

FIRE THIS TIME

Movement for Social Justice



Update on War **#6**

www.fire-this-time.org

FREE



Victory or Defeat?



Stop the Killing of the People of Iraq!

End the Occupation! Self-Determination!

Organize, mobilize, and educate against the US colonization of Iraq.

West End Anti-war Forum and Vigil

Sunday April 13th at 7 PM
West End Community Centre
870 Denman

Forum starts at 7 PM
Walk from Community Centre to
English Bay for Vigil: 9 PM

*For more information contact Brian
Revel: brianrevel@telus.net.*

Lower Mainland Network Against War Meeting

Sunday April 13th at 6 PM
At the Firefighters Hall in Burnaby
6515 Bonsor Avenue
(Near Metrotown Skytrain Station)

Directions from Metrotown Skytrain Station: Go east along Central Boulevard (the street that runs directly below the Skytrain line) past the 'Bread Garden,' then turn left on Bonsor. The Firefighters Hall will be on down Bonsor on the left.

A meeting to coordinate the expansion of Stopwar.ca throughout the lower mainland to include all regions and communities.

www.stopwar.ca

No Thank You, No Colonial Liberation

The war of the US and UK against the people of Iraq is already heading towards a huge failure and tragedy. The war which started as a "libration" of Iraq transformed the entire country into to a state of chaos and uncertainty, and it completely failed in its most important objective: to bring the western style of democracy to the Iraqi people.

Al-Jazeera's correspondent in Baghdad, Maher Abdallah, described the situation as "tragic," and suggested it could have been prevented. "They have ousted the regime and the authority, and in such an urban area where there is no tribal authority or rule, chaos should have been expected to break in such a way," Abdallah said.

The situation is so catastrophic that George Bush declined to declare victory. After all the rhetoric that Saddam regime is gone and the people of Iraq are freed, all he could say was that he didn't know whether Saddam Hussein is dead or alive but "I know he's no longer in power." No mention of whether or not he got

the "victory" he was after.

What has the US-UK imposed war on the people of Iraq accomplished? 3,000 Iraqi soldiers killed. 2000 Iraqi civilians killed. 150 US-UK personnel killed. 50,000 refugees that have fled to neighbouring countries. The spending of \$1.5 billion for bombing and 750 cruise missiles fired so far. The destruction of hundreds of hospitals, schools, mosques, parks, bridges, museums, and anything that a modern civil society must have.

What has been created by this inhuman war can only be called one thing: destruction. We are now facing a country with no central government in the capital and in the regions, the continuation of war in the south with Shia majority population, unfinished war and resistance in the centre, and the Kurdish people in north with US and Turkish troops. Turkey sees Kurdish control of either city as the first step of the way towards the Iraqi Kurds claiming independence. Turkey fears that with the oil resources secured, Kurds

would possess the economic power to back their dream of gaining their own state, as well as stirring secessionist sentiments among Turkey's 12 million Kurds. Looting is everywhere in the cities and towns, and the US-UK army are just monitoring to be sure this happens; a total chaos.

A museum employee who witnessed the looting of a museum said with tears, "It is all the fault of the Americans. This is Iraq's civilization. And it's all gone now." An employee of government who was on the street in Baghdad said, "I've seen nothing new since Saddam's fall." he added that US troops did not appear to be doing anything to stop the looting of most public buildings in the capital. "They try just to protect the oil companies and the oil ministry and everything else is destroyed. They don't do anything, they just watch," he said.



Anti-war Demonstration in Madrid, Spain, April 10th 2003

The War is Not Over: Neither is the International Movement Against It

Despite the cries of 'victory' and an 'end' to the war, the international anti-war movement continues to oppose the US-led attacks on the people of Iraq. Just as the problems of the US and the UK in occupying and conquering Iraq are only beginning, the international anti-war movement that has been fueled by the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq is still a young movement, and it is continuing to grow in size and militancy.

In the last few days, people all over the world continued to take action against the war and occupation in Iraq. On April 9th, thousands marched in Brasilia, the capital of Brazil. On April 10th in Spain, tens of thousands of people took to the streets in several different cities against the US-led war. There were 50,000 people on the streets of Madrid, and another 30,000 people protesting against the war in Barcelona.

On the same day in Greece, over 500 journalists marched on the US Embassy to protest the war and

the deaths it has caused among journalists, reporters, and other workers in the media. In the US, a group of people successfully shut down the US senate to protest increased military spending. In many cities such as Jakarta, Karachi and Alexandria, daily mass demonstrations are still being held.

On April 12th, the international movement against war is again showing the world that it is not fooled by the lie that the war is over, and massive rallies are still taking place in dozens of cities all over the world as part of an international day of action. The fall of Baghdad has not caused the movement to back down. "Only now the focus is, 'No' to colonial occupation," said Sara Flounders, co-director of the New York-based International Action Centre. Chris Nineham, a spokesperson for the UK-based Stop The War Coalition, made similar statements about the situation with the war: "I don't really believe the fighting is over

– I think the invasion is sliding into a colonial occupation." The Stop The War Coalition expects up to 250,000 people to attend today's rally in London.

The International A.N.S.W.E.R. Coalition is also continuing with its planned marches for April 12th in Washington, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. "Occupation not Liberation" is the slogan they have adopted for this call to action. In Australia, several rallies are planned over the next few

days in Sydney, Melbourne, and Victoria.

As the US-led coalition changes its tactics and enters a new stage in its war against the people of the world, the people of the world are adopting new strategies and approaches to mount an effective opposition to imperialist warfare. We must continue to mount resistance against the occupation of Iraq, against the future wars that the US launches, and against any attack on the dignity, humanity, and freedom of the people on this planet.

*This Update on War was
published by the*

**Fire This Time
Movement for Social
Justice**

www.fire-this-time.org

April 12th 2003 Issue 6

Phone/Fax: (604) 322-1764

Email: info@fire-this-time.org

Mail: PO Box 21607

Vancouver BC

V5N 5T5

**Get involved with
STOPWAR.CA!**

**General Meetings
Every Wednesday**

5:30 PM

Maritime Labour Centre

1880 Triumph St

(Triumph & Victoria)

Vancouver