

Anti-Imperialist News Service

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Contents

Editorial:
Keep Sharp

Japan Prepares
Illegal Sanctions
Against the
DPRK

National Day of
Resistance to
the "Apartheid
Wall" in
Palestine

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Features,
Reference
Material,
Archives, and
Pamphlets

**Anti-Imperialist
News Service**

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Japan Prepares Illegal Sanctions Against the DPRK

Earlier this month, the government of Japan passed legislation amending the country's "Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Control Law." The amendments give the government the power to impose economic sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

These sanctions could include halting all bi-lateral trade, blocking cash remittances to the DPRK and ending the ferry service which operates between the two countries.

The imposition of any sanctions against the DPRK would be a blatant violation of international law. Japan's threat to impose such sanctions is an aggressive step and part of the all-sided pressure being exerted against the DPRK by U.S. imperialism.

The government of the DPRK, as well as many mass organizations including the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, the Korean Democratic Women's Union, and the Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League, has sternly denounced this provocation and reiterated the iron determination of the government and people to defend the sovereignty of the DPRK.

Amongst other things, the DPRK has pointed out that the amendment to the "Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Control Law" is in direct violation of the joint DPRK-Japan Pyongyang Declaration of September 2002.

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Help build a news service which meets the needs of the movement and helps advance the struggle against war and militarism.

Editorial

Keep Sharp

As the opposition to the U.S. war in Iraq keeps growing, the government is trying hard to find ways to take some of the heat off itself.

For example, the President and Congress hope to appease public opinion by launching various "investigations" into what the whole world already knows and even top officials of the Bush administration have admitted -- i.e. that the hysteria about Iraq's "weapons of mass destruction" was a nothing but a big lie.

Similarly, as the Iraqi people's resistance keeps growing, the U.S. government is going to the U.N. to "gain more legitimacy" for its occupation and is frantically looking for ways to prop up the puppet government which it has installed.

All these tactics aim at sidetracking and slowing down the people's opposition and at *covering over the fact that the occupation and war are continuing*. The government hopes that while admitting to some mistakes in "intelligence-gathering," or tactics or planning, etc., it can continue to *hide the real aggressive, imperialist aims* which have driven the war from the beginning.

The anti-war movement cannot afford to give the U.S. government any breathing space at all. On the contrary. Now is the time to keep the fire burning under the feet of the warmakers, to increase our vigilance and intensify our anti-war struggles.

Let us all work to:

1) Mobilize the broadest sections of public opinion to demand: ***U.S., Out of Iraq!***

2) Carry through the exposure and denunciation of the aggressive, imperialist aims of the war and defend the sovereign rights of the Iraqi people.

3) Organize all kinds of actions and struggles against the warmakers!

National Day of Resistance to the "Apartheid Wall" in Palestine

On February 23, the Palestinian people are organizing a national day of resistance to the wall being built by the Israeli government across the West Bank.

President Arafat will deliver a speech on the West Bank barrier in conjunction with the opening of hearings at the International Court of Justice. During Arafat's speech, all traffic in Palestine will stop and sirens and church bells will sound. Both public and private sector workers will observe a one-hour general strike. In addition scores of rallies and demonstrations are planned near the barrier at locations all across the West Bank.

As part of the national protest, government schools will teach lessons on the barrier and Friday prayers on February 20 were devoted to opposing the barrier, called the "apartheid wall" by the Palestinian government.

Below we print excerpts from a February 19 press release issued by Amnesty International which exposes the illegality of the Israel wall and its role in strengthening Israeli settlements and annexing more Palestinian land.

On the eve of the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) opening hearing on the construction of the fence/wall by Israel, Amnesty International calls on the Israeli authorities to immediately dismantle the sections already built inside the West Bank and halt the construction of the fence/wall and related infrastructure inside the Occupied Territories.

The Israeli government objects to the ICJ hearing the case, claiming that the issue is "political".

"The construction by Israel of the fence/wall inside the Occupied Territories violates international law and is contributing to grave human rights violations. Therefore, it is appropriate that a court of law examines this matter," said Amnesty International.

On 8 December 2003 the United Nations General Assembly, exercising its power under Article 96 of the Charter of the United Nations (UN), passed a resolution requesting the ICJ to issue an Advisory Opinion on the legal consequences of the construction by Israel of the fence/wall inside the Occupied Territories.

The Israeli authorities claim that the fence/wall is "a defensive measure, designed to block the passage of terrorists, weapons and explosives into the State of Israel".

However, most of the fence/wall is not being built on the Green Line between Israel and the West Bank. Close to 90% of it is on Palestinian land inside the West Bank, encircling Palestinian towns and villages and cutting off communities and families from each other. It separates farmers from their land and cuts off Palestinians from their places of work, schools, health care facilities and other essential services....

The building of this fence/wall inside the Occupied Territories has severe negative consequences for hundreds of thousands of Palestinians. It imposes unprecedented disproportionate and discriminatory restrictions on their movements within the Occupied Territories and causes other violations of their fundamental rights, including the right to work, to food, to medical care, to education and to an adequate standard of living.

"Any measure Israel undertakes in the Occupied Territories in the name of security must comply with its obligations under international law," said Amnesty International.

The route of the fence/wall has been designed to encompass more than 50 Israeli settlements in the Occupied Territories, in which the majority of Israeli settlers live and which are illegal under international law...."

Chicago Conference Against War and Imperialism

March 20-21, 2004

The Conference will present in-depth analysis on the features and causes of the so-called "war on terrorism" with the aim of strengthening our struggles and further developing the political independence and program of the anti-war movement.

Only the People Can Stop the Wars!

The Chicago Conference Against War and Imperialism was initiated by the Chicago Branch of the Workers Party, U.S.A. For more information, contact the Organizing Committee, P.O. Box 25716, Chicago, IL 60625; (312) 409-1127