

# Workers Weekly

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

Britain at the UN:

## Threats and Smugness Out of Place in the Modern World

**T**he 62nd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, which is currently meeting in New York, should be the occasion

when all 192 members of the UN come together to exchange opinions and deliberate on the common problems facing humanity, as befits a body that

is "the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations". The recent General Debate of the General Assembly has

indeed been the occasion for days of speeches by world leaders, from countries large and small. But what appears in

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No More Deaths March:

## DEFIANCE AGAINST GOVERNMENT'S ATTEMPTS TO CRIMINALISE DISSENT



Demonstration on March 18 2006 in Parliament Square

**A**s thousands prepare to March on Parliament on next Monday, October 8, 2007, in a call to bring all troops out of Iraq, the police on behalf of the government say that all protests are prohibited within one mile of parliament. Despite this

prohibition, the Stop the War march will go ahead in defiance of the ban.

In an attempt to crush dissent the government and police are dusting off laws to prevent the march: laws such as the 1839 Sessional Orders legislation, by

which Sessional Orders are passed at the beginning of every parliamentary session to ensure free passage for MPs to go to and from parliament. Under the 2005 SOCPA legislation (Serious Organised Crime and Police Act), any march/demonstration must

be allowed to take place so long as six days' notice are given. Something more restrictive was needed, so the 1839 legislation, passed many years before we had

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Gordon Brown on Zimbabwe:

## Hypocrisy and a Hidden Agenda

**W**RITING IN *THE INDEPENDENT* ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2007, GORDON BROWN AFFIRMED HIS "BRITISH" CREDENTIALS by "speaking out" about another country, namely Zimbabwe, from his "high moral ground". Speaking about an African country and its "problems" without any reference to colonialism and Britain's role is not only hypocritical but shows that colonialism is still acceptable to Brown, who has already been at the helm with the US in two major imperialist wars. So not surprisingly Brown's article is

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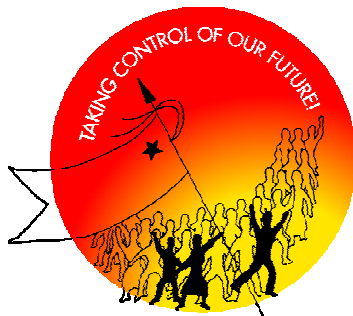
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Workers' Weekly Youth Group Statement, October 8, 2007:



## YOUTH+ STUDENT

page of the  
**Workers'  
Weekly  
Youth Group**

# Oppose Labour's "Second Wave" Foreign Policy!

## No to the Criminalisation of Dissent! For an Anti-War Government!

**A**S David Miliband unleashes his "second wave" foreign policy, the youth must be under no illusions that the Brown-led government will "change course". As representatives of the monopoly dictate, Brown, Miliband and their cohorts are continuing down the path of the neo-liberal agenda of globalisation, war and aggression. The attempted ban on the stop the war demo exposes that they are furthering the plan to criminalise dissent and curtail civil liberties. Miliband spoke of "young men and women fighting for our values". The youth must question these "values". Who do they serve?

These so-called "universal values", and the "moral compass" of which Brown talks, are the values of neo-liberal globalisation and are what the government is seeking to impose on the people of Britain and the world as part of carrying out the agenda of the rich. They will also be

used as a smoke screen to the further atrocities that are to take place in enforcing that agenda. Miliband stated that what was now required from the alliance of Britain and the US was "a great project" in what he referred to as the building of "institutions which redefine the global rules for our shared planet". This statement asserts the stand of the Brown-led government to be that of one who interferes in the rest of the world seeking to export its "vision" of globalisation, war and privatisation and so profit for the rich monopoly class, while sovereign nations are left war-torn and the people in poverty.

So we can say that the government as representatives of monopoly capitalism's agenda are wearing a mask of "morality" as guiders who know best what the world's people need. The youth must tear off this mask and expose them as imperialist war mongers aiming to pay the rich at the expense of the world's people. The youth must not only tear off the mask, but build full opposition to the agenda of the monopolies and their representatives. Whether young workers or students, the youth must not deny their experience that has seen successive gov-

ernments take Britain to war time and time again.

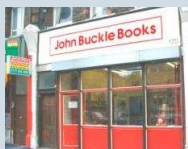
In building opposition, the youth must see that what also must be fought for is the alternative. The youth stand against war; at the same time they stand for sovereignty and self-determination. The youth must take control of their own future, on the basis of conscious participation where the youth along with workers, women and national minorities are at the forefront of making the decisions that create our society. By listening to their experience and facing the world as it is objectively, the youth must cement the idea of an anti-war government. Such a government can only be created by the working class and people who can scientifically look at the imposed crisis of war, as well as privatisation, where the education, health and cultural programmes are being sold off to the private sector, and see that our times demand something new. The youth must embody this something new by transforming themselves into conscious participants who seek to find out, deliberate, and come up with answers.

**Advance, youth of the world!  
For an anti-war government!**



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# Workers' Weekly

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# Double Standards on the Right to Protest

**U**nder the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act, the government attempted to ban any protest within the vicinity of Parliament, particularly against the war in Iraq. Whatever legislation they appear to have dredged up now to prevent the people expressing their will on October 8, the attempt to stifle and criminalise dissent and political protest is evident for all to see. During the year-long protest at the British weapons of mass destruction at Faslane, there were 961 arrests and 51 prosecutions.

Yet it comes to the protests which the government insists on calling "pro-democracy" in Myanmar, Gordon Brown appears on the scene as the greatest champion of the right to protest. In a statement, he said, "I condemn the violence that has been used against the unarmed Burmese protestors who have been exercising with great bravery their right to peaceful protest. I had hoped that the Burmese regime would heed the calls for restraint from the international community. But once again they have responded with oppression and force. This must cease."

This is an exhibition of self-serving double standards by the Prime Minister, and *Workers' Weekly* thoroughly condemns Gordon Brown's hypocrisy regarding the right to protest without being met by oppression and force.



# Faslane 365 Big Blockade

[www.faslane365.org](http://www.faslane365.org)

**F**aslane 365 was a one-year continuous blockade of the Trident nuclear submarine base at Faslane, 30 miles west of Glasgow, from October 1, 2006, and ending with a Big Blockade on October 1, 2007. The Big Blockade celebrated the diversity and impact of this continuous one-year demonstration of resistance against Britain's own weapons of mass destruction. Groups and individuals, who in various ingenious ways have disrupted the nuclear "business as usual" at Faslane, came together for a culminating carnival of resistance. They were bolstered by a further 500 supporters. The Big Blockade also looked forward to renewed resistance and a shared vision of a nuclear free world.

Faslane 365 has involved a wide range of local, national and even international groups from all sections of civil society com-

ing to Faslane committed to stay and make their visions for a just and peaceful future visible for at least two days. After endless days of rain and many a night in the Clydebank police station cells, the anti-nuclear protesters at the Faslane naval base staged their last blockade yesterday, bolstered by 500 supporters.

During the culminating blockade, protesters glued themselves to the tarmac outside the base and chained themselves together and to the base's fence in a demonstration which ensured that the last day of the Faslane 365 hammered home their message. Despite the justness of the protests, police made about 171 arrests.

This final day of Faslane 365 reflected the people's determination to keep up the resistance until Trident is gone. So although it was called a closing ceremony, there was a determination to keep coming back again and again. This is especially so, since there are plans for an expansion of Faslane to incorporate two new aircraft carriers costing £3.8bn, despite the opposition of the Scottish First Minister, Alex Salmond.

The Rinky Dink mobile sound-system was there, and among the performances were those from Leon Rosselson, Roy Bailey, and Seize the Day. There was also a choir, who gave a final performance of the oratorio "Trident, a British War Crime".

Coachloads of people had started arriving shortly before 7am and blocked the entrance to the main gate by lying on the ground with their arms linked by tubes. The demonstrators also blocked the A814 road to Garelochhead, by lying on it.

The protest has been co-ordi-

nated from Faslane peace camp, which has been a permanent fixture on the main road near the base for nearly 25 years. Supporters have included the writer A L Kennedy, the poet Adrian Mitchell and the folksinger Roy Bailey.

Alex Salmond issued a statement saying he shared Faslane 365's "objective of removing nuclear weapons from Scotland's soil". In keeping with his Scottish National Party's manifesto, there will be a summit later this month to discuss how to remove nuclear weapons from Scotland. MSPs and MEPs also joined the Big Blockade.

Scottish National Party MSP Sandra White said: "I congratulate all those who have taken part in the Faslane 365 campaign this past year. This is the most important event in the Scottish calendar this year because we can no longer afford both morally and financially to have these weapons of mass destruction on our shores."

The Scottish Green Party co-leader, Robin Harper, who joined the protest, said: "The use, the threat of use, and the planned replacement of Trident are all illegal. We should take a lead in fighting the wars of this century – the war against poverty, injustice and environmental destruction – not spend £25bn on weapons of mass destruction aimed at civilians."

(sources: Faslane 365, The Independent, BBC News)





## WORKERS' WEEKLY INTERVIEW

# Interview with a Man Held Indefinitely without Trial under the "Anti-Terror" Laws 2001 and 2005

**Workers' Weekly:** What happened to you and the other people arrested under the "anti-terror" laws 2001 and 2005?

**Answer:** In the aftermath of 9/11, Britain shoulder to shoulder with the US decided to join the "global war against terror". Under the pretext of a "state of emergency" Britain derogated from article 5 of the European Convention of Human Rights and passed the 2001 Anti-terrorism Act, which allowed the secretary of state to detain foreign nationals who were deemed to be a threat to national security without charge or trial. I was among the men who were arrested under this legislation and put in Belmarsh prison for more than three years.

Then came the law lords ruling that found this "anti-terror" law to be discriminatory against foreign nationals and incompatible with Britain's international obligations. The government was forced to

change tactics and bring in new legislation that covers foreigners and British alike, the Anti-terrorism Act 2005 (control orders). Similar to the 2001 Act, the home secretary certifies a person he considers to be a threat to national security and imposes on the person a set of restrictions such as the limitation of movement and communication, and electronic tagging (no mobile phones, phone box, no internet, no visitors unless cleared by the home office, no pre-arranged meeting, and limitation of area you can move into). We had the certificate issued under the first Act revoked and a new certificate was issued against us (the 2005 Act). We stayed under these stringent conditions until after 7/7.

After 7/7 when Tony Blair declared that "the rules of the game have changed" most of us were again re-arrested from our houses or from hospital. This time we were arrested under the Immigration Act

1971, this time to be deported back to our countries because they say our presence in this country is not conducive to the public good. We were put in Long Lartin prison, going through the long legal process with the court, Special Immigration Appeals Commission (SIAC). This process is ongoing, so we are still facing deportation to countries where, as the secretary of state just a few months prior acknowledged, it was unsafe to send us back, where we could face torture, and that was the reason in the first place to bring in these anti-terror laws, because we could not be deported.

**WW:** Through your experience, what views did you formulate about the anti-terrorism laws and the way they are used?

**Answer:** I realised from the early stages of our detention that we were prisoners of war, a war that is waged against the Muslim world in general. I realised that we were really scapegoats. I formed the view that we should not participate in any of the SIAC proceedings, which acts as a rubber stamp. This is a real masquerade and travesty of justice that gives the government judicial cover. This court, the SIAC, that dealt with the detainees held under the 2001 Act is the same one that deals with those under the 2005 Act (control orders) and is the same one that is dealing with the deportation proceedings. SIAC uses secret evidence and the lowering of the burden of proof from beyond reasonable doubt to "balance of probability" to deport people to countries where they may face more inhuman treatment and torture. It is difficult to see how someone could refute something that neither he nor his lawyer has access to. The same file and secret evidence has been used every time we have been detained under different legislation in SIAC. It is against all principles of fairness and justice.

**WW:** Through your contact with other people detained under this legislation, what is the general sense of what to do and what is being done in the face of this wrongful arrest and imprisonment?

**Answer:** I'd like to say that real people suffered during these last six years. Broken families, children

separated from their fathers and of course the psychological damage, the bitterness and the feeling of injustice that is felt by the detainees themselves. The idea is how do we impart this to the people and change the demonised characters and stereotype portrayed by the government and the media. They depict us as "suspect terrorists", a threat to the "national security" and "our way of life". We want to emphasise the long held principles of presumption of innocence unless proven otherwise by proper due process and proper evidence in a normal court of law. We want to inform the people that these detainees have never been questioned by the police or formally charged or tried. In a normal situation these presumptions seem quite straightforward; however in today's climate it is not so obvious when you have a determined government in league with the tabloids in their concerted efforts to demonise us.

**WW:** From this movement to act upon anti-terror legislation, what is being done to tackle this question of civil liberties?

**Answer:** It is unfortunate to say that I only know a few organisations who have been campaigning against these laws: CAMPACC, Cage Prisoners, Liberty, Peace and Justice, along with lawyers who challenged this legislation in court. These groups try to organise talks, lectures, public meetings, demonstrations, as well as some literature. However, these efforts and limited resources, compared with the government and opposition parties who set out to out do each other to show who is more "tough on terror" and who have unlimited access to the "mainstream" media, can make it difficult to see how a real impact and change can happen when people only hear the scare-mongering and "policy of fear". This "policy of fear" suggests to people that these laws are there to target only a few to keep the rest safe.

**WW:** What questions must be posed to the society in order to stop the anti-human treatment of the Muslim community, and what must be the calls for the working class and people of this country to take up on the basis of defending the rights of all?

## WORKERS' WEEKLY INTERVIEW

**Answer:** The question that must be asked is who benefits from this "war on terror"? We live in a post-modern imperialist era where through globalisation the multinational corporations could achieve the control of developing world countries' wealth without having to invade them. Different tactics have been used in the past. Today the "war on terror" is being used as a smokescreen to impose the values and civilisation of the west, in particular US hegemony, on the rest of the world.

The Muslim world with its natural resources, an obstacle to US ambition, has become the new enemy of the west after the Cold War, whose systematic demonisation has been the duty of the right-wing intelligentsia. "A Clash of Civilisations", a title of a book and a theory of these right-wingers, became the backbone of American policy towards the Muslim world.

After 9/11, a new enemy was created, this time the "enemy within", i.e. the Muslim communities living in the west. The media and many circles among the ruling class were able to imprint the relationship in people's minds between Muslim, veil, foreigner, and asylum seeker and a threat to "our way of life", "values" and "national security". At the same time, governments like in Britain used divide and rule tactics. They have imposed tremendous pressure on the Muslim community by stating that it is only a small minority who engage in "terrorist activities" and at the same time reserving the right to define terrorism, as it has been introduced in the 2000 Terrorism Act followed successively by others until the 2006 Act, which commissions the "crimes" of glorifying and condoning terrorism. This has made it very difficult for the Muslim community to express views or support just causes around the world. It is constantly demanded of them to prove their allegiance to the state, thus creating a real sense of insecurity in the community, which leads to segregation and racism.

The working class and people need to be aware that these states like the US and Britain who inherently always seek more power and control, and the targeting of the

Muslim community by these draconian laws, will soon reach everyone, and the examples are already there for us to see (stop and search laws against animal rights activists, anti-war protesters arrested under SOCPA, ID cards proposals, and a DNA database). All authoritarian states always use "security" as the basis to clamp down on dissent and to curtail people's civil liberties. It is not difficult to see Britain slipping towards a police state, and who else but the working class would be the most affected by the loss of civil liberties? In this "global war on terror", the question that must be asked is who dies every day in these wars? And who is affected by the taxes and increase in the oil prices? On the other hand, who benefits from the increase in oil prices and the military spending, not to mention the lucrative deals in these war torn countries.

The working class and people should become conscious and experience for themselves by constantly taking pro-active steps to influence the path this country is going to. The anti-terrorism laws that are targeting the Muslim community at present are bringing mistrust and friction between communities, which breeds racism and bigotry. Everyone has the right to live in dignity and according to their principles and conscience. It is in the interest of all that the racism and unjust treatment of the Muslim community be brought to an end! And it is important that the issue of civil liberties is regarded as having as much import as healthcare, pensions and job security. I believe it's the only way we can make a change.

**WW:** Thank you very much. We would like to add that we ourselves vigorously condemn the "anti-terror" legislation, and those unjustly detained and persecuted under these laws have our unreserved support. We very much hope that what you have to say and making people aware of your experience will assist in broadening and deepening the movement to change the situation, and that the outcome in your personal case is favourable, along with all others who have faced and are facing similar anti-human treatment.

**This work of art was not created in a traditional school of ceramic art, nor was its creator a highly acclaimed artist. The originator of this painstakingly fashioned piece of Islamic pottery made it while in top security prison Belmarsh which has been described as Britain's Guantanamo Bay, detained under the Anti-terrorism Act 2001. The masterpiece is dedicated to the man's defence lawyer Gareth Peirce.**



## No More Deaths March: Defiance against Government's Attempts to Criminalise Dissent

*Continued from page 1*

universal suffrage, is now being used in an attempt to ban the October 8 Troops Out March. Since the march to Parliament is intended to be a militant manifestation of the feeling of the majority of the British public about the wars and occupations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and MPs themselves will be on the march, this cannot be interpreted as obstructing the passage of Members of Parliament.

The march now will also have the character of being in defence of civil liberties. "If they are planning an Iranian attack they will have a public even more upset and disgruntled than before. This is what this tightening up is about .... Civil liberties never seem very important until you need them. At times like this we need to be re-enforcing them," said Brian Eno. While Brown's guise of "liberator" and "democratiser" is espoused in his statement "human rights are universal", the people's freedom of assembly and freedom of speech are being attacked in an attempt to stifle any opposition to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

These same tactics were used by BAA in an attempt to stifle the

people's environmental concerns, when they tried to take out an injunction to stop protesters assembling at Heathrow airport. Wherever the people have concerns and fight for their interests, the government, monopolies, police and media attempt to criminalise their activities and drown out the calls of the British people.

Whatever the tactics used by the government the people are determined to go on with the march. As Mark Thomas stated, "This is rather a ham-fisted attempt to prevent us from demonstrating. What they (the government and police) do is up to them. We will just ignore them and we have the moral and logical high ground. I will be marching on Monday 8 October."

So it can be said that the government's attempts to sabotage the demonstration will not have the desired effect. The people will not have their calls ignored nor criminalised, and will march on, whatever the authorities decide to do. *Workers' Weekly* condemns the government's criminalisation of dissent, and fully supports the people's movement against war and calls on everyone to turn up and join the No More Deaths demonstration!



## Gordon Brown on Zimbabwe:

# Hypocrisy and a Hidden Agenda

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**advocating interference in Zimbabwe, suggesting the appointment of an EU envoy "to help support the transition to democracy". So whom will this "democracy" serve?**

It is certain that Brown, while presenting a concerned "responsible" face on the "matter" of Zimbabwe, is actually concerned with Britain's interests in the region, chiefly the spread of "universal values" and "shared institutions" under which the monopoly capitalist class can plunder the wealth created by the Zimbabwean working people.

The land of Zimbabwe was colonised by the British in 1890, and named Rhodesia, after the colonialist Cecil John Rhodes. Formation of this colony was seen as a continuation of the British Empire's plan to bring the whole of the "uncivilised worlds under British rule". In Zimbabwe ordinances allowed for inequitable distribution of the land that provided Zimbabwe's large population of farmers with sustenance. Under these ordinances, 6,000 white settlers seized the best half of the land while the worst half was left to the 600,000 black peasant farmers.

There was huge struggle and civil unrest amongst the Zimbabweans and during the 1960s the movement for liberation and independence developed, out of which political parties such as the Zimbabwean African People's Union (ZANU) were born. After another period of struggle and armed conflict, based on the principle that "we are our own liberators", in 1980 as head of a united movement Robert Mugabe was elected president of the now free from colonial rule nation of Zimbabwe. Mugabe went on to re-establish the rights of the Zimbabwean people to their farm land that was

stolen from them, and with the new government there was going to be no kow-towing to the big powers.

Gordon Brown is now attacking Mugabe on the basis that he will not comply with the agenda that Britain and other big powers have in the present contention for the re-colonisation of Africa. Brown talks of the huge amount of aid given to Zimbabwe by Britain. This aid is just another means by which Britain is aiming to control Zimbabwe, discounting that the Zimbabweans want to live off their own wealth, wealth that is being stolen by British and the big monopolies. Ignoring Zimbabwe's right for self-determination, Brown states "working with our international partners we must do more to press the Zimbabwean government to change".

Gordon Brown goes on, "We will ensure that the EU maintains sanctions against the 131 individuals in the ruling elite, including President Mugabe, who have committed human rights abuses." This is serious hypocrisy in which Brown scolds the Zimbabwean "ruling elite" while he himself is committing human rights abuses all over the world as a personification of the interests of the ruling elite in Britain.

British and international interference does not stop at the imposition of sanctions. Brown wants to send an EU envoy as well as the UN to dispatch a "humanitarian mission to Zimbabwe". Under the signboard of a humanitarian mission lies the agenda of interference which is not only a sleight on the Zimbabwean people who should be left by the international arena to determine what happens in their own country, but it is also a serious threat to world peace in that Brown and co. care nothing for the sovereignty of Zimbabwe.

Brown proclaims "We need to



be ready for the day democracy returns to Zimbabwe." How Brown is going to go about "exporting" such a "democracy" is a serious concern for the Zimbabweans and the world's people. The people have the bitter experience of the wars on Iraq and Afghanistan all in the name of "democracy" and "regime change". The lessons that interference led to sanctions, led to lies, led to war, are far too strong to ignore Brown's attempts to take Britain down this path with other sovereign nations.

Brown writes. "We are working with African and international partners to prepare a long term recovery package for when conditions exist to allow economic reconstruction to begin." This is the cue for the monopolies to further their interests in expanding the interference in the Zimbabwean economy and the furthering of their privateering and plunder of Zimbabwe's resources.

Brown's article on Zimbabwe is part of the whole media disinformation about Zimbabwe. The British working class must pose the question as to why Brown and the media are so hot-headed about Mugabe. Below we are posting Robert speech to the 62nd session of UN General Assembly so that readers can

draw their own conclusions.

As with many countries in Africa, Zimbabwe has its problems. But it is crucial to put these in perspective and to look at the source of these problems, and for the working class and people to reject the imposition of the dictate and values of the imperialist system of states, but to take up a fraternal and proletarian internationalist stand towards the people of Zimbabwe. The problems in Zimbabwe have their source in the legacy of colonialism, the continued interference of Britain and other powers, the neo-liberal agenda of the international monopolies stealing Zimbabwe's resources and wealth, not to mention the problems caused, for example, by climate change which themselves are caused by the reckless irresponsibility of the monopolies and the governments which serve their interests.

The British working class and people must oppose the hot-headed portrayal of Zimbabwe, as the issue is not whether Mugabe and the Zimbabwean government are "good" or "bad" but that it is up to the Zimbabwean people to decide their future, and to solve their own problems. Self-determination and defence of sovereignty must be the call of all oppressed people, in solidarity with each other internationally.

## 62ND ASSEMBLY OF UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

# Cuba Strongly Rejects Bush Speech

**T**he Cuban delegation to the 62nd UN General Assembly session period withdrew from the plenary's hall during the speech by US President George W Bush.

This action was a sign of strong rejection to the arrogant and mediocre speech by the US president, stated a press release that circulated at the UN headquarters.

The Cuban statement makes Bush responsible for "the assassination of more than 600,000 civilians in Iraq" and authorising the torture of prisoners at the Guantanamo Bay US naval base.

It also accuses him of giving the ok to the kidnapping of people, secret flights and prisons.

"He is a criminal and does not have moral authority or credibility to judge any other country," the Cuban document says.

"Cuba condemns and rejects every letter of his infamous tirade," the press release issued by the Cuban representative to the United Nations concluded.

The Cuban delegation, headed by Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque, abandoned the General Assembly when the US president attacked Cuba, Iran, Zimbabwe and Myanmar, due to what Bush called "situations of human rights in those countries".

(Source: Prensa Latina)

## Britain at the UN: Threats and Smugness Out of Place in the Modern World

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**stark relief is the fact that different countries approach the UN and the world's problems in very different ways.**

Many small countries used the occasion to stress particular local or regional problems, or global environmental or economic problems that had a particular impact on them. The US, Britain and some of the other big powers, on the other hand, used the occasion to lecture, issue threats and bully others, while demanding that everyone subscribe to their particular "universal values", concerning the multiparty system and representative democracy.

David Miliband, the Foreign Secretary, used the occasion of his speech to the General Assembly to echo many of the sentiments earlier presented by George W Bush when he made his address. He threatened both Iran and Zimbabwe, just as Bush had previously when the US president presented himself as the most zealous defender of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Miliband's first words were to demand that the Palestinian people subject themselves to a future that they themselves have not chosen and allow others to decide their fate, a proposal which negates both the spirit and letter of the Universal Declaration.

Indeed, the speeches presented by the US and Britain were remarkably similar in both tone and content, despite efforts by Gordon Brown's government to create the impression that it is distancing itself in some way from the US. While Bush presented the US as the greatest defender of the ideals of the UN and democracy, and a zealous opponent of poverty and underdevelopment, the representative of the British government proceeded to lecture

the world on global poverty, as though this phenomenon had nothing to do with global capitalism in general and neo-liberal globalisation in particular, as championed by the Anglo-American alliance. For Miliband, inequality also "fuels extremism" and "undermines support for an open global economy". But his solutions for world poverty are "open markets" and "democratic and transparent institutions", further privatisation and penetration by monopoly capital, a continuation of the world order and very institutions that have created and maintain the glaring inequalities that exist in the world. Where these institutions and markets don't exist, Miliband proposes even greater intervention, led by the UN if that is convenient, as in Darfur, but led more openly by the Anglo-American alliance, if necessary, as in Afghanistan and Iraq. Although the Foreign Secretary made reference to the UN Charter, there is nothing in the government's foreign policy which recognises the "sovereign equality of states", or the "equal rights and dignity of men and women and of nations great and small".

The Labour government which arrogantly lectures others on the growing divide between rich and poor within countries, does not even address the causes and consequences of poverty in Britain, one of the world's richest countries, where one third of all children exist below the poverty line and, according to the recent report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, one quarter of all children leave school either with no qualifications, or with only the future prospect of unemployment and criminal activity. The Labour government which lectures the world on the need for an arms trade treaty, acts as the agent of the armaments monopolies such as BAE Systems all over the world and is currently embroiled in corruption scandals and legal cases as a consequence.



The approach of the US and Britain to the issue of global issues was in stark contrast to many of the other countries as the speeches of the representatives of Cuba, Venezuela, DPR of Korea, Iran and other countries made clear. They rejected the so-called "universal values" of the Anglo-American alliance and made it clear that it was the very economic system and political institutions championed by Britain, the US and the other big powers that are the root cause of the problems facing humanity, while the interference of the big powers far from solving these problems, as they claim, entrenches and further exacerbates them. At the same time, the domination of the UN Security Council by Britain and the other big powers has, in many cases turned the UN into merely an instrument of their hegemony.

The times therefore cry out for a new foreign policy for Britain. A total break with the hypocrisy and arrogance that accompanies the government's military aggression and interference across the globe, in alliance with US imperialism. Britain must cease such interference and remove and bring all its troops home. Britain's colonial and neo-colonial relationships which keep so many countries in poverty must be ended. There is also an urgent need for the genuine democratisation of the UN Security Council and the recognition of the equality of all countries. This is the new foreign policy demanded by the working class and people of Britain and one which must be fought for as part of the struggle for a new society. We call on the working class and people to seriously take up the fight for this programme and settle scores with the arrogance of British chauvinism exhibited by the likes of Miliband and Brown.



# US Plans for Air Strike on Iran "Backed by Brown"

According to a US report, the Bush administration's plan to launch "surgical strikes" on Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps has won the backing of Prime Minister Gordon Brown. The report in *The New Yorker* magazine by journalist Seymour Hersh says that rather than conduct an unpopular all-out assault on Iran's nuclear facilities, the US is planning limited air strikes. The article stated, "The bombing plan has had its most positive reception from Gordon Brown." Whether this is the case or not the US government in their bid to impose US hegemony recognise the need to get Brown's allegiance. Phillip Giraldi a former CIA counterterrorism officer stated, "Because British mine-sweepers based in the Gulf of Hormuz will be essential to any US action against Iran, US war planners need to have Britain on board." Both strategically and politically also the US must be seen to have Britain involved.

As with Iraq the US has pumped out its disinformation about Iran's nuclear threat and now has changed its emphasis to counter-terrorism, supported by Pentagon planners wary of earlier plans for an all-out attack on Iran, Hersh writes. The strategy calls for the use of sea-launched cruise missiles and more precisely targeted ground attacks and bombing strikes, "including plans to destroy the most important Revolutionary Guard Training camps, supply depots and command-and-control facilities".

It is clear that like in Iraq the plans to attack Iran are being hatched using similar shifting pretexts, invoking WMD and "terrorism" for example to give some thin veil of justification. The Bush administration has used the excuse that Iran are providing assistance to "terrorists" in Iraq, but Hersh quotes a senior European official as saying that the difficulty with the option is "the widespread lack of faith in American intelligence assessments".

Earlier this summer according to

Phillip Giraldi, the pentagon acting under instructions of vice president Dick Cheney, tasked Strategic Command to draw up a response to another 9/11-type terrorist attack on the US. "The plan includes a large-scale air assault on Iran employing both conventional and tactical nuclear weapons." That may now have changed, in part because of opposition within the military. "A number of senior air force officers involved were appalled at the implications of what they were doing...that Iran was being set up for an unprovoked nuclear attack," said Mr Giraldi. Hersh maintains that the Bush administration's emphasis on "surgical" strikes reflects a failure to persuade the US people that Iran poses an immanent nuclear threat.

As thousands prepare to march on parliament on October 8 in a demand to bring the troops home with the demand, "Not one more death", Brown is seen to be taking Britain down the path towards another war led by US imperialism. As with the American people the British people do not accept the masquerade of the Anglo-American lies and falsehoods. As with the American people the British people will not support an attack on Iran. The British working class and people must militantly hold Brown and his plans to account. The anti-war demonstration as a representation of the sentiment of the whole country reflects the mood of the people for an end to imperialist war, and a demand for something new. We must cement the idea of this something new by organising for an anti-war government, created by the working class and people themselves, a government that values the sovereignty of other nations and the people's right to decide on their own social system. *Workers' Weekly* condemns any attack on the sovereign nation of Iran. *Workers' Weekly* supports all those who struggle to create an anti-war government, and a new world.

# Forthcoming Anti-War Events

## Demonstration: Not One More Death - Bring the Troops Home

**Monday 8 October**

**Assemble Trafalgar Square for Lunchtime Rally 1pm  
Demonstrate to Demand: Not One More Death – Bring All the Troops Home Now**

The Stop the War demonstration on Monday, October 8, the day Parliament re-assembles, will begin with a lunchtime rally in Trafalgar Square, at which the speakers will include Tony Benn, Mark Steel, ex SAS soldier Ben Griffin, NUS President Jemma Tumelty, Stop the War's National Convenor Lindsey German and Billy Hayes, General Secretary of the Communication Workers Union.

To get copies of the new postcard and stickers publicising the demonstration, call the Stop the War office on 020 7278 6694.

For more details, see: <http://www.stopwar.org.uk/>

## Stop the War Coalition Annual National Conference

**Saturday 27 October**

The StWC National Conference will be held on **Saturday 27 October at Friends Meeting House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ**. The conference, at which perspectives and policies for the coming year will be discussed and voted on, is open to all current Stop the War individual members and to delegations from all affiliated organisations. Details on the submission of resolutions, the agenda and the fee will be available soon on the Stop the War website: [www.stopwar.org.uk](http://www.stopwar.org.uk)

*All affiliated organisations are reminded that in order to send delegates they need to have renewed their affiliation for 2007/2008.*

## World Against War Conference

**Saturday 1 December**

Stop the War is proud to host the World Against War conference in **London on December 1**, which aims to bring together all those fighting for peace, self-determination and social justice around the world today. Speakers already lined up include former UN officials in Iraq, Denis Halliday and Hans von Sponeck. Peace and anti-war groups from South America, the Middle East, USA, South Asia, Africa, Canada and across Europe have been invited to send representatives. The World Against War conference will take place at Westminster Central Hall, adjacent to the Houses of Parliament. *Booking forms will be available soon but you can reserve your place by calling the Stop the War national office on 020 7278 6694.*

## Workers' Daily Internet Edition

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