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Author: Monique Dental

Founder of the Collective « Pratiques et Réflexions Féministes « Ruptures » , Paris, France.

<monique.dental@orange.fr> <<http://reseau-feministe-ruptures.ras.eu.org>>

FEMINIST NETWORK « RUPTURES »

NATO, A WARMONGER DRIFT. WAR IS ANTI-FEMINIST

The Feminist Collective « Ruptures » and its network, committed to the implementation of basic women human rights and sustainable development at the national, European and international level, had already fought against any military solution during the Gulf crisis. While condemning the iraki aggression we wrote, with other organizations, a « Women citizens letter » to the President of the French Republic demanding the convening of an international conference to address, with the people involved, the serious problems of the Middle East.

Aware of expressing the opinion of a great majority of women and men living in our country (polls had shown irrefutably that the french citizens, men and women, were against any kind of participation in this conflict) we were part of the national Coalition « No to the War in Irak ; yes to a World of Justice, Peace and Democracy in the Middle East and in the World ».

To-day the defence strategies which were the reason for creating Nato have turned into deterrent, threatening and power strategies against possible enemies : yesterday the Eastern bloc, to-day the terrorist nebulous movement. Nato does not function anymore within a logic of peace which is replaced to-day by one of conflicts. This is why we call for the utmost vigilance with regard to the hardening of the discourse and the commitments of the members of Nato.

- We are conscious that modern war has an inordinate impact on civilian populations, in particular on women and children ;
- we know that the militarization process prevents investment into human rights, social development and equality between men and women ;
- we are deeply concerned by the fact that violence against women and girls in situations of conflict and post-conflict is extreme, systematic and general ;
- experience has shown that the militarization process gags the women and leaves them powerless, the main sufferers of the war ,while they go on accomplishing everyday tasks towards peace and sustainable development within their communities ;
- everywhere in Europe and in the world, women organizations, Ngo's and feminist militants, while condemning all forms of dictatorships, have constantly refused militarization ;
- war always buries humankind hopes for freedom and democracy, and this even more in countries where these are still to be fought for ;
- war is always a catastrophe for women, men and children ;

- war has a devastating effect on the people and territories involved ;
- the main « northern » countries pretend to defend their own cultural and religious values against announced threats , but in so doing ignore any other solution as well as the international organizations working for the implementation of basic human rights ;
- For all the above reasons, it was to be hoped that the men monopolizing the power of decision in this beginning of XXI century would be more respectful of human rights ;

We intend to commit ourselves to sustainable peace worldwide, to defend interventions consciously respectful of the people and their basic human rights and we object to the brutality of conflicts as a means to defend them, specially women and children who are the most vulnerable.