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## Iraqis Protest U.S. Occupation

On April 9, tens of thousands of people throughout Iraq demonstrated against the U.S. military occupation. The protests were held on the two-year anniversary of U.S. troops entering Baghdad. According to reporters, it was the largest anti-American demonstration seen since the U.S.-led invasion.

In Baghdad, roads throughout the capital were closed to traffic as streets filled with demonstrators. Some demonstrators had travelled hundreds of miles from cities throughout Iraq to attend the rally. In the shadow of the Sheraton and Palestine hotels, home to many foreign officials and journalists, protesters filled Baghdad's Firdos Square and spilled onto nearby avenues. As tens of thousands of demonstrators passed by, U.S. soldiers stood behind blast walls and barbed wire, while U.S. snipers manned rooftop positions.

Thousands in the crowd chanted "No to America" and "No to the occupiers", as they pulled down and burned effigies of U.S. President George W. Bush. "Force the occupation to leave from our country," one banner read in

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In Baghdad, tens of thousands of Iraqis demonstrate against the U.S. invasion and occupation on April 9, 2005

## War in Iraq Has Doubled Malnutrition Among Iraqi Children

The Associated Press reported on March 31 that the war in Iraq has almost doubled malnutrition rates among Iraqi children.

According to Jean Ziegler, a Swiss sociology professor and the UN Human Rights Commission's special expert, acute malnutrition rates among Iraqi children under five rose late last year to 7.7 per cent from four per cent after the ouster of President Saddam Hussein in April 2003.

Malnutrition is a major child-killer in poor countries, and children who manage to survive

are physically and mentally impaired for the rest of their lives and more vulnerable to disease.

Ziegler states that the situation facing Iraqi youngsters is "a result of the war led by coalition forces." Overall, "more than one-quarter of Iraqi children don't have enough to eat," Ziegler told a meeting of a 53-country UN commission, which is halfway through its annual six-week session.

In November, the Norwegian-based Fafo Institute for Applied Social Science also released a report that found malnutrition had reached

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## Iraqis Protest (from page 1)

English. Some protesters in the crowd acted out reports of prison abuse at the hands of American soldiers.

Other marches were held across the country demanding that U.S. troops leave the country. In the central city of Ramadi, over 5,000 protestors demonstrated in the al-Sufayaa neighborhood and at Anbar University.

One protest speaker accused U.S. military forces of "killing the Iraqi people daily." He demanded "that the occupation troops withdraw from Iraq. "I do not accept having occupation forces in my country," said another protester Ali Feleih Hassan, 35. "No one accepts this. I want them out!"

## Iraqi Malnutrition (from page 1)

7.7 per cent among Iraqi children between the ages of six months and five years. Officials from the institute, which conducted a survey with the UN Development Program and Iraq's Central office for Statistics and Information Technology, said the Iraqi malnutrition rate is similar to the level in some hard-hit African countries.

Late last year, Carol Bellamy, head of the UN children's agency UNICEF, said there was little relief workers could do to ease the plight of Iraqi children because fighting hampers or prevents most aid operations in the country.

Ziegler also cited an October 2004 U.S. study that estimated as many as 100,000 more Iraqis -- many of them women and children -- had died since the start of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq than would normally have died.

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## Shredding Haiti's Constitution: UN Betrayal in Port au Prince

*The following is excerpted from an article by Sasha Kramer published on April 5, 2005 by HaitiAction.net.*

On Tuesday March 29 thousands gathered in Bel Air [Haiti] to peacefully commemorate the signing of their constitution and to demand that the international community respect that constitution, starting with the return of the duly elected president, Jean Bertrand Aristide. Prior to the march organizers negotiated the route with MINUSTAH [the UN armed forces in Haiti]. Then on the morning of the demonstration MINUSTAH soldiers distributed flyers in Bel Air saying that the government had declared the march illegal. Despite these warnings thousands of people gathered in Bel Air to demand their constitutional right to protest on the 18th anniversary of the constitution.

What follows is an account of Radio Ginen's footage of Tuesday's events ---- Apparently, things broke down when Gen. Heleno claimed that MINUSTAH's demonstration permit was not valid because the demonstrators had not simultaneously informed BOTH MINUSTAH and the PNH with the necessary advance notice. MINUSTAH alone does not suffice.

The demonstration's organizers then made the argument that they cannot be filing the permit request with the PNH when it is the same PNH that is gunning demonstrators down at demonstrations.

The argument became heated and high-volume, with choice words exchanged, after which Heleno declared "It's your country, not mine. I'm not the legal authority here, the PNH is. You must recognize their authority," and the crowd chanting "MINUSTAH must go" before Heleno retreated to his vehicle. The demonstration continued, but MINUSTAH blocked off the planned demonstration pathway, and the crowd could not get to the Palace area. Chaos ensued, shooting, several people injured with gunshot wounds, apparently from MINUSTAH.

A demonstrator said MINUSTAH completely dispersed the demo. People are frustrated, MINUSTAH didn't let people demonstrate. Juan Gabriel Valdes gave the assurance allowing the people to demonstrate, and it's not being respected. There is a "kouri" (free-for-all). MINUSTAH's spokesperson assured us security along the route we planned with MINUSTAH. That was our program, to demand that the constitution be respected. MINUSTAH shot tear gas and crushed the demonstration. Shooting is occurring. MINUSTAH is firing on us. Latortue asked us for 48 hour notice. We gave them 72. Why are they shooting us?

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## Day of Action Against Caterpillar

On April 13, a "Day of Action" will be held to protest the U.S.-based Caterpillar corporation's role in Israeli aggression against Palestine. Groups all over the world will organize local demonstrations opposing the sale of Caterpillar bulldozers to Israel.

The Caterpillar company supplies the Israeli military with militarized D-9 bulldozers through the U.S. "Foreign Military Sales Program." These bulldozers are used to destroy Palestinian homes, farmland and infrastructure throughout the occupied West Bank and Gaza. These demolitions are used by Israel as part of its program for expropriating and annexing Palestinian land as well as a means of reprisals against the Palestinian people.

The destruction of Palestinian homes is a clear violation of international human rights laws (e.g., the Fourth Geneva Convention, the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination).

Israel carries out its demolition of Palestinian homes without warning, often at night; the occupants are forcibly evicted. Often the only warning is the rumbling of the Israeli army's U.S.-made Caterpillar bulldozers beginning to tear down the walls of their homes. Over 50,000 Palestinian homes have been destroyed by Israel using Caterpillar bulldozers, and dozens of Palestinians have been killed in such actions.

## U. S. Seeking Permanent Military Bases in Afghanistan

On April 5, Afghanistan's Defense Minister said he was discussing an agreement with the U.S. that would include permanent air bases in Afghanistan.

General Abdul Rahim Wardak said the details of what would constitute "a long-term U.S. presence" were still under discussion. He said he was eager for "enduring arrangements" that would include "pre-positioned" military equipment to be used by rapidly deployed U. S. forces.

"We will certainly seek enduring relations and partnerships with our international friends," Wardak told a gathering of military analysts in London. "This will prevent the repetition of the catastrophic disengagement of the international community from Afghanistan in the 1990s, which cost us all so dearly."

In February, Senator John McCain, suggested such an arrangement, when after a meeting with Afghan President Hamid Karzai in Kabul, he said it was his "personal view" that permanent bases should be established.

Last month, General Richard Myers, chairman of the U.S. joint chiefs of staff, acknowledged during a trip to Afghanistan that the U.S. was considering such a move.

The U.S. continues to expand main air base in Bagram, where it is building a new runway. Bagram would be the most likely location of a permanent U.S. presence.

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## Haiti (continued from page 2)

The constitution is 18 years old. Today, all Haitians are celebrating the 18th year, but it's desolation and insecurity. The occupiers and the sell-outs are holding the country hostage. Journalists, police, students are dying, no one has security, any way Latortue and Boniface are giving the country away to United States, Canada, and France, but the final victory will be for the people in struggle.

Just last week Father Jean Juste said "As long as MINUSTAH's position supports the enjoyment of our human rights, we'll walk along. If they return to their oppressive attitude, we'll reject them like we did for the killer policemen."

Why this return to an oppressive attitude? This reversal of tactic on the part of MINUSTAH is doubly egregious. They directly participated in human rights abuses, including the severe beating of a 12 year old boy, and they mislead and betrayed the organizers, making false promises regarding security provisions.

These past weeks marked a critical moment for the MINUSTAH mission in Haiti. UN officials were faced with a choice between two conflicting components of their mandate: to back an illegitimate government and a violent police force infiltrated by the former military or to protect human rights.

In the first year following the overthrow of the democratically elected government UN troops primarily focused on fulfilling the first part of their mandate to the detriment of human rights, and numerous lives were lost as a result of this duplicitous and politically repressive policy. On January 5 UN troops arrested Jimmy Charles, a Lavalas organizer. Community members begged them not to turn him over to the police, fearing for his life. Ignoring these demands the UN turned him over to the police and on January 15 his body was found in the morgue with 6 bullets. The people of Haiti, particularly the families of those that died, have not forgotten this incident, nor have they forgotten that it was the UN that trained the police and continues to prop up an illegitimate government in direct violation of their OAS obligations....

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## Reorganization of U.S. Forces in South Korea

*The following article is excerpted from the Korean Central News Agency, April 6.*

Some days ago, the U.S. newspaper Stars and Stripes reported about the "interview" with the commander of the Second Division of the U.S. forces in south Korea. According to it, most of the division will be turned into a "future-oriented division" to perform the function as a division and army corps by this summer. In other words, the existing armed forces for aggression will be modernized and bolstered with strong "air power and artillery power" to emerge [as] forces with "long-distance operation capacity" and "capacity for precision strike," forces capable of carrying out their operation single-handedly. The U.S. attempt at a preemptive attack on the DPRK and its strategy for military domination over the Asia-Pacific region with south Korea as its forward base for aggression have reached the phase of their implementation, observes Rodong Sinmun Wednesday in a signed article.

It goes on:

The reorganization of the Second Division of the U.S. forces in south Korea is a premeditated military move aimed at realizing their dangerous scenario to invade the DPRK, contain China and unhesitatingly mount a military attack if necessary with south Korea as a forward base. The document called "measures to make the U.S. forces in south Korea play a regional role" disclosed last year considers the event in which the DPRK does not dismantle its nuclear weapons as a "phase for tougher steps" and the event in which China fights an all-out war against Taiwan as a "phase for toughest steps" and calls for mounting a preemptive attack on the DPRK and China.

Such scenario is now being put into practice. Last year the U.S. shipped two battalions of "PAC-3" missiles into Kwangju, south Korea, and forward-deployed two Aegis destroyers equipped with an ultra-modern missile system in the East Sea of Korea. The U.S. bellicose elements are contemplating establishing a missile interceptor system in the East Sea of Korea by the end of this year. This is part of its preparations for a preemptive attack on the DPRK and its attempt to round off a military siege to China and Russia and establish an unchallenged domination over the Asia-Pacific region. The above-mentioned reorganization of the Second Division of the U.S. forces in south Korea is timed to coincide with this.

The developments go to prove that the U.S. seeks to ignite a war of aggression against the DPRK while escalating the nuclear crisis on the Korean Peninsula and, furthermore, plunge the whole of Northeast Asia into disasters of a nuclear war.

## DPRK Denounces U.S. "War on Terrorism"

*The following article is reprinted from the Korean Central News Agency, April 7.*

The "anti-terrorism war" launched by the United States is nothing but a vicious doctrine for aggression as it is aimed at spreading American-style "democracy" worldwide by force to build a U.S.-led order for world domination and it is also a product of its unilateralism and high-handed military policy. Rodong Sinmun Thursday observes this in a signed article. It goes on:

The U.S. seeks to hide its "anti-terrorism war" with the veils of "freedom" and "democracy." This is aimed at covering up its reactionary and aggressive nature and escalating it in a bid to build the above-said order.

It regarded the "September 11 incident" as the golden opportunity of spreading the American-style "democracy" worldwide by force of arms, taking advantage of the changed international environment and the altered balance of forces in the new century. The U.S. launched the Afghan war under the pretext of mopping up the headquarters of al-Qaeda, raising the curtain of the "anti-terrorism war."

Through the Afghan and Iraqi wars the United States put under control the regions it had long eyed, thus escalating its political and military infiltration and sphere of influence in the Central Asian countries and the Middle East. The U.S. "anti-terrorism war" and its moves to build an American-style order for world domination did not bring peace and stability to the world but escalated the war of aggression, destruction and socio-economic chaos. In consequence, the sovereignty and rights of countries and nations were seriously threatened and violated.

The U.S. operation to escalate the "anti-terrorism war" was targeted against the DPRK, among other things. The U.S. war-like forces became more undisguised in their anti-DPRK operation aimed at "bringing down its system" under pretexts of its "nuclear and missile issues," "human rights issue" and "the issue of terrorism."

The military aggression and intervention perpetrated by the U.S. against other countries under the pretext of "anti-terrorism war" are nothing but the most blatant and shameless infringement upon their sovereignty, acts of disturbing peace and human rights abuses. This war is, in a nutshell, hideous international terrorism perpetrated under the signboard of "anti-terrorism" and anti-peace and anti-democracy operations veiled with "peace," "freedom" and "democracy." The U.S. moves to escalate the war will only lead to its international isolation and self-destruction, the article warns.