**Press Release**

17/6/2019

**World Beyond War campaign in Ireland ‘blocked’ during Trump visit**

An American based anti-war organisation was refused permission to place advertisements featuring the slogan “US troops out of Shannon” on billboards in Limerick during Donald Trump’s visit to Ireland.

JCDecaux Ireland, part of a multinational outdoor advertising agency, told World Beyond War (WBW) that the slogan breached the company’s policy of not displaying campaigns of a religious or politically sensitive nature. JCDecaux did agree to display an alternative poster featuring a dove and the words “Peace, neutrality, Ireland”, but WBW did not go ahead with the alternative format.

David Swanson, WBW’s executive director, said it had been prepared to spend at least $5,000 (€4,500) of its donated funds on its Irish billboard campaign but no company would agree to rent it space for its “US troops out of Shannon” poster.

Swanson, who has been a nominee for the Nobel peace prize, said WBW planned the campaign to promote an international peace conference it is holding in Limerick in October. Although it would have coincided with the US president’s meeting with Leo Varadkar, the Taoiseach, at Shannon airport, Swanson said the campaign was not designed for that event.

Although the WBW billboard campaign did not proceed, at the time of the visit Tarak Kauff and Ken Mayers, American members of Veterans for Peace, hung a banner from a road bridge near the airport. It read: “Respect Irish neutrality - US war machine out of Shannon.”

“Exit polls show that an impressive 82% of Irish voters say Ireland should remain a neutral country in all aspects,” said Swanson, a radio host and author. “But Ireland is not remaining a neutral country in all aspects.”

JCDecaux told The Sunday Times it was company policy “not to accept campaigns of a politically sensitive nature”. It did not say when the policy began. During the 2016 general election, a JCDecaux billboard in Dublin featured a Labour campaign image with Joan Burton, then the party leader, saying: “I will stand up for families.” In 2012, anti-abortion publicity appeared on a JCDecaux billboard, featuring a picture of a baby and the slogan: “Abortion tears her life apart.”

The Peace and Neutrality Alliance along with World Beyond War will continue to highlight that almost 3m US military personnel have transited through Shannon Airport on their way to never ending wars, and the slaughter of millions of innocent people in the Middle East and northern Africa.

To confirm this Press Statement;

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**For more Information;**

World Beyond War campaign against troops at Shannon ‘blocked’ during Trump visit

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/ireland/world-beyond-war-campaign-against-troops-at-shannon-blocked-during-trump-visit-th0trzv3t>

Are we helping to maintain French colonial interests by sending more Irish soldiers to Mali in northern Africa?

French soldiers are fighting in Mali, helping a government that took power when the elected president Amadou Touré was removed from office in a coup in 2012 because he wanted to start negotiations with opposition rebels (MNLA). France is very dependent on resources from this Sahel region, for example, Niger is France's main source of uranium for its massive nuclear industry. The region has been reduced to chaos following the disastrous destruction of Libya by France/NATO forces in 2011, the spread of Islamic terrorism, a split in the MNLA, and widespread poverty. Since 2013 more than 400,000 people have become refugees or internally displaced, and over one hundred peacekeepers have died in Mali, making it one of the deadliest places to serve for the UN.

Read Eoin Ó Murchú and Tuairisc.ie

<https://tuairisc.ie/saighdiuiri-na-heireann-i-maili-tarraingitear-abhaile-iad-2/?fbclid=IwAR2u4ojvfAEWNDJxxf1BIoAF7knEYyOXDetOap0KYaNA_jCQvn5fHhmsOro>

Peoples Movement highlighting secretive meetings by Foreign affairs;

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2019/05/14/?utm_source=EURACTIV&utm_campaign=a42bfe36baEMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_05_25_02_56_COPY_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c59e2fd7a9-a42bfe36ba-114705735>

**US Veterans For Peace to protest outside Dail Eireann**

PANA calls on our supporters to join a weekly demonstration along with Tarak and Ken of US Veterans For Peace that will be held outside Dail Eireann on Tuesdays, 1 – 2pm…

Highlighting “Respect Irish neutrality - US war machine out of Shannon.”