

Toufan International Special Issue

The International Bulletin of the Party of Labour of Iran

No. 18

June 2004

A Flame that is Inextinguishable!

They said that if Saddam were found, the resistance of the Iraqi people would stop and terrorism's back would break.

They said that if they arrested Saddam, rubbed his nose in the front of the mass media, humiliated him, imprisoned him in a ditch, and labeled him as a war captive, then the people of Iraq would dance and cheer in the streets and applaud them.

They said that if the imperialists got a chance to put their feet on the region, the bride of democracy and doll of freedom would hug everyone and young and old would benefit.

They said that if they put their feet on Iraq, no one would sleep hungry or complain from the lack of security.

They said that they would reconstruct the country, would give the people's elected government the authority to arrange the reconstruction contracts, and would prevent the privatisation and looting by corporate America of Iraq's nationalised oil.

They said that if the US entered Iraq, the country's Judicial Branch would put on its gown and there would be no one whose rights are violated.

They said that the occupation of Iraq is not for breaking apart but for preserving the territorial integrity of Iraq.

They said that when the US got to Iraq, there would be free elections and a popular government based on the public vote would rule the country.

All these talks together with the old talks became nothing but big lies.

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The Eternal Energy of the Masses!

Anthony Zinni, the former commander in chief of the US Central Command, had requested that some of the high ranking officials of Pentagon to be dismissed. In an interview with PBS on 30th of September 2003, he stated that:

"I think there was definitely a lack of planning for the aftermath."

He argued that:

"Any time we lose lives, any time we have miscalculation, any time we have to go back to American people and ask for more treasure, more sacrifice, and it was not calculated and it should have been, then somebody should be held responsible."

These types of arguments can be found in all bourgeois mass media. The bourgeois presses are trying their best to put the blame for the defeat of the US policy on Iraq on wrong planning or the lack of perspective for post occupation. They claim that their mistakes on Iraq policy are due to not having native intelligence agents in Iraq.

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Joint Statement

The National Resistance against the Imperialist Occupiers Grows!

The unconditional withdrawal of all imperialist forces is the demand of the Iraqi people and the people of the world.

1. One year is passed from the anti-human and barbaric aggression against Iraqi people by the US imperialists and their reactionary allies. The US goal for the occupation of Iraq is to achieve strategic and economic superiority in the world. Using the pretext of a fight against terrorism, of a threat to world peace by Saddam, of human rights and freedom, and of the rights of nations to self determination, the US imperialists have violently occupied Iraq with the goal of dominating the energy resources of the region, opening new markets, removing barriers to the complete domination by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund and World Trade Organization, and searching for new markets for

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A Flame

There is neither freedom nor democracy in Iraq. The territorial integrity of Iraq has become a toy in the hands of the Kurds collaborating with the imperialists and Zionists. The occupying forces instigate a conflict between Sunnis and Shiites. The national resources of Iraq are privatised and plundered. There are many times more innocent detainees in Abu Qraib prison now than during the Saddam's time. The occupiers eliminate the Iraqi citizens under the pretext of being terrorists, send the detainees to locations as Guantanamo and no one knows about their fate, and gun down the unarmed protestors on the spot. This is the imperialist heaven they promised. Today, the Iraqi people demand free elections and the exodus of the occupying forces. Today, the Iraqi people in several hundred thousand strong demonstrations are demanding free elections under the presence of the UN observers. They demand that the territorial integrity of Iraq be preserved, and the plots to split Iraq through instigation of Shiite against Sunnis and Kurds against Arabs be halted. But the US imperialists do not accept these demands. The US does not accept the demand for free elections in Iraq because it is afraid that Shiites might gain the majority of the votes and, with a turn towards Iran, establish a majority Shiite government and undermine the US deceitful game of democracy.

Apparently, the US imperialists, contrary to the Worker-communist party of Iran, are not following the theory of "unconditional freedom"! The freedom for the US imperialists is a class freedom and serves their imperialist interests. It is interesting that this "party" does not fight for the "unconditional freedom" for Shiite majority in Iraq! We are making it clear that freedom is conditional for this "party". If the freedom and democracy is in the benefit of "political Islam", the leadership of this "party" will avoid supporting it. Have they learnt all this deceit from Rumsfeld or Ariel Sharon?

Ayatollah Sistani has realised that the resistance to the demand of ending occupation will result in discrediting the Shiite clergy. All the political commentators believe that Sistani stands for the separation of religion and state, and this is why he is a bother for the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The imperialists do not tolerate the demands put forward by the masses in the streets, the masses that they cannot label as terrorists anymore. This mass movement, together with the armed struggle, in Iraq is necessary for the continuation

of the struggle against the occupation. The mass movement is an absolute necessity, and the armed struggle must be organised in a way that it get energy and support from the mass movement. The vast presence of the Iraqi people in the streets has frightened the US imperialists. Now, they are looking for a way to involve the UN while they control the key positions. The US authorities want to involve the UN that they disliked up to yesterday and to which they did not pay dues. This new tactic wants to shift the responsibilities of the crimes committed by the US imperialists to the UN shoulder and is a sign of crumbling and defeat of the US policy in Iraq. Almost one year has passed since the presence in Iraq of the biggest criminal force of human history. Death and destruction in Iraq and the region are the results of this crime.

The US imperialists want to preserve their dominant position in Iraq, to keep the highly profitable contracts, and to establish official and secret organs of control over the country. At the same time, they want to release themselves, while preserving their political face, from the disastrous situation in Iraq by involving the whole world in the affairs of the country, from Poland to Spain, Japan, Denmark, Azerbaijan, Turkey, ... to Germany, France, and Britain. But the people of Iraq will prevent the US forces from leaving without paying a heavy price for the crimes they have committed. The spark the US imperialists have set on the region will turn into a fire that they will not survive. The US defeat in the region is definite, and the struggle of the Iraqi people despite the false propaganda of "democrats" and "freedom lovers" continues day and night. If the leadership of this struggle is not seized by a genuine working class party (the Marxist-Leninist Communists), obviously the reactionary clerics will attempt to be at the head of the anti-occupation and liberation struggle of the people, and they will eventually pull the struggle towards deviated channels in order to conciliate with imperialism. But the Iraqi people will not be guilty of this crime. This crime will sit on the shoulder of those who erect barriers against the communist movement, the revisionist and the Israeli agents under the mask of worker-communists. The situation with the Kurdish secessionists is laughable. Their collaboration with the imperialists has brought them shame and loss of political credibility. They keep themselves happy and hopeful with the myth that they gain a Kurdish republic, separated from Iraq, by seizing the oil wells of northern Iraq. The Israeli Zionists who are following the

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A Flame

developments in Iraq are pressing the Kurds to finish the job of splitting the country in order to benefit from a weak Iraq. Israeli authorities have announced that there are 150,000 Iraqi Kurd refugees who live in Israel and who want to return to their country. Dividing the Iraqi people on the basis of nationality or religion, and instigating conflicts between Kurds, Turkmen, Arabs, Shiites and Sunnis are treacherous acts and must be fought against. The heroic struggle of the Iraqi people against the occupation is spreading daily. The mass media censors the news about this struggle and the "free and democratic" world do not report on the news broadcasted even on Algazeera or Iranian televisions. The casualties among American, British, and Polish soldiers are mounting. All modern military technological developments of the US imperialism are melting in front of the tireless mass struggle of the Iraqi people. The censorship of the news itself is an indication of fear and misery of the occupying forces. Iraq is turning into a graveyard for the US soldiers. According to the official figures, more than 800 deceived US soldiers have lost their lives so far. There have been casualties among the occupying forces of other nationalities that are not reported on any list, including the soldiers from the Republic of Azerbaijan who are paid to wear US military uniforms and weapons.

People from all strata of the Iraqi society are involved in this struggle. The continuation of the mass struggle will bring heavier defeat to the occupying forces.

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Abu Ghraib

The Iranian and Iraqi sell-out Kurdish leaders were (and are) happy to see that Iraq is occupied. For them, the occupation brings the "liberation" of the Kurds! Imagine a liberated and democratic Kurdistan under the US/UK occupation armies! Imagine a paradise named Kurdistan in which the Kurdish leaders are each a governor of a town and gets his orders from the masters in US and UK!

The fact is that the US imperialists violate the rights of nations to self determination whenever they can and wherever these rights does not fit their strategic goals. The fact is that the oil wells of Kirkuk are as profitable to the US as the wells in Musil! The fact is that the US occupation of the region is antagonistic to the self determination of the people of the whole region, including Kurds in Iraq, Iran, Turkey, and Syria. The Kurdish people will never forgive those who try to deceive them or those who line up behind the occupation of Iraq.

Joint Staement

of the revisionists and has boosted the Islamists. The reactionary policy of imperialism and the war of occupation have created an environment that allows the reactionary Islamic forces to gain influence. The imperialists prefer to boost the Islamists than to directly confront the genuine opposition of the people to the occupation. It is through active presence in the liberation movement of the masses that the Marxist-Leninist communists and revolutionary secular forces will strengthen their bases and will overcome the impediments erected against the movement of the working class of Iraq.

Victory to the Struggle of the Iraqi People for Liberation and Independence!

Withdraw all Imperialist Forces from Iraq Unconditionally!

Pay Extensive Reparation to the People of Iraq!

May 1, 2004

- Marxist Leninist Organization Revolution of Norway
- Communist Organization Octubre of Spain
- Communist Party of Germany
- Organization for the Party of Proletariat of Italy
- Workers' Communist Party of France
- Action for Unity and Socialism, Chad (ACTUS)
- Proletarskaya Gazeta and Zashchita Truda (Defense of Labour) – Russia
- Party of Labour of Iran (Toufan)

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Eternal

Are these claims true? Is it true that the US imperialists invaded Iraq hurriedly and without any plan? No, it is absolutely false, and it is designed to mislead the public attention. It has become clear that the invasion of Iraq was planned before the events of September 2001. The US imperialists were promoting for years their puppets in the National Congress of Iraqi Opposition. They were training their Iraqi agents, some of whom like Al Chalabi were under international investigation, for occupation of high state positions in the post Saddam Iraq. Al Chalabi even made threats against European states that if they do not make the necessary attempts to cooperate and compromise with the US, they would not get any piece of the looted pie in Iraq. The extensive international propaganda to prepare the public opinions for the invasion of Iraq was going on for many years. These attempts were carefully planned. The imperialist propaganda machine was busy spreading lies and deceptions. The US authorities had planned the liquidation of the Iraqi army, police, and the security forces after the occupation of Iraq. They had planned the bombardment of the Iraqi ministries except the oil ministry. They had ordered the US invasion forces to protect only the oil ministry. All the museums of Iraq had to be looted and, the ancient artifacts had to be sent out from Iraq with the assistance of the Israeli antique dealers. The US imperialists knew why they wanted to protect only the oil ministry, and why they wanted to allow the hooligans to loot the Iraqi institutions, universities, libraries, etc. The imperialists planned the military training of more than 7000 Kurdish agents in the US-operated camps outside Kurdistan, ordering them to wear US military uniforms, and dispatching them to Kurdistan to fight as mercenaries alongside the US troops. The US authorities knew that they had to come to agreement with the sell out Kurdish leaders in order to open the entrance route to northern Iraq. The Pentagon knew that thousands of intelligent agents from the CIA and MUSAD must enter Iraq in order to encourage the looting and destruction of the Iraqi institutions and in order to build a fifth column for the preservation of the US influence. The US planners knew what industrial, scientific, academic, and research institutions must be destroyed by the bombardment so that the highly profitable reconstruction contracts could be signed to the US companies. The US authorities knew what companies would be involved in the

reconstruction contracts and what oil companies would pump out and export the Iraqi oil without keeping accounts. Thus, the imperialists' claims that they made rash decisions and that their problems lie in a lack of plan are absolutely false. The difficulties that the US and UK are facing in Iraq are not even due to the unexpectedly "strong" European states' opposition to the war. What disrupted the imperialists' plan in Iraq was the heroic struggle of the people. The Iraqi people showed through their struggle against the occupation that the opposition to Saddam does not mean the acceptance of the US domination and slavery. They showed that they are not willing to allow their country to be plundered by the imperialists. The US and UK tried to show through some videos that the Iraqi people were happy to see that Saddam was out and the US was in. The US propaganda machine was able to organise a few bandits of hooligans and lumpens to cheer for George Bush, but the life span of these bandits was very short. Now, the occupying forces try to instigate conflicts between Sunnis and Shiites in order to prevent the formation of a vast front to fight against the imperialist occupiers. Those Shiite leaders who have chosen to be silent on the occupation of Iraq are collaborators and they will definitely be isolated. Central today are the national struggle and the resistance of the Iraqi people against the occupying forces. The solutions to other social problems can be considered in the light of this central task. It is the eternal force of the masses of the Middle East that has disrupted the US and UK imperialists' plans and will continue to disrupt them further. The struggle of the masses was the essential factor that was missing in the equations and game plans of the US and UK. The masses, not the technological and military forces, play a decisive role in the war in Iraq. The masses have shown and will show again that imperialism is a paper tiger and it has trembling feet.

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Joint Statement

their military products. To overcome their economic difficulties, the US imperialists have occupied Iraq and have waged a war of aggression in the Middle East.

2. In order to justify their aggression against Iraq and to turn the country into a colony of US in the region and by fabricating documents and spreading lies, the US imperialists and their reactionary allies violated all the international laws, norms, and treaties on the right of nations to self determination. The imperialist criminals accused Iraq of having atomic bombs and threatening the world peace. It is dear now (it was clear to the communists from the beginning) that Iraq did not have atomic bombs and Saddam was not a threat to world peace. The US imperialists are the biggest state terrorists and threat to the world peace. They accused the regime of Saddam of having weapons of mass destruction and relation with Bin Laden and Al Qaeda terrorists. It is clear today that these were lies too. The goal of US invasion of Iraq is becoming clearer for the masses of the world with every passing day. The policy of the US imperialists on the Middle East and the pretext of possessing weapons of mass destruction have continuously been exposed by the communists and the revolutionary forces of the world. The US imperialists' and Israeli Zionists' "war on terror" are for the continuation and intensification of the oppression against the Palestinians, Iraqis, Afghanis, and the people of the region.

3. The US imperialists thought that the Iraqi people would welcome with flowers the occupying forces and that the Bush and company's colonialist-imperialist plan would be implemented peacefully and with minimum loss. But the heroic struggle of the Iraqi people frustrated the imperialists' sinister plots, and the spread of the armed struggle has frightened the occupiers. The struggle of the Iraqi people, which has adopted the form of mass and popular resistance, is the harbinger of victory for the Iraqi people and shameful defeat for the imperialist occupiers. The growing popular opposition to the occupation of Iraq in the US, UK, Spain, France, Italy, Turkey, etc has caused tremendous difficulties for the reactionary imperialist powers in the implementation of their oppressive policies. A strong anti-imperialist international movement will force the imperialists and pro occupation powers to retreat and will have a significant effect on the struggle of the people of the Middle East for liberation and independence.

The Yankee imperialists are sinking into a quagmire of defeat every day. The US and its

allies will resort to every conspiracy and crime in order to impose their reactionary rule on Iraq. The Bush and Blair attempts to involve the UN and NATO in the war and to legitimize and perpetuate the occupation of Iraq are in vain and will undoubtedly be defeated. The US imperialists are trying to shift the burden of the occupation away from their shoulders and to release themselves from the responsibilities of the crimes they have committed against the Iraqi people. The occupation of Iraq is illegitimate with or without the involvement of the UN in the war. The continuation of the occupation of Iraq serves only the interests of the imperialist powers. The people of Iraq and the region must have the right to decide about their own destiny.

The masses of Iraq are fighting against the occupying forces in every possible way and their demand is the unconditional withdrawal of all imperialist forces from their homeland. The struggle of the Iraqi people, likewise the struggle of Palestinian people, against occupation is legitimate and just. We support these legitimate struggles. We condemn the US attempts to split the Iraqi people, and we stress the unity of all anti-imperialist, anti-occupation, and revolutionary patriotic forces in Iraq. Regardless of its reasons and justifications, every force that collaborates with the occupiers and their puppet Council is in the service of imperialism and reaction, and the people of Iraq will not forgive such a sell out force.

4. The expulsion of the imperialist occupiers from Iraq is the first prerequisite for resolving the other social contradictions within Iraq. The people of Iraq are fighting for their independence. The establishment of socialism in Iraq is impossible with the presence of the military forces of the US and other imperialist countries. In Iraq, the national struggle and the revolutionary struggle for independence surpass the other questions. It is only through the active participation in this national and anti-imperialist struggle that the Marxist-Leninists can gain the trust of the masses, organize the working class and labourers, seize the leadership of the movement, lead the liberation movement to a higher level, and establish socialism in Iraq. Otherwise, the ground will be prepared for the Islamic and fundamentalist forces to gain strength and to mislead the anti-imperialist struggle of the Iraqi masses and to cause an irreparable damage to the movement of the working class. The participation of the so called Communist Party of Iraq in the US-installed Governing Council is another betrayal of the

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Aznar

He, like his teacher George Bush, fabricated documents and spread lies about ETA's involvement in the horrific events in Madrid with hope that he would increase the chance of his reelection. But it became clear that the news about ETA's involvement were fabricated and that Al Qaeda network had carried out the terrorist actions in revenge for the killing of the Iraqi people by the US and Spanish troops.

The deceitful games played by Premier Aznar, the Spanish Parliament, and the mass media expose the nature of bourgeois democracy. Spreading lies, fabricating documents, and bullying have become the daily job of "democratic" states. The imperialists and their servants do not care anymore even about the appearance of their criminal activities. Imperialism has always been inconsistent with democracy. The democracy of Aznar and the royal family in Spain is vastly different from democracy of the working class of Spain. But the life spans of Aznar's lies about the Madrid events were very short. The repeated press releases of the groups associated with Al Qaeda, ETA's denial of any involvement in the terrorist events, and the pressure from the people of Spain and some European states revealed Aznar's lies. The terror of democracy by the Spanish government and the terror of facts by Aznar are as disgusting as Al Qaeda terrorist actions in Madrid. The people of Spain expressed their disgust for Aznar's lying and his deceitful government and voted him down. The result of elections in Spain was a slap in the face of Bush and Blair and it will have an effect on the formation of an Iraqi puppet government that desires the Spanish troop in Iraq.

Aznar's skin crossed through tannery, but the tannery is awaiting a next skin.

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Abu Ghraib

some of the low ranking soldiers who were involved in torturing the Iraqi prisoners. While the people demand the punishment of all those who ordered or carry out these tortures, they do not have any illusion that the punishments will not change the nature of the invasion and occupation of Iraq.

The people of the world demand the unconditional withdrawal of all imperialist occupying forces from Iraq. The imperialist countries that participated in the destruction of Iraq in the past 15 years must pay war reparations to the Iraqi people. The mass struggle of the Iraqi people will bring the

occupying armies shameful defeat.

In Afghanistan, the condition of the prisoners is even worse. There are many secret prison camps in Afghanistan where the detainees have no access to outside world. The detainees are not charged or put on trial and are not given any family visit. Human Rights Watch released a report in March 2004 in which it documents wide spread and systematic abuses, including sexual humiliation, exposure to freezing temperatures, sleep and sensory deprivation, etc. A US senator stated that:

"It appears to be exactly the same techniques used in Afghanistan as were used in Iraq. I don't think they're getting their techniques over the internet. There's obviously some systematic training".

It is revealed that the US forces in Afghanistan slaughtered 3,000 detainees two years ago in closed military trucks and left their corpses for dogs to eat. The European Parliament in Strasbourg France showed the video of the massacre. The video was broadcasted on German televisions also. Since, in the capitalist world, the life of an Afghani is less valued than the life of an Iraqi, the US crimes in Afghanistan are less exposed than in Iraq.

The condition of Iraqi prisoners in the British occupied regions is as bad as in the US occupied regions. Many of the same abuses and humiliations were used by the British forces. Urinating on hand-cuffed and head-bagged prisoners exposes the nature of colonialist British army. The photos of British soldiers abusing the Iraqi prisoners reveal that the torture in the UK occupied region was widespread and systematic. The British Minister of Defense shamelessly stated that the photos were fake and that his occupying soldiers are trained in respecting the international laws and the Geneva Convention!

One year ago, the Iranian pro-imperialist forces lined up behind George Bush "voluntarily" and "democratically" and they cheered for the occupation of Iraq. The Iranian monarchists also packed their suitcases and were waiting for telephone calls from the Pentagon and the State Department to arrange their trips going "home" from Iraq on the back of the US tanks! London-Keyhan, the organ the Iranian monarchists that praised the glorious US occupying forces and promoted the US army as the harbinger of freedom and democracy and liberation, has not bothered itself to condemn the torture of the Iraqi prisoners. Well, the monarchists are used to these things. They were applying these policies on the Iranian prisoners at the time they were in power!

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Abu Ghraib

or Uzbekistan where they apply the most violent forms of torture far from the eyes of the public, of human rights organizations, and of the US legal jurisdiction. In fact, the US is renting torturers of the puppet regime and is establishing law-free zones. This is the US elevation of the system of management in fact finding and information seeking! The New York Times wrote that:

"One set of legal memorandums, the officials said, advises government officials that if they are contemplating procedures that may put them in violation of American statutes that prohibit torture, degrading treatment of the Geneva Convention, they will not be responsible if it can be argued that the detainees are formally in the custody of another country".

The US imperialists are also privatizing the apparatus of torture, occupation, and war. In addition to 140,000 US troops, 9,000 British soldiers, 11,000 occupying soldiers from other countries, there are 25,000 "private contractors" who are armed to the teeth and are involved in operations including torture and interrogation. In the US, the companies to hire private mercenary soldiers are popping up like mushrooms. Already, dozens of companies have private armies in Iraq, armies larger than even the British contingent in Iraq. The public is officially told that these private armies are to guard food shipments, establish security, and train the military and civilian forces. CACI, Titan, Blackwater, and Military Professional Resources Inc. are among those that have mercenary armies in Iraq. Titan's chief manager Gene Ray said that "The mission of our company is to assist the US intelligence organizations in collecting, classifying, and analyzing anti-terrorist war information".

The CACI internet website has posted advertisement to hire "interrogators experts".

Blackwater website says that:

"We have established a global presence and provide training and tactical solutions for the 21st century. Our clients include federal law enforcement agencies, the Department of Defense, Department of State, and Department of Transportation, local and state entities from around the country, multinational operations and friendly nations from all over the globe".

The "civilian contractors" are trained commandos with at least three years of experience in the US army. The Military Professional Resources Inc. is headed by retired General Vuono, who was the Army Chief of Staff during the first Gulf war. General Vuono is assisted by former commander of US Army in Europe General Saint, and former

head of Defense Intelligence Agency General Soyster.

The charges for privatized operations are very high. Blackwater won a 21 million dollar contract to provide two helicopters and security guards for Paul Bremer. Mercenary soldiers for profit provide security for Hamid Karzai, the US-installed president of Afghanistan.

It is known that privatized mercenary armies draw 100 billion (100,000,000,000) dollars in business. Halliburton and Lockheed are among the companies that financially benefit from the privatized operations.

In Iraq, the "civilian" soldiers are involved in the same type of operations as the military soldiers. It has been reported that the "civilian" soldiers have been threatening, torturing, and shooting at the Iraqi people.

For the US imperialists, there are several advantages to privatized contractors. Private contractors are outside the US military laws. They are given freedom to do the most atrocious jobs. Using the private contractors, the US authorities can downplay the size of their aggressive army in an occupied land. The use of mercenary armies enables the US imperialists to carry out mini wars and to interfere into affairs of sovereign states without accepting any responsibilities for their actions.

The officers who run private armies make enormous profit. The military experts leave government jobs and join private sectors for a salary up to four times larger. The high ranking officers use their connection in the army to win large contracts for huge profit.

The barbaric system of capitalism buys individuals, many of whom themselves are victims of the system, to kill others in order to achieve its exploitative goals and to plunder the dominating countries. Under capitalism, crimes are organized, institutionalized, and justified! The US imperialists have turned the judicial system and the responsibility of the state towards judicial system and towards recognized international laws and norms and undeniable human values into a private matter. He who has wealth has right! The capitalist system has turned the judicial and executive systems into private matters and has turned the clock back to the era of barbarism and blood feud. A private US company hires interrogators who have no judicial expertise or competence! This judicial system is based on "modern" law of punishment!

The US imperialists think that they can deceive the people of the world by replacing one army general by another or by punishing or disciplining

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Abu Grraib

House to the Congress, from the CIA to the Pentagon tries to disassociate the invasion and the occupation of Iraq from the atrocities and tortures applied to the Iraqi people. The fact is that the crimes of the war of aggression against the Iraqi people are not restricted to the horrifying tortures, but the tortures themselves are the manifestation of dehumanization of a nation to win hegemony over the region.

The fact is that the stories of the atrocities at Abu Ghraib prison are only a page of the one thousand and one page-long history of US atrocities committed against the people of the world. From the "tiger cages" of Vietnam to the disappearances in Argentina to the torture chambers in Shah's Iran and Pinochet's Chile, from the death squads of El Salvador and Columbia to the slaughter of millions in Indonesia, Korea, China, Peru all these crimes are committed either by direct involvement of US army and the CIA agents or by the hands of the US-installed puppet regimes.

International laws prohibit the torture and mistreatment of prisoners of war. Those who commit crimes against prisoners of war are themselves considered war criminals. After people around the world were outraged and disgusted by the conducts of Rumsfeld and his Generals in Iraq, the US administration started to do damage control. The US Secretary of Defense stated that:

"My impression is that, so far, it's abuse, which I believe technically is different from torture. I don't know that torture has taken place, therefore I won't address the torture word".

President George Bush stated on May 5, 2004 that "This does not represent the America that I know".

Rumsfeld said on May 7, 2004 that "the mistreatments of prisoners in Abu Ghraib were inconsistent with the teachings of the military to the men and women of the armed forces, and it was certainly fundamentally un-American".

Hogwash! The CIA has sent trained torturers to Iraq to "soften up" the resistance captives, and the Military Policemen were given the order and were encouraged to carry out the most vicious torture of those who were suspected of any relation with the Resistance Movement.

Major General Miller, the chief army commander at Guantanamo prison camp went to Iraq to make interrogations "more effective" and more "efficient". His mission was to "Guantanamoize" the prisons in Iraq so that the torturing of the prisoners becomes more systematic.

The fact is that US military forces have always

used torture whenever they saw fit. The Bush administration cancelled on May 2002 the US signature on Rome treaty of the International Criminal Court. The Court has jurisdiction over war crimes and will try individuals from countries that are parties to its statute. The Bush administration that was seeking immunity for its soldiers cancelled the US signature (see Toufan International No. 12).



The high level of exposure of tortures in Abu Ghraib prison forced the high command of the US forces in Iraq to replace General Janis Karpinski, the commander of the 800 Military Police Brigade and in charge of all military prisons in Iraq, by General Miller, the commander of notorious Guantanamo prison. We must mention here that General Karpinski told St. Petersburg Times in an interview in Dec 2003 that:

"For many of the Iraqi inmates at Abu Ghraib, the living conditions now are better in prison than at homes. At one point, we were concerned that they wouldn't want to leave "!

The US organs of suppression, the army, the CIA, The Pentagon, The FBI, etc. have learned that they cannot hide torture and violation of human rights forever from everyone's eyes. While these organs try to avoid any exposure by maintaining a total secrecy, they employ every other possible method to hide their crimes. The US army and the CIA have kept the locations of many prisoners and prisons in Iraq under top secret. The captives of "the war against terrorism" are sent to a location outside the USA. By applying this method, the CIA torture and murder of prisoners will not be the legal responsibility of the US. Also, the US administration has ordered the CIA and the army to put some of the prisoners officially "under the supervision of foreign governments". These prisoners are brutally tortured by non-American hands through the supervision of the CIA. The CIA transports captives to Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan,

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Abu Ghraib

General Antonio Taguba. General Taguba has stated in his report that:

"Numerous incidents of sadistic, blatant, and wanton criminal abuses were inflicted on several detainees".

The photos of US soldiers torturing Iraqi prisoners have outraged the world public opinions. With every passing day, it becomes clearer that torture on Iraqi prisoners was systematic, ordered by the US policy makers, and known to the officials at every level. Now that people are disgusted everywhere across the planet by the US policy of torture and mistreatment of Iraqis, the US bigwigs are trying to lie and disassociate themselves from these crimes.

"What took place in that Iraqi prison was the wrongdoing of a few". George Bush, May 8, 2004

Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld, CIA director George Tenet, and the generals in charge of the operations in Iraq all denied that they knew about wide spread torture and abuse of prisoners in Iraq. They try to blame a very few "bad apples" among the low ranking US soldiers and "civilian contractors". The US officials are trying to cover up their policy of torture by claiming that the atrocities were "isolated", "exceptions", or "aberrations".

Jalal Talebani, a member of the US governing Council in Iraq and a sellout Kurdish leader, had an interview with CNN on the scandal at Abu Ghraib prison. Let us see what this lackey of US imperialists had to say.

CNN: What is your view on the prisoners who were abused by the American soldiers?

Talebani: I think this was a wrongdoing of a small group of American soldiers. If you look at the American soldiers operating all over Iraq, they are kind and good people. But let me tell you that one of the bad things that happened at Abu Ghraib prison was the bombing of the prison by the terrorists. Why are those pictures not published?"

CNN: Do you think the mistreatment of the prisoners was an isolated event or was it wide spread?

Talebani: I think it was an isolated and a small event. According to our information gathered from all over Iraq, particularly about the places that have direct contact with the American soldiers, the US soldiers treat the Iraqis very cordially.

The fact is that the policy of torturing the Iraqi prisoners was carefully crafted by the Pentagon, the CIA, and the Defense Department, and it was

passed to the professional teams in Iraq through the chain of command. The interrogators from the CIA and Marine Military Intelligence set up "hard sites" in the prison and the trained Military Police "softened up" the prisoners by using extreme and vicious means. The International Red Cross sent a report to the US government in February 2004, three months before the torture scandal was publicly exposed, stating that:

"It is clear that our findings do not allow to conclude that we are dealing with here in the case of Abu Ghraib was isolated acts of individual members of the Coalition forces. What we have described amounts to a pattern, a broad system". The fact is that the US policy of torturing the Iraqi prisoners stems from the nature of imperialism in general and from the occupation of Iraq in particular. The US imperialists mobilized a quarter million-strong invasion force against the tiny country of Iraq in order to establish their world hegemony, political and economical domination over the entire Middle East region, and to control the energy resources of the region. Bush and Blair tried to convince the public opinions that Saddam was building atomic bombs and other weapons of mass destruction. After it became clear that Saddam had no weapons of mass destruction, the US/UK claimed the invasion of Iraq was to liberate the Iraqi people from the brutal conduct of the regime of Saddam Hussein. These lies are exposed now too by revealed US atrocities against the Iraqi people. Day after day, new atrocities against the prisoners are exposed. These crimes committed against the Iraqi people reveal the true nature of the occupation, the occupation that is not for "freedom and democracy", but for strategic domination of the region.

The fact is that the Iraqi people, the people of the Middle East, and the majority of the people of the world opposed the aggression against the Iraqi people by the US and its reactionary allies. The first Gulf war and the 10 year-long US sanction on Iraq had already killed 1.5 million Iraqis, and the invasion and occupation of Iraq have added to the number of victims. The resistance to the occupation has developed rapidly in Iraq. The mass and armed resistance of the Iraqis in Fallujah, Baghdad, and other cities has put the occupying forces in a quagmire of defeat. To safeguard their imperialist interests, the US authorities have waged an outrageous fascist campaign of systematic torture to break the resistance movement and to terrorize the whole Iraqi population.

The entire US establishment, from the White

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Toufan International

The International Bulletin of the Party of Labour of Iran

No. 18

June 2004

Day after Day, the US Orchard of Democracy Bears New Fruit!

The horrific photos of "civilized" torture of Iraqi prisoners have been broadcasted all over the world. These photos show a tiny portion of what has been happening in Abu Ghraib prison. There are more than 40,000 prisoners in Abu Ghraib and several other US-set up installations throughout Iraq. Thousands of Iraqi people have no knowledge of the fate and the whereabouts of their family members who are imprisoned by the US authorities in Guantanamo type installations in Iraq. One can only imagine what has been happening to these detainees.

Torture and inhuman treatment of Iraqis at Abu Ghraib prison were wide spread, and the US authorities knew about them months before they were exposed. The sexual humiliations and degradations that have come to light only expose a tiny portion of crimes that are committed against the Iraqi people by the US occupiers. Outright rape of men and women and children were reported repeatedly.

In his testimony at the US Congress on May 7, 2004, the Secretary of Defense (read: war!) Rumsfeld admitted that more photos, videos, and tapes were going to come out. He stated that:

"It is going to get a good deal more terrible, I am afraid".

A spokeswoman for the International Red Cross said that, "The photos are certainly shocking but our reports are worse".

The New York Times reported on May 13th that CIA interrogators used techniques such as strapping down prisoners, pushing them under water, and bringing them to the edge of drowning.

The New Yorker Magazine revealed the internal Pentagon report on Abu Ghraib prison by Major

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Aznar Got His Just Desserts!

A Skin Crosses through Tannery!

When the shining moon hides, harmful insects will become the actors on the scene!

When the cats are away, the mice will play!

The Spanish Premier Aznar, or as President Bush called him Anzar, violated the democratic rights of the Spanish people through his conservative and fascist policies. While more than 90% of the people of Spain were opposed to the war in Iraq, Aznar sent Spanish troops to suppress the people of Iraq. The government of Premier Aznar showed that it had no respect for the opinion of the overwhelming majority of the people of Spain, violated even the formal democracy, and shamelessly insisted on being a servant of the US imperialists. Premier Aznar, the Phalangist and a good son of Franco, was one of the stern allies of the US imperialists in Europe. At the time when Germany, France, and some other European states were opposed to the invasion of Iraq, Aznar adopted a resolution around which he gathered some European countries such as the Catholic Poland and Italy of Berlusconi. Aznar wanted to show the US that the "young Europe", contrary to the "old Europe" is an ally of the US.

Aznar's selfish and criminal acts in Iraq were responded to by terrorist actions in Madrid. Aznar who was busy with the elections campaign against his socialist rivals tried to falsely blame the Basque separatist ETA for these terrorist actions. The Spanish government had adopted a policy of extreme suppression against ETA. By accusing ETA of the terrorist actions in Madrid, Aznar thought that he can mobilise the terrorist events for his own interests in the elections and can confirm the correctness of the state suppressive policy towards ETA. Aznar falsified the news about the Madrid train explosions.

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Toufan International is published quarterly and includes selected articles from Toufan, the Central Organ of the Party of Labour of Iran.

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