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Keyword: The Montcalm

Bez: World War Three is coming so I'm doing a 'bed-in for peace' like John Lennon

By Abi Wilkinson

The Happy Mondays star told the Mirror he hopes to raise awareness we are facing "the greatest threat since World War Two"

Former Happy Mondays maraca-shaker Bez and his girlfriend are taking to bed for a week - to "raise awareness that we are facing the greatest threat as a nation since World War Two".

After winning Celebrity Big Brother in 2005, Bez spent several years out of the limelight living in a commune in Wales, where he learnt to keep bees. But last year he reinvented himself as a politician, announcing he planned to stand for election in Salford representing his new 'Reality Party'. This week-long bed-in might be the ex-Britpop star's most outlandish stunt to date

Bez - who has refused to give up recreational drug use to pursue his political career - admitted to the Mirror that he "pinched the idea from John Lennon" who did two separate week-long 'bed-ins for peace' in 1969, as a protest against the Vietnam War.

He argues: "We've got the same problems then as now. We're under the threat of a new world war, World War Three is looking like it's evident."

Along with his girlfriend, Firouzeh Razavi, he checked in at <u>The Montcalm</u> at The Brewery Hotel this afternoon to begin a seven day stay. The pair were already wearing their pyjamas on arrival. I've got no chance of winning any election because I forgot to register to stand"

Bez was planning to stand as a Parliamentary candidate in Salford and Eccles, but says he has been "nobbled on the starting line" as he didn't register his 'Reality Party' with the Electoral Comission.

As he enjoyed a last pint before beginning the bed-in, he didn't seem too concerned about the mistake:

"I've always said, it's not about the winning it's about the taking part. The main thing is raising awareness." "It's like we're living in a dictatorship"

The list of issues Bez hopes to raise awareness of is extensive and eclectic.

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Fracking is the issue he cares about most, but be also name-checks "the infrastructure bill with it's new trespassing laws" and TTIP (the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership) which he says "gives bankers more power than any elected government".

He argues that "it's looking more like we're living in a dictatorship" than a democracy, as "power is being taken out of the hands of ordinary people". Do you agree with Bez that WWIII is coming?

http://www.nla-eclipsweb.com/service/redirector/article/18435105.pdf