Since the beginning of June 2014, the open wounds of Iraq caused by sanctions, wars and occupations have grown deeper. This is when the Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS, also known as ISIL) began an onslaught against Iraq, establishing control of important border crossings, cities and territories in Iraq through terrorist actions directed against Iraq’s occupying forces. As of June 20, ISIS forces have taken control of Iraq’s second largest city, Mosul, and declared a “Caliphate” state in the areas under their control in Northern Iraq in opposition to the Iraqi state. Fighting between ISIS and the Iraqi military forces continues, imposing more violence and destruction on the people of Iraq who are already facing the daily reality of a country devastated by over 11 years of U.S.-led war and occupation.

In response to the ISIS terrorist attacks, the U.S. government has sent 770 troops (with the possibility of many thousands more to be sent) into Iraq. The majority of them, 470, are charged with security of the gigantic U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. The remaining 300 have been assigned as so-called “military advisors” to assess the training and condition of the Iraqi Army which the U.S. government built-up and trained as part of the ongoing occupation of Iraq. Increased U.S. troop presence in Iraq has been accompanied by F-15 jets, Apache helicopters and drones on surveillance missions and their influence has been expanded to also include the protection of Iraq’s main airport in Baghdad.

The U.S. government has justified their increased troop presence by claiming that they are sending troops and military equipment to Iraq in order to help bolster the efforts of the Iraqi army in their fight against ISIS and to help Iraq achieve stability. But how is this possible when, in fact, it is the U.S. government itself that is the biggest destabilizing and terrorist force in Iraq? U.S.-led war, occupation and massive airlifts of military equipment to Iraq have not only failed to make Iraq more stable, but have instead caused the deaths of at least 3 million Iraqis. In 2014, more than 1 million children alone were killed by 12 years of devastating U.S. sanctions that began in the 1990s. Sanctions were followed by 12 years of the assassination with the March 2003 carpet bombing and invasion and continue on to this day. This occupation has resulted in the complete destruction of medical, educational and sanitary infrastructure, with all factors of quality of life in Iraq plummeting under the assault of the full force of the U.S. military.

These are the open wounds in Iraq created by the US government and their allies. But, really, the question must be asked: what are the roots of an organization like ISIS? First of all, ISIS is the product of U.S.-led interventions, that combined left Iraq broken and divided. Western occupying forces utilized the age-old strategy of dividing and conquering as they fomented a bloody sectarian war in Iraq that turned brothers into enemies in order to defeat a powerful Iraq resistance to U.S./UK occupation. ISIS has also benefited from Western military, financial and covert intervention in Syria. They are one of the many so-called rebel forces in Syria that operate with the support and backing of the U.S. government, and funding and support from U.S.-allies Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Kuwait. On top of this, it is also clear who is benefiting from the ISIS attacks on Iraq. The U.S. government and their allies need an unstable and divided Iraq in order to continue their occupation, resource theft and struggle for complete hegemony in the Middle East.

Mobilization Against War and Occupation - MAWO is standing with anarchist coalitions of peace-loving people around the world in demanding “No to Another U.S. War in Iraq! What the people of Iraq need is not more U.S. drones and warplanes; the people of Iraq demand their self-determination. People in Iraq demand the capacity of defending themselves against any foreign intervention including ISIS. The march of ISIS is not the result of a sectarian battle in Iraq, as Western media might have us all believe, but the product of imperialist intervention in Iraq, Syria and across the Middle East. It is the result of the new era of war and occupation that began with the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001.

While MAWO condemns the recent tragic terrorist attacks in Ottawa and Quebec, including the attack on Parliament Hill, which resulted in the loss of two innocent and unarmed civilians, however, this should not detract us from the terrorism which the government of Canada is responsible for against the hundreds of thousands of innocent people of Iraq and Syria. Canada is now sending its CF-18 fighters, two surveillance aircrafts, an air-to-air and air-to-ground military personnel to take part in air strikes on Iraq. The government of Canada is also responsible for terrorizing the people of Afghanistan with over 10 years of war and occupation. As well, the terrorism that has been inflicted upon indigenous people in Canada for hundreds of years by all administrations and governments both before and after Canadian Confederation as a modern state still remains unaccounted for.

The acts of terrorism in Ottawa and Quebec are only made more tragic as they are being used to justify the government of Canada’s war drive and the further military occupation of people under war, occupation and military aggression for the sole purpose of colonization of third world countries. Military aggression by the Government of Canada against Iraq and Syria is the continuation of their participation of wars and the brutalization of former Yugoslavia, Afghanistan and Libya. Since the beginning of the new era of war and occupation all governments of Canada have participated in joint terrorist actions against colonial and semi-colonial countries. Now, the government of Canada, a terrorist state, is trying to scare working and oppressed people in Canada about the danger of “home-grown” terrorism. The only purpose of this fear-mongering is to allow the government to rule in an atmosphere of fear and suspicion; to justify their further military aggression abroad; and to severely limit democratic, human rights, and social liberties of people in Canada in an attempt to suppress voices of decent and opposition at home.

MAWO is committed to continuing to organize against any forms of imperialist intervention in Iraq and Syria. We oppose the Harper regime’s use of fear-mongering and Islamophobia, especially after the recent tragic terrorist attacks on Parliament Hill. We oppose the Harper regime’s attempt to re-suppress voices of decent and opposition at home. MAWO condemns the recent tragic terrorist attacks in Ottawa and Quebec but will not allow that to detract us from the terrorism which the government of Canada is responsible for against the hundreds of thousands of innocent people of Iraq and Syria. MAWO invites all peace-loving people around the world in demanding “No to Another U.S. War in Iraq! What the people of Iraq need is not more U.S. drones and warplanes; the people of Iraq demand their self-determination. People in Iraq demand the capacity of defending themselves against any foreign intervention including ISIS. The march of ISIS is not the result of a sectarian battle in Iraq, as Western media might have us all believe, but the product of imperialist intervention in Iraq, Syria and across the Middle East. It is the result of the new era of war and occupation that began with the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001.

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Why Obama's War on ISIS Must Be Opposed

September 16, 2014

President Barack Obama announced Sept. 10 that the U.S. military would build an international coalition to destroy the Islamic State. He said there were already 30 countries in this coalition. Administration spokespeople, in the Sept. 14 Sunday morning talk shows said they were still building the coalition. The next morning a conference of 30 countries opened in Paris on this theme.

The electronic media and the pages of major newspapers — the New York Times, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times and Christian Science Monitor, for example — were filled with debate on Obama’s new war policy. Active and retired Pentagon officers, State Department officials, policy strategists from the imperialist think tanks and op-ed writers all put out their critiques of Obama’s strategy of opening another long war while promising no U.S. “boots on the ground.”

Arguments ranged from “just right” to “too little, too late,” with only a few saying “no way.” Many of the retired officers — for example, General Jack Keane, who urges a policy even more expansive, and President Obama’s “drones czar,” John Brennan, are currently sitting on the boards of military contractors. That’s one sector of U.S. capitalism that gains from war, whichever way the battle goes.

That this debate is going on in front of the public reflects a problem within the U.S. ruling class about the wisdom of waging yet another open-ended U.S. war of conquest in West Asia. More important than this debate, however, is the need to stress what this debate is really about: they are debating how best to position the U.S. to expand and defend the strategic and economic interests of the U.S. ruling class.

What’s at stake are the interests of the richest one-hundredth of 1%, those who own the oil companies, the weapons industry, the banks and the other major monopolies. They are the real masters of U.S. foreign policy and the imperialist foreign policy apparatus that serves their interests.

Far from inspiring Syrians or Iraqis, U.S. imperialism and its allies are tapping into the interests of the masses of people there. Washington and its allies — from the Pentagon to the State Department — are the real purveyors of terrorism. They are using the open-ended war on terror to fuel the war on the people of Syria and Iraq.

Washington and its allies in NATO and West Asia have also caused great loss of life and destruction in Syria, NATO, including Turkey, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf monarchies, weaponized the groups fighting to oust the Syrian government. U.S.-backed groups have been, in part, financed by the U.S. government. U.S. weapons killed between 200,000 and 400,000 people in Syria. The estimated toll of the war in Syria by 2016 is 400,000. The war in Iraq is followed, U.S. and Russian travelers to Cuba in separate visits. They have shown up at the initial meetings prepared to take the lead in new wave of migration to the United States driven Cuba or not.

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