

Machinegunning of the U.S. Embassy in Bonn (February 13, 1991)

Solidarity with the people of the Middle East against imperialist subjugation and annihilation!

For an immediate end to the genocide of the Iraqi people!

Today, with the Vincenzo Spano Commando, we shot up the U.S. embassy in Bonn, because the U.S. has always played a leading role in the annihilation of the Iraqi people. With our action, we join ranks with all of those around the world who are taking a stand against the U.S.-NATO genocide.

International solidarity is an expression of the people's love for one another.

For the imperialist states this war is the opening salvo in establishing their New World Order for the post-Cold War period.

For many years now, the Iraqi regime has served the interests of imperialist war: they have held Iran in check and have used poison gas in a genocidal campaign against the Kurds. Recently, Iraq has tried to further solidify its power in the Middle East.

As far as imperialism is concerned, the Middle East is an unstable region. First, the Palestinian liberation movement, especially the enduring nature of the Intifada, creates pressure that keeps the question of fundamental political change permanently on the agenda. Second, it is very clear that the ruling cliques in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, etc. risk being swept away by their own populations. Therefore, no power structure that is not under the absolute control of the imperialist bloc can be permitted to exist in this region to threaten the oil supply required by western oil companies and the West European industrial states. This is the reason for the war the imperialist states have declared against their former ally. Imperialism has no morals. The Saddam Hussein/Hitler comparison is propagandistic nonsense developed by the ruling class to appeal to all the people who do not currently approve of this war. However, for this system, every Hitler, Shamir, Özal, Pinochet, Cristiani¹ or whoever is a friend, so long as he serves the interests of international capital – regardless of the methods used.

For the U.S., this war provides a welcome opportunity to tie the question of who will lead the Western bloc to the issue of military power. For their part, they naturally hope to use this war to shore up their suffering economy. At the same time, competition between the core imperialist states is playing itself out in the Middle East – the most important of several issues being future power and influence in the Middle East and supremacy within the imperialist camp.

The federal government is aware that Greater Germany cannot become a new world power solely based on the strength of the FRG's capital. To achieve this, the Fourth Reich desperately needs an unfettered military machine, just as the Nazis needed one. Once again, for the first time in 45 years, the interests of German capital can only be achieved through the extensive brutality of the war machine. All efforts are currently being made towards this end.

The German military units in Turkey that are logistically integrated into this war constitute the first practical step in this direction. By means of UN units drawn from the German army – through which the UN is to join NATO, the IMF, and the World Bank as an instrument of imperialist war against the oppressed – Greater Germany hopes to once again be free to militarily repress and plunder the people.

The war in the Middle East is the "war of the rich against the poor," as the comrades from November 17² in Greece have put it. The imperialist states are conducting scorched earth warfare in Iraq. The oppressed of the world have not forgotten the death and suffering of an entire people caused by the American B52 bombers that dropped tens of thousands of bombs, carpet-bombing Vietnam.

Israel and Turkey are using the genocide of the Iraqi people to escalate the war and terror against the Palestinians and the Kurds. The Turkish regime – supported by the German army and other NATO troops – bombed Kurdish villages in the border area killing thousands of people; Israel again bombarded Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon and terrorized the occupied territories. The Zionist state wants to finally drive the Palestinians out of the occupied territories and annex parts of Lebanon and Jordan.

Solidarity with the Palestinian Intifada and the Kurdish liberation struggle!

¹ Yitzhak Shamir is an important member of the Likud Party in Israel who is sometimes portrayed as a moderate. Turgut Özal is a former Turkish President. Augusto Pinochet is the former Chilean dictator who came to power in a CIA-backed coup against the nationalist, social democratic government of Salvador Allende. Alfred Cristiani is the former president and leader of the far-right ARENA Party in El Salvador. All four men have been responsible for serious human rights abuses.

² November 17, an armed group active in Greece from 1975, took its name for the 1973 date of a student uprising against the military dictatorship. During the first Gulf war it was particularly active laying many bombs and carrying out rocket attacks against City Bank and two oil refineries.

The massive mobilization against this extermination program surprised and frightened the ruling class in the FRG. After a year of celebrating the re-establishment of Greater Germany and the “triumph of the free market system,” the federal government is today confronted with the fact that many people feel their interests are tied to those of the people in the Middle East and not to those of the international ruling class.

The psychological warfare that everyone from the federal government to the pro-state left engages in, denouncing everyone who takes a stand against this genocide as racist and antisemitic, must be resisted. Solidarity with the Iraqi people against imperialist annihilation is part of the struggle of those of us below against those at the top: there is no basis for such empty denunciations of anyone who struggles from this perspective.

The anti-imperialist struggle against this genocide is part of making practical progress towards a better kind of life in every country and of obstructing imperialism’s destructive project – both are concrete steps in a single process by which the oppressed can build a counterforce and roll back international imperialist power.

What we want to say to those who over the past weeks have taken to the streets against this war and for peace, is that you must deal with the fact that imperialist war is a fundamental aspect of the logic of the imperialist system. This system produces human alienation and competition, pitting all against all; every humane way of life must be destroyed so that most people will seek their identity within the system and will become objects of consumerist terror. Imperialism will always wage war whenever its power is threatened anywhere in the world; it will not stop imposing its interests against those of the people – with violence, with money, with lies, by all means available to the ruling class.

A self-determined and worthwhile life for everyone, without exploitation or oppression, will only be possible once we have smashed the power of the imperialist system. The coordination of the different initiatives against this genocide constitutes a step in this direction:

- the attacks of revolutionary groups around the world against the political and military power of the U.S.A. and NATO,
- the blockades of war-profiteering corporations, of stock exchanges, of NATO military bases...
- and all initiatives, demos, vigils, information campaigns, and acts of sabotage by people who have begun to ask questions that can help develop consciousness independent from that of the ruling class, something which is both positive and necessary.

Maybe we frightened some of you. We mixed tracer bullets into our ammunition, which shows what this shooting was really about, and proves that no one needs to run away from us in fear. However, if you have been taken in by the manifest rage of the cops and the Yankees, which we can easily imagine, then that’s too bad. Certainly the media will be reporting that we almost shot you. That’s nonsense. The entire time, we knew exactly where your camp³ was, and also, before beginning to shoot up the U.S. Embassy, we took control of access to the nearby path along the Rhein.

War against imperialist war!

U.S.-NATO out of the Middle East!

Sabotage, desert, attack

Solidarity with our hunger-striking comrades from Action Directe and GRAPO/PCE(r)

Prevent the execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal⁴

Vincenzo Spano Commando

³ As was the case at many US installations and public buildings and in major parks in cities all over Germany, a peace camp had been set up on the lawn of the US Embassy the RAF machinegunned.

⁴ Former Black Panther and current MOVE supporter Mumia Abu-Jamal was convicted of the December 9, 1981 shooting death of Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner in spite of witnesses who claim that another man and not Mumia was the shooter.