

# Minutes ICC Meeting No to War – No to NATO

Quaker House, New York, May 9<sup>th</sup> 2010

Participants: Reiner Braun, Colin Archer, Paul Martin, Joseph Gerson, Christiane Reymann, Elsa Rassbach, Kristine Karch, Claire Chastain, Lucas Wirl

Minute Taker: Lucas Wirl

## 1. Introductions

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- The ICC approves the minutes of the last meeting in Lisboa
- Reiner Braun informs on actions in London against the Afghanistan Summit and the ICC events( workshop and side event) around the NPT, a meeting with Lothar Bisky (EL) about actions Georgia and Lisboa (and talks on how NATO strategy implements EU politics after Lisbon Treaty), the work shop at ESF on NATO strategy and peace in Caucasus region

## 2. Reports from different countries

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- Reiner
  - informs on a conference with developing aid organizations in Berlin in October
  - reports about the German actions around the Afghanistan Conference in February
- Claire
  - Informs on how the French peace movement the linked the themes of the Afghanistan war with NATO
  - Informs on demonstration around London conference in Paris, on the international day of action on June 5<sup>th</sup> with a conference on Afghanistan in France (The French peace movement is also thinking about either doing a demonstration or a gathering with visual elements on the international day of action)
  - Legal team of Strasbourg will produce a book with testimonies of the events
- Joseph
  - Informed about the good workshops on Afghanistan at the NGO conference
  - Points to an article by Richard Rosecrance in the current Foreign Affairs issue <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/66225/richard-rosecrance/bigger-is-better>

## General Discussion / Points of discussion

- Analysis of the meeting of foreign ministers of NATO
  - NATO wants nukes in Europe, reduction only if Russia negotiates on their tactical nukes
  - Clinton and Rasmussen vs the 5 NATO member states who call for a withdrawal of US nukes from Europe
  - Evaluation: A conflict between NATO and EU might arise around the question on who should intervene on behalf of the “First World” (the militarization of EU is not well perceived in NATO)

- Will there be a new strategy in November? The strategy debate might need more time; too little common ground
- Conclusions: NATO and EU strategies have to be analyzed more intense
  - Our EU and NATO discussions will have to involve an analysis of the coalition of the willing (multilateral agreements between US and others) as another form of waging war
- Legitimacy and / or legal status of wars of NATO; UN and NATO are often confused and UN is accepting NATO's role: UN empowers NATO to engage in war
  - UN mandate of 2001 was very specific and did not empower NATO (enduring freedom was illegal from the beginning), only in 2005, UN gave a mandate to NATO:
  - Conclusion: Education: the UN mandate for Afghanistan has to be explained
  - How can we push the negotiations and bring this in society's mind and break with the arguments to stay in the country and not withdrawl (humanitarian aid, women's right)
- Outlook: If there is a negotiated settlement in Afghanistan, to which degree will US and NATO stay in Central Asia? Will the US send more troops to Pakistan?

3.

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- Common paper on Afghanistan (Joseph will revise the draft statement until early June)
  - Should include:
    - Negotiations and cease fires, withdrawl in the regions, new UN mandate: UN troops in with help from the neighbouring country / regional arrangement
    - Legislative demands: stop financing, shift to civilian aid
    - General and long
  - Every organization can add their content to the rudimentary statement
- Suggestion to make the French conference mentioned by Claire an international one: i.e. via video broadcast on www and international speakers
- Day of action: October 7-10
  - Call for Broad range of events, visible
  - video of the left parliamentarians for Kunduz
- the Webpage notowar.org should be worked on (Lucas and Reiner will do it)
- role out int day of action on Afgh on USSF and ESF, coordinate this internationally
  - ESF actions: demo before main entrance, give dead Afghans a name
  - Exchange info about which Europeans will come to USSF and vice versa exchange communicate
- Spread the international day of action: email information
- Signatories of paper by national groups, set up a deadline for signature

5. Platform paper

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- Should be finished the latest by September 1<sup>st</sup>
- Reiner and Lucas will work in the changes and send it out again for revision

## 6. Portugal

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- Reiner informs about the situation in Portugal
  - Rivalry between: PCP, Blokko → common work is difficult
  - PCP interested in demonstration
  - Blokko interested in conference
- Proposal: organize conference with blokko, organize demonstration with PCP (or at least offer PCP to participate as international delegation in the demonstration)
  - ICC should be co-organizer of both events
  - Everybody, especially the French, is asked to use their contacts to get the ICC engaged with both parties and to maybe bring Blokko and PCP together under the umbrella of ICC
    - Claire will arrange meeting with Portuguese groups within the next 5 weeks
- Reiner informs further activities in Portugal: youth camp and actions of civil disobedience
  - The ICC should be closely connected to the youth camp and should offer events at the camp
- Brainstorming for the counter summit in Portugal
  - Contentual blocks of the summit
    - Discussion strategy
      - Nuclear / military intervention
    - Military spending
    - Militarization and social crisis
      - Is society solving their economic crisis via war, will we have a WWII
      - Crisis and opportunities
      - Crisis of the whole planet, competition among states about resources, environmental aspect should be included
      - Solidarity
      - Redefining (national) security: new international security system including no nukes, environment, social, and other aspects of society
        - Crisis of civilization
      - Change of system is not enough: Consume patterns, lifestyle, personal behaviour (factor five → <http://www.makingitmagazine.net/?p=152> )
      - Cumulative effects of militarism (involving militarism in a humanitarian act, i.e. Haiti)
      - Bases (either with or separate nukes in Europe)
      - The world has changed and is getting more complex: there are no references: we want a multilateral world
      - Multipolarism vs multilateralism
      - China should be involved
      - Work along the line of NATO strategies: military answer to crisis
      - Migration (economic problems, political answers), labour
      - conversion from military to civil

- thoughts about speakers for the counter summit
  - representatives from africa, latin america (alba process) → international event reaching out to other continents
  - dynamic educational union workers
  - Noam Chomski
  - Michael Klare
  - Bill Fletcher
  - Loretta Neapolitani
  - Vize President Bolivia
  - CWA Union
  - Tariq Ali
  - Try to avoid a palestine speaker in the plenary
  - Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker
  - Malalai Joja
  - Peace Jirga
  - Sami Amin (Right livelyhood award)
  - Lawyer / humanitarian worker in Italy (migration)
  - Immigrant workers
  - Elmar Altvater
  - Jodi Williams
  - Portuguese Writer (literaturnobelpreis)
  - Macguire (Ireland )
  - Daniela Mitterand
  - Jimmy Carter (status of world, new world outlook)
  - Engage critial officers from different countries in a public event
  - Michael Moore

## 7. Tbilissi 2011

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- Conference on “Peace in Caucasus and role of NATO in Caucasus”
- Informs about Rosa Luxemburg foundation and its sponsoring for next year
- MEP and parliamentarians of countries are support; delegations of all countries should come, proposals / input for conference is welcome
- Pre-event / workshop at ESF

## 8. Structural

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- Will another US person of a bigger organization join the ICC?
- US persons should use contacts to Canada

Lucas Wirl wrote the minutes on May 19<sup>th</sup> 2010.

For suggestions, changes, and corrections please contact: [lucatio\[a\]gmx.net](mailto:lucatio[a]gmx.net)