

Newspaper of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

Keep Ryton Open:

The Workers' Struggle for Ryton and to Define and Fight for the Alternative

The Ryton car workers and their unions are taking forward the struggle to prevent Peugeot Citroen from closing down the Coventry

plant and transferring production to Slovakia.

It is very necessary, both from point of view of the interests of the workers as well as the interests of

the local and national economies, that the workers and their organisations take a stand and battle against the social irresponsibility of the car

monopolies. This is not so much a matter of protecting British industry and British jobs as one of fighting for the dignity of workers

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British Government Complicity in Acts of Torture

BRITAIN ACCUSED OF COLLUDING IN US RENDITION FLIGHTS

Britain was named on June 7 as one of 14 European countries which colluded with the CIA in the operation of secret flights delivering "terror-

ist suspects" for interrogation.

A report from Swiss MP Dick Marty for the Council of Europe says a group of countries acted as "staging posts" in the transfer



by American authorities of men wanted for questioning. These countries include Britain, Germany, Spain and Turkey,

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Stop the War Campaign Conference Report

Against the "War on Terror"

by Andrew Murray, National Chair

THE STOP THE WAR COALITION HELD A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2006. Despite well-advertised competing attractions, such as England's first match in the World Cup, 660 delegates registered, which is more than for any annual conference since January 2003, when the country was aflame in opposition to the then-impending aggression against Iraq. This alone is testament to the enduring strength of the anti-war movement and

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Published by RCPB(ML)
170 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2LA
Registered as a newspaper
Printed by Millennium Press

For Your Information:

Keep Ryton Open Campaign



TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS' UNION

Oppose the closure and support the trade union alternative

In April 2006 Peugeot announced that it intends to close its Ryton manufacturing plant near Coventry in 2007, but Ryton is a profitable plant so the T&G is leading the fight back to keep manufacturing at Ryton.

The unions representing workers at Ryton, the T&G and amicus, have put forward a comprehensive survival plan which shows that profitable car production can continue at the Ryton plant.

The plan has been widely welcomed by politicians, the general public and workers in Peugeot unions across France, Belgium and Spain. It proposes:

1. Peugeot commits to build a new model at Ryton in 2009/10. This would save PSA euro 105 million in investment

2. A single shift would operate at Ryton to build the 206, and perhaps other models (convertibles, for instance) which are currently outsourced

3. The unions at Ryton support the move to single shift this summer and enables those who want to leave to do so

4. The unions support an examination of all ideas from every source in order to minimise costs until a new model comes in

5. We seek guarantees of UK government support for company with grant aid and other financial help. The unions have already had fruitful discussions with senior UK government ministers.

Since the closure announcement, Ryton workers have taken their case to the people of the West Midlands and the whole UK

trade union movement. Ryton representatives were warmly cheered at the major May Day Rally in London, where T&G general secretary Tony Woodley pledged support, and have met an enthusiastic response when distributing leaflets about their case in Coventry and elsewhere.

Background: Why Ryton should stay open

Peugeot are claiming that they need to close Ryton because of production and logistical costs and instead wants to set up production in Slovakia.

However the company originally intended to build a new model in Ryton and made a successful application for European funds and aid to support an

investment of euro 250 million. So why did Peugeot change its mind?

Is Peugeot unprofitable and looking to reduce losses? No, Peugeot made profits of over euro one billion in 2005.

Is the Ryton workforce inefficient, unproductive or inflexible? No. T&G members are the most flexible in Europe and have delivered everything asked of them by the company and more, a fact admitted by the management.

Is the closure announcement a result of falling car sales or a need to reduce capacity? No. In 2005, the Peugeot group sold 3.9 million vehicles and the UK is Peugeot's third biggest market. So, what is the real reason for closing Ryton? Closing Ryton is about sacrificing UK workers to appease shareholders and increase profit by exporting jobs to Eastern Europe.

Keep Ryton Open: The Workers' Struggle for Ryton and to Define and Fight for the Alternative

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everywhere and against the motive force and logic of the car monopolies, including Peugeot, that what counts is the all-out competition to overcome your arch-rivals in the global marketplace.

The issue when it comes to fighting against de-industrialisation and the destruction of the manufacturing base is that the right to a sovereign economy must be defended, together with a motive of production that puts the social well-being in command. It is important that workers do not lose sight of this, and in any way conciliate with the chauvinism that

all that matters is "British" workers and "British" jobs. The stand of the car workers in the West Midlands has been to see through this narrow perspective and to make common cause with workers in other countries fighting against the same logic of the monopolies which is performing its wrecking activities on other sovereign economies. The best sentiment of the workers here is to support the workers in the countries of Eastern Europe, for example, who themselves wish to fight for their nation-building projects, while joining hands in their common fight against stepped up exploitation.

The monopolies have also wished to fashion the European Union against the sovereignty and

self-determination of peoples and as an area of free-trade, a bloc that allows the neo-liberal agenda to have free rein so that they can have a uniform market and maximise the share of social product which they grab. The workers here too have common cause as they struggle against the Europe of the monopolies and the dog-fights which take place between the European monopolies for control of this market and to compete with the US, Japanese and other monopolies, both within Europe and on a global scale.

The fights between the car monopolies is particularly fierce in the conditions of over-production which the industry faces. The workers cannot ignore these conditions and imagine that they can solve the problems of capitalism where the monopolies have failed. But neither does this mean that they surrender to these conditions and accept that there is

no alternative but to let the laws of the jungle take their course.

While recognising that they have to resist the dictate of the monopolies, they must also fight for the alternative, and for positions of political power. This means that they have to recognise that the "level playing field" does not exist under the social system which sanctions the private interests of the monopolies as sacrosanct, and the planning for the social well-being and the production for the material and cultural needs of the people as outside the scope of government.

To succeed in their fight to save Ryton, the workers can neither accept that the issue is one of thinking of England, nor that the issue is one of capitalist profitability. The viability of Ryton must be defined in terms of its benefit to the social economy, to the workers themselves and to the future direction of the economy.

Stop the War Coalition Conference 2006

Moving the Motion on the Demand for Anti-War Government

ROGER NETTLESHIP FROM
TYNESIDE STOP THE WAR COALITION

Delegates, Chair: Not only are we subject to illegal wars but subject to illegal debate promoting those wars and we are subject to pro-war governance. As we heard this morning, it is now almost illegal for us to protest against this pro-war governance at a time when there is a need to shift anti-war governance into government.

As you will know, the possibility of anti-war government was opened up after the Second World War and with the United Nations which demanded an end to resolving international conflicts through military means. A crime against the peace – something that Blair and Bush have committed over the last few years time

and time again – was considered the most serious war crime.

So, as you know, after the Second World War what we got in spite of the high hopes of the people was pro-war government. The US and Britain used the excuse of “containing communism” for pro-war government, and as we heard in the workshop on Korea this afternoon they committed genocide against the Korean people and then in Vietnam to name just two. But today that excuse has gone for the time being so they have created another excuse for pro-war government: the excuse of the “war on terrorism”.

But today 60 years have passed and what is more signifi-

cant is that the people of the world have placed on the agenda the need for anti-war government and February 15, 2003, was a defining moment for this movement.

It is this movement of all of us, it is this human factor and social consciousness which reflects the high road of civilisation which today can no longer remain on the sidelines but must find its expression in the governance of the country. To this end the anti-war movement has given birth so far to significant initiatives to bring this about: not only the idea of the People's Assembly but in members of the coalition intervening in the political process with anti-war candidates and involving the

peoples more and more in every possible way to break the hold of the warmongers

The motion embodies the demand to outlaw British involvement in war as of aggression both in word and in deed and to renounce the use of force in settling international affairs. Most importantly, it embodies what this broad coalition of the people stand for: the need to strengthen their unity and keep the initiative in our own hands and work with all our might to make a reality the demand to bring the troops home now, I move.

RESOLUTION 19

Tyneside Stop the War Coalition

The Demand For Anti-War Government

Recognising that the agenda for discussion in political life and in the media is whether, or not, the govern-

ment is justified in committing war crimes by invading and occupying Iraq and its attempt to create “debate” over whether

it is justified to launch a criminal invasion of Iran and other countries.

This conference resolves to place on the agenda that such a “debate” by any government and politician and the covering media is a crime against the peace that should be challenged under international law and is also an incitement to terrorism on a state level which is a crime.

Therefore the Stop War Coalition resolves to place on the agenda the demand for anti-war government as a constitutional matter that no such wars of aggression can be advocated, or supported in word or deed, that ensures that Britain ends its collaboration in all aggressive

military alliances with the United States, Europe and other countries; that it renounces the use of force in resolving and settling conflicts in international affairs amongst nations and pursues an anti-war policy in international affairs.

That it forthwith withdraws all of its troops from foreign soil and outlaws the stationing of British troops on foreign soil; that it stops the breaches of the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty and ensures its implementation in Britain with elimination of all weapons of mass destruction and that the government pays reparations for the crimes it has committed in Iraq and other countries.

Stop the War Coalition Conference 2006

Resolutions Presented to the Stop the War Coalition National Annual Conference 2006

NOTE:

There were 25 motions presented to the conference, motion 25 being an emergency motion from the NUJ on the French journalist Frederic Nerac who disappeared in Iraq, believed to be one of 20 journalists whose deaths are connected to US fire. This motion called for an independent investigation into all unlawful killings of journalists by coalition troops.

Twenty of the motions were passed, and five were defeated.

Besides Resolution 19, which we have highlighted as a separate article on page 3, we reproduce here a number of the other motions which now become Stop the War Coalition policy.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 1

Stop The War Coalition Steering Committee

Conference notes:

1. The situation in Iraq continues to deteriorate. The rate of deaths remains high and must be considerably higher than the 100,000 estimated in the Lancet report 18 months ago. There has been evidence of torture and ill treatment of prisoners. The US forces now have 50,000 prisoners of whom only 1.5 % have been brought to trial. Malnutrition is a major problem, unemployment stands at 50% and incomes have halved.

2. Oil production has halved and reconstruction has halted – witness the inability of the regime to restore adequate levels of water and electricity for the mass of the people.

3. The political process has failed millions of Iraqis, since power still remains in the hands of the US forces, along with their close allies among the Iraqis.

4. The troops meet an increasing level of resistance, and are widely opposed or resented, to judge by the election results last December and by poll evidence. They are not playing a peacekeeping role, nor are they part of the solution in Iraq, since they are upholding an occupation resented by millions of Iraqis.

5. The US and British governments, far from learning the lessons of their disastrous intervention in Iraq, are increasing their intervention elsewhere. More troops are being poured into an increasingly war torn Afghanistan, while the US is spearheading a process which is likely to end with an attack on Iran.

Conference resolves:

1. To show support for the people of Iraq who oppose the occupation and who want the troops to leave.

2. To organise practical solidarity where possible, and to continue to invite speakers from Iraq to Britain, as we did at the highly successful international peace conference last December.

3. To continue to campaign for the immediate withdrawal of British troops.

4. To oppose through demonstrations and other activities an attack on Iran by the US and Britain.

5. To organise and call for a mass campaign to stop war with Iran, including mass protests, direct action and civil disobedience. This should include calls for union members to stop work in the event of an attack, and for stoppages, walkouts and strikes involving workers, students and school students across the country.

6. To organise another international peace conference in conjunction with our international allies.

RESOLUTION 2

Stop The War Coalition Steering Committee

Civil liberties and the Muslim community

1. This conference opposes the new terror laws, including the clause on 'glorification of terrorism'. The response to last year's London bombings should be to try to find political solutions to the problems of terrorism, and especially to see the connection between the rise of terrorism and the war on Iraq. We believe that there are already adequate laws to deal with bombings and other terrorist attacks, and that these laws represent the scapegoating of one section of the community.

2. We oppose increased stop and

Stop the War Coalition Conference 2006

search which is aimed disproportionately at young Muslims and can only help to criminalise the community.

3. We fully stand behind the Muslim community which has played such a prominent part in opposing the war. We oppose all Islamophobia. We oppose all racist legislation and attacks which affect Muslims disproportionately, but also affect non-Muslim black and Asian people such as the police murder of Jean Charles de Menezes. Racism in society affects us all as it can divide and therefore weaken our ability to unite against the war and the warmongers.

4. The Serious Crimes and Disorder Act has led to restrictions on the right to protest within a mile of parliament. Microphones and megaphones are no longer allowed on protests and demonstrators must give 24 hours notice and gain police permission to comply with the law.

5. Already a number of people have been arrested under this law. Brian Haw has seen attacks on his camp. Five PSC supporters involved in a protest over the attacks on Jericho jail have been summonsed for failing to obtain 24 hours notice.

6. This law means we could not, for example, demonstrate on the day of an air strike on Iran.

We call for the full repeal of this law and the right to protest around parliament. We fully support all those prosecuted under this law.

7. We support the protest at the court hearing of the PSC demonstrators on June 15 th .

RESOLUTION 3

African Liberation Support Campaign Network

The Stop the War Coalition advances the unity of all antiwar

forces against the occupation and the neo-colonial manipulation of Iraq by US and British imperialism;

Conference also notes that western countries engage in various forms of meddling in the affairs of countries around the world and this meddling occurs in similar ways;

Conference observes that the wars across Africa, which western imperialist powers and multinationals are taking advantage of to loot Africa's resources, are examples of this type of interference;

Conference recognizes the work done by African Liberation Support Campaign Network (ALISC Network) and School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) Friends of Africa in bringing this issue to the fore within the antiwar movement and Conference has responded to this recognition by organizing the workshop on Africa's Forgotten Wars;

Conference resolves that all local Stop the War Coalitions and affiliated organizations should be encouraged to work with ALISC Network, SOAS Friends of Africa and communities from African countries where these wars are taking place to mobilize to put pressure on the government and institutions in UK to stop any such meddling and interference in the affairs of African countries;

Conference also resolves that all local Stop the War Coalitions and affiliated organizations should be encouraged to join in the June 30 Day of Action organised by the Congolese community in the UK on Africa's Forgotten Wars and also encouraged to implement decisions from the Conference workshop on Africa's Forgotten Wars.

RESOLUTION 4

Edinburgh Stop the War Coalition

Conference notes the continued use of British Airports for ren-

dition flights. Conference further notes the success of airport protests at Edinburgh, Glasgow and Prestwick airports organised by the Stop the War Coalition and Scotland against Criminalising Communities.

Conference encourages local groups across the UK to organise protests against rendition and supports the call by Edinburgh Stop the War for protests on 24 th June 2006.

RESOLUTION 8

RESPECT

Civil Liberties

This Conference rejects the use of the 'war on terror' as an excuse to sweep aside fundamental human rights and civil liberties and to criminalise legitimate protest.

Stop the War coalition should oppose any existing laws or proposed new laws that weaken our human rights or civil liberties.

Stop the War coalition should unite with the broadest movement in our opposition to these attacks on our hard won rights.

RESOLUTION 10

Socialist Workers Party

Conference notes with concern the preparations being made by the Bush administration to prepare an attack on Iran. Exactly the same steps that were taken before the invasion of Iraq are now being made by the Bush administration in relation to Iran – diplomatic efforts to isolate Iran and legitimize military action, the adoption of an official US policy of 'regime change', and military planning based on illusions in special forces and in the support of the Iranian people for an attack.

The biggest difference is that Bush has refused to rule out the use of nuclear weapons – against Iran's nuclear programme! The Bush administration's political difficulties make an attack on Iran more rather than less likely, as the last

desperate throw of the rightwing clique in the White House. But none of this makes a successful war on Iran inevitable. Mass mobilization around the world, together with a revitalized antiwar movement in the United States, can force a weakened Bush administration to retreat.

Conference accordingly resolves to make opposition to an attack on Iran one of the main campaigning priorities of the Stop the War Coalition. It endorses the call of the Assembly of the Social Movements of the European Social Forum in Athens (7 May 2006) for an international week of action on Iran between 23 and 30 September and pledges itself to mount the largest possible mobilization at the Labour Party conference in Manchester on 23 September.

RESOLUTION 14

Communication Workers Union and Rail, Maritime & Transport Union

Conference agrees that it is important to strengthen the active involvement of unions in the Stop the War Coalition.

To this end the affiliated unions and officers should work together to:

A) Increase the number of national, regional and local branch affiliations.

B) Produce briefing material which is suitable for unions, with the content being agreed with the affiliated unions.

C) Prioritise particular initiatives, including

- A meeting between the TUC and M.FAW

- A fringe meeting at the TUC

- Support for the September demonstration.

Stop the War Coalition Conference 2006

Stop the War Campaign Conference Report

Against the "War on Terror"



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its continuing hegemony over opinion throughout the left and beyond on the central issues of our time.

A particular highlight of the day was the session devoted to the remarkable Military Families Against the War campaign. This has now grown out beyond its roots among the families of soldiers who have died in Blair's war to include the parents of serving soldiers as well. Because these men and women were generally not particularly political before the conflict (and some in fact supported the war at its outset) their speeches are especially vivid and compelling. They extend the reach of the anti-war message to broad sections of the British people which might otherwise be hard to reach.

And it is not, as critics might suggest, a matter of wallowing in grief or engaging in a form of therapy to cope with loss, understandable though that would be. They are mainly very angry because the trust that they, as mil-

itary families, have placed in the government has been betrayed as their sons and daughters have been sent to fight and perhaps die on an entirely false prospectus. It is the military families' campaign which doubtless more than any other single factor accounts for plummeting army recruitment and the more than 1,000 desertions of the last year or so.

The conference also heard a powerful speech by Iraqi academic Sami Ramadani. He took on those who, like Niall Stanage, ignorantly or deliberately confuse the "thug and butcher" Zarqawi (Sami's words) with the broad Iraqi resistance to the increasingly bloody occupation and its numerous unrecorded Hadithas.

Other points to note? The growing commitment of the trade unions to the anti-war movement is one. Political support for ending the Iraq occupation is nearly unanimous among the unions, and their financial backing for the Coalition's work is also more generous than at any point in the past.

Also an interesting contribu-

tion by Dr Azzam Tammimi, the Muslim scholar establishment opinion loves to hate about the desirability of uniting the global left with Muslim opinion around the world in opposition to imperialism.

The conference agreed plans to hold a major demonstration in Manchester on September 23, the day before the Labour Party con-

ference opens in the same city. It will be demanding an end to the occupation of Iraq and no attack against Iran. I don't predict a riot, but I do predict massive popular

pressure on the Kaiser Chief in Downing Street. Meanwhile, the "war on terror" raged on outside our conference hall. A British soldier dies in Afghanistan protecting a regime "accused of orchestrating massacres, torture, mass rape and other war crimes".

A triple suicide by Muslims who have been detained for four years at Guantanamo Bay outside any legal process whatsoever leads to accusations by the US head of "public diplomacy" that the dead were cunningly conducting "asymmetric warfare" – presumably this means the US shall kill lots of people with the most advanced weaponry, and the people can fight back by killing themselves with bed linen instead.

And an entirely innocent British Muslim living in east London is shot in the shoulder by the Met in the course of trashing his house in a hunt for chemical weapons that were not there.

With the "war on terror" proceeding like this, I don't expect the Stop the War Coalition to lose support any time soon.

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Workers' Weekly

Newspaper of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

Website: www.rcpbml.org.uk

June 17, 2006 Volume 36, Number 9

Subscription rates within Britain (including p&p): 4 issues - £2.95, 6 months - £18.95, Yearly - £33.95. For any subscription applications from abroad or for bulk subscriptions, please contact *Workers' Weekly* directly. Cheques should be made payable to 'RCPB(ML)' and sent to 170 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2LA.

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Crimes of Massacres and Torture Organised at the Top:

No to US State Terrorism against Iraqi People

US MARXIST-LENINIST ORGANISATION - JUNE 12, 2006

The broad impunity and terrorism of the US state is again being shown with the massacre of 24 civilians – many of them children – in the western Iraqi town of Haditha. Haditha, like Fallujah, is well known as a town of resistance to the US occupation and war against the Iraqi people. The particular massacre referred to took place in November of 2005, but many others have and are taking place all across Iraq.

The evidence of repeated and on-going massacres is clear and abundant. Dr Salam Ishmael, projects manager with the organisation Doctors for Iraq, and former chief of the junior doctors in Baghdad's Medical City Hospital, emphasised, "There are many, many, many cases like Haditha that are still undercover and need to be highlighted in Iraq." In Haditha itself, he said, the US military cut electricity and water to the entire city, attacked the hospital, and burned the pharmacy. "The hospital has been attacked three times. In November 2005 the hospital was occupied by the American and Iraqi Army for seven days, which is a severe breach of the Geneva Conventions," said Dr Ishmael. The Iraqi Red Crescent reported at the time that nearly 1,000 families had been forced to flee their homes in Haditha following the November attacks by the US.

Abdul Salam Al-Kubaissi, spokesperson for the Muslim Clerics Association, speaking recently at a news conference in Baghdad said: "The situation has reached a level when the US soldier becomes a professional killer, who kills with premeditation and delib-

eration. This should be among war crimes, and the ones who should be put on trial are the US commanders and not the US soldier, because the commanders are the ones who instruct those (soldiers) and justify their acts as it happened in Abu Ghraib's scandal."

Consistent with the government's policy of lying on principle, the Pentagon denies these massacres, usually claiming those killed were terrorists, or that they were killed by bombs planted by those resisting occupation, or were "collateral damage" from the massive US bombing raids, and so forth. When the government can no longer get away with these lies, as occurred with Abu Ghraib and the

In Haditha itself, he said, the US military cut electricity and water to the entire city, attacked the hospital, and burned the pharmacy. "The hospital has been attacked three times. In November 2005 the hospital was occupied by the American and Iraqi Army for seven days, which is a severe breach of the Geneva Conventions," said Dr Ishmael.

photographs, and now with Haditha and witness testimony from survivors, then they target individual soldiers who are acting on their own, supposedly "against" government policy.

As President Bush claimed, "I

am troubled by the initial news stories. I am mindful there is a thorough investigation going on. If in fact laws were broken there will be punishment." Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld went so far as to say that "US troops respect the rights of Iraqis," something that is not possible as long as the US is an occupying force.

These lies and complete denial of responsibility from the top are coming in the face of a recent UN report condemning the US for its repeated violations of the Convention on Torture. The UN called for the closing of the Guantánamo concentration camp, and said the US was violating the convention in prisons worldwide and in the US. All of these are crimes.

The Convention was signed by the US in 1995 and is law of the land, as well as being international law. To date, none of those responsible for the crimes committed in Iraq, in Afghanistan, at Abu Ghraib, Guantánamo, and dozens of other concentration camps and prisons in the US and worldwide has been punished. Such punishment would require first of all that Bush and Rumsfeld be tried for war crimes, an action that neither the Pentagon nor Congress will take.

The Pentagon has instead echoed Bush, targeting the soldiers directly involved, not the officers, not the Commander in Chief. An "investigation" is on going. Like Abu Ghraib, it is expected that the "investigation" will confirm that this is an "isolated" incident of a few soldiers, when in fact it is representative of the broad terrorism and impunity of the US state.

The Pentagon is also launching yet another round of "ethical training" for American troops, much as they have "sensitivity training" for police and prison guards notorious for their brutality against the people. The soldiers and guards carry out their impunity in a situation where those in command have systematically organised such impunity and terrorism, beginning with Bush, Rumsfeld, Vice-President Dick Cheney, Secretary of State

Condoleezza Rice and the top military brass.

Outrage over the massacre of civilians has prompted leaders of the US-installed government to respond to the Haditha massacre. Iraq's Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki recently condemned the killings in Haditha as an "odious crime" and called for talks "to redefine the obligations of coalition forces". He said violence against civilians by US-led coalition forces

The UN called for the closing of the Guantánamo concentration camp, and said the US was violating the convention in prisons worldwide and in the US. All of these are crimes.

had become a "daily phenomenon". The American forces, he charged, "do not respect the Iraq people.... They crush them with their vehicles and kill them just on suspicion or a hunch." On June 1, Iraq said it was launching its own probe into the Haditha killings.

In addition, on June 3 the Iraqi government rejected the findings of a recent US inquiry into the death of 11 civilians in a March 15 US raid in the town of Ishaqi 60 miles north of Baghdad. It said it would conduct its own investigation. The government will demand an apology and compensation, said a government spokesman. These actions are indications of the failure of the US state to install a government in Iraq and suppress the Iraqi people, despite using massive military might and broad impunity to commit war crimes.

The Iraqi people, like the Vietnamese before them, will emerge victorious against the criminal US war and occupation. They are supported by the world's peoples, with Americans joining to take their stand to reject US state terrorism and aggression, end the war and punish Bush and all those guilty of war crimes.

**Reject the Failed US State!
Strengthen the Peoples' Forces!**

British Government Complicity in Acts of Torture: Britain Accused of Colluding in US Rendition Flights

Continued from page 1

who co-operated in the running of so-called "rendition" flights – the covert transport of prisoners for questioning in countries where many faced torture.

He named seven countries which he said "could be held responsible, in varying degrees, which are not always settled definitively, for violations of the rights of specific individuals". They were the UK, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

A preliminary report by Mr Marty earlier this year said European governments were almost certainly aware of the CIA's secret prisoner flights via European airspace or airports. Now, at the end of a seven-month inquiry, the final report says it is clear that "authorities in several European countries actively participated with the CIA in these unlawful activities".

Mr Marty warns that the inquiry has still not established the whole truth. But he condemns what he calls a "spider's web" of US rendition flights as "utterly alien" to the concept of basic human rights.

Unlawful activities

It was reported in the Washington Post last November that the CIA had been running interrogation centres in Eastern Europe, Afghanistan and Thailand, and that more than 100 people had been sent to the so-called "black sites" since they were set up following September 11, 2001.

Mr Marty said his inquiry had identified the "rendition" of more than one hundred prisoners

"affecting Europe". He described the system as "the outsourcing of torture".

His report states: "It is now clear, although we are still far from having established the truth, that authorities in several European countries actively participated with the CIA in these unlawful activities." Some European countries, while not actively involved in rendition flights, "ignored them knowingly or did not want to know".

Secret detention centres

Mr Marty commented: "Even if proof, in the classical meaning of the term, is not as yet available, a number of coherent and converging elements indicate that such secret detention centres did indeed exist in Europe." Those elements warranted further investigation, he added.

Mr Marty said he used evidence from national and international air traffic control authorities, as well as sources inside intelligence services, including in the United States, to compile a detailed picture of a global system of secret detentions and unlawful transfers – including new analysis revealing what he called "rendition circuits".

Accusing M15

Mr Marty's report specifically criticises Britain for helping in the detention and physical abuse of Binyam Mohamed al Habashi, an Ethiopian citizen who was a UK resident from 1994. The report claims Mr al Habashi, who says he was arrested in Pakistan after visiting Afghanistan, was tortured in Morocco by local intelligence officers and at least one CIA agent, who used personal information to try to get him to

Seminar on Hostility of US against north Korea

The United States, with the support of the British government, has adopted a hostile policy against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). It has dubbed it part of the "axis of evil" and made it a target for pre-emptive nuclear strike aimed at "regime change" and wrecking all moves for peace and reunification on the Korean peninsula. The DPRK has refused to bow to this pressure and put forward practical solutions to outstanding problems. The struggle of the DPRK is part of the struggle of the world's people against US imperialism and for defence of sovereignty and to safeguard the future of humankind. The seminar aims to combat the disinformation spread about the DPRK and takes place in the context of the month of solidarity with the Korean people.

**King's Cross Neighbourhood Centre,
51 Argyle St, London WC1
Saturday, June 24, 2006
2.00pm - 6.00pm**

— All are very welcome to attend. Refreshments provided. —
The seminar will be addressed by representatives of the DPRK Embassy in London. There will be every opportunity to make contributions, ask questions and participate in discussion.

Organised by the Co-ordinating Committee of Friends of Korea
(tel: 07764288678)

confess to terrorist activities. Mr Marty argues: "Much of the personal information, including details of his education, his friendships in London and even his kickboxing trainer, could only have originated from collusion in this interrogation process by UK intelligence services."

The report further accuses MI5 of co-operating with the CIA in "abducting persons against which there is no evidence enabling them to be kept in prison lawfully". It cites the case of Bisher Al-Rawi and Jamil El-Banna, two UK residents who were arrested in Gambia and later transferred to Afghanistan and then Guantanamo Bay.

Mr Marty's report is now due to be debated by the Strasbourg-based Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly later this month.

Torture is illegal under international conventions and specifically outlawed by laws enacted by individual states. Almost 150 countries, including Britain, have signed the 1984 United Nations Convention Against Torture. To authorise or even play a complicit role in "extraordinary renditions", or "torture flights", is to undermine the rule of law.

Complicity of Britain

Tony Blair's comment on the report was that it contained nothing new. But the report is confirmation of the complicity of the British government in acts of torture. Tony Blair had been critical of the judiciary in not recognising that "the rules of the game are changing", and this is one example of what this contempt for the rule of law and for the rights and dignity of human beings entails.

Workers' Daily Internet Edition

Daily On Line Newspaper of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

Web site: www.rcpbml.org.uk

e-mail: office@rcpbml.org.uk

WDIE sent by e-mail daily (Text e-mail): 1 issue free, 6 months £5, Yearly £10
Address: 170 Wandsworth Road, London, SW8 2LA

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