

# Anti-Imperialist News Service

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## Atrocity Reports From Fallujah

As the U.S. military siege of the Iraqi city of Fallujah continues, reports are emerging every-day of atrocities being committed against the city's population.

Since April 4, 2,000 troops have encircled the city.

According to Associated Press (AP) wire reports, the U.S. military is using tanks, artillery, cluster bombs from F-16 fighter aircraft, attack helicopters, and AC-130 Spectre gunships against the people, and at least 600 Iraqis have been killed and over 1,500 wounded. Marine snipers have shot and killed "scores" of Iraqis during the past few weeks, and an estimated 60,000 residents of the city have fled. Makeshift mass graves for all the dead have started appearing inside and out-

### Effects of U.S. Nuclear Weapons in Iraq

In early April, the Associated Press reported that at least 5 U.S. soldiers tested positive for uranium poisoning as a result of exposure to depleted uranium (U-238) during their tour of duty in Iraq.

After returning from Iraq, the soldiers experienced such symptoms as headaches, joint aches, constant nausea, overpowering fatigue and pain from swallowing. The Army, refusing to test the men for radiation poisoning, insisted that the symptoms "all in the heads." However, a private physicians administered tests for depleted uranium and the five men tested positive.

In fact, tens of thousands of U.S. soldiers and millions of Iraqi civilians have been exposed.

During the bombing of Iraq last year, the U.S. dropped 2,200 tons of depleted uranium on Iraq. According the Japanese physicist Professor Yagasaki the radioactivity released from these bombs is equivalent to the radioactivity which would result from more than 250,000 A-bombs of the size used on Nagasaki.

Now that the depleted uranium has been

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side the city.

On April 23, BBC reported that humanitarian workers inside the city witnessed "U.S. gunmen firing at ambulances and civilians." Clinics were overwhelmed because of a bridge closure by U.S. forces, which cut off access to the main hospital. An Iraqi member of the "Doctors for Iraq" humanitarian society, speaking to the BBC, described seeing colleagues blown up in an ambulance -- clearly marked -- travelling in front of him as his team tried to enter a

U. S.-controlled area. In a separate incident reported by the BBC, a driver and paramedic in an ambulance were shot in a U.S.-controlled area -- one in the chest, the other in the eyes. The injured civilians inside the ambulance bled to death during the next two days as warning shots were fired when the team tried - four times - to return to collect the ambulance.

According to a first-hand report from an Iraqi dentist working in Fallujah (see IslamOnline.net), most of the victims in Fallujah are innocent bystanders, including many women and children. "I was in Fallujah and I saw with my own eyes many civilians and ordinary people lying dead on the streets...the dead, mostly children and women, are not militiamen or resistance fighters but rather ordinary people, who stood up to the U.S. occupation troops to defend their homeland." Another eyewitness stated in the same report that "So many people are lacking water, electricity and medical services.... "Most of the time nobody can get in or out of Fallujah."

Below we reprint excerpts from some other first-person reports.

### Fallujah Residents Report U.S. Forces Engaged in Collective Punishment

[April 24th weblog by Dahr Jamail]

...Abu Muher said U.S. warplanes were bombing the city heavily last Saturday prior to his departure, and that Marine snipers continued to take their toll, shot after shot, on residents of the besieged city. "There were so many snipers,

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## Fallujah (from page 1)

anyone leaving their house was killed," he recalled.

Abu Muher, along with two other men from Fallujah who arrived in Baghdad last weekend, said American warplanes had dropped cluster bombs on a road behind their houses in Fallujah. One of the men was too afraid to permit his name to be used in this article. "My neighbors saw the bomblets," he said, "and I heard the horrible sound that only the cluster bombs make when they are dropped on us. My home was hit by their shrapnel. I was too afraid to leave my home to look for myself because of the snipers."

Abdul Aziz, the 15 year-old son of Abu Muher, stated, "I saw two of my neighbors shot by US snipers when I went outside one time. I also saw some of the small cluster bombs on the ground that were dropped by the warplanes of the Americans. Most times, we were too afraid even to look out of our windows."

### 'Getting aid past US snipers is impossible'

[from Jo Wilding, a human rights activist, as reported in "The Guardian," April 17, 2004].

...Everybody in Falluja has lost someone. There is not a person here who doesn't have a close friend or relative who has been killed, and a lot of them have lost several. We are hearing that the death toll is around 880 civilians, and that within the first few days 86 children were killed.

People have been under bombardment for the last eight days. A lot of people are trapped in their houses still - despite the ceasefire - without food, without water and terrified to leave. Food and medical aid is now arriving but the problem is getting the aid around the city. A lot of it is delivered to the mosque, but then getting it to the hospitals, past the American snipers, is proving to be impossible.

The main hospital apparently has been destroyed by bombing and the second largest is covered by US snipers - the Iraqis call it sniper alley. So Iraqi people are not able to get to and from the hospitals. I was working from a private clinic that had been turned into a hospital, and there was also one other improvised hospital in a car garage.

Nobody could give us a figure for injuries but there was an enormous stream of people going to this clinic, this makeshift facility. It comes in bursts. There is a lull in fighting and then more people start coming into the clinic. We saw two kids arriving with their grandmother, they had all been wounded by gunfire, they said by American snipers, while they were trying to leave their house to flee to Baghdad.

An elderly woman with a wound to the head was still carrying the white flag she had been holding when she was shot. They were all saying it was American snipers shooting - and we know that the US is using armed marines on rooftops to hold the parts of city they are controlling.

The times I have been shot at - once in an ambulance and once on foot trying to deliver medical supplies - it was US snipers in both cases. It is so unacceptable to stop medical aid get-

## Cuban President Denounces U.S. Terrorism in Iraq

On April 19, Fidel Castro, President of Cuba, participated in a Roundtable TV and radio program to discuss the 43rd anniversary of the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba by the U.S.

The Cuban leader stated that April 19, 1961, is a date that should never be forgotten, because it was when a "little ant" like Cuba, with its morals, principles and revolutionary pride, faced down the "elephant" that the Northern power represents.

During the program, Fidel Castro denounced the U.S. war against Iraq, pointing out that the real objective of the U.S. was to seek oil and establish a fascist doctrine under which the U.S. assumes the "right" to launch a surprise attack against any country at any time.

Castro further said that: "It is possible to conquer a nation with all that power, but not to administrate one. We said so before the war began, and our predictions have been fulfilled to the letter....They are using planes, helicopters and missiles to kill leaders. Never before has terrorism reached such a level."

"Our neighbors were the ones to invent terrorism and still have not abandoned that formula," he emphasized in reference to the United States.

## Effects of Nuclear Weapons (from page 1)

dispersed in tiny particles it is spreading over wide areas, up to 1,000 miles from the sites of the explosions. U-238 will remain radioactive for billions of years, contaminating the soil, the ground-water, the air, the food supply, etc. Once it is inhaled, it begins bombarding body cells, including chromosomes and can lead to many diseases, including cancer, genetic birth defects, etc.

ting through. They could have just asked to search us.

We saw mainly bullet wounds for the majority of civilians. Families are getting injured when they try to leave the house, trying to escape for Baghdad. A bullet goes astray or it gets them in their house. Then a lot of people are injured from shrapnel. They get hit by shrapnel that gets into the house.

### 'US destroying Falluja homes'

[Aljazeera news service, April 21st, 2004]

Ferocious fighting in the Iraqi town of Falluja has grown so intense that US occupation forces have begun destroying buildings and homes.

Aljazeera's correspondent in Falluja, Abd Al-Adhim Muhammad, said exchange of fire in the Golan quarter grew so fierce that troops had to call in helicopter support on Wednesday.... Muhammad said he personally witnessed two US air gunships destroy four homes in al-Mutasim quarter, adding many resistance fighters were now taking cover in the ruined buildings....

# Wide-spread Condemnation And Protest Against Israeli Killings

Israel's recent assassination of Palestinian leaders Abdel Aziz Rantisi and Ahmed Yassin has led to wide-spread condemnation and protests throughout the world.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians took to the streets throughout the West Bank on April 17, immediately after an Israeli helicopter fired a missile at Rantisi's car in Gaza City. At his funeral the next day, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians participated in the funeral, vowing to step-up their resistance to Israeli aggression and occupation of their homeland. Rantisi was the second Palestinian leader in the past month to be assassinated by Israel. In a similar attack by an Israeli helicopter on March 22, Sheik Ahmed Yassin and seven other Palestinians were killed in Gaza.

On April 18, at the Ein el-Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp near Sidon in southern Lebanon, 10,000 demonstrators participated in a mass rally and protest to condemn the killings. At universities throughout Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and Kuwait, Arabs protested and demanded an end to U.S.-backed Israeli aggression. Leaders from Canada, France, Greece, Iran, Japan, China, Russia, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, and Turkey also issued statements condemning Israeli's actions.

On April 20, Israeli leader, Ariel Sharon, said that Israel would continue the "extra-judicial killings" of Palestinian leaders and anti-occupation activists, vowing "We will not let up on them...it isn't over, and the list is not short." He also boasted that Israel had the approval of the United States for the killings, saying President Bush would "permit Israel to take care of its security." Since the assassinations, President Bush and other White House officials, as well as leading Congressman, have stated that such actions by Israel were justified in the fight "against terrorism."

## Israeli Aggression Continues

Meanwhile, Israeli aggression continues unabated throughout the occupied West Bank and Gaza. Since March 22, the Israeli army has imposed a total closure over the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Israeli army has prevented civilians from crossing the Green Line and entering Jerusalem, closed crossing points to workers, and restricted movement between cities in the West Bank.

On April 22, one day after shooting dead five Palestinians, columns of Israeli tanks backed by U.S.-made Apache helicopters stormed into the northern Gaza Strip town of Beit Lahiya and killed four more Palestinians, raising the Palestinian death toll to 20 in a week and the number of wounded to at least 76.

## Haiti (from page 4)

visit the homes of OP leaders that have not been burned to keep them from coming home and to intimidate neighbors.

- Many have had their homes destroyed by arson. The majority of the arsons took place in the first week of March, but continued during our delegation. The threats have been carried out by former militaries and FRAPH members as well as other supporters of the opposition.

- All OP leaders who have sought asylum at the U.S. Embassy have been turned away. They have also been turned away by the embassies of Canada, France, Mexico, and Venezuela.

- All government funding and other support to the Ops has been summarily cut off. This includes the closing of literacy programs, food and shelter programs, and orphanages.

- All OP leaders pleaded with the Delegation to ask the current government to provide security to return to their homes with their families, to return to schools and jobs, or, in the alternative, to open the path to asylum.

### C. The Multinational Military Force

There is a general tension in the people of the city due to the intermittent presence and patrolling of marines. They typically spend hours standing in small groups in targeted neighborhoods in full battle uniform, holding automatic rifles. In the evenings, they will occasionally select a city street and walk it with pairs of soldiers slowly walking in one direction on both sides of the street, followed by two or three patrol vehicles full of soldiers bringing up the rear. Some believe that the marines have killed approximately 8 people in Port-au-Prince to date, though the Delegation had heard reports of more than five times that amount. There remain questions as to whether the actions by marines, including arrests, and home searches, violate the Haitian constitution. Families do not feel confident to refuse a home search. Marines interviewed by the delegation stated that they are not a "police force" but are merely maintaining security in the city until a permanent U.N. peace force takes over.

### D. The State Morgue in Port-au-Prince and Cadaver Disposal

- The Director refused the Delegation's request to view the cadavers and to review the record books.

- Director admitted that "many" bodies have come into the morgue since March 1, 2004, that are young men with their hands tied behind their backs, plastic bags over their heads, that have been shot....

- The Director admitted that 800 bodies were "dumped and buried" by morgue on Sunday, March 7, 2004, and another 200 bodies dumped on Sunday, March 28, 2004. The "usual" amount dumped is less than 100 per month. The bodies are taken to Titanye, approximately two hours north of the capital, and buried in a mass grave....

- People are afraid to claim bodies of Lavalas members because of fear of the Lavalas connection....



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## U. S. Escalates Tensions Off Korean Peninsula

Last month the U.S. announced that two Navy destroyers, equipped with the latest Aegis combat system, will be deployed in the East Sea of Korea by September. It was also announced that as part of the deployment 10 SM3 missiles will eventually be mounted on the Aegis destroyers to serve as a "long-range surveillance and tracking platform" for the "Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD)" system.

In the last two years, the United States has conducted five tests of its Aegis-based Standard Missile-3 (SM3) missiles, and the United States and Japan are expected shortly to conduct joint tests of an upgraded version of the missile.

Even though the U.S. government advertises its ballistic missile program as a "defensive" program aimed at "shielding the U.S. from nuclear attack," it is, in reality, an offensive weapons system and a key component in Bush's program of further militarizing the world. In fact, in public statements, President Bush and Pentagon officials have openly admitted that the BMD system will directly target North Korea and may be used in a possible "pre-emptive strike." Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld, stated last year that the missile program "should be seen as a signal to North Korea."

In addition to the recent announcement concerning the deployment of Aegis destroyers off Korea's coast, the U.S. has been shipping large amounts of military equipment to bolster its troop presence on the peninsula and threaten North Korea. Large-scale joint U.S.-South Korean war maneuvers held in March led to new U.S. arms shipments into the south, including hundreds of tanks, amphibious armored vehicles, and helicopters.

Pentagon plans for a first-strike against North Korea, so-called "Operation 5026" have also been revealed in recent statements by Pentagon officials. The "contingency" plan calls for surgical strikes by B-2 stealth bombers and F-117 stealth fighters against numerous North Korean facilities. Last year's deployment of additional bombers to South Korea and Guam was seen as part of this preparation.

The Bush administration is using the phony propaganda about the threat of "weapons of mass destruction" as a pretext for fomenting tensions and trying to militarize the situation. Its goal is to turn back the tide of Korean reunification and Asian reconciliation and to justify the continued occupation of South Korea by 37,000 U.S. troops.

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## Report of Haiti Human Rights Delegation

*The following summary report of human rights abuse in Haiti (March 29 - April 5, 2004) is excerpted from a report by the National Lawyer's Guild, published on April 11, 2004.*

...In general, the delegation found the human rights situation grave. The conditions are especially precarious and evidence little hope for improvement due to the almost total lack of knowledge about, and media attention to, the human rights abuses taking place.

Layered upon the gravity, there is a general sense in the people of insecurity due to, among other things,

(i) killings, (ii) curfews, (iii) the lack of police or any form of working judicial system, (iv) patrols of private, heavily-armed militias, (v) the doubling or tripling of food and fuel prices, (vi) the fall of the Haitian currency against the U.S. dollar, (vii) an abnormal lack of electricity in the cities, and (viii) the unauthorized return of the uniformed and armed soldiers of Haitian Army that President Aristide had decommissioned in 1994 for its historical oppression of Haiti's poor....

Finally, the delegation found overwhelming evidence that the victims of the threats and violence have been supporters of the elected government of President Aristide and the Fanmi Lavalas party, elected and appointed officials in that government or party, or employees of the government, including police. Many are in hiding in the mountains or in Port-au-Prince, others have been beaten and or killed. Many of their

homes have been selectively destroyed, mostly by arson.

### I. The Situation in Port-au-Prince

#### a. General Information

- 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. curfew enforced by HNP and multinational force.

- many neighborhoods without electricity or water since Feb. 29th (water flow depends on electric pump)

- gas prices doubled since Feb. 29th, hindering private and public transportation

- U.S. dollar trading for 7.5 to 8.0 Haitian dollars

- people generally unaware of who government is, what the near future holds, and generally unaware of human rights abuses taking place; all aware that it is not safe to be on the side of the elected government or to be known as a Lavalas member, associate, or supporter.

#### b. Repression of Popular Organizations

- Leaders of almost every popular organization ("OPs") (dozens of grassroots groups throughout the country that formed to work with the elected government to address basic community needs) have been threatened or killed.

- None of them are living at home. Those from outlying areas have gone into hiding in Port-au-Prince, and have not seen their families since March 1, 2004. Others have gone into hiding in the mountains, taking spouses and children.

- Former militaries and opposition supporters continue to

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