

# Socialist Worker

# GULF CRISIS SPECIAL

## CLINTON AND BLAIR ARE MURDERERS

# STOP THE BOMBING!

### BILL CLINTON and Tony Blair are murderers.

We do not yet know the extent of the casualties of their bombing of Iraq, but many are likely to die.

Clinton and Blair are also liars. They say the bombing is about getting rid of Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction.

But the US has the biggest stockpile of weapons of mass destruction of any nation on earth.

The bombing is really a cynical attempt to get Bill Clinton off the hook as he faces impeachment over the Monica Lewinsky affair.

### MESSAGE

It is also about oil and US power. Clinton wants to prove the US is top dog.

He wants to send a message to every world leader that anyone who interferes with the US's interests will pay the price.

Clinton and Blair also say they want to get rid of Saddam Hussein. But it is the Iraqi people who are paying the price of the

bombing, not Saddam Hussein.

Some 200,000 Iraqis were slaughtered in the Gulf War of 1991. Over half a million have died as a result of sanctions since the war ended.

Clinton is almost alone among world leaders in his warmongering. Blair is the only world leader giving him wholehearted support.

The Irish govern-

ment has refused to condemn Britain and the US.

### RE-FUELLED

During the last Gulf War, they allowed

Shannon to be used to re-fuel US war planes.

We need to make sure that they do not do the same again.

Every cruise missile costs nearly £1 million. The world is gripped by

economic crisis.

Millions of people suffer from starvation, poverty and unemployment.

That money should be spent on saving lives, not destroying

them.

No one should fall for the lies of Bill Clinton and Tony Blair. Everyone should oppose the warmongering and protest against the bombing.

## Lying to justify the slaughter

**BILL CLINTON and Tony Blair claim they are bombing Iraq because Saddam Hussein's regime has deadly weapons.**

They are hypocrites.

The US admitted last year it has a stockpile of 30,000 tons of chemical weapons.

The US also possesses over 8,000 nuclear warheads and the means to detonate them anywhere in the world.

The US dropped tens of thousands of bombs and chemical weapons on Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos in the 1960s and 1970s.

Deadly napalm and Agent Orange devastated the environment and caused horrific injuries to millions of people.

Their effects were very similar to those caused by Saddam Hussein when he used gas against the Kurds.

The US has also developed new bombs since then that spray darts inside people's bodies and then wrench out their insides.

Deadly nuclear weapons do exist in the Middle East-but they are in the hands of Israel, not Iraq.

Israel has over 200 nuclear warheads targeted on every Arab capital.

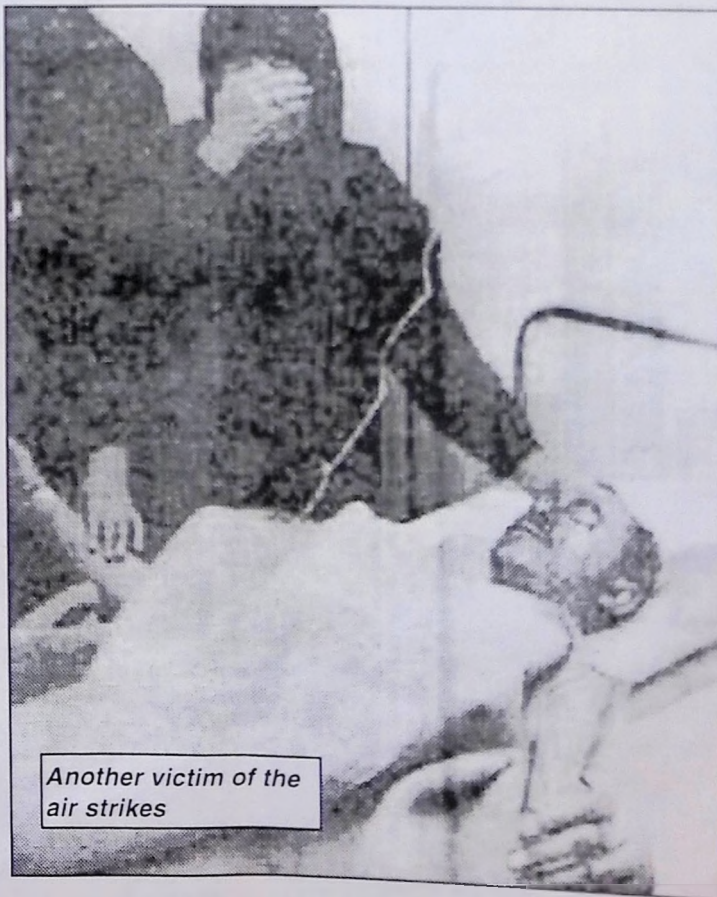
The finger on the trigger is Israel's right wing leader, Benjamin Netanyahu.

Israel has invaded Arab countries, bombed Arab cities and imprisoned, tortured and murdered Palestinians.

It still keeps troops in its "security zone" in Lebanon who kill people on a daily basis.

The US and Britain have never made any threats or taken any action against Israel's deadly arsenal.

They are also silent about the deadly weapons in the hands of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Israel, Pakistan, India and South Korea.



Another victim of the air strikes



# PROFIT AND POWER BEHIND KILLING

# No blood for oil

Truth  
about  
1991  
Gulf  
War

**BEHIND ALL the killing in the Gulf lies oil.**

Western governments and giant multinationals will butcher anyone who is deemed to be a threat to their supply of this crucial commodity.

In 1991 Lawrence Korb, the former US assistant defence secretary, admitted, "If Kuwait grew carrots we wouldn't give a damn." The US and Britain, under the umbrella of the United Nations, murdered for oil profits.

Today the Middle

East still accounts for around half of the world's known oil reserves outside the former USSR.

Western powers have tried to control what happens in the region ever since the first discovery of oilfields.

## Boundaries

The boundaries of virtually all the states were drawn directly by Western powers.

A Saudi Arabian diplomat admitted in 1991, "It is possible to see all these countries

in the Gulf as imperialist creations that allow the West to play one against the other in the interests of cheap oil."

In the first quarter of this century the great powers divided the Middle East between them.

As General Edward Spears, British minister to Syria and Lebanon, wrote, "The French and British satisfied each other's appetites by serving up strips of the Arab lands to each other."

British troops were used in Palestine, Jordan, Iraq, Iran and else-

where to grab or protect oil supplies.

Later the US muscled in for its own share.

The US, Britain and France have been prepared to destabilise or remove regimes that threatened their control of oil ever since.

Today there is a new oil scramble going on in the region around the Caspian Sea.

The US and Western powers are determined they will come out on top.

Their bombs and missiles this week are part of the strategy to

bully other powers out of controlling the area's oil.

Last month the US energy secretary Bill Richardson said, "The fate of the Caspian region is about America's energy security."

## Strategic

It is also about preventing strategic inroads by those who do not share our values.

"We are trying to move these newly independent countries towards the West."

We would like to see them reliant on West-

ern commercial and political interests rather than going another way.

"We have made a substantial political investment in the Caspian and it is very important to us that both the pipeline map and the politics come out right." The US fears it has lost out over where the oil will be shipped.

It therefore has to reinforce control of the Middle East and make another effort to win back the Caspian.

It has been blood for oil for 100 years and it is still blood for oil today.

IN 1991 the United States, Britain and their United Nations allies launched a full scale war against Iraq.

They told us it was "a war for democracy" against the tyranny of Saddam Hussein's regime.

That lie was churned out daily by politicians and the media.

But the Gulf War was not about democracy.

It was fought for control of the oilfields of the Middle East.

And far from bringing peace and stability, the war brought death, destruction and repression.

The US claimed it was using "smart bombs" which caused little "collateral damage" - civilian casualties.

US generals later admitted that three quarters of US and British bombs missed their targets.

Homes, hospitals and schools were reduced to rubble.

In Baghdad 300 women and children were massacred when a bomb hit the Amiryah civilian shelter.

US general Neal admitted the US saw the civilian shelter as a legitimate target which was "struck as designated".

At the end of the war the US and its allies massacred retreating Iraqi soldiers and civilians on the Basra road leading out of Kuwait.

Western generals boasted it was a "turkey shoot".

Towards the end of the war the US encouraged Iraqis to rise up against Saddam Hussein, but then cynically encouraged the suppression of the revolts that took place.

## Saddam created by the West

CLINTON, BLAIR, the media and all the main political parties say Saddam Hussein is an evil dictator.

They do not mention that Saddam Hussein was made, and for many years backed, by the West.

■ Saddam seized power in 1963.

■ The US saw his regime as a useful ally against left wing forces which were threatening Western control of oil.

■ The United States CIA spy agency even gave Saddam lists of socialists to hunt down and kill.

■ In 1980 Saddam invaded Iran with full backing from the US.

■ The British, French and German governments all supplied Iraq with weapons to wage war against Iran.

■ In 1987 the US intervened directly in the war in support of Iraq, shooting down a civilian Iranian airplane.

■ All through the 1980s, as the Scott Report exposed, Britain's then Tory government continued to supply arms to Iraq.

■ The West helped Saddam get the facilities to make poison gas which was used against Iranian troops and then in the slaughter of 4,000 Iraqi Kurds in the town of Halabja.

■ Western governments then helped cover up this atrocity.

■ As recently as 1988 the US was supplying anthrax to Saddam.

It was only when he threatened Western oil interests by trying to take over Kuwait that he suddenly became a "dictator".

Until then the West was perfectly prepared to keep quiet as he murdered his opponents and members of the Kurdish minority.

## THE DEADLY TOLL OF SANCTIONS



Half a million Iraqi children have already died from the effects of sanctions

WESTERN sanctions since the last Gulf War have killed far more people than Saddam Hussein.

Clinton and Blair should remember the words of Denis Halliday, former UN Humanitarian Aid Coordinator for Iraq.

Halliday resigned earlier this year in protest at the barbaric consequences of UN sanctions against Iraq.

He said, "We are in the process of destroying an entire society. It is as simple and terrifying as that."

It is illegal and immoral. Over half a million children have died and over a million more are malnourished.

Tony Blair claims the Iraqi government can buy as much medicine and supplies as it needs.

But Iraq can sell only a limited number of bar-

rels of oil to buy food and basic provisions under the UN's "oil for food" agreement.

The arrangement puts a stranglehold on the Iraqi economy, already devastated by the 1991 Gulf War.

Every journalist who has visited Iraq describes hospitals without the most basic medicines, without an-

aesthetics, without spare parts for medical equipment.

The UN's Sanctions Committee has a list of items banned from entry into Iraq.

Amongst the items on this "red list" are electric light bulbs, socks, wristwatches, ovens, sewing machines, needles, nails, textiles, grain mills and

refrigerators.

Other items for Iraq vetoed by the UN Sanctions Committee include baby food, rice, shirts, children's clothes, sanitary towels and blankets.

The bombs are murder and so are sanctions.

They should both be ended now.

After march drink & discussion

## Is there an alternative to war?

Speaker KIERAN ALLEN (editor of *Socialist Worker*)

Upstairs in Ha'penny Bridge Inn directly after the march this afternoon

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