

[Joint statement of 4 Balkan anti-imperialist organizations]

**On the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary  
of the beginning of the Russian-NATO conflict in Ukraine**

One year has passed since the beginning of the conflict between Russia and NATO on the soil of Ukraine.

USA as the leader of NATO, has declared their objectives of the war: Integration of Ukraine in NATO and the EU, destruction of Russia as a world power capable of blocking their imperialist expansion to the East. The defeat and dismembering of Russia is necessary for them in order to subjugate all independent nations to prevent the stabilization of the emerging multipolar world, and shrink China. The Ukrainian pro-Nazi regime is serving as NATO's proxy on the ground.

Russia was confronting an existential threat from the imminent integration of Ukraine in NATO and the installation of US bases a few hundred kilometers from Moscow. The US and NATO did not feel committed by their own declaration that NATO won't be expanded to the East. They don't feel committed not even from their signatures in the Minsk agreements as it was shown by the recent Merkel and Macron's comments. Since 2014, through its proxies in Ukraine, NATO wages war against the Russian population in Donbas. More than 14,000 people had killed there before the beginning of the special military operation. Apartheid has been imposed against the Russians. Ukraine constantly used to pass laws to make worse the life of the Russian population.

This situation was intolerable by any independent/sovereign country. When the West arrogantly rejected, without discussion the Russian proposals for peace and mutual security guarantees, in December 2021, military action became the only option for Russia.

Russia is now fighting a difficult struggle with uncertain outcome, against practically the entire military potential of the West. This struggle is going to judge the future of our world.

People in the Balkans we have suffered from the constant interventions of the Western powers in our internal affairs. We've suffered from the

exploitation of our resources, our wealth, through , the imposed neoliberal practices by the US the EU and the IMF.

We know that victory of the West in Ukraine will allow them to start new wars in the Balkans in order to accomplish the integration of the rest of the Balkans into the Western system. It is clear that the west wants unsolved the problems they provoked by the wars imposed on us in the 1990s.

The organizations that sign this statement, believe that the imperialist expansion and the looting of the planet by the West must stop once and for all. We need a new international order of equal, independent, sovereign states in the framework of a multipolar world that fosters peaceful coexistence and development for the people

That is why the strategic defeat of the Western bloc in Ukraine is necessary.

We call on the people of the region to fight:

- For the defeat of the US and its allies in the war against Russia and in all wars they are waging or preparing.
- To lift illegal Western sanctions against Russia and many other countries.
- To block the participation of our countries in NATO war adventures. • Against the accession of new countries into NATO.
- For the unilateral exit of our countries from NATO.
- To expel the American military bases which are a mechanism of control of our countries and a tool of aggression against the peoples of the region.
- For disengagement from the western mechanisms of economic exploitation.

<b>Movement “23 September”</b>	<b>Bulgaria</b>
<b>New Communist Party of Yugoslavia,</b>	<b>Serbia</b>
<b>Platform of Independence</b>	<b>Greece</b>
<b>Socialist Workers Party</b>	<b>Croatia</b>

