Editorial
A Year to Strengthen the World Movement Against War
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President, World Peace Council

The year of 2016, just like previous years, has begun with putting even more challenges and urgent tasks before us. As we have done in our meetings, campaigns and debates, the World Peace Council (WPC) has the vital task of consolidating itself as a people’s international organization, involving societies and citizens in defense of peace, in a resolute stand against war and threats to the peoples’ sovereignty. We have a call, as an international organization, to interact with the workers’, youth, women’s, intellectuals, and a broad variety of patriotic, democratic and progressive activists, and organized movements of struggle in the whole world, for the cause of democracy, social justice, national independence and peace.

We have underlined that the USA, armed with their war machine, their own armed forces and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), their military bases spread around the world, their Navy fleets entrenched in seas and oceans, their vast satellite spying network controlling land, sea and space, and allied with the European powers, have reorganized their forces, and are reacting to the relative demise of their hegemony with renewed aggressiveness.

The US imperialism has new goals to perpetuate the same crimes against the peoples all over the planet. With its current face, Barack Obama, for eight years the rhetoric has been one, and the practice, another. We know that Obama’s promise was, mainly, to end the war in Afghanistan and Iraq. However, despite reducing their troops, the US continues to be embedded in both countries, which were destroyed and where hundreds of thousands of people were killed since the 2001 and 2003 invasions. Furthermore, Obama offers these massacred peoples the technological innovation of the long-distance killing, with a sharp increase in the use of drones to conduct the long-distance killing, with a sharp increase in the use of drones to conduct the

WPC campaign against NATO
TO PEACE!
NO TO NATO!

Dear Friends and Comrades in Peace,

As you are all aware, after almost half a decade of violent proxy war, terrorism, and bloodshed in Syria, the warring parties have agreed to meet once again, this time in Geneva, Switzerland, to find a political solution to the ongoing war that has cost the lives of tens of thousands of innocent men, women and children, has left millions of Syrians homeless, and has turned millions of others into refugees flooding Syria’s neighboring countries and Europe. Many experts believe that this is the last chance for achieving a peaceful solution to the Syrian crisis.

It is also well known that these negotiations are being held under extremely complicated circumstances. This conflict has more than two sides and it is not simply about the government of Syria and its opposition. Here we are also dealing with regional power rivalries, with each country pursuing its own interests, and the drive by the United States and NATO states to redivide the map of the Middle East to achieve their own imperial goals. It is also part and parcel of the global drive to encircle, contain and subdue Russia and China, as a continuation of the neocons’ global strategy.

At the global level, the United States and NATO consider Syria as a stepping stone toward a regime change in Iran and ultimately in Russia, and are trying to bring Syria under the West and NATO control by any means possible, including financing, organizing, and arming the militant/terrorist groups fighting the Syrian government, either directly or by using their proxy states and regional allies. This has inevitably put the US on a dangerous confrontation course with Russia, which sees the overthrow of the Syrian government and establishment of another pro-NATO state near its borders as a major threat to its national security. Russia considers this an extension of what NATO is doing in Ukraine. The shooting down of a Russian fighter jet by NATO member Turkey was a clear escalation of this dangerous and intentional confrontation.

At the regional level, the conflict cannot be reduced to a war between two opposing camps only. It is not simply the case of Syria, Iran and Russia on one side, and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Jordan, Turkey, Israel, and others, on the other side. Although all of the countries in the latter group are acting within the overall US/NATO plan for regime change in Syria, each of them has its own particular agenda for Syria and the region as well, and is trying to push the events in the direction that serves its own interests.

Both Saudi Arabia (closest U.S. ally after Israel) and Qatar (home of the U.S. Central Command) are dead bent on overthrowing the Assad government by use of force. They have been acting as the main dispensers of money and arms to the militant rebels and foreign terrorists in Syria. Saudi Arabia, particularly, has been considering Iran as its main rival and enemy in the region ever since the 1979 revolution that took Iran out of the US/NATO sphere of influence. For the Saudis, the overthrow of Assad’s Syria, the only Arab state independent of US manipulation and a long-time ally of Iran in the Middle East, serves to weaken Iran and ultimately pave the way for regime change in that country.

However, despite agreeing on the goal of forced regime change in Syria, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey have different ideas about who should replace the Assad government. For the Saudis, who are intent on spreading their own extremist Wahhabi version of Islam in the region, the favorites are ISIS, Al-Qaeda-related groups like al-Nusra Front, and other extremist Islamic groups like the Islam Army, and the Asala Wa Tamiya Front (Authenticity and Growth Front), also supported by U.S.). On the other hand, Qatar, like Turkey, supports Islamist groups affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood, like the Sham Legion and the Turkish-
Joint Statement of the Peace Movements of Greece, Turkey and Cyprus
About the Direct Involvement of NATO in the Aegean Sea and Broader Area

The recent developments with NATO’s involvement in the Aegean with the pretext to “protect” the Turkish-Balkan borders and “face” the flow of refugees, confirm with facts that we have to move in order to justify the permanent deployment of NATO in the Aegean Sea and the Eastern Mediterranean, in the framework of scopes and antagonisms related to the ongoing war in Syria and the imperialist plans in Libya and elsewhere.

The recent decision of the European Union to involve NATO in the area, followed by NATO’s decision itself, constitute a serious escalation and worsening of the general situation. The hypervolitional decision which was taken upon a common proposal of Greece-Turkey, in order to compensate the days of its implementation prove clearly the real motivation behind.

The international peace scenario in the war in Syria by the imperialist forces, the involvement of Russia upon invitation of the Syrian government in the war, and the so-called Jihadists, the ongoing terrorist attacks in Turkey, have created a climate of confrontation and a generalized war that unavoidably would destroy all civilization across the planet.

Protest NATO’s Warsaw Summit … (from p. 3) of these cases the government was targeted by NATO because it refused to accept the dictates of NATO in the Cyprus Peace Council policy. In none of these cases has the goal or legacy is death for the people, destruction and displacement—with increased power concentration.

The struggle for peace and against war is an integral part and a necessary condition for progress and social justice.

In an effort to build and expand this campaign over the coming period, the World Peace Council commits itself to the following:

1. The WPC will increase its work with its affiliate organizations and regional coordinators, the WPC will continue to call, organize and mobilize global days of action demanding the dissolution of NATO. The WPC will work to organize these actions on an annual basis. In an effort to build mass, public demonstrations against NATO, the WPC will reach out to international peace, labor and progressive forces who agree that NATO should be dissolved. The WPC will encourage its affiliate organizations to conduct similar outreach, wherever possible, at the national level.

2. Working with its affiliate organizations the WPC will organize international conferences to expose the role of NATO to inform the peace loving forces and the broader public of NATO’s actions and of popular efforts to block them and to develop proposals for new and creative means to mobilize actions, especially in the NATO member states, unmasking its imperialist nature, denouncing the responsibility of each member state government and demanding NATO’s dissolution.

3. The WPC will increase its work with its affiliate members in South America, together with support and encourage their national campaigns against NATO. As part of this, the WPC will continue to promote the right of each people to unilaterally withdraw from NATO, as a concrete act to weaken the military alliance.

4. The WPC will work with its affiliate members to encourage and promote resolutions, calls and actions by those governments to the United Nations and other relevant international bodies calling for the dissolution of NATO. This is a particular focus for affiliate members in countries in the Non Aligned Movement.

5. In order to develop and realize the above proposals, the WPC recommends the establishment of a Working Group to report to each Secretariat, Executive Committee Meeting and each World Peace Assembly.

Global Day of Action against NATO: July 8-9, 2016

In preparation for the Warsaw Summit, the World Peace Council recognizes the increasing global threat represented by NATO — by its increasing belligerence, size and geographic reach without limit. The WPC affirms that it will raise the mobilization in the streets of cities and countries to mobilize against the Warsaw Summit and NATO’s total dissolution, by calling for a global mobilization of action against NATO on July 8-9, 2016.

The WPC and its affiliates will urge peace and solidarity movements to organize protests at the Warsaw Summit site. Such a direct presence on the spot is a powerful reminder to all that NATO is the enemy of the peoples of the world and is actively opposed by them and demand:

• The Dissolution of NATO.
• The withdrawal of all NATO forces involved in military aggressions;
• The dismantling of NATO and anti-missile system;
• The general disarmament and abolition of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction;
• The respect of the principles of the founding charter of the UN and of the sovereignty and equality of peoples and states.

It is also critical to mobilize in each country, with multifaceted actions and protests, conferences and educational events, to be held in each country. This is particularly important in countries who are members of NATO, where the WPC is underlining also the role of those governments who support and endorse all NATO plans and actions.

Please inform the WPC as soon as possible of events in your country or region, and forward copies of promotional material. On July 8-9, the peoples of the world say:

Yes to Peace! No to NATO!

Joint Statement of the Peace Movements of Greece, Turkey and Cyprus
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Yes to Peace! No to NATO!
Final Declaration of the Fourth International Seminar for Peace and Abolition of Foreign Military Bases
Guantanamo, 23rd, 24th and 25th of November 2015

“Let peace be the world’s emblem”

The World Peace Council announces with grief the demise of our beloved comrade Orlando Fundora Lopez, Honorary President of the WPC, in the age of 90. Orlando Fundora Lopez joined the revolutionary movement in Cuba before 1954 as trade unionist in the banking system participating in numerous of struggles and actions for which he was jailed and tortured several times by the Batista regime. From his exile in Venezuela he continued his struggle along with the local revolutionary movement from 1957-1959 again jailed and heavily tortured by the regime.

After the triumph of the Revolution he assumed the post of director of Radio Havana and later director of the Prensa Latina News Agency. In 1966 Orlando Fundora became chief of Information of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and after 1973 Chief of the Department of revolutionary orientation of the Central Committee. He was for decades a member of the Central Committee of the CP of Cuba.

Orlando Fundora Lopez assumed in 1985 the Presidency of the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples (MOVPAZ) till 2006. In the Assembly of 2000 in Athens he contributed decisively to the anti-imperialist re-orientation of the WPC and the shift of its Headoffice to Athens. During the Assembly of the WPC in 2004 he got elected President of the WPC and in the Assembly of Caracas in 2008 Honorary President of the WPC.

Orlando Fundora Lopez dedicated his lifetime to the revolutionary and anti-imperialist struggle, to the just causes of the poor and oppressed all over the world. He will be remembered and will serve as example for the future generations.

The WPC expresses its sincere condolences to the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples, to his family and to the Communist Party of Cuba.

The Secretariat WPC, Athens 3rd February 2016
Mass mobilization held in front of the Greek Ministry of Defense in Athens against NATO

The mass mobilization that took place in the afternoon of Thursday 25th of February at the Ministry of Defense against NATO’s involvement in the Aegean ended with the symbolic blockade of the Ministry’s gate and with the slogan “EU and NATO are the authors of the war, out, close the bases of death now.”

The mass protest was organized by the Greek Committee for International Detente and Peace (EEDYE), which NAME, OGE (Greek Women Federation), EFEODA (Greek Committee for International Democratic Solidarity), OBEA (Athens Federation of Craftsmen) and MSA Students Militant Front, issued a call for people to participate. A plethora of organizations of the people’s movement, workers, youth and women responded to the call.

A similar mobilization against NATO’s involvement in the Aegean was the Aiki-Corte protest at the NATO firing range on the island. The main issue of the demonstration was to denounce and to protest against the decision of NATO upon a common proposition of the German, Turkish and Greek governments to send warships and navy to patrol in the Aegean Sea, supposedly in order to stop the flow of refugees while the same forces (e.g. NATO and EU) are the ones who are deeply involved in the crisis in Syria, Iraq and Libya.

The speaker at the rally was the president of EEDYE and MP of the KKE, Stavros Tassos, who stressed that the “SYRIZA-ANEL government plays the leading role in implementing the very dangerous political line that serves the interests of the monopolies and assimilates our country even more deeply into the war plans of NATO and the EU.” Starvos Tassos underlined that “The government bears enormous responsibilities for proposing, in conjunction with Turkey and Germany, to dispatch NATO forces into the Aegean in the name of protecting the Greek-Turkish borders from refugees.” The decision of the EU, given its support of NATO in the militarization of the Aegean — leads to “co-management,” against our country’s sovereign rights. NATO is a butcher of the peoples; it is a murderous war machine. It has no business in the Aegean; it is dangerous to the Greek people and to the refugees and migrants about it uproots from their countries, together with the EU.

The demonstration demanded:

- NATO out of the Aegean
- No participation of Greece in the imperialist interventions
- The euro-atlantic military bases in Greece must be closed.

The Greek Peace Committee (EEDYE) continues all these months its struggle and initiatives against the imperialist wars and aggressions in our neighborhood, with all the branches of EEDYE organizing events and protests against the government’s, dangerous and harmful for the interests of our people, alignment with NATO’s and EU’s strategy in the area. These actions will culminate with the annual peace marches, culminating with the Marathon March on 15th May in Athens where thousands of people of all ages are marching the distance of 42 km in memory of the martyr of the anti-imperialist peace movement Grigoris Lambrakis, who was assassinated in May 1963 by para-state reactionary forces. This year’s slogan of the March: NATO Out of the Aegean: Solidarity with the refugees!

This initiative should have a response at the beginning, for the practical contradiction between the extent of the crime and the urgency of the task of humanity. This extensive crime involves almost all of the powers in the world, many governments. The initiative should start investigating and trying from a very critical point. This critical point can be the officials of the Republic of Turkey.

Peace-loving people of Turkey, independent lawyers, intellectuals, researchers, they all have proven with their struggle in recent years that they are ready to face this heavy burden, which has been put on their shoulders much more than their counterparts in other countries. In 2013, with the help of these forces, the Peace Association of Turkey prepared a report that accused the government. Today, this report has been updated. International conferences were organised in Istanbul and the bordering town of Antioch. A number of crimes have been exposed to the international public opinion with the help of these forces. This struggle is one in which high prices are paid. Peace forces in Turkey are determined to confront the international war crimes committed against people of Syria.

ON THE WAR CRIMES IN SYRIA

Peace Association of Turkey

The war in Syria has brought the human- ity struggling for peace, under a heavy responsibility. The responsibility is heavy, because this war is not one of those that are defined within the scope of international law. Before the spring of 2011, that is almost five years ago, Syria did not look like a country, more than half of whose 10 million population would have to be displaced. There were no apparent reasons for 4 million people to take refuge in a different country and almost 2 million of them to move to refugee camps. There were no tensions to cause over 250 thousand people, maybe up to twice this figure, to be killed in Syria. Syria might have had its share of social problems, it could not have been difficult to list examples of inequality or injustice. But this country was not on the brink of a civil war under the glam of clashes between religious sects.

All of these, surfaced as results of interventions, can be regarded as “international war crimes” and “crimes against humanity.” The fact that a divided country and one of the peoples in the world suffering extreme agony have been created, puts the humanity for peace under a heavy responsibility. These crimes should be followed, investigated and culprits tried. Humanity cannot go on living without this confrontation.

However, international political and legal institutionalism is far away from this point. For a long while, politics and law have become an area of competition, under the influence of big powers. This is not surprising, because the number of culprits is high. Big Western powers, the USA, Britain, Germany and France, the countries that overlook the recruitment of militants from their Muslim population, Israel, Gulf monarchies and Turkey, all are far from being innocent. It is very doubtful to think that other powers that are involved are acting with a feeling of righteousness.

It is impossible to fit the notion of peace-loving into this pattern and opportunism. In today’s world, it has become a task of humanity to start a truly non-state legal initiative that is “dependant” only on the universal values of international law and peace culture.

The international peace movement, lawyers, intellectuals, artists, honest researchers going after the truth, all are confronted with this task. We call for establishing an independent “Tribunal for War Crimes in Syria.” Our war crimes tribunal should challenge the fact that this issue is an area of competition for imperialist institutions and big powers.

At this point, it is very crucial to be independent from international institutions that are under the influence of different powers and their interests.

The harm done on international law, surrounded by military power, bargaining for covert interests, religious reaction and quest for regional hegemony, is very big. This initiative should have the ability and accomplishment to conduct a free legal debate, based on human conscience, universal values, law and peace culture against difficulties in assessing the dirty war in Syria with past and accepted international norms.

In Living Memory of Evangelos Machairas

The WPC pays its tribute to the outstanding peace fighter Evangelos Machairas, who has served as President of the Greek Committee for International Peace and Detente (EEDYE) from 1989 till 2011 and President of the WPC from 1990 till 1994. It is with grief to announce his demise on 13th November 2015, at the age of 94.

Evangelos Machairas was one of the founding members of EEDYE in 1955 who dedicated his life to the just cause of peace against the root causes for wars, injustice and misery, a true champion in the anti-imperialist struggle.

He was a partisan in the National Resistance movement and was later imprisoned and banned on concentration camps in Greece till 1949.

Evangelos Machairas was an active lawyer and served as President of the Lawyers’ Association of Athens, with an important contribution to the people’s movement in Greece.

From 1996 he was elected Honorary President of the WPC, and from 2011 Honorary President of EEDYE respectively. All who had the privilege of working with comrade Machairas know about his restless, humble and militant character, which will serve as example for the future generations.
Forward with Strengthening the WPC Towards Our Next World Assembly in November 2016 in Brazil!

(Excerpts from the Communiciqué of the Executive Committee held in Guantánamo, Cuba in November 2015)

B) holding in EC in Guantánamo, a few kilometers away from the US military base and its concentration camp of torture, the WPC reaffirmed its unconditional support for the just defense of the Cuban people, and for the return of the territory to Cuba.

The WPC also conveyed its sincere and unwavering solidarity with the Cuban people and their revolution in defense of its achievements, their defense of the Cuban revolution, as well as the challenges and the need for deepening the transformation process and confronting the oligarchy and its power.

The WPC acknowledges the steps achieved in the “Peace Talks” between the Colombian government and the FARC-EP in Havana for the final signing of a comprehensive Peace Accord, underlining as well the challenges and risks to secure full guarantees for a political solution with justice and dignity, which the Colombian people have fought for over more than half a century.

Day by day, the Aegian Sea is becoming a graveyard for hundreds of families fleeing from war-torn Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Greek islands are being converted into refugee camps, without sufficient or adequate resources for receiving and hosting these people. A key issue in this tragedy continues to be the EU regulations in the Schengen and Dublin II agreements, and the hypocrisy of the European Union in demanding the complete return of the Five Cuban heroes to the Motherland, and their closure of the Base, which is occupied in flagrant violation of the Geneva Conventions.

The WPC denounces and repudiates all attempts at imperialist interference in the internal affairs of Venezuela during the process of its parliamentary elections, including attempts at attack, sabotage and removal of its democratically elected government. We acknowledge and support the progressive measures and achievements made on behalf of the working class and popular majorities, as well as the challenges and the need for deepening the transformation process and confronting the oligarchy and its power.

The WPC notes with extraordinary concern the continued military operations beyond the Souda (Island Karpathos) and to extend the US and NATO military operations to the island of Crete, with plans to deploy US-Drones on Greek soil.

Macron of France on May 15, 2016 in a letter to the Minister Charge d’Affaires of the French Republic, warned, on 5 August, 1829, when he stated that “The United States seems to me to be the only country that can save Europe from war. It is true, the United States is a nation where there wasn’t a breaking of the constitutional order.

While our people yearn to build a sovereign and independent way of development, social justice and peace, the imperialism promotes coups, bloody military occupations and violates Human Rights.

In 2015, together with the peoples of the region, Venezuela appointed Latin America and the Caribbean a Zone of Peace, rejecting the use of nuclear weapons and demanding the withdrawal of US military bases.

The WPC also conveyed its sincere and unwavering solidarity with the Venezuelan people, the Government of the Constitu- tional President Nicolas Maduro Moros, the Communist Party of Venezuela, and the Committee of International Solidarity (COSI), member organization of the Executive Committee of the World Peace Council (WPC), victims of a new abominable and interventionist escalation by US imperialism which is the prelude to a declaration of war.

The “Executive Order,” renewed on March 3rd 2016 by President Barack Hussein Obama of the US, extends and expands the possible actions of the highest aggressor State against sovereignty and self-determination of people and the political and social process in Venezuela, in which a “national emergency” against an alleged “unusual and extraordinary threat to national security and foreign policy of the US” is declared.

This action represents an act of provocation and interference that violates international law, Human Rights and the peace of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the entire Latin American and Caribbean region.

This act, together with the ongoing aggression against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and itsGeostrategic agenda, aims at destabilizing the democratic and progressive governments, like the constitutional government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

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The WPC denounces and condemned the recent military manoeuvres of NATO under the name “Trident Juncture 2015” in Spain, Italy and Portugal, as one of the biggest in NATO’s history, with heavy military ordnance, as well as the challenges and the need for deepening the transformation process and confronting the oligarchy and its power.

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Even the Liberator Simon Bolivar warned, on 5 August, 1829, when he stated in a letter to the Minister Gaucho of His Britannic Majesty in the United States, Patrick Campbell: “The United States seems destined by Providence to be the Empress America with misery in the name of Freedom.”

While the Obama administration and its NATO allies favor deregulation of employment, layoffs and worsening of fundamental rights, bringing their citizens closer to the edge of misery and death, Venezuela, in response to the crisis of the world capitalist system, has achieved the claim of political, social and economic rights of workers, the working class and popular majorities historically excluded.

Based on these recitals, the democratic and left organizations, social movements and personalities agree:

- Express our full and active solidarity with the Venezuelan people, the Government of the Constitu- tional President Nicolas Maduro Moros, the Communist Party of Venezuela, and the Committee of International Solidarity (COSI), member organization of the Executive Committee of the World Peace Council (WPC), victims of a new abominable and interventionist escalation by US imperialism which is the prelude to a declaration of war. We express our solidarity with the solidarity and progressive forces in Ukraine and denounce the attacks against the population and cities in the eastern part of the country (Donbas) and the “witch hunts” organized by the illegal government though fabricated cases aimed at destroying the legality of the Communists and other progressive forces in the Ukraine.

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funded Alahr al-Sham. In many cases, each of these groups is itself a coalition of dozens of Islamist groups fighting in Syria, many of whom have ties to foreign fighters. All in all, according to BBC, “there are believed to be as many as 1,000 armed opposition groups in Syria, commanding an estimated 100,000 fighters,” each, of course, under the control or influence of one or more of Assad’s governments involved.

Until recently the main focus of these governments and the United States was on an armed overthrow of the Assad government, and the United States made clear that it would go “no-preconditions” for any direct negotiations with the government of Syria. However, the entry of Russian military into the scene has made a military overthrow of the Assad government from power through “peaceful” negotiations with the participation of both the Syrian government and the opposition, and allowing for a “transitional period” for regime change, into one of the least likely outcomes. At the moment, as the Russian government is under way as well: Each of these hostile forces is to unite these armed forces through its borders with Syria along the lines of its own favorite fighters and the exclusion in Geneva this month, but it wants to see itself as moderate opposition and decide on the method, but not goal, of regime change in Syria....” But we should raise our voice to express the support of the people of Syria loudly and demand that all parties involved in the Syrian negotiations work honestly and sincerely toward a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Branches of the White House and the State Department have reached $1.8 trillion, a new arms race is underway and nuclear weapons are at the moment a real possibility. In this increasingly tense standoff between Western imperialism and Russia, the true voices of the Syrian people are being forced into poverty, hunger, homelessness and displacement. The United States is becoming increasingly aggressive to the point that the survival of the planet is threatened. An all-out war is a tragedy that killed 17 million people.

Today, as the most powerful countries again drive to re-divide the world’s territory and resources, the stage is being set for another disaster. Global military spending has reached $1.8 trillion, a new arms race is underway and nuclear weapons are being re-developed, NATO has expanded its membership and scope, and the Western powers are becoming increasingly aggressive to the point that the survival of the planet is threatened. An all-out war is a fact. The people of the world, millions upon millions of people are being forced into poverty, hunger, homelessness and displacement. But this is also a time of rising resistance from the peoples of the world. In all countries, to different degrees and with different features, we see increased unity of peace and social justice, free from imperialist domination and exploitation.

Looking at the whole picture, there is no doubt that we are faced with a dangerously explosive situation in Syria and the Middle East. The true voices of the Syrian people have been silenced by foreign-imposed war and terrorism. We in the U.S. and our allies need to stop the anti-war movement cannot passively watch the intrusions, deprivations and manipulations, which are leading to yet another disaster. We should raise our voice to express the support of the people of Syria loudly and demand that all parties involved in the Syrian negotiations work honestly and sincerely toward a peaceful solution to the conflict.

The World Peace Congress, a political body representing the global peace movement, is the meeting point for the global peace movement, in the struggle for a world of peace and social justice, free from imperialist domination and exploitation.

The WPC is pleased to announce the holding of its next World Assembly for 17-20 November 2016 in Brazil.

The WPC Assembly and World Peace Conference 17-20 November 2016 in Brazil

The WPC Assembly will be held in Sao Luis, Brazil, with CEBRAPAZ and the Movement of Peace Organizations as the meeting point for the global peace movement, in the struggle for a world of peace and social justice, free from imperialist domination and exploitation.

The WPC is dedicated to building a world of peace and social justice, free from imperialist domination and exploitation.

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Our meeting is taking place under conditions created by the further deepening of the generalized economic crisis, which shows more clearly every day the enormous difficulties of the imperialist system and its exploitative nature and essence. Which produces what all the sufferers of the peoples, both imperialist wars and imperialist peace! It is the matrix that also produces what is called terrorism. Peace movements in Europe, with the E.U. being one of the pillars of the imperialist system, we correctly pay attention as WPC not only on military and warfare issues, but as well to social and economic issues, to environmental and to human issues.

The economic crisis and the consequence for popular masses in Greece are becoming day by day worse. Poverty and extreme poverty have spread (unemployment) and especially amongst youth (55%), heavy taxation and privatization of public sector, in order to pay for the bailouts and subsidies for their economic recovery to the detriment of the working and popular strata. This has not changed with the new government since one year, the general situation is getting even worse, despite the opposite promises and demagogy. Currently new “negotiations” of the Greek government are going on with the Troika and Greece, there who new harsh burden are being proposed, once more, for the sake of the “exit from the crisis”.

A few months, the new SYRIZA-ANEL government has taken various initiatives, such as the proposal to establish a new US-NATO base for the island of Crete, in the establishment of a specialized NATO multinational logistics unit in Crete, and the extension and reinforcement of the US base on the island of Naxos. And this is going the Israeli government a "friend and ally."

Additional to all that, our country and country and regions meeting of Europe, Lisbon 19-30 March 2016. Peace Committee (EEDYE) at the WPC (Based on the contribution of the Greek Executive Secretary, WPC Presented by Iraklis Tsavdaridis, PEACE MESSENGER Page 7)

Živadin Jovanović, President of Belgrade Forum for a World of Equals

A clearly demonstrated by ensuing developments, NATO aggression of 1999 and 2000 in Serbia (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) was the beginning of a chain of aggression and interventionism, which evolved into a dominant global trend, associated by huge problems such as the devastation of sovereign countries, massive influx of refugees and migrants and military interventions at international relations. When combining such backdrop with the prolonged economic crisis, the continuous deepening of the gap between the developed and the developing parts of the world, and the so-called reconfiguration, the resultant outcome is a global instability of or, according to some analysts, a Cold War repeat. After the aggression on the FRY, their follow up on the so-called "occupation" comprising mainly NATO members, and the armed aggression against Iraq. The "willing ones", led by the USA, invaded Afghanistan in order to oust "Al-Qaeda" and those responsible for the attack on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington. In parallel, the fight against terrorism spread onto the territories of other states, notably, of the neighbouring Pakistan and also onto Iraq. Yemen, Somalia and other countries. The success of this fight is reflected by the unprecedented expansion of terrorism in the Middle East and the war in Libya, which is ongoing and whose outcome, the resultant outcome is a global instability of or, according to some analysts, a Cold War repeat. After the aggression on the FRY, their follow up on the so-called "occupation" comprising mainly NATO members, and the armed aggression against Iraq. The "willing ones", led by the USA, invaded Afghanistan in order to oust "Al-Qaeda" and those responsible for the attack on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington. 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Global Destabilization ... (from p. 7)

There are no major international problems that could be solved without and equal participation of US, European, and Russian interests and howitzers and other heavy-duty weaponry in the Smeđerevo Steelworks, yielding the_session_ of the ban toching other arms, the white smoke over the area, the Americans said it was no more profitable to stay in Smeđerevo, parked their bags.

Let us recollect what the goals of the ag-
gression were. Deployment of US troops in the Balkans is in reality a safe haven for the progress of the course of development of the military-economic interests of the multinationals. The sudden abandonment of the plan for the deployment of US troops in the Balkans is a result of the fact that the US military strategy for the deployment of US troops in the Balkans is a result of the fact that the US military strategy does not work, but it is triggered, instead, by the protests against the deployment of US troops in the Balkans.

The reform’s outcome is best known to members of the Serbian Army. American-made equipment, US military instructors, and the US military aid have already become a reality.
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Editorial
(from p. 1)

The Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation (CPPC) hosted a European Regional Peace Conference in Almada, Portugal, on 19 and 20 March.

The WPC Regional Meeting was attended by the German Peace Council, International Action for Liberation – Belgium, Civic Association Soldiers Against War – Czech Republic, Cyprus Peace Council, Peace and Neutrality Alliance – Ireland, Finnish Peace Committee, Movement for Peace – France, Greek Committee for International Democracy and Peace, and Peace Association of Turkey. Also participating were the President of WPC, Secorso Gomes, from Brazilian Center for Solidarity with the Peoples and Struggle for Peace, and the Executive Secretary from Greek Committee for International Democracy and Peace.

The planning of counteraction actions against NATO – considering NATO summit, to be held on July 8-9, 2016, in Warsaw, Poland – was a central issue in the meeting. The organizations appealed to the organizations and activists in Europe that defend the cause of Peace – Yes to Peace! No to NATO! and planned common actions against NATO.

Under the slogan «Peoples of Europe for Peace – No to NATO», the two day important meeting also addressed other issues like the: central aspects of the evolution of the situation in Europe and worldwide, the intervention in Syria, the protection of the people of Syria, and the support for the people of Palestine. The meeting adopted several decisions for the development of diversified initiatives aiming at the strengthening of the peace movement in Europe, and issued several documents, named:

- For the Abolition of all Nuclear Weapons
- Solidarity with the Sahrawi prisoners on hunger strike
- Solidarity with Brazil
- Solidarity with Cuba

During their stay in Almada, the organizations attending the regional meeting, had the opportunity to participate in the «Seminar on the timeliness of the struggle for Peace», a CPPC initiative in collaboration with the Almada Town Hall with the participation of the WPC President, Secorso Gomes, where the Mayor of Almada, Joaquim Jordan and the Chairperson of CPPC, Eda Figuereddo were also part of the panel.

On the Occasion of the Palestinian Tragedy
International Conference is the Only Way for Solution

Dr. Aqel Taqaz,
Palestinian Committee for Peace and Solidarity (POPS)

May 15 will be the 68th anniversary of the establishment of the state of Israel. At the same time, it will be the 68th anniversary of Palestinian tragedy. More than 50% of Palestinians are refugees, and they don't have the right to return home despite the UN resolution 194.

Israel is continuing the occupation of the territories, and the UN resolution 103, the Palestinian state was to be established.

In 1967 Israel occupied all the territories of historical Palestine.

The situation of Palestine, as a part of the Middle East, is escalating as Israel continues the building of settlements on the West Bank and the Gags of the Palestinian Gaza Strip. Israel is exploiting the current situation in the surrounding Arab countries to implement its plans for the Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, and making the “two States solution” practically impossible. The daily killing of Palestinian youth and children is another manifestation of Israeli’s violation of international law and abuse of human rights.

It is clear that the more than 22 years of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority has had no results and has been used by Israel to change the facts on the ground. It is also clear that without the support of the USA, the EU and other Western countries, Israel could not be in a position to ignore all UN resolutions and behave as a country above the international law.

We believe that an international conference, with the participation of all parties involved, and with a more active role by the United Nations Security Council to implement the resolutions related to the Palestinian issue, is the only way to force Israel to end the occupation and to give the Palestinian people the right to establish their independent state within the borders of June 4th 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and to solve the problem of refugees according to the UN resolution 194.

The Palestinian problem must be solved as a precondition for peace in the whole of Middle East.
Who's the Enemy of Peoples? Isn't It Imperialism?

Our times are characterized by the intensifying of imperialist aggressive...
The Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation celebrated in April 40 years since it was legally established, on April 24, 1976. Bringing a memorable date, April 24, 1976 does not represent the emergence of the Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation (CPPC) and much less of the national peace movement, for April 24, 1976 symbolizes its legal establishment, only possible following the April Revolution, begun on April 25, 1974. Heir to the Peace movement, born in Portugal and in other countries, the Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation was created and was active during the fascist dictatorship in Portugal.

In the footsteps of the construction of the world Peace movement, and contributing to it, the Portuguese supporters of Peace created committees for the defense of Peace in the work and study places, in neighborhoods, villages and cities, in cultural and recreational associations and organizations, and spurred actions throughout the Country: promoted petitions, held meetings and discussions, painted writings on walls and carried out small street initiatives.

Until April 25, saying no to fascism's colonial war imposed on the Portuguese and African people, defending peace, disarmament and the right to independence, faced fascist repression and persecution: many defenders of Peace were imprisoned and tortured and many others forced into exile, but never ceased to make their voices heard.

Its Statutes, registered 40 years ago, define this movement as a united movement of public opinion whose aim was to promote, by means of information and participation of broad strata of the country's population, the struggle for Peace and cooperation among peoples. To meet this purpose, the CPPC has always sought to act in cooperation with all the movements and forces of Peace, both national and foreign, striving to achieve the broadest unity among all those sincerely committed to defending Peace.

Four decades later, these remain fundamental principles and practices of CPPC's action.

In the past four decades, since the formalization of the CPPC, Portugal witnessed numerous and vigorous actions in defense of peace, disarmament and the dissolution of NATO and solidarity with the peoples victim of colonialism, aggression and foreign interference and fighting for emancipation, sovereignty and progress — in its own name or as part of larger platforms, the CPPC was its chief architect.

Due to the importance of the causes that motivated the mobilization, we have to point out, the Peace movement's actions in Portugal promoting the Stockholm appeal against the atomic bombs, the military aggression against peoples and sovereign States led by NATO, US and other Western powers, like the aggression against the people of Korea in the 50s, and when the Vietnamese people, for decades, faced the aggressive French colonialism and US aggression.

The Peace movement in Portugal developed a courageous action to end the colonial war carried by Portuguese fascism against the peoples of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau and the right to independence of the peoples of Portugal.

In recent decades, the CPPC together with other organizations raised their voices in solidarity with the people of East Timor in their struggle against Indonesian occupation, against the aggressions to the people of Angola, Iraq, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Libya and Syria and other countries, revealing their real motivations and defending the right of the peoples to decide sovereignly their destiny. Solidarity with the South African people in their struggle against the apartheid regime in South Africa. Solidarity with the Palestinian people and on the occupation of Palestine and the brutal crimes perpetuated by Israel against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. Solidarity with the struggle of the people of Western Sahara against the occupation of their country by the Kingdom of Morocco. Support for the peoples of Latin America, the Chilean people in their struggle against Pinochet's fascist dictatorship, with the Cuban people in their struggle against US imposed interference and blockade, the Nicaraguan people in view of the US interference and aggression, with the people of Brazil in their struggle against the dictatorship and in defense of democracies, with the people of Venezuela against US interference. Will remain in memory the great world conferences of solidarity with the people of Palestine, Latin American and African peoples in struggle against colonialism and apartheid.

The CPPC also expressed its solidarity with the refugees denouncing the dangers that they are exposed to regarding this scourge, among many other important examples.

To highlight are the marches against the installation and transit of nuclear weapons in Portugal, the installation of new US missiles in Europe and the demand for disarmament, recent rallies attended by thousands of people. The Nuclear-Weapons-Free-Zones that involved dozens of local governments. The dissolution of NATO also led to major actions, whose great example was the Yes to Peace! No to NATO Campaign that throughout 2010 gathered more than on 100 Portuguese organizations, promoting dozens of actions and culminated in the demonstration of November 2010, where dozens of thousands of people from Portugal and many other countries marched against NATO, again a broad campaign in 2015 against NATO’s expansion and presence in Eastern Europe in support of Ukraine.

The recent organization of several Concerts for Peace, that involve diverse cultural and municipal entities and have the participation of thousands of Portuguese and were attended by thousands of people.

The CPPC takes as its own principles enshrined in the Portuguese constitution by April Revolution in Portugal: the abolition of imperialism, colonialism and all types of aggression, domination and exploitation in the relations among peoples; national independence, respect for human rights, the rights of peoples to self-determination, the right to insurrection against all forms of oppression; equality among States, the peaceful settlement of international disputes, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, a general, simultaneous and controlled disarmament, the dissolution of political-military blocs and the establishment of a collective security system with a view to creating an international order capable of safeguarding peace and justice in the relations among peoples; cooperation with all other peoples for the emancipation and sovereignty of mankind.

True to its history and confident in the righteousness of its principles, the CPPC, resolute in its mission and determined by side by side with all those who, in Portugal and in the world, intervene with the aspiration and conviction that a just world, democratic, solidarity and peaceful world is possible.

The Proclamation extols Peace as “... the peace of the peoples, the peace of the States, the peace of the Sixties, the peace of 21st century. Peace is a political fact, a fact that contradicts the Peace we are proclaiming. Peace is the principle of the United Nations, the Constitution of the OAS, of which subsist in the region.”

Solidarity with Venezuela ... (from p. 5) International (COSI), a member organization of the Executive Committee of the World Peace Council (WPC), victims of a new and more dangerous aggression by the government of the United States.

- Demanding the repeal of the new, infamous and interventionist decree signed by President Barack Hussein Obama against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, as we did last year, the call and declare April 19th as “GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION IN SOLIDARITY WITH VEN- EZUELA!”,

- Convene all social movements and or- ganizations that bring together and represent right in the countries with financial support of imperialism, which cause thousands of deaths, thousands of refugees, in the civil population, in addition to harming the infrastructure and environment, events that contradict the Peace we are proclaiming.

Humankind has the far-reaching responsibility of struggling to make Peace prevail in the world, of acting in accordance with the legitimate expectations of the peoples, and of contributing decisively to international security, to the survival of the human species threatened by huge nuclear arsenals, by the loss of biodiversity and by the pillage of natural resources.

Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples (MOVPAZ)
TheWLPCstronglydeniestheimperialistagendaforaworldofpeaceandfreedomanddiplomacyforpeace...