

APRIL 4 2009 : INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

**CANADA AND NATO :
OUT OF AFGHANISTAN !**



Saturday April 4 2009, in Montreal
DEMONSTRATION

Rally at 1 pm Dorchester Square
 (Peel & René-Lévesque)
March at 1:30 pm

Canadian troops out of Afghanistan!

www.echecalaguerre.org



ÉCHEC à la GUERRE LE COLLECTIF

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Canada and NATO: Out of Afghanistan!

NATO's 60th anniversary summit meeting will be held in Strasbourg, France, and Kehl, Germany, April 4-5, 2009. Demonstrations are being organized worldwide. In Montreal and elsewhere across Canada, people will be marching to demand the withdrawal of our troops from Afghanistan and an end to NATO's war of occupation in that country.

Since the United States launched this war in the Fall of 2001, members of NATO, including Canada, have been its principal allies. Participating in this war runs counter to the will of the majority in most of these countries — a fact that belies NATO's claim to be in Afghanistan "defending democracy". In this vein, on March 13, 2008 — three weeks before a NATO summit meeting — Parliament extended Canada's military mission in Afghanistan to July, 2011, despite polls showing that 58% of Canadians opposed this.

On the eve of another NATO summit, recent declarations by Prime Minister Harper — to the effect that a purely military victory is not possible in Afghanistan — is intended to reposition Canada to fall in line with the Obama administration by committing, in advance, to follow the dictates of US military policy.

This new US administration is not inclined to stop the killing in Afghanistan. It plans to send an additional 30,000 troops and entice local militias to fight alongside the occupying forces, thereby undermining resistance to the occupation. There is reason to fear that this approach will intensify tensions between ethnic groups and further destabilize the region.

NATO member countries account for 75% of the world's military spending, which totals more than a trillion dollars a year. Successive Canadian governments, both Liberal and Conservative, cite our "NATO commitments" as a justification for increasing our military budget, projected to total \$490 billions over the next 20 years.

This war-mongering approach will never buy security and prosperity either here or in Afghanistan. NATO must end its war in Afghanistan and all western governments must withdraw their troops.

Canadian and NATO troops out of Afghanistan now!

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