

# REPORT from Jeremy Corbyn MP

Parliamentary/House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

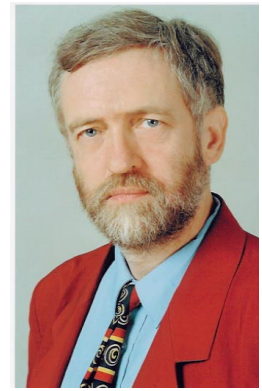
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This month's report is slightly shorter than usual, though not because there haven't been enough international troubles to speak of! For one thing, the Easter recess inevitably reduces the parliamentary interventions. The international situation is indeed dire, with Iraq and Palestine badly in need of appropriate attention / solutions which seem a long way off. The path to peace in both countries is taking a bizarre route, with Ariel Sharon (aided by Bush and Blair!) moving further away from a solution in the Palestine/Israeli conflict; and the coalition in Iraq, having flouted the UN at the outset, now half expecting them to solve all their woes with yet little show of humility for their initial responsibility in the strife that engulfs the country.

The outcome in Iraq must not be based on occupation. An Iraqi assembly must be free to decide the course of their own history, and this will require elections to be held without the interference of the occupying forces.

## International/Peace/Human Rights

### PRESS:

19/03: Japanese Broadcasting

16/04: A press conference in advance of my trip to Israel informed those present about the endless number of restrictions being placed upon Mordecai Vanunu (the Israeli whistle blower being released 21/04). I will have been there and returned by the time this goes to print and will report back on Mordecai's release in my next report if not before.

16/04: CNN

21/04: BBC

23/03: I attended the UN Human Rights Commission on behalf of Liberation and presented a paper on the poverty and discrimination of asylum seekers in Western Europe (attached in the article section).

**Don't Forget: Liberation's May 22<sup>nd</sup> event to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of this wonderful organisation (founded by Fenner Brockway in 1954). (Flier at back of this).

28/03: I was invited to be guest speaker at a MANA (Musicians against Nuclear Arms) performance at Lauderdale House, and heard several wonderful players in the Galliard Trio (Andrew Morris, Martin White, and Alec Forshaw - and later read Ivor Thomas's last poem to the assembled group. I enclose it here.

24/03: I called for an Adjournment Debate on the Non Proliferation Treaty Review and British participation and it is included in the parliamentary interventions. I took the opportunity at the commencement of my speech, to praise the bravery of Mordecai Vanunu.

**Palestine** is foremost in my mind, not least because of the tragic assassination of not one, but two Hamas leaders by the IDF, and the fallout that is likely from this, but also because of the release of Mordecai Vanunu which, in these difficult times throughout the Middle East, is a huge boost to the peace movement.

25/03: I spoke at a public meeting organised by PSC (Palestine Solidarity Campaign) and the events surrounding the death of Sheik Yassin,

the *previous* Hamas leader. Yasmin Ataullah did a brilliant job organising this meeting at very short notice and it was well attended. Many people expressed horror at all that is happening in Palestine and the way the IDF (Israeli Defence Force) perceive and treat their "enemies".

**What you can do:** - Check out: <http://www.palestine-monitor.org/mustafa/mustafa-articles.htm> which is a most informative website by Mustafa Bhargouti.

- Join Palestine Solidarity Campaign [www.palestinecampaign.org](http://www.palestinecampaign.org)

T: 020 7700 6192 F: 020 7609 7779

"mailto:info@palestinecampaign.org";

- Jews for Justice: PO Box 37402, N3 2XG:

[jfjusticefp@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jfjusticefp@yahoo.co.uk)

- CAABU: 020 7832 1310

- I am chairing a **PSC launch of an economic sanction campaign in Committee Room 10 at the House of Commons on 10/05 at 7.30pm.**

- **PSC are holding a Rally for Palestine on 15/05 in Trafalgar Square from 1.30pm** with speeches, music and stalls. Come and support the Palestinian people.

30/03: Justice for Palestine and PSC invited me to speak at an emergency meeting on Palestine in the House of Commons, which was designed to support the right of Palestinian people to live in peace in their own state.

20/03: The Stop the War demonstration one year on was a success, and I was one of a number of people speaking at the rally at Trafalgar Square.

**What you can do:** Donate or affiliate to Labour Against the War, Stop the War, or join Amnesty International or another relevant organisation.

Keep abreast of things by checking out the website: [www.guantanamohric.org](http://www.guantanamohric.org)

30/03: I was guest speaker at Crawley CND meeting and we discussed the problems proposed by the Non Proliferation Treaty Review, and the British Government's apparent preparedness to consider a new generation of nuclear weapons.

09/04: CND revived its march to Aldermaston this year and several hundred people marched the entire way over a 4 day period. I spoke at the rally in advance of the march (on Good Friday evening) and then marched with the group as far as Shepherds Bush.

08/04: I attended the Gulf Cultural Club (Chalton St, NW1, tel 020 7383 2058): which is a meeting of mainly Middle Eastern people to discuss issues surrounding peace, justice and cultural matters in the region. I took parting a Q and A session on British and American policies on Iraq.

**Latin America:** 27/03: Nicaragua Solidarity (NSC) Trade Union Day school (which I had the pleasure of opening) focussed on issues facing Unions in Latin America, and the way in which working conditions are being threatened by WTO and the World Bank, with their imposed policies on these fragile Latin American economies.

**What you can do:** NSC are contactable at 020 7272 9619; e [nsc@nicaraguasc.org.uk](mailto:nsc@nicaraguasc.org.uk) ([www.nicaraguasc.org.uk](http://www.nicaraguasc.org.uk))

**Antarctica:** 01/04: I spent today in Cambridge concerned with issues surrounding Antarctica and met with two high profile organisations there: Bob Headland at the Scott Polar Research Centre / University of Cambridge, and David Walton at the British Antarctic Survey. We discussed environmental protocol and British government participation in it. I had been involved in opposing the 1989 Antarctic Minerals bill (a Thatcherite bill) and later supported the successful passage of a private members bill to put into British Law the Environmental Treaty Protocol.

### **Employment/Unions:**

03/04: I was a guest at the Northern Region TUC Public Services Union rally in Newcastle on Tyne.

05/04: The opening of Highgate Job Centre Plus on Elthorne Rd was a success. It is a very

impressive coming together of Benefits Agency and Department of Employment, to ensure local people are put into appropriate jobs and training. I was impressed with the staff and their commitment to give everyone a job or training. It is a huge improvement on the facilities locals have had to deal with in the past.

### **Senior Citizens**

18/03: Islington Pensioners Forum: We had a very interesting discussion at the forum about the future of the Pensioners Bill and the pensions system in this country, and the particular problems faced by elderly people as the Council continues to cut services to them.

19/03: GLF (Greater London Forum for the Elderly): I attended their annual conference at Congress House as guest speaker, as did Jean Lambert, London's Green MEP, and Paul Burstow MP. We discussed issues including pension levels, London Weighting and London transport facilities. I have tabled an EDM on London Weighting which you'll find in the parliamentary interventions.

### **Local:**

**Housing:** 18/03: Keyring Housing Group: I met this group of people who have learning difficulties for a discussion on their housing needs and the activities of Keyring in providing a collective support system for them. I found Keyring to be an impressive organisation and will pursue the residents' needs where appropriate.

20/03: I met the residents of Gresham Place, off Hargrave Rd – a new development by Landmark Housing Association, with teachers/nurses homes and problems relating to design etc which I am following up with Landmark.

29/03: As part of the ongoing plan to ensure that Coop and ALAMO properties remain in the public sector, I had a successful meeting with the Housing Corporation to try to get them to fund their purchase and redevelopment, and

to ensure that existing residents all maintain their right of abode in their existing properties.

02/04: I met members of the Islington Boxing Club on Hazelville Rd to discuss with them and local residents the need to move control of the land from the housing department, to enable a local leisure and sports facility to be developed on this valuable community facility.

21/03: I joined with Frank Dobson and the Nth London Welfare Association (597 Holloway Rd) at a reception held at the Surma Centre, 1 Robert St, NW1. I was delighted to be in the presence of the new British High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Mr Anawar Choudhury, who for the first time is a Bangladeshi speaking Brit.

24/03: Councillor Wally Burgess and I attended the open day for Hilldrop Community Centre which has been hugely improved and refurbished thanks to central government money, and now includes Time Banking, a UK Online Centre, UChooz Digital Arts Project, Environmental Project, Play Project and others - wonderful stuff and as you might gather, the centre is doing very well which I am very very pleased about. Bob Drinkwater is the Co-ordinator at the Centre.

28/03: Susan Waldschmidt (of Bickerton Rd Residents Association) organised an excellent Dartmouth park open day in order to get opinions for the reservoir area there. I was happy to attend and support.

05/04: I visited ICAP in Tollington Park to support this valuable organisation and its desire to remain permanently in Islington and get local premises. I am supporting them in their discussions with the Council.

05/04: I was a guest at the Mitford Under Five's Day Centre AGM. This splendid project celebrates another successful year with an impending decision on a move to the Hornsey Rd Baths development which I fully support and hope goes through. I was honoured to be

asked to become a patron of Mitford Under Fives.

07/04: I was a guest at Islington Music Forum at the Waterlow Unit to discuss their work in providing music in Islington, and to thank them for all their work over the years, especially David Oliver.

I attended the Homeless Art and Culture project at the Union Chapel, which was a very impressive event organised by John Bird.

**Education:** 18/03: Hargrave Park: I visited the school following an invitation to their opening of a small community café, with computer room and Time Exchange where parents and local residents can offer time and skills to each other.

18/03: Wood Green Labour Club: Haringey Trades Council spoke about 20 yrs since the miners strike, plus the problem of the Ponders End area being infiltrated by the BNP. They need support for their community festival which we will provide dates for when we have them.

24/03: I was a guest at the Factory Community Project and Youth Centre where I learnt of the complete lunacy of the Council in selling the freehold of both the existing building, and the proposed extension of the centre, which means the community must raise money to buy back the freehold from the developers (who bought it from the Council in the first place)!! David Vandivier does a brilliant job at the centre and I support his good works wherever I can.

## **Parliamentary**

**Race:** 25/03: I hosted a meeting organised by Kofi Klu on African History, for Black History Month, and we had a discussion with African students from all over London about perceptions of parliament. The event was fascinating and interesting and informative about the way in which the black community is treated as a whole.

**Don't Forget:** On Friday, 30/04 the **Black Socialist Society 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary relaunch** event is to take place at **8pm at the Islington African Project**, Elthorne Rd, N19. Talal is organising the event and would be delighted if as many of you who were free could attend, as it will be a combination of a political and social. It is a celebration event rather than a fundraiser. That said, a voluntary contribution of £2 will help toward the delicious food that is anticipated.

29/03: I attended the Global Exchange Forum put on by the Barrow Cadbury Trust, who fund the Parliamentary Human Rights worker and the discussions I attended on ethnic diversity and migration were extremely interesting

31/03: Higher **Education** Debate. I voted against the imposition of Top up Fees and met large numbers of members of the NUS at various different sites as well as the press. Sadly, fewer MPs than before chose to vote against the Top Up Fees aspect of the bill which was not entirely unexpected, but of course, a significant disappointment to all those of us who believe education is a right and not a privilege.

29/03: A further Somali meeting at the House of Commons went well and we received reports of where we are so far, as well as considering the possibility of a large Somali community conference later in the year. It is worth noting also that the group had won an apology out of the Daily Star regarding their ridiculous story about Somalis eating donkeys! The next routine **Somali House of Commons meeting is on 14/06, 7.30 pm, (Committee Room) 9.**

**Additional Advice Bureau's this month:** the Turkish Women's Group (Durham Rd)

## **Sadly:**

27/03: Tom Hurndall's memorial service at Westminster Cathedral was a very moving event with at least 500 people from all walks of life paying their respects.

# **JEREMY CORBYN**

**Member of Parliament for  
Islington North**

## **Advice surgeries for April and May**

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2.30 – 4.30  
p.m. (note the new time).**  
Caxton House, 129 St. John's Way,  
London, N.19.  
Appointment only, please ring after  
18<sup>th</sup> April to book.

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April – no surgery –  
Bank Holiday.

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May, 4 – 6 p.m.  
Old Fire Station, Mayton Street,  
London, N.7.  
Appointment only, please ring after  
3<sup>rd</sup> May to book.

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 10 a.m. – 12 noon.  
Mayville Community Centre,  
Woodville Road, London, N.16.  
No appointment necessary but  
please be prepared to wait.

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May, 4 – 6 p.m.  
Old Fire Station, Mayton Street,  
London, N.7.  
No appointment necessary but  
please be prepared to wait.

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May - no surgery –  
Bank Holiday.

**If you prefer:** You could write to  
Jeremy with details of your  
problem. His address is: 213A  
Blackstock Road, London, N5 2LL.  
**The office telephone number is  
020 7226 5775.**