

Emergency Protest: No to Trump's Attack on Syria! No to British support!

Roger Nettleship speaking on behalf of Newcastle Stop the War - 10-4-17

Newcastle Stop the War Coalition condemns Donald Trump's decision to launch attacks against Syrian targets. This action will only increase the level of killing in Syria, and inflame the terrible war that has already caused untold misery for the people of the country.

What must be condemned is Theresa May and her government who have rushed to support this bombing of Syria. She did not even consult Parliament, or even the leader of the opposition. Jeremy Corbyn immediately pointed out. "This is the worst possible way to respond to the indefensible attack." He said; "unilateral military action without legal authorisation or independent verification risks intensifying a multi-sided conflict that has already killed hundreds of thousands of people." He said; "The British government should urge restraint on the Trump administration and throw its weight behind peace negotiations and a comprehensive political settlement."

In fact the opposite is the case the British government has broken off relations with both Syria and Russia thrown off its pretence of fighting ISIL and is using this situation to pursue its real long term aim, which is for illegal interference in Syria for regime change just as they carried out in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya. This is the hallmark of these pro-war governments in the US under Trump and May in Britain.

And lets be clear about this. They lied about Iraq, they lied about Afghanistan, they lied about Libya, they lied about Iran and they are lying about Syria. They made no investigation into this chemical attack at Khan Sheikhun, they used it as a pretext to once again bomb Syria and end any peace negotiations and peaceful solution that will bring this conflict to an end.

Hypocritically they talk about red-lines yet across the border in Iraq, the Western backed assault on Iraq has led to a huge number of casualties. It is estimated that US-led coalition bombing raids have killed around 1,500 civilians in March alone and hundreds of thousands have been displaced – for us this is a redline as well.

As well as deepening the tragedy of the Syrian people, this utterly irresponsible act threatens to widen the war and lead the West into military confrontation with Russia.

Stop the War calls for an end to the British and US warmongering interference and occupation in Syria and Iraq and throughout the world. As well as the protests that stop the war is organising let us all use the new situation in Britain to organise for and demand an end to Britain as an arms manufacturer and pro war country, what some call a *banks* and *tanks* country. Instead let us turn Britain into an anti-war country and a factor for peace in the world. No to Trump's Attack on Syria - No to British support.