

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 forces. The protests erupted after an attack on a NATO convoy by Afghan resistance fighters, when the occupation forces opened fire onto a crowd of civilians - a story becoming 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 lies of “helping Afghans”, stand up to defend their land and their 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 Hamid Karzai government to respond to basic the needs of the country as a whole. In

fact – contrary to what the US and Canada claim – and according to the UN and all human rights organizations issues such as women’s situation, the social and political situation, economic situation, government services, democracy and



Afghans protest the occupation.

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 increasing 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

Conservative government of Canada Prime Minister Stephen Harper scrambles to cover 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 – evidence that Canada knew full well of the torture, and that military commanders even told guards to extract information from prisoners.

In a recent survey by the think-tank the Senlis Council, over 80% of people surveyed in the Kandahar province, where 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 very 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 recognize this as well. 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!
Independent Public Inquiry into the Canadian War Drive!
OUT NOW!

The Privatization of the War Machine: The Case of Mercenaries in Iraq

How many US Soldiers are occupying Iraq? 160,000 is the official count – but that number is far from accurate. Today, these “official” occupation troops are reinforced by 126,000 “contractors” (read: mercenaries). They are employed by a handful of massive military corporations such as Blackwater USA, DynCorp International and Armor Group. Their jobs range from intelligence support, to training of the Iraqi military, to maintenance of US bases. Tens of thousands of these mercenaries

found that up to 40 cents of every dollar spent on the occupation has gone to war contractors. Amada Guevara, a member of the UN working group on mercenaries, put it succinctly: “This amounts to privatization of warfare.”

Since the March 2003 invasion, the impact of war and occupation in Iraq has resulted in roughly 700,000 Iraqi deaths. According to an article published by the Canadian Islamic Congress, “...some 100 Iraqi civilians are killed every single day ... health care, education and public services -- including accessibility to clean water, electricity and sewage -- are almost all non-existent...”

The plans of the US in Iraq include permanent bases, a permanent presence and turning the Iraqi government into a US-proxy. With this long-term occupation, the US and its imperialist rivals aim to carve up the Middle East, to expand their hegemony and to plunder the resources and wealth of the entire region.

On the other side of this disaster however, the undying anti-occupation resistance in

Iraq is unraveling 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 labour within the imperialist war drive, did not deploy troops on the ground in Iraq. However, this government is fully complicit in the crime against Iraqi people by providing logistical and security work as well as arms and advisory military personal. The Harper Conservative government, since coming into power, eliminated every obstacle that makes this support difficult. Therefore people in Canada must demand that the government of Canada completely withdraw all support for this criminal war.

The first and most necessary step to put Iraq on a path toward rebuilding and healing is to recognize self-determination for this once-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 demands: “End the Occupation of Iraq! Self-Determination for Iraq! Out Now!”



Najaf, Iraq. April 9, 2007

are engaged in direct military combat against Iraqi people.

The mercenaries are engaging in the same brutal, violent project that the US/UK soldiers are carrying out, but even less is 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’ve 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 Iraqi law.

Last year, US House Representative Dennis Kucinich asked Pentagon officials at a Congressional hearing if the US Department of Defense would prosecute a private contractor who murdered Iraqi civilians. After being told repeatedly, “Sir, I can’t answer that question,” Kucinich said: “Wow. Think about what that means. These private contractors can get away with murder... They aren’t subject to any laws at all.”

Another flooring element of the mercenary industry in Iraq was exposed by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Rep. Henry Waxman, who estimates that \$4 Billion in taxpayer money has so far been spent in Iraq on these armed “security” companies. Rep. Jan Schakowsky of the House Intelligence Committee

Hands Off Iran! Stop US Military Attack on Iran! Unite Against US Aggression on Iran!

IRANIAN COMMITTEE AGAINST WAR STATEMENT:

Once again George Bush and the United States ruling elite have decided to roll ahead their bloodthirsty war machine. The recent massive American military buildup in the Persian Gulf - with 50 warships, many submarines, two aircraft carriers with more than 100 warplanes, stationed batteries 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 Iran.

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 Afghan 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 carried out with all kinds of weaponry - including radioactive DU bunker buster bombs. In the weeks ahead the US-Pentagon march to war will be completed, and now, once again, the entire human conscience is being challenged by this war drive. This anti-human act must be condemned and rejected by all.

In the case that the US starts bombing and marching in Iran, come to the US consulate on the day of attack at 4pm and for the next day at 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 Iran and all oppressed countries around the world. Please join us! Contact: iranianagainstawarvan@yahoo.ca or 604-771-7290

Get involved



with MAWO!

Meetings
Wednesdays - 6:30PM
For location, please visit our website:

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US/UK OUT OF IRAQ!
CANADA OUT OF AFGHANISTAN!
HANDS OFF IRAN!
US/UN HANDS OFF AFRICA!
Israel Hands Off Lebanon and Palestine!
Self-determination for Indigenous Nations in Canada!
Self-determination for All Oppressed Nations!



RALLY + MARCH
Saturday, June 23rd
2pm
Vancouver Art Gallery
(Robson & Howe)

Mobilization Against War + Occupation - MAWO
www.mawovancouver.org info@mawovancouver.org 604-322-1764

MOBILIZATION
FREE THE



CUBAN HEROES
HELD IN US JAILS!

Tuesday June 26th
4pm-5pm || US Consulate (1075 W. Pender St)

Free the Cuban 5 Committee - Vancouver
www.vancouverbasolidarity.com/freethefivevan.html
cuban5_van@yahoo.com | 604.719.6947

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