

Sept. 26, 2002

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MUNDO OBRERO

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# Bush paves road to war

## Arrest of Yemenis timed to troop deployment

By Bev Hiestand  
Buffalo, N.Y.

At a time when Washington is doing everything it can to round up support and neutralize opposition to its plans for a war against Iraq, the arrests of six Yemeni-American young men in Lackawanna has to been seen as suspiciously coincidental.

Scare stories have dominated front pages and news programs just at the moment when the Pentagon is quietly deploying hundreds of Special Operations commandos to a military base in East Africa and has moved an amphibious assault ship to the coast of Djibouti, facing Yemen.

At the very time that the generals and the White House are positioning themselves for a war to control Middle East oil and the profits that flow from it, scores of repressive police agencies in this country claim to have uncovered a clandestine danger in the heart of the progressive Yemeni working-class community here.

The six Lackawanna men arrested in raids on Sept. 13 and 14 are Sahim Alwan, Faysal Galab, Yahya Goba, Shafel Mosed and Yasein Taher. They were all born in the United States. Mukhtar al-Bakri, a naturalized U.S. citizen born in Yemen, was arrested in Bahrain where he was taking

part in his own wedding. As of Sept. 18, each faced a felony charge of providing support to a terrorist organization.

What is the basis for all the screaming headlines? The government claims that during a trip to Pakistan in April-May 2001 for religious training, they traveled to an Al Qaeda-run training camp in Afghanistan. Their alleged crime is one of association, not of having committed any criminal act.

In two Sept. 14 news conferences about this case—one in Washington, D.C., and the other at FBI headquarters here—officials said this allegation stemmed from a statement by one of three uncharged individuals while he was in their custody.

This is the first case of U.S. citizens being accused of having direct ties to Al Qaeda.

The arrests came on the heels of the one-year anniversary of Sept. 11 and of the institution of the Patriot Act that shreds many constitutional rights.

According to the Sept. 16 Buffalo News, it was Bush himself who ordered the arrests of the Yemenis. "Authorities said the Lackawanna case is so important that Bush, FBI Director Robert Mueller III, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice and other high-level Washington officials have received frequent briefings about it in recent

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## Dismissing concession, U.S. readies oil-grab

By Richard Becker

The Bush administration wants a new war against Iraq. And Bush and company want the people of the U.S. and the world to believe it's because of a "grave threat" posed by Iraq's "weapons of mass destruction."

That phony pretext for war went up in smoke on Sept. 17.

administration would have welcomed Iraq's statement.

Instead, the White House, in its official statement, demanded "a new, effective UN Security Council resolution that will actually deal with the threat Saddam Hussein poses to the Iraqi people, to the region, and to the world. ...

"This is not a matter of inspections," the Sept. 17 White House statement continued. "It is about disarmament of Iraq's weapons

## Florida anti-Muslim witch-hunt 7

On Sept. 16, Iraq's government sent an official letter to United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan stating that Iraq would allow UN weapons inspectors to return without conditions, "to prove that Iraq has no weapons of mass destruction."

But Washington won't take "yes" for an answer.

The White House's predictably arrogant response was to denounce Iraq's offer for the unconditional return of the inspectors. For those who have believed that Iraq's weapons were the real issue, this denunciation might have seemed somewhat surprising.

What Washington's reaction shows is that Iraq's purported weaponry is not the issue at all. If it were, the Bush

of mass destruction and the Iraqi regime's compliance with all other Security Council resolution. This is a tactical step by Iraq in hopes of avoiding strong UN Security Council action. As such, it is a tactic that will fail. It is time for the Security Council to act."

The White House statement is just more disinformation and propaganda. Iraq, a country severely weakened by 12 years of war and blockade, poses no threat to its neighbors, much less to the United States. Iraq has nothing to match up with the Pentagon's vast array of high-tech and nuclear weaponry.

All of the surrounding governments have spoken out in opposition to a new U.S.

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## LAWSUIT DEMANDS REPARATIONS

The first lawsuit filed on behalf of descendents of slaves charges that FleetBoston, Aetna, CSX and other companies owe their huge fortunes to the trans-Atlantic slave trade. 3

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Sept. 14 march against war and racism organized by the Int'l ANSWER coalition drew 3,000 people in San Francisco. See page 6.

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## 13 years after Central Park jogger case

# Framed Black men still fighting for justice

By Minnie Bruce Pratt  
New York City

Remember the tragic case of a young woman who went out for a run in Central Park and ended up battling for her life after being beaten and raped? That crime was in all the headlines in July 1989.

Newspapers blared a quick condemnation of those named as guilty—five young men of color, all just 14-16 years old. The language used to describe them was extreme—“savages,” “animals”—and recalled the worst epithets aimed at African American men during the lynching frenzy of the old South.

Three months later, during their trial, defense attorneys pointed to an incontrovertible fact—the DNA evidence of the rape did not match that of any of the young men. Still, they were convicted and given sentences from five to 15 years.

Now a convicted killer, Matias Reyes, has confessed to the rape and beating of the “Central Park jogger.” Reyes is currently in prison for the rape and murder of a pregnant Manhattan woman. Investigators have confirmed that his DNA matches that in the case. Reyes insists that he acted alone in the attack, and that he did not know the youths, who now, 12 years later, are men who have all served out the sentences they received. (New York Times, Sept. 7 and 8)

Lawyers Roger Wareham and Michael Tarif Warren represent three of the original defendants, and have filed a motion to set aside the verdict in their case. When Workers World spoke with Wareham, he said, “We have maintained all along that the five young men were convicted by the racism which has driven and continues to drive U.S. history, past and present.”

Wareham emphasized that there

was no physical evidence tying the young men to the crime. In addition, he pointed out that the many rapes of Black and Latina women during the same time period were “not deemed worthy of extended media coverage. But when the victim was a young, well-to-do white female, the whole media and societal equation changed.

“A perpetrator must be found and quickly. Any Black and Latino youths will do. If there is no evidence, manufacture it—hence the ‘confessions’ which were instrumental in their conviction,” Wareham said.

### False confessions

Although police took “confessions” from the five young men, they have all maintained their innocence. The validity of those confessions has also been called into question by a group of Black police officers that is asking federal authorities to look into the investigation.

Lt. Eric Adams of One Hundred Blacks in Law Enforcement Who Care said, “We believe that because of the demand to bring someone to justice from this crime, there is a strong possibility that there may have been overzealous policing and overzealous prosecuting.” (Associated Press, Sept. 9)

Pressure for a quick arrest came from the highest corporate levels in New York City. Real estate magnate Donald Trump called for the death penalty in a New York Times ad.

It seems no accident that the whipping up of a media frenzy against these young men of color came at the same time big-business interests in New York were working to gentrify the city. Poor people were being driven out by rising rents and cuts in basic social services as business stood to profit by the return of elite white professionals who had previously fled from a city that was majority people of color.

This context reveals the hypocrisy of the hyped-up concern for the young woman who was attacked in Central Park that day. What happened to her was a terrible tragedy—and the racism unleashed against those five young men was another tragedy.

The pretence of “protecting” white women by targeting men of color has a long and dishonorable history in the U.S. In 1892, for instance, Ida B. Wells-Barnett launched her national anti-lynching campaign by investigating the killing of three Black men in Memphis, Tenn., who had been murdered by white men on the pretext that they had raped a white woman. In fact, she revealed, all three had been targeted because their business pursuits threatened the white economic establishment. (Wells-Barnett, “A Red Record”)

Then there’s the case of Emmitt Till, a 15-year-old Black youth. He was brutally lynched in 1955 for allegedly whistling at a white woman in Mississippi.

Real, lasting justice for violence against women cannot come from a legal system riddled with injustice and racism. Co-counsel Wareham stated, “If there had been a real search for the real perpetrator of the attack on the Central Park jogger, Reyes might have been caught and the pregnant mother who he later raped and murdered would be alive.”

Wareham condemned the racism of the “justice” system when he said, “The words of Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger Taney in the Dred Scott decision still ring true, 150 years later: ‘A Negro has no rights which a white man is bound to respect.’”

Wareham concluded, “We seek exposure of the truth. We seek justice. We demand the accountability from a criminal justice system which continues to fail to apply an even-handed standard when it comes to Black and Latino people.” □

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### ATLANTA

**Sun., Oct. 6**  
Demonstration at the America Israel Political Action Committee National Summit. Sponsored by Atlanta Palestine Solidarity. 2 p.m. At Swissotel, next to Lenox Mall. For info email [aps@atlanta4palestine.org](mailto:aps@atlanta4palestine.org).

### NEW YORK

**Sat., Sep. 21-Sun., Sep. 22**  
Workers World Party Emergency Conference. 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](http://ww@workers.org).

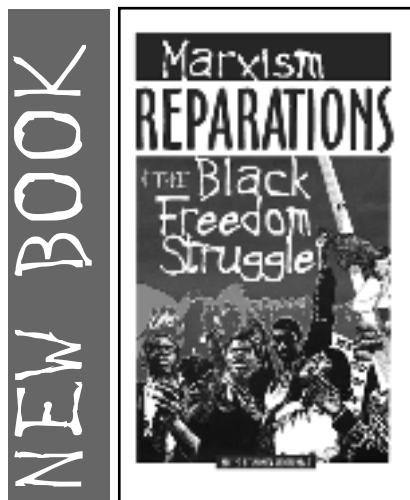
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Join us to say: No to war! No

to racism! Picket at noon in front of the main gate, Fort Monmouth, Highway 35 Eatontown. We supply signs or make your own. For info IAC, PO Box 307, Red Bank, NJ.

### SAN FRANCISCO

**Sat., Sept. 28**  
Free Palestine. National day of protest. Protest U.S. war drive. Sponsored by Justice in Palestine Coalition. Gather 11 a.m., Dolores Park, 19th and Dolores. Noon march. 1 p.m. rally at Civic Center, Larkin and Grove. For info (415) 861-7444 or [info@adcsf.org](mailto:info@adcsf.org) or [www.adcsf.org/palestine](http://www.adcsf.org/palestine).



- ◆ Racism, national oppression & the right to self-determination *Larry Holmes*
- ◆ Black labor from chattel slavery to wage slavery *Sam Marcy*
- ◆ Reparations & Black Liberation *Monica Moorehead*
- ◆ Harriet Tubman: woman warrior *Mumia Abu-Jamal (Guest Commentary)*
- ◆ Black labor and the fight for reparations *Bill Cecil*
- ◆ Black farmers demand justice *Monica Moorehead*
- ◆ Greetings from Mumia Abu-Jamal to the 3rd UN World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia & Related Intolerance
- ◆ Nigerian women take over Chevron Texaco *Monica Moorehead*
- ◆ Nigerian women’s takeover ends in victory *Monica Moorehead*
- ◆ Causes of turmoil in Jamaica PART I PART II PART III *Pat Chin*

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## Slavery a cornerstone of profit system

# Reparations lawsuit filed against big companies

By Pat Chin  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Less than one month after thousands of people, primarily of African descent, attended an Aug. 17 reparations rally in Washington, D.C., the first lawsuit filed by Deadria Farmer-Paellmann on behalf of herself and all other descendents of slaves was heard at a pre-motion conference in the U.S. District Court here on Sept. 12.

FleetBoston Financial Corporation, Aetna, Inc., CSX Railroads and other companies are being sued in the class-action case. These corporations made huge fortunes from the trans-Atlantic slave trade, which scholars estimate stripped Africa of from 50 million to 70 million people.

Today, these giants of capitalist industry continue to profit from the legacy of slavery and racism through the “dead labor” of capital “that lives anew by the hand of the living,” as brilliantly revealed by Karl Marx.

African Americans—of different ages and genders, along with their supporters—had come from all over the country and Canada to attend the historic Millions for Reparations rally outside the Capitol building. Organized by a coalition of Black activists, it was timed to coincide with the 115th anniversary of the birth of Marcus Garvey, Black nationalist leader and Jamaican national hero.

A multinational contingent of labor activists, who had formed Labor for Reparations to support the rally, also swelled the ranks.

Speaker after speaker called for compensation for centuries of brutally enforced slave labor and the vicious racism, used first to justify the trade in Black human cargo, that remains deeply entrenched. Racial discrimination is responsible, in fact, for the economic and social problems that still plague Black communities across the U.S.

Many people in the growing movement feel that any monies won should be shared community-wide to improve housing, health care and education for all African Americans. Movement organizers have pointed out that Haiti and other countries

are also due reparations.

Since the 1980s, under former President Ronald Reagan, there's been a full-court press by the white, male-dominated capitalist establishment, through its big-business media and courts, to turn affirmative action into a dirty word. The same is now true of reparations.

Asked what motivated her to file the lawsuit in this context, Farmer-Paellmann told Workers World: “I recognized that this was an area of reparations that had been overlooked historically. Focusing on corporations is a relatively new approach, and I felt very strongly that we had greater access to corporations than we do directly to the federal government so I thought it was necessary to move forward with an action.”

The team representing Farmer-Paellmann includes attorneys Roger S. Wareham, Jomo Sanga, Diane Sammons, Bruce E. Nagel and Edward D. Fagan.

### Seek to consolidate cases

Asked about the status of the case following the pre-motion conference, Wareham explained: “We have filed cases in several jurisdictions around the country—New York, New Jersey, California and Louisiana. There's currently a motion before the courts to consolidate them rather than have them before different judges. Right now all the proceedings have been stayed pending a decision by the court.”

Wareham—who is also a leader of the Brooklyn-based December 12th Movement—expects a decision by September's end. In addition, the Reparations Coordinating Committee has filed a similar lawsuit targeting the U.S. government.

The accumulation of colossal profits, wrung from the holocaust of the Middle Passage, laid the foundation for today's merciless exploitation of workers and oppressed peoples across the country and around the globe by U.S. capitalist industry and finance.

Like affirmative action, reparations are only a small measure of recognition for the crime against humanity called slavery.

All working people have a stake in the movement. By standing shoulder to shoulder with their African American sisters and



Deadria  
Farmer-  
Paellmann

WW PHOTO:  
PAT CHIN

brothers, those not covered by the lawsuit can help invigorate the labor movement. Solidarity is most crucial now that Wall Street wants the working class to bear the brunt of the deepening capitalist economic crisis.

“I think that in the final analysis this case will be won not simply because it's correct and just legally but because the groundswell of support demanding that the right thing be done is such that the companies cannot ignore it,” Wareham told WW.

“One thing the community can do,” added Farmer-Paellmann, “is come out when we make an announcement that we're going to be in court. Around the country others should consider filing actions similar to ours against corporations that they know have profited from enslaved Africans.”

Organizers say that neighborhood meetings are also key, particularly in preparation for next year's National Reparations Rally at the United Nations. And so is demanding that elected officials make the issue a part of their platform and initiating city and state resolutions of support. Letters can also be written to the defendants in the cases urging them to settle.

“Our focus is on what can be done legally,” explained Wareham. “The community's focus should be on making it clear that there's community-wide support for reparations.”

The movement can be strengthened if the entire working class supports it—and by linking the struggle against racism to the fight for socialism. As explained in a recent Workers World Party statement, “Socialism is the ultimate reparation.” □

## PHILADELPHIA

# New police attack on MOVE looms

By Betsey Piette  
Philadelphia

Concern is mounting that police may use a custody case as the pretext to launch a new assault on a MOVE family home in West Philadelphia. Worried that police will try to remove a member's child as early as Sept. 21, the MOVE Organization and supporters are urging people to speak out now to prevent an attack.

The MOVE Organization, a Black-led radical group, has suffered several deadly police attacks over the last 30 years. For example, police attacked MOVE members in 1976 in retaliation for their struggle against police brutality in Philadelphia. The cops knocked a three-week-old baby, Life Africa, from his mother's arms, crushing his skull and killing him.

MOVE member Alberta Africa's battle to keep her son Zachary looked like it was resolved after nearly four years of court hearings. Family Court Judge Edward Rosenberg issued a decision giving her physical custody of her son and the father, John Gilbride, shared legal custody and supervised visits in the mother's home.

However, before the order was finalized, Judge Rosenberg retired.

The case was given to Judge Elizabeth Jackson, who recused herself without explanation. Then Judge Shelley Robbins New took over the case, and without even scheduling a review of Rosenberg's order, held a one-day trial and completely overturned the earlier decision.

She gave Gilbride custody of the child every other weekend and six days over Christmas.

MOVE believes police may attempt to

carry out Judge New's ruling by forcibly removing Zachary from his home. They report that police have already come to the home once and have been harassing supporters for the past week.

What should have been a legal matter between estranged parents has turned into a pretext for another intervention by the repressive Philadelphia state apparatus against MOVE.

The history of police violence against MOVE shows that the movement must take the danger seriously.

In 1978, Philadelphia Police shot several rounds of bullets into a MOVE house in Powelton Village, causing the death of Officer James Ramp from “friendly fire.” Afterward, nine MOVE members were framed and sentenced to between 30 and 90 years in prison—despite a judge's admission that he “hadn't the faintest idea” who really fired the fatal shot.

On May 13, 1985, police dropped a bomb on MOVE's Osage Avenue house, killing five children and six adults and burning down the surrounding homes in a Black neighborhood.

There has been a total local media whitewash of this story. MOVE is asking people to hang banners, posters and signs from their houses reading “May 13—Never Again.”

A demonstration to defend MOVE is planned for Sept. 20. For more information, contact Friends of MOVE at (610) 499-0979 or (215) 760-4064 or email uprising1978@aol.com.

To protest the threats against MOVE, call Mayor John Street at (215) 686-3000; Judge Shelley Robbins New at (215) 683-7056; and Judge Myrna Fields, President Judge of Family Court at (215) 686-7970. □

## ProLibertad raises funds for Mumia defense

For many years, New York-based ProLibertad has been fighting for the release of 17 Puerto Rican freedom fighters held in U.S. prisons. Most of these prisoners were arrested in the 1980s. Under tremendous pressure from the Puerto Rican and Latino movement, Washington was forced to grant amnesty to 11 of these prisoners in 1999. With the release of Antonio Camacho Negrón last March, only five of the Puerto Rican political prisoners remain in jail.

Though still focused on winning freedom for these five, ProLibertad has also become a voice for the combatants arrested in the struggle to get the U.S. Navy out of Vieques, Puerto Rico. And they are a leading force organizing in the Latino community to free Mumia Abu-Jamal.

In June, ProLibertad initiated a campaign to raise \$10,000 for Abu-Jamal's legal expenses. Before their Aug. 24 Freedom Celebration for Mumia in the Bronx—a fundraiser co-sponsored by the New York

Free Mumia Coalition—ProLibertad had already raised close to \$6,000.

What inspired such fundraising fervor?

Esperanza Martell, a leader of ProLibertad, told Workers World: “This is a critical period for Mumia. People are confused. They think that the December decision [by federal Judge William Yohn] means Mumia is off death row and can't be executed. They don't think there is the same king of urgency. But that is not the case.”

Martell explained: “Mumia is the only U.S. political prisoner on death row. The five Puerto Rican political prisoners and prisoners of war told us that his freedom must come first, before theirs. Some of them are facing life sentences. If they can make that request, how can we as a movement not honor it?”



—Imani Henry

## NEW YORK CITY

# Homeless crisis deepens

By G. Dunkel  
New York City

There are more homeless people in New York City's shelter system than ever—more than 35,164 at the beginning of August. And the number keeps rising. Thousands more sleep on benches, subway cars and even the streets.

The number of homeless in the shelters would even be higher except that they are often unjustifiably rejected, according to Picture the Homeless, an advocacy group.

One obvious reason for homelessness is the loss of a job.

The national figure for long-term joblessness rose by 50 percent in the past year, according to the Department of Labor. Almost 3 million people who have lost their jobs have been without work for at least 15 weeks, and half of them haven't worked in the past six months.

The unemployment rate in New York City is higher than the national average, partly because many of the jobs lost after 9/11 haven't been replaced. The city has lost 97,500 jobs.

Rents here are among the highest in the country. A far greater percentage of working people in New York rent than is common elsewhere. It is typical for poor and working people to pay 50 percent of their income for housing.

So when the long-term unemployed find they can no longer pay their bills, some lose their homes and wind up on the streets or in a shelter.

Homelessness has other causes besides unemployment.

Money devoted to public housing in all its forms, from rent vouchers to housing projects to subsidized middle-income projects, has been cut and cut again over the past 20 years, as the price of shelter throughout the country has steadily risen.

In New York City, two groups have been particularly hard hit by homelessness.

While Black and Latino people make up about half the city's population, they make up 90 percent of the homeless.

People with AIDS are another group particularly afflicted by homelessness. They are living longer now because of new drug therapies, but some get so sick

they can't work.

City law requires that homeless people with AIDS get housing.

In a very significant case decided Sept. 13, State Supreme Court Justice Eileen Bransten ordered the city to obey the law and provide "medically appropriate" housing to homeless AIDS sufferers. The city has said it will appeal.

The judge found that the seven plaintiffs who initiated the suit for all homeless peo-

ple with AIDS were forced to live in hotels infested with rats and roaches. They had filthy bathrooms. These hotels lacked heat, hot water, electricity, clean mattresses and bed linens, and had no elevators for disabled clients on upper floors.

Bransten's ruling said the "petitioners' statements establish that their housing is not suitable for healthy individuals, much less for persons with severely compromised immune systems." □

## At Sept. 11 memorial

# Airline workers oppose racism



A newly formed Airline Workers Unity Coalition brought an important message to a Sept. 11, 2002, union tribute to fallen crew members: embrace all ethnicities and don't be divided by racism. The event, held in New York City's Washington Square Park, was attended by close to 1,000 United and American Airlines workers.

Many Sept. 11 anniversary events were used to drum up patriotism and a renewed drive toward war. In this environment, the airline coalition members—a rank-and-file, multi-ethnic group of women, men, lesbian, gay and straight workers—took a courageous position by appealing to co-workers to overcome racism and disunity.

Coalition members carried a banner urging flight attendants, pilots and other airline workers to

"Embrace All Ethnicities." They also distributed a palm card paying tribute to "those who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001, as well as those who lost their livelihoods," referring to the layoffs and airline bankruptcies that followed. The federal government bailed out the airlines with millions of dollars in subsidies, but refused to provide anything for airline workers.

Most importantly, the coalition's handout said, "We respect ALL airline workers, including our Arab and Muslim co-workers." This is a vital message at a time when the Bush administration and the Pentagon are trying to demonize Arab and Muslim people in the interests of an imperialist war that will claim workers' lives on both sides.

—Story and photo by Mary Owen

# Wash. state unions condemn war

The Washington State Labor Council (AFL-CIO) adopted the first statewide union resolution condemning the Bush administration's war drive at its statewide convention Aug. 19-22 in Spokane.

The "Resolution Against the War, Attacks on Civil Liberties and Cuts in Public Services" says in part: "President Bush's ever-expanding 'war on terrorism' has been cynically used to justify a \$48 billion hike in next year's military budget, bringing it to \$383 billion, in addition to the \$15 billion bailout of the airline industry and \$25 billion in tax refunds for corporate America..."

"Congress is forcing union members and other working and poor people to pay for this war drive and subsidize corporate profits by raiding the Social Security Trust Fund and cutting funding for economically distressed states and vital government programs such as subsidies for low income housing and services to the homeless..."

"The national AFL-CIO's uncritical support for this profit-driven war has derailed labor opposition to increased military expenditures, corporate subsidies and government spying and provided political cover for Democrats to jump on the anti-terrorism bandwagon..."

"Therefore, be it resolved that the Washington State Labor Council expand its efforts to defend civil liberties by taking the following actions and urging the AFL-CIO to do the same:

"Campaign for the repeal of the USA Patriot Act and defeat of similar 'anti-terrorism' measures in state legislatures;

"Pressure local and state law enforcement to refuse to cooperate with FBI spying on political, union, and anti-globalism activists or comply with INS harassment of Arabs and other immigrants and people of color in the U.S.;

"Demand the immediate release of the hundreds of Middle Eastern, Arab and other immigrants who are still being detained without due process and/or legal justification;

"And be it finally resolved that the Washington State Labor Council urge the AFL-CIO and its affiliates to oppose the U.S. government's open-ended 'war on terrorism' and participate in rallies, marches and other activities to pressure President Bush and Congress to stop the war and redirect money from corporate handouts and the military budget to assist laid-off workers, restore and expand public services, and promote global justice by providing humanitarian and economic aid—administered by unions—to our brothers and sisters in other countries." □

## The Roots of Lesbian & Gay Oppression

This book was originally published in 1976, during the first flush of the modern lesbian and gay liberation movement. This updated edition gives a clear, dispassionate, yet utterly partisan review of a history of pain, persecution, courage and pride.

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## PEOPLE OF COLOR CELEBRATION

On Sept. 11 a different type of event took place, honoring the cultures of Third World countries and people of color here in the U.S. Third World Within hosted the activity at Cooper Union, which drew over 1,000 people.

TWW is a network of New York City-based people of color organizations formed after 9/11 last year. It consists of over 50 community-based organizations, including workers' groups, lesbian/gay/bi/trans groups and others.

The event featured Taino, Palestinian, Japanese, Indian and Mexican dancers, as well as break dancers representing all five New York City boroughs.

—Rebeca Toledo

# Manchester, N.H.,

By Gerry Scoppettuolo  
Manchester, N.H.

Stonewall Warriors, ANSWER (the Act Now to Stop War and End Racism coalition) and their partners in the Sept. 14 Coalition brought a strong, statewide rally to Manchester, N.H., on Sept. 14. Many communities were represented. All were there to show outrage at the Manchester Union-Leader newspaper, the biggest circulation daily in the state.

On July 9 the paper had published a racist and anti-lesbian/gay/bi/trans editorial that endorsed quarantining gay men with AIDS and implied that rising rates of

infection among women were not a real threat because they mostly affected African American women.

In a stirring display of unity, speaker after speaker denounced the newspaper. Alberta, a 51-year-old African American grandmother with AIDS, moved the crowd when she declared: "They want my son to go fight in their war in Iraq, when they aren't even taking care of me at home. Mr. Bush better listen to us. I wish I could meet him face to face and tell him what I think of him."

Hank Gagnon of Living With HIV, a gay Vietnam Veteran and grandfather, said: "We are here to speak truth. The Ryan

**'Without struggle, there is no progress'**

# Same-sex couples' fight brings gains

By Leslie Feinberg

Romance, monogamy and marriage are not every individual's dream or goal in life. However, these should be among the options that every person is free to choose.

Same-sex couples don't have the right to marry. And along with the odious bigotry used to justify this discrimination comes the denial of more than 1,000 federal rights and responsibilities that are tacked on free of charge with the issuance of a marriage certificate.

The refusal to grant civil recognition to same-sex relationships leaves a partner standing helpless in an emergency room, barred from holding the hand of an ill or injured loved one. When a life partner dies, their grieving lover may be forced out of their shared home by the landlord, be labeled "legal strangers" without rights to custody of children they helped raise, and be denied their partner's Social Security benefits. Couples are torn apart without recourse when a lover who is an immigrant is deported.

But the inexorable and organized demand by the lesbian, gay, bi and trans movement that all couples deserve the rights that legally married spouses enjoy is making significant headway.

## A sign of the times

One sign of the times is that the Times—New York, that is—finally had to agree that the time has come to publish same-sex civil union and commitment announcements, a policy that began in September.

After meetings between publisher Arthur Sulzberger Jr., the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association, some of the newspaper's own staff, members of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and other activists, the "paper of record" relented.

In explaining the publication's new position, Executive Editor Howell Raines said, "In making this change, we acknowledge the newsworthiness of a growing and visible trend in society toward public celebrations by gay and lesbian couples—celebrations important to many of our readers, their families and their friends."

The Times didn't exactly lead this charge towards equality. Out of 1,600 daily newspapers in the United States, 99 have wedding pages open to lesbian and gay couples, according to GLAAD. (Gay City, Aug. 30-Sept. 5) Even the press in Fayetteville, N.C.—a military town under the boot heel of the Army—beat the Times to fairness in reporting.

But wresting this concession from the Times helps swing forward the pendulum of social progress on this important struggle.

However before would-be couples lining up for inclusion as one of the 20 select few—gay or straight—who are featured in the Times' new Weddings/Celebrations section plait their hair or trim their mullets, nationally-syndicated advice columnist Meryl Cohn—"Ms. Behavior"—offers cogent counsel: "If you want to be listed, it helps to have parents named Rothschild or Rockefeller, or even Bush. Failing that, try to discover the cure for an illness, get a book on the best seller list, or marry a lesbian rock star."

And, she concludes, "It also helps to have had a fancy coming-out party of either type." (Philadelphia Gay News, Aug. 23-29)

Sage words indeed. The first couple to receive much ado about their proposal to say "I do" appeared in the Times on Sept. 1. Daniel Gross is an energy company executive and Steven Goldstein is a public relations executive and former campaign co-manager for New Jersey Senator Jon Corzine.

The betrothed planned to exchange vows in a civil ceremony in Vermont. Besides residing in the rarified stratosphere of class privilege, the Times Style Section requires socialite couples to register their domestic partnership where they live or get hitched in a same-sex civil ceremony.

Therein lies the rub. Vermont is the only state at this time that affords same-sex couples a civil ceremony. And domestic partner registries have only been won in a few cities and municipalities in less than half the states.

But the battle to win the right to civil recognition of loving same-sex relationships is gaining impetus.

For example, activists in New Jersey have filed the fourth major lawsuit demanding freedom to marry based on state constitutional grounds. Many victories have already been won in the state. The State Supreme Court has recognized the rights of a non-biological parent and directed the Boy Scout leaders to halt their anti-gay discrimination. Anti-gay marriage laws have tanked every year since 1996. The state administration has authorized joint adoption by lesbian and gay couples. And sexual orientation discrimination has been barred in New Jersey for more than ten years. (Girlfriends, September 2002)

Same-sex plaintiffs in Massachusetts also hope to win their case for gay marriage once the case is heard in the Supreme Judicial Court.

Although not every lesbian or gay, bi or



Plaintiffs in New Jersey lawsuit for same-sex marriage rights. PHOTO: GIRLFRIENDS MAGAZINE

trans person in love wants to announce plans to give their hand in the Times Style Section, or to tie the knot at all, who doesn't want domestic partner benefits? However, it's not so simple to get them. It's taken a prolonged and ferocious fight. And although the struggle has taken on momentum, it's not over by a long shot.

Hundreds of large corporations have yielded to the unyielding demand to include sexual orientation in non-discrimination policies, as have 12 states and more than 200 local governments. (Washington Blade, June 7) That's an important triumph in and of itself. But activists continue to demand that corporations and other profit-driven institutions put their money where their mouth is.

Unmarried employees—of all sexualities—earn less in their wage and benefits package than do fellow workers doing the same labor. Of course marriage is not a choice for workers in same-sex relationships. Most significant is the denial of "spousal" health benefits to partners and their children.

So the battle for domestic partner benefits is literally a life-and-death issue for many workers. And it is a front-line barricade in the class warfare between exploited and exploiter over the surplus wealth created by labor to extend benefits to unmarried workers of all sexualities.

The demand by the LGBT movement for economic justice has already won domestic partner benefits for employees in 172 of the Fortune 500 corporations, 4,018 other private companies, non-profits and unions, 170 colleges and universities, 134 local governments and nine state governments. (Human Rights Campaign WorkNet Web site)

## Frederick Douglass was right!

There are other signs that with struggle there is progress. Here are just a few highlights:

A Gallup poll conducted in early May found that 85 percent of those asked expressed support for equal opportunity for gay and lesbian workers on the job.

Three laws enacted in the last year extend domestic partner protections to all eligible same-sex couples living in California, the District of Columbia and Connecticut.

The New York City Council's General Welfare Committee voted up a precedent-setting bill 6-0 that requires Manhattan to recognize domestic partnerships and same-sex marriages from other jurisdictions or countries. The mayor inked the measure into law on Aug. 27.

The Ohio Supreme Court ruled on Aug. 28 that state laws are not a barrier to joint legal custody of children by same-sex partners.

And last but not least, a right-wing ballot initiative to overturn the Miami-Dade County ordinance protecting lesbians and gays was defeated. The amendment offers legal protection against discrimination in employment, housing, accommodations and credit.

The head of the right-wing Miami-Dade County Coalition and another man had been arrested Aug. 16, charged with falsely certifying a petition calling for the anti-gay referendum.

The voter victory is especially tasty because in 1977 Dade County was ground zero for a zealously anti-gay crusade led by orange-juice industry spokesperson Anita Bryant. The reactionary campaign, aimed at repealing a non-discrimination law, resulted in the banning of adoption by lesbian and gay people in 1977.

A rising LGBT movement pushed back the surge of openly right-wing, anti-abortion violence in the state in the decade between 1984 and 1994. But reactionary groups have led a recent swell of anti-gay organizing, including a focus on barring the right of same-sex couples to adopt. □

# protest slams racist, anti-gay newspaper

White Care Act is going to be level-funded by Bush this coming year. All this money is going into the war effort and that's wrong!"

Marta Roderiguez, a longtime fighter for Puerto Rican liberation, opened the rally at Veteran's Park with her moving and satirical anti-war songs. Other speakers included Wanda Diaz, N.H. Minority Health Coalition; Frank Neisser, Stonewall Warriors and ANSWER in Boston; the Rev. Tim Leighton, United Church of Christ in Hudson, N.H.; Sean Donohue, co-director of N.H. Peace Response; and Gerry Scoppetuolo, Gay Men Fight AIDS in Portsmouth, N.H.

Protesters responded positively to calls

for the October 26 March on Washington to Stop the War. Speakers pointed out that the Bush/Cheney/Powell cabal want to divert hundreds of billions of dollars to bomb people in the Middle East, from Iraq to Palestine. At the same time thousands of people with AIDS in the U.S. languish on waiting lists for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program because they can't afford life-sustaining antiviral medications.

This year Bush and Congress are offering \$200 million to the United Nation's global AIDS effort—less than the cost of one Stealth Bomber, and just 5 percent of the Global AIDS Appropriation requested by the UN. □



WW PHOTO: STEVEN GILLIS

# Arrests timed to troop deployment

Continued from page 1

weeks. 'Lately, the president has been hearing about Lackawanna every morning,' said one source close to the case."

The News concluded, "Officials have said the discovery of the cell was connected to information that also prompted the Bush administration to raise America's terror alert to 'code orange'—the second-highest—last week on the eve of the one-year anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks."

The FBI admits it has been conducting this investigation since last year. So why was it so important the arrests be carried out now?

## A closer look at this case

The six arrested Yemeni-American men, all in their twenties, live in Lackawanna—an old mill town of 20,000 people five miles south of Buffalo that was economically devastated by the loss of Bethlehem Steel. The working-class Yemeni community, which took root here around 1922, now has more than 1,000 people. And there's a large Arab and Muslim population in and around Buffalo as a whole.

All six are now being held in a detention center in Batavia, along with an unknown number of other Arab, South Asian and Muslim victims of the post-Sept. 11 government roundup. They have been held without bail, awaiting a Sept. 18 bond hearing. A federal magistrate registered pleas of not guilty for the defendants because they lacked legal counsel at the time of arraignment. All except Al-Bakri are reliant on court-appointed attorneys.

Almost all the media reports here and

around the country, no matter how biased, remark on the support that friends, neighbors and family members express for these young men, whom they've known since childhood.

The FBI hasn't made much of a case against the six.

FBI Director Mueller told the media assembled in D.C., "We do not fully know the intentions of those who were charged today. The investigation is continuing. We have not seen any plan of an imminent attack in Western New York or elsewhere in the United States."

The Sept. 17 New York Times said, "Federal investigators concede privately that so far they have yet to turn up any indication that the six suspects had plans for future actions."

CNN National Correspondent Bob Franken reported on Sept. 15 that the government has "absolutely no evidence that there was any participation here in the Sept. 11 attacks." Franken stressed that the "material resources" that the men are alleged to have provided "has nothing to do with money." He explained that "the resource was themselves, their bodies, that by taking the training they had violated the law."

In the spirit of a fishing expedition, the FBI took the unusual step of releasing photos of the six, asking the public for "tips" about them.

The six are being prosecuted under the broadly worded Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, signed into law by then-President Bill Clinton in 1996 following the Oklahoma City bombing. This law has gutted the writ of habeas corpus and

speeded up the pace of state-sanctioned executions that target impoverished prisoners and people of color, including death-row activist Mumia Abu-Jamal.

The Justice Department won its first conviction under the law in June, when a defendant in Charlotte, N.C., was convicted for sending money to the Palestinian organization Hezbollah. But the same day, a federal judge in Los Angeles dismissed the department's case against seven people charged with sending charitable donations to an Iranian group.

Judge Robert Rakasugi declared the law "unconstitutional on its face" because it gave the groups accused of terrorism no opportunity to challenge the accusation. (New York Times, Sept. 17)

Georgetown law professor David Cole said he believes the law is unconstitutionally broad. It results in "guilt by association," he stressed, adding that its definition of terrorism "could include wholly protected First Amendment activity, including merely writing an op-ed piece or lobbying."

## Time for cool heads and warm solidarity

This highly publicized case is having a huge impact on the working class here. You can feel it. It's on everyone's minds.

It has stirred up fear and racism in Buffalo and its surrounding areas. The Lackawanna Board of Education voted in an emergency session on Sept. 15 to immediately beef up security for Arab American students in city schools.

The inflammatory propaganda surrounding these arrests is designed to cre-

ate reflexive patriotism and divisiveness just at the moment when solidarity between workers and oppressed peoples is so important.

In addition to the impact that military aggression will have on the peoples of the Middle East, suffering will deepen here, too, as more and more of the social wealth created by working people is diverted to the war drive and to Wall Street.

The working people of this city once known for its industrial might, and especially the most oppressed communities, are already reeling from the current economic downturn.

The city has lost more than half its factory jobs since 1958. And when Adelphia Communications, the country's sixth-largest cable television operator, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy here in June, another promise to bring new jobs to the city went down the tubes.

Now more than ever, cool heads and unity are necessary to forge an independent movement. Waging the struggle for jobs, housing, education and health care cannot succeed without taking up the fight against racist profiling—already a struggle in this city with a large Black, Latino and Native population—as well as racist government roundups, attacks on civil liberties and Bush's endless war.

The "trial by media" that has already rendered a guilty verdict in the case of these six Yemeni-Americans in Lackawanna cannot be allowed to impede working-class solidarity against the Bush administration's roundups of Arab, South Asian and Muslim people. □

## Coast-to-coast actions demand: 'No new war against Iraq!'

Special to Workers World

According to the tabloids and television news programs, every man, woman and child in the United States stands behind Bush and the generals' plan to invade Iraq.

But activists at anti-war demonstrations and rallies held across the country on Sept. 14-16 reported a very different mood among passersby and motorists.

The protests, demanding "No war against Iraq," were called by the International ANSWER coalition—Act Now to Stop War & End Racism—and other groups.

The actions helped mobilize support for massive marches planned for Oct. 26 in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco, Calif. The anti-war demonstration has already received 1,000 endorsements, in-

cluding by Dr. Hans von Sponek, former director of the UN Oil for Food Program, SLAM—the Student Liberation Action Movement, the San Francisco Labor Council (AFL-CIO) and political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal.

### Thousands march on West Coast

Thousands of people marched and rallied in **San Francisco, Los Angeles, Oakland and Fresno** on Sept. 14.

The San Francisco and Los Angeles demonstrations were both called by ANSWER on short notice. But a march from San Francisco's UN Plaza to Jefferson Square Park grew to 3,000. They chanted, "Who're the biggest terrorists in the world today? Bush, Cheney and the CIA!"

Motorists and Muni bus drivers honked their vehicle horns in support; pedestrians cheered their approval.

Richard Mead, president of International Longshore & Warehouse Union Local 10, told the crowd that the Bush administration is using the war drive as an excuse to battle the ILWU on behalf of port and shipping bosses. "This isn't a war on terrorism," he said, "it's a war on the people."

"They tell us war is inevitable," Nancy



Hundreds protested Bush's Sept. 12 speech at the UN.

WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

Mitchell of ANSWER said. "But when the people are in the streets, the real debate is going to begin."

Police arrested Puerto Rican activists Jackie Santos and Zulma Oliveras of Comite '98 at the opening rally after a confrontation with a pro-war counter-demonstrator. Oliveras was held on bail of \$40,000 for more than 48 hours before charges were dropped.

The San Francisco march received wide coverage in local and national media.

Protesters in Los Angeles chanted "Money for health care, not for war!" as they marched 2,000-strong through the Westwood area to the Federal Building. Speakers contrasted a \$50 billion increase in the Pentagon budget with the administration's refusal to give \$350 million to save nine clinics for poor people in Los Angeles.

Diverse signs and banners pointed out that people in the Philippines, Colombia and Vieques are also endangered by current U.S. war moves.

Anti-war organizers led by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark held a meeting Sept. 14 at the Fashion Institute of Technology in **New York City**.

Some 400 people attended this organizers' meeting. People stood in the aisles as Clark and other members of a recent U.S. peace delegation to Iraq discussed plans for building a movement that could stop the war.

Clark told the overflow crowd, "It would be a mistake to think that George Bush isn't going to attack Iraq, and he will—unless opposition to it is so powerful that he doesn't dare."

Speakers also included Johnnie Stevens, co-director of Peoples Video Network, who shot footage during the trip; and Brian Becker and Sara Flounders, both co-directors of the International Action Center, which sponsored the meeting.

More than 200 people representing many groups gathered on busy Woodward Ave. in **Detroit** Sept. 14. They marched for an hour through the streets of a crowded annual art fair chanting "No blood for oil, hands off Iraq!"

Demonstrations had also confronted Bush when he visited Detroit on Sept. 9. He was picketed when he appeared at downtown Cobo Hall for a photo-op in the morning.



From top: Sara Flounders, Ramsey Clark, Brian Becker and Johnnie Stevens, Sept. 14 in N.Y.C.

WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

## Fla. witch-hunt of Arab students

# Bush-Ashcroft policy kindles lynch mob atmosphere

By Leslie Feinberg

The xenophobia that has hounded three Arab American medical students from Georgia to Florida is certainly rooted in racism. But that racism, branching into vigilantism, was nourished and flourished in the orange light of the Bush administration "national terror alarm," timed to coincide with the anniversary of 9/11 and Pentagon plans to invade Iraq.

Deepening the hue of the Homeland Security Alert brazenly escalates the Bush-Ashcroft domestic policy of racist profiling and kindles a lynch-mob mentality. The population is told that an imminent and immense threat of terror attack looms. No details. No facts. "Just be vigilant. Report anyone or anything suspicious."

Despite the horrific right-wing detonation that claimed so many lives in Oklahoma City, few would interpret the Code Orange Alert to mean keeping an eye out for Timothy McVeigh look-alikes. Instead, Arab, South Asian and Muslim people in the United States are government-ordered targets of distrust, their every action viewed with misgiving.

On Sept. 11, a Northwest Airlines flight from Memphis to Las Vegas was diverted after reports that four men of Middle Eastern descent locked themselves in a bathroom together. Were it not for the depth of racism involved, the accusation would be farcical considering how hard it is for one person to squeeze into an airplane bathroom. It turned out that Indian passengers had merely used the bathroom in succession. (New York Post, Sept. 15)

A Latino passenger recovering from surgery had been fast asleep on the same flight. He was also arrested in the incident, he explained, merely for "being dark-skinned."

The same day, an American Airlines jet was forced to land prematurely after an allegation that a passenger had a weapon. No weapons were found.

The next day, a military escort forced a National Airlines flight to land after a passenger, whose first language was not English, didn't understand an instruction to stay in her seat.

### The crime of 'Driving While Muslim'

"We want our dignity back," medical student Ayman Gheith declared on CNN's "Larry King Live" on Sept. 16.

Gheith, Omer Choudhary and Kambiz Butt were detained in a police van in Florida for 17 hours in the wee hours of the morning for the "crime" of having made a pit stop at a Shoney's restaurant in Calhoun, Ga., hours before on Sept. 13.

The three third-year students at Ross Medical School in Dominica were traveling from Illinois to a nine-week course at a South Miami hospital.

Gheith, dressed in traditional Muslim garb, said he and his friends drew stares from patrons. Eunice Stone was eating at a nearby table. "As soon as we walked in this restaurant, we were suspects obviously by this woman," he recalled. (CNN.com, Sept. 17)

Stone claims the trio jested about Sept. 11. She told authorities they also said they would "bring something down" in Miami. (New York Post, Sept. 14)

"Not once did we mention 9/11," Kambiz Butt stressed. (New York Times, Sept. 16)

Gheith added, "We value human life, and this is why we chose to become doctors—to protect human life. Not only did I mourn 9/11, I have friends that are

directly affected by 9/11. I had friends who had family members who were in the building." (CNN.com)

Choudhary explained that he was talking about buying a car at home and bringing it down to Miami.

Stone betrayed her own mindset when she expressed surprise that the three spoke in "perfect American accents." (New York Times, Sept. 14) Gheith, a Palestinian born in Jordan, is a naturalized citizen, as is Butt. Both live in Chicago. Choudhary was born in Detroit. Stone said she also heard them speaking in Arabic, but only one of the students understands and speaks it. (CNN.com)

Stone scribbled down the license numbers of the students' cars and called the Georgia State Patrol, which parlayed the info into a countrywide alert by the Georgia Bureau of Investigations.

The authorities later pulled them over in Collier County, Fla., where I-75 bends east into a stretch of road known as Alligator Alley.

### Racist nightmare

Officers from at least a score of agencies shut down a 20-mile stretch of the interstate, and brought out water cannons, X-ray machines, an explosive to blow up one of the student's backpack, protective gear and a robot. An army of media materialized at the scene.

After grilling the three for 17 hours, authorities couldn't even pin so much as an old jaywalking violation on them. But after their release, highway cops trailed them and news helicopters pursued their cars, beaming live images of their drive to Miami over CNN.

Officials then suggested, with no evi-

dence to back it up, that the three had created a hoax to freak out Eunice Stone.

"We're looking into seeing what laws might be applicable. These people are going to learn a lesson," vowed John Bankhead, director of public affairs for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. Florida Gov. Jeb Bush said if a hoax could be proved he hoped the three would be prosecuted. (New York Times, Sept. 14)

Within a day the media picked up this spin that the three had carried out a "sick joke." A New York Post editorial, titled "The Laugh's on Them," alleged that the three "provoked their own arrests" and added, "the fact that the three men actually thought it amusing to talk about 'making America cry on 9/13' says a great deal about their worldview."

Chief Executive Dr. Jack Michel said that the students' medical internships were rescinded after his hospital received more than 200 e-mail messages—many racist and some threatening. (New York Times, Sept. 16)

"We are in a state of shock and we are scared," Butt told reporters at a Sept. 15 news conference.

Stone, on the other hand, is being hailed as a "patriot" from the White House on down.

Gheith pointed out that there were no attempts to confirm Stone's allegations. "How is it that one person can pick up a phone and make any statement that they will, and we end up in custody?" When asked by reporters if he was suggesting she had lied, he answered, "I'm not suggesting. I'm telling you she's flat-out lying." (Daily News, Sept. 14)

"Injustice is injustice," Gheith concluded, "whether you are Muslim or Chinese or Jewish." □

ANSWER and the Michigan Emergency Committee Against the War on Iraq assembled at the Ambassador Bridge with anti-war placards. Canadian Prime Minister Jacques Chretien's motorcade had to pass right by the protesters on his way to meet the U.S. president. Later the group took their demonstration across the street from where Bush was delivering his speech.

In Washington, D.C., Sept. 16, some 100 people picketed outside the annual "arms bazaar" held by the military-industrial complex. The featured speaker at this gathering of vultures was Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

"The military industrial complex is holding this obscene gathering to show off its weapons of mass destruction," declared Sarah Sloan of ANSWER. "Donald Rumsfeld is the Bush administration's chief cheerleader for a new war against Iraq. We're here to tell the masters of war: hell no!"

Activists maintained a picket line of more than 35 people for hours Sept. 14 at Bidwell Parkway in downtown Buffalo, N.Y., while distributing leaflets and other information aimed at stopping a new war with Iraq. ANSWER organizers said the turnout was especially significant because it came just hours after the repressive atmosphere being whipped up after the government roundup of Yemeni American men in nearby Lackawanna began.

A group of Iraqi people joined the protest and thanked the organizers for



Los Angeles, Sept. 14.

WW PHOTO: J. LA RIVA

doing what they could to protect their families in Iraq from a U.S. invasion.

At the same time, an ANSWER delegation picketed at the Federal Court Building where five of the men were being arraigned. They held signs demanding, "Stop the racist witch-hunt."

In Rochester, N.Y., 200 people gathered in front of the Federal Building Sept. 12 to say, "No new war against Iraq, even

with UN approval." The demonstration, called by local community organization Metro Justice, drew support from a half-dozen groups.

Then, on Sept. 14, about 25 people protested outside the Immigration and Naturalization Service detention facility in Batavia, N.Y., about halfway between Rochester and Buffalo. Many Arab and South Asian people rounded up by the gov-

ernment are being held there. Protesters demanded their release and expressed solidarity with the communities under attack by the Bush-Ashcroft Justice Department.

With reports from Brenda Sandburg, Bill Hackwell, John Catalinotto, David Sole, Adrian Garcia, Gene Clancy and Bev Hiestand. □

## Remembering the other 9/11

# Police attack workers on Chile coup anniversary

By Greg Butterfield

On the night of Sept. 11 and morning of Sept. 12, police arrested 445 people in Santiago, the capital of Chile. Many thousands had come out of their homes to demonstrate on the 29th anniversary of the U.S.-backed coup that overthrew pro-socialist President Salvador Allende and installed a terrorist right-wing regime headed by Gen. Augusto Pinochet.

It has been an open secret since 1973 that the U.S. government under Richard Nixon and big U.S. companies like ITT were involved in planning and carrying out the coup. A 10-man CIA "coup team" had been operating inside Chile since Allende's election in 1970. U.S. Ambassador Nathaniel P. Davis shuttled between the military coup leaders and the White House. Washington even acknowledged that it had 24 hours advance notice of the coup.

According to a government report, 3,190 leftists were killed during the coup and under Pinochet. This is a minimum number. Over 1,000 more were "disappeared." Their bodies have not been found.

For the first time since Pinochet left office in 1990, the coup anniversary was not officially marked as a national day of mourning. But the government's effort to

make the infamous date pass quietly failed. After getting home from work, tens of thousands of toilers in Santiago's working class suburbs took to the streets. They erected barricades of burning tires at major intersections.

Demonstrators reported that police attacked with water cannons, tear gas and live ammunition. The cops later denied shooting into the crowd. Some protesters defended themselves by throwing rocks and Molotov cocktails at the police.

Earlier, on Sept. 8, an official protest called by workers' parties and unions was held. Several thousand marched from downtown Santiago to the city's main cemetery, where a memorial wall commemorates the thousands of victims of U.S.-Pinochet terrorism. Many carried Communist Party flags and portraits of Allende.

Police attacked this demonstration, too. Masked youths responded by setting fire to a McDonald's restaurant, burning a U.S. flag and throwing rocks at U.S.-owned banks.

Chile's workers and peasants are not only fighting the terrible depression gripping all of South America. They are still fighting for some measure of justice for the crimes committed by Pinochet, the Chilean bosses and their friends in Washington.

Allende, leader of the Socialist Party, was elected in 1970. He established friendly ties with socialist Cuba and embarked on a series of popular reforms aimed at benefiting the vast majority of Chileans. ITT, Anaconda Copper, Kennecott and other U.S. companies began working for Allende's overthrow.

Allende enjoyed the support of many Chileans. Unfortunately, his perspective of a peaceful transition to socialism didn't take into account the determination of U.S. imperialism and Chile's capitalist state machinery—the military, police and courts—to crush the revolutionary process. The necessary measures to arm the masses and organize them for self-defense against the counter-revolutionaries were not taken.

On Sept. 11, 1973, the Air Force bombed the Presidential Palace. The coup plotters murdered Allende, though to this day U.S. press agencies continue to report the myth that he "chose to die by his own hand." A deadly witch-hunt began against communists, socialists, union members and other progressives that continued for the next 17 years.

Documents released by the U.S. government in 1999 and 2000 provide more evidence of Washington's involvement in the coup. Ambassador Davis, for instance, said that while it would be "politically risky" for



Santiago, Chile, Sept. 11.

the U.S. to help Pinochet set up concentration camps for political prisoners, it could safely provide material support for that effort.

Henry Kissinger, secretary of state under Nixon and Gerald Ford and a key advisor to the Bush Sr. administration, met with Pinochet in 1976 and assured him that his terror campaign had Washington's full backing.

Earlier this summer, Chilean Judge Juan Guzman announced he was considering starting extradition proceedings against Kissinger, who has refused to cooperate or testify in the case of Charles Horman, a U.S.-born filmmaker and journalist killed after the coup.

Among the charges being investigated: whether Ambassador Davis gave the military lists of U.S. citizens in Chile considered sympathetic to Allende. □

## Meeting backs 5 Cubans imprisoned in U.S.

By Gery Armsby  
New York City

Activists and supporters of the Cuban Revolution gathered here Sept. 12 to show their solidarity with the island nation by remembering the victims of anti-Cuban terrorism and vowing to work for the freedom of five Cubans held in U.S. prisons.

Speakers representing organizations that make up the New York Free the Five Committee recounted terrorist activities funded and launched from U.S. soil against the people of Cuba throughout its revolutionary history.

They also explained how five Cubans—Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino, Fernando González and René González—made great personal sacrifices to protect the Cuban people from U.S.-sponsored terrorism by infiltrating organizations like the Cuban American National Foundation and Brothers to the Rescue.

These Miami-based groups and others like them are notorious for their efforts to destabilize the Cuban government.

The five were jailed in 1998 for their activities and later sentenced to prison terms ranging from 15 years to consecutive life sentences.

The Sept. 12 event, held at the United Nations Church Center, highlighted the need to organize for the freedom of the five by painting a vivid picture of the terrorist aggression that compelled Cuba's infiltration of groups in Miami.

Speakers included the Rev. Lucius Walker and Jennifer Wager of IFCO/Pastors for Peace, Bob Guild of the Venceremos Brigade, Luis Miranda of Casa de las Americas, Teresa Gutierrez of the International Action Center and Ray LaForest of AFSCME Local 1707.

The five "did everything they could to defend their way of life and to make sure that



Activist members of the New York Committee to Free the Five, Sept. 12

WWW PHOTO:  
DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

their society was protected because Cuba has been freed from the kinds of policies and the kinds of aggression that the rest of Latin America and the Caribbean face every single day," said Gutierrez.

LaForest, a Haitian labor activist, elaborated on some of the economic achievements of Cuba and the role played by Cuban workers in the country's economic and social policies.

"When I travel to Cuba," he said, "I am so angry because, as a Haitian, I can see that the suffering of the Haitian people is so unnecessary and I just cannot separate them. 'I constantly compare between what exists in Cuba and what should be in Haiti.'"

Women for Mutual Security and the New York Committee to Free the Five sponsored the event. More information about the campaign can be found on two new Web sites: [www.antiterroristas.org](http://www.antiterroristas.org) and [www.freethefive.org](http://www.freethefive.org). □

### The Bolsheviks and War

Lessons for today's anti-war movement

By Sam Marcy

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## Mugabe speaks in NYC

New York City Council member Charles Barron, a former Black Panther, organized a reception for Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe Sept. 12 at City Hall. Mugabe was in town for meetings at the United Nations.

The City Hall meeting was a festive event that let members of the Black, Latino and Asian caucus express their solidarity with Zimbabwe and its president, who is under sharp attack from the U.S. and Britain for taking back the land stolen by white colonial farmers and distributing it to landless African farmers.

About 75 guests, many of them supporters of the December 12th Movement, filled the chamber, along with the council members, to hear Mugabe speak. There was a picket line of cheering and waving supporters outside who greeted Mugabe when he arrived.

Mugabe said seizing the land of big white farmers was an extension of Zimbabwe's struggle for independence, won in 1980.

"It was an independence that produced democracy. But that independence was not to be an end in itself," Mugabe explained.

"Economic freedom has not come to the people. Economic resources remain in the hands of the very people we snatched power from. We didn't get all that which should [constitute] sovereignty."

White farmers "still possess the most fertile lands," Mugabe said, while the Black farmers who work for whites are living as "semi-slaves and serfs."

Mugabe also urged that the white farmers be compensated—from a fund for that purpose that former colonial ruler Britain and the U.S. had promised to establish in 1980.

Council member Barron said, "I am just so happy that we have come to this day in our struggle." Barron is a prominent supporter of the movement for reparations for slavery. He spoke at the August 19 Millions for Reparations rally in Washington, D.C.

Zimbabwe is an African nation struggling for economic justice, sovereignty and independence. It was obvious at the City Hall meeting that many reparations supporters are inspired by Zimbabwe's just fight.

—G. Dunkel



# Dismissing concessions, Bush readies oil grab

Continued from page 1

war—an unlikely position if they believed themselves threatened by Iraq.

## U.S. aims to start a war

Its imperial arrogance aside, the only real content of the U.S. statement is that it makes clear that Washington is vastly expanding its demands on Iraq.

The Bush administration's plan for a new UN Security Council resolution would be to impose conditions on Iraq that no sovereign state could accept. One much-discussed idea is so-called "muscular inspection," i.e., sending in up to 50,000 heavily armed U.S. and British forces to do the "inspecting."

The objective of such a resolution would not be to resume weapons inspections, but instead to start a war.

The Bush plan is to make the conditions so intrusive and onerous that Iraq would have only two choices: Surrender its sovereignty as an independent state or refuse to accept the resolution. Washington would then try to make it appear that Iraq itself was responsible for the war.

Such a Security Council resolution would be like the Rambouillet accord, the U.S./NATO ultimatum that preceded the Yugoslavia war.

In Rambouillet, France, in February 1999, then-Secretary of State Madeleine Albright proposed a "peace agreement" to the Yugoslav government that called for the U.S. and NATO to have free and complete access to all of Yugoslavia. In other words, NATO and U.S. troops would have been authorized to occupy Yugoslavia immediately.

Albright told Yugoslavia that Rambouillet was a take-it-or-leave-it deal—"no negotiations." When the Yugoslav federal parliament voted to accept all of the Rambouillet accord except for the U.S./NATO occupation, the bombing began.

A similar scenario appears to be in the making in relation to Iraq. Hours after the release of the White House statement, Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill told CNBC: "Saddam Hussein has got to go,

there's got to be a regime change."

## Mandela condemns White House

The UN weapons inspectors left Iraq on Dec. 15, 1998, at the orders of the Clinton administration. The following day, the U.S. and Britain began an intensive bombing campaign labeled "Operation Desert Fox" against Iraqi cities, towns and military sites.

A few weeks later it was revealed that the weapons inspectors had been acting as spies, providing the Pentagon with information used for targeting Iraqi facilities and personnel in Desert Fox.

Given the constant U.S./British bombing raids on Iraq since the end of the Gulf War in 1991, and the threat of a new all-out attack, it is not hard to see why Iraq has been opposed to the return of the UN inspectors/spies.

Contrary to the impression conveyed by the corporate media here, most of the world is strongly opposed to a new U.S. war against Iraq. Few have spoken out more strongly than former South African president and liberation fighter Nelson Mandela.

On Sept. 12, Mandela said in an interview that "the attitude of the United States of America is a threat to world peace." Mandela said the decision to attack Iraq was "clearly ... a desire to please the arms and oil industries in the United States of America."

Mandela, citing former UN arms inspector Scott Ritter, said it was known that Iraq had no weapons of mass destruction, and that Israel possessed such weapons, but no one was saying anything about it.

Mandela's response to the White House statement of Sept. 17 was quoted by Reuters news service: "We must condemn this because they think they are the only power in the world. They are not and they are following a dangerous policy."

"What right has [Bush] to come in to say that offer is not genuine? We must condemn that very strongly," Mandela said.

"That is why I criticize most leaders all over the world of keeping quiet when one

country wants to bully the whole world."

The South African government said it hoped that Iraq's announcement "should lead to the lifting of sanctions."

Socialist Cuba spoke out strongly against a new war through its Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque. Addressing the UN General Assembly on Sept. 14, Perez Roque said in part:

"A new war against Iraq seems inevitable, an escalation of the situation of permanent aggression that this people has endured during the last 10 years. 'Preventive war' is talked of now, in violation of the spirit and letter of the Charter of the United Nations. Cuba proclaims here that it is opposed any new military action against Iraq."

## Real aims of new U.S. war

The real aims of Washington's war drive have nothing to do with weapons of mass destruction or human rights violations, and everything to do with control of the world's oil supply. The U.S. rulers have wanted to take control of Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the entire Gulf region, which holds two-thirds of global petroleum reserves, for more than six decades.

Control of world oil resources not only means unimaginable profits, it is also a key factor in the U.S. drive for unchallenged global domination.

An article in the Sept. 15 Washington Post, entitled, "In Iraqi War Scenario, Oil is Key Issue," points to what U.S. oil companies hope to gain.

"A U.S.-led ouster of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein could open a bonanza for American oil companies long banished from Iraq, scuttling oil deals between Baghdad and Russia,

France and other countries, and reshuffling world petroleum markets, according to

industry officials and leaders of the Iraqi opposition."

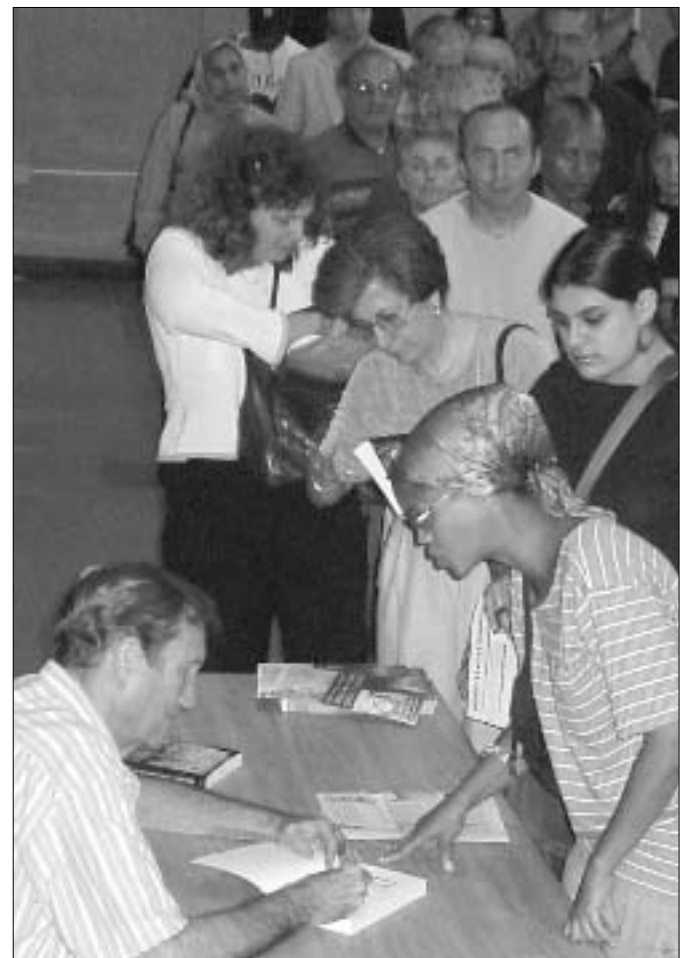
Iraq has more than 10 percent of the world's proven oil reserves—112 billion barrels, second only to Saudi Arabia.

The Post article makes it clear that the aim of a new war will be the recolonization of Iraq. A new puppet regime in Baghdad would be ordered to de-nationalize Iraq's oil and turn it over to U.S. capitalist oil companies.

Ahmed Chalabi, the notoriously corrupt exile leader of the CIA-funded "Iraqi National Congress" who is working to burnish his credentials in Washington as a possible future puppet ruler, told the Post that he "favored the creation of a U.S.-led consortium to develop Iraq's oil fields."

"American companies will have a big shot at Iraqi oil," said Chalabi.

No statement could better express the real reason the Bush administration is so anxious to get on with the invasion. □



WWW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

Ramsey Clark signs new edition of "The Fire This Time" Sept. 14. The book can be purchased at [leftbooks.com](http://leftbooks.com).

## Former ambassador:

# UN binds countries to U.S. interests

There are many myths about world politics. But few are as enduring as those about the United Nations and its role, even from the beginning when the U.S. government set it up at the start of the Cold War.

Few know the history and role of the UN more intimately than former U.S. Ambassador Richard Holbrooke. He has spent much of his career getting the UN Security Council to endorse Washington's wars, economic sanctions and "peacekeeping" operations.

Holbrooke recently decided to give George W. Bush a history lesson on launching imperialist wars. In the Sept. 9 New Yorker magazine, Holbrooke complained:

"[T]he hawks around Bush fundamentally misunderstand the role being played by the international organizations that the

United States helped create after the Second World War. 'The entire system was created by statesmen like Roosevelt, Truman, and Acheson to bind other countries to our interests—to prevent rogue states,' Holbrooke said. 'True, some international organizations got taken over, like UNESCO. But on the whole the international system was much more favorable to us than to others. Remember that Bush's father was Ambassador to the UN. He understands this.'

That bears repeating: "The entire system was created ... to bind other countries to our interests."

The UN, by design, cannot be a base for opposition to a war launched by the United States.

—Gary Wilson

**ENDORERS:** San Francisco Labor Council (AFL-CIO) • Howard Zinn, peoples' historian • Mumia Abu-Jamal • Student Liberation Action Movement (SLAM) • Kathy Kelly, Voices in the Wilderness • Black

Voices for Peace • Los Alamos Study Group, Santa Fe, NM • Center for Constitutional Rights • Ctte. in Support of the Iraqi People • International Concerned Family & Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal • Network in Solidarity with the People of the Philippines (NISPOP) • Sudanese American Society • Congress for Korean Reunification U.S.A • Campaign to End the Sanctions • The Network of Arab-American Alumni & Professionals, NY, FL • Chuck Turner, City Councilor, Boston, MA • Dr. Pol De Vos, Pres. of Anti-Imperialist League, Belgium • Jean McGuire, Exec. Dir., METCO\*, Boston, MA • College Voice, College of Staten Island, NY • Michigan State Univ. Students for Economic Justice • Exploris Middle School United for Peace, NC • Chico Peace & Justice Center/Chico Peace-workers • Beloit College Womyn's Center • Asian Americans for Justice in Palestine • Campaign to End the Sanctions • Gray Panthers Metro Washington •

Citizen Soldier • Quest for Peace/Quixote Center • Greens/Green Party USA • Michigan Emergency Ctte. Against War in Iraq • Ctte. to Protest War Against Iraq

• Mid-Hudson National People's Campaign • U.S. Greens Abroad • Gloria La Riva, Pres., Typographical Sector, Northern California Media Workers Union\* • Leslie Feinberg, activist & author, NWU/ UAW Local 1981\* • Harlem Tenants Council • National Organization for Women at Univ. of Houston • Muslim Student Assoc. at Syracuse Univ. • The Toronto Coalition Against War & Racism • ADC Fresno, CA • United Muslims of America • Students for Social Change, Silver Spring, MD • Bus Riders Union, Los Angeles, CA • San Francisco Bay Area Progressive Challenge • Pan-African News Wire, MI • Lawrence Coalition for Peace & Justice, KS • Conscience International, Atlanta, GA • Queers for Racial & Economic Justice • Indian Association of Lawyers, Bombay, India • Collectif YA BASTA, St Ouen, France • Labor Ctte. for Peace & Justice (Bay Area) • I.L.W.U. Loc. 400, Vancouver, B.C. • NJ Independent Alliance • Workers World Party • Coastal Convergence Society of Huntington Beach, CA • Colombia Solidarity Ctte, Chicago, IL • The United Peoples • Leftbooks.com • Turnwind, AZ .... and many more



## War and the class struggle

The U.S. capitalist government is planning an immense crime, in front of the whole world. It is assembling a huge force for mass destruction, armed with the most sophisticated weapons created by military science. It has openly announced that its goal is to destroy the government of a small but potentially prosperous oil-producing nation that has defied its dictates.

Bush labels the Iraqi leader "evil" and a "monster." His father stages a special interview to say he "hates" Saddam Hussein. Cynical and sophisticated liars repeat this personalized bashing as though it were the profoundest political assessment.

Since Iraq has done absolutely nothing, these epithets are supposedly reason enough to launch a war that will surely bring horrible consequences for the Iraqi people—and unknown risks to U.S. troops.

The financial pages of the capitalist newspapers are already leaking inside information on which oil companies from which countries will be cut in on the profits to be made from Iraqi oil, depending on how much support they give to the U.S. war. All this, of course, will automatically be ratified by the "free" regime Washington installs.

Not since the days of open imperialist domination, before the existence of a socialist bloc and the rise of liberation movements in the colonial world forced the lords of capitalist finance to conceal their objectives and prettify their methods, have the imperialist politicians been so crass and blatant about their aims.

On Oct. 26, national anti-war marches on both coasts will give voice to the growing movement to roll back the war machine. Workers World Party wholeheartedly supports this effort and urges the broadest participation of all who want to stop the war.

This period is reminiscent of when Mussolini attacked Ethiopia in 1935. Ethiopia had done nothing but resist becoming a colonial possession—at a time when all the rest of Africa had been carved up by the European imperialist powers. Hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians with little more than horses and light arms fought back against the fascist army, which bombed and strafed them with airplanes and machine guns.

The League of Nations, established by the victors after World War I supposedly to preserve world peace, did not really try to stop Italy's invasion. Much of its debate focused on how to get Ethiopia to make concessions to Rome. All this was a prelude to the inter-imperialist struggle that led to the mass murder of World War II.

The Bush administration, which owes its existence to a fixed election and the capitulation of the Democrats, has tried to significantly override, in the name of "homeland security," the bourgeois democratic political traditions until now tolerated in most developed capitalist countries. It gives the impression

that nothing can stop it—neither mass nor official resistance in the Third World, not the strains it has generated with its imperialist allies/rivals, not the anti-war sentiments of the masses at home.

But these arrogant servants of the capitalist oligarchy are short sighted. They are undermining the very basis of their power. All their vaunted technology is just a pile of junk once the fury of the masses is unleashed.

The potential strength of the working class to intervene and change history lies not just in its numerical strength—in the United States it is the vast majority of the population, separated by a growing gap from the tiny class of super-rich owners of capital. Even more important is its strategic role in production.

There can be no production without the workers—it's as simple as that. And a modern economy cannot be run by slave labor. It requires the participation of those enslaved not by law but by wages and the ideological hold of the ruling class.

The war drive of big capital—especially pushed by the oil gang so well represented by the Bush administration—shows no signs of alleviating the deepening economic hardships of the workers here. On the contrary. The offensive abroad is matched by an offensive against the workers and their organizations at home.

The capitalist economy is doing what capitalism does periodically: it is destroying some of its own structures—through bankruptcies and layoffs—because it cannot continue to expand profitably at the breakneck pace of the last decade. How deep this will go cannot be predicted, but the roster of huge corporations reporting trouble is still growing.

The immediate effect of this capitalist crunch on a working class far overextended with debt, far under-protected by any government safety net, and extremely dependent on working long hours and even extra jobs to pay the bills, is already drastic.

And now these workers are expected to pay for an endless war focused on the Middle East but extending all over the world? A war so clearly to defend the super-profits of the same corporations that have looted workers' pensions, thrown them in the streets, and spent billions putting corporate alumni into the highest political posts while cutting their own taxes?

Those already active in the struggle against imperialist war have every reason to feel confident that they can win the support of millions of workers in this country. Even more than during the Vietnam War period, it is becoming clearer every day that the interests of the workers and the oppressed peoples are diametrically opposed to those of the war profiteers, the oil barons, the bankers who oversee the entire system, and their criminal CEOs.

Neither frenzied war propaganda nor threats of repression can turn back this developing class struggle, which will be the key component in stopping imperialist war. □

## Diverse tactics used to oust Navy Vieques resists new U.S. military exercises

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

Even before the USS Harry S. Truman Battle Group began its military exercises in Vieques, Puerto Rico, Sept. 3, five members of the Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP) had entered the restricted bombing range, acting as human shields to stop the Navy.

They were soon arrested. But other activists replaced them and a group of youths from the Movement of Socialist Workers (MST) vowed to "entrar, detener y salir"—to enter, stop the bombing and get out without being arrested.

Some 170 Puerto Rican police were assigned to the sole purpose of "defending" the fence around the military area. Yet the activists managed to get in. These tactics interrupted the bombing and shooting exercises several times.

As of the Sept. 16, 28 people have been arrested. But one of the MST groups remains inside.

This is the third round of war exercises since the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

As if to send a message to the pro-independence forces, the Pentagon deliberately started the bombing last year on Sept. 23, the day Puerto Ricans commemorate El Grito de Lares, the anniversary of the uprising against Spanish colonialism. Since the U.S. colonized Puerto Rico, that day has become a rallying point against Washington's domination.

The second round was in April 2002—the month when civilian guard David Sanes was killed in 1999 by a Navy bomb. Sanes' death sparked a new wave of struggle to end the Navy occupation of Vieques. Decades of Navy domination brought economic and environmental catastrophe to the island.

For this September, the Navy announced 23 days of exercises, again during the month of El Grito de Lares.

### Pressing for Executive Order

The people of Vieques know that support for their struggle suffered a setback after the 9/11 events, as if a rug had been pulled from under their feet. No longer are famous names willing to risk arrest. Donations have dwindled, making it harder to keep the activists' office open.

Vieques has also been a casualty of the U.S. economic crisis. There is a saying in Puerto Rico that "When the U.S. gets a cold, P.R. gets pneumonia."

In Vieques' case, call it double pneumonia. Already more than 70 percent of the population lives below the poverty line and unemployment has stayed at 50 percent for several years.

But the people have not surrendered their desire to be free from the Pentagon's grip. They know it is difficult to organize against the military during a war frenzy. So they have varied their tactics.

One tactic is to get members of the U.S. Congress and international figures to press President George W. Bush for a written Executive Order requiring the Navy to leave Vieques in May 2003. They want Bush to put into writing what he promised in July 2001, after the majority of the island's residents voted to end the Navy presence.

More than a dozen Congresspeople have already sent letters to Bush on behalf of the people of Vieques. In August, during an International Peace Conference in Puerto Rico, several renowned activists added their voices, among them three Nobel Peace Prize winners: Rigoberta Menchu of Guatemala, Oscar Arias of Costa Rica and Betty Williams of Ireland.

There is a precedent for this. After mass protests, an Executive Order by President Gerald Ford ended military exercises on the island of Culebra, Puerto Rico, in 1975.

### 'I cannot believe in Bush'

Reflecting the feelings of many in Vieques, Ismael Guadalupe, leader of the Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques (CPRDV), stated: "I cannot believe in Bush. If I believed in his word, I would not be conducting civil disobedience, which is what ultimately will guarantee the ouster of the Navy from Vieques. Even if he signs, we will have to be on guard."

To this end, the organizing continues. On Sept. 15, in a show of what's to come if the Navy refuses to leave in May 2003, the mayor and other residents of Vieques ran a bulldozer over a makeshift fence in what they called "Simulacro: Entrando Todos a la vez"—Testing: everybody entering at once.

This is exactly what the people of Vieques plan to do if the Navy refuses to leave: go over, under and through the more than 3,000 feet of barbed and razor wire running north to south that separates the residents from Camp García, the U.S. military base where the bombing practices take place.

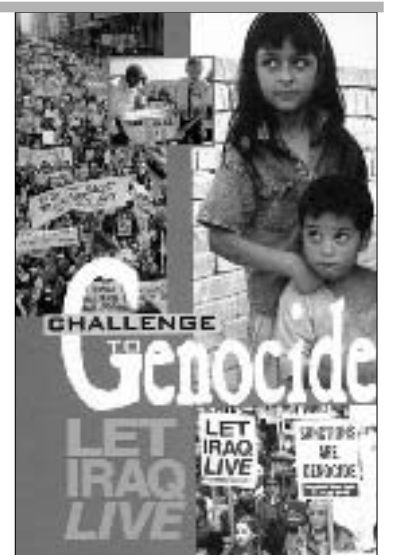
The CPRDV, other local organizations and individuals have been preparing for this action over the past few months, conducting workshops and consciousness-raising activities among the 9,400 residents of Vieques.

The people of Vieques, in their desire to be free, are once again organizing to get the Navy out forever. □

## Challenge to Genocide: Let Iraq Live

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## SOUTH KOREA

## Typhoon uncovers massacre site

By Sharon Black

In the early morning of Sept. 4, the owner of a small pepper farm on a mountain slope near the village of Yuhyang, south Korea, made an astonishing and gruesome discovery. The floods and rains from Typhoon Rusa had exposed the skeletal remains of men, women and children.

A tiny skull the size of a cigarette box was evidence that infants were among those who had been laid to rest in the mass grave. According to reporters from the online ohmynews.com service, the remains of over 200 victims were uncovered at this site.

This is just the tip of the iceberg. It is believed that 2,000 inmates from the Jinju and Masan prisons were brought to the village of Yuhyang and Yuhyang-san region and murdered by President Syngman Rhee's dreaded police soon after the Korean War began on June 25, 1950.

Syngman Rhee was educated and trained in the United States. During that period, U.S. General Douglas MacArthur had taken operational command of all military actions and was therefore responsible for the south Korean army. It is impossible for the Pentagon not to have known about the bloodbath that was taking place.

These skeletal remains and mass graves corroborate eyewitness accounts of the

events. Park Jin Gyu, an 80-year-old witness, recalls the massacre. He remembers the pouring rain, the terror that followed and what he was forced to do.

"The victims were brought here in four trucks. The victims were seated huddled in the middle of the trucks. Two armed police guarded the prisoners on each truck. After they arrived, the victims were ordered to stand up and get off the trucks. The police mercilessly beat those who were slow getting up with rifle butts.

"I was told that they came from Jinju and that there were about 200 prisoners in this group."

Park continued, "There were survivors that escaped and I knew one of them.

"I believe it was in the evening of the massacre. One survivor hid in a house by the elementary school. The police caught him the next day and shot him. I was there to bury him.

"I was ordered by a policeman to prepare and bring a lunch to this man. I knew him. Yu was a tall man in his 20s.

"Yu gulped the food down with no problem. Before he died he shouted 'Long live the Korean People's Democratic Republic' three times and jumped into the hole he dug for himself. The police shot him and Yu died after a few convulsions."

This is just one account; there are many more that are emerging. On Sept. 11, some 20 members of the Pusan Area Associa-

Korea Truth Commission unearthed another mass grave on Bulgap Mountain in May 2002.

PHOTO: KIM HAESOOK



tion of Massacre Victims' Families held a mass burial ceremony at the site where seven sets of remains were reburied.

The veil of Western racism and anti-communism has hidden the truth about the horrendous massacres that took place under U.S. direction before, during and after the Korean War. But the courage of

countless everyday people in Korea and the work of the Korea Truth Commission and many others is exposing the long-hidden truth.

For more information in English, visit the Web site [www.iacenter.org](http://www.iacenter.org). For information in Korean, visit [www.koreatruth-commission.org](http://www.koreatruth-commission.org). □

## Serb parties condemn NATO justice

## Kosovo phase of Milosevic 'trial' ends

By John Catalinotto

Organizations and parties inside Serbia reacted to the Sept. 12 end of the "Kosovo phase" of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia's case against Slobodan Milosevic with statements denouncing the ICTY's conduct of the "trial."

Speaking from Belgrade Sept. 14, members of four leading Serbian political parties called the results of the hearings "a collapse of the Kosovo indictment."

Those taking part in the conference of the Yugoslav National Committee to Defend Slobodan Milosevic—Freedom included Doguljub Bjelica, deputy president of the Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS), Dr. Vojislav Seselj, president of the Serbian Radical Party (SRS), Goran Matic, vice-president of the Yugoslav Left (JUL), and Radisa Z. Kovacevic, member of the Presidency of the Patriotic Alliance of Yugoslavia.

Bjelica said, "These days we are witnessing the collapse of the Kosovo indictment against our people and peace in the Balkans. In the name of our national existence, we demand Slobodan Milosevic's immediate release."

Seselj added, "Since Serbia and the Serbs are in the dock in The Hague [Netherlands], it is Slobodan Milosevic who defends both Serbia and the Serbs."

Matic brought up the role of the ICTY, which was created and funded by the same NATO forces that waged war on Yugoslavia. "Slobodan Milosevic has faced the court and managed to smash the indictment. The court will meet with an even bigger fiasco when it comes to indictments issued by Bosnia and Croatia." That phase is due to start sometime late in September.

Another statement by the Belgrade Forum analyzed the results of the first phase of the trial. The Forum outlined some of the more blatant irregularities of the trial process.

On June 14 the presiding judge allowed retired NATO Gen. Klaus Naumann, a witness against Milosevic, to cut short his cross-examination. The excuse was "the witness had a plane to catch."

Gen. Naumann had authorized the bombardment of targets in downtown Belgrade during the 1999 war, including Milosevic's residence. Nevertheless the ICTY considered him "impartial."

Witness K12—who had refused to testify, claiming he was exposed to psychological pressure by the prosecution—was held in contempt of court. He was the only witness so punished, although many witnesses gave hardly credible testimony.

These were just two of many outrages.

In its Sept. 12 release the Belgrade emphasized that the ICTY was so desperate to make its case that it attempted to blame Yugoslav security forces for crimes committed by NATO. For example, it tried to show that Yugoslav forces killed prisoners held in the "Dubrava" prison in Kosovo. In fact, NATO planes had bombed the prison.

The ICTY's witnesses in these parts of the trial were all linked to the KLA terrorists who were trying to overthrow Yugoslav federal rule in Kosovo and were fighting as allies of NATO. Thus none of these witnesses were "impartial."

The Belgrade Forum brought up the additional point that President Milosevic's health is precarious, with his blood pressure reaching the level of 200/120 from his efforts to represent himself during the trial. □

## Statement on DPRK-Japan talks

## Korean leader calls for normal relations

*From 1910 to 1945, all of Korea was under Japanese colonial domination. During World War II, many Koreans were forcibly taken to Japan as forced laborers and as sex slaves for the Japanese army.*

*Now, for the first time since the colonial period ended, the governments of Japan and of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the north have held a meeting to normalize relations. Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi visited the DPRK on Sept. 17 and met with General Secretary Kim Jong Il. During the visit, Koizumi apologized for the colonial period—another first for a Japanese leader.*

*Three days earlier, Kim Jong Il had given the following response to written questions from Japan's Kyodo News Service about the purpose of the forthcoming visit:*

"Korea and Japan are geographically close countries, and they had maintained relations from olden times exchanging visits with each other. But in the past century discord and confrontation have brought the relations between the two countries to an extremely abnormal state. The abnormal relations between them that have lasted for over half a century since the end of the Second World War are, in every respect, harmful to either of them. Normalizing relations between the two countries and developing good-neighborly relations accords with the aspirations and interests of the peoples of the two countries, and it is an urgent demand of the times.

"Korea and Japan are Asian nations. They should live in friendship as nearest neighbors, not as near yet distant neighbors, and promote coexistence and prosperity. This is our will and consistent standpoint.

"The politicians of Korea and Japan are now entrusted with the historic mission to normalize the abnormal relations between the two countries. If responsible statesmen make decisions from a large point of view and get down to the task in order to realize the people's desires and interests and fulfill their noble historic mission, they will be

able to find solutions to any problems existing between the two countries.

"Prime Minister Koizumi will soon visit Pyongyang, and this will be a turning point in normalizing Korea-Japan relations. I welcome his visit to my country and believe that our meeting and talks will bring forth good fruits. We must open up a new chapter in the historical relationship between Korea and Japan by our common will and joint effort to improve their relations in every possible way.

"The basic problem that must be solved to normalize Korea-Japan relations is to clean up the past unpleasant events that have taken place between the two countries.

"If nothing is done to the history of rancor that has accumulated for a whole century, neither the normalization of state relations nor good-neighborly, friendly relations can be realized.

"Japan's settlement of past necessitates a sincere apology and due compensation that takes into full consideration the whole range of damage and sufferings it inflicted upon the Korean people. The lack of solution to these core issues has so far curbed the improvement of the bilateral relations and presented a variety of complicated problems.

"The two countries are now tied up hand and foot, trapped as they are in mud-slinging over minor issues, but these will be settled smoothly when bilateral relations improve and mutual confidence is built.

"An end to abnormal relations will also dissipate the security concerns of the Japanese people. Apparently the Japanese people are highly nervous about our defense build-up, but our defense policy is, to all intents and purposes, geared to self-defense. Our armed forces will mercilessly deal with those who provoke us, but we will never resort to force of arms against those who do not. If Japan gives up hostility for friendship towards us, it has nothing to fear about our defense upbuilding.

"Finally, as for your question about my intention to visit Japan, I think there would be no reason why I should not visit Japan so long as bilateral relations develop favorably on a normal track." □

# La pandilla de Bush busca pretexto para lanzar otra guerra

Por Brian Becker

La Administración de Bush enfrenta ahora un problema a la vez que se prepara para atacar a Irak. Por el momento el gobierno de los Estados Unidos es visto por el mundo bajo una imagen distintivamente “Americana” al estilo de Hollywood: las escenas espantosas de parranderos pistoleros que rocían al pueblo de balas en una noche historia—solo porque lo pueden hacer.

Que sus cinismo y amenazante política extranjera actualmente refleja la pose física de Bush, Cheney y Rumsfeld cuando aparecen en la televisión o frente a una congregación solo refuerza la conclusión del resto del mundo—que este es afirmativamente un régimen muy peligroso. Un estado truhán.

Ahora mientras que presentan su caso diciendo que la guerra de los Estados Unidos contra Irak es solo un ataque “de defensa preventivo” en vez de una agresión sin provocación y por eso ilegal, nadie en el mundo les cree.

Muy serios le dicen al mundo que Irak es una gran amenaza para la paz mundial y que su gobierno debe ser destruido por acciones militares. Por su falta de un pretexto siquiera un poco creíble para atacar a Irak, la administración ha lanzado una campaña de distorsión diciendo que Saddam Hussein ha acelerado sus pasos para obtener armas nucleares.

Los gobernantes de la potencia nuclear más grande en el mundo, junto con su compañero británico, aparecen todos los días ante el mundo para dar gritos sobre la amenaza nuclear de Irak. Todo es mentira—mentiras increíbles. La verdad es una víctima en la guerra publicitaria que precede a la guerra actual.

El 6 y 7 de septiembre los principales periódicos de los Estados Unidos pusieron en sus páginas frontales “nuevas evidencias de las amenazas nucleares de Irak”. Todo comenzó con un artículo que apareció en el New York Times diciendo que la Agencia Internacional de Energía Atómica (AIEA) había publicado fotografías tomadas por satélites mostrando nueva y de muy importante actividad en los “sitios nucleares” en Irak. El titular decía “Fotografías Espías de la ONU Muestran Nuevos Edificios en los Sitios Nucleares Iraquí”.

Los auto proclamados expertos salen en las cadenas televisivas de la CNN y la Fox y hablan por 48 horas sobre esta nueva y “clara prueba” de que el equipo de Bush han estado diciendo la verdad sobre las intenciones nucleares de Irak. “No podemos esperar que la ‘pistola humeante’ sea una

nube nuclear,” afirmó Condoleezza Rice, la consejera nacional de Bush, en una entrevista dramática en la CNN el 8 de septiembre.

El Vice Presidente Cheney y el Secretario de la Defensa Donald Rumsfeld dijeron casi las mismas palabras en esta calculada ofensiva de la prensa. “Esperar para [atacar a Irak] no es una opción, concluyó Cheney y pidió a los oyentes que se imaginaran si “ellos” hubieran usado armas nucleares el 11 de septiembre: “No hubieran sido 3.000 muertos sino decenas de miles”.

El Primer Ministro Británico, Tony Blair usó el reporte para justificar su posición pro Bush ante un público inseguro. El dijo a la prensa británica el 7 de septiembre, “Solo tenemos que ver al reporte de la Agencia Internacional de Energía Atómica esta mañana, mostrando lo que había estado pasando en un lugar anteriormente nuclear,” para justificar el apoyo británico para la guerra de Bush. El advirtió de que “una política de inacción no es algo a lo que podemos rubricar.”

## La AIEA dice que ‘no hay tal reporte’

Pero todo esto—como muchos otros de su tipo—era falso. Este proveyó tres días consecutivos de propaganda contra Irak para preparar a la población para la guerra, pero todo se basó en la distorsión de la verdad.

La AIEA declaró el 8 de septiembre de que la imagen proveída por el satélite no comprobaba nada. No hubo ningún reporte ni tampoco “nueva información sobre la actividad nuclear iraquí”, según a Mark Gwozdecky, un vocero para la agencia. Gwozdecky dijo al periódico Washington Post que la “confusión” fue causada por una cita dicha por un inspector nuclear, la cual había sido usada como base para el artículo del New York Times dos días antes.

Y mientras que Irak nunca ha poseído armas nucleares, el Pentágono actualmente tiene cerca de 6.000 cabezas nucleares. Este ha gastado más de \$6 trillones de dólares en armas nucleares desde 1942 y es el único país que ha usado bombas atómicas, el cual lo hizo contra las ciudades civiles de Hiroshima y Nagasaki el 6 y 9 de agosto del 1945.

Mientras que otras ciudades del Japón habían sido bombardeadas fuertemente con armas convenciones días antes, Hiroshima y Nagasaki habían sido reservadas por la fuerza aérea de Estados Unidos para luego poder evaluar el impacto de las armas nucleares. Más de 200.000 civiles fueron incinerados o murieron por la radiación.

El Pentágono, bajo la Administración de Bush, ha desarrollado una nueva doctrina

militar bajo el título Revisión de la Política Nuclear. Publicada a comienzos del 2000, esta permite el primer uso de armas nucleares contra varios países incluyendo a Irak, Irán, Siria, China, Rusia y otros. (Los Angeles Times, 10 de marzo del 2002).

## Inspectores de armas: el pretexto de Guerra se forma

La estrategia de Bush para ganar apoyo, o más probablemente la conformidad de otros gobiernos por la agresión planificado de los EE.UU. a lo mejor va a rodear la cuestión de la voluntad de permitir inspectores de armas de la ONU en búsqueda de “armas de destrucción masiva”.

En realidad, a Bush no le interesa en nada los inspectores de armas, porque ni él ni ningún otro oficial está preocupado por la capacidad militar en Irak.

El equipo de Bush va a confeccionar una nueva propuesta que será una violación tan grave de la soberanía de Irak y tan peligroso militarmente que Irak se ve forzado rechazarlo. Entonces a Irak le van a dar la etiqueta intransigente, obstruccionista y sin la voluntad de “cooperar con la ONU” para que entonces el Pentágono pueda comenzar la guerra de bombardeos e invasión.

Bush y los medios de comunicación van a declarar que los EE.UU. hizo todo posible para evitar la guerra. Antes fue a la ONU una vez más en búsqueda de una solución política. Cuando viene la guerra, se va a presentar la situación como la incapacidad de Irak de cumplir con los mandatos de la ONU, en vez de una agresión unilateral por el imperialismo contra un país pequeño del Tercer Mundo con riquezas grandes de petróleo.

La guerra será para “proteger el pueblo americano de terror nuclear” en vez de una reconquista de un país que anteriormente tuvo la audacia de nacionalizar instalaciones petroleras de empresas monopólicas de EE.UU. y Europa. Irak tiene un 10 por ciento de las provisiones del petróleo del mundo y se encontró en la lista de “naciones terroristas” en 1972 cuando se apoderó de las empresas petroleras monopólicas de Europa y los EE.UU. que habían enriquecidas del botín de sus recursos naturales.

## Inspecciones coactivas: Lobo disfrazado de oveja

La táctica de ofrecer a Irak una solución que tendría que rehusar fue analizada en un documento circulado recientemente por el llamado Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Es una receta más bien por la guerra que por la paz.

El plan, mencionado en los medios de comunicación como “inspecciones musculares” es equivalente a demandar que Irak permita la fuerza militar invasora a entrar en el país bajo el nombre de Fuerza de Implementación de Inspecciones (FII), o un nombre semejante.

“La FII tiene que ser altamente móvil, compuesto principalmente de unidades aéreas y blindadas. Pueda incluir a un regimiento de caballería blindada o el equivalente en la frontera entre Jordania e

Irak, una brigada móvil aérea en el este de Turquía, y dos o más brigadas con infraestructura del tamaño de cuerpo militar basada en Arabia Saudita y Kuwait. Se va a necesitar apoyo aéreo incluyendo a cazadores y cazadores-bombarderos con vigilancia permanente desde el aire y la tierra proporcionado por aeronaves de vigilancia y control AWACS y JSTARS,” escribe Jessica Matthews, presidenta del Carnegie Endowment.

Que esta es una receta por la guerra y no para facilitar negociaciones es evidente. Tiene la ventaja, mientras tanto, de dar la impresión de que es Irak que no está cumpliendo y por eso, blanco de una guerra total en cualquier momento.

“Los equipos de inspecciones volverían a Irak acompañado por fuerza militar suficiente para poder forzar la entrada de inmediato en cualquier lugar en cualquier momento con garantías absolutas de la seguridad del equipo de inspección. No aceptarían negociar en relación a las fechas, la duración o los métodos de las inspecciones. Si Irak escoja no aceptar, o establezca una historia de no cumplir, la opción de los EE.UU. de un cambio de régimen, o mejor, la autorización de parte de la ONU del ‘uso de cualquier método que sea necesario’ entraría en vigor.”

Bush sabe que aceptar este modelo de inspecciones o un variante es poco probable, sino imposible. Si Irak permite inspecciones de tal estampa, significaría que el país desde entonces estaría bajo el control de las fuerzas militares de un poder extranjero que busca su destrucción.

Entre 1991 y 1998, Irak fue sujeto a más de 9,000 inspecciones de armas. Según Scott Ritter, el ex jefe de inspecciones de armas de los EE.UU. en Irak, el país fue mayormente desarmado por muchos años.

Irak se encuentra en una condición parálitica como resultado de las sanciones económicas que han sido impuestos desde hace más de una década. Su economía fue destruida, su infraestructura industrial rebajada. Donde agua potable fue garantizada antes de 1991, hoy gente vuelve mal y muere de tomar agua contaminado. La destrucción de plantas de limpieza de agua y acueductos por bombardeos aéreos y el rehusó de permitir que Irak importe repuestos y decontaminantes fue parte de una estrategia deliberada e integral para destruir el sistema de agua potable. (Thomas Nagy, The Progressive, septiembre 2001)

El pueblo de los EE.UU. tiene que hacer algo ahora para prevenir la próxima guerra contra Irak. Es parte inseparable de la lucha de larga duración entre la dominación imperialista y todos ellos—la mayoría de los pueblos del mundo—que quieren ser libres del colonialismo y neocolonialismo para que pueden determinar su propio destino.

El escritor es codirector del Centro de Acción Internacional y un vocero de la coalición ANSWER. El fue un miembro de una delegación de cinco personas, incluso el ex procurador nacional de los EE.UU., Ramsey Clark, que acaba de visitar a Irak. □

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