

10 reasons against this war on Iraq

- for discussion -



- 1. We say „NO“ to the war on Iraq,**
because the victims would be the Iraqi people. Already now they're suffering immeasurably from the brutal dictatorship of Saddam Hussein and from the consequences for the UN embargo lasting for years as a result of the last Gulf war.
- 2. We say „NO“ to the intended war,**
because it would destabilise the whole region of the Middle East and encourage violent protagonists all over. Political energies which are a dire necessity for a peaceful solution of the Israel/Palestine conflict are already blocked respective destroyed now.
- 3. We say „NO“ to the intended war,**
because it would not eliminate terrorism, but strengthen ideological points of view, that separate the world in „good“ and „evil“, and would further „Islamic“, „Christian“ and „Jewish“ fundamentalism.
- 4. We say „NO“ to the intended war,**
because we fear that it would cause unforeseeable economic damages in Iraq and for parts of the world economy as well. We fear that it would provide unilateral access for particular industrial nations to the raw material of oil, and thus aggravate further the gap between the global North and South.
- 5. We say „NO“ to the intended war,**
because we know from the last Gulf war which devastating impact the destructions and fires for weeks, in an oil region, can have upon human beings and upon the whole sensitive ecosystem of the earth, the air and the water.

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- 6. We say „NO“ to the intended war,**
because the reports of the UN inspectors verify that, at this time, not all civil means of disarmament and controlled destruction of eventually existing means of mass destruction in Iraq have been exhausted.
- 7. We say „NO“ to the intended war,**
because conflicts must and ought to be solved politically, non-militaristic and , if possible, in a preventive way. The principle of political conflict solution may not only be applied upon North Korea or upon India / Pakistan, but must also be valid for Iraq (no double standards)
- 8. We say „NO“ to the intended war,**
because without a particular and precise UN mandate (UN-Charta, chapter VII, articles 42, 44, 48, 51) it would be illegal according to international law. Under the given circumstances it has to be qualified as a war of aggression and therefore would be illegal according to German constitutional law. To take part in it is prohibited (Article 26 of the German constitution).
- 9. We say „NO“ to the intended war,**
because despite all our sympathy for the injuries the United States of America have suffered through the acts of terror of September 11th, we oppose the unauthorised procedure (unilateralism) of the United States of America.
- 10. We say „NO“ to the intended war,**
because we stand for a world order in which the UN monopoly of force is to be respected and strengthened, by which in case of conflicts, interference should take place only with a precise mandate of the UN Security Council. International military actions have to remain subjected to the logic of the police.

Our commitment to the “preferential option for non-violence”, as it is a common Christian conviction, is combined with the certainty that God wants the protection of life by means of a reliable order for all human beings. Therefore we oppose all efforts, which legitimise war ethically again as means of politics, and stand for “just peace”, which has to be the goal of all considerations and measures.

We expect from our politicians that they concentrate all energies and resources upon the erection of a peaceful, just and sustainable future of a world order under UN mandate. We request them to leave the path that re-legitimises war and re-militarises foreign policy within NATO and the European Union.

(Diether Heesemann, Nina Nicklas-Bergmann, Gabriele Scherle, Ulrike Schmidt-Hesse, Dr. Britta Schmitt)