IFOR INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION

Statement of the EUFOR meeting in Torino, April 12-15, 2018

Retaliatory strikes on Syria were condemned today by a meeting in Torino of the European branches of the International Fellowship of Reconcilation.

We deplore the use of chemical weapons which contravenes international law. However, international law also condemns the use of force on a nation state without the prior authorisation of the United Nations. Two wrongs do not make a right.

Instead of unilateral action, the investigation by the United Nations should have been allowed to run its course. The air-strikes will simply have compromised the evidence needed to bring those responsible for the use of chemical weapons to account.

The way of violence will only kill more people in Syria. Hundreds of thousands of people (mainly civilians) have already been killed, millions forced to become refugees. The strikes will not lead to a peaceful settlement.

History teaches us the importance of turning away from all forms of violence and seeking the way of peace and reconciliation in Syria and everywhere else.

War destroys – peace builds up.
War separates – peace brings together.
War drops bombs – peace works through dialogue and confidence-building.
War produces victims and enemies – peace creates community and friendship.
War is not the way – nonviolence is the way.
We are convinced that only active nonviolence can achieve peace.
That needs all our joint efforts and strength.

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