

Asia-Pacific call for protests during Obama's visits to Guam, Indonesia and Australia

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Statement by the Working Peoples Association (Indonesia), Socialist Alliance (Australia), Socialist Worker (New Zealand), Partido Lakas ng Masa (Philippines), Solidarity (Australia), Labour Party Pakistan and Socialist Alternative (Australia)
[If your organisation would like to add their names to the statement, please email international.prp-indonesia.org.]

February 23, 2010 — We, progressive, anti-war, anti-neoliberalism and anti-imperialist organisations in the Asia-Pacific region, call for a wave protests to meet US President Barack Obama's planned visits to Guam, Indonesia and Australia in March 2010.

While President Obama was awarded Nobel Peace Prize last year, in fact his administration is escalating US-led military aggression all around the world and continuing the Bush administration's so-called "war on terrorism" — which was in reality a return to colonial military occupations in the Third World justified by lies and a campaign of fear and racism. The war-like policies of the US serve to protect and advance its economic exploitation and domination all around the world.

The US has stepped up the war on Afghanistan and spilled it over the border into Pakistan.

The so-called withdrawal from Iraq is a fraud as the US will retain hundreds of bases in and around Iraq and the Persian Gulf.

The US is promoting a civil war in Yemen and is stepping up its threats against Iran.

The US is increasing the number of its military bases in Latin America and increasing its military provocations against the progressive governments and movements in the region.

The US is building up its military bases on Guam, a small Pacific nation colonially dominated and deformed by US military occupation.

Through the Naval Medical Research Unit 2 (NAMRU 2), which has recently changed its name to the Indonesia-United States Center for Medical Research (IUC), the US is gathering intelligence, developing anti-virus industry and biological weapons in Indonesia.

The Obama administration has allocated US\$1 trillion to the military in its latest budget even while millions of workers in the US have been thrown out of work and have lost their homes.

Under President Obama, neoliberal pressure on the Third World has been intensified. Through the

G20, \$1.1 trillion is to be spent on an economic stimulus to be delivered through the IMF. However, the IMF loans to Third World countries come with severe neoliberal conditions which will further destroy the livelihood of millions of people while bailing out the banks and protecting the capitalist system.

President Obama's visit to Australia will celebrate and boost the reactionary US-Australia war alliance and his visit to Indonesia is to prop up the slavish and corrupt neoliberal regime of Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. Obama's visit to Guam is aimed at consolidating US military domination and US colonialism in the Pacific.

We call on the governments of our countries to end their military treaties and agreements with the US and withdraw all political and military support for the wars on Afghanistan and Iraq, and all other imperialist wars.

We demand the removal of all US bases from our countries and all the other 130 countries around the world which currently are the site of US military bases.

We demand an end to the presence of any US troops who are stationed in our countries, in the guise of conducting "training" exercises, under military treaties.

We call upon the governments of our countries to support a policy of international peace and cooperation based on demilitarisation and people-to-people solidarity.

In the wake of the global capitalist financial crisis, we also demand that the governments of Guam, Indonesia and Australia end their support for the global neoliberal agenda led by the US imperialists.

We also demand that the governments of the US and Australia cancel all the debts [owed to them by] Third World countries, which are illegitimate debts, accrued through the economic exploitation and subjugation of our countries.

This neoliberal agenda has imposed the pillaging of our peoples and the Earth on an unprecedented scale, while the global corporate elite has grown fat on profits and massive public subsidies.

No prosperity and peace will come out from this increasingly greedy and destructive capitalist system which the US uses its military might to defend.

That is why we strive to unite to replace the existing exploitative capitalism system with a new world run and owned by the oppressed and exploited majority and based on solidarity, cooperation and respect for the environment.