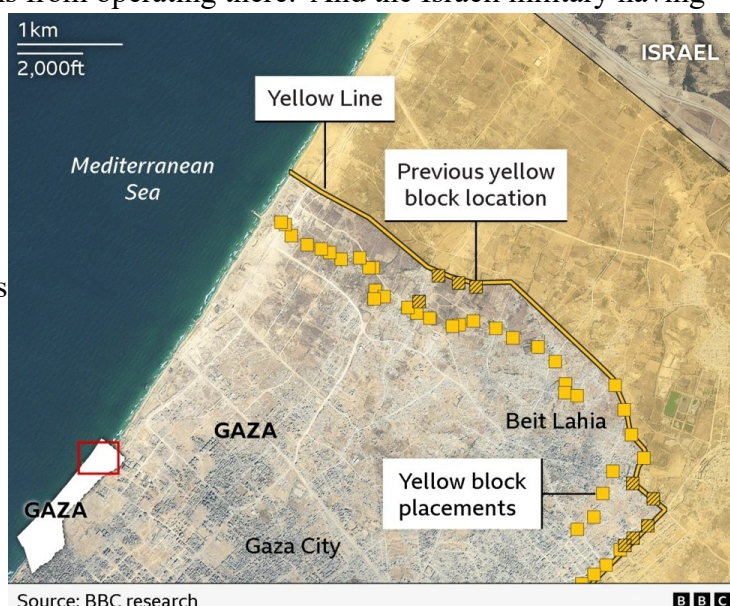
Gaza

A supposed ceasefire in Gaza came into force on October 9 2025. The first stage of this plan required Israeli forces to withdraw to an agreed line to prepare for the release of all Israeli hostages, dead and alive, until conditions were met for a complete Israeli staged withdrawal from Gaza, for battle lines to be frozen and all military operations stopped, including aerial and artillery bombardment. In return a chosen large number of Palestinian prisoners and detainees would be released. Also needed aid would be immediately sent into Gaza and infrastructure, hospitals and bakeries would be restored.

Almost none of these agreements have been kept. Israel has continued to bomb Gaza with the excuse they are targeting Hamas members, though continuing to try bomb the members of a group you have signed a ceasefire deal with does seem to undermine the principle of a ceasefire. In any case the bombing still seems largely random with, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry, 509 Palestinians having been killed in Gaza by February 1 since the start of the ceasefire, meaning just that genocide is continuing at a slower rate. Also, Israel continues to restrict very much the amount and kind of aid allowed into Gaza and has banned very many aid organisations from operating there. And the Israeli military having withdrawn from just under half of Gaza show every sign of wanting to hang on to this part of Gaza permanently with troops strengthening positions, and conducting demolitions. The border of the Israeli occupied zone is encroaching beyond the originally so-called “yellow line” for the Israeli army to occupy some 60% of Gaza, marked with bollards, blocks and yellow poles and Palestinians have been killed when trying to cross it.

In site of all these egregious ceasefire breaches by Israel, Trump said in December 2025 that Israel had fully complied with the Gaza ceasefire, but threatened Hamas with severe consequences if it fails to disarm, even though Hamas’s disarmament is left to phase 2 of Trump’s peace plan. Hamas has refused to give up its weapons without the creation of an independent Palestinian state, and Israel has not committed to fully withdrawing from Gaza.

On January 14, US envoy Steve Witkoff announced the start of phase 2 of President Donald Trump's plan to end the war in Gaza. Witkoff said this phase would see the reconstruction and full demilitarisation of



Northern Gaza: yellow line encroaching further

Gaza, including disarmament of Hamas and other Palestinian groups. (But not it seems of Israeli troops occupying 60% of Gaza.)

Phase 2, as originally agreed, also involved the setting up of an international *Board of Peace* to manage day-to-day governance and oversee the rebuilding and repair of infrastructure, a temporary *International Stabilisation Force* with US, Arab and European members to oversee security and facilitate training of a Palestinian police force and a *Committee for the Administration of Gaza* (CFAG) led by Palestinian technocrats.

In a ceremony in Davos on January 22 Trump formally ratified a Charter for the *Board of Peace* (BOP). Trump appointed himself as “Chairman for Life” and made the decisions as to who to invite onto Board. Since members would be charged at least \$1 billion each for becoming permanent members, the board became a rich man’s club. People who accepted Trump’s invitation to join the “Executive Board” of the BOP were Marco Rubio, US Secretary of State, Steve Witkoff, US Special Envoy to the Middle East, Jared Kushner, Donald Trump's son-in-law, Tony Blair, UK ex-PM, Nickolay Mladenov, appointed by the US under the title “High Representative for Gaza”, Mark Rowan, CEO of US company *Apollo Global Management*, Ajay Banga, President of the *World Bank* and Robert Gabriel Jr, American political advisor. A very US-dominated executive board for a supposed international organisation!

Many countries have been invited to join the BOP as ordinary members and seven have so far indicated that they intend to accept the invitation. These include Israel, Egypt and Belarus. Nine European countries refused the invitation including the UK, France, Ireland, Norway, Spain and Sweden. Trump was particularly angry with France for not joining. Russia was also invited but has not replied. Putin can hardly be expected to accept being a junior member of an organisation run by Trump however!

The formation of CFAG was authorised by a UN Security Council Resolution passed on 17/11/25 and on the 24th Hamas stated it was ready to hand over the administration of the Gaza Strip to it. The Committee held its inaugural meeting in Cairo on 16/1/26. However members of the Committee were prevented from re-entering Gaza from Egypt four days later because the body of one remaining dead Israeli hostage had not yet been returned by Hamas, Israel’s final condition for agreeing to proceed to the second phase of the ceasefire plan.

The body was eventually found by IDF forces in a Palestinian graveyard on January 26, and Israel duly agreed to proceed with the second phase and said it would open up the major Rafah crossing with Egypt, closed since March 2025, on February 2, but only for people needing or having had life-saving surgery, not for vehicles or aid convoys, which was supposed to be the main purpose of opening the crossing.

Ukraine

As with Gaza, Trump has drawn up plans for a ceasefire agreement between Russia and Ukraine without consulting one of the sides and which very much favour one side, in this case Russia.

The deal would involve Ukraine ceding the entirety of Crimea and Luhansk and Donetsk provinces to Russia, though Ukraine currently still controls a third of Donetsk. The plan says there would be a decisive, coordinated response if Russia made further incursions into Ukraine outside these borders but doesn’t say who would make this response.

Other restrictions on Ukraine were that it would not be allowed to join NATO, would have to hold elections within 100 days of the ceasefire being signed and reduce the size of its army to 600,000. Some frozen Russian assets would go toward rebuilding Ukraine, while sanctions on Russia would be lifted and Moscow and Washington would enter in a series of "long-term" economic arrangements.

Not surprisingly President Zelensky of Ukraine rejected the plan, as he has rejected all Trumps previous calls for territorial concessions. Putin also rejected the plan, presumably because he assesses he is slowly winning the war and has more to gain by continuing it than agreeing to a ceasefire.

US

Trump is also carrying out military-style action against his own citizens. He has sent large numbers heavily-armed and masked Federal *US Immigration and Customs Enforcement* (ICE) officers into large cities such as Chicago, Los Angeles, Portland, Memphis and Minneapolis, cities with large immigrant and ethnic minority populations, to round up “illegal” immigrants for deportation, but also to investigate “allegations of fraud, human smuggling and unlawful employment practices.”

Trump justified these actions at a cabinet meeting in August 2025 by saying “I have the right to do anything I want to do. I'm the President of the United States. If I think our country is in danger, and it is in danger in these cities, I can do it.”

The methods used by ICE officers have been very heavy-handed, deploying tear gas and pepper spray against those opposing them.



The killing of Alex Pretti

An egregious example is in Minnesota, a city which has a large Somali population because Somali refugees fleeing Somalia's civil war in the 1990s were allowed into the US and many congregated in Minnesota. Most of them have since gained US citizenship. Some 2000 ICE agents were sent into the twin cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. ICE officers have already killed two US citizens there. The first was Renee Good, a poet and mother of three. The second was Alex Pretti, who worked as an

intensive care nurse in a Veterans' hospital in the city. Both were 37-years old. No evidence has been presented to show either presented any threat to ICE officers, or that Good was a “domestic terrorist” as US Homeland Security Officer Kristi Noem described her after the shooting.

Not surprisingly these invasions have been met by large angry demonstrations by citizens and strong criticism from state governors.

Trump's approval rating around the country has fallen sharply since he was elected a year ago. A poll reported on January 28 found that he rated -14.1, compared to +11.7 at the time of his inauguration. Even his much hyped immigration policies had fallen from +7.0 to -11.7 approval in the same period.

In the face of widespread outrage at the killings, a few days after the second fatal shooting Trump said his federal ICE agents will “de-escalate a little bit” and sack the officer in charge of ICE in Minnesota.

Iran

In face of a burgeoning insurrection against the ruling repressive regime in Iran, Trump warned Iran that if it killed peaceful protesters “we will come to their rescue”. Since then, with deaths of protesters mounting to an estimated 30,000, Trump has done nothing to carry out this promise, falsely stating that the killings had stopped.

However, on January 27, Trump revived his threat to attack Iran, but this time making a quite different *casus belli*, saying that unless Tehran agrees a deal to curb its nuclear programme the US would carry out a “far worse” attack than the strikes he ordered against Iran's nuclear sites last June. He added that “A massive Armada is heading to Iran...larger than that sent to Venezuela. It is...headed by the great Aircraft Carrier *Abraham Lincoln*. Like with Venezuela, it is, ready, willing, and able to rapidly fulfil its mission, with speed and violence, if necessary.”

Trump and Starmer

Starmer has done his best to try to keep on good terms with Trump. In March last year he spoke of how he personally “likes and respects” Trump, saying he had a point in saying that European countries need to bear a “greater burden...for the collective self-defence of Europe.” He also got Trump invited for two full state visits to the UK and in October praised Trump for his leadership in bringing about the Gaza ceasefire deal (though a ceasefire has not actually been achieved yet) and claiming that the UK “played an

important part behind the scenes”. Such fawning seems to have helped win the UK a more favourable trade deal with the US than the US’s deals with most other countries.

In a TV interview in January Starmer refused to condemn Trump’s military action against Venezuela as breaking international law saying that he was waiting to establish the facts, gratuitously adding that he had been a “lifelong advocate of international law”.

However, later the same month Starmer at last took a stand against Trump when he joined other other European countries in criticising Trump. This was over three matters. The first was on January 5 when, as mentioned above, he joined with other European countries in opposing Trump’s plan to annex Greenland. The second was on January 28 when he rejected Trump’s criticism of the UK handing over to Mauritius sovereignty of the Chagos Islands, the site of a joint US-UK military base. Trump claimed this action was of “great stupidity” and somehow helped make the case for the US annexing Greenland! The third was on January 23 when Trump said NATO sent “some troops” to the Afghanistan war but they stayed “a little off the front lines” (presumably unlike US troops) during the war in Afghanistan, which Starmer, along with other leaders of other NATO countries, strongly denied.

The interesting thing is that Trump rode back on all these claims once challenged. You have to stand up against bullies; allowing yourself to be bullied only encourages them to bully you further.

Not that Starmer had learned this lesson. On January 30 he seemed to support Trump’s aggressive approach towards Iran, saying US allies need to face up to the issue of Iran’s nuclear ambitions and “deal with” the deadly repression of anti-government protests.

PALESTINE ACTION HUNGER STRIKE ENDS

It’s a great relief to be able to report the ending the hunger strike by eight *Palestine Action* (PA) activists remanded in custody on charges of alleged criminal damage at arms factories and to military aircraft.

Three of them called off their strikes on January 14 in response to reports that the UK government had decided to call off a proposed £2 billion 15-year contract with Israel arms company, Elbit Systems UK, to train 60,000 UK troops, one of the strikers key demands. The three were Heba Muraisi (31), who had been 73

days on hunger strike, Kamran Ahmed (28), who had been 66 days on strike, and Lewie Chiaramello (22), who has type 1 diabetes so had been fasting every other day and had been on strike for 46 days. During their strikes Kamran Ahmed was hospitalised five times and others of them also spent time in hospital.

Three others, Teuta Hoxha, Jon Cink and Qesser Zuhrah, who had previously paused their strikes also finally called off their actions on the 14th. However, Amar Khalid (22), who had also previously paused his strike decided to resume his strike eventually refusing liquid as well as solid food. However he too called off his strike on January 27 after being taken into intensive care with organ failure.

The episode reflects badly on UK authorities. The eight had been remanded in custody for up to two years when the usual maximum for such remands is six months. They had also been treated with the severity of prisoners found guilty of being members of a terrorist organisation, even though PA had not been proscribed when they were arrested, and they are remanded on charges of burglary.

The government comes out badly from this episode. All along the government had refused requests to meet the strikers and seemed quite content to let them die. It justified this on the ground that the



From left (top): Amu Gib, Heba Muraisi, Jon Cink and Kamran Ahmed; (below): Qesser Zuhrah, Lewie Chiaramello, Teuta Hoxha and Umer Khalid

government could not interfere with legal decisions. However it would surely have been possible for the Attorney General say to suggest to prison authorities that they might negotiate with the strikers to see if there were ways of avoiding the strikers' potential deaths, as indeed happened, but only when the strikers were at death's door.

Indeed in last minute negotiations with the authorities many of the restrictions on the eight were lifted. These included: ending the delay of up to six months for letters sent to them being passed on, improved access to legal/external contacts, /the transfer of Heba back to a prison nearer her family and access to meetings, previously been denied, between prisoners' representatives and healthcare professionals.

COMING EVENTS

February

4, Bradford, 8.30pm online: "Peace & Climate." A Bradford CND webinar discussion to share info. And campaigning ideas. Org. Yorkshire CND. Info: info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk or 02274-730795.

5, Leeds, 6pm: "Stopping Trump's wars and the new nuclear dangers." Public meeting and discussion on new nuclear dangers," with speakers Richard Burgon MP and Sophie Bolt, CND Gen. Sec. At *The Attic*, 3 Sheaf Street LS10 1HD Org. Yorkshire CND. Info: leedscnd@gmail.com or 01274 730795.

7, London: "Unity March – Defend Refugees." Gather 12.30pm, Finsbury Park Mosque, 7-11 Thomas's Rd N4. March to Ducketts Common, Turnpike Lane. Info: islingtonstanduptoracism@gmail.com

14, London 9.30am-4.30pm: PSC AGM (members only): elections, speeches etc. Venue TBA. For info and registration contact hello@pscsupport.org.uk or phone 01235 25 35 45.

18, London, (All day): Ash Wednesday "Witness for Peace" outside the Ministry of Defence, off Whitehall. Org. Pax Christi. Info: admin@paxchristi.org.uk or 020-8203 4884 (and for similar events around the country.)

23, London, 9am: Right to protest support vigil outside Westminster Magistrates' Court, 18 Marylebone Road for Ben Jamal & Chris Nineham on trial for alleged public offences at PSC demo in February 2025. Org. by PSC. Supported by CND, Info: information@cnduk.org or phone 020-7700 2393.

28, RAF Marham, near King's Lynn: CND "Stop British Nuke Jets" national demonstration. The UK has announced it is buying 12 nuclear-capable F34A aircraft from the US to be stationed at Marham. For information (including re coaches) contact information@cnduk.org or 020-7700 2393.

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 the Edith Cavell statue in St. Martin's Place, WC2. Wear black. Info: www.london.womeninblack.org

First Tuesday of each month, Brighton 10.30am-noon: Brighton & Hove Women's International League for Peace and Justice meeting at Jubilee Library, Brighton. Info: brightonwib@11qp.co.uk

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

Every Saturday, Diss, Norfolk, 10-11am: Vigil for peace for Palestine in the Market Place.

Last Saturday of every month, Lakenheath, noon-2pm: *Lakenheath Alliance for Peace* vigil at main gate of Lakenheath US base to highlight opposition to US nuclear weapons returning to UK. vigils@lakenheathallianceforpeace.org.uk

Many Sundays, Liverpool: "March for Palestine." Assemble 2pm Met. Cath. Mt. Pleasant for walk to Derby Square for Rally' at Metropolitan Cathedral Mount Pleasant to walk to Derby Square for rally. Org. Liverpool Friends of Palestine. Info: liverpoolfriendsofpalestine.20@gmail.com

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