stop the war! stop the occupations!

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Mobilization against war & occupation

The Trump Administration announced it has given Defense Secretary Jim Mattis the authority to determine troop levels in Afghanistan. It is widely believed that Mattis favors sending several thousand more U.S. troops to Afghanistan. Why? Perhaps to break the “stalemate” as described by the Commander of U.S. Forces in Afghanistan, Army General John Nicholson when describing the war to the Senate Armed Services Committee. In his June 13th testimony, Secretary Mattis told the same committee, “We are not winning in Afghanistan right now.” Veterans For Peace calls for a different direction than more war. We call on Congress to stop funding war and demand policies that foster peace and prosperity at home and in Afghanistan. It should be clear after 16 years and the death of tens of thousands of people that no one is a winner in Afghanistan. There is no clear concept of what it means to win there. In fact, it is no longer clear why the U.S. continues to keep troops in Afghanistan and now is on the brink of increasing the number of men and women in harm’s way. The U.S. has claimed to be at war in Afghanistan to deny “terrorists” training and staging areas to attack the United States and to protect the people of Afghanistan. After this long period of war, what does the U.S. have to show for its military efforts? Since the horror of September 11, 2001, the U.S. has been on a path of war, wreaking havoc on millions of people around the globe. Because of displacement, death and maiming of loved ones by U.S. wars, animosity towards the U.S. has increased and the world has become less safe. The animosity caused by the wars has created a larger pool of people willing to fight the U.S. In 2001 al Qaeda had limited influence and ISIL did not exist. Now Al Qaeda and ISIL have affiliated groups and sympathetic supporters around the globe. The protection of the Afghan people has been a total failure. It has been widely reported that the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan found that there were 11,418 civilian casualties (3,498 deaths and 7,920 injured) between January and December 2016, an overall increase of 3 percent. An appalling number of those casualties were children – 923 deaths, and 2,589 injured – a 24 percent increase over record-high numbers from 2015. In addition, 3,355 coalition forces have died, three of which were recently killed as a result of an insider attack fire from an Afghan soldier. We must add to these losses all the people who are physically and psychologically broken and families torn apart. The human cost is immeasurable. But there is also a dollar cost to war. The U.S. has spent over $1 trillion in this failed and depraved effort in Afghanistan. These dollars represent lost opportunities to repair U.S. infrastructure, pay for healthcare, create jobs and address a host of human needs. It is not too late for a different direction. War was always the wrong option. Perhaps it was not clear 16 years ago. It should be clear now more than ever!

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The US government claims their air strikes and military intervention in the country have humanitarian aims – to rid the country of the terrorists of Daesh. Yet The Nation magazine reports that “[H]uman rights groups and local reporters say that, across Syria in recent months, the US-led coalition and US Marines have bombed or shelled at least 12 schools, including primary schools and a girls’ high school; a health clinic and an obstetrics hospital; Raqqa Science College; residential neighborhoods; bakeries; post offices; a car wash; at least 15 mosques; a cultural center; a gas station; cars carrying civilians to the hospital; a

By Nita Palmer

Another 59 civilians have been killed by US coalition air strikes in Syria’s northern city of Raqqa. Twenty-one of the dead are children. The air strikes are said to be targeting Daesh (ISIS) fighters, but to date have killed more than 300 civilians in the city. The US government claims their air strikes and military intervention in the country have humanitarian aims – to rid the country of the terrorists of Daesh. Yet The Nation magazine reports that “[H]uman rights groups and local reporters say that, across Syria in recent months, the US-led coalition and US Marines have bombed or shelled at least 12 schools, including primary schools and a girls’ high school; a health clinic and an obstetrics hospital; Raqqa Science College; residential neighborhoods; bakeries; post offices; a car wash; at least 15 mosques; a cultural center; a gas station; cars carrying civilians to the hospital; a
As families in North America are preparing for the new school year, children in Yemen are struggling to stay alive amid the war that is rife in their country. The people of Yemen have been suffering under a brutal bombing campaign carried out by Saudi Arabia and its allies. In the years of war and destruction left behind in the country in the midst of a humanitarian crisis, that’s getting worse by the day. In a joint statement, three UN agencies, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Food Program (UNFPA), are deeply concerned about the most recent situation in Yemen as “the world’s worst cholera outbreak in the midst of the worst humanitarian crisis.”

Humanitarian crisis intensifies!

The indiscriminate bombing campaign by the coalition led by Saudi Arabia is destroying homes, schools, hospitals, roads, markets, mosques, and other social infrastructure, and civilian infrastructure. Coupled with the inhuman aerial, aerial and land blockade imposed on the people by Saudi Arabia, the Yemenis face huge shortages of many essential items, including food, fuel and medical supplies. According to the UN latest report on the situation in Yemen, “21.1 million people are in urgent need of assistance, of which 9.9 million children and 1.4 million are internally displaced. This lack of food, fuel, and medical supplies has led to poor healthcare and sanitary infrastructure has put the children’s health at风险 of severe acute malnutrition and cholera epidemic.”

According to the New York Times, 5,000 Yemenis are infected with cholera each week, while another 200,000 people are in need of a cholera vaccine to protect them from the disease. "The children are suffering from acute malnutrition account for a big number of fatalities by the disease. In a report by UNICEF titled “Mental Health and Psychosocial Assistance,” the estimated a total of 57% of hospitals damaged and 37% no longer functioning, according to Physicians for Human Rights. The NGO Save the Children estimates that 200,000 Yemenis have died from the war, while another 50,000 are at risk of death. In addition, the UNICEF report states that “Nearly 2.2 million children are acutely malnourished and require urgent care. Close to half a million children suffer from severe acute malnutrition, a life-threatening condition that has seen a spike in deaths in recent months.”

As families in North America are preparing for the new school year, children in Yemen are struggling to stay alive amid the war that is rife in their country. The people of Yemen have been suffering under a brutal bombing campaign carried out by Saudi Arabia, its allies, and in their recent report, the UN have stated that “the war is destroying the spirit and hope of Yemenis.” In this context, the children of Yemen are being deprived of their lives and future. They are deprived of their lives and future.

The Saudi government backed by the US and their allies has no respect for human life. Their brutal bombardment and war on Yemen is stripping Yemeni children of their childhood and its innocence. The Saudi-led coalition has been bombing schools, hospitals, and mosques. They talk of ending terrorism; yet it is they who are the source of terrorism. Their kids study in Saudi Arabia in the war zones, and the teachers are employed in the war zones.

The only objective the US has managed to achieve in Syria is creating chaos and division in the country. They attack Daesh, yet they refuse to cooperate with the Syrian government or the UN to resolve the conflict. In fact, the US government is funding ‘rebels’ to attack the Syrian people and the Syrian government, who could be their best ally in the fight against Daesh.

The US strategy in Syria and the region as a whole is not focussed on bringing peace, democracy, and human rights to the region. The US and their allies are pursuing this strategy in order to establish military, political, and economic control in the region and gain an upper hand over rising global economic competitors such as China and Russia, and to ward off the threat that independent countries, particularly Iran, pose to their economic interests in the region. The US strategy in Syria is the blueprint of a likely scenario in Syria. In both those countries, the US has established a military base, and controls the country and provided an opportunity and an incentive for military, economic, and political agreements in the long term.

In short, US intervention and meddling has done everything but establish human rights and an end to terrorism. It has created chaos and division in the country and provided an opportunity and an incentive for military, economic, and political agreements in the long term.

The US government talks of bringing human rights to Syria; yet it is they who are bombing hospitals, schools, and mosques. They talk of ending terrorism; yet it is they who are the source of terrorism. They are bombing kids, a shame for them to attack kids, and the second personality is necessary... That second personality must express an affinity for the children of Yemen. They must express an affinity for the children of Yemen. They must express an affinity for the children of Yemen. They must express an affinity for the children of Yemen. They must express an affinity for the children of Yemen.

Hands off Yemen! #KefayaWar on Yemen!

The US is providing all this support for free.”

A student at the school spoke to Amnesty International about how she and her family had to extinguish a fire out of of school according to UNICEF. An estimated 2,108 schools across the country can no longer be used as they are destroyed, damaged, or being used for other purposes. Amnesty international has recorded several instances were the Saudi fighter jets bombed schools with civilians and students in them or in the vicinity. The likely reason, according to the US and the Saudi government, who could be their best ally in the fight against Daesh. The only objective the US has managed to achieve in Syria is creating chaos and division in the country. They attack Daesh, yet they refuse to cooperate with the Syrian government or the UN to resolve the conflict. In fact, the US government is funding ‘rebels’ to attack the Syrian people and the Syrian government, who could be their best ally in the fight against Daesh.

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