

Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy

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ACRONYM INSTITUTE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2011

Report to the Board for January 1 to December 31, 2011

1. Summary

The Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy is a not-for-profit research organisation based in London, which works progressively on international security, humanitarian, disarmament and environmental issues. In 2011, the Acronym Institute received core support from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust for our work on “British and multilateral security, including preventing Trident replacement and creating the conditions for global nuclear weapons abolition”, and a project grant from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for research, meetings and publications on “ways and means to outlaw nuclear weapons through a humanitarian-centred approach”.

During 2011, the Acronym Institute’s work followed up the 2010 Review Conference outcome of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), with particular emphasis on ways to implement international commitments to “achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons”. As detailed below, Dr Rebecca Johnson and Kat Barton took part in conferences, meetings and off the record consultations with a range of governments and civil society actors, including parliamentarians, youth, women’s groups, health and environmental experts, as well as working closely with the UK Nuclear Weapons Policy Liaison Group (NWPLG), the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and various British and international civil society efforts to raise awareness of security and nuclear issues.

In February, at a launch event at the Scottish Parliament together with the Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre and Trident Ploughshares, the Acronym Institute published “Trident and International Law: Scotland’s Obligations”, a book of essays from eminent judges and lawyers on issues relating to the deployment and renewal of UK nuclear weapons, and implications for Scotland. The Acronym Institute contributed to writing and producing a number of briefings and publications for policy makers and public mobilisation published under the auspices of ICAN and NWPLG, while the UK-based news and discussion forum *openDemocracy* published several of Rebecca Johnson’s articles. In addition, she was a featured commentator for CNN on the Fukushima nuclear disaster, providing expert commentary for the BBC and several news services on nuclear developments in North Korea and Iran. Kat Barton compiled a number of electronic news analyses and digests of parliamentary questions and debates relating to British and international nuclear developments and disarmament and took the lead in redesigning and updating the website, working with web development company Netuxo and consultants to manage the large database of information and past publications more effectively, and make it a more inviting, accessible and better organised portal for our future work.

Dr Johnson undertook a full schedule of presentations and meetings, starting 2011 with lectures to science students at the International School on Disarmament and Research on Conflicts (ISODARCO), Italy, and ending the year with presentations at UN, governmental and civil society meetings in South Korea and the annual Wilton Park Non-Proliferation Conference. At meetings in the UK and also Geneva, Vienna, Washington DC, Brussels, Oslo, Amman, Paris and Reykjavik, she made presentations and participated in discussions on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear use and accidents, the inadequacies of deterrence, arms

control and non-proliferation processes, and the risks of regional nuclear war, climate disruption and global famine, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty CTBT), the humanitarian dimension of nuclear disarmament, and regional security strategies to establish a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East and also to facilitate progress on denuclearising Europe.

In June, September and November, as part of the Acronym Institute's humanitarian project, we coordinated workshops in Switzerland (Glion) and the United States (Princeton University) for selected civil society practitioners, academics, government officials and representatives from the Red Cross and other humanitarian organisations to explore further research, information and outreach on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, current and future mechanisms for nuclear disarmament, the prevention of proliferation, and the relevance of international humanitarian law for national and international security.

In order to position the Acronym Institute more effectively to address geostrategic developments and changing strategies, resources and conditions for civil society work on security, disarmament and humanitarian issues, the Board adopted a set of updated Memorandum and Articles of Association at the 2011 Annual General Meeting. With sadness we accepted the retirement from the Board of our first Chair, former UK Ambassador John Edmonds, with immense appreciation for his 16 years of kind and unstinting support. We were delighted to welcome new Board member Lord (David) Ramsbotham, a retired General, Commander of the UK Field Army, Aide de Camp General for Her Majesty the Queen, and H. M. Inspector of Prisons.

2. Meetings, publications and dissemination of information and ideas

Meetings and presentations in 2011

Kat Barton

January 20, 2011, London/UNA, Nuclear Weapons Policy Liaison Group

February 1, 2011, Scottish Parliament/Edinburgh, assisted at Launch of "Trident and International Law: Scotland's Obligations", edited by Rebecca Johnson and Angie Zelter as part of the Trident and International Law project.

February 9, 2011, London/Portcullis House Westminster Parliament, BASIC Trident Commission Launch

February 17, 2011, London/UNA, Nuclear Weapons Policy Liaison Group.

March 7-8, 2011, Geneva/UN, participated in WILPF Seminar for International Women's Day

March 7, 2011, Geneva/ICAN offices, Assisted with organisation of reception to launch ICAN's new hub in Geneva.

March 25, London/UNA, Nuclear Weapons Policy Liaison Group

June 17, 2011, London/UNA, Nuclear Weapons Policy Liaison Group

July 7, 2011, London, Film Screening & Discussion "In My Lifetime"

July 13, London/UNA, Nuclear Weapons Policy Liaison Group

August 8-13, 2011, Ireland/Glencree, "Conflict Resolution, Mediation & Peace Processes" Training course

September 16-19, 2011, Geneva, ICAN International Conference

October 12, 2011, London/UNA, Nuclear Weapons Policy Liaison Group

October 20, 2011, London/ Westminster Parliament, APPG on Global Security & Non-Proliferation "International perspectives on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation"

October 24, 2011, London/SOAS, SOAS/Pugwash Middle East WMD Free Zone conference

October 31, 2011, London/ Westminster Parliament, BASIC Trident Commission “Question Time”

November 22, 2011, London, ICAN-UK Strategy Meeting, organised jointly by Acronym Institute, CND and Medact

December 7, 2011, London/UNA, Nuclear Weapons Policy Liaison Group

Natalie Goldring

February 28 – March 4, 2011, New York, second Preparatory meeting on the Arms Trade Treaty, attended numerous sidebar roundtables and worked with wide range of coalitions, particularly active with the US-based Arms Transfer Working Group. Met with diplomats, non-governmental organization representatives, and UN staff.

July 11-15, 2011, New York, third Preparatory Committee meeting on the Arms Trade Treaty, Attended numerous sidebar roundtables and worked with wide range of coalitions. Served as informal advisor to public health community. Helped prepare members of the community for meetings with diplomats, and attended meetings with them at their request. Continued to be quite active with the Arms Transfer Working Group, meeting with diplomats, other NGO representatives, and UN staff.

Rebecca Johnson

January 9-16, 2011, 24th International School on Disarmament and Research on Conflicts (ISODARCO) Winter School, Andalo, Italy: gave powerpoint presentation on ‘Nuclear Weapons and International Humanitarian Law: pursuing disarmament as humanitarian action’ and lectures on the Non-Proliferation Regime and verification.

January 20, 2011, Portcullis House, Westminster Parliament, spoke about ‘Women’s actions for disarmament’ at Women’s History Month event, hosted by Anne Begg MP and Jo Swinson MP.

January 29, 2011, co-coordinated meeting of World Court Project and INLAP to discuss launching a grassroots campaign to broaden recognition that any use of nuclear weapons would constitute a crime against humanity and war crime.

February 1, 2011, Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, launch of “Trident and International Law: Scotland’s Obligations”, edited by Rebecca Johnson and Angie Zelter and published as part of the Acronym Institute’s Trident and International Law project. Attended also by Prof William Walker, Janet Fenton, Lord Murray, and other Scottish dignitaries, peace movement representatives and Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs).

February 7-9, 2011, Geneva, meetings to establish the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) in Europe.

February 10, 2011, Cambridge, Student Pugwash meeting with Ambassador Jayantha Dhanapala and Professor Robert Hinde, gave powerpoint presentation on ‘The humanitarian imperative for nuclear disarmament: overcoming the barriers’.

February 17, 2011, London/UNA, Nuclear Weapons Policy Liaison Group.

February 21, 2011, Geneva Palais des Nations, presented on ‘Experts, Advocates and Partners: Civil Society and the CD’, at the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and Geneva Forum meeting on The Conference on Disarmament and Civil Society: a Two-Way Street?

February 24-25, 2011, Vienna, Monterey Institute Non-Proliferation Strategy Group seminar and meeting, moderated panel on WMD Free Zone in the Middle East: Perspectives from the Region, with Amb. Ali Soltanieh (Iran), Amb. Abdallah Baali (Algeria) and other senior officials.

March 7-8, 2011, Geneva, WILPF Seminar for International Women’s Day, presentation on the ‘Human Rights Impact of Disarmament and Arms Control from a Gender Perspective’.

March 7, 2011, Geneva, Organised and hosted reception to launch ICAN’s new office in Geneva.

March 27-30, 2011, Washington DC, Carnegie Non-Proliferation Conference, introduced and chaired breakout session on ‘The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty: What Now?’

April 29, 2011, American Physical Society (by skype rather than travelling to Anaheim California), gave lecture with powerpoint on ‘Nuclear Weapons at 65: Time for Retirement?’

May 9, 2011, ICAN UK meeting

May 11, 2011, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London, Roundtable on The Arab Spring: Implications for WMD Proliferation and Nuclear Power.

May 23-24, 2011, Brussels, EU Non-Proliferation Consortium Kick-Off Meeting of European experts.

May 25-27, 2011, Oslo, ICAN-Norway and meetings with Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials, Norwegian parliamentarians and civil society, including presentation organised by ICAN and Nei til Atomvapen on 'Can nuclear weapons be abolished in our lifetime?'

June 8, 2011, ICAN UK meeting.

June 21-24, 2011, Geneva and Glion, Switzerland. ICAN meetings and Workshop on Humanitarian-based Approaches for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, organised by the Acronym Institute as part of Acronym's humanitarian disarmament research project, co-hosted with Tim Caughley.

June 29-30, 2011, Paris, P-5 meeting on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, civil society seminar organised by EU Consortium.

July 17-20, 2011, Amman, Jordan, 2012 Advisory Commission Meeting on the Middle East, Laying the Grounds for the 2012 Conference on the Middle East, presentation on Panel I: 'Objectives, context and status for the 2012 Conference'.

September 7, 2011, ICAN UK meeting

September 16-19, 2011, Geneva, ICAN International Conference, opened conference and presented powerpoint on 'Creating the Conditions to Abolish Nuclear Weapons and coordinated round-up session on strategies and actions'.

September 20-22, 2011, Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, seminar on UN International Day of Peace, presented on 'Trident, International humanitarian law and humanitarian disarmament imperatives'.

September 25-27, 2011 Glion, Switzerland, Seminar on Humanitarian Approaches to Nuclear Disarmament: Strategies, Pathways and Prospects, presented on 'Key elements, questions and strategies for a humanitarian approach to nuclear disarmament', and organised panels on medical consequences, nuclear famine and humanitarian law as part of Acronym's humanitarian disarmament research project.

October 1, 2011, Croughton, Oxfordshire, demonstration for Keep Space for Peace Week, spoke on 'Disarming Trident, preventing space weaponisation, and using space to support verification and a nuclear abolition treaty'.

October 12, 2011, London/UNA, Nuclear Weapons Policy Liaison Group.

October 14-15, 2011, Reykjavik Peace Forum 25th Commemoration of the 1986 Reykjavik Summit, Iceland, keynote speaker with powerpoint on 'Then and Now: from the INF Treaty to Nuclear Abolition'.

October 17-18, 2011, International Parliamentary Union (IPU) annual meeting, panellist and presenter with powerpoint on 'Why nuclear abolition is a humanitarian imperative: role for Parliamentarians'.

October 21, 2011, UNA-UK at Royal Society, High Level Roundtable on 'Reassuring, Securing and Disarmament', chaired and introduced session on 'Creating a Road-Map for a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and all other Weapons of Mass Destruction'.

October 24, 2011, London, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), 6th SOAS-British Pugwash London Conference on Middle East Security and a WMD Free Zone.

October 25-26, 2011, London, School of Oriental and African Studies, Meeting organised by SOAS, the Palestinian-Israel Journal (PIJ), and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) on a Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Middle East (CSCME): chair, session on The Role of Civil Society: public debate and relevant research centers in the Middle East that are dealing with arms control and WMD non-proliferation; and presenter on 'Concrete steps on the Road to the 2012 Conference'.

November 7-8, 2011, Jeju, South Korea, 10th ROK-UN Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Issues: The Past and Future of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, Commentator and rapporteur in Session I: 'The Past Decade: The Changing landscape of disarmament and nonproliferation'.

November 9-10, 2011, Gangjeong Village, Jeju Island, South Korea, presentation on 'Civil Society, Disarmament and Human Rights: lessons from the past'.

November 15-16, 2011, Princeton USA, Workshop on Normative, Technical and Legal Aspects of Banning Nuclear Weapons, organised by the Acronym Institute as part of Acronym's humanitarian disarmament research project.

November 17-19, 2011, Princeton University (USA) Program on Science & Global Security, International Panel on Fissile Materials (IPFM) meeting.

November 20, 2011, New York City, meetings with Bob Frye (producer/director of 'In my Lifetime') re film resources for humanitarian disarmament and his intro for the Red Cross conference in Geneva.

November 22, 2011, London, ICAN-UK Strategy Meeting, organised jointly by Acronym Institute, CND and Medact.

December 5, 2011, London, ICAN-UK fundraising meeting.

December 7, 2011, Vienna, the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Poland to the United Nations and International Organizations Austrian MFA, and Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation seminar 'In Search of a New Framework for Nuclear Disarmament: 20 Years after the New Beginning', powerpoint presentation on 'Reframing the need for nuclear disarmament in humanitarian terms'.

December 8, 2011, Vienna, CTBTO Advanced Course on the Nexus between Science and Diplomacy, powerpoint presentation on 'Science and nuclear weapons diplomacy'.

December 12-16, 2011, Wilton Park Non-Proliferation Conference, presented with powerpoint on 'From Non-Proliferation to Nuclear Abolition: Disarmament as Humanitarian and Security Imperative'.

During the year wherever her travel schedule permitted, Rebecca Johnson also participated in various information and strategy-sharing meetings with other NGOs and attended various seminars and informational meetings at which she was not a speaker.

3.5 Published Book and Articles in 2011

Rebecca Johnson and Angie Zelter (eds.), *Trident and International Law: Scotland's Obligations*, (Luath Press, 2011)

Rebecca Johnson, 'Disarmament', *International Encyclopedia of Political Science* (IPSA and Sage, 2011)

Rebecca Johnson, 'From non-proliferation to nuclear weapons abolition: recent strategies to put the objective of a nuclear weapons convention on the negotiating agenda,' *Italian Yearbook on Arms and Disarmament* (2011)

Kat Barton, 'Rhetoric and reality, contradictions in the midst of change: The UK government's role at the 2010 NPT Review Conference', *Italian Yearbook on Arms and Disarmament* (2011)

Rebecca Johnson, 'The rising of the women means the rising of us all', *openDemocracy*, March 9

Rebecca Johnson, 'After Fukushima', *openDemocracy*, March 24

Rebecca Johnson, 'We achieved a more democratic world free of nuclear weapons', (openDemocracy anniversary articles looking back from the future), *openDemocracy*, May 9

Rebecca Johnson, 'South Korea: destroying the lives of the Haenyo 'sea women'', *openDemocracy*, November 18

Rebecca Johnson, 'Rape: a basic tool of militarism', *openDemocracy*, December 5

Rebecca Johnson, 'The Occupy Movement and the Women of Greenham Common', *openDemocracy*, December 12.

3.6 Media, website and electronic news services

During 2011, Rebecca Johnson was featured in programmes on nuclear issues, notably the Iranian and North Korean nuclear challenges and the Fukushima nuclear accident that resulted from the earthquake and tsunami that struck North East Japan, which were transmitted by the BBC, CNN, NHK and Al Jazeera, and covered in Japanese and international media.

In addition to compiling and disseminating 4 electronic editions of 'Non-Proliferation News' and 'Proliferation in Parliament', Kat Barton led Acronym's project to redesign our website. Rebecca wrote content for the new website, while Kat worked with Netuxo web developers and consultants to update the site's structure and functionality and manage the transfer of recent material and the archiving of *Disarmament Diplomacy*, Acronym Reports and the considerable information resources we have developed since 1995, with the aim of launching a more accessible, inviting and effective website in 2012.

4. Institutional Establishment

The Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy is a non-profit company 'limited by guarantee', registered in England and Wales in 1996, No. 3149465

Mission Statement

The Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy conducts research and analysis and through meetings, publications and outreach facilitates the fuller participation of civil society

and nations in developing and implementing effective measures to eliminate nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, demilitarise relations between states, promote human security and sustain a healthy environment.

Aims and Objectives

The objectives of the Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy are:

- to conduct research and obtain, analyse and disseminate ideas and information on peace and human security, disarmament, arms control, non-proliferation, environmental sustainability, women's security, rights and democratic participation, gender equality and international law and human rights, including international humanitarian law;
- to educate or assist in the education of the public and elected representatives on all relevant aspects relating to debates, policies and negotiations on human, national and international peace and security, including the effects of weapons, security doctrines and disarmament;
- to organise meetings and observe or participate in discussions, negotiations, verification and promotion of talks, solutions, negotiations, developments and implementation of agreements, resolutions and treaties in these fields; and
- to distribute reports, proceedings, ideas, information and education materials, and to facilitate and assist the distribution of ideas and material collated by other researchers, scientists and activists, whether governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental, in all relevant aspects relating to human, national and international peace and security issues, as described above.

Personnel in 2011

Executive Director, Dr Rebecca Johnson
Research Associate and Web Manager, Kat Barton
Website support, Rachel Staley
Consultant on UN and small arms, Dr Natalie Goldring
Book keeper, Julia Clancy.

Board

David Atwood Ph.D
Sir Hugh Beach GBE, KCB, MC
Ambassador (ret'd) Tim Caughley
Professor Christine Chinkin
John Edmonds CMG, CVO
David, Lord Ramsbotham, GCB, CBE
Nomi Bar Yaacov

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Signed on Behalf of the Board
Sir Hugh Beach

At the Annual General Meeting
London, June 27, 2012