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## BUSH, CONGRESS SAY YES

# People say NO war

## Protesters encircle White House, flood streets of S.F.

By Deirdre Griswold  
Washington, D.C.

What a difference a day makes.

After the massive Oct. 26 anti-war march, in which the broad avenues surrounding the White House were packed solid with demonstrators, there can no longer be a shred of doubt about it: grassroots sentiment in the U.S. is opposed to the Bush administration's plans for a "pre-emptive" war on Iraq.

On the same day, a huge demonstration in San Francisco showed that anti-war sentiment is just as strong on the West Coast. There were also demonstrations in major cities around the world. (See accompanying articles.)

People came to D.C., the heart of the federal government, from every state in the U.S. The International ANSWER coalition, which initiated the call for the protest, reported 150 organizing centers around the country. Hundreds of chartered buses caused gridlock in the White House area. Tens of thousands also streamed into the city by car, van, plane and train.

Two weeks of media focus on the sniper killings in the Washington suburbs and heavy rain that ended the morning of the demonstration may have cut down the numbers somewhat, but nobody noticed; it was one of the largest protests against war since the Vietnam era. It was re-



WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

San Francisco, Oct. 26.

markable in that today there is no draft, as there was then, and the all-out war Bush is promising has not yet started.

Pacifica Radio and organizers put the numbers at 200,000. The Washington Post reported over 100,000. It based that figure on the Washington police, who said the

*Continued on page 5*



WW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

Washington, D.C., Oct. 26.

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LITERATURE TABLE,  
WASHINGTON, D.C., OCT. 26  
ANTI-WAR PROTEST**



WW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

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**Sat., Nov. 2**  
 International day of protest to demand that the evidence be heard and that Mumia Abu-Jamal be immediately released. Both candidates for governor of Pennsylvania are running "kill Mumia" campaigns. Join Pam Africa, International Concerned Family & Friends of Mumia, Julia Wright and the French delegation in an international day of protest. 11 a.m. At Philadelphia City Hall, 15th and Market Sts.

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# HARRY HAY:

## A FOUNDER OF MODERN GAY RIGHTS MOVEMENT

By Preston Wood  
Los Angeles

Before the Stonewall Rebellion, life for gay men, lesbians, transsexual and transgender people was almost always a living hell—a life of fear, isolation, secrecy and severe oppression. In the words of Oscar Wilde, the great English writer who was maligned and imprisoned for being a feminine man who loved other men, it was indeed “the love that dare not speak its name.”

Homophobia and trans-phobia, from feudalism through today’s capitalist world, is ever present in the structures of class rule—in the courts, the police, the military and the legislatures. Anti-gay and anti-trans violence are sustained by a system that relies on racism, sexism, anti-gay and anti-trans bigotry to divide the workers in order to perpetuate minority class rule and maximize its profits.

In the repressive 1950s—the period of anti-communist reaction—much of the “red scare” witch hunt also used gay baiting to target progressives, thereby destroying careers and lives.

In the state of California in the 1950s meetings or gatherings of more than two “homosexual men” were illegal. This meant that the right to free speech and assembly was denied to untold numbers of people. Women who had short-cropped hair or appeared to be too “masculine” were declared suspect. Men who were too “effeminate” were disdained and driven out of society. Transgender people had to fear, then as now, for their lives each day.

Communists and homosexuals were declared by right-wing demagogues to be the greatest threat to the so-called “American way of life.”



Harry Hay, left, tenderly touches the cheek of his partner John Burnside.

### A communist and a gay man

Harry Hay, who died this Oct. 24 at the age of 90, was both. He was a militant, class-conscious communist and a gay man, who stood up to the ruling class and said, “No more! We are going to fight back!”

Hay’s deep commitment to working-class solidarity has been an inspiration for young lesbian, gay, bi and trans leftists and revolutionary communists throughout the world.

Hay’s theoretical contribution to progressive politics was to explain that gays are an oppressed group under capitalism and that working-class solidarity meant unity against all forms of oppression. He spent most of his life advocating a coalition of all those who are oppressed under capitalism.

Hay’s family emigrated to Los Angeles

from the mining town of Worthing, England, in 1919. Aspiring to be an actor, Hay met Will Geer, the actor and political leftist. Geer introduced Hay to the Communist Party. By 1935 both were members.

Hay often said that his political life changed when he worked to support a maritime strike in San Francisco. The National Guard was called in and two workers were killed and many others injured. Hay never wavered in his support of militant unionism, nor in his opposition to imperialist war.

In the late 1940s, Hay began turning his attention to the extreme oppression of gay men in society, and in 1949 in Los Angeles he founded the first gay rights organization in the United States that survived the extreme repression of U.S. capitalist soci-

ety: the Mattachine Society. Other groups over the years had tried to organize but were crushed by government repression.

When Mattachine members met, they had to bring what was known as a “cover” with them—female friends or relatives—because meetings of more than two homosexual men were illegal in California.

When the Los Angeles police arrested one of their members for so-called “lewd conduct,” the Mattachine Society fought back by taking it to court. It won, attracting thousands of new members from all over the country.

In 1955 Hay was called before the House Un-American Activities Committee. He refused to testify.

Throughout his life, Hay devoted his work to building solidarity with Native nations, Latinos, African Americans and other oppressed people. He actively supported the presidential campaign of the Rev. Jesse Jackson in 1984 by initiating the Gay Caucus of the Rainbow Coalition.

When the historic Stonewall Rebellion occurred in 1969 in New York City, Hay hailed it as the birth of the modern mass movement for lesbian and gay rights.

“The importance of Stonewall is that it changed the pronoun from “I” to “we,” he told the Associated Press. He described how gays now saw themselves as an oppressed minority in capitalist society.

Harry Hay’s biographer, Stuart Timmons, refers to Hay’s class-conscious struggle for equality for LGBT people: “Harry Hay’s determined, visionary activism significantly lifted gays out of oppression. All gay people continue to benefit from his fierce affirmation of gays as a people.”

One might add that all working and oppressed people have benefited from his vision of working-class solidarity and an end to all forms of racism, bigotry and oppression. His insistence that scientific Marxism be applied to the question of LGBT oppression will increasingly be seen as a landmark contribution to the struggle for working-class unity on a global scale. □

## A freight train heading our way

# State budget axes to fall after elections

By Deirdre Griswold

The budget crisis in Maine is so severe that tax forms may not get printed and delivered in time for next year’s filing. State legislators can’t agree on what the tax laws should say in time for the printer’s deadline.

The governor of Massachusetts wants to cut an additional \$300 million from the state budget, which will eat into schools and Medicaid.

Virginia needs to borrow \$1 billion to repair its crumbling schools and parks.

Minnesota’s budget deficit is now over \$3 billion. The state is contemplating painful cuts in education, health and human services.

In Tulsa, Okla., once a center of fabulous oil wealth, 500 low-income mental patients may lose their health care because of the state budget crisis.

School districts across Texas are in crisis and face either raising taxes or cutting budgets. Reports a special committee on revenue and school funding: “Texas is perilously close to a collapse of its public school system.” (Long View News-Journal)

Billionaire New York mayor Michael Bloomberg flies two state legislators to his fancy Bermuda estate for a private discus-

sion on the state’s budget crisis. On his return he announces a city hiring freeze and an additional 2.5 percent cut in city agencies’ budgets on top of a 7.5 percent cut earlier.

It’s the same all over this country.

Some 37 states are reporting severe budget crises as tax revenues dip with the economic recession. There is no question that the axe will fall on many thousands of workers as soon as the elections are over and cuts in services will deepen.

For years, the federal government has pushed the burden of social programs onto the states so it could devote itself with greater single-mindedness to the task of building the most ominous and destructive armed force the world has ever known. At the same time, the rich set up think tanks and committees of legal experts to “guide” the Congress through passing tax cuts that save them billions of dollars at the people’s expense.

Now the other shoe is dropping: a push for higher sales taxes.

No one likes income taxes, but they are supposed to be structured “progressively”—in theory, at any rate, the rich are supposed to pay at a higher rate than those who can barely live on their meager earnings. Now that many states have eliminated

income taxes altogether, and taxes on stock market earnings as well as wages are down, the right wingers have a new cause: raise sales taxes on everything from gasoline to housewares.

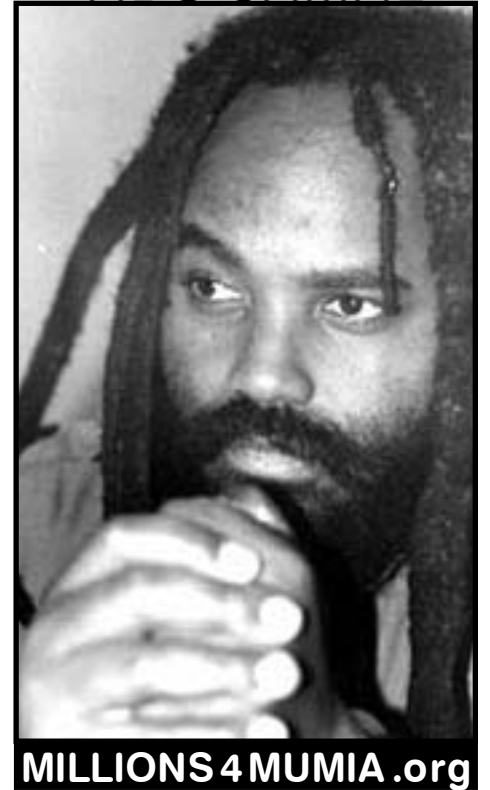
Sales taxes always hit the poor the hardest. The rich have gimmicks to avoid them, like getting themselves incorporated. This writer knows someone who once worked in the office of the Rockefeller family foundation. These billionaires didn’t even pay taxes on their toilet paper. They bought it tax-free through the foundation.

But there’s only so much blood you can get from a stone. Workers can’t pay much more than they are doing already. So the other option the capitalist politicians provide is budget cuts. Cut schools, hospitals, parks, libraries and all the other necessary services.

Cuts are just another word for layoffs. When factories started closing, service jobs were supposed to be the new growth industry. Now these are the very jobs that are threatened, along with the services they provide.

Layoffs and cutbacks on top of recession and war—that’s what the rulers of the richest, most powerful country in the world are offering the people. They’re asking for a social explosion—and they’ll get it. □

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# Massive anti-war turnout in San Francisco

By Brenda Sandburg  
San Francisco

Between 80,000 and 100,000 people of all ages and nationalities flooded the streets of San Francisco Oct. 26 to stop the Bush administration from launching a new war against Iraq. It was the largest progressive demonstration in San Francisco in more than 10 years.

The protest was organized by the International ANSWER coalition—Act Now to Stop War & End Racism.

Students, labor activists, parents with their children, religious groups and community organizations traveled from all over California and the West Coast to attend the biggest anti-war protest since the start of the 1991 Gulf War.

At least 63 buses came to San Francisco, including 19 from Los Angeles, four from Santa Cruz, five from Sonoma County, and others from as far away as Seattle, Tucson and Salem, Ore.

The air was filled with excitement as people marched along the route, chanting, “Pentagon’s war, we’re shuttin’ it down” and “The road to peace is U.S. out of the Middle East.”

The demonstration was so large that when protesters arrived at the end of the march at Civic Center, tens of thousands more were just beginning the 1.7-mile march from Justin Herman Plaza. It took three hours for the entire crowd to complete the march, most of which was on Market Street, which is five lanes wide.

From the stage, a sea of people filled Civic Center and the adjacent streets, extending to the end of United Nations Plaza two-and-a-half blocks away.

So many protesters inundated the city that the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) subway system could not handle the number of people on the platform and was forced to open the gates to allow people to pass through without paying.

Reflecting the support of so many people in this city, one BART driver got on her train’s public address system and thanked everyone for going to the demonstration.

Richard Becker of the International Action Center and a member of the ANSWER steering committee said of the recent war vote in Congress: “It showed that it didn’t matter if the calls from the public to their



WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

Anti-war marchers vow, ‘Pentagon’s war, we’re shuttin’ it down!’

representatives were 1,000 to one—or even 100,000 to one—as long as that one was Exxon or Chevron or Boeing.”

Becker stressed, “Even most of those in Congress who voted against the war resolution made a point of expressing their support for the objectives of the Bush administration—which is to re-colonize Iraq and conquer its tremendous oil resources. We cannot rely on Congress—only the people can stop the war.”

As a result, Becker announced, ANSWER was launching two initiatives: a people’s anti-war referendum to collect millions of signatures against the war and a Grassroots People’s Peace Congress to convene in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 18—the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend—and hold a mass demonstration.

## Voices of a broad, united front

An opening and closing rally gave voice to the political breadth of this emerging new anti-war movement.

Veterans of past U.S. wars had a significant presence at this anti-war demonstration. Charlie Liteky, who had received the Congressional Medal of Honor for heroism in the Vietnam War and is a member of Veterans for Peace, presented a moving introduction. He brought to the podium Ron Kovic, author of “Born on the Fourth of July” who was paralyzed in the Vietnam War, as well as veterans from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the 1991 Gulf War.

Kovic said those in power in the United States were responsible for the attacks of Sept. 11. “It is their violence that brought the violence to our nation and it is their violence that we must stop, and stop forever.”

Young speakers addressed the rally, explaining how children would be affected by a U.S. war against Iraq.

Samora Pinderhughes, 11 years old, emphasized: “There’s no discussion of the millions of people, millions of women and children who will be killed in a war.” Pin-

derhughes added, “The life of a child in Iraq or Palestine is just as important as a life of a child in the United States.”

Mara Kubrin, 13 years old, said that “innocent citizens and draftees shouldn’t die for the decisions of our leaders.”

Speaking to the large contingent of students who came from campuses throughout the state, Leilani Dowell—an ANSWER student organizer and a member of the Committee for a New Colombia—pointed out that “youth of color are being trained in ROTC programs to fight for a government that never did anything for them.” She added that U.S. Marines are scheduled to go to Colombia in February.

Several unions joined in the march, which was endorsed by the San Francisco Labor Council, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) and other labor unions.

Rally speakers included Walter Johnson, secretary-treasurer of the San Francisco

Continued on page 6

# Youths swell ranks of budding movement

By Matthew L. Schwartz  
Washington, D.C.

According to march organizers, an estimated half of the 200,000 demonstrators who showed up for the historic Oct. 26 anti-war march here were students from high school and college campuses.

Hundreds of parents attended with their children. Young children sat on their parents’ shoulders; some parents pushed strollers in one hand and held picket signs in the other. Teenagers marched next to the elderly in what was mass solidarity among all nationalities, ethnicities, genders, sexual expressions and ages.

Margot Davis, an 18-year-old student from Brandeis University, told Workers World: “I came because I knew it was the right thing to do. I had to physically be there to show President Bush that there really are people from all over who oppose his war.” She added that this war was “obviously unjust” and that

“President Bush is simply in this to make a profit for his oil companies. He has no respect for the human lives that will be lost.”

Beverly Hiestand, an organizer for the Buffalo/Western New York ANSWER coalition—Act Now to Stop War & End Racism—said: “Those of us who were active during the Vietnam anti-war protests really noticed how different it was this time. It was not just the youth who were coming in to buy bus tickets, it was the parents and the youth together.”

An editorial in the Oct. 29 San Francisco Chronicle about the huge simultaneous Oct. 26 march and rally in the Bay Area, entitled “Seeds of a Movement,” noted another difference between this anti-war movement and the anti-Vietnam War struggle: “In the 1960s, young people were in part motivated by the prospect that they might be drafted. By contrast, large numbers of young people showed up in San



Washington, D.C., Oct. 26.

WW PHOTO: JOSINA DUNKEL

Francisco—and to an even bigger demonstration in Washington, D.C.—without facing such a threat.”

It is clear that the youth movement is

just beginning. And as President Bush and his warlords push forward, more and more youth will come out and join the movement. □

## Bush, Congress say yes

# People say NO to war

Continued from page 1

crowd was significantly larger than the April 20 demonstration in support of Palestine. Police had estimated that earlier event at 75,000.

The march followed a two-mile rectangular route around the White House. On its return to the rally site at the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial, the head of the march had to stop at Constitution Avenue and 17th Street where the tail was still marching out. All the broad streets and avenues around the presidential residence were packed with protesters.

The crowd was generally very young, but included thousands of veterans of earlier wars and anti-war movements. The largest component was students, who came in buses from all over the East, Midwest, South and as far away as Texas. However, unionists with their banners were present in larger numbers than during the Vietnam protests.

The drill team of the International Longshore Workers Union flew in from the West Coast to lead the march. These dock workers are in a struggle with both the bosses and the Bush administration, which has invoked the Taft-Hartley law and "national security" to force them to work under unsafe conditions without a contract.

### Rally hits war, poverty, repression

Speakers representing a broad spectrum of progressive social and political forces attacked the policies of the Bush administration at a three-hour rally before the march. The rally was televised live by C-SPAN and also broadcast by Pacifica Radio.

Mara Verheyden-Hilliard of the ANSWER steering committee opened the rally and introduced her three co-chairs: Mahdi Bray, executive director of the Muslim American Society Freedom Foundation; Michel Shehadeh of the Free Palestine Alliance, and Larry Holmes of the International Action Center. Shehadeh and Holmes are also ANSWER steering committee members.

A major theme of the speakers and of the many placards and banners carried by demonstrators was "No blood for oil." Hand-made signs caricatured President George W. Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld as prime architects of a war for oil profits.

The economic impact of the war on jobs and social services at home was another main concern, as was the wave of repression that has accompanied war preparations.

Veterans of the Gulf War, the Vietnam War, the Korean War and World War II all rejected Bush's plans for a new assault in the Middle East, pointing to the nearby memorial that lists the names of the more than 50,000 GIs killed in Vietnam. Demonstrators had also erected a memorial to the Iraqi children killed by sanctions over the last decade.

A high point of the rally was an impassioned talk by Ramsey Clark, founder of the International Action Center and a former head of the Justice Department, who has increasingly become an opponent of U.S. government actions and policies around the globe. Pointing to the nearby memorial site, he said that the "only decent respect for the Vietnam dead is to stop all U.S. wars. No more war memorials!"

Clark didn't let the civilian authorities of the U.S. off the hook for their sanctions on Iraq, either. "Some 1.5 million have been

killed by the genocidal sanctions," he said. "These are criminal offenses, indictable and impeachable offenses." Clark at one time occupied the Cabinet position of U.S. attorney general, held today by John Ashcroft, and speaks with authority on legal matters.

### Ramsey Clark: 'This is a plutocracy'

He called on this growing movement to "liberate this country from militarism and from corporate rule. This is not a democracy; this is a plutocracy. Let's liberate the USA. Let's work productively and reach out in friendship to everyone in the world."

Clark's broad-ranging critique of U.S. society evoked loud cheers and applause from the huge crowd.

The war that Bush plans to launch has already had grave consequences for Muslims and Arab people in the U.S., and many organizations representing these communities participated in the march and rally. They used the platform to acquaint the public with cases involving illegal detentions, attacks on mosques, deportations and other egregious assaults on civil liberties that followed the passage of the "Patriot Act."

Mahdi Bray of the Muslim American Society said the real "regime change" needed was in Washington. Minel Omar, a student and respected activist in the Arab American community, told how Iraq had used its oil money to provide free education up to the university level.

City University of New York students were represented by Zahra Khan, president of the undergraduate student body at Hunter College. The Student Liberation Action Movement there organized several buses to the march.

Elias Rashmawi, a Palestinian, rejected the demonization of Arab people, saying that "Arab people are not a fifth column, we are part of this community."

What began as police raids on people of Middle East descent have now extended even to their attorneys. Lynne Stewart, a New York lawyer now facing charges because of her legal defense of Arabs, said that was what had happened in Chile after the Pinochet coup of 1973: "They pick up the lawyers and think they can defeat the movement."

Stephanie Schaudel, who has visited Iraq with the group Voices in the Wilderness, ridiculed the idea that Iraq has weapons that threaten the United States. "The U.S. has the most weapons of mass destruction," she pointed out.

The African American community is af-



WW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

ILWU drill team at Washington, D.C., march.



WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

Clarence Thomas of ILWU.

ected by the war drive in many ways. Civil rights leader Al Sharpton described what the war budget is taking away from the people and summed

up, "The president puts the interests of big business over human life."

Congress member Cynthia McKinney of Georgia, who has been very outspoken about U.S. commercial motives in Africa, warned that "dangerous changes are taking place daily" in this country because of the Patriot Act. She decried the huge amounts of "money spent on the military while poverty affects millions," pointing out that one quarter of the homeless in this country are veterans and many suffer from Gulf War Syndrome.

Jesse Jackson had the crowd with him when he called for unity of the movement and rejected bigotry of all kinds, including "homophobia and anti-Semitism." He warned the audience about "tricks for diversion. Saddam is not coming but the economy is falling. We must not be diverted" into a war. But many in the audience visibly disagreed with his characterization of the 1991 Gulf War as a "necessary war."

The manipulation of the terrorism issue by the government was addressed by labor speakers, including Michael Letwin of New York City Labor Against War, a coalition of unionists that has been organizing ever since the war threats began after the disaster at the World Trade Center on Sept. 11 last year.

Clarence Thomas of the ILWU, fresh from the dock wars on the West Coast, reflected his militant union when he urged, "No colonial occupation of Iraq! No war against our civil liberties! The Maritime Security Act treats port workers like potential terrorists. Hands off the dock, stay out of Iraq!"

### For a People's Anti-War Congress

The capitulation by the U.S. Congress to Bush's demand for authorization to launch a war at any time was lambasted by many speakers and slogans. Some signs praised Sen. Paul Wellstone of Minnesota, a populist who had voted against the war resolution and had just been killed in a plane crash, along with his wife and daughter.

Speakers for the ANSWER coalition urged the crowd to "Vote no war" in a people's referendum that would expose the undemocratic character of the Congress. Brian Becker of the ANSWER steering committee explained how people could go online at the votenow.org Web site to register their opposition.

ANSWER expects many millions will take advantage of the Web site and of paper ballots being circulated so they can make their opinions felt—opinions that a majority of Congress completely ignored when they voted for Bush's resolution despite mail and phone calls running more than 100 to 1 against it.

Besides this referendum, the coalition plans to build upon the success of the Oct. 26 demonstrations with a Grassroots Peace Congress in Washington on the Martin Luther King weekend, Jan. 18-19. Sara Flounders of the International Action Center emphasized that this people's congress would represent the millions who are furious at being disregarded by the politicians in Washington.

This demonstration gave voice to every movement standing up to the Bush administration's war drive and repression at home. U.S. military expansion was challenged by speakers from South Korea, Vieques in Puerto Rico, and Chuck Kaufman of the Nicaragua Solidarity Movement and ANSWER steering committee. Atty. Leonard Weinglass called for solidarity with the Cuban 5, who are serving life sentences in U.S. prisons because they monitored the activities of anti-Cuban terrorist groups in Florida. Academy Award-winning actor Susan Sarandon added another dimension when she called on people to "resist this war and our impending oil war in Colombia."

The lesbian, gay, bi and trans movement was represented by author and editor Leslie Feinberg. Support was voiced for political prisoners Mumia Abu-Jamal, Leonard Peltier and Imam Jamil Al-Amin. Touching people's hearts as well as their minds were singer Patti Smith and the Chicago hip-hop group Primeridian, which opened the rally.

For many at the rally, it may have been their first exposure to many of these issues. The Bush administration's relentless march toward war is awakening layers of the population who have not belonged to any movement. They went back home with the pledge that they will organize, organize, organize to keep this movement growing and push back the war machine. □



Washington, D.C., Oct. 26.

PHOTO: K.M. IVES

# Opposition to Bush's war goes

By John Catalinotto  
Berlin

A demonstration of more than 20,000 in Berlin on Oct. 26 was just one of about 80 protests in Germany and hundreds around the world during the international day of protests to stop the Pentagon war against Iraq.

The international action, called by the U.S.-based ANSWER coalition—Act Now to Stop War & End Racism—during the summer gained the support of the anti-war movement in countries in Europe, Asia and Latin America. These groups wanted to show solidarity with the U.S. anti-war movement and target the Bush government as the main threat to peace in the world.

As a result of the strong response to this first International Day of Protest, groups around the world have begun to work together on this essential task: stopping the U.S. aggression against Iraq.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, an estimated 250 protesters gathered in front of the Puerto Rican National Guard armory on Oct. 26 to denounce possible U.S. military action in Iraq and to demand that the U.S. Navy stop using the island of Vieques as a bombing range.

On Oct. 25, demonstrators in Manila in the Philippines protested in front of the U.S. Embassy, also demanding that Pentagon troops leave the Philippines. Washington has used its alleged “war against terrorism” to reintroduce U.S. military forces into the U.S.’s former Pacific colony.

A day earlier in Indonesia, demonstrators rallied at the U.S. Embassy to protest a possible Pentagon attack on Iraq.

Some 500 members of the leftist students’ organization Zengakuren and other groups marched in Tokyo and 600 in Osaka on Oct. 21. Other anti-war actions took place in Fukuoka on Oct. 21, in Hiroshima and Toyama on Oct. 20 and in Sendai on Oct. 19. On Oct. 26 another demonstration of 700 people, including many non-Japanese, took place in Tokyo, called by 14 non-government organizations.

In response to the ANSWER call, the Kerala chapter of the All-India Anti-Imperialist Forum held a demonstration in front of the State Secretariat and a protest meeting. Kerala state AIAIF President Dr. N. A. Karim, a renowned educator, said the war about to be launched by U.S. imperialism was aimed at establishing world hegemony. The Communist Party of India (M-L) plans a protest Nov. 1 in Delhi.

In Auckland, New Zealand, 1,000 peo-

ple from the anti-war movement protested.

On Oct. 21 in Ankara, Turkey, students braved attacks by riot cops to protest a visit by U.S. Central Command Chief Gen. Tommy Franks, who has been named as the regent of Iraq should the U.S. occupy that country. Their banners read: “We will not become soldiers of the USA.”

Demonstrations were also planned for south Korea and for Mexico City.

## Germans oppose U.S. bases

The Berlin demonstration joined anti-war activists with sections of the large Muslim community. They met in Alexanderplatz, the center of eastern Berlin, and marched to a large plaza near the concert hall, opera house and cathedral. Since the Gerhard Schroeder regime has itself spoken against the war, some speakers emphasized the need for action: to pull German tank units out of Kuwait and to not allow the use of U.S. air bases like Spangdahlem and Ramstein to support the war on Iraq.

Despite heavy rains and gale-force winds in many areas, demonstrations numbering in thousands took place in Frankfurt and Stuttgart, and 350 people in Hamburg demonstrated, although a hurricane

wouldn’t let them stand outside. Some actions targeted the air bases, such as the one at Spangdahlem near Trier, where a few hundred anti-war activists protested and handed leaflets in English to U.S. military personnel.

Another group of hundreds braved heavy rains to protest the planned construction of a gigantic U.S. command center in Heidelberg. The group said that civilians from the U.S. and war-resisting GIs were welcome, but not the U.S. war machine.

There were demonstrations in the main Spanish cities—Madrid, Barcelona, Bilbao, Oviedo, Valencia, Caceres and Sevilla—on Oct. 27. Actions took place in a lot of little cities and villages as well.

The largest was in Barcelona with more than 30,000 people. The banners read in Catalan, “Bush, Blair, Aznar: Who pulls the trigger” and “Stop the war in Iraq.” Aznar is the Spanish premier who has supported Bush.

In Rotterdam on Oct. 26, some 1,200 people braved torrential rains and gale winds that stopped public transportation. The crowd chanted in Dutch, Turkish and Kurdish. In Amsterdam, also in the



Ankara, Turkey



Tokyo, Japan



San Juan, Puerto Rico

## Massive anti-war turnout in San Francisco

Continued from page 4

Labor Council, and Richard Mead, president of ILWU Local 10.

Trent Willis, a business agent of the same union, told rally goers, “Bush is not only trying to attack Iraq but labor unions as well.”

### ‘Terror: Made in the USA!’

John Parker, of Workers World Party, spoke about the economic system behind the U.S. war drive. Just as it required terrorism and war to preserve slavery, he said, capitalism requires terrorism and war. “The motivation for waging war against Iraq is to preserve the system that takes wealth created by the majority and put it in the hands of a small minority,” Parker explained. “The war drive is about preserving capitalism and imperialism.”

Several speakers linked the U.S. government’s attack against Iraq with its support of Israel’s war against the Palestinian people.

“Israel cannot continue its occupation and create war on the Palestinians without the bullets and bombs supplied to them by the United States, and the U.S. cannot wage war against the Iraqi people without first silencing the Intifada,” said Ramiz Rafeedie of the Free Palestine Al-

liance.

Hatem Bazian of Al Qalam Institute explained, “Today there is another America that is saying no to war for oil in the Persian Gulf, no war for the multinational corporations, no war for Bush and his family who are owners of many multinational corporations. We need the America of the slaves, of the women’s movement, of the labor movement, of Malcolm X, of Martin Luther King, the America that went out into the streets to end the Vietnam War.”

Actor and Death Penalty Focus president Mike Farrell called Bush “an arrogant pretender to power, a self-appointed cowboy who is a toady to big oil, a friend to big business, and a henchman to those who would declare the American empire.”

Weapons of mass destruction? Yong-Bin Yook, Korean-American activist and Los Angeles ANSWER steering committee member, pointed out, “The truth is that America is the greatest producer of weapons of mass destruction. In fact, America is the only nation in history to use nuclear weapons and has now announced to the world that it’s willing to use nuclear weapons in a first strike attack against other nations.”

The Oct. 26 protest was held on the an-

niversary of the signing of the U.S. Patriot Act, which stripped away many constitutional rights. Riva Enteen of the National Lawyers Guild—which is part of the ANSWER coalition—described the impact of the law.

“We face security arrests, indefinite detentions, secret courts, secret evidence, military tribunals, no attorney-client privilege, expanded political spying and electronic surveillance and torture,” Enteen said. She reported that the National Lawyers Guild has called for a national campaign to repeal the Patriot Act.

Rep. Barbara Lee, the only representative in Congress to vote against President Bush’s phony “war on terrorism” a year ago, said to those gathered at the closing rally: “Keep the heat on, my brothers and sisters, keep it on. Your voices are being heard.”

At the closing rally, emcee Alicia Jrapko, a member of ANSWER, asked the sea of people, “Are we going to stop the war?”

“Yes,” they cheered.

Rally co-chairs also included Eyad Kashawi of the Free Palestine Alliance, KPFA hosts Miguel Molina and Davey D, and Gloria Verdieu of ANSWER and the San Diego Coalition to Save Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Other speakers included Sen. John Burton, president of the California State Senate; San Francisco supervisors Tom Amiano and Mark Leno; Dolores Huerta, founding member of the United Farm Workers of America; Barbara Lubin, Middle East Children’s Alliance and ANSWER steering committee member; Maudelle Shirek of the Berkeley City Council; Daniel Ellsberg, famous for releasing the Pentagon Papers during the Vietnam War; Dr. Helen Caldicott, founder of the Nuclear Policy Institute; Rula Khalawafi, American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee; Zulma Olivares of Comite ‘98; Howard Wallace, Hospital Workers Union Local 250; Ana Duarte, National Committee to Free the Cuban Five; Tommi Avicelli Mecca, Harvey Milk Club; Mario Santos, Bayan and a member of the ANSWER steering committee; and Nobuto Hosaka, a member of the Japanese Parliament.

Singer Michael Franti of Spearhead, legendary folk singer Utah Phillips, and spoken-word artists Edgar and Marcello Peres performed. The mayor of Hiroshima also sent a letter in solidarity with the march. Political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal sent a taped message from Pennsylvania death row. □

# global

Netherlands, nearly 10,000 people took to the streets to say no to Bush's war.

The same bad weather that hit all of northern Europe couldn't keep 3,000 rain-soaked demonstrators from gathering under umbrellas near the U.S. Embassy in Copenhagen, Denmark. Another 1,500 hit the streets in Stockholm, Sweden, and hundreds more in Oslo, Norway. There were smaller demonstrations in other Scandinavian cities.

In Italy, the Sabra and Shatila Committee, the Palestine Forum, the left-wing trade unions and various prominent individuals helped give the ANSWER initiative a worldwide dimension. Despite recent mass mobilizations against the war and another set for Nov. 9-10 during the European Social Forum in Florence, the turnout was still 20,000. Participants cheered a live cell-phone report from the Washington demonstration by Naomi Cohen. Another march of over 2,000 took place in Turin.

In Belgium there were three actions. On Oct. 25, 150 people gathered in front of the U.S. Embassy to say no to the war against Iraq. The annual "race for peace" organized by the city of Ieper—which was



PHOTO ABOVE: H-P RICHTER, AT RIGHT JOHN CATALINOTTO  
Above and right: Berlin, Germany.

demolished in World War I—was dedicated this year to "Stop the war against Iraq" and "Solidarity with the Palestinian people." It drew 1,000 people.

The International Camp drew hundreds to the European Union headquarters in Brussels to protest labeling many revolutionary organizations worldwide as "terrorist." □



Stockholm, Sweden



Jakarta, Indonesia



Barcelona, Spain

## FAIR hits NPR, New York Times

# Media watchdog criticizes anti-war rally coverage

Coverage of the huge Washington, D.C., anti-war demonstration on Oct. 26 was so belittling and biased in the *New York Times* and on *National Public Radio* that it evoked a firestorm of protest from a broad section of the movement. The *Times* coverage was minimal and derogatory. It estimated the crowd at "thousands" and said organizers were disappointed at the turnout.

But after the *Times* was bombarded with thousands of calls, including from the ANSWER coalition organizers, and its obvious lies became a hot issue with *Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting* and programs like *Pacifica Radio's Democracy Now*, the newspaper finally, on Oct. 30, published a second article on the demonstration. It acknowledged that at least 100,000 people had marched, far exceeding the organizers' original estimates, and reported that the success of the event was spurring on plans for new protests all over the country.

Following are excerpts from an advisory sent out by *Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting* on Oct. 28:

National Public Radio and the *New York Times* arrived at the same conclusion about the anti-war rally in Washington, D.C. this weekend [Oct. 26]: The turnout was disappointing. But neither report matched reality.

The *Times* account on Oct. 27 was vague, reporting that "thousands of protesters marched through Washington's streets," adding that "fewer people attended than organizers had said they hoped for." The report, which was under 500 words, appeared on page 8 of the paper.

On the Oct. 26 broadcast of *Weekend Edition*, NPR's Nancy Marshall went even further to disparage the turnout by offering an estimate on the crowd's size: "It was not as large as the organizers of the protest had predicted. They had said there would be 100,000 people here. I'd say there are fewer than 10,000."

While a turnout of less than 10,000 might have been a disappointment, NPR's estimate is greatly at odds with those of other observers. The *Los*



*Angeles Times* (10/27/02) reported that over 100,000 participated in the march, while the *Washington Post's* page A1 story (10/27/02) was headlined "100,000 Rally, March Against War in Iraq." The *Post* added that Saturday's march was "an anti-war demonstration that organizers and police suggested was likely Washington's largest since the Vietnam era."

While both the *Times* and NPR reported the apparent disappointment of the organizers, none were named or quoted directly.

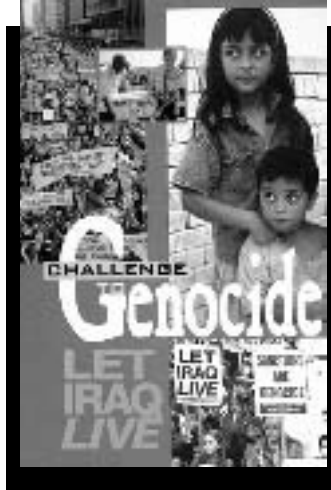
Those who spoke to other news out-

lets expressed just the opposite; organizer Mara Verheyden-Hilliard told the *Washington Post* the march was "just extremely, extremely successful."

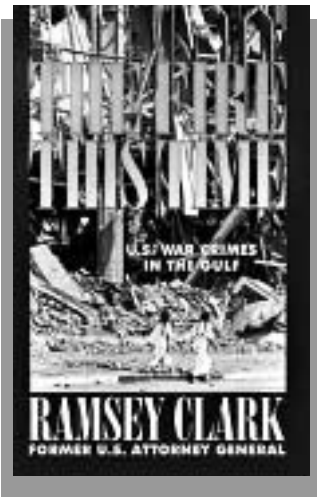
Perhaps someone at NPR noticed: The next day *Weekend Edition* anchor Liane Hansen introduced a report about anti-war demonstrations by saying that "organizers say 100,000 protesters were gathered." The *New York Times* did not run any follow-up article updating its estimate of the crowd size. [Since this was written, it has.—WW]

# Must reading for anti-war activists

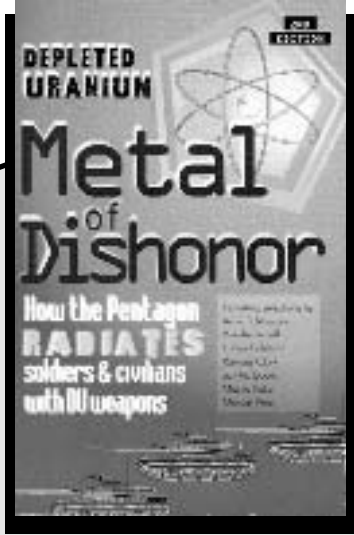
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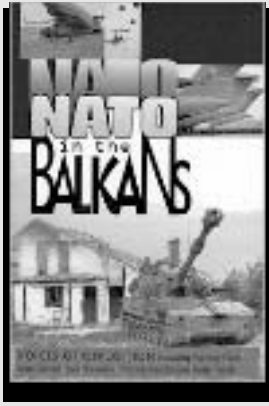


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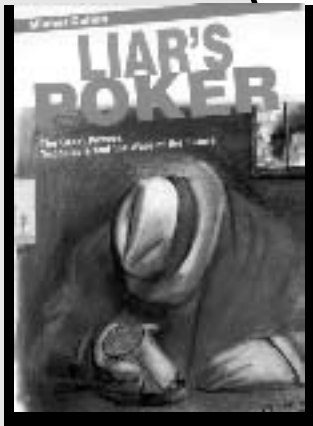
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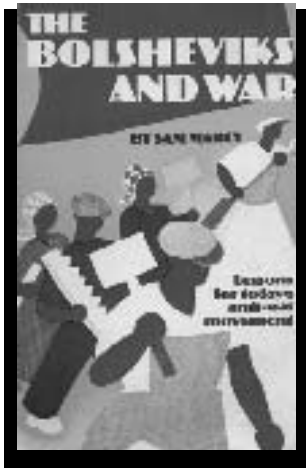
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## WW interview with Philippine Communist leader

# 'We won't capitulate to U.S. pressure'

Workers World reporter Lydia Bayoneta recently conducted an interview with Prof. Jose Maria Sison, the founding chairperson of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), chief political consultant of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) and general consultant of the International League of People's Struggle (ILPS).

### Bayoneta: What is your current status with regard to the government of the Netherlands?

**Sison:** I am a political refugee recognized by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the Dutch Council of State and the Dutch government. However, due to long-running U.S. pressure, I have not been admitted as a political refugee to the Netherlands. Neither have I been granted a permit to reside. Sometimes, I am called a "tolerated alien."

As a recognized political refugee, I am protected by the Refugee Convention and by the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. Don't be confused by the Dutch hairsplitting between the terms "recognized" and "admitted" political refugee. It is the confusion of the Dutch authorities as a result of the unlawful U.S. meddling in my asylum case in violation of the Refugee Convention. Lately, since Aug. 13, the Dutch government has issued the so-called sanction regulation against terrorism in order to subject me to persecution and repressive measures.

The said sanction regulation parrots the Aug. 9 decision of the U.S. State Department designating the Communist Party of the Philippines/New Peoples Army as a "foreign terrorist organization" and the Aug. 12 decision of the U.S. Treasury Department listing the CPP, NPA and myself as targets for the freeze of assets.

### What have been some of the immediate effects of this change in your status on you and the Filipino movement?

**Sison:** I have been criminalized as a "terrorist" without due process. I have been defamed, demonized and subjected to the incitement of public hatred by official propaganda mills. I have thereby suffered material and moral damages and grave threats to my life.

My joint bank account with my wife has been frozen, despite the fact that the money that goes in and out of there comes from the social welfare agency. The measly social benefits, which I receive in exchange for being banned from work as a "tolerated alien," have been terminated. The Dutch authorities offer the restoration of said benefits, but only on condition that these are on "humanitarian grounds" within the framework of the sanction regulation against terrorism.

The U.S.-Dutch imperialist collaboration against me is extremely cruel. I am deprived of the basic necessities of life and my basic human right to life is thus violated. My family manages to survive because we borrow money from friends. By the way, the sanction regulation also threatens to punish any entity for providing me any kind of goods and services, even if for mere subsistence.

The attack on me is meant by the governments in Washington, The Hague and Manila to terrorize the members, consultants, staffers and supporters of the NDFP negotiating panel based in Europe and to push them towards capitulation in the peace negotiations with the Manila government. But the imperialists, together with their puppets, are merely daydreaming by imagining that they can shake down the NDFP towards capitulation. They are in fact goading the revolutionary forces and people in the Philippines to struggle more resolutely and more militantly than ever before for national liberation and democracy.

The U.S. has its own unilateral strategic objective. If the shakedown on the NDFP does not result in capitulation of the revolutionary forces but the collapse of the peace negotiations, the U.S. is ready to escalate its military intervention in the Philippines and launch a war of aggression for the purpose of tightening U.S. control over the Philippines and all Southeast Asia.

But this early the revolutionary forces and people in the Philippines, including overseas Filipinos, know what the U.S. is up to. And they are more determined than ever before to fight for their national and democratic rights against U.S. imperialism and its puppets in the Philippines.

### After so many years as a recognized political refugee, why do you think the Netherlands has so abruptly changed its attitude towards you in particular? Do you expect your personal situation to become worse?

**Sison:** The Dutch government is consistently against my residence in the Netherlands. I have managed to stay long in the Netherlands by standing up for my rights against the powerful attempts of the Dutch government to violate the Refugee Convention and European Convention. The abrupt change is not in the attitude of the Dutch government but in the intensity of its intolerance and arbitrariness towards me. The Dutch government follows the baton of the U.S. government in this regard.

It is not at all surprising that the Dutch government does the bidding of the U.S. in using the pretext of anti-terrorism against me and in applying the most unjust and most cruel repressive measures against me. The U.S. and Dutch governments and multinational firms are long-time partners in the exploitation of the peoples of Southeast Asia and other parts of the world.

I am now taking legal actions to have my name removed from the list of "terrorists" and free myself from the adverse consequences of the witch hunt. These legal actions cost time, effort and money. The costs are punishing, too. But supporters are working hard to raise a legal defense fund for me.

I face far worse possibilities, including



Manila, Oct. 25.

extradition and even assassination by the CIA. According to certain high officials of the Manila government, especially national security adviser Roilo Golez, the U.S. is preparing to request the Dutch government to extradite me to U.S. territory or to put me

under provisional detention pending the fabrication of a criminal charge for my extradition.

The U.S. and Dutch governments are quite capable of using their extradition treaty against me despite the clear political motivation of the U.S. in fabricating the charge of terrorism against me.

### How do you assess the "war on terrorism" of the Bush administration?

**Sison:** The so-called Bush war on terrorism is actually a war of imperialist terrorism. The Bush administration has used the horrific terrorist attacks on civilians on Sept. 11 as the excuse for unleashing the super-terrorism of U.S. imperialism on the people of the world. Such super-terrorism includes wars of aggression, widespread military intervention, internationalization of repressive policies, escalation of state terrorism, intensified U.S. military spending and war production, assertions of monopoly right over weapons of mass destruction and the doctrine and practice of preemptive strikes.

A German leader has aptly compared Bush to Hitler. He whips up war hysteria, steps up war production and seeks to suppress dissent and revolutionary resistance in order to deflect attention from the daily worsening economic and social crisis of the world capitalist system.

### Comment on the relationship of this "war on terrorism" to the century-long struggle of the Philippines to achieve true sovereignty and independence.

**Sison:** It is clear that the Bush war of terrorism is aimed at violating the national sovereignty and independence of countries and peoples all over the world. We are therefore reminded of the century-long struggle of the Filipino people for national independence.

The 1899-1902 U.S. war of aggression against the Filipino people and the subsequent pacification campaigns lasting up to 1914 killed 1.4 million Filipinos, suppressed Philippine independence and put the Filipino people under U.S. colonial rule.

The U.S. also instigated, directed and propped up the Marcos fascist dictatorship for 14 years in order to retain all-round U.S. control over the Philippines in the face of a rising patriotic and progressive mass movement. In the process, the U.S. encouraged the Marcos fascist regime to torture and kill at least 200,000 people.

Now, Bush is using the pretext of war on terrorism in order to bring U.S. combat forces into the Philippines, re-establish the U.S. military bases and tighten U.S. control over the Philippines. The Filipino people can achieve complete victory in their revolutionary struggle for national liberation and democracy only by contending with and defeating the brutal military power of the U.S. and its puppets in the Philippines.

### Recently, with the collaboration of the government of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, the U.S. has indeed reintroduced U.S. combat troops into the Philippines. Please comment further on the goals and tactics of both the U.S. and Filipino governments.

**Sison:** The U.S. strategic planners think that the U.S. can grab anything while it is the sole superpower in the world. They have reintroduced U.S. combat troops into the Philippines initially under the pretext of going after the Abu Sayyaf.

After failing to destroy this small bandit group in the tiny island of Basilan, they announce that they wish to fight the revolutionary forces on a nationwide scale. They wish to extend so-called access rights, build up the military infrastructure and ultimately get basing rights for U.S. military forces.

Gloria Macapagal Arroyo is a worse puppet than any presidential predecessors. Even at the height of the Cold War, none found it necessary to call on U.S. military forces to fight the revolutionary forces in the country. She is obsessed with the notion that U.S. military and other kinds of intervention will ensure her victory in the 2004 elections.

Continued on page 10

# workers world editorial

## Bush & Fox

When the long-dead bodies of 11 Mexican workers were found in a locked boxcar in Iowa in mid-October, the world got a small glimpse of the terrible tragedy that has befallen the Mexican people since the NAFTA agreement went into effect.

After the elections of George W. Bush in the United States and Vicente Fox in Mexico two years ago, the two leaders met and came away all smiles. A new relationship would be forged between the imperialist giant and the neighbor it has oppressed since stealing half its territory in the 1840s. U.S. markets would be opened to Mexican products and an agreement would be reached allowing Mexicans to work legally in the United States.

Now the bubble has burst. When Fox and Bush talked to reporters after meeting in Los Cabos on Mexico's Baja peninsula on Oct. 25 at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, "they were unsmiling, sat far apart and barely looked at each other." (Washington Post, Oct. 28)

Bush had tried to line up Fox to vote in the United Nations Security Council for the U.S. resolution endorsing a war on Iraq. Fox declined, as did all the other Pacific Rim leaders.

Fox had tried to get Bush to live up to his promises about improving the economic relationship with Mexico. Bush played hardball.

NAFTA has been a disaster for Mexico. The U.S. now has a huge trade surplus with Mexico in agricultural products—and not because of "free trade," but because the U.S. government subsidizes agribusiness giants to the tune of billions of dollars a year. Corn produced by these huge corporations has flooded the Mexican market and bankrupted hundreds of thou-

sands of small farmers there. The result? An upsurge in the number of desperate people risking death to cross the border just to get less-than-minimum-wage jobs in the United States.

Bush, instead of working out a plan to allow for immigrant Mexican labor, has tightened the restrictions that make these workers "illegal" and subject to harassment and even death.

No wonder Fox can't hold his head up at home. The brave new world he had promised the Mexican people was a total illusion. Imperialism only takes; it concedes nothing without a struggle. Fox, the former head of Coca-Cola's Mexican operation, is in no way the person to lead that struggle.

The horrible irony of this period in history is that hunger and suffering are on the rise globally because the productivity of labor has risen so much with the scientific and technological revolutions of the recent period. Humanity's ability to produce has far outstripped the straightjacket of capitalist private property and its insatiable thirst for profit. More corn means more hungry people when it should mean no hungry people.

Capitalism long ago evolved into imperialism, where the corporations and banks of a few highly industrialized countries, with the U.S. at the very top, hold the rest of the world hostage, demanding the ransom of super-profits every day. That's what drives the aggressive policies and insulting demeanor of the U.S. president toward the rest of the world.

This should only spur on the movement here to extend a hand of solidarity to workers of all nationalities, here and abroad, while repudiating the imperialist globalization of the transnational corporations that spread misery and war around the world. □



Washington, D.C., Oct. 26.

WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

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## Interview with Philippine Communist leader

Continued from page 9

**How important is the Philippines to the goals of U.S. imperialism in Asia and the surrounding region?**

**Sison:** The Philippines is strategically important to the U.S. It is historically and currently a reliable launching base of the U.S. for its initiatives in the military, economic, political and cultural fields in Southeast Asia, in the whole of Asia and as far as the Middle East. The U.S. is hell bent on controlling the Philippines because it is the key point for controlling the whole of Southeast Asia. This region is on the path of the trading fleets and rapid deployment forces of the U.S. As in the past, the Philippines can be used by the U.S. to swing the other Southeast Asian countries in support of a U.S. dual policy of engagement and containment towards China.

**Getting back to your situation as a political refugee, what can the worldwide movement, and particularly people in the United States, do to assist your struggle?**

**Sison:** The most important thing to do is to gather moral and political support. For that purpose, information about my situation and struggle must be disseminated and must enlighten the people about the avarice and cruelty of imperialism.

I invite people in the U.S. to visit the following Web sites: [www.defendsison.be](http://www.defendsison.be) and [www.inps-sison@freewebspace.com](mailto:www.inps-sison@freewebspace.com) to keep themselves informed and updated about my struggle.

It is of crucial importance that we gain abundant support from the American people because they are in the belly of the beast that is chiefly responsible for the reign of greed and terror in the world. They can deliver telling blows.

We seek statements of solidarity and mutual support. We hold information and organizational meetings. We generate protest mass actions, from pickets to bigger rallies. We find ways of raising funds for the legal defense fund. We coordinate with all other progressive forces in order to link up the issues and bring about a more massive force in support of the just cause of national liberation, democracy and a just peace. □



Manila, Oct. 21.

## 2,000 rally in Hudson Valley

By Jack A. Smith  
Kingston, N.Y.

As five buses full of activists from New York's Hudson Valley were demonstrating for peace in Washington on Oct. 26, another 2,000 local residents participated in an anti-war rally and march here despite a persistent cold rain.

The event, organized by the Mid-Hudson National People's Campaign, was the largest demonstration of its kind ever held in this Hudson Valley city of 23,000 people. Nearly 30 local peace, justice, student and religious organizations throughout the region endorsed the actions and brought their members to take part in International ANSWER's day of protest. A large proportion of the participants were between the ages of 18 and 25.

The legendary folk singer Pete Seeger, 83, kept the crowd in Academy Green Park

as warm as possible with his sing-along versions of such songs as "This land is your land."

Some 20 other speakers and singers addressed the audience.

Radical Cheerleaders—a four-woman team from the state university at New Paltz—performed anti-war and left chants in the fashion of sports cheerleaders.

Introducing the rally, a spokesperson for the Mid-Hudson NPC declared: "The Bush administration has exploited the Sept. 11 tragedy to promote a right-wing agenda at home, including the militarization of American society to achieve worldwide hegemony."

The marchers refused to remain on the sidewalk, as the police permit specified, and occupied the entire street. One activist was slightly injured when a motorist sought to drive through the march. □

## Raises hopes of masses

# What Lula's election portends for Brazil

By Gloria La Riva

In Brazil, there is excitement in the air over the electoral victory of Lula da Silva as president. In Washington and in capitalist circles in Europe and Latin America, there is worry over what da Silva's election portends.

Media commentary throughout the world has labeled da Silva as the "first working-class president" in Brazil's history and the first "socialist president" of the country. A factory worker by trade and leader in the Workers Party of Brazil (PT), da Silva won 61.5 percent of the vote while his opponent, Jose Serra, got 38.5 percent in the Oct. 27 election. Voter turnout was 80 percent, indicating an enthusiasm rarely seen nowadays in bourgeois elections.

It was his fourth run. Why did da Silva win this time? As both average Brazilians and news pundits knew, it was the economic crisis, unemployment and mounting inflation that led even many conservative voters to back da Silva.

Brazil is the largest country in Latin America and the region's largest economy by far. In the Western Hemisphere, its population is second only to the United States. It has large-scale industry and agriculture, and a big and growing working class. What happens in Brazil has major implications for all of Latin America.

Of 175 million Brazilians, at least 52 million live in official poverty. Years of "neo-liberal," anti-worker policies have created one of the highest rates of economic inequality in the world, and saddled Brazil with an external debt of \$230 billion, most of it owed to the big international banks.

Brazil has the largest Black population outside of Africa—the legacy of slavery, which was only abolished in Brazil in 1888—who today continue to suffer from widespread and institutionalized racist discrimination.

A great deal of hope among Brazil's workers, peasants and shantytown dwellers is riding on da Silva's victory. A vote for da Silva was an overwhelming rejection of past administrations' complicit policies with international banks.

In his campaign he criticized free-trade policies and U.S. control of Latin America. He promised that his main priority will be to create jobs for millions.

Will da Silva be able to deliver on the hopes of the poor, the under-employed and unemployed? Will his desire to improve the lives of the Brazilian people reach fruition? His working-class roots and background of growing up in poverty have certainly endeared him to the struggling people.

### Brazil & 'Free Trade Area of the Americas'

Da Silva's victory comes at a critical time when the U.S. is pushing for a continent-wide free-trade agreement known as "FTAA" or ALCA in Spanish and Portuguese. The Free Trade Area of the Americas virtually guarantees that the production and corporations of the United States will prevail over any and all economic entities, whether they be Mexican agriculture or Brazilian industry.

FTAA calls for eliminating tariffs that were designed to protect national economic production and introducing legis-



Lula supporters, above and below.

lation to prohibit government intervention in favor of domestic companies. Such an economic agreement would have the effect of destroying the economies of Latin America, which have already been so terribly weakened by debt to U.S. banks.

The FTAA, if approved, would prohibit participating Latin governments from continuing policies that ensure a guaranteed market for national products over U.S. or other foreign imports.

This is done under the supposed "free trade" ideology of U.S. imperialism. But free trade is a myth. While the U.S. insists that Latin America must eliminate economic subsidies for its national agriculture, the U.S. Congress approved in May a whopping \$10 billion in subsidies to agribusiness giants like ADM and Cargill.

Interestingly, movements are arising in many Latin American countries, from Ecuador to El Salvador, to demand a rejection of the U.S.-imposed FTAA program. On Oct. 12, widespread work stoppages and blockades took place across El Salvador against globalization policies.

Brazil is a major obstacle to the U.S. dream of taking over Latin America's markets and economies through the overwhelming force of U.S. productive capacity. That is because Brazil, with its wealth in resources and large working-class population, has the potential for more independent economic policies, even within a capitalist framework, by its involvement in the Mercosur market of South American economic development.

With the capitalists unable to solve the general economic crisis within Brazil, a common phenomenon across the continent, the frustration in the population is now reflected in the election outcome.

### Taking office, not power

Notwithstanding da Silva's background and his militant history in the Brazilian trade union movement, it is one thing to gain office by election and another to have the power to make fundamental change.

Da Silva will soon take charge of the presidency in a country that is in economic crisis because of capitalism and the current crisis of overproduction.

Even though da Silva proclaims socialist views, his election will not change the capitalist structure of Brazil. Nor is there any indication that he intends to challenge

it in a fundamental way.

In his acceptance speech after victory, da Silva said he will carry out structural "reforms" of the economy. He vowed to keep inflation low. Da Silva said, "The tough path Brazil will have to walk will demand austerity in the use of public funds and a relentless fight against corruption."

Da Silva has also pledged to honor Brazil's huge \$230-billion foreign debt. The IMF recently extended another \$30 billion to help Brazil "restructure" this debt.

Who makes the economic decisions in a country dominated by the profit motive? An interesting point is the issue of buying oil-drilling rigs for Brazil's petroleum industry. The country is number three in the continent in oil production.

As an Oct. 28 Reuters article pointed out, da Silva argued strongly during his campaign for drilling rigs to be produced within Brazil as a way to provide jobs. He criticized Petrobras, the state-owned oil company, for having bought its oil rigs from abroad.

But in the article the oil analysts explained one of the most essential of capitalist laws: If the rigs are cheaper abroad, no capitalists will risk their profits by buying rigs at home.

Already oil executives have expressed concern about who da Silva will appoint to head the Petrobras industry and the National Petroleum Agency. It will be important to observe how da Silva's cabinet and transition team shape up. If da Silva does

indeed follow through on his evolving view that now calls for economic reforms like less government social spending, then very little will change for the people.

What then is the answer to Brazil's economic calamity? All of Latin America is experiencing a crisis very similar to that of Brazil's, a dragging down of the national economy with the

growth and strengthening of monopoly capital and U.S. imperialism.

The economic and social conditions are even worse than in the late 1950s, when revolutionary struggle in Cuba pulled that island's population out of interminable misery and hunger. In Cuba's case, decisive action by the leadership of Fidel Castro enabled the island to not only break with the puppet Batista regime, but, more importantly, to break from the capitalist system itself.

Without a complete uprooting of the capitalist system at that time in 1959, Cuba would have remained mired in hopeless dependence on the U.S. Its resources would be the property of U.S. banks and corporations. Had it not established a socialist system, Cuba would never have been able to develop its universal education, health care, housing and other programs that distinguish it from all other countries in the Americas.

### Why U.S. leaders and bankers are worried

If da Silva's program is a reformist one and does not call for the revolutionary transformation of Brazil, why are Washington and Wall Street concerned about his election?

What worries the bankers and capitalist politicians is their fear of raised expectations on the part of the Brazilian masses, many of whom view Lula's electoral victory as signaling a new day for the oppressed.

Tens of millions of workers, landless peasants and shantytown residents, the capitalists fear, will be emboldened by the election to intensify the struggle for what is rightfully theirs. Popular mobilization may well expand and deepen in the wake of the PT's electoral victory, a development which could have far-reaching implications for Brazil and all of Latin America.

The corporate rulers in the U.S. and Brazil, on the other hand, will demand that da Silva use his authority and popularity among the oppressed sectors of Brazilian society to hold back the masses, leading, the ruling classes hope, to demoralization and demobilization.

Only the unfolding of events in the coming weeks and months can determine in which direction Brazil will go after the election. But of this there can be no doubt: The deepening and insoluble crisis in Latin America which produced Lula's electoral victory is driving the struggle forward in Brazil and across the region. □



## Declaración de la coalición anti guerra ANSWER:

# Cientos de miles marchan contra la guerra en Washington, San Francisco y ciudades alrededor del mundo

En la manifestación en contra de la guerra más grande desde la época de la Guerra de Vietnam, más de 250.000 personas salieron a las calles de Washington D.C. y San Francisco de California. Otras manifestaciones ocurrieron en ciudades alrededor del mundo.

Organizadores de la coalición ANSWER anunciaron el referéndum popular anti guerra: una campaña nacional a nivel comunitario en lo cual la gente puede votar en contra de la guerra. Los resultados se van a anunciar en manifestaciones en el fin de semana del 18 y 19 de enero, el cumpleaños del Dr. Martín Luther King, hijo. (<http://www.votenowar.org>).

La manifestación más grande ocurrió en Washington, D.C., donde decenas de miles de personas participaron en un mitin que comenzó al lado del Monumento Conmemorativo de los Veteranos de la Guerra de Vietnam. Mientras que el periódico Washington Post y la policía calcularon la cifra de participantes en más de 100.000



Madrid, España

personas, reporteros del red radial Pacifica, que emitió en vivo al evento, calcularon a la participación en 200.000 personas.

La marcha en San Francisco de 100.000 llenó toda la ruta de la marcha de 1,7 millas desde la Plaza Justin Herman hacia el Centro Cívico.

La marcha en Washington, D.C. fue tan larga que la gente marchando en las

primeras filas volvió al punto de partida y tuvieron que esperar para permitir a los manifestantes en la cola de la marcha a pasar.

Organizadores dijeron que una manifestación de tal magnitud no había ocurrido desde 1969, cinco años después de que el Congreso adoptó la Resolución del Golfo de Tonkin autorizando al Presidente Johnson a lanzar la guerra contra Vietnam. La semana pasada el Congreso promulgó una resolución semejante otorgando a Bush el permiso ilimitado de hacer la guerra contra Irak.

Los oradores mejor conocidos incluyeron a la actriz Susan Sarandon, líder comunitario Al Sharpton, Congresista Cynthia McKinney, ex procurador general Ramsey Clark, y la cantante Patti Smith, que cantó con un guitarrista.

También hablando fueron Clarence Thomas, Secretario General del sindicato

de trabajadores portuarios (ILWU) Local 10; Mahdi Bray, Fundación Libertario de Musulmanes Americanos; abogados defensores Leonard Weinglass y Lynne Stewart; Ahmed Al-Awazza de la Asociación de Estudiantes Musulmanes; Michael Letwin, de Trabajo de Nueva York Contra la Guerra; Peta Lindsay, organizadora de la juventud del grupo ANSWER; y autora Leslie Feinberg.

“La multitud enorme del 26 de octubre excedió nuestras esperanzas, cuando iniciamos esta manifestación hace seis semanas”, dijo Mara Verheyden-Hilliard. La asistencia masiva es una señal clara de la ira y frustración que siente la gente sobre el visto bueno automático de parte del Congreso de la política bélica de Bush. La gente está saliendo a las calles de nuevo como ha hecho en el pasado en una estrategia clásica de organizar en el ámbito comunitario que puede ser decisivo en prevenir a la guerra”. □

## Ni el Congreso, ni la ONU

# Solo el pueblo puede para la guerra

Por Fred Goldstein

El movimiento contra la guerra debe exponer los últimos atentados de la administración Bush de querer dar la impresión de que Washington está tratando de evitar la guerra. Nadie debe dar una onza de credibilidad a la retórica de Bush. Toda la atención se debe enfocar sobre las enfebrecidas preparaciones del Pentágono para la invasión.

La única respuesta para estas movidas de guerra es una escalación de la lucha contra la guerra en todos los frentes.

Para poder aplacar a sus oponentes en el Consejo de la Seguridad de la ONU y la creciente oposición en los Estados Unidos y en todo el mundo, Bush ha hipócritamente declarado que él le dará a la diplomacia “un oportunidad más”. Además, el dijo que si Saddam Hussein “aceptara todas las condiciones de las Naciones Unidas, las condiciones que yo he descrito muy claramente en los términos que todo el mundo puede entender, que en si quiere decir que el régimen ha cambiado”.

Este es el último esfuerzo para que una vez más desviar la culpa para poder llevar a cabo una agresión por los Estados Unidos no provocada. Bush está tratando engañar a los iraquíes diciendo, oh si, claro que puede haber “un cambio de régimen” sin una invasión y sin el derrocamiento del gobierno de Irak—pero solo si Irak conforma con las condiciones imposibles de comprobar que no tiene armas de destrucción masiva.

Además, la administración Bush está manejando al Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU para que imponga condiciones difíciles que les llevará a la guerra aún antes de

las inspecciones. Por ejemplo, Washington está exigiendo que la resolución de la ONU requiera a que los científicos iraquíes sean interrogados fuera del país a que sus familias sean retiradas con ellos.

El Vice Primer Ministro, Tariq Aziz, preguntó, “¿Qué líder en el mundo va a permitir a que los americanos saquen a sus científicos fuera de su país en contra de su voluntad? Ellos está viviendo la ley de la jungla.”

Más fundamentalmente los iraquíes ha declarado una y otra vez que ellos no tienen armas de destrucción masivas. Ellos ha se ha sometido a más de 9000 inspecciones entre 1991 y 1998. Lo que pasó en 1998 fue que Washington retiró a sus inspectores porque este planeaba atacar a Irak. En recientes semanas el gobierno de Irak acordó a inspecciones no anunciadas del tipo más impertinente, incluyendo a todos los edificios gubernamentales.

Pero la Administración de Bush ha hecho religioso de que Irak está trabajando en armas nucleares, biológicas y químicas. Si estas plantas de producción no son encontradas, según la administración de Bush, será porque los iraquíes están obstruyendo y han movido y escondido dichas armas.

La Administración Bush está en una campaña para conquistar a Irak y de tomarse sus 110 mil millones de barriles de petróleo, el segundo depósito más grande en el mundo. Y ha hecho claro de que no hay condiciones ni concesiones que el gobierno de Irak pueda ofrecer que haga que detener a Bush, al Pentágono y a las gigantescas compañías petroleras de su guerra.

Según el periódico The New York Times, “un oficial que está presente en muchas dis-

usiones sobre la política sobre Irak dijo esta noche, ‘yo no creo que el presidente se está echando atrás ni un poco de sus conclusiones de que Saddam tiene que irse. Pero si ha aprendido de que el hablar sobre ello no ayuda a su causa.’”

### El plan del Pentágono para un régimen militar

En días recientes la Casa Blanca y el Pentágono han mostrado el avance de los planes para una guerra de conquista. El 10 de octubre ellos divulgaron los últimos planes para un régimen militar estadounidense en Irak. Será regido por un oficial militar de alto comando, posiblemente el General Tommy Franks de Comando Central de los Estados Unidos. Entre otras cosas, el ejército de este y sus aliados imperialistas se harán dueños del petróleo de Irak.

También ha sido divulgado que el Departamento del Estado ha iniciado el “Proyecto del Futuro de Irak” para entrenar a un nuevo equipo de administradores títeres que asesorarán al nuevo régimen instalado por Estados Unidos acerca de los varios aspectos técnicos, legales, políticos y administrativos de gobernación después de una invasión.

Casi al mismo tiempo salió la noticia de que el Pentágono ha dado las ordenes a la Marina y al Ejército a mover su comando central de California a Heidelberg, Alemania, a Kuwait. El Comando Central se moverá a la región el próximo mes. Suficiente suministros militares ya han sido trasladado de la base militar Diego García en el Océano Indio para equipar a 10.000 soldados y 15.000 marinos. Y más van en camino.

La última información es que el Pentá-

gono está “entrenando furiosamente y puliendo un plan de ataque contra Bagdad que se trata de aislar a la ciudad y después tomar control sobre esta,” según el Times.

La Marina ahora está utilizando una instalación de 1.000 edificios en la Base de la Fuerza Aérea George, una instalación en el sur de California,” mientras practican una guerra urbana. Otras unidades de combate urbano están practicando en Guam, en Louisiana y en el estado de Nueva York.

### El asunto real: desarmar al Pentágono

Cualquier inclinación de Bush hacia la diplomacia es solo una maniobra para evadir criticismo y ganar consentimiento para la guerra por parte del Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU. El debate en el Consejo de Seguridad es realmente un debate sobre que tácticas usar para subyugar la soberanía de Irak, el cual se ha rehusado a entregar sus estado independiente y convertirse en un satélite del imperialismo estadounidense y de los gigantescos monopolios petroleros.

El debate sobre la mejor manera de “desarmar a Irak” es falso. Irak y todos los países ex coloniales tiene todo el derecho de armarse para protegerse contra cualquier depredador imperialista que quiera re imponer su subyugación sobre ellos. El debate real debe ser sobre cómo desarmar al Pentágono, el cual tiene más armas de destrucción masiva y de destrucción convencional que el resto del mundo unido y ha declarado abiertamente sus intenciones de lanzar una nueva guerra de agresión, contra cualquier país. □