



Ukraine: De-escalation instead of marching into a hot war

Statement of Cooperation for Peace (Germany)

3 March 2014. Cooperation for Peace, an umbrella organization of more than 50 organizations of the German peace movement calls on Western and Eastern governments to avoid any action that risks hotting up the situation in the Ukraine. Movement of troops as well as rhetoric of war of both sides must stop. Russia's actions against international law in the independent Ukraine must be stopped immediately. Also there must be an end to the irresponsible instrumentalization of the Ukraine by Western countries and their aggressive, Cold War-style rhetoric. There must be no military actions by NATO nor transports of weapons in the region.

We call on the Ukrainian government to stop their nationalist rhetoric and movement of troops. This must include an immediate demobilization of the reservist forces. We warn that cooperation with Fascists leads to war! The desolate economic situation with its dramatic social impacts on the people was created by the oligarchy and corrupt politics. Chauvinistic rabble-rousing and re-stimulating fears of "external enemies" must end, these are distractions. Instead of a long term integration of the Ukraine in the European Union, the West should immediately offer economic and social aid without any preconditions and without the neo-liberal dictates of the IMF.

Negotiations, dialogue, mediation, and civil conflict resolution are the imperative of the hour. To interrupt the preparations for the G8, just when there is a widely-expressed demand for dialogue, is irresponsible. Increased dialogue, particularly with Russia, is needed. We call for a special summit of the OSCE with a clear priority on civil conflict resolution.

We also call for an international group of mediators consisting of Nobel Peace Laureates as well as Right Livelihood Laureates – for example Kofi Annan, Mairead Maguire, Adolfo Perez Esquivel, Jody Williams and Paul Walker – and of organizations like the International Peace Bureau (IPB) and International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW). This group of mediators should immediately start discussions with all sides to reach an agreement on an immediate halt to all military activities. US and Russian Cold War rhetoric is contra-productive to reaching the diplomatic solution of the crisis favored by European governments. NATO has no business in the Ukraine. NATO's global 'pincer-movement' strategy towards the East, as well as the missile defense shield, must be ended.

Our solidarity lies with the people in Moscow, Kiev and in Crimea, and everywhere working against war. We condemn the persecution and criminalization of the opponents of war in Russia and the Ukraine. These people must be supported in our country by manifold actions and protests.

100 years after World War I we maintain: Peace can only be reached and secured by the actions of the people. We particularly request of the German government that it not pursue German great-power interests, thereby deepening the conflict. Rather we demand of the German government to work in the tradition of Gustav Heinemann and Willy Brandt by giving primacy to diplomacy, conciliation and reconciliation, negotiations and civil conflict resolution.

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