



Friday, August 18, 2000

## Women's Association Disgusted By Decision

A spokeswoman for the Woman's Association has publicly declared their "shock and disgust" at last night's announcement by the MOD that repairs would continue on HMS Tireless without allowing the Gibraltar Government to review the safety case.

According to reports on GBC Radio on Friday morning the Woman's Association have called on all its members to support the protest against the MOD claiming that the MOD has denied the Gibraltarians their democratic rights through their actions.

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## Government Questions MOD's "Openness"

The Gibraltar Government have questioned the MOD's declaration that they have been "open and honest" at all times since the nuclear submarine came to Gibraltar.

The Government's statement comes as the MOD refuses to allow the Gibraltar Government to review the safety case independently, claiming that the risks are "modest".

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The Government has also admitted that they are unable to do anything about the repairs on HMS Tireless although they are looking at steps to be taken to stop repairs until an assurance on safety has been given. The government's lack of authority over MOD territory is seen as a key factor to the MOD's decision to proceed without Government approval.

The MOD's unilateral decision has been seen as an insult to the Gibraltarians by the Voice of Gibraltar group who have stepped up the pressure with the support of the organisations and lawyers representing them.

Levy Attias has declared "it is sheer disregard for the rights of the Gibraltarians" and has called for the Government to step up the pressure.

Major action is expected within the coming days as all main groups and organisations in Gibraltar declare their outrage at the MOD's unilateral decision to ignore the wishes of the Government of Gibraltar.

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## Hassans To send Letters To Suspend Repairs

GBC Radio confirmed on their morning news programme the intentions to intensify legal proceedings against the repairs to HMS Tirless.

Reports claim that Hassans, the legal representatives of the protesters against the repairs on HMS Tireless, intends to send letters to all the relevant authorities to suspend repairs on HMS Tirless until the safety case which the MOD has denied the Government from seeing is allowed to be reviewed by the Government's independent panel.

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This is seen as the first steps to an intensification of the pressure on the British Government's decision to repair HMS Tirless in Gibraltar without meeting the two fundamental request by the local Gibraltar Government, to assure the government that there was no risk to the public, and to assure the public of Gibraltar that there was no risk.

Both these two requests are seen not to have been met by the MOD who has announced thier intention to proceed with repairs without allowing the government to view the safety reports.

BBC in the meantime has run an article in which they question the safety of all the submarine fleets after the two major incident that have occurred in the past weeks. According to BBC, who have published a catalogue of incidents in which a submarime has been lost, the first nuclear submarine to be lost was due to a defective weld, although it has never been uncovered of th eparticular reasons behind

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## Legal Action Procedures To Be Stepped Up Against MOD!!

A spokesperson for the plaintiffs against the MOD's repairs to the Nuclear Submarine HMS Tireless, has informed Iberia News that after an emergency meeting on Thursday night lawyers have been asked to step up their actions against the MOD so as to block any moves by the MOD in repairing the stricken submarine.

The spokesperson stated that all organisations and associations present had demonstrated a united front over the decision to take legal action against the MOD.

An official statement will be issued by the legal representatives over the legal actions to be taken against the MOD.

The emergency meeting was called after the MOD had reported it's intentions to start repairs on Monday and after the Government of Gibraltar rejected the MOD's decision in a statement broadcast tonight on GBC TV.

Organisers and protesters will also be increasing their campaign as from tomorrow calling on every Gibraltarian to join in a mass protest to be held on Monday according to a campaign spokesperson.

The spokesperson informed Iberia news that it is hoped that with the backing from the government and the Union, support for the protest will be clearly shown on Monday as the MOD prepares to start repairs on the nuclear submarine.

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