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Iraqis Protest Against U.S. Occupation

On April 9, tens of thousands of Iraqis took to the streets to protest the U.S. occupation. Demonstrations were held in Baghdad, Najaf, and other cities and towns across the country on the seven-year anniversary of U.S. troops entering Baghdad.

Prominent slogans at the demonstrations were, "There is no place for occupiers" and "Iraq is for Iraqis". Protestors carried Iraqi flags and chanted, "No, no America, Yes, Yes, Iraq", "Sunni and Shia Muslims, we won't sell this country", and "yes, yes to unity".

Protestors emphasized that their struggle was for the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. and other foreign troops and private military contractors from Iraq. According to one protestor, Durgham Zeydi, "The U.S. makes promises all of the time. They say they will leave, but they always



say it's conditional to events on the ground. What about their bases, will they be here permanently?"

The demonstrations also emphasized Iraqi unity. According to one organizer, Abdel Reda Al Hamid, "The demonstration

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Iran Opens Nuke Conference Amid New Sanctions Threats

The following is an excerpt of an article from the Turkish newspaper Hurriyet.

Tehran, Saturday, April 17, 2010

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad opened a two-day nuclear conference in the capital, Tehran, on Saturday with a call to suspend the United States from the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog while Washington and its Western allies have been intensifying their efforts for a new wave of sanctions against the Islamic republic for its nuclear program.

The International Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation comes a few days after a high-profile nuclear security summit in Washington. The conference in Tehran is seen by some as a counter effort against the U.S.-hosted summit, but Iran has repeatedly rejected this motion, saying instead the meeting aims to boost peaceful use of nuclear energy among non-nuclear states.

Foreign ministers from Oman, Syria, Lebanon, the Central African Republic, Iraq

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New Israeli Order Authorizes Expulsion of More Palestinians

On April 13, an Israeli order authorizing the expulsion of tens of thousands of Palestinians from the West Bank took effect.

The new order classifies as an "infiltrator" any "person who is present in the area and does not lawfully hold a permit." It calls for deportation of such Palestinians within 72 hours of arrest and would force Palestinians to pay for their own deportation. The order also calls for possible jail time of up to 7 years. The Israeli State arbitrarily and systematically denies permits to Palestinians and it is estimated that at least 70,000 Palestinians living in the West Bank do not "lawfully hold a permit."

This brutal measure is an escalation of Israel's decades-long policy of systematically exiling, imprisoning and killing Palestinians as a means of emptying Palestine of its native inhabitants. This, along with the

continuous expansion of illegal settlements in the West Bank, the seizure of tens of thousands of acres of Palestinian land, the building of an apartheid wall and a network of military bases throughout the country, and the imposition of a continuous reign of terror on the Palestinians vividly demonstrates that the Israeli state has no intention of living in peace with the Palestinian people and recognizing their right to a sovereign state. Rather, Israel aims at colonizing and annexing all of Palestine.

As for Israel's sponsor – U.S. imperialism – it has made the suppression of the Palestinian people a high priority in its plans to make the entire Middle East "safe" for U.S. colonial rule. This is because the Palestinian liberation struggle remains a clarion call to all the Arab peoples to rise in struggle against U.S. imperialist domination and dictate.

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Iran Opens Nuke Conference

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and Swaziland are attending the Tehran summit. Turkey is also among the participant states with Deputy Foreign Minister Hakki Akil in attendance to represent the country.

While repeating Iran's peaceful goals of its nuclear program in his opening remarks, Ahmadinejad described the disarmament of nuclear weapons across the world as a "common global concern that needs collective effort." He also drew attention to the summit's main motto: "nuclear energy for all, nuclear weapons for none," saying that peace and security for all nations will be reached if the disarmament goals are achieved.

According to the Iranian president, the main obstacle to global nuclear disarmament is the United States. "Washington has not only applied nuclear weapons against other nations, but has for years threatened to use weapons of mass destruction against world countries in order to gain the upper hand," he said. Such countries that continue to threaten others with the use of nuclear weapons to this day should be stripped of their membership in the International Atomic Energy Agency, or IAEA, Ahmadinejad said. "They have no place [in the IAEA] or its board of governors."

He also criticized the United Nations and its atomic watchdog for falling short of nuclear disarmament targets and called for a new body that would oversee the global nuclear disarmament. "An independent international group that plans and oversees nuclear disarmament and prevents proliferation should be set up," he said.

An era of making nuclear threats has finished, the Iranian president said, calling on the United States to abandon "aggressive and inhumane policies" and to join other nations that want a future of peace and justice. "Tyranny has no place in the future," Ahmadinejad said.

‘Grave disaster’

In his message to the conference delivered by his senior advisor Ali Akbar Velayati, supreme leader of Iran, Grand Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said the people of Iran were themselves victims of the use of chemical weapons and are better aware of the dangers of production and stockpiling of these weapons.

“We are prepared to make resources available to us to counter this threat. We regard the use of these weapons to be haram (religiously forbidden), and it is incumbent on all to protect humankind from this grave disaster,” his statement read.

Khamenei also accused some governments of playing a direct role in proliferating nuclear weapons by helping to arm Israel with them. “This is contrary to their undertaking under Article 1 of [Non-Proliferation Treaty] NPT and poses a serious threat to the Middle East region and beyond. The bullying and aggressor regime of the United States is leading these efforts.”

Although several countries have produced and stockpiled nuclear weapons that could lead to the committing of a major nuclear crime and have seriously threatened world peace, Khamenei said, only one government has committed the ultimate nuclear offence, the United States of America.

“From the time of the first explosion of an atomic weapon by the government of United States at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the security of the entire humankind has been threatened and there has been a global consensus on the need for complete elimination of these weapons,” he said.

U.S. and South Korea Announce War Exercises

The following article is reprinted from the Korean Central News Agency, April 8, 2010

The U.S. imperialist warmongers announced that they would stage large-scale firepower exercises together with the south Korean puppet army in the U.S. forces training ground in Pochon, Kyonggi Province, in mid April, according to Yonhap News of south Korea on April 6.

The war exercises to be staged under the pretext of "examination of coordination capacity" will reportedly involve the U.S. Second Division in south Korea and the 26th Division and a flying corps of the puppet army as well as motorized units and artillery, engineering and other units of all branches of arms and firepower equipment.

The U.S. imperialists and the south Korean puppet warmongers have recently escalated military provocations against the DPRK, gravely threatening the peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Foreign Ministry Dismisses US Nuclear Plan

The following is reprinted from the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

Pyongyang, April 9 (KCNA) – A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the DPRK gave the following answer to a question put by KCNA Friday as regards the U.S. publication of its "Nuclear Posture Review":

The review made public on April 6 proves that the present U.S. administration still regards nukes as a mainstay in carrying out its strategy for world domination.

President Obama blustered that the U.S. will not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapons states that comply with the provisions of NPT but exception is made for countries such as the DPRK and Iran. This proves that the present U.S. policy towards the DPRK is nothing different from the hostile policy pursued by the Bush administration at the outset of its office during which it was hell-bent on posing a nuclear threat to the DPRK after designating it as a "target of preemptive nuclear strike."

By releasing the review the U.S. completely backpedaled its commitment made in the September 19 Joint Statement of the six-party talks that it has no intention to attack or invade the DPRK with nuclear weapons or conventional weapons, and again chilled the hard-won atmosphere for the resumption of the talks.

As far as the NPT is concerned, it is not a treaty to last long because it is a transitional step to prevent nuclear proliferation till the world is denuclearized. The DPRK pulled out of the treaty after going through legitimate and legal procedures as the U.S. more undisguisedly used the NPT as a lever for isolating and stifling it.

The DPRK manufactured nukes, not prompted by any nuclear ambition. It produced them for the purpose of deterring the U.S. attack and defending its sovereignty and right to existence because the latter posed

substantial nuclear threat to it after singling it out as "a target of preemptive nuclear attack." The DPRK has so far sincerely implemented its international obligation as a responsible nuclear weapons state.

The denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is the invariable goal of the DPRK. If the peninsula and the rest of the world are to be denuclearized, the U.S. should stop such hostile acts as trampling down upon other countries' sovereignty and right to existence, pursuant to its policy of strength based on nuclear supremacy. What is most urgent is for the U.S. to roll back its hostile policy towards the DPRK in practice, not with an empty talk, and take a confidence-building measure.

As long as the U.S. nuclear threat persists, the DPRK will increase and update various type nuclear weapons as its deterrent in such a manner as it deems necessary in the days ahead.

The DPRK is fully capable of doing so. It is the U.S. that gives the former ground and justification to do so.

The U.S. should know that gone are the days never to return when the DPRK was only exposed to the blackmail and pressure slapped by the former on the strength of its nuclear weapons.

Iraqi Protests

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aims to show there is unity in Iraq. Iraqis are united. Sectarianism is created by occupiers, not only the Americans but other parties. They are trying to divide Iraqis." Another organizer, Sheik Ashraf said, "This rally shows that all of Iraq is united and we should be united, all religions, all groups. We want to tell the occupiers to leave."