



Stop the Bombing of Libya! The Need for an Anti-War Government

Both the Defence Minister Dr Liam Fox and Chief of the Defence Staff General Sir David Richards have recently called, without irony or shame, for an increase to the intensity of the bombardment of Libya. As if the inhuman crimes of the past three months are not enough, the past week alone has seen further aerial assaults on buildings and infrastructure in Tripoli.

NATO spokesperson's obscene declarations of over 2,500 "strike sorties" – those where bombs are dropped – against Libya since attacks began in March match the recent comments and statements of Cameron and Hague to launch attack helicopters, which reflect a lowering of the level of human discourse.

It doesn't have to be like this. To echo the powerfully articulated message given on March 26 by hundreds of thousands of workers rejecting the government's anti-social offensive and decimation of public services: "There is an Alternative". With Britain acting as one of the headquarters of backwardness in the world and a main source of ideological justifications for war and aggression, the alternative is an anti-war government created by the people of Britain. Only an Anti-War Government can prevent the crimes against peace committed by the British warmongers.

Since the start of the war against Afghanistan in 2001 and continuing to this day a powerful anti-war movement has developed in the country. In groups small and large nationwide people from all walks of life and many different political persuasions and beliefs come together to discuss ways in which the injustice of perpetual war and aggression can be opposed.

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It is true to say then that the anti-war movement is consolidated and well established. It is even said to reflect a majority opinion wilfully ignored in the political structures and forums of the government, and marginalised in the mainstream media. It must stay united against British crimes of aggression. There is therefore a democratic deficit revealed in the vote on March 21, 2011, in favour of the aggression against Libya supported by all but 13 of 577 Members of Parliament.

With Britain's political establishment represented by its pro war consensus of Labour, Conservative or Lib Dem coalition, an anti-war government is not a policy objective to be subordinated to endless debates and point scoring in the Houses of Parliament or arguments about this aggressive campaign or another. Instead it should be seen as a proactive political initiative which transforms the tone and pace of an agenda set by the warmongers to one set by the people themselves.

Democratic renewal and political empowerment are important aspects of the struggle for political change in Britain; establishing an anti-war government is a parallel endeavour to crown the anti-war movement with success. Such a Monument would truly honour the name of Brian Haw.

Such a government would not only outlaw all ongoing acts of aggression and war, preventing the countless deaths and the wilful and cruel destruction of a country's heritage and infrastructure – it would also be a progressive initiative to the search for global peace and an important contribution from the people of Britain to all those defending their rights worldwide.

Anti-War Mass Assembly 10 Years On
Occupy Trafalgar Square London
Saturday 8 October Protest Bring the
troops home Stop the bombing

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