



Permanent Peoples' Tribunal Against Imperialist War and NATO

Special resolution of the TPPCGIO concerning the imperialism of the United States and Obama's presence in Spain

The TPPCGIO, convened in Madrid on 19 June 2016, has studied the report concerning the imperialism of the United States and Obama's presence in Spain, prepared by members of the Tribunal, resolving to draw up and pass the following special resolution, based on the contents of the report:

Throughout its history, the United States has been an imperialist power, which means it has imposed itself on other nations by military, political and economic force. The United States has intervened in more than 200 acts of interference, destabilization and military aggression. This empire is based on military hegemony and it has between 700 and 1000 military bases in 100 countries across the five continents; it has arms and troops capable of massive action anywhere in the world and its military budget is 41% of the world's total. In addition, it is in charge of the supreme command of NATO, under its direction by statute, which confers it with the military command over 28 countries, including the most developed nations of the world.

The imperialist policy of the United States is extraordinarily pragmatic. It maintains alliances with states and actors that violate the principles it has itself established (Israel, a fundamental part of the imperialist domination of the United States, Saudi Arabia, paramilitary forces, fascist groups, etc.) while it criminalises and harasses whoever shares these principles, as is currently the case with Russia; all this occurs with the sole objective of defending its interests.

In this general framework, Barack Obama is sworn in as President of the United States in January 2009; the position involves being commander and leader of the military, to whom the commander in chief of NATO must also report. His presidential team is peopled with outstanding warmongers and Obama has declared it is necessary "to renew the status of the United States in the world". Despite this, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize premised merely on the declaration of intentions made during his first months in office, such as the commitment to dismantle Guantánamo and approach the Arab countries.

However, Obama's two mandates have been witness to a process of rearmament and a steady escalation of interference. NATO's war capacity, its geographical expansion and budgets have increased; drones have been used intensively, with minimum supervision, to carry out extrajudicial executions (signed individually by Obama) with total impunity and arbitrariness, increasing at the same time the number of civil victims; there has been an increase in interference, economic and media wars, soft coups and the use of interposed armies in all conflict zones; regional

destabilization strategies have been designed and implemented to control and dominate immense territories and even continents, and strategies of harassment are used to eliminate any resistance to their hegemony.

This constitutes the withdrawal from the logic of deterrence and the activation of the arms' race. Numerous specialists have on the other hand doubted the effectiveness of this arms' race despite the risks military intensification brings, the reduction in democratic liberties and rights this implies is accepted, extending to the rest of society the opacity and arbitrary nature characteristic of the military sphere, and thousands of millions of dollars are spent under this system. Barack Obama's presidency is therefore of a pronounced warmongering nature, like those of his predecessors, serving the interests of the United States empire, increasing human suffering and risking life on the planet.

Currently, the geostrategic status of Spain and its double US-NATO bond converts the territory into a key part of the imperialist strategy of the United States and its allies. This is evidenced in its growing role in the military US-NATO structure in our country, specifically in the military facilities of Torrejón (CAOC, Combined Air Operations Centre), Rota (anti-missile shield), Morón (immediate intervention force and AFRICOM, United States Africa Command) and Bétera (very high availability unit). Likewise, in the months of October and November 2015, the most important to date Trident Juncture manoeuvres were carried out for the most part on Spanish territory.

This structure has no national interest; it serves the sole interests of the United States empire. Our participation is one of dependence and submission; security and national sovereignty are being surrendered without the least resistance. This passivity contrasts with the strong resistance United States imperialism encounters in other parts of the world; however, the media and the attitude of our politicians are minimising these phenomena and concealing the consequences of imperialism to achieve the passive acceptance of the population.

The TPPCGIO appeals to all organisations, collectives and individuals to spread and support this resolution and participate in future protests against our submission to the dictates of the United States. Moreover, this resolution reminds the pertinent governments and authorities, in case they are tempted to use repression, of their obligation to respect and guarantee basic rights and liberties, especially freedom of speech, assembly and association.

Madrid, 19 June 2016.