

Juliet Peck

Juliet Peck became involved with ECCR in the mid 1990s in the early years of ECCR's work on Shell in Nigeria. Juliet had been to Nigeria several times as a researcher and brought her research and understanding to our discussion. She also brought her passion.

She was a physically striking woman – tall, slim with a black eye-patch, the result of the eye cancer she developed on returning to the UK from Afghanistan, after the death of her war photographer husband Rory Peck. The patch was typical of Juliet. No prosthetic eye to soften things for others or for herself but a direct confrontation with the truth.

Juliet was a founder member of the Leeds ECCR group and, with Miguel Pinedo, researched ASDA and engaged with the company on issues that arose. The company was not very co-operative and when it was bought by Walmart things became even more difficult. Persistence and realism were part of Juliet's character.

Juliet joined the ECCR Board and was involved in the appointment of our co-ordinator. Most recently she did some research for us on Rio Tinto in Madagascar.

The daughter of a clergyman, she had a firm faith and her belief in the power of prayer carried her through her last illness. When cancer reappeared she initially refused the usual medical interventions, preferring alternative techniques; but as the prognosis was so poor she accepted treatment. With two children - a daughter in her teens and a young adult son – Juliet had reasons to stay. She attributed her good response to therapy to prayer and in the typical straightforward way signed her emails, 'Not dead yet!' She and the children enjoyed a family holiday shortly before her death in January 2007.

Juliet sent her children to public school, was a keen horse rider and a Conservative local councillor. Not an obvious radical perhaps, but one nevertheless confronting the realities of globalisation with a style and integrity all her own. We miss her.

Barbara Hayes

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