

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 emphasized 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 patriots', 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 guises to perpetrate 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 these dirty wars under a false modernized appearance, killing civilians in Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan.

The planet's militarization has been rapid, under a hegemonistic view of international politics conducted through threats and war. In 2015, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), 2.3% of the world's GDP was spent in the military sector. The US again hit the record, spending US\$ 595 billion, over twice the second expenditure, China's, US \$215 billion. NATO member countries have committed to dedicating 2% of their GDP to war, while their citizens keep struggling to protect their social and labor rights achievements, which have been the first to be targeted by the austerity policies during the international crisis.

Besides our denunciation of the arms race, we deepen our resolute struggle for the abolition of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass de-

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Protest NATO's 2016 Warsaw Summit!

Build and Expand the WPC Campaign: Yes to Peace! No to NATO!

The 2016 NATO Summit will take place July 8-9 in Warsaw, Poland. It comes as NATO undertakes its "biggest collective reinforcement" of the past 2 decades. The World Peace Council is calling for mobilizations in all countries of the world, to coincide with the Warsaw Summit and to build the ongoing global campaign against NATO – Yes to Peace! No to NATO!

NATO: An Enemy of Peace and the People

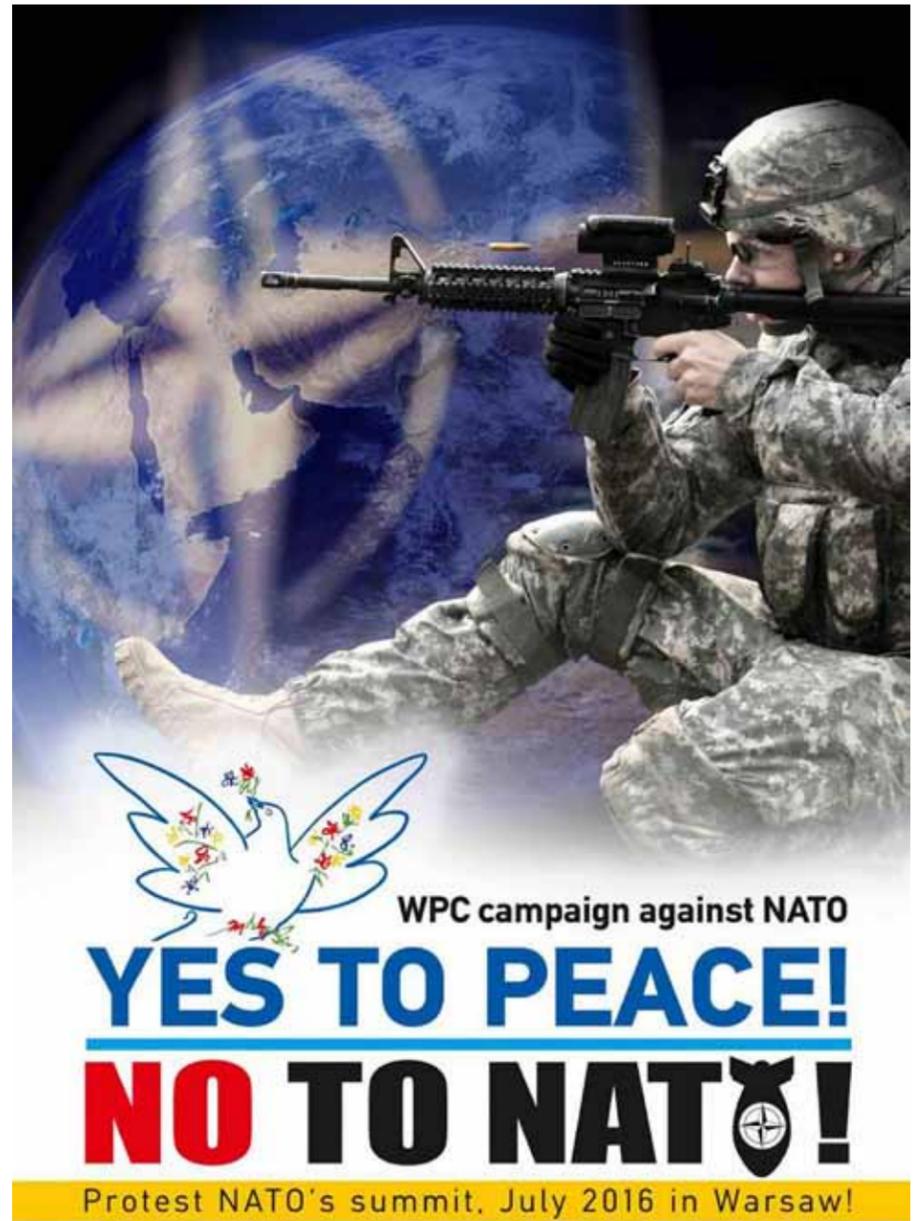
Since its creation in 1949, NATO has been an aggressive military arm of imperialism. It is the largest and most dangerous military organization in the world, deeply interconnected with the foreign and economic policies of both the United States and the European Union.

Since the 1990's, NATO has expanded its membership and theater of operations. NATO currently has 28 member states across North America and Europe. Another 22 countries are engaged in the Euro Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC). A further 19 countries are partnered with NATO through programs such as the so called "Partnership for Peace", "Mediterranean Dialogue", the "Istanbul Cooperation Initiative" or the "Partners across the Globe Initiative".

This expansion alone reveals NATO's fundamental purpose: to be a key tool of imperialist domination of the globe.

Over the past 2 decades NATO and its affiliates have attacked Yugoslavia (and its province Kosovo), Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, and Syria with the obvious goal of overthrowing these countries' governments. In most

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SYRIA: LET US MAKE OUR COLLECTIVE VOICE OF REASON BE HEARD

An Urgent Appeal by the U.S. Peace Council

To All of Our Friends in the Peace Movement

Dear Friends and Comrades in Peace,

As you are all well 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 certainly not solely 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 redraw 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 U.S. 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 the 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 U.S./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 Tanmiya 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-

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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 EEDYE, the Peace Association of Turkey and the Cyprus Peace Council express their deep concern about the recent developments with the direct presence of NATO in the Aegean Sea. Sharing the feelings with the vast majority amongst our three peoples we declare with one voice:

NATO Out of the Aegean Sea!

The recent developments with NATO's involvement in the Aegean with the pretext to "protect" the Greek-Turkish borders and "face" the flow of refugees, confirm with facts that we have a 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 hypocritical decision

which was taken upon a common proposal of Greece-Turkey and Germany and the first days of its implementation prove clearly the real motivation behind.

The Escalation of the war in Syria by the imperialist forces, the involvement of Russia upon invitation of the Syrian government in the war against the so-called Jihadists, the ongoing terrorist attacks in Turkey have created a dangerous and unpredictable war scenario in our region. Additionally and in combination with all the above our peoples are facing new nightmares daily, witnessing the tragedy of the hundreds of thousands of refugees who are running for their lives after having violently been displaced by the fear, fighting the waves of the Mediterranean Sea.

Our three anti-imperialist peace movements have agreed in the framework of the trilateral cooperation as well as in the framework

of the WPC, that behind the imperialist wars and aggressions and misery, the interventions and bombings lay the imperialist plans for a "New Middle East", implemented jointly by the USA, NATO and the E.U. together with reactionary gulf regimes in order to secure energy resources, their transport routes and spheres of influence.

The governments of our three countries, in absolute contradiction with the feelings of our peoples, support these plans, engaging our peoples in dangerous and reactionary war games. The armed groups of "holy warriors" are just the other side of the same coin of the imperialist agenda, serving as alibi and justification for the escalation of the conflicts and the terrorization of the peoples.

Being consequent in our struggle for the disengagement of our countries (Greece, Turkey) and against the affiliation (Cyprus)

to the imperialist war machine of NATO, we denounce the presence of NATO's fleet in the Aegean Sea and the Mediterranean Sea and demand its complete withdrawal.

We furthermore demand:

To end the foreign interventions and wars of the USA, NATO and EU and of all others involved

- To cancel the Dublin and Schengen Agreements along with the Frontex and other repressive mechanisms of the EU. No to the repression of the refugees by the EU in its borders.

- The direct transfer of the refugees and migrants to the countries of their destination under the responsibility of the UN and the EU.

- To create humane and dignified conditions for the reception and hosting of the refugees

- The abolition, in our three countries, of all foreign military Bases, which are providing infrastructure and support with the consent of the governments, for the imperialist wars.

No participation in the imperialist plans and crimes!

5th March 2016

Protest NATO's Warsaw Summit ... (from p. 1) of these cases the government was targeted by NATO because it refused to accept the dictates of US or EU foreign and economic policy. In none of these cases has the goal or result been democracy and peace – the only legacy is death for the people, destruction and displacement-with increased power control of resources and profits for NATO states.

NATO pressures its members to increase their national military budgets, while creating austerity for social programs, to further integrate their military, and to provide funding for more arms development, including nuclear weapons. The cooperation and coordination with the EU has been formalized through the various EU treaties and the creation of the EU-army.

In 2014 the United States and the European Union generated the violent overthrow of Ukraine's government – partly by organizing, arming and equipping neo-Nazi storm troopers – and replaced it with an EU/US client regime, used to politically and economically dominate Ukraine and its strategy against the Russian Federation. In the face of violence and fascism, people of eastern and southern Ukraine took action to protect their lives, cultures and history, communities and interests, with Russian support. NATO used this as a pretext to increase military activities and expand its bases in every country throughout Eastern Europe and the Arctic, right to Russia's borders. At the same time all EU governments have imposed and maintain economic and political sanctions against the Russian Federation.

NATO's actions, as the favored military tool of US and EU imperialism, have led to ongoing climate of confrontation between the major nuclear-armed states. Such

provocations lead inevitably to escalating tensions and the real threat of a nuclear confrontation and a generalized war that unavoidably would destroy all civilization across the planet.

For A Stronger, Expanded Campaign:

The World Peace Council has an ongoing campaign – Yes to Peace! No to NATO! – that has produced and supported large conferences, mass popular demonstrations and sustained campaigns in many countries. Through this campaign, the WPC has worked with numerous European and North American peace forces who also oppose NATO's aggressions and existence. The Yes to Peace! No to NATO! Campaign calls for the dissolution of NATO at a global level, supports the struggle against NATO in each of its member states, and promotes the right of the people in each country to unilaterally withdraw from the NATO military alliance.

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. Working 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 operations 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 members 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 NATO states, to 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 will make a progress 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 the people to struggle against NATO for its 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 USA and NATO 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, printed and digital materials. 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!



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- Brazilian Center for the Solidarity with the Peoples and the Struggle for Peace (CEBRAPAZ)
- Congo Peace Committee
- Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples (MOVPAZ)
- Cyprus Peace Council (CPC)
- Greek Committee for International Détente and Peace (EEDYE)
- Japan Peace Committee
- Nepal Peace and Solidarity Council (NPSC)
- Palestinian Committee for Peace and Solidarity (PCPS)
- Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation (CPPC)
- South African Peace Initiative
- Syrian National Peace Council
- US Peace Council (USPC)

“For a world of peace without foreign military bases, facilities and stations”

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”

With the presence and active participation of peace and anti-war fighters from a total of 27 countries, the IV INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR FOR PEACE AND ABOLITION OF FOREIGN MILITARY BASES was held in Guantánamo City, capital of the province of the same name, in the Republic of Cuba on November 23rd, 24th and 25th, 2015, convened by the World Peace Council, the Cuban Movement for Peace and the Sovereignty of the Peoples and the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples.

The Seminar was attended by a total of 211 participants from Angola, Australia, Brazil, Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Cuba, Ecuador, Spain, United States, Philippines, Greece, Guinea Bissau, Comoros Islands, Italy, Japan, Laos, Mexico, Palestine, Panama, Puerto Rico, United Kingdom, Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, Dominican Republic, Switzerland, Turkey, and Venezuela.

This event took place within a context of a complex international political situation characterized by the proliferation of armed conflicts in several regions of the world, the political and military interventions, and the imperialist interference in the internal affairs of the states that, together with the effects of the Capitalism’s systemic economic crisis, have placed humanity at the brink of a Third World War, whose consequences will be devastating.

Under such circumstances, imperialist powers increase their budgets and nuclear military arsenals and redesign policies aiming at strengthening their spheres of influence and hegemonic positions. From this perspective, the role of foreign military bases, facilities, and stations as centers of pressure and geopolitical threats is increased, discrediting the pretexts that they are used to fight against drug trafficking, terrorism and illegal migration.

Faced with these realities, the peoples of the world reinforce their resistance and fighting capacity.

The participants to this IV Seminar, aware of these challenges and of the risks that for a true climate of peace represents the increase of tensions and war threats in the Middle East and some other regions in the world.

WE DENOUNCE

- The continuation of aggressive and interventionist policies by US imperialism and its NATO allies aimed at achieving their geopolitical purposes of domination is based, among other elements, on an extensive network of existing military bases, facilities and stations, where state-of-the-art weapons and highly qualified personnel in military sciences and the art of war are concentrated, ready to intervene in any country of the world they consider it necessary.
- The development of modern technologies aimed at the global control of communications and their indiscriminate monitoring against States, political and social leaders, which already reaches a status of cyberwar.
- The permanence of an antidemocratic and ineffective United Nations System and a Security Council which serve little



to the causes of Peace, nuclear disarmament and the care and protection of the environment.

- The capitalist and imperialist counter-offensive to stop and try to reverse the progressive political, economic and social processes in Latin America and the Caribbean and other regions of the world and with it, to slow down and stop the progress of integration and cooperation mechanisms such as ALBA, CELAC, UNASUR, MERCOSUR and others, signal a new era in the South-South relations.
- The economic and media war of imperialism and its domestic acolytes against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, its government and its people intended to reverse the social achievements of the Revolution led by the unforgettable Commander Hugo Rafael Chavez Frias.
- The systematic opposition of the United Kingdom to acknowledge the right of Argentina over the Falkland Islands as well as the Sandwich and South Georgia Islands and to start bilateral negotiations on this issue keeping, in turn, a military occupation over these islands.
- The colonial status of Puerto Rico which prevents the use of its people’s inalienable right to independence and total sovereignty,
- The unjust and criminal economic, commercial and financial blockade which for more than five decades the United States has imposed on the Cuban people and remains intact, ignoring the overwhelming majority of the international community, as well as the illegal occupation of the Cuban territory in the Guantanamo Naval Base and the center of torture and other violations of human rights built there by the United States.
- The discredit and repression of the social, trade union and worker’s struggles which reaffirm the rights of the workers, farmers, students and the poorest sectors of the capitalist societies, who have no other choice but to resort to the various forms of social protests so as to express their opposition to the effects of the systemic crisis of the capitalism system which oppresses them,
- Terrorism in all its forms and particularly, state terrorism, which, to a

large extent, has been promoted by the U.S., and which has triggered the emergence and proliferation of extremist and fundamentalist organizations which threaten to spread throughout the world.

- The U.S. unconditional support to the Zionist government of Israel which continues to stand, by all possible available means, including genocide, against the right of the Palestinian people to build its own State in the terms and conditions agreed by the various UN Resolutions,
- The political and military interventionism of the U.S. and its allies against Syria and the right of its people to resolve unilaterally and in a sovereign manner its internal affairs,
- The lack of support and effective and

lasting solutions by the European Union to the migratory crisis that continent is facing, which has taken the lives of thousands of immigrants and refugees from Syria and countries from Northern Africa,

- The long colonial conflict suffered by the Saharan people, which, despite the UN resolutions, continue to be denied independence and the right to live in its own territory,
- The constant military exercises and maneuvers of troops from the U.S. Army, the Navy and the Air Force and its NATO allies and their strategy of “humanitarian intervention” in any country or region of the world.

In this 4th International Seminar of Peace and for the Abolition of Foreign Military Bases, we, the peace fighters and militants who have gathered here, along with all the progressive, anti-imperialist, anti-militarist, anti-terrorist, anti-interventionist and world peace-loving forces and organizations, reiterate our condemnation to political and military interventionism, to terrorism in all its forms and in any place of the planet, to interference in the internal affairs of the nations and to the imperialistic intentions of unleashing a Third World War in the quest for a new distribution of the resources and areas of influence and the world’s political and economic reordering. Likewise, we join the denunciation of the climate change which puts mankind in danger and the evasion (avoidance) by the United States and its allies from establishing firm and real commitments with international agreements, in this regard, such as, the Kyoto Protocol and others.

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Orlando Fundora Lopez, Honorary President of WPC Is No More

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 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.

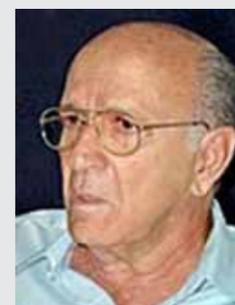
After the triumph of the Revolution he assumed the post of director of Radio Havana and later director of the Prensa Latina News Agency. In 1966 Orlando Fundora became chief of Information of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and after 1973 Chief of 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. The WPC is losing a tireless champion of the struggle for peace and social justice, 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



EEDYE Demonstration Against NATO

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 syndicate of war, close the bases of death now."

The mass protest was organized by the Greek Committee for International Detente and Peace (EEDYE), while PAME, OGE (Greek Women Federation), EEDDA (Greek Committee for International Democratic Solidarity), OBSA (Athens Federation of Craftsmen) and MAS (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 All-Crete 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." Stavros 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 whom it uproots from their countries, together with the EU.

The demonstrators demanded:

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

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 age 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 Sea-Solidarity with the refugees!** ■



ON THE WAR CRIMES IN SYRIA

Peace Association of Turkey



The war in Syria has brought the humanity struggling for peace, under a heavy responsibility. The responsibility is heavy, because this war is not one of those that can be 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 18 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 a number 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 gloom 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 le-

gal institutionalisation 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 like 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 righteous peace.

It is impossible to fit the notion of peace-loving into this pragmatism 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 accumulation 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. ■

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. ■

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 Détente (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 Communiqué of the Executive Committee held in Guantanamo, Cuba in November 2015)

By holding its EC in Guantanamo, a few kilometers away from the US military base and its concentration camp of torture, the WPC reaffirmed its unconditional demand for the immediate and permanent closure of the Base, which is occupied against the will 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; with ending the criminal US blockade against Cuba; and the lifting of the “Common Position” of the EU against Cuba and other sanctions and interferences. We share the joy and satisfaction of the Cuban people for the complete return of the Five Cuban heroes to their fatherland....

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 to attack, subvert and remove its democratically elected government. We acknowledge and support the progressive measures and achievements made on behalf of the Venezuelan people of the last 16 years, 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 century....

Day by day, the Aegean 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 EU and the openly hostile attitudes of the governments of many of the countries through which the refugees are crossing....

We express our condemnation of the plans of the Greek government to install a new US military base in the Aegean Sea (Island Karpathos) and to extend the US and NATO military operations beyond the Souda

Base and into other parts of the island of Crete, with plans to deploy US-Drones on Greek soil.

The WPC denounced 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, which received firm opposition from WPC member organisations, in Portugal. NATO proves once again to be the main global ag-

gressor and armed tool of the US and the EU imperialism. The WPC supports the struggle within each NATO member-state against the greatest war machine of imperialism and the right of each people to withdraw from it and demand the dissolution of NATO on a global level. The WPC is giving high priority to the struggle against NATO, particularly as NATO heads towards its next summit in Poland in July 2016.

Eastern Europe remains very tense, where the USA, the EU and NATO are dangerously deploying forces from the Baltic States to Bulgaria with tens of thousands of troops along with the “Missile Defence Shield” in order to expand their geo-strategic agenda aimed at Russia and Ukraine, where an orchestrated Coup in 2013 installed a reactionary government with the support of neo-fascist forces. We express our solidarity with the anti-imperialist and progressive forces in Ukraine and denounce the attacks against the population and cities in the eastern part of the country (Donbass) 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.

The WPC notes with extraordinary concern that the situation in the Middle East is escalating dangerously. The concentration of all sorts of military power

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Global Day of Action in Solidarity with Venezuela

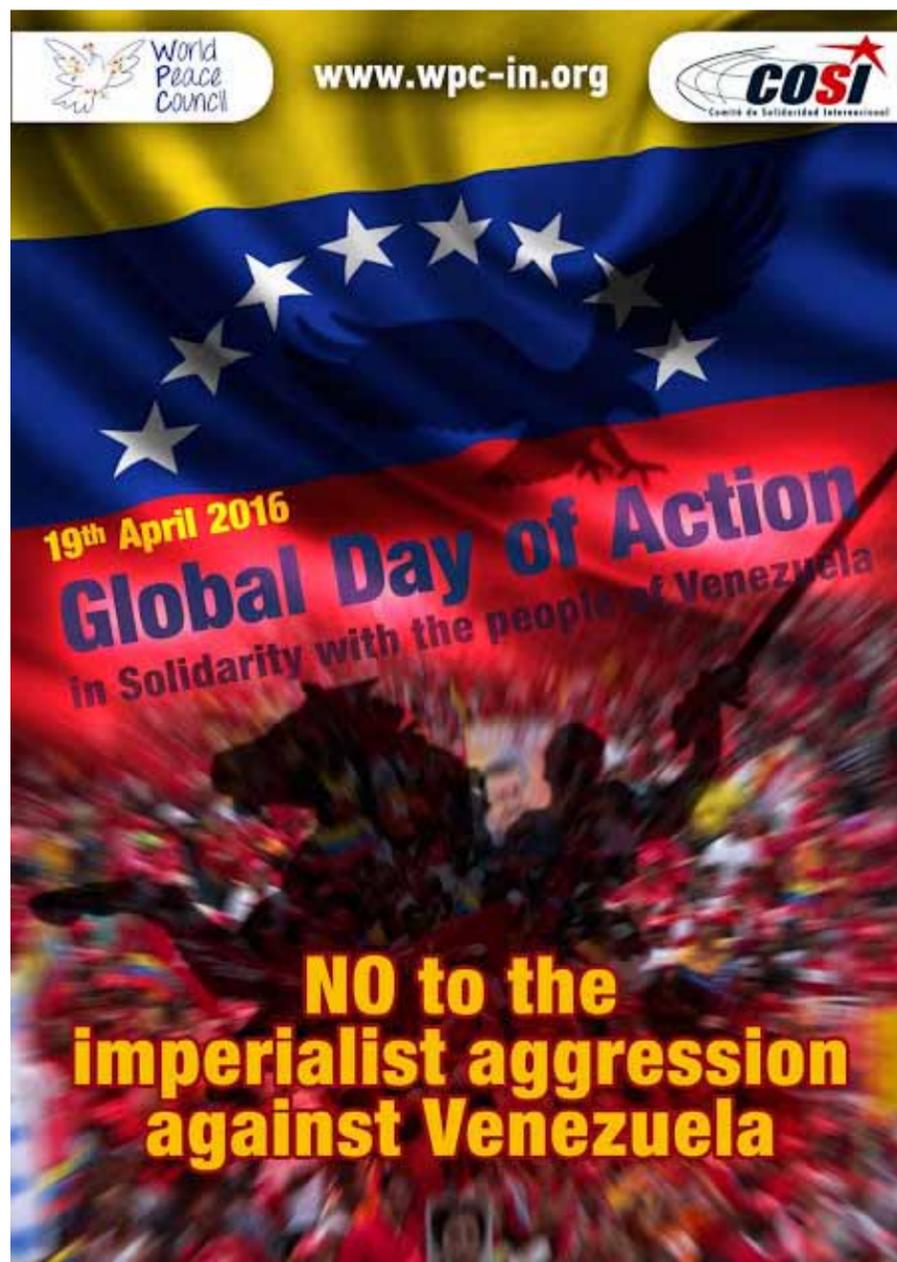
The democratic and left organizations, social movements and personalities, in the world, express our strong support and firm solidarity for the VENEZUELAN PEOPLE, the Government of the Constitutional President Nicolas Maduro Moros, the Communist Party of Venezuela, and the Committee of International 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 biggest 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.

We denounce that such actions are aimed at destabilizing popular developments, especially in Venezuela, and the process of changes affecting the entire Latin America and the Caribbean region, in an attempt to reconstruct the imperialist hegemony and geostrategic control of the US.

In a new international escalation of the Venezuelan bourgeoisie, dependent on the interests of imperialism and in concert with its allies of the international extreme right, three days after the action of Obama, one Spanish and 26 Latin American former presidents requested the application of a perverse mechanism of the Organization of American States (OAS), to punish our



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.

Currently 74 US military bases are surrounding Latin America and the Caribbean, and its weapons of mass destruction aimed at the processes of sovereignty and self-determination of our peoples.

Thirteen of these bases encircle Venezuela. Billions of dollars from drug and US capital are diverted to found organizations such as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), which promote and organize the neofascist groups destabilizing the democratic and popular governments, like the constitutional government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Even the Liberator Simon Bolivar warned, on 5 August, 1829, when he stated in a letter to the Minister Charge d'Affaires of Her Britannic Majesty in the United States, Patrick Campbell: “The United States seems destined by Providence to plague 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 Constitutional President Nicolas Maduro Moros, the Communist Party of Venezuela, and the Committee of Solidarity

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SYRIA: LET US ... (from p. 1)

funded Ahrar al-Sham. In many cases, each of these groups is itself a coalition of dozens of Islamist groups fighting in Syria, many of whom are in fact 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 anti-Assad 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 U.S. made the policy of “Assad must go” a pre-condition for any direct negotiations with the government of Syria. However, the entry of Russian military into the scene has made a military victory for the Western powers and their regional allies virtually impossible and, hence, has forced the U.S. to soften its position on the method, but not goal, of removing Assad. As a result, the focus has now shifted to finding a way for removing 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. But there are several sticky points that need to be resolved for these negotiations to proceed and bring any results.

The first fundamental issue here is who should be considered as a legitimate opposition and therefore be allowed to participate in the negotiations. As far as Syrian government is concerned, all those who have engaged in violent armed struggle against the legitimate Syrian state, and are responsible for the death and injury of tens of thousands, should be considered terrorists and must be excluded. Both Iran and Russia have announced their support for the Syrian position. According to Russian Foreign Ministry, “We are still convinced that terrorists of all stripes should be excluded from the political process in Syria...” But this is not what the U.S. and its regional allies have in mind. They are insisting on inclusion of what they term “moderate” armed fighters in the negotiations. Iran’s response: “the terrorists will never be allowed to introduce themselves as moderate opposition and decide the future of Syria and the region.” Syrian government, on its part, has announced it is ready to attend peace talks with the opposition in Geneva this month, but it wants to see lists of the opposition groups who were due to attend, and ensure that “terrorist” groups would not be represented.

Aside from the issues of who is a terrorist and who is part of the legitimate opposition, another round of maneuvering is under way as well: Each of these hostile countries is now jockeying for the inclusion of its own favorite fighters and the exclusion of those of others in the upcoming negotiations. Saudi Arabia, for its part, is pushing for inclusion of all armed Islamist fighters, and to achieve this, in December of 2015, it organized a three-day conference in Riyadh consisting of over 100 extremist Islamist rebel groups who are calling for regime change in Syria, including some of those considered to be terrorist by the United States. According to Iran’s Deputy Foreign Minister, “what is noteworthy is the presence of some terrorist groups linked to ISIL in the Riyadh Conference.”

The objective of this conference, titled “Conference of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces,” was to unite these armed extremist forces around a common platform for the negotiations. On December 10, 2015, the conference issued its “Final Statement,”

which not only called for “the establishment of a state ... with no place for Bashar al-Assad or the symbols and pillars of his regime in it or any coming political arrangements,” but took the matter a step further by “stress[ing] that Bashar al-Assad and his circle leave office at the beginning of the transitional period,” in other words, regime change from the beginning. There is no doubt that such a position is aimed at sabotaging the negotiations even before they start. Although the Saudi position is in conflict with the current U.S. position, nevertheless, Secretary of State John Kerry thanked the Saudis for holding the Riyadh Conference. The Saudis’ motive for sabotaging the negotiations, as well as their recent mass execution of 47 people, including a Shi’ite clergy, stems from their nervousness about closer ties that might develop between Iran and the United States as a result of their nuclear agreement, and potential new agreements during Syrian negotiations. They consider a political settlement of the Syrian conflict without an immediate removal of Assad from power as a step toward ending Iran’s isolation and strengthening its position in the region.

What is more significant about the Riyadh Conference, however, is not who participated, but which groups were not allowed to attend. The Saudis made sure that none of the internal moderate (unarmed and non-violent) opposition forces are invited — forces like the Solidarity Party, National Youth Party, and the National Democratic Action Body, who, as a Carnegie Endowment for International Peace report concedes, “may very well reflect the views of a significant number of Syrians who would like to see reforms, but who, at the end of the day, prefer Assad over the rebels.” Nor were any Kurdish opposition forces invited to the Riyadh Conference. As Iran’s Fars News Agency complained the day after the Riyadh Conference, “Saudi Arabia hosted a three-day meeting of terrorist groups in Riyadh on December 8-10. The Syrian Kurds, who control large parts of the Northern Syria, had not been invited, but Al-Qaeda’s official branch in Syria, the al-Nusra Front and Ahrar al-Sham terrorist groups were there...”

The exclusion of Kurds is also an objective of Turkish government. The Kurds have been a major force in fighting ISIS in the northern part of Syria, but they are at the same time being bombed by the Turkish air force in northern Syria. In effect, Turkey is also directly helping ISIS by opening its borders to the armed militant groups and buying stolen Syrian oil from ISIS. Turkish government does not want to see the inclusion of Kurds (who constitute a third of the Syrian population) in fear that such a move will strengthen the hand of Kurdish organizations like the PKK within Turkey. Israel plays a related role by secretly providing medical care to the wounded ISIS fighters through its borders with Syria along the occupied Golan Heights.

It is clear that these attempts to exclude from negotiations all the internal moderate forces in Syria that represent “a significant number of Syrians” and the Kurds, who constitute one-third of the Syrian population, will only stack the cards against the Syrian people in favor of foreign governments and Islamic extremist/terrorist groups in Syria — an outcome which will not only fail to lead to any peace, but is bound to promote conflagration of the conflict in the region and possible war between the US/NATO Alliance and Russia, both major nuclear-weapons powers. Dear friends in the peace movement,

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. peace and anti-war movement cannot passively watch the intrigues, deceptions and manipulations, which are leading to yet another disaster. We should raise our voices of reason in 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.

We appeal to all of you to help organize demonstrations in front of your local Congressional offices and demand that your Congressman and Senator pressure the Obama Administration to guarantee that Syrian people are allowed to participate in the negotiations freely, and that the Syrian people alone are allowed to decide the future of their country, not foreign powers and their proxy forces.

We call on all activists in the peace movement to flood the emails and phone lines of the White House and the State Department

and demand the following:

1. Stop all foreign efforts to force regime change in Syria:
 - a) Stop bombing Syrian economic infrastructure in the name of fighting ISIS.
 - b) Stop injecting foreign fighters into Syria.
 - c) Stop funding, organizing and arming the combatants in Syria.
2. Let the Syrians themselves decide the future of their country free of all foreign intervention:
 - a) Allow all truly moderate internal opposition groups and the Kurdish organizations to participate in the negotiations.
 - b) Exclude no segment of the Syrian population from peace negotiations.
 - c) Exclude all foreign opposition forces, as well as all terrorist organizations, from the negotiations.
3. Lift all sanctions on Syria. Provide humanitarian aid to the Syrian people. Help the Syrian refugees settle wherever they want — including back in Syria.
4. End all wars of aggression, all forms of foreign occupation, and all externally-generated regime change policies in the region.

*U.S. Peace Council
January 23, 2016*

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

The WPC is pleased to announce the holding of its next World Assembly for 17-20 November 2016 in the city of Sao Luis, Brazil, with CEBRAPAZ as host Organization. After the Kathmandu Assembly in 2012, the WPC is moving to Latin America. The Assembly of the WPC in Brazil shall become 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.

Building united action against war, militarism and imperialism Invitation to the Third Trilateral Peace Conference Canada-United States-Mexico

July 20-21, 2016 — Toronto, Canada

The World Peace Council, Canadian Peace Congress, US Peace Council and Movimiento Mexicano por la Paz y el Desarrollo call for the Third Trilateral Peace Conference to be held in Toronto, Canada on July 20-21, 2016.

Since the Second Trilateral in 2009 our world has moved to a critically dangerous point, with increasing militarism and war, environmental decline and economic crisis. The major military powers — especially the United States, European Union and NATO — have concentrated their firepower in Eastern Europe and the Syria-Iraq region. In this increasingly tense standoff between Western imperialism and Russia, the possibility of a military — and potentially nuclear — confrontation between these powers is very real.

One hundred years ago the peoples of the world were terrorized by the horrors of the First World War, a conflict that was sparked by imperialist expansion, militarism and extreme nationalism. It was one of the deadliest conflicts in human history, 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 is expanding its membership and scope, and the Western powers are becoming increasingly aggressive to the point that the survival of the entire planet is threatened. In all parts 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 and mobilization. To advance their fight for peace, sovereignty and social progress, people are using many different tactics, including mass demonstrations, general strikes and online campaigns.

The Third Trilateral Peace Conference will provide a forum for peace and progressive activists to examine the explosive international situation and propose concrete strategies for coordinated actions across Canada, the US and Mexico. We cannot avoid the impending catastrophe without unity, a sense of urgency, and a commitment to mobilize.

Please send requests for information to: info@canadianpeacecongress.ca.

More information and updates will be posted to www.canadianpeacecongress.ca.

We look forward to meeting in Toronto!

Canadian Peace Congress

US Peace Council

Movimiento Mexicano por la Paz y el Desarrollo

The Struggle Against Imperialist War and Imperialist Peace

Presented by Iraklis Tsavdaridis,
Executive Secretary, WPC

(Based on the contribution of the Greek Peace Committee (EEDYE) at the WPC regional meeting of Europe, Lisbon 19-20 March 2016).

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, undoubted dead ends generated by the system and its exploitative nature and essence. It is the matrix that produces all the sufferings of the peoples, through both imperialist wars and imperialist peace! It is the matrix that also produces what is called terrorism.

As 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 issues of civil liberties and rights.

The economic crisis and the consequences for popular masses in Greece are becoming day by day worse. Poverty and extreme poverty, records in unemployment (26%) and especially amongst youth (55%), heavy taxation and privatization of public sector, in order to boost the ability of the enterprises for their economic recovery to the detriment of the working and popular strata. This has

not changed with the new government since one year, on the contrary it is getting even worse, despite the opposite promises and demagoguery. Currently new “negotiations” of the Greek government are going on with the troika (EC, ECB, IMF) where new heavy burdens are being proposed, once more, for the sake of the “exit from the crisis”

Additionally to all this, within just a few months, the new SYRIZA-ANEL government has taken various initiatives, such as the proposal to establish a new US-NATO base on the island of Karpathos, the establishment of a specialized NATO multinational logistics unit in Crete, and the extension and reinforcement of the US base at Souda! It is prepared to accept unmanned US Air Force planes (Drones) in Crete. It has paid enormous amount (\$500 millions USD) to the US Corporation Lockheed to upgrade the country’s NATO-dictated weaponry. And of course the military cooperation of Greece with Israel has reached new levels; the Greek government is calling the Israeli government a “friend and ally.”

Additional to all that, our country and people is facing the biggest refugee flow after World War II, with hundreds of thousands Syrian, Iraqi and Afghan refugees having passed from Turkey to the Greek islands. Many more are still in Turkey from where human traffickers are doing huge profits with the need and misery of these people, while

hundreds of them have died in the Aegean Sea. Recently the borders to the North have been shut down in a coordinated effort of various central and north European states converting these refugees as “hostages” trapped in Greece and our country into a huge Refugee Camp. The EU is proving once more its hypocrisy and its double moral. It is the same forces and the EU itself (along with the USA and NATO), who have created the Jihadists in Syria and Iraq, who are killing and terrorising the peoples, who are then running away for their lives. The refugee crisis is a clear result of the imperialist interventions and policies in the Middle East, in Afghanistan, Libya, Yemen and Africa.

The recent decision of the EU and of NATO to deploy warships in the Aegean Sea is meant to safeguard the interests of NATO and of Turkey which is not recognizing borders between Greece and Turkey and in order to confront the Russian presence in the region. It has nothing to do with the “refugee crisis” and will not solve any problem related to them. The official presence of NATO in the Aegean Sea, upon proposal of the governments of Turkey, Greece and Germany is further escalating the situation and increasing the dangers for a generalized conflict.

The Greek Peace Committee (EEDYE), through a variety of events, is addressing the people, we call upon them to the struggle, to show our solidarity with the refugees and

to demand:

* That the US, NATO, the EU and all other involved forces stop their interventions and wars.

* That the Dublin Regulation and the Schengen Agreement be abolished together with the Frontex and the other repressive mechanisms of the EU. No to EU repression at the frontiers.

* Transfer of refugees from the islands and points of entry to the countries of their final destination, for which the EU and UN will be responsible.

* Creation of decent, humane centers to receive and accommodate the refugees. Increased staff and infrastructures are also required to save, register, identify, house, feed and provide them with health care.

* That foreign military bases and headquarters be closed. All Greek soldiers who are outside our borders should return.

* Greece should leave the imperialist organizations of NATO and the EU.

About the anti-NATO campaign of the WPC

As we are all aware, the WPC has adopted in Guantanamo and later finalized an Appeal against NATO towards the summit of this armed tool of US and EU imperialism to be held in Warsaw in July 2016. The anti-NATO campaign is an ongoing initiative of

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17 Years After NATO Aggression in Serbia (FRY)

Global Destabilization — How Did It Start?

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

As clearly demonstrated by ensuing developments, NATO aggression of 1999 against 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, spreading of terrorism, and militarization of 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 growing distrust and confrontation, the resulting outcome is a global instability or, according to some analysts, a Cold War repeat. After the aggression on the FRY, there followed the assault of the “coalition of the willing” comprising mainly NATO members, and the occupation of Afghanistan in 2001, and the armed aggression against Iraq. The “willing ones”, led by the USA, invaded Afghanistan in order to crush Al-Qaeda and those responsible for the attack on the World Trade Centre 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 some other countries. The success of this fight is reflected by the unprecedented expansion of terrorism in the Middle East and Central Asia, Africa, and its subsequent spill over to Europe – ranging from Turkey through France and Belgium to Spain and the United Kingdom.

Since the first attack of “the willing”, thousands upon thousands of Afghan civilians, including women, children, wedding parties, doctors and medics have been killed. The production of heroin in occupied Afghanistan skyrocketed for more than 40 times over. As for Pakistan, the people fell as the victims of both terrorists and “the willing” ones fighting the terrorists.

When it comes to Iraq, we have to recall that the aggression, also without the Security Council mandate, was launched under the false pretext of searching for the weapons of mass destruction. The crimes committed in in-

famous Abu Ghraib, Basra, and the hundreds of thousands of killed civilians were, in cold blood, declared to be the victims of “worthy causes”! Neither Clinton, or Albright or Blair ever took to explain what causes could be excused with hundreds of thousands of killed civilians, women and children!

Then followed attacks by individual NATO members against Libya, in the breach of the United Nations Security Council mandate, that continue to the present day. Among the casualties of the latest attacks of the United States armed forces on Libya were also two Serbian diplomats. Today, our hearts and minds go to them and their families and the Serbian diplomacy; they are also the victims of the globalized interventionism inasmuch as were the victims of NATO aggression in 1999. Under this pretext or that, in one form or another, external aggressions kept relentlessly spreading to Yemen, Mali, Somalia, Syria, up to the coup in Kiev. The underlying blueprint has firmly been established in 1999 and 2000 in Serbia, that-time Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

A new “democratic” standard: the might above the law

The military interventionism by the US-led NATO has developed into a global phenomenon. Its goal is also global – to forcibly introduce full control over all the major resources on the planet, from geopolitical, infrastructural and economic ones to natural and human resources, by means of violating all norms of the international relations and by devastating international institutions that happen to be in the way of the ruthless greed and expansion.

The force of the law is being replaced by the right of the might, as demonstrates the motto of NATO after the aggression on Serbia (the FRY) in 1999. “The might should be above the law” – a detail from the US strategy presented in brief in the letter to Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, dated 2 May 2000, as revealed by Willy Wimmer.¹ The way is paved for the globalization of authoritarianism, now dressed in democracy.

And what did these “fighters” for democracy, civilians, human rights and minority rights, and the protectors of the

self-proclaimed “national interests” leave in their wake? In short, they left chaos; millions of killed and wounded, tens of millions of refugees and displaced people; warring nations, tribes, religions; devastated communities and state territories torn apart; the so-called Islamic State and the globalized terrorism; militarization; the arms race; the global distrust and confrontation.

Equality Without War?

Our friend Zahari Zahariev voiced a warning about the risk of global conflict. We hope and give our best to avoid it. Our hopes and expectations are stemming from the profound changes in the global constellation of power shifting in favour of the forces of peace, cooperation on an equal footing, observance of the international law and, most notably, observance of the principle of sovereign equality and the restoration of the role of the United Nations as the umbrella organization of the global community of nations. The era of the unipolar world order and the system of liberal corporative capitalism are on an irreversible path to history; we hope and believe that, together with them, also goes NATO as their key lever and the relic of the Cold War. Still, in spite of this, we must not ignore the fact that the minds of the ideologues of ‘exceptionalism’ and ‘missionary role’ do not function in the same fashion as the minds of ordinary people. Judging by their classifications of ‘the good’ versus ‘the evil’, of ‘friends’ vs ‘foes’, ‘justice’ vs ‘injustice’, ‘terrorists’ vs ‘moderate opposition’, or their definitions of ‘fighters for freedom and democracy’, we cannot help concluding that there is still a big number of ‘strategists’ who believe that any means is allowed in the defending of privileges in international affairs.

The most dangerous ones are the ‘shadow structures’ and the powerful ones who deem that history, which refuses to voluntarily accept its own end, may be destroyed, punished or at least halted. They deny everything and everyone that pose an obstacle to the lawlessness and the sheer egotism they got to be used to over the past decades and centuries. It is slowly dawning on them that they can no more rely on privileges and ‘exceptionalism’ in international relations, yet not wish to relinquish them

consciously. Russia, China and other BRICS countries, just like the majority of states in the global community do not accept to submit to someone else’s will as their own. So, are the proponents of the ‘exceptionalism’ theory going to concede to equality and partnership in global affairs, or are they going to reach for the weapons including, maybe, the nuclear ones, in a bid to preserve the old and to acquire some new privileges? Are they going to admit the true goals of their continuous military expansion to the East since 1999, ranging from Camp “Bond steel” to ‘rotating commands’ and the so-called missile shields deployed along the Russian borders? The future peace and stability depend on the answers to these and similar questions.

Great Dangers Posed by Militarization

Those who have been enjoying impunity while trampling the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter, generating chaos and ‘low-intensity conflicts’, and toppling and appointing leaders of other nations, those who pay no regard to the legitimate interests of other nations and states, those used to making others pay for the failures of their own policies, and those adopting the practice of having the last say even when apparently deceiving their own people and the world, will certainly not stop short of taking chances! And this is precisely the source of a great danger.

Shortly after NATO aggression of 1999, on Serbian territory near the town of Uroševac, was built the largest US military base in Europe, some say the largest in the world outside the US soil, Camp “Bond steel”. This was the first in the chain of the mushrooming American military bases. The next three bases were erected in Bulgaria, whereas the additional four in Romania. The chain continues up to the so-called anti-missile shields in Poland, Romania and some other countries, creeping closer to the borders of Russia.

Europe of today hosts more American and NATO military bases than at the pinnacle of the Cold War! The Berlin Wall is long gone, as is the Warsaw Pact, there is no more Soviet Union or the two confronting social systems, or the ‘axis of evil’. So what could be the objective of the skyrocketing number of foreign military bases in Europe, the amassing of

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Global Destabilization ... (from p. 7)

troops and military hardware on European soil, the militarization of the process of political decision-making, the militarization of the media, and the growth in military spending? Is there a plausible answer to these questions?

Given that we are under domination of NATO media worldwide and especially in Europe, including Serbia, and being burdened by the growing social and economic problems, we have less and less time to spare to reconsider the veracity of messages sent from TV stations, NATO newsrooms and other militarization-dominated places. We should ponder the objective of the introducing of airspace control ranging from the Baltic Sea to Anatolia, in a line resembling the times of the Roman Empire. These all are significant new moments that deserve to be taken into account.

A consequence of NATO aggression against Serbia (the FRY) of 1999 was the militarization, not only in terms of physical buildup of weaponry and troops, but also in terms of militarization of the process of political decision-making. European institutions, national and regional, have increasingly been morphing into the front for making decisions in narrow circles in the matters like sanctions, military spending, new foreign bases, privileges and immunity of NATO troops, up to the matter of membership to military alliances and the matters of war and peace.

At the time of its signing, the Agreement on transit of NATO troops across the Serbian/Yugoslav territory was publicly defended as a merely technical agreement that was of no interest for the public, for the nation! Relevant provisions under the Constitution preceding the current one, had provided that the country's membership to international organizations (like, NATO) was to be decided by the national Parliament. The wording of the applicable Constitution does not contain this provision anymore! Can this be taken as a hallmark of progress in democracy? Ever since the 'democratic changes' of 2000 to present day, any notion of referendum on the most important matters has been exposed to ridicule. Why? This aversion to resorting to referendum in principal matters of internal and foreign policies could hardly be explained by the responsibility of institutions, or by trust of citizens won in the elections, or by someone's care for the prosperity and better life. The victory in the elections, including the forthcoming ones, cannot be treated as a 'cart blanche' for total sellout of the remaining capacities in the public sector, or for the signing of a 'legally binding document' with Priština, or for the complete surrender to NATO, or for the federalization of Serbia under the cover of decentralization.

The funds are being allocated to weapons, while millions of people leave their homes in the Middle East seeking jobs in Europe. They are not sluggish lazy people seeking easy life, as maliciously depicted, nor ones striving to disrupt the Europeans' wellbeing. These are people expelled from their homes as collateral of actions of the West and their Arab allies, they are people struggling to survive and in search for the daily bread. Unlike the Western leaders, these people have no alternatives for survival. This is why they cannot be stopped by fences or patrols, on land or at seas. The West holds the key to their plight – by stopping Western aggressions, wars, interventions. First of all, the West should put an end to war in Syria by stopping the funding, arming, and training of terrorists, and by disrupting the supplying of the so-called ISIS. Instead of making deals with Turkey, they should resort to investments and development of the countries in the Middle East and Central Asia, and thus offer to younger generations a different and better alternative than the one offered by the ideologists of jihad.

It should be noted that Russia and China have already evolved into global factors in international economic and political relations. The establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Development Bank with some 60 signatories, the BRICS Development Bank, and some other brand new institutions and projects of global relevance (such as the 21st Century New Silk Road) are indicating that the era of monopoly in regulating international affairs has ended.

There are no major international problems that could be solved without and equal participation of Russia and China. I also hold this to be the presumption for a just and sustainable solution of the status of Kosovo and Metohija, in line with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244. The deals tabled by the commissionaires in Brussels and Washington requesting Serbia to renounce her constitutional order, homeland, historical identity, and adherence to UNSCR 1244, for the sake of a 'realism' and 'European agenda' can hardly amount to anything else than an apparent simulacrum and an illusion of an ersatz solution.

NATO's Version of History

The revision of history was not triggered, but instead accelerated by NATO aggression. The process involves great many interests and participants, but a special role has been assigned to the Hague Tribunal. This is a mechanism that, among other things, aims to replace the historians and dictate its own – or rather, NATO's – version of history, in particular a part refereeing to the territory of former Yugoslavia. For the vast majority of people in Serbia, the Hague Tribunal is but an extended arm of NATO Treaty, one that does not dispense justice but instead pronounces verdicts, primarily against the members of the Serbian peoples.

Tomorrow, on 17th anniversary of the beginning of the aggression, is scheduled the sentencing of Radovan Karadžić, formerly the first President of the Republic of Srpska. Although not proponents of the conspiracy theories, we deem it is not mere coincidence that the sentencing of Radovan Karadžić was scheduled on the anniversary of the beginning of the aggression against Serbia (the FRY). Someone obviously tried to divert the public attention away from NATO crimes committed against the Serbian nation and citizens 17 years ago, onto the sentencing of President Karadžić. From tomorrow onwards, we are expected to engage in the interpretation of the verdict and the regional animosities the verdict stirs, so to cast a shadow over the tributes paid to thousands of victims in Serbia and Montenegro, to avoid hearing the people voicing their concerns on the devastation of civilian facilities, use of weapons filled with depleted uranium, use of cluster, graphite and other illicit bombs, to avoid seeing and hearing of the crimes performed by NATO against Serbia, the region, and also against Europe and the system of international relations.

The statistics reveal that, out of 89 persons convicted by the Hague Tribunal to the total of 1,380 years of prison, 67 are the Serbs, which is more than 2/3 of the total number of the convicted, to 1,125 years of imprisonment; 14 are Croats, sentenced to 183 years, five are Bosnians sentenced to 41 years, two are Albanians sentenced to 19 years, and one is Macedonian sentenced to 12 years of imprisonment. Is this the reflection of reality in which had been instigated and waged civil wars in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia? Which part reflects the crimes committed against the Serbian people in Sarajevo, Eastern Bosnia, in operations "Flash" and "Storm", and other locations and in ethnic persecutions!? The Hague Tribunal has never identified the perpetrators of crimes committed against Serbian people in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in Kosovo and Metohija!

Aggressor-Friendly Reform of the Army

A special merit is deserved by our Army, its soldiers and generals who have professionally and patriotically defended the country and the nation. The toll of the struggle took 1,008 soldiers and policemen. Today, we remember them and more than 2,500 killed civilians, among whom were more than 80 children. We pay tribute to them and express our condolences to their families. It was only a couple of years after the aggression, during the so-called reform of the Army, that almost all generals who led the defense against NATO aggression were retired. Let us recall the executors of this reform: NATO generals, led by British general Beak and French general Hollande, in the capacity of advisors to then-minister of defense, Boris Tadić!

The reform's outcome is best known to members of the Serbian Army. American company US Steel has melted all tanks, howitzers and other heavy-duty weaponry in the Smederevo Steelworks, yielding the cheapest and highest quality steel. Once they the smelting was over, the Americans said it was no more profitable to stay in Smederevo, packed their bags, and left!

Let us recollect what the goals of the aggression were. Deployment of US troops in the Balkans, notably in the territory of Serbia, as step one in building the chain of deploying US military resources closer to the Russian borders. Expansion eastwards, as a new edition of the infamous "Drang nach Osten" doctrine. In the name of spreading democracy and human rights, NATO has also provided a blueprint for the new military campaigns in other parts of the world, in a blatant disrespect of the principles in the international relations, the UN Charter and the UN Security Council as the most important body for the matters of peace and security. However, statisticians and analysts revealed that from Serbia, devastated as it was left after NATO aggression, over the period from 2001–2011, was sucked out \$ 50 billion through the so-called privatizations, and in particular through the privatization of the banking and financial sectors. The most valuable companies located in Kosovo and Metohija, built by means of the funds of Serbia and former Yugoslavia, fell prey to the hands of companies seated in the USA and other NATO states. There, lo and behold, the right of priority in privatization in the Province was exercised by some prominent figures in the Clinton administration. A coincidence?

Let us recall that Silvio Berlusconi has publicly divulged that French President confided to him that France had militarily intervened in Libya because she also had a right to get hold of a share in Libyan oil wells! What a scope of altruism in the fight for the protection of civilians, which was the actually and officially proclaimed goal of the military intervention in Libya! One could say that Berlusconi, being himself, used to say all kinds of things; that aside, he was a democratically elected prime minister of a democratic country, one of the lot, even if atypical.

One can hardly comprehend such cynicism that politicians use to deceive their peoples by the allegedly righteous motives of military interventions! And their background consists of utter egoism, despoilment and sheer gluttony.

Wesley Clark, NATO commander-in-chief in 1999, in an interview to a US TV station, said that the Pentagon had provided a list of countries the USA was going to bomb in future. When his host asked why, Clark replied that the reasons had not been specified, but that he assumed the reason was the oil.

What Is the Way Out?

The way out is in accepting the new realities in global relations, which do not support the setup of superior and subordinate actors, the privileged and the disenfranchised ones, the "exceptional" and the handicapped sides. The way out is in restoration of observance of the fundamental principles of international relations and international law, and most notably, in observance of the principle of sovereign equality. In a broader sense, the way out is in strengthening the role of the United Nations and respect of the UN Security Council as the most responsible body for the matters of peace and security; in acknowledging that the multipolarization of global relations is a process that cannot be hated or stopped by any means, given that, in the light of the increased

powers of Russia, China and other BRICS countries, it is an inevitability; In shifting towards democratization of global relations which, in essence, means the recognition that medium and small countries have a right to own interests; in renouncing the misuse of fight against terrorism so to spread and impose the geopolitical interests of major powers; In disrupting the funding, arming, training, and dispatching terrorists to the crisis areas.

At present, for peace and security it is vital to identify a peaceful political solution for the war in Syria, while respecting the interests of all internal political factors, excluding the terrorists of all kinds and of any political ilk.

Terrorism became a global problem due to double standards, and the misuse and manipulations with terrorism. We learned this lesson in the civil war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, when the Western powers, and especially the USA, have directly and indirectly assisted the transfer of terrorists from the Middle East, Chechnya and the Maghreb countries, their subsequent training, arming and organizing into units that fought on the side of forces of Alija Izetbegović. We still vividly remember the "El Mujahideen" Brigade, whose members posed with severed Serbian heads for taking photos. These mujahideens have, later on, redeployed to Kosovo and Metohija, strengthening the troops of the terrorist KLA. The KLA itself was a NATO ally, its ground force infantry in NATO aggression of 1999. Therefore, nobody should be surprised that both Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo and Metohija have continuously been the source locations in recruiting the highest ration of foreign fighters for the ISIS. What else is to be told about the parts of B&H beyond the control of the official authorities of the B&H Federation, but rather under the control of the Wahhabi leadership? More than 60% of Islamic religious institutions have also severed their connections with the official Islamic religious community.

We propose to hold a world conference on fight against terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations. Given its complexity, the matter of terrorism requires a lot of time, decades maybe, the proposed conference should only serve as the initiating force in launching a process of preparing a global convention on the fight against terrorism. If we seek to avoid new killings and prevent further spreading of terrorism in Europe and elsewhere, the United Nations have to be the leader in, and the sponsor of, fight against terrorism.

For Serbia, the way out is in establishing and reinforcing genuine and full neutrality, and in raising this commitment to the level of a fundamental constitutional principle. We should follow the example given by Austria and other neutral EU Member States in maintaining a balanced foreign policy and in openness for cooperation on an equal footing, without unilateral concessions or privileges granted to any specific country or a group of countries. This is more than possible, this amounts to an existential necessity and a long-term interest of Serbia. The way out is also in respecting Serbia's dignity and her historical experiences; In a quicker release of the inferiority complex vis-à-vis the West, whose hands and background in relations with Serbia are not clean; In the moral renaissance, orientation, and self-confidence; In turning to our inner selves, to our human, scientific, cultural, geopolitical, natural, and economic resources as the presumption for the equal cooperation with others. ■

UPCOMING WPC MEETINGS IN 2016

In addition the European Regional meeting which was already successfully held in Almada, Portugal on 19-20 March, the WPC is planning the following meetings for this year:

- **Asia & Pacific:**
Kathmandu, 21-22 June 2016
- **America's Regional Meeting:**
Toronto, 18-19 July 2016
- **Third Trilateral Peace Conference**
(Canada, US, Mexico),
Toronto, 21-22 July, 2016.
- **Africa: (to be confirmed)**
Johannesburg, August 2016
- **Europe: (to be confirmed)**
Cyprus, 10 September 2016
- **Middle East:**
Cyprus, 10 September 2016
- **Joint Meeting of Europe and the Middle East,**
Cyprus, 11 September 2016

Editorial (from p. 1)

struction, defining it as a top priority for the movements in the World Peace Council. We revive our Stockholm Appeal and support initiatives such as the conference organized by the Japan Council Against A & H Bombs — Gensuikyō, to be held in August in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, gathering ever more support in the struggle for the riddance of these weapons.

The struggle for de-militarization of the international relations is vital for a more just, peaceful and free world for all peoples, especially free from the threat of annihilation, or of another generalized, seemingly imminent, war.

We also promote firm campaigns against the foreign military bases spread throughout the planet and against the imperialist interferences as seen in the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Latin America. The places where the powers could not entrench their hegemony, where alternatives to their dominance and subjugation were turned into progressive and nationalist cycles, invasion and promotion of coups is the imperialist solution to re-establish their channels for pillage and bullying of resources and peoples. We see this tactic applied to the Bolivarian Venezuela, to Honduras, Paraguay, Ecuador, Brazil, the African continent, and so on.

In the Syrian Arab Republic, five years of war have killed hundreds of thousands of people, driving millions of others to displace or seek refuge outside their country. The attempt at overthrowing a legitimately elected government, by the US imperialism, has failed, but the people pay a heavy price for challenging the geopolitical game that sought to take down a government that is faithful to its country's sovereignty, and which keeps resisting. The negotiations for a cease-fire continue to show that the US has only one goal, which is not the Syrian people's protection.

Therefore, we reaffirm our solidarity with the peoples who are resisting war, oppression and colonialism; denounce the occupation of Palestine and of the Western Sahara by Israel and Morocco, the persistence of Puerto Rico's colonization by the US, of the Malvinas Islands by the UK, and of 16 other "non-autonomous territories," as recognized by the UN. An incomplete de-colonization is a disgrace for a human kind that is seeking to develop politically and culturally, an unjustifiable anachronism, especially after so much struggle and bloodshed. These are some of our priorities for while we prepare our Assembly, between November 17th and 20th, in Brazil. Between the regional and the Secretariat meetings, we continue to articulate campaigns and joint or national actions, engaging in the elaboration of activities that strengthen the World Peace Council as a mobilizer against the imperialist aggression, for the peoples' sovereignty and for peace between the nations, as an instrument for the peoples building a just world.

Therefore, we reaffirm: despite its reactionary aggressiveness, imperialism is not invincible, and the peoples are mobilizing to defeat it. ■

WPC European Regional Meeting Held in Portugal Peoples of Europe for Peace — No to NATO

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

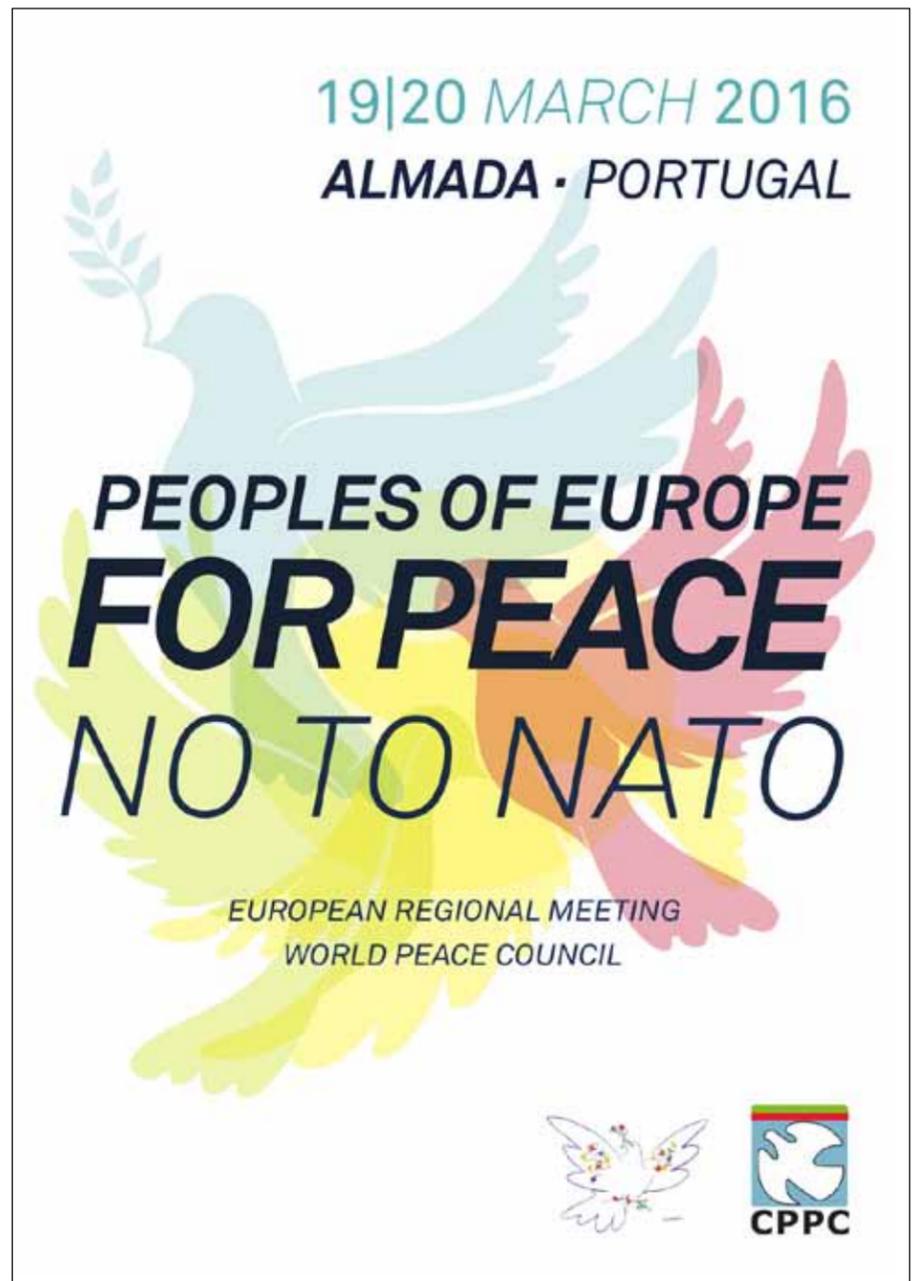
The WPC Regional Meeting was attended by the: German Peace Council; International Action for Liberation – Belgium; Civic Association Soldiers Against War – Czech Republic; Cyprus Peace Council; Peace and Neutrality Alliance – Ireland; Finnish Peace Committee; Movement for Peace – France; Greek Committee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

The planing of convergent actions against NATO – considering NATO summit, to be held on July 8-9, 2016, em Warsaw, Poland – was a central issue in the meeting. The organizations aproved an "Appeal to the organizations and activists in Europe that defend the cause of Peace – Yes to Peace! No to NATO!" and planed 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 and the intervention of each organization; the end of the arms race; the elimination of foreign military bases; the abolition of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction; against the rising presence of USA/NATO in northern Europe as part of the strategy to encircle the Russian Federation; solidarity with the peoples victim of imperialist aggression; activities in representation of the WPC in UN institutions in Europe; preparation of the World Peace Assembly, in Brazil, in November 2016; and the preparation of the WPC secretariat meeting, in Greece, in May 28-29, 2016.

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, namely:

- **No to War! Solidarity with the refugees!**



- **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, Socorro Gomes, where the Mayor of Almada, Joaquim Judas and the Chairperson of CPPC, Ilda Figueiredo 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 (PCPS)

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, where, according to the UN resolution 181, the Palestinian state was to be established.

In 1967 Israel occupied all the territories of historical Palestine.

The situation in Palestine, as a part of the Middle East, is escalating as Israel continues the building of settlements on the West Bank and the siege 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 Israel'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 confer-

ence, with the participation of all parties involved, and with a more active role by the UN 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?

Cyprus Peace Council

Our times are characterized by the intensifying of imperialist aggressiveness all around the world but especially in the pot of Eastern Mediterranean. A huge area that includes the Balkans, Eastern Mediterranean, M. East and N. Africa it is one of the most desired areas for imperialists. Gas, petrol, pipelines, transitional stations, strategically important posts are all in this area.

Millions are threatened if we don't oppose and destroy the plans of imperialism in our region. The imperialism isn't though something invisible and in the abstract. The enemy is specific, and is mainly expressed in the face of US, NATO, EU, IMF, Multinationals, and their policies. On the other side is us – the peace movement which isn't just a movement against war, isn't a pacifist movement but a movement against war and against reasons causing wars, such as injustice, environment destruction, misery, and poverty.

We emphasize in Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean not because we come from there but because is a fact that Eastern Mediterranean encounters very terrifying developments. The re-escalation of warfare in Iraq, and in Syria despite the fire cease, as well the ongoing terrorist attacks in Turkey, form a horror scenario.

At the same time we express rage about the continuing tragedy of hundreds of thousands of people who have been displaced by force, became refugees and struggle with waves everyday in the Mediterranean Sea. The drama of these people resembles to the drama of displaced people in Second World War. Most talk about how to receive and host those people, few talks about what brought them in this situation and what is the role of NATO and EU.

NATO is the cruel Aegean Sea Warden and EU is sponsoring instability by giving billions to Turkey, the Country that played a dirty role in all these and especially in the Syrian Issue. But isn't just the billions Turkey receives, is also the way that EU found through this unconceivable drama of refugees to politically support Turkey at the same time when Turkey still illegally occupies the 37%

of Cyprus. Double standards, closed borders, exploitation and bargains with criminals, this is EU, the EU of Memorandums and austerity.

The imperialist policies foment the explosion of a generalized war and nourish even more storms that lie ahead. We don't

oversee or exempt the criminal actions of terrorists, but on the contrary we reveal the whole picture. What do they want in Syria and in Iraq the Western imperialists, their reactionary allies in the region like Turkey and the monarchical regimes? Who bred the

“jihadists”? The “Taliban,” and why? The answer is clear. It's the oil, energy pipelines, strategic passes, and new markets for the international capital.

What if the victim is French, Cypriot, Syrian, or Palestinian? Does the human value depend on race, ethnicity or religion? We are all humans! In the era of barbarism the peoples form indiscriminate victims of a rotten, corrupt, criminal system that places man below the profits of monopolies and makes him/her a consumable item, a mere number for the dominant global power centres.

Who's the enemy of peoples? Isn't Imperialism? We must not avoid naming the enemy! We never hid who we are and what we are fighting for. Others hide behind words, not us – the continuers of Chandra, Kiranova, Fudora, and other peace fighters. So, let's carry on the struggle shouting out heading towards our next WPC Assembly in Brazil:

**Down with Imperialism!
Yes to Peace!**



WPC delegation visiting Romesh Chandra, Mumbai, India, November 2014

Final Declaration ... (from p. 5)

In light of the foregoing we commit ourselves to:

- Oppose any form of aggression, whether open or covert, of interventionism and interference in the domestic affairs of states and call for the immediate withdrawal of the foreign occupation troops from the countries where they have been deployed, as well as for the closure of foreign military bases, facilities and stations,
- Intensify and expand the visibility of the actions of the Global Network against Military Bases, Facilities and Stations and the dissemination of the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as Peace Zone approved by the CELAC Summit in Havana in January, 2014, which are cardinal instruments to fight for peace in the Latin American region and the world,
- Further strengthen the international campaign for a world of peace, without nuclear, chemical and bacteriological weapons, which contributes to halt the imperialistic threats of waging a third world war,
- Carry out actions which may contribute to raise awareness on the perils that climate change poses for the attainment and maintenance of a peace climate at world level,
- Contribute in all possible ways to the denunciation of terrorism as a scourge which threatens many nations and which

intends to expand its criminal and blood actions around the world,

- Reiterate the strongest support to all genuine democratic and revolutionary processes of the peoples, for social justice, the defense of the national sovereignty and independence and for a world of peace,
- Intensify our solidarity actions with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, its government and its people which continue to face an economic and media war and other destabilizing actions orchestrated by the national oligarchy with the conspiracy of the U.S. imperialism, aimed at destroying the work and the path of economic progress left by the legacy of Commander President Hugo Chávez Frías and the regional and international impact of the Bolivarian Revolution.
- Reaffirm the confidence in the satisfactory end of the negotiations for peace in Colombia which are taking place between the Government and the FARC-EP in Havana, Cuba and which shows encouraging progress.
- Strengthen and spread the demand made to the United States to return Cuba the territory illegally occupied by the Guantanamo Naval Base and the denunciation campaign for the closure of the center built there for torture and other violations of human rights, as well as the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial

blockade, which for more than 50 years has been imposed on the Cuban people in a flagrant ignorance of the will of the international community.

- Reaffirm our commitment of support to the Project of Latin American and Caribbean integration and firmly stand against the imperialist plans to curb its progresses.
- Work with greater determination so as to increase the role of education and culture in the struggle for peace and against wars, making them an element which favor the understanding among all societies that a better, more just and necessary world, is possible.
- Reiterate the supportive commitment to the cause of the Palestinian people in its just struggle to the right to build its own independent, secular and sovereign State, with Jerusalem as its capital, to the demand of the cease of the criminal Zionist aggressions against Gaza and the West Bank, the immediate release of all Palestinian political prisoners from Israeli jails, the cessation of the construction of new settlements of Jewish colonists on those lands and the most extensive condemnation to the expansionist and interventionist policy of the Zionist regime.
- Keep and extend the denunciation campaign of the imperialist ambitions against Syria and in support to the free determination of the Syrian people of its

internal affairs.

- Defend the right of all nations to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and celebrate the agreement reached by Iran in this respect, with the United States and other members of the negotiating group of countries.
- Continue to offer the most resolute support to the cause for the independence of Puerto Rico and the release of the Puerto Rican political prisoners in the U.S. jails.
- Extend solidarity with the Saharan people demanding the recognition by Morocco of the Saharan people's right to settle down in an independent and sovereign manner in the Western Saharan territory.
- Encourage the denunciations against the continuance of a colonial situation in various regions of the world.
- Diversify the national fora of social and academic participation which contribute to the promotion of a more comprehensive approach of Peace as a necessity for the survival of the human race.
- The delegates attending the event also agreed to express their recognition to the political and government authorities of the Guantanamo province, to the provincial branch of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples and the people of Guantanamo for their warm welcome and support extended for the successful fulfilment of the Seminar.

*Guantánamo, Cuba,
November 25th, 2015*

Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation Decades of Struggle for Peace

The Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation celebrated in April 40 years since it was legally established, on April 24, 1976.

Being 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 expression, it symbolizes, its legal establishment, only possible following the April Revolution, begun on April 25, 1974. Heir to the Peace movement, born in Portugal in the late 40s of the last century, 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 bold street initiatives.

Until April 25, saying no to fascism's colonial war imposed on the Portuguese and African people, defending peace, disarmament and solidarity meant, in all likelihood, facing fascist repression and persecution: many defenders of Peace were imprisoned and tortured and many others forced into exile. But they never ceased to make their voices heard.

Its Statutes, registered 40 years ago, defined the CPPC as a democratic and broad 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 people victims 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, against 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 and defeated 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 former Portuguese colonies.

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 occupa-

tion, 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 condemnation of the occupation of Palestine and the brutal crimes perpetrated 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 defence of democracy, 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 causes and those responsible for this scourge, among many other and important examples.

To be highlighted 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, held in the 80s, which mobilized hundreds of 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, when dozens of thousands of people from Portugal and many other countries marched against NATO, again a broad campaign in 2015 against NATO's exercises in Portugal, Italy and Spain. The recent organization of several Concerts for Peace, that involve diverse cultural and municipal entities and have the participation of hundreds of artists and were attended by thousands of people.

The CPPC takes as its own the 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 progress of mankind.

True to its history and confident in the righteousness of its principles, the CPPC reaffirms its lasting commitment: to act 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. ■

FIRST INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON “REALITY AND CHALLENGES OF THE PROCLAMATION OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AS ZONE OF PEACE”

Palacio de Convenciones, Havana, Cuba, September 21-23, 2016

Official Announcement

The Proclamation of the region of Latin America and the Caribbean as Zone of Peace, subscribed by the Heads of State and Government at the Second Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC, the Spanish acronym), held in Havana in January 2014 is a true historical milestone, since it is the most profound and politically far-reaching agreement achieved in centuries by Latin American and Caribbean countries.

The Proclamation has been possible because of the historical confluence of Heads of State and Government with political will to change in their respective countries the harmful impact of centuries of colonialism, neocolonialism and neoliberalism, and develop a brotherly cooperation in solidarity among the nations in the region, based on respect to the sovereignty and individuality of its members and on the Purposes and Principles established in the Charter of the United Nations and International Law, which is an indisputable strength in the face of the imperial policies and actions opposed to these projects.

The Proclamation extols Peace as “... supreme good and legitimate aspiration of all peoples, its preservation being a substantial element of the integration of Latin America and the Caribbean and a principle and common asset of the ... CELAC”. In accordance

with these postulates, a substantial part of its text emphasizes on the need of demilitarizing the region, one of the essential conditions for the existence of a true Zone of Peace.

In spite of the approved Proclamation, Latin America and the Caribbean are not exempt of vulnerabilities. In order to have a lasting Zone of Peace, it is necessary to eradicate the multiple problems breaking Peace in the countries of the region, as well as others derived from the policies and actions of imperialist countries.

With this first international seminar, the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples (MOVPAZ) intends to:

- Convoke the peace movements, the regional and international civil society, researchers and political leaders interested in debating global problems and their incidence in Latin America and the Caribbean, the vulnerabilities of the region and distinctive features of the countries that conform it.

- Foster a culture of sustainable peace in the region that will grant priority to the rise of the cultural level, access to public health and sports and empowerment of women, as well as eliminate the inequalities and all kinds of violence.

- Eliminate the possibility of reestablishing neoliberalism, the terrible consequences of which subsist in the region.

- Promote solidarity among the peoples and support to the democratic and revolutionary governments that foster social welfare

in their nations and regional cooperation.

- Create awareness among the international public opinion and political leaders on the real benefits of eliminating nuclear weapons and achieving general and total disarmament at world level, and on the social, economic and environmental costs derived from its maintenance.

- Reject the existence of military bases and enclaves disseminated throughout almost all countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and of the military operations of the U.S. Fleet in the seas of the region, supplied with the most modern military and nuclear technology.

- Evaluate the existence of domestic military conflicts encouraged by the extreme

Solidarity with Venezuela ... (from p. 5)

International (COSI), 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.

- To join, as we did last year, the call and declare April 19th as “GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION IN SOLIDARITY WITH VENEZUELA”.

- Convene all social movements and organizations that bring together and represent

right in the countries with financial support of imperialism, which cause thousands of deaths, wounded and mutilated among 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 global climatic change and by the pillage of natural resources.

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

the working class and working people, to demonstrate on the 1st of May their militant solidarity with Venezuela.

- Promoting in all parliaments in the world motions and actions aimed at a forceful rejection of interventionist actions against Venezuela and its legitimate right to self-determination and sovereignty.

- To denounce and reject the concerted terrorist action by a group of one Spanish and 26 Latin American former extreme right presidents, who demanded of the Organization of American States (OAS) the application of the impermissible Inter-American Charter against the will of the people of Venezuela. ■

Forwar with Strengthening ... (from p. 5)

over the skies and on the ground in Syria and Iraq is creating an explosive situation and is threatening a generalized war for the sake of geo-strategic control of energy resources, pipelines and spheres of influence, as well as violent regime change and redrawing of borders. The WPC calls upon the peace loving people of the world to be vigilant and mobilize forces in their respective countries against a new, this time, generalized war. We express our solidarity with the Syrian people who are facing the imperialist and terrorist attacks on their people.

The WPC strongly denounces the imperialist plan for a "new Middle East," which is spearheaded by the USA, the EU, and their allies in the region with a dangerous crusader mentality. The Islamic fundamentalist forces, for so many years tolerated and nurtured by the imperialists themselves, assumed a new role as armed "holy warriors" in various countries, particularly in Iraq and Syria. The project of "ISIS" is the other side of the same coin of the imperialist agenda in the region. The emergence of "ISIS" was a result of the aggressive war and occupation of Iraq by the US and its allies. The imperialist agenda is aiming at constructing spheres of influence and control of energy resources. It requires willing regimes and ignores all consequences for the peoples of the region....

The World Peace Council joyfully welcomes the raising of the Palestinian flag in front of UN headquarters, even while the inalienable right of the Palestinian people for a full membership of Palestine in the UN remains unfulfilled. We note with deep concern and rejection the escalation of violence and the increasingly brutal actions of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories.....

The WPC reaffirms its calls for an end to the occupation, the establishment of a free, independent and viable Palestinian State within the borders that existed before 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital. Likewise, we support the right for the return of the Palestinian refugees according to UN resolution 194, and demand the release of all Palestinian political prisoners from Israeli jails.

The WPC demands the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Syrian Golan Heights and the Lebanese Shebaa farms. We support the Middle East as a zone free from nuclear weapons. There cannot be double standards towards Israel, especially after the agreement with Iran on its right for peaceful use of nuclear energy. We also express our solidarity with the progressive and peace loving forces in Iran and Israel in the struggle for people's rights, democratic freedoms and social justice.

The EC strongly rejects the US "Pivot to Asia," including the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and plans to deploy 60 percent of its military in the Asian/Pacific region aimed at securing its geo-strategic interests. The WPC follows with concern the developments in the South China Sea, where the regional territorial dispute should be resolved only through dialogue between the parties concerned based on the UN Convention for the Law of Seas (UNCLOS) of 1982. We reject the provocative role of the USA, which insists on trying to interfere in the situation through its Navy and its Air Force, and through bilateral military agreements with its regional allies, particularly Japan, the government of which recently altered its defence legislation, against the will of the Japanese people, allowing it to deploy military forces and to carry out military operations abroad with the US forces. The WPC expresses its support and solidarity to brave struggle in Okinawa against the installation of a new US Military Base in Henoko.

The WPC underlines its solidarity with the Korean people for the peaceful reunifi-

cation of the Korean peninsula, and against the military manoeuvres, the establishment of a new US base on Jeju Island, and threats of US imperialists and its allies against the Korean people....

In Africa, brutal exploitation by multinational corporations continues with the full military support of the US and EU. The newly created AFRICOM and new US bases in Africa (e.g., Chad), the military interventions of France in Francophone Africa, are a part of imperialism's direct interventions in Africa. Imperialism is also fostering divisions and proxy wars there to make it easier to plunder Africa's mineral resources. The US's, EU's and NATO's interventions in Somalia and Libya have resulted in the collapse of these states, leading to local insurgencies and their spilling over into neighboring countries....

The WPC reaffirms its solidarity with the people of Western Sahara. We condemn the occupation of Western Sahara by the Kingdom of Morocco and underline our solidarity with the just struggle of the Saharawi people, for their inalienable right to self-determination under a free and democratic referendum.

The World Peace Council reaffirms, with growing alarm, its determined position for the immediate and complete abolition of all nuclear weapons, demanding an end to the logic of blackmail and first strike that threatens all humanity. The Stockholm Appeal, launched 65 years ago by the WPC, remains current.

Seventy years after the end of the World War II, and since the founding of the United Nations in 1945, the WPC has believed that the principles of the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are essential tools for the movements that are tirelessly struggling for peace among peoples, who, along with the World Peace Council, esteem the principles set forth in those documents as humanity's common goals. Therefore, it is also very important to recall the abuse of the UN's role today, its double moral standards, due to its instrumentalization by the USA and its allies for their domination over the world....

The WPC is pleased to announce the holding of its next World Assembly for November 2016 in the city of Sao Luis, Brazil, with CEBRAPAZ as the host Organization. The next Assembly of the WPC shall become the meeting point for the global peace movement, in its struggle for a world of peace and social justice, free from imperialist domination and exploitation.

The WPC and its member organizations have been in the past four years in the first line of the struggle, facing the challenges and the threats to peace against the imperialist aggressions. We call upon all peace loving people in the world to unite forces and efforts to build a strong global peace movement.... ■

The Struggle Against ... (from p. 7)

WPC, aiming in uncovering the criminal and imperialist nature of NATO throughout its history. This differentiates us also from forces which have "discovered" NATO only after 1991 and which have endorsed and supported actually NATO all the previous decades. A milestone for WPC and for the peace movement in Europe was and still is the aggression of NATO in 1999 in Yugoslavia, where some forces namely from the International Peace Bureau (IPB) but also some forces within the WPC hailed NATO's bombing in the name of the so-called ethnic cleansing of then president of Yugoslavia S. Milosevic. The WPC was proved right in its principle position and its prediction that the case of Yugoslavia will open the roads to future crimes, as it happened later in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Yemen, Syria etc.

The WPC has experience in difficult

WPC Statement on the Recent Military Exercises of USA and South Korea

The World Peace Council (WPC) expresses its vehement condemnation about the recent and ongoing heavy military exercises of the USA and South Korea under the names "Key Resolve" & "Eagle 16" around the Korean Peninsula, placing new dangers to peace and stability in the area, aiming in the escalation of the situation through pressure on the DPRKorea.

The above mentioned military exercises with more than 300.000 troops from South Korea and 27.000 troops from US side along with aircraft carrier and heavily armed warships, constitute one of the heaviest military exercise in the history of the region and are taking place at the same time of the sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council (Resolution No.2270) against DPR Korea. These sanctions are not promoting the peace in the area.

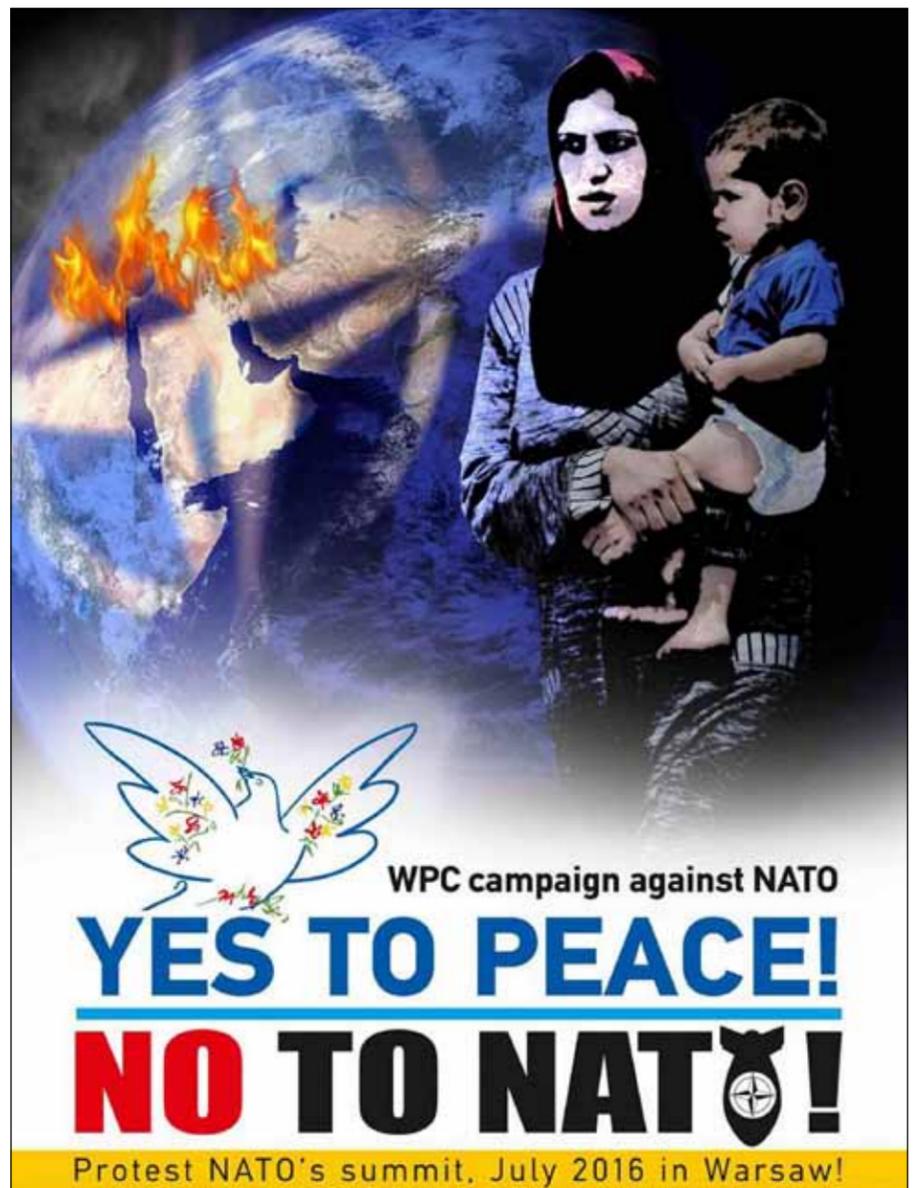
The USA and its allies in the region have never given up their plans which do not exclude a violent regime change in Pyongyang. These plans are part of the US strategy of "Pivot to Asia" and constitute war plans against a sovereign country.

The WPC historically supported the replacement of the armistice agreement between the USA and DPRKorea, by a genuine peace agreement, demanding at the same time the withdrawal of the US troops from the South Korea. We defend the right of each country and nation to defend itself from foreign threats and aggression.

The WPC supports the complete and total abolition of Nuclear Weapons and rejects the "First Strike" privilege claimed by the USA. At the same time while struggling against all Atomic & Hydrogen bombs, as well as against all weapons of mass destruction, we highlight the fact the arbitrary and hypocritical position of the USA in the region, who are the only ones who have used atomic bombs in history and who possess thousands of Nuclear heads so far.

As World Peace Council we support the peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula and express our solidarity to the Korean People, for their right to determine free from imperialist interference and hegemony their fortune.

Athens, 9th March 2016



conditions regarding similar NATO summits. In Strasbourg in 2009 we managed despite the absence of any local support or link to hold successfully a WPC conference and to participate in the rally and demonstration, despite the chaotic conditions.

Allow me here to recall the massive mobilizations against NATO during its summit in November 2010 here in Lisbon, where the CPPC Portugal along with the Trade Union Movement CGTP and many other social organizations organized with big success the biggest NATO counter-summit of the last many years (with a conference and a rally of 30.000 people). We are proud of our friends and comrades from the CPPC in Portugal for its contribution and support. The successful anti NATO events in Lisbon was also a clear respond to the forces inside Portugal who tried to split the movement and to the forces abroad (namely the International Peace Bureau-IPB) and who failed in their pacifist

approach to manipulate the actions against the WPC. This year this same IPB is holding its world congress in Berlin with Mikhail Gorbachev as special guest!!!

The WPC was present even in the Chicago summit of NATO in 2012, in conference and rally, as well as in the Wales Summit 2014, although we could not mobilize massively to these two occasions.

Heading towards the Warsaw summit in July and taking into account the further expansion to the East and the aggressiveness NATO is carrying forward in many corners, it is necessary to explore and to plan what we can realize in Warsaw in difficult conditions. Important factor in our opinion is to carry out our campaign in as many as possible countries. NATO is the enemy of all peoples and of peace in the world!

It is imperative to explore and work for the conditions to hold a WPC event in Warsaw during the NATO summit! ■