

10 Reasons to demonstrate...

- 1) The NZ government decision to send the SAS to Afghanistan has meant that NZ is directly involved in combat against the people of that country. The recent "elections" in Afghanistan have revealed the regime to be simply a continuation of the same corrupt, drug running warlords that the US allied itself to in the overthrow of the Taliban. No progress has been made to bring about any real social or economic progress to the country.
- 2) Afghanistan and Iraq are suffering - the wars & occupation have cost more than one million lives with no end in sight. Millions more have been driven into exile. Over 6400 US and other foreign troops have died so far, with tens of thousands more badly injured.
- 3) The occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan have cost one trillion dollars. Each day costs \$300 million, more than \$10 billion each month. Despite this expenditure on death and destruction the US and its Western allies have opposed any meaningful expenditure to close the gaps between rich and poor in the world (including in the fight against global warming).
- 4) The reasons used to justify these wars have been exposed as a sham. Iraq had no weapons of mass destruction and no connection to the September 11 attacks. Afghanistan had offered to expel the Al Qaeda group for trial in another Muslim country.
- 5) The U.S. does have weapons of mass destruction, possessing 10,000 nuclear weapons. The total real annual military budget is nearly \$US1 trillion annually - almost as great as the rest of the world combined. It exports billions of dollars in war equipment to corrupt and brutal regimes around the world. It has military bases in 130 countries.
- 6) The US and Britain are plotting new aggression - against Iran above all. The war could spread and it could become a nuclear war.
- 7) Freedom is under threat - civil liberties are being torn up by the government because of the so-called "war on terror". The US exposed as a government that condones torture. Pledges to close Guantanamo and the rendition programmes remain unfulfilled. Warfare gets privatised and outside any democratic control. Drone missiles are used to assassinate anyone deemed an enemy of the state without any accountability. Civilian deaths are deemed "collateral damage".
- 8) Opinion polls in both Iraq and Afghanistan show that a substantial majority of the population in both countries want all foreign troops withdrawn.
- 9) Despite the hope for change the new Obama administration in the US is proving to be a loyal servant of big business and the wars of empire. Since the election President Obama and his Secretary of State Hillary Clinton have overseen a continuation of the war in Iraq, trebling of military forces in Afghanistan, uncritical support for the Israeli regime, the overthrow of a democratically elected President in Honduras and the scuttling of any serious plan to confront global warming.
- 10) March 20 an international day of action against war and occupation. It marks the 7th anniversary of the Iraq invasion.

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