

Protest Against US in Iraq

On January, 2021, thousands of Iraqis carrying Iraqi and militia flags and posters of General Qasim Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Mahandis and chanting anti-US slogans marched in the streets of Central Baghdad and converged at the Tahrir Square. It was organized by the Iran-backed Popular Mobilisation Forces to commemorate the death anniversary of Iranian General and a top Iraqi militant leader Qasim Soleimani and Iran's Scientist Abu Mahdi al-Mahandis who were killed by the US. The protesters raised the slogans like, "No, no to America," "You killed our Guest. There is no place here for your Embassy." "They demanded the withdrawal of US troops from Iraq and called upon the Iraqi govt. and parliament (Which recently adopted a resolution calling for the expulsion of all foreign troops from Iraq.) to expel the occupying foreign forces, especially the brutal American forces, infidels, the immoral, who killed the heroes and leaders of victory." The protesters also set fire to a large US flag to the roaring cheers of people.

This protest action mirrors two aspects of present political situation in Iraq.

1. The opposition and struggle of the oppressed people of Iraq against the US imperialists is continuing ever since the US imperialists had illegally stepped into Iraq two decades back to take control of rich Iraq's oil resources, brutally assassinated Saddam Hussein, the Head of Iraq and invaded and forcibly occupied Iraq putting off the flames of people's resistance and imposed their oppressive rule there. The people's resistance is continuing even today and it reflected in the way they extended their support to the present protest action in Baghdad.

2. In the early period of their occupation of Iraq with their brute strength of arms, the US imperialists found it too difficult to install a stable puppet regime as they stood totally alienated from a major part of the people. They were left with no other option except banking on the Shiite sections of leadership and population in Iraq who were under a strong influence of Iranian rulers and religious leadership. So they were compelled to make a political deal with the Iranian rulers and thus buy stability and peace for their puppet regime. Mad enmity and hate for Saddam Hussein and yearning to become a regional power in the Gulf had prompted the Iranian leaders to co operate with the US. A puppet regime of US with the Shiite elements had thus come into being in Iraq. All these years, this regime, on one side, had been facing a relentless opposition and struggle of oppressed Iraqi people. On the other side, it was also being rocked internally by the ever growing dissensions, power squabbles and crises.

The Contradictions and tensions are growing between the US and the Iranian rulers in the wake of determined moves on the part of US imperialists to enlarge their spheres of influence and domination, erode and wipe out the Iran's influence in the Gulf and their repeated attempts to topple the Iranian rulers from power. Continuing economic and political sanctions of US against Iran had become too oppressive and a potential cause of economic crisis for the Iranian rulers. Killing of two top persons, conduct of B-52 bomber flyovers and sending of nuclear submarines by Trump regime to Gulf area in the name of a possibility of Iranian attack had further heightened the tensions between the US and Iranian rulers in recent times. January 3rd, 2021 protest demonstrations in Iraq are only a manifestation of this situation.

The tensions between the US and Iranian rulers may flare up or recede depending upon how they handle their contradictions. But the contradiction between the US imperialists and the oppressed people of Iraq remains as long as the US imperialists persist in their attempts and conspiracies to loot and keep the Iraqi people under their oppressive thumb of subjugation.

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