

Anti-Imperialist News Service

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U.S. Targets Civilians in Afghanistan

After a U.S. airstrike in Farah province in May, mass outrage led Afghan officials to produce a type-written list of the 93 children, 26 women, and 22 male civilians killed. Only when confronted with the widespread public condemnation did U.S. officials admit that the 2,000 pound bomb dropped on a building resulted in "some" civilian casualties. The U.S. finds itself confronted so frequently with condemnation for killing civilians that last year the military instituted a practice of sending soldiers home to house after airstrikes to "apologize" to families for killing their relatives.

At the same time, the U.S. insists that it has the right to bomb civilian areas whenever it asserts "there are Taliban operatives there." This is the logic of "shoot anything that moves and ask questions later" and with this "logic" the Pentagon gives itself the right to bomb civilian targets. When forced to acknowledge the body count, Pentagon officials shrug it off as "accidental" or even more cynically, call the

deaths a "setback for public relations."

While minimizing such atrocities as "accidents," U.S. officials simultaneously insist that "if militants' hide among the civilian population we have no choice but to bomb these areas." In other words, U.S. imperialism has the right, in practice, to target anything and anyone while the people must be content with the crocodile tears of U.S. officials.

It is just this kind of "logic" about the killing of civilians that serves as an alert to the further tragedies in store for the people of Afghanistan as the U.S. sends more troops and escalates the war. Already Secretary of Defense Robert Gates is warning people to expect more bloodshed as "there is a heavy fighting season ahead."

As we join with all of progressive world public opinion in denouncing the U.S. government for its savage killing of Afghan civilians, the American people are also called upon to continue and step up our struggles against this reactionary, aggressive war.

Obama Talks "Withdrawal" While Preparing More War

The Obama administration is stepping up its political deception about its counter-insurgency war in Iraq.

Without even denying that there are over 130,000 U.S. troops occupying Iraq, U.S. and Iraqi officials declared June 30 yet another date of transition to Iraqi "sovereignty."

In fact, the changes made by the U.S. military since the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) took effect earlier this year have made it crystal clear that the U.S. government has no plans to give up its dictate over Iraq or its war and occupation. For example, the current "withdrawal" of U.S. troops from Iraqi cities

means, in point of fact, that thousands of troops have been relocated to more flexible positions surrounding the cities.

At the same time, U.S. officials are feebly trying to mask the continued presence of thousands of fully armed U.S. combat troops inside Iraqi cities by reclassifying them as "support troops."

While U.S. troops and private military contractors in Iraq now amount to over 262,000 forces, the Pentagon has also institutionalized its command of over 600,000 Iraqi puppet forces through a "Joint Military Operations Coordinating Committee," established under the

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Ever Growing Danger of War

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

Pyongyang, June 25 (KCNA) – The U.S. imperialists had started the Korean war in an attempt to realize their wild dream of domination over the whole of Korea on June 25, 1950, just 59 years ago.

They had mobilized their aggression troops, the south Korean puppet army and armed forces of their 15 satellite countries in the war to topple the newly founded Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in the cradle. They perpetrated the most brutal massacre and indiscriminate destruction unprecedented in the world history of war.

However they could neither conquer nor kneel down the Korean people who turned out with do-or-die spirit to defend the sovereignty and dignity of the DPRK.

More than half a century has passed since the ceasefire. But today the danger of another war against the DPRK is increasing day by day owing to the U.S. imperialists.

The United States has escalated the moves to perpetuate the national division and provoke another war of aggression against the north while strengthening military occupation of south Korea.

It has converted south Korea into the biggest military base, a nuclear arsenal in the Far East by reinforcing armed forces in a systematic way in gross violation of the Korean Armistice Agreement. And it has frantically launched military exercises such as Team Spirit joint military exercises, RSOI, Foal Eagle and RIMPAC joint military exercises.

In the light of their purpose, character and mobilized war equipment, the war exercises were unexceptionally test nuclear wars, preliminary wars to threaten and blackmail the DPRK militarily and mount a preemptive strike against the DPRK.

This year, too, it held the Key Resolve and Foal Eagle joint military exercises with the mobilization of its aggression troops of more than 26,000 strong deployed in south Korea and overseas, hundreds of thousands of troops of the south Korean puppet army including the army corps, fleet command and air force units as big as flying corps and super-large nuclear-powered carrier George Washington and Stennis task force of the U.S. imperialist aggressor navy made up of four Aegis cruisers, seven destroyers and nuclear-powered subs.

Most recently the U.S. imperialists set the UN Security Council in motion to adopt the extremely provocative "reso-

lution of sanctions" against the DPRK, taking issue with the just and self-defensive nuclear test of the DPRK, and thus created unprecedentedly acute confrontation on the Korean peninsula.

They have deployed in reinforcement unmanned reconnaissance planes, F-22s and other up-to-date war equipment in the U.S. military bases in south Korea and Japan, and are engaged in their vicious moves to translate into practice the war plan to invade the DPRK by deciding to hand over bunker-blasting bombs to the south Korean puppets.

All the facts show patently that the war moves of the U.S. imperialists to provoke a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula at any cost have reached an extremely reckless phase.

Iraq (continued from page 1)

rules of the SOFA.

The American people must make no mistake about what the continued presence of the U.S. military in Iraq means. It means not only that the U.S. government has no plans of getting out, but also that it is preparing for long-term counter-insurgency war.

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