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U.S. Carries Out Assassination of Iranian Leader and Escalates Conflict

Oppose U.S. Imperialist Aggression— Trump/Pence Out Now!

Editors' Note: As we post this late Thursday night, January 2, the situation in the Middle East is moving very fast, so please watch www.revcom.us for updates. The latest escalation has been provoked by the U.S.'s announced assassination, by air strikes, of Iranian military leader Major General Soleimani on Iraqi soil—both Iraq and Iran being sovereign countries.

At 10 p.m. Thursday night U.S. Eastern Standard Time, the Pentagon stated that Donald Trump ordered the assassination of the major Iranian figure Major General Qassim Soleimani. Soleimani was the commander of the Quds Force, an Iranian government force that commands militias in different countries of the region. He was widely thought to be the second or third most important leader in Iran. The assassination of a figure of such prominence is objectively an act of war.

To be clear: Soleimani was a longtime butcher for the reactionary Iranian regime. **But the butchery carried out by America in that region alone is 1,000 times greater than anything the likes of Soleimani could dream of, and the U.S. has absolutely no right to be carrying out assassinations and threatening further escalations.** *In fact, the U.S. has no right to be in that region, period.*

“These imperialists
make the Godfather
look like Mary Poppins.”

Bob Avakian, *Basics* 1:7

The purpose of the U.S. soldiers and mercenaries there are this: to dominate a strategically vital part of the world that has oil and energy resources; and in this context to control the access to these resources, to plunder them; to have leverage over other rival and allied powers like China and Japan that need them; to contend with local powers like Iran that are seeking to project their influence in the region; and to terrorize the masses of the area and dominate the political life to achieve those ends.

This assassination will certainly lead to even greater conflict and murder and may well set off a spiral of escalation leading to further disaster for the tortured people of this region and beyond. **It is critically important that people within the U.S. not only refuse to support these acts of war, but actively oppose them, in the streets with massive demonstrations.**

Trump will almost certainly try to use this for his advantage as he faces his impeachment trial. Already, in the name of “American/national interests” and “American lives,” many liberals and Democrats have ended up defending Trump’s act by talking of how many U.S. soldiers Soleimani supposedly killed, or was responsible for killing, without ever mentioning the far more towering crimes carried out by the U.S. military in a part of the world thousands of miles from its borders.

Continued on the other side

These kinds of justifications can, despite whatever other intent, facilitate and support Trump, playing into calls for “national unity” and “setting aside differences.” All such calls must be firmly opposed!*

At the same time, despite shared “national interests” among the Republicans and Democrats, the differences among the powers that be are, and remain, extremely sharp, and it is likely that these differences will also be a feature of and play out through this process. Some Democrats are already warning that Trump has “tossed a stick of dynamite into a tinderbox” and is escalating an already dangerous situation.

These wars and war crimes are the product of a *system*, U.S.-dominated capitalism-imperialism. And no matter whether a Democrat or Republican, a liberal or a fascist, is at its head, that imperialist system grinds

up the lives of billions of people a day and murders millions more in its wars, decade after decade. That system cannot be reformed—it must ultimately be overthrown.

At the same time, it is also an important and immediate truth that this fascist regime, now acting even more recklessly with its president impeached, poses an urgent and immediate threat to humanity and must be driven out by the mass action of ultimately millions of people, with many different political views. Trump’s act of war, with its extremely dangerous implications, underscores the urgency of the effort to mobilize those millions in the next weeks and months.

* See the discussion by Bob Avakian on “Internationalism—Revolutionary Defeatism,” an excerpt from his book *THE NEW COMMUNISM*, at www.revcom.us.

U.S. OUT OF THE MIDDLE EAST! TRUMP/PENCE FASCIST REGIME OUT NOW! REVOLUTION—NOTHING LESS!

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Actual
Revolution!**

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When you get with the Revolution Club, you are **representing** for the revolution while **learning** more.

This revolution is about getting rid of this oppressive capitalist-imperialist system through an **actual revolution** at the soonest possible time, when the conditions are brought into being in a revolutionary situation (see *HOW WE CAN WIN—How We Can Really Make Revolution* online at revcom.us). You will get ways to **make a real difference now**, in contributing to the revolution and preparing for those conditions. And you will be able to learn more as you go, and work together to solve the problems of the revolution.

When you are representing for the revolution, including with the *BA Speaks: Revolution—Nothing Less!* T-shirt, you’ll be living by and spreading the **Points of Attention for the Revolution** (read these at revcom.us). You will be showing people there’s a radically better way—a *revolutionary way*—we have to be moving, with a radically different morality and culture than the ugly and oppressive shit this system promotes.

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