



No to NATO – No to WAR

Page 1 of 2

The European Left is convinced that in a world where more than one billion people are threatened by hunger, where millions die of poverty-related diseases, military alliances are obsolete. NATO countries spend billions on death and destruction although this money is urgently needed to fight poverty, hunger and diseases. Now NATO countries have presented a New NATO Strategy in Lisbon which further followed the path of militarization and interventionism in order to further promote neoliberal globalization.

Nuclear weapons are not an element of stability but threaten the survival of our world. Some NATO leaders are starting to talk about the aim for a nuclear free world, but as they are still retaining their right to nuclear deterrence including a nuclear first strike and are spending billions on modernising their nuclear arsenal, these words lack any substance. We demand a world free of nuclear weapons now and not in some distant future.

NATO's missile defence shield isn't designed for protection; on the contrary its purpose is to open the possibility of a first strike. The missile defence shield therefore constitutes the starting point for a new arms race.

NATO's enlargement also didn't bring peace to the European continent; on the contrary it created new tensions. Therefore it is absolutely unacceptable that NATO insists on the concept of further enlarging the alliance.

The new NATO doctrine strengthens military ties between NATO and the European Union. This further develops two military unions in Europe. We don't need the European Union as a military union, what we need is social development and strategies for peaceful and just conflict resolution.

NATO has not solved the problems of the people in Afghanistan; it hasn't brought peace but terror and growing insecurity. In its desperate effort not to admit NATO's defeat in Afghanistan, the alliance brings ever more soldiers into the country and – even more appalling – is using Afghans to fight other Afghans. No peace will be established by arming civilians. The alliance is also trying to include all civil actors in Afghanistan in its war effort – calling this strategy “comprehensive” security. NATO's “comprehensive approach” only deprives civil society of their neutrality and credibility. Thereby NATO is endangering relief workers as well as their work.

By enlarging the battlefield to include large parts of Pakistan, the US and NATO have destabilised the region even more. Warfare by means of drones and death lists are a



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Page 2 of 2

barbaric reality for the people in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Human rights and international law are once more substituted by the rule of force.

We demand the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Afghanistan and the beginning of civil cooperation with the people of Afghanistan to overcome poverty and insecurity in their war-torn country.

In the new NATO strategy climate change, migration, energy insecurity and cyber-crime are defined as threats to the alliance and therefore as a reason for military intervention. Nobody can deny the relevance of these phenomena but military measures are surely the least adequate means to meet these challenges.

Only in a world without NATO, without military alliances will it be possible to conceive of development and security as a common task. Therefore we refuse NATO's new strategy and we struggle to abolish this alliance. Our aim is a just and peaceful world without nuclear weapons.