

RESIST THIS ENDLESS WAR

On Thursday, April 6th, Donald Trump authorized a missile strike of 59 Tomahawk (cruise) missiles against an air base in Syria, launched from US warships stationed in the Mediterranean Sea. The strike was his response to Wednesday's chemical attack on Syrian civilians, reportedly by the Assad government.

Trump's ban on refugees from Syria and other devastated countries belies his supposed concern for the victims of this attack.

We mourn the loss of all the lives in these latest, terrible acts of 21st century warfare. We say again, "resist this endless war," by which we mean the one war on many fronts being fought to control the world's resources, so that immense wealth and power can be consolidated into the hands of a few people.

JUST AS INNOCENT... JUST AS DEAD

"Trump covered his decision... by claiming that America had 'a vital national security interest' to oppose chemical weapons and suppress terrorism. The first is nonsense and the other futile and hypocritical. America's 'shock and awe' in bombing of civilian targets and its drone killings are terrorism.

"Many countries can signal their virtue by deploring chemical attacks, but the west's fragmentation, phosphorous and delayed action bombs have left victims just as maimed and dead. Drones devastate the innocent as much as the guilty..."

"The world has a universal humanitarian obligation to help the victims of war. There are some 3 million such casualties of the Syrian war, spread across the region and into Europe. Relieving, not prolonging, their suffering should be the priority. Dropping ever more bombs on Syria does nothing for them."

Friday 7 April 17 The Guardian, Simon Jenkins (excerpt; emphasis added)

GOOD TIMING FOR THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

History shows that there are always short as well as long-term considerations when a President starts a new war, or decides to dramatically escalate existing ones.

The short-term goals usually are to silence or undermine domestic protest; to siphon ever more funds into military spending and away from social programs; and to distract from unpleasant or unwelcome questions about a President's honesty and integrity.

In the case of President Trump, his particularly racist, xenophobic, misogynistic social agenda, which blatantly favors the billionaire class, continues to face serious domestic resistance. And he could well afford to deflect the widespread controversies about everything from his refusal to release his tax returns, to the many lawsuits against him, to the alleged Russian involvement in "hacking" the 2016 election in his favor.

In addition, Trump is seeking a \$54 billion increase in the Pentagon budget in FY 2017. Those Tomahawk missiles, according to Dow Jones & Company, cost between \$1 and \$1.4 million each, and their upgraded replacements will cost even more, a big boon to the arms producers, coming directly from our tax dollars!

But this action must be seen beyond the Trump administration's immediate agenda. It fits entirely into the much longer term, bipartisan agenda of military escalation and intervention in the Middle East and beyond. It **won't** save lives, any more than the drone strikes and ground action wars which began during the Bush administration, continued in the Obama years and are now escalating further under Trump. And, just as they did, it **will** provoke further terrorist responses. **And as always, many more lives will be lost. This above all is unacceptable.**

Call Congress (202) 224-3121- Hold them accountable! Make them hold the Executive Branch accountable.

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