Public Interest Statement in Support of the Investigation and Adjudication of Criminal Nuclear Defence Policies

In July 1998 under the auspices of the United Nations, 120 States adopted the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court. In the process, the opportunity was taken to finally codify the most serious of crimes against international humanitarian law, which had been originally stated for the purposes of the post WWII Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal and its successor proceedings.

Foremost amongst these are ‘War Crimes’, which includes intentionally launching a disproportionate attack which destroys civilians, civilian objects and the natural environment beyond any reasonable military necessity to do so. This crime having been incorporated into the ‘Rome Statute’ (1998) has now been further incorporated into UK domestic law in the subsequent International Criminal Court Act (2001).

It is of the essence of strategic nuclear weapon systems that, if ever used in the face of a failure of the so-called ‘nuclear deterrence’ political strategy, the enormous and quite uncontrollable effects from blast, fire and most especially radioactive fallout, that would ensue, would be catastrophic, most especially in its widespread and persistent effect upon civilian persons, property and the natural environment.

Accordingly, the making of actual detailed computerised plans to use such weapons against targets, especially in and about the proximity of vast urban conurbations, such as the city of Moscow, cannot help but comprise a state-sponsored conditional conspiracy to commit such war crimes.

Concerned peace-loving citizens in the UK1 have now sought to bring the evidence of just such a criminal conspiracy to the attention of our domestic courts, and in doing so are required by UK law to actually first seek and obtain the consent of HM Attorney-General (A-G) to do so. We remain gravely concerned that despite the clarity of our cause the A-G will deny his consent asserting that it is not in the ‘public interest’ to permit such a prosecution.

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1 5 citizen’s groups in England and Wales have started the Public Interest Case Against Trident (PICAT) see http://picat.online/Picat is a project of Trident Ploughshares http://tridentploughshares.org/ and of the Institute for Law and Peace (INLAP). Trident Ploughshares is a Right Livelihood Award Laureate (2001).
We, the signatories below, therefore call upon those representing the conscience of the peace-loving peoples of the world, in whose name the Rome Statute was enacted, and which Her Majesty’s government signed and ratified without reservation, to now declare, with us, that it is not merely in the ‘public interest’ that such criminal nuclear defence policies are investigated and adjudicated - but rather that it is a matter of extreme necessity in the interests of the long-term survival of humanity to do so.

Signed by:

Alice Tepper Marlin, President & Founder, Social Accountability International, USA (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1990)

Alla Yaroshinskaya, Russia (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1992)

Alyn Ware, Global Coordinator, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament, New Zealand/Switzerland (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2009)

Andras Biro, Hungary (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1995)

Angie Zelter, Trident Ploughshares, United Kingdom (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2001)

Annelies Allain, International Baby Food Action Network, Malaysia (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1998)

Asha Hagi, Somalia (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2008)

Asma Jahangir, Pakistan (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2014)

Augusto Juncal, Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais sem Terra (MST), Brazil (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1991)

Basil Fernando, Asian Human Rights Commission, Hong Kong (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2014)

Bianca Jagger, Founder and Chair, Bianca Jagger Human Rights Foundation, Nicaragua/UK (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2004)

Bill McKibben, Founder of 350.org, USA (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2014)

Birsel Lemke, Turkey (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2000)

Bishop Erwin Kräutler, Brazil (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2010)

Camille Selleger, International Baby Food Action Network, Malaysia (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1998)
Carmel Budiardjo, Founder & Senior Campaigner, TAPOL, United Kingdom (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1995)

Chico Whitaker Ferreira, Brazil (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2006)

Citizens’ Coalition for Economic Justice, South Korea (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2003)

Comissão Pastoral da Terra (CPT), Brazil (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1991)

Daniel Ellsberg, USA (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2006)

Dipal Barua, Former Managing Director, Grameen Shakti, now at Bright Green Energy Foundation, Bangladesh (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2007)

Dr. David Suzuki, Canada (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2009)

Dr. Fernando Funes-Aguilar, Grupo de Agricultura Orgánica, Cuba (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1999)

Dr. Gino Strada, Co-Founder, EMERGENCY, Italy (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2015)

Dr. Hans Herren, Founder of Biovision Foundation, Switzerland (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2013)

Dr. Hanumappa Sudarshan, Karuna Trust & VGKK, India (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1994)

Dr. Ibrahim Abouleish, Founder, SEKEM, Egypt (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2003)

Dr. Inge Genefke, Denmark (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1988)

Dr. Juan E. Garcés, Spain (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1999)

Dr. Katarina Kruhonja, Center for Peace, Nonviolence and Human Rights-Osijek, Croatia (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1998)

Dr. Martin Almada, Paraguay (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2002)

Dr. Maude Barlow, National Chairperson, Council of Canadians, Canada (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2005)

Dr. Melaku Woreda, Ethiopia (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1989)

Dr. Monika Hauser, Founder, medica mondiale, Germany (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2008)

Dr. Paul F. Walker, Director, Environmental Security and Sustainability, Green Cross International, USA (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2013)
Dr. Ruchama Marton, Founder and President, Physicians for Human Rights, Israel (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2010)

Dr. Sima Samar, Chairperson, Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, Afghanistan (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2012)

Dr. SM Mohamed Idris, Sahabat Alam Malaysia (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1988), Consumers Association of Penang and the Third World Network, Malaysia

Dr. Tony Clarke, Executive Director, Polaris Institute, Canada (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2005)

Dr. Vandana Shiva, Navdanya, India (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1993)

Dr. Zafrullah Chowdhury, Gonoshasthaya Kendra, Bangladesh (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1992)

Erik Dammann, Future in Our Hands, Norway (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1982)

Evaristo Nugkuag Ikanan, Instituto para el Buen Vivir, Peru (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1986)

Felicia Langer, Israel/Germany (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1990)

Fernando Rendón, Co-Founder and Director, International Poetry Festival of Medellín, Colombia (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2006)

Frances Moore Lappé, Co-Founder, Small Planet Institute, USA (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1987)

GRAIN, International (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2011)

Gush Shalom, Israel (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2001)

Helen Mack Chang, Fundación Myrna Mack, Guatemala (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1992)

Helena Norberg-Hodge, Founder and Director, International Society for Ecology & Culture, UK (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1986)

Hunter Lovins, Natural Capitalism Solutions, USA (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1983)

Ida Kuklina, The Committee of Soldiers' Mothers of Russia, Russia (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1996)

Ina May Gaskin, USA (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2011)

Irene Fernandez, Tenaganita, Malaysia (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2005)

Jacqueline Moudeina, Chad (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2011)
Janos Vargha, Hungary (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1985)
Juan Pablo Orrego, President, Ecosistemas, Chile (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1998)
Kasha Jacqueline Nabagesera, Uganda (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2015)
Ledum Mitee, Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People, Nigeria (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1994)
Leonardo Boff, Brazil (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2001)
Marcos Arana, International Baby Food Action Network, Mexico (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1998)
Martin von Hildebrand, Founder and Director, Fundación GAIA Amazonas, Colombia (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1999)
Medha Patkar, Namada Bachao Andolan, India (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1991)
Mike Cooley, UK (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1981)
Nicanor Perlas, Center for Alternative Development Initiatives, Philippines (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2003)
Nnimmo Bassey, Health of Mother Earth Foundation, Nigeria (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2010)
P K Ravindran, Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad, India (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1996)
Pat Mooney, Executive Director, ETC Group, Canada (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1985)
Prof Dr. h.c. (mult.) Manfred Max-Neef, Director, Economics Institute, Universidad Austral de Chile, Chile (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1983)
Prof. Dr. Anwar Fazal, Director, Right Livelihood College, Malaysia (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1982)
Prof. Dr. Hans-Peter Dürr, Germany (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1987)
Prof. Dr. Herman E. Daly, Professor Emeritus, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland, USA (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1996)
Prof. Dr. Johan Galtung, Norway (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1987)
Prof. Dr. Raúl A. Montenegro, President, Fundación para la defensa del ambiente, Argentina (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2004)
Prof. Dr. Samuel S. Epstein, Professor Emeritus, Environmental & Occupational Medicine, University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health, USA (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2007)
Laureate, 1998)
Prof. Dr. Theo van Boven, The Netherlands (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1985)
Prof. Michael Succow, Founder, Michael Succow Foundation for Nature Conservation, Germany (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1997)
René Ngongo Mateso, Democratic Republic of Congo (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2009)
Sheila Watt-Cloutier, Canada (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2015)
Shrikrishna Upadhyay, Executive Chairman, Support Activities for Poor Producers of Nepal, Nepal (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2010)
Stephen Corry, Survival International (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1989)
Stephen Gaskin, PLENTY International, USA (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1980)
Suciwati, widow of Munir, Indonesia (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2000)
Sulak Sivaraksa, Sathirakoses-Nagapradipa Foundation, Thailand (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1995)
Susil Sirivardana, Participatory Institute for Development Alternatives, Sri Lanka (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1982)
Swami Agnivesh, India (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2004)
Tapio Mattlar, Kylätoiminta / The Finnish Village Action Movement, Finland (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 1992)
The Kvinna Till Kvinna Foundation, Sweden (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2002)
Tony De Brum, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Marshall Islands (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2015)
Uri Avnery, Founder, Gush Shalom, Israel (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2001)
Walden Bello, Philippines (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2003)
Wes Jackson, Founder and President, The Land Institute, USA (Right Livelihood Award Laureate, 2000)
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