

Newcastle Stop the War Coalition speech at Tyneside May Day Rally - 30-4-2016

Roger Nettleship

Greeting to Tyneside May Day from the Newcastle Stop the War Coalition and thanks to all the trade unions and people of Newcastle and this area who have been supporting our actions against war this year and in previous years.

Two things I am going to talk about. Firstly an attack has been made on people in the Labour Party. Stop the War issued a statement and I will read some of it in part.

It says: “Stop the War rejects and condemns the continuing witch-hunt being directed against those who criticise the Israeli government, a campaign which deliberately conflates opposition to Israeli policies and behaviour with anti-Semitism.....The full social and political equality of Jewish people, and their protection from discrimination and abuse, are essential mandates of our common humanity.”

“This revulsion against a form of racism is now being abused to demonise all those who oppose the aggressive oppression of the Palestinian people by the Israeli state. It is not anti-Semitic to oppose the unbridled Israeli colonial settlement programme on the West Bank, to oppose the frequently brutal treatment of Palestinians, the seizure of their land, the imprisonment of their children and the denial of their basic human rights to self-determination and self-governance.”

Of course this frenzy is being used to for political purposes against those in the Labour Party that are staunchly against racism by a government, state, media and right wing politicians that attack attack the Muslim community in the way the Jews were singled out in the 1930s for special treatment.

This is a vicious campaign that everyone should denounce. In fact it is a desperate campaign and more and more people including Jewish people are coming out to condemn this attack on Jeremy Corbyn and his supporters on this basis

The second thing I wanted to talk about is that this October will be the 15th anniversary of the war that Bush and Blair started of the war on terror. We are going to jointly hold an event in October, in Newcastle along with unison northern region to highlight the unprecedented length and inhumanity of this war waged against mainly a civilian population and the violation of the countries of the middle east and elsewhere, which they have done with impunity.

Bush and Blair may have gone but their war still carries on under Obama and Cameron as the heads of NATO powers. They added Libya and the Syria to their wars. 5 years intervention in Syria supporting and arming so called opposition to topple the government of Syria their foreign intervention along with Saudi Arabia is the main reason why hundreds of thousands of people have died and millions have

been turned into refugees.

Their war on terror has created only more terror. In addition Britain and other powers are presently engaging in secret military intervention in Libya. A country which they destroyed supporting so-called-rebels to overthrow the government of Libya in 2011 and the anarchy followed their intervention was because they intervened in that country. Not as Obama likes to say that they didn't follow through it was because they intervened.

There is also their intervention also in Ukraine for the same purpose of toppling the government and helping to install the most extreme elements in power and even allying themselves with the open nazis to bring Ukraine into the orbit of NATO. Again their intervention is the cause of the bloody civil war there. And this also threatens a further big power conflict with Russia. There is a whole pattern right throughout the world, their interventions in Africa, their interventions in South America and also in Asia on the Korean peninsula and so on. This is why we must build our movement to end these crimes against peace and fight for an anti-war government in Britain.

There are other events that we would like to highlight...

Planning Meeting May 11 6.30pm Broadacre House

June 7 Two Centuries of Peace Making conference organised by the Peace Society to Martin Luther King at Newcastle University

June 18 Meeting to mark the 40th anniversary of the Soweto uprising.