



## U.S. REJECTS IRAQ OFFER ON INSPECTIONS

Washington wants to make war no matter what Iraq's response. Gore and Kennedy raise doubts, then step aside. Only a mass movement can stop the war. **6**

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## BUFFALO, N.Y.

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## PALESTINE FREEDOM

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# EARTH TO BUSH —

# Read our lips: No war on Iraq

By Deirdre Griswold

How relieved the war gang in Washington would be if ordinary people were to go back to discussing nothing more dangerous than "Have a nice day" and "Kind of warm, isn't it?" in their daily encounters.

Instead, a different kind of discussion, one long delayed but thus all the more necessary, is bubbling to the surface. Tentatively at first, people are asking each other, "What do you think of this war Bush is talking about?" And, perhaps to their surprise, they are finding that their friends, neighbors and co-workers harbor the same doubts they do.

They haven't heard this on television or read about it in the newspapers. As far as the corporate media are concerned, there's only one viewpoint out there among the people: unswerving loyalty to President George W. Bush. But more and more there is concrete evidence that people are thinking for themselves.

Major demonstrations planned for Oct. 6 and Oct. 26 will be one gauge of popular sentiment. But there are also the millions of people who, for all kinds of reasons, will not be attending demonstrations but are starting to weigh in with an opinion against the war.

It is starting to come out that the offices of congressional representatives and senators are being bombarded with letters, faxes, e-mails and phone calls running overwhelmingly against a war.

The title of a story filed Oct. 1 by the British news service Reuters—"Opposition to Iraq War Fragmented, United"—seemed deliberately worded to obscure this point.

The dispatch revealed that, of 5,000 letters and telephone calls about Iraq to the office of Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) in the last

- ▶ **OCT. 6, REGIONAL ACTIONS**
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in ▶ London ▶ Rome ▶ Madrid **6**

week of September, only about 100 supported an attack.

The office of Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) received almost 35,000 letters, e-mails and telephone calls in the last two weeks of September. It reported about 99 percent were against the war.

And it's not just liberal Democrats who are reporting this new grassroots opposition to a war. Even Republican senators Jesse Helms of North Carolina, John Warner of Virginia and Charles Hagel of Nebraska say their mailbags are "running substantially against military action," reports Reuters.

The Bush hawks are trying feverishly to launch their war before this mass sentiment can gel into a formidable movement of opposition. They have little to fear from the Democratic Party, which has shown plenty of energy when it comes to seeking out rich campaign donors but appears frozen in Bush's headlights.

Meanwhile, the real opposition is gathering in the streets, at union halls, on campuses, in churches, mosques and synagogues, and in meetings and protests across the country, looking for ways to unite and maximize its effectiveness so that this war really can be stopped. □



## West Coast dockworkers fight lockout

See page 5

ILWU members at informational picket on Oakland, Calif., docks; then workers prevent truck from crossing their line.

WW PHOTOS: BILL HACKWELL

# Workers World reaches international audience

By John Catalinotto

From a talk at the Sept. 21-22 Workers World Party conference.

As war threatened in South Asia last spring, Workers World newspaper editors received the following email from a young Pakistani communist:

"I have already read your editorial as well as the article by Fred Goldstein. We also passed these on to our youth study circle. Both your articles were absolutely spot-on. They really hit the mark.

"Hope to read many more articles by you and the Workers World on India-Pakistan and other issues.

"Taimur, Communist Workers and Peasants Party of Pakistan."

To generate the contents of Workers World newspaper each week takes dozens of organizer-writers plus photographers, editors and proofreaders. Then Lal Rookh and the rest of the tech staff use their art and political know-how to lay it out in attractive, readable form.

Printed, it becomes a tool to collectively educate, agitate and organize Workers World Party members, the progressive movement in this country and the working class.

Now, in the 21st century, new technological developments make a different form for this same content possible.

Most readers of WW probably don't know that:

A south Korean radical group—Base 21—posts Workers World articles on its Web site.

A South African study group downloads and prints articles from Workers World, then reads and discusses

them. These can include Monica Moorehead's analysis of the struggle to win reparations for Africans and African Americans, or the question of land takeovers in Zimbabwe, or anything else in the paper.

An Arab leftist in Damascus frequently translates Workers World articles, which then appear in daily newspapers in Syria.

Cuban sites also post some of the WW articles, where people can then read of developments in the U.S. independent of CNN.

Portuguese Communist Party members, who maintain an unofficial Web site in the Portuguese language at resistir.info, recently translated and posted two of Deirdre Griswold's articles. Activists with Internet access in Portugal, Brazil and parts of Africa can read them.

The Workers Party of Belgium (PTB) recently translated into French and Dutch and posted by Thursday afternoon Brian Becker's report from Iraq—which Janet Mayes sent out to WW's email subscribers the night before.

Spanish communists last year passed around an article Teresa Gutierrez wrote on why the U.S. progressive movement should support the FARC-EP in Colombia.

A British communist newspaper, The New Worker, often publishes WW articles for its U.S. news.

This sample demonstrates a growing international interest in WW and in Workers World Party, much of it possible because the articles are quickly available by email or at the www.workers.org Web site. It's also because WW editor Gary Wilson spends many hours each week main-



John Catalinotto WW PHOTO

taining an attractive, useful and accessible site.

But behind the growing interest is also the decisive role Workers World Party has played in the anti-war movement in the U.S.

Because the U.S. is the home office of war, whatever the movement here is able to do has worldwide impact. That an organization with revolutionary socialist goals plays a leading role in the anti-war movement in the center of imperialism encourages and inspires communist revolutionaries worldwide.

No single act was more important in building Workers World Party's reputation than its firmness after Sept. 11, 2001. Then WWP supplied the core of the movement that immediately protested Bush's exploitation of the World Trade Center deaths to open an endless war. This firmness provided all the many other courageous groups and individuals in the U.S. with a center to rally around.

This helped anti-imperialists around the world as they could point to the clear resistance in the center of the Empire. It also aroused growing interest worldwide in WWP's analysis of U.S. and world events. □

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**WW CALENDAR**

**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).

**NATIONWIDE**

**Sun., Oct. 6**  
 Protests against the U.S. government's war on the world, detentions and roundups of immigrants, and attacks on civil liberties, in Central Park, NYC; San Francisco; Los Angeles and other cities. For info [www.notinourname.net](http://www.notinourname.net)

**RED BANK, N.J.**

**Every Saturday**  
 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.

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**Sat., Oct. 26**  
 Stop the war against Iraq before it starts. National march with joint action in San Francisco. For info [www.internationalanswer.org](http://www.internationalanswer.org).

**Workers World**

55 West 17 Street  
 New York, N.Y. 10011  
 Phone: (212) 627-2994 • Fax: (212) 675-7869  
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 Technical Editor: Lal Rookh; Managing Editors: Greg Butterfield, John Catalinotto, Leslie Feinberg, Monica Moorehead, Gary Wilson; West Coast Editors: Richard Becker, Gloria La Riva; Contributing Editors: Joyce Chediak, Pat Chin, Naomi Cohen, Shelley Ettinger, Teresa Gutierrez; Technical Staff: Gery Armsby, Elena J. Peckham, Hank Sambach, Leslie Senior; Mundo Obrero: Carl Glenn, Carlos Vargas; Internet: Janet Mayes

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**National Office**  
 55 W. 17 St.,  
 New York, N.Y. 10011  
 (212) 627-2994;  
 Fax (212) 675-7869  
[wwp@workers.org](mailto:wwp@workers.org)

**Atlanta** P.O. Box 424,  
 Atlanta, Ga. 30301  
 (404) 235-5704  
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 Boston, Mass. 02130  
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 (617) 983-3835;  
 Fax (617) 983-3836  
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**Buffalo, N.Y.**  
 P.O. Box 1204  
 Buffalo NY 14213  
 (716) 857-2112  
[buffalo@workers.org](mailto:buffalo@workers.org)

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

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

**Detroit**  
 5920 Second Ave.,  
 Detroit, Mich. 48202  
 (313) 831-0750;  
[detroit@workers.org](mailto:detroit@workers.org)

**Houston**  
 P.O. Box 130322,  
 Houston, Texas  
 77219 (713) 861-5965  
[houston@workers.org](mailto:houston@workers.org)

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

**Milwaukee**  
 P.O. Box 12839,  
 Milwaukee, Wis. 53212  
[milw@workers.org](mailto:milw@workers.org)

**Philadelphia**  
 P.O. Box 9202,  
 Philadelphia, Pa. 19139  
 (610) 352-3625;  
[phila@workers.org](mailto:phila@workers.org)

**Richmond, Va.**  
 P.O. Box 14602,  
 Richmond, Va. 23221  
[richmond@workers.org](mailto:richmond@workers.org)

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Father in MOVE custody case found dead

# Danger of police attack mounts

By **Betsey Piette**  
Philadelphia

Concern that police would use a child custody case involving a member of MOVE to attack the organization's West Philadelphia home intensified after Sept. 26. Late that night John Gilbride, the father suing for custody, was found shot to death execution-style.

The next morning, police reported that Gilbride's bullet-ridden body was found outside his apartment in Maple Shade, N.J.

Gilbride, the ex-husband of MOVE member Alberta Africa, had bid for custody of the couple's 6-year-old son. Family Court Judge Howard Rosenberg denied Gilbride's bid last May after a three-year investigation.

Rosenberg retired before his ruling could be implemented. His decision to

allow Gilbride only supervised visits with his son was overturned by Judge Shelley Robbins New in a hearing lasting less than one day last July.

Robbins New had served over 25 years as a Philadelphia prosecutor. Many people questioned her ability to be impartial in any case where MOVE was involved.

MOVE and its supporters have repeatedly suggested that the state was pushing Gilbride to pursue the custody case and using it in yet another attempt to destroy their organization.

In 1978 Philadelphia police used the excuse of housing code violations to wage war with MOVE. In 1985, the police claimed MOVE threatened city officials and unleashed an assault on their home. Police dropped a bomb on the MOVE house, killing 11 people. The subsequent fire destroyed 63 houses in the African Ameri-

can neighborhood.

This time the police had no justification to attack the organization. Gilbride had a documented history as an abusive father and husband. MOVE's struggle to prevent him from taking custody of his son had the support of child and women's advocacy groups. It also had the support of neighbors in both Philadelphia and Cherry Hill, N.J., where Alberta Africa lived.

MOVE had taken the offensive to expose the state's plans. The organization held several press conferences and a motorcade to Cherry Hill on Sept. 20. Shelley Robbins New had ruled that Gilbride could take custody of his son that day, but instead he flew to Las Vegas.

According to police accounts, an automatic weapon was used to kill Gilbride. No witnesses saw or heard anything in his residential neighborhood, indicating that the

killer used a silencer.

Pointing to the apparent professional nature of the hit, MOVE spokesperson Ramona Africa said, "The group believes Gilbride was killed by the government in a bid to flush out Alberta Africa." MOVE members expressed sorrow over Gilbride's murder, stating, "Another MOVE child is left fatherless."

Reports have circulated that Philadelphia District Attorney Lynn Abraham would use Gilbride's murder to seek warrants to search the MOVE home. Philadelphia Police Captain William Fisher, head of the Civil Affairs Unit, said, however, he "would be shocked" if the slaying investigation led to MOVE. "I'm going to be honest: I'd say there has been no violence or vandalism or show of weapons," Fisher said. □



Gloria Verdieu

WW PHOTO

## U.S. tops world in prisoners

# Why Mumia symbolizes struggle vs. jails

By **Gloria Verdieu**

From a talk at the Sept. 21-22 Workers World Party conference.

Workers World Party and others have made Mumia Abu-Jamal's case a top priority for many years. The international movements to Free Mumia have been working hard to make his name a household word.

Why is Mumia's case so important to us? Because of who he is. Mumia is a true revolutionary who since joining the Black Panthers at age 15 has continued to speak out against war, racism and imperialism.

His case has become synonymous with the struggle against police brutality, racist terror and state oppression—all of which have become more profound in our communities. People of color, and poor and working class people generally, are getting a deeper understanding of the reality that Mumia could be any one of us.

We believe that if the power of the peo-

ple is victorious in freeing Mumia, this will open many doors to freeing all of our political prisoners, including Leonard Peltier, Sundiata Acoli, Dr. Mutulu Shakur, Sekou Cinque, Jamil Al-Amin, Herman Wallace, Albert Woodfox, Sara Olson, the MOVE 9 and hundreds more. We haven't forgotten the five Cuban prisoners and all the thousands who are being illegally detained because of this so-called war on terrorism.

Mumia has been on death row for over 20 years. He is certainly not alone. The total number of death row inmates in the U.S. is 3,718, the overwhelming majority poor and people and color. California is the leader with over 600, followed by Texas with 457, Florida with 388, and Pennsylvania, where Mumia is being held, has 247. Since the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated executions in 1976, Texas has executed 281, Virginia 86 and California 10.

In a report by Victor L. Streib, professor of law at Ohio Northern University, there are hundreds of juveniles on U.S. death row—that is, youths who were arrested

when under the age of 18 and sentenced to death.

Over 200 youths have been sentenced to death since 1973 with Texas, Florida, and Alabama accounting for half of them. Of the 219 death sentences, 81 remain in litigation. One hundred eighteen have been reversed or commuted.

Gary Graham, also known as Shaka Sankofa, was one of 21 people executed who were convicted as juveniles. The others included 11 Black males and one Latino male.

The majority of countries have signed international agreements prohibiting the execution of juvenile offenders. The U.S. is the only industrialized country that has refused to adhere to these agreements.

The U.S. has five percent of the world's population and 25 percent of the world's prison population. Some 80 percent of the inmates are people of color.

As of 2002, the U.S. has a prison population rate of 690 per 100,000 people. China's rate is less than one-sixth that of

the U.S.

In the U.S., there are over 6.6 million adults on probation, in jail or prison, and on parole within the criminal justice system. One in eight black males between the ages of 21 and 34 are in prison in the U.S. on any given day.

We will become even more aggressive in our efforts to dismantle the prison-industrial complex. We will fight police brutality along with illuminating why the police exist in a society divided by class. We will abolish the racist, unjust, brutal death penalty.

We will work towards these immediate actions, but most importantly, we can link the worldwide struggles together and begin the business of breaking down and tearing apart this whole capitalist system of injustice that is destroying our world. □

## VIRGINIA

# Community fight-back defeats racist goons

By **Phil Wilayto**  
Chesterfield County, Va.

When elected officials in this rural, predominantly white county just outside Richmond, Va., claimed they couldn't block a national white supremacist group from holding a recruiting meeting in a public library, they provoked a reaction that challenged not only the fascists, but the county's all-white Board of Supervisors as well.

The Illinois-based World Church of the Creator is a neo-Nazi cult that worships the "white race," praises Adolph Hitler as "the great racist leader" and urges its followers to prepare for "Rahowa," or Racial Holy War. The largely Internet-based group has been linked to a series of violent crimes, including a 1999 shooting rampage by one of its Midwest members that left two people dead and nine others wounded. All the victims were African Americans, Asian Americans or Jewish people.

When John King, the group's Virginia leader, received a permit to hold an "educational" meeting Sept. 21 at the Chester

Public Library, African American leaders in the county demanded the permit be revoked. The Board of Supervisors refused, claiming fears of a possible lawsuit.

This is the same board that just this spring declared that Chesterfield would now celebrate every April as "Confederate History and Heritage Month." That decision provoked three prominent Black leaders to angrily quit a 10-member county-sponsored "racial dialogue" group.

The same leaders—Bishop Gerald Glenn, pastor of the 2,500-member New Deliverance Evangelistic Church, and Paige Johnson and Marlene Goodwyn, presidents of the county's NAACP and Southern Christian Leadership Conference chapters—took the lead in opposing the racist meeting.

Defying pleas by county officials to stay away from the library in favor of a "unity" rally in a high school a half-mile away, Glenn announced he would attend the racist meeting himself. He also urged his congregation to support an NAACP-sponsored mass prayer vigil scheduled to take place on the library grounds during the meeting.

County officials whipped up a tense atmosphere, warning of violence and urging merchants in the area to close their stores early. Hours before the scheduled meeting and protest, the area around the library was locked down by more than 100 state and county police, including about two dozen in riot gear. A police helicopter circled overhead while cops stationed on the library's roof scanned the gathering crowd of protesters.

But by the time the meeting started, more than 800 people had gathered, singing songs and holding signs condemning racism. Half were African Americans, joined by local whites disgusted by the racists' assumption that they would receive a positive welcome in their neighborhood. Also supporting the Black-led protest were about 50 young, mainly white activists from Richmond groups like Food Not Bombs.

Meanwhile, inside the library, Glenn was joined by dozens of other anti-racists, who had begun lining up hours before in order to deny a sympathetic audience to the racists. Of the 60 seats in the library con-

ference room, African Americans occupied at least 35. Except for about a half-dozen white-supremacist supporters, the rest of the audience was made up of local anti-racist whites.

Protected by a contingent of police and an entourage of three nervous looking skinheads, King delivered a subdued version of his white supremacist message, interrupted repeatedly by heckling and ridicule.

"Can we get to some of the more serious things," asked a middle-aged Black man in a baseball cap, "like sending people back to Africa? I've always wanted to go to Africa. Are you giving away trips?"

As King was finally escorted out a side door and into a waiting car by police, Glenn and the other anti-racists left the library to join the protest outside.

"It's a new day in Chesterfield County," the bishop declared to the cheering crowd. "After listening to Mr. King, I am convinced that the philosophy of the World Church of the Creator will not take root here in Chesterfield County!" □

## Students of color join the fight

# Workers unite to win contract at U. Mass

By Bryan G. Pfeifer  
Amherst, Mass.

In a historic show of unity and solidarity, a first-ever all-union membership meeting at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst Sept. 18 sent a clear message to the state and administration.

Responding to Acting Gov. Jane Swift's veto of pay raises for thousands of union members at all 28 state colleges and universities in July, the over 800 union members in the Student Union Ballroom demanded: "A deal's a deal: fund the contracts!"

Over 250 dining commons workers were barred from attending the noontime rally because supervisors said they were needed to serve students lunch.

The five unions at Amherst and others at statewide campuses have organized under the coalition "Higher Ed Unions United."

"Solidarity is necessary across the state," said Donna Johnson, president of the University Staff Associates, a union of clerical and technical workers. "Unions are only as strong as you are, because you are the union," she declared.

Those in attendance unanimously agreed by voice vote to a unity resolution to take "whatever actions are necessary" to get the contracts funded and to respond immediately to attacks from the administration against rank-and-file employees

supporting their unions.

Unions at campuses in Massachusetts bargain separate contracts with respective campus administrations. They are then passed on to the governor for consultation. When the legislature votes in the necessary funding, the governor approves the contracts.

Traditionally, once the legislature allocated funds for the contracts, the governor signed off on them. Swift is believed to be the first Massachusetts governor to have vetoed contract funding for campus unions.

The five-campus UMass system is struggling with \$28.5 million in state budget cuts imposed last spring. The Amherst campus has taken the brunt. Faced with \$17 million in cuts, Amherst has cut seven varsity sports, reduced childcare, increased class sizes, introduced speedups with less resources, jacked up student fees, cut academic programs, phased out jobs. About 400 workers were forced to file for early retirement, including 100 professors. Only five will be replaced.

### Students of color protest

Immediately before the all-union meeting, about 75 students of color held a demonstration responding to the gutting of advising services and other support programs for oppressed students in June. At that time the vice-chancellor of African/Latino/a, Asian/Pacific Islander,

Native American affairs (ALANA), who was sympathetic to students, was fired. Other staff members were "restructured" or fired; advising for students of color was restructured, taking out many cultural components.

The ALANA students are demanding restoration of all these programs, rehiring of staff and faculty fired and adequate funding for future services. After their rally on the steps of the ballroom, they marched inside to join their sisters and brothers at the all-union meeting.

When James A.W. Shaw, president of UAW Local 2322, asked the floor to recognize the oppressed students, they received a standing ovation and prolonged applause. The students proudly held their placards aloft emblazoned with messages like "Stop the racist attacks against Third World students."

The all-union membership meeting followed numerous actions by campus unions, including picketing administration meetings, leafleting and walkouts.

On Sept. 5 the semester of resistance began with 10-minute "community coffee breaks" at numerous Massachusetts campuses. At Amherst, union members met at four points on campus and then converged on the Whitmore administration building to press their demands. About 3,000 participated.

Next on the agenda is a one-hour "com-

munity lunch break" Sept. 25. At all 28 campuses statewide, workers will be closing offices, stopping classes, and leaving their work sites from noon to 1 p.m. At Amherst, demands will include calling on House Speaker Thomas Finneran to call the legislature back in session to override Swift's veto and a call for the administration to support the funding of the contracts.

To date, Amherst's new chancellor, John Lombardi, has ignored union demands to press Swift and the legislature to fund the contracts and reverse the cuts. Instead he's spending his time begging private contributors to increase Amherst's \$70-million endowment and to increase corporate and Pentagon research grants.

If the contracts aren't funded, unions and rank-and-file members are proposing increased system-wide actions, including a possible statewide walkout.

"We strongly urge our fellow workers to commit to more forceful actions and we declare our intention to join in those actions," graduate workers in the Economics Department declared in their statement, "Our Commitment to Fellow Higher Education Workers."

For more information on support activities visit [www.geouaw.org](http://www.geouaw.org) or [www.uaw2322.org](http://www.uaw2322.org) or call (413) 545-5317.

Pfeifer is a graduate student in the Labor Studies Department at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. □

## BOSTON

# Janitors strike, gain broad support

By Maureen Skehan

Chanting in Spanish, "Listen Boston, we're in the struggle!" and "Workers' power—strike!" thousands of janitors from Local 254 of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) walked off their jobs Sept. 30 and set up a strong first round of picket lines at major office buildings downtown.

At the height of evening rush hour, striking workers sporting "Justice for janitors" t-shirts and signs reading, "Part-time work doesn't work" marched, chanted and blew whistles to say, "It's time to make the bosses pay!" Cars, trucks and taxis honked their support, and there were thumbs-up signs of support for the workers everywhere.

The janitors are fighting for higher wages, health-care benefits and the right to full-time jobs. Currently, only 25 percent of janitors in Boston are full-time employees. Part-time janitors make \$9.95 per



Boston, Sept. 30. WW PHOTO: MAUREEN SKEHAN

hour and full-time janitors make \$10.20 per hour with health benefits available to full-time workers only. Compare this to what janitors in New York, San Francisco

and Chicago make—\$17, \$15 and \$12.50 respectively—and it becomes clear why the struggle for decent wages, dignity and benefits has shifted to Boston.

A decisive factor in the strike was the breakdown in contract negotiations with Unico Service Co., a national cleaning contractor based in Newton, Mass., which super-exploits roughly half of the

10,000 Boston-area office cleaners. Several weeks of negotiations with Unico were called off when it repeatedly refused to meet the janitors' just demands for health benefits, sick pay and full-time jobs.

Initially, strikers targeted the State

House, the World Trade Center—where Fidelity Investments is based—and several other glitzy high-rise office buildings, headquarters for AT&T Corp., Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Verizon Communications and a slew of investment banks, law firms and real-estate developers. All have raked in decades of obscene profits while the janitors work two and three jobs to feed their families and millions of workers in Massachusetts are wracked with worries about the deepening housing, health care and unemployment crises.

Teamsters, Electrical Workers and Communications Workers have vowed to honor the strike and not cross picket lines. Support for the janitors is pouring in from student, labor, community, religious and anti-war organizations that are raising funds, organizing solidarity actions, setting up soup kitchens for the striking workers and their families, and spreading the word for victory, dignity and justice for the striking janitors of SEIU Local 254. □

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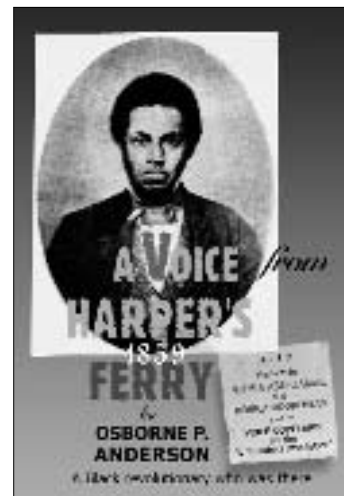
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## West Coast dock workers locked out

# Bosses urge Bush to attack union

By Milt Neidenberg

The Pacific Maritime Association (PMA), representing shipping lines and terminal operators, announced on Sunday evening, Sept. 29, that West Coast ports would remain shut down indefinitely.

This decision to lock out 10,500 members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) was an act of provocation against the union. It came less than 12 hours after dock workers had returned to work at 29 major West Coast ports after an initial lockout that began on Friday. They had been working without a contract since July 1.

Robin Lanier, executive director of the West Coast Waterfront Coalition (WCWC), representing many major retailers, importers and manufacturers—including Wal-Mart, Nike, Target and Payless Shoes—commented: “We are still getting freight, but in a scatter-shot fashion, and it is difficult to do business that way.” (Wall Street Journal, Sept. 30)

### Without workers, inventories will quickly disappear

U.S. companies depend increasingly on on-time inventories. Short-term interruptions in the flow of goods, particularly as the holiday season begins, will create a ship-to-shore gridlock—a disaster for these giant corporations. The ILWU handles over 40 percent of the nation’s seaborne cargo, valued at over \$320 billion annually.

Has the PMA shot itself in the anatomy by declaring these lockouts? It has appealed for a federal mediator to intervene and do its dirty work—a sure sign of weakness. The ILWU has rejected any government intervention, sending a message to Bush to butt out.

It doesn’t seem likely that the Bush administration, which declares it is ready to attack Iraq in a full-scale invasion under the spurious excuse of “national security,” will remain too long on the sidelines. It was clear from day one that the maritime association had conspired with the giant retailers and the Bush administration to launch a preemptive action against the union.

Without a Bush intervention, the bosses are losing the war against the ILWU. The relationship of class forces has clearly shifted in favor of the union, which has rallied support from many sectors of the labor movement and the working-class community, both nationally and internationally.

On Oct. 1, the PMA brought armed guards into the negotiations in an attempt to intimidate the union. As soon as they saw the armed goons, the ILWU walked out, breaking off the talks. The PMA lockout has created a growing crisis among the shippers. Now the PMA

wants the union to sign a contract extension of the old agreement as one condition for lifting the lockout.

### Main issues are technology and jobs

In desperation, the PMA ordered the lockouts to punish the rank and file. It demanded that the union and the membership give up their demands for guarantees from the bosses that remaining jobs and all jobs created by new technology will be ILWU jobs. Among the many issues on the table, this was the most pressing.

ILWU President Jim Spinosa responded to the lockouts: “PMA’s slanderous allegations of slowdowns during the biggest speedup in ILWU history, that coincides with a record number of on-the-job deaths, is literally adding insult to injury.” ILWU members have been refusing overtime.

A memorial rally held in Long Beach, Calif., on Sept. 18 outside the offices of the Stevedore Services of America honored five longshore members who have died on the job in SSA terminals in the last year. Unsafe work practices in these terminals, leased from the PMA, have led to mounting injuries.

Following the traditional ringing of the ILWU bell and a minute of silence for each loss, respect turned to anger as the members responded to the call to rip off their SSA-provided safety vests and throw them on the company’s chain-link fence.

### Workers heed safety rules

ILWU Local 10 in Oakland/San Francisco has also called repeatedly for its members to work under the safety rules of the Pacific Coast Maritime Safety Code. It’s the law of the workplace and a legitimate response to unsafe conditions. In the local’s Stewards’ Council Bulletin, it cites some of the rules:

“(Rule 1601) Before entering the terminal, make sure clearly marked or designated walkways to your work area are provided. If not, the employer is required to transport you to and from your work area (see Rule 1603).

“(Rule 921) All power-operated equipment must have seat belts. ... Don’t speed. ... Report potholes to the walking boss.

“(Rule 1605) Yield signs shall be posted at all intersections where visibility is limited.”

The bulletin continues: “There have



WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

### Locked-out longshore workers and supporters on picket line.

been a number of serious tractor accidents caused by speeding. Drive [at a] safe speed, especially with heavy loads and when turning. Use the designated lanes. Never cut through stacks of containers. At night, make sure there is adequate lighting.”

The safety rules mentioned are a small sample of what is in the rulebook followed by the rank and file. And shouldn’t they? When an accident occurs, the workers are blamed and punished.

Maersk/Sealand, the most powerful member of the PMA, has illegally put up 25-mile-per-hour speed signs in the yard. Health and safety experts consider this rate of speed excessive, contributing to injury and death.

### Will Washington intervene?

According to sources in the labor movement, such as the AFL-CIO’s Jobs with Justice, the Bush administration has stated in writing that it has no plans to break up the union, send troops or place longshore workers under the Railway Labor Act.

However, the government statement didn’t mention the vicious, anti-union Taft-Hartley law, which the Bush admin-

istration can trigger to impose an 80-day no-strike injunction on the union. It is clear that the lockouts, if they continue, will exacerbate the gridlock on the docks, causing paralysis as the economic situation deteriorates, both nationally and internationally.

“If it goes on for even a short period of time, it’s a problem for the economy,” said Ari Fleischer, the White House spokesperson, on Oct. 1. “We’re monitoring it carefully.”

Labor and its allies have to be prepared for the intervention of the Bush administration. The war against labor in this country is part of the plan to make the people here pay for the projected all-out war on the Iraqi people.

A reporter who visited the ILWU Local 13 hiring hall in Wilmington, Calif., saw little enthusiasm for going back on the job among the men and women of different nationalities scanning the electronic tote board for work. They don’t want speedup and unsafe conditions. Posters on the wall reading “Unity/Unidad” spoke eloquently about the outlook of the 10,500 longshore workers. □

## NEW YORK CITY

# Victory for home health aides

By G. Dunkel  
New York City

Nearly 3,000 home health care workers, some of the lowest-paid workers in New York City, won a contract Sept. 19 after their union threatened a three-day city-wide strike.

The workers had chosen 1199/SEIU as their union two years ago. But the boss of Premier Home Health Services Inc. stalled on giving them a contract. He preferred paying his workers an average \$6.50 an hour, though many only made \$5.35—just 20 cents over the legal minimum wage. Then he turned around and got reimbursed \$11 an hour for their services by New York state.

After unionists at 1199 realized Premier wasn’t serious about a contract, they put hundreds of organizers into the struggle, contacting their workers, who are scattered in small groups all over the city, to

prepare for a strike.

Premier was obviously counting on a drum-roll of media coverage focusing on how the workers were abandoning their clients.

Since even Premier’s boss admitted that “his” workers were paid \$3 to \$4 an hour under the prevailing national wage for this kind of work, the union was able to turn the media focus to the difficulties single mothers had in raising a family on less than \$250 a week take-home pay. Most of Premier’s workers are women of color raising families.

Workers will get a 20-percent increase in wages and benefits over the 15 months of the contract. It grants a base pay of \$6.55 per hour, paid health insurance, paid holidays, overtime and sick days. These are all new benefits won with this contract.

1199 announced its intention to organize another 8,000 home health care workers who do not have a union contract. □

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## White House nullifies agreement on weapons inspections

# Movement from below needed to stop invasion

By Fred Goldstein

With its summary rejection of the negotiated arrangement between the Iraqi government and Hans Blix, head of the UN weapons inspection team, the Bush administration has once again emphatically and arrogantly reaffirmed its absolute determination to launch an unprovoked war of aggression against Iraq, come what may.

After two days of negotiations in Vienna, Iraq and the UN came to an agreement on Oct. 1 about how to proceed with weapons inspections. Negotiating with a gun to their heads, the Iraqis agreed to allow full, unfettered, unannounced inspections of any and all sites, as specified in a 1998 UN resolution. In addition, the Iraqis turned over four CDs containing weapons information. A timetable was set up for inspections to begin as soon as Oct. 16.

The Iraqis abandoned their previous position of limiting inspections of key government buildings, including the Defense Ministry and the headquarters of the Republican Guard. However, with respect to eight presidential sites, the 1998 resolution specifies that the inspectors have to give 24 hours notice and must be accompanied by diplomats. Both sides in the current negotiations agreed that those limitations would stand, in accordance with the 1998 resolution.

### Powell nullifies agreement

Just hours after Blix and General Amir Al Sadi, Iraq's chief negotiator, held a press conference on Oct. 1 announcing the results, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell called his own press conference at the State Department to virtually nullify the results.

Powell declared that no inspections could take place until the UN Security Council passed a new resolution. He said that the 1998 resolution was useless and that nothing was going to happen until a new U.S. resolution currently being pushed down the throats of Security Council members by Washington and London was passed.

According to press accounts, Washington's resolution on inspections is said to be the equivalent of the first phase of a war, with inspection teams to be accompanied by U.S. and British troops. The resolution would contain provisions for an invasion of Iraq if the Iraqi government in any way resisted the U.S. provocation.

Negotiations are now under way between, on the one hand, the U.S. together with the subservient British government of Tony Blair, and on the other the French, Russian and Chinese governments.

Whatever the final form of the resolution, Washington's goal is to clear the way for war. If it is not passed, Bush has threatened again and again that Washington intends to invade anyway.

What is clear is that the Iraqi government has made great sacrifices in national security and its own sovereignty in order to buy time. It is trying to deepen the differences among the imperialist allies. It is trying to call Washington's phony bluff about wanting to get rid of weapons of mass destruction—weapons which the Iraqis insist they do not have now, and which they have just given the imperialists permission to search for.

The Iraqis know what all the people of the Middle East know. This war is about destroying the vestiges of Iraq's 1958 revolution, seizing its 100 billion barrels of oil reserves—the second-largest reserve in the world—and beginning the re-conquest of the Middle East by U.S. and British imperialism.

The current jockeying gives the anti-war movement time to mobilize in a massive way in the Arab world, in Europe and in the U.S. The only thing that will stop the war is the popular movement worldwide.

### Oppose Bush's demands for inspections!

While the Iraqis have been compelled to make concessions, the movement in this country is duty-bound to fight tooth and nail against any and all demands by Bush for inspections. Such demands are a violation of the sovereignty of an independent country, formerly dominated by foreign powers, trying to thwart imperialist aggression.

Weapons inspections are nothing more than an opportunity to set up a provocation and a pretext for gathering intelligence preliminary to an invasion—which Bush has told the whole world he intends to carry out.

If anything, as part of its struggle against the war, the movement should demand inspections of the tens of thousands of nuclear weapons, biological and chemical weapons, fragmentation bombs, and all the other weapons of mass destruction that the

Pentagon has stored in its arsenal of death.

Along with this it should demand an end to the U.S.-imposed sanctions that have brought death to well over a million Iraqis. Sanctions are a true weapon of mass destruction.

The world should be reminded that the only government ever to use nuclear weapons is the U.S.—which bombed the heavily populated cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, killing close to 200,000 innocent civilians with two bombs.

It is pure hypocrisy for Washington to declare its right to invade Iraq because it is alleged to be in breach of a UN resolution. The Pentagon has been bombing Iraq for 11 years since the Gulf War in 1991. In fact, the U.S. has already begun the first phase of its intended new war with the bombing of Basra, the second-largest city in Iraq. It has bombed the civilian airport there twice.

When the Russians raised some objections to this bombing, "Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld dismissed the Russian complaint as 'nonsensical,'" reported the Los Angeles Times of Oct. 1. "But other administration officials had said last week that there had been an 'inter-agency' decision to escalate the bombing missions in Iraq as a signal to the population that the United States is serious about overthrowing Saddam Hussein."

White House press secretary Ari Fleischer gave a flavor of the gangster atmosphere in Washington at a press conference Oct. 1 where he virtually called for the assassination of Saddam Hussein. Addressing questions about the cost of the war, he replied that "the cost of one bullet if the Iraqi people take it on themselves" would be cheaper than an invasion. (Los Angeles Times, Oct. 1)

If the Security Council were anything but a tool of imperialism, it would give priority to indicting Washington—not just for violating a particular resolution, but for violating Article II of the United Nations Charter itself. It forbids "the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state." This has been pointed out by the Iraqis numerous times, but the entire imperialist establishment has ignored it.

### A one-sided debate

The entire debate over Bush's plans to go to war against Iraq, both in the Security Council and in the U.S. Congress, has taken

place strictly within the framework of how best to subdue Iraq. The Republican and Democratic senatorial moderates have introduced a resolution "authorizing the use of the United States Armed Forces pursuant to a new resolution of the United Nations Security Council ... or pursuant to the right of individual or collective self-defense if the Security Council fails to act." (New York Times, Oct. 1)

The so-called liberal opposition of Al Gore and Senator Edward Kennedy is hardly likely to deter the hawks of the Bush administration. They each made one speech and then disappeared from the arena, having made the record—and that was basically to say that plunging ahead with this war might damage U.S. imperialism's alliances and its world reputation. Not a word about the fact that it is an illegal, unconstitutional, genocidal assertion of military power intended to intimidate the world.

This is what passes for debate under capitalist democracy. The different factions of the capitalist class get to state their opinion about how best to proceed in retaining Wall Street's ascendancy in the world—whether by building military coalitions or by unilateral action.

Meanwhile, the masses of people, who will be called upon to kill or be killed in such a war and will have to pay hundreds of billions of dollars in war costs, get no say in the matter whatsoever. Imperialist democracy is democracy for the imperialists. They own the media and the government.

For example, when Jim McDermott, a Congress member from Washington state, had the audacity to go to Baghdad and voice opposition to the war on the basis of sympathy for the suffering Iraqi people, and accused President Bush of "misleading" the people, he was pilloried in the media.

McDermott went to Iraq along with Rep. David Bonior of Michigan. McDermott was shown on CNN standing next to the hospital bed of an Iraqi child suffering from cancer and unable to get treatment because of the sanctions. By doing so he crossed over the line drawn by the establishment. He was called "an agent of the Iraqi government" by Senator Don Nickles of Oklahoma, denounced by Senator John McCain and virtually called a traitor on various talk shows.

The demonization of McDermott is part of a concerted effort to stifle and downplay any opposition from below. To listen to the big business media, you would think the

## London, Rome, Madrid: Half-million protesters

By John Catalinotto

The worldwide movement to stop U.S.-British aggression against Iraq took a leap forward over the Sept. 28-29 weekend with massive demonstrations totaling half a million people in London, Rome and Madrid.

People from all over Britain answered the call of the Stop the War Coalition and the Muslim Association of Britain. The demonstration was endorsed by 12 national trade unions, numerous Muslim and anti-racist organizations, members of Parliament and the mayor of London. They marched

under the slogans of "Don't attack Iraq—Freedom for Palestine."

Eyewitnesses, writing their reports across the Internet, described the London action as possibly the biggest-ever anti-war demonstration in Britain, or at least the biggest in 30 years.

"It was a fantastically mixed range of age, gender, religions and left/libertarian/peace groups," one wrote. The march took almost six hours to travel

three miles from the Thames Embankment to Hyde Park via Trafalgar Square and Piccadilly.

Organizers estimated between 350,000 and 450,000 people took part.

Scottish Labor Member of Parliament and long-time anti-sanctions campaigner George Galloway said Prime Minister Tony Blair would be watching the demonstration in his five-star hotel in Blackpool and would "be turning several shades of green." Galloway also said that Iraq and Iran are the only two Middle East countries not controlled from Washington.

The purpose of the attack on Iraq was to get control of the oil, he said, shouting, "No war for oil."

Despite the enormous importance of this action, the New York Times of Sept. 29 and 30 gave no coverage at all to the demonstration. Even the British press is under-

playing it.

Blair, who has been a willing servant of the Bush administration, faces a Labor Party conference in early October with large sections of his party in revolt against his pro-war leadership.

Political analyst and organizer Tariq Ali wrote that the new wave of trade-union leaders who have been elected to defy the "New Labor Thatcherites"—that is, Blair's grouping—were solidly against the war. Bob Crow of the Railway Workers denounced Blair in vitriolic language. So did Mark Serotka from the Civil Servants Union, wrote Ali.

### Red flags and Che in Rome

In Rome, up to 100,000 people demonstrated Sept. 28, many called out by the Refoundation Communist Party (PCR). PCR leader Fausto Bertinotti described this



Madrid

world was in lockstep behind the campaign against Iraq. But while the Bush administration has been steadily pulling the entire establishment to the right, down below the opposition is steadily growing.

#### Opposition from below

The capitalist press here virtually censored the massive demonstration of 400,000 in London and the many tens of thousands more who demonstrated in Italy and Spain the weekend of Sept. 28-29.

In this country campus demonstrations are beginning to spread. Disruptions of government hearings have taken place. A mass regional demonstration has been called for New York City on Oct. 6, at which many thousands are expected.

An international day of demonstrations will take place on Oct. 26, with its centerpiece in Washington, D.C., where organizers expect 100,000 people. On the same day there will be demonstrations in San Francisco and throughout Europe, Asia and Latin America.

There has been little mention of these demonstrations in the capitalist press, which has been busy touting the so-called support for the war. Only brief notice was taken of the Zogby poll released Sept. 30 that showed only 41 percent of the people would support the war if there were heavy U.S. casualties. (New York Times, Oct. 1)

No mention at all has been made of the strong resolution condemning the war and supporting both the Oct. 6 and Oct. 26 demonstrations by the 1199/SEIU hospital workers' union in New York City. Or the strong opposition by the West Coast ILWU dock workers' union, which is presently under the gun of lockout by the bosses.

In addition, numerous politicians have reported that phone calls, letters and emails are running heavily against the war.

Every investigation into what concerns the public shows that the masses are worried most about the deteriorating economic conditions of life. Poverty is on the rise. Corporate layoffs are continuing, as the worldwide capitalist economy fails to lift itself out of a crisis of overproduction. Millions have lost retirement money because of the decline of the stock market and corporate swindling.

These and many other hardships will only be intensified when the people are forced to pay for the Pentagon's war.

The strategic objective of the anti-war movement must be to reach out to the workers and oppressed. They are the ones who will suffer the most from war. They are also the class that can put an end to imperialist war by getting rid of capitalism and establishing a socialist society, where the economy is no longer the private property of a few and can be organized to meet the needs of the people, not for profit and wars of conquest. □

## Momentum grows for Oct. 26 marches

# Skepticism over Bush's war finds voice in streets

By Greg Butterfield

During the last weekend of September, anti-war protests took to the streets in cities across the United States and around the world, giving voice to growing skepticism over the Bush administration's hell-bent plan to invade Iraq.

Washington, San Francisco, Chicago, Denver, Phoenix and Flagstaff, Ariz., were among the cities that were host to important manifestations against the war Sept. 27-29. Overseas, massive demonstrations were seen in London, Rome and Madrid.

And on the heels of that weekend of protest, two anti-war coalitions based in the U.S. made an important contribution to the unity of the movement against war, racism and repression.



On Sept. 30 the International ANSWER coalition—Act Now to Stop War and End Racism—and the Not In Our Name Project issued a joint statement. They called on all opponents of Bush's war on Iraq to mobilize for both Oct. 6 regional protests in New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and other cities, and for the Oct. 26 national march on Washington and the West Coast march in San Francisco.

"We have the potential for a large, strong demonstration on Oct. 26 that can really show the deep opposition to this plan for war, invasion and occupation," said Deirdre Sinnott, an organizer for the International Action Center, one of the organizations on the ANSWER coalition steering committee. Sinnott spoke with Workers World Oct. 1.

"Whenever we get out on the street with flyers, we get a lot of interest. So far there are 70 organizing centers across the country, and half are on campuses," Sinnott explained. "Every day we hear about new buses that are being planned and groups that want to have buses."

She said organizers expect the response to grow when new literature emphasizing the connection between budget cuts and layoffs at home and the \$200 billion budget for war in Iraq hits the streets.

A visitor to the IAC's New York office—a local organizing hub for Oct. 26—found it bustling with volunteers who scrambled to answer busy phones and give out bus information, while others met in small groups to plan local outreach efforts, including flyer and poster distribution.

#### 'Deep skepticism' over war

"There have been very important anti-war demonstrations in Washington, Denver and other cities in recent days," Sinnott told WW. "This shows that, contrary to the public opinion polls being hyped by the corporate media, there is deep skepticism about Bush's war plans and his attempts to justify them. There's deep skepticism that this war has anything whatsoever to do with the Sept. 11 attacks."

"The administration doesn't have

**IMF/World Bank protests in Washington, D.C., Sept. 27-29 opposed Bush war drive.**



the trust it claims to have. Part of the importance of these demonstrations is to show everyone that they don't have to feel isolated in opposing the war," she said.

Last year the movement against capitalist globalization was thrown into disarray by the Sept. 11, 2001, events. But the threat of war infused it with a new surge of activism during a three-day mobilization coinciding with the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in Washington Sept. 27-29.

Protesters were confronted by a large and aggressive police presence. D.C. police beefed up their ranks with cops from as far away as Chicago, brought in to guard plate-glass windows at Starbucks, McDonald's restaurants and banks.

A march by thousands of anti-capitalist protesters Sept. 27 was met with brutal police repression. At least 649 people were rounded up in violent pre-emptive arrests. Journalists, tourists and bystanders were arrested along with activists. Many were brutalized. Most were charged with "parading without a permit" and released the next day.

Mara Verheyden-Hilliard of the Partnership for Civil Justice denounced the pre-emptive arrests as illegal and a political move to chill the turnout for larger, permitted demonstrations planned on the weekend.

While the stated aim of the anti-capital-

*Continued on page 10*

## demand 'No war on Iraq'

first major action against the threatened war on Iraq as "only a beginning." An article in the Sept. 29 issue of *Il Manifesto* reported that many in the crowd carried the red flags of the party as well as pictures of Che Guevara.

The Greens were there, too, along with left elements in the Party of the Democratic Left and organizations of Palestinians and Kurds. All demanded, "No war on Iraq."

A representative of the British anti-war movement spoke in Rome to show the international solidarity between the two movements. The heads of these two European countries—Blair and media magnate Silvio Berlusconi—support U.S. aggressive policies in the Middle East.

So does José María Aznar in Spain. And there, too, the struggle was sharp.

Carlos Varea of the Spanish Campaign for Lifting the Sanctions on Iraq told Work-

ers World that 30,000 to 50,000 people demonstrated in Madrid Sept. 29 calling for "No war on Iraq."

Some 54 organizations built the march, including trade unions, social organizations, political parties—the United Left and others—religious and community groups, feminist and youth organizations and local groups, as well as two cultural/intellectual groups.

The Madrid meeting ended with the reading of messages from former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark and British MP George Galloway, and an announcement that the movement in Spain is preparing a new demonstration for Oct. 26.

Representatives of the German Kassel Peace Council—a coalition of many groups—decided over the same weekend to hold local and regional anti-war demonstrations throughout Germany on Oct. 26

against the U.S. war and in solidarity with demonstrations called for Washington and San Francisco.

German anti-war activists want to press the government of Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, just elected on a peace platform, to withdraw German units from Kuwait and forbid the use of bases in Germany for a new Gulf War.

This enormous outpouring in Europe has already greatly encouraged activists in the U.S. anti-war movement. Sara Flounders of the International Action Center said she expected that "as news of these demonstrations reaches the public in the United States, they will realize that it is the Bush administration that is isolated, and not those millions of people in the U.S. who want no part of a war on Iraq." □



London



## Gov't charges against Yemeni youths:

# Scare campaign aims to distract from growing poverty

By Leslie Feinberg  
Buffalo, N.Y.

There's an important battle being joined here for the hearts and minds of working and oppressed people. It pits war mongering against resistance to the war cry.

Bush and the FBI—aided by the willing moneyed media—have created a ballyhoo around the arrests of six young men of Yemeni ancestry, trying to drag sentiments in this increasingly impoverished region towards support for untrammelled Pentagon aggression in the Middle East.

But activists here are working hard to let those who will have to kill and be killed in a war know that it only benefits the rich owning class—those who have sucked profits from generations of laborers in this former hub of industry and transportation and are now scouring the globe for more stolen wealth.

Blaring headlines accompanied the arrests of the six men in government raids in a nearby, rundown mill town Sept. 13-18, terrifying many in the population. 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.

Bev Hiestand, a local leader of the In-

ternational ANSWER coalition—Act Now to Stop War and End Racism—said she and other activists took to the streets within hours after the arrests hit the headlines.

"Fear here has reached fever pitch," Hiestand stressed. "The media and FBI make it seem as though a terrible catastrophe was minutes away from blowing up in our midst. But when you look at the alleged crime of the six, it's association, not any criminal act.

"We pointed out that these arrests coincided with the Pentagon deployment of Special Forces troops and a war ship near Yemen's borders. The FBI says they've been watching the six for a year, yet Bush chose to change the national security alert from yellow to orange—supposedly based on the six—on the eve of the 9/11 anniversary."

Hiestand explained that her organization had already planned anti-war demonstrations even before the arrests. "At both court appearances for the six we went with signs defending the Yemeni community and denouncing Bush's Middle East war drive. Immediately Yemeni family members and neighbors thanked us and held up our placards.

"One reporter told me if I did an interview, be prepared for threats. Well, I have done many interviews that have aired here

since Sept. 14. Instead of threats, I have gotten so many calls from individuals who want to know how they can get involved."

### An independent poll

The results of this ideological tug of war can be seen on every picket line and rally.

On Sept. 28 two rallies were held opposing U.S. plans to invade Iraq and in defense of Palestinian freedom and local Arab communities.

Many individuals drove, walked or bicycled past the anti-war, anti-racist protesters. At least one man on a bike spit in the direction of rally-goers and their children. Several flipped a hand gesture widely recognized as condemnation. One motorist screamed "Get a life!" as she passed people whose anti-war efforts were trying to save many lives.

But more significant is that, after all the biased publicity, the majority of those who expressed their reaction to the demonstrations offered support.

Drivers honked car horns and waved with a smile. Many others flashed a hand gesture more widely recognized around the world as heartfelt agreement—a clenched fist. "Right on!" some shouted from car windows. "I agree with you" and "Thank you" said several pedestrians.

Throughout the day members of ANSWER had taped up bright green posters all over the city that said in large, bold lettering, "NO WAR!" and included the coalition's local phone number.

These squads reported backing from people who saw the glowing posters—comments like "Damn straight," "You got that right" and "Good for you!"

Activists here have been mobilizing for the massive anti-war protest in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 26. They say that stacks of leaflets left at local coffee hangouts and progressive bookstores were picked up and read the moment they hit the countertops.

Many people are calling and emailing for bus tickets to D.C. The local coalition here has already had to reserve a second bus for the long trip.

This is all in sharp contrast to the media war propaganda claiming that for every 100 people polled, 110 are shoulder-to-shoulder with Dubya on his war drive.

The work and visibility of the anti-war movement here is giving courage and voice to those who want to end Bush's "endless war." But it is also raising consciousness that would not ascend without this political combat.

Want to be part of this burgeoning movement? Direct your browser to [www.internationalanswer.org](http://www.internationalanswer.org). □

## Lesbian, gay, bi, trans rights

# What a difference a movement makes!

By Martha Grevatt

Excerpts from a talk at the Sept. 21-22 Workers World Party conference.

What a difference a movement makes! With a few exceptions, the hateful anti-sodomy laws that criminalized same-sex love are in the trashcan of history.

Eleven states and numerous cities have passed laws against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Workers at numerous companies have won domestic partner benefits and anti-discrimination language. We can even go to Vermont and get a civil union, with all the benefits of marriage. Or we can travel to heroic Venezuela and get an actual marriage license.

Transgender people, who led the Stonewall Rebellion, have less protection and benefits, but now there are a number of cities and workplaces, and one state, that do prohibit anti-trans discrimination.

The AFL-CIO labor federation has an official lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender constituency group, Pride At Work.

Can LGBT people relax, confident that the state and the ruling class are now sufficiently enlightened and are going to do the right thing? Yes, says the Human Rights Campaign: "Corporate America is the unlikely hero" in the push for LGBT equality, it claims.

No, say revolutionary Marxists—dialectical materialists who understand politics by analyzing its contradictions.

Despite these stupendous achievements, how safe are we when the bigots can use Sept. 11 to launch a new wave of anti-



Martha Grevatt

WW PHOTO

Arab and anti-Muslim hate crimes, and when GIs are coming home from Afghanistan and murdering their female companions? How safe are we, in the current climate of intense political repression under the guise of "homeland security"?

And how safe are we, when even as we speak Iraq could once again be bombed by the Pentagon death machine, which is no friend of LGBT people?

The religious right is mobilizing to overturn the laws that give us some protection; they are even trying to bring back the anti-sodomy laws. They are spreading racist, sexist, homophobic and now anti-Islamic hatred.

Let us not repeat the errors of the German movement of the early 20th century. For decades they had built a movement for the abolition of a hated law that sent gay men to jail. They lost momentum and direction when they supported their government in the first imperialist world war, strengthening the very forces of reaction that had held them down for so long.

Fast forward to a hot New York evening in June of 1969, when the love

that dared not speak its name became the love that roared and thundered and rocked the patriarchy and class society. In its early days, this movement opposed the Vietnam War and defended the Black Panther Party, whose support was reciprocal. The National Liberation Front of Vietnam was the inspiration for the name Gay Liberation Front in the U.S.

Fast forward to 1981, when the Reaganites threatened to invade Central America. A march on the Pentagon had the first openly gay speaker at an anti-war protest.

Fast forward to the Martin Luther King Day holiday, 1991. As bombs fall on Iraq, a march of 100,000 brings out a huge contingent of people screaming, "We're here, we're queer, we're not going to war."

Fast forward to this year's LGBT Pride marches with contingents from Act Now to Stop War and End Racism.

Class society destroyed the honor and esteem that trans people, same-sex-loving people, and also women enjoyed in traditional societies. Dialectics recognizes a law, however, called the negation of the negation. The brutality of the capitalist state made the Stonewall Rebellion and these 30-plus years of heroic struggle inevitable.

This struggle, if it stands in solidarity

with every movement against war, racism, sexism and economic exploitation, will reach its final and liberating conclusion: the unconditional equality, dignity and freedom for every gender expression and every expression of human love and affection. We call this socialism. □

## Message from Fernando Gonzalez



One of the five Cuban prisoners held in U.S. jails

To all participants in the Workers World Party Conference:

I would like to express my feelings of admiration for the courage shown in your permanent struggle for a better world. A struggle that is carried on in spite of so much hostility against the ideas, principles and moral values that you are representative of.

My endless gratitude for your solidarity with Cuba and also for your solidarity with us five, prisoners in U.S. jails for defending our country and people from attacks organized in and financed from U.S. soil.

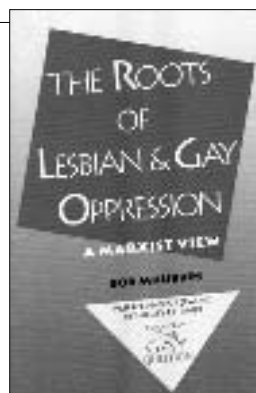
The ideas you defend today are the future's. They represent the hope for a world in which peace, solidarity, equality and true justice prevail.

Fraternally,  
Fernando Gonzalez Llorc  
Oxford F.C.I., Wisconsin

## The Roots of Lesbian & Gay Oppression

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# Thousands demand: 'Free Palestine, no war on Iraq'

By Brenda Sandburg  
and Saul Kanowitz  
San Francisco

Resisting the Israeli occupation of Palestine and the Bush administration's plans to attack Iraq, 6,000 people marched through the streets of San Francisco on Sept. 28. Amid a sea of Palestinian flags, they chanted "Free, free Palestine," and "Self-determination, not U.S. domination."

The San Francisco demonstration—and a corresponding protest the following day in Chicago—was held on the second anniversary of the Al-Aqsa Intifada and the 20th anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacre. In 1982, the Lebanese Phalange movement, with the complicity of Ariel Sharon's Israeli military, murdered more than 2,000 Palestinians.

This Sept. 28, buses, carpools and vans came from across the state to join the march, including six buses from Los Angeles. Palestinians, anti-war activists, trade unionists and students showed their determined support for the Palestinian people.

The action was also part of a growing campaign around the country to stop the Bush administration from launching another war against Iraq. Many speakers called for people to get involved to help build a gigantic anti-war protest Oct. 26.

Those speaking at the rallies represented many struggles, including that of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, which was locked out by the shipping companies the day before. Representatives from the Colombian and Filipino liberation struggles also spoke at the event, which was sponsored by the Justice in Palestine Coalition.

Rally co-chairs were Eyad Kishawi of the Free Palestine Alliance, Richard Becker of



San Francisco, Sept. 28. WW PHOTO: ROSA PENATE

the International ANSWER coalition, and Leila Qutami of the General Union of Palestinian Students.

Michel Shehadeh of the Free Palestine Alliance said Palestinian people are being murdered on a daily basis by the Israel army's killing machine. "But the Israeli government is losing because the Palestinian people have decided it is better to die than capitulate to Zionist oppression and we will stand by them."

"Sharon said Palestinians will be defeated in 100 days and it's been 720 days today. They will continue if it takes another 100 years," Shehadeh said.

Richard Becker, West Coast director of the International Action Center and a member of ANSWER's national steering committee, said the struggles in both Palestine and Iraq are against colonialism. He said the United States tells the Iraqis they have to allow 50,000 troops to oc-

cupy their country to enforce inspections.

"No sovereign country is going to accept that or could accept it," Becker said. "That is why we should not raise the slogan, 'Inspections, not war.' That's like saying 'Sanctions, not war' during the 1991 Gulf War. Our slogan should be, 'No war against Iraq.'"

Only the intervention of the people in the political process can stop the war, Becker said. "Fidel Castro said that every social system thinks itself eternal until history teaches it otherwise. Our job is to build the movement that teaches it otherwise."

ILWU Local 10 official Jack Heyman called for support of the ILWU in its "life and death struggle against the employers and the U.S. government." Heyman noted that Local 10 had passed a resolution that calls for Israel to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza and for the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people. He

said the ILWU Local 10 Executive Board also took the position that the labor movement should oppose the war against Iraq.

Alexander Cockburn, a journalist with CounterPunch, said the Bush administration's desire for war is all about oil. "If they have a U.S. puppet in Iraq like they do in Saudi Arabia they will control enough oil that they can set prices," Cockburn said. "We say no to world domination by a bully, braggart, mad country out of control."

Other speakers at the opening and closing rallies included Kathy Kelly, Voices in the Wilderness; Nancy Hormachea, International Solidarity Movement; Dina Adeeb, Arab Women's Solidarity Association; Leilani Dowell, Committee for a New Colombia; Hatem Bazian, Al Qalam Institute; Deej Gold, Queers Undermining Israeli Terror (QUIT); MC Ettinger, Jews for a Free Palestine; and Bob Mandel, Mobilization to Free Mumia. □

## Bush uses 9/11 to target socialist Cuba

By Gloria La Riva

From a talk at the Sept. 21-22 Workers World Party conference.



WW PHOTO  
Gloria La Riva

Imperialism has employed every weapon in its arsenal to try to destroy Cuba: invasion, biological warfare, sabotage, assassinations, attempts to assassinate its leadership, 40 years of terrorism from Washington.

You may have read in the press that the U.S. government claimed that Cuba is falsifying information and misleading the U.S. in its "war on terrorism." That really means the U.S. may use the post 9/11 situation to attack Cuba more directly.

Why would such a small country of 11 million people, which would seem to be of no consequence to the richest, most powerful country in the world, continue to be a target of the U.S.? Because Cuba has a socialist government and, being 90 miles from the U.S., it is an example that the ruling class hates more and more every day.

U.S. imperialism knows that while it has tremendous capacity to bombard Cuba, the overwhelming majority of its people stand with the revolution and are willing to fight and die to defend it.

The imperialist media have been predicting Cuba's fall since 1959. But they especially thought that Cuba could not survive the collapse of the Soviet Union and

Eastern Europe. Cuba lost 87 percent of its trade and wasn't able to find alternatives right away. Overnight, Cuba lost 80 percent of its imports. Production fell by almost 35 percent.

It was very difficult. The Cuban people made a collective effort in this struggle. It was done with the leadership of the Cuban Communist

Party, the revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party that is the guiding force in Cuban society. Its membership is eight percent of the population, but it has been the key element in organizing the workers and the people as a whole to confront the crisis in a disciplined and creative fashion.

The party, together with the mass organizations, worked to introduce necessary economic measures—all designed to defend the socialist system. One of the most important things in this Special Period, as they call it, was that the leadership never depicted it as anything other than a necessary economic retreat in order for the revolution to survive.

### U.S. tried to trigger Cuba's collapse

The U.S. didn't stand idly by. Congress passed the notorious Torricelli law, which prohibited trade between Cuba and U.S.-third country subsidiaries. As a result Cuba's trade dropped from \$900 million

to \$1.6 million the next year. Then came the Helms-Burton law in March 1996, thanks to then-President Bill Clinton.

Their aim was to trigger an economic collapse and strangle the economy.

In Cuba, the people face the problems of a poor country, of historical underdevelopment, of a great lack of resources, of the terrible blockade and the need to defend themselves against the U.S. constantly.

But every step of the way, they work collectively to see how they can improve every aspect of society.

Not one school or hospital was closed during the Special Period. There was no epidemic of homelessness. There was no political crisis. And one of the most outstanding achievements of Cuba's revolution, free education, has been greatly improved in the last three years.

There has been a terrible crisis in the sugar industry. The prices on the world market have dropped and 90,000 workers have been downsized. But they will maintain their income and go to school to get professional retraining and extensive general education.

### Free the Cuban 5!

Ramon Labanino, Rene Gonzalez, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando Gonzalez and Gerardo Hernandez had infiltrated the Cuban right-wing terrorist groups in Miami in order to defend Cuba from attacks. All of these groups have been trained, armed and allowed to operate from Florida

by the CIA and other U.S. police agencies.

You can imagine what it took to pretend that you're one of them, while all the time you are engaged in the most dangerous tasks, in order to inform Cuba of any impending attacks.

They were convicted last June; sentenced in December to U.S. federal prison. Three of them have life sentences, one has 15 years and one has 19 years.

We are part of the National Committee to Free the Five. Our party is very proud to have been part of helping to initiate that struggle. Just as Cuba mobilized all its people to bring Elian Gonzalez home, they're mobilizing all the people, over and over, to bring these five heroes home, and we can do no less.

We stand with the Cuban Five. Their appeals will be filed early next year. In the meantime, we organize meetings, publicize their case and write to them. It is a very difficult struggle. We stand with them like we stand with Mumia Abu-Jamal and Leonard Peltier and all U.S. political prisoners.

I want to give a brief message of solidarity from Gerardo Hernandez, who is in Lumpoc prison, on behalf of all five brothers:

"Dear brothers and sisters, comrades of Workers World Party, we wish you a successful national conference and express our eternal gratitude for your solidarity and support, which gives us strength to continue our struggle for justice. Hasta la victoria siempre." □

## workers world editorial

# The movement & the troops

Should U.S. troops go willingly to war?

The Bush administration continues to push toward war despite the strong opposition worldwide and within the U.S. population. Both the anti-war movement here and the soldiers and sailors, pilots and Marines in the regular services and the reserves have to confront this question.

The Iraqi government has said that its army will fight fiercely street by street, building by building, and will inflict heavy casualties on the U.S. troops, whom they see as invaders and occupiers.

U.S. forces also have to assume that other, less obvious dangers are before them.

They only have to ask the veterans of the 1991 war on Iraq. These veterans faced years of disabilities from their experience, with hundreds of thousands suffering from what has been called "Gulf War Syndrome." Many of these vets are already campaigning against this new war.

Along with the personal danger comes the knowledge that they will be killing large numbers of people, many of them civilians, including children, who wind up in the line of fire. Most or all of their victims will be working-class people like themselves.

The rank and file of the U.S. military are mostly young members of the working class, even in today's so-called professional armed forces. A disproportionate number of the troops are from communities of color, attracted to the "services" because they provide at least some salary and training and seem like a better choice than the streets or prisons imposed by a racist society.

While the Iraqi victims may see the U.S. troops as their enemies, the anti-war movement in the U.S. has no choice but to look at them as potential allies. Indeed, it should give priority to developing solidarity between the movement and those troops who question, who want to learn, and of course those who want to resist the war in any way.

Anti-war activists near military bases in the United States, as well as in Japan, Korea, Germany, Italy and other places, will have the opportunity to reach out to U.S. troops with the truth about the situation in the Middle East.

U.S. troops, though in the armed forces, still maintain their constitutional rights. They can be handed leaflets. They can express their opinions on the war and against the war. They can see that the Bush administration is committing the most serious war crime—a crime against peace—by insisting on making war when everyone else wants to keep the peace. And they can refuse to take part in this war crime.

During the U.S. war against Vietnam, the bond that developed between the civilian anti-war movement—which was joined by many veterans—and the troops went a long way toward ending the war and its crimes against the Vietnamese people. In this way the movement helped save more U.S. working-class youths from death and injury. It took years, however, to get the Pentagon out of Southeast Asia. Before it was over, 55,000 troops had come home in body bags.

Now there is an opportunity to create this same bond before the war starts, and maybe prevent it from starting in the first place. □

## VENEZUELA SOLIDARITY

# EMERGENCY PICKET CALLED

People in the New York area in solidarity with the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela led by President Hugo Chavez have called for an emergency picket line on Oct. 9 at 5:00-6:30 p.m. at the Venezuelan Consulate at 7 East 51st Street near Madison Ave.

The same right-wing forces that attempted a coup-d'etat last April 11 have called for a demonstration and general strike against the Chavez government on Oct. 10. Last April it was only a general uprising of the popula-

tion that saved Chavez from the clutches of the right wing. At stake this time is not just his presidency but the movement he represents for education, housing and against poverty.

The statement calling the picket line demands: Hands off the Bolivarian movement! No U.S.-backed coup against President Hugo Chavez! Solidarity with the people of Venezuela! For more information people are asked to contact the International Action Center at 212-633-6646.

—Teresa Gutierrez

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## Pentagon in on the take?

# Afghan opium production soars

By Deirdre Griswold

If anyone still needs proof that the "war on drugs" is a monumental fraud and red herring, here it is:

According to the BBC-TV World News of Sept. 26, the amount of opium produced in Afghanistan has increased by 14 times since the U.S. military overthrew the Taliban and occupied the country.

The news report warned: "A huge increase in Afghan opium production has raised fears of a new influx of heroin into European cities. Latest estimates suggest that poppy cultivation has increased by up to 1,400 percent since the removal of the Taliban regime at the end of last year."

The estimate comes from the British organization Drugscope, which presented its findings to an international conference in Paris.

Last year, because of a ban on opium production imposed by the Taliban, just 85 tons were produced. This year, the figure is expected to be between 1,900 and 2,700 tons.

The report stresses that Afghan farmers are in desperate shape and need some other source of income if opium production is banned. Opium earns 10 times as much per acre as other crops. About 90 percent of the heroin sold in Britain originates in

Afghanistan.

The phony war on drugs is being used right now by the U.S. government as an excuse to carry out the anti-guerrilla war in Colombia. The FARC-EP has been fighting for basic social change in that country for over three decades—including an agrarian reform program so that poor farmers don't have to turn to producing coca to make a living.

The situation in Afghanistan raises the question, how many U.S. military commanders are in on the take? They were in on the action in South Vietnam when drugs became a big export product there during the U.S. occupation and war.

The wife of the U.S. officer in charge of the whole "war on drugs" in Colombia pleaded guilty in a Brooklyn federal court in May 2000 after evidence was presented that she shipped \$700,000 worth of cocaine to the U.S. from Bogota through the U.S. Embassy's diplomatic pouch. Col. James Hiatt himself was later convicted of "misprision"—accepting \$25,000 of the drug money from her in cash and using it to pay their bills.

The whole affair got hardly any notice from the corporate media—which shows that their editorial policy is driven first and foremost by politics, not sensationalism. □

# Momentum grows for Oct. 26 marches

Continued from page 7

ist protest was to block traffic and disrupt access to the IMF/World Bank site, the D.C. and national media joined the police in violence-baiting the demonstrators.

Up to 15,000 people turned out Sept. 28 for a demonstration against IMF/World Bank policies sponsored by the Mobilization for Global Justice. Again, police tried to repress the legal, permitted march by boxing in protesters. Seven were arrested.

Unfortunately, organizers of this event blocked anti-war speakers from the podium. But signs held by many in the crowd showed that they knew that stopping the war on Iraq is the cutting edge of fighting capitalist globalization.

Baltimore community organizer Sharon Black told WW that leaflets for the Oct. 26 anti-war march got a warm reception from the crowd. ANSWER activists got out 6,000 flyers.

On Sept. 28, over 5,000 people marched through Washington's Embassy Row to Vice President Dick Cheney's residence. They chanted, "No blood for oil" and "Stop the war against Iraq!"

## Bush runs, but can't hide

President George W. Bush made himself conveniently absent from the White House while the IMF/World Bank protests were underway. But even as he toured Western states raising money for Republican candi-

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• Mumia Abu-Jamal • Howard Zinn • Kathy Kelly, Voices in the Wilderness •

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# Why did U.S. and French troops invade Ivory Coast?

By Monica Moorehead

The brutal legacy of colonialism and neo-colonialism manifests itself in various ways in Africa. Take the present situation in Ivory Coast, a former French colony.

A military coup erupted in this West African country of over 14 million people on Sept. 19. The media, including allAfrica.com, report that rebel soldiers are attempting to overturn the existing government headed by President Laurent Gbagbo.

The rebels, according to the bourgeois media, are connected to forces in the neighboring country of Burkina Faso. The relations between these two countries have deteriorated over the years. So far hundreds of people have been killed and thousands have been made refugees during the coup.

The U.S. and French military have intervened in this crisis using the pretext of "humanitarian" reasons. Washington sent in Special Operations forces from Germany to evacuate U.S. schoolchildren, whose parents are missionaries in Ivory Coast. French troops moved quickly to reach the school before the U.S. troops did, and then turned the children over to U.S. air transport at the

central airport.

France already had troops stationed in five of its former colonies. They have evacuated hundreds of French citizens living throughout Ivory Coast. This intervention on the part of two imperialist countries begs the question of what role French and U.S. imperialism play not only in West Africa but Africa as a whole.

## Role of U.S. and French imperialism

In the 19th century, French imperialism colonized more African territory than any other of its European counterparts. It maintains deep economic, military and administrative ties to almost all its former colonies.

Like so much of Africa, Ivory Coast is rich in natural resources, especially oil, natural gas, cocoa beans, and coffee. Despite this abundance of resources, the per capita income in 1996 was only \$600.

During the Cold War against the socialist Soviet Union, U.S. imperialism focused

on its geo-strategic interests in Africa. That time was also the high point of the national liberation movements, which the USSR supported.

More recently Washington has tried to supplant French and other imperialist interests in Africa. The U.S. has sent Special Operations forces to East Africa because it wants to stake a claim to untapped oil reserves in that region.

In 1997, the U.S., France and Britain, another colonizer of Africa, signed a pact to coordinate "peace" in Africa. This pact allows these imperialists to train indigenous soldiers throughout Africa. These troops allow imperialist intervention without the heavy presence of troops from the imperialist countries themselves. Despite the pact, these imperialist powers continually compete for hegemony in the region.

The U.S. and French governments care little about peace in Africa. In fact, they care little about the social plight of African people, the great majority of

It's in the interests of imperialists to sow artificial divisions among African peoples

whom live on less than \$2 a day and suffering greatly from the HIV/AIDS epidemic. It is in the interests of imperialism to sow artificial divisions among African peoples on the basis of religion, nationality and land. This is the root cause of countless coups in Africa, including the current one in Ivory Coast.

Washington has used many phony pretexts for military intervention. These include the "evacuation" of U.S. medical students in Grenada in 1983 and the collapse of the central government in Somalia in the 1990s. It would not be surprising if "rescuing the children of missionaries" turns out to be the latest ploy to help lay the basis for further U.S. corporate plunder in Africa. □

# In south Korea, anger at U.S. occupation grows

By Yoomi Jeong

From a talk at the Sept. 21-22 Workers World Party conference. Jeong, a leader of the Korea Truth Commission, was a guest speaker.

On Sept. 16, the New York Times ran an article titled, "Korean Mob Briefly Detains U.S. Soldier after Subway Fight."

The so-called mob was a group of Korean student activists who belong to Han Chong Ryun, an "illegal" vanguard south Korean university organization. They were distributing flyers about the killings of two 13-year-old girls, Shin Hyo-Soon and Shim Mi-Sun, by a U.S. military armored vehicle on June 13.

Instead of simply rejecting the flyer, the U.S. soldiers cursed at the youths.

The leader of south Korea's reunification movement, Suh Kyung-Won, witnessed the confrontation. He was punched by one of the soldiers when he tried to intervene. Suh had been jailed nearly 10 years for visiting the Democratic People's Republic of Korea without a visa.

The outraged youths took the soldier to a memorial rally where they ordered him to apologize in front of the thousands of



Yoomi Jeong WW PHOTO

people who assembled for the memorial rally for these two girls.

The people's actions demonstrate that anti-U.S. and anti-Pentagon issues have become a part of the south Korean peoples' public discourse.

We Koreans weren't allowed to express and share our pain and suffering

at the hands of U.S. military, due to various reasons. Chief among them were the National Security Law of south Korea and extra-judicial state violence that was directed and supported by the U.S. against our people.

However, the ugly cover-up by the U.S. military of the killings of the two girls contributed to the largest anti-U.S. demonstrations in south Korea.

Since the incident, major mass demonstrations were organized; action centers were formed in the towns and cities at the local and national level. Students organized mass demonstrations, something that didn't happen for several decades in south

Korea.

Teachers took students to the demonstration site as part of a school field trip.

Thanks to the Internet, housewives, donning black ribbons, organized and participated in the demonstrations.

Recently, Moon-Wha News Agency conducted a survey. It found that nine out of 10 Koreans expressed anti-U.S. sentiment, compared to seven years ago, when four out of 10 Koreans were against the U.S.

In the past, being anti-U.S. labeled you as a pro-communist and permanently condemned you to isolation from the rest of society.

The Korean people are making connections between Bush's unending aggression against world peace and their past half-century of suffering.

People are starting to see through the reasons for U.S. military occupation along with its racism and that the U.S. is the stumbling block to our reunification. People are realizing that we must act together!

The south Korean movement has endorsed the Oct. 26 marches in San Francisco and Washington and is organizing a solidarity demonstration on the same day. This fall, it is possible that the parents of Shin Hyo-Soon and Shin Mi-Sun will visit the U.S. and will need your support in their struggle for justice. □

## Protesters defend Philippines Marxist

In Amsterdam, Athens, Brussels and other cities around the world, hundreds of demonstrators gathered at official residences of the Netherlands to protest the ill treatment of Jose Maria Sison, the founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines. The Dutch authorities have cut off Sison, who has been living in Amsterdam, from the money he uses to survive, calling him a "terrorist." In this photo, activists from Bayan International picket at the Netherlands Consulate in New York City.



PHOTO: NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT

dates, he couldn't hide from anti-war protests.

In Denver Sept. 27, some 3,000 people turned out to protest the "all war, all the time" president. They marched from the Denver City and County Building to the Adam's Mark Hotel, where Bush was speaking at a \$1,000-a-plate fundraiser. They chanted, "No war for oil! No war for votes!"

Organizers pointed out that the Adam's Mark Hotel is the subject of an NAACP boycott because of the management's racist policies.

Hundreds of protesters met Bush later that day in Phoenix and Flagstaff, some yelling, "Warmonger go home."

Joe Herzog, a 51-year-old worker who described himself to the Arizona Daily Star as a "former Republican," came to the Phoenix protest. Herzog said, "My 401(k) has continued to drop and I want to know what these candidates facing election will do for me, but this war has taken so many important issues off the front page, it's all I hear about."

Opposition to war with Iraq was also visible at demonstrations in solidarity with the people of Palestine in San Francisco Sept. 28 and Chicago Sept. 29.

Sinnott told WW that the Oct. 26 march in Washington will begin at Constitution Gardens, adjacent to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. "We chose this location because we want to show that this is another war that the U.S. government is lying to us about, just like in Vietnam. If we stand by and allow it to happen, then there could be another memorial for another 50,000 dead U.S. troops, not to mention hundreds of thousands of Iraqis.

"We want to show that the answer isn't to depend on Congress or the UN, which is under the U.S. government's thumb." She concluded, "We have to build a strong people's movement that can take on the war propaganda coming from the White House."

For more information on the Oct. 26 demonstrations, visit [www.internationalanswer.org](http://www.internationalanswer.org). □



## El documento de la seguridad nacional de Bush

# Que lleva al capital estadounidense a aventurar

Por Fred Goldstein

“El Documento de la Seguridad Nacional de los Estados Unidos,” el cual codifica la doctrina de Bush para el Nuevo Orden Mundial, fue filtrada al New York Times el 19 de septiembre, antes de ser programado para presentarlo ante el Congreso.

La fuente de la filtración puede ser un asunto de especulación, pero coincidió con el debate sobre el lanzamiento de una guerra no provocada y de pura agresión contra Irak.

También resultó a solo días después de que el Ministro de Justicia alemán, Herta Daubler-Gmelin se dice que dijo que el Presidente George W. Bush estaba usando a Irak para desviar la atención de los problemas en su tierra, justo como lo hizo Hitler. Esta declaración causó gran consternación en Washington. El Canciller Gerhard Schroeder, quien ganó las elecciones a pesar de un bombardeo de críticas por parte de los Estados Unidos, luego despidió al ministro seguido después de que los comentaristas burgueses en todas partes se quejaron de la barbaridad de haber comparado a Bush con Adolf Hitler.

Para estar seguro, Hitler fue un dictador fascista quien llegó al poder en 1933 bajo un situación de extrema crisis social. La depresión económica movía las cosas hacia un guerra civil entro los obreros y la clase capitalista en la cual la cuestión emergía de cual clase tomaría el poder.

Hitler consolidó su poder, después de ser nombrado canciller, desatando una supresión sangrienta contra millones de comunistas, socialistas y progresistas en la destrucción de sindicatos obreros y todas formas de organizaciones de la clase obrera, usando los temas de anti bolchevismo y antisemitismo.

Hoy no hay una crisis social generalizada en los Estados Unidos. Y aunque Bush llegó al puesto robándole las elecciones a los demócratas, él todavía preside sobre un sistema político de democracia imperialista. Y sí, éste continúa creciendo más represivo y reaccionario, con incursiones militares más fuertes cada día. A la vez que su racismo contra los ciudadanos del Medio Oriente se hace más prominente.

### El problema para el capital Alemán y estadounidense

Hitler persuadió a la clase gobernante de Alemania a que le dejara conquistar toda Europa y la Unión Soviética. Su diálogos de establecer el tercer imperio que duraría miles de años estaban llenos de atractivos convincentes para los financieros alemanes y los capitalistas industriales.

El moderno establecimiento industrial altamente militarizado de Alemania tuvo la capacidad de grandes producciones pero fue inhibido por las otras potencias de tomarse las riquezas de las esferas coloniales.

La sed por el tipo de super ganancias que salían de Bretaña, Francia, Bélgica y Holanda fueron frustradas. En esta situación, el prospecto de una nueva economía y una nueva crisis social en Alemania persuadió a los banqueros y los em-

presarios a respaldar el expansionismo militar y aventurero de los Nazi.

Además, ellos tenía gran fe en el poderío de la moderna máquina militar alemana, con su avanzada tecnología de proyectiles, poderosa fuera aérea y numerosas divisiones de tanques Panzer.

La victoria de los Nazi en la contra revolución doméstica no resolvió la crisis del imperialismo alemán. Tendría que expandirse en la arena comercial mundial.

### Prometiéndole nuevas áreas par la explotación

La Estrategia para la Seguridad Nacional de la Administración Bush pone gran énfasis sobre el poder absoluto del Pentágono. En un artículo del The New York Times del 20 de septiembre dice “uno de los elementos más notables del documento de la nueva estrategia es su insistencia de ‘que el presidente no tiene intenciones de permitir a potencias extranjeras a que igualen la delantera que los Estados Unidos llevan desde la caída de la Unión Soviética hace más de una década. ... Nuestras fuerzas será lo suficientemente fuerte’ indica el documento de Bush, ‘para disuadir los potenciales adversarios que quieran acrecentar sus fuerzas militares esperando sobre pasar o igualar el poder de los Estados Unidos.’”

El documento está lleno de amenazas militares, incluyendo el derecho de dar el primer golpe. Desde el punto de vista de los estrategias militares derechistas en el establecimiento estadounidense, este documento es como un sueño hecho realidad—aunque se dice que Bush lo “modifico un poco” en ciertas partes porque sonaba muy “arrogante.” ¿Y no suena arrogante ahora?

Pero desde el punto de vista de la clase gobernante otras partes de este documento también suena muy favorable. Estos lo ven muy atractivo al momento en que el mercado cae lentamente, los reportes falsos de ganancias y los escándalos empresariales se acumulan, también cuando la sobre producción capitalista, la deflación y la caída de las ganancias rondan los salones empresariales.

Los patrones y banqueros por supuesto prefieren maneras más “estables” de robar y explotar—por medio del proceso automático de las operaciones empresariales suplidas por Fondo Monetario Internacional, el espionaje industrial y otros. Ellos solo optarían por las aventuras con el prospecto de inestabilidad cuando se considera que este el la manera menos mala en comparación a un declive prolongado de las ganancias y el prospecto de un colapso económico.

Desde la explosión de la epidemia

económica asiática en 1998, el presidente del Banco de Reserva Federal, Alan Greenspan y el establecimiento financiero han estado ocupados en evitar una crisis económica. De hecho, Greenspan ha inyectado cientos de billones de dólares a la economía por medio de rescates directos durante el período de 1998 y 1999. Al bajar el índice de interés, los federales ha servido trillones de dólares en dinero barato a Wall Street.

### Todas las áreas de la economía asfixiadas por el superávit

Una encuesta sobre las condiciones de comerciales publicadas por el Washington Post el 25 de agosto nos da un poco de los que la clase gobernante ha estado enfrentando.

El Post describe la epidemia capitalista de la sobreproducción en su encuesta diciendo que “se puede ver en estos días en una amplia variedad: agricultura, autos, publicidad, químicos, implementos, accesorios y los soportes lógicos de computadoras, los servicios financieros, productos forestales, muebles, minas, ventas, acero, textiles, telecomunicaciones, transportación, generación eléctrica, solo para mencionar un poco. En casi todos los casos, está acompañado por precios planos o en caída. ...

Por primera vez desde la Gran Depresión, la economía de los Estados Unidos está enfrentando una deflación, lo que quiere decir menos ganancias, menos valor sobrante y eventualmente grandes pérdidas para los patrones, junto con desempleo y adversidades para la clase obrera.

Numerosos ejemplos son mencionados por el Post. Uno es en la industria de aerolíneas que ha recortado sus planillas de pago en 120.000 trabajadores en 12 meses y 100.000 más están planeados a perder sus empleos. El Post dice que 500 jets de pasajeros, muchos de estos nuevos, se encuentran en el desierto de Victorville, California sin uso. Este proceso es duplicado por todas las industrias, desde la telecomunicaciones hasta los hoteles y la profesión legal.

A diferencia del imperialismo alemán en los años treinta, el imperialismo de E.U. no es un poder restringido en su esfera de explotación por los rivales imperialistas. Al contrario, las transnacionales y corporaciones estadounidenses se encuentran en todo el mundo, con plantas de producción, tiendas de distribución y oficinas financieras.

Aún así esta nueva generación de una industria capitalista modernizada es tan fuertemente productiva que el estado presente de la expansión imperialista es total-

mente insuficiente para hacer a esta gran inversión provechosa. Como el imperialismo alemán, los financieros capitalistas de los Estados Unidos se están sintiendo más y más restringido y más y más influenciados por las aventuras del Nuevo Orden Mundial de Bush.

El documento dice que uno de sus principales objetivos es el de “iniciar una nueva era de crecimiento por medio de mercados libres y libre comercio.”

El documento está adornado cono referencia dirigidas directamente a verdadero motivo el cual es el interés de la burguesía imperialista por nuevas y más ganancias. Todo esto está ligado a la dominación militar y política del mundo.

El hecho de este fue filtrado en medio de un debate sobre Irak tiende a enviar un mensaje a la clase gobernante de que una guerra contra Irak es solo un parte de un plan mucho más amplio para resolver sus problemas. Si el grupo Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld, Powell, Wolfowitz, quiere destruir la Revolución de Irak de 1958. Si ellos quieren apoderarse de los 110 billones de barriles de petróleo. Pero ellos saben que la crisis de sobre producción de la economía capitalista que produce unos \$10 trillones de dólares anualmente no puede resolverse simplemente con la conquista de Irak.

### Documento dirigido a China

En realidad, el documento está dirigido a la República Popular China, diciendo al liderazgo que debe detener su desarrollo militar y que solo la restauración capitalista es aceptable para Washington. Este denuncia a los líderes chinos porque ellos “todavía no han tomados la siguiente serie de opciones fundamentales sobre el carácter de su estado.”

El documento hace todas formas de arrogantes demandas políticas y sociales, de esta manera mantener el prospecto para la clase capitalista criolla de que de alguna manera la administración de Bush producirá a “Lebensraum” (un espacio de sobre vivencia), en ese país de 1.3 mil millones de habitantes. Además, el documento alude a continuar la apertura de India y Rusia.

Este documento fue creado por un grupo arraigado en las administraciones de Reagan y Bush y durante el período del colapso de la URSS, la amenaza de China y los retrasos para la lucha de liberación nacional. Su manera de pensar ha sido formada por contrarrevoluciones, las cuales ellos estima como permanente.

La conjetura fundamental de documento es que las masas del mundo, incluyendo a los trabajadores y oprimidos de los Estados Unidos, permanecerán en descanso por siempre. Esto es lo que hace del documento algo ilusorio.

Efectivamente, el grupo Bush está tratando de escapar a las contradicciones del capitalismo por medio de aventuras. Es una receta para una reanimación de la lucha de las masas y finalmente deshacer el tal Nuevo Orden Mundial.

Goldstein es miembro del Secretariado del Partido Mundo Obrero. □

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