The occupation of Afghanistan is key to rescuing the status quo political, social and economic system in Canada from economic crisis. The recommendations from this panel will not fundamentally change anything about the occupation, nor will they represent the interests of regular Afghan people or working, poor people in Canada. This panel is nothing but a ruling class advisory to deal with a ruling class crisis. If it is "independent," it is indeed independent from the working and oppressed masses of Canada and therefore people in Canada shouldn’t be tricked by this ruling class maneuvering.

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According to the ORB, a British polling agency, over 1.2 million Iraqi civilians have been killed since the occupation of Iraq began in March 2003. In fact more than 1 in 5 households nationwide have suffered at least one death.

What accompanies this outright violence is something just as shocking – the short-term and long-term environmental catastrophes created by this brutality. Access to water, the destruction of sewers and irrigation systems, poisoning of agricultural soils and the implosion of agricultural production, and depleted uranium poisoning – all these threaten and in huge amount have already destroyed the livelihoods of Iraqis for generation to come.

Iraq is home to the oldest agricultural traditions in the world and was once self-sufficient in agriculture. How do we explain the present day situation then?

According to Global Research Institute, an upcoming Iraqi study found that over 75 percent of the vegetables and fruit consumed in Iraq are now imported from Syria, Jordan and Iran. Drainage systems depend on pumping machines that have come to a nearly complete stop because of electricity and fuel shortages. Soil is now corrupted from blackwater.

The vast majority of Iraqis live by two substantial rivers, the Euphrates and the Tigris. But today, about 70 percent of Iraqis have no access to safe drinking water, and only 19 percent have sewage access, according to the UN’s World Health Organisation (WHO).

The present situation in Iraq could be understood from Jabbar Ahmed, Iraqi farmer who in an interview said, “This gift from God is not used properly by the authorities because of the UN sanctions and the chaos that followed U.S. occupation of the country.”

Under US/UK occupation, the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has stated that Iraqi water problems “multiplied” since 2003. WHO also stated that Iraqis have now been hit by an outbreak of cholera from unusable drinking water. WHO confirmed in September that Iraq had registered 1,500 confirmed cases of cholera this year, compared to the 30 usually registered.

How can anyone justify the US/UK occupation of Iraq? As the death toll rises, the water feters, the soil spoils, and the people of Iraq face degradable and toomorous conditions – how is this occupation justified?

Iraqis have the human resources, the natural resources, and the obvious desire to build their own lives free from foreign conquest and to live with dignity. The first step towards improving Iraq’s situation is the removal of all foreign troops. Four years of misery, degradation and mass murder is enough.

US/UK OUT OF IRAQ! SELF-DETERMINATION FOR IRAQI PEOPLE! OUT NOW!

On October 25, 2007, Israel escalated its attacks against Palestine with the announcement that it would begin cutting off electricity to 1.4 million residents of Gaza. This latest attack on the people of Palestine comes as part of an increasing campaign

by Israel and other imperialist countries to crush the anti-occupation resistance in Gaza. This campaign has escalated since the democratically-elected Hamas government came to power in 2006.

On September 19 this year, Israel declared Gaza an "enemy entity" and began tightening its control of Gaza’s borders and restricting imports to Gaza in order to make life more difficult for Palestinian. Israel controls Gaza’s borders, air space and coastline, and also maintains majority control of Gaza’s utilities and access to humanitarian aid. These new sanctions against Palestinians in Gaza are already resulting in a major humanitarian crisis.

On October 20, the Shifa Hospital – Gaza’s main hospital – ran out of anesthetic due to restricted medical imports, and was forced to limit its surgeries to only critical procedures. In addition, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation says that the food situation in Gaza has deteriorated considerably since September, with over 30% of children undernourished. Israel claims that the sanctions are “necessary” and that the move to cut off power to Gaza is to deter attacks against Israel by Palestinian resistance fighters. But on September 26, Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak announced that Israel “is getting closer to carrying out a widespread operation in Gaza”. In reality, these new sanctions are a part of an attempt to crush the growing resistance in Gaza with a major military attack. In fact Israel hopes with the combination of military attack and imposing humanitarian crisis to be able to defeat Hamas government and Palestinian resistance in Gaza. This anti-human and criminal act against the people of Palestine must be condemned by all peace-loving people. Together with the people of Palestine, we must demand: Israel Hands off Gaza! Self-determination for Palestine!