

Victoria Groups Say "No" To NATO

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Victoria Peace Coalition - Media Release - Victoria - A coalition of local peace groups is holding a rally to coincide with NATO talks here this week and is calling for the disbanding of NATO. The groups want to draw public attention to NATO's ongoing destruction of the planet, and its committing of war crimes in Yugoslavia and Afghanistan.

www.canadaoutofafghanistan.ca

www.vicpeace.ca

"NATO forces use prohibited weapons including depleted uranium munitions, white phosphorus and cluster bombs," says Phil Lyons, spokesperson for the groups. "NATO is also in violation of nineteen separate war crimes, crimes against humanity and crimes against peace as determined by a people's International War Crimes Tribunal held in New York June 9-10, 2000."

The military chiefs of all 26 NATO countries are meeting in Victoria September 7 - 9. NATO, which stands for North American Treaty Organization, was formed in 1949 for the stated purpose of defence.

"Since its inception, NATO has promoted itself as a force for freedom and democracy, while destroying infrastructure of target countries, contaminating the environment and indiscriminately killing innocent civilians," says Lyons. "Depleted uranium threatens all life and military consumption of fossil fuels is the single largest contributor to greenhouse gasses."

A mass rally will be held on Saturday, September 8, at 12 noon in front of the BC Legislature.

"The goal of the rally is to present to Canadians the horrors perpetrated in our name on innocent children and families, both in war zones and amongst the families of returning NATO soldiers," says Lyons. "Canadian and international laws are being violated and it's up to all Canadian citizens to demand an end to this wanton disregard for human life and the future of the planet."

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The event is sponsored by the Canada Out of Afghanistan Campaign, Council of Canadians (Victoria Chapter), BCGEU, Greater Victoria Seniors, Raging Grannies, Students Against War, Military Communities Speakout, StopWar.ca (Vancouver), and The Victoria Peace Coalition.

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