

International solidarity against Russian invasion! Stop the War!

On the morning of the 24th February 2022, Vladimir Putin's army invaded Ukraine through Belarus, Crimea and Donbass. This invasion was certainly aimed at Kiev, which is very close the Belarussian border. Several city were hit by missiles, including the capital. For his part, the Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelinsky promised « Ukraine will defend itself and win ».

This situation was unfortunately predictable. Russia has already shown its imperialist ambition, specially in Georgia in 2008, in the Middle East and in Africa more recently. In Ukraine, following the Maidan uprising in Kiev in 2014 (which scared away pro-Russian President Victor Yanukovich), Putin annexed Crimea and helped pro-Russian Donbass separatists in the East (the self-proclaimed "People's Republics" of Luhansk and Donetsk).

In a televised "Appeal to the people" on 21th February, Putin said : "We are taking a piece of Donbass, and if Ukraine makes waves (...) then we will take more" with 190 000 combat-ready troops on the borders.

All these soldiers positioned on the Russian-Ukrainian border and in Belarus were not only for Donbass and his intention was to take over a part or all of Ukraine, being for him a region of the "Russian Empire".

Ukraine is caught in a vice: on the one hand its resources are coveted to strengthen the Kremlin regime, weakened by economic crisis and whose authority has been undermined by the pandemic, on the other hand, NATO is trying to draw it into its fold. In several regions of the world, imperialist rivalries are multiplying armed conflicts, where populations are the victims.

Anarchists have always fought against nationalism and capitalism, which carries "was like clouds carry the storm", reinforcing the states militarisation and authoritarianism, while neo-liberal globalisation boasted to bring democracy and peace!

This seems to be only the beginning of several years of wars and tensions between the richest countries, which have been spared until now by exporting their conflicts elsewhere. The aim is to control the natural resources, which are decreasing, while creating nostalgic nationalist impulses of former "empires", a glorified vision of a

fantasised past, which passes over in silence millions of innocent victims, and which makes it possible to ideologically justify these wars to their populations. The military budgets increase around the world is also a significant reality.

Our struggle to build a world based on solidarity, mutual aid and internationalism is more necessary than ever.

About the Ukrainian situation, we join the call of our Russian comrades to carry out actions wherever possible, according to the means of each individual : “No war between peoples! No peace between classes!” <https://avtonom.org/en/news/against-annexations-and-imperial-aggression>.

We also call, all over the world, to fight against capitalism, nationalism and imperialism as well as the army which always push towards new wars.

We stand in solidarity with our comrades in the region, who decided to flee or fight in the Ukrainian self-defence squads, although we know that far-right forces of fascist and nazi ideology (but in large minority, despite Putin’s displeasure) have also been operating there since 2014.

Putin’s iron fist on Ukraine would mean the anarchist movement destruction in this area, as he has achieved it specially in Eastern Russia in recent years: tortures, imprisonment and executions being the announced future.

As always, it is the poorest and most precarious who will suffer the consequences of this war, as the rich strengthen their power and profits, especially in the military field. While we are pacifists and opposed to any state, we understand the need to fight for survival and to resist against oppression.

We also call the mass desertion of all military barracks around the world!

We are internationalists and pacifists, solidarity is our weapon!

Francophone anarchist federation, the 24th of February 2022



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