

UNEMPLOYMENT

What the statistics don't show: Millions have given up looking **3**

TAILSPIN

Airlines need worker control **4**



SANCTIONS SWITCHEROO

Why does Washington suddenly want to drop them? **7**

CUBA VS. COUNTER-REVOLUTION

- ▶ Progressives urge solidarity
- ▶ Guantanamo and U.S. hypocrisy **8**



ARGENTINE CRISIS- WHAT WAY OUT?

Workers seize 150 factories **9**

Subscribe to Workers World

Trial: \$2 for 8 weeks.
One year: \$25

NAME _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

WORKERS WORLD NEWSPAPER
55 W.17 St. NY, NY 10011 (212) 627-2994
www.workers.org

Two murderous attacks in 48 hours

U.S. troops kill more unarmed protesters

Rumsfeld visit to Iraq delivers repression, not 'liberation'

By Fred Goldstein

On April 30, at about the same moment that a taped message from U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld was telling the people that "Iraq belongs to you," U.S. troops were opening fire on unarmed demonstrators in the Iraqi city of Fallujah for the second time in 48 hours. They killed two and wounded 14, according to the mayor, himself a former exile.

The shootings by the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division were intended to suppress a demonstration of about 1,000 people marching downtown in front of a battalion headquarters. And why were they there, risking their lives? To protest a massacre of unarmed demonstrators in the same town two days earlier, when up to 15 Iraqis were killed and 75 wounded by the U.S. forces.

When they came out the second time in even greater numbers, they were fired on again.

On April 28, a unit of the 82nd Airborne had opened fire on a crowd estimated between 100 and 200. It had poured out of the mosques after services, about 9 p.m., demanding that U.S. troops get out of the al-Qaeda school they had been occupying, so that the school could be opened for the local students.

Contrary to the unanimous accounts of residents and the physical evidence, Lt. Col. Eric Nantz of the 82nd Airborne, 1st Battalion, told reporters that the troops were fired on from the ground and rooftops. Nantz claimed his troops had recovered eight weapons and spent shell casings from AK-47s. "They declined to show the weapons or the shell casings," noted the Los Angeles Times of April 29.

Nantz told a Times reporter that soldiers returned fire, aiming only at those who had weapons. Speaking in the language of his boss, Donald Rumsfeld, Nantz said, "The engagement was sharp, precise, then it was complete."

Eyewitnesses contradict U.S. forces

However, eyewitnesses told the Times a different story. The article reported that "When the Americans rolled into town three

days ago, they angered the community when they set up camp in a school, making it impossible for the children to resume classes. Residents became even more upset when the soldiers took school desks and piled them in the street as roadblocks.

"The school is right across the street from a row of houses," continued the Times. "A 9-year-old boy, Baha Mohammed, was in his front yard and was shot in the shoulder. On Tuesday, he rested on a cot in Fallujah Hospital, passing in and out of consciousness while his father fanned him with a towel.

"The Americans did this, and for what reason?" said the boy's father, Mohammed Rabee, 34.

"The Salah family lived across the street too. According to witness accounts, when the bullets started to fly, panicked protesters tried to get into the Salahs' courtyard. Muthana Salah, 41, went to open the gate. A bullet hit him in the foot, and he collapsed.

"His brother Walid, 40, rushed out to help and he slumped over, dead.

"His other brother, Osama, 36, tried to push a car into the road to block Muthana so he could pull him away—and Osama went down, shot in the stomach.

"His wife, Abtisam, 38, ran out to drag her husband to safety, and she went down too. When it was all over, Muthana lost his right foot. Walid was dead. Osama was in critical condition in intensive care. Abtisam was treated and released."

'No warning at all'

Ahmed Hatim, 21, told how after the last day of prayer, a group of people gathered outside the mosque "and began to talk about the indignities the soldiers were heaping on their community," continued the Times. "He said the crowd marched through town and at one point the soldiers fired over their heads but they would not be stopped. He said when they reached the school, there was no warning at all... 'When we reached the school, they opened fire in an indiscriminate way...'"

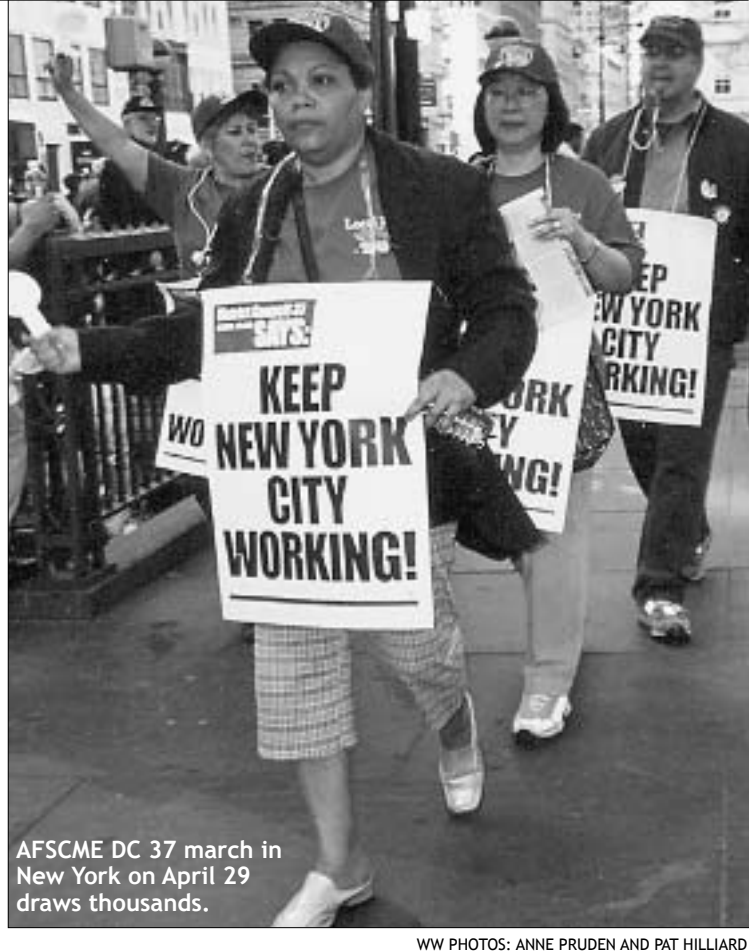
Hatim was shot in the thigh and was interviewed in his hos-
Continued on page 6

Public service workers under attack

SEE PAGE 5



April 27 rally at Brooklyn Borough Hall.



AFSCME DC 37 march in New York on April 29 draws thousands.

A TRIBUTE TO NINA SIMONE

Powerful voice for Black liberation

By Monica Moorehead

The whole world is mourning the tragic loss of African American vocalist and pianist Nina Simone, who died April 21 at the age of 70 at her home in southern France. Progressive radio stations, especially those that are jazz-oriented, are playing her recordings without commercial interruption, including live concerts.

Simone's unique artistry of singing while playing the piano influenced future women performers such as Roberta Flack, Aretha Franklin and Laura Nyro. Like other African American performers, past and present, Simone's musical talent was influenced first and foremost by the powerful gospel music coming out of the Black church. Born Eunice Waymon, she could play the hymns without sheet music beginning at age 2. She became the regular pianist at her parents' church by the age of 6 in her hometown of Tryon, N.C.

She developed a love for classical music and won a scholarship to the prestigious Juilliard School of Music in New York, where her piano technique was developed. Although her style would always be compared to other jazz musicians, Simone considered her music to be a combination of folk, blues, classical and jazz.

While living in Harlem, she recorded her first and only top-20 hit, "I Loves You Porgy," which brought her national and international recognition. She developed relationships with other well-known political artists such as Langston Hughes, James Baldwin, Amiri Baraka (then Leroy Jones), Dick Gregory and many more.

Africa and civil rights transformed her

In December 1961, Simone traveled to Lagos, Nigeria, her first trip to Africa. It proved to be a life-changing experience. Once she returned to the United States, she became more aware and interested in the struggle for civil rights in the South, which was intensifying during that period.

Simone credits the great Black playwright Lorraine Hansberry as the person who "allowed me to see the bigger picture." Hansberry, she said, "saw civil rights as only one part of the wider racial and class struggle." Simone stated in her autobiography, "I Put a Spell on You," that she and Hansberry, author of the first major Black Broadway play, "A Raisin in the Sun," would talk about Marx, Lenin and revolution.

When the playwright died of cancer at the age of 34, Simone wrote and recorded a song in her honor. Its title, "To Be Young, Gifted and Black," was the name of the play Hansberry was writing at the time of her death. The



song went on to become known as the anthem of the civil-rights movement.

After the murders of NAACP leader Medgar Evers and then the four schoolgirls in the Birmingham, Ala., bombing of 1963, Simone wrote one of her signature songs, "Mississippi Goddamn." She was asked to perform during many civil-rights events, most notably a rally during the Selma to Montgomery march in 1965.

Simone was influenced by other currents in the struggle for Black liberation, especially the Black Panthers, Malcolm X and Kwame Toure, a leader of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee who was then known as Stokely Carmichael. She wrote and performed other important socially conscious songs such as "I Wish That I Knew How It Felt to Be Free," "Four Women" and "Why? The King of Love Is Dead," a moving tribute to the martyred Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Simone eventually left the United States following the government's racist repression of the Black liberation movement. She was the victim of greedy record companies, unscrupulous agents and the Internal Revenue Service. This writer, as a teenager, was fortunate to see her perform and, like millions of others, will always admire her dignity and unwillingness to compromise her music and principles. □

This week ...



★ National

A tribute to Nina Simone	2
4 million more are jobless	3
Mumia on the empire	3
Philadelphia rally for Mumia	3
Airlines in tailspin	4
Protest weapons of mass destruction	4
The attack on public workers' unions	5
Labor protests Oakland police attack	5
Law students honor arrested attorney	6

★ International

U.S. troops fire on Iraqi protesters	1
Behind Washington's demand to lift sanctions	7
ANSWER's statement on Bush's threats to Cuba	8
Cuba, human rights and Guantanamo	8
Argentina workers seize control of 150 plants	9
Anti-war groups meet in Berlin	9
Labor struggles in South Korea	11

★ Editorials

The bomb stops here	10
Laci case and women's right to abortion	10

★ Noticias En Español

Venezuela	12
-----------	----

WW CALENDAR

NEW YORK

Every Friday

Workers World Party weekly meetings at 7 p.m. Phone (212) 627-2994 for topics and location.

SAN FRANCISCO

Every Sunday

Workers World Party weekly meetings. These educational meetings cover current events as well as struggles of peoples from all over the world. 5 p.m. At 2489 Mission St, room 28. For info (415) 826-4828.

Workers World

55 West 17 Street
New York, N.Y. 10011
Phone: (212) 627-2994 • Fax: (212) 675-7869
E-mail: editor@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org
Vol. 45, No. 18 • May 8, 2003
Closing date: April 30, 2003

Editor: Deirdre Griswold;
Technical Editor: Lal Roohk;
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: Rebecca Finkel, Elena J. Peckham, Hank Sambach;
Mundo Obrero: Carl Glenn, Carlos Vargas;
Internet: Janet Mayes

Workers World-WW (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly except the first week of January by WW Publishers, 55 W. 17 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10011. Phone: (212) 627-2994. Subscriptions: One year: \$25; foreign and institutions: \$35. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 55 W. 17 St., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from University Microfilms International, 300 Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48106. A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.

Selected articles are available via e-mail subscription. Send an e-mail message to wwnews-on@wwpublish.com.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World-WW, 55 W. 17 St., 5th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10011.

Where is Bush going? What's next for our movement?

NATIONAL CONFERENCE MAY 17-18 IN NYC

Against war, colonial occupation & imperialism

THE A.N.S.W.E.R. COALITION Act Now to Stop War and End Racism

www.InternationalANSWER.org www.Vote No War.org email: info@internationalanswer.org
N.Y. 212-633-6646 D.C. 202-544-3389 L.A. 213-487-2368 S.F. 415-821-6545

JOIN US. Workers World Party (WWP) fights on all issues that face the working class and oppressed peoples—Black and white, Latino, Asian, Arab and Native peoples, women and men, young and old, lesbian, gay, bi, straight, trans, disabled, working, unemployed and students.

If you would like to know more about WWP, or to join us in these struggles, contact the branch nearest you.

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

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

Baltimore 426 E. 31 St.,
Baltimore, Md. 21218
(410) 235-7040
baltimore@workers.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rochester, N.Y.
2117 Buffalo Rd., PMB.
303, Rochester, N.Y. 14624
(716) 436-6458;
San Diego, Calif.
3930 Oregon St., Suite 230
San Diego, Calif. 92104
(619) 692-4496

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

Seattle
1218 E. Cherry #201,
Seattle, Wash. 98122
(206) 325-0085;
seattle@workers.org

State College, Pa.
100 Grandview Rd.,
State College,
Pa. 16801
(814) 237-8695

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

Have given up looking for jobs

4 million more 'outside the labor force'

By Monica Moorehead

As greedy corporate bosses like those at Halliburton and Bechtel salivate over government contracts worth billions of dollars to "rebuild" Iraq, growing numbers of jobless workers in the United States—in the millions—have given up any hope of finding a decent-paying job.

They are not even counted as unemployed once their benefits are exhausted.

When President George W. Bush wanted \$80 billion in additional funds to carry out a racist, genocidal war against Iraq, he demanded an emergency session of Congress to accomplish this. Congress obliged without a whimper.

Where are the emergency sessions of Congress to address the catastrophe facing those who are unemployed and can't find jobs?

More than 74.5 million adults were deemed "outside of the labor force" in March—up more than 4 million since March 2001, according to the Department of Labor. "They are people who fall outside the government's definitions of either employed or unemployed: they do not hold jobs, but they also have not gone out seeking work within the past month," reported the April 27 New York Times.

This figure includes retired workers and parents who have been home taking care of children for years, the Times noted, "but the surge of dropouts suggests that the jobless rate—which was 5.8 percent last month, roughly where it has been for the past year—offers an artificially

sanguine picture of the labor market, many economists say."

The proportion of those considered to be in the labor force who are either working or actively looking for a job has dropped 0.9 percent over the last two years to 66.2 percent—the biggest decrease in almost 40 years.

Those who have become so discouraged and demoralized by looking for a job are not just the chronically poorest, unskilled workers. These numbers now include more and more highly skilled, highly educated workers who once made six-figure salaries working in recently downsized computerized, high-tech industries. Even investment bankers are receiving pink slips.

But low-paid and oppressed workers feel the brunt of the pain of joblessness.

For the first time since the 1960s, the proportion of women in the paid labor force has dropped over an extended period. In March, 60.6 percent of women 20 and older had jobs, down from 61 percent in March 2001.

Teenagers, pulled into the job market in large numbers in the late 1990s, have also given up looking for work recently at a rapid rate.

The biggest group dropping out of the labor force is men, the Labor Department says. The number of Black men not looking for work has increased particularly sharply.

The sharp rise in the number of Black men in prison and the attacks on affirmative action programs underscore the lack of job opportunities for oppressed workers.

In addition to growing numbers of jobless workers, those who do have

jobs face a crisis of falling wages.

Companies such as Microsoft, AT&T, Starwoods Hotel, American Airlines, Boeing and many others try to salvage profits by laying off workers, freezing salaries or cutting wages of their remaining work force. Many workers who once had decent-paying jobs feel the pressure to take wage cuts and a decrease in benefits in order to avoid layoff.

Capitalist economic analysts go out of their way to say that the only impact the war on Iraq has had on the U.S. population is anxiety in consumer spending. But the effects go much deeper.

Along with the \$80 billion Congress allotted for the war, there is also the gargantuan military budget which will reach almost \$400 billion in 2004. The threat to U.S. "national security" is not Iran, Syria, Cuba or North Korea. It's the growing unemployment, poverty, lack of health care, homelessness, hunger, budget cuts and illiteracy.

Orienting toward electing Democrats in the 2004 capitalist elections is not the solution that will turn around this social disaster. Workers of all nationalities need to organize a united, independent fight-back movement to put pressure on the government to declare a moratorium on layoffs, foreclosures, hospital and clinic closings, utility shutoffs, repossessions, wage cuts and freezes.

The money is there to meet this growing emergency that tens of millions are facing—just look at the military budget. The crisis is rooted in capitalist greed and imperialist war. □

By Mumia Abu-Jamal from death row

Mumia on the empire



There are doubtless many Americans, perhaps millions, who wonder to themselves, "How did we get into this?"

They look at Americans waging what they firmly believe is an unnecessary, and perhaps illegal war, and wonder how this came to be, and perhaps equally as important, what will be the repercussions of this dangerous and precipitous action?

Perhaps they grit their teeth at the sight of the "Boy King" as he lumbers about on the world's stage, and blame him for this present state of affairs, and long for days past, when things seemed simpler, or, at the very least, safer. It is hard to resist such a temptation, but resist it we must.

Why? Because this tragic national fit of distemper did not begin with Bush. It will not end with him. What ails the American body politic is not personal, but institutional. One need only take a deep look at American history—not that taught in our high schools, or which thickens our almanacs, but the history beneath those safe sources, which reflects over 200 years of American conflicts—to find the roots of our imperial appetites. Over 150 years ago, in an otherwise nondescript case before the nation's Supreme Court, a man was challenging the constitutionality of the law which prohibited the selling of lotteries in Washington, D.C. Again, it was not the case that was especially important, but the words used in that case, by a chief justice of the United States, which are indeed memorable.

In *Cohens v. Virginia* (1821), Chief Justice John Marshall described the powers of the states in an interesting way:

"That the United States form, for many, and for most important purposes, a single nation, has not yet been denied. In war, we are one people. In making peace we are one people, in all commercial respects, we are one and the same people. ... The people have declared, that in the exercise of all powers given for these objects it is supreme. ... The constitution and the laws of a state, so far as they are repugnant to the constitution and laws of the United States, are absolutely void. The states are constituent parts of the United States. They are members of one great empire—for some purposes sovereign, for some purposes subordinate." (p. 414)

The words are unmistakable—"one great empire"—the United States.

It is well to remember here the name of the first federal gathering of the American colonies in 1776: the "Continental Congress." Why not "National Congress"? Or "American Congress"?

To those who began to organize the state, their intentions were to dominate the entire continent. It was not for naught that the Americans fought wars with England for Canadian territories, and Mexico for what is now about one-third of the American national territory. Before the Mexican-American War of 1846-48, Arizona, California and New Mexico were part of Mexico. Before the war, Texas was part of Mexico, but Texans had set up their own country, the Republic of Texas.

Americans wanted all of these lands, from the frigid forests of northern Canada to the tropics of southern Mexico. Again, "empire."

This does not mean that Marshall was speaking for everybody when he said what he said; he was speaking for the wealthy, white elites of which he was a part. Millions of other people would have violently disagreed with his "one people" argument. For millions of Blacks, millions of women, for millions of Indians, Chinese in the mines of California, Mexicans in the Southwest, they knew they were not included or counted among the "one people" that Marshall claimed to speak for.

It's been over 175 years since Marshall's imperial dreams, and still he does not speak for everyone. There are millions of people who are just as opposed to that idea. Many of them stage demonstrations against the war. Some of them stage protests against this deeply held notion of "empire." They may feel comfortable as part of a nation, but have no wishes to lord it over people in other parts of the world. They want to be neighbors, not masters.

They see themselves as people who want to help heal the nation's ills, before tackling the troubles of the wide and threatening world. They know that their jobs aren't safe; that their schools aren't working; that their streets aren't safe; and that their neighborhood cops are out of control.

They know that the nation is in deep trouble. They have no time for empire. □

PHILADELPHIA

Free Mumia Abu-Jamal

Mumia Awareness Day was held in Philadelphia on April 24, the 49th birthday of political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. Activists from around the region tabled for eight hours to educate and update the public on the current legal and political situation for the death row journalist.

A protest was also held at the Philadelphia office of Gov. Ed Rendell, who has been campaigning for Mumia's execution ever since he was convicted of murdering a police officer in 1981. Mumia's lawyers are trying to present evidence in the federal appeals courts to prove his innocence.

—M.M.

PHOTO: INDYMEDIA



MUMIA SPEAKS *An interview with Mumia Abu-Jamal from death row*

Columns by the Black journalist on prisons, capitalism, politics, revolution and solidarity. Additional essays on the prison-industrial complex by Monica Moorehead, Larry Holmes and Teresa Gutierrez.

Order from International Action Center, 39 West 14 St., #206 New York, NY 10011 \$3

Need workers' control

Airlines in tailspin

By Milt Neidenberg

One robber baron is down—but the system he represents goes on.

Donald J. Carty, chief executive officer of American Airlines—the biggest airline carrier in the world—has reluctantly resigned. He and other top executives in the industry were caught sticking their grubby, greedy hands into AA assets.

Gerard J. Arpey, a board of directors' favorite, is now CEO. He is a beneficiary of the same freebies that Carty and the others secretly grabbed.

Meanwhile, AA union members have suffered mass layoffs and drastic cuts in wages and benefits. Work loads have increased immeasurably. Worker safety has been endangered.

In an airline crisis of unprecedented proportions, AA workers had voted to give up \$1.62 billion annually to save the company.

In stark contrast, Carty and seven top executives tried to take "retention" bonuses for the next two years worth up to twice their base salaries. Carty's bonus would have been more than \$1.6 million, based on his salary of \$811,000.

Infuriated by these obscene financial arrangements, the unions forced Carty and others to forgo their bonuses. But the bosses refused to give up a trust fund they control, which protects their pensions regardless of what happens to AA—including bankruptcy.

Carty admitted that this trust fund was built up with a \$41 million payment last October—at a time when AA was losing money by the minute. When the leaders of the Allied Pilots Union, the Transport Workers Union and the Association of Professional Flight Attendants found out, they withdrew their "yes" votes on the recent \$1.62 billion in concessions.

Unfortunately, a few days later, these same union leaders called on a handful of Democrats to broker a settlement. Under the threat of bankruptcy, the unions agreed to reverse their decision and accept

the cuts with some minor sweeteners—although the flight attendants held out to the bitter end.

Underneath the rock of greed and corruption

For a moment, rank-and-file anger against corrupt corporate leaders shook up a powerful corporation. It's a lesson for other airline workers.

Similar disclosures have revealed that Delta Air Lines and United Airlines poured millions of dollars into special pension trust funds and "retention" bonuses for management. Meanwhile, workers' 401k and other pension funds are seriously under-funded, some nearly bankrupt. Regulatory filings will show that all too many companies have set up privately funded payouts for upper management.

Recently, AA filed its annual proxy statement with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Retention bonuses were still there, along with the pension trusts. (New York Times, April 25)

This high-powered government regulatory agency is supposed to provide oversight against Wall Street swindles—including the widespread practice of cooking the books. But the truth is, they're all employed by the same ruling class, which covers up corrupt practices that exploit workers and oppressed nationalities.

It is not only AA executives' greed involved in doling out exorbitant pension benefits to themselves. Corruption is built into the system of capitalist exploitation.

Interlocking relationships among corporate heads and bankers allow them to milk the corporations dry. Last year, J.P. Morgan Chase conspired with Enron to obtain hundreds of millions of dollars in illegal tax deductions that gave Enron's executives enormous financial benefits. The bank was rewarded as well.

Recently, the SEC, in consultation with New York Attorney General Elliott Spitzer, tapped the wrists of some of the biggest investment companies with a \$1.4

billion penalty. Some analysts say these fines are chicken feed compared to the billions investors lost because of conflict of interest violations. It's comparable to profits accrued in a few minutes by the giant Wall Street firms.

SEC Chair William Donaldson revealed the real reason: "to restore investors' faith in the objectivity of research," which is code for luring small investors back to the stock market.

SEC Chair William Donaldson revealed the real reason: "to restore investors' faith in the objectivity of research," which is code for luring small investors back to the stock market.

SEC Chair William Donaldson revealed the real reason: "to restore investors' faith in the objectivity of research," which is code for luring small investors back to the stock market.

SEC Chair William Donaldson revealed the real reason: "to restore investors' faith in the objectivity of research," which is code for luring small investors back to the stock market.

SEC Chair William Donaldson revealed the real reason: "to restore investors' faith in the objectivity of research," which is code for luring small investors back to the stock market.

SEC Chair William Donaldson revealed the real reason: "to restore investors' faith in the objectivity of research," which is code for luring small investors back to the stock market.

Many billions of dollars are pouring in to the Pentagon occupation of Iraq and future military conquests, while tens of thousands of airline workers are being laid off.

A job is a right!

The airlines, in the throes of collapse, show the same symptoms that led to crashes in the steel, telecommunications and dot-com industries, and that now threaten the auto industry.

Overproduction in the boom years, reckless spending of billions of dollars to expand, and too much debt have led to the current debacle.

More than 1,300 airplanes stand idle and rusting in the Arizona desert. Fear of flying since Sept. 11, 2001, the invasion of Iraq and the emergence of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome have exacerbated the crisis.

AA has now reported a first-quarter loss of \$1.04 billion. Bankruptcy looms despite worker concessions. If it happens, AA—the biggest airline in the world—will join United Airlines, the second-biggest, in Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Together with US Airways, this would place three out of six of the major airlines in bankruptcy court.

United Airlines filed for bankruptcy in December 2002, while holding around \$23 billion in assets. In bankruptcy, UAL is no longer the owner of the property or the assets. Legally, its status is that of a debtor—it owes about \$22 billion—which has been granted possession to run the airline at the discretion of the bankruptcy judge and an appointed trustee. UAL executives are unable to sign a check, pay a bill, or receive their salaries without the court's signature.

The court approved the retention bonuses and pension trust for the bosses.

The banks are brought in to lend the company—the debtor in possession—money to pay bills and reorganize the operations. UAL lawyers point out that the list of other creditors who want their money fills 32,000 typed pages. (Wall

Continued on page 10

Protest weapons of mass destruction

50 arrested at Lockheed Martin

By Bill Hackwell
Sunnyvale, Calif.

Hundreds of protesters from all over the Bay Area converged on the sprawling Lockheed Martin plant here April 22, blocking the three main gates for most of the morning.

Lockheed Martin is the world's largest weapons producer. At the Sunnyvale facility, the company makes nuclear-tipped missiles for Trident submarines. Lockheed Martin has played no small role in the death and destruction carried out by the Pentagon against Iraq.

Lockheed Martin is incestuously connected to the Bush administration. Eight of the current top policy makers in Washington used to be on Lockheed Martin's payroll. They include Vice President Dick Cheney. Lynne Cheney, who was an official in the Reagan and first Bush administrations and is married to the vice president, served on Lockheed Martin's board of directors from 1994 to 2001.

In the past two years alone this manufacturer of weapons of mass destruction has received prime Pentagon contracts totaling \$30 billion, to, among other things, produce weapons systems using depleted uranium.



WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

In the early morning hours, demonstrators locked themselves down at the Third Street gate. They also sat in at the First Street and H Street entrances. Police arrested over 50 people.

At one point Sunnyvale police on horses charged the protesters at Third Street to separate them from those locked together at the gate.

The protest was organized by several anti-war groups in the South San Francisco Bay Area, including the South Bay Mobilization to Stop the War. This group, along with International ANSWER, has called for big protests when President George W. Bush comes to Santa Clara on May 2 to pat the arms merchants on the back. □

The attack on public workers' unions

By Mike Gimbel
New York
Executive Board Chair, Chapter 8,
Local 375, AFSCME

Privatization of public services and attacks on public worker unions are part of a world-wide attack on public ownership.

Public worker unions at the federal, state and city level are now the largest sector of organized labor in the United States. That is one reason why these unions are coming under such huge attack. Whenever capitalism undergoes a serious economic crisis, the ruling class views it as an opportunity to take back worker gains.

During an economic crisis when jobs are scarce, the ruling class uses the threat of unemployment to terrorize unions into making huge concessions. As an example of the current mentality of the U.S. ruling class, the bosses at United Airlines stuck the knife in a little deeper, after the unions agreed to huge concessions, by voting themselves huge bonuses.

While U.S. imperialism destroyed the infrastructure of Yugoslavia and Iraq with bombs, it is destroying the infrastructure here at home with massive cutbacks. Military aggression against our class abroad is being coupled with economic aggression against our class here at home. The wars against Yugoslavia and Iraq, and the worldwide attack on public ownership, have come at a time of the greatest disparity in the distribution of wealth between rich and poor in U.S. history.

The capitalist economic crisis is driving the attack on workers here at home. Billionaire New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg demands sacrifices from those least able to do without these public services and public jobs, while refusing to raise taxes on the wealthy, the corporations and the banks that have gotten wealthy by exploiting the city's workers. This attack flows directly from the national economic policies of recent decades of the "trickle-down theory," which has only one purpose: shifting wealth from the poor to the rich with nothing ever actually trickling down.

While huge tax cuts are given to the rich and billions are siphoned off from the public infrastructure for military re-colonization of the world, the same big business politicians who voted away these public funds claim there is no money for public schools, hospitals, zoos, libraries, public housing, daycare, etc. This attack on public services is taking place in virtually every state and every city in the U.S.

What is the difference, in the final analysis, between bombing schools, hospitals and libraries in Iraq and closing schools, hospitals and libraries here? In either case, working people have lost public services that they cannot pay for out of their pocket as the rich can. As such, workers and working class communities are justified in viewing these public assets as entitlements negotiated as part of a "class-wide contract," just as if these entitlements were added benefits in individual union contracts.

Workers' pensions used to bail out city

In fact, there is even some legal basis under capitalism to make this claim. In New York City, the 1975 financial crisis resulted in massive cutbacks and the loss of 65,000 city worker jobs. The city was actually broke. It could not pay either its

long-term or short-term obligations to the banks. The banks, through the issuance of these bonds, were legally able to claim city property as collateral. The 1975 crisis was so serious, however, that the banks refused to loan the city any more money because they viewed these loans as being too risky.

When the banks refused to loan the city any money in 1975, the state and the unions created the Municipal Assistance Corporation (Big MAC), backed by worker pension funds. They went back to the banks and asked them to buy these MAC bonds paying a higher rate of interest, but with extended dates for payments. These MAC bonds are still being paid off today.

Since state funds and union pension funds were used to bail out the city, it creates the possibility of using this as a community/union legal claim to public property as collateral. Of course, the capitalist courts will only view this community/union claim seriously if workers assert their claim by occupying the public property that is being closed.

Bloomberg is a multi-billionaire media mogul. As head of a huge corporation, he is comfortable with giving orders and having them obeyed, not negotiating compromises with trade union leaders. Bloomberg is a Wall Street "blue blood" determined to protect the corporate bottom line in the interest of the banks.

Bloomberg views public services in the same way he would a private business: cut money-losing services so as to guarantee payments to the bond holders. Workers, however, should not view these public services being cut as the foreclosed property of the banks, even though, under capitalism, the banks have legal rights to the property.

In order to fight these cutbacks, workers ought to view this public property as their personal property that is being foreclosed. We built and maintained these public assets and invested our very working lives in them as teachers, nurses, engineers, laborers, clerical workers, librarians, bus drivers and so on. Working people and working class communities are the main beneficiaries of these public assets. The banks only view public services as "cash cows," looting tax money and mass transit fares for their own profit.

Who has the greater need for these public assets: the workers or the Wall Street banks? Do the rich send their kids to public school? Do the rich, when they get sick, depend on public hospitals? Do the rich live in public housing projects?

The Emergency Financial Control Board was created in 1975 along with "Big MAC." The legislation that created the EFCB requires the city to have a balanced budget. Today the city, unlike in 1975, has operating cash, but this provision forces Mayor Bloomberg to balance the city budget.

Bloomberg has decided to balance the budget on workers' backs and has put the city unions in a "no win" position. Bloomberg threatens the unions that either they agree to massive concessions or he will lay off thousands of city workers. Concessions you lose, layoffs you lose. Bloomberg demands: choose one. But he adds one proviso: that even if the unions agree to huge concessions, he may still have to resort to layoffs anyway.

Mayor Bloomberg can be so arrogant because he has an ace up his sleeve. It is called the Taylor Law.

The existence of the Taylor Law illus-

trates the difference between private-sector and public-sector bargaining. Public-sector unions bargain with the most powerful boss of all, the state, which has at its beck and call all the organs of state repression: the police, the courts, the prisons and even the state's National Guard armed forces. When the Transport Workers Union raised going on strike, it was threatened under the Taylor Law with massive fines, not only on the union and its leadership, but on each individual union member as well. If that threat doesn't work, the state has the power to jail union leaders, activists and individual members. In extreme cases, the National Guard can be called in to break the strike.

Public workers fight for community services

In the run-up to a public workers' strike, the ruling class tries to put the blame on the workers. But we should all be aware that it is these very public workers that are the front-line of defense for the public services provided to the community. Public workers fighting to protect their jobs are fighting to protect this public property. The two go hand in hand.

This public property ought to be viewed as the personal property of every worker, public or private, unionized or non-unionized, employed or unemployed, and as the property of the community, even if capitalist law says it belongs to the banks.

Therefore, we ought to view the Taylor Law as an attack on all workers and on the community, because the only use of this law is to deny our class, and the community we represent, the ability to defend

these public assets through a job action. It is this very Taylor Law that hamstringing labor from defending decades of hard-won gains for our community. Public workers are the indispensable soldiers in defending public schools, hospitals, daycare, libraries, zoos, parks, housing and so on.

This huge attack on public workers, all across the country, is beginning to force a realization on both activist union members and union leaders of the need to shift to the left. This became apparent in the run-up to the Iraq war. Just three months after AFSCME District Council 37, where I am a delegate in the delegate assembly, overwhelmingly tabled a motion against the war, these same delegates overwhelmingly and enthusiastically endorsed the very same anti-war resolution.

Thus, a great opportunity for class-conscious activist workers has arisen. Even at the height of the Vietnam War it was very hard to get even the mildest resolution against the war passed. Today, everything has changed. In my lifetime I have never seen such an incredible shift to the left. It is truly breath-taking. If ever you wanted to plunge into work in the labor movement, now is the time. With the economic crisis continuing to deepen, this shift in worker consciousness should continue to deepen.

I don't see a tunnel, let alone a "light at the end of the tunnel" of this economic crisis, and that portends a potential future political explosion on the part of labor.

Adapted from a speech to a Workers World meeting in New York April 25. □



WW PHOTO; BILL HACKWELL

Labor protests Oakland police attack

Some 600 determined protesters marched on April 26 from Oakland's Jack London Square to City Hall to say no to police brutality. The demonstration was called by the International Longshore and Warehouse Union and the Alameda County Central Labor Council.

Many other unions and community groups also came out to demand that there be a full, independent investigation into the events of April 7, when members of the Oakland Police Department opened fire with plastic bullets, wooden dowels and bean bags on a peaceful anti-war protest at the Oakland docks. Scores were wounded, many in the back, including nine members of ILWU Local 10 who were waiting to go to work. Many of those injured participated in the march, still showing deep bruises and broken bones. □

U.S. troops fire on protesters

Continued from page 1

pital bed. When asked why the crowd continued to march after the warning shots, he said "It was a provocation. We could not stand idle. We have dignity and honor."

The Washington Post reported on April 29 that "Iraqis interviewed at the hospital insisted it was a peaceful demonstration and that no one was armed or throwing rocks. One wounded 18-year-old man, Aqil Khaleil, said U.S. soldiers opened fire without warning.

"They waited until we came very close, and then they started shooting," he said."

Edtesam Shamsudein said, "We were sitting in our house. When the shooting started, my husband tried to close the door to keep the children in, and he was shot." Her brother was killed. "Americans are criminals," she said.

Dr. Ahmed Ghanim al-Ali, director of Fallujah General Hospital, said there were 13 dead, including three boys no older than 10. "He said medical crews were shot at when they went to retrieve the injured, which numbered 75 people," reported the Post.

Numerous sources, including the Los Angeles Times, International Television News, the London Guardian and the Independent, reported that while bullet holes riddled the walls of the row houses across the street from the school, there were no bullet holes at all in the school itself, which the U.S. claimed was under attack. The exception was the New York Times, whose reporter was the only one able to report bullet holes in his dispatch of April 29.

The Los Angeles Times observed that "the school's walls did not appear to have any bullet marks. ... Across the street, the houses were pockmarked by gunfire. Huge holes were blown into the concrete."

This massacre is similar to the one that took place in Mosul a week earlier, when U.S. Marines killed 12 Iraqis demonstrating against the occupation.

Panic or deliberate orders?

Some reports attribute the shooting to panic by the U.S. troops, who are not used to being an occupying force and feared they were under attack. But the fact is that the unit in question, according to the Post, had been "trained extensively in crowd control. About half the company involved at the school served in Kosovo," according to 2nd Lt. Devin Woods.

The Los Angeles Times reporter said a soldier told him that "when he climbed up on the roof to help, he could not find a position because so many soldiers were lined up along the roughly 200-foot edge."

It is important to note that this massacre took place on the day that the new viceroy of Iraq, retired Gen. Jay Garner—a war contractor, friend of the Ariel Sharon regime in Israel, and close buddy of Donald Rumsfeld—was meeting with a hundred or so would-be puppets and quislings in Baghdad. He was trying to patch together some kind of figleaf transitional regime to cover for the U.S. takeover of Iraq.

It is highly unlikely that any commander in the field would, on his own, permit or take responsibility for creating such a massacre, which could be viewed as a major potential political embarrassment, at the very moment that Garner was trying to convince the public that the U.S. was there to help the Iraqis.

And it is even more unlikely that the military command in Fallujah would shoot at unarmed demonstrators twice in 48 hours just when Rumsfeld was making his grand entry into Baghdad—unless orders had been given.

If anything, the repression was timed for Rumsfeld's visit.

Two major capitalist newspapers have revealed, for all who care to read, that the initial massacre was a veritable ambush. Furious fire was unleashed indiscrimi-



What courage! Unarmed Iraqis confront U.S. troops in Fallujah on April 30 after two separate attacks on similar demonstrations had left 17 dead.

nately on the people with absolutely no warning whatsoever, at close range. This act must show that similar demonstrations and acts of hostility and resistance are occurring throughout the country, but are going unreported.

The massacre at Fallujah was a bloody message from Rumsfeld, Gen. Tommy Franks and company that they will be ruthless in trying to crush the resistance.

In other words, there is no embarrassment at the Pentagon or in Garner's headquarters in Baghdad. This was not bumbling. This was not panic. This was a planned massacre, just like the one in Mosul. The U.S. high command sought this massacre. This is a continuation of the war against the Iraqi people. It is pure military terrorism. As such, it is a symbol of the occupation.

Sign of political bankruptcy

But the massacre is also a symbol of political bankruptcy. The U.S. occupation can only rule by force. But force alone will be insufficient in the long run to hold back the struggle. The masses of people are opposed to the occupation. They have fought in the past against British colonial occupation. They will inevitably fight against the U.S. occupation. The anti-colonial hatred is burning underneath and will result in resistance.

The U.S. military has destroyed the

independent state of Iraq. Ever since the 1958 revolution that overthrew the monarchy and ousted imperialism, all successive regimes—regardless of their reactionary policies, and there were many—have survived only because they fought to keep the country from falling back into the hands of imperialism and tried to develop Iraq into a modern society, raising the living standards and social conditions of the masses far above what they had experienced under colonial rule.

Now U.S. imperialism has destroyed that independent state. Robert Fisk, reporter from the London-based Independent, pointed out in an April 22 interview on Amy Goodman's Pacifica program, "Democracy Now!," that 158 Iraqi government buildings were destroyed in the recent assault. These government buildings and all the technical and intellectual property in them were the product of decades of modernization and enlightenment necessary to build a developed society.

George W. Bush, Rumsfeld, Vice President Dick Cheney, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz and the entire right-wing cabal have shown that, contrary to all the propaganda, they want a weakened, dependent Iraq, bereft of its culture and history, and without any means to function as a state independent of imperialism. They want to reverse the historical process of the past 45 years at the expense of 24 million people. But they have to first construct a colonial apparatus and seize control of the oil and other resources of Iraq.

Their prospects are dim. Reporter Phil Reeves wrote from Fallujah in the London Independent of April 30, "The language of the American forces is beginning to sound grimly familiar. They complain of having to shoot stone-throwers because the Iraqi youths might—and did on one occasion in Ramadi three days ago, they allege—throw grenades as well as stones.

"They describe people firing at them from within crowds of civilian demonstrators. They live in dread of car bombs and suicide attackers. They say that the majority of Iraqis like them but add that there is a small element lodged in the fabric of Iraqi society that is determined to make trouble.

"This has all been said before, by their allies, the Israelis, several hundred miles to the west. And no one has yet found a solution. Leaving the scene of this mayhem yesterday, one person's words were unforgettable. They came, not from a protester or a gunman, but from the headmaster of the school where this bloodshed happened. Many of his students were among the protesters.

"When he heard of the shootings, he rushed to the hospital to give blood. He is a quietly spoken man, but cloudy-eyed with anger and grief. Now, he said calmly, he is willing to die as a 'martyr' to take his revenge against the Americans." □

Law students honor arrested attorney

By Leslie Feinberg

Commencement time has traditionally been the occasion for college and university administrators to wax eloquent about students blazing their own intellectual trails in the world. But management at the City University of New York Law School have revealed just how patronizing and insincere that message can be.

Law students presented their dean with a petition, signed by more than half the 2003 graduating class, nominating attorney Lynne Stewart for the "Public Interest Lawyer of the Year" award. The honoree of the award, which is bestowed at graduation ceremonies, has traditionally been the students' choice.

But Law School Dean Kristin Booth Glen refused to accept the students' decision.

Who is Lynne Stewart? She's a progressive attorney in New York who is known for representing people who have a hard time getting a lawyer. Among her legal clients was Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman. Last April the government charged Stewart with having passed messages from the blind cleric, who was convicted of leading the conspiracy behind

the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center, to his followers. This was supposed to have happened five years ago while he was in prison.

Attorney General John Ashcroft flew to New York to hail this great victory in his battle against terrorism.

On arraignment, Stewart pleaded "emphatically not guilty." Her trial is scheduled for October.

By nominating Stewart for the award, the students demonstrated that they recognize the repression behind the Bush-Ashcroft "war on terror." They aren't the only ones. When the charges were announced last spring, many publicly challenged why the government would sit on purported "evidence" for four years.

Progressive lawyers and other supporters packed the courtroom for Stewart's appearance.

To charge a U.S. lawyer with providing material support to a terrorist organization in the course of legal representation is a political first. It sends an ominous message to every lawyer considering whether or not to take a political case that's unpopular with the government—the heat could come down on them, as well.

Several lawyers who specialize in civil

liberties criticized CUNY management's decision to revoke the student-selected award to Stewart.

Lynne Stewart's comment on this struggle was: "I am obviously sincerely touched and very honored by the students' choosing me under the circumstances. The students seem to carry on a long tradition of reminding institutions of their responsibilities. They are willing to take the risk, but Dean Glen apparently is not."

The bravest of CUNY's graduating class of young lawyers are not cowed by the political police. The students say the charges against Stewart are groundless—part of the trampling of civil liberties under the guise of an amorphous "war on terror."

These students weren't daunted by the dean's veto, either. They announced plans to go ahead and award Stewart themselves in the school's auditorium, said Kris Kraus, vice president of the students' criminal law society.

And some vow to wear tape over their mouths at commencement to symbolize attempts to silence them.

Free speech and independent thought? Maybe the administration didn't realize so many students take the ideals to heart. □

Behind Washington's demand to lift sanctions

By Sara Flounders

The U.S. government has demanded the complete and immediate lifting of UN Security Council sanctions on Iraq.

For 13 years, a world movement against the sanctions had met total resistance by the U.S. government, under both Republican and Democratic administrations. Why has Washington now reversed itself on this question? And how should the world movement against sanctions respond to Washington's new strategy?

First, it is important to understand the Bush administration's motives.

The UN Security Council now has control over at least \$30 billion, held in its Oil for Food accounts, that was accumulated by the sale of Iraqi oil during the sanctions regime.

Since it militarily destroyed the government, the U.S. has appointed itself the overseer of Iraq and the force that will hand-pick a new government. But the sanctions keep the money from going to Iraq. So the U.S. wants an end to sanctions so that these billions of dollars can be turned over to a U.S.-administered government in Iraq. It regards the money as plunder owed it for its criminal invasion and destruction of Iraq's sovereignty.

In addition, billions of dollars of Iraqi money have been frozen since August 1990 in accounts around the world. An end to sanctions could be a first step in making this money available to a U.S.-controlled "Iraqi government," which would then turn it over to greedy U.S. corporations that have been awarded contracts for the "reconstruction" of Iraq.

The sanctions caused the deaths of more than a million and a half Iraqis, according to UN estimates. Should the government that caused these deaths and laid waste to Iraqi cities in a brutal war of conquest now be trusted to administer the funds it has so long withheld from the Iraqi people?

It is essential to recognize that the U.S. or Britain have no right to any of the resources in Iraq. There is no justification for the tens of thousands of imperialist troops occupying the country. It is criminal, lawless aggression. Now the U.S. campaign to end the sanctions and turn the billions in withheld Iraqi funds over to itself, the occupiers, is piracy in its most blatant form.

Billions at stake

This issue of lifting the sanctions on Iraq is shaping up as the next big confrontation in the UN Security Council.

France, Russia and China all have veto power over whether to end the sanctions. A number of countries on the Security Council have reminded Washington that sanctions cannot be lifted until UN weapons inspectors confirm that Iraq has no weapons of mass destruction. This diplomatically throws in Washington's face the same fraudulent excuse that the U.S. government used for 13 years to continue the sanctions.

France has further enraged the Bush administration by proposing that civilian sanctions could be "suspended" for humanitarian reasons. By stating that it was not for "lifting" sanctions, it was reminding Washington that the web of sanctions the U.S. had spun gives the UN Security Council con-



WWW PHOTOS: SARA FLOUNDERS

trol over all of Iraq's future oil revenues. This is also Russia's position.

White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer rejected these views by stating categorically, "The sanctions should be lifted, not merely suspended. ... With the regime gone, the U.S. position is economic sanctions are no longer necessary."

As long as sanctions officially remain in place, the revenue from all Iraqi oil sold will continue to be deposited into UN accounts. Billions of dollars are at stake in future contracts. The countries on the Security Council that had joined the U.S. in imposing sanctions are not so anxious to turn these accumulated funds, the bidding on all reconstruction contracts, and the future oil revenues over to the conquerors.

Of course, France may be all too willing to strike a quiet deal with U.S. imperialism for a share of these expropriated funds and future contracts. France, it should be remembered, is also an imperialist power with global financial interests based on looting the resources of developing countries that were formerly part of its colonial empire. France has troops in a number of African countries.

This is part of the reason why Washington does not want the United Nations involved in any way in Iraq. The Bush administration does not want any other financial claims on its unilateral theft.

Syria, a rotating member of the Security Council, stated that lifting sanctions would "legalize the U.S. and British invasion." It would give the U.S. "the right to

U.S./UN sanctions killed over a million Iraqis, including many children.

control Iraq's oil and install a government it prefers."

Meanwhile, the Bush administration is rushing to install just such a government. It reportedly plans by early May to put day-to-day control of the oil industry in the hands of Iraqis appointed by the Bush administration. They in turn will be under the "civil" administration of retired U.S. Gen. Jay Garner. A former CEO of Shell oil company, Philip J. Carroll, will head an advisory committee for the Iraqi oil industry. This committee is clearly where the real decisions will be made.

Until it is clear who has legal title to Iraq's oil, it will be difficult for the U.S. to sell the oil on the world market. Before the 1991 war, Iraqi oil revenue was more than \$20 billion a year.

History of UN sanctions

It is worth reviewing the history of U.S./UN sanctions imposed on Iraq, their impact and what is at stake today in this new and old debate.

In August of 1990, using its overwhelming power, Washington crafted and rammed through the UN Security Council the economic sanctions that have strangled Iraq over the past 13 years. The sanctions were defined as a measure to force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

It should be remembered that on July 25, before the invasion of Kuwait, U.S.



Ambassador April Glaspie had met with Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. He informed her that Iraq would take measures against Kuwait if negotiations failed. The rich sheikdom had been keeping oil prices low and stealing Iraqi oil by slant drilling under its land. Iraq was in dire financial shape because of its war with Iran.

Glaspie replied that Washington had "no opinion" on Iraq's conflict with Kuwait.

When Iraq did move into Kuwait, however, the U.S. demanded and got from the UN the most extreme form of collective punishment ever imposed on an entire people.

Iraq could not sell its oil or any goods at all. It could not import anything. All its funds held in banks outside of Iraq—billions of dollars from the sale of oil—were frozen. With its funds frozen, without any trade, credits or loans, the entire economy shut down. Inflation spiraled wildly out of control.

When the Pentagon started bombing in January 1991, its targets were chosen to sharpen the deadly impact of the sanctions. The U.S. consciously destroyed the water, sanitation, sewage and pumping facilities, along with food-processing plants, pharmaceutical plants and medical facilities. Epidemics

Continued on page 10



These photos were taken during an Iraq Sanctions Challenge organized by the International Action Center.

ANSWER solidarity statement

'Stop Bush's new aggression against Cuba'

In response to intensified threats and slanders against Cuba by the Bush administration, the International ANSWER coalition is circulating the statement below, which has already received thousands of signers.

We, the undersigned individuals and organizations, view with great concern the intensifying campaign of subversion and aggression against Cuba, directed by the U.S. government.

We in the U.S. progressive and anti-war movement recognize our obligation to expose and organize against the Bush administration's plans to overthrow the government of Cuba. Under the rubric of the "war against terrorism" the Bush administration has aggressively embarked on a campaign to carry out the overturn of governments that seek to maintain independent control over their own land and resources. At stake in Cuba are the considerable social and economic gains of the people made in spite of overwhelming opposition from the government representing the most powerful country in the world.

On April 7, James Cason, chief of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana and the top U.S. diplomat in Cuba, declared, "All of our allies agree that their policy goal in Cuba is, ultimately, the same as ours: the rapid and peaceful transition to a democratic government characterized by strong support for human rights and an open market economy." He stated on the same day, "The Administration's top priority is to promote a rapid, peaceful transition."

Coming from a U.S. government representative, the meaning is clear: "transition" translates to overthrow.

In the wake of the war on Iraq, there is no corner of the world that is safe

today from U.S. aggression. This is especially the case for Cuba, part of whose national territory remains under U.S. military occupation. U.S. diplomats have warned Cuba, along with Iran, Syria and North Korea, to "learn the lessons of Iraq."

Over the past 43 years Cuba has suffered the loss of 3,478 of its citizens from numerous acts of terrorism, invasions, assassinations, assassination attempts, biological warfare and blockade. The government of one country has perpetrated these illegal acts against Cuba: the government of the United States.

The United States government has imposed an economic and political blockade on the island nation for more than 40 years, causing \$70 billion damage to Cuba's economy, and inflicting unnecessary suffering on the most vulnerable in Cuban society. The U.S. military has continued to maintain and expand its naval base at Guantanamo Bay, a legacy of colonialism. Today, hundreds of people—including children under the age of 16 years—are being imprisoned and interrogated by the U.S. at Guantanamo with no recourse whatsoever to due process.

Recently, a coordinated campaign of aggressions and foreign subversion against Cuba has been revealed, indicating the U.S. may be setting the stage for a renewed confrontation with Cuba.

The trial of the 75 Cuban individuals arrested in March uncovered the directing role of the U.S. Interests Section in guiding, financing and organizing subversive actions against the Cuban government. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has funneled some \$20 million in support to anti-government organizations in Cuba as a part of this counter-revolutionary campaign. After the popular rev-

olution that overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Batista in 1959, the U.S. government has resorted to invasion, nuclear threats, biological and chemical attacks, assassination attempts and murders, CIA financed and organized "opposition," and economic destabilization. For 40 years the overthrow of the Cuban government has been a priority for U.S. policy makers. The Bush administration's goal is to carry out regime change and replace the Cuban government with a puppet regime. It is a testament to the popular support of the Cuban government and its ability to stand up and confront U.S. aggression that the people of Cuba have successfully repelled overt and covert attempts to recolonize their country.

Over the past seven months, a series of seven armed airplane and boat hijackings have occurred in Cuba—an exceptionally high number in such a short time. The hijackings have together endangered the lives of hundreds of people. Thus far, the Justice Department has failed to prosecute any of the hijackers who arrived in the U.S. Despite having committed the terrorist crime of air piracy, several have been released on bail.

At the same time, the U.S. Interests Section has virtually stopped granting visas to Cubans applying for admission to the United States. Under the 1995 U.S.-Cuba Migratory Agreement, the U.S. agreed to grant 20,000 entry visas to the U.S. annually. The purpose of the 1995 agreement was to assure a safe, legal and orderly immigration process.

However, from October 2002 to February 2003, the first five months of the accord's calendar year, only 505 visas were granted to Cubans wishing to enter the U.S. This fact must be understood in conjunction with the

Cuban Adjustment Act (CAA) of 1966, a law which uniquely accords Cuban immigrants the right to U.S. residency and financial assistance if they set foot on U.S. soil. Cutting off legal channels for immigration, while the CAA remains in effect, serves as open invitation to Cubans to immigrate illegally to the U.S. Non-prosecution of even those individuals who hijack planes to get to the U.S. means that the U.S. government is openly encouraging the most dangerous forms of terrorism against Cuba.

As a fact of international law, which recognizes the rights of states to defend their sovereignty, Cuba is exercising its legal right and responsibility to defend and protect its people against foreign government subversion, terrorism and other forms of U.S. aggression.

In light of these developments, and understanding the real dangers that Cuba faces from the U.S. government:

1. We demand that the Bush administration cease and desist from the current campaign of attacks on the Cuban people and government.
2. We call on the U.S. government to end its blockade against Cuba, to lift restrictions on travel, and to end its ongoing multi-faceted war against the Cuban government.
3. We further call upon the Bush administration to free the five Cubans who are imprisoned in the U.S. for trying to stop Miami-based terrorism against their people.

To become a signer of the above statement, write to International ANSWER at 39 West 14th St., New York, NY 10011, or go to the web site www.internationalanswer.org. □

A case study in U.S. hypocrisy

Cuba, human rights and Guantanamo

By Leslie Feinberg

It is cruelly ironic that the warlords in Washington are cranking up charges against Cuba about conditions for prisoners. Because on one small chunk of the island, illegally and imperiously occupied by the Pentagon against the will of the Cuban people since 1903, the United States operates a hell hole for its captives.

An estimated 664 people from 42 countries, including Afghanistan and Palestine, have been hooded, manacled and transported to Guantanamo since the United States started its war against Afghanistan.

Some of those prisoners are as young as 13.

Pentagon spokesperson Lt. Col. Barry Johnson refused to give the boys' names, nationalities or ages. But take his word for it that conditions are top-notch: apartments, video games, math lessons and psychotherapy. "I'm not sure where else in the world—given their status as enemy combatants—they would get this type of setup, an environment designed to facilitate their development." (Charlotte Observer, April 27)

But the reality of conditions trickles out.

A U.S. military spokesperson recently stated that the interned children are being interrogated because they "have potential to provide important information." (counterpunch.org, April 24)

On April 22, ABC quoted the commander of Camp Delta confirming that child prisoners are interrogated. Journalist Matt Biven writes: "What kind of interrogations? That's secret. But sleep deprivation and beatings are two common 'torture lite' methods used at the camp." (The MoscowTimes.com, April 28)

Last September, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien announced he was trying to obtain consular access to a 15-year-old Canadian-born youth reportedly captured on July 27, 2002, after being seriously wounded. But U.S. officials have barred any access by Canadian officials to the boy, now 16, according to the April 28 Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

Amnesty International points out that the U.S. government is breaching the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child: "Every child deprived of his or her liberty shall have the right to prompt access to legal and other appropriate assistance." The internationally accepted definition of a child is anyone

under the age of 18.

The United States has never ratified that treaty.

Children are not children?

Utilizing Orwellian logic, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld admits children are imprisoned at Guantanamo but deems them "very, very dangerous" and therefore "not children."

That's the official position: "Teenagers younger than 16 being held at Guantanamo Bay are 'not children' and pose a lethal threat that justifies detention, U.S. military chiefs insisted yesterday." (The Guardian, April 26)

This verbal sleight of hand is designed to distract from the fact that not one single person of any age being held in captivity at Guantanamo has been charged with any crime whatsoever. They are all officially "suspects."

Camp Delta is a legal limbo enclosed by 17.4 miles of barbed wire fence four layers deep with 16 watchtowers. An estimated \$42 million of U.S. taxpayers' dollars have already been sunk into constructing this concentration camp, and it's not finished yet.

Captors do not call their captives pris-

oners of war. In a linguistic somersault, the Pentagon says they are "unlawful enemy combatants" and therefore can't seek the shelter of Geneva Conventions or other international humanitarian law.

They can't petition international courts for relief from illegal captivity. U.S. courts have ruled they have no jurisdiction. Detainees are not allowed to see families or lawyers. They are being held indefinitely. Journalists are not allowed near them.

Prisoners are caged in cells about six by six feet, enclosed in heavy-gauge wire mesh, with a sleep shelf and a hole in the ground for a toilet. They get only two showers and two 15-minute exercise periods a week.

As many as 25 suicide attempts have been officially reported—more than half in the last four months, according to the April 17 Guardian Unlimited. For a predominately Muslim population, this is staggeringly high and confirms fears about torture techniques.

But Lt. Col. Johnson, in language taken straight out of a Nazi propaganda handbook, says these abysmal conditions are designed to "facilitate the development" of the children under his control. □

ARGENTINA

Workers seize control of 150 plants

By Alicia Jrapko

With 57 percent of the Argentinian population now in poverty and with an official unemployment rate of 30 percent, an unprecedented development has taken place in this South American country. Workers have seized control over factories abandoned by their owners due to bankruptcy, "lack of profit" or instability.

Since 1998, workers have seized more than 150 factories—in industries including food, metallurgy, car parts, printing, ceramic and textiles.

Fifty years ago, Argentina was considered one of the most developed and industrialized economies in the Third World. Some 50 percent of its gross national product came from industry.

However, the neoliberal policies dictated by Washington, and implemented by the International Monetary Fund and other financial institutions for almost three decades, have brought nothing but misery to the Argentinean people.

The circumstances surrounding the takeovers vary from factory to factory.

In some instances, workers have requested the previous owners' permission to run the plant, paying rent in compensation as well as purchasing all means of production.

In others, workers have formed cooperatives and established a system of equal pay, with a democratic power structure of direct vote by general assemblies that gather to discuss their problems and find solutions.

Among the factories taken over by workers, two companies have become a symbol of this new movement: the Zanón ceramic factory in Neuquén and the Brukman textile factory in Buenos Aires, where most of the workers are women.

Brukman: 'This factory under workers' control'

When the workers first took control of Brukman, they wanted to negotiate with the previous owners, but the owners never responded to their calls. As a testimony to



Workers took over the Brukman ceramics factory and created 40 new jobs. Then the police moved in.

the new development, a huge sign at the entrance of the Zanón factory reads "This Factory Produces Under Workers' Control."

In March, the police tried to gain control of Zanón. They had to retreat in the face of workers' resistance and overwhelming solidarity from the community. The workers at this plant have launched a campaign to gather 50,000 signatures on a petition asking the state to expropriate the plant and make it state-owned under workers' administration.

Since the workers began to administer the company, they have created 40 new jobs for those previously unemployed. They have purchased raw materials and they have paid taxes, including for water, electricity and gas.

As presidential elections drew near, two judges left over from the days of the military dictatorship of 1976 issued illegal orders for the military to occupy the Brukman factory. On April 18, under a new threat of eviction, five workers prepared to spend the night at the factory.

Heavily armed police attacked and evicted them.

Thousands of unemployed workers (piqueteros) and members of neighborhood assemblies responded, gathering outside the factory. They, too, suffered repression at the hands of federal police.

Pablo Kilberg is a supporter and organizer with the Madres de Plaza de Mayo, the organization of courageous mothers who kept up a weekly demonstration for decades after their children were "disap-



peared" during the military dictatorship of the 1970s. Kilberg says that the police had no compassion for these women, now in their 80s and 90s. They were surrounded by tear gas clouds and had to be rescued by media vehicles.

Kilberg added that police used both rubber bullets and live ammunition, and that it was a miracle nobody died. Twenty blocks away from the factory, the police went on a hunting mission. As a result, 120 people were arrested and many were wounded.

The solidarity shown by other sectors of the population was immense. A few days later, in a demonstration against police brutality and repression, more than 30,000 people accompanied the Brukman workers. Among their supporters were members of parliament, political parties, the Madres de Plaza de Mayo, Madres de Plaza de Mayo Línea Fundadora, Abuelas (Grandmothers) de Plaza de Mayo, human-rights organizations, more than 25 popular assemblies, students and several organizations of piqueteros.



PHOTOS: C. ESTUD. ESC. ARTE

The workers at Brukman are committed to continue the struggle until they regain control of the factories. They have promised to fight until the end.

The workers in Argentina who have seized control of their work places have demonstrated that they are capable of administering the factories, purchasing raw material, manufacturing their products, paying themselves decent salaries and creating new jobs. The capitalists' main concern is that sooner or later the working class will seize political power and control its own destiny. □

Anti-war groups meet in Berlin

By John Catalinotto
Berlin

Representatives from anti-war groups in 22 countries met here April 25 to discuss how to continue the movement that arose over the past year to challenge Washington's endless war on the people of the world.

It was the first meeting of the European Coordination since the U.S. military blasted its way into Baghdad and began the imperialist occupation of Iraq.

The Coordination is the part of the European Social Forum that called for Feb. 15 demonstrations. Those protests brought more than 10 million people into the streets of 600 cities worldwide to try to stop the U.S.-British war of aggression against Iraq.

The group consists of different political tendencies in diverse countries that came together to stop the war before it began. Its success stemmed from worldwide revulsion against the Bush administration's open aggression.

The Coordination followed up with

more limited calls for international protests on March 15, March 22 and April 12 to protest the ongoing war and then the occupation of Iraq.

At the Berlin meeting, almost all of the nearly 100 participants—representing groups from most of Western Europe, Iran, Turkey, Philippines, the United States, Canada, Costa Rica, Egypt and Lebanon—called for continuing the fight against the occupation of Iraq.

Larry Holmes of the International ANSWER coalition opened the Berlin meeting. He set the tone—the need for continued struggle—in his report on the April 12 demonstration in the United States.

Holmes stressed the need for solidarity with Iraqis resisting imperialist occupation.

He appealed to the rest of the world, and especially to the European movement, to continue their struggle—which he described as vitally important to the development of the movement within the United States.

A number of groups from oppressed

countries noted that the existence of a strong anti-war movement in Europe and the United States made a positive impression on the masses of people in their countries. It helped the population differentiate between the governments of the imperialist countries and the people, they said.

While all groups pledged to continue the struggle, the next concrete act was limited to a June 1 mobilization against the G-8 summit meeting at Evian, France. There the Coordination will hold a meeting to protest the occupation of Iraq and continue the discussion about what to do next.

Other suggestions included a call by the Greek delegation for a future international day of struggle on Sept. 27, to coincide with the date the Intifada started in Palestine. A Turkish delegation stated it was ready to organize a Peoples' Tribunal to try U.S. and British leaders for war crimes. And there was also a call to boycott U.S.-made goods.

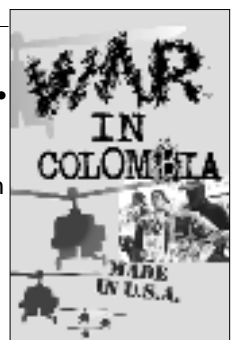
The fact that no further specific actions could be agreed upon during the Berlin meeting may have reflected that not enough time had passed after the U.S. military conquest for people to assess the impact of the changed situation on their movements. □

War in Colombia/Made in U.S.A.

Authors include: ♦ Fidel Castro ♦ Ramsey Clark ♦ Rep. Cynthia McKinney ♦ Mumia Abu-Jamal ♦ Manuel Marulanda ♦ Stan Goff ♦ Teresa Gutierrez ♦ James Petras ♦ Roy Bourgeois ♦ Gloria Gaitán ♦ Senator Paul Wellstone ♦ Javier Correa Suarez ♦ Rebeca Toledo

Int'l Action Center 39 W. 14th St., St. 206, New York, N.Y. 10011
2489 Mission St., Rm. 24, San Francisco, CA 94110
www.iacenter.org

\$19.95





The bomb stops here

Every commentary coming from the U.S. establishment about North Korea's nuclear program, whether it be from government officials or the moneyed media, assumes that the safety of the world depends on the Pentagon keeping, as much as it can, a monopoly on nuclear power. Only the prudent generals, their sagacious political handlers, and the military's self-effacing servants in the world of business can be trusted to be the caretakers of this awesome technology.

After what these gentlemen just did to Iraq with "conventional" weapons, can anyone still view the military-industrial-political establishment in this imperialist country as exercising either restraint or any semblance of humane judgment?

The "preemptive" aggressors in Washington wanted to show the world that they had a vast array of weapons that could bring down the government of any but the most technologically advanced countries in the world. They went about it methodically, stepping up the carnage as the Iraqi people showed their will to resist conquest. They used laser-guided missiles, squads of attack planes, the largest conventional bombs ever built, death-dealing helicopters and tanks, and coordinated it all from satellites and remote command posts.

What message did this send to countries around the world that refuse to knuckle under and become colonial subjects to the world's lone "superpower"?

That they had better be prepared to defend themselves. If they don't want

war, they need a good defense.

In all the years, more than half a century, that the Pentagon has built up its nuclear arsenal—at a cost of nearly \$6 TRILLION for a total of over 70,000 nuclear warheads, according to the Brookings Institution—it always claimed this was needed to defend the people of the United States and DETER WAR. If the U.S., separated by vast oceans from any possible adversary, and possessing the most advanced military in the world by far, needs nuclear weapons to be safe, then don't the smaller, poorer countries it has targeted as its "enemies" need them a thousand times more?

If the idea is that having nuclear weapons will deter others from attacking you, then aren't there dozens of countries in the world right now that desperately need them to feel safe, especially since the Bush administration has spelled out its doctrine giving it the right to attack anyone at any time?

Nuclear weapons are a horror. The world will not be safe until all of them are gone. But getting rid of them has to start with the power that brought them into the world, has amassed the costliest and most deadly arsenal, and uses the threat of them to advance the imperial agenda of the greedy transnational corporations and banks.

That's a job for the people of the United States. If we want a peaceful world, we have to start right here—and not blame the Koreans for trying to defend themselves. □

A ploy against women

It's almost unimaginable that anyone would manipulate the tragic death of Laci Peterson to promote a reactionary agenda. But the White House and members of Congress are trying to do just that.

Peterson, nee Rocha, was eight months pregnant when she disappeared last December. Police found her body in early April in the San Francisco Bay. Her fetus was located a mile away—still attached to the umbilical cord. The discovery evoked horror and rage in the hearts of women and all who stand up strong against misogynist violence in any form. Police arrested her husband as a suspect in her apparent murder.

Now the Bush administration and foes of abortion on Capitol Hill are trying to redirect the anger and revulsion at Laci Peterson's tragic death into support for a bill that would make a fetus a separate person from the woman carrying it to term. California state prosecutors have announced their intention to charge Scott Peterson with double homicide of two people and seek the death penalty.

In an April 25 White House media conference, spokesperson Ari Fleischer pressed Congress to pass the "Unborn Victims of Violence Act," which establishes penalties for harming a fetus in the course of a federal crime.

The bill, already introduced in the Senate, is soon to come before the House.

This bill, and the charge of double homicide, are attempts to define a fetus as a person protected under the 14th

Amendment, which bans any state from depriving "any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law."

This lays the basis for outlawing abortions and criminalizing as murderers those who perform them or receive them.

Women's groups are outraged. Even Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., warns that this congressional move "has nothing to do with domestic violence or the severity of the crime. What they want to do under the guise of domestic violence is lay the groundwork for abolishing abortion rights. That is violence against women."

From their own bourgeois vantage point, if the White House or Capitol Hill had real compassion about Laci Peterson's life, they would beef up laws against harming pregnant women.

But real support for women's lives, and remedies for violence against women, take a grass-roots struggle. Violence against women is endemic in a capitalist society that promotes ideological justification for the inequality of women. Real support for women would begin with funding for battered women's shelters and couples counseling, access to decent jobs and education, affordable daycare, and drug and alcohol programs.

And first and foremost, each woman needs control of her own body—to have the most profound and basic right to decide when and if to have children.

Using the terrible death of Laci Peterson to lay the basis for the abolition and criminalizing of abortion is an additional act of violence—an egregious crime against women. □

Airlines in tailspin

Continued from page 4

Street Journal, Dec. 10)

These vendors and investors are unsecured creditors who will lose much of their equity.

The powerful banks led by J.P. Morgan Chase and Citibank—the secured creditors—will lay claim to the UAL property if the loans are not paid.

Chapter 11 bankruptcy makes it more difficult for airline workers to overcome the collusion between UAL—a bankrupt airline—and the banks that are protected by the bankruptcy court.

But it also opens up the opportunity to challenge them and the bankruptcy court's decisions that threaten the workers' jobs and benefits.

Clearly, the hundreds of thousands of UAL union members should lay claim to ownership. They are the principal creditors. They built the company with their experience, skills and sacrifices. What

they gave up in lost wages, pensions, severance and other benefits is deferred income.

It amounts to loans to the company—a total of \$12 billion over the next five years, or \$2.4 billion annually. The workers have the right to run the company. It won't happen without a struggle against the ruling-class conspiracy.

United Airline workers, particularly flight attendants, have made a tireless effort to educate their members about these facts. They have formed Airline Workers Unite (AirlineWorkersUnite@yahoo.com).

Their most recent communication declared that the members have the right to run the airlines and proclaims that "a job is a property right."

Holding assets during bankruptcy is a common practice of the banks. It's time for airline workers to recognize that the assets belong to them—and to take a cue from their 1930s forerunners by fighting for workers' control. □

Washington's demand to lift Iraq sanctions

Continued from page 7

of cholera, typhoid and measles erupted. Within months, tens of thousands of Iraqi children were dead from polluted, untreated water.

At the end of the massive U.S. 40-day bombing campaign, Iraq withdrew from Kuwait. This should have ended the reason for the UN sanctions. But as a condition of the cease-fire, the U.S. demanded that sanctions remain until the UN Security Council had confirmed that Iraq had destroyed any unconventional weapons it may have obtained.

This became the excuse for a protracted struggle to demand the right to send thousands of inspectors into Iraq to confirm that Iraq had no such weapons. Whole industries necessary for any modern industrialized country to function were blown up, including chemical plants and plants making fertilizers and pesticides. Despite over 9,000 inspections, the continuing threat of U.S. veto has kept these starvation sanctions in place for 13 years.

The campaign against sanctions

From its very inception in 1991, the International Action Center waged a campaign to end the sanctions on Iraq. Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, the founder of the IAC, in an effort to bring

world attention to the impact of sanctions, made the difficult trip to Iraq every year with fact-finding delegations. He wrote an International Appeal to End Sanctions on Iraq that was signed by a number of world leaders, along with international human rights groups and peace organizations.

The appeal characterized sanctions as a weapon of genocide and a "crime against humanity," as defined by the Nuremberg Principles. The appeal was translated into many languages and became the basis of a series of international peace conferences in London, Rome, Athens, Madrid, Tokyo, New York and San Francisco.

By 1995 a UN Food and Agriculture Organization report confirmed that 567,000 children under the age of five had died as a direct result of the continued UN sanctions. A growing global mobilization demanding that sanctions be lifted created a radical shift in world public opinion.

As world outrage mounted, the U.S. shifted its public relations approach. In an attempt to give a humanitarian cover to its brutal policy, it pushed through the Oil for Food Program. This program allowed Iraq to sell a limited amount of its oil and buy food and medicine from the revenue. The UN Security Council, under a special committee called the 661 Committee, would control all the revenue and review every

SUBSCRIBE TO WORKERS WORLD

SPECIAL TRIAL SUBSCRIPTION

___ \$2 for eight weeks (new subscription) ___ \$25 for one year

Name _____

Phone number _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Workers World Newspaper

55 West 17 St. NY, NY 10011 (212) 627-2994

Or use a credit card and subscribe online at:

www.workers.org/orders/subscribe.php

Sister of martyred garment worker

S. Korean tells of fierce labor struggles

By John Beacham
Los Angeles

A threatened general strike in South Korea has forced the government to abandon its plans to privatize the railroads there. How did the workers of South Korea achieve the great strength, militancy and unity needed to win such a profound victory?

On April 17, Dr. Chun Soonok, the sister of South Korea's most famous labor martyr, spoke here in Los Angeles about the long history of workers' struggle in her country.

Her brother, Chun Tae-il, set himself on fire on Nov. 13, 1970, during a garment workers' demonstration in a crowded central Seoul wholesale market. Chun first burned a copy of the South Korean government's Labor Standards Law. He

yelled, "Obey the labor laws!"

He then lit his gasoline-soaked clothes on fire, shouting, "We are not machines!" He died a short while later.

Chun, a garment worker who had tried for years to get the government to abide by its own labor laws, immolated himself to protest the illegal working conditions in South Korea's sweatshops. In 1970, tens of thousands of garment workers, mostly teenagers, worked 14 to 20 hours a day in poorly lit and inadequately ventilated factories. If they were fortunate, they were given two days off a month.

According to Dr. Chun Soonok, who has dedicated her life to the Korean workers' struggle, the garment workers' daily wage equaled the price of a cup of coffee.

Chun Tae-il's sacrifice fueled and inspired one of the most militant and persistent labor movements of the post-World-War-II era. His death is commemorated with massive demonstrations every year, second only to May Day in their importance to workers in Korea.

The 500,000-strong Korean Confederation of Trade Unions acknowledges Chun's act as the crucial impetus for a national labor movement that has persevered and grown strong under a succession of pro-corporation and U.S.-backed governments.

A sister fights on

Dr. Chun Soonok spoke at the offices here of the Korean Immigrant Workers Advocate. She has been touring the United States to promote the recent English edition of "A Single Spark: The Biography of Chun Tae-il," a work she translated.

A former garment worker herself, she has a doctorate in Industrial Relations from the University of Warwick in England. Instead of working in academia, in 2001 Dr. Chun went back to work in the garment industry in South Korea in order to investigate current conditions.

She said: "The conditions have not changed much. Many middle-aged women who have been working all their



Dr. Chun Soonok tells L.A. meeting of the struggle and sacrifice that have built South Korean unions.

PHOTO: MINJOK-TONGSHIN

lives in the garment industry have nothing to show for it. They still work 12- to 14-hour days."

The only thing that has changed in the South Korean garment industry is the workers' demographic. As in many other places in the world, the garment workers are now mainly immigrants. Many are older workers. The factories, instead of being located in a central market, are hidden throughout the country.

Recently, Dr. Chun has set up a center for women workers in Seoul. But she sees the workers' struggle there as something that has implications far beyond Korea. One of her main reasons for translating her brother's biography is so that the working class in the West will take hope from both her brother's story and the vigorous movement that he inspired. Chun Tae-il sparked a labor movement that has become one of the most feared progressive movements in the world.

The struggle continues

The struggle is not over. As Dr. Chun pointed out, policies of the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization in Asia and the rest of the world since the crisis of 1997 have forced big corporations in South Korea to restructure their labor market, squeezing the workers and their unions. Temporary

employment is replacing secure employment. Temporary employees, as workers in the United States know quite well, get few if any benefits and can be hired and fired at whim. Currently, 57 percent of the South Korean labor force is made up of temporary workers.

Yet the workers of South Korea continue to mount fierce resistance to the international and national bosses. On April 20, a threatened general strike halted the government's attempt to privatize the country's railway system. The Daegu City Bus Workers Union had already gone on strike, paralyzing the country's third-biggest city. Massive hunger strikes, demonstrations and strikes are the order of the day in South Korea.

Thus far, the workers of South Korea have staved off much of the attacks upon labor that IMF policies engendered.

Dr. Chun put it to her audience simply and eloquently: "Workers in America have the same problem: we are all workers and we are all exploited by world capital. The reason I wanted to share my brother's life and the Korean workers' struggle with the workers of England and America is that we need inspiration and international solidarity to overcome all the workers' problems and to fight exploitation." □

contract for supplies that Iraq would receive.

Out of these severely restricted oil sales, Iraq would also have to pay reparations to Kuwait and a host of other claims arising from the U.S. destruction and bombing in the 1991 war. From January 1997, when this program began, to the end of 2001, Iraq was able to sell approximately \$50 billion worth of oil. All this money was deposited into a UN-controlled account. Iraq received less than 25 percent of this amount for the purchase of food and medicine, amounting to less than 22 cents per day per person.

Some 34 percent of the Iraqi Oil for Food revenue went to the Kuwaiti monarchy and other "victims" of the 1991 war. ExxonMobil received \$200 million in "war reparations" from the Oil For Food funds, which were supposed to feed starving Iraqi children. Billions of dollars also went to the UN to administer this program. A multi-billion-dollar bureaucracy was created that guaranteed lucrative contracts to many countries.

For the past six years the U.S. and British representatives on the 661 Committee have denied, delayed or obstructed most of the contracts submitted by Iraq. Under U.S. pressure the committee denied over 90 percent of Iraq's contracts for the repair of water/sewage treatment and irrigation projects.

Because of this continual obstruction, billions of dollars from oil sales were never released for Iraq's desperate needs but continued to be held in UN accounts. These funds, along with future oil revenue, is what U.S. corporate power wants undisputed control over.

The world movement to end the sanctions on Iraq is in essence a movement to struggle for the right of the Iraqi people to control their own resources. The sanctions have been a crime against humanity and an assault on the national sovereignty of every developing country. They must be lifted.

But the U.S. occupiers of Iraq today must not be allowed to continue their imperialist plunder in another form. The anti-war and anti-sanctions movement must demand that U.S. troops get out, along with their hand-picked stooges. It must defend the right of the Iraqi people to control their own resources. Not one penny from Iraq's oil should go to the criminal U.S.-occupation regime.

Sara Flounders is coordinator of the Iraq Sanctions Challenge and a co-director of the International Action Center. □

WHAT IS NEXT FOR THE ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT?

Come to a special Washington Heights meeting with featured speakers:

RAMSEY CLARK former U.S. Attorney General
REV. LUIS BARRIOS John Jay College & San Romero Church
and other invited speakers

Join community leaders and anti-war activists in a discussion about:

- ▶ Understanding U.S. and Iraq from a historical perspective.
- ▶ Connecting the anti-war movement on Iraq with solidarity with Cuba, Colombia, Venezuela and all of Latin America.
- ▶ U.S. imperialism: Where will it attack next—Syria, Korea, the Philippines or Latin America?
- ▶ Connecting the fight for jobs and social services with the anti-war movement.

Sponsored by/ Inicialdo por:
Dominican Workers Party, Fuerza de la Revolución; Partido de los Trabajadores Dominicanos International Action Center, Centro de Acción Internacional (IAC); New York A.N.S.W.E.R.; Unidad del Pueblo y San Romero of the Americas Church, Iglesia San Romero de las Americas
For more information call / Para más información o para endosar llame al: **212.633.6646**

**SATURDAY
MAY 10
3:30 P.M.**
2005 AMSTERDAM AVE • NYC
Between 159th & 160th Sts.
Take the 1 or the 9
to 157 St.

PRESENTACIÓN ESPECIAL DEL VIDEO:
Voces de Latinoamérica en contra de la agresión de Estados Unidos en Irak.
Mensajes de solidaridad al pueblo de Irak de prominentes líderes y activistas Latinoamericanos. ●Hebe de Bonaffini de Argentina, ●Evo Morales de Bolivia, ●Daniel Ortega de Nicaragua, ●líderes sindicales de Colombia, así también como del ●Presidente de Venezuela Hugo Chávez y muchos mas!

¿CUAL ES EL PRÓXIMO PASO PARA EL MOVIMIENTO EN CONTRA DE LA GUERRA?

Participe en una discusión con líderes comunitarios y con líderes del movimiento en contra de la guerra para comenzar a:

- ▶ Entendiendo Irak y los EE.UU de una perspectiva histórica
- ▶ Conectar el movimiento en contra de la guerra de Irak con la solidaridad con Cuba, Colombia, Venezuela y toda América Latina.
- ▶ Hablar sobre el imperialismo norteamericano: donde será el próximo ataque: ¿Siria, Corea, las Filipinas o América Latina?
- ▶ Conectar la lucha del movimiento en contra de la guerra con la lucha por trabajos y servicios sociales.

**SABADO
10 de MAYO
3:30 P.M.**
2005 AMSTERDAM AVE • NYC
Entre las calles 159 y 160
Tome el tren #1 o el 9
a calle 157

Reporte desde el Foro de Solidaridad de Caracas

Un cambio social está corriendo por Venezuela

Por Teresa Gutiérrez
Caracas, Venezuela

Un cambio revolucionario está cubriendo a este país, a un año luego de que un golpe de estado apoyado por los Estados Unidos capturara al Presidente Hugo Chávez Frías y pusiera una junta empresarial en su lugar, junta que fue derrocada por el pueblo y sus militares, reinstalando a Chávez en 48 horas.

Delegados internacionales tuvieron la oportunidad de sentir el pulso de este cambio social durante los días del 10 al 13 de abril en el Encuentro Mundial de Solidaridad con la Revolución Bolivariana, celebrado aquí en la ciudad capital.

Más de 5000 personas asistieron a este excitante foro. Entre ellos se encontraban cientos de delegados internacionales de toda la América Latina, como también de Inglaterra, Alemania, Canadá, España y los Estados Unidos.

Cuba envió más de 150 personas a la conferencia, incluyendo a parientes de los cinco prisioneros políticos cubanos detenidos en las cárceles de los Estados Unidos. En más de una ocasión, la conferencia estalló con la consigna de "¡Cuba sí, Yanqui no!". Los organizadores del evento sostuvieron varios talleres para discutir no solo los acontecimientos en Venezuela sino también eventos mundiales.

Los venezolanos y los participantes del exterior denunciaron la brutal agresión de los Estados Unidos contra Irak y expresaron una profunda solidaridad con el pueblo iraquí. Los organizadores incluyeron en la ocupada agenda de tres días una manifestación como parte de los eventos contra la guerra el 12 de abril. Una consigna muy popular fue, "Irak, aguanta, el mundo se levanta".

Caracas ha sido por mucho tiempo una ciudad a la vez de gran riqueza pero también de gran pobreza. Un sentimiento expresado repetidamente por muchos venezolanos en el foro fue que por primera vez, venezolanos pobres, obreros y de tez oscura pueden entrar al Teatro Teresa Carreño, donde tomaron lugar la mayoría de los eventos. Este era concurrido solo por la oligarquía.

El teatro representó, aunque solo de una pequeña manera, lo que está pasando en Venezuela hoy.

Chávez elegido por el pueblo

En 1997, antes de que Chávez fuera elegido, el 67% de los venezolanos ganaban menos de \$2.00 al día. El treinta y seis por ciento ganaba menos de \$1.00 al día.

A pesar de vivir en una nación rica en petróleo, la gran mayoría del pueblo—el 80%—vivía en la pobreza. Más del 60% de las tierras fértiles pertenecía al 1% de la población.

Por lo tanto no fue sorprendente que cuando Hugo Chávez llevó a cabo una campaña presidencial en 1998 y de nuevo en el 2000, prometiendo grandes cambios políticos y económicos, su candidatura fue

muy bien recibida por el pueblo de Venezuela.

Venezuela, una nación de 24 millones de habitantes, está actualmente pasando por una profunda transformación de gran significado histórico. Es una transformación que está íntimamente conectada a un extraordinario movimiento de las masas populares.

Este es un desarrollo que se ha ganado la ira de Washington pero el apoyo de millones de personas en toda América Latina y de otras partes del mundo.

Este año, el 11 de abril, mientras el pueblo y el gobierno conmemoraban el atentado de golpe del 2002, el Teatro Teresa Carreño perteneció al pueblo. Fue un símbolo del Movimiento Bolivariano revolucionario que se está gestando en cada una de las ciudades y poblados de Venezuela.

Por primera vez en la historia de Venezuela, un gobierno y un movimiento están en el poder defendiendo la soberanía de Venezuela contra las garras de los bancos y de la dominación estadounidense. Un movimiento y un gobierno que dan prioridad a las necesidades del pueblo por encima de las prioridades de la pequeña élite.

Muchos de los oradores en la conferencia dieron detalles de los eventos de abril del 2002. Un video mostró cómo los derechistas pro Estados Unidos, pensaron que habían dado marcha atrás a la historia cuando llevaron a cabo el golpe para derrocar al Presidente Chávez.

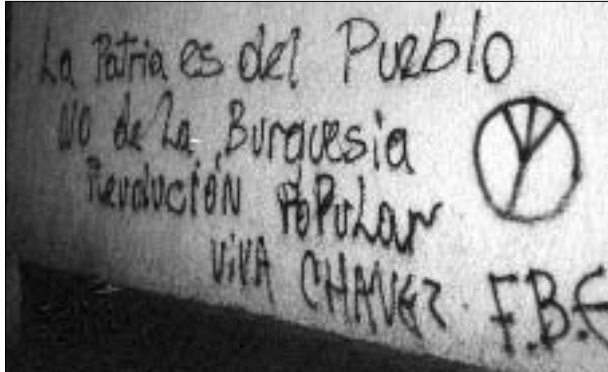
El Alcalde de Caracas, Freddy Bernal describió el drama vivido por el pueblo, el gobierno y los "golpistas". El video mostró al Presidente Chávez diciéndole a las fuerzas armadas venezolanas que él no había renunciado a su presidencia y que nunca lo haría. El video también mostró cómo la mayoría de las fuerzas armadas fueron completamente influenciadas por el pensamiento progresista de Chávez y concluyeron en la organización de un plan de rescate para reinstaurarlo a la presidencia.

También se pudo ver la congregación del pueblo frente al Palacio Presidencial Miraflores, exigiendo el regreso de su presidente popularmente elegido. En dos días, el golpe fue derrotado.

Después de la película, Chávez, en broma, dijo a los participantes en la conferencia, "Pensé que iba a tener por lo menos un fin de semana para leer un libro o ver un video".

El alcalde Bernal describió cómo en ese día fatídico, mientras él y sus compañeros estaban calculando qué hacer, decidieron en un momento dado aceptar el encarcelamiento en vez de entregarse al gobierno golpista.

Bernal había dicho, "Yo sé que la gente nos va a rescatar de la cárcel algún día. Puede tomar uno o dos años, pero vendrán por nosotros".



No había manera de saber ni el alcalde ni el Presidente Chávez, que el pueblo de Venezuela iba a tomar el destino en sus propias manos.

En menos de 48 horas, el pueblo rescató su gobierno popularmente elegido, de las garras de los contrarrevolucionarios y para siempre tomó su merecido lugar en la historia.

Las masas convergieron en Miraflores desde todos los rincones de Caracas y de todas las regiones del país. Vinieron en taxi, autobús, carro—pero mayormente a pie. No esperaron que ninguna organización, partido o persona les dijera qué hacer. Instintivamente, dominaron a los derechistas y para siempre cambiaron el curso de la historia.

El 13 de abril, los golpistas y sus auspiciadores en Washington quedaron en ridículo.

A los imperialistas una vez más les fue recordada una lección valiosa: cuando el pueblo está inspirado, cuando la conciencia de clase ha sido despertada, cuando sienten el sabor de la liberación, no hay manera de forzarlos a retroceder.

Esto es lo que está pasando actualmente en Venezuela. Después de la dulce victoria de retomar a su presidente, y después de superar una huelga patronal, el pueblo venezolano sabe lo que significa flexionar sus músculos.

Y esos músculos se están volviendo más fuertes.

A través del país, los más pobres—incluso los que no saben leer ni escribir, estudiantes, mujeres, los venezolanos de herencia africana, trabajadores—están todos participando en cambiar a Venezuela.

Las organizaciones populares conocidas como los Círculos Bolivarianos se están apoderando de escuelas, limpiando y reparándolas, y encontrando maestros voluntarios para subir el nivel educativo de todos.

Los estudiantes al igual que sus padres están tomando clases de videografía para subir su nivel tecnológico. Estas lecciones de video están bien utilizadas, por ejemplo para documentar los muchos problemas de las comunidades, como las inundaciones. Los videos después son entregados a la agencia gubernamental pertinente para que se hagan las debidas correcciones.

Estaciones de televisión y de radio están siendo desarrolladas para las comunidades populares. Esto es de suma importancia puesto que muchos de los

medios informativos todavía pertenecen a las fuerzas partidarias a los ricos y a los anti-Chavistas, las cuales lanzan un aluvión constante de propaganda antigubernamental. Están haciendo el intento de despertar pánico y miedo entre las masas. Hora tras hora, difunden propaganda anticubana. Los derechistas están intentando amedrentar al pueblo venezolano para que no construyan una sociedad similar a la cubana. La sola idea de educación y servicios de salud gratuitos para todo el mundo es una gran amenaza para los especuladores apoyados por los EEUU.

A través del país, los venezolanos están participando en debates y diálogos masivos sobre su sociedad así como sobre eventos mundiales.

Al caminar por las calles de Caracas se oye a todo el mundo condenando la agresión de los EEUU. contra Irak.

Parece que todo el mundo en el país ha memorizado la nueva Constitución de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, una legislación ampliamente discutida y votada por el pueblo. Es muy progresista y mucho más democrática que la de los EEUU. Garantiza los derechos humanos y civiles del pueblo indígena, de mujeres, de lesbianas y gays, y de todos los sectores anteriormente privados del derecho al voto.

Durante la conferencia, cuando los oradores se dirigían a la cuestión de la Constitución, los venezolanos mostraban su librito azul dejando ver que un gran porcentaje del pueblo siempre la lleva consigo.

La conferencia terminó con un acto político masivo al aire libre en una de las avenidas principales de la ciudad. Miles de personas salieron para escuchar al Presidente Chávez que habló por varias horas.

Nadie puede predecir como los sucesos se van a desarrollar en Venezuela. La administración de Bush no ha parado su retórica hostil contra Chávez. Venezuela es una nación con grandes riquezas petroleras y su gobierno y su pueblo saben bien que esto significa que el imperialismo siempre va a mirar sus valiosas reservas naturales con ojos codiciosos.

Los delegados internacionales dejaron bien claro, sin embargo, que los movimientos antibélicos y de solidaridad apoyan entusiasmados a la Revolución Bolivariana.

Todos saben bien que si el pueblo venezolano y su liderato logran construir exitosamente una nueva sociedad popular, sería un gran avance para el mundo entero.

Sería una victoria para todos los pueblos que luchan contra el yugo del imperialismo estadounidense. Sería también un tremendo apoyo para la Revolución Cubana.

Desde Irak hasta las Filipinas, desde Seúl hasta Nueva York, el triunfo de la Revolución Bolivariana será un triunfo para los trabajadores y los oprimidos alrededor del mundo. □