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The Post-Invasion Misfortune of the Iraqi People Worsens With Every Day That Passes

According to U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) and Department of Defense announcements, Iraqi military generals will deploy between 20,000-25,000 Iraqi soldiers in coming months to hunt down some 1,000-2,000 "criminals" allegedly hiding out in Mosul, Iraq. U.S. government officials and many media outlets have accused the men and boys of murder but none have been indicted.

Although U.S. military rule was supposed to have left intact pre-war guarantees for the right to a trial, neither the Department of Defense nor CENTCOM have objected to the continued use of Iraqi troops as mass executioners.

The U.S.-installed political system in Iraq is a barbaric system which does not even recognize the right of the Iraqi people to defend themselves or plea for a merciful sentence in a court of law. Nor is the U.S. Department of Defense hiding the premier role of the U.S. military. As in the past, CENTCOM will be directly involved

in Iraqi operations.

The U.S. government invaded Iraq in order to colonize it – to subjugate the country, rob its wealth and exploit its people. Over the last several years, the U.S. monopoly capitalist class has spent billions of dollars to vilify the national liberation movement of the Iraqi people, but the saturation of the monopoly media with racist and chauvinist propaganda has done nothing to lend "more credibility" to the war and occupation of Iraq.

Even as the CENTCOM army keeps killing the Iraqi people, carrying out mass reprisals, etc., the multinational corporations are being given a free hand to take over the Iraqi economy and enrich themselves. And all the while, the Iraqi people remain deprived of the most elemental rights all along the line – their political parties and organizations are outlawed by the occupiers, their patriotic daughters and sons are

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Obama Appoints Latin America "Expert" to New Diplomatic Post

On February 20 at the White House, Secretary of State John Kerry expressed enthusiastic support for advances made by the Colombian government during talks with FARC rebels over the last two years. Kerry mentioned that in December Colombia President Santos requested that the U.S. take a "more direct role" in the talks and that Obama has shown his willingness to do so by appointing Mr. B. Aronson as "new special envoy for the Colombian peace process." Kerry expressed hope that Aronson's former service would lend legitimacy to U.S. involvement in the talks.

Aronson represented the U.S. during its wars in El Salvador and Nicaragua before he served as Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-

American Affairs under Presidents Bush and Clinton. Amongst other things, he is also connected with the Council on Foreign Relations and the National Democratic Institute.

In his famous high-handed style, Aronson wasted no time in his acceptance speech before making clear that the U.S. will continue to oppose, in word and deed, the right of the Colombian peasants and workers to make any demands whatsoever on the Colombian State. According to Aronson, not only will U.S. backing for the Colombian military remain unchanged, but any hopes of peace depend on the willingness of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the National Liberation Army (ELN),

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Militarism and Neo-Liberal Economics to Top Agenda of the Upcoming Summit of the Americas

The next Summit of the Americas meeting is scheduled to take place in Panama City, Panama from April 10-11. The theme of the upcoming summit will be “Partnership for Democratic Development and Security in the Americas” and U.S. imperialism, in particular, is expected to push its program of neo-liberal economics.

Ahead of the meeting, U.S. diplomats are letting on that they are “reforming” past relations with Latin America and are even willing to make independent “concessions” such as inviting Cuba to the meeting. For example, in a statement near the end of last year Secretary of State Kerry said that he would like to “get beyond the perennial debate of attendance – who comes – and focus on the substantive issues at the summit that will be crucial to ultimately building a better future in the Americas.”

Nevertheless, U.S. insistence that every country in Latin America submit to the so-called free market system and open its economy up to the unfettered exploitation by the U.S. multinational corporations will remain on the agenda of the meeting. These demands are nothing new, and Obama has long labeled countries in Latin America as “democracies” or “dictatorships” based on their openness to treaties like NAFTA, the FTAA, and similar treaties.

In fact it has long been the case that, according to U.S. imperialism, any law, any restraint on the right of the U.S. companies to exploit and plunder the resources of other countries is labeled as unfair, a roadblock to progress. And countries which set up standards to protect their national economies are called “rogue states,” “unfit for sovereignty” and U.S. imperialism is prepared even to wage war against them.

Treaties like NAFTA, the FTAA, and a number of bilateral treaties demand that countries turn their nationalized industry, their forests, even their water resources, over to private U.S. companies. So too, social services including health care, education and other vital services are being privatized

Iraq

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hunted and killed, their economic and social infrastructure, including even such basic necessities as water and sewage systems, remain destroyed, etc. etc.

The recognition of the sovereignty of nations and the equality of the peoples is a verdict written with the blood and struggle of hundreds of millions of people in the colonial countries. The end to U.S. colonial domination of Iraq too, is a practical problem taken up for solution and it will be brought about when all the imperialist powers are forced out of Iraq and the inalienable right of the Iraqi people to self-determination and sovereignty is recognized.

and turned over to the American corporations under the signboard of “globalization.”

Today U.S. imperialism is well aware of the growing revolt of the peoples and along with its program of economic re-colonization, it is working to strengthen its political and military domination of Latin America. The U.S. openly demands that every country adopt a U.S.-style political system. At the same time, such slogans as “defending democracy and human rights” or “fighting international terrorism and drugs,” are being used to dispatch U.S. military “advisers” and set up new U.S. bases throughout Latin America. Already, the U.S. is waging a counter-insurgency war in Colombia to suppress the people’s struggles against foreign domination and exploitation.

Colombia

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and others to “renounce violence forever.”

The U.S. government continues to supply more military aid to Colombia than to any other country in Latin America. U.S. military aid has increased even while Colombian President Santos has refused every single call by the FARC to enter into a ceasefire. Colombian army and paramilitary offensives against territory controlled by poor Colombian farmers have taken place even while FARC leaders have insisted on implementing a unilateral ceasefire and beginning to present their demands at the negotiating table.

As past U.S. presidents have done, Obama wants to create the appearance of standing on the sidelines as an “observer” or “mediator” motivated by its desire for “human rights” and “democracy” in order to hide the real causes and the motive forces of the struggle in Colombia, and especially to cover over the role of U.S. imperialism as the organizer of fascism and war.

The struggle in Colombia arises from the real conditions – the actual social relations – existing in the country. It arises from the fact that for more than a century, the mountains of U.S. imperialist domination, of capitalism and of a semi-feudal system of land ownership, have weighed down on the Colombian people.

Today, the Colombian people are fighting to throw these mountains off their backs. The demands of the Colombian people against fascism and for peace, against imperialist domination and for independence, against the landed oligarchy and capitalist exploitation have been taken up by nearly the entire population. The armed insurgency of FARC, the ELN and others, which has been carried on for several decades as a necessary response to the fascist repression of the government, has long been at the very heart of this popular movement.