Daily Conference Upstart

Diario Inicial de Conférencia Débuts de Conférence Utile Seoinin Na Comhdhala Laethula



Issue 1 Monday 5 August 2002



Welcome! Bienvenue! ¡Bienvenido! Dia bhur mbeatha!

News from the outside world **Food not bombs!**

IndyMedia Uruguay reported that more than 13 supermarkets were looted in poor neighbourhoods of Montevideo over the weekend, to the shouts of "We are hungry."

Riot police were dispersed throughout the city, shooting rubber bullets at people as they tried to get food. The Minister of the Interior has called for "people to remain peaceful", but to whom does he speak? The families of children who are so hungry they eat grass in the schoolyard?

Uruguay's crisis exploded last week when the govern-

ment ordered all banks to remain closed, preventing people from getting whatever money they have saved.
Fears of "another Argentina" are sending tremors through Uruguay, as people prepare to enter another phase of their long battle against neoliberalism.

Chaos in London store

Occupied against the occupation

Over Christmas 2001 the London retail store Selfridges removed goods produced on illegal Israeli settlements from their shelves.

However the store have recently begun stocking the products again after what activists have termed "caving in" to Israeli government pressure. Selfridges is giving economic and political support to Israeli military oppression.

On Saturday more than 200 people disrupted business in Selfridges on Oxford Street, central London. They held a large demonstration outside the main entrance of the store, displaying banners reading "Murder Sponsored by Selfridges" and handing out thousands of leaflets to customers and passers-by.

Despite a large security and police presence, small groups managed to enter the store, where they blew whistles and shouted to disrupt business and highlight the issues.

Other groups put up stickers,

detonated stink bombs, and scattered "blood money" around the store.

Despite being repeatedly ejected by security guards, demonstrators re-entered the store. One group was dragged out after immediately being recognised by two security guards who had posed as potential action participants at a previous open planning meeting.

Many of the store's entrances were locked throughout the day, business was severely disrupted due to the chaos caused in-store, and awareness of the issue was increased by the presence outside. Many people were assaulted by heavy-handed security and two were arrested. One was later released without charge.

Kate Jackson from Direct Action Against War Now! (DAAWN) said, "Through our continuing direct action campaign we will inflict economic damage on Selfridges to take the profit motive out of selling these products of human misery."

Contact: Direct Action Against War Now! (UK m +44 7817 061183; email stopselfridges@soon.com; http://www.daawn.cjb.net)

Nine killed in blast

Sunday: Nine people were killed and at least 50 injured after a suicide bomber blew up a packed bus in northern Israel. Hours later, a Palestinian teen-ager opened fire on an Israeli truck in a market in East Jerusalem. Three people, including the gunman, were killed in the attack and the ensuing shootout with police.

A spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said that, in the wake of the violence, Israel had suspended talks it had planned in the coming days with Palestinian officials on security matters and the easing of hardships in West Bank cities under curfew.

Reuters

Are WRI triennial attendants terrorists?

The Irish government seems to think so! One hundred and eleven (I-II, not 9-II) prospective people wishing to join us at DCU were denied visas. Never mind that they are advocates of peace!

They would have come from Eastern Europe (Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, Georgia), Africa (Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Burundi, Zimbabwe, Togo, Gambia and Kenya), Bangladesh and Pakistan.

We have to concede that some may have applied a bit late for the Very Important and Strategic Authorisation required, but surely not the majority of them.

Was the Irish government afraid that too many of them would apply for political asylum? Coming to testify and share their experiences of conflict and hopes for peace could hardly be a reason to deny them entry. Many would probably not have difficulty in making a justified claim for asylum. Indeed, those with strong reasons to flee their country might naturally use any means they can to achieve their goal. Ireland's scandalous deportation of five Nigerians recently hints at this underlying act of denial.



Conscientious objectors threatened with deportation to Turkey

Sign the petitions against the impending deportations at the DFG-VK stall.

Mehmet Sait, Demir and Mehmet Cetiner, two Kurdish COs living in Germany, are threatened with deportation to Turkey after their applications for political asylum have were rejected.

Once before in 1998
Mehmet S Demir was deported. On his arrival in Turkey he was arrested and tortured by the police and the military. He managed to flee again and returned to Germany. Now the German state plans to deport him for a second time. He is likely to be arrested and tortured for a second time.

Two organisations, Connection and Pro Asyl, have filed a petition with the petitions committee of the Bun-

destag, the federal parliament of Germany, asking for a reexamination of the case by the relevant authorities. The petition, which is to be handed over as part of an action in Berlin prepared by DFG-VK, can be signed at the DFG-VK stall.

Mehmet Cetiner refused to fight in the war in Kurdistan. Being responsible for his family of four, he could not go into hiding like so many other Turkish men. Therefore the family fled to Germany and is now living in the city of Kleve. He is a political activist and a member of DFG-VK. During a demonstration in front of the Turkish consulate in Hannover in December 2000, Mehmet declared in public his objection to military service in Turkey. He has

campaigned for the recognition of the right to conscientious objection in Turkey for many years. A local coalition formed around DFG-VK Kleve and the local parish of the Protestant church is asking the Minister of the Interior of the state of North-Rhine-Westphalia to allow the Cetiner family to stay. There is a petition on their behalf as well.

You are also invited to sign one more petition at the DFG-VK stall. It is to the Greek government to respect the human rights of the CO Lazaros Petromelidis. He will be tried again on I7 September and he faces imprisonment.

Once more.



"What role do stories play in our strategies?" was the question of the WRI Triennial Conference's first evening plenary, which was opened with heart-touching music from Tony Kempster.

In an intense song, he reflected the dialogue between a Palestinian and an Israeli boy. One boy asks the other throughout the song, "What would you do if you met me in a war situation?" The other boy's first answer is, "I would shoot you", his next answer is "I would hide you away, and set you free" and the last one is "I would put down my gun, open my arms and weep."

Opening the plenary, Kempster managed through his music to show that history sticks to the present but that nevertheless through dialogue and approach a change is possible.

And this was actually the core message of the plenary, proving through different stories how important is the passing on of history from generation to generation in order to develop new and better war solution strategies.

Florencia Mallon, who's a well-known historian at the

Sunday's plenary

University of Wisconsin, US, especially emphasised this message. She briefly presented the Palestinian dilemma on behalf of Elhalm Bayour, who was not able to contribute to the plenary as planned because of family illness. Bayour had told Florencia about her first memories, of her grandmother carrying the keys to the house from which she had been evicted. This story reminded Florencia of a movie where Palestinians symbolically held over their heads the keys belonging to the houses which she was forced to leave.

"We can't create real peace if we leave unresolved conflicts behind."

Florencia tied up the story, asking "What will happen with the Palestinian people? Will they find new doors to open?"

And as a final remark she emphasised history: "Only by knowing, preserving and remembering can we gain the future our children deserve – although it might not be our ancestors' preferred solution," she said

Florencia also told of her

work with the Mapuche community of Nicolás Ailío in southern Chile. Her work there valued and preserved the oral transmission of the story of the land dispossession that the community was victim of generations ago, an oral history Florencia beautifully described as "oral poetry".

Michael Randle, who's a pioneer of nonviolent direct action in Britain, a peace researcher and an academic. talked about the importance of grassroots work, saying that radical social change groups actually can make a difference. He then provoked the audience by talking about "just war" theories, saying "the cause must be just". There comes a certain point where you do need military action in conflicts, he asserted. These statements not surprisingly provoked several comments in the question period which followed.

Talking about past nonviolent demonstrations, Michael explained how the well-known anti-nuclear weapons symbol appeared. For a demonstration back in 1951, the activist and artist Gerald Haltom was asked to design a symbol to use in demonstrat-

ing for nuclear disarmament. He chose two semaphore signals: N for Nuclear looks like an inverted V, and D for Disarmament is a straight vertical line. Putting the two symbols together in a circle, we get the "peace sign" that is so well known to everybody today.

Koussetogue Koude is a peace and human rights activist from Chad who lives in France. He has a PhD in Human Rights Studies, with a special focus on the African situation. He introduced his presentation by stating that it might seem utopian to try to construct a more just world despite war. "But I tell you we're getting closer," he said.

He explained that the big problem in Chad right now is dealing with the legacy of the past that has left the country with a culture of violence.

"All this is very significant in terms of reconciliation and



Participants at the plenary.

development."

He mentioned that organised crime – also called Colombianism – is spread all over the country. And even justice seems to be difficult to pursue since old Arabic "systems of justice" are still very much present in society.

"We have to build a new culture, a culture of peace. We can't create real peace if we leave unresolved conflicts

PHOTOS: SIMO HELLSTEN

behind. We need to reach for the stars and try to achieve something similar to what South Africa has achieved," Koussestogue ended.

Finally Tony Kempster tied up the strings with a Tommy Sands song, "Music of Healing", with the striking words, "the words that wander are stronger than the guns of thunder."

Isabel Sande Frandsen

Irish neutrality under threat

President Bush says, "Ireland is a valued member of the international coalition against terrorism". But I wouldn't take his word for it.

Come to Shannon Airport and see for yourself! As on every other day since September 2001, on Thursday 25 July a group of peace activists found the civilian airport at Shannon contaminated by military troops and cargo. Thousands of US marines have passed through our airports since the start of the so-called "war on terrorism".

Clearly though Aer Rianta (the state-owned airport management company) haven't been spending their US military blood money on security, as the airport's protection measures against responsible citizens and terrorists alike are very poor. In Monday's workshop at 5pm there will be a presentation about the situation followed by "brainstorming" and discussion about possible nonviolent direct action to disrupt the military shenanigans at the airport.

For further information, including travel details, please visit: http://www.refuelingpeace.org

Eoin Dubsky



Daily Conference Upstart page 5

Monday's

If you would like to run a workshop during the week, contact the volunteer team at the reception (near accommodation block) with your ideas.

Building a culture of nonviolencewhere we are

With 1977 Nobel Peace Prize winner and cofounder of the Peace People, Northern Ireland, active in various arenas including the IFOR.

Starts: 3.00 pm **Room**: E

Facilitator: Mairead Corrigan Maguire

Struggles in Puerto Rico

Luis Nieves Falcon will lead a workshop on the mass movement in Puerto Rico to end the US Navy presence on the island of Vieques. Educational, legal and direct action aspects of the campaign will be addressed, along with the role of solidarity, and participants will include recently released prisoner Carlos Zenon, for long a practitioner of nonviolent civil disobedience against the Navy. Overall connections between the role of U.S. militarism and the US colonial relationship over Puerto Rico will also be discussed.

Starts: 3.00 pm Room: I

Facilitator: Dr Luis Nieves Falcon from Puerto

Rico

Recovering WRI's past: an oral history

Presentation of pilot video made in March 2002

Starts: 3.00 pm Room: G

Facilitators: Mitzi Bales, Wolfgang Zucht, Helga Weber and Roberta Bacic

Daily Conference Upstart page 6

Nonviolent feminists responses to feminisation of the military

Sian Jones asks in *Peace News* (June – August 2002): "As the western military forces adapt to new functions and roles, which include a feminisation of the military and deployment of armies in peacekeeping operations, how should we as women and antimilitarists respond to this development? How do we respond to the military's co-option of the traditional – and often oppositional – role of women as peacemakers?"

These are questions which we will try to answer, while looking at the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security. This will open the way for more women to be appointed to UN peacekeeping operations and field missions.

Starts: 3.00 pm Room: C

Facilitators: Ellen Elster

"War on Terrorism": Is that a permanent global war?

Description: Almost one year since 9/11 effects of the "war on terrorism" have been felt right across the globe, including attacks on civil liberties in the West. As we prepare ourselves for another assault on people in Iraq, this workshop looks at the global impact of the "war on terrorism" and asks how we can stop this war without end.

Starts: 3.00 pm . Room: A

Room: A

Facilitators: Aoife Nì Fhearghail (IAWM) and Glenda Cimino (IAWM & US peace activist)

Irish AntiWar Movement Perspective on issues

Issues of concern. Irish neutrality, Nice Treaty, general effects on "war on terrorism", nonvio-

lent methods of resistance, etc. **Starts:** 5.00 pm

....

workshops

Facilitators: Richard, Colm,

Glenda, Aoile.

Organisation: Irish Antiwar

Movement

• Anybody for the world summit?

A briefing for those who will be attending the Jo'Burg summit or who will be able to share info with summit-goers, specifically concerning the activities of the "peace caucus" and of a local antimilitarist NGO, ceasefire.

Starts: 5.00 pm until 5.30 pm

Room: B

Facilitator: Michael Graaf. Organisation: Ceasefire

Direct Action Campaign to monitor and stop US military flights refuelling in Ireland Introduction to Ireland's direct

Introduction to Ireland's direct part in so-called "war on terrorism" – Shannon Airport – where

US military flights are refuelled. Resistance to it, and direct action possibilities to disrupt military operations there. Followed by discussion, "brainstorming" for ideas and strategies of action. Protests are being organised for Shannon Airport on August 17 and September 1, though people could head over by bus whenever they like for a visit!

Starts: 5.00 pm until 6.00 pm

Room: H

Facilitator: Eoin Dubsky (Refueling Peace)

Civilian Service for Peace (Global Peace Force)

Instead of sending soldiers to countries in conflict it would be wiser to send civilians who can stay there for a while as a third party. By their presence they protect civilians, remind soldiers who may forget it of civilised principles and appeal to their own culture of tolerance and



justice. They act as mediators to find a solution

to the conflict.

Starts: 3.00 pm until 4.45 pm

Room: B

Facilitators: Michael Monod, Rachel Julian,

Christine Schweitzer

"Civil Visions" Conference

Presentation of the planned European-wide Conference (to be held in 2004) and invitation for concrete commitment. To get to know representatives of organisations and individuals willing to share our discussion process. There will be a preparation meeting on 5-6 October 2002.

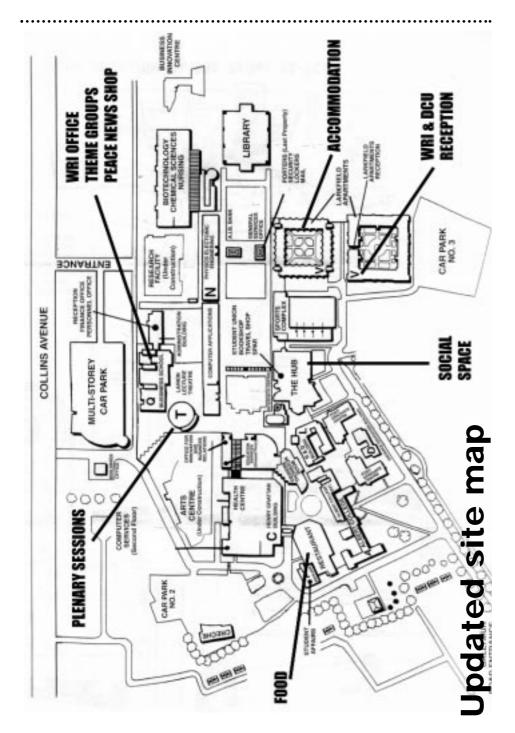
Starts: 5.00 pm until 5.45 pm

Room: F

Facilitator: Gerd Buntzly.

Organisation: BSV = Bund fur soziale verteidi-

gang



 $extbf{ extit{D}} ext{aily Conference Upstart page 8}$

WRI elections cancelled

DUBLIN, 4 Aug 2002 (from our special correspondent)

WRI Council meetings are notorious among insiders for being boring, especially when constitutional matters are on the agenda. But what happened at yesterday's pre-Triennial Council meeting was more than shocking. With a great consensus, the Council decided not to have elections this year.

People who are not familiar with the great democratic and grassroots tradition of WRI might think that there had been a coup d'etat in the way leaders of not-so-democratic countries deal with elections threatening their power. Fortunately this was not the reason for cancelling the election. In fact all the people in the meeting realised that the timeconsuming elections process was not needed any more, because all the candidates were already elected! This is becasuse there were fewer candidates than the number of places available, so there was no competition. And although the executive had decided that evervone would still have to get at least one vote in case no-one wanted them, the postal ballot which was sent out before the Triennial had solved the situation. All the 11 candidates received al least one vote from those WRI affiliates who sent in their ballot papers!

This newsletter would like to congratulate all the newly elected Council members.

Jan Van Criekinge

Las elecciones de la IRG canceladas

Las reuniones del Concilio se conocen como aburridos según la gente implicada especialmente cuando hay cuestiones constitucionales en la agenda. Pero lo que ocurrió ayer en la pre-reunión del Concilo fue mas que sorpren-



dente. Con un gran consensus decidió el Concilio no celebrar las elecciones este año.

La gente que no es familiar con la gran tradición democrática y de activismo de la IRG pensará que ha habido un golpe de Estado por la manera en la que los dirigentes de paises no tan democráticos manejan elecciones que retan su poder. Afortunadamente esta no fue la razón por la cual las elecciones fueron canceladas. En realidad se dieron cuenta todos los participantes de la reunion que un proceso tan consumidor de tiempo como resultan ser las elecciones sobraban por que los candidatos ya fueron elegidos. Y esto es por que habían menos candidatos que el número de asientos a ocupar, así que no había competencia. Y aunque el ejecutivo había decidido que todos los candidatos tenían que tener al menos un voto en caso nadie les quería, los votos postales que fueron enviados antes de la conferencia resolvieron la situación. Todos de los 11 candidatos recibieron al menos un voto de los afiliados de la IRG que devolvieron sus votos.

Esta carta quiere dar la enhora Buena a los nuevos miembros electos del Concilio

Annulation des élections au conseil de l'IRG! face aux élections remettant

de notre envoyé spécial à DUBLIN le 4 août 2002

D'après les intéressés, les réunions du conseil de l'IRG sont connues pour être particulièrement ennuyeuses dès lors que des questions constitutionnelles sont à l'ordre du jour. Une fois n'est pas coûtume, le conseil pré-triennale a choqué de par un large consensus décidant l'annulation des élections.

Ceux peu familiers avec la tradition démocratique et militante de l'IRG pourraient craindre le coup d'état à la manière des dirigeants de pays peu démocratiques

leurpouvoir en cause. Heureusement, la raison de l'annulation est toute différente. En fait, tous les présents se sont rendus compte de l'inutilité du processus électoral, tous les candidats étant déja élus vu le nombre de candidats inférieurs aux sièges vacants. Bien que le comité exécutif ait décidé la nécessité d'une voix pour être élu, le vote par courrier a suffit pour que tous passent l'épreuve.

Votre quotidien tient à féliciter les membres du conseil nouvellement élus.

Important announcements! Anuncios importantes Annonces importantes

For those who get lost on the DCU campus ...

It would have been a great help to have marked the map in the conference reader with the WRI designations: office, accommodation, dining room, and so forth, and also the entrance where people could find taxies. And the building where the plenaries are held! A suggestion for the next Triennial?

Mitzi Bales

Eds: Your wish is our command! See p8.

Free interpretation of the DCU rules

Drink inside, smoke outside, and speak everywhere! Buvez à l'intérieur, fumez dehors, et parlez partout.

Changes to the DCU infamous rules:

BEWARE of the GRASS!!

Now the summer seems to have finally begun in Ireland, the DCU management have added some rules concerning the very green grass on the campus.

Consuming sunrays and sun bathing on the grass is NOT included in the registration fees. Therefore you are kindly requested to stay within the legal limitations while you are sun bathing on the grass areas of the campus. According to section 312 I/B of the Special DCU Summer law you may face a penalty of 40, or three months' imprisonment,

or expulsion from the grass areas, for consuming above your quote of sunrays. Each broken grass must be paid for. You have been warned.

Why do we call it the Business Centre?

If we follow the good traditions of the anti-globalisation movement, WRI should no longer speak about the "Business Centre" when referring to the main building we are using this week for the working groups and theme group meetings. Suggestions for a more creative name are most welcome. The newspaper editorial committee will be delighted.

Special warning from the WRI finance department:

If you have NOT registered yet and/or have NOT paid your fee yet, then please see Siva, Pat or Daniel as soon as possible.

Fortress Europe and visas for conference participants

As some of you may have experienced, entering Ireland from a country outside Western Europe can be quite difficult. People were asked all kinds of questions at the embassy when they were applying for visa. Ask our friend Koudé from Chad if you want to hear the whole story of how fortress Europe works in reality.

But even worse was the fact

that many would-be participants have been denied a visa altogether, or at least arrived late because they have had to wait so long. (See also the article by Tikiri.) What do people think about any actions (letters, other initiatives) we could take in protest at this policy? You are kindly requested to come up with creative suggestions.

Room mates

Are you also looking forward for knowing who is the participant with who you are charring your bathroom and kitchen at the Larkfield apartments? The DCU (this paper) will help you checking out if you are to shy to find out it yourself.

Up on the wall!

Suggestion to those putting notices on walls : no more height-ist notices! Remember the 5ft and unders!

Sonnette d'alarme à l'économat de l'IRG

Si vous n'êtes pas encore enregistré et/ou n'avez pas encore payé votre participation financière, veuillez voir Siva, Pat ou Daniel d'urgence.

Au mur, tout là-haut!

Avertissement à ceux qui punaisent les notices au mur : ne les mettez pas au plafond, pensez à ceux et celles qui ne dépassent par le mètre soixante.

Europe forteresse et visas pour les participants à la triennale

Certains d'entre vous en ont peut-être fait l'expérience, pénétrer en Irlande d'un pays hors Europe occidentale peut-être difficile. On vous pose toutes sortes de questions à l'embassade lors des demandes de visas... L'Europe forteresse en action, notre ami Koudé du Chad peut vous la raconter dans les détails.

Mais pire fut pour beaucoup de participants le refus d'octroi pour le visa, ou des délais exagérés les mettant en retard pour la conférence. (cf article de Tikiri à ce sujet) Que pensez-vous d'une action (courrier ou autre) de protestation face à cette politique? Toute idée créative est bienvenue.

De nouvelles règles en vigueur à la DCU : MEFIEZ VOUS DES PELOUSES !!

L'été semble enfin s'être installé en Irlande et la direction de l'université en profite pour modifier son règlement à propos des vertes pelouses du campus.

La consommation d'UV et autres bains de soleil ne sont pas compris dans la réservation. Vous êtes donc priés de respecter les limites prévues lorsque vous bronzez sur les pelouses du campus. Selon l'alinéa 312 l/B du règlement DCU spécifique aux conditions estivales, vous risquez une amende de 40 euros ou trois mois d'emprisonnement (ie: a l'ombre!), ou une expulsion des surfaces herbeuses pour consommation excessive d'UV. Une somme

forfaitaire sera demandée pour chaque brin d'herbe endommagé.

Vous êtes avertis!

Pat & Siva

Para los que se pirden en el campus de DCU

Hubiera sido de gran ayuda si se hubiese marcado con las siglas de IRG los sitios de: la oficina, el alojamiento, el restaurante etcetera en el mapa de la libreta de la conferencia. ¡Así como la entrada donde puede la gente encontrar taxis, y el edificio donde se celebran los plenarios! ¿Una sugerencia para la próxima conferencia?

Cambios para las reglas de la DCU: ¡¡CUIDADO con el CESPED!!

Ahora que parece que el vera-

no finalmente ha flegado a Irlanda la dirección de la DCU ha añadido unas cuantas reglas que se relacionan con el cesped verdísimo que rodea al campus.

Consumir rayos de sol y tomar el sol en el cesped NO está incluido en el precio de registro. Por eso les rogamos se queden dentro de los límites legales mientras consuman el sol en los areas del campus. Segú la sección 312 I/B de la lay especial de verano de la DCU se enfrentará a una multa de 40 o 3 meses de carcel o exclusion de las areas de cesped por el consumo de la cuota de rayos de sol mencionados. Cada cesped estropeadao habrá que pagarlo.

Ya han sido advertidos.

Pat & Siva



The "HUB" will be converted into a lively social space, complete with exiting events, music and a drinks reception. The transformation will take place from 9:30 pm every evening, so bring your good mood and lots of laughter and make your way to the social event of the triennium!

DCU INTRODUCTIONS BUREAU

Are you one of the many people wondering who your apartment-mate is?

Are you a "B" who knows nothing of your "A" apart from some of their bathroom habits?

Are you an "A" who knows nothing about your "B" apart from the fact that they must have a body clock which isn't in synchronicity with yours? DON'T BE SHY!

Let the DCU Introductions Bureau help you to discover who your partner is! Come to the amphitheatre outside the restaurant - with your lunchpack - at 1pm today. Turn your (empty) lunch bag upside down, take a marker pen, and put your room number on your bag.

At the signal, stand up and put your bag over your head. Introductions Bureau volunteers will then move amongst you and bring together any pairs of people with the same number.

You can then, in your own time, negotiate the removal of the bags from your heads and reveal yourselves to one another.

See all you puzzled people at 1pm today!



- The international magazine written, produced and read by nonviolent activists worldwide
- Bringing news, analysis and debate on topics relevant to

peace, social justice and environmental movements

 Recent and forthcoming themes include: utopias, visions and realities; prison and nonviolent struggle; children, war and peace; gender and militarism; Colombia; cultures of resistance.

Subscribe or buy single copies at the Peace News shop (Business Centre foyer)

or online at www.peacenews.info

Weather report

Monday and Tuesday

The weather for the first two days of the week looks promising, with scattered clouds and temperatures as high as 20° C / 68° F. Humidity is floating at around 80%-90%. Evenings: Temperatures may sink to 11°-15° C (51°-59° F) throughout the week.

Wednesday and Thursday
 We are guessing it might rain
 a little bit on Wednesday, but

the temperatures are not expected to sink significantly until Thursday, when we think that the daytime high will be of only 15° C (59° F). Thursday will also be "new moon day", so expect to see the weather improve again before the weekend.

Please note: all weather reports are completely unreliable. The office bears no responsibility for the quality of this forecast. We have no idea what we are doing.

