

## **Panel of Victims and Resistance in imperialist wars**

### **Partial resolution**

The way imperialism acts –displacing, establishing relationships of domination and subjugation, suppressing wills and sovereignty, endeavouring to monopolise power by resorting to embargoes, coups and wars- leaves a trail of destruction and pain visible on the faces of its victims. Humanity obliges us to contemplate these faces in the presence of such barbarity, enabling us at the same time to understand the true nature of imperialism.

This active contemplation obliges us to attend the humanitarian aspect but also the political task of making the victims visible, listening to their voice, becoming aware of the victimisation processes, denouncing the strategies and interests which lead to the situation of dispossession of the victims and confronting the logic of imperialism which sustains this spoliation.

Analysing the dynamics of power without consideration for the victims separates us from reality and only identifying the victims with humanitarian emergencies without questioning the political causes of these emergencies leads us to reproduce the chronic conditions of domination, favouring their repetition elsewhere.

It is useful to remember that during the Cold War, as well as the so-called ‘right to humanitarian intervention’ and the current global war against terrorism, whole villages, regions and even continents have suffered drastic transformations in their life conditions based on false political, ideological, economic, energetic and geostrategic interests, drawn up in the comfort of offices thousands of miles away in the metropolis. Those interests have a central objective from the point of view of the victims: the dispossession en masse of millions of individuals.

Personal, collective and global dispossession reaches more and more geographical and vital areas: material goods, housing, relationships, belonging, health, affectivity, culture, future, country and life itself. This dispossession severely punishes the weakest groups: people with low economic possibilities, children, women, the aged and ill, and collectives of different ethnicity and sexual orientation, etc.

Reality is relentless. Here are some data:

- ✓ Things as basic as ending wars, returning home and rebuilding one’s life are a dream for 70 million individuals, the largest figure of forced displaced people since the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. 2015 has witnessed the displacement of 8.6 million people in 28 countries. The tremendous punishment of war suffered by, amongst others, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Ukraine and Libya has now been inflicted on Yemen with 2.5 million people displaced within the country in its first year of war.

- ✓ In 2015, there were 46 countries at war with a total of 2700 million people in the throes of war escalation.
- ✓ The strategy of the global war on terror is responsible for 32 times more civilian victims than those caused by terrorist acts.
- ✓ The number of civil victims in wars grows and approaches 90%, whilst the death of soldiers represents 10%.
- ✓ Children are subjected to shameful circumstances: 92% of migrant minors crossing the Mediterranean this year to reach Italy were unescorted and their conditions in the refugee camps are so desperate that in a camp in Jordan, 26.3% of the children declared they had no desire to live, not to mention the nearly 300.000 children used directly as soldiers in Africa.
- ✓ Gender violence and abuse by the mafia are used as a war strategy, causing an increase in the number of girls who arrive in Europe on their own and pregnant after being raped during their journey.

Technological war with drones and other developments has not saved victims any pain nor has it reduced the number of proxy actors (mercenaries) and civil victims. This is because the problem is essentially political and long-standing. Three decades of wars waged by the Western powers and in particular NATO on Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan have left more than 4 million dead with these territories still at war; likewise Gaza, the refugee camps in Tinduf or the blockade on Cuba.

Imperialism scorns liberties, eliminates rights and destroys life to consolidate the metropolis as the centre of history, written by the official chroniclers... but history is built from below, from the victims and the peoples, resisting the dynamics of oppression and fighting for their dignity from the tenderness of the people that is solidarity.

Faced with this situation, the Victims' panel

### **DENOUNCES:**

- The current scale of war victimisation, amplified exponentially by the United States/European strategy of the war against terror.
- The disgraceful strategies of criminalisation of victims used to justify the imperialist interventions of punishment. The victimisation in recent years of Arabs in general, object of unjustified stereotypes which are the origin of the xenophobia of the masses, constitutes one of the most shameful operations of cultural cleansing carried out by the West.
- The inhumanity of the victimisation of the most vulnerable elements of the population.
- The imperialist dynamics of dispossession imposed on its victims. This dynamics which exercises arbitrariness despite not being arbitrary in its conception is articulated in the following way: the construction of the enemy through criminalisation; the rupture of the conditions of coexistence built by the people and the weakening of their institutional structures; international isolation; military intervention, reconstruction

deals, donor platforms designed to wash consciences and the declaration of humanitarian emergencies disconnected from the people that have caused them; finally, the victims are abandoned and impunity prevails.

### **WE ACCUSE THE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE:**

- ❖ The multinational corporations whose lucrative interests provoke or reinforce conflict.
- ❖ The treaties that unfold imperialist interests, such as the TTIP, currently under negotiation.
- ❖ The financial institutions and investment groups that generate an opaque world of profits and war funding.
- ❖ The governments and international political alliances that put into practise imperialist dynamics, both in direct military interventions in the Middle East, Eastern Europe or sub-Saharan Africa as well as their abandonment of the countries they have previously colonised. This is the case, amongst others, of Great Britain, France and Spain with respect to the Palestinians, the sub-Saharan countries and the Saharan people. This responsibility corresponds equally to the United Nations and their Security Council which, by action or omission of their responsibilities, obstruct the sovereignty of these peoples in resistance.
- ❖ The countries of the European Union, both for their participation in the “wars against terror” and the unjustifiable inexistence of protection of the exiled arriving at their borders; likewise the xenophobic policies of stigmatisation, degrading subjugation and mass expulsions which have buried the right to asylum and led to the signing of the undignified and shameful agreement with Turkey which externalises basic political rights while maintaining preferential treatment with Zionist Israel, responsible for policies of genocide and crimes against humanity on the Palestinian people. We extend this denunciation concerning refugees to Spain and all its local, regional and national governments, which, after false declarations of solidarity, have been passive, conformist and indifferent.
- ❖ The military paraphernalia and international alliances, such as the aggressions of NATO which executes imperialist policies.
- ❖ The xenophobic and indifferent attitudes that favour the culture of suspicion so widespread now in our “civilised Europe”; these have led to policies of exclusion we could never have imagined.
- ❖ The media and cultural conglomerates, which, to protect their owners’ interests, distort reality, hiding the truth of the victims. We particularly condemn the intentional informative manipulation which contributes so much to fracturing the communal living consensus in countries subject to destabilization, as we have seen in the Ukraine.

### **WE ACKNOWLEDGE AND SUPPORT:**

The dynamics of resistance of victims and peoples faced with relationships of subjugation. This difficult resistance, which is the epitome of dignity, is personified in the Palestinian, Cuban and Saharan peoples and the indigenous communities maintaining ancestral struggles against different

empires or the Bolivarian initiative in Venezuela, amongst others. We support the thousands of militants buried in ditches, collective graves and history silenced by the media; they were and are indispensable. We also support the people currently struggling to survive; they will lead the processes of liberation and sovereignty of their people.

Resistance in the face of imperialist attacks has adopted the following forms:

- By rereading experience collectively so it becomes an integral part of a people's identity and reinforces the sense of belonging.
- By building a collective project of coexistence where mutual support is a matter of survival.
- By creating and uniting struggles to internationalist initiatives, weaving networks of solidarity in other countries and with other collectives.
- By strengthening processes of self-management and participation as essential tools to strengthen resistance and open new institutional channels.
- By claiming their right to sovereignty.

The Panel of Victims and Resistance shares the eye witness accounts of the victims of the Saharan, Ukrainian and Palestinian peoples; they have our full support and solidarity in their historic resistance to imperialism and their struggles for self-determination and the right to return to their homes. In the case of the Saharan people, we applaud in particular the heroic effort of women, empowered and often the sole sustainers of their families, along with the educational, sanitary, health and nutritional needs of the refugee-camp communities.

We declare that direct testimonies and critical media are indispensable to know the truth and stop impunity in the centres of power.

The cry of the victims is a clamour against the inhumanity of imperialist destruction and exhorts us all to fight against war and impunity.

We stand behind the victims and support their right to truth, justice and redress. We support peoples' sovereignty and those who resist. NO WARS!

**Madrid, 18 June 2016.**