

THE WORKER 75¢

April 10, 2024

Newspaper of the Workers Party, U.S.A.

Vol. 38, Number 4

U.S. Atrocities in Iraq Keep Mounting

On April 5, U.S. Central Command put forward information on U.S. ground operations in Iraq which took place between January 1 and March 31. During that timescale it reports 66 operations resulting in a body count of 11 dead and 33 prisoners of war captured.

The U.S. military stays present and flexible in Iraq in order to prevent the rejuvenation of the recently installed Iraqi regime, to terrorize the Iraqi people, and to bring attention to the jackboot of U.S. imperialism. Without the oppressive process of resurrecting an old style colonial system imposed upon it from without through force-of-arms, the Iraq nation would once again be prospering and advancing with great strides.

The two parties launch and maintain a war in Iraq that already killed 30,000 Iraqi soldiers and hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilians. U.S. imperialism aims not only to

keep Iraq under Washington's thumb, to create a racist psychosis in American public opinion, to set up an offshore center for lucrative financial swindles, to grab the natural resources, and to secure trade privileges, but also to support its endeavor of imposing military blackmail on the whole world.

U.S. foreign policy is conducted in violation of all accepted norms and international laws pertaining to relations between states. This foreign policy is dictated by the interests of the U.S. multi-national corporations which are willing to commit any crime in order to keep key countries "safe" for their investments and exploitation.

The American people are called upon to organize themselves and rise to the challenge of the war on Iraq and the entire program of war and imperialism imposed by our own capitalist ruling class.

We must do so by equipping our-

selves with the necessary tools required to win our demand for complete withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Iraq and around the world. This means going to the widest sections of people to expose the aggressive character and exploiting aims of the war. We must show how the war in Iraq is but one link in a chain of our "own" government's imperialist aggression. We must build our organizations in opposition to and struggle against both of the parties of war. We must sweep away the rot of opportunism in order to take the high road of principled struggle against imperialism.

We want to inspire others with the great truth that the people are the motive force of history. Through struggle and revolution we can defeat the war plans of imperialism and overthrow the imperialist social relations of domination and subjugation.

Update on the Asia Pivot

The following article is reposted from the March 25 publication of the Anti-Imperialist Forum at www.anti-imperialist.org.

The U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited the Philippines and expressed shared concerns about China's actions in the South China Sea and the Philippines' exclusive economic zone. He reaffirmed the U.S. Defense Department commitments to the Philippines and discussed the upcoming Balikatan 2024 war games.

Blinken's visit was met with protests organized by civil society and anti-war groups outside the Presidential Palace in Manila. The protesters

carried banners with messages against U.S. presence in the Philippines and U.S. intervention in the region.

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo also visited the Philippines to promote U.S. multinational corporations investing in the country. Over \$1 billion in investments were announced during her visit.

The Balikatan 2024 military exercises between the U.S. and the Philippines are scheduled to take place from April 22 to May 8, 2024. It is expected to involve a total of 16,000 troops, with participation from Australia and France. The exercises will include an integrated air missile defense

exercise and drills focusing on ship-sinking exercises.

A new U.S. funded sea port will be built in Basco on the Island of Batan, which is located 100 miles north of Luzon and 120 miles south of Taiwan. The U.S. army plans to visit the site during the Balikatan military exercises.

The Balikatan 2024 exercises will involve U.S. military drills conducted outside of the Philippine's territorial waters, about 22 kilometers off the west coast of Palwan. The declared aim is to show the seriousness of defending Philippine territory and the presence of allies.

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Asia Pivot

The assertion made by Gina Raimondo, the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, that the trip to the Philippines was a unique occurrence is debunked by historical evidence. A simple examination of the national financial statement reveals that Ameri-

can multinational corporations have been taking advantage of the Philippine's neo-colonial status for over a century.

The recent commitment by the U.S. Department of Commerce to support \$1 billion worth of investments

not only highlights the escalating trade tensions between the United States and China, but also contributes to the further super-exploitation of Filipino labor and positions the Philippines as a mere pawn in the Pentagon's strategy to encircle China.

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Press Statement of Vice Foreign Minister of DPRK

Kim Son Gyong, Vice-Minister for International Organizations of the DPRK Foreign Ministry, released the following press statement on April 5:

The U.S. and its followers adopted by force another illegal "human rights resolution" against the DPRK at the 55th Session of the UN Human Rights Council held on April 4.

I scathingly denounce the "human rights resolution", fabricated by the U.S. and its followers with the ulterior intention to overthrow the sovereignty of the dignified DPRK and its socialist system, as a grave infringement upon the DPRK's sovereignty and an act of interference in its internal affairs.

The "resolution" invented on the initiative of the forces hostile to the DPRK is nothing but a political-motivated fraud document run through with all sorts of lies and tricks to unreasonably slander our state's policy on ensuring genuine human rights and its actual situation.

In the DPRK regarding the people-first principle as its state policy, the rights and interests of the people are given top and absolute priority and genuine human rights are fully ensured

in conformity with the ideal and demand of the masses of the people.

The hostile act of the U.S. and its followers seeking to slander and overthrow the socio-political system of the DPRK, which is steadily promoting the independent rights and well-being of the people with full responsibility, is the most heinous crime against humanity that poses the worst threat to all human rights of our people.

The evermore pronounced anti-DPRK "human rights" racket by the hostile forces brings into bolder relief the uneasiness and defeat mentality and moral inferiority of the U.S., driven into a tight corner in the political and military confrontation with the DPRK, and only redoubles our people's will to fight against the U.S. and the enemies.

Taking this opportunity, I again express strong concern about the fact that the UN human rights bodies, that should contribute to protecting and promoting the human rights around the world through ensuring respect and cooperation among states on the basis of the principle of the UN Charter, have been abused as a tool of the U.S. and the West for realizing their sinister political purposes.

The "human rights" racket of the

U.S. and the Western forces in the UN arena by no means represents the sentiment of the international community aspiring to justice and equality.

Many UN member states fairly comment that the adoption of anti-DPRK "human rights resolution" is the epitome of the present deplorable situation of the UN human rights arena, which is being turned into that of politicization and confrontation day by day due to the high-handed and arbitrary practices of the U.S. and the West.

The present cruel reality, in which the violation of a state's sovereignty is bound to be led to human rights abuses, proves once again the inseparability of protecting the human rights and defending the sovereignty.

Invariable is the stand of the DPRK to thoroughly defend the sovereignty and dignity of the state and the rights and interests of the people from all sorts of threats and conspiratorial moves of the hostile forces.

The hostile forces' moves to infringe upon the sovereignty of the DPRK under the signboard of "protection of human rights" will be doomed to failure.

Editor: Anne Beck

In August we published a Special Edition of The Worker to coincide with the launch of our new campaign slogan. Members, friends and supporters of the Workers Party are encouraged to participate in the campaign by reciting the slogan with others in any language of their choice while shaking hands and looking into each other's eyes. Here it is: "If you are illegal, then I am Illegal!" Do it with love in your heart. We are looking forward to even more write-ins and reports. Tell us anything you'd like to about your experience with it.

P.O. Box 25716 Chicago, IL 60625
(312)834-7570 www.workersparty.org