Editorial

NATO is Arming Itself to Attack the Peoples of the World

Sweross Gomes
President, World Peace Council

In the last May 20 and 21, NATO, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, held its summit meeting of heads of states. Those days were accompanied by manifestations in several parts of the world. Thousands of people went to the streets in Chicago, Lisbon and Athens demanding the dismantling of which is the main imperialist war machine and repudiating his belligerent climb in the Middle East.

In statements, the member organizations of the World Peace Council (WPC) reaffirmed the requirement of the end of all foreign military bases and NATO installations worldwide.

NATO is a military offensive structure, responsible since its creation for uncountable crimes against humanity like recent aggressions against Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya; imperialism has promoted with its monstrous war machine, the deepening of international relations militarization assaulting peoples and nations, and leaving where it pass wreckers and rivers of blood with the continuous objective of extending its domain and plunder natural resources.

In a last summit in Portugal, NATO has broadened its goals, defining its area of acting all regions throughout the world and it has extended the range of false pretexts to justify its wars. It does that using corollaries like “war against terrorism”, “no proliferation” and defense of “human rights” with weak excuses to assault peoples and invade sovereign nations. It uses these arguments to justify their high military spent in quite of deep economic, financial and social crisis which the countries members of NATO are living.

We denounce that NATO maintains a huge military budget which overcomes 70% of all military spent of the planet. It happens at the cost of squeeze policies against workers, especially from the USA and Europe.

In a moment of serious economic crisis, imperialism doesn’t hesitate in use the force to take possession of new sources of strategic resources, and control routes and commercial flux. In this sense, we denounce the trying of militarization in the South Atlantic with the Fourth Fleet of USA, the installation of military bases in the continent and the presence of old English colonialism in Malvinas Island.

We denounce also the growing of manoeuvres and aggressions in the Middle East, under the provocation to Syrian and Iran.

We reaffirm that struggle for dismantling NATO will be one of the central themes in debates and actions of WPC, which will meet in World Assembly between July 20 and 23 in Catmandu, Nepal. It will be a great contribution in defense of peace, international solidarity and the right of peoples’ sovereign.

Chris Mathlato
Coordinator of the South African Peace Initiative and Member of the WPC Secretariat

Syria: The Unfolding Spectre of the Imperialist Designs in the Middle East

During the storm are gathering! There are going to be upheavals as the drumbeats of war are getting even louder as the military aggressive alliance of the U.S. and its allies edges ever closer to unleashing yet another spectre of a savage and destructive in the recent massacre in Houla. Just as in Libya, the pretexts are set and the ‘dye is cast’. The world’s major mainstream media outlets are already hinting out every possible reason to justify military intervention and are awash with whipping up emotions in preparations for the final moment of assault against the peoples of Syria and their country. There are reported stories of military build-up already on the world, Jordan-Syrian border near the villages of the north Jordan city of Al-Mafraq, reports Bodings Frogs Post. If the recent war rhetoric of Susan Rice, U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations (UN), some in the European Union (EU) and the expulsion of Syrian ambassadors are anything to go by, the ‘U.S. and its allies are prepared to circumvent the UN’, and create a repeat of the Liby situation in Syria. This much was revealed in a recent exclusive media after a UN Security Council meeting on Syria on May 30, 2012 in New York City), is reported to have said:

“Members of the international community [meaning the U.S. and its allies] are left with the option only of having to consider whether they are prepared to take actions outside of the Annan plan and the authority of this council.”

Rice did not specify what ‘actions’ she meant, but though many was clear of what the imperialists were contemplating. It must be remembered that both the U.S. and some European countries had earlier imposed their own sanctions on Syria outside the UN. So there are real fears that her words could mean unleashing the military might of the world super power, Rice said that, the worst but most probable scenario in Syria is “a failure of An-nan’s peace plan and a spreading conflict that could create a major crisis not only in Syria but also in the entire region.” She continued: “The Syrian government has made commitments. It has blatantly violated those commitments, and, I think it’s quite clear, as we have said for many weeks if they continue to do so there should be consequences.”

Rice’s comments are a disturbing reminder of what happened in 1999 when the U.S. and NATO intervened in the former Yugoslavia without a UN Security Council mandate.

This war rhetoric, it must be said, is against a backdrop of unveiled information, as to who was indeed responsible for the atrocious Houla massacre and on-going terrorists attacks against villages, which are on the increase. Indeed, this has just spurred on the military continued on page 2
Canada's Foreign Minister, Sergei Lavrov, is in Syria to help settling the conflict in the country. "Ambassador Rice is basically telling Russia and China and other members of the Security Council that if you do not go along with Western plans you will have to act on your own," said Harper, brushing aside US comments that this would lead to a full-scale civil war.

“The children don’t seem to be the principal reason for this action,” Rozoff told RT.

Meanwhile, Syria’s Ambassador to the UN, Bashar Ja‘afari, has been reported as saying that the massacre in the town of Houla was carried out by “professional terrorists” who were seeking to ignite sectarian conflict in the country. "Many Syrian innocents got killed because of these outsiders. The regime has been seeking to sow discord among the people of the country," he said.

The bloc of aggressive countries seeks to circumvent the UN Security Council by engaging the international community, is there that the international community, is there that the international community if there to help settling the conflict in Syria," Rozoff told RT.

It is also out of frustration that the opposition in the imperialist ‘war propaganda’, as well as the popular uprisings in North Africa and the Middle East came as a surprise to the West only because the situation in Egypt, Tunisia, and the Gulf States had been adequately reported, assessed, and discussed from the perspective of democratic practice and social justice, as a result of the West’s backing of dodgy and dictatorial leaders, such as Hosni Mubarak and Ben Ali.

The mainstream media falsify Syria’s death toll and its culprits. Marinella Corregia— an Italian journalist and anti-war activist— says that there are many facts that cast doubt on the claims that the Syrian government forces were behind the Houla massacre. She asserts that, first of all, the victims in the various online media of the massacre appear to have been killed at close range and not in a result of artillery strikes.

"The children don’t seem to be the victims of shelling or artillery, but of direct killing from a short distance,” she told Russia Television (RT).

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Blogger Rick Rozoff believes that the US has warned Russia and China that they will push forward military action, but that “Ambassador Rice is basically telling Russia and China and other members of the Security Council that if they do not go along with Western plans for more stringent sanctions and other actions against Syria, the US and its NATO allies reserve a right to act outside the Security Council as they did with Yugoslavia 11 years ago and launch military actions against Syria,” Rozoff told RT.

Belgian investigative journalist Michel Collon’s praxis for understanding the imperialist ‘war propaganda’, as outlined in the framework of the ‘five principles driving war propaganda’, is very illustrative, and as follows:

1. Obscure one’s economic interests;
2. Appear humanitarian in war and military efforts;
3. Obscure history;
4. Demonize the enemy; and
5. All of the above to create an information war.

These principles have been at work by the imperialist’s war propaganda in different mix in the recent period. These (different mix) have formed an important part of comprehending the significant role of major mainstream media such as CNN in Afghanistan and Iraq wars, Al Jazeera and Al-Arabiya, as an aggressive assistance, assisted in varying degrees by France24, BBC, Reuters, AFP et al. The bloc of aggressive countries threatening others, such as the US, Britain, alongside France, and now petro-gas Saudi peninsula monarchies Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait have joined the coterie. Thus the Arab League has become as instrument through which these monarchies are seeking to prevail in this crisis. For its efforts the Arab League has also been rewarded with the presidency of the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, since the 14th of September 2010.

It is against this backdrop that we can fully comprehend the principal role of the media then and now—from Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and now unwavering in Syria and Iran. The principal role of the media in this context and for the battle of ideas is increasingly becoming an important terrain of engagement globally, as alternative sources and outlets flourish, and assisted by the internet, blogs and other social media. For imperialism, the terrain is also important to win support at the home front so that the popular uprisings will be brought over to the side of the government around the notion of humanitarianism as a pretext.

Thus, on the back of the Houla massacre and Canada’s foreign policy to one that is based on peace, sovereignty and international solidarity. II
INTRODUCTION

The capitalist system, bogged into a serious crisis, finds in the increase of exploitation, in oppression and in war, the only answer to the dead end it is in. The governments of the rich states that should govern the relations among states – resulting from World War II and embodied in the United Nations Charter – is threatened by the recurrent subversion of international law and the instrumentalization of the UN, through which the US and its allies try to disguise its policy of war.

Imperialism furthers its aggressive- ness, accompanying it with a systematic and accelerating militarization. A re-in- formation campaign that seeks to “legitimize” and “whitewash” the barbarity of war – death, suffering and destruction – through the so-called “preventive war”, the so-called “right of interference” or the so-called “war on terror.”

At the same time, it boosts the arms race, the arms industry and military spending. The investment on research to produce new and more sinister weapons is significant, and the so-called non-lethal weapons, these intended mainly for internal repression – consume astronomical budgets.

In view of the neoliberal globalization and imperialism’s offensive, there is a growth in hunger, along with epidemics and disease, so often they themselves efficiently instruments of war. Fundamental rights won by the workers and the peoples after decades of struggle and national emancipation are questioned. The planet is burdened with a destructive system of production, incompatible with the inden- sible-sustainable relationship between human communities and nature.

However, as the global situation has shown in the last two years, it is in this adverse context that we are witnessing an admirable resistance and struggle by peoples-against oppression and exploita- tion, and for freedom, democracy, justice and peace, in an unequivocal proof that the future of the world will be what humanity determines.

THE SHARPENING OF CAPITALISM’S CRISIS — INCREASED THREAT TO PEACE

The past three years have confirmed the trend towards the sharpening of the crisis of the capitalist system, whose di- mension and depth prove its structural and systemic dimension, beyond the mere cyclical character of the crises that are at its root, tending to be chronic and con- firming the system’s incapacity to deal with its contradictions.

Given the consequences of the in- creasing accumulation, accumulation and private concentration of wealth, of the financialization of the economy and financial speculation – which have created an unsustainable situation for much of the international financial system – there is an ongoing process of a colossal re-arrangement of exchanges from the banks to the state budgets, from private to public.

In the European Union, the so-called “austerity measures,” which were called “auster- ity”, that the EU, ECB and IMF imposed on Ireland, Greece and Portugal, and now Spain and Italy, expressed the sharpen- ing of mechanisms of transfer of the created wealth to the banks, the control of important sectors of the economy by private interests, the intensification of exploitation of those who make their living through work and jeopardizes social advances which, if materialized, will mean a brutal degradation of the living conditions of the vast majority of the population and a widespread and violent worsening of social inequalities and injustices.

In the framework of the crisis – where we witness rivalries and contradictions between major powers and the relative economic decline of the US and the emergency of new economic powers in the world – the attempts to impose a “new world order”, hegemonized by the US and other major powers, lead to a growing instability and insecurity, with great danger to peace, freedom, democracy, sovereignty, independence and social spending in the world. It should be noted that the military budget of the NATO countries and Japan, South Korea and Australia (its allies) together represent 72% of the military spending in the world. The current worldwide military spending is estimated at around 16,000 thousand million dollars (2010 figures), representing a 50% increase compared to the recorded military spending in 2001 and around 2.5% of the world gross domestic product (SIPRI 2010 Yearbook).

In Europe, while national budgets are used to finance NATO’s military aggres- sions and other peoples – without any connection to national interests – sacrific- es are imposed on those men and women who live out of their work, pensioners, workers and young people.

War (1990-91) and the 12-year uninterrupted War (1999-2011) in Afghanistan and the so-called “Libyan” Gulf War, extended by 8 years of brutal occupation (2003-2011), the last “with- drawal” meant the permanence of yet 50 thousand US soldiers.

In North Africa and the Middle East, following the popular uprisings in sev- eral countries, beginning of 2011, as was the case of Tunisia and Egypt, were we witnessing an attempt to recover the initiative by those who have been defending the oppression and exploitation of these peoples and their wealth. In Bahrain – where there is an important US military base – the popular uprising was violently crushed with the support of invading military forces from Saudi Arabia, the Philippines and the US, target of a brutal aggression by NATO.

In Palestine continues the struggle against colonialism, building of settle- ments to illegally occupy the Palestinian people and occupation of their terri- tories by Israel – besides being the only nuclear power in the region, has been supported by the EU in its crimes – is increasingly more isolated in face of its genocidal policy and pressures for the rights of the Pal- estinian people.

Israel which maintains a policy of ag- gression against other states in the region continues to illegally occupy the Golan Heights, in Syria, the Sheba Farms, in Lebanon, in addition to the increasing threats against Iran.

In the Korean Peninsula, where for six decades the US has kept a strong mili- tary presence, they stimulate the wors- ening of tension, by not complying with the established agreements, by holding military manoeuvres and threats of ag- gression against the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, using as argument its nuclear programme.

In Africa and Latin America, with its strong tendency to re-colonise the sub-continent – respectively AFRICOM and SOUTHCOM -, the US strengthens its instruments of direct or indirect military interventions (as negated by the so-called “development assistance”). In fact, this takes place openly in Africa, where military interventions by the US and other European NATO powers mul- tiply, with or without UN cover, as in the Ivory Coast.

War, economic inequality and de- velopment in the “third world” are inextricably linked to the systematic degradation of the planet and the living conditions of most of the peoples of the world. The capitalist system, due to its need of constant accumulation, deepens its exploitation of natural resources well beyond the threshold of the Earth’s sustainability. Seeking, if necessary, by means of war, the geopolitical domination of the territories richest in resources. Be- cause Nature is not a reality foreign to the condition of human society, the struggle for access to the natural resources and resources is, in fact, the struggle against imperialism, also responsible for the unbridled and unsustainable exploitation of natural resources.

NATO: THE MOST SERIOUS AND SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO SECURITY AND PEACE

NATO – in its summit held in Lisbon, on November 19 and 20, 2010 – adopted a strategic concept that aims nothing but...
Regional Report on the Middle East
Larnaca, Cyprus 
April 6, 2012

The Time of the Peoples

What humanity is experiencing today and in what global society do we live?
Today’s society is characterized by the exploitation of surplus labor of billions, for the appropriation of Profit Production for the few. The increasing accumulation and centralization of wealth naturally led to the current economic crisis, with tragic consequences especially for the workers all over the world. A crisis that is indisputably a systemic one.

Today’s globalized society is characterized by severe discrimination against immigrants, growing nationalisms - chauvinisms and “euro-centrism”. There is also an unprecedented attack on the right to care and of course on the right to education, through the reduction of General Education and intense commercialization. At the same time drug use is rapidly increasing even among children who are at the pre-school stage.

Another feature of today’s society is the complete removal of the social function of science, through strict control and direction based on the interests of capital and imperialist organizations like NATO.

At the same time, the environment is, directly or indirectly, destroyed not only by their expansionist wars, but also by business planning and action, so that the ecosystem as we know it is threatened as ever before.

They try to destroy this social democratic global society and perpetuate the ravens of NATO, EU, IMF, banking behemoths, WTO and other imperialist agencies. The preservation of such a society is undermining peace. Peace does not mean simply that there are no wars, but it means having the right to some food on the plate, a bottle of milk, clean water, basic education and health. Peace means to maintain an environment that preserves human existence and not an environment that applies qualitative and quantitative limits to the human life.

Within this framework, there arises the need of the peoples to struggle, since they are the target of the imperialist oligarchy, while at the same time there comes also the time to respond and fight back. In order to give a powerful answer, the struggle needs both to be massive and well-organized and targeted.

An important and crucial role in the anti-imperialist struggle of the people plays the World Peace Council. The WPC has a heroic past and a rich history that forms the basis for future struggles. The WPC, at this stage of the titanic struggle, continues with anti-imperialist rallies, demonstrations, collecting signatures, submitting of international resolutions, international conferences and other events. In this struggle, special importance is given to the fraternal relationship and closed cooperation of WPC with the global mass-oriented Worker’s movement, the World Federation of Progressive Women and the World Federation of Democratic Youth.

During this period WPC is marching toward the next Regular Congress to hold in Kathmandu, Nepal, this coming July. We deem this WPC Assembly as a crucial crossroad for the development of the global anti-imperialist movement and the effectiveness of our struggle. The Cyprus Peace Council believes that through this whole Assembly process the struggle of peoples for peace and life, against imperialism is strengthened.

It is not enough at all to say yes to peace, we need to fight intensively against Imperialism - the enemy of Peace. We cannot stop them unless we come into direct conflict with them and we cannot win unless we manage to subvert them.

Those who are on the wrong side of this conflict will not win. Those who are looking for compromise will not see the victory of the peoples a utopia, do not only lack knowledge of history, but, directly or indirectly, call people to submission.

Long live the anti-imperialist struggle of the peoples! 
Christos Kourtellaris
General Secretary, Cyprus Peace Council
We believe that the anti-imperialist peace forces, the forces which struggle within the framework of the WPC's serious obligation to study, analyze the developments in international relations and also inform the working class and amongst them the best possible tools in the struggle against the exploitative system and imperialism thus assisting the intervention and the popular strata. 

From this point of view, the developments in the region of Middle East, Northern Africa, Persian Gulf, Eastern Mediterranean and the Balkans which form as we are in a crucial period when a very dangerous situation is being created in the wider region that might possibly lead to general military conflicts, a period when imperialist aggressiveness is being strengthened and the inter-imperialist rivalries are being intensified by the major imperialist wars that we experienced in Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya. We are in a deep synchronized capitalist crisis of over-accumulated capital which seeks ways to be utilized and is characterized by the growing aggressive ness of imperialism in order to distract from the destabilization and overthrow of the government, aims at the creation of conditions to attack Iran, under the pretext of its support of terrorism. At the same time, Turkey's threats against Cyprus are intensifying, the relations between Turkey and Israel are sharpening and Israel's aggressiveness against the Palestinian people, Lebanon and Egypt is being reinforced. The competition over the distribution of the loot has succeeded the war in Libya and plans are being proposed for the division of the country with the semi-autonomy of the so-called Cyrenaica region. 

We are in the conditions of imperialism which have reactionary positions. Furthermore, the previous period was marked by a series of developments in Northern Africa. It is indubitable that in these countries and particularly in Egypt and Tunisia working class and popular struggles developed, so that the people rose up, particularly the middle strata and the youth against poverty, unemployment and the imperialist loot. The situation which had been imposed by the regimes of Mubarak and Ben Ali whose parties participated in the Socialist International, as well as the former Greek Prime Minister, Papandreou, 

The support for the people's struggle does not impede us from interpreting the developments as a result of the combination of internal and external factors, with the internal factors being the most significant. Sections of the bourgeoisie have participated and still participate in the process of changes in order to modernize the economic basis, to liberate branches and sectors of the economy that are still under the control of the state as well as to adapt the political system to a bourgeois parliamentary model so that it corresponds to the imperatives of the development of the capitalist economy. 

This assessment does not underestimate the role of the USA, which has participated on the basis of the determination of the capital, the internationalization of capital, to the development of the capitalist economy. 

We do not accept the term revolution, which has come to mean the change of the social class in power. We do not support every political solution for the course of the developments in their particularities, which do not exclude the so-called "political Islam" as in the case of Turkey.

We do not accept the term revolution, since it is a deeper concept referring to a change of the social relations. 

The anti-imperialist movement should take a critical stance towards terms like "the Arab spring." In our opinion, this position has been confirmed by life and developments, namely by the anti-people orientation of the policy of the Tunisian and Egyptian military government as well as the unconciliation of the process of bourgeois modernization, devising transitional political solutions, which do not exclude the so-called "political Islam" as in the case of Turkey.

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against Imperialist wars and exploitation

World Peace Council
let’s strengthen the peoples’ struggle for peace

Kathmandu, Nepal
July 20-23, 2012

Peace, an ever present and pressing cause!

In view of the serious dangers and the great and demanding issues facing humanity, equally high and significant in their nature and extent, and against the background of increasing imperialist interventions and destructive wars (solidarity with the resistance against aggression and occupation, against foreign interference, blackmail, blockades or threats of military intervention, supporting the struggle of the peoples in their inalienable right to self-determination, sovereignty, freedom, healthy environment and a balanced relationship with nature, freedom, democracy, justice, economic development, to have the necessary material conditions for a dignified and stable life.

To achieve these main lines of intervention, we appeal for a strengthening of the peace movement in the world, and the congregation of efforts within the World Peace Council, sharing ideas and proposals, coordinating actions, assuming collective responsibilities, contributing according to the possibilities and responsibilities for the development of a stable and just relationship between the human communities and nature, respecting the rights and aspirations of all the peoples of the world.

The aspirations and right of the peoples to peace embody the achievement and materialization of the rights to well-living, food, water, healthcare, housing, education, work, culture, leisure and health, democracy, independence, and a balanced relationship with nature, freedom, democracy, justice, economic development, to have the necessary material conditions for a dignified and stable life.

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Syria: The Unfolding Spectre ... (from p. 2)

One of the videos on YouTube in Spanish says, ‘Assad bands killed children in Hula’, but in fact shows images of children in horses that the Arab News Agency and Al Jazeera have said were killed by armed groups of the opposition in other villages.

It is important to note that the head of UN observer mission in Syria, General Robert Mood, has not attributed blame in the Houla massacre yet, though the U.S. and Spain have already blamed the Assad regime. Ironically, massacres have happened on every day of every international event or meeting, such right before the Security Council met in Damascus in Homs, during Kofi Annan’s visits and after military defeats of the opposition.

Corregia continues: “as we can see, the numbers of deaths are not actually a number, without specifying who killed whom”. But see how few days later Reuters reported the deaths: “The United Nations says at least 9,000 people have been killed in Syria’s upheaval over the past year”. Al Jazeera’s correspondent Robert Serry told the Security Council Syria authorities blame foreign-backed terrorists for the violence and say 3,000 soldiers and police have been killed. AP wrote: “Just two weeks ago, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon raised the toll in Syria to well over 8,000. Meanwhile, in the other side of the debate, the U.N. Middle East coordinator Robert Serry said violence in Syria continued unabated and that credible estimates now put the total number of deaths from the crisis well above 9,000.”

So, the total death toll is put on Assad shoulders only. Again on April 20th, Reuters repeats keeping the same. Reuters gives various words also to the Syrian government figures: “Syria told the world body this week that 6,044 had died, including 2,366 soldiers and police.” Note: Reuters also adds: “Syria’s figures (1) do not specify whom the Syrian government blames for that (in this way, it cannot be a figure of the number of non-military death, Syrian governments agree it is responsible); (2) the total figure given is 6,044,”

Hundreds of thousands of permanent representative of Syria to the UN, wrote a letter to UN Security Council President, copied to Secretary General. The letter contains in the text details and figures: ...


In the overall propaganda, anyway, some details do not appear. For example, quoted Moussa Ahmed, a former producer for Al Jazeera’s Beirut Bureau, as saying that Al Jazeera fabricates stories on the basis of what the news services are actually different with the reports.”

This is the unfolding spectre of the imperialist designs in the Middle East in general and in Syria in particular, in a scenario successfully targeting in an attempt to subdue and bring in line these regimes, as part of a broader agenda to contain the growth of Syrian people onto their side and support their course of regime change in Syria. This has led more and more to brutal and ending violence for which the Houla massacre and others are common place. Ordinary people in Syria have been caught in the crossfire as the authorities and the insurgents keep repeating the same. Reuters itself wrote: “The United Nations said violence in Syria continued unabated for the past year, UN Middle East envoy Robert Mood, has not attributed blame in the Houla massacre yet, though the U.S. (and Europe) says, ‘Assad bands killed children in Hula’, but in fact shows images of children in horses that the Arab News Agency and Al Jazeera have said were killed by armed groups of the opposition in other villages.”

The outcomes of the imperialist war on Muammar Gaddafi’s Libya have emboldened them and are already assisting the fullsteam ahead with their geo-strategic designs to unsettle Syria and Iran. Much of the West’s mainstream media have rallied with the People’s Republic of China and Russia’s veto in the Security Council to be linked to interests of the two main actors who believe in the importance and compliance to humanitarian rights.

That Russia has a contract of weapons with Syria has become a point of raling issue with the People’s Republic of China and Russia’s veto in the Security Council to be linked to interests of the two main actors who believe in the importance and compliance to humanitarian rights.

It is clear that the war on Syria is an imperialist war. Progressives the world over must oppose this war and mobilize the widest possible forces against it. The world wide anti-imperialist movements spells devastation for the majority of ordinary people in Syria and the region. Despite the huge media misinformation, the mainstream media and all public outlets and tired lines, who have taken sides in the debacle, we — peace-loving people— are preparing the lies and distortions and mobilise for genuine world peace and respect for international law and multilateralism. We must also applaud the real peace plan adopted by South African government in this regard.

Corregia has been illustrative in pointing out these distortions and falsification by the mainstream media in cases of Libya and now Syria. As a journalist she has written extensively and followed diligently the details entailed in journalist reporting on imperialist wars. She notes that the mainstream media are factual with the UN words in respect of the death toll in Syria. The UN, she noted, “does not possess the truth and speaks only on the basis of UK, about whom... (but many times uses as a source only the Syrian opposition)”

Corregia noted on the 27th March 2012 that Reuters itself wrote: “The United Nations estimates more than 9,000 people have been killed in Syria’s upheaval over the past year. ""Syria’s figures (1) do not specify whom the Syrian government blames for that (in this way, it cannot be a figure of the number of non-military death, Syrian governments agree it is responsible); (2) the total figure given is 6,044,”

In fact, Vijay Prashad in a recent article notes: “In the period of the 2003 passing of the harsh Syrian Accountability and revolving door law (SAA), U.S. diplomats then sought to lure Syria to support the ‘U.S. govt. views’ in the Middle East. US State Department chief Condoleezza Rice and other officials clearly showed in the Syrian situation that the US would use any and every means to impose their will in the region, hence, the interés of the imperialist powers. The current incumbent President Bashar al-Assad as a demon, whilst propping up the so-called Syrian opposition. This has emboldened them and they are now moving around the region.”

Vijay Prashad is currently an editor at WWP’s political journal, a long-time observer of Syria, and long-time critic of Washington’s imperialist war on Syria. Yet, he is still part of the international pro-imperialist mainstream. His recent article “Setting the record straight on the imperialist war on Syria” published in In Between, a political journal is no different...”

Arabic language surrounded...
By: Israilis Tsiveridis
Executive Secretary, WPC

"Humanitarian Imperialism or How the 1% Enlists the Military and NATO to Enrich Itself

Dear friends and comrades,

Allow me to thank the US Peace Council for the invitation to be here with you in Chicago, a city which marked the history of the workers’ movement in the history. We salute the millions of peace loving people in the USA who have organized and pressed for the withdrawal of the US and NATO and which was dissolved in 1991.

NATO was friendly related to all bloody and imperialist plans of the imperialist revolution military movements in the world, its governments, and leaders were rolling red carpets to Israeli leaders and NATO member states were behind coups de’ etat and military dictatorships in Latin America and Europe.

Since 1991, the Balkans and the Mediterranean world faced the further growing of the aggressiveness of imperialism and of NATO, with its military stances in Afghanistan, Bosnia and former Yugoslavia which culminated in the 73-days bombing of 1999. This was the first time NATO used military intervention, which was approved at its summit of Washington celebrating then its 50th anniversary.

In the midst of the global economic crisis of 2008, billions and millions of new people are getting impoverished even in the EU, the profits of the war industries are well off. Yearly the total military expenses reached the record high of 1.54 trillion US$, the half of it was spent by the USA alone. The whatsoever military budget adjustments in some of the NATO member states, especially not under occupation.

We demand to stop all kind of foreign interference in the domestic affairs of Syria and denounce the hypocrisy of the imperialists towards the Syrian people. The WPC expresses its support to the people’s genuine demands, the democratic social and economic changes in Syria and their desire for peace and stability. The desire and aspirations of the Syrian people have nothing to do with the armed mercenary groups sponsored, trained and instructed by Turkey, Qatar, or Saudi Arabia, who are pushing Syria into a civil war.

The WPC expresses its solidarity to the Syrian people, which is leading to the suffering of the people. We saw the situation on the ground during our recent visit to Syria. The people in Syria might be critical to many things in the political system and in comparison to the previous ones. Life has proved that the Obama administration has not changed the slightest its imperialist policy and attitude, not towards the Arab peoples, but monopolies and their drive for more and more profits and not towards its people and the peoples of the world, against aggression of the USA, France, the UK and NATO against Libya in 2011, this bloody massacre of the Libyan people is not over, it is still going on, and the respective violent regime change, is absolute comparable with what the previous administrations did. NATO’s massacre in Afghanistan and Iraq (G.W. Bush). It is obvious that nothing has changed, on the contrary, the US administration is leading and for sure they have social-economic complaints and demands, but in no way do they accept foreign interference or military invasion to their country. The Syrian people don’t want another Libya, where after the NATO massacre last year, the country has been split off in parts and the tribes are killing each other.

And who has the moral and courage to teach and export democracy to Syria by the US administration in the Gulf? Nobody or in the NATO all this period about the Syrian invasion to Bahrain? Who is also behind the Arab movement to build democratic states, is it maybe the Greek government who have by the way participated in all previous aggressions with the US and NATO against the Syrian people. It is about “better value for money” so that the war machinery can be more efficient in order to persuade its “smart defence.”

Speech by Thanassis Pafilis ... (from p. 5)