

Anti-Imperialist News Service

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\$100 Billion More For War

On Thursday, May 24th, the U.S. Congress approved nearly \$100 billion for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan for the next four months. The next day, President Bush quickly signed the bill into law while adding "We are going to expect heavy fighting in the next weeks and months and we can expect American and Iraqi casualties."

The so-called emergency spending bill, hailed by Republican and Democratic congressmen as a "bipartisan compromise" actually provides Bush with more than \$12 billion in war funds than he originally requested.

After many weeks, in which Democratic leaders claimed they were not going to submit to "Bush's war program," many admitted they had no intention of voting against the money. David Obey, Democratic chairman

of the Appropriations Committee stated "There has never been a chance of a snowball in Hades that Congress would cut off those funds to those troops in the field." Upon passage of the bill, Republican leader John A. Boehner of Ohio proclaimed "Thank goodness we are finally here. We have no artificial deadlines, no surrender dates, no shackles on our generals and our troops on the ground."

This latest military funding bill shows that, despite the massive opposition of the American people and the ever-growing Iraqi resistance, the U.S. government plans to continue and escalate the war. It also reveals, for the millionth time, that the war is a bipartisan policy carried out by the Republicans and Democrats.

U. S. Sends Warships to the Gulf

On May 23, the U.S. Navy sent numerous warships into the Persian Gulf in what the Pentagon is describing as "a show of force off Iran's coast."

Carrier strike groups led by the USS John C. Stennis and USS Nimitz were joined by 7 other destroyers, amphibious assault ships and guided missile cruisers containing over 17,000 sailors and marines. Military officials described the latest assembly of ships as the largest in the Persian Gulf since 2003, when the U.S. invaded Iraq.

Aircraft aboard the carriers were conducting patrols while the ships ran submarine, mine and other "exercises."

U. S. officials stated that these war "games" — which were to culminate in an amphibious landing exercise in Kuwait, just a few miles from Iran — are "a clear warning to Tehran" in preparation for talks between U.S. and Iran officials scheduled to begin on May 28. The U.S. is also stepping up threats,



A large flotilla of U.S. warships, carrying over 17,000 sailors and marines, entered the Persian Gulf on May 23.

and seeking to tighten sanctions, against Iran for continuing to develop its nuclear energy program. Two weeks ago, U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney, speaking aboard the Stennis carrier in the Gulf, vowed that the U.S. would stop Iran from pursuing its gaining nuclear program and never allow its "domination of the region."

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Israel Launches Attacks on Gaza

For the past 10 days, the Israeli army and airforce have launched numerous attacks against Palestinians living in Gaza. At least 38 Palestinians have been killed, and scores more wounded in these strikes.

On May 16, Israeli aircraft launched missiles at Palestinian homes in the southern Gaza Strip killing at least 5 people. Later in the day, an Israeli aircraft attacked a car in the northern Gaza Strip, killing one person and wounding two others, Palestinian medical officials said.

The attack came shortly after Prime Minister Ehud Olmert declared Israel "would not restrain itself" against Palestinian "terrorists." Since then he and other Israeli officials have publicly stated the Israeli military would continue to carry out targeted assassinations of Palestinian leaders.

On May 18, Israel infantry troops and tanks advanced into the Gaza Strip at two points, following four air attacks on Gaza that left at least six Palestinians dead. During the day Israeli warplanes pummeled towns in southern Gaza, in which over one dozen people were killed and wounded. One airstrike incinerated a minivan, killing three people inside, Palestinian hospital officials said. "We

were sitting outside my grocery store when a huge explosion shook the area and a small minivan turned into a ball of fire," Jawad Dallou said to reporters. People in a nearby mourning tent also were wounded, he said.

On May 19, an Israeli aircraft fired missiles toward the northern Gaza town of Beit Hanoun. Hospital officials said two Palestinians were killed and four wounded in the strike. Earlier that day, missile strikes demolished two Palestinian buildings.

On May 20, an Israeli F-16 bomber launched two missiles at the home of Khalil Al-Hayya, a Palestinian lawyer. The missiles destroyed his home, killed at least six members of his family, including his wife and a number of his children. Israeli officials said the attacks were designed to cause "shock and awe".

In the face of this slaughter, U.S. officials have encouraged and defended Israeli military actions, saying they are justified and that Israel is showing "great restraint." On May 17, State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said "Israel has the right to defend itself and it has exercised great restraint."

Pamphlet Available:

Reference Material on Palestine

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U.S. Sends Warships to the Gulf (continued from page 1)

Since January the U.S. has deployed two aircraft carrier battle groups, the USS John C. Stennis battle group and the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower group, within striking distance of Iran. In March, reports also surfaced that the U.S. has contingency plans to attack Iranian nuclear sites and its non-nuclear military infrastructure including air and naval bases, missile facilities and command and control centers. During the past year, inside occupied Iraq, and in Pakistan, the U.S. has been building military bases overlooking Iran. U.S. combat aircraft have been violating Iranian airspace, and Pentagon officials admit that special forces are already engaged in covert operations inside Iran. The U.S. is also instigating the UN Security Council to impose more economic sanctions against Iran.

Make no mistake, the danger of U.S. imperialism launching war against Iran is very real. The American people must be active and resolute in opposing every aggressive step taken by the U.S. government so as to thwart its war plans against Iran.