

Canada Out of Afghanistan Now!

151 Canadian Troops, 1077 US Troops, 684 NATO Troops
and Tens of Thousands of Afghans Killed - for What?

On July 25th, 2010, the true face of the occupation of Afghanistan was once again exposed to the world with the release of tens of thousands of pages a total of 91,000 secret military documents obtained by the website WikiLeaks. But the scandal of the release of these documents did not just reveal the criminal nature of the war that the US, Canada and NATO countries are imposing on the Afghan people. In fact, there was nothing really new that was not revealed by previous scandals. What was new in these documents were the criminal and brutal acts happening in Afghanistan being documented by occupation forces themselves. What it truly reveals is the desperation and frustration of the imperialist powers, especially the US, in the quagmire of Afghanistan. Furthermore, the documents show that not only are the occupation forces not progressing in the consolidation of their war and occupation, but in fact every indication is that they are losing the war.

Countless issues for the foreign forces occupying Afghanistan have come to light recently: the corruption of the Karzai government; the lack of existence of a viable central government in Afghanistan in light of military occupation; the problem of widespread opium production; the widespread problem of lack of health care and other basic social services; the connection between the Taliban and Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI); the crisis of leadership in NATO forces and in the US army; the resignation of former chief of forces in Afghanistan, Stanley McChrystal; the killing of more and more innocent civilians and the inability of the occupation forces to tell apart Taliban from the masses of people in Afghanistan due to the popularity of the resistance movement. All in all, these issues pose the

fundamental question: what are these imperialist forces doing in Afghanistan?

When foreign forces invaded and occupied Afghanistan in 2001, they made many claims about the great humanity of their military invasion. They were there, they claimed, to liberate Afghan women. They would bring democracy to Afghanistan. They would ensure human rights were respected and bring a better life to Afghan people.

But today, despite nearly a decade of foreign occupation, nothing has improved in the life of ordinary Afghans. Although billions of dollars have been poured into the occupation of Afghanistan, three-quarters of the country still lacks access to drinkable water. Ninety percent have no access to sanitation facilities, and 70% of the population lives on less than \$2 per day. On top of this daily hardship of life, Afghans now face the constant threat of their homes being bombed with their families inside, of checkpoint shootings by occupation forces, and of night-time home raids, not to mention ongoing persecution, torture and executions.

Why then have the foreign forces not achieved what they claimed when they invaded Afghanistan in 2001? The truth is, bringing a better life for Afghans was never their intention. Afghanistan was in fact the first victim of a new era of war and occupation that has opened in the world today. As imperialist countries like Canada, the US, France, England and others face the collapse of their economies, they are looking more and more for new access to resources and new trade markets to exploit to delay total economic collapse. Sitting between Europe, the Middle East and Asia, Afghanistan was a prime location not only for exploitation of resources, but also as a base for further war

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Afghan women protest civilian killings by occupation forces. Kabul, August 1, 2010.

Statements by Cuba and Venezuela on the
Israeli Raid on the Gaza Freedom Flotilla

VENEZUELA

May 31, 2010 -- The President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Commander Hugo Chávez, emphatically condemns the brutal massacre perpetrated by the State of Israel against the members of the Liberty Flotilla, as a result of the war action started by the Israeli Army against defenceless civilians, who tried to carry humanitarian aid supplies to the Palestinian people of the Gaza Strip, who are victims of the criminal blockade imposed by the State of Israel.

President Hugo Chávez, on behalf of his government and the Venezuelan people, expresses his deepest regret and sends his deepest condolences to the families and relatives of the heroes who have been victims of this state crime, and commit to honour their memory and to give the necessary help so that the responsible of this murderers are severely punished.

The revolutionary government of Venezuela will continue denouncing the terrorist and criminal nature of Israel, and it reaffirms, today more than ever, its unbreakable commitment with the fight of the Palestinian people for freedom, the sovereignty and the dignity.

CUBA

Havana, May 31, 2010 -- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba has learned with profound concern of the criminal attack perpetrated in the early hours of May 31 by the special forces of the Israeli Army on a flotilla of boats which, in international waters, was transporting humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people resident in the Gaza Strip, an attack that provoked death and injury among various members of that flotilla.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expresses its most energetic condemnation of this devious and criminal attack on the part of the Israeli government and calls on the international community and peace-loving peoples to demand the immediate lifting by the Israeli authorities of the illegal, ruthless and genocidal blockade of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

Cuba wishes to convey its most heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and reiterates its support for and solidarity with the just cause of the Palestinian people and their inalienable rights, which include the creation of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Canada Out of Afghanistan!

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and occupation against Iraq and the prime target, Iran.

After nearly nine years of seeing only worsening conditions of daily life, more and more Afghan people are joining the resistance to the occupation forces in their country, whether protesting on the streets or taking up arms to fight the occupiers. The growing resistance has created a deepening crisis and quagmire for the occupation forces as they fight a losing battle against Afghans who are struggling for their dignity and right to self-determination. There can be no better life for Afghans as long as foreign troops remain in the country. There can be no future for women, youth and all people in Afghanistan as long as the imperialist occupiers have turned this country into a military base. The only way forward for



Canadian soldier searches an Afghan man, March 9, 2009.

Afghan people is an end to the destruction and occupation of their country.
Canada/US/NATO Out of Afghanistan Now!
Self-determination for Afghanistan!

TWO ANTIWAR ACTIONS

AFGHANISTAN

No Escalation!

Troops Out Now!

ANSWERcoalition.org

PETITION DRIVE & RALLY

SATURDAY AUG. 21

2PM

VANCOUVER ART GALLERY

GEORGIA ST. + HOWE ST.

(DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER)

PICKET ACTION!

THURSDAY AUG. 26

4PM

ARMY FORCES

RECRUITMENT CENTRE

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NEW WESTMINSTER

(NEAR HWY 101 & DOUGLAS CREEK)

MOBILIZATION AGAINST WAR & OCCUPATION

WWW.MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG

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AFGHANISTAN IRAN PALESTINE HAITI

HANDS OFF:

IRAN PALESTINE

END THE SIEGE ON GAZA NOW!

SELF-DETERMINATION FOR INDIGENOUS NATIONS IS CANADIAN!

SELF-DETERMINATION FOR ALL OPPRESSED NATIONS!

What is the Future of Occupied Afghanistan?

Unable to go to school this 8-year-old walks through a cemetery to collect metals for money in Afghanistan. According to the Afghan Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, only 35% of Afghan children are enrolled in primary schools.

Joe's Cafe - Large North Hall

1150 Commercial Drive

Wednesday August 18, 2010

7:00PM

Public Forum

MAWO

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The Origin of Wars

Reflection by Fidel Castro

I affirmed on July 4 that neither the United States nor Iran would give in; “one, due to the pride of the powerful, and the other, out of resistance to the yoke and the capacity to fight, as has occurred so many times in the history of humanity...”

In almost all wars, one of the parties wishes to avoid them, and sometimes, both. On this occasion, it would come about even though one of the parties does not wish it, as happened in the two World Wars in 1914 and 1939, with only 25 years of distance before the first outbreak and the second.

The slaughters were horrific, they would not have been unleashed without prior errors of calculation. The two parties were defending imperialist interests and they believed that they would obtain their objectives without the terrible cost that that implied.

In the case that concerns us: one of them is defending national, absolutely just interests. The other is pursuing illegitimate intentions and crude material interests.

If we analyze all the wars that have taken place, starting from the known history of our species, one of the parties has sought those objectives.

Any illusion that, on this occasion, such objectives will be reached without the most terrible of all wars is absolutely vain.

In one of the best articles published by the Global Research website on Thursday, July 1, signed by Rick Rozoff, he provides abundant indisputable arguments on the United States’ intentions, of which any well-informed person must be aware.

“...Victory can be attained when an adversary knows it is vulnerable to an instantaneous and undetectable, overwhelming and devastating attack without the ability to defend itself or retaliate,” is what the United States thinks, according to the author.

“...A country which aspires to remain the only state in history to wield full spectrum military dominance on land, in the air, on the seas and in space.”

“...To maintain and extend military bases and troops, aircraft carrier battle groups and strategic bombers on and to most every latitude and longitude. To do so with a post-World War II record war budget of \$708 billion for next year.”

It was “...the first country to develop and use nuclear weapons...”

“... the U.S. retains 1,550 deployed nuclear warheads and 2,200 (by some counts 3,500) more in storage and a triad of land, air and submarine delivery vehicles.”

“The non-nuclear arsenal used for disabling and destroying the air defenses and strategic, potentially all major, military forces of other nations will consist of intercontinental ballistic missiles, adapted submarine-launched ballistic missiles, hypersonic cruise missiles and bombers, and super stealthy strategic bombers able to avoid detection by radar and thus evade ground- and air-based defenses.”

Rozoff lists the many press conferences, meetings and statements of Joint Chiefs of Staff and high-ranking members of the government of the United States in the last few months.

He explains the commitments to NATO and the reinforced cooperation with Near East allies, primarily, read Israel. He says, “The U.S. is also intensifying space and cyber warfare programs with the potential to completely shut down other nations’ military surveillance and command, control, communications, computer and intelligence systems, rendering them defenseless on any but the

most basic tactical level.”

He speaks of the signing in Prague, on April 8 of this year, of the new START Treaty between Russia and the United States, which “does not contain any constraints on current or planned U.S. conventional prompt global strike capability.”

He refers to countless news items on the subject and illustrates the intentions of the



United States with one overwhelming example. He notes that “...The Department of Defense is currently exploring the full range of technologies and systems for a Conventional Prompt Global Strike (CPGS) capability that

could provide the President more credible and technically suitable options for dealing with new and evolving threats.”

I maintain the opinion that any president whosoever, not even the most expert military chief, would not have one minute to know what should be done if it was not already programmed on computers. Imperturbably, Rozoff relates what the Global Security Network affirms in an analysis titled: “Cost to test U.S. global-strike missile could reach \$500 million,” by Elaine Grossman. “The Obama administration has requested \$239.9 million for prompt global strike research and development across the military services in fiscal 2011... If funding levels remain as anticipated into the coming years, the Pentagon will have spent some \$2 billion on prompt global strike by the end of fiscal 2015, according to budget documents submitted last month to Capitol Hill.”

“A terrifying scenario comparable to the effects of a PGS attack, in this case the sea-based version, appeared three years ago in *Popular Mechanics*: “In the Pacific, a nuclear-powered Ohio class submarine surfaces, ready for the president’s command to launch. When the order comes, the sub shoots a 65-ton Trident II ballistic missile into the sky. Within 2 minutes, the missile is traveling at more than 20,000 ft. per second. Up and over the oceans and out of the atmosphere it soars for thousands of miles. “At the top of its parabola, hanging in space, the Trident’s four warheads separate and begin their screaming descent down toward the planet. “Traveling as fast as 13,000 mph, the warheads are filled with scored tungsten rods with twice the strength of steel.

“Just above the target, the warheads detonate, showering the area with thousands of rods—each one up to 12 times as destructive as a .50-caliber bullet. Anything within 3000 sq. ft. of this whirling, metallic storm is obliterated.”

Rozoff immediately explains the April 7 statement of General Leonid Ivashov, joint chief of staff of the Russian armed forces, made in a column entitled “Obama’s nuclear surprise.”

In that same column Ivashov, refers to the speech by the U.S. president in Prague last year: “The existence of thousands of nuclear weapons is the most dangerous legacy of the Cold War” – and his signing of the START II agreement in that same city on April 8, Rozoff quotes the author, who stated:

“No examples of sacrificial service of the U.S. elites to mankind or peoples of other countries can be discovered in the U.S. history over the past century. Would it be realistic to expect the advent of an African-American president to the White House to change the country’s political philosophy traditionally aimed at achieving global dominance? Those believing that something like that is possible should try to realize why the U.S. – the country with a military budget already greater than those of

all other countries of the world combined – continues spending enormous sums of money on preparations for war.”

“... ‘The Prompt Global Strike concept envisages a concentrated strike using several thousand precision conventional weapons in 2-4 hours that would completely destroy the critical infrastructures of the target country and thus force it to capitulate.’” “The Prompt Global Strike concept is meant to sustain the U.S. monopoly in the military sphere and to widen the gap between it and the rest of the world. Combined with the deployment of the missile defense supposed to keep the U.S. immune to retaliatory strikes from Russia and China, the Prompt Global Strike initiative is going to turn Washington into a modern era global dictator.”

“In essence, the new U.S. nuclear doctrine is an element of the novel U.S. security strategy that would be more adequately described as the strategy of total impunity. The U.S. is boosting its military budget, unleashing NATO as the global gendarme, and planning real-life exercise in Iran to test the efficiency of the Prompt Global Strike initiative in practice. At the same time, Washington is talking about the completely nuclear-free world.”

In essence, Obama is trying to deceive the world by talking of a humanity free of nuclear weapons, which would be replaced by other extremely destructive ones, ideal for terrorizing state leaders and achieving the new strategy of total impunity.

The *yankis* believe that Iran’s rendition is already close. The European Union is expected to announce a sanctions package of its own to be signed on July 26.

The last meeting of the 5+1 took place on July 2, after Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad affirmed that “his country would return to talks at the end of August with the participation of Brazil and Turkey.”

A high-ranking EU official “stated that neither Brazil nor Turkey will be invited to take part in talks, at least not at this level.”

“Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki stated that he was in favor of defying international sanctions and continuing with the enriched uranium program.”

From Tuesday, July 5, in the face of the European reiteration that they are to promote additional measures against Iran, this country has responded that it will not negotiate until September.

Every day the possibilities of overcoming the insurmountable obstacle are reducing further.

What is going to happen is so evident that it can be foreseen in an almost exact form.

For my part, I must make a self-criticism; I committed an error in affirming in the June 27 Reflection

that the conflict would break out on the Thursday, Friday or at the latest Saturday. It was already known that Israeli warships were navigating toward that objective together with the *yanki* naval forces. The order to search Iranian merchant ships was already given.

However, I did not realize that there was a prior step: confirmation of the negation of permission for the inspection of its mercantile fleet on the part of Iran. In analyzing the torturous language of the Security Council imposing sanctions on that country, I did not notice that detail to give the inspection order full effect. It was the only thing missing.

The 60-day period given by the Security Council on June 9 to receive information on compliance with the Resolution expires on August 8.

But something really most lamentable happened. I was working on the latest material on the delicate issue drafted by the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the said document did not contain two key paragraphs – the last two of the abovementioned resolution – which textually state: “Requests within 90 days a report from the Director General of the IAEA on whether

Iran has established full and sustained suspension of all activities mentioned in resolution 1737 (2006), as well as on the process of Iranian compliance with all the steps required by the IAEA Board of Governors and with other provisions of resolutions 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007), 1803 (2008) and of this resolution, to the IAEA Board of Governors and in parallel to the Security Council for its consideration; “Affirms that it shall review Iran’s actions in light of the report referred to in paragraph 36 above, to be submitted within 90 days, and: (a) that it shall suspend the implementation of measures if and for so long as Iran suspends all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, including research and development, as verified by the IAEA, to allow for negotiations in good faith in order to reach an early and mutually acceptable outcome; (b) that it shall terminate the measures specified in paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 12 of resolution 1737 (2006), as well as in paragraphs 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of resolution 1747 (2007), paragraphs 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of resolution 1803 (2008), and in paragraphs 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23 and 24 above, as soon as it determines, following receipt of the report referred to in the paragraph above, that Iran has fully complied with its obligations under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and met the requirements of the IAEA Board of Governors, as confirmed by the IAEA Board of Governors; (c) that it shall, in the event that the report shows that Iran has not complied with resolutions 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007), 1803 (2008) and this resolution, adopt further appropriate measures under Article 41 of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations to persuade Iran to comply with these resolutions and the requirements of the IAEA, and *underlines* that further decisions will be required should such additional measures be necessary...”

A *compañero* from the Ministry, after the exhausting work of many hours at the machine making photocopies of all the documents, fell asleep. My eagerness in seeking out information and exchanging points of view on these delicate issues, made it possible for me to discover this omission.

From my point of view, the United States and its NATO allies have said their last word. Two powerful states with authority and prestige did not exercise their right to veto the perfidious UN resolution.

It was the only possibility of gaining time to seek some formula for saving the peace, an

objective that would have afforded them greater authority to continue fighting for it.

Today, everything is hanging from a tenuous thread.

My principal intention was to advise international public opinion

of what was occurring.

I have in part achieved that by observing what was taking place, as a political leader who, for many years, has been confronting the empire, its blockades and its indescribable crimes. But I am not doing it out of revenge.

I am not hesitating to run the risks of compromising my modest moral authority.

I shall continue writing Reflections on the subject. There will be a number more after this one in order to continue going more profoundly into it in July and August, unless some incident occurs to trigger the deadly weapons currently pointed at each other.

I have very much enjoyed the final games of the World Cup and the volleyball games, in which our valiant team is marching at the head of its group in the World League of that sport.

Fidel Castro Ruz

July 11, 2010

8:14 p.m.

Translated by Granma International



Iranian women attend a protest over Iran’s right to nuclear energy, December 2006.