

Anti-Imperialist News Service

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John Kerry Demands Concessions from Syria

During a U.S.-led meeting with Foreign Ministers from Egypt, France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Britain on October 22nd in London, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry announced that Syria would have to make concessions or face endless war. Specifically, Syria's President, Bashar al-Assad would have to allow the U.S. to decide who could run in Syria's elections next year. According to Kerry, "If he (President Bashar al-Assad) thinks that he is going to solve problems by running for re-election, I can say to him, this war will not end."

For its part the Syrian government continues to uphold the right of the Syrian people to determine their affairs for themselves without outside interference, a right which

is also recognized in international law. Kerry's provocative declaration was rejected by President Assad on October 22nd and the next day in a statement released by Syria's Foreign Ministry, the Syrian government certified that the integrity of the country's political process would be preserved.

For more than two and a half years, CIA armed and trained forces have been carrying out ceaseless military offensives throughout Syria. In February of 2012, even while admitting that it was behind attempts to unite the ragtag group of mercenaries, the U.S. formed a coalition with some of its regional and NATO partners with the open aim of using the mercenaries to impose a U.S.-style political system in Syria.

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CIA Beneficiaries Continue to Launch Military Offensives Across Syria

According to the Syrian News Agency (the state-owned news agency of the Syrian Arab Republic), from October 21 to 26 at least twenty people were killed and 178 people injured in at least 32 terrorist attacks.

On October 21st in Hama countryside, a woman and her daughter were critically injured by rocket explosions targeting houses in al-Sqalbiyeh. Rockets also exploded on a main road and an oil station.

Two days later there were at least twenty attacks in Syria. In Jaramana, two schools in al-Rawda neighborhood were bombed by mortar shells. The explosions

injured one teacher and fourteen students. Twelve more mortar explosions killed three people and injured sixteen more in public squares and residential neighborhoods in Jaramana. In Damascus, four people were killed and eighteen injured when their houses were bombed by mortars. Two people were injured by mortar explosions near a hotel. A person was killed and six people injured when a car bomb exploded in a roundabout. Mortar shells also blew up on the Damascus University campus and on the Damascus fairgrounds. Meanwhile in Aleppo, six people were killed and thirty people injured when three shells exploded on Saadallah al-

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Israel Further Expands Settlements

The following is reprinted from the October 21st AINS online edition.

According to data recently released by the Israeli organization "Peace Now," between January and June of this year a total of 2,840 new housing units were added to Israel's illegal settlements in the West Bank and Jerusalem.

Israel began establishing settlements in the West Bank, Jerusalem, Gaza and Syria's Golan Heights immediately after its occupation of these territories in the 1967 war. Israel removed its settlements from Gaza in 2005. There are currently almost 500,000 Israeli settlers in the West Bank, Arab East Jerusalem and Syria's Golan Heights.

Building new Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Jerusalem aims to 1) create "facts on the ground"

which lead to the permanent incorporation of new territory by Israel and 2) keep Palestinian territories divided and surrounded by the Israeli army.

Today, settlements form a barrier between Arab East Jerusalem and the West Bank and between numerous Palestinian towns and villages on the West Bank.

The settlements and the interconnecting roads slice up the territorial continuity of Palestine and provide the Israeli army easy access at any time to re-occupy Palestinian land and attack Palestinian civilians.

This expansion of Israeli settlements further exposes the sham "peace process" and "peace talks" being orchestrated by U.S. imperialism. While the U.S. government piously talks about the "rights of the Palestinians" and the Israeli government engages in endless "negotiations," Israel is annexing more Palestinian and Arab land.

Syria

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Jabiri Square. In and around Homs, one person was killed and more than six people were injured by rocket shell explosions in neighborhoods. In Damascus Countryside, a sniper attacked a bus full of people and shot the bus driver. On the same day, an attack on gas pipelines that feed electricity stations in the southern area caused power outages in several Syrian cities.

On October 24th in Homs city, two people were killed and forty people, including children, were injured by a car bomb that exploded near al-Nuzha roundabout just as schoolchildren were leaving their schools. Also in Homs, a school in Bab Sbaa' neighborhood was bombed. The fuel tank in the school was hit by a mortar shell and set on fire, severely damaging the school.

On October 25th, two mortar shells exploded on houses in al-Ensha'at neighborhood of Sadad town.

On October 26th in Damascus Countryside, a man and a child were injured by mortar shells that exploded on their homes. Also in the region, two people were killed and thirty people injured by a car bomb explosion in Souq Wadi Barada. In Damascus, a child and four women were injured when mortar shells exploded in residential areas. In Homs countryside one person was killed by an explosive device. There was also a rocket attack in the area.

Since early 2011 the Obama administration has been demanding retreat in the face of these military offensives.

Kerry

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The latest provocative statements by John Kerry show that U.S. imperialism has no intention of voluntarily respecting the sovereign rights of the Syrian people or ending its aggression against the sovereign state of Syria.

Today the open declaration of U.S. imperialism is that some countries are entitled to sovereignty and some are not. According to this doctrine, it is U.S. imperialism – self-appointed judge, jury and executioner of the world – which gets to decide the fate of the peoples everywhere.

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