

Easter blockade of the nuclear bomb base in Faslane, Scotland **Sunday 8- Monday 9 April 2007**

Nuclear-free hay for all cows!
Nuclear-free Easter eggs for all humans!
Stop Trident nuclear missiles!

Family-friendly, non-violent event with loads of potential for symbolic and more concrete activities!
Easter-egg-missiles decommissioning, blockade of base, etc. –
come and help CIA&friends* free the world from nuclear weapons.

Mail: ciaandfriends@faslane365.org

www.faslane365.org (1-year blockade) and www.faslane365.org/en/cia_and_friends (Easter blockade),
<https://faslane.lilith2.net> (Easter group website in German)

*CIA=cows in action, a non-violent bunch of cows, founded by Lilith II and Bonya at Christmas 2005

What's this blockade all about?

Great Britain currently has about 160 nuclear warheads (=nuclear bombs), dozens of nuclear missiles + 4 nuclear submarines. Instead of finally getting rid of this deadly weapon system (called Trident), the **government** recently announced that it **wants to invest billions of Euros to develop a new generation** of Trident! This is why, on **1 October 2006**, the British peace movement **started a 1-year blockade of the Faslane nuclear base in Scotland**, the home of the atom-bomb submarines.

Autonomous **groups each take a 48h shift** during which they try to shut down the base for as much and long as possible. It is up to each group to decide what kind of presence they want and what specific message they choose.

The **common demand** is that **Trident is to be taken off patrol** and a **clear timetable for dismantling the UK's nuclear weapons** to be made plus a **commitment not to develop new nuclear weapons**.

Where is Faslane?

Faslane is north of Glasgow, near Helensburgh.

Why on earth should I go there?

The decision of the British government comes at a very critical moment. Disarmament negotiations at an international level are stuck. Countries with nuclear bombs don't disarm, on the contrary. This makes nuclear bombs VERY attractive to other countries (if the GB, F, US invest so much money in them, they *must* be important, we want them, too...). **The decision of the British government fuels an arms race**

which puts us all into great danger – if a nuclear bomb is dropped it does not really matter whether we live in Great Britain or elsewhere. Even if none is dropped, the billions spent on nuclear weapons cannot be spent elsewhere, where they would be much more needed.

Great Britain's direct action movement has already managed once to get US nuclear missiles sent back to the US, by very consistent and long-term action. If they succeed this time, this will have knock-on effect on France, which also currently tries to renew its nuclear missiles.

Helping the British peace movement in Faslane could well start a dynamic that helps us to reduce nuclear weapons world-wide. So travelling up to Scotland for a couple of days to help them achieve this is really worthwhile.

Non-violence guidelines

Since we will be part of a large movement, and our behaviour will have an effect on the work of the other groups after us, we ask everyone taking part in the CIA&friends Easter blockade to respect and follow these guidelines:

- Our attitude will be one of **sincerity and respect towards the people** we encounter
- We will **not engage in physical violence or verbal abuse** toward any individual
- We will carry **no weapons**
- We will **not bring or use alcohol or drugs** other than for medical purposes

We will clear the blockade to allow emergency vehicles in or out of the base and then resume the blockade afterwards.

Affinity groups, buddy system & big group

It is important for us, that all those who participate in the CIA&friends blockade do indeed have “friends” during the action. We suggest that you either

- 1) form a groups of about 4-10 people for the action (affinity groups) or
- 2) find a buddy and join the “rest” of the CIA group.

How can I get there

The most environmentally friendly ways of going there are by bus (Eurolines), train and boat (prices and timetables see our group website) You might also decide to share a minibus with your affinity group and go up there together. If you fly, we recommend you off-set your CO2-emissions by supporting a CO2-reducing project (www.myclimate.org).

Where can I stay up there?

There is a **peace camp near the base**, with running water, toilet and some sleeping places in a caravan. There also is ample space for tents. Other groups have also simply **camped opposite the gates**. With both options you can participate in actions without a car.

You can also stay in a **hotel or bread and breakfast**, but these would be further away from the base. You can get a bus to Faslane but it limits your flexibility for actions.

I have never been blockading – can I go?

We strongly recommend that all people participating in the blockade participate in a non-violence training before the blockade. We plan to offer a **non-violence training in Glasgow on Good Friday (6 April) and** - if there are enough people interested we will also try to offer a **Clown Army Workshop**.

I don't want to get arrested – can I go?

We **will need support people** (look after people who get arrested, media, cooking) and there also is a **load of potential for symbolic action**, so: whether you want to get arrested or not: we need your help, don't hesitate to come and have fun!

Are nuclear bombs illegal – or are we?

As a matter of act, the International Court of Justice ruled that the **use or threat of use of weapons is illegal**. The British government is threatening the world with dozens of nuclear missiles and **Faslane is thus an illegal base**. We

consider that **blocking it is completely legitimate and absolutely necessary to highlight the illegal activities of the British government**. In the past, a majority of the blockaders who were arrested pleaded non guilty in court and brought in international lawyers and experts to their trials. This has blocked the courts and led to the government being not very motivated to bring people into court.

Will I end up in prison?

There are basically 3 scenarios:

- 1) *You just protest symbolically and don't blockade* or commit any other offence: ***you won't be arrested or suffer any other legal consequence***.
- 2) *You blockade the entrance of the base*: At the moment the police arrest everybody doing this and ***detain*** them ***for 30h***. You then they give them a letter saying that they have enough material to prosecute you but are not doing so. The people prosecuted at the moment are mostly people who are being prosecuted for other offences and have not turned up for court. This may of course change and the police could either send you straight to court after your arrest or set you free on bail and invite you for a trial at a later date (in Scotland nobody can be sentenced without having been at the trial). Should you get such a letter, we recommend that you write to the court saying that since you consider that the British nuclear are weapons are illegal you don't want to waste the court's time and won't come. They will then probably drop the case, at least if you are from outside Britain. The worst that could theoretically happen is that they arrest you and bring you before court when you return to Great Britain. It has, however, never happened so far to Faslane protesters.
- 3) *You get into the base*: The British Government recently introduced a law which considers this a “serious organised crime”. It clearly targets peace protesters and climbing over the fence can now be punished by 1 year in prison and a 5'000 pounds fine. We don't yet know how strictly this law will be implemented.

Videos about other group's protests:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s0wpCM1qLcg>
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4LBvnn_JnK4