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Hands Off Syria!

The Obama administration is stepping up its threats and pressure against Syria.

On May 18, Obama issued an executive order freezing financial assets of the Syrian President, Vice President, Prime Minister and 4 other Syrian citizens. The order also makes it illegal for Americans to do business with them.

In issuing the order, Obama said that Syria's actions, "constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States and declared a national emergency to deal with that threat."

Obama accuses Syria of "escalation of violence against the people of Syria including through attacks on protestors, arrests and harassment of protestors and political activists, and repression of democratic change."

The day after issuing the executive order Obama declared, "President Assad now has a choice: He can lead that transition (to reform) or get out of the way."

The executive order implements the mandate of the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act passed by Congress the fall of 2003 in a nearly unanimous vote.

The "Syrian Accountability Act" follows the same Big Lie

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Campaign for Economic Rights

The economic well-being and very livelihoods of the American people are under attack on two fronts.

Firstly, corporate downsizing and restructuring – which have become permanent features of economic life – continue to throw millions of workers out of their jobs while putting tremendous downward pressure on wages.

Secondly, even as these eco-

nomic conditions worsen, the government is slashing funds for income-support programs for the unemployed and poverty-stricken, for health care, education, and other vital social programs. The government is not only attacking the most vulnerable, it is attacking the economic rights and well-being of the whole

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Growing Rebellion Against U.S. Occupation of Iraq

On May 25 in Baghdad, 100,000 protestors gathered in Tahrir Squair to demanded the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Iraq.

The protesters waved flags and chanted "No, no, America. No, no, occupation. Yes, yes, Iraq." Signs and banners read, "Terror," "Corruption," and "No to the Occupation." Many demonstrators spoke out against the Status of Forces Agreement as part of the U.S. assault on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq.

The May 25 demonstration is part of a wave of anti-occupation protests that have taken place in Baghdad, Mosul, Basra and other cities and towns throughout Iraq beginning in February. At the same time, attacks on U.S. forces are on the rise. According to a May 26 article in the Wall Street Journal, there were 93 armed attacks in February, 128 attacks in March, and 162 attacks in April.

Since February hundreds of activists have been killed and wounded

by Iraqi security forces while trying to hold political demonstrations. Iraqi authorities have issued orders banning public protests in cities such as Baghdad and Sulaimaniya province. Dozens of Iraqis have reported being detained without charge and tortured by Iraqi security forces.

Currently, there are 47,000 U.S. troops in Iraq and Pentagon officials are worried about the "potent resistance" in Iraq. On May 24 Pentagon officials announced that some 7,000 additional troops from the U.S. Army's Third Infantry Division will arrive in Iraq this summer.

The colonial domination of Iraq will only be brought to an end when U.S. imperialism is forced out of Iraq and the inalienable right of the Iraqi people to self-determination and sovereignty is recognized. The American people must further extend and organize our anti-war movement until U.S. imperialism is forced out of Iraq, lock, stock and barrel!

Syria

from page 1

logic which the U.S. used to prepare its war against Iraq. Syria is branded as a "supporter of terrorism" because it does not accept U.S. dictates and domination and because it speaks out in defense of the Palestinian liberation struggle. Syria is accused of building "weapons of mass destruction" to cover over the reality that it is the U.S. government which has militarized the Middle East, flooded it with hundreds of thousands of troops, carried out the savage bombardments of Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya, threatened nuclear-first strikes against Syria,

The latest sanctions and threats against Syria are dangerous steps on the road to yet another U.S. war. On May 10, Senator John Kerry (D), head of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee warned that any "chance to engage" President Assad is now "lost and that's the end of it."

Make no mistake about it. The U.S. government is preparing yet more wars in the Middle East and Syria is one of its next targets. U.S. imperialism aims at nothing less than recolonizing the entire region.

The American people must be active and resolute in opposing every aggressive step taken by the U.S. government so as to thwart its war plans against Syria.

> Hands Off Syria! U.S. Out of the Middle East!

Venezuela Rejects U.S. Sanctions

the Venezuelan Embassy in the U.S.)

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has learned of the decision announced by the Department of State of the United States to impose sanctions against our oil national company, Petróleos de Venezuela (PDVSA), as part of a unilateral law targeting the Islamic Republic of Iran known as CISADA.

The Bolivarian Government expresses its strongest rejection to this decision since it constitutes a hostile action on the fringes of international law that violates the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and its revolution have a strong, independent and sovereign oil

(Tuesday 5/24; Statement of industry able to operate and permanently fulfill its commitments. Faced with this aggression, Venezuela further ratifies its oil independence and sovereignty.

> The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is undertaking a general assessment of the situation to determine how these sanctions affect the operational capacity of our oil industry and, therefore, the supply of 1.2 million barrels of oil per day to the U.S. Pending this assessment, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reserves itself the most adequate answer to this imperialist aggression.

> The revolutionary Government calls on all the Venezuelan people, laborers and especially the oil workers, to stay alert and mobilized in defense of our PDVSA and the sacred sovereignty of the homeland.

Economic Rights

from page 1

working class and people. And it is clear that more attacks - including attacks on Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security – are being prepared.

Facing this situation, the working class and people have no choice but to band together and claim their inalienable economic rights. These rights can only be claimed through collective action - through the economic and political struggles of the working class and people themselves. In order to assist this struggle, we are calling on everyone to join in the Campaign for Economic Rights.

The Campaign for Economic Rights recognizes that every human being, simply by virtue of her/his humanity, is entitled, by right to:

- Food, clothing, and shelter.
- · A Secure Job or Guaranteed Livelihood, commensurate with our country's high level of development. This includes the right to incomesecurity in the event of old age, loss of capacity to work, etc.
- Free, Comprehensive Health Care.
- Education at all Levels, from infant care through the university.

In the modern world, all of us are born into society and only live in and through society. Thus it is the elementary responsibility of society and government to create the conditions necessary to guarantee these inalienable rights for everyone. These rights must be recognized in the fundamental law of the land and guaranteed in practice. Clearly our country has all the resources necessary to insure the rights and well-being of all the people.

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