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Terror Against Civilians

In the first 2 weeks of its aggression against Iraq, the U.S. military dropped more than 10,000 bombs and cruise missiles on Baghdad and other Iraqi cities, including Mosul, Kalak, Kirkuk and Basra.

U.S. B-52 bombers carry JDAM bombs weighing 2,000 pounds each; these bombs destroy everything within a 120-yard radius and send metal shrapnel and other debris as widely as 1,000 yards. The U.S. has also dropped cluster bombs and at least two 4,700-pound "bunker buster" bombs on Baghdad.

U.S. bombs regularly land in residential neighborhoods, busy civilian roadways, farms, marketplaces, near hospitals and schools and other civilian areas. By April 5, news agencies estimated that as many as 1,300 Iraqi civilians were killed and more than 5,000 wounded from U.S. bombings.

For example, on March 29, a Tomahawk cruise missile struck the Al-Nasr market in a working class area of Baghdad, killing 62 civilians and wounding 49. On March 28, a missile fell on a farm southeast of Baghdad, killing 17 and wounding 10 civilians. Also on March 28, 2 U.S. missiles hit the Sha'ab highway at midday killing at least 21 Iraqi civilians. Robert Fisk, a British reporter, describes the results of this bombing:

"It was an outrage, an obscenity. The severed hand on the metal door, the swamp of blood and mud across the road, the human brains inside a garage, the incinerated, skeletal remains of an Iraqi mother and her three small children in their still-smouldering car."

"Two missiles from an American jet killed them all — by my estimate, more than 20 Iraqi civilians, torn to pieces before they could be 'liberated' by the nation that destroyed their lives. Who dares, I ask myself, to call this 'collateral damage'? Abu Taleb Street was packed with pedestrians and motorists when the American pilot approached through the dense sandstorm..."

These savage attacks on civilians are not "mistakes" but an inevitable result of the kind of war the U.S. is waging. This is an aggressive war which seeks to conquer and colonize the country and people of Iraq.

Relying on its technological superiority in the

weapons of war — probably far greater than the advantage used by the first colonizers against the indigenous peoples — the U.S. bombings are tantamount to wholesale murder against defenseless populations. These "blitzkrieg bombings," which the Pentagon itself boasts are designed to "shock and awe," aim at terrorizing the Iraqi people and forcing them to submit to U.S. colonial rule. ■

New U.S. Threats Against Syria and Iran

Last week, top officials in the Bush administration again threatened to widen its war of aggression against Iraq by attacking Syria and Iran.

On March 28, Defense Secretary Rumsfeld claimed that Syria had sent night-vision goggles to Iraq. Rumsfeld called "such trafficking as hostile acts and [the U.S.] would hold the Syrian government accountable." On the same day, the press reported that Rumsfeld issued "a warning shot" to Iran.

On April 1, Secretary of State Powell warned Iran and Syria that they would be the next countries to come under U.S. pressure after the war with Iraq. Powell's statement echoed earlier comments by Under Secretary of State Bolton, who said in February that after Iraq, the U.S. would "deal with" Iran, Syria and North Korea. Asked if the U.S. was "going on a war footing" against Iran, Powell replied: "We haven't taken any of our options off the table."

This warmongering again reveals the grave dangers of the present period and the extreme aggressiveness of U.S. imperialism. In several recent speeches Bush has said that the war in Iraq aims at securing U.S. hegemony over the entire Middle East region and that every country in the area must accept U.S. domination; official U.S. documents even talk about a "crusade" for the future of the Arab world.

The peoples must face up to these dangers by stepping up their struggles against U.S. aggression in Iraq and by building up their independent, anti-imperialist movement which can defeat the war program of U.S. imperialism once and for all. ■

Korean Central News Agency Refutes Anti-DPRK Bill Adopted at U.S. Congress

Pyongyang, April 1 (KCNA)

The U.S. continues interfering in the internal affairs of the DPRK, talking about its “suppression of religion” and “human rights issue.” The U.S. not only groundlessly accused the DPRK of “suppressing religion” but adopted a “bill on the human rights in North Korea” at Congress and referred it to the UN commission on human rights recently. The DPRK strongly protests against these actions.

The U.S. is citing the “nuclear issue” and “religious and human rights issues” in the DPRK, fictions, as pretenses to increase pressure upon the DPRK and launch a military attack on it. Such crafty trick can never be tolerated.

The people of the DPRK are single-heartedly united as a big harmonious family because religious freedom and human rights are fully guaranteed by law. With nothing can the U.S. justify its groundless accusation against the DPRK and it will only invite condemnation of unbiased world public.

As the international community is unanimous in denouncing the U.S. over its religious and human rights issues the U.S. is not in a position to fault other countries over those issues.

The U.S. has, indeed, the poorest human rights record. In the U.S. murder is committed once in every 24 minutes, rape once in every 5 minutes and violence once in every 18 seconds.

The U.S. human rights abuses are clearly evidenced by its war moves for carrying out its strategy to dominate the world.

Its wars against Islamic Afghanistan and Iraq are a clear proof of its typical religious and human rights abuses as it regards heretics as a group of satans on the basis of Christian fundamentalism.

It is universally known that an infringement upon the sovereignty of a country by a military attack is the gravest violation of human rights of its people.

The U.S., which is killing innocent people after violating the sovereignty of Iraq, is faulting other countries, behaving as if it were a human rights judge. How brazen-faced and ridiculous it is.

The Korean people, deeply aware of the superiority of Korean-style socialism chosen by themselves and regarding it as their life and soul, are increasing the self-defensive capacity by all means.

The DPRK will certainly frustrate the U.S. military moves to stifle it and protect the socialist system to the last.

U.S. Strives for World Supremacy

The following commentary is reprinted from the Korean Central News Agency, April 1, 2003.

The United States, regardless of protest of many governments and people of the world, started a war against Iraq. The military operation, ignoring the United Nations, is a war of aggression backed by no proper reason. It, which has reduced international law to dead wood, eloquently shows how arrogant the U.S. imperialists are in their high-handed practice for world supremacy.

They, basing themselves on jungle law, invaded Dominican Republic in 1965, Grenada in 1983, Panama in 1989 and other small and powerless countries.

Bring the Troops Home

In the Chicago Public Schools, some administrators and teachers are making students write letters and send packages “to support” U.S. soldiers fighting in the Iraq war. Below we reprint a letter being circulated amongst teachers in response to this campaign.

I believe the best way the troops can be supported is by demanding that this “Global War on Terrorism” stop immediately and that all US military personnel stationed in every part of the world be brought home. George Bush used the attacks on 9/11 to start the first war of the 21st century and said this war would last decades. Congressmen have started talking about returning the draft since they know that the ranks of fallen soldiers must be refilled with new recruits in order to continue this prolonged war.

The United States government within the past two years has occupied Afghanistan, aggressively attacked Iraq, repeatedly threatened many other nations with preemptive military attacks, and has recently escalated counterinsurgency wars in the Philippines and Colombia by sending more U.S. troops and weapons.

The students who sit in your classrooms may be the next troops on the frontline taking bullets and shrapnel to ensure the profits of the US multinational corporations. The youth from our communities will be used to maintain U.S. hegemony over the world’s resources by force of arms and to violently suppress the liberation struggles of peoples from nations throughout the world. Every nation has a sovereign right to establish their own economic and political systems as they see fit without outside interference.

If we want to give our troops the best chance to survive, we must say with unequivocal resolve that the troops be taken out of harms way NOW and returned to their families **ALIVE. STOP THE WAR NOW!** ■

Until 1990 they used armed forces 137 times in the Latin American and Caribbean regions.

They have conspired against presidents of sovereign states, interfered in the internal affairs of the countries and even used armed forces for their unreasonable demand and purpose.

They have also imposed all kinds of sanctions on the anti-American countries and unhesitatingly made military attacks on them.

Their aggressive and predatory nature has remained unchanged.

The present U.S. administration’s reckless policy of war makes the Korean people feel again that they should not make the slightest concession to the imperialists but fight the aggressors and win victory.

The U.S. imperialists are now trying to inveigle the international community into putting pressure on the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea under the pretext of its non-existent “nuclear development program”.

The nuclear crisis caused by them on the Korean Peninsula is fraught with a danger of nuclear war.

The Korean people are keeping a close eye on the U.S. imperialists’ war preparations against the DPRK, fully prepared to cope with them. ■