



General Resolution

Permanent Peoples' Tribunal Against Imperialist War and NATO

(Tribunal Permanente de los Pueblos Contra la Guerra
Imperialista y la OTAN, TPPCGIO)

INTRODUCTION

The TPPCGIO held its first ordinary session in Madrid on November 6-8, 2015. More than 70 participants registered and four panels covered the following issues: NATO, the media, refugees and low-intensity conflicts. These groups worked on more than 30 documents, some of which were developed by the TPPCGIO secretariat. The results of the panels were presented at the first plenary session for their debate by all the members of the Tribunal. The partial resolutions which reflect these results are annexed. This First Resolution of the TPPCGIO is a consequence of their discussions.

FIRST RESOLUTION OF THE TPPCGIO

I. **Statement of intent: to judge war, its instruments and those responsible for it.**

Since the creation of the United Nations in 1945 as an organisation capable of “pacificallly solving international controversies”, the different kinds of war that have devastated the world have grown and grown.

The figures, which demonstrate that in the thriving war market human life is a falling asset, are disastrous: 16.5 million deaths; nearly 70 million displaced persons in 2015 and even greater numbers of victims with permanent physical and mental damage. Although within the construction of the enemy, populations do not explicitly figure as such because for this purpose particular forms of government, rulers or ideologies are resorted to, populations pay an unbearable price. In the last decade, 90% of the people affected are civil non-fighting victims and 70% of these are women and children.

This situation is unequally distributed: on the one hand, the self-named “Western world”, which are white developed countries militarily grouped around NATO and the United States, which account for 70% of the world’s armed forces and whose core is made up of countries of imperialist tradition and under the U.S.A.’s command: UK, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, The Netherlands, Turkey. Along with these countries is Israel, the Zionist colonial state which plays a crucial role in maintaining imperialist domination in the Middle East; in solidarity with the Palestinian cause, this Tribunal has decided to adopt the terminology ‘Zionist entity’ from this point on. And on the other hand, the ethnically diverse ‘third world’ as it is called by the West, which has endured

for centuries the plundering of Western colonialism, scenario of most armed conflicts and where 80% of displaced persons are located.

While in the United Nations Charter of 1945 it is established that “All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state”, the productive and scientific-technical development of recent decades has created a complex system of economic, political and social relations which open the possibility of unlimited expansion of the Western empire to the whole planet.

This empire acts under the assumption that only its control of the world will guarantee subsistence; a world regarded as business by the big international corporations, whose sole reason for existence is economic accumulation, under the acceptance that this is not possible without the accumulation of power and the forces necessary to exercise it. If its objective is unlimited, then so are its methods and consequences. The privatisation of armies, mercenaries and the creation of chaos in entire countries entail unlimited brutality.

Up to now, these expeditionary actions have been carried out in countries with a limited capacity of response. However, countries with significant war capacity are currently being harassed following the same strategy: criminalisation, isolation and aggression. Phases one and two are already under way, but if the third phase takes place, the consequences would be unpredictable.

In this world of war, imperialism needs to control any internal resistance and, along with the repression and suppression of rights, it is building a culture of warmongering where the use of force is accepted and war and its consequences are justified. This culture tells us who are our enemies, it conceals its causes, it minimises and justifies its consequences and above all it erases from our memory its own history with the intention of repeating it. A media army participates by supplying the necessary elements to pervert reality and convince the population that violence and destruction are necessary to save humanity.

Imperialist war is based on arbitrariness; the rules are established by the powerful and changed depending on the object of persecution; concealing its ulterior objectives, all actions become exceptional and self justified. Under these conditions, impunity is guaranteed.

This is how a reality full of contradictions is shaped and imperialism, whose objectives are planetary, becomes a bunker and converts itself into an immense fortress surrounded by ever higher, longer and more sharpened fences. It is very difficult to show the real dimension of imperialism today because it has learnt how to become invisible. Imperialism today uses strategies which erase its own trace, going beyond propaganda or misleading information. Imperialism is capable of conquering territories without military occupation, by deploying undercover operations or drones. It has neither leadership, because each imperialist power operates with relative independence, nor a

united command, because ultimately the different powers manage to harmonise their interests. Imperialism, as we have said, operates to benefit rich white countries thanks to the collusion of the elites of countries which do not possess any of these attributes. In practice it succeeds in showing itself as defensive because it is very difficult to trace its responsibility as the creator of threats. Imperialism is not a perverse imposition on the goodwill of the peoples of the world; it has become part of global political logic.

Just like other issues so decisive for peoples' lives, imperialist war is out of their reach, so only the creation of an organised social response can oppose this brutality and prevent the impunity of the people responsible. The intention of the TPPCGIO is to be part of this process of popular organisation.

The popular nature of this Tribunal does not fit in the current legal code. However, it will submit before the corresponding judicial authority sufficiently documented denunciations. On the other hand, this Tribunal will issue political and social condemnations in agreement with its objectives; likewise it will particularly denounce and condemn the mechanisms which permit and protect impunity.

II. Concerning the permanent nature of TPPCGIO

This Tribunal will proceed with its work along the following guidelines:

- By spreading the work and resolutions of the Tribunal.
- By promoting contacts, coordination and cooperation with individuals, groups and organisations which condemn imperialist war and NATO.
- By creating communication channels to receive information, denunciations and proposals of action.
- By creating and maintaining an archive and documentary collection.
- By continuing with the current panels and creating new ones.
- By convening new sessions of the Tribunal, both ordinary and monographic.

III. Summary of the work carried out by the panels and presented in the plenary session

The following is a summary of the work carried out in each working session based on the exposition of the rapporteurs. For a more complete account of the sessions, we invite you to consult the partial resolutions.

The NATO panel has defined this military alliance as the essential element of the war structure of the Western empire, comprised of the most developed and richest countries of the planet, and the class domination structure. It was discussed how NATO generates a continuous demand for arms investment; that it resorts more and more to secret services, special operation units, mercenaries and other similar militia, etc., as a way to elude the control of its own criminal activities; that it systematically exercises control and manipulation of information, developing a war culture that favours impunity; that it

identifies, condemns and executes opponents with absolute arbitrariness. The NATO group concludes: (1) that the portrayal of the military alliance as a defensive mechanism is false because it is really an instrument of aggression; (2) that NATO is currently undergoing planetary expansion along with other initiatives of economic and commercial domination; (3) that an absolute betrayal of peoples' sovereignty is taking place as a consequence of the unconditional subjugation of their governments to NATO and the dictates of the United States; (4) that the disciplining and control of internal dissidence is essential to sustain capitalist domination; (5) that the militarisation of society and fearmongering are characteristics which define the current situation; (6) that the continued use of international organisations and law in its own interest leads to progressive discredit; (7) that NATO establishes alliances with fascist movements and secret services engaging in terrorist activities inside allied countries.

The media panel has analysed the behaviour of media in the face of war, denouncing the promotion and justification of war, and the concealment of the atrocities committed. It has defined as its objectives the identification of the interests that sustain this behaviour, the people and institutions involved and the role of states when they do nothing to stop these practices. The media panel has verified that mainstream media belong to a structural framework of banks and holdings, which means they have stopped being mere instruments of power to become the voice of power. It has analysed the vocabulary, stereotypes and discourse used by the media and which facilitate social acceptance of violent and ruthless actions. The session concludes: (1) that the editorials of mainstream media follow their interests within a context of class domination; (2) that three large news agencies generate more than 80% of the news the media publish; (3) that media and journalists are disciplined directly and indirectly in a context of job insecurity; (4) that the disciplining of the population through the media is designed to convince them to accept as normal and usual the brutal situations which wars imply, hiding their origin; (5) that it is proved journalists and intellectuals are paid to be spokespersons of imperialism.

The refugees panel observed that the drastic increase, unthinkable only a few years ago, of the number of people leaving their homes is a result of the looting carried out all over the world by Western countries through multinational companies and their participation in military conflicts of an imperialist nature. The extension of the legal term of forced displaced persons to all forced migrants is considered necessary, whatever the cause. It was also pointed out that refugees, in the strict legal sense, are eye witnesses of the moral indignity of current global capitalism. The panel carried out an intense analysis of the contradictions, insufficiency and violations of current national, regional and international law. The refugees panel concludes: (1) that the response of the European Union to this situation has been the closure and militarisation of borders; (2) xenophobic reactions, encouraged by the ruling class, contribute to the division of the working class; (3) that current national, regional and international legislation is systematically breached and that likewise this legislation is at the best totally insufficient as it is frequently designed not merely to obviate the obligation to

assist displaced people but rather to aggravate their situation; (4) that these forced migrations of populations are used as weapons of war; (5) that the freezing of the asylum law, the normalisation of illegitimate expulsion and the inhuman deterioration of conditions in the internment centres for foreigners and temporary stay centres for immigrants constitute an involution in the institutional protection of refugees and emigrants in Spain.

The panel concerning low-intensity conflicts has pointed out: (a) the connection between imperialism and capitalism; (b) the relationship between the escalation of imperialist aggressions and the significant political, economic, social and cultural opposition to imperialism; (c) that the term “low-intensity conflicts” is, as is the case with other terms discussed, of an ideological nature and should be opposed; for this reason, the term has been maintained to expose its contradictions. The session has articulated its work around the categories of interference, impunity and responsibility, reviewing specific cases which have been chosen for their relevance and the documentation available during the work sessions. The panel concludes: (1) Peace conversations and negotiation processes are used fraudulently. (2) Local political, social and economic actors are manipulated with the intention of destabilising sovereign countries within a global imperialist strategy and with institutional support towards forces capable of attempting a coup and therefore reactionary. (3) Powers supposedly allied with Spain systematically violate international law. (4) Economic profit is pursued through war. (5) There is absolutely no concern for environmental and climatic damage caused by war. (6) Decisions concerning military issues are made in Spain in a framework of institutional opacity and the absence of democratic guarantees. (7) That the Agreement of commercial association between the European Union and the Zionist entity foresees in Article 2 its cancellation in the event of violation of human rights and democratic principles; for this reason it should be suspended.

IV. **Conclusions**

The TPPCGIO, held in Madrid on November 6-8, 2015

CONDEMNS

1. The high command of NATO for their maximum responsibility in these matters.
2. The rulers of the countries which make up NATO or actively cooperate with it.
3. The boards of directors of the companies which promote imperialist domination and benefit from it.
4. The many types of actors (states, bodies, individuals, paramilitary groups, etc.) that enable, by their action or lack of action, the wide range of interference identified by the Tribunal.
5. The absolute insufficiency of current national, regional and international law designed not only to aid impunity through omission or incompetence but also to actively secure it.
6. The unpunished interventions of imperialism all over the world, along with their political, social, economic and environmental effects.

7. The growing activity of NATO as a force of global aggression which feeds military escalation and the arms race.
8. Opaque military decisions which are completely contrary to democratic principles and outside any citizen control or supervision.
9. The specific cases of Venezuela, Donbass (the Ukraine) and the Middle East, in particular Palestine and Syria, where imperialist harassment and aggression are concentrated and endured.

DEMANDS

1. Public exposure of the people responsible for the situations denounced by the Tribunal.
2. Moral compensation for the victims and the enforcement, at the very least, of current legislation, along with the restitution of the harm inflicted in human, economic, social and environmental terms.
3. The elimination of the conditions which enable imperialist aggression with a view to avoiding them in the future.
4. In the case of Spain, the exit from NATO, the withdrawal of the US military bases and the drastic reduction of military expenditure.

CONSEQUENTLY

The TPPCGIO calls on social movements and organisations to support these condemnations and fight for the Tribunal's demands.