

Stop the Bombing of Syria – 19-12-2015. Roger Nettleship - Newcastle Stop the War Coalition

I would like to congratulate you for coming this Saturday and all organisations that make up the stop the war coalition, taking part in this march and rally in Newcastle to demand that the government stop bombing Syria and that Britain should end its intervention in the affairs of Syria as well as other countries in the Middle East and the world.

As in Syria, the British government has no right to interfere, bomb, invade, support foreign backed forces to overthrow governments anywhere in the world. It has no right to sell lethal weapons to the Middle Eastern countries, whether Israel or Saudi Arabia for the same purpose.

Recent history has shown that stability and security in the world have not been produced by the military intervention of Britain and the other big powers; quite the opposite.

What is important to point out is that the Britain's intervention in Syria along with its renewed intervention in Iraq last year brings now the danger of even greater crimes against the people with Cameron joining Britain, the US and other western countries in expanding NATO into Asia, Ukraine, and Africa in what is becoming not just the bullying of defenceless countries like Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Syria but it is now confronting Russia, China, Iran and other countries in the dangerous Anglo-US Nazi dream of world domination. Let's be clear this is what their aim is – world domination.

This is why it is so important that stop the war and the anti-war movement is taking a stand following Cameron's cynically using the Paris atrocity to ram through parliament extending its bombing from Iraq to Syria.

Cameron is following in Blair's footsteps who with Bush destroyed Iraq killing hundreds of thousands of people. It was these wars that created a terrible legacy which led to the arise of groups like Daesh (ISIS). In their arrogance and madness Cameron wants us to believe that even more bombing and even more wars will make the situation better

Already David Cameron, Hague, Sarkozy and Obama bombed Libya in 2011 for regime change and destroyed this sovereign country which had a modern infrastructure and they caused tens of thousands of deaths of men women and children. As a result Libya has descended into mayhem and anarchy. This war on Libya is now destabilising Tunisia, Mali and most of of north Africa and no surprise where now ISIS can be found which has now become their excuse to again renew their scramble into Africa.

The motion to Parliament which was to “exclusively bomb Isis” may have fooled some in Parliament in the wake of the Paris attacks. But the warmongers at the centre of our state in Britain want their knives and forks to be at the table for carving up Syria and deciding the outcome in British imperial interests. I think it is very important to see these provocations such as fighting "terrorism" or finding pretexts such as "WMD" or "brutal regimes". They all come from the Anglo-US ruling elites mantra and narratives.

If you look at the initial reports from the Ministry Of Defence of bombing Syria with the US. It appears they are not bombing ISIS at all, or stopping ISIS oil transports through Turkey but they are destroying hundreds of millions of dollars worth of Syria's oil infrastructure. This is economic terrorism on a huge scale without any mandate from Syria or the UN to destroy such national assets of the Syrian people.

For 5 years Cameron has been supporting the so-called moderate rebels in a foreign sponsored civil

war in Syria. In 2013 Cameron wanted to bomb Damascus and overthrow the Syrian government and its President. Now he talks about bombing Raqqa to rid Syria of Isis but then still says he is for regime change. As we meet the UN has adopted a peace plan – that says political transition should be Syrian-led – we will see if that brings a peaceful and just solution for Syrians where they decide. Yet still the British government is interfering in the internal affairs of Syria, interfering in the outcome which has nothing to do with ISIS. So how can any serious person believe these tricks of the government to get us to support warmongering.

Stop the war in it statements points out that the only enemy we need to confront is the enemy at home. The aim of the anti-war movement here is to target the warmongering of our own government. We need to end the state terrorism that it unleashes on the people of the world and then cynically uses the resistance and terrorist outrages to unleash even more wars and bombing.

The people are also opposed to its consequence at home with the increasing singling out of Muslims for attack as part of the attack on the rights of all. We are against the spreading of Islamophobia and any other Nazi propaganda to divide people on the basis of race or religion. The fact is the deaths by state terrorism and terrorism kills more Muslims than anybody else. What a crime that Muslims are then singled out and blamed by government for being extremists.

The anti-war movement must oppose Britain's military actions against Syria, Iraq and elsewhere. It must also oppose Britain's support for proxy armies. Their support for the flow of weapons for interference in Syria, Palestine, Yemen and elsewhere, and we must build our anti-war opposition and alliances to confront the warmongers at Westminster. Jeremy Corbyn as opposition leader has represented bravely this anti-war movement in Parliament.

This alternative coming from the people's opposition to the warmongering is ultimately an anti-war government which will guarantee peace and affirm its opposition to the use of force to settle issues internationally.

We must fight for an anti-war government that recognises the inviolable right of all peoples to determine their own affairs nationally and internationally and for a future without war. Organise for an anti-war government! Stop Bombing Syria! Hands Off Syria!

Thank you