



**NO TO WAR!
NO TO TERRORISM!
NO TO RACISM!**

Socialist Party public meeting

Withdraw the troops from Iraq!

The Baghdad tragedy, on 31 August, when almost 1,000 Shia pilgrims were killed in a stampede - competes with the catastrophic flooding of New Orleans in a kind of "league of horrors".

Many US National Guards from Mississippi and Louisiana, who could have been used to rescue the desperate people of New Orleans, had instead been used by US president Bush to invade and occupy Iraq. It was also revealed that Bush's government had cut funding for flood prevention in New Orleans, while spending

\$5bn per month on the brutal occupation of Iraq.

The US-British intervention in Iraq has caused the deaths of an estimated 100,000 Iraqi people and over 2,000 occupying troops. The coalition troops should be withdrawn immediately, as continued occupation is worsening the bloodshed and divisions in Iraq. The fiction of US imperialism bringing 'peace' and 'democracy' to the region has been shown by the escalating death toll, great instability and the devastated infrastructure. Even Iraqi oil production

- the main reason for the invasion - is below its pre-war level.

Recently US representatives endorsed a new Iraqi constitution that is opposed both by the Sunni minority and by many Iraqi people who want a secular state. It will worsen divisions further if implemented, bringing the danger of a descent into an all-out civil war between aspiring capitalist warlords from all ethnic and religious backgrounds.

To prevent that terrible prospect and to get rid of the imperialist occupation, defend

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their communities and fight for a society in their own interests, the Iraqi working class needs its own independent struggle and a democratic organisation. Only such an organisation would be able to put forward a programme that could cut across religious and ethnic divisions. It would need to oppose the sweeping privatisation programme which is handing Iraqi assets to multinational corporations, and put forward a socialist alternative to the nightmare scenario presently unfolding.

No to terrorism

An opinion poll in Britain showed that 85% of people recognise there is a link between the London bombings and British troops being in Iraq. Even the CIA declared that Iraq is now a "training ground in which novice terrorists are schooled" for attacks on a world scale.

The profoundly misguided young men who carried out the bombings probably thought they were acting against the Blair government and the occupation of Iraq. However, they killed and injured ordinary Londoners from many ethnic backgrounds, and rather than weakening Blair, they gave him an excuse to introduce more repressive legislation.

Terrorist action won't bring an end to the occupation. Only mass action led by workers in the US and

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Britain can force their governments to withdraw the troops.

The trade unions and anti-war movement in Britain must unite as many people as possible, from all ethnic groups, to demonstrate and take action against Blair's foreign policy in Iraq, but also against terrorism, against attacks on our civil liberties and against racism. Racist attacks have increased since the London bombings. While Muslims have been the worst affected, every ethnic minority is suffering.

Defend democratic rights

Britain already has the most wide-ranging 'anti-terrorism' laws in Western Europe, but they were not able to prevent the London attacks. Nor will the new planned laws stop future attacks. They will, however, be used against innocent people, including many from Muslim backgrounds. For example, the legislation introduced after 9/11 led to 700 arrests, but only 17 were convicted of any offence, with just three of them relating to terrorism. We have

also seen how the secretly decided 'shoot-to-kill' policy resulted in the brutal killing of an innocent young Brazilian man, Jean Charles de Menezes.

'Anti-terrorism' laws will also be used against the right of trade unionists and other workers to struggle and demonstrate. For instance, the government is giving itself the right to ban any demonstration in the interests of 'national security' and can ban demonstrators from assembling in a new exclusion zone around the Houses of Parliament.

For a socialist alternative

We appeal to you to join the Socialist Party. War, terrorism, economic crisis and environmental damage are increasingly the norm in the capitalist system worldwide. To permanently end these threats we have to fight for the end of capitalism and for the establishment of a democratic socialist world run in the interests of the billions instead of for the profits of the billionaires.

I would like to find out more/join the Socialist Party
Please send me the next three issues of *the socialist*, I enclose £1.

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The Socialist Party is affiliated to the socialist international organisation, the Committee for a Workers' International (CWI). The CWI is organised in 40 countries, fighting for a socialist world.

**For more details see the CWI website:
www.socialistworld.net**

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