



To groups and organizations preparing nonviolent actions around the NATO Summit in Chicago 2012

After more than 60 years of existence, NATO is increasingly an obstacle to achieving a just and peaceful world. Created during the Cold War, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization was supposedly a common "defensive" pact, with a mandate covering only the area of the member nations. However since the end of the Cold War, NATO has reinvented itself as a tool for military action against almost anything anywhere in the world by an "international community" consisting mostly of the NATO member nations, thus bypassing or co-opting the United Nations and the system of international law, accelerating militarization, and escalating arms expenditure. The struggle against NATO is an international struggle.

Since 2008 the international network No to War – No to NATO, consisting of groups and organizations from a wide political spectrum in many countries, has been working in opposition to NATO, to NATO's war in Afghanistan, and to NATO's increasingly aggressive global role. More than 300 groups and organizations from all continents engage in the network.

We, the members of the International Coordinating Committee of the No to War - No to NATO network, are writing to you to extend our solidarity as you prepare events to protest the agenda of the NATO/G8 summits that will be held in Chicago May 19 - 21, 2012. We are interested in working with all groups and organizations that are preparing nonviolent actions around the NATO summit in Chicago 2012. We believe we can offer substantial expertise on NATO and Peace-and-War-issues from different international perspectives. We are writing this letter to open up discussions with you regarding whether and how we might work together.

The members and organizations of the No to War - No to NATO network are committed to using only nonviolent means in our activities against NATO: demonstrations, civil disobedience and nonviolent direct action, conferences, education, and other activities. Our struggle against NATO is part of a worldwide nonviolent movement for a more just and peaceful world.

We reject military responses to global and regional crises: these are part of the problem, not part of the solution. We reject all attacks on international law and the sidelining of the United Nations. We refuse to live under the terror of nuclear weapons, and we reject a new arms race. We demand a drastic decrease of military expenditures, the elimination of all nuclear weapons and of all military structures used for war and military intervention, and the closing of all foreign military bases. Resources must instead be directed to meet human needs. We must work towards democratization and demilitarization of the relations between peoples, for conflict resolution and common security,



and to establish new forms of peaceful cooperation to build a more secure and just world. We call for the abolition of NATO: it should be dissolved and dismantled.

In Strasbourg in 2009 and in Lisbon in 2010 we conducted counter NATO actions. In conjunction with the 60th anniversary summit of NATO in Strasbourg in April 2009, we organized an international counter NATO summit conference with more than 800 participants, a demonstration with more than 30,000 participants, as well as colorful, nonviolent, highly visible actions of civil disobedience. All three actions received broad international media coverage and made our criticisms of NATO known around the world. In November 2010 in Lisbon, we held a counter NATO summit with 200 participants that we offered per live-stream on the Internet; we also conducted colorful and nonviolent actions of civil disobedience and actively participated in organizing a nonviolent demonstration with more than 30,000 participants.

In May 2010 we took part, together with others, in the NPT Review Conference in New York, focusing on the issue of NATO and its nuclear weapons. In December 2011 we co-organized the international conference “For a Self-determined Afghanistan” in Bonn, Germany with more than 400 participants in conjunction with the protest against the Petersberg II Bonn summit on the future of Afghanistan, and we were able to bring international expertise and perspectives both to the discussions and to the protest.

In addition to conducting actions in conjunction with NATO summits or NATO-related events, No to War – No to NATO issues statements rejecting war and the military as a means of conflict resolution in current crises, for example, the war against Libya (see attachment). No to War – No to NATO calls instead for coordinated international actions against war and in support of peace and global justice. In the course of its work, the No to War – No to NATO network formed the International Afghanistan Network and the No to War – No to NATO Women’s Network.

The decisions that will be taken in Chicago at the NATO/G8 summits will have an impact on people all over the world, whether they are citizens of the member nations of NATO and G8 or citizens of the nations threatened by NATO's military attacks and G8's destructive policies. The growing worldwide movement against NATO views the preparations you are making for the Chicago Summits as an extremely important next step in building a world movement against NATO and G-8. We look forward to exploring with you how we might work together.

If you are interested opening discussions with the international NO to NATO network, please contact: kongress@ialana.de



The International Coordinating Committee No to War – No to NATO (ICC)

Berlin, February 2012

The ICC consists of individuals representing groups or organizations of the network No to War – No to NATO. It meets regularly in person and on conference calls. The meetings of the ICC are open meetings.

Currently the ICC consists of:

Reiner Braun (IALANA, Germany), Claire Chastain (Collectif national unitaire OTAN-Afghanistan, France), Petros Constantinou (Stop the War, Greece), Ludo De Brabander (Vrede, Belgium), Arielle Denis (Mouvement de la Paix, France), Joseph Gerson (American Friends Service Committee, USA), Jana Glivická (No Bases Network, Czech Republic), Luis Gutierrez-Esparza (Latin American Circle of International Studies, Mexico), Kate Hudson (Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, UK), Hans Lammerant (vredesactie, Belgium), Judith Leblanc (Peace Action, USA), Vitor Lima (PAGAN, Portugal), Kevin Martin (Peace Action, USA), Annie McStravick (Collectif national unitaire OTAN-Afghanistan, France), Agneta Norberg (Swedish Peace Council, Sweden), Tobias Pflüger (Informationsstelle Militarisation, Germany), Claudine Polet (Comité Surveillance OTAN, Belgium), Elsa Rassbach (Code Pink, USA), John Rees (Stop the War, UK), Ricardo Robles (Portugal), Andreas Speck (War Resisters International), Michael Youlton (Campaign for a Social Europe, Ireland)

Annexure:

Statement on UN Resolution 1325

Statement on Libya

Stuttgart Appeal

Lisbon Statement of the ICC