



Rolling Back INF: Time to Speak Out!

Those of us living at Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp remember the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) when it was signed by Reagan and Gorbachev on the 8th of December 1987.

It agreed to eliminate the intermediate range nuclear weapons and launchers located at land sites by the USA and the then Soviet Union. In the case of the USA this included the Cruise missiles based at USAF Greenham Common and at Molesworth in England, bases no longer in operation.

The treaty was the result of six years of constant non-violent direct action and demonstrating by thousands of people including the women at Greenham Common. Thousands were arrested and many of those imprisoned.

Even after the treaty was signed Cruise Missile convoys continued to be deployed to Salisbury Plain, up to twice a month until July 1990, every one resisted non violently by the women at the camp.

A formal rejection of the treaty by the USA is in line with NATO's policy of expansion up to the borders of Russia.

In 1987 it would have seemed incredible that in 2016 the USA military would install nuclear capable weapons systems in Romania and Poland. Yet in mainstream media here it draws no comment.

Never more relevant than today, let us remember the Greenham slogan of 1987.

'Here to stay. Here to verify'.

Kathrine Jones, Vice-President, Socialist Labour Party

22nd October 2018