



Women in Black
London

**END
NATO
BOMBING
OF LIBYA**

Women in Black support the non-violent movements for democracy and freedom in North African and Middle Eastern countries. We share the rejoicing in Tunisia and Egypt at the peaceful overthrow of dictatorial regimes. We deplore the violence with which Col. Gaddafi in Libya, and other rulers in the region, are responding to similar protests. We urge them to desist and let the people speak through free and fair elections. We urge Western governments to stop supporting and favouring repressive regimes, and above all to stop supplying them with arms, now and in the future.

We do not believe that democracy, freedom and peace can be conferred on Libya by means of Western military intervention, covered by a fig-leaf of support from some Arab governments. This is yet another instance of powerful states giving free rein to their militarist impulse, instead of developing the skills and providing the resources to support those who seek non-violent means of change.

NATO has no business in North Africa. The initiative to bomb Libyan targets is a manifestation of the ever-widening scope, reach and ambition of this out-dated and aggressive alliance, controlled by the USA and Western European states in their own interests. Much of the world suspects that Western powers' current strategies in Libya and other Arab states are motivated by securing continuity of oil supplies and control of 'terrorism'. Western peace movements share this suspicion. History has given the people of the Arab world no reason to believe in the 'humanitarian' protestations of the NATO member states.

Women in Black is a network of feminist antimilitarists, active in many countries experiencing or sourcing war. We watch with admiration women in North Africa and the Middle East as by their courage and commitment they significantly advance the new democracy movements. We long for them to gain in autonomy, equality, strength and wellbeing through these struggles. We stand by them, doing all we can to respond to their calls to the world to find non-violent ways of supporting them.

We invite you to sign and post the letter below:

To the Rt.Hon. David Cameron, Prime Minister, 10 Downing Street, London SW1.

We call on you urgently to end UK military intervention in Libya, support offers of mediation, foster non-violent moves for democracy, and provide humanitarian assistance.

.....Signature Name

Address.....

**Women in Black, C/o The Maypole Fund, PO Box 14072, London N16 5WB
Donations for leaflets etc most welcome. www.womeninblack.org.uk**

Women in Black holds vigils every Wednesday between 6-7 pm at the Edith Cavell Statue, opposite the door of the National Portrait Gallery, St.Martin's Place, London WC2.