

NO WAR WITH IRAN NO PEACE WITH IMPERIALISM

The assassination of Qassem Soleimani, Iran's leading military commander, at Baghdad airport in Iraq was a naked act of imperialist aggression by the United States government.

In a single act, the Trump Administration effectively declared war on Iran and flagrantly violated Iraqi sovereignty. This action has the potential to ignite a catastrophic regional bloodbath across the Middle East. Trump's terrorism and Johnson's complicity increase the risk of a response in the US and Britain.



US marines patrol Baghdad after the 2003 invasion of Iraq.
Photo: WikiCommons

The killing of Soleimani comes after an extended period of imperialist aggression towards Iran by the Trump Administration and previous US governments. Weapons used by the United States to this end have included crippling economic sanctions aimed at blocking supplies of food and primary medicines to the Iranian people, as well as the sponsorship of armed insurgencies within Iran.

It is imperative to marshal the greatest resistance possible to Trump's reckless lurch towards war with Iran, and to any complicit part that the British state, military, intelligence services or arms suppliers may play. We must resist the Islamophobia and repression that accompany warmongering and champion the rights of migrants from the region.

We call for the most tenacious opposition to any potential war, including mass protests, direct action and strike action of the kind carried out successfully by dockers in France and Italy to stop arms to Saudi

Arabia's genocidal war on Yemen. If war does break out, we must build an overwhelming movement of mass opposition to it. Popular power is the only reliable counterweight to the imperialist agendas of powerful states, their military and intelligence establishments, and the ruling-class interests that ultimately determine their foreign policies.

An escalation has potentially deadly consequences for the revolutionary mass movement, which has been waged by the people of Iraq against their own dictatorial rulers throughout recent months. Despite the killing of hundreds of Iraqi protesters by security forces and associated militias, the movement has continued to rally and to demand an end to corruption, sectarian rule, and neoliberal impoverishment. They have also demanded true national independence for Iraq, in the face of both US imperialism and Iranian military intrigues.

A renewed armed conflict between the Iranian state and US imperialism would be devastating for the Iraqi popular movement. The conversion of Iraq, again, into a scene for armed conflict between rival states and imperialist powers, would be disastrous for the protesters, whose cause runs counter to the interests of all the major competing regional powers, and who have no recourse to armed force to defend themselves. Already, the Iraqi authorities are seeking to capitalise on the fallout of the assassination to falsely style the mass movement as a pawn of US imperialism, justifying further massacres and crackdowns against the populace.

The protest movement of the Iranian people that has broken out in recent months, against austerity and repression within Iran, also has nothing to gain and everything to lose from an external imperialist intervention that would inflict mass death and destruction upon Iranian society.

There is much more to be said about the role of imperialist rivalries playing out in the region and about popular resistance – but opposing the drive to war is our urgent priority.