

PEACE 4 THE PEOPLE

NEWSLETTER OF ILPS COMMISSION 4



Issue 14, April 2021



STATEMENT OF ILPS COMMISSION 4

HANDS OFF SYRIA! NO WAR ON IRAN!

The International League of Peoples' Struggles (ILPS), Commission 4 on Just Peace condemns the recent airstrikes of the President Joe Biden-led US military on Syria. We call on all anti-imperialist and democratic forces around the world to stand in solidarity with the people of Syria against continued US-back aggression, which has included the military of the US and Turkey and their reactionary collaborators.

The US airstrike occurred on February 25 2021, nearly 5 weeks earlier than it took the Trump regime into its term to order its first airstrikes against Syria. The Pentagon characterized the strike as a defensive measure that “aims to de-escalate the overall situation in both Eastern Syria and Iraq”. The Pentagon further tried to claim that this so-called “de-escalation” was in response to Iranian-backed militias launching rockets into Iraq. This claim is no different from Trump’s early 2020 assassination of Iranian General Qassim Suleimani within an Iraqi military base. It is clear, therefore, that Biden has signaled that his administration will continue the same policy of aggression towards Iran that all of his Democrat and Republican predecessors have followed, once again using direct attacks against the people of Syria and Iraq as its strategy for military dominance.

As the Resist US-Led War Movement recently wrote in its own statement on the issue, “Rather than heeding the calls of the tens of thousands of people who took to the streets in Iraq and worldwide last year demanding ‘U.S. Out!’, Biden is digging in his heels and jeopardizing chances for true peace in the region. This should come as no surprise, given that Biden and his cabinet members namely U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin III have carried the near identical Democrat and Republican Party strategy of increased sanctions and warmongering.”

This air strike marks the first known ordering of military force by Biden, who almost immediately upon taking office declared an end to US support for the war on Yemen. Rather than living up to this falsified claim as a peace President, these airstrikes show that the January Yemen declaration was merely a ruse attempted to placate the hundreds of thousands who took to the street globally to demand an end to this brutal war of annihilation against the Yemeni people.

The US has maintained its long support for the war on Yemen for the same reasons that it has maintained its policies of sanctions, airstrikes and US-backed civil war in Syria: to increase its military supremacy and political influence in the region, particularly against Iran. As ILPS Commission 4 wrote in our “No War on Yemen!” statement in January, “The Yemen conflict has been time and again shown as a war maintained by the ‘Houthi rebels.’ The truth is that Saudi

Arabia brutally invaded Yemen and was provided intelligence, fuel and military support from the USA, Israel among other allies including NATO and other reactionary states such as Turkey.”

As a Commission of a global anti-imperialist alliance organizing against all wars of aggression, ILPS Commission 4 stresses seriously the recent airstrikes against Syria are tied inextricably to US imperialism’s strategic assaults against the people of West Asia and North Africa, among them the support for the war on Yemen, the backing of the Zionist occupation of Palestine and the Moroccan occupation of Western Sahara, the continued drone strikes against Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan and the consistent military arming of fascist puppet states like Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Turkey. And there is little doubt that the Biden administration will veer away from building its relationship with fascist states like Israel and India in its push for hegemony. We call on all those who aspire for a just and lasting peace to struggle against these acts of aggression by the leading imperialist power of today. With reaction and fascism rising and imperialist aggression intensifying on many fronts, the peoples of the world must share knowledge, organize and mobilize to unite in action as one movement.

Hands Off Syria!

No to War on Iran!

US Out of Asia and North Africa!

Resist US-Led War!

Stand up against US Imperialist Wars of Aggression!

The ILPS is the International League of Peoples’ Struggles, an anti-imperialist alliance. www.ilps.info
Commission 4 is concerned with wars of aggression and counter-revolution and nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction.

<https://peace450.wixsite.org/website>

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UNITE IN ACTION AS ONE ANTI-IMPERIALIST MOVEMENT!

COMMEMORATE THE 150th ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARIS COMMUNE

The ILPS is leading a six-month-long global campaign to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Paris Commune (18 March – 28 May 1871). The “Paris Commune at 150” campaign (PC150) will be a global mass commemoration to refresh, revitalize, and sustain interest in the Paris Commune: its historical context and impact in the past 150 years, its lessons, and continuing validity for the current era. [#ParisCommuneAt150](https://www.pariscommuneat150.com/)

**Defend the Bolivarian project! Stand up for sovereignty and democracy!
End the coercive economic measures! No interference! No military intervention!**

April 13-Venezuela Peace and Solidarity Committee of Vancouver forum on foreign relations with Venezuela. Keynote by Carlos Julio Ron Martinez, Deputy Minister of the North American office of the Ministry of People's Power for Foreign Affairs [MPPRE] and Chairman of the Simon Bolivar Bureau. Other panel presentations and a solidarity message from ILPS-Canada. See the Facebook page of VPSC.

No to NATO! Yes to Just Peace!

Webinar series on NATO, the role it plays in ensuring US military supremacy, and strategies for building the movement to oppose NATO, war and militarism.

Part 1: Wednesday, April 28, 10:00 AM Pacific/1:00 PM Eastern/7:00 PM Brussels No to NATO! NATO's role in US imperialist war strategy in the current geopolitical context.

Part 2: Thursday, May 13, 10:00 AM Pacific/1:00 PM Eastern/7:00 PM Brussels Yes to a Just Peace!--Discussion on strategies for building movements against NATO and US-led war and militarism

Sponsored by the Resist US-Led War Movement in collaboration with ILPS Europe

More info and link to register coming soon at: <https://www.facebook.com/ResistUSLedWar>

REPORT ON AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO OPPOSE US/NATO MILITARY BASES IN FOREIGN LANDS AND WATERS

The International Conference on the Occasion of the International Day of Action against US/NATO Military Bases took place online with the participation of activists on all continents. Presented in English and Spanish, it was organized by the World Peace Council and the Coalition against US Foreign Military Bases. At its founding meeting in November 2018, with ILPS Belgium as one of the founders, the Conference declared that February 23 would be an annual day of action against US/NATO bases. There are over 800 US military bases in the world.

Said the moderator, Bahman Azad of the US Peace Council, this was the first such formation with an anti-imperialist perspective. He pointed to the intensifying contradictions of imperialism and imperialist military expansion, which is causing crisis after crisis and therefore demands a greater and more unified people's response.



Presentations by region

1) Latin America and the Caribbean: Carolus Wimmer, President, Committee for International Solidarity and Struggle for Peace (COSI-Venezuela)

The US-led security conference titled "Peace through Dialogue" actually tightened the coordination of efforts against Russia and China to secure US domination everywhere. Biden has emphasized "winning the race against China." His administration will continue its work to create a network of military bases. For example, the Trans-Atlantic pact was revived. This event only included the US, Canada and Europe with the inclusion of certain corporate interests.

Since 1903, US bases have been constructed. After the first Panama base, the US constructed ones in Cuba and Puerto Rico. Now there are over 70 in this region, with 12 in Panama and 12 in Puerto Rico. Most are located in the Caribbean and Central America. Wimmer drew connections between coca production and the US military presence.

The US and its allies are on a trend of militarization rather than dialogue for peace; their strategy aims to control regions such as this one, which are crucial for the continued domination of US imperialism. The Conference established three task forces for Latin America and the Caribbean.

2) Europe and the EU: Iraklis Tsavdaridis, Executive Secretary, World Peace Council (WPC)

The US is still the leading force of imperialist aggression and it relies on strategic cooperation. The aim is plunder and encirclement of Russia. The EU is growing as a military force. It has a Defence Agency, for example. Europe and the US rely on economic sanctions as part of their arsenal. The EU has had 24 military missions to defend the profits of multinational corporations. It has participated in the coups against Venezuela and the Ukraine. NATO is increasing its capacity for first strike. The central NATO base lies in Ramstein, Germany. There are also key locations in Italy and Spain. The biggest US base is situated in Kosova, Serbia. Cyprus and Turkey are also important places. Greece, ever-more important for US imperialist strategy, is becoming a springboard for the Mediterranean and Europe. The involvements in Syria, Libya, Afghanistan, North Africa and all the Middle East are interrelated.

Tsavdaridis explained that lack of cooperation with US-led imperialism makes dissenting states and movements targets of aggression. NATO is trying to enforce its imposition of membership dues, demanding at least 2% of each member state's GDP. Indeed, a large financial structure to support NATO military structure is being cultivated.

We can see that the Biden presidency will unrelentingly follow the same track as previous ones. We can expect continued aggression. It is necessary for the people to keep building their resistance and organize against imperialism.

3) Middle East: Dr. Akel Taqz, President, Palestinian Peace and Solidarity Committee / WPC Regional Coordinator for the Middle East

Resource rich, the Middle East remains strategically important to US-led imperialism. It may become the epicentre for a new world war. Now gas production is sought. It is also a key geo-political location as a gateway to Africa and Central Asia. Transportation routes must be controlled. Efforts to control energy production and the transportation routes have been going on since World War One. The great wars were opportunities for US imperialism to divide up the region among six powers and found Israel as its guard dog. France and the UK were hot to set up bases in the Middle East.

Upon the conquest of Iraq and the division of those spoils, there are 10 US bases in Iraq as well as bases in Jordan, Syria, etc. France has bases in locations such as the UAE, Lebanon, Syria, Kuwait and Yemen. Turkey has bases in Iraq, Libya, Cyprus, Qatar and elsewhere. The UK runs bases in Bahrain, Oman, the UAE.

Taqz reminded the audience that the Obama administration was the first US administration to lead attacks on Syria against Iraqi and Iranian forces. Biden is moving forward with this aggression.

4) Asia-Pacific: Bimal Rathnayake, President, Peace and Solidarity Organization of Sri Lanka (PASOS) / Member of the Sri Lanka Parliament

The security of Asia and the Indian Ocean is becoming ever-more important to US imperialism; it seeks control of production, markets, transit, etc. There are already numerous US military bases in East Asian countries: many in Japan, South Korea and the Philippines, one in Singapore, and so on. The number of US military personnel in that region is somewhere around 100,000. There are bases on the Indian subcontinent, in Madagascar, Mauritius and Pakistan, too. We can add Australia to the list.

At the same time, China is also militarizing, particularly in the South China Sea. The Shanghai military cooperation group brought together eight allies with China. This new coalition has held 25 military exercises in the Indian Ocean. At the same time, there are many agreements between the US and South Asian and other Asian/ Indian Ocean coastal countries, such as Sri Lanka and India. There are special agreements between the US and Japan, Australia, etc.

5)U.S. Foreign Policy: Roger Harris, Member of the Executive Committee, U.S. Peace Council / Member of the Board, Task Force on the Americas

Harris insisted that opposition to war must set its sights against US-led imperialism to be effective. Biden has made the dangerous declaration that “America is back.” This utterance reassures a bi-partisan military alliance with NATO, the EU and others. International cooperation is highly important nowadays, which hinges on military coordination. The US imperialist objective is still “full spectrum dominance.” Unilateral coercive measures are fundamental to its strategy. Therefore, Biden will likely sharpen his knives against Venezuela, Cuba, Nicaragua and Russia, to name a few enemies. The US is fiercer than ever against deviation from US domination. Trump and Biden have dragged the US away from Obama’s conception. What is emerging is a multi-polar world in which the neo-liberal world order is agonized by acute crisis. The imperialist solution is to step up aggression in defence of US hegemony and multinational corporate profits. That is, military expansion is the order of the day. More troops are heading to Afghanistan, air defence systems and other war technologies are being built, etc. The US has retrenched itself against any resistance. It is especially hostile towards China. Nuclear deployment is again a very real possibility. (The clock sits at 100 seconds to midnight!)

6)On Africa: Margaret Kimberley, Member of Coordinating Committee, Black Alliance for Peace / Senior Columnist, Black Agenda Report

Ms. Kimberly spoke about her organization’s work to research and educate about the AFRICOM bases and collaborations in Africa. Despite all the “blah-blah” about promoting health, education, peace and security for the people, US and its allies have diabolical aims. Many states are today engaging in “the scramble for Africa” thanks to the US interventions of 2001. The US and company are motivated to minimize the influence of China and other adversaries in Africa. Military actions are happening in Somalia and elsewhere in Africa as a result. The American public at large has only recently become aware of AFRICOM, for which 9,000 US troops have been mobilized. Kimberley’s organizations and associates are organizing campaigns such as the Black Lives for Peace, which draws inspiration and direction from Martin Luther King’s opposition to the war in Vietnam. There is also a campaign to get the US out of Africa, with a congressional petition in the works.

7)Special Guest Speaker: Ambassador Zelmys Domínguez Cortina on behalf of the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples (MOVPAZ)

Ms. Cortina began by clarifying that she had been assigned to speak at this conference because the use of the teleconferencing application, Zoom, is blocked in Cuba. Then she talked about US relations and the Guantanamo Bay high security prison.

The US is demanding compliance with the antiquated 1903 US-Cuba Treaty, which was rejected by the Cuban revolution in 1959. The US likes to cite that Treaty to defend its presence at Guantanamo Bay. Castro described the Guantanamo Base as “a dagger plunged into Cuban soil.” From the beginning, that base has damaged the environment and local food production. It is now a lawless prison that defies human and civil rights and human dignity. It lacks any access to a process of justice. It scorns international laws, such as that regarding the treatment of prisoners of war. Prisoners are relabeled as “illegal combatants” to get around the law. For all these reasons, the Cuban people protest this place every year.

The US is determined to continue on an aggressive course. The peoples must all defend the 2014 declaration of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone for Peace. We must heighten and accelerate the struggle against US/NATO foreign military bases.

Some points of discussions

One main thread of the discussion that followed all seven presentations focused on the changing notion of US bases possible because of new technologies. US imperialism has a greater capacity for remote and long-range access, as well

as new forms of aggression. It has small bases with few personnel for communications, air defense, cyber-war launches and espionage. It should also be noted that the US enjoys more visiting and base-sharing cooperation.

Another thread dwelt on the increasing commitment and aggression on the part of NATO allies and partners. Military leaderships of various countries actively support the US and NATO. Indeed, we can properly use the term “proxy” aggressors.

We note two other points of emphasis here. One is that disarmament must be an objective of the people’s movement. The other is that unity in struggle is crucial.

###

THE IDEOLOGY OF US IMPERIALISM: American exceptionalism

Arising out of European colonialism and the genocides of indigenous and African people, the US became an aggressive and chauvinistic power, the face and defense of modern-day imperialism. For some 400 years, government after government of the expanding, bellicose union has forcefully imposed its ways and will on its residents and neighbours. It has assigned itself the (divine) right, authority and duty to do so. Its leaders believe that the US has the burden of a manifest destiny to rule the world and nurture and guard capitalism because it is allegedly an exception of history. This narrative tells of the US’ supposed uniqueness as, never tainted by royalty and colonialism, the first democracy. This belief permeates all avenues of its society, through the halls of state power and corridors of education, as well as through the chambers of justice and channels of media.

The ideology of US-led imperialism was born in white, male, Christian settler society in the 1600s and it endures today. The latest US presidency looks and sounds no different.

At a virtual forum held on March 14, several knowledgeable speakers exposed the roots, values and outcomes of the credo of US exceptionalism, offering US relations with Nicaragua as an example. (“US Exceptionalism: Its Story in Nicaragua and Beyond,” organized by the Alliance for Global Justice. www.afgj.org) The keynote presenter was Brian Wilson, a US military veteran who fought in Vietnam; now 80 years old, he has worked as an author, activist, lawyer, and criminologist. He contemplated suicide when he first saw through the deception a few months after landing in Vietnam in 1969. He learned that the bombardments of villages and the mass murder of noncombatants, children and elders included, was to raise the body count for President Nixon so that he would have the statistics to pretend that the US military was effective in Vietnam. Wilson realized that the white male youth like him were being indoctrinated as “ideological robots” to commit crimes; their identity of warriors fighting to defend democracy and the American people was all a lie.

Back in the US, Brian Wilson became a lawyer but was soon disillusioned by the unjust and untruthful legal system there. He then took up research about the legal system and soon learned that the pillars of that system were based on mainly British, male, colonial self-identify of superiority used to justify conquest and genocide. Wilson studied the history of US military policy to find there were two genocides deliberately and systematically executed against indigenous and enslaved African people on the territories since the that American settler mavericks claimed as of their arrival in the 1600s. They stood by the credo that they had “the non-transacted destiny to subdue the continent.” The US government ordered the complete destruction of the Seneca communities. That was just the beginning. Wilson figures there have been thousands of massacres of indigenous peoples over the continent ordered and overseen by US authorities. The leaders of the settlements were members of joint stock companies granted access to lands with the excuse that fenceless lands were unclaimed and unpossessed. The belief of self-entitlement bolstered the takeovers.

The faith in superiority encouraged the settler leaders to expect impunity. They saw themselves as especially gifted and therefore favoured by God. They thought they should enjoy the privilege of ownership and rule. This enduring mindset, as Wilson describes it, is sexist, racist and classist. Most Americans have absorbed this ideology and accept it without question. The US exterminated around 250,000 indigenous people and ground down three to five million Africans taken as slaves. These truths have never been frankly and properly addressed, asserted Wilson.

Another speaker, Catherine Hoyt, gave more historical detail. She turned attention to the Puritan image of its Holy Community as a “City upon a hill.” It was President Ronald Reagan who revived that motto in the 1970s, referring to the US as “the Shining City on a hill.” He and the elite imaged that their holy mission was to expand the empire, to build and defend the Panama Canal, colonize the Philippines, invade several Latin American countries, etc. The Woodrow Wilson administration declared the US was “making the world safe for democracy.” The isolationist legal framework allows the US to commit unlawful act by means of exemptions for the US, double standards and human rights leadership (domestically and internationally).

The ideology based on US exceptionalism prevails, explained Brian Wilson. Thousands of soldiers and sailors travel thousands of miles to destroy other people, duped by this way of thinking and all its sloganeering. The US military has invaded countries 600 times, only declaring war five times, all to build capitalism, assert private ownership and invalidate other nations. US exceptionalism is understood as natural. White, male, Christian nationalist discourse ran through the centuries into the 20th. Myths about democracy, the “Founding Fathers”, the rule of law, the Constitution, etc. Continue to be floated. US nationalist identity is fraudulent.

Wilson put forward US policy on Nicaragua as an example of the application of this ideology in recent times. The US marines first landed in Nicaragua to protect a Vanderbilt family company. The local people protested by burning down their facility. The marines retaliated by bombing a town. The US has intervened in Nicaragua 13 times since then. Biden has adopted this stance with Nicaragua and other dissenter nation-states.

Hoyt provided a history of economic coercive measures used as part of the US arsenal. The Trading with the Enemy Act (TWEA) was passed during WW1. It was implemented after WW2 against Cold War enemies such as Cuba. Today there are many types of sanctions: military, sports, diplomatic, individual and economic applied to several countries and persons. Some are multi-lateral. Some are illegal. The United Nations has passed resolutions to sanction North Korea, Iran, Mali, South Sudan, Central Africa, among many. However, a UN Rapporteur on sanctions has found many US sanctions to be unlawful and in violation of human rights because they cause death, economic hardship, disruptions to production and distribution and generate emigration. Reagan declared revolutionary Nicaragua a threat to the national security and foreign policy of the US, though the World Court ruled that the US embargo against Nicaragua set in 1984 was in violation of international law. However, the US has simply ignored the orders of the World Court and other international authorities.

Biden bears the banner of sanctions intended to inflict maximum pain on populations to force nations bend to US will. His crew in Congress is full of hawks with PhDs. For the most part, there is no point in trying to dissuade them. US society, in Wilson’s opinion, is thoroughly sick. Lobbying is corrupt, for it is all about money. The only solution for the people is revolution. At this stage, it is important to study and face all the genocides and aggression. Those who are aware now must share the facts and the perspective. They should engage themselves and others in rediscovery and redefinition and organize for change.

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For Immediate Release

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Black Alliance for Peace Solidarity Network Demands NATO Support Peace Process in Afghanistan and Withdraw Its Forces

-Biden Administration Must Abide by Terms of Peace Agreement

MARCH 11, 2021—The Black Alliance for Peace (BAP) Solidarity Network, made up of allied organizations and individuals, demands the North Atlantic Treaty Organization end its imperialist endeavor in Afghanistan and calls on the United States to abide by the 2020 U.S.-Taliban agreement by exiting Afghanistan by May 1.

The BAP Solidarity Network encourages anti-imperialist, anti-war people and organizations to sign a petition to demand the Biden administration exit Afghanistan. It also has developed a template to help the U.S. public write letters to the editors of news organizations to demand an end to the U.S. intervention.

Through its research, the BAP Solidarity Network has uncovered that 11,000 NATO troops representing 36 countries are in Afghanistan, although only 2,500 U.S. troops occupy the war-riddled country. At a December 16, 2020 meeting, NATO allies agreed to a \$1.94 billion 2021 military budget and a \$312.5 million 2021 civil budget all for its Afghanistan operations.

Tod Wolters, commander of the U.S. European Command—one of 11 global command structures the United States uses to dominate every inch of the world—also is NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe. He said, "Everything we do is about generating peace. We compete to win... and if deterrence fails, we're prepared to respond to aggression, primarily through NATO." That indicates NATO does not merely advise or train Afghan troops.

Today, the U.S. European Command and NATO, along with the Afghan Forces they finance, are shifting their objectives from the so-called anti-terrorist campaign to "peace building in Afghanistan."

"The BAP Solidarity Network understands this is only a cover for the real objectives, namely fighting the New Cold War against Russia, China and other countries not aligned with the U.S.-European imperialist consensus," says Zach Kerner, member of the BAP Solidarity Network.

While increasingly under threat of a global war, the people of Afghanistan continue suffering the immediate brunt of imperialist and capitalist interests in the region. To date, the U.S. empire and its European allies are complicit in the

deaths of over 100,000 Afghan adults and children, leaving thousands more injured or permanently disabled. Two decades of dropping 50,000 bombs on a country the size of Texas has left Afghanistan with catastrophic levels of poverty, an economy in shambles, and health care workers struggling with the added burden of the pandemic. Nearly 3 million Afghans refugees have fled their country to escape the violence, making Afghanistan one of the world's biggest sources of refugees, and over 2 million Afghans have been internally displaced. Two decades of war has cost the U.S. public more than \$1 trillion.

Within days of taking office, the Biden administration signaled it would not abide by the U.S.-Taliban agreement, citing the importance of supporting a "stable, sovereign, democratic, and secure future for Afghanistan."

"This is the same language we hear whenever the United States and NATO conspire to destabilize foreign countries hostile to U.S. and European capital," says Danny Haiphong, co-coordinator of the BAP Solidarity Network, "but we condemn the threat of the New Cold War and the continued war and occupation of Afghanistan, as we condemn the use of state violence and militarism against poor and working-class people of all nations. That is why we demand the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. and NATO forces as well as the financing of the war machine in Afghanistan and the region."

**No to the New Cold War!
U.S./NATO out of Afghanistan!**

Take action on Earth Day: April 22, 2021

EXPOSE AND OPPOSE THE MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

The information contained herein is a product of research by the People's Inquiry into the cost of war and the Australia-US alliance from IPAN (Independent and Peaceful Australia Network), a united front where Spirit of Eureka members are active. As part of this work, the Inquiry is holding a series of webinars. For example, the online forum held on March 25 included Dr Vince Scappatura, author of *The US Lobby and Australian Defense Policy* who teaches Politics and International Relations at Macquarie University as well as former diplomat, Alison Broinowski, visiting Fellow, Coral Bell School, ANU and Vice President, Australians for War Powers Reform who has authored or edited 14 books about Australia's dealings with the world, Asian countries particularly. "Peace 4 the People" received some notes on the costs of war from this project titled, "Extracts from Background Sheet No4 (Environment and Climate Change)."

"US Military: Feeding the war industry and climate change

"The Pentagon is the world's biggest consumer of fossil fuels—and agent of climate change. Since 2001, the U.S. military has produced 1.2 billion metric tons of greenhouse-gas emissions, or as much as 257 million passenger cars annually, roughly as many registered vehicles as there are in the entire U.S. That's a higher annual output than whole countries like Morocco, Sweden, and Switzerland.

“The M-1 Abrams (US main battle) tanks burn 250 gallons of fuel per hour. The F-4 Phantom Fighter burns more than 1,600 gallons of jet fuel per hour and peaks at 14,400 gallons per hour at supersonic speeds. The B-52 Stratocruiser, with eight jet engines, uses 55 gallons per minute.

“In 2006, the US spent more on the war in Iraq than the entire world spent on renewable energy investment. The reporting each country is required to make to the UN on their greenhouse gas emissions excludes any fuels purchased and used overseas by the military. This has been the case since 1997.

“The military is not just a prolific user of oil; it is one of the central pillars of the global fossil-fuel economy. Whether it is in the Middle East, the Gulf, or the Pacific, today’s military deployment is often about controlling oil-rich regions and defending the key shipping supply routes that carry half the world’s oil and sustain our consumer economy...

“... All wars create widespread destruction and require reconstruction afterwards. The resources used and emissions produced in the reconstruction phase (which might last for many years), are also an environmentally destructive consequence of war. Wars also can have catastrophic consequences for animal and plant species in the war zone ...”

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STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE MARSHALLESE NUCLEAR VICTIMS REMEMBRANCE DAYS!

Statement by Resist US-led War (resistusledwar.com)

The Resist US Led War movement stands firmly with the Marshallese People on the Nuclear Victims Remembrance Days. The US military occupation of the Marshall Islands, the nuclear weapons testing during the Cold War and continual use of the Marshall Islands for missile testing, reveal the deep and widespread harm caused by the legacy of US nuclear weapons development. These are clear examples of the violation of the rights of the Marshallese people and a violation of their sovereignty for the benefit of US imperialism’s drive for military superiority.

US imperialism has the distinction of being the first and, so far, the only power that has used the atomic bomb on the civilian populations of entire cities, such as those of Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

On March 1, 1954, the United States tested its most powerful hydrogen bomb, "Shrimp", in its Castle Bravo operation. This 15-megaton explosion devastated many communities throughout the Pacific. Sixty-seven years later, individuals continue to fall ill as a result of the tests, and the long-term impacts of the tests are still being revealed.

These extensive US nuclear tests have also damaged the people’s health and environments in many other Pacific islands and atolls, while medical tests in its clandestine laboratories have likewise damaged the health of numerous voluntary and involuntary human test subjects.

The COVID-19 pandemic, and its mishandling by the United States’ neoliberal health care system, has created a public health crisis the magnitude of which no one in living memory has experienced. While the pandemic has already killed over half a million people in the U.S., interrupted trade, stalled the economy, caused massive hour cuts and layoffs, forced families apart, and isolated elders, COVID-19 carries special health risk for many members of radiation- and chemically exposed communities. This is because individuals and communities impacted by the development, testing, and production of nuclear weapons often have so many underlying factors which magnify their risks; these include air and water pollution, poverty, poor nutrition, and institutionalized racism. These factors can result in weakened immune systems in veterans and civilians exposed to radiation through above-ground nuclear testing; civilians and workers exposed at or downwind of nuclear weapons production sites; uranium miners and their families; and people living near abandoned mines and waste sites. Compounding the problem, these exposed populations are disproportionately from indigenous communities, communities of color, low-income, or rural communities, and often face significant barriers to receiving adequate health care.

The Resist US-Led War Movement joins the call for justice for nuclear-affected communities. We call for justice for Marshallese workers, uranium miners, and clean-up veterans who have yet to be fully compensated for the health

consequences they have been exposed to. We join in calls for sovereignty and environmental restoration for indigenous nations whose land and water have been contaminated by nuclear waste, uranium mining and plutonium production.

We invite partners to join the Resist US Led War Movement to fight back against the US war machine and wars of aggression and rise up for genuine and lasting peace. ###

10 YEARS SINCE THE INTERVENTION IN LIBYA

By [Manlio Dinucci](#), posted on the *Workers World* website on March 19, 2021

Ten years ago, on March 19, 2011, U.S.-NATO forces began the air and sea bombardment of Libya. The war was directed by the United States, first through its Africa Command, then through NATO under U.S. command. In seven months, the U.S.-NATO air force carried out 30,000 sorties, 10,000 of which were bombing attacks, unleashing over 40,000 bombs and missiles.



Italy, with the multi-party consensus of the Parliament (its Democratic Party in the lead), participated in the war using seven air bases (Trapani, Gioia del Colle, Sigonella, Decimomannu, Aviano, Amendola and Pantelleria), with Tornado fighter-bombers, Eurofighters and others, plus the aircraft carrier Garibaldi and other warships.

Before the air-sea offensive began, U.S.-NATO agents and client states financed and armed ethnic groups and reactionary Islamic groups hostile to Libya's government, and Qatar deployed special forces to instigate armed clashes within the country.

In this way, the African country was demolished. Libya, as the World Bank documented in 2010, had maintained "high levels of economic growth," with its GDP increasing by 7.5 percent per year, and recorded "high human development indicators," including universal access to primary and secondary education and, for over 40 percent of the youth, access to university education. Despite the disparities, the average standard of living in Libya was higher than in other African countries. About two million immigrants, mostly African, found work there.

The Libyan state, which possessed the largest oil reserves in Africa plus others of natural gas, had limited profit margins for foreign companies. Thanks to energy exports, the Libyan balance of trade showed a positive margin of \$27 billion per year. With these resources, the Libyan state had invested around \$150 billion abroad.

Libyan investments were crucial

Libyan investments in Africa were crucial to the African Union's plan to create three financial bodies: the African Monetary Fund, with headquarters in Yaoundé, Cameroon; the African Central Bank, with headquarters in Abuja, Nigeria; and the African Investment Bank, with headquarters in Tripoli, Libya. These bodies would have served to create a common market and a single African currency.

It is no coincidence that the NATO war to demolish the Libyan state began less than two months after the African Union summit of Jan. 31, 2011. This summit gave the go-ahead for the creation of the African Monetary Fund by the end of 2011.

This is proven by emails of the Obama administration's Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, later brought to light by WikiLeaks. (To read the entire article, go to [10 years ago U.S.-NATO forces demolished Libya – Workers World](#).)###

The QUAD Summit and US expectations of the Australian military

Written by: anonymous and posted on *Vanguard's* website on 19 March 2021



The recent Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) summit in March was given widespread media coverage. A subsequent high-level diplomatic visit to Asia a few days later, however, was given extremely limited publicity despite its importance for US-led regional alliances.

The developments take place amid an escalation of diplomatic tensions where observers openly discuss war preparations, within a context of a changing balance of forces away from US-led traditional hegemonic positions.

The recent Quad summit with the leaders of US, Australia, Japan and India, took place with huge publicity. Stated agenda items included regional security issues, the South China Seas and related maritime matters, the COVID-19 pandemic and economic considerations related to climate change; it was noted the 'soft agenda ... for the ... Quad alliance has been extended beyond a security partnership'. (1)

Elsewhere, carefully worded media releases have taken considerable time to emphasize the Quad is not a security alliance 'but an informal strategic forum of like-minded countries with shared interests'. (2) Other media releases noted 'the Quad is not an Asian NATO'. (3)

The ninety-minute virtual Quad summit began with a video showing how the four countries had coordinated a response to the 2004 tsunami; time was possibly too pressing to talk openly about other matters. Defense Ministers from the four countries were also not invited to participate in the summit, although it was noted, nevertheless, the Quad 'has a military significance'. (4)

Following the seemingly befuddled summit an official media release from Canberra noted the Quad amounted to 'the most important development for Australia's security in the past 70 years', with reference to the forthcoming ANZUS celebrations in September which have included an invitation to President Biden. (5)

US demands ramp up

Within days, however, another high-level US-led diplomatic initiative began; it would appear to have been far more important than a ninety-minute on-line Quad-chat between Joe Biden, Scott Morrison, Yoshihide Suga and Narendra Modi.

It began when Pentagon chief Lloyd Austin accompanied by Secretary of State Antony Blinken travelled to the region to brief allies on US military planning. A major concern has been a Pentagon military assessment that China could seek to invade Taiwan within the next six years. (6) The assessment has also included the concern that a Chinese invasion of Taiwan would 'supplant the US as the dominant power in the Asia-Pacific'. (7)

While the Quad has the specific purpose of 'hemming China in from all sides', the Indo-Pacific strategy is centred upon the US-Japan alliance which has also included Australia as a southern hub for 'US interests'. (8) The regional allies regarded by the US as important include: South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Vietnam, and others as 'lower-level partners'. (9)

The role of Australia was subsequently clearly defined by the Biden administration as an important logistics and training centre for US-led operations. [To read the entire article, go to [Vanguard - Communist Party of Australia Marxist Leninist \(cpaml.org\)](http://Vanguard - Communist Party of Australia Marxist Leninist (cpaml.org))] ###

PALESTINIAN WOMEN PRISONERS: THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM

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On the International Day of Solidarity with Revolutionary Political Prisoners around the world, Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network launches the following resource on Palestinian women detained by the Israeli settler-colonial occupation regime.

We invite all organizations, activists, women's collectives and others interested in standing for justice in Palestine and for the freedom of Palestinian detained women to contact us at samidoun@samidoun.net to build collective campaigns for their liberation.

There are currently approximately 35 Palestinian women in Israeli jails, representing all facets of Palestinian society: students, activists, organizers, parliamentarians, journalists, health workers, mothers, sisters, daughters, aunts, strugglers, freedom fighters.

Palestinian women have always been at the center of the liberation movement through all aspects of struggle and have led within the prisoners' movement, organizing hunger strikes and standing on the front lines of struggle even behind bars.

Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network salutes the leading role of Palestinian women in struggle and urges the immediate release of all Palestinian women prisoners in Israeli occupation prisons.

Palestinian women prisoners include 11 mothers, six injured women and three jailed without charge or trial under administrative detention.

They include [Khalida Jarrar](#), Palestinian parliamentarian, feminist, leftist and advocate for Palestinian political prisoners, sentenced to two years in Israeli prison for her public political activities just days prior to International Women's Day; [Khitam Saafin](#), President of the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees, jailed without charge or trial, her administrative detention renewed for another four months; [Bushra al-Tawil](#), Palestinian journalist and activist whose detention without charge or trial was also renewed for another four months on 7 March 2021.

They include Palestinian students, like Layan Kayed, Elia Abu Hijleh, Ruba Assi and Shata Tawil of Bir Zeit University. [Hundreds of Palestinian students](#) are routinely detained by the Israeli occupation, especially those who are part of student organizations involved with campus political life. At Bir Zeit University alone, approximately 74 students were detained by occupation soldiers during the 2019-2020 academic year.

Palestinian women prisoners are among 5,000 total political prisoners, but Palestinian women are broadly affected by the mass incarceration of Palestinian men as well. Palestinian women are the mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, lovers and friends of Palestinian male prisoners. They make homes for themselves and their children, denied access to their husbands and fathers.

Palestinian women lead the movement outside prison to highlight the names, faces, voices and stories of all Palestinian prisoners struggling for liberation. **However, too often, the stories, names and experiences of imprisoned Palestinian women remain unmentioned and unhighlighted.**

Since 1948 and before, from the earliest days of the Palestinian national liberation movement, Palestinian women have been expelled from their homes and targeted for repression on multiple levels, their very capacity to reproduce and raise their children labeled as an unacceptable threat to the racist settler-colonial project of Zionism. **Since 1967 alone, around 10,000 Palestinian women have been jailed by the Israeli occupation for their political activity and involvement in the Palestinian resistance, including Palestinian women in Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Palestinian women holding Israeli citizenship in occupied Palestine '48. Palestinian women in exile and diaspora have been denied their right to return to Palestine for over 72 years yet continue to struggle, facing political repression, criminalization, deportation and imprisonment.**

Palestinian women prisoners are routinely subjected to torture and ill-treatment by Israeli occupation forces, from the moment they are detained — often in violent night raids — and throughout the interrogation process, including

beatings, insults, threats, aggressive body searches and sexually explicit harassment. Within Israeli prisons, the official state policy of "[worsening the conditions](#)" of Palestinian prisoners has particularly targeted Palestinian women, denied family visits or even phone calls, subjected to intense surveillance that violates their privacy, denied education and held in dangerous and unhealthy conditions. They are transported in the "bosta," a metal vehicle where women are shackled on a long, circuitous trip that takes hours longer than a direct route and often denied access to sanitary facilities.

Damon prison, itself formerly a stable for animals, is located in occupied Palestine '48 — in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention, and making it even more difficult for Palestinian women's family members to visit them. All visits are subjected to an arbitrary permit regime which is often obstructed by the Israeli occupation regime.

Palestinian women behind bars continue to resist and to lead. In April 1970, Palestinian women prisoners at Neve Tirza prison launched one of the first collective hunger strikes of the Palestinian prisoners' movement when they refused food for nine days. They demanded access to women's sanitary supplies as well as an end to beatings and solitary confinement. Palestinian women have been consistently involved in general hunger strikes and protest actions, including strikes led by women prisoners in 1985, 2004 and 2019 that inspired global women's solidarity. Despite the denial of formal education by the Israeli colonial regime, Palestinian women prisoners have developed revolutionary education for all prisoners, expanding their knowledge and commitment to struggle.

Palestinian women prisoners are not alone; they struggle alongside fellow women political prisoners in the Philippines, Turkey, India, Egypt and around the world. And their imprisonment is also international: it is funded, backed and supported by the diplomatic, military, economic and political backing given to Israel by the imperialist powers, including the United States, Britain, Canada, Australia and the European Union states. Palestinian women also confront the role of the Palestinian Authority's "security cooperation" regime under Oslo and the normalization politics and repressive attacks of reactionary Arab regimes.

Despite all attempts of the Zionist regime to isolate them from the global movement for the liberation of women and humanity through imprisonment and repression, Palestinian women continue to organize and struggle from behind bars, in the streets and fields of occupied Palestine, and everywhere in exile in diaspora, seeking return and liberation. Now is the time to act and urge their immediate release and the liberation of all Palestinian prisoners, and of Palestine, from the river to the sea.