NATO TURNS 70 In 2019

NATO turns 70 in 2019 and will celebrate its anniversary in Washington, D.C. on April 4, Martin Luther King Jr. Day and the anniversary of MLK’s seminal “Beyond Vietnam” speech in which he called on us to overcome the triple evils of militarism, racism and extreme materialism.

With the end of the Cold War, NATO should have been retired, not repurposed. NATO claims to strive for collective defense and to preserve peace and security. It has never been such a system. It is the world’s largest military alliance with the largest military spending and nuclear stockpiles. It is the main driver of the new arms race and the main obstacle to a nuclear weapons-free world. Having expanded across eastern Europe into former Soviet republics with military troops now at Russia’s borders, its new nuclear weapons and a first-strike related “missile defense shield,” NATO is the key driver of the new Cold War. It has also been transformed into a global military alliance structured to wage “out of area’ wars in the Middle East, North Africa and the Middle East.”

SPEAKERS INCLUDE

Rev. Graylan Hagler – Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ (Washington)

Anna Ochkina - Institute of Globalization & Social Movements in Moscow (Russia)

Reiner Braun – Co-President, International Peace Bureau (Berlin)

Medea Benjamin – Code Pink (Washington)

Peter Kuznick – Professor of History, American University (Washington)
NO TO NATO; YES TO PEACE & DISARMAMENT COUNTER-SUMMIT

CONFERENCE AGENDA

9:30-9:45 Welcome
Kristine Karch, No to war – No to NATO (Germany)
Andreas Günther - Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (New York)

9:45-10:45 Panel 1
Moderator: Kristine Karch
70 years of NATO - 70 years of Militarism and War
Prof. Peter Kuznick, American University (Washington)

Global NATO of today (worldwide alliance, European militarization)
Reiner Braun, Co-President International Peace Bureau (Berlin, Germany)

Hypocrisy: Martin Luther King’s Triple Evils & NATO
Rev. Graylan Hagler – Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ (Washington)

10:45-11:30 Panel 2
Moderator: Kristine Karch
21st century NATO US, Europe & Russia: Economic, Imperial & Authoritarian Forces Driving the New Era of Confrontation
Phyllis Bennis, Institute for Policy Studies, (Washington)
Anna Ochkina, Institute of Globalization and Social Movements (Moscow, Russia)
Alexander Neu, Member, German Parliament (Germany)
Iran speaker TBA

11:45-12:30 Panel 3
Moderator: Kristine Karch
Unified & Independent E.U. Military? And it’s Relationship to NATO, U.S. & Russia
Kate Hudson, CND (UK) via video
Alain Rouy, Movement de la Paix (France)
Lucas Wirl, No to war, No to NATO (Germany)
Medea Benjamin, Code Pink (USA)

12:30-1:30 LUNCH

1:30-3:00 Workshop Session

A Deadly Connection: Nationalism, Authoritarianism & Economic Forces Internal and external militarization and the increase of violence
TBA

NATO: 70 Years of Militarism, nuclear weapons, foreign basis & A 21st Century Global Alliance and the next NATO summit
Marion Küpker, John LaForge & Reiner Braun

Women & Resistance, Pictures of Masculinity
Kristine Karch

Moving the Money from the Military to Addressing Human Needs: Intersectional approaches to resistance
TBA

Driving Forces of the New Era of Confrontation: U.S., NATO & Russia, China – Imperial, Authoritarian & Economic, regime change (Venezuela) and the European militarization
Joseph Gerson & Anna Ochkina

Automated Warfare: robots, cyber & arming the heavens
Bruce Gagnon

3:00-3:15 Coffee Break

3:15-3:45 Common Security – The Alternative to NATO, Joseph Gerson, AFSC/CPDCS (Cambridge)

3:45-4:15 Global NATO, Special focus on Latin America - Lecture with discussion, Speaker: NN Latin America

4:15-5:45 Panel about Resistance - Moderator: Kevin Martin; Panelists: Kristine Karch, Anna Ochkina, Medea Benjamin, Reiner Braun, Ann Wright, David Swanson

5:45-6:00 Closing Remarks - Kevin Martin

Initiated by: American Friends Service Committee, No to War/No to NATO Network, Campaign for Peace, Disarmament & Common Security; International Peace Bureau; Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung and World Beyond War
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