



Building a Global Anti-Military Bases Movement

The 'war on terror' and the invasion of Iraq has highlighted the role of the US' global network of military bases in protecting and advancing US' interests. This is to the detriment of peoples around the world, among them the hundreds of local communities directly affected by the US military in its more than 700 bases worldwide. With the emergence of the global anti-war movement came the growing realization that in order to prevent the US from waging its illegal wars, its network of bases must be targeted.

An international community of anti-bases activists, it was felt, could be a powerful campaigning force against empire. In Jakarta last May 2003, at an international gathering of anti-war coalitions, NGOs, and social movements plotting the next moves of the global anti-war movement after the invasion of Iraq, the idea of launching an international campaign against US bases was proposed as priority plan of action. This led to a large gathering of anti-bases activists from around the world meeting at the World Social Forum in Mumbai in January this year to map out this campaign (a full report of the conference can be downloaded from www.focusweb.org). The proposal also received support during an international strategy meeting of anti-war and anti-globalization movements in Beirut in September 2004.

Some key initiatives suggested from Mumbai were:

Building Tools for the Movement:

■ Expanding the Email List:

The growing global anti-bases network communicates through a lively email list of over 300 members. The email list is in English and we warmly welcome additional members. If you are interested in joining, contact the list moderator Herbert Docena from Focus on the Global South at herbert@focusweb.org

■ Developing a Website for the Movement:

A website is currently being assembled (www.nobases.net) for the anti-bases movement that aims to be a central site for information sharing and organizing. For the public at large, it seeks to show both the global nature of US/NATO military bases but especially of this growing movement against them.

We hope to have as many anti-bases groups as possible with a presence on the site: from grass roots community struggles against bases to peace networks; solidarity groups to research centres. Each interested group will have

their own page on the site, listing their group's history, key activities, upcoming events, articles, links and contact details. We are also designing the site and content management to allow for groups to have either a simple, static page or something regularly updated. We already have 50 groups from around the world that have signed up to the website, with the number set to expand into the hundreds.

If your organisation is interested in joining, please send the following initial details to Ben Moxham at Focus on the Global South at ben@focusweb.org: a) Organisation's name b) Contact person's name and email. We will contact you soon to follow up on content and site management. While the construction of the website is a continuing process, we hope to formally launch it towards the end of this year.

Proposed Events

■ An Inaugural Conference for the Global Anti-Bases Movement?

A 2-3 day conference, will allow more participants more time to map out priority projects and formalize the network, possibly through the drafting of a founding document to articulate the network's positions and be used as a tool to reach out to more members. It will also be an occasion for more extensive networking, sharing of strategies, further brainstorming and more in-depth planning. The occasion and the venue of this meeting are still being discussed. For more information, please get in touch with herbert@focusweb.org.

■ An International Day of Action

There is strong support from the anti-bases network for holding an international day of action against US and foreign military bases: A coordinated global protest would send a powerful and clear message to the United States that could not be ignored. An ideal date is still being discussed and suggestions and participation are greatly appreciated.

Help Build the Network

The recent realignment of US military forces in the last four years has seen many bases established in or proposed for various countries around the world. For the movement to be truly representative and as effective as possible, it is crucial to include all groups working against the removal of bases. We urge you to consider becoming a part of this growing movement to dismantle the US war machine - military base by military base.



AN INVITATION TO JOIN AN INTERNATIONAL ANTI-MILITARY BASES E-MAIL NETWORK

The United States maintains military bases and other forms of military presence in over 100 countries. This network of bases is crucial for the US to project power around the world -- in pursuit of its economic and strategic interests. In order to prevent the US from waging its illegitimate wars, the global peace and justice movement must campaign for the shutting down of these bases or ending other forms of military presence in each of the countries hosting them.

With this in mind, various parallel proposals have been raised around the world for launching an international campaign against US bases. A global network composed of communities affected by as well as organizations working on these bases could be a powerful platform for pushing this campaign.

This important project, along with other global anti-war campaigns, was endorsed in the Jakarta Peace Consensus (JPC) of the Global Peace Movements' Conference last May 2003, and has since gained the support of various other organizations and forums. (English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, and Arabic versions of the JPC in PDF format can be downloaded from www.focusweb.org).

The challenge now is for these otherwise separate and isolated initiatives to come together so that a common campaign plan could be discussed, planned, and forged.

The first step is to bring together people working on US bases in an e-mail network or list-serve that will facilitate communication and coordination among its members.

The network is open to:

- * representatives from communities affected by US bases/ military presence
- * representatives from local, national, or international organizations and social movements working or intending to work on US bases/ military presence
- * academics or researchers studying US bases/ military presence
- * any other individual or organization that could contribute to this campaign

If you fall under any of these categories, just send an e-mail to herbert@focusweb.org with a short background of your community/organization and/or of your work.

If you know of others who should be included in this network, please forward this invitation to them and encourage them to join.

CURRENT SUBSCRIBERS AS OF JAN 28, 2004 INCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE FOLLOWING:

Alliance of Progressive Labor (Philippines)
 American Friends Service Committee (US)
 Anti US Bases Expansion in Pyongtaek Task Force (South Korea)
 Anti-Bases Campaign (New Zealand)
 ARENA (Hong Kong)
 Asia Pacific Women for Law and Development (Thailand)
 Asian Pacific Center on Education of International Understanding (South Korea)
 Asian Peace Alliance
 Asian Peace Alliance - Japan
 ASR Resource Center (Pakistan)
 Ateneo Human Rights Center (Philippines)
 ATPS - Kochi, Kerala India
 ATTAC Ivory Coast
 ATTAC Portugal
 Bangladesh Agricultural Farm Labour Federation (BAFLF)
 Bangladesh Krishok Federation
 Bastagueria (Italy)
 Body and Soul (Japan)
 Campaign Against the Military Bases (Iceland)
 Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament UK
 Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases (UK)
 Campaña por la desmilitarización de las Américas (CADA)
 Catholic Center for Environment (South Korea)
 Centro Memorial Dr Martin Luther King Jr (Cuba)
 CETIM Geneva
 Chagos Refugees Group
 Chagosian Support Group (New Zealand)
 Citizens' Peace Committee of Islamabad
 City Council of Vancouver
 Civil Network for a Peaceful Korea
 Civil Society Against Corruption
 Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques (Puerto Rico)
 Communist Party USA
 Confederacion COBAS (Italy)
 Cornell University - Shimin Gaikou Center (US)
 Dasegu Civil Movement to Retaking of USFK Bases & Facilities (South Korea)
 DAWN - Southeast Asia
 Democratic Socialist Party (Australia)
 DMZ-Hawai'i Aloha 'Aina and AFSC Hawai'i
 Documentation for Action Groups in Asia (Hong Kong)
 Documentation, Research and Training Center (India)
 East Asia - US - Puerto Rico Women's Network against Militarism
 Fellowship of Reconciliation (US)
 Focus on the Global South
 For Mother Earth (Belgium)
 For Participation and Autonomy Chun Cheon People's Solidarity (South Korea)
 Foreign Policy in Focus (US)
 Forum Asia (Thailand)
 Fremantle Anti-Nuclear Group (Australia)
 Friends of the Earth Australia
 Gathering for Peace (Philippines)
 German Peace Council
 Globalize Resistance
 Greek Social Forum
 Greek Social Forum Assembly of Chania
 Green Korea United
 Green Party (US)
 Greenpeace
 Greenpeace Australia Pacific
 Hawaii Institute for Human Rights
 Himawari Noujou
 Hokkaido Asia Africa Latin American Solidarity Committee
 Human Development Center
 Human Rights Activists with RK
 Indonesian Legal Aid Foundation
 Indonesian Students Christian Movement
 Institute of Human Rights
 Institute of Regional Study - Okinawa University/ Okinawa Environmental Network
 Inter Pares (Canada)
 International Peace Bureau
 International South Group Network
 JANANEETHI
 Janavisananavedika- AIPSN
 Japan Asia Africa Latin America Solidarity Committee
 Japan Peace Committee
 Jawaharlal Nehru University (India)
 Jubilee South Africa
 Jubilee Sur
 KAISAKA (Philippines)
 Kilusan Para sa Pambansang Demokrasya (Philippines)
 Korea Anabaptist Center
 Korea Coalition for the Retaking of US
 Korean Women's Environmental Network
 Labor Party Pakistan Education Foundation
 Lalit (Mauritius)
 Lancelin and Nilgen communities (Australia)
 Ledikasyon pu Travayer, LPT (Mauritius)
 Marseille Anti-War Committee
 Military Toxics Project (US)
 Nasion Chamoru (Guam)
 National Campaign for Eradication of Crimes by US Troops in Korea
 NGO Workers against War (UK)
 Njiera Kori ("We will do it Ourselves") (Bangladesh)
 No War on Iraq Coordination of Turkey
 Nonmorebases collective
 Nonviolence International
 Nonviolent Peaceforce
 Not in Our Name - Hawai'i
 OCLAE (Cuba)
 offhegrid (US)
 One Voice (Indonesia)
 Pacific Concerns Resource Center (Fiji)
 Paju Citizen's Forum (South Korea)
 Peace and Culture Foundation (Thailand)
 Peace Boat (Japan)
 Peace Initiative of Turkey
 People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (Korea)
 People's Action for the Revision of the Unjust SOFA between ROK and USA
 People's Peace Alliance (Pakistan)
 People's Plan Study Group (Japan)
 People's Task Force for Bases Clean-up (Philippines)
 Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement
 Proyecto Caribeno de Justicia y Paz (Puerto Rico)
 Resource Center for People's Development (Philippines)
 School of Social Work
 Sinhanada Nagpur (Social Cultural Organization)
 Social Action Center of Catholic Osaka Archdiocese (Japan)
 Social Movements' Network
 Social Network for Justice and Human Rights
 South Asian Women for Peace
 Stop the War Brigade
 Stop the War Coalition - Greece
 Stop the War Initiative (Poland)
 Stop USA (Stop United States of Aggression)
 Student Environmental Action Coalition
 Sunpay Mindanao, Inc. (Philippines)
 Swedish Peace Council
 Thammasat University - Peace Information Center (Thailand)
 The Hankyoren 21 (Japan)
 The Institute for Islamic and Social Studies (Indonesia)
 The Peace Museum Construction Committee (South Korea)
 Transnational Institute (Netherlands)
 Uijeonbu Citizen's Solidarity for Peace Without USA Bases (South Korea)
 Un Ponte Per (Italy)
 Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana-Xochimilco (Mexico)
 US Peace Council
 Women in Black
 Women Making Peace (Korea)
 Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, US section
 Workers' Democracy (Thailand)
 World March of Women