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**SHAMELESS
OPPORTUNISM
Allows Jack Straw to get
away with the murder of
innocent Iraqis**

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SHAMELESS OPPORTUNISM

INTRODUCTION

The people of South Africa, together with all freedom-loving and anti-imperialist peoples of the world are sad and mourn the flagrant rape of Iraq, a sovereign country, by the Anglo-American imperialists who are a breed of international outlaws and genocidal gangsters. These two countries have the military and economic power to impose their will on the rest of the world. And that is precisely what they did as far as Iraq is concerned.

These gangsters brushed aside with arrogance and contempt international law as they did the United Nations Organisation and the deeply felt views of many hundreds of millions of people all over the world.

The tiny run down nation of Iraq, suffering from crippling Security Council sanctions for over ten years, was no match for the overwhelming military strength and resources of Anglo-American imperialism.¹ The fact that it took the imperialists twice the length of time estimated to overrun Iraq speaks highly of the tremendous courage and will of the Iraqis to resist foreign invaders.

Thousands of innocent Iraqis were killed and wounded. They had not threatened Anglo-American imperialism nor did they engage in so-called terrorism. Their deaths and injuries have been callously described as “collateral damage” by these gangsters.

FRIENDSHIP THROUGH BRIBERY

The rape of this tiny nation was committed in full view of the world. Never before has Anglo-American imperialism been so hated by the rest of the world. Instead of flowers and demonstrations of welcome, the invaders were met with hatred and curses. A bad miscalculation by their strategists!

There was, therefore, urgent need to win back goodwill.

While the death of Walter Sisulu was an occasion of great sadness for the people of South Africa, it was a godsend to these gangsters. They greedily

¹ The military budget of US imperialism alone was TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY times the size of the Iraqi military budget.

seized the occasion to try and win friendship. Hence both Bush and Powell sent condolences to the Sisulu family and to South Africa on the death of Walter Sisulu.

This was followed by an official visit to South Africa by Britain's Foreign Secretary, a man of depleted morality appropriately called Straw.

The first surprise was the cordiality with which Straw was received by Dr Zuma, the Foreign Minister.

Surely, common sense ought to have told the South African government that Straw's visit was nothing more than an exercise in damage control. Here we have Iraq, a nation and its people who have just been victims of a most brazen violation. The thousands of corpses of Iraqis murdered by the imperialist gangsters have scarcely begun mouldering in their graves. The hands of these gangsters are still dripping with the blood of their innocent victims.

Yet Straw, all gory and gushing with traditional British hypocrisy, is given a warm welcome.

1. He is accorded the respect, warmth and friendship by Dr Zuma as one would to an esteemed foreign dignitary of an ally or friendly country.
2. As if that was not enough, the television viewing public is exposed to Straw relating to a fawning Minister of Sport, Ngconde Balfour.² Straw used the occasion to hand out soccer outfits to youth. Whether accidental or not, the youth accepted their parcels grim-faced.
3. Straw is accorded the honour to attend the memorial service for Walter Sisulu in Pretoria. He was shown clapping his hands and dancing with the rest of the audience.
4. According to Mr. Vuyo Mvuko, the political editor of the SABC, South Africa and Britain had reached an understanding to respect each other's position on Iraq and the position of the UNO.³ If he is correct then we have before us an example of shameless opportunism. How can any person with a modicum of respect for independence and sovereignty of nations ever *respect* what was done to the people of Iraq?⁴

² SATV News at 7p.m. on the 13th May 2003

³ SATV News at 7 p.m. on the 14th May 2003

⁴ Compare the South African attitude with that of the Russians. Tony Blair dashed off to Moscow to do what Straw came to do in South Africa. Putin gave Blair a rocketing . The latter left feeling and looking the fool.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO INTERNATIONALISM?

During the first two thirds of the 20th Century, the concept of internationalism featured very strongly in the political outlook of the workers, radical intellectuals and colonial peoples all over the world. It was a marvellous reaching out by like-minded peoples and those with common interests from all corners of the world.

Internationalism of the working class and the oppressed was born with the recognition that capitalism had become international. The second half of the last century saw the stark focussing of globalisation facilitated by the rapid development of information technology.

One would have expected an injection of great enthusiasm in the spirit of revolutionaries all over the world, if for no other reason than the tremendous ease of communication.

In welcoming the representative of a gangster nation which had just raped a country of the third world, the South African government flushed down the toilet all claims to internationalism.

THE RIGHT THING TO DO

1. The messages of condolences to the Sisulu family and the South African government should have been rejected with the clear message that the late Walter Sisulu was a committed internationalist who would never have condoned what Anglo-American imperialism had done to Iraq. As a person who was not in the government, he would have had no reason to be obliged to meet and exchange pleasantries with international gangsters. Walter Sisulu is no longer able to show his total opposition and hatred for barbaric imperialism. His family is in deep mourning. His friends and comrades should have done what he is unable to do!
2. Though not unmindful of the need to deal with governments of the most reactionary government in this global economy, it was nonetheless possible to advise Straw to postpone his trip to a later date because of the embarrassment his visit would cause to the South African government and the great anger his visit would fuel among the people of South Africa. The mere request for a postponement would be

seen by the world as a rebuff to that government which is contemptuously referred to as the flunkey of US imperialism.

3. Straw's request to attend the memorial service could have been declined on the grounds of an inability to guarantee his safety. And if Straw persisted in his request, then Straw should have been given a hot reception at the service by people who loved Walter Sisulu. Though Walter Sisulu was a gentle and very courteous person, these qualities would not have been extended to imperialist gangsters. Walter Sisulu would have enjoyed the spectacle of a representative of British imperialism catching it good and proper by the people.
4. If a postponement was just not possible, then organisations, like the ANC, COSATU etc which are accustomed to engage in demonstrations, marches etc should have rallied the people in a massive show of anger and hatred for British imperialism's role in the rape of Iraq.
5. It is accepted practice to separate the organisation from the government and thus it would not have been contradictory for the South African ANC- led government to entertain a visit by an unwelcome visitor for purposes of business while the ANC as an organisation of the people vigorously demonstrated against that visitor.
6. The agents and representatives of Anglo-American must feel the full wrath and revulsion of the peace loving nations of the world. They must be treated as political pariahs, i.e. as outlaws who have forfeited the respect of the rest of the world.
7. It is clear that these gangster nations have plenty of resources and funds which are in dire need by the developing nations of the world. We all know how the wealth and resources of the Americans were brazenly used to purchase bases and overland flying rights from Afghanistan's neighbours in order to overthrow the *de facto* government of that country and in the process kill and maim thousands of innocent civilians. The modus operandi of imperialism is corruption, fraud, deception and when all else fails the use of force.
8. To win lost support and goodwill imperialism has resorted to bribery. It was in expectation of bribery in the form of loans, aid, rescheduling

of debts etc. that countries like Uganda, Ethiopia and Eritrea, to their everlasting shame, supported the invasion of Iraq.⁵

9. Had the South African government asked Straw not to come at that time or had Straw been met with massive demonstrations with the message: “GET THE HELL OUT OF OUR COUNTRY, IMPERIALIST BUTCHER” or words to that effect and had the messages of condolences sent by Bush and Powell been rejected, what tremendous boost it would have given the anti-imperialist forces all over the world! More than that, it may well have set the precedent for other countries to act against imperialist representatives in a similar fashion.

CONCLUSION:

As things stand now, when Straw returns to the UK, he will with great smugness be able to say to Tony Blair:

“Mr. Prime Minister I am happy to report: MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!”

15th May 2003.

⁵ All the more shameful because radicals and socialists had hoped that these three countries would be among those countries which would show the way to the rest of the continent in matters of hard work, democracy, transparency, a culture of caring for the less fortunate citizens etc. The unconscionable war between Eritrea and Ethiopia put paid to that hope.