

APPEAL FOR A UNITED PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION
IN CHICAGO ON MAY 19, 2012
TO PROTEST THE NATO/G8 WAR & POVERTY AGENDA

On invitation of the White House, the financial and military elites of the mainly US-led North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the eight wealthy G8 nations will gather in Chicago May 19th to 21st for "summit" meetings to plan future strategies.

They will make plans to continue the war and occupation in Afghanistan and to carry out an aggressive new nuclear doctrine in violation of international law. They will make plans for new wars and occupations in the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, and elsewhere. And they will decide to continue escalating arms expenditures, expanding the massive imperial system of environmentally destructive military bases around the world.

Since the end of the Cold War, NATO has reinvented itself and now claims the "right" to conduct military attacks anywhere in the world on decision of an "international community" -- the elite One Percent in the NATO nations. Participation in NATO is leading to increased military capabilities of the European countries and of the European Union, which collaborates closely with NATO on military strategy. And NATO persists in arrogating to itself the "right" to unilaterally initiate a nuclear strike against any perceived threat.

This rapacious militarism benefits only the One Percent. The people of the NATO/G8 countries pay with tax increases, cutbacks in social services, increasing inequality, poverty, racism, sexism, militarization of schools and loss of youth to war, environmental damage, and destruction of civil rights and democratic systems of government. The people in countries victimized by NATO war crimes and occupation pay with the theft of their resources and the destruction of their homes, livelihoods, communities, and cultures - and often with their lives. Though more than 50,000 Libyans died in the recent NATO intervention, NATO deems that venture a "success" and a model for future interventions.

G8 countries comprise only 14% of the world's population, but account for more than 70% of the world's military expenditures. All of the G8 countries except Russia are members of NATO, and the 28-member countries of NATO account for 75% of world military expenditures, with the U.S. covering the majority of NATO costs. Just a portion of this spending could save the lives of millions of people who are in desperate need and would provide essential resources for education and medical care and to reverse environmental damage, and much more.

We refuse to accept the NATO/G8 policies of the elite One Percent. We refuse to live under the terror of nuclear weapons. We demand an end to the nuclear arms race and the dismantling of foreign military bases. We demand the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. and NATO troops from Afghanistan. We demand an end to threats of intervention in Syria, Iran, and other countries. We demand that international law and civil liberties be respected and that resources be directed to serve human needs.

We call on people from around the world to join us on May 19th in Chicago for a peaceful, family-friendly demonstration to protest the NATO/G8 war and poverty agenda.

While respecting our diversity and differences in political program and orientation, in Chicago we will together in solidarity assert our vision of a just world free of war with creative, colorful, and nonviolent means.

First Signatories (as of February 21st 2012):

Reiner Braun (ICC No to War – No to NATO, Germany), Claire Chastain (ICC No to War – No to NATO, France), Luis Gutierrez-Esparza (ICC No to War – No to NATO, Mexico), Kristine Karch (No to NATO Women's Network, Germany), Tobias Pflüger (ICC No to War – No to NATO, Germany), Elsa Rassbach (ICC No to War – No to NATO, USA/Germany), iez Thiery (ICC No to War – No to NATO, Belgium), Lucas Wirl (Germany), Michael Youlton (ICC No to War – No to NATO, Ireland)