

# Tudeh News

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## **Imperialism's Dangerous Bloody Military Invasion of Iraq and Urgent Tasks Ahead of Popular Forces in Iran and in the Region**

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More than 12 days have passed since the military invasion of Iraq by US and British forces. According to the world media this military conflict has left thousands of civilians dead or injured. Thousands of tons of cluster bombs, cruise missiles and new untested bombs have left such vast destruction that according to the UN it gives this military invasion horrifying human catastrophic dimensions.

In contrast to predictions made by George Bush, Tony Blair, the US military commanders and the imperialist media (and even among pro-royalist Iranian newspapers) that Baghdad would fall within 72 hours, the military invasion of Iraq gave rise to a large wave of hatred and revulsion among the people of Iraq towards the invading forces, and created a strong resistance and opposition against the invaders. Despite the profound hatred of Iraqis toward Saddam Hussein's tyrannical regime, the arrival of foreign occupying forces on Iraqi territory has turned the nature of this war into an assault against the national interests of the Iraqi people. Not only the Shiites in the south didn't welcome the occupying forces with "flowers and candies" but according to the recent bloody clashes, the military plans and objectives of the US and British forces had faced serious difficulties.

Indeed, this process is not a new phenomenon and the previous events have shown a similar outcome in the region. Iranians remember too well the dreadful and devastating war between Iran and Iraq, which was started by Saddam Hussein at the instigation of imperialism against our people's revolution – the Iranians demonstrated a legendary resistance against foreign invasion, not allowing the aggressors to accomplish their vicious objectives. With this resistance the Iranian forces were able to free the city

of Khorramshahr from the occupying Iraqi forces. At this time, while the despotic leaders of the regime under the slogan of "war is a blessing" were fantasizing to conquer Karbala and Najaf – the Tudeh Party of Iran in spite of all the internal and external pressures and while the Iraqi army had suffered dire setbacks at the front, boldly declared that the entry of the Iranian army into the Iraqi territory would transform the patriotic and defensive nature of this war. Turning it into a war of aggression which would take on the character of military adventurism followed by enormous destructive consequences for our country and the region.

We were proven right, as the Iranian army entered Iraqi territory the nature of the war did change. Saddam Hussein's regime was almost on the verge of collapse, it was then able to strengthen its position by using the nationalist fervor of the populace. This led to the imposition of a disastrous war of attrition on both countries at the cost of hundreds of thousands of young Iranian and Iraqis of which its only winners were the imperialist military industry corporations. The result of the current events resembles the past military adventures in the region.

A number of key issues are worth considering in evaluating the invasion of Iraq by US and Britain. Firstly, the main reasons for this attack; secondly, the post-war situation in Iraq and thirdly, the impacts of this military invasion on the region.

Regarding the first issue, it is now plainly obvious to people around the world and in the region that the main goal of the invasion of Iraq was not to combat terrorism or to destroy the weapons of mass destruction. As indicated by the advisors within Bush's administration such as Richard Pearl, the

main objective of this occupation is to fundamentally alter the geopolitics of the region - reinforcing the long-term interests of imperialism in the Persian Gulf.

As to the second issue, i.e. postwar destiny of the people of Iraq and the probable fall of Saddam's regime, the facts fundamentally differ from the claims of establishing democracy in Iraq, the conduct of America in the UN and the Security Council had clearly shown that Bush's administration is not even willing to let the UN to have a role in the reconstruction of postwar Iraq. The US intends to divide Iraq as the spoils of the war among the US corporations. And its military administrators will ensure that the future governments in Iraq will protect the strategic interests of the US. In another word installing a puppet government similar to the regime of Karzai in Afghanistan.

Thirdly, on the impact of the war in the region - a broad spectrum of political forces ranging from pro-American figures such as Hosni Mubarak to supporters of peace and freedom agree that the impact of this dangerous political adventure will turn the Persian Gulf region and the Middle East into a powder keg, ready to explode, spreading the military conflict across the region. Hosni Mubarak's view that that the US invasion will produce hundreds of "Bin Ladens" is a serious warning, which the aggressive policies of the United States would only result in strengthening of the fundamentalist forces. Also these events will significantly weaken the positions of the pro-American regime such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and the Persian Gulf States. The massive antiwar demonstrations in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine in the recent days are strong indication of this reality.

Noting the above mentioned issues, the following underlying questions arise: in the present circumstances, what are the tasks ahead of the popular forces supporting freedom and peace? How should we deal with the danger of further military escalation of the conflict and the intervention of other countries, such as Iran?

The popular political forces in our country along with the progressive and freedom supporting forces of Iraq and other countries of the region, strongly oppose the military invasion of Iraq and believe that it is only the people of Iraq should decide their future as they see it fitting. No progressive political force can defend the killing of thousands of innocent people and the military occupation of its country by foreign forces. The supporters of this war in the region are those political forces that their unpatriotic and dependency [on imperialism] have been proven many times in past. These political forces have no popular or moral

support and hope that they can rise to power by riding on the top of American and British tanks - to revive the era of dictators allied to America in "islands of stability" within the region. Confronting these conspiracies and fight against the war is an inseparable part of the struggle of popular political forces for freedom.

Besides these warmongers, the ruling reactionaries in Iran, while aware and concerned about the certain threats in the region see the war as a pretext justifying escalation of attacks on dissidents and the ultimate crushing of the mass movement for freedom. A glance at the speeches, announcements and statements issued by the ruling reaction, which associate the Reform Movement with the "global arrogance" [the term adopted by the regime instead of "Imperialism"] - proves that this is part of the same policy that is trying to use the war and take advantage of the peace-loving sentiment of the people and by riding on "anti-imperialist" slogans to assert its position.

This policy is an adventurism, which can have dangerous consequences for our country. Adoption of a firm national stand while avoiding tension is an urgent necessity. The highly volatile and critical situation in the region demands that all progressive and freedom loving political forces unite in their actions and coordinate their policies in opposing the war and confronting the warmongering forces - mobilizing public opinion in the world and in the region to limit the maneuverability of the reactionary warmongering elements.

Our country has not forgotten the painful experience of eight years of devastating and destructive war, with the constant bombardment of our cities. No popular patriotic and humanitarian political force would desire the recurrence of these bitter and painful experiences. Now, an all-out effort in establishing peace to remove volatility and military conflicts from the region is one of the most urgent tasks ahead of all progressive forces in the region and across the globe.

A powerful worldwide peace movement has emerged that will have a definite impact on shaping global public opinion. Through united and organized action this movement can prevent the repetition of military aggression against Iraq occurring in other parts of the world.