

WE WOMEN SAY NO TO NATO



We are demonstrating in Padua and in other Italian and European cities to say that - despite the silence of the media - dangerous decisions are being taken in Lisbon that will become an obstacle to the path towards peace in the world.

WE WOMEN ARE DEMONSTRATING AGAINST NATO BECAUSE:

- a. We do not want a world dominated by the logic of arms.
- b. Women suffer most from the effects of war, they are the majority of victims, of refugees and the homeless, thousands are deprived of their means of survival;
- c. Military expenditures for NATO mean fewer funds for education, health and other services so necessary to women, who support the greater part of the domestic life; the government cuts social expenditures, not military budgets.
- d. With the military bases, violence against women increases as well as sexual exploitation.

NATO IS NOT NECESSARY for DEFENCE and SECURITY

- a. It is a military alliance that passes over the UN and the system of international laws;
- b. it accelerates the militarization of the world;
- c. it increases military expenditures for weapons (75% of worldwide military expenditures comes from the NATO countries).
- d. Since 1999 it moved from a strategy of defence to a strategy of interventions spreading all over the world, wherever there was judged to be a threat to the "interests" of the member countries.
- e. In 1999, NATO supported the war in the Balkans, calling it a "humanitarian war".
- f. For the last nine years it has been carrying out a brutal war in Afghanistan, with the obviously unreachable objective of "defeating terrorism" and of "establishing democracy", while the situation of the civil population is ever more tragic.

During the NATO summits of 19 - 20 November a new Strategic Concept will be adopted. This will lead the NATO into a strategy that concerns us: an increase in the number of member countries, military expansion, the militarization of Europe and the continuation of nuclear arms.

In addition, the decision to transfer to Italy (Aviano) all of the USA nuclear warheads scattered over Europe could be ratified.

There are already more than 100 military bases throughout Italy, from Bolzano to Lampedusa. These structures make our country a partner in the armed interventions in the world and also pose a serious danger for the citizens, exposing them to the risk of accidents, pollution and the possibility of terrorist attacks.

As women we want to make it clear that we see no role for the NATO in our security. True security comes from peaceful negotiations and the non-violent resolution of conflicts.

We refuse to accept that the answer to the global and regional crisis should always be military expenditures. We refuse to live with the fear of nuclear arms and we refuse to accept a new rush for new arms. We refuse to accept that public money be wasted on arms and the military.

In particular we have heard from many Afghani women about the suffering caused by the war. We demand the withdrawal of the troops from Afghanistan, starting with the Italians.

**Women in Black of Padua, Italy
*Donne in nero di Padova***

<http://controlaguerra.blogspot.com/>