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Anti-Imperialist News Service

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Protest Against U.S. Missile Attack in Pakistan

On January 14-15, hundreds of thousands of people throughout Pakistan demonstrated against a U.S. missile attack on the village of Damadola, in the Bajaur area in northwest Pakistan.

On January 13, a U.S. airstrike against the village killed at least 30 people. Reporters told of many ruined houses, mud-brick rubble scattered across fields, and the bodies of humans and livestock lying close to the airblast. Four children were among those killed as they slept in their homes. The attack was carried out without any prior notification to the Pakistani government.

Anti-U.S. protests were held in every big city in the country, with largescale demonstrations in Karachi and Islamabad, the capital. Demonstrators not only denounced the U.S. attack and the violation of Pakistan sovereignty, but demanded that their government end its cooperation with U.S. imperialism. The Pakistan government, confronted by these massive



Pakistanis protest against a U.S. airstrike on the village of Damadola, January 14, 2006

protests, issued an official condemnation of the U.S. military strike.

The U.S. military admitted that the village was attacked by pilotless "Predator" drones controlled by the CIA. White House officials, as well as U.S. senators, both Republicans and Democrats, boasted that the attack was "successful," "clearly justified," and that such attacks would "continue against terrorists in the region."

On January 18, the Reuters news agency reported that the U.S. military has been increasing its use of pilotless drones in "targeted-killings" throughout the Afghan-Pakistan border. Scores of civilians have been killed in numerous incidents during the past six months.

Continued on page 2

U. N. Steps Up Repression in Haiti

U. N. military forces are again stepping up their repression against the people of Haiti.

Since January 1, U.N. troops have killed at least 26 civilians during raids in the poor neighborhood of Cite Soleil. Cite Soleil, a center of support for the pro-Aristide Lavalas movement and a bastion of resistance to the U.S.-U.N. occupation, has been under siege since the U.S. invaded the country in 2004. Hundreds of Cite Soleil residents, and more than ten thousand Haitians, have been killed by the U.S.-U.N. aggressors over these 2 years.

On January 6, U.N. chieftan Juan Valdes warned that the U.N. troops are preparing to "occupy" Cite Soleil. Valdes told a local radio

station: "We are going to intervene in the coming days. I think there'll be collateral damage but we have to impose our force, there is no other way" (cited in www.haitiaction.net). The new commander of the U.N. military force, General Aludante Herman is a Chilean army officer who served in the political police under the Pinochet dictatorship.

More than 9,000 U.N. troops, financed and supported by the U.S., occupy Haiti, imposing a pro-U.S. economic and political system while repressing the Haitian people who are struggling to end the occupation, regain their sovereignty and return to power their elected government headed by exiled President Aristide.

Italy to Withdraw Troops From Iraq

Italy announced on January 19 that it will withdraw 1,000 of its 2,600 troops in Iraq by June, and is preparing for a full pull-out by the end of this year.

Italian Defense Minister Antonio Martino made the statement to a parliamentary committee, saying Italy will "gradually end" its military presence and phase into a new type of presence that would be "substantially civilian in nature".

Italy, has been the fourth largest foreign contingent in Iraq. Most Italians and all opposition parties were opposed to the troop deployment, according to press surveys conducted this year.

Missile Attack in Pakistan (from page 1)

Currently, hundreds of U.S. troops are operating inside Pakistan, and over 18,000 U.S. troops are in Afghanistan, fighting largely in the south and east of the country, in areas bordering Pakistan.

This brazen violation of Pakistan's sovereignty and brutal murder of Pakistani citizens again shows U.S. imperialism is an outlaw, aggressor regime prepared to launch preemptive military strikes against any and every country.

Book Available

Only the Peoples Can Stop the Wars: A Program for Struggle Against U.S. Imperialism's "War on Terrorism"

In this book, Michael Thorburn, a leader of the Workers Party, U.S.A., offers an in-depth analysis of the concrete features and roots of the so-called "war on terrorism." The author focuses the reader's attention on the vital question of how to advance the anti-war struggle.

Send check or money order (\$12) to:

Workers Party, USA
P. O. Box 25716
Chicago, IL 60625

The "Crime" of Visiting Cuba

The Bush administration is imposing fines and other penalties on hundreds of U.S. citizens who have travelled to Cuba.

Within the last few months, the Treasury Department has issued subpoenas to more than 200 Americans who visited Cuba last year on trips sponsored by the Pastors for Peace and the Venceremos Brigade. The subpoenas are a first step in a process which can lead to more investigations, seizure of personal documents and fines as high as \$65,000/person. These penalties are enforceable under the "Trading with the Enemy Act" which, under U.S. law, is applicable to the blockade of Cuba. In 2004, the Bush administration imposed \$1.5 million in fines on 894 people who went to Cuba.

The Pastors of Peace (PFP) and the Venceremos Brigade have been sponsoring trips to Cuba for years as part of building people-to-people friendship. Since 1992, the PFP have organized yearly "friendshipments" to bring needed humanitarian aid to Cuba in defiance of the illegal U. S. government blockade. Last year, the friendshipment brought 140 tons of medical supplies, spare parts and other aid, although the Treasury Department initially confiscated 43 boxes of computer equipment.

The PFP has said that it will not be intimidated by the government's repression and will continue its work of protesting the blockade and building friendship and solidarity between the peoples of the U.S. and Cuba.

Pamphlet Available:

Reference Material on Palestine

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For Your Information:

Israel's Apartheid Wall

In June 2002, the Israeli government decided to build a separation barrier between Israel and the West Bank. The separation barrier is part-wall and part-fence. The part-wall is a concrete wall eight meters high with observation towers. The part-fence is made up of a concrete base with a five meter high barbed-wire superstructure fitted with electronic monitoring devices and trenches on both sides. The total length of the structure is 670-kilometer (420 miles), and in some areas the width is about 60 meters.

While Israeli propaganda claims that the wall is for "security purposes," the reality (as well as public admissions of Israeli officials) proves that the Wall is designed:

- to expropriate more Palestinian land;
- increase Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank and de facto annex them to Israel;
- divide the remaining Palestinian towns and land into isolated cantons deprived of the means to create any viable, independent state.

This is why the Palestinians refer to the wall as the "Apartheid Wall."

Expropriation of Land

Israel finalized the route of the wall in 2005. It is being built *not* along the Israeli-West Bank border but east of this border; at completion the Wall will result in the expropriation of 7.4% of the West Bank and the effective expansion of Israel's borders.

According to the United Nations, the first phase of the barrier has already resulted in the confiscation and razing of 10,000 dunums (1 dunum=0.25 acres) of privately-owned land, the uprooting of over 80,000 trees, the destruction of 35 kilometers of water pipes and the demolition of dozens of greenhouses. Because of its position atop the western ground water basin the barrier will also have a severe impact on water access, use and allocation, with a number of villages losing their only source of water. A number of Palestinian communities have been partly or entirely demolished by the construction of the barrier. (see UNRWA "Emergency Appeal" at www.un.org/unrwa).

In addition, the section of the Wall being built to encircle the Israeli settlement at Ariel will de-facto annex another 2.1% of the West Bank. The total area of Israeli settlement blocs which will be located on the Israeli side of the Wall constitute another 8% of the land. And the actual construction of the Wall is expropriating another 2% of Palestinian land.

Altogether the completion of the Wall will leave Palestinians only 54% of the West Bank or less than 14% of the original territory of Palestine.

Encircling Palestinian Towns

The route of the Wall surrounds many Palestinian villages and towns, cutting them off from each other and placing the inhabitants under the thumb of Israeli authorities.

For example, the town of Qalqilya, once known as the West Bank's "fruit basket", lies within a tight loop in the wall. It is cut off on three sides — from the farms which supply its markets and the region's second-largest water sources. Access to the 40,000-inhabitant town passes through a single Israeli checkpoint. In the case of other villages, such as Abu Dis, the Wall runs right through them, cutting them into two.

Altogether 10.2% of the Palestinian population in the West Bank (2.4 million) will be encircled by the Wall and another 12% will be separated from their own cultivated agricultural land.

Restricting Palestinian Movement

The barrier puts new restrictions on the movement of thousands of Palestinians living near or inside the barrier. In September 2004, Israel declared the area between the Wall and the 1967 boundary a Closed Zone. Tens of thousands of residents have to get permits and go through gates built along the completed sections of the Wall to get to their farms, schools, work places, hospitals etc....

Procedures for obtaining permits to access this land have become increasingly complex and arduous. In numerous cases, applicants continue to be denied due to unspecified "security" reasons, or due to problems proving ownership of land in the "Closed Zone." These new restrictions leave Palestinian farmers unable to cultivate their land in the "Closed Zone," prompting many to fear that the Israeli authorities will eventually cite the "non-use" of their land as a pretext for confiscation.

Thus the wall, by denying farmers access to land, by denying workers access to jobs, by preventing normal commercial exchange, etc. is not only destroying the livelihoods of tens of thousands. It is undermining the economy of towns and regions and the possibility of creating a contiguous Palestinian state with an independent and viable economy.

DPRK Foreign Ministry's Spokesman Urges U.S. to Lift Financial Sanctions against DPRK

Pyongyang, January 9 (Korean Central News Agency) — A spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry today gave the following answer to a question put by KCNA as regards the U.S. claim that its financial sanctions against the DPRK have nothing to do with the six-party talks:

Recently officials of the U.S. administration vied with each other to make remarks intended to mislead public opinion concerning its financial sanctions against the DPRK. They asserted that these sanctions are a separate issue from the six-party talks, that north Korea's stand toward the issue is a pretext for delaying the talks and that the issue is not a subject of negotiation and it would be all right if the party who conducted illegal acts stop such doing for itself.

The financial sanctions against the DPRK are an issue directly related to the six-party talks. This is quite understandable to anyone, if he has elementary thinking ability. It is only the United States that pretends not to know about this.

As far as the six-party talks are concerned, they are aimed at realizing the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. So what is essential here is for the DPRK and the U.S. to move to fulfill their commitments to the denuclearization of the peninsula.

The nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula surfaced because of the hostile policy pursued by the U.S. towards the DPRK, negating its ideology and system while forcing America's ideology and system upon it. Therefore, the key to solving the issue is for the U.S. to renounce its hostile policy towards the DPRK and opt for co-existence with the latter.

That is why the joint statement of the six-party talks clarifies the principle that the DPRK and the U.S. should respect each other and co-exist in peace with a view to denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula.

However, the U.S. is applying financial sanctions against the DPRK in an effort to destroy the system in the DPRK by stopping its blood from running. This act is, therefore, in gross violation of the principle of mutual respect and peaceful co-existence laid down in the joint statement. Worse still, such sanctions were imposed upon the DPRK while the six-party talks were under way.

Bush and high-ranking officials of the U.S. came out one after another to let loose such outcries as "tyranny" and "criminal state". The U.S. only talked about such sanctions before, but after the adoption of the joint statement it

put them into practice, pursuing a harsher hostile policy towards the DPRK than ever before.

Is there any need to have talks under the situation where the U.S. is enforcing such policy? Even if any agreement is reached between the parties concerned, it is likely to be overturned by a person in high authority of the U.S. So, how can such a serious issue as the abandonment of the nuclear program be discussed freely?

Under the present situation it is illogical to discuss with the U.S., the assailant, the issue of dismantling the nuclear deterrent built up by the DPRK for self-defence.

This being a hard reality, can the U.S. still claim that its financial sanctions against the DPRK are a separate issue from the six-party talks? After all, the U.S. assertion only betrayed its intention to keep pursuing its hostile policy towards the DPRK regardless of the six-party talks and shift the blame for the stalled talks on to the latter.

It is an utterly brigandish logic for the U.S. to claim that the financial sanctions are not a subject of negotiation and it would be all right if the party who conducted illegal acts stops such doing for itself.

We examined the information the U.S. side provided to us, claiming that it was the motive of its application of sanctions. Such things cited by it, however, have never happened in our country.

Various countries and media, too, commented that the information cited by the U.S. at a "press briefing" lacked credibility.

Such being hard facts, the U.S. has persistently refused to negotiate with the DPRK while floating baseless fictions which nobody believes. Had the U.S. imposed the above-said sanctions upon the DPRK on the basis of scientific data or facts, there would have been no reason for it to refuse to sit at the negotiating table with the DPRK with a view to probing the truth in a fair and square way.

The U.S. should lift the sanctions, an obstacle to the six-party talks, and come out for the talks, if it is truly interested in the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and hopes for the progress of the talks.

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