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P.O. Box 61870,
Chicago, IL 60680
Phone:
(312) 409-1127

Iran Defends Right to Nuclear Technology

Iran vowed not to give in to pressure and intimidation, following a March 29 statement by the U.N. Security Council that calls for Iran to cease its nuclear enrichment program.

The measure was past only after the U.S. applied tremendous pressure on the other members of the Security Council. Despite holding over 20 closed-door sessions since March 6th, the U.S. failed to get the harsh condemnation that it wanted from the other permanent members of the security council.

The Iranian Ambassador to the U.N., Mohammad-Javad Zarif, said on March 29 that "the issue now at stake is of a developing state wanting to exercise its right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy guaranteed under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty...This is a legally recognized right and acknowledging the right of member states will guarantee the continued life of the NPT [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty]."

Ambassador Zarif also said: "Certain members of the international community have accused Iran of pursuing a clandestine nuclear program and of non-compliance in its obligations under the NPT, but reports of the IAEA director-general refute their claims and, furthermore, affirm that there has been no diversion in Iran's declared activities."

"After three years of cooperation and 1,700-man inspections, the IAEA reached no other conclusion than that Iran committed no diversion in its nuclear activities," he pointed out.

Criticizing the U.S. for its double-standards on the nuclear issue, he said "While the U.S. has for so long been having extensive nuclear cooperation with Israel for military purposes and while Israelis have full access to the country's nuclear facilities it has excessive and unreasonable expectations from Iran as an NPT signatory." Israel, he said, "has the biggest nuclear arsenal in the region, but has a

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U. S. Massacres in Iraq

On March 27, Iraq's security minister accused U.S. troops of killing 37 unarmed people in an attack on a mosque on March 26th.

"At evening prayers, American soldiers accompanied by Iraqi troops raided the Mustafa mosque and killed 37 people," Abd al-Karim al-Enzi, minister of state for national security, said. "They were all unarmed. Nobody fired a single shot at them (the troops). They went in, tied up the people and shot them all. They did not leave any wounded behind," he told Reuters news agency.

Other eyewitness reports state that American military forces surrounded the Al Mustafa mosque in northeast Baghdad, while helicopters buzzed overhead and a fleet of heavily armed Humvees sealed off the exits. The mosque's 80-year-old imam, and many other civilians, were killed in the attack.

Videotape showed a pile of bodies with gunshot wounds on the floor of the Imam's living quarters in the mosque. There were also 5.56mm shell casings on the floor, which is the type of ammunition used by U.S. soldiers.

Another massacre of Iraqis occurred on November 19, when marines shot dead at least 15 Iraqi civilians, including seven women and three children. The shooting took place in the village of Haditha, 140 miles northwest of Baghdad in the western province of Anbar.

Residents of the village say that the marines went on the rampage after a soldier was killed in a roadside blast. The U.S. soldiers "began shooting dead the inhabitants of nearby homes and others from the area" according to reports. The only shooting done after the bombing was by U. S. forces, according to the resi-

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Iran Defends Right to Nuclear Technology (continued from page 1)

very negative record when it comes to implementing U.N. Security Council decisions and resolutions."

"Let's not forget that if the UN Security Council is really sincere in fulfilling its obligation of defending international peace and security, it should look into the repeated and daily threats of the U. S. and Israel which violate the provision on not using threats or resorting to force. This is what we have officially and repeatedly asked the UN Security Council," he added.

"We will by no means compromise or give up our indisputable right," he emphasized.

For the time being, he said Iran will adhere to its commitments under the NPT and will not allow any country to violate its legal rights in any way and reiterated that threats or intimidation will have no effect on the country.

Bolivia to Hold Constituent Assembly

On August 6, the people of Bolivia will hold a Constituent Assembly to carry out profound changes in the structures of the state and recover Bolivia's natural resources from the multinational corporations. Elections for the Constituent Assembly will be held on July 2.

Already, the new Bolivian government, headed by President Evo Morales, is taking steps to recover control of large companies that were privatized between 1995 and 1996 as part of the imposition of "neoliberal" policies on the country.

The nationalization will include 10 companies -- three in the oil sector, three in the electric sector, two railroads, one telecommunications company and one airline.

To take control of these companies, the state will buy enough shares to own 51% of the stock, leaving private companies as minority shareholders.

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dents: "American troops immediately cordoned off the area and raided two nearby houses, shooting at everyone inside...It was a massacre in every sense of the word."

Initially, U.S. military officials stated the civilians were killed in a roadside blast, but this claim was disproved by an earlier investigation. A reporter for the BBC said a videotape, provided by an Iraqi human rights group, had shown the civilians "could not have been killed by a roadside bomb." He said "Their bodies were riddled with bullets....there was evidence there had been gunfire in-

side their homes, there were blood spatters inside their homes."

The U.S. military admitted on March 20 that a dozen Marines are under investigation into the incident, and that the videotape was presented in support of the allegations.

These recent atrocities committed by the U.S. military in Iraq have again provided a glimpse of the typical methods used by U.S. imperialism. They are only two exposures in a long list of war crimes committed by the U.S. government during its continuing war and occupation of Iraq.

Such atrocities are still being carried out.

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.

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