

Nottingham Campaigners to Visit Germany

press release - 25/02/2009

Four Nottingham anti-arms trade campaigners are visiting the German town of Oberndorf-am-Neckar in early March to attend a major protest at the international headquarters of arms manufacturer Heckler & Koch, whose British branch is based in Nottingham.

The Nottingham activists will be joining their German counterparts to protest about Heckler & Koch's role in supplying arms used in murderous conflicts around the world. It has been revealed that H&K guns have been used by the Janjaweed militias in Darfur, by Blackwater mercenaries in Iraq, by the Georgian army in South Ossetia, and by criminal gangs in the UK.

The four will represent a Nottingham-based campaign called Shut Down H&K, which has been building friendship links with German organisations who also oppose the arms trade. A German peace group called the Armaments Information Office (RIB) invited them to attend the demonstration and offered to pay their travel expenses.



The Nottingham delegation

The March 7th protest has been organised by German campaign groups to pre-empt H&K's 60th anniversary celebrations. The theme of the demonstration will be "Masquerade of Death" and the marchers will be split into two columns – one mourners dressed in black to commemorate the victims of war, and one dressed as arms dealers celebrating their booming business. There will also be a rally at which the delegation will deliver a speech about the Nottingham campaign against Heckler & Koch.



Making a killing: from left to right, Heckler & Koch guns in the hands of an African child soldier, a Taliban fighter in Pakistan, Serbian special forces, a Nepalese soldier and a Palestinian militant

Notes for editors:



Shut Down H&K was set up in 2008 by Nottingham residents who were outraged to discover the presence of such an unethical company in the city. The campaign has been holding monthly demonstrations at the arms company's premises in Lenton. For more information, visit www.shutdownhk.org.uk.

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