

Anti-Imperialist News Service

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Protests Against U.S.-Israeli Aggression

Beginning on May 31, mass demonstrations condemning U.S.-Israeli aggression took place across the Middle East, in Europe and the U.S., in Latin America, Asia and Africa, after special forces of the Israeli army attacked a ship carrying humanitarian aid for Gaza. The ship was attempting to break Israel's 3-year siege of the Gaza strip in which all border crossings are kept closed – thus crippling the economy and preventing the delivery of all food, medicine, and fuel.

These demonstrations are part of an ongoing movement in which people across the world are coming out in support of the Palestinian liberation struggle and to demand an

immediate end to U.S.-backed Israeli aggression.

For its part, the Israeli government, with the full backing of the U.S., keeps escalating its war against the Palestinian people. In the face of world-wide condemnation, it has declared that it will continue to besiege Gaza. At the same time, Israel continues with its program of permanently annexing large sections of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, expanding settlement activity and building its Apartheid Wall to carve up Palestine and prevent the creation of a viable Palestinian state.

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Plans to Intensify the Gaza Siege

A crew led by U.S. army experts is nearly finished building a network of tunnel detection equipment along the Egyptian border with the Gaza strip. According to Egyptian officials the barrier will be complete by the end of the summer.

The surveillance method includes running cables underground that would detect digging or movement. The cables are in place about every 1/3 of a mile along the border.

The U.S. has also financed and pressured Egypt to insert a steel wall reaching some 100 feet underground along its border with Gaza.

The wall and the tunnel detection network are designed to reinforce the siege of

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Growing Resistance in Afghanistan

At a recent NATO summit, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan expressed concern that the Afghan people have not been "convinced" that the U.S.-led occupation is there to "protect them."

U.S. and NATO military commanders also admitted to encountering very heavy resistance and a rising number of attacks by the Afghan insurgency against the U.S.-led forces.

In addition, the U.S. acknowledged that it has postponed a major military offensive because it would take months longer than previously anticipated.

There are nearly 150,000 U.S.-led foreign troops in Afghanistan. Last week, U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates expressed growing concern about "stalemate" with the Afghan insurgency.

\$ 1 Trillion for War

The cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan surpassed \$1 trillion on June 1, according to the National Priorities Project, an organization that tracks federal spending of tax dollars.

The fact is that, as part of its war program against peoples throughout the world, the U.S. government has put the entire economy on a war footing. This cancer of militarism is literally devouring our country and our economy.

At the same time, the gargantuan military budget is a sharp reminder of the fact that the U.S. government is preparing more wars.

Today, the U.S. military is waging aggressive wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. It is also waging counter-insurgency war in Pakistan, the Philippines, and Colombia. It is threatening Syria, Iran, North Korea and scores of other countries.

Over the last 60 years, the U.S. army has waged hundreds of aggressive wars and interventions – in Korea and Vietnam, in Lebanon and Iraq, in El Salvador and Panama, etc., etc.

U.S. warplanes and nuclear-armed submarines fill the skies and prowl the oceans. U.S. troops are stationed

in 130 countries, undermining the sovereignty of the peoples, propping up the most repressive regimes and constituting bases from which new wars can and will be launched. The deployment of the U.S. army follows the flag of the U.S. multinational corporations; some 3,000 U.S. monopolies have set up 25,000 branch plants to steal the resources and superexploit the labor of peoples throughout the globe.

The U.S. government pours billions of dollars into modernizing its weapons arsenals and tries to militarize every situation because it relies on military superiority and the doctrine of "Might Makes Right" to police the economic investments and spheres of influence of the U.S. monopoly capitalists.

Opposition to the militarism and the entire aggressive foreign policy of the U.S. capitalist class is a fundamental part of the democratic program of the American people. We demand an end to U.S. aggression and intervention in all its forms, the withdrawal of all U.S. military forces stationed abroad, the complete dismantling of the aggressive military machine and the de-militarization of our country.

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Friendshipment to Provide Aid to Cuba

From July 3-12, the 21st U.S.-Cuba Friendshipment Caravan will tour 130 cities in the U.S. and Canada before carrying humanitarian aid to Cuba.

At each stop, in addition to collecting aid from local churches, community organizations, solidarity groups, etc., the Caravan will organize

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In Gaza, the U.S.-Israeli aims are to 1) force a change in the make-up of the elected Palestinian government, and 2) crush the resistance which again means terrorizing the entire Palestinian people.

But the terror of the U.S.-Israeli aggressors has not covered the Palestinian people or broken their will.

The Palestinian people will persist in their struggle, no matter what the cost, until Israeli occupation is ended and the people regain all their inalienable rights including their own independent state. Over 50 years ago, the Palestinians' homeland was stolen by the arms and intrigues of Zionism and world imperialism. Since then, while Israel has kept expanding and annexing more Palestinian lands, the Palestinians have continuously unfolded their struggle for national liberation.

Today the Palestinian liberation struggle is at an important turning point. The barbaric crimes of the U.S.-Israeli aggressors show their extreme isolation and the injustice of their cause. The U.S.-Israeli aggressors are trying to block the sacred aspirations of humanity – the right of every people to national independence and liberation. The U.S.-Israeli aggressors will go down to defeat because their cause is the cause of occupation, colonialism and genocide.

The Palestinians, on the other hand, are winning and will win the support of all humanity because they are fighting for a just cause, for national salvation and liberation.

various meetings and discussions to further inform the public and mobilize opinion against the devastating effects of the U.S. government's economic blockade. The Pastors for Peace, who have organized the Friendshipments every year since 1992, characterize them as a "collective challenge" to the U.S. government's policy.

The Friendshipments are an expression of the unbreakable solidarity between the American and Cuban people. They are also part of the on-going struggle of the American people to end the U.S. government's blockade.

For decades, every U.S. administration – Republican and Democratic alike – has followed an aggressive foreign policy toward Cuba which has included direct military intervention, threats of nuclear annihilation, and even assassination attempts on Fidel Castro organized by the CIA. The blockade, first enacted in 1962, imposes a total ban on all food, medicine, equipment and raw materials from the U.S. and prohibits free travel between the two countries. The embargo was further tightened by the passage of the Torricelli Act in 1992 and the Helms-Burton Act in 1996 which, in a blatant violation of the sovereignty of other states, impose sanctions against other countries that trade with Cuba. Overall, the economic blockade has resulted in untold hardship on the Cuban people, denying them medical and humanitarian supplies as well as the raw materials, energy and spare parts necessary to maintain the country's industrial base.

But despite this all-out war, the Cuban people continue to defend their independence and to build their country in accord with their own desires. The Friendshipments are one example of the American people's demand that the U.S. government end its reactionary policy and recognize the sovereign right of the Cuban people to work out their own economic, political and social organization.

Heightened Tensions on the Korean Peninsula

The following article first appeared in the June 1 online edition of the AINS.

The Obama administration and South Korean President Lee's administration have adopted a strategy of stepped up provocations against North Korea. After arbitrarily declaring North Korea guilty of sinking a South Korean warship, the two governments began calling for North Korea to be "punished." The U.S. is calling on North Korea's neighbors and allies to cut economic ties with the country. The strategy also includes plans to pressure the U.N. to impose "punishment" against the DPRK. Amongst other things, the U.S. and South Korea are also planning for additional war "games" and threatening an aggressive naval campaign to interdict Korean vessels on the open seas.

While deliberately drumming up an atmosphere of crisis, U.S. and South Korean military officials are discussing plans for building up the weapons arsenal in South Korea and working out a "more offensive" strategy. According to one military advisor to President Lee, "We need to have our own ways to threaten North Korea." At the same time, the U.S. has intensified its pressure on the Japanese government to maintain a U.S. military base on the island of Okinawa against the will of the Japanese people.

North Korea has repeatedly stated that the accusations against it are a fabrication and part of the U.S. government's ongoing program of causing tensions on the Korean Peninsula and throughout the region. In a recent public statement published by the Korean Central News Agency, North Korea states: It (the U.S.) considers the case as a golden opportunity for loudly trumpeting about the "theory of threat from north Korea" in a bid to tighten its grip on its "allies" in the Asia-Pacific region, contain big powers and escalate the offensive for stifling the DPRK...As a matter of fact, the Obama administration is straining the situation in a bid to beef up its forces in the region and tighten its military domination over it as evidenced by the order issued by it to its forces in south Korea to be combat ready to cope with another Korean war...Under the U.S. manipulation, the south Korean puppet group and the Japanese authorities openly expressed their strong displeasure with the development of the DPRK-China relations and are becoming more zealous than ever before in escalating the moves to stifle the DPRK by imploring the countries around the DPRK to recognize the hypocritical

"results of investigation."

On many occasions, North Korea has demonstrated that the real threat to peace and stability in the region is the U.S. and South Korean military forces which have repeatedly held huge war "games" on the peninsula, and which have continually violated the territorial waters and airspace of the North. While the U.S. makes hypocritical accusations against North Korea, the Pentagon continues to arm the South Korean military with more sophisticated and modernized missiles and weaponry, while maintaining a huge stockpile of nuclear weapons around the country.

Today, U.S. imperialism continues to maintain the partition of the Korean peninsula through its neo-colonial occupation of the South. Tens of thousands of U.S. troops prop up the South Korean government so as to maintain a "safe investment" and low-wage haven for U.S. multinational corporations, and to safeguard an important base for U.S. military power in Asia.

The root of the problem is that the U.S. refuses to recognize the sovereignty of the Korean people and desperately wants to maintain its partition of the country. U.S. imperialism also relies on its "forward deployment" of troops in Japan and South Korea as the key to projecting its influence and asserting its economic interests throughout the region.

Each and every provocation by the U.S. demonstrates the need to vigorously oppose the U.S. government's policy of pressure and interference against North Korea, and to support the just democratic demands for an end to the U.S. occupation of South Korea and for the peaceful re-unification of Korea, on the basis of the will of the Korean people themselves.

Siege of Gaza

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the Gaza strip by ensuring that the Palestinians – who have survived in part by smuggling food and medical supplies through underground tunnels – are caged in and cut off completely from the rest of the world.

Even while continuing its war against the Palestinian people, U.S. imperialism hypocritically talks about "peace" in the Middle East.