Canada/NATO Out of Afghanistan
Rising Resistance Spells Quagmire for Occupation Forces

On June 16, hundreds flooded the streets of Kabul to protest the presence of NATO occupation forces in Afghanistan, following the killing of an Afghan civilian by US soldiers. This protest erupted after an attack on a NATO convoy by Afghan resistance fighters, when the occupation forces opened fire on a crowd of civilians – a story becoming too all too common for Afghans. There are almost daily reports of NATO forces bombing villages, opening fire on crowds of civilians, or shooting those driving too quickly toward military checkpoints.

US forces have now been authorized by the Department of Defense to pay $2,400 to families of innocent victims they kill – sickening evidence of the low regard of the occupation for Afghan lives. The recent increase in killings shows the brutal face of the occupation. But these increased killings are also being met with increased resistance. The number of attacks on NATO occupation forces has increased sharply in the last year, as more and more Afghans, angered at the occupation forces and their allies of “helping Afghans”, stand up and defend their land and lives. And as the killing and brutality of the NATO and Canadian occupation forces increases, as a result the Taliban grassroots resistance to the occupation is growing as an alternative to increasing corruption and inability of the Hekmatyar Karzai government to respond to the basic needs of the country as a whole, in basic human and democratic rights not only have not even slightly improved but have worsened drastically. In a recent survey by the think tank the Senlis Council, 26% of people surveyed in the Kandahar province said that they supported the Taliban – a figure that the Senlis Council estimates to be in reality 27% higher. This support is growing as the occupation exposes that it will not bring any benefit to the Afghan people. For the NATO occupation, this increased resistance has resulted in increased crisis in every day life and in normal functioning of every social or state institution in Afghanistan. No longer is Afghanistan “the good war”. And nowhere is this more evident than in the Abu Ghraib-like evidence that “Taliban suspects” captured by Canadian Forces have faced torture, including physical and sexual abuse, after or before being handed over to Afghan authorities. Six claims of this nature have been made this year. While Canada knew full well of the torture, and that Canadian commanders even told guards to extract information from prisoners. In a recent survey by the think-tank win Senlis Council, over 80% of people surveyed in the Kandahar province, Canadian forces are stationed, said that the occupation was not benefiting them. 52% said that NATO would not win in Afghanistan. The vast majority of Afghans understand what the occupation means – not an attempt to “liberate” Afghanistan, but an attempt to exploit Afghanistan’s trade markets and the Afghan people themselves. It is evident that in the six years of occupation not only the life has not improved in Afghanistan but has worsened many times more. As peace-loving people in Canada, we must stand alongside Afghan people in their struggle against the occupation of their country, and demand an end to the occupation of Afghanistan and full respect the self-determination of Afghanistan. Canada/NATO Out of Afghanistan

Conservative government of Canada Prime Minister Stephen Harper scrambles to cover up the Government of Canada’s tracks in this case, claiming that they had no knowledge the detainees were being abused, more evidence shows up to the contrary evidences that Canadian forces are engaged in direct military conflict against Iraqi people. The mercenaries are engaging in the same brutal, violent project that the US/IRL soldiers are carrying out, but even less known about the details of their operations. There are no public records on how many of them have been killed Iraq – or how many Iraqis they’re murdered. On top of this, in 2004 the outgoing head of the Coalition Provisional Authority, Paul Bremer, issued “Order 17”, which exempted all mercenaries operating in the country from having to obey Iraq law.

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The plan of the US in Iraq include permanent bases, a permanent presence and turning the US occupation into a US-proxy. With this long-term occupation, the US and its imperial rivals are now rolling up the Middle East, to expand their hegemony and plunder the resources and wealth of the entire region.

On the other side of this disaster however, the underlying anti-occupation resistance in Iraq is unravelling the warmongers’ plan. Mass demonstrations against the occupation and daily anti-occupation resistance are constant reminders for the occupiers that they still face a nation that refuses to lie down.

The Liberal government of Canada, back in 2003 under mass pressure and under the division of the US/IRL war drive, allowed US corporates to supply bombing runs on the ground in Iraq. However, this government is fully complicit in the crime against Iraqi people by providing logistics and security work as well as arms and advisory military personnel. The Harper Conservative government, since coming into power, eliminated every document that makes this support difficult. Therefore people in Canada must demand that the government of Canada completely withdraw all support for this criminal activity.

The first and most necessary step to put Iraq on a path toward rebuilding and healing is to recognize self-determination for this one-sovereign country and to immediately withdraw all occupation forces. Solving the problems of violence, instability, unemployment, lack of education and infrastructure, etc., can only begin with a truly independent Iraqi government. To build an effective antiwar movement, all peace-loving people around the world must unite behind the demand: “Free the Occupiers of Iraq! Self-Determination for Iraq! Out Now!”

IRANIAN COMMITTEE AGAINST WAR STAFF

Once again George Bush and the United States ruling elite have decided to roll ahead their bloodbath war machine. The recent massive American military buildup in the Persian Gulf – with 50 warships, many submarines, two aircraft carriers, more than 100 warplanes, stationed battalions of Patriot anti-missile systems, more than 6000 troops in naval groups, heavy bombing warplanes stationed in the Diego Garcia air base, as well as military and political provocations – are all part of the march to war for broad military aggression against people of Iraq.

Once again the US bloodsucking rulers, who have killed 700,000 innocent people in Iraq so far, and who have completely destroyed civil society and normal life for innocent Iraqi and Afghani people, have decided to start the third phase of the war in the Middle East – the first phase of which started in 2001 against Afghanistan. In the interest of US corporations, and of plundering and pillaging the people of the Middle East (especially Iran) for their oil and the entirety of their wealth, the US government is starting another savage and criminal war.

The American killing machine will destroy yet another cradle of civilization with its ‘Shock and Awe’ strategy of massive pre-emptive bombing campaigns, using advanced nuclear and radioactive DUK bunker buster bombs. In the weeks ahead the US-Pentagon march to war will be completed, from Iraq once again, the entire human conscience is being challenged by this war drive. This anti-human act must be condemned and rejected all over.

In the case that the US starts bombing and marching in Iran, come to the US consulate on the day of attack at 9am and for the next day the same time, and daily protests for the first week.

Iranian Committee Against War is a coalition of Iranians who are against war and occupation of their brothers and sisters in other countries around the world. Please join us! Contact: iranmagazinetv@gmail.com or 604-771-7290.
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