

What the U.S. Spreads Around the World...



Photo: AP

Afghanistan, May 2009. Seven-year-old Frishta was wounded in a U.S. air strike in Farah province. Night raids, special operations, covert assassinations, extrajudicial killings, drone strikes, the use of military contractors, massive detentions and torture, and all-around terror are embedded in the nature of the U.S. occupation. On February 12, 2010, near Gardez, U.S. soldiers killed 5 people in a 3 am attack on a household that had just been celebrating the naming of a newborn. Eight survivors were arrested and flown to a U.S. military base, held for four days and interrogated. All were released without charges. (See page 3 for more on the criminal U.S. war in Afghanistan.)

Nigeria, December 2005. People in Asagba Okwan Asarama evacuate their homes by boat, passing smoke and flames billowing from a burning oil pipeline belonging to the Shell Petroleum Development Company. Almost six million barrels have oozed and washed through Nigeria's main river delta over the last 50 years from the operations of oil companies like Shell, Mobil Exxon, Chevron and others with devastating and deadly consequences for people and wildlife. (Go to revcom.us to read article about oil spills in the Niger River Delta from A World To Win News Service.)

Photo: AP



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Mexico-U.S. border, May 2006. White crosses and cement bricks mark the graves in a public cemetery in Holtville, California of unidentified people who died while crossing the border. Several hundred such graves are located in this cemetery alone. As the militarization of the border has intensified, many more people have been forced to try and cross the desert, and many die from the searing heat. The crosses, placed by immigrant rights activists, read "not forgotten."

Why do people come to America? Because the capitalist-imperialist system of the United States has messed up the rest of the world even worse than what it has done in this country. One example—among many—is Mexico. As part of gaining its riches and power, the U.S. has made it impossible for many people to live in their own countries. To get a deeper understanding of how this system works and how it controls and shapes people's lives, look how it is that immigrants from Mexico end up in the United States.

Philippines, March 2002. Members of a Philippine women's group burn a U.S. flag at the entrance of the U.S. Embassy. The banner reads, "The military exercise between the Philippines and the United States breed women and children abuses." Everywhere the U.S. military sets up bases, networks of prostitution are built to serve the U.S. troops.

This is a world where "literally millions of young women are either kidnapped, or sold by their starving families, or lured with the promises of employment and then sold across borders into a sex-slave trade on a scale never seen before in history." (From *A Declaration: For Women's Liberation and the Emancipation of All Humanity*, a special issue of *Revolution* newspaper, #158, available at revcom.us.)

Photo: AP



The essence of what exists in the U.S. is not democracy but capitalism-imperialism and political structures to enforce that capitalism-imperialism.

What the U.S. spreads around the world is not democracy, but imperialism and political structures to enforce that imperialism.

Bob Avakian, Chairman of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA