

**PET(4) WPI 06
Petitions Committee**

Consultation on petition P-03-262 Wales Peace Institute

Response from Rhys ab Elis

To: Ms Abigail Phillips
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

10 November 2011

Dear Ms Phillips,

Regarding the enclosed journal article, I feel that I must write to the Assembly to protest its decision to permit the British State to use airfields in Wales for unpiloted drones. These aircraft—the ‘birds of death’—are part of the Big Brother state and are abhorrent to the communities of Wales. The RAF and the other armed forces have an appalling record in terms of their treatment of Wales: the concentration camp that was located in Frongoch from 1916-18; the British Army’s seizure of land from farmers and communities in northern Breconshire in 1939—an episode of pure theft that led to the Welsh Courts Act 1942; the British Army’s treatment of monolingual Welsh-speaking conscripts during the second world war from 1939 to 1945, in classifying them as mentally subnormal; the decision by the RAF to fly its planes over the National Eisteddfod in Cardigan in 1976 (where the eisteddfod’s 800th anniversary was celebrated), because of the eisteddfod committee’s decision to refuse the RAF’s donation of that year’s eisteddfod crown, as the eisteddfod is a non-militaristic organisation. Moreover, of course, the battle is still being waged over the use of taxpayers’ funds to send the children of RAF families in Rhosneigr to private, non-Welsh-medium schools in order to avoid sending them to local schools on Anglesey, where they would learn Welsh.

In light of the attitudes of organisations such as the RAF, in my opinion it is important for Wales NOT to give permission for the use of things such as drones here. What is their purpose? To spy on the local population. It is repellent—a Big Brother society in its purest form, and another example of the ‘England über alles’ policy that is being pursued by the British State at our expense.

Yours faithfully,
R. Ab Elis (Mr)

Y Cymro – 28 October 2011

Peace Academy Invite

Dear Editor

Yes, that is what this note is, an invite to all of your readers to take an action on an issue of the utmost importance.

Would we be proud as a nation to have an exemplary body, similar to the one in Flanders and other countries in Europe and all over the world, that could, based on extensive research and reasoned opinion, guide the National Assembly and other organisations in Wales on issues related to justice, peace and human rights?

Would we like to see Wales having a strong voice to enable us to tell the National Assembly: “Say ‘No’ to the British Government”; enough is enough, Wales no longer wants to be dragged along, like a small puppy, to wars, like in Iraq and Afghanistan?

Would we like to see an end to the large-scale militarisation that continues to blight hundreds upon hundreds of acres in Wales: in Epynt, St Athan, Aberporth, Llanbedr...?

Do we want to stop the barbaric atrocity that is taking place in Aberporth today (which is, alas, happening with the blessing of our National Assembly), where men and women are being trained to use unmanned aircraft—‘birds of death’—aircraft that have already killed hundreds, if not thousands, of ordinary people in several countries.

Do we want to see an end to the billions of pounds that are spent on weapons, bombs and Trident, and to see that money being spent on humanitarian, medical and educational services instead?

Just as importantly, if not more so, do we want to see justice, peace and human rights being introduced as core subjects in Welsh schools?

If ‘yes’ is our answer to any of those questions, we now have a golden opportunity to take part in a campaign that is of the utmost importance to our children’s future. We have an opportunity to ensure that Wales, as a small country, can guide Europe, and indeed, the world: creating a culture of peace, not a culture of war; flying the flag for justice and human rights, freedom and peace.

Saying is good,

Doing is better.

What is the next step? A petition was submitted a while ago, urging the National Assembly to establish a Peace Academy for Wales.

The Assembly’s Petitions Committee is now inviting individuals, societies, churches and other organisations to send their comments to the Committee by 14 December

2011. Here's the address: Abigail Phillips, National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff CF99 1NA. petition@wales.gov.uk

Many thanks for your assistance,

Robin Gwyndaf

Vice-President of the Fellowship of Reconciliation in Wales