Defend George Galloway

US and UK troops shooting Iraqi protestors dead. Hospitals without vital medical supplies. Water and electricity still absent from many parts of the country. People still being killed and maimed by cluster bombs. Children dying from avoidable diseases spread by polluted water supplies and poor food. That's the reality of 'liberated' Iraq. And still not a sign of the weapons of mass destruction which were the excuse for the war.

The aftermath of the war has made it clear that the anti-war movement was right all along. This was never a war of liberation. This was a war of occupation in order to secure US domination over Iraq's and the Middle East's oil wealth.

The Socialist Alliance is proud to have played an important role in the Stop the War Coalition. We have seen the biggest ever demonstrations against war in this country. These in turn helped to inspire popular opposition to the war across the world. We came near to pulling Blair out of the war. Now he is seeking revenge by smearing Goeorge Galloway and with him the whole anti-war movement.

George Galloway did more than any other Labour MP to raise opposition to the bloody war on Iraq across Britain and beyond. He rightly pointed the finger of blame for the slaughter in Iraq at Bush and Blair and consistently demanded the war be stopped. He told the truth and that's why the Labour Party has suspended him.

The Socialist Alliance will be proud to help defend George Galloway against the witch-hunting of him in the press, the Labour Party and the establishment. Already the Christian Science Monitor has been forced to admit its smears were based on forged documents.

But Blair is not just targeting George amd the anti-war movement. He's determined to press on with his war on the NHS and state education and the trade union movement.

Again the Socialist Alliance intends to be in the forefront of the fight to defeat New Labour at every turn. In the recent local elections the Socialist Alliance saw its first election victory with the election of Michael Lavalette in Preston. He trounced the Labour candidate in what was formerly a very safe Labour seat. In Middlesbrough, another Socialist Alliance candidate came within 100 votes of winning a seat from New Labour. There were many other very good results around the country.

The anti-war protests and the success of the Scottish Socialist Party, with 6 MSPs elected, and the Socialist Alliance in England show that there is an enormous potential to build a principled socialist alternative to Blair and New Labour.

The Socialist Alliance has launched a new initiative to try to bring together all those in the anti-war movement and beyond who want to mount the most effective challenge to Blair in the European and local elections in June 2004.

The Liberal Democrats are no answer—they supported the war after it began and where they control the council they privatise and cut just like New Labour.

But together we can begin to provide a credible, principled, socialist alternative. If you want to talk to us about getting together to make that challenge, please phone us on 020 7791 3138.

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