

OPPOSING AMERICA'S ONGOING WARS

September
22, 2017



SYRIA: 3 Years (2014-2017)
IRAQ: 3 years (2014-2017)/ 14 years (2003-2017)/ 26 years (1991-2017)
AFGHANISTAN: 16 years (2001-2017)

LIBYA: 6 years (2011-2017)
SOMALIA: 10 years (2007-2017) / 24 years (1993-2017)
PAKISTAN: 13 years (2004-2017)
YEMEN: 15 years (2002-2017)
KOREA: 67 years (1950-2017)

While the world reacts to Donald Trump's assertion at the UN that the United States is prepared to **"totally destroy" North Korea**, the United States is **quietly continuing six other wars** started under George HW Bush, Bill Clinton, George Bush, and Barack Obama.

The US war in **Afghanistan** has been called "the longest war in US history," as it began on October 7, 2001 and continues 16 years later. However, the war on **Iraq** that began on January 16, 1991 never really came to an end; the US flew countless missions in a "no-fly zone" prior to the full-scale invasion in 2003.

Then, although many troops withdrew in 2011, the US still had a presence there, which has grown to over 4000 troops in the name of fighting the **Islamic State (ISIS)** since August 2014. So you could say the war on Iraq has lasted 26 years. The US also began bombing and sending troops into **Syria** in September 2014.

Meanwhile, the US conducts drone strikes against **Pakistan** (ongoing since 2004, though there have only been four in 2017 as of September), **Libya** (since the US acted to overthrow its government in 2011), **Somalia** (including airstrikes and drone strikes from 2007 to the present, though arguably the US has been at war there since its botched invasion in 1993), and **Yemen** (ongoing since 2002).

The **Korean** war never ended, as the UN authorized military action on June 27, 1950 and an armistice— not a peace treaty— was signed on July 27, 1953. Thus the threats between the two leaders of these countries to lob nuclear weapons at each other are part of what is actually the US' longest war, **67 years** and counting.

The wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria have **escalated** since the inauguration of President Trump. Airwars, a British agency that tracks military action and civilian casualties, wrote on September 20:

August was the third deadliest month for civilians in Syria and Iraq since the start of US-led Coalition actions against so-called Islamic State three years ago, according to Airwars tracking. Airwars tracked 128 civilian casualty events in Iraq and Syria in August, by our estimate likely killing between 470 and 719 civilians. The sharp increase in likely civilian fatalities coincided with a record number of munitions released. **The Coalition fired ten times more munitions on Raqqa alone [in August 2017] than were released by US aircraft across all of Afghanistan.** Likely deaths more than doubled on July's minimum estimates, to their highest levels yet- with **between 433 and 643 civilians likely killed in Raqqa alone**, according to our present assessment.

Foreign Policy reported on September 18 that:

U.S. planes are dropping more bombs in Afghanistan than at any point since Aug. 2012 — when there were 90,000 U.S. combat troops there — and are **hitting more targets in Iraq and Syria than at any point in the three-year campaign**, fruit of the Trump administration's looser guidelines for authorizing strikes on Islamic State fighters in all three countries.

In addition to over 10,000 troops in **Afghanistan** (NBC, August 23), about 5000 in **Iraq** (Reuters, September 1) and 500 in **Syria** (NY Times, March 9), there are troops on the ground in **Yemen** (Washington Post, August 4), **Libya** (Military Times, March 24) and **Somalia** (Voice of America, April 14).

It is time to call for an **end to the warfare**, to **bring all the troops home** and spend **money on human needs, not war!** Perpetuating violence around the world as a means to resolve conflict is surely one of the reasons we are seeing an increase in violence in the streets of America.

This flyer was prepared
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