



## Bundesweite Arbeitsgruppe Globalisierung & Krieg Working Group on Globalisation and War

Münchener Str. 48, 60329 Frankfurt/M. ■ <http://www.attac.de/globuk> ■ [attac\\_ag\\_guk@gmx.de](mailto:attac_ag_guk@gmx.de)

### media statement

---

5.4.2009 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – KEYWORDS: NATO SUMMIT; RASMUSSEN; PROTEST

- **Election of Anders Fogh Rasmussen places huge burden on relations with the Islamic world**
- **Glamorous summit used to legitimize dirty war in Afghanistan**
- **Our Alternative: Disband NATO, establish a world economy based on justice, combat climate change, no war for privileged access to natural resources.**

“It's not the defense of common values, but bickering about influence in a cartel of interests that lies at the center of NATO's politics,” says Gudrun Reiss, a peace activist for many years and spokeswoman of the Working Group on Globalisation and War of the German chapter of Attac. Attac, which pronounces itself favour of a world based on global justice and sustainable development, receives widespread support in Germany for many of its positions.

“The election of Anders Fogh Rasmussen places a huge burden on the relations of NATO member countries with the Islamic world. Rasmussen is known throughout Europe as a staunch supporter of former U.S. president George W. Bush and his war against Iraq.” Rasmussen declined meeting with diplomats from Islamic countries that protested against the publication of the cartoons depicting Muhammed, the founder of the Islamic faith, in Danish newspapers in 2005. “With the promise to close down the Kurdish TV station Roj TV in Denmark, NATO has openly placed itself in opposition against the basic right of a free press,” says Gudrun Reiss.

Under the government of Afghanistan's president Hamid Karzai, the production of narcotics, corruption, insecurity and poverty are rising. Meanwhile, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, current secretary general of the NATO alliance, praises the use of new Apple iPhones in Kabul as “a further sign of progress” (1) and urges NATO member countries to send additional troupes into the war. Attac demands the withdrawal of German and NATO troupes from Afghanistan. Other important steps to a lasting peace in the region are an end to the support of authoritarian regimes in Pakistan and the abolition of a wide-ranging nuclear cooperation agreement between the U.S. and India.

“We need a world economy based on justice, we need effective measures against climate change. We don't need wars about privileged access to oil and other natural resources,” explains Reiss. Raw materials and economic interests play an increasing role in the strategic thinking within NATO and its member countries. Already in a speech prior the the NATO Summit in 2006, U.S. Senator Richard Lugar (R-In.) has characterized the “defence” against the possible decision of a country to stop delivery of oil and other raw materials to Western countries as “an Article Five commitment.” (2) Gudrun Reiss: “Behind the glamorous facade of the NATO summit, the dirty business of war is being pursued.”

CONTACT (English): Christian Schroepel, +49-951-55903 or +49-170-5862473 (mobile)

---

1) [http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/opinions\\_50116.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/opinions_50116.htm)

2) “Energy and NATO”, Keynote Speech to the German Marshall Fund conference, Riga, 27.11.2006.