

Big Changes Needed in the USA!

by **Janet Jagan**

The Bush Administration is now suffering its greatest decline since it gained the doubtful votes of the American people 8 years ago. Never in US history has a President and his Administration been so poorly supported. The opinion polls tell the story of a President who has lost most of his former support.

With the upcoming November elections in the USA, the results seem to circle around two points – the popularity and growing confidence in the Democratic Presidential candidate Barack Obama and the dislike and disgrace of President Bush. The Republican candidate has to be careful not to give praise to his outgoing colleague, President Bush.

There are numerous reasons for the losses suffered by President Bush – the two wars in the Middle East, the economy, the use of torture, the way his administration handled the agony

of the people of New Orleans when hurricane Katrina hit and the very low respect the USA now 'enjoys' for its poor international diplo-

macy, its military aggressiveness and particularly, its unilateralism.

The force of public opinion in the USA and all over the world has been against the invasion of Iraq, but equally wrong was the earlier decision to bomb out Afghanistan. The US attacked Afghanistan because the Taliban refused to hand over the No. 1 terrorist Osama bin Laden. At the

time, many thought that a reasonable excuse to invade Afghanistan, capture bin Laden and rid the country of the Taliban. But nothing like

that ever happened; bin Laden hasn't been captured and the Taliban appear the strongest threat, still, to Afghanistan and its so-called defenders.

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ing a wedding party.

In four years, little has changed. According to the UK weekly Guardian (18/07/08) a US air strike in July killed 47 civilians including – 39 women and children as they were going to a wedding in Afghanistan. The bride was one of the dead. The US military had originally denied the report, but a 9-member inquiry team appointed by the Afghan President found that only civilians were killed. The Deputy Speaker of the Afghan Senate said that they were all civilians and had no links with the Taliban or al-Qaeda.

And just last month,

the United Nations stated that it had found "convincing evidence" that 90 civilians, most of them children, were killed in air strikes by the US-led coalition forces in Western Afghanistan a week earlier. Among the civilians killed were 60 children, 15 women and 15 men. The US military had initially denied the attack but the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan confirmed the report!

What does all the above tell us? It's a horrendous tale of irresponsible killings of innocent people, mainly children, that goes on and on in the occupied lands of Afghanistan and Iraq and will never end until sensible and honest leaders take charge of the US government, which in the last few years has caused deaths and destruction in countries far away, chaos, untold sufferings, migrations and utter poverty, as well as continued military threats to other parts of this world. Time for a change! Good luck to Obama!