



April 29, 2016

## **USPC Denounces Escalation of the US War in Syria**

The USPC salutes [Code Pink's prompt](http://www.codepink.org/codepink_condemns_us_troops_to_syria) and forceful condemnation of the Obama Administration's escalation of the US war in Syria. [http://www.codepink.org/codepink\\_condemns\\_us\\_troops\\_to\\_syria](http://www.codepink.org/codepink_condemns_us_troops_to_syria)

We call on our colleagues in other US antiwar organizations to do the same and to unite behind a demand for an end to the policy of "regime change" by the US and its allies, including Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Israel, and various Persian Gulf monarchies.

On April 24th the Administration announced the deployment of 250 more Special Forces "to fight ISIS" in Syria. A week earlier the Administration announced that it is sending 200 more forces into Iraq.

### **This is escalation, not withdrawal.**

We call for the restart of Geneva negotiations to end the conflict, this time good faith negotiations. There must be no more prevarication – the pretense by the US that the regime change policy is no longer operative. Obama's troop deployment shows it is still operative.

The US antiwar movement will strengthen its effectiveness if it stops the "on the one hand... on the other hand" vacillations and recognizes reality. It has become customary for US observers to cite the "complexity" of the Syrian war. The USPC believes that behind the complexity is an underlying simplicity: this war was caused by our government and its imperial ambitions in the Middle East.

Hence Washington's regime change policy: to overthrow an independent, secular Arab state and substitute a client regime, as in Iraq and Libya. We know all too well the horrendous results of those "regime change" endeavors.

The moral and political responsibility of democrats in the US is to stop the criminal US war policy. It is not to speculate about who is democratic and who is undemocratic in Syria. Objectively, no matter how well-intended, such speculations yield ideological ground to those who want to continue the war policy. It is the US war policy, which has resulted in colossal human suffering in Syria. The US war policy is the fundamental denial of democracy in this war. The future of Syria is a matter for Syrians only.

We demand that the US and its allies:

- Stop bombing Syrian economic infrastructure in the name of fighting ISIS. Stop injecting foreign fighters into Syria.
- Stop funding, organizing and arming the combatants in Syria.
- Lift all sanctions on Syria.
- Provide humanitarian aid to the Syrian people.
- Help the Syrian refugees settle wherever they want — including back in Syria.

If President Obama cares about his legacy in his remaining months in office he must reverse his present course and honor his pledges to end the US wars in the Mideast: in Syria, in Iraq, and Yemen, Afghanistan, and Libya.