

# Edinburgh May Day 2008

Out of the Blue Arts Centre, 29 Dalmeny St, Edinburgh EH6 8RG

PRESS RELEASE

Mon 7<sup>th</sup> April 2008

## International Speakers Head to City for May Day Parade

Organisers of the this years Edinburgh May Day parade, celebrating international solidarity and socialism, today announced the guest speakers for the event which takes place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

The march this year will be led by Pat Arrowsmith from the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and Colombian trade union leader Aida Avella.

Edinburgh May Day Committee spokesman Colin Fox explained the significance of the day and the guest speakers

‘This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and we are therefore very pleased to have with us in Edinburgh CND’s National Vice President Pat Arrowsmith. It is fair to say that Pat is a veteran of the peace movement. She organised the very first march to Aldermaston [Atomic weapons factory] way back in the 1950’s. She has been at the forefront of the anti nuclear protests ever since. Jailed many times for her opposition to these weapons, her record over the past half century is second to none in opposing Britain’s nuclear missiles.

We are equally delighted to welcome Aida Avella to Scotland. Aida has a fascinating story to tell. A former leader of the public sector workers union in her native Colombia she was elected to Parliament in the 1990’s alongside 14 other members of the ‘Patriotic Union’. But that was before the killings started and some 4,500 members of her party have subsequently been killed. All those elected alongside her have been assassinated. Aida herself escaped a car bomb attack in the centre of Bogota and she now lives in exile in Switzerland. Nowhere in the world is quite so dangerous for trades unionists to speak out and try to organise themselves.’

The May Day march takes place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May assembling in Market Street at 11.30am before marching along Princes Street to a rally in Princes Street Gardens.

Other speakers will include a Palestinian representative, a French trades union leader speaking on the resonance of 1968 and closer to home, Catriona Grant from the Save our Old Town campaign [S.O.O.T.].

ENDS

### Contact

*Colin Fox, President, Edinburgh May Day Committee 07790 581883 –[ m]*

### Note to Editors

*Both Aida Avella from Justice for Colombia and Pat Arrowsmith, CND, are available in advance of May Day for interviews via the above numbers.*

**For international Solidarity and Socialism**