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WOMEN SAY NO TO WAR AND TO NATO

NATO, wars and military spending are not a priority for working-class women.

When you are laid off, when your fixed-term contract is not renewed, when you struggle to pay always more for less and when at the beginning of the month your wallet is already empty... you have nothing to win with the increase of military spending.

When children, at school, no longer enjoy a network of support to overcome their difficulties, when you can't afford a house or healthcare... it is to be strongly denounced that money should be granted first to bankers, industrialists and to the army rather to education, housing and healthcare projects.

When you long for a safe and peaceful future for yourself and your children, when you long for a society based on reciprocal respect and not on force you have nothing to expect from bombings which destroy homes, which kill men, women and children in Afghanistan.

NATO, wars and military spending concern us; we firmly denounce and fight them.

The cause of women cannot be defended by oppressing a population, because they are part of it and are themselves under attack.

To justify the sending of additional troops to Afghanistan, Sarkozy once more came out with the argument of the protection of Afghan women: "When you consider what the Taliban have done to the Afghan people, especially to Afghan women...", he declared in May 2008... Thus the cause of women is once again brandished to justify military interventions. Already in 1999, during the war in Yugoslavia, series of rapes on women on Bosnia-Herzegovina, by Serbs – barbarous crimes which we have firmly condemned – were used and broadcast everywhere without any consideration for the victims, in order to justify the bombing of the country.

The war and the occupation in Afghanistan were presented as means to free women from the Taliban's oppression. However, not only have the Afghan women's living conditions not improved, but it is also very clear that just as the country has gotten stuck in a quagmire the women have gotten bogged down in a humanitarian catastrophe. After having destroyed Afghanistan on a long-term basis, bombed populations handed the country over to warlords who have driven the Afghan society towards chaos.

After having made most women fall into a state of destitution and poverty where the only right they have won is to live in conditions of total insecurity, after all this, still daring to affirm that this war is aimed at liberating women amounts to a huge hypocrisy. The situation for a large majority of women has gotten worse, and their fundamental right to life violated. The new constitution written under American protection confirms the country as an Islamic republic with the sharia as the founding basis for laws. Local powers keep on laying down reactionary law and customs against women: raped women are liable to jail sentence for adultery. A woman or a girl can be "given" to "wash away" an affront or to "pay" a debt.

Women's rights cannot be defended by those who dominate and want to reinforce their domination. We denounce any harnessing of women's sufferings by those who seek to justify a military intervention.