Intercontinental Conference
*Peace, Disarmament and Social Alternatives to Global NATO*

Conferencia Intercontinental
*Paz, Desarme y Alternativas Sociales ante la Otan Global*

**Dates:** December 13th and 14th, 2012

**Venue/Lugar:**
Palacio del Congreso Nacional
Hipólito Yrigoyen 1835,
Buenos Aires, Argentina

**Organizers/Organizadores**

Permanent Assembly for Human Rights, Argentina

Círculo Latinoamericano de Estudios Internacionales (México)

Latin American Circle of International Studies (Mexico)

International Network / Red internacional
The International Network No to War-No to NATO, together with the Latin American Circle of International Studies (Mexico) and the Argentinian Permanent Assembly for Human Rights (Argentina), is organizing an Inter-Continental Conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina from December 13th to 14th 2012, focused on the global policies and strategies of NATO and their implications for the Global South, especially in Latin America, and the political, social and human alternatives that the Global South offers for peace, security, and the environment.

NATO has never been a source of peace and security, and it is increasingly obvious that this dinosaur exists to preserve the economic and strategic interests of the Western powers, especially the USA. It undermines the UN-system, is undemocratic, aggressive, and perpetuates an out dated and unjust international order that should no longer prevail.

NATO knows it is stuck in a deep crisis of legitimacy, as it attempts to justify itself in order to rationalize its existence. With its new strategic concept adopted in Lisbon, Portugal, in 2010, the alliance has expanded the range of its missions and the geographic regions in which it intervenes. In doing so it blatantly violates International Law as enshrined in the UN Charter. It is also establishing "partnerships" with countries and international bodies to reinforce its global domination strategies. And, although nuclear weapons pose the most dangerous threat in human history, and nearly all the world's nations are engaged in an official process for a multilateral disarmament through the NPT, NATO insists on relying on its nuclear arsenals as it pursues "deterrence".

NATO's globalization has consequences in Latin America, and very direct repercussions as a result of the US military presence in the South. The Washington Treaty clearly states that all military bases belonging to one NATO Member State can be used in the framework of NATO missions. This means that the US military facilities across Latin America are potential NATO bases, even though they do not officially display the NATO insignia. US and EU driven neoliberal and neocolonialist interventions in the Global South impact Latin American societies, economies and politics, accelerating violence – especially against women –, drug trafficking, arms smuggling, internal migration, and militarization of the region. The women are always a prime target of all types of Human Rights violations; it is blatant in Latin America. These will be discussed and analyzed during the Inter-Continental Conference with the participation of Europeans, Latin Americans and North Americans (from the USA and Canada).

There is another reality, an encouraging and inspiring one that deserves and monitored and nurtured needs: Civil society in Latin America has been taking clear stances and innovative participatory democracy actions. The women are strategic actors in the creation and elaboration of the innovative progressive political, societal, environmental alternatives, especially in Latin America. There are many alternatives in the Latin American society today, ways of living with more solidarity, and in a peaceful relationship with Nature, based primarily on the Indigenous People's ancestral ties to land. Addressing environmental issues from this perspective is important to the region's peace-building. For the Global North, these approaches provide concrete alternatives that can inspire and serve as models.

On the regional level, the conference will focus on the political alternatives, especially regional integration, rising powers like the most recent CELAC, ALBA, and UNASUR, as they represent alternate forms of political and economic links and structures, based on solidarity, and making human needs the priority. They show a totally new conception of regional peace and security structures, of the international relations based on real cooperation, equity, mutual respect, and multilateralism.

The gender aspect is an important issue of the conference and a transversal topic of all the panels and debates on the conference.
Today's predominant model which relies on nuclear weapons and NATO, on wars, aggressive economic and financial policies to appropriate resources is broken. It is time to put the human beings in the heart of the new world that we call for. We, as International Network No to War - No to NATO, are very active on these issues and in proposing credible alternatives. The Buenos Aires events will deepen the global civil society movement for a NATO - free, peaceful and sustainable world.

Conference Program

Note: The whole conference works in plenary sessions. After a panel discussion there will be a public debate.

Day 1: Thursday, December 13th

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:30 - 10:30</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 - 10:45</td>
<td>Greetings and Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Claire Chastain, France, ICC No to War - No to NATO</td>
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<td>Miguel Monserrat, Argentina, Permanent Assembly for Human Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 - 11:00</td>
<td>Greetings and remarks by</td>
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<td>Senator Daniel Filmus, Argentina, Chairman of Senate’s Foreign Affairs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Committee</td>
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<td>11:00 - 11:30</td>
<td>Opening remarks by</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, Argentina, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 - 15:00</td>
<td>Morning session</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 - 13:00</td>
<td>Neocolonialist aggressions against Latin America in the 20th century and</td>
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<td>today</td>
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<td>• Ernesto Alonso, Argentina, Centro de Ex Combatientes Islas Malvinas</td>
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<td>• Obey Ament, France, French Communist Party</td>
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<td>• Stella Calloni, Argentina, MOPASSOL</td>
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<td>13:00 - 13:30</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<td>13:30 - 15:00</td>
<td>Global NATO: wars of intervention and military bases</td>
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<td>• Rina Bertaccini, Argentina, MOPASSOL</td>
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<td>• Enrique Daza, Colombia, Continental Social Alliance (ASC)</td>
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<td>• Ana Juanche, Uruguay, Peace and Justice Service in Latin America</td>
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<td>• Tobias Pflüger, Germany, ICC No to War - No to NATO, Information</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Center Militarization (IMI)</td>
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<td>15:00 - 16:15</td>
<td>Lunch break</td>
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**Afternoon session**

16:15 - 17:45  
*Role of the USA and European Union in Latin America today*  
- Joseph Gerson, USA, American Friends Service Committee  
- Isabel Rauber, Argentina, Philosopher  
- Marie-Christine Vergiat, France, Member of European Parliament, Front de gauche pour changer d’Europe

17:45 - 18:00  
Coffee Break

18:00 - 19:30  
*Militarism in Latin America*  
- Dario Azzellini, Germany/Venezuela, Johannes Kepler University, Linz, Austria  
- Luis Gutiérrez-Esparza, Mexico. ICC No to War - No to NATO, CLAEI  
- Hugo Yasky, Argentina, Secretary General, Central de Trajadores de la Argentina (CTA)

19:30 - 20:30  
*Video and commentaries*  
Foreign Military Bases and Human Rights, by CLAEI  
Luis Gutiérrez-Esparza, Mexico, ICC No to War - No to NATO, CLAEI

20:30 - 22:30  
*Dinner, with opening speeches by some ambassadors in Argentina*

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**Day 2: Friday, December 14th**

**Morning session**

10:00 - 11:30  
*Political, social, and environmental alternatives for peace in Latin America*  
- Socorro Gomes, Brazil, World Peace Council (WPC)  
- Mayra Gómez, Bolivia, International Peace Bureau (IPB)  
- Pablo Ruiz, Chile, SOA-Watch

11:30 - 11:45  
Coffee Break
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<tr>
<td>11:45 - 13:15</td>
<td><strong>Peace with Nature</strong>&lt;br&gt; - Tatiana Roa Avendaño, Colombia, Censat Agua Viva – Amigos de la Tierra&lt;br&gt; - Kristine Karch, Germany, No to War – No to NATO, EcoMujer&lt;br&gt; - Lucas Wirl, Germany, International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility (INES)</td>
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<td>13:15 - 13:30</td>
<td><strong>Coffee Break</strong></td>
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<td><strong>New and rising alternative powers:</strong>&lt;br&gt; <strong>MERCOSUR, ALBA, UNASUR, CELAC</strong>&lt;br&gt; - Regional Ambassador (Bolivia or Cuba)&lt;br&gt; - Pedro Páez, Ecuador, former Minister for the Coordination of Economic Policy&lt;br&gt; - Marie-Christine Vergiat, France, European Parliament, Front de gauche pour changer d’Europe</td>
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<td><strong>Afternoon session</strong></td>
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<td>16:15 - 17:45</td>
<td><strong>Societal concepts and alternatives:</strong>&lt;br&gt; <em>i.e. buen vivir and socialism in the 21st century</em>&lt;br&gt; - David Cortez, Ecuador, Latin American Faculty of Political Sciences (FLACSO)&lt;br&gt; - Beverly Keene, Argentina, Jubileo Sur&lt;br&gt; - Wolfgang Gehrcke, Germany, Member of Parliament, Die LINKE</td>
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<td><strong>Coffee break</strong></td>
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<td>18:00 - 19:30</td>
<td><strong>Actions for a peaceful and sustainable future</strong>&lt;br&gt; - General Luis Barelro, Paraguay, former Minister of Defence, Centro de Estudios Nacionales e Internacionales (tbc)&lt;br&gt; - Reiner Braun, Germany, ICC No to War – No to NATO&lt;br&gt; - Rigoberta Menchú, Guatemala, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (tbc)</td>
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<td>19:30 - 20:00</td>
<td><strong>Closing remarks</strong>&lt;br&gt; By Reiner Braun, Claire Chastain, Luis Gutiérrez-Esparza and Miguel Monserrat</td>
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Organizational details

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apdh@apdh-argentina.org.ar (for Spanish registration)

No registration fee will be charged.

Conference languages are English and Spanish.

Venue details:
Salón Arturo Illia del Senado, Palacio del Congreso Nacional, Hipólito Yrigoyen 1835, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires

Webpages:
www.apdh-argentina.org.ar
www.claei.org.mx
www.conferenciaporlapaz.org
www.no-to-nato.org