

Anti-Imperialist News Service

Print Edition, June 10, 2007

www.anti-imperialist.org

Contents

Bush Visit Brings Protests To Europe

U.S. Doubles Rate of Bombing in Iraq

40 Years of Occupation in Palestine

Read the on-line edition at

www.anti-imperialist.org

Updates, Features, Reference Material, Archives, and Pamphlets

Anti-Imperialist News Service

www.anti-imperialist.org

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

Bush Visit Brings Protests to Europe

On June 4, President Bush traveled to Europe for a 6-day trip which included stops in Poland, the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Albania and Bulgaria. On June 6-8, he participated with other leaders in the annual G8 summit meeting in the German town of Heiligendamm.

Before Bush even arrived in Europe, demonstrations were held to denounce the visit and to speak out against U.S. imperialism's war program. On June 2, tens of thousands of demonstrators converged in Rostock, Germany, near the seaside resort site of the G8 summit. The entire area was sealed off by a massive police security operation that included 16,000 policemen and a seven-mile fence topped with barbed wire. Numerous warships and helicopters patrolled the waters nearby. Throughout the protest, thousands of baton-wielding riot police using tear gas and water cannon attacked the demonstrators, and over 500 demonstrators were arrested by the end of the day.



Thousands of demonstrators protest against Bush and other leaders of the G8 summit in Rostock, Germany on June 6th.

On June 4, thousands of Czechs turned out for a protest in Prague, prior to Bush's arrival. In addition to demanding an end to the U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the demonstrators called for a halt to U. S. plans to build a missile-base, supported by hundreds of U.S. military troops, in the Czech Republic. "Shame On Bush, No To Base," read one banner, "The

Continued on page 2

U. S. Doubles Rate of Bombing in Iraq

On June 5, the Associated Press reported that U.S. warplanes have drastically increased the number of attacks in Iraq, dropping bombs at more than twice the rate of one year ago.

In the first 4 1/2 months of 2007, for example, U.S. warplanes dropped 237 bombs and missiles in support of ground forces in Iraq, already surpassing the 229 expended in all of 2006, according to U.S. Air Force figures obtained by AP.

"Air operations over Iraq have ratcheted up significantly, in the number of sorties, the number of hours (in the air)," said Col. Joe Guastella, Air Force operations chief for the region.

The Air Force official also commented that the rise in bombing attacks is due to the increased availability of planes from U.S. aircraft carriers in the Persian Gulf. A second

U.S. Navy aircraft carrier on station since February in the Persian Gulf has added some 80 warplanes to the U.S. air arsenal in the region.

The number of Air Force and Navy "close air support" missions, also has grown by some 30 to 40 percent this spring, said Army Lt. Col. Bryan Cox, a ground-forces liaison at the regional air headquarters.

Another official stated that the increase "appears to be accompanied by a rise in Iraqi civilian casualties." According to Iraq Body Count, a London-based, anti-war research group that maintains a database compiling news media reports on Iraqi war deaths, the rate of civilian deaths appeared to climb steadily through 2006, the group reports, averaging just a few a month in early 2006, hitting some 40 a month by year's end, and averaging more than 50 a month so far this year.

40 Years of Occupation and Aggression in Palestine

40 years ago, in June 1967, the Israeli army invaded and occupied East Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights. On June 10, demonstrations were held throughout the world to speak out against the on-going occupation and to call for an end to U.S.-Israeli aggression in Palestine.

Below we reprint a reference article from the Workers Party, USA on the Israeli occupation of Palestine since 1967.

Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza through a war of aggression in 1967. Since then, Israel has carried on a continuous and planned program of grabbing Palestinian land, repressing and dispersing the indigenous Palestinian people and establishing permanent Israeli settlements. Israel's avowed aim is to expand its border and annex more of the land of Palestine.

The number of Israeli settlers in the West Bank is currently estimated at 400,000; between 220,000 and 250,000 live in East Jerusalem. The number of settlements was estimated as at least 198 (see Palestine Monitor September 2003). In addition, settler communities have created some 130 "outposts" throughout the West Bank. Some former outposts have, over the years, evolved into more permanent settlements like Amona, Horsha, Givat Harel and Zayit Ra'anana.

Some 2.34 million dunums or 42% of the West Bank (excluding Jerusalem) are currently under the jurisdiction of settlements. 96,000 dunums of these are within built-up areas while the remainder serve as future land reserves for settlement extension (Palestine Monitor).

In addition, the settlements are linked to each other through a network of military access or "by-pass" roads which are reserved only for settlers and the Israeli military. Palestinians are forbidden to travel on these roads. The roads cut through Palestinian towns and villages and divide Palestinian areas into cantons, separated and easily encircled by the Israeli military.

International Law

Israeli settlements in the West Bank directly violate international law and repeated U.N. resolutions.

Article 49, paragraph 6 of the Fourth Geneva Convention explicitly stipulates that "the occupying power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies." Article 46 of the Hague Convention prohibits the confiscation of private property in occupied territory. The confiscation of land by the Israeli government for settlement construction is in violation of this article. Article 55 of the Hague Convention stipulates that "the occupying state shall be regarded only as administrator and usufructuary of public buildings, real estate, forests, and agricultural estates belonging to the hostile State, and situated in the occupied country. It must safeguard the capital of these properties, and administer them in accordance with the rules of usufruct." In other words, the occupying power cannot take over or use territories or private proper-

ties in the occupied territories to serve the interests of its civilian population.

UN Security Council Resolution 242 (1967) calls for Israel to withdraw completely from territories it occupied. The settlements are the biggest obstacle to implementing this resolution. UN Security Council Resolution 465 (1980), which was unanimously adopted, made it clear that "Israel's policy and practices of settling parts of its population and new immigrants" in the occupied territories constitutes "a serious obstruction to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East". The Security Council called upon Israel to "dismantle the existing settlements and in particular to cease, on an urgent basis, the establishment, construction or planning of settlements in the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem."

The whole world knows, as Israel itself has repeatedly proclaimed, that Israel is setting up settlements in the West Bank as part of a planned annexation of the West Bank and expansion of the state of Israel. This aggressive expansionism of the Israeli state also aims at dividing the remaining Palestinian-inhabited areas of the West Bank into small, isolated cantons or ghettos deprived of the geographic, economic and political conditions necessary to create a viable and independent Palestinian state.

From the 1967 occupation of the West Bank and Gaza until today, the U. S. government has supported Israeli settlements and expansion, financing and directing its military operations and repression against the Palestinian people.

On April 14 2004, George Bush publicly endorsed Israeli annexation of West Bank settlements, writing in a letter to Israeli Prime Minister Sharon: "in light of new realities on the ground, including already existing major Israeli population centers, it is unrealistic to expect that the outcome of final status negotiations will be a full and complete return to the armistice lines of 1949."

Protests in Europe (continued from page 1)

Radar Stinks of Death," said another. "This only supports the current aggressive foreign policy of the United States," said Miroslav Jilek, a 31-year-old who attended the rally. "I don't see it as a defensive system, but as something which will allow the U.S. to attack anywhere it wishes in the world."

From June 6-8, during the G8 summit in Germany, thousands of protestors again swarmed around the fence outside the site of the meeting. Thousands more blocked roads leading from the airport to the summit, and for two days the protestors staged numerous protests against Bush and the U.S. war program, and in opposition to the G8 economic program.

On June 9, during Bush's visit to Italy, tens of thousands turned out for two largescale afternoon protests in the city of Rome. Demonstrators not only spoke out against the U.S. wars in the middle-east, but also the planned expansion of a U.S. military base in the northeastern Italian city of Vicenza.