

## **Feedback from Roots of Resistance**

Highlights of some of the Friends who went on the Protest

An image from the day: Inside the compound two tanks on trailers drawn up alongside the stand for the event florist.

Felt like God was with us.

During the day I was moved, a bit scared, confused and inspired.

I was impressed by how much work the ROR organising group had done. I noticed how very careful and professional the police were about removing people who had locked in. I felt like a big stone in the shoe of the arms fair, and it's a stone that's not going away.

The question I ask is why on a day when many police were deployed and the DSEI logistics challenged there was no coverage or presence from any part of the National or London media? What forces are at play here?

I was struck by the gentleness f/Friends with each other, despite the large numbers and police presence. There was a great sense of care.

I felt very held by the excellent organisation of ROR.

It felt very gathered experience with a great sense of shared purpose.

I felt deeply moved by being part of this.

**About legal support on arrest**

I was arrested for 'wilful obstruction of the highway' at the No Faith in War day organised (superbly) by the Roots of Resistance planning group.

The lawyer who came to Brixton Police Station quite late in the evening to support me in making my statement was superb: experienced, quick and quietly helpful. She offered me a statement (drafted by her firm's senior partner for protest law) that she suggested might be useful if I felt that it 'fitted' my case. I felt that it so exactly states why we were led to this protest that I used it, with considerable relief and gratitude, exactly in full; and I am sending it in case others find it a useful contribution to explain why we are, in the words of the song, a gentle, angry people.

### **Statement on arrest**

Rosemary Roberts will say as follows:

I was arrested whilst protesting against the DSEI Arms Fair. I felt obliged to protest because the Arms Trade is immoral and illegal. I am aware that at many previous DSEI Arms Fairs weaponry has been sold unlawfully. This has included torture equipment such as shackles and electric batons. It can be presumed that the same will occur at DSEI this year.

I am also aware that delegations from states with appalling human rights records will be attending. This includes a delegation from Saudi Arabia. Weaponry sold by the UK to Saudi Arabia has been used to commit war crimes in Yemen. I do not accept that this is lawful. Despite this immoral and illegal activity the UK government continue to support DSEI. My protest was a reasonable and proportionate exercise of my rights to freedom of expression and assembly as guaranteed by Articles 10 and 11 of the European Convention of Human Rights.

Signed: RR  
03.09.2019

Dated: