

REPORT from Jeremy Corbyn MP

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The last days of July, in the hottest temperatures ever recalled in London, parliament has a strange aura of MPs frenetically rushing around the building trying to pack meetings in before the summer recess, as if they will never get to go to another meeting in their lives! It rather resembles the frantic activities of school teachers at the end of a school term.

The contrast of a bad tempered atmosphere in parliament is mirrored by the pleasure of the huge number of community events that are held during this month from which our borough benefits. It's been my pleasure to attend many during the month, as well as many end of term functions in primary and secondary schools. My simple message to all the children leaving school is: do your best, do well, and above all, put something back into the community.

The tragedy of the wars in the Middle East gets ever worse. Three weeks ago there was a real chance of a peace deal with the Hamas parliamentary leadership, in discussions with President Abbas and he in turn was certainly in proximity talks with the Israelis.

The unfortunate coincidence of the abduction of one Israeli soldier on combat duty invoked the most appalling bombardment of Gaza which is now suffering what can only be described as state terrorism. Water and electricity supplies have been destroyed and many of

the borders with Israel closed. The subsequent abductions of 2 Israeli soldiers by Hezbollah has provoked the most extraordinary response by Israel, forcing half a million people into exile from their own homes, as well as the deaths of several hundred people, and the destruction of all civilian infrastructure in southern Lebanon.

The danger now is that the war will spread to Syria and the rhetoric of blaming Iran for everything suggests that the United States and Israel nurture an agenda to open yet another war in the region, this time with Iran.

I can't be the only person who is absolutely appalled by this situation and I find it incomprehensible that Britain and the United States seem incapable of uttering anything more than slight criticisms of the state of Israel.

I've been active with the Lebanese community who, before this turn of events, were certainly very critical of Hezbollah and looked forward to a Lebanon developing as a pro western state.

My discussions with many ordinary Lebanese people have demonstrated that the whole effect of this policy has been to increase support for Hezbollah, which will in turn encourage the furtherance of war in the whole region. This may well blight any possibility of a long term peace for decades to come.

As you will see from my diary outline (very brief this month) I've also been involved in a number of activities concerning the future development of nuclear weapons by the UK, and I've tabled a number of parliamentary motions and questions on this subject.

As ever, my Advice Session and constituency office is very busy with local people coming in with a whole host of problems. There has been a significant improvement in the government's attitudes on inner city housing. Yvette Cooper seems to be supportive, and I raised with the PLP (Parliamentary Labour Party) the need for the next spending round statement in November to include a massive injection of investment in council housing in London. The alternative scenario is that too many children's lives will be blighted by overcrowding, thus making school achievement very difficult for them.

My diary in outline only:

22/06:

Cyclists Breakfast
Advice Session
The Factory for Refugee Week
MEDIA: BBC Breakfast re Trident

23/06:

Constituent visit
Willow (Sure Start) Children's Centre
Constituent visit
MEDIA: Azza El Aalm TV
Hargrave Park School Fair
Advice Session at Muslim Welfare House
Venezuela meeting with Bolivarian Workers Union representative.

24/06 (Saturday):

Hillrise Coffee Morning
Speak at Refugee Therapy Centre
Justice for Colombia BBQ
Cypriot Wine Festival (business!)

25/06 (Sunday)

Islington North Labour Party annual lunch at the Iman Restaurant

26/06:

(Work experience student for one week)
Constituent visit
Kinlock Park meeting
Institute of Race Relations (chair seminar)
Anti Slavery Exhibition Committee meeting
Young Adult Carers Group at Islington Carers Forum

27/06:

Constituent visit
Constituent prize giving (House of Commons)
Public Services Rally in Central Hall (Westminster).
Somali reconciliation meeting
Alzheimers International lobby
The International Rehabilitation Council for the Victims of Torture

28/06:

MEDIA 3 Counties Radio from home.
APPG on Somaliland
Socialist Campaign Group routine meeting
MEDIA: PM Programme on Somalis

29/06:

Constituent visit
St Jude's and St Paul's School talk
Standing committee re River Tweed
RMT (Rail Maritime and Transport) workers Union Group
Tollington public information evening
Islington Arts Media Year 11 Leavers event
Meeting with Hanley Crouch Trustees.

30/06:

Stop the War Officers' meeting
City and Islington College Woodwork exhibition
Palestine vigil, Parliament Square

01/07:

Leicester Conference on Nuclear issues in Sth Asia

03/07:
Meeting with LBI (Islington Council)
Housing
Cuban Ambassador at embassy
MEDIA: BBC Asian Network
PLP (Parliamentary Labour Party) meeting
CND (Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament)
meeting
Acting Ambassador of Bolivia
Mayors for Peace with visiting Hiroshima
Mayor Akiba

04/07:
(Work experience student for 2 weeks)
Moscow State University students
Adjournment Debate on Israel and the War
on Terror
Dalit Lunch and subsequent Annual
General Meeting (AGM) with the team.
NUT (National Union Teachers) Barnsbury
Centre

05/07:
MEDIA: BBC re John Prescott
Socialist Campaign Group with Water
Briefing from Global South speakers
APPG (All Party Parliamentary Group)
Human Rights AGM
DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo)
Human Rights
Venezuela/Bolivia Reception
APPG Britain Palestine
Socialist Campaign Group

06/07:
British IPU (Inter parliamentary union)
report back Guatemala
Mori Poll interview
APPG Angola
MEDIA: BBC 24 – John Prescott
ARD (German TV) re Trident
Sky News – Trident
CNN
APPG British Caribbean

07/07:
Whittington Hospital meeting
Constituent visit
CND Officers meeting

07/07 two minute silence at LBI Town Hall
Nth London Central Mosque
Advice session Mayton St

08/07: (Saturday)
Rise Festival
Islam Expo – Alexandra palace
Liberation AGM

09/07: (Sunday)
War on Want conference

10/07:
Work Experience student for 2 weeks
Join Rabbis with Dianne Abbott
Marxism Workshop on Latin America
Bolivia and Privatisation meeting with
Amancay Colque
MEDIA: Oil Privatisation Iraq press
conference
Parliamentary Statement on Afghanistan
PLP Meeting
Hanley Crouch Trustees meeting

11/07:
German students visit
Mexican, Signor Jose Ramon meeting
Parliamentary energy Statement
PCS parliamentary group
STW (Stop the War) Group activist meeting

12/07:
Islington Peace Lunch
Hand in letter to Home Office (re
extradition victim)
MEDIA: ITN re cash for honours
Sky
CNN
Palestine Solidarity Campaign
demonstration, outside Foreign Office
Socialist Campaign Group

13/07:
Advice session Mildmay Library
DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo)
Election monitoring

14/07:
STW officers meeting

MEDIA: GMTV - mix
Muslim Welfare House to speak at Friday prayers on Middle East
St Joseph's school exhibition Anne Frank
BBC Bush House demonstration re Iraqi hunger striker

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15/07: (Saturday)
MEDIA: Dublin Radio re cash for honours
CND Council
IAMS (Islington Arts and Media School)
Community Arts Festival
Bangladesh Human Rights Conference
Tufnell Park Playing Fields (including running mile for sports relief)
Elthorne Park summer fair

16/07: (Sunday)
Ashmount School summer fair
CND Council
LAEP Festival
Wedding of Mr Papadopoulos

17/07:
MEDIA: AL Jazeera Palestine Press Conference
Disability Action
Parliamentary Statement Middle East
Iran meeting
Palestine Rally (Friends meeting House)

18/07:
LSE Breakfast
Body and Soul (HIV Charity) visit
Jeremy to see Arsenal Stadium with KF
Presentation at Migrant Training Awards
Parliamentary G8 Summit Statement
Meet Margaret Beckett at Foreign Office
Middle East vigil in Parliament Square

19/07:
Parliamentary Training Session for colleagues
Christ the King School graduation
African Slavery meeting.

My advice sessions as always continue on a weekly basis and more information is available via the constituency office: tel