

Anti-NATO activists gear up ahead of alliance's anniversary

By [Global Research](#)

Global Research, February 17, 2009

Russia Today 17 February 2009

Region: [Europe](#)

Theme: [Militarization and WMD](#)

Anti-NATO activists are gearing up for mass protests surrounding the alliance's 60th anniversary celebrations. They have gathered in Strasbourg where NATO will hold its summit in April.

From April 3 to 5, 40 heads of state and government leaders, including US President Barack Obama, will come to Strasbourg and Baden-Baden to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the NATO alliance.

However, in the city that will co-host NATO's April summit, there are those who don't feel any warmth for the organisation.

The authorities have long since begun preparations for the event that will mark the 60th anniversary of the alliance's creation.

[Anti-NATO activists](#) are just as busy themselves.

Hundreds from across Europe have gathered at one of the city's universities to discuss final arrangements for acts of civil disobedience, exercising their right to speak out against what they call an antiquated, war-mongering organisation.

"I think that NATO lacks the possibility of having a good relationship with the rest of the world, not just with Russia," said Christophe Zander, a member of the Green Party and No to NATO organiser.

"In the Middle East and Africa, NATO pollutes all relations," he added.

The organisers consider their direct action in April is vital. They say NATO is not about protecting freedom, but about infringing them on a global scale.

"The war in Aghanistan shows us what NATO stands for, war against the population of a poor country," said Julia Heier from No to NATO.

Many there are French and are outraged by their country's renewal of full ties with NATO after it all but pulled out of the alliance's military structure under General Charles de Gaulle.

"We don't need war, which means we don't need NATO. But we need the money which is spent on NATO for social purposes." said Reiner Braun, Executive Director of International Lawyers Against War.

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