

No New War on Iraq & Syria

FACT SHEET

► **The United States has killed millions of Iraqis.** From 1991 to now, estimates range between 3-4 million total killed in Iraq by US actions, including sanctions, wars, and occupation. Around 600,000 children have died due to US Sanctions in Iraq in the 1990s, followed by over 1 million dead since 2003 (United Nations, Centre for Research on Globalization). More bombing will only increase the misery of the Iraqi people.

► **Syria and Iraq were advanced societies, before the US destroyed them.** Led by secular governments which nationalized key industries such as oil, education, and healthcare, Syria and Iraq had some of the highest life expectancies in the region. Yet after years of US wars, in both countries people are expected to live shorter life spans than before. The US regime change campaign in Syria has caused the death of almost 200,000 people.

► **There is no proof the Syrian government used chemical weapons against their people.** The UN was in Syria during the time of the attacks after they had been invited by the Syrian government to investigate whether chemical weapons were used. Just days after the attack that the US blamed on President Assad and the Syrian government, 12 rebels were arrested in Turkey after they were found with over 4.5 pounds of Sarin gas. Carla Del Ponte, a UN Human Rights Investigator, said about earlier charges that the Syrian government has not used chemical weapons, but indeed the rebels did.

► **Syrian President Assad is the elected President of Syria.** Despite ongoing war which has displaced a huge number of Syrians, over 73% of all adults voted in June 2014 Presidential elections, with President Assad beating out two other competitors. With further changes to the Syrian constitution, 9 political parties are now represented in the Syrian parliament.

► **The only way to stop this war is with millions of people in the streets. The majority of people in the US oppose these endless wars. We need a united movement which demands; No airstrikes, no troops, no aid to insurgents, US Out of the Middle East!**

► **The US has spent billions to overthrow the Syrian government,** with the goal of crushing the alliance between Syria, Iran, Hezbollah, and the Palestinian resistance.

► **The US and its allies created ISIS.** Before 2010, ISIS was simply Al Qaeda in Iraq. Fueled by crisis in the region and millions in US weapons that were given to the so-called moderate rebels, ISIS has grown in prominence. Sectarian wars in Iraq since the US occupation have fueled the development of ISIS. Countries like Qatar and Saudi Arabia, now in the coalition supposedly to fight ISIS, were some of ISIS' biggest financial sponsors.

► **The leader of ISIS was trained by Israel, CIA.** According to leaks by Edward Snowden, reported by the Centre for Research on Globalization, ISIS leader Abu Bakr Al Baghdadi took intensive military training for a whole year in the hands of Mossad (the Israeli CIA), who works closely with the CIA.

► **Bombing ISIS is an excuse to overthrow Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad** and to continue the US plans to conquer the region. While it is not yet a fact that the US will use this as an excuse to call a no fly zone over Syria, it is clear that US bombing in the region will create nothing but more violence and more chaos. The force which has been successful in defeating these insurgents is the Syrian military, which has been excluded from the US coalition against ISIS. The people of Iraq, who defeated and pushed out 1/2 million troops of US occupation, are also able to deal with the threat of ISIS.

► **The Pentagon has a budget of over 1 trillion dollars and is the largest contributor to global climate change in the world.** According to Alternet, the Pentagon contributes over 1,500,000 pounds of hazardous waste per year -- more than the top three US chemical companies combined. More war means more pollution and more climate change.

► **Military action against ISIS is costing US taxpayers \$312,500 per hour** (National Priorities Project). Meanwhile, there is no money for healthcare, jobs, or anything else the people of the US and the world need. Yet US corporations and military contractors make billions in profits off of continued war.

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