

TROOPS OUT OF AFGHANISTAN!

Fight Labour Imperialism!

Five years on Afghanistan has become Labour's forgotten war. But the war goes on and 5,000 British troops remain as occupiers alongside 26,000 more US and NATO forces under British control. For the Afghan people this predatory imperialist war continues to mean devastation and impoverishment:

- The average Afghani has income of less than £1.50 a day and £692 a year – 1/23rd of the average wage in Britain
- More than half are unemployed
- 'Kandahar still only has enough electricity for a maximum of six hours in every 48. Bad roads, open sewage systems, and a lack of fresh water are seen in the city as inconveniences very low down on the list of complaints. Kidnapping, banditry and police corruption rank much higher.' (*The Times*)

Figures are unavailable for the amount of Afghans that have died at the hands of the invaders and, usually, when they *are* reported they are labeled as 'Taliban' fighters. A November report by the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board put the figure at 3,200 for January to October 2006 including 1,000 civilians, but (as in Iraq) the numbers may well be much higher.

Afghanistan, like Iraq, is in a brutal state of chaos and, as in Iraq, it is the already poor and oppressed working class and peasant population who are the biggest victims. The state and economy is in the hands of warlords, armed and supported by Britain, the US and their puppet government in Kabul. The opium crop is up almost 59 percent on 2005. Afghanistan is now the source of more than 90 percent of the world's heroin, with many government officials being the ones to profit from it – this imperialist-imposed 'democracy' already has an inbuilt stench of corruption.

When Labour's then Defence Minister John Reid committed an extra 3,000 troops to Afghanistan in May, he declared that the aim was to complete the three-year mission 'without a shot being fired'. Since taking over formal control of the southern provinces in October, NATO troops have been involved in continuous fierce fighting. 32 British soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan since May – more than in Iraq. Attacks by Taliban and resistance groups on government and NATO-led forces are now around 600 a month - over 400% of last year's figures. Suicide bombings are on the increase, with 106 in the year up to October 22, already more than 5 times higher than 2005. The puppet regime of Hamid Karzai is isolated, mainly confined to the capital Kabul, which has come under increasing attack. Occupation and puppet forces in the South and East of Afghanistan operate out of heavily fortified bases, facing constant hostility. NATO air strikes have killed hundreds, as in Operation Medusa which left 500 'Taliban fighters' dead in September. On October 24, 85 were reported dead after strikes on villages in the South, many of them women and children. Despite this terror, support for the insurgency is said to be at unprecedented levels.

Labour's war on the people of Afghanistan must be stopped. British and US imperialism must be defeated.

End the occupation now! Victory to the Afghan people! Organise the Fightback!

FIGHT RACISM!
FIGHT IMPERIALISM!



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