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RACAK "MASSACRE" EXPOSED AS FRAUD

By John Catalinotto

The justification for the U.S. and NATO's 1999 war against Yugoslavia, as well as the so-called war crimes charges against then-Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, were all based on a lie that has now been exposed before the world.

This exposure does nothing to help the **3,000 Yugoslavs that U.S./NATO aggression killed**. It should at least destroy the credibility of the U.S. and NATO regimes to lead their population into another war, whether in Europe or Africa or Latin America.

In mid-January 1999, a gunfight between the U.S. puppet gang known as the Kosovo Liberation Army and Serb police forces broke out in the Kosovo town of Racak, a KLA stronghold. The following day, the head of the European observer team--a U.S. diplomat named William Walker--went to Racak at the KLA's invitation. He saw a collection of bodies, then proclaimed it a massacre and a "Serb atrocity" before the world.

Immediately U.S. President Bill Clinton, German Defense Minister Rudolph Scharping and others used this so-called massacre to charge Belgrade with "genocide" and to justify military intervention against Yugoslavia.

A team of Belorussian and Serbian forensic experts found no massacre. U.S.-NATO forces challenged their findings. A team of Finnish forensic experts then repeated the examinations.

At the time, the Finnish report was presented in such a vague way that it allowed the original onslaught of anti-Belgrade propaganda to carry the day.

Finally, after two years, a Berlin daily newspaper, the *Berliner Zeitung*, reported on Jan. 18 that these Finnish experts found no evidence that Serb security forces massacred ethnic Albanian civilians in the Kosovo village of Racak in January 1999.

Juha Rainio, Kaisa Lalu and Antti Penttila, from the Finnish team, were unable to confirm that the 40 bodies they examined were villagers from Racak, the newspaper said.

The *Berliner Zeitung* also reports that these findings were completed as early as June 2000, **but that their publication had been blocked by the United Nations and the European Union.**

The Finnish team's report is due to be published soon in the journal *Forensic Science International*. The newspaper obtained a pre-publication copy.

"The Finnish experts were unable to find anything against us," said Milan Milutinovic, Serbia's president at the time of the events, who is still in office.

Milutinovic, along with Milosevic, is charged with war crimes by the court that U.S. and NATO forces set up in the Hague. At the core of these war crimes charges is the so-called Racak massacre.

Workers World newspaper's original coverage of the Racak events, using the evidence even then at hand, warned that this incident **was manufactured to provide justification for U.S. aggression against Yugoslavia.**