

White House vs. **women**

George W. Bush is spreading the right wing's anti-choice agenda far beyond U.S. borders. The White House withheld \$34 million from the UN Population Fund, which provides reproductive resources to women in 142 countries.

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AUG. 17 MARCH FOR REPARATIONS

From Baltimore to New York City, labor and community leaders are speaking out. They say companies that got rich off slavery should pay reparations to African

Americans, and unity on this issue will help the struggles of all workers. Get on the bus for the Millions for Reparations march in Washington, D.C.

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Economic danger signals

In hard times, bosses have their ways of holding onto money: speed-ups, layoffs, wage cuts and urging people to overspend on credit. They want the workers to shoulder the burden of the profit system's crisis. Workers need an independent strategy to fight back.

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COLONIAL OCCUPATION, not 'safe haven'

For generations Jewish people have been told that Israel is a 'safe haven.' But Sharon and Bush's latest sabotage of a ceasefire shows how they use both Arabs and Jews as cannon fodder to maintain a racist settler state in historic Palestine.

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Department of union busting

The plan to put 170,000 federal workers under the umbrella of the Homeland Security Department is the Bush administration's latest recipe for breaking unions and gutting workers' rights.

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Bush's 'weapons of mass destruction' hoax

Big lie masks real motives for Iraq war

Politicians debate tactics for Middle East domination

By Brian Becker

The Bush administration's preparations for a massive onslaught on Iraq are rapidly advancing. So too is international cooperation between anti-war and progressive working-class organizations that are striving to urgently create a broad, worldwide movement to stay the hand of the Pentagon.

There exists vast potential for anti-war mobilization. If one had the power to take a public opinion poll of the 6 billion people who inhabit the planet, only an infinitesimal percentage would support a U.S. invasion of Iraq.

In the region where the conflict is slated to take place there is already widespread anger against the United States for threatening new war against Iraq while the U.S. sends \$15 million every day to finance Israeli terror against the Palestinian people.

Every government in the Middle East—including Saudi Arabia and Kuwait—wants to see an end to the conflict with Iraq. The Arab League Summit in Beirut in March showed that all 22 governments want to improve relations with Iraq. Saudi Arabia and Iraq have since re-opened their long-closed border. Syria and Lebanon have normalized their relations with Iraq.

While world public opinion is decidedly against Bush's war drive, it will take a mass peoples' movement—in the streets, workplaces, communities, campuses and high schools—to stop the coming war.

A debate on tactics

While there are divisions and debates between the U.S. administration and the governments of France,

Germany, Russia, Japan and the other U.S. "allies," it would be naïve to believe that any of the imperialist governments will stand up to the might of the Pentagon war planners.

As with the political establishment in Europe, there are sectors inside the U.S. capitalist establishment that have grave misgivings and fear about a war in the Middle East that is so brazenly aggressive. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, a national security advisor to President George W. Bush and his father 10 years ago, went on national television on Aug. 4 to warn that a U.S. invasion of Iraq "could turn the whole region into a cauldron and, thus, destroy the war on terrorism."

Scowcroft and others fear the war could provoke revolution and anti-U.S. ferment in this strategic region that contains two-thirds of the world's known oil resources. But these establishment figures won't stop the war. Nor should we expect meaningful opposition inside the halls of the U.S. Congress.

The supposed "debate" in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on July 31-Aug. 1 over the coming war against Iraq is a clear indication that the political and military establishment are in harmony over the basic strategic assumptions promoted by the Bush administration.

"President Bush has made clear his determination to remove Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein from power—a goal many of us in Congress share," Joseph Biden and Richard Lugar, the highest-ranking Democrat and Republican in the Senate Committee, announced in a joint statement.

What passes as grand democratic debate in Congress is a polite "gentlemen's" consultation over the best

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Eyewitness Philippines: Movement grows to boot U.S. troops



WW PHOTO: SCOTT SCHEFFER

In Zamboaga, Mindanao, leaders of BAYAN and other grassroots groups were in tough negotiations with Philippine National Police and Armed Forces. Although their march was blocked, a militant and defiant rally against U.S. troops was held. See page 8.

San Francisco

Celebration honors three communist heroes

By Nancy Mitchell
San Francisco

Aug. 4 was a memorable day of celebration, as Worker World Party honored three comrades—Jackie Kiernan, Hilda Roberts, and Ricardo Leons—for their lifetimes in the struggle. Rosa Penate chaired the meeting, explaining that the event was a benefit for the Committee to Free the Five Cuban Prisoners held in the U.S.

“In the spirit of the Cuban Revolution, we celebrate today our three comrades and companeros who are dedicating their lives to the revolutionary struggle here in the United States,” said Alicia Jrapko, who explained the background of the revolutionary date of July 26, which in 1953 was the opening shot of the revolutionary struggle against the U.S.-backed Batista regime in Cuba.

Jackie Kiernan

Brenda Sandberg shared stories about Jackie Kiernan’s life of struggle. Her political life started in San Francisco in the 1930’s, where she became an active member of the Communist Party. After World War II, she was expelled from the CP because of her strong opposition to the party’s No Strike policy.

Later, at the height of the McCarthy anti-communist witch hunt, she was fired from her job when she refused to sign a document stating that she had never belonged to a list of political parties. She joined Workers World Party 10 years ago.

Jackie reminisced about her experience in the second Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba. As she was getting off the plane in Havana, “I walked down the platform and there was Fidel at the bottom, waiting to give every one of us a great big hug!” She expressed her determination “to keep marching toward the revolution” and asked every one there to do the same.

Hilda Roberts

Anne Sadler saluted Hilda Roberts, who, at age 87, still stands with the Women in Black in solidarity with Palestine every week. As a young nurse, Hilda joined the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and spent one-and-a-half years in Spain helping the fight against fascism. She was also on the second Cuba Caravan, and she and others stayed on the Little Yellow School Bus that was held hostage by the U.S. government. After a 23-day



WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

Ricardo Leons, Jackie Kiernan, and Hilda Roberts.

hunger strike in 100-degree weather, they succeeded in forcing the release of the bus and received a hero’s welcome in Cuba.

Hilda said, “I was brought up in a socialist family so I was always interested in socialism and I saw that as a great need for this world of ours. But I never participated in communist parties because I wasn’t sure they were doing what I thought they should be doing as communists.

“It wasn’t until Jackie introduced me to Workers World Party that I really felt satisfied that this is the place that I want to be, because they were the ones who are really pushing ahead for socialism, and are concerned about not just the communist party, but the people of the world—the people that we work with and live with, whether they’re communist or not.”

Ricardo Leons

Saul Kanowitz introduced Ricardo Leons, one of the founding members of Workers World Party. In 1943 Ricardo resisted the draft to World War II. When they asked him if he was a conscientious objector, he replied, “No—this is an imperialist war to redivide Europe.” He spent three years in federal prison in Minnesota, and he left prison as a revolutionary. In 1954 he moved to New York City where he met Vince Copeland, and later joined Copeland, Sam Marcy and others in founding Workers World Party in 1959.

From protesting for Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis to defending the Puerto Rican independence movement to coordinating Workers World newspaper distributions, Ricardo has been fierce and steady on the picket line.

“I have stayed with the Party all

these years because of the way it responds to all the struggles as they arise,” said Ricardo. “I have always felt that Workers World Party was a revolutionary socialist party that knew how to struggle. And I will continue to stay in that struggle.”

Five Cuban heroes

Gloria La Riva, a national chair of the Committee to Free the Five, described the five Cuban heroes, who grew up in revolutionary Cuba, “where they saw a life of dignity guaranteed to every Cuban, and where they’ve also seen that life and dignity threatened by 43 years of blockade and sabotage and hostility.”

She said it was most appropriate that the celebration to honor these comrades would benefit the five Cuban heroes, who have fought to safeguard their country from U.S.-sponsored terrorism. Ricardo has consistently written letters of inspiration and support to the Cuban 5 during their imprisonment, and both Jackie and Hilda have been longtime activists dedicated to the Cuban Revolution.

In describing Jackie, Hilda and Ricardo, Richard Becker paraphrased a quote from playwright and poet Bertolt Brecht: “To struggle for a day is a good thing; to struggle for a year is even better. But those who struggle for their whole life—those are the essential ones.”

He said that while being in the struggle is often looked on as a huge sacrifice, he knew the comrades would agree that “by dedicating your life to the struggle, you get a big reward, which is that you get to be the subject of history and not just the object. You’re involved in making history and in changing the world.”

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WW CALENDAR

NEW YORK

Sat., Aug. 10
 Meet Workers World/People’s Video Network Youth. Preview their film about a 2001 trip to the Gullah Islands to learn about resistance to slavery. 7 p.m. At 39 W. 14 St., Rm 206. For info (212) 633-6646.

Sat., Sep. 21-Sun., Sep. 22
 Workers World Party Annual Conference. Spend a week-end learning, exchanging views and information, and networking with others who are fighting for socialism and liberation. If you’re looking for analysis and a guide to action on how to turn back the militarist, racist tide coming from Washington and Wall Street, this is the place to be.

There will be plenary sessions, workshops, and many opportunities to share experi-

ences with Marxist thinkers and fighters of all ages. Catch the spirit of a party that has been on the cutting edge of the struggle against capitalism since 1959. For info call, email or write Workers World Party, 55 W. 17 St., 5th Fl., New York, NY 10011; (212) 255-0352; ww@workers.org.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Sat., Aug. 17
 Millions for Reparations Rally. For info toll free (866) 817-5729 or (212) 633-6646, email info@MillionsForReparations.com.

Workers World

55 West 17 Street
 New York, N.Y. 10011
 Phone: (212) 627-2994 • Fax: (212) 675-7869
 E-mail: editor@workers.org
 Web: http://www.workers.org/
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Editor: Deirdre Griswold;
 Technical Editor: Lal Roohk; Managing Editors: Greg Butterfield, John Catalinotto, Shelley Ettinger, Leslie Feinberg, Monica Moorehead, Gary Wilson; West Coast Editors: Richard Becker, Gloria La Riva; Contributing Editors: Joyce Chediak, Pat Chin, Naomi Cohen, Teresa Gutierrez; Technical Staff: Gery Armsby, Lyn Neeley, Hank Sambach, Leslie Senior; Mundo Obrero: Carl Glenn, Carlos Vargas; Internet: Janet Mayes

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National Office
 55 W. 17 St.,
 New York, N.Y. 10011
 (212) 627-2994;
 Fax (212) 675-7869
 ww@workers.org

Atlanta P.O. Box 424,
 Atlanta, Ga. 30301
 (404) 235-5704

Baltimore 426 E. 31 St.,
 Baltimore, Md. 21218
 (410) 235-7040

Boston 31 Germania St.,
 Boston, Mass. 02130
 (Enter at 284 Amory St.)
 (617) 983-3835;
 Fax (617) 983-3836
 boston@workers.org

Buffalo, N.Y.
 P.O. Box 1204
 Buffalo NY 14213
 (716) 857-2112
 buffalo@workers.org

Chicago P.O. Box 06178,
 Wacker Drive Station,
 Chicago, Ill. 60606
 (773) 381-5839;
 Fax (773) 761-9330;
 chicago@workers.org

Cleveland
 P.O. Box 5963
 Cleveland, OH 44101
 phone (216) 531-4004
 cleveland@workers.org

Detroit
 5920 Second Ave.,
 Detroit, Mich. 48202
 (313) 831-0750;
 detroit@workers.org

Houston
 P.O. Box 130322,
 Houston, Texas
 77219 (713) 861-5965
 houston@workers.org

Los Angeles
 422 S. Western Ave.,
 Room 114,
 Los Angeles, Calif. 90020
 (213) 487-2368
 fax (213) 387-9355
 la@workers.org

Milwaukee
 P.O. Box 12839,
 Milwaukee, Wis. 53212
 milw@workers.org

Philadelphia
 P.O. Box 9202,
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 (610) 352-3625;
 phila@workers.org

Richmond, Va.
 P.O. Box 14602,
 Richmond, Va. 23221
 richmond@workers.org

Rochester, N.Y.
 2117 Buffalo Rd., PMB.
 303, Rochester, N.Y. 14624
 (716) 436-6458;
 rochester@workers.org

San Diego, Calif.
 3930 Oregon St., Suite 230
 San Diego, Calif. 92104
 (619) 692-4496

San Francisco
 2489 Mission St.
 Rm. 28,
 San Francisco,
 Calif. 94110
 (415) 826-4828;
 fax (415) 821-5782;
 sf@workers.org

Seattle
 1218 E. Cherry #201,
 Seattle, Wash. 98122
 (206) 325-0085

State College, Pa.
 100 Grandview Rd.,
 State College,
 Pa. 16801
 (814) 237-8695;
 jxb58@psu.edu

Washington, D.C.
 P.O. Box 57300,
 Washington, DC 20037,
 (202) 347-9300
 dc@workers.org

Bush vs. pro-choice

U.S. nixes \$ for global women's health

By Sue Davis

The United States has done it again. Though the Bush administration claims to care about women, a recent action reveals just the opposite.

The Bush administration announced July 22 that it would not give \$34 million, allotted by Congress last winter, to the United Nations Population Fund. The program provides reproductive resources for women in 142 countries.

The U.S. refusal is based on its claim that the UN-funded programs in China had "knowingly supported or participated in the management of a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization."

Yet that charge was totally disowned by a State Department fact-finding mission that visited China in May.

Why would the Bush administration discount its own report?

Because it wants to exercise its muscle as the world's supercilious super-bully and export its domestic holier-than-thou anti-abortion agenda. And in the process it is only too happy to take a swipe at both the UN and People's China.

Yet such arrogance only exposes the Bush administration's double standard. If it was sincere about stopping "coercive abortion and involuntary sterilization," it would take a look at its own backyard and address the many economic and social factors that force poor young women, especially women of color, to have abortions and become sterilized in this country.

One of its first conclusions would then be to dump the so-called "welfare reform law" instead of calling for tougher provisions, and immediately provide abundant resources for all needy women with dependent children.

The European Union voted on July 23 to provide \$31.8 million to fill the void Bush

created. "The decision to cut funding," said Poul Nielson, the European commissioner for aid, "may well lead to more unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions and increased dangers for mothers and infants."

Dr. Steven W. Sinding, the new director general of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, noted: "The saddest thing is that this domestic political debate has such a profound impact around the world. Women suffer deeply. There will always be unwanted pregnancies, especially among women in poverty and women so young that their pelvises are not yet formed to the point where they can safely deliver a child. To condemn [girls aged 14, 15 or 16] to bear a child that may very well cause them to die is just morally indefensible."

But denying the consequences of reproductive aid to women doesn't seem to

bother the Bush administration. Isn't that the ultimate hypocrisy? And proof-positive of how little it cares about women!

Though the State Department announced that the \$34 million will be dis-

tributed by its Agency for International Development, there's no guarantee it will be funneled into programs designed to help impoverished women improve their lives and their health.



These Nigerian women fought back and won concessions from oil giant Chevron Texaco. Washington is trying to undermine women's rights at home and abroad by cutting funds for reproductive rights.

ATLANTA

Protests erupt after cop kills Black youth

By Jimmy Raynor
Atlanta

Chanting "No justice, no peace—no racist police," some 150-200 spirited demonstrators marched past crowded bars and restaurants in the Buckhead section of Atlanta Aug. 3. Two weeks earlier, on July 14, Atlanta Police Officer R.S. Bunn shot and killed an 18-year-old African American youth, Corey Ward, in his car.

Bunn, part of an undercover detail, claimed that he heard breaking glass in

a parking lot and then saw an SUV with six young African American males exiting the lot. Drawing his gun, he ordered them to stop. When the vehicle kept going, he says he shot the driver in self-defense.

Ward's friends say Bunn did not identify himself as a police officer and they thought they were being attacked.

Ward's family and friends, with the aid of the National Youth Connection, United Youth Adult Conference, Concerned Black Clergy and others, organized a protest of 250 people on July 22 at police headquar-

ters. They have held several news conferences and community meetings.

Bunn first made headlines two years ago for hitting a young woman in the face, breaking her eye socket and permanently damaging her eyesight. According to Bunn, Ylia Lavender refused to turn down the volume of her car radio.

At least six complaints of excess force have been filed against Bunn in his few years in the Atlanta Police Department. Several more people have come forward since Ward's killing to add to his record of misconduct and brutality.

Mixed messages from the bench

Will courts challenge racist detentions?

By G. Dunkel

The roundups and secret detentions of Arab and South Asian men, which Attorney General John Ashcroft vowed to conduct with the full force of the U.S. government just days after 9/11, are now, nearly 11 months later, being challenged in court.

The fact that courts are being forced to deal with this situation, even after a period of long delay, is due to the dedicated work of civil rights lawyers, Arab and South Asian community organizations, anti-war groups and other progressive forces who refused to be cowed into silence by racist and political profiling.

The court rulings so far are mixed. It remains to be seen whether appeals courts and the U.S. Supreme Court ultimately rule in favor of the government.

On July 31, Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly dismissed a lawsuit filed on behalf of detainees the U.S. seized in Afghanistan and held at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Kollar-Kotelly ruled that U.S. courts have no jurisdiction over the 560 detainees because they are not being held on U.S. territory.

Guantanamo Bay is illegally occupied by the U.S. military, which claims to have an unlimited lease on the base. Washington persists in this occupation of Cuban territory despite decades of protest by the government in Havana

and the people of Cuba.

Kollar-Kotelly's ruling—while serving the Pentagon's interests in regard to the detainees—also exposes the illegitimacy of the U.S. occupation of Guantanamo.

The U.S. classifies the Guantanamo detainees as "enemy combatants." Because of this, the Bush administration claims, the U.S. is under no obligation to respect protections guaranteed to prisoners of war under international law. For example, POWs are to be released at the end of hostilities.

Kollar-Kotelly observed that the detainees are not being deprived of "due process," since they haven't been charged with anything. She has a point—if you ignore the fact that they are being held illegally, indefinitely, without charges..

Stafford Smith, a lawyer for the Kuwaitis being held at Guantanamo, told the Guardian of London that he would appeal: "The U.S. says it is fighting this whole war in the cause of democracy and the rule of law. What do they do then? They take these folk to Cuba ... explicitly to deny them of any legal rights. If that isn't ironic I don't know what is."

The Kuwaiti government funded the case to protect the rights of its citizens held at Guantanamo.

The U.S. is so intent on preserving its control over the prisoners that it voted against a measure in the United Nations

that would modify the Convention Against Torture to require inspections of facilities such as Guantanamo. (Reuters, July 25)

The administration's position is that the detainees at Guantanamo have no status. They are the personal prisoners of the president of the United States.

The 'disappeared'

On Aug. 2, U.S. District Judge Gladys Kessler ordered the Justice Department to release the names of the detainees, mainly Arab and South Asian men, rounded up in the U.S. after 9/11. She gave the department 15 days to comply, which means she expects an appeal. Groups advocating defense of civil rights brought the suit.

Kessler upheld the government's right to withhold information about where detainees are being held and when they were arrested. If the government can prove to Kessler that releasing a particular name would damage "national security," she said, then it can keep on withholding it.

If Kessler's order withstands the expected appeal, the total number of people rounded up will finally be established. The most common estimate is 1,200, although 751 also pops up in some government affidavits. As of June 13, the Justice Department claimed just 74 people were in custody, the others having been released or deported.

Two weeks before Kessler made her ruling, Warren Christopher, a former secretary of state in the Clinton administration, attacked the government's refusal to identify the people it had detained, saying it reminded him of the "disappeared" in Argentina.

"I'll never forget going to Argentina and seeing the mothers marching in the streets asking for the names of those being held by the government," Christopher said. "We must be very careful in this country about taking people into custody without revealing their names. It leads us down the road of the disappeared." (San Diego Union-Tribune, July 17)

Christopher is not just a former official. He has deep ties to the ruling class. He is a senior partner at the law firm of O'Melveny & Myers in Los Angeles, was vice chair of the Johnson administration inquiry into the 1965 Watts Rebellion, and headed the commission that investigated the police beating of Rodney King in 1991.

What Christopher is telling the ruling class is that if it goes on trampling the rights of people of color and political dissidents, actions like the April 20 demonstration which brought 100,000 people to Washington to defend Palestine and the civil rights of Arabs and South Asians will be repeated and amplified.

People will defend their rights in the streets as well as in the courts.

All out to D.C. Aug. 17!

Labor, community leaders back reparations fight

On July 27 nearly 100 people, including union members and leaders, community activists and elected officials, came to the Unity United Baptist Church in Baltimore to attend the first public meeting of Labor for Reparations. The meeting was held to rally labor support for the national march for reparations to take place in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 17. Below are excerpts from some of the talks at the meeting:



Andre Powell, AFSCME Local 112 and All People's Congress

Labor creates all wealth. Unpaid slave labor is the foundation of wealth in the U.S. today. It is absolutely the right thing that we in the

labor movement should raise our voices to demand reparations now.



Rev. Kwame Oobayomi, Baltimore City Council and Unity United Baptist Church

Many of you are aware how corporate elites have been able to manage their money and increase it exponentially while those in the labor pool

are not allowed to profit from their own labor. Though the names have changed, the relationships established by the transatlantic slave trade are alive and well in Corporate America and the system of capitalism and globalization that we are struggling with today.

PVN PHOTOS: JOHNNIE STEVENS



Eartha Harris, Baltimore Local Organizing Committee

The call for reparations is not new. It has been around for generations. Our committee was formed to organize for the Million Man March, and now we

are meeting every week and working to build for the Aug. 17 march here in Baltimore. But we know that the work will not end with the march and rally. It is after the rally that the work will really begin.



Fred Mason, president, Maryland-D.C. AFL-CIO

An injury to one is an injury to all. Realizing the truth embodied in that slogan is part of the unfinished business of the

American labor movement. For every dollar the average white male worker earns, the average Black male worker earns 70 cents. This is a challenge that must be taken on if there is really going to be a new labor movement, a united labor movement.



Sharon Ceci, UFCW activist and All People's Congress

In the 19th century the nascent labor movement failed to challenge slavery. As a result the vast majority of

poor whites, who were themselves despised by the plantation owners, were duped and used and the industrial workers found their labor cheapened by slavery. History is now giving us a second chance, and it comes on the wings of the reparations movement. There is no way we can achieve the unity needed to fight



the coming battles unless we fight racism.

Rev. Graylan Haglar, Plymouth Congregational Church, Washington, D.C.

Theologian Walter Bruegelman

said, "Justice is determining what belongs to whom and returning it." I live in D.C. and when I look at the White House, built by slave labor, I look at the Capitol, built by slave labor, I look at the city streets and City Hall, built by slave labor, I want to be treated and I want my foreparents to be treated and I want those who come after me to be treated fairly.



That means being given an investment in the labor that we have given.

Larry Holmes, International ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism)

It is the legacy of slavery that underlies the social problems that plague Black people today. Why is it that unemployment is so high in our community? Why is it that Black people are five times more likely to end up in jail and 10 times more likely to end up in the electric chair or having a needle punched in their arm to

poison them to death? That's all about slavery and about reparations. Don't let anyone tell you that reparations is outrageous. Slavery was outrageous, the Middle Passage was outrageous, kidnapping people by the millions and bringing them here was outrageous! Poverty is outrageous, war is outrageous, capitalism is outrageous!



Oscar Gamboa, from Colombia

In my country we speak Spanish, and here you speak English, but our ancestors were brought from the same continent—Africa. Your

slavery was our slavery, and your reparations will be our reparations. There are 11 million African people in Colombia—one-third of the population—and we suffer from the worst of the violence that



you hear about. I and other African Colombians will be with you Aug. 17.

Omawale Clay, December 12 Movement, Durban 400 and Millions for Reparations

They say it's confusing to trace who owes what to whom. Doris Duke never picked any tobacco; her family's wealth came from tobacco picked by Black people. But they have no problem at all figuring out how to pass along that wealth inside the Duke family. Reparations must be tied to the criminality that built capitalism. The call for reparations is not divisive, it brings clarity. Most white folks can't pay Black folks reparations because most white folks are poor. It is the rich that owe us.

—Compiled by Bill Cecil

NYC meeting on reparations

'An injury to one is an injury to all'

With only 11 days to go before the long-awaited national demonstration for reparations for African Americans, Roger Wareham, Brenda Stokely and Monica Moorehead were featured speakers at an International Action Center forum Aug. 6 attended by New York City-area activists.

"We live in a society where 1 percent of the population owns 30 percent of the wealth. Nothing changes unless the masses do it," said Roger Wareham, a national leader of the Aug. 17 Millions for Reparations march in Washington, D.C., and representative of the December 12th Movement. He called for an all-out mobilization in support of the demonstration.

Brenda Stokely, president of AFSCME District Council 1707, told the activists that she "wouldn't turn down the opportunity to speak to folks about such an important issue." She said that reparations and the legacy of slavery are key issues that must be dealt with if workers are to unite and get organized.

A key focus of the meeting revolved around the need for workers to break the bonds of racism. Monica Moorehead of Millions for Mumia and the International

Action Center emphasized the importance of seeing that an injury to one is an injury to all, and that it is in the interests of everyone to mobilize for the reparations movement. She also called for people to mobilize against the impending U.S. war in Iraq.

The meeting was chaired by Teresa Gutierrez of the IAC and the National Committee to Free the Five Cuban Prisoners Held in the U.S.

Organizers of the Millions for Reparations movement appealed for help in the days leading up to the historic march in Washington. From aiding with work sessions that will take place on Aug. 14-15 to taking an assignment on the day of the protest, there is no shortage of jobs to do and everyone can help.

For further information, contact the International Action Center at (212) 633-6646 or visit the Web sites www.iacenter.org and www.millionsforreparations.com.

—Story and photo by Matthew L. Schwartz



Roger Wareham, Monica Moorehead, Brenda Stokely, and Teresa Gutierrez.

French unions bring aid, solidarity to Mumia

By Monica Moorehead

A French delegation of supporters of political prisoner and revolutionary journalist, Mumia Abu-Jamal, made a visit to the U.S. last weekend to present a \$50,000 donation to his legal defense.

This money and much more is needed to cover the costs of filing state and federal appeals in an effort to force these biased courts to hear suppressed evidence that shows that Mumia is innocent of killing a Philadelphia policeman on December 9, 1981.

The generous donation was raised amongst the various trade unions throughout France under the umbrella of the General Labor Confederation.

The delegation appeared at a July 30 press conference on Democracy Now, a popular and highly respected political show hosted by Amy Goodman that is aired nationally by Pacifica radio. Pam Africa from International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal also spoke at the press conference.

The French delegation was led by Julia Wright, coordinator of the International Committee in Solidarity with Mumia Abu-Jamal and a representative of ICFMAJ in Paris. She is the

daughter of the late renowned African American writer, Richard Wright. The Parisian City Council passed a resolution last year making Mumia an honorary citizen of that city.

The rest of the delegation consisted of Jackie Hortaut from the French General Labor Confederation, Marcel Trillat, a French television journalist and director of TV documentaries, Marie-Cécile Pla, representative of Movement Against Racism and Friendship with the Peoples and

Claude Guillaumaud-Pujol, Coordinator of JUST JUSTICE. All are emissaries from the French National Collective to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal, consisting of 60 different groups.

On July 29, the delegation visited Mumia on death row at the SCI Greene Unit in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania. Donations for Mumia's legal defense should be made out to National Black United Fund/Mumia Abu-Jamal account and mailed to NBUF, 40 Clinton St, 5th floor, Newark, NJ 07102.



PVN PHOTO: ANNE LAMB

French delegate Marie-Cécile Pla presents check to Pam Africa.

State repression and the Black struggle PART 6

'Everyone has a point where they won't back down'

By Imani Henry

In the previous installment, Bukhari spoke of her arrest and imprisonment by Virginia authorities.

Imani Henry: I asked about you getting out of prison without doing all of your time.

Safiya Bukhari: I used the courts. And the women in the prison started to watch what I was doing. ...The warden said I was "a threat to the security of the free world." Then she told them that I could organize the women in her prison. And that was the only women's prison in Virginia.

They were concerned about my ability to organize and "recruit" women from the institution. I didn't believe in recruiting because the person has to make up her mind for herself and if you recruit too many, then it puts the responsibility on you. But if they did on their own, that was something different. [The prison officials] didn't understand those concepts at all.

Then the warden told me, "I'll approve you for a furlough, but I won't approve you for honor college." Honor college is where you can go in and out of the building anytime you want to. Now I could go off grounds, I could do work release, but I couldn't go to honor college on the grounds. What sense did that make?

I and other women started this group, Mothers Inside Loving Kids (MILK), for the long-termers. And we helped them spend time with their children. Because one of the things they do heavy in the South is



WW interview with Safiya Bukhari

that they take away parental rights, especially if a woman goes to jail. Doesn't matter how long she's in prison for or how short she's in prison for, even if her case has nothing

to do with child abuse. Virginia took away parental rights.

That prison used to be a plantation. And most of those prisons down there used to be plantations. And they still had the slave housing; some of the same buildings that slaves had slept in.

IH: So when you came up for parole, was that a struggle again, or did you have enough good time?

SB: When my time came up for parole, the debate was what I was going to say to the parole board. Everybody kept saying I should say, "I have remorse."

IH: So what did you decide to do with the parole board?

SB: What they asked me was, "What do you think about violence?" And I told them. I don't believe in violence for the sake of violence. But everyone has a point where you will not back down.

And they asked me about being in contact with any former Black Liberation Army people, Black Panthers and felons. And I told them, "Look, I'm not going to sit here and tell you that I'm not to be in contact with my family. Because these people are not just members of the BLA or BPP; these people are part of my family. So it's up to you. And whatever you do, I will do what I have to do."

Then they asked me, "Do you still believe in what you believe in?" And I said, "No, in all these years, I learned that not everybody is ready for armed struggle. There is a lot of education that needs to be done. There's a lot of organizing that has to be done if you want to support other people. And that's what I do best." They didn't turn me down and they didn't give me parole. They gave me a deferral.

IH: So you did eight years and eight months, and you were released when?

SB: August 22, 1983.

IH: When did the Jericho movement start?

SB: I came to the conclusion there had to be a better way to deal with this issue of political prisoners. I went to Cuba to spend time with Assata Shakur and meet with the Association of Cuban Women and we heard that we had won the stay of execution for Mumia Abu-Jamal [in 1995].

In 1996, we started to build the Jericho march. ...We needed a umbrella organization that represented all political prisoners. The four objectives of the Jericho Movement are: 1) Winning amnesty and freedom for all political prisoners currently held; 2) Making the U.S. government acknowledge there are political prisoners in U.S. jails; 3) Setting up a legal defense fund so their appeal work gets done and there is ongoing work on their cases after their trials; and 4) Demanding adequate medical care.

Mumia Abu-Jamal from death row

Harriet Tubman: woman warrior



"I started with this idea in my head, 'There's two things I've got a right to, death or liberty.'"

— Harriet Tubman

Born into a family held in bondage in Tidewater, Maryland in (or around) the year 1821, a tiny, brown baby girl named "Araminta" didn't seem

like one to shake up the world.

The enslaved people on the farm called her "Minta," or "Minty," when she was a baby, but in the "peculiar institution" called slavery, childhood didn't last long.

It was at the tender age of 5, when "Minta" was rented out to a white woman nearby for "domestic work." On her first day, before breakfast, the child was lashed with a leather strap four times across her face. By the time she was 7 years old she ran away, tired of her treatment. She was so tired, and so afraid of being caught that she fell into a pig-pen, and competed with pigs for scraps of food. When she returned to the house where she worked, some 4 days later, she was beaten, whipped by a man.

Later, returned to her home farm, she was called Harriet, no longer house slave, but field slave.

As a young woman, she made her way out of the house of bondage, and, not content with her own freedom, she resolved to return to the plantations to lead others out of bondage. She was so successful that she became a living legend to the enslaved, and a thorn in the side of the enslavers. The planters put out a bounty totalling \$40,000 (in 1850 dollars) for her capture, dead or alive.

In the hovels of the enslaved, a whisper of her name ("Moses") or the humming of a spiritual told of her presence and her mission — freedom. She brought over 300 souls north, and built a deep network of informants throughout slave territory.

She so incensed the slavers that they pushed through the federal Fugitive Slave Act which deputized all whites in the pursuit or capture of a former (or escaped) slave, anywhere in the United States.

For Harriet, that meant slavery reached up to the Canadian border. So she started taking people up there for a taste of freedom.

She took her job dead seriously. When a captive, tired, scared, or hungry, wanted to turn back to the life he knew, he would find himself staring at a pistol in Harriet's hand, and an offer he couldn't refuse: "Go on with us, or die." There was no turning back.

When Civil War broke out, she left her home in West Canada, and came back down to do whatever she could against the slaveocracy. With her deep contacts in slave country, she gave important intelligence data to the Union Army, and she personally led several raids against Confederate targets.

One of the most famous was the Combahee River raid, in June 1863. Her contacts on the plantations on the South Carolina coast reported the placement of floating mines in the Combahee to block the Union Navy.

Under her guidance, the mines were removed, railroads and bridges were destroyed, and the Slaveocracy's most precious resource — captives — were liberated from the very heart of the Confederacy. In fact, over 800 of the enslaved were given passage aboard Union ships. It delighted "Moses" to no end, as she would later recall:

"I never saw such a scene. We laughed and laughed and laughed. Here you'd see a woman with a pail on her head, rice-a-smoking in it just as she'd taken it from the fire, young one hanging on behind... One woman brought two pigs, a white one and a black one; we took them all on board; named the white pig Beau-regard [a Southern general], and the black one Jeff Davis [president of the Confederacy]. Sometimes the women would come with twins hanging around their necks; it appears I never saw so many twins in my life ..."

It seemed she loved few things more than the sight of her people, free. She was a soldier for freedom.

Her words, fueled by a courageous heart, have echoed down the centuries; "I had seen their tears and sighs, and I heard their groans, and I would give every drop of blood in my veins to free them."

Bush's 'weapons of mass destruction' hoax

Big lie masks real motives for Iraq war

Continued from page 1

strategy: war or sanctions?

The "debate" is strictly confined to selecting the best means to accomplish the goal of U.S. domination over Iraq:

- new military invasion and air war to install a pro-U.S. regime, or
- maintain economic sanctions coupled with routine low-intensity bombing. (U.S. and British planes bombed Iraq on six separate occasions in the last four weeks, according to an Aug. 5 Associated Press dispatch.)

This is just a debate about the most politically effective way to kill large numbers of Iraqis.

In the 1991 Gulf War more than 100,000 Iraqis died as the U.S., Britain and France dropped more than 88,500 tons of explosives on Baghdad, Basra, Mosul and other cities during the 42-day onslaught. (Wall Street Journal, March 20, 1991)

Sanctions took even more lives. UNICEF reports that well over 1 million Iraqi civilians died from malnutrition and disease brought on by airtight economic sanctions in the 11 years since the war ended.

Following the Senate debate, Biden, the leading Democrat on foreign policy issues, went on "Meet the Press" Aug. 4 to signal that the economic sanctions would now be replaced by all-out war.

"I believe there probably will be a war with Iraq," he stated. "The only question is, is it alone, is it with others, and how long and how costly will it be?"

Answering Bush's war propaganda

The tasks facing the new international anti-war movement include developing a popular and effective answer to the White House propaganda machine. Bush and the Pentagon are working non-stop to demonize the victims of their planned attack, while creating a credible pretext for war.

Working people in the United States, and especially the youth, must be able to learn the real causes for the coming conflict and learn how to respond to the Pentagon's lies. Otherwise people will be susceptible to the pro-war hype and frenzy that are being cynically generated to prepare public opinion for war.

The main argument used by the White House to scare up support for an invasion is that "Saddam Hussein must be prevented from acquiring or developing chemical, biological or nuclear weapons—a.k.a. weapons of mass destruction."

The White House has focused on this bogus argument because it has no other. Every effort was made to connect Iraq to the Sept. 11 attack and later to the anthrax attacks in the autumn of 2001.

But there was no evidence of a connection, so Bush simply broadened the scope of the "war on terrorism" by proclaiming that Iraq, Iran, north Korea and other "evil" countries would be considered terrorist and subject to preemptive military attacks.

What made them terrorists? Bush said they were "trying to acquire weapons of mass destruction."

Iraq certainly did possess and use chemical weapons in the 1980s. Both Iraq and Iran used such weapons against each other in that brutal and reactionary war. But these weapons were not "frightening" to the U.S. at the time of their use.

Donald Rumsfeld, the current secretary of defense, was meeting in Baghdad with Saddam Hussein and other Iraqi leaders in December 1983 and March 1984, and improving U.S.-Iraqi relations on behalf of the Reagan administration when the allegations concerning chemical weapons surfaced. But this was when the U.S. was en-

couraging Iraq's war effort as part of a strategy to weaken and exhaust the Iranian Revolution.

During the 1991 Gulf War, Iraq did not use chemical or non-conventional weapons, but the U.S. did. It dropped tons of depleted uranium weapons all over Iraq.

It is important to deconstruct the piece of propaganda regarding "weapons of mass destruction." It is the only pretext available to the war-makers and it needs to be answered effectively.

The facts are very crucial to understanding the duplicity of U.S. strategy. The U.S. is employing a classic Catch-22 public relations technique aimed at demonizing Iraq before an uninformed and unsuspecting public.

Background to Operation Desert Fox

Iraq agreed in 1991 to let in UN weapons inspectors—a condition imposed by the United States at the end of the Gulf War. The U.S. insisted that economic sanctions would be lifted only after inspectors verified that Iraq was free from non-conventional weapons.

But for the last four years it has been the U.S. government that has worked hard at manipulating the UN so that there would be no inspectors in Iraq, thus eliminating any chance of ending sanctions.

After the U.S.-dominated team carried out 9,000 inspections over nearly eight years, Iraq demanded in 1998 that the UN/U.S. economic sanctions be ended. Most governments in the UN favored lifting sanctions.

The demand to end the sanctions was gaining irresistible momentum.

This prompted the Clinton administration to withdraw the weapons inspectors on Dec. 12, 1998, on the pretext that Iraq was not "fully cooperating," creating the impression that Iraq was leading inspectors on some wild goose chase or blocking their path.

Clinton argued that the U.S. had no choice but to bomb Iraq because it was blocking meaningful inspections.

In fact, the United Nations Special Commission—UNSCOM—cited only five "obstructions" to the 423 inspections conducted between Nov. 18-Dec. 12, 1998. One was a 45-minute delay before allowing access. Another was Iraq's rebuff to a demand by a U.S. inspector that she be able to interview all the undergraduate students in Baghdad University's Science Department.

Two other cases of Iraq's alleged non-compliance had to do with UNSCOM's request to inspect two establishments on Friday—the Muslim holy day. Since the establishments were closed, Iraq asserted that the inspections must be held another day or that an Iraqi official would accompany the inspectors—in accordance with an agreement between UNSCOM and Iraq regarding Friday inspections.

Less than 48 hours after the inspectors were withdrawn from Iraq, the Pentagon began the massive bombing campaign known as Operation Desert Fox on Dec. 16-19, 1998. U.S. and British warplanes dropped more than 1,000 missiles and bombs on the country during those four days.

Two weeks after Operation Desert Fox, U.S. officials publicly admitted the weapons inspectors were intelligence agents who provided Pentagon bombing planners with bombing coordinates. (New York Times, Jan. 7, 1999)

Predictably—and justifiably—the Iraqi government announced that it would no longer cooperate with the UN weapons inspections.



A bombed bridge at Nasiriyah, Iraq, in 1996. The city was bombed for 43 days straight during the Gulf War.

WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

militarizing outer space. The recently-released Pentagon military doctrine includes a declaration of its right to first use of nuclear weapons against Iraq, north Korea, Iran, China and Russia. The U.S. has Trident submarines and U.S. aircraft carriers carrying nuclear weapons 24 hours a day as the imperial

fleet roams the seven seas.

The U.S. government used chemical weapons in Vietnam, spraying Agent Orange over vast parts of that country. Thousands of U.S. GIs and an unknown number of Vietnamese people died, or live difficult and painful lives from the after-effects.

Today, the U.S. government manufactures chemical and biological weapons, a fact that was routinely denied and only admitted after the anthrax attacks of 2001.

And the U.S. government—led by both Democrats and Republicans—has knowingly and deliberately killed more than 1 million Iraqi civilians through the quieter, less dramatic weapon known as economic sanctions. This weapon that has killed 5,000 children every month for 12 years must be regarded as a weapon of mass destruction.

A war to dominate oil resources

Bush and the Pentagon want to control Iraq and the entire Middle East. This has been a primary focus of U.S. foreign policy for more than a half-century.

Before the Arab nationalist revolutions overthrew the corrupt pro-Western monarchies in the region in the 1950s and 1960s, more than 50 percent of all U.S. corporate overseas profits came from the region.

Iraq experienced a profound anti-feudal and anti-colonial revolution in 1958 that brought down the British-backed monarchy. Within one week of the revolution, President Dwight D. Eisenhower sent 10,000 marines to occupy Lebanon in fear that the Iraqi Revolution would spread.

Fearing retribution for taking control of its own natural resources, Iraq waited until 1972—when the U.S. military was bogged down in Vietnam—before it nationalized its western-owned oil fields.

When Iraq nationalized its oil industry it became the target of CIA covert operations. Richard Nixon, Henry Kissinger and the Shah of Iran met in May 1972 and began a massive covert operation to foment a Kurdish uprising in northern Iraq—an area that contains half of Iraq's oil supply.

Today, Iraq has oil reserves of 112 billion barrels, second only to Saudi Arabia, according to Middle East Economic Survey.

The real goal of the planned invasion of Iraq is to undo or reverse the process of decolonization and nationalist revolutions that restricted the previously unfettered authority of western capitalist corporations to dominate and profit from the vast natural resources of the Middle East.

For U.S. imperialism, and its policy-makers in Washington and Wall Street, the goal is to secure U.S. control over these strategic resources that are vital to a modern economy.

The writer is a co-director of the International Action Center and a spokesperson for the ANSWER coalition.

Bush, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and Vice President Richard Cheney now routinely bellow that Iraq has denied weapons inspectors access to the country for four years; Iraq is intransigent and defiant of UN resolutions.

And thus, the U.S. has cynically crafted the chief rationale for the coming invasion.

Iraqi diplomacy rebuffed again

Bush, Rumsfeld and Co. reveal the depth of their cynicism and duplicity as they work overtime now to make it nearly impossible for weapons inspectors to return to Iraq. That would slow down the invasion plan—their biggest fear of all.

On Aug. 1, the day the Senate hearings concluded, Iraq's foreign minister released a letter sent to UN General Secretary Kofi Annan announcing that Iraq was ready to resume discussions about the possible re-admission of UN weapons inspectors. Given the experience of the past, however, when so-called inspectors were actually gathering coordinates for cruise missile attacks, Iraq wanted discussions first to set terms.

Iraq also offered to allow a delegation of U.S. congressional representatives, accompanied by arms experts of their choice, to tour sites in Iraq where they suspect weapons of mass destruction are hidden.

Far from defusing the U.S. war drive, however, the Bush administration immediately dismissed the Iraqi invitation to discuss the return of the weapons inspectors or the invitation to an arms control delegation from Congress. Colin Powell, secretary of state, and frequently portrayed as less hawkish than the other Bushies, made it clear that the U.S. wouldn't take "yes" for an answer from Iraq.

"Inspection is not the issue, disarmament is ... we have seen the Iraqis fiddle with the inspection system before," Powell said dismissively while stopping over in the Philippines. (The Observer, Aug. 4)

Another official, John Bolton, U.S. under-secretary for arms control, was even more blunt: "Our policy ... insists on regime change in Baghdad and that policy will not be altered, whether inspectors go in or not." (British Radio 4 Today show, Aug. 4)

Who are the real terrorists?

If the production of weapons of mass destruction is the criteria to affix the terrorist label, then clearly George W. Bush presides over the biggest terrorist enterprise now or at any time in world history.

The U.S. has the largest nuclear arsenal—more than 6,000 nuclear missiles and bombs. It has spent \$4 trillion on nuclear weapons since 1945. When it had a monopoly on these weapons it did not hesitate to use them against civilian centers—up to 200,000 civilians were instantly incinerated in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

Bush is spending hundreds of billions on

Independent action needed

Owners' response to economic crisis endangers workers

By Fred Goldstein

The latest government reports on the economy and the turbulent gyrations of the stock market in a downward direction should serve as danger signs to the working class.

Whether or not a major new capitalist downturn is imminent, the rising instability that plagues the capitalist economy is undeniable. The financial powers that govern the U.S. are in a perpetual state of trying to stave off a crisis. Each new report causes the experts to either breathe a sigh of relief or sink into a state of gloom, reflecting the unstable situation.

Figures released by the Commerce Department on July 31 indicate that the U.S. economy grew by only 1.1 percent in the quarter ending June 30. Growth in the previous quarter, which was hailed as the beginning of a significant economic recovery, was 5.0 percent (revised down from original reports of 6.1 percent). Economists had been predicting 2.3 percent growth in the second quarter.

According to the Aug. 1 *New York Times*, "Businesses reduced their spending for the seventh consecutive quarter, breaking the record for the longest such streak since the Commerce Department began keeping records in 1947." Construction of new factories and other structures "dropped markedly."

Sales declined for the quarter and the economy only grew because businesses rebuilt their inventories after more than a year of cutting.

At the end of last year consumer spending grew by 6 percent; in the first quarter of 2002 it grew by 3.1 percent; in the second quarter it grew by 1.9 percent. This indicates that the credit bubble that is stretching the masses into record consumer debt may be about to burst.

Bleak news on jobs

To show how much worse things are getting, "Employers cut the average workweek by an unusually large three-tenths of an hour, to a flat 34 hours," according to the Aug. 3 *Times*. "Not since the Labor Department began to track the average workweek in 1964 has it been that short," except during a blizzard in January 1996 and immediately after Sept. 11.

Employment reports were bleak. Some 53,000 workers were laid off in manufacturing and construction in July; 191,000 workers who wanted full-time work were forced to work part time; and temporary employment, which usually grows during the first phase of a recovery, was down 35,000.

"Last week's spate of disappointing news caught forecasters by surprise," wrote the *Journal*. "They had been projecting a modest pickup in business activity in part because corporate profits were finally growing again after two years of deep declines."

But the principle basis for the rise of profits in the first quarter was "relentless cost cutting" and the bosses are finding it "extremely difficult to start growing again. In some cases sales aren't budging; in other cases they are still falling. If the trend doesn't change soon, it could mean a new wave of corporate cost cutting that further depresses economic growth."

The *Journal* explains that there is a

"growth crisis" and that for many companies the "traditional growth moves like price increases, international expansion or mergers, have run out of steam."

Cost cutting? Fight back!

When the bosses talk about "cost cutting," workers must be ready to fight back.

The Aug. 12 issue of *Business Week* was blunt about the matter. "In a world where demand is weak and it's tough to raise prices, that can mean only one thing: continued intense pressure on companies to hold down labor costs by laying off workers, reducing wage increases" in order to keep profits up.

In Marxist terms, world capitalist overproduction, driven by the mad lust for profits and the race to capture markets by financial-corporate groupings, has created a global glut of commodities.

This glut is not caused by the fact there is too much to be used by humanity. On the contrary, world poverty, inequality and underdevelopment has increased under the regime of capitalist globalization.

The problem is that under capitalist exploitation, the masses of the people who work for the bosses and create all the wealth are paid only enough to keep themselves going from year to year, if that, while the bosses and bankers take the lion's share of the wealth in the form of surplus value or profits.

Because of this relationship of exploitation, capitalist production sooner or later outstrips consumption. When that happens, prices begin to drop, squeezing profitability. And if this disparity between production and consumption become severe enough that the bosses' profits are really squeezed, they start laying off, shutting down and trying to load the entire crisis of the profit system onto the workers.

Right now, capitalist overproduction is a worldwide phenomenon. Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay are in such a crisis that the Bush administration has had to change its "no loans" tune and rush aid into the region.

U.S. financial authorities have been struggling for the past eight years to try to stave off the crisis. The world is watching because the U.S. economy is holding up the global capitalist economy.

Bosses' dangerous stratagems

There are various means of capitalist struggle against this crisis, all of which are ultimately harmful to the workers and oppressed people.

One immediate method of bolstering profits is for the capitalists to intensify the exploitation of the labor force by speeding up, lowering wages, cutting benefits and laying off workers. Each capitalist management does this based upon its own bottom line.

When this method becomes generalized under conditions of falling profitability for the capitalist class as a whole—a condition developing now—it brings about an economic crisis for the working class.

Another method is to entice the workers and middle class into buying more than they can afford through the extension of consumer credit. This keeps the profits coming in to the manufacturers and makes a fortune for the banks and credit card and finance companies, who gouge from workers' incomes with usurious interest rates.

According to the Federal Reserve, "Household debt service payments were

The profit system, as is becoming more evident with every stock market gyration and mass layoff, cannot be cured of its ills. These evils are inherent to the unplanned, chaotic chasing after markets and profits by a handful of billionaires

more than 14 percent of disposable income in the first quarter, near the highest level in 22 years." (*Business Week*, Aug. 12). Citibank cleared \$4.9 billion in profits last quarter, despite Enron and other losses, mainly because of consumer loans.

Consumer credit is largely a trap for the working class because it forces them to pledge future wages to the banks. Under capitalism, neither wages, jobs nor any other form of income are stable or guaranteed. Workers are always at risk from one week to the next.

Addicted to credit

The extension of credit, in general, has become an addiction of U.S. capitalism in its struggle against the latest crisis. Alan Greenspan, chair of the Federal Reserve Board, has engaged in an orgy of welfare for the banks and financiers by cutting interest rates 11 times in the past few years.

The Fed has brought the Federal Funds Rate, which governs interest rates in general, to a 40-year low of 1.75 percent. This is a giveaway to the bankers, brokers and corporations because it pumps money into the economy by allowing them to borrow cheaply and make loans at a profit.

Pumping money into the economy through credit has kept the stock market booming. Much of the corporate borrowing has been used by management groups to buy and bid up their own stocks. They turn around and use the highly-priced stock as collateral for more loans or to finance mergers and acquisitions.

It's the booming stock market that the U.S. ruling class in general, and the financiers in particular, have relied upon to keep the economy going. By keeping stock prices going up and up it entices the rich, the middle class and large sections of the working class to forsake savings and engage in maximum spending. This is the so-called "wealth effect" the capitalists are so afraid of losing.

The Federal Reserve Board and the U.S. Treasury have also encouraged other quasi-government agencies to extend cheap mortgage loans to keep the housing market going—giving out hundreds of billions of dollars in loans in the recent boom period.

No boom in production, profits

The trillions of dollars in consumer and corporate debt which has underwritten the latest boom for consumers, investors and the stock market has seen no corresponding boom in production or profits.

In fact, the Commerce Department recently did a study of the period of the so-called peak of the boom in the year 2000 and declared that profits actually fell that year 2.2 percent rather than rising 6.2 percent as had been reported earlier.

So while the stock market was going through the roof, profits were actually going down—making the speculative bubble all the more baseless.

Finally, while the economy last quarter was growing at a rate of 1.1 percent, federal spending grew at a rate of 7.4 percent, driven by military spending and other spending for repression in the wake of Sept. 11. This is one of the more pronounced methods of trying to keep the economy afloat—preparation for war. The Bush administration is preparing to send working-class youths to kill and be killed in imperialist adventures, such as the one it is preparing against Iraq.

All these methods of trying to keep the profit system from collapsing can only bring devastation to the workers, unless they are able to intervene independently to turn the situation around.

Credit expansion can fuel crisis

The expansion of credit, while it can facilitate capitalist production, can also be used to vastly extend capitalist overproduction and thereby intensify economic and social crises.

Credit, like stock certificates, represents a claim on future value. When credit is extended far beyond the system's capability to produce that value, because of the very limitations of the profit system itself, then it is a recipe for a credit crunch. This can only aggravate the crisis, or even precipitate an economic disaster, for hundreds of millions of people.

Karl Marx wrote about the role of credit in capitalist society in "Capital" in 1865, long before it reached the incredible proportions that it occupies in the modern age of finance capital. Marx showed that "the credit system appears as the main lever of overproduction and over-speculation in commerce." He goes on to state:

"The two characteristics immanent in the credit system are, on the one hand, to develop the incentive of capitalist production, enrichment through exploitation of the labor of others, to the purest and most colossal form of gambling and swindling, and to reduce more and more the number of the few people who exploit the social wealth; on the other hand, to constitute the form of transition to a new mode of production." (Vol. 3, p. 441)

The profit system, as is becoming more evident with every gyration of the stock market, with every multi-billion-dollar bankruptcy, with every announcement of layoffs, cannot be cured of its ills. These evils are inherent to the unplanned, chaotic chasing after profits and markets by a tiny handful of billionaires who own and control the worldwide means of production.

Only by removing the means to sustain life from their hands and administering everything from the auto plants to the offices to the hospitals on a planned basis, for human need, can this perpetually recurring state of crisis be eliminated.

This means replacing capitalism with socialism.

Anti-Pentagon anger grows

Bush's 'war on terror' faces challenge in Philippines

By Scott Scheffer
Manila, Philippines

George Bush's phony "War on Terrorism" is facing a challenge in the Philippines. It isn't from the Abu Sayaf Group (ASG)—the pretext used for the six-month intervention that U.S. troops finished on July 31, as well as the plan to resume joint exercises in October. The real fight is coming from the Filipino people.

The people of this former U.S. colony want U.S. troops gone and gone for good. Popular anti-U.S. troop sentiment made successes of a series of events organized here by mass organizations between July 24 and August 3. The actions spanned the geography of the country, and had the pro-U.S. Arroyo government scrambling for new ways to spin their unpopular collusion with the Bush administration.

At the center of all the anti-war work were the International Solidarity Mission (ISM) and the People's Caravan. Grassroots groups representing different sectors of the progressive movement, including BAYAN, BAYAN Muna, Out Now, Moro-Christian People's Alliance and Gabriella Network, organized the actions.

The ISM was a fact-finding mission that had the responsibility of gathering information about human rights abuses during the joint operations between the U.S. military and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). This reporter was among about 65 participants from nine countries that were given the opportunity to take part.

The morning after arriving in Manila, delegates traveled more than an hour by air to Zamboanga City in the southwestern part of Mindanao. The next morning they traveled south another half hour by boat to Basilan Island. Muslim peoples who successfully resisted Spanish colonization, and therefore retained their own cultural identity, populate the southern part of the Philippines. Anti-U.S.-troop sentiment is

strong there.

When the delegates came off of the boat, there was a great welcome for them. A demonstration of hundreds of people with signs and banners against the intervention of the U.S. in the Philippines spanned the area where the boat was docked. Small fishing boats in the surrounding water were also decorated with colorful banners.

Arrests, torture and deaths

As the delegates set about their work over the next two days, dozens of people from Zamboanga, Basilan, and General Santos City met with ISM members at great personal risk, often inviting them into their homes to tell the stories of wholesale arrests, injuries and deaths of their loved ones since the U.S. troops arrived in January.

They heard from a woman whose 11-year-old son and husband were taken away by the AFP and found dead the next day. The news media reported that they were members of the ASG. People spoke again and again of soldiers demanding that their young men admit to being specific ASG figures that they had never heard of, and being beaten and arrested for refusing to "confess." Ironically, some of them had lost family members to ASG attacks.

After being jailed, many prisoners had been tortured and beaten for up to three days. When we visited Basilan Provincial Jail, there were 131 prisoners in a tiny two-room dwelling with no beds. Some prisoners reported having been there for five months without any contact with a lawyer.

A priest told ISM members how he nearly lost his life in an ASG attack at the Dr. Jose Torres Hospital where he served, and then watched the ASG slip away in broad daylight, as the army did nothing to stop them. The ASG is a small group that spreads terror throughout the oppressed Muslim areas of the Philippines, particularly Basilan and Sulu, and provides a pretext for the U.S. military presence.

The real targets of the U.S./AFP operations, it's believed by movement leaders, will be the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), and the New People's Army (NPA). The three are larger guerilla operations that are genuinely linked to the people's progressive movements of the Philippines.

U.S. soldier shoots civilian

Of course the most explosive testimony was the reported shooting of an unarmed civilian by a U.S. soldier during an arrest operation that should not have been a military matter. Upon hearing the news, ISM participants visited the home where the shooting occurred, interviewed family members and neighbors, collected physical evidence, and held a series of press conferences that became national news for three to four days. (See accompanying article.)

Before returning to Manila, ISM participants were able to attend the final rally of the People's Caravan, which took place in the soccer stadium in Zamboanga City. The 900-plus caravan participants had traveled for days from all over the Philippines. They held "U.S. troops out" rallies in villages and towns along the way.

A government-orchestrated stone-throwing mob, and roads covered with spikes and blocked by heavy equipment, delayed the last day of their journey by nine hours. But it failed to stop the caravan from rendezvousing with the ISM.

The day after their arrival in Zamboanga, the ISM delegates joined the Caravan group inside the soccer stadium. The two groups traded cultural presentations, shared food, and prepared to march outside for the final rally. That rally came off in spite of a huge number of riot police and AFP troops that blocked them from marching through the city. Regional leaders of the groups that had sponsored the ISM, in addition to the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU or

May First Movement), the militant trade union federation in the Philippines, addressed the crowd. Militant chants demanded "U.S. troops—out now!!"

Bush fears mass movement

Ralliers laughed and cheered at a skit that comically depicted President Arroyo, a U.S. general and President Bush cowering in fear of an uprising of the Filipino masses. Their puppet figures were then burned in effigy.

But fear of the Filipino mass movement by the U.S. is more than just the stuff of comedy.

Washington closed its enormous Clark Air Force base and Subic Bay Naval base in 1991 because the U.S. were very afraid of the momentum of the great mass struggle against those bases. The Pentagon brass were sent packing and they have never gotten over the sting of their loss. Bases in the Philippines were a crucial staging area during the criminal U.S. war against the people of Vietnam.

The Bush administration is working to extend U.S. imperialist domination of the world, and is using the so-called war on terrorism as its justification. The stakes in Asia are high. In addition to the estimated \$4 trillion worth of oil in the Caspian Sea area, there is an undetermined amount of oil in the South China Sea. Bush and Co. are maneuvering to regain the use of the Philippine Islands that are key to their military plans to grab everything they can in Asia.

ISM participants left for home with enormous respect for the leaders of the people's struggle in the Philippines and renewed determination to build solidarity with their struggle for sovereignty. The Filipino people's movement is posing a real challenge, and with solidarity from progressive forces in the imperialist countries—particularly the United States—they can send the U.S. troops packing again.

International Solidarity Mission report:

U.S. soldier shoots unarmed Filipino civilian

By Scott Scheffer
Manila, Philippines

During a week in the Philippines that saw militant protests against the presence of Pentagon troops, organizers of the International Solidarity Mission (ISM) exposed a report of a U.S. soldier shooting an unarmed Filipino civilian on July 25. The ISM reported from Isabel, the capital of Basilan, that the shooting occurred during an arrest operation in the Tuburan area of the small island.

A U.S. soldier shooting a civilian would mean that the United States military was illegally participating in operations, which they are restricted from doing by the Terms of Agreement between the U.S. military and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). The incident became national news in the Philippines and was carried by the Associated Press and French Press Agency.

The ISM was organized by Filipino organizations that are fighting to get the U.S. troops out for good. Participants from nine countries were asked to take part in fact-finding to document human rights violations during a joint exercise between the

U.S. military and the Armed Forces of the Philippines that ended on July 31. Another such exercise is planned for October.

Official spokespeople for the joint operations state that their purpose is to fight against the Abu Sayaf Group, which they claim has ties to Al Qaeda. But movement activists feel that the operations are actually meant to target groups connected to the people's anti-imperialist struggle.

Congressional Representatives Satur Ocampo and Liza Maza demanded a full congressional investigation of the shooting. Ocampo and Maza are members of BAYAN Muna, a political party whose roots are in the militant people's movement. Both served as spokespeople for the ISM.

Home invasion by troops

Huraida Isnijal, the wife of shooting victim Buyong-buyong Isnijal, first reported the incident to the ISM on July 26. She still bore bruises on her nose and forehead from the struggle that ensued after the soldier shot her husband.

Two young children were sleeping in the next room when soldiers entered the house. The shooter yelled in English, "Sit

down, sit down, sit down" and then shot Isnijal in the left thigh.

Family members, neighbors, the attending doctor at the local hospital where the victim was treated, as well as physical evidence gathered by ISM members corroborated her account.

The news was a major embarrassment for the government of President Macapagal-Arroyo, who was already being criticized for allowing the U.S. troops to come to the Philippines. The presence of the troops is a violation of the country's constitution and defies the will of the Filipino people who had waged a successful mass struggle to close Clark Air Force Base and Subic Bay Naval base. Those bases were the largest U.S. military facilities outside the U.S. itself.

The AFP and Arroyo administration responded by labeling the ISM leadership "Abu Sayaf-lovers," communists and terrorists. They flew Abu Sayaf Group victims to Manila from all over the country to participate in a press conference intended to counter the bad publicity.

The news of the shooting came at a particularly sensitive time. Even though the

Balikatan exercise was winding down, the country was anticipating a visit on Aug. 2 and 3 by U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell. The atmosphere was charged all week long as anti-Pentagon protesters took to the streets in spite of police beatings and arrests.

Their determination seemed to have an effect. Before Powell's visit, the press had been suggesting that it would be used to sign the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement. It was rumored that the agreement would give the U.S. the right to re-establish military bases and a permanent presence in the Philippines.

After the ISM forced the shooting into the spotlight of national news, and amid all the protests, the Arroyo regime began saying that the MLSA wouldn't be signed during Powell's visit, and by Aug. 1 Powell himself was saying that the agreement would not include base rights and that the U.S. doesn't seek a permanent military presence in the Philippines.

Nevertheless, more than 2,000 demonstrators greeted Powell on Aug. 2 to let him know that the movement in the Philippines means business.

Bush & Sharon sacrifice Arab, Jewish lives to maintain settler state

By Leslie Feinberg

There is scant coverage of the death and destruction wreaked by the Israeli military, armed to the teeth with high-tech U.S. weaponry, on the Palestinian population.

But where an article does appear, Palestinian deaths are reduced to bare statistics: how many gunned down, where, occasionally the ages of those killed. Few are named.

Even less often is the grief of the loved ones and neighbors of those who lost their lives while trying to forage for food or make a dash for medicine a feature component of the coverage.

Note how frequently, however, when there is an article in which Palestinian lives are recorded as numbers, the accompanying photo is of an anguished Israeli family member who has lost someone they love.

In this way, the humanity of Israelis and Palestinians is rated and appraised, and the result appears to be a clear judgment of which lives are most valuable; which are innocent lives lost and which are the guilty who deserve execution.

This racist judgment is not mere media manipulation. It is the propaganda that papers over colonial occupation. It is the imperialist Big Lie.

During the reign of apartheid in South Africa, any armed blow for freedom by the women, men and youth of Umkhonto we Sizwe was characterized as "terrorism" by the terrorists who held the Black population in a form of slavery in their own land.

All the bloody acts of state violence and repression—from slaughtering school children defying the passbook system to the police murder of political leader Stephen

Biko—were whitewashed. And all the while the movers and shakers on Wall Street armed and backed the profitable Afrikaner settler regime.

But all the king's horses and men cannot extinguish the determination of an entire people to be free from colonial occupation. This resolve becomes a material force in the battle. The Pentagon brass discovered that fact in Vietnam. And the U.S. and its client state of Israel are discovering this truth again and again in occupied Palestine.

Israel: Safe haven for whom?

In recent days, many articles and many broadcasts have been devoted to the 13 Israeli lives lost in strikes by Palestinians on Aug. 4, and to the July 31 bombing of Jerusalem's Hebrew University that killed seven people, five of them U.S. citizens.

President George W. Bush decisively paused from his game on the links long enough to state to the reporters who trailed after his golf cart that he was "outraged" by the deaths. Let no one forget that the Commander in Chief does not express his ire when Israeli Defense Forces spilled the blood of Palestinians who were U.S. citizens returning to their homeland.

But do Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon really care about Jewish lives—be they U.S. or Israeli—lost in the war to maintain the settler occupation of historic Palestine?

Even supporters of Israel should be verbalizing that question.

U.S. monopoly-media headlines decry an escalation of Palestinian attacks on Israelis, many by Hamas. But in reality, those

stories could have been written on July 22.

At 10 p.m. that evening, Hamas leaders publicly offered a ceasefire if Israeli troops were pulled back from recently reoccupied Palestinian cities and towns in the West Bank.

In response, two hours later Israeli warlords ordered pilots of a U.S.-supplied F-16 fighter jet to drop a 2,000-pound bomb on a densely-populated Palestinian neighborhood in Gaza in the middle of the night, assassinating Hamas leader Salah Shehada and killing 14 others, including nine children.

Sharon knew that Israelis would die in the retaliation to his murderous provocation. It wasn't the first time that this racist mass murderer has carried out incitements—including cold-blooded assassinations—in order to derail peace negotiations.

Sharon and Bush are willing to shed Palestinian blood and sacrifice Israelis, too, to carry out their objectives—crushing resistance and swallowing up the lands and resources of all of Palestine into the Israeli state.

The creation of the state of Israel in Palestine after World War II was never intended by its imperialist benefactors to be a safe

haven for European Jews. These same U.S. and British scions of industry and banking sat back during the mass Nazi extermination of Jewish people, only intervening in the war when it became clear that the Soviet Union was beating back Hitler.

The settler state has meant slaughter, torture, poverty, child malnutrition, mass expulsions and refugee camps for Palestinians. Zionist occupation of historic Palestine as a bulwark against Arab liberation has cynically created a death trap for Jewish people, as well.

Israel is a military cat's paw—or more accurately a tiger's paw—for Big Oil in the Middle East. And Zionism is a racist and reactionary ideology willing to be used to cloak this truth.

Bush and Sharon welcome Jewish people from the United States to come visit Israel—a war zone—as tourists, or move there and bolster Israeli strength.

But as the movement in solidarity with Palestinian freedom grows in the U.S. and around the world, more and more people—many of them Jewish—are demanding an end to Wall Street's bankrolling of the settler state. They recognize that without justice for Palestinians, there will be no peace.

Cuba Caravan challenges U.S. blockade

By Matthew Schwartz

This past July 30, the 13th IFCO/Pastors for Peace U.S.-Cuba Friendship Caravan returned from Cuba. In a new form of challenge to the U.S. blockade of Cuba, this time the caravan successfully brought back Cuban-made goods, including medications, food and more, in addition to transporting humanitarian goods from the U.S. to the socialist island.

The caravan had traveled along 10 routes across the U.S. starting July 4 and stopped in over 100 cities. Members collected more than 60 tons of humanitarian aid, including medical equipment, computers, 15 ambulances, school buses and other vehicles donated by churches, schools and community groups.

The caravan did this all without getting a U.S. Treasury license. "The U.S. government attempts to paint a pretty face on its genocidal policy [the blockade] through the licensing of humanitarian aid," said the Rev. Lucius Walker Jr., executive director of IFCO/Pastors for Peace. "As people of faith and conscience, it is our duty to expose this lie."

The caravan was not without some delays. Moments before it was to cross the border on its way to Cuba, the Bush administration sent IFCO/Pastors for Peace a fax demanding the names and passport numbers of those on the trip.

Pastors for Peace responded by sending the government a list of names of those it said were "accompanying" the caravan, at least in the spiritual sense, from Che Guevara and Audre Lorde to June Jordan, Jesus Christ and Frederick

Douglass, as well as many living supporters.

The caravan's visit to Cuba coincided with the annual Venceremos Brigade and with Cuba's July 26 national holiday, celebrating the beginning of the revolutionary war against the Batista regime.

During the trip, caravanistas and Venceremos Brigade members had the opportunity to experience many aspects of Cuban life, from contract negotiations to work in an orange grove. Brigade members attended a function at which Cuban President Fidel Castro was present. "We were a little bit star-struck," admitted brigade member Emma Sacks.

The caravan's return trip went smoothly. However, a 160-watt photovoltaic solar panel—used by many Cuban rural health clinics and schools, and successfully brought into the U.S. by previous caravans—was detained by U.S. customs officials, who claimed the caravanistas lacked the "proper documentation." When caravan leaders asked what the proper documentation was, a customs official replied, "You tell us—perhaps a license!"

IFCO/Pastors for Peace plans to continue fighting for the right to bring the generator across the border. The caravan has traditionally donated these generators to towns in remote areas that lack other sources of electricity. The solar generator brought by last year's caravan was given to a Native community with no access to electrical power.

All in all, caravan members said they found the trip enlightening and enriching, with many vowing to go back next year and bring more aid.

U.S. blocks visit by wife of Cuban 5 prisoner

By Gloria La Riva

It is the latest outrage against the five Cuban political prisoners who were railroaded by the U.S. for defending their county against terrorism from this country. The wife of one of the five heroes was detained for 10 hours at the Houston airport and interrogated by the FBI and Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Denied entry to the United States to visit her husband Gerardo Hernandez in Lompoc federal prison, Adriana Perez was forced to return to Havana.

Despite having all the necessary documents—including her entry visa, which was granted by the U.S. diplomatic mission in Havana—Perez was taken by the FBI at the airport, isolated from the Cuban Consular official who accompanied her and subjected to grilling by FBI agents.

Adriana Perez has not seen her husband in more than four years, since his arrest in a pre-dawn FBI raid in Miami in September 1998. Gonzalez was falsely convicted of espionage and murder conspiracy in what can only be described as political persecution. He is now serving two life sentences plus 80 months.

While in detention in a Miami prison, the five Cuban heroes were placed in solitary confinement for 17 months. For more than two years they were unable to communicate with their families. There was no reported misconduct on their part to justify the prison's sanctions. It was purely punitive.

The U.S. government has given no explanation for its harassment of Adriana Perez, but the U.S. conduct is consistent with its hostility and aggression against the Cuban Revolution and anyone who defends it.

The National Committee to Free the Five Cuban Political Prisoners Held in the U.S. asks supporters to contact President George W. Bush by phone at (202) 456-1111 or by fax at (202) 456-2461. Also call Secretary of State Colin Powell at (202) 647-5291. Tell them to allow the family



Adriana Perez and Gerardo Hernandez.

members of the five Cubans to enter the U.S. for visits unimpeded.

Last April, Olga Salanueva, wife of Rene Gonzalez, was denied a visa to the U.S. to visit him in McKean prison. As a result, their 4-

year-old daughter Ivett was denied the right to visit her father, despite being a U.S. citizen. Ivett was born in Miami when the family lived there in the 1990s.

The mothers, wives and children have shown tremendous resolve in sharing the nightmare of their loved ones in U.S. prison. Punishing the family members is a way of trying to break the five political prisoners, who are highly regarded as heroes in Cuba and among supporters of Cuba.

In Cuba, Adriana Perez told Workers World, "During that time when Gerardo was in the 'hole' in Miami and afterwards, for 27 months we had no contact of any kind, no letters, no telephone calls, no visits, absolutely nothing."

When asked how she, her husband and the others managed, she replied, "We thought all the time about their qualities, their selflessness and sacrifice in defending Cuba. We thought of them being in solitary confinement and of course we were giving them all our support. We wanted them to know when they came out that we had been with them all that time, by their side."

The case is starting to become more widely known in the U.S. A worldwide campaign has been launched to demand their freedom from U.S. prisons. Their appeals, to be argued in the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta, are expected in the next several months. In the meantime, information on their case and how to support them can be obtained from www.freethefive.org

Security for whom?

The plan to create a new Department of Homeland Security might be better called the Department of Big Business Security. There's more to President George W. Bush's proposal than curbs on civil rights and gutting the Bill of Rights.

There's another goal in the proposal that would eliminate workers' rights and break the labor unions. Union busting would be a better way to describe the Bush "security" plan.

While Bush is busy talking about patriotism, breaking the labor unions is a key part of his unspoken agenda.

Like the big business boss that he is, President Bush wants to destroy the labor unions. And the federal government is mostly unionized.

Breaking the federal workers' unions would certainly weaken all of labor in both industry and in offices, not just government unions.

The proposed Department of Homeland Security is to become the third-largest federal department in terms of number of employees, after the Pentagon and Veterans Affairs. The Bush proposal creates the new department by combining 22 existing federal agencies with 170,000 employees.

So it is not so much a new department as it is putting existing federal agencies under new rules. And the new rule that the Bush administration says is so essential that it won't accept the new department without it is contained in one sentence buried on page

25 of the 35-page proposal.

In Section 730 the wording is vague; it says that the secretary will have "flexibility" in personnel management that shall be "contemporary" and "grounded in the public employment principles of merit and fitness."

This is lawyer language that is meant to obscure its real meaning. But the real meaning is clear to the Bush administration and the politicians in Congress.

Put in normal language, the new Secretary of Homeland Security is to be given the authority to ban union membership in the department and to refuse all civil-service rights already won by federal workers, including "whistle-blower" protections.

This makes the creation of the new department the biggest union-busting operation to come out of the White House since the Reagan administration launched its attack on the air traffic controllers in 1981.

The Federation of Government Employees and other labor organizations have been protesting loudly. The meaning must be made clear to all workers.

It is time to expose the new Department of Homeland Security as nothing more than another Enron-like scam by the big business operators in the White House and Congress. It's hidden, back-room agenda is to break the unions and weaken all workers' rights, including in private industry and offices throughout the country.

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WORKERS



Uruguay workers protest, Aug. 7.

URUGUAY

Banks close, people rebel

Following a week when banks were closed to stop a run that was threatening to collapse the whole banking system, and after two days when the poor in the capital city of Montevideo seized food from shops and trucks in impoverished neighborhoods, the Bush administration approved \$1.5 billion in aid to Uruguay.

With only 3.2 million people, Uruguay is much smaller than its Brazilian and Argentine neighbors. With Argentina in a depression worse than that of the 1930s and Brazil on the edge of crisis, it was inevitable that Uruguay's already weak economy would be hit. In six months, depositors—many from Argentina—drew \$4.5 billion out of the banks.

For two days running, while long lines of better-off people waited outside automatic teller machines to try and reach some of their deposits, the poorer areas outside the downtown area were in what some described as "a state of war." Five thousand police were on duty, air force helicopters patrolled from the air and sports events were canceled.

Fearing a meltdown in the southern cone of South America, Bush went back on his campaign rhetoric promising not to aid collapsed economies in other countries. The \$1.5 billion is a "bridge loan" that is supposed to be paid back when the International Monetary Fund approves a longer-term loan to the Uruguayan government.

The money may allow the Uruguay government to reopen the banks soon, but it won't stop the recession in Uruguay and the even more dangerous situation in Argentina.

SLOVAKIA

Communists request solidarity against repression

Following are excerpts from an appeal by the Communist Party of Slovakia:

The Parliament of Slovakia has voted to make it a crime to "propagate communism in public." Those accused of doing so will face six months to three years in prison. President Rudolf Shuster did not sign it, but sent it back to Parliament. On Aug. 19, Parliament will vote on it again, and it may become law.

The authors of the bill cover them-

selves by also making it a crime to "propagate fascism." But fascists today often go by other names. Leftists and communists have always been the most sincere fighters against fascism. Millions of communists have died in the fight against fascism from the 1930s until today.

By equating communism with fascism and suppressing free speech for communists, the deputies are paving the way for real fascism. It is the left and the working-class movement who are the real targets of this law.

Slovakia, a small country in East Europe, was created after the breakup of Czechoslovakia in 1993. Since 1989 our people's rights have been under attack by right-wing parties who came to power after what the Western corporate media called the "velvet revolution."

They have destroyed public ownership, full employment, free health care and education, progressive labor laws that favored employees and balanced development of all regions in the country. The results are massive unemployment, emigration, crime, and racist tensions between the Slovak and Roma populations.

There is growing rage in the working class, which has suffered the most from the social changes of the past decade. In September 2002 we will have new elections. It is likely that Communist Party members will be elected to Parliament for the first time since 1992.

In the neighboring Czech Republic the Communist vote this year was one-third higher than in 1998. It is thus clear why right-wing circles of our power elite are trying to suppress our freedom to speak.

We call upon all those who believe in justice and freedom to urge the Slovak Parliament to let the law die. Fascism was defeated once in Europe. We must not let it rise again.

Please protest to the chairman of the Slovak Parliament by mail and email. Let him know that you or your organization oppose any attempt to outlaw the "propagation of communism" as an attack on free speech, democracy and the rights of the people.

Protests and appeals may be sent by mail to: Jozef Migas, Chair of Parliament, Nam. Alexandra Dubceka, 1812 80 Bratislava, Slovak Republic; or by email to: predseda@nrsl.sk. Please send us a copy of your letter or email at stopthelaw@post.cz.

ITALY

March honors anti-capitalist martyr

Some 100,000 people marched in the streets of Genoa, Italy, on July 20 to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the massive anti-globalization demonstration of 250,000 there and especially to remember Carlo Giuliani, the 23-year-old activist killed at the protest by Italian cops.

Among the speakers were Giuliani's parents. His father, a life-long labor unionist, said to the crowd, "This is not a funeral. We wanted to have a celebration of life, of the right to live and of so many rights that are denied in the world and in Italy."

The size and enthusiasm of the demonstration showed that the anti-globalization movement in Europe is still alive and attracting young people to struggle against the growing control of the world by the transnational monopo-

AROUND THE WORLD

BY JOHN CATALINOTTO



Giuliano Giuliani, father of protest martyr Carlo Giuliani.

lies. The movement has had to survive not only growing repression, but also the period of reaction in the aftermath of Sept. 11 and Bush's war crusade against all oppressed countries that resist takeover.

During those three days in 2001 in Genoa, police acted with extreme violence against those protesting the Group of 8 summit. They beat and kicked protesters and deprived those arrested of prompt medical treatment. The worst attack came as police, often shouting fascist slogans at the youth, raided the Diaz school where many demonstrators were staying, arresting 93. Some 63 were seriously injured, while others said they were beaten unconscious, sexually harassed and deprived of sleep for long periods.

Seventy-seven officers are under investigation, including the cop who shot Giuliani, but none have even lost their jobs. Amnesty International charged the police with employing "arbitrary arrest and the use of torture and ill-treatment" and said their crimes—many caught on video—were "undeniable."

Protesters have shown the connection between the right-wing political leadership of the cops and the pro-fascist members of the government. They have called upon Deputy Prime Minister Gianfranco

Fini of the neo-fascist National Alliance Party to resign.

Political police expel Chilean anti-fascist

On Aug. 4, Italy's political police, the DIGOS, tried to arrest Chilean revolutionary Jaime Jovanovic Prieto. It was on the second day of a weeklong Anti-Imperialist Camp conference near Assisi, Italy, attended by 200 activists from around the world, including Jovanovic Prieto, who was a member of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) of Chile.

Prieto is accused of taking part in the 1983 assassination of a pro-fascist general who was part of the ruling military dictatorship led by Gen. Augusto Pinochet. Since then Jovanovic Prieto has been a law professor at the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil, where he received political asylum.

Participants in the Anti-Imperialist Camp include supporters of revolutionary liberation struggles from Palestine, Nepal, Colombia, Turkey, the Philippines and the Basque country, along with members of the European anti-imperialist left. From the U.S. Sharon Black, a representative of the International Action Center, is participating.

The 200 participants decided unanimously that they would not cooperate with the arrest of their anti-fascist Chilean comrade. As a consequence there were hours of a tense standoff between police and activists until Jovanovic Prieto decided to ask for asylum from the Catholic Church in Assisi, a religious center of the Franciscans.

With camp participants picketing outside the church, it appeared for a while the Chilean activist would get asylum. But church authorities allowed the police to enter the sanctuary from a separate

entrance, where they seized Jovanovic Prieto.

Another standoff followed, but the police were able to take Jovanovic Prieto and deport him to South Africa, where he was before arriving in Italy. He intends to make a legal challenge for the right to remain in Italy.

VENEZUELA

Court decision raises tensions

On July 31 Venezuela's highest court decided to postpone until Aug. 7 a decision on whether to try four top military leaders for planning the April 11 coup that temporarily pushed Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez out of power and into military custody. A mass uprising of the country's poor and moves by pro-Chavez elements within the army reversed the coup and restored the popular leader on April 13.

Chavez supporters, who see the four officers as key movers of the illegal coup, protested the court's decision. They were attacked by the Caracas metropolitan police, who are under orders of the city's right-wing mayor, Alfredo Peña, an enemy of Chavez's Bolivarian Revolution.

The Venezuelan leader, who is leaving the country Aug. 6 for a two-day trip to Bolivia and Colombia, has asked for calm and said he will respect the decision of the court.

Following are excerpts from a statement on the events:

"The Communist Party and the Communist Youth of Venezuela denounce the terrorist maneuver of the reactionary forces aimed at intimidating the Venezuelan population, creating a climate of insecurity and instability, resuming a national and international media campaign of lies and manipulation and

initiating a wave of repression from the Metropolitan City Hall led by the traitor Alfredo Peña that is being extended to other local governments in the hands of the pro-coup reactionaries.

"This plan is aimed at creating the conditions that would justify the pro-imperialist intervention of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Venezuela in order to stop the Bolivarian revolutionary process. Included in the campaign are the acts of July 31 when the Supreme Court of Justice (TSJ) postponed the decision. The vote indicates that the correlation of forces in the TSJ is unstable and can open roads to a strategy of removing Chavez by 'legal' means.

"On July 31 and Aug. 1 the Metropolitan Police repressed the demonstrators who approve the revolutionary process while they protected those who supported the military coup-makers. This repression was followed by a steady harassment of popular leaders and by patrols intended to intimidate popular neighborhoods where the people arose against the fascist coup of April 11.

"The declarations of the North American government to create an office of transition in our country to 'reinforce' democracy are part of this [anti-revolutionary] process. This office and its public decision to use more than \$6 million (without counting that used from the CIA and Mossad and its other subversive bodies) is a clear declaration of intervention marked by its policy of global domination with the excuse of 'defense' of democracy and its struggle against 'terrorism.'

"The organization and popular mobilization is of capital importance in this struggle for power that is developing between the representatives of pro-imperialist reaction and the people who are constructing day by day a path of hope. We will smash the conspiracy and impel the revolution forward!"

NEW YORK CITY

Protest slams killing of Korean youths

On July 31, while demonstrations of thousands took place in south Korea and Japan, a symbolic solidarity action was held in New York's Times Square to protest the June 13 killing of two young Korean girls by U.S. troops.

Shin Hyo Soon and Shim Mi Sun were walking to a friend's birthday party when a vehicle that was part of a military convoy traveling to a training exercise 10 miles north of Seoul, south Korea, hit them.

The demonstrators demanded that: "President George W. Bush issue a public apology to the bereaved families and the Korean people. U.S. military give up criminal jurisdiction in this case and hand it over to Korea. The Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) be amended to eliminate immunity from prosecution for U.S. soldiers who commit crimes against Koreans. And that U.S. military withdraw its troops from Korea."

The Korea Truth Commission, which organized the June 2001 tribunal investigating U.S. war crimes in Korea, and the International Action Center sponsored the action.

—Story and photo by John Catalinotto



IPROLETARIOS Y OPRIMIDOS DE TODOS LOS PAÍSES, UNÍOS!

MUNDO★OBRERO

¡No mas guerras!

E.E. U.U. implementa planes de guerra en Colombia

Por Andy McInerney

Sin mucha fanfarria, la administración de Bush va hacia adelante con sus planes de guerra para Colombia. En varios frentes, los planes de intervención de los Estados Unidos—primero bajo el nombre de Plan Colombia durante la administración de Clinton, y ahora bajo el nombre de la Iniciativa Andina—se están desarrollando conforme los planes.

El 24 de julio, el Congreso de los Estados Unidos autorizó un cambio formal en el financiamiento ya proveído al ejército de Colombia. Por primera vez, la distinción entre la ayuda anti drogas y la ayuda anti insurgente se perdería.

La ayuda militar “debe poder soportar una campaña unificada contra el tráfico de narcóticos y las designadas organizaciones terroristas y tomar acciones para proteger la salud humana y el bienestar del mismo,” según lee la legislación. El gobierno de los Estados Unidos califica de “terroristas” a las dos principales organizaciones insurgentes colombianas—las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército Popular, (FARC-EP) y el Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN).

La legislación fue parte del llamado Paquete Anti-Terrorista solicitado por la ad-

ministración Bush.

Esta también incluye otros \$35 millones además del dinero ya autorizado como parte del Plan Colombia; \$6 millones de esos está específicamente designado para proteger la líneas petroleras estadounidenses de los ataques guerrilleros.

Colombia ya es el tercer país en el mundo que más ayuda militar recibe de los Estados Unidos. Mientras que los principales objetivos ha sido las FARC-EP y el ELN, legislaciones anteriores requerían que la guerra contra insurgente se cubriera bajo el nombre de la “guerra contra las drogas”.

El Pentágono aceptó rápidamente quitar ese velo. La persona nombrada por la administración Bush para encabezar el Comando Sur del Ejército de Estados Unidos, responsable por las operaciones militares en América Latina, testificó el pasado 26 de julio que él estaba a favor de deshacerse de las restricciones sobre la contrainsurgencia y a favor de expandir la intervención de los Estados Unidos allá.

“Sería una pérdida terrible si la democracia fallara en Colombia,” dijo el Teniente General James Hill.

También el 26 de julio la Embajadora estadounidense en Colombia, Anne Patterson anunció que un nuevo equipo de Fuerzas Especiales llegaría a Colombia en

“las próximas semanas” para entrenar una brigada de tropas colombianas, según publicó la Agencia de Prensa Francesa.

En otra señal de que las provisiones del Plan Colombia van hacia adelante, el periódico brasileño *Jornal do Brasil*, reportó el 24 de julio que el ejército chileno está entrenando 2.600 soldados para unirse a la fuerza internacional encabezada por los Estados Unidos que se prepararía para intervenir en Colombia para enero del 2004. El reportaje, descrito en *El Diario la Prensa*, basado en Nueva York el 25 de julio, dijo que Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Perú y Ecuador han comprometido sus tropas.

Chile y Ecuador inmediatamente negaron los cargos. Pero la confirmación llegó inmediatamente por René Yandún, general ya jubilado y que previamente encabezaba la Junta de Comando de la Fuerzas Armadas Ecuatorianas y quien es ahora el prefecto de la provincia Carchí, fronterizo con Colombia.

La fuerza multinacional “no es una nueva propuesta”, dijo el general a *El Diario*. El reportaje por la prensa brasileña “no es nada de sorprendente”.

Las recientes movilizaciones en las fronteras ecuatorianas “significa que estamos participando en las maniobras militares,”

según admitió Yandún.

Yandún también dijo que durante la visita en Marzo, por el Jefe del Estado Mayor de E.U., General Eric Shinseki, le hizo recordar a sus colegas en Colombia, Ecuador y Brasil “que deben respetar las promesas hechas por cada país como parte del Plan Colombia.”

La regionalización de la guerra en Colombia fue uno de los objetivos originales de la administración Bush. Al comienzo este esfuerzo recibió muy poco apoyo de los jefes de estado de América Latina, por lo menos públicamente. Ahora el gobierno de los Estados Unidos se está aprovechando del clima pos Septiembre 11 para avanzar su estrategia de nuevo.

Estos indicios de la escalante intervención militar estadounidense llega a la vez que la guerra civil en Colombia se agudiza. El elegido presidente derechista, Alvaro Uribe, con fuerte apoyo de Washington, tomará su puesto el 7 de agosto. Batallas entre las FARC-EP y fuerzas del gobierno van en ascenso. A la misma vez los escuadrones de la muerte endosados por el gobierno, han incrementado sus campañas de terror.

Activistas en muchas ciudades de los Estados Unidos están planeando protestas el 7 de agosto contra esta intervención.

A la vez que la guerra llega a casa

La violencia crece contra las mujeres

Asesinatos en el Fuerte Bragg reminiscente de la era de Vietnam

Por Minnie Bruce Pratt

En un patrón muy familiar para aquellos que recuerdan la Guerra de Vietnam, cuatro soldados estacionados en el Fuerte Bragg en Carolina del Norte, han asesinado a sus esposas en las últimas seis semanas. Tres de los soldados eran miembros de las unidades de Operaciones Especiales del ejército, veteranos de la guerra de Estados Unidos contra Afganistán.

El Fuerte Bragg es el cuartel general del ejército para las Fuerzas Especiales y unidades de Operaciones Especiales. Cientos de soldados han sido enviados a Afganistán desde allá.

El público ha sido atacado por torrentes de artículos, fotografías, segmentos de opiniones y entrevistas diciendo que la tal guerra contra el terrorismo del Presidente George W. Bush liberaría a las mujeres de Afganistán. El mensaje ha sido que uno de los objetivos de la “interminable guerra” de Bush es de “rescatar” a las mujeres del extranjero—y proteger a las familias aquí.

Oficiales de alto mando han expresado sorpresa al saber de los asesinatos, los titulares dicen, “Asesinatos de esposas de cuatro soldados conmocionan a líderes del Ejército.” El Sargento Biran Sutton del Comando de Operaciones Especiales del Ejército dijo, “Esto es algo extraño para la comunidad del Fuerte Bragg. ...Esto no pasa.”

Pero activistas que viven en Fayetteville,—comunidad civil del Fuerte Bragg—no encuentra nada sorprendente

en esta violencia contra las mujeres.

Mítines fueron organizados en más de 20 ciudades en todo el estado de Carolina del Norte el 25 de julio para protestar el hecho de que ocho asesinatos de violencia doméstica han ocurrido en el estado entre un lapso de 22 días.

El año comenzó con el asesinato en enero de Shalamar Francheschi, quien fue apuñalada a muerte en una de las calles más activas del pueblo por su soldado esposo. El, recientemente había tenido a ella, a su madre y a su niño secuestrados. El soldado cometió el asesinato después de que un juez lo dejara en libertad bajo fianza.

Roberta Waddle, organizadora del capítulo local de la Organización Nacional para las Mujeres (ONM), dijo, “El terrorismo está siendo perpetrado aquí en Carolina del Norte... contra las mujeres por los mismos hombres que las ‘aman’.” (Fayetteville Observer, Julio 24)

Con cada guerra de Estados Unidos, la violencia contra las mujeres sube a proporciones epidémicas en los pueblos militares.

Durante la década de los años setenta, la gente de Fayetteville le comenzó a llamar al pueblo “Fayettenam” a la vez que el nivel de abuso se acrecentaba con el regreso de los veteranos de Vietnam al Fuerte Bragg. Asesinatos de mujeres por sus esposos y novios eran algo común, algunas veces tomando aspectos de ejecuciones públicas. Un ejemplo muy conocido es el de una mujer que huía de su esposo y llegó a un centro de consultivo solo para ser as-

esinada por él en frente de los asistentes.

Según las estadísticas de la Fundación Miles, la tasa de violencia doméstica es de dos a cinco veces más grande en el ejército que en la población civil. La fundación es un grupo de abogacía para víctimas de violencia doméstica en el ejército.

La Coalición Contra la Violencia Doméstica de Carolina del Norte estima que el homicidio doméstico ocurre cada cuatro días en ese estado. (Fayetteville Observer, Julio 19).

Activistas locales están trabajando para detener esta epidemia de violencia contra las mujeres. Poco después del brutal asesinato de Shalamar, los activistas se tiraron a las calles en protesta hasta las gradas de la corte de justicia de Cumberland County, gritando, “¡Alto a la violencia! ¡Alto a los asesinatos!”

Además de la ONM, otros grupos atendieron, como el Centro de Mujeres de Fayetteville, la coalición de Mujeres de Raza Negra, y miembros de un centro de recursos para cáncer de los senos donde Shalamar era voluntaria.

El costo humano de la guerra

Virtualmente cada día artículos y servicios de noticias reportan abiertamente sobre las amenazas belicosas de la administración de Bush para invadir militarmente a Irak. Con esta amenaza de abrir un nuevo frente en la “interminable guerra,” la administración Bush está calculando cuanto constaría una nueva ofensiva por los E.U. Según

los reportes se especula que podría costar hasta \$80 billones de dólares. (New York Times, Julio 19)

Pero el costo real sería extraído de las vidas del pueblo iraquí en la zona cero si las bombas caen y las tropas atacan. Y vidas de soldados estadounidenses también serán perdidas. Y habrá otras bajas también, como Shalamar Franceschi y su esposo y familia.

El costo humano incluirá el abuso y asesinato de mujeres—y las vidas destruidas de los soldados que regresan destruidos desde su mero centro después de “seguir las ordenes” y matar por su país, solo para darse cuenta de que están inconscientemente protegiendo los intereses de los grandes negocios.

El costo real será la educación del pueblo que sus fondos serán recortados, hospitales clausurados, programas de recreación veraneros cancelados—y las vidas perdidas o atrofiadas—porque el dinero se está utilizando en la guerra.

El costo real será de hombres, mujeres y niños de Iraquíes que mueren, otra vez, en un país donde los caminos, hospitales y escuelas han sido arruinados—por otra guerra de agresión de los Estados Unidos.

Si, alto a la violencia contra las mujeres y la violencia contra la humanidad por el imperialismo estadounidense. Es hora de parar la guerra contra las mujeres—y parar la guerra contra Irak antes de que empiece.

Nota del redactor: Pratt fue activista durante la lucha de liberación de la mujer en Fayetteville de 1975 a 1981.