

Emergency Resolution - Don't Bomb Syria passed 3 December 2015

Proposer: Hussam Hussein (Ethnic Minorities Officer – on behalf of BME Caucus)

Seconder: Abbie Mulcairn (Women's Caucus)

Union Notes:

1. Last night parliament approved a government resolution to extend UK airstrikes against 'Islamic State'/ISIS targets in Syria.
2. RAF crews have already begun bombing Syria.

Union Believes:

1. British military interventions in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya have left those countries in situations much worse than before the interventions.
2. The ongoing bombing of areas controlled by 'ISIS' by a range of countries, has led to many civilian deaths.
3. The political and social instability fomented by these military campaigns has led to the rise of groups like ISIS, and will further perpetuate a climate in which they, and mass political violence, can thrive.
4. There is no transparency regarding any long-term political or military strategy by this government concerning Syria as Britain is opposed to most players engaged in the complicated conflict.
5. Western military interventions have continually betrayed ulterior motives by these governments, as can also be expected of this move by the government to bomb Syria.
6. Bombing Syria is another clear case of the government prioritising warfare when it could be investing in education.
7. During the 2013 Commons vote NEC voted to adopt a stance of having 'no position' on British military intervention against Syria.
8. Such a position is untenable given the impact such a move would have on the political and social situation in the UK and on our membership, particularly international students and refugees.

Union Resolves:

1. To release a statement with immediate effect including the above, condemning the decision to join the bombing of Syria, and expressing our solidarity with the Syrian people.