

STOP THE WAR, NOT REFUGEES!

ZAUSTAVITE VOJNE, NE BEGUNCEV!

ZAUSTAVITE RAT, A NE IZBEGLICE!



On September 21, 2017, which is World Peace Day, at 12 o'clock in Knez Mihailova Street in front of the so-called Russian tzar, Women in Black with the support of the Youth Initiative for Human Rights are organizing a peace action, wearing all black and in silence, called Stop the war, not the refugees.

The same day there will be peace actions in the following cities as well: Leskovac, Kruševac, Pljevlja, Kotor, Tuzla, Zagreb, Ljubljana.

We are organizing this peace action because:

We are against:

- War, militarism and the rising militarization, on a global as well as local level.
- Closing up the borders, setting up barbed-wire fences, persecutions, deportations of refugees
- Selling of weapons in war areas by the Western Balkans states
- War profiteering, organized crime, exploitation of refugees
- Racism, xenophobia, racist propaganda against refugees
- Breaking international conventions on refugees
- Neocolonial policy of the West and dictatorship regimes in Third World countries

We are for:

- Stopping the war in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen...
- Opening the borders for all refugees and regulating their status
- Stopping the sale of weapons to countries in war
- Solidarity, responsibility, supporting refugees, most of all women and children
- Welcoming refugees

STOP THE WAR, NOT THE REFUGEES!

STOP THE SALE OF WEAPONS, NOT THE REFUGEES!

In Belgrade, September 20, 2017

Report on the World Peace Day action: Stop the war, not the refugees!

September 21

Knez Mihailova

STOP THE WAR, NOT REFUGEES!

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On the World Peace Day, September 21, 2017, at 12 o'clock noon in Knez Mihailova Street, Women in Black wearing all black and in silence organized a peace action "Stop the war, not the refugees". Around 30 activists joined the action. With this action they sent messages of resistance to politics of war, militarism and rising militarization, border closing, putting up barbed-wire fences, persecutions, deportations of refugees. Activists held banners with messages such as Stop the war, not the refugees; Open the borders; Solidarity with refugees. In solidarity with refugees, some activists carried banners with the following message: We want open borders, we don't want a fortress Europe. Freedom for all.

In front of the activists there was a canvas spreaded out with a map of Europe painted on it and a barbed wire painted in a circle instead of EU's yellow stars, which symbolizes repressive politics of the states of Europe towards the refugees.

Activists pointed out the horrible violence which the refugees are subjected to as a consequence of racism, xenophobia and racist propaganda against the refugees. There were messages written on the banners related to the global tragedy of refugees:

- Refugees and displaced people make up to a one billion of the entire world population - that's a quarter of the world population. All of them together would make the sixth biggest nation in the world!



- Around a million refugees passed through the Western Balkans where they were exposed to discrimination, deportation and robbery.
- In Serbia barely ten people were granted asylum.

Activists also published disturbing data on the number of displaced refugees by holding banners with the following written on them:

- Afghanistan: since 2001 the number of displaced and refugees is over 3.7 million people;
- Syria: in war since 2011, around 500 thousand killed, over 10 million are internally displaced, more than 5 million in exile, a huge number of raped women and girls;
- Yemen: in war since 2005, a humanitarian catastrophe, 8400 civilians killed, 48000 wounded;
- Iraq: in war since 2003, number of the displaced and refugees over 3.5 million people;
- Palestine: since the occupation in 1948 over 4.3 million of the displaced and refugees
- Mianmar/Burma: since 1978 over 500 thousand people persecuted, an ongoing terror.

The action went by peacefully while the bypassers took photos, some of them showed signs of support, mostly tourists. The same actions were held in Leskovac, Kruševac, Pljevlja, Kotor, Tuzla, Zagreb, Ljubljana.

Mina for Women in Black

