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## Escalation of the War on Afghanistan

The U.S. is escalating its war against the people of Afghanistan by bringing in more destructive military hardware and launching more military offensives.

On November 25, for example, occupation forces in Afghanistan received the first of 17 U.S. owned M1A1 Abrams tanks. According to one senior military official in an interview with the Washington Post (11/19/10), the move is designed to bring "awe, shock and firepower." According to an article in PakTribune, the U.S. also recently introduced another "sophisticated" weapon called the XM25 gunner which is a weapon capable of launching a computer programmed grenade designed to shower lethal fragmentation beyond barriers such as walls where people of-

ten seek to hide during battles. Attacks on villages from the air and by land have also escalated dramatically. In a recent military offensive, U.S. soldiers blew up more than 174 homes around Kandahar. In October, U.S. and NATO forces dropped more bombs and missiles on Afghan villages than they have since the "shock and awe" campaigns which started the war in 2001.

The increasingly brutal methods used by U.S.-NATO forces in Afghanistan are a result of the political objectives of U.S. imperialism there. U.S. imperialism aims not only at subjugating Afghanistan but at using that country as another strategic base in its struggle for world domination. The coloniza-

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## Continuing Blockade of Gaza

A report released by 21 human rights organizations on November 29 reveals that there has been little or no change in the severity of the U.S.-Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip during the six months since Israel reacted to international pressure by announcing that it would ease the blockade.

The report, "Dashed Hopes: Continuation of the Gaza Blockade," which provides details about many of the living conditions in the Gaza strip, says that import levels of food and consumer goods are still just over one-third of what they were before the original tightening of the blockade in 2007.

Despite Israeli government claims that

it would allow in construction materials, Israel has approved only 7% of the UN's reconstruction projects in Gaza. The report points out that carrying out the UN's modest school and housing projects will take decades at that rate.

The report also highlights the fact that Gaza's economy is at a standstill because nearly all exports are banned by Israel. Currently, the only products Gaza is permitted to export are a restricted number of strawberries and flowers.

In June 2007, Israel began its blockade of Gaza. This policy of collective pun-

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## Afghan War

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tion of Afghanistan is being used by the U.S. to extend its network of military bases and alliances. The war is being fought not only because of that country's importance as a strategic transit route for the vast oil and gas reserves of the Caspian sea and the Asian republics but also to strengthen the strategic hegemony of U.S. imperialism in this vital region. Central Asia and the Middle East are key zones of rivalry amongst the various imperialist powers and the new U.S. bases and expanded military presence put it within close striking range of Russia and China as well as such regional powers as Iran.

The truth is that despite its vast military superiority and brutal methods, U.S. imperialism will lose the war because the Afghan people are resisting. While U.S. imperialism only reacts to Afghan opposition to the U.S. military occupation with increasing violence and desperation, the Afghan resistance is continuing and gaining strength.

But U.S. imperialism will not stop escalating its war in Afghanistan until it is defeated and forced out and the inalienable right of the Afghan people to self-determination and sovereignty is recognized. Now is the time for the American people to step up our struggle to demand: U.S. and All Foreign Troops Out of Afghanistan, Now!

## Blockade of Gaza

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ishment includes blocking the delivery of food, medicine, fuel and other supplies keeping border crossings closed and preventing Gazans from traveling outside of the strip. As a result of the siege a crippling economic and humanitarian crisis has steadily intensified. During that time, Israel has launched a series of military offensives, including a 22 day aerial and ground assault on Gaza in January 2009 which resulted in the wounding and killing of thousands of Palestinians.

In the face of world-wide condemnation, Israel continues its criminal siege. 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.

At the same time, with the full backing of the U.S., Israel keeps escalating its all-sided war against the Palestinians. 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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