

- **The Syrian State has a strong record of secularism, whilst the rebels are supported by Al Qaeda and other groups seeking to create a fundamentalist state.**
- **The Free Syrian Army has claimed that they will cleanse Syria of the Christian and Shia \ Alawite populations. Minority populations have already been subject to kidnap, torture and extra judicial killings by rebels. One million Syrians have already been displaced by the rebels due to their religious backgrounds.**
- **The Syrian rebels are funded, trained and armed by Western powers and Gulf State dictatorships.**
- **Amnesty has called for an arms embargo on the Syrian state but has been silent about the arming of the rebels who under International law have responsibility for arming the rebel groups.**
- **A UN peace plan has been scrapped due to the rebels' refusal to abide by a ceasefire.**
- **Democratic reform has already been granted, including multi-party elections, and a two term limit on presidential office. The changes have been rejected by the rebels.**

Given what we have read so far, and what we have learned from Libya, what is the likely outcome of military intervention in Syria? No civilian will be protected by intervention! Many thousands more will die if the rebels continue their war.

Amnesty members may also be aware of the campaign of some of their US volunteers against the appointment of Suzanne Nossel as the Director of Amnesty USA. Nossel has close links with the US administration and has put forward justifications for previous NATO wars. She has been blamed for a change in the policy direction of the organisation.

We call on Amnesty members to put pressure on their organisation to stand up for human rights and to remove their support for imperialist wars. We call on the general public to withhold any financial support from Amnesty while they continue their support of imperialist wars of aggression.

In particular Amnesty members and supporters in Ireland should be demanding the following from the organisation:

- **To call on governments across the world, including the Irish government, to support Syrian sovereignty and to unambiguously condemn rebel atrocities and NATO military interference in Syrian affairs.**
- **To call for the closure of the Turkish border to armed groups intent on entering Syria to engage in armed conflict.**
- **To call for an immediate and effective arms embargo and assets freeze on groups and individuals involved in promoting and engaging in armed conflict in Syria.**
- **To call for an end to the training and other logistical support provided to such groups.**
- **To call on the Irish government to investigate and punish any Irish citizens or residents who have gone to Syria to commit crimes against Irish law, such as murder or any crimes punishable under International Human Rights Law or International Humanitarian Law.**

Contact Irish Solidarity with the Victims of Racist Genocide: swvrgireland@yahoo.ie

Amnesty Supports Imperialist Wars

Are you a member of Amnesty International? Do you donate to the organisation? Do you know where your money goes and what you are supporting?

Amnesty would like you to think that you are helping fight human rights abuses across the world. You do not expect your money and support to be used to justify war, terror and imperialism. But in Libya, Syria, Afghanistan and other countries across the world that is exactly what Amnesty International have been doing.

Look at the facts in Libya:

- In February 2011 Amnesty called for decisive action by the UN against Libya.**
- In March 2011 Amnesty praised the UN mandate which authorised the use of force in Libya, claiming this would protect civilians. More than 100,000 Libyans, most of them civilians were killed in the conflict that followed.**
- Amnesty International helped spread rumours that foreign mercenaries had been recruited to help Gaddafi. These rumours were used as justification for the arrest, detention and lynching of at least 10,000 Black Africans. Many still remain in detention camps.**
- The rumours of mercenaries and many other allegations that Amnesty had supported were later withdrawn after the fall of the Libyan regime.**
- Amnesty admits that arbitrary detentions, torture, extra-judicial killings are now widespread in Libya.**

Now Amnesty is doing the same in Syria. Amnesty has supported the calls for a UN mandate for armed action, criticising Russia and China for using their veto to prevent it.

Before you support another NATO war in the Middle East, look again at the facts:



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