

# STOP THE WAR ON IRAQ



THOUSANDS were massacred by US bombers on the Basra road during the last Gulf war

## US Military out of Shannon

George Bush and Tony Blair want to launch a terrible war against Iraq. They will bomb Baghdad, a city of five million people and cause terrible suffering among ordinary Iraqi people.

A report by the global health organisation, Medact, estimated that at least 50,000 civilians are likely to be killed in a US attack.

The war has been planned long before UN inspectors went back to Iraq. U.S. officials have made it perfectly clear that no matter what Saddam Hussein says about his weapons, he must be lying.

The issue will simply be used as an

excuse for war.

Tragically, the Irish government is backing the US attack. It has given the US military access to Shannon airport to transport its troops to the battle zone. Foreign Minister, Brian Cowen, has also told the UN Assembly that he will back Bush.

Yet the majority of the Irish people are against this war. According to an *Irish Times* poll, 59 percent of people say they oppose an attack.

This factsheet answers your questions about this war - and suggest what can be done to stop it.

## Irish Anti War Movement Factsheet

## **Is there a link between Saddam Hussein and terrorist attacks on America on September 11<sup>th</sup>?**

George Bush has claimed that 'Iraq and the Al Quaida terrorist network have high level contacts.'

But there is no evidence for this.

The Al Quaida network is an Islamist group, which is deeply opposed to Saddam Hussein. They want to turn Iraq into an Islamic state.

Yet supporters of this viewpoint are strongly repressed in Iraq. Osama bin Laden considers Saddam Hussein an infidel.

In May 2002, the *Washington Post* newspaper cited 'a senior US administration official' saying there was 'no evidence' to support stories of a link between Iraq and terrorist attacks on America.

## **Does Iraq have nuclear weapons and doesn't he pose a threat to the West?**

In June 2002, the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Authority, Dr Mohamed El Bareidi, wrote:

'There is no indication that Iraq has nuclear weapons, weapons usable material or the practical capabilities to produce them'.

All that Bush and Blair have able to claim is that Iraq 'could' produce nuclear weapons with outside help. But so 'could' any other country.

Two US allies, India and Pakistan, have both got nuclear weapons and threatened to use them in 2002.

Israel is definitely the only country in the Middle East with weapons. But there is no talk of attacking any of these countries.

Saddam Hussein poses no real threat to the US. On 7 October 2002, George Tenet, the head of the CIA acknowledged this in a letter to the Bush government he was forced to release.

## **What about chemical and biological weapons?**

**Saddam Hussein did have chemical weapons - but Western countries supplied them to him.**

In the 1980s, the US and Britain had a love affair with Saddam Hussein and encouraged him to attack the Islamic regime in Iran.

The US credit agency



Eximbank gave him \$4,200 million in credit facilities and other Western governments followed suit. Even the Irish government advanced £150 million in credit insurance.

All of them stayed quiet about use of chemical weapons on the Kurdish village of Halabja in 1988.

Today, Saddam Hussein chemical and biological weapons have been virtually destroyed. According to Scott Ritter, the former chief UN weapons inspector, 95 % of Iraq's chemical weapons were destroyed in the late nineties.

Iraq also lacks delivery systems such as long-range missiles to use any weapons it has.

The US says that Iraq has not fully co-operated in letting the UN examine all its facilities. But the US itself similarly refuses to admit UN weapons inspectors to all US laboratories.

## **Doesn't Iraq violate UN resolutions?**

**Yes, Iraq has failed to comply with 12 Security Council resolutions.**

But they are relatively few and minor compared to those of countries like Turkey and Indonesia.

Israel has violated 44 UN resolution- but is the largest recipient of US aid.

In September 2002, George W Bush appeared before the UN General Assembly and asked dramatically, 'Are Security Council resolutions to be honoured or cast aside?'

A week later, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 1435 calling on Israeli forces to 'with-

draw its occupying forces from Palestinian cities towards positions held prior to September 2000'.

The US did nothing about Israel's defiance.

The UN Security Council is often bullied into backing US foreign policy on key issues. Poorer countries are told they will face tougher debt conditions if they defy the US. Other such as France and Russia are assured that they will get oil concessions in a post Saddam Iraq.

In these ways, the UN is being used as a rubber stamp to back war.

## **Won't the US at least get rid of a nasty dictator?**

**No, it never has had problem with dictators - as long as they back US foreign policy.**

The *Guardian* has revealed that the US has developed a plan to impose a new dictatorship headed by the US general Tommy Franks.

In Afghanistan, the US imposed Hamid Karzai as President. He just happens to be employed by a subsidiary of Unocal, the American oil company.

The US bombing of Serbia did not get rid of Slobodan Milovesic. It took a rising of the Serbian people themselves.

Right across the world dictators has been overthrown - but by people power not US bombs.

# IRAQ HAS SUFFERED ENOUGH

The Iraqi people have suffered enough from US led sanctions and bombing.

According to the UNICEF and the World Health Organisation, the sanction shave killed over one million people.

Nearly 60 % of the dead are children under the age of seven. The number one killer of young children is dehydration caused by water borne illnesses. These have grown since the US bombed the electricity grids that powered Iraq's water treatment plants.

4,500 children die every month from starvation and preventable disease. This is a six-fold increase since 1990.

Southern Iraq has seen a three fold rise in childhood cancers since the US dropped radioactive uranium tipped bombs in the area.

## WAR AND RACISM

George Bush has referred to his 'war on terrorism' as a crusade.

The term has evoked terrible memories of a Christian war against Muslim people.

All of this is stirring up a terrible racism - which many Christian orgnaisation have condemned.

It is time to end the idea that one life worth lost in the US is somehow worth more than an Afghani or Iraqi life.



*One of the 500,000 child victims of sanctions*

## THE REAL REASON FOR ATTACKING IRAQ

America burns a quarter of all oil consumed on the planet. It is worried that oil reserves will decline within five to ten years at the rate of two million barrels a day. It wants to take control of Iraq's oil fields.

Vice President Dick Cheney, described Iraq as 'the great prize'. It is the second biggest oil producer in the Middle East. It has almost 11 percent of the global reserves.

The drive for oil underpins most Western interventions in the Middle East.

In 1991, a US general candidly explained the reasons for the as Gulf War by admitting that 'If Kuwait grew carrots, we wouldn't give a damn'.

The other reason for the war is that the US now wants permanent military supremacy over its allies. In September 2002, the US National Security Strategy stated that the US must use its 'unparalleled military strength' to fight for the 'single sustainable model' of 'free enterprise across the

world. It insisted that 'the best defence is a good offence'.

The war against Iraq will be used to demonstrate to all and sundry that the US has 'full spectrum dominance'. This in turn will be used to lever open new concessions for US multi-nationals who fund the Bush regime.

The new US doctrines of 'pre-emptive war', 'regime change' and worst of all a first strike policy with nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states is a recipe for war, conflict and human destruction on a frightening new scale.

## CRAZY PRIORITIES

★ US Military spending for 2003 - \$396 dollars.

Annual cost of health care and nutrition to everyone in world: \$15 million

Each Stealth Bomber costs \$2.2.

To prevent 500,000 malaria deaths a year costs \$1 billion.

## What you can do

# Join the Irish Anti-War Movement

The Irish Anti-War Movement was founded in September 2001 at a 500 strong meeting addressed by the former UN official Denis Halliday.

It has organised several demonstrations against the war in Dublin, Shannon and Belfast bringing thousands onto the streets.

The largest of these demonstrations has mobilised 3,500 people. Speakers at IAWM demonstrations and rallies include Michael D Higgins (Labour Party) John Gormley (Green Party), Des Geraghty President SIPTU, Jack O' Connor, Vice President SIPTU, Joe Higgins

(Socialist Party) Eamonn McCann (Socialist Workers Party), Ali Halimeh, Delegate General of Palestine in Ireland, Colm Bhreatnach, Irish Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Roger Cole, PANA, Vincent Browne, journalist and broadcaster and many others.

These platforms reflect the broad-based nature of the campaign and a commitment to build widest possible coalition of forces against the war.

Each year the IAWM hold an annual conference, which is open to all members who pay their annual contribution fee.

The last conference elected a Steering

Committee from across Ireland and from a variety of backgrounds. The IAWM has established branches and affiliate groups across the country.

The IAWM also sent delegates to the recent European Social Forum ESF in Florence.

The conference of 60,000 delegates from across Europe and beyond agreed to co-ordinate opposition to the War starting with mass demonstrations in every European country on February 15<sup>th</sup>.

You can join the Irish Anti-War Movement by filling out the form below.

## Raise an anti-war resolution in your union or community organisation



The Irish Anti-War Movement believes that only a mass movement across several countries is likely to stop war.

For this reason we want to involve trade unions, student unions, political parties and community organisations in our activities.

We ask you to move the following resolution:

*This branch of union/community is opposed to a US led attack on Iraq. Such an attack can only bring terrible suffering to innocent civilians.*

*We are opposed to the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein but do not believe this war is being fought for democracy or to make the world a safer place.*

*We assert that the people of the Middle East have a right to control their own destiny and reject any attempt by the US and other powers to control the people and resources of this region.*

Accordingly we agree to

**1** *Publicly oppose the policy of the Irish government of giving US warplanes access to Shannon to conduct a war on the people of Iraq.*

**2** *Support/Sponsor the 'DON'T ATTACK IRAQ – US MILITARY OUT OF SHANNON' National Demonstration (International Day of Protest) in Dublin on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February.*

**3** *Affiliate to the Irish Anti-War Movement and to publicise and support their events.*

February 15<sup>th</sup> has been designated as a mass anti-war day through Europe and America.

The call for action on February 15<sup>th</sup> has come from the European Social Forum, which had already organised a million strong march against war in Florence in November.

This is likely to be the biggest single mobilisation against war that has ever taken place. We appeal to you to support this mobilisation and ensure that Ireland plays its part in building a successful opposition to this war.

In Ireland, the Irish Anti-War Movement is calling on everyone who opposes war to assemble on Saturday February 15<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at the garden of Remembrance, Parnell Square, Dublin.

Before this on January 18<sup>th</sup>, we are also organising an important protest at Shannon to highlight its use by the US military.

Buses will be organised from most major towns for this protest. If you want details on how to get a ticket, please phone 087-6329511 or e-mail [info@irishantiwar.org](mailto:info@irishantiwar.org).



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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Membership Fee Individual 10 Small organisation 50 Large Organisation 100 Send Cheque or PO to Irish Anti War Movement, 61 Stewart Hall, Dublin 1 Tel: 087-6329511 E-mail: [info@irishantiwar.org](mailto:info@irishantiwar.org) Web: [www.irishantiwar.org](http://www.irishantiwar.org)