



**South Tyneside
Stop The War Coalition**



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**10 Years of Opposing Britain's
Pro-War Governments
Build the Movement to End
Crimes Against Peace!**

***Bring the Troops Home!
For An Anti-War Government!***

*This issue of Silence is Shame
is dedicated
to the memory of Brian Haw*

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Preface

Stop the War - 10 years on, and still going ... 10 Years of 'opposing pro-war governments' in Britain and elsewhere - while instead striving to build movements to end 'Crimes Against Peace' ...

On Tuesday, September 27, 2011, at Trinity House Social Centre, in Laygate, South Shields, a group of supporters of South Tyneside Stop The War Coalition held a forum between 7.30pm and 9.00pm.

They were a small part of a large wider movement that has developed over last 10 years in Britain and elsewhere to oppose successive wars launched by various governments - starting with the American-led invasion of Afghanistan in October 2001.

Following the attack on the Twin Towers and other places in September 2001, U.S. president Bush and British prime minister Blair launched what they called a 'war on terror' - using the attack on key American structures on 11 September 2001 as an excuse to launch their own weapons of mass destruction against populations and cities of Afghanistan, Iraq and other places.

They invaded and occupied Afghanistan, Iraq, and other countries - and caused the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people (including thousands of troops from Britain and America sent to kill and be killed) in the name of 'preserving our ways of life'.

The occupation of Afghanistan continues after 10 years - one of the longest foreign intervention wars of the 'big powers' in modern times - and, quite obviously a 'failure' (by any definition of that word).

Recently, in Libya, under the leadership of Britain, France, the

USA, and other NATO powers, yet another sovereign country has been bombed and plunged into chaos - resulting in the killing of many thousands people in bombing raids (the details of which have been largely unreported in the mainstream western media).

The bombing of Libya - and consequent death and destruction - was a concerted attack on one of the most modern countries in Africa - which, whatever the rights and wrongs of its regime, was a nation whose people had a high standard of living, and which was at the forefront of the (post-European empire) 'African Union' movement. This aggressive war (masked as a 'liberation struggle') by the NATO powers seems in reality to have been motivated by their own supposed strategic interests - in short, re-colonising Africa (under European and American influence), with consequent control of oil, financial and other resources.

Mr Bush and Mr Blair launched their wars of conquest - under the 'false flag' banner of the 'war on terror' - mostly in of the Middle East. Now (the supposedly 'modern liberal cosmopolitan champion') Mr Obama and (the rather more old fashioned Eton-educated British imperialist) Mr Cameron seem intent on extending the Bush-Blair wars into Africa and elsewhere.

The discussion forum of the anti-war group South Tyneside Stop The War Coalition was held to mark the tenth anniversary of the stop the war movement's opposition to Britain's pro-war governments.

In marking this anniversary, we also looked toward the next 10 years of the anti-war movement - with the aim to further build the movement to end these crimes against peace and to bring about an anti-war government in Britain.

We aim for a government that stands for:

- **the peaceful resolution of international conflicts.**
- **bringing all troops home from foreign soil.**
- **withdrawing Britain from NATO.**

We encourage all people to join the ongoing discussion of these issues ...

The Anti-War Movement Must Base Itself on the New in Society to Oppose the Old Arrangements

by Roger Nettlehip

Today we are summing up the historic work of the anti-war movement in Britain from the point of view of where we are now and how we can crown this movement with the success of bringing about an anti-war government in Britain. As with all great movements of the people at the very beginning when literally millions of people are taking part they reveal their essence to base themselves on what is the new in society and to oppose the old arrangements. We wrote then in an article *Defeating the Warmongers Means Giving Rise to Modern Arrangements* :

The important thing is that today people are seriously searching for ways to develop the movement in order to defeat the warmongers. There is also a growing realisation that the key to achieve this is to unleash the people's initiative by organising in such a way that the people consciously participate in decision-making at every level. Defeating the warmongers means giving rise to modern arrangements. (*Silence is Shame* No. 1 August 5 2003)

As we predicted then those modern arrangements are the order

of the day in this movement where people in their thousands from different walks of life, industrial and non industrial workers, trade union movements, students intelligentsia, small business people, unemployed, military personnel and their families, people with differing political, religious and other views united together to oppose the invasion and occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq. Such a powerful movement was not just a sum of the different forces coming together but showed the people revealing their own thinking and anti-war ideas and values, rejecting 10 years of the criminal invasions and occupations of Afghanistan, Iraq and now Libya carried out by successive pro-war governments in Britain alongside the US and other big powers.

This was no more keenly felt than here in South Tyneside where we decided to meet weekly, discussing and analysing as a thinking South Tyneside part of the stop the war movement in our region. We have done this in an uninterrupted fashion over this whole ten years. Always able to find our bearings in the new situation that confronted the anti-war movement and never more so than in the present circumstances with the new phase in the Anglo-US wars giving new pre-texts as their old pre-texts become exposed and condemned.

That such thinking, ideas and values have been defended and nurtured in the peoples movement against war, with their love of peace and justice, means that it cannot be smashed by the constant misinformation of the monopoly media. It is one of the the greatest assets of the peoples movement that show it is not just a fight against successive warmonger governments but it is a fight for the new in society against the old arrangements. It is about removing one by one the obstacles placed in the way of the people to stop them seizing the initiative to build an even more powerful opposition than existed previously in the last 10 years.

This new represents seeking truth, basing oneself on ones collective, or peer group and solely on the well-being of fellow human beings both at home and abroad. It is serious discussion to unmask the plans of the Anglo-US powers both here and abroad and then act against them. It is creating a new modern mass media in the hands of the people, in many of its forms, to unmask

the lies and involve people finding the truth to the problems we all face. It is brushing aside all of the theories stemming from Westminster and the monopoly media that blame the people themselves for all of the problems in society as if their anti-people policies at home and abroad had nothing to do with the problems of people in Britain and abroad. It is taking a stand against government, and mass media pretexts and misinformation to pursue their criminal wars of invasions and occupations and then also attack, criminalise Muslims and other people here, many of whom have been arrested, criminalised and imprisoned with some of those even without a trial.

The anti-war movement must be the force for peace in society by striking at the roots of the causes of war. In particular, this means not simply being a protest movement, but itself striving to be an embodiment of the new arrangements and new political quality in society which are the alternative to the old arrangements and old political quality which has become addicted to war, intervention, aggression and empire-building as the way of dealing with conflicts of interest in the world. In other words, the anti-war movement aspires to be not simply the sum of all the various forces involved within it, but to be a movement with an identity which is more than the sum of its parts, a movement which aspires to bring into being an anti-war government. We see the anti-war movement as a movement that is and should stamp its agenda at the heart of the political aims and mechanisms of society for the realisation of an anti-war government that embodies the aims and aspirations of all in society

Significant is giving modern content to the previous attempts to build local and national Peoples' Assemblies as an alternative to a Parliament that votes for illegal and criminal wars. Certainly our experience here is significant and reveals many things about the movement setting its own political agenda. We have stood two anti-war candidates in South Shields in successive elections. At the last election we went further, taking account of the fact that some candidates were not involved directly in the stop the war movement here we set about creating an anti-war alliance of candidates and small parties against the cartel of Westminster parties that presented a pro-war consensus to the electorate. How

to take this work forward in the context of further building the work of the anti-war movement is one of the crucial questions the movement needs to address.

Today, it could be said that the great success of the anti-war movement to place centre stage in the political life of the country the opposition of the people to these wars of foreign intervention has caused Cameron to now paint naked intervention against Libya in the colours of a “revolution” of the Libyan people taking their country back. Most of the monopoly media have now switched to justifying the crimes of Anglo-US NATO bombing and mass murder of Libyan people as a “revolution”. In spite of the calls for a negotiated solution by the majority of countries in the world, by the African Union of which Libya is a part, the government chose to bomb Libya into submission. This super-high level of disinformation is being used to actually deny the Libyan people sovereignty. Whilst continuing to lead the bombing of Libya that has killed tens of thousands over recent months. Cameron has taken the lead in a UN Security Council decision to recognise the “revolutionary” National Transitional Council as the UN representative of Libya something that 80% of countries in the UN have refused to do including the African Union. In the same session of the UN the security council is trying to oppose the claim of the Palestinians to recognition at the UN when the majority of countries demand it.

This path of the Anglo-US powers and NATO countries spells great dangers not only for the people of Libya, of Africa as a whole and the peoples of the Middle East and Asia but it is extremely dangerous for the peoples of Britain and the whole world. The dangers of a major world conflagration are growing. The experience of Iraq and Afghanistan has demonstrated that come what may the imperialists cannot make history as they wish. The cost in hundreds of thousands of lives and trillions of pounds is and has been colossal. The stability of the whole of the Euro zone is being threatened by the neo-liberal agenda which is linked to war and aggression abroad, with commentators even predicting war within Europe as the crisis further unfolds.

All these things lead to the conclusion that the anti-war movement

must pay attention to these developments and to its own history and successes and consciously base itself on the need for the new in society in standing against the old arrangements. What is new is not some extreme outlook from the margins of society, but is the agenda of the vast majority of peace-loving people who wish to see justice prevail and build a society fit for humanity. The new is to further build the unity of the anti-war movement in a principled way, that sovereignty of peoples and countries must be respected, all acts of intervention must be uncompromisingly opposed and acts of state violence against our own people opposed. It is to build the movement to end the crimes against peace and to bring about an anti-war government in Britain. A government that, stands for the peaceful resolution of international conflicts, brings all troops home from foreign soil, withdraws Britain from NATO. A government that brings the war criminals in Britain to justice and pays reparations to the countries invaded and occupied.

***For the Peaceful Resolution of International Conflicts!
Britain Out of NATO!
Condemn NATO's Criminal Intervention in Libya!
No Troops On Foreign Soil!
Fight for an Anti-War Government in Britain!***

September 27, 2011

Stopping 21st Century Catastrophe - lighting candles, not cursing darkness,

by Alan Trotter

It is a sad fact that the hopes and optimism we all had for a peaceful future at the turn of the century were soon ravaged by our elected gangsters. As we look back to the beginnings of the Afghanistan war and the Iraq war and its consequences what do we see?

We see a terrible catalogue of:

- + illegal invasions
- + destruction
- + lies
- + death
- + use of cluster bombs and other terrible weapons
- + slaughter
- + abuse of human rights at Guantanamo Bay and other torture camps
- + more lies
- + rape
- + murder
- + carnage

- + more torture
- + dodgy dossiers, non-existent 'weapons of mass destruction' and other dishonest reasons for war
- + billions of pounds wasted on war during times of financial crisis
- + even more lies ...

And, while all this early 21st century catastrophe has been going on most of the professional media has been backing up the government in justifying illegal invasions and occupations and other outrages. To those in positions of power and influence, the human cost does not seem to have any importance any more. If a British soldier is killed it ranks fourth or fifth item on National news and is reported in seconds, it doesn't seem to matter that this soldier has family and friends who will be grieving. The individual outrages should not be forgotten. Who could forget the pitiful enduring image of 'little Ali' Abbass who's horrific injuries shocked the civilized world? And there was the outrageous killing of John Charles de Menezes, an innocent man on his way to work in London. Perhaps the most shameful images were of civilians being abused by soldiers - Lynndie England humiliating a naked detainee and using dogs as part of their torture technique.

When George Bush ordered the invasion of Afghanistan who would know the dreadful consequences and where his 'war on terror' - AKA 'overseas contingency operation' - will end?

Throughout these fearful years The Stop the war Coalition has worked relentlessly, with their partners in the wider peace movement, to keep the public informed of the truth of what is happening in their name.

What does the future hold for us all? In these days of unrelenting cutbacks we cannot afford this madness of wholesale slaughter. It is difficult to remain constantly optimistic, but there is a saying that 'it's better to light a candle than to curse the darkness'.

We must act and think positive:

- + get all our troops back home

- + stop the deliberate targeting of the Muslim community
- + show tolerance and create cultural, social and economic welfare that are in the interests of all
- + create a truly anti-war government and society.

September 27 2011

Stopping Yesterday's Wars Today and Tomorrow

by Phil Talbot

Though in Britain we have elections only occasionally, in a truly free and democratic country, every day is a kind of "election day".

Through our collected individual choices, our collected individual belief systems, and our collected individual actions, we collectively drive our nation into the future.

Recognizing that we are ultimately responsible for the actions of our country, anti-war groups such as Stop The War continue to promote foreign and domestic policies that places a priority on internationally-recognized principles.

Acknowledging the dangerous shortcomings of narrow, militaristic responses to terrorism, we continue to encourage a collaborative effort to bring those responsible for breaches of international law to justice.

We call attention to threats to civil liberties, human rights, and other freedoms at home and abroad as a consequence of war and our government's responses to terrorism - recognizing that it

is our duty to defend those principles in our own lives and in our own communities.

We continue to promote dialogue with the public on issues of war and peace, including alternatives to war and the underlying causes of violence, including terrorism - recognising the necessity for honest debate and the power of good faith human communication.

We support movements of people around the world who are seeking non-violent responses to all forms of terrorism - by states and individuals within them - recognising that mutual success will benefit us and future generations everywhere.

Most of all, we continue to acknowledge our fellowship with all people affected by violence and war.

We recognizing all fellow human beings as brothers and sisters in a human struggle that transcends politics, nationality or religious affiliation and is central to our continued co-existence.

In a free society, we are all responsible for the actions taken by the people we call our 'leaders'.

In a truly democratic society, we lead our so-called 'leaders' - not them us.

Today, and every day, we acknowledge our individual responsibility to lead our leaders toward creating a society in which we want to live - a society that lives up to the possibilities of human potential, and means no one has to live in states of terror, fear, violence and unnecessary death.

October 2 2011

Venezuela condemns U.S., NATO, UN over Libya War at UN General Assembly

By Nicolas Maduro Moros

We are publishing this speech which is representative of a number of countries at the UN who condemned the Anglo-US powers and NATO's criminal aggression against Libya. A number of countries also condemned the UN as a tool of the big powers. A fact which also reflects the vast majority of the countries of the world that do not recognise the defacto recognition of the National Transitional Council of Libya over the heads of the Libyan people by NATO and the UN.

Nicolas Maduro Moros, foreign minister of Venezuela, on Tuesday lashed out at the involvement of the US-European North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the UN in recent events in Libya.

Moros' statement came as he was addressing the general debate of the UN General Assembly at its 66th session to transmit a message from Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez Frias.

“Right now there is a very serious threat to global peace: a new cycle of colonial wars, which started in Libya, with the sinister goal

of refreshing the capitalist global system, within a structural crisis today, but without any limit to its consumer and destructive voracity,” Moros said.

“It is necessary to remember and to recur to our immediate memory: Venezuela, alongside the member countries of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of the Americas (ALBA), was actively advocating for a peaceful and negotiated solution to the Libyan conflict,” said Moros.

The Venezuelan foreign minister said that peaceful resolution of the Libyan situation was derailed by the US and NATO and that reports of attacks on the Libyan people by the Libyan Air Force were unfounded in truth.

“However, after all, the logic of war decreed by the UN Security Council and put into practice by NATO, the armed wing of the Yankee Empire, was imposed,” he said.

“The logic of war having its spearhead in trans-national mass media: let us bear in mind that the ‘Libyan Case’ was brought before the Security Council on the basis of intense propaganda by the western mass media, who lied about the alleged bombing of innocent civilians by the Libyan Air Force, not to mention the grotesque media setting of the Green Square of Tripoli.”

He said that a premeditated bunch of lies were used to justify “military regime change policy” by NATO.

“It’s worth wondering: what has the no-fly zone established by the Security Council resolution become?” said Moros. “How could NATO perform more than 20,000 missions against the Libyan people if there was a no-fly zone? After the Libyan Air Force was completely annihilated, the continued ‘humanitarian’ bombing shows that the west, through NATO, intends to impose their interests in North Africa, turning Libya into a colonial protectorate.”

Moros said that Venezuela questions the legitimacy of the arms embargo placed on Libya through Security Council resolution 1970 and strengthened by resolution 1973.

“How can we say that an arms embargo was imposed on Libya, when it was NATO itself that introduced thousands of heavy weapons to support a violent upheaval against that country’s legitimate government?” Moros said. “The embargo was, of course, meant to prevent the Libyan government from defending its sovereignty. This shows, once again, the cruel logic of international relations, where the law only applies to the weak.”

Moros called for an immediate end to the NATO bombings in Libya and said the UN must reform in order to serve its purpose.

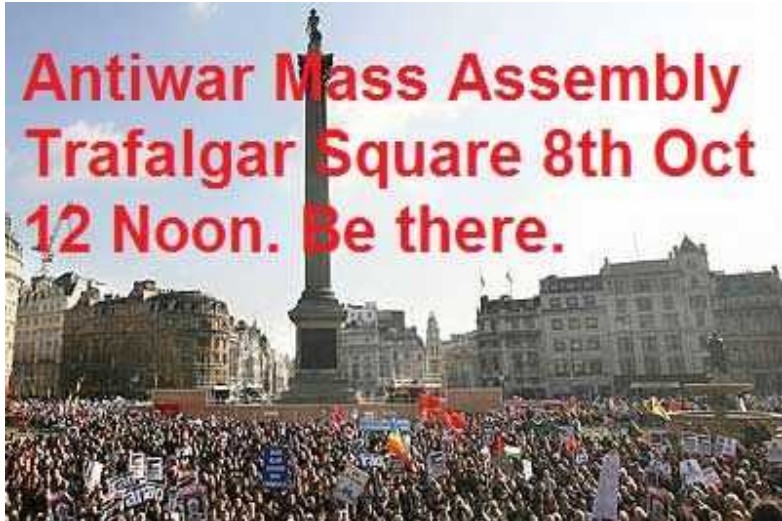
He called the current state of the international organization a crisis, a point he said Venezuela has made previously.

“Since then and until now, nothing has been done: the political will of the most powerful ones has prevailed,” said Moros. “Sure, the UN, as for its current functioning, docilely pledges to their interests. For us it is obvious that the UN is not improving and will not improve from the inside.”

“If its secretary-general, along with the president of the International Criminal Court (ICC), take part in an act of war, as in the case of Libya, nothing can be expected from the current structure of this organization and there is no longer time for reforms: the UN does not accept any reform whatsoever, the illness within it is deadly,” he added.

Moros criticized the Security Council, saying that a first step to re-founding the UN as a whole would be to eliminate the permanent member category and veto power from the peace and security body. He said that the General Assembly’s power must be democratically maximized and that a comprehensive review of the UN charter, with the aim of redrafting a new one, should be imposed.

September 27 2011



12 Noon: Rally Starts Opened by **Joe Glenton**, ex-soldier who was jailed for refusing to fight in Afghanistan, and **Grace McCann**, who in 2009 attempted a citizen's arrest on **Tony Blair**.

Main Stage: speeches, music, films and performances.

Musicians, actors, writers, filmmakers and artists will join MPs, trade union leaders and activists from across the antiwar movement.

Performers and speakers include **John Pilger**, **Jemima Khan**, **Lowkey**, **Billy Bragg**, **Brian Eno**, **Mark Steel**, **Ahdaf Soueif**, Unite general secretary **Len McCluskey**, actors **Simon McBurney** and **Mark Rylance**, **Jeremy Corbyn MP**, and many more.

Marquee Stage: Meetings, stalls, displays, installations, 'open mic' sessions.

Naming the Dead Ceremony: Led by **Joan Humphries** who lost her grandson in Afghanistan and **Rose Gentle** who lost her son in Iraq.

4.00pm: End of Assembly March to Downing Street. Led by ex-soldiers and their families to demand that no more lives are wasted in Afghanistan

To Contact *South Tyneside Stop the War Coalition*

e-mail : stswc@blueyonder.co.uk

website: <http://www.northeaststopwar.org.uk/southtyne>

Silence is Shame!

Published by *South Tyneside Stop the War Coalition*

c/o Trinity House Social Centre

134 Laygate, South Shields, NE33 4JD Phone: 07796267722