



NATO GAME OVER

International Direct Action

NATO HQ, Brussels, 1 April 2012

NATO, the world's biggest war machine, has evolved from a defensive to an aggressive alliance.

NATO adds fuel to the fire. Under the pretext of 'Responsibility to Protect', NATO attacked Libya to force a profitable regime change. This intervention escalated the conflict and caused thousands of casualties. The arms industry applauds. NATO's intervention in Afghanistan leaves the country in tatters and on the brink of a civil war. Thousands have been killed. After a long-drawn-out war, the alliance reduces troop levels but plans for continued military presence, although military leaders admit that they have reached no tangible results so far.

While hopes are high for nuclear disarmament, NATO still deploys nuclear weapons in five European countries, jeopardizing disarmament processes and encouraging other countries to arm themselves. In times of austerity and drastic cuts to social spending, NATO members invest millions in missile defense and military power against imaginary threats.

A select club of 28 well-off countries intervening worldwide to protect their own interests, in the possession of nuclear weapons and ready to use them first, form a threat to world peace.

Why an action day on 1 April 2012?

From 15 till 22 May 2012, the next NATO Summit will be held in Chicago. High on the agenda will be NATO's role as an instrument for military intervention all over the world, and the outcome of the Deterrence and Defence Posture Review (DDPR) currently being conducted within the Alliance - defining the role of NATO's nuclear weapons.

A unified European action is needed well in advance, as a strong signal to our European governments. They should give clear instructions to their NATO ambassadors and other representatives before they leave for Chicago:

- NATO's tactical nuclear weapons in Europe are anachronistic, useless, illegal according to International Humanitarian Law, and counterproductive to the non-proliferation process.
- Military threats and interventions aggravate conflicts rather than resolve them.

To give this signal, Vredesactie will organize a non-violent direct action day at the NATO headquarters in Brussels.

Our approach:

- Humanitarian interventions are supposed to put an end to violent conflicts endangering the lives of civilians.
- NATO chooses for military interventions, which block peaceful solutions and result in a hopeless chain reaction of ever more violence and victims.
- We have the Responsibility to Protect civilians from NATO's military interventions.
- Therefore we will execute a genuine humanitarian intervention benefitting all mankind - by stopping NATO.



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On the Belgian national level, starting in January, these international action days will be preceded by a build-up of small non-violent direct actions and other strategies to stimulate the public debate questioning NATO's legitimacy.

Programme

Friday, 30 March

Arrival, installation of and welcome to international participants

Saturday, 31 March

Non-Violent Direct Action Trainings

Sunday, 1 April

Briefings for all participants in both actions of civil disobedience and other actions

Non-violent direct action day: humanitarian intervention to stop war preparations at NATO headquarters in Brussels

- action of civil disobedience
- symbolic actions outside the NATO zone

Monday, 2 April

De-briefing, evaluation, meeting(s)

Registration

Attention: all participants in the actions on 1 April are expected to join in the preparatory trainings on Saturday 31 March and in the briefings preceding the actions on Sunday 1 April. Others present at the spot will not be considered participants in the actions organized by Vredesactie / Action Pour La Paix.

Please let us know if you are coming by filling in the basic form at the bottom of this page (<http://www.vredesactie.be/dossier.php?id=117>), to help us prepare a well organized international meeting. If you want us to provide accomodation for you, your registration should reach us before 16 March. We will mail all further information to people who have registered.

Once you have registered, you will be contacted for further details (food & language preferences, lodging, activities on Monday 2 April ...).