

# Anti-Imperialist News Service

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## The Iraq War Keeps On

In Baghdad in December, U.S. Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta co-signed a "Memorandum of Understanding" with his Iraqi counterpart Saadoun al-Dlimi. According to the memo, the U.S.-Iraq military alliance is soon to be strengthened by more high level U.S.-Iraq military exchanges, enhanced professional military education cooperation, enhanced counter-terrorism cooperation, improved intelligence capabilities and more joint military exercises.

Currently there are 12,500 security personnel

contracted to the U.S. government in Iraq, many of whom are involved in providing intelligence and other direct assistance to counter-insurgency operations. In addition many are embedded with the 700,000 member Iraqi military as trainers and advisers. Some are serving terms in ministries of the Iraqi government.

In 2012 the war claimed the lives of over 4,500 people.

The Iraq war will not come to an end until U.S. imperialism is forced out of Iraq.

## Casualties of U.S. Airstrikes on Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen

According to a report released by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism on January 3, some 4,708 people have been killed by U.S. drone attacks on Pakistan, Yemen, and Somalia since the U.S. drone strikes began in 2001. Hundreds and hundreds more have been injured. Of those killed, 214 are known to have been children.

The vast majority of the strikes have taken place

since Obama took office in 2009. For example, 310 of the 362 total reported attacks on Pakistan were ordered during the Obama Presidency.

According to the fascist logic of the Obama administration, the U.S. government is free to attack any country or people it labels as "terrorist."

The U.S. government is acting as if it had appointed itself the judge, jury and executioner of the world.

## Bolivia Denounces U.S. Covert Operation

On January 8, Bolivian Minister of Communications Amanda Dávila broke the news that the U.S. government conducted a covert military operation in Bolivia between June and September of 2012.

In June, twenty-four U.S. researchers entered the country by presenting themselves to Bolivian authorities as tourists. The members of the delegation did not identify themselves as researchers funded by the U.S. government or reveal the military character of their investigations.

On January 10, Bolivian Vice President Álvaro García Linera made a statement denouncing the action as a direct attack on the Bolivian State and violation of Bolivian sovereignty.

Every year, on top of hundreds of billions of dollars spent on the military budget, the federal government spends tens of billions more on the military through the energy budget, space budget, and government grants for research and technology.

## NATO Deploys Missiles to Turkey

On January 21 North Atlantic Treaty Organization forces began positioning Patriot missile batteries in Turkey at NATO's southern perimeter along the border of Syria. NATO is expected to deploy six of the missiles there and make them operational by early February.

Although labeled "defensive", the Patriot missile system is designed as a first-strike weapon which can wipe out the strategic or short-range missiles of an adversary, thus destroying its deterrent force and leaving it defenseless. This greatly increases the threat and reality of a first-strike attack by NATO.

Such military actions are extremely dangerous and provocative steps on the part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization headed by U.S. imperialism.