

## LETTERS

### WAR FOR EMPIRE

The US says it's concerned that Iran has Forces Operating Outside their own borders, threatening Middle East stability and has the potential for massive destructive force.

US politicians argue they can't withdraw troops from Iraq because of the "threat of Iran" in the Middle East and that Americans should be worried about "Iranian forces operating in Iraq".

The US would consider it an "Act of Aggression" if Iran affects American troops in Iraq.

But America is treating the whole Middle East as its "own backyard"—completely ignoring the sovereign borders of countries, stationing huge battleships in international waters and occupying several countries in the region with tens of thousands of soldiers.

It is the United States that has Forces Operating Outside Their Own Borders, threatening people in the Middle East—using massive destructive force and carrying out daily "Acts of Aggression", launching raids not only in Iraq, but Afghanistan and Pakistan—and threatening Iran with the possible use of nuclear weapons. The result of this has been death, destruction, forced migration and the suffering of millions of people.

The masses of people who live in the United States have no interest at all in the so-called US "war on terror"—which is really a war for empire.

**A Reader**, Chicago

### SEEKING POSITIVE ACTION

We denounce in strongest possible terms the dastardly terror attacks in Mumbai and express our deepest gratitude to the thousands of security personnel for their courageous and selfless service in countering this evil and formidable enemy. And we are deeply moved by still-emerging stories of the heroism and professionalism of the hotel staff. Our heart goes out to the families of fallen heroes and the civilian victims. We also note with a sense of great pride and satisfaction, that Indian citizens have by and large maintained harmony, understanding and resolve in the face of successive acts of terrorism, thereby foiling the perpetrators' principal objective. We have no doubt that it is this unique strength of ordinary people which keeps India resilient, vibrant and united in the face of mounting internal and external challenges. We call upon all political forces in India to build upon this unique character rather than fomenting divisive agenda for short term gains.

Recent years have witnessed, an alarming growth in the number of groups committing highly orchestrated acts of violence against innocent civilians. As evident from this still unfolding tragedy, a coordinated and open attack on this scale by a relatively handful of people completely paralyzing a city like Mumbai points to major and multiple break-downs across the internal and external intelligence agencies, center-state coordination on law and order as well as political-bureaucratic-civil society continuum.

As non resident Indians, we note how India has come to be recognized as a rising power as a result of successive recent governments assiduously pursuing and successfully accomplishing projects to advance the country's profile on the international stage. However, we also note with dismay and frustration that similar single minded focus and resolve seems to be lacking in successive governments, when it comes to ensuring the life, liberty and livelihood of ordinary citizens. We therefore call upon leaders across political spectrum towards a renewed sense of single minded focus on this very fundamental and basic purpose of government.

While acknowledging the complexity of the situation and concerned about frequent terrorist attacks in recent months, we feel nevertheless compelled to request prime minister Shri Manmohan Singh to make much needed changes in the senior ranks of the government officials and the government apparatus to ensure that the citizens and institutions of India are fully protected from acts of terrorism.

**Coalition Against Genocide and 15 other organizations of NRIs, USA**