Turkey’s Destructive & Reactionary Role in the New Era of War and Occupation

By Janine Solanki

“This is what we call a fact. This is irrefutable proof that Turkish armed forces, shell borderlines, Syrian settlements with large-caliber artillery systems,” said Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Major General Igor Konashenkov at a press conference. The Russian Ministry of Defense provided evidence in the form of publicly available video footage.

Syria has suffered greatly under five years of a US fomented civil war, the rise of Daesh (ISIS) taking over territory and committing atrocities throughout Syria, and destructive airstrikes by US-led forces including Canada. Already Syria has seen 250,000 of its people brutally killed, half its population displaced and over four million registered as refugees.

The first strike in the new era of war and occupation came on the heels of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, with the US-led war on Afghanistan. Turkey as member of NATO was quick to prove itself as a trucy ally to imperialist forces, participating in the NATO forces occupying Afghanistan and taking command of NATO forces twice between 2002 and 2005, with upwards of 1,300 Turkish soldiers.

However it was long before this that Turkey opened its doors to the US. Since the 1950’s the US has had foreign military bases in Turkey. These bases were instrumental for launching the US invasion of Iraq in 2003. Today the Incirlik airbase, close to Syria’s borders, has swollen to over 5,000 troops and is a launchpad for US airstrikes against Syria, all from Turkey’s soil and authorized by the government of Turkey.

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The New Era of War & Occupation

The U.S. and its allies used the justification of “humanitarian intervention” to intervene in Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen. This had immediate consequences. The U.S. and its allies have targeted civilians, caused significant economic damage, and displaced millions of people.

With the rise of ISIL (September 11, 2001) terrorist forces launched the new era of war and occupation, starting with the invasion and still ongoing.

US imperialism has been responsible for over $200 billion in economic costs estimated at over $200 billion since the conflict began in 2011. This report refers to the Syrian troops as “the U.S. forces” and the US and its allies have targeted every country in the Middle East and Northern Africa. This has an independent and anti-imperialist government, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya has been completely destroyed. The U.S. has supported wars in Libya, Yemen and elsewhere.

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