

Toufan International

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Human Rights Are Retired!

On the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of Universal Declaration of the Human Rights, many countries have issued statements on the Declaration's history, its origins, and its place in today's world. While all the UN member states have endorsed the Declaration, however, many formally violate the very rights it protects either through formal practice or through omission of action.

One of the countries in which the human rights are violated extensively is Iran. The regime of the Islamic Republic talks a lot about the human race but dislikes the human beings. For the Islamic Republic, there are no rights on the Earth for the people, and the rights in the Heaven are in the hands of God. This is why God should constantly have pity for his people and does not get angry at them; otherwise, the biggest part of their bodies would be their ears!

Of course, no divine religion has a good record of observing the human rights. Theocracy interprets human rights according to its religious expediency. The violation of the human rights is not at all limited to Islam. A woman in Islam has a half value of a man but she does not have even half the rights of a man! One may logically think that this "half of a man" should have half the rights of a man. But we cannot find logic in any religion, let alone in Islam. In Islam, "punishing" a human being is as easy as drinking a glass of water. At the beginning of the Iranian revolution in 1979, many repentant activists were not forgiven for their "sins" and were executed. The Islamic authorities argued that

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The UN Sanctions On Iran Are Imperialist and Conspiratorial Acts Against the Iranian People!

After the US threatened and bullied and made concessions and deals with the big powers, the 15-member Security Council of the UN unanimously passed resolutions to impose economic sanctions on Iran. The resolutions have specifically targeted Iran's plan to develop nuclear technology and have imposed strong sanctions against the institutions and companies and individuals related to the plan. The resolutions require that Iran immediately stop its activities related to uranium enrichment or else Iran will face further actions by the UN.

The third UN resolutions was adopted after weeks of delay and after the US made concessions to Russia and China. South Africa, Libya, Vietnam, and Indonesia who were opposed to any resolution were put under extreme pressure to go with the US-dictated resolution. **Continued on page 4**

The Child Workers, the Cheap Labour!

According to the statistics published by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF and the UN, nearly 250 million children in the world have to engage in hard manual labour because of their poor economic conditions. Of these children, 61% are in Asia, 32% are in Africa, and 7% are in Latin America. Although it seems that child labour is a problem created by the so called "Third World" and "Developing" countries, careful investigations reveals the role of the imperialist monopolies and multinational corporations in the exploitation of children. Many multinational corporations in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Philippines, Mexico, and Brazil have a hand in exploiting cheap child labour. A report by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions on child labour in Philippines states that

"In the Philippines the **Continued on page 6**

Human Rights

repentance was not a permit to live, but it may help the individual to get into Heaven. In Islam, expediency will allow the system to end the life of an important scientist or thinker for a non-significant matter. The importance of this punishment for the Islamic authorities is the preservation of their order. This punishment will intimidate the masses, and the authorities can continue their free rides and their parasitic life. In Islam, women are stoned for "adultery", a cruel punishment inherited from the deep bottom of the history. In Islam, children have no rights. Since the Islamic Republic of Iran is theocratic, its foundation has contradictions with the principles of human rights. A democratic religion in Islamic nations has never existed and will never exist because dispatching a messenger by the court of the almighty God is itself an undemocratic act. The appointment of a prophet, not the election of an individual by the people, is undemocratic. This undemocratic feature that tends to devalue human beings is in all the main religions that have holy books, including Islam.

From its birth, the regime of the Islamic Republic has not respected the public opinions of the Iranian people. The Islamic authorities carried out a blood bath and slaughtered many thousands of freedom fighters by using ridiculous religious and nonreligious justifications. The very same regime, under pressure of the world public opinions and protests of many countries, changed its method of dealing with opponents.

The regime banned public executions and stoning and prohibited making videos of these mediaeval punishments. Of course, when the expediency of Islam demands to intimidate the population, the Islamic authorities will restart the public stoning and execution. The violation of human rights is in the nature of all theocratic regimes. These regimes do not consider any rights for the people. This lack of consideration is their best tool to shrug off their violations of human rights.

The people of Iran have seen the crimes and Islamic justice of "their" corrupt and reactionary Islamic regime. They ridicule

the authorities and thank God that the pure Imams are not ruling the country; otherwise, the situation would be worse!

Joe Stork, the deputy director of the Human Rights Watch's Middle East and North Africa Division said on the violation of the individual rights of the Iranian people:

"When police routinely break down doors to enforce a brand of morality, it means a line has been crossed to invade people's privacy at any time."

But the mullahs do not even believe in the morality they promote. The Islamic authorities, from ministers to the members of the Parliament to the revolutionary guards to sheikhs and mullahs to ayatollahs, are all busy committing sinful acts, but they prescribe morality to the masses. Invading the private life of an individual is a violation of his/her basic human rights. Lashing, imprisonment, and cash fine are tools that must turn Iran of the mullahs to a heaven! Twenty nine years of Islamic rule has not proven to the authorities that the demands of the masses cannot be stopped by suppression and deceit.

In recent months, we have been faced with an increase in the number of executions in Iran, twice as many as last year. Despite the world protest and domestic outrage, several individuals were stoned, the right hand and left foot in five individuals were amputated, and two people were dropped to their deaths from a great height. When the US invaders dropped Vietnamese from a high altitude and when the Shah's regime dropped the revolutionaries from helicopters into the Salt Lake, we exposed these medieval acts of imperialists and their lackeys as crimes against humanity. Now the regime of the Islamic Republic exonerates the hideous acts of the imperialists and fascists by issuing an Islamic decree to authorise the same acts. Truly, the expediency of Islam can make spectacular miracles!

Of course, the violations of human rights in the imperialist countries or in the Zionist state of Israel are carried out differently. They first define who is not a human being. According to Israeli Zionists, Arabs, and particularly Palestinians are not human beings. The US imperialists believe that Iraqis, Afghanis, and Iranians are not human beings. By this arbitrary **Continued on Page 3**

Human Rights

definition of human being, they facilitate the human rights violations. Since the Iraqis are not human beings, their killing by white phosphorous is not crime and is not considered murder. The Zionists murder several Palestinians every day, have erected a long apartheid wall around the entire Palestinian nation, and have imposed a food blockade on them with the hope of breaking their morale and force them to surrender. The western democracies do not consider the Afghan people as human beings and therefore slaughter them in weddings and funerals, and these murders are, therefore, technically not considered "human" rights violations. The US invaders even recommend the torture of these "non-human beings," and the Pentagon legal experts write legal statements to justify torture and to explain why these individuals do not qualify for protection of human rights. According to these judicial experts, kidnapping and hostage-taking by the liberation movement of Iraq are crimes and must be condemned, but the kidnapping of hundreds of people by the CIA, taking them to secret houses and torturing them by advanced torture techniques is not violations of human rights. Germany bombarded the civilian areas in Yugoslavia in order to break it apart. The US did and does the same thing in Iraq and Afghanistan; Israel did and does the very same act in Palestine; France and Italy and Australia do the same thing in Afghanistan.

The experience shows that in the sixtieth anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights, these rights have been turned into tools of political aggression, swindle, and deceit. The imperialists trample the content of the Declaration under their feet while they claim they are defending it. The same imperialist criminals criticise the reactionary regimes of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and the like. No progressive individual in the world will believe in these ridiculous shows by a bunch of deceitful and anti-human thugs. The human rights violations in some countries have become excuses for the imperialists to carry reactionary violence

against the masses of these countries. As a matter of fact, the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the like will benefit the most from the criticisers who themselves have bloody hands. How can one trust the words of a torturer when it comes to a discussion and the implementation of human rights?

Human rights will be realised in the world when the social classes are abolished, and concretely, when imperialism and capitalism are eliminated and hence all material bases for the violation of human rights are eradicated. It is then that there will be no room for Khomeinis, Bushes, Hitlers, the Shahs, Yaltsins, and Khurochevs.

Child Labour

4,133 child workers who were interviewed and examined, 73% had eye diseases, 61% had respiratory diseases, 64% had heart problems, 69% had hearing problems, and 83% had dermatological problems. Hundreds of child labourers are hurt every year by incidents at their workplaces. Loss of fingers and limbs, severe burns, and paralysis are just a few of the many injuries that have been suffered by child workers.

According to the Article 9 of the UN Declaration of the Rights of the Child:

"The child shall be protected against all forms of neglect, cruelty and exploitation. He shall not be the subject of traffic in any form. The child shall not be admitted to employment before an appropriate minimum age; he shall in no case be caused or permitted to engage in any occupation or employment which would prejudice his health or education, or interfere with his physical, mental or moral development".

Although the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran has signed the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, the government, in practice, provides the ground for further expansion and exploitation of child labour through implementation of a series of neo-liberal economic policies that expand and intensify poverty throughout society.

The fact is that no government that is based on plunder is able to solve the social problem of child labour. The abolishment of child labor in Iran is possible only by the destruction

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Sanctions

Indonesia abstained.

We believe that these sanctions lack any judicial legitimacy and are US political moves designed to implement its expansionist policies and to further control the energy resources of the Middle East. These sanctions, though they have little practical effect on Iran's nuclear activities, are calculated political acts and represent a diplomatic victory for the US imperialists headed by the Bush administration which has disgracefully faced defeat in Iraq. The US imperialists needed these psychological and diplomatic victories in order to implement the scenario of regime change in Iran when they needed it. These sanctions are plots against the interests of the Iranian people and will have disastrous consequences for the region.

The fact is that Iran has signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and in return, Iran is given the right to develop nuclear technology and to enrich uranium. According to the Treaty, Iran will enjoy assistance from International Atomic Energy Agency on this development. This right is given to all members states that have signed the Treaty. Without the recognition of this right for the signatory, the treaty will be legally void, and the commitment to its articles will be unbinding.

Iran has repeatedly announced in all her official statements that its nuclear activities are for peaceful purposes and has declared that she has no desire to develop nuclear weapons. The International Atomic Energy Agency and the US intelligence organisations have concluded that there is no evidence to indicate that Iran is trying to make nuclear weapons.

If Iran withdraws her signature from IAEA, then Iran would have the right to build nuclear weapons. USA, Israel, Pakistan, France, England, and ... are not even members of IAEA, and each has an arsenal of nuclear weapons that can destroy the whole world. A matter that is good and desired for one cannot be bad and forbidden for other. Whether having atomic bombs is in the interests of the Iranian people and what position the Iranian communists have taken on the issue have

been discussed extensively in our publications.

The US has not signed the Treaty and has unconditional support for the Zionist state that has hundreds of nuclear bombs. IAEA is not given any permission to inspect the US or Israeli nuclear sites. Let us not forget that the US has many thousands nuclear warheads and is the only country in the world that has used nuclear bombs on a civilian population. What legal or ethical standing does the US have to claim a moral high ground? Is this the law of jungle? The states that make big propaganda noise about Iran's nuclear development are themselves the most criminal and conscienceless states and lack the moral legitimacy to criticise others about the danger of nuclear weapons. It is up to the Iranian people to make decisions on this issue and to propose universal nuclear disarmament.

The US imperialists are trying to impose demands on Iran that are illegal, illogical, and inconsistent with internationally recognised norms. We evaluate the sanctions imposed on Iran by the UN Security Council as political, colonial, and coercive acts that serve the interests of the imperialist powers. We strongly condemn these sanctions. By imposing these sanctions, the US is trying to create in the long-term a scenario similar to the scenario of regime change in Iraq, a scenario that accused Saddam of having nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, a scenario that ended up with the invasion and occupation and destruction of a sovereign nation and the pointless deaths of countless civilians.

After 16 US intelligence organisations slapped George Bush on the face and reported that Iran had no activities after 2003 to build nuclear bombs, the Bush administration started to complain about Iran's ballistic missile program. The US authorities are trying to fabricate documents on this newly raised "concern". The head of IAEA, Al-Baradei claims that Iran is building missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads. When Iran protested these accusations, Al-Baradei responded that if Iran was not trying to build this kind of missile, Iran should open its entire military facilities to the world to see, so we can trust Iran! What ridiculous and astonishing logic!

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Sanctions

The accused has to prove that she is not guilty! Mr. Simon Smith, the British representative in the IAEA showed some slides and stated that

"The dates on the slides show that Iran has continued its nuclear arm program after 2003."

Some of the slides were shown even before 2003, but Mr. Smith, with all his careful attentions to the slide, did not specify what slide belongs to what year.

After the report given by the US intelligence organisations, Mr. Smith said that

"Iran has probably continued its nuclear arm program after 2003."

We can say that Mr. Smith has probably gone insane after 2003!

The imperialists have turned the entire world judicial system upside down. If Iran builds missiles that carry satellites into orbit, these missiles have the capability of carrying nuclear warheads too, and that they can close in on specific targets in many countries. Can one conclude from these possibilities and probabilities that Iran has no rights to build missiles, satellites, etc? Don't China, Japan, Pakistan, India, Israel, North Korea, USA, France, and many others have missile technology? According to what international treaty is Iran or any "non-allied" country obliged to not develop space or missile technology? Can't one argue that the metals made in Iran's steel industry can be used in missile technology and thus Iran has no right to develop its steel industries?

No freedom loving individual can support the policy of imposing imperialist sanctions on any country. Our Party, the Party of Labour of Iran (Toufan), strongly condemns the reactionary and imperialist-affiliated groups and trends and national chauvinists in the Iranian opposition movement who cheer and encourage the UN Security Council to adopt sanctions against Iran. These groups are inspired by George Bush's "New World Order" and by his "Extended Middle East" policies. We continue to expose those who are silent on the UN sanctions on Iran. We see nothing for these groups but shame and defeat.

One must learn from the disastrous consequences of the sanctions on Iraq and of the fate of Chalabis.

Child Labour

of the criminal and capitalist regime of the Islamic Republic and by the establishment of a socialist society.

The imperialist monopolies plunder the resources of the developing and underdeveloped countries. The New liberal policies of the World Trade Organization, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund destroy the agriculture and domestic industries of developing countries by implementing privatisation while eliminating subsidies and custom tariffs. The imperialist institutions such as WTO, WB, and IMF impose labour laws to protect their capital and to prevent the establishment of progressive and independent trade unions. These policies spread and intensify poverty all over the world and contribute heavily to the spread and intensification of child labour.

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Student Day in Iran

The university students of Iran marched on the anniversary of 16th of Azar (December 7), the Students Day, commemorating the death of 3 students who were gunned down by the Shah's police on the day US vice president Nixon visited Iran few months after the CIA coup in 1953.

This year, among other things, the students were chanting No to Islamic Republic, No to Gender Apartheid, Free All Political Prisoners, the Student Movement Supports the Workers Movement.



Child Labour

the field study looked at a German textile multinational with 48 branches around the world, including one in the Philippines, which produces women's clothing such as bras, girdles, panties and bikinis. 98% of its output is marketed in Europe; the remainder is sold in the Philippines. This company produces clothes in the Philippines because of the low wages which it has to pay, and like many other businesses in the Philippines it benefits from using child labour. It does not do so directly, but contracts work to local firms and ask no questions; these firms employ child labour themselves or sub-contract the work again. Some children start working at the age of four. When local operators receive an order from a multinational for a certain quantity of underwear, either they produce it in their own factory or they farm it out to sub-contractors in community-level 'factories' that are nothing more than small huts. Most of the community-level workers are children. The child-workers, mostly girls, are chosen for their extreme poverty, their docility and their dexterity with their fingers. The sub-contractor pays the children considerably less than the contractor pays him for each item. There is always a delay in paying for the work which is contracted out, which means that the child-workers have to wait for her meager pay-packets. Contractors also compete fiercely to win the limited number of contracts that are on offer. They offer the very lowest possible price, and this ensures that the child-workers' wages stay low. The beneficiary of this process is the German multinational. The underwear that reaches its main factory is in an advanced state of manufacture, thanks to obedient hands which have done jobs such as sewing, embroidering, making button-holes and attaching separate pieces of the product. Children often have to make do with one or two meals a day, which inhibits their mental and physical development. The field study found that from four to six years of age child-workers have their earnings appropriated by their mothers".

This is an example of thousand cases of labour exploitation of children.

In Iran, the Islamic Republic's neo-liberal

economic policies have been implemented in the past two decades by the "Reconstruction" government of Rafsanjani, by the "Reformist" government of Khatami, and by the "Pro justice, Pro affection" government of Ahmadinezhad. These policies, all of which are agreed upon by all the factions within the regime, have provided the ground for the condition in which according to the state statistics twenty million Iranians live below the poverty line, twelve million live in absolute poverty, and one million sleep hungry. According to the latest statistics published by Iran's Department of Statistics, out of 13,253,000 children between the ages of ten and seventeen, 3,600,000 are school drop-outs, 1,670,000 are directly involved in labour, and 915,000 are considered as house-children. The Department of Planning and Management of the Islamic Republic of Iran reported that 380,000 children between the ages of ten and fourteen have regular jobs and 370,000 have seasonal jobs.

The child workers constitute an energetic, mobile, and cheap labour force. This force has neither legal protection nor any kind of insurance, and therefore is the cheapest and also tax-free labour force for employers.

According to Article 79 of Iran's labour laws; it is illegal to employ a child under the age of fifteen. But the Islamic government has exempted small workshops with less than ten employees and house-shops and family-shops from the labour laws. Through these exemptions, the Islamic government has created a ground for the employers to exploit children. There are more than 150,000 small shops in Tehran alone, and each is exempt from state inspections. Thousands of these shops employ child workers.

There are child workers in vegetable, fruit, and livestock farms. They are in fisheries, mines, mills, blacksmith workshops, and cement factories. They work in blanket and garment shops. They do harsh work in metal cutting and welding shops and the rug companies. They are forced at an early age into carpentry, auto repair, and construction. The very harsh health and safety and physical conditions under which these children work have caused them serious physical, psychological, social, and emotional trauma. The ISNA News reported that in a random sample of

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Security Pact

protected as soon as the US soldiers put foot on Iraq.

Iraq is going back to pre oil-nationalisation era. George Bush's claims about democracy and freedom for Iraq and the Middle East were big lies. It became clear to the masses of the Gulf region that the invasion of Iraq was based on lies and that the occupation was for the imposition of US strategic hegemony and for plundering Iraqi energy resources.

Today, the expulsion of the occupying forces from Iraq is the only way to guarantee the security of the Middle East region. The demand for the unconditional and immediate withdrawal of all occupying forces from the region is a revolutionary demand. The imperialists and their allies, justifying their permanent presence in the region, are opposed to this demand and argue that their exodus from Iraq means a "victory" for fanatic Islamic forces. The Iranian groups opposed to the regime of the Islamic Republic, some of which have "left" masks on, who are opposed to this demand are the collaborators of imperialism and Zionism. These traitors support the permanent presence of the US forces in the Middle East. We have declared many times that these forces are reactionary and they are for the invasion and occupation of the Lebanon and Iran, too. The developments of the daily events unmask the Trotskyite sellouts, the Kurdish national chauvinists, and the fake Iranian opposition groups.

The heroic struggle of the Iraqi people against occupying forces and the puppet regime continues unabated. The people of Iraq did not and will not accept such an anti-national pact. Just a few days after the signing of the security pact, hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets and denounced the occupation, the puppet regime, and the pact. Of 275 parliamentarians, 77 did not attend to cast their votes. Of 198 participants, a large portion voted against the pact. The pact was "passed" by less than two thirds of the Iraqi parliament, as it is needed by the US fabricated Iraqi Constitution. Furthermore, any international treaty with a country under occupation lacks credibility.

Maleki's government is a puppet regime and cannot be representative of the Iraqi people. Any agreement between Maleki and the US administration lacks legal and international credibility.

The stand against the US security pact in Iraq is a criterion to differentiate the revolutionary from reactionary forces in the Middle East. We ask all revolutionary and democratic forces to scrutinise the position of the Iranian organisations on this matter and make sharp criticisms wherever necessary. Our Party evaluates the US security pact as reactionary and in contradiction with the interests of the Iraqi people and of the people of the region. We demand the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces from Iraq. We salute the heroic struggle of the Iraqi people against the barbaric occupation. The US collaborators in Iraq are the enemies of the Iranian people and of the people of the region.

The workers of sugar-cane firm of Haft Tappeh founded their trade union.

After many years of struggle to establish their independent trade union, after fierce fight to overcome many state organised obstacles, finally the sugar-cane workers at Haft Tappeh successfully elected the steering committee of their union. The workers of Haft Tappeh have waged a heroic struggle, from strikes to sit-in, from traffic-stoppage to battles against police, to gain their just demands.



Security Pact

Iraqi at any time; the ports of Iraq will be under the US control; the Iraqis have no right to inspect the US shipments arriving at the ports, etc.

Due to Arab resistance and increasing waves of protests, the oppressions by the Israeli Zionists do not suffice to secure the interests of the US imperialists in the region. The lengthy presence of the US forces in the Middle East is part of the US strategy to control the region fully, to control the flow of oil, and to put pressure on Europe, Japan, China, and Russia. The presence of the US military bases in Iraq is a serious threat to the national interests of the countries of the region, particularly to Iran. The US imperialists can use the bases to invade any country in the region that does not yield to the US dictates.

The security pact with Iraq gives the US occupying forces judicial immunity. If a US soldier on duty commits a crime, the Iraqi judicial system has no authority according to the pact to prosecute the soldier. The immunity the US is seeking for its soldiers in Iraq reminds us of the immunity the Shah of Iran gave to 50,000 US military advisors in Iran. If a US advisor committed a hideous crime such as murder or rape, the Iran's judicial power had no authority to put him on trial. But if an Iranian accidentally hit a dog belonging to an American, he would have to pay a heavy compensation to the owner. The Iranian people never tolerated this colonialist immunity. This is the characteristic of all colonial pacts that have existed in history, and this is the nature of the security pact that has recently approved in Iraq.

During the Shah's time, the mullahs in opposition denounced the US immunity law with Iran. Today, the very same mullahs are in agreement with the immunity law in Iraq. Before the security pact was passed by the Iraqi parliament, the grand ayatollah Sistani stated that he would accept the immunity law provided the Iraqi parliament approves it. Ayatollah Sistani had found an excuse to recognise the immunity law. By his statement, he was trying to pass his responsibility for his approval of the law to the Iraqi parliament. Otherwise, every healthy minded individual

can realise that the approval of a law by a parliament does not change its colonialist nature.

According to the US imposed security pact on Iraq, the occupying forces can arrest any individual as they wish, dispatch armed forces to any town at any time, and repulse any domestic or external "threat". The US administration is not even willing to announce the size of the forces it will keep in Iraq. The US wants to have an open hand in the domination of the region. Few weeks before the approval of the security pact, Maleki's government tried its best to deceive the public about the content of the pact. By raising the discussions about the distinction between on duty and off duty US soldiers, Iraqi control over the US bases, and the lack of use of the US bases to wage an attack on a third country, Maleki puppet government tried to mislead the people of Iraqi.

One of the goals of the US invasion of Iraq was to control the energy resources of the country and the region. Iraq has the second largest fossilised reserves of the world, and they are easily extractable. Iraq nationalised its oil industries in 1972 and expelled the colonising corporations and cancelled all contracts with them. Today, the Iraqi oil ministry gives permission to the same corporations to return and resume the looting of the Iraqi oil. The oil minister of Iraq has even ignored the forty non-US companies that had bid on Iraqi oil. When pressure was mounted on the US Secretary of the State, Condoleezza Rice, to explain why the non-American companies have been deleted from the bidding and whether this deletion exposes the true nature of the US invasion, she responded that the decisions on the bids were made by Iraqis and not by the US. Initially, Exxon, Mobile, Chevron, and BP, corporations won the bids according to the "Iraqi decisions", and Kirkuk oil went to British-Dutch Shell Corporation. The Russian, Chinese, and Indian corporations have not granted any oil contracts. The French President Sarkozy's visit to the US and his sycophantic behavior toward George Bush and the change of policy by the French on the Middle East resulted in some contracts for the French oil company Total. It is little wonder why the Iraqi oil ministry was the only ministry that was

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Iraq Is to Be Colonised!

The US Security Pact in Iraq is a National Treachery and a Historical Shame!

The US president George Bush signed a security pact with the puppet regime of Iraq few weeks before the end of his term. This pact was signed by the US-installed regime and approved by the Iraqi parliament in an atmosphere of threat, intimidation, assassination, and buy off. By this pact, he can now keep the occupying army in Iraq with the justification of "the government of Iraq wants us to stay there". By signing the security pact, the US imperialists can manipulate the public opinion and continue their occupation.

The US invaded Iraq using the pretext of fight against "terrorism", "fundamentalism", and "political Islam". The Bush administration violated international laws of self-determination, occupied an independent and sovereign nation, and destroyed the fabric of Iraqi society. The war's architects committed crimes against humanity, and now they have imposed a security pact on Iraq to lengthen their occupation.

The world community and political forces, except a handful of sellouts and pro-imperialist forces such as the Iranian monarchists and the Kurdish national chauvinists of Iraq and Iran and the pro-Zionist Iranian "left," condemned the invasion and occupation of Iraq. After the US invaded Iraq, the UN was faced with a done deal and was forced, after the fact, to

accept the occupation and to give legitimacy to the presence of the US forces in Iraq. The UN mandate on the presence of the US troops in Iraq requires that the US withdraws all its forces from Iraq by the end of December 2008. According to the UN mandate, the occupying forces have no legal base for staying in Iraq. Now, by signing the security pact with Al- Maleki's puppet government, the US administration found a legal cover to remain in the Middle East.

This pact lengthens the occupation, violates the Iraqi national and political sovereignty, and turns Iraq into a colony for the US imperialists. The full text of the security pact has not been released to the Iraqi people. Both the US imperialists and Maleki's government keep the text of the pact secret from the people because the publication of the text enrages the people of Iraq and the entire Middle East. The several small pieces of the text of the pact that have been released show many troubling provisions: immunity to the occupying soldiers and to the US contractors in the case of crimes committed; thousands of armed forces with their offensive armaments will remain in many military bases the US has built and create a state within the state; the entire Iraqi air space would be under the control of US forces; Iraq has to pay part of the expenses of the US operations; US forces can arrest and detain any **Continued on Page 8**

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Send all correspondence to :

Toufan

Postfach 103825

60108 Frankfurt , Germany

E-mail address: Plitouf@hotmail.com

Plitouf@yahoo.com

Fax: 069/96580346 (Germany)

Web Site : WWW.Toufan.org

Toufan@Toufan.org