

BUSH SPEECH

Triggers false debate 9

AFGHANISTANPoverty deepens,
fighting grows 8**'FIGHT
the
Power!'**

6-7

**CALIFORNIA
PROPOSITION 54**Attack on
affirmative action 6**6-MONTH SENTENCE
FUNK: 'Hell no,
I won't go!'**

3



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**MILLION YOUTH
MARCH**

Electrifies Brooklyn 5

**HARVEY MILK
SCHOOL**Hundreds defend
LGBT students 5**Subscribe
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WORKERS WORLD NEWSPAPER

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

www.workers.org**As poverty in U.S. grows****Bush demands another
\$87B for occupation****Anti-war movement replies: 'Bring the troops home now!'**

By Greg Butterfield

On Sept. 7, when President George W. Bush made his nationally televised plea for an additional \$87 billion to fund the brutal occupation of Iraq, he neglected to tell poor and working people about a growing and ominous threat to their safety.

Not Saddam Hussein. Not Osama bin Laden. Not "sleepers cells" of terrorists nesting in U.S. cities.

No, the danger Bush failed to mention was revealed in a slew of both government and independent reports the first week of September: a severe increase in poverty, unemployment and overwork in the era of "endless war."

Over 1.3 million more people were thrown into poverty last year. The so-called economic recovery has coincided with the most sustained loss of jobs since the Great Depression.

It's hardly surprising that he didn't say anything about this. After all, while Bush was calling on people here to prepare for more sacrifices in the bloody war of conquest in Iraq, and while more U.S. grunts and Iraqi civilians die by the day, Bush's big-business benefactors are bathing in an unprecedented bounty of fat military contracts, enormous tax cuts and the prospect of milking Iraq's oil wealth for themselves.

Not one of the leading Democratic candidates for president answered Bush's speech with a condemnation of the occupation or a demand that the money being poured down the military sinkhole be used instead for jobs at home and reparations for the Iraqi people.

Instead, the Democrats called on Bush to do more to pressure Europe and the United Nations to aid the occupation in hopes of crushing the growing Iraqi resistance movement. Sen. Joseph

Biden, head of the Foreign Relations Committee, immediately endorsed Bush's plan to double spending on the Iraq occupation in the coming fiscal year.

Howard Dean—the so-called anti-war candidate and former Vermont governor—said Bush should send his top aides to Europe immediately to get troops and money to shore up the occupation. "Failure is not an option" in the conquest of Iraq, he blustered. (French Press Agency, Sept. 8)

No one should forget that most of the 1.5 million Iraqis who perished from sanctions over the last decade did so under Democrat Bill Clinton's watch. At the same time, the evil alliance of Democratic and Republican leaders ripped up the social safety net at home for poor and working people with their 1996 welfare repeal.

It would be a big mistake for the multinational working class to throw its weight behind a Democratic Party candidate just as dependent as Bush on Big Oil and Wall Street—and just as committed to reconquering the Middle East and the rest of the world.

A militant, independent movement of the workers and poor is what's needed—one that can bring the capitalist cronies of both parties to heel and take back the money now flowing into the war machine so it can be used for people's needs.

The potential for such a movement is real. On Oct. 25, tens of thousands of people from all over North America will converge on Washington, D.C., to demand that Bush end the occupation of Iraq and bring the troops home now.

Those organizing include families of soldiers and reservists, immigrant workers threatened with jail and deportation, labor unions, workfare workers and others who will demand money

*Continued on page 4***INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR MUMIA 5**

WW PHOTO CREDIT: JOE PIETTE

French delegation and U.S. activists join forces in Philadelphia to demand freedom for death row political prisoner, Mumia Abu-Jamal.

'End occupation in Iraq, Palestine, everywhere'

Planned protests for Sept. 25-28 in U.S., world

By John Catalinotto

Organizers of Sept. 28 demonstrations to demand an end to the occupations of Iraq and all of Palestine say the mood is beginning to feel like "last year's October to March anti-war protests."

Last spring, many of the groups worldwide that had demonstrated to try to stop the war on Iraq called for an international day of action for Sept. 27 or 28, which is the third anniversary of the Al-Aqsa Intifada. The focus was to be on Palestine solidarity, and also on ending the occupation of Iraq.

At the time it was hard to predict whether these would be limited to symbolic solidarity actions, or begin to reignite the world movement that had grown to over 10 million people last February. The answer depends on political developments, as various organizers have reported.

In Turkey, where a national demonstration is planned for Ankara on Sept. 27, the question of whether Turkish troops will be sent to Iraq has sharpened the struggle. The same is true for a newer movement in Poland, which will gather in Warsaw to demand the Polish troops occupying southern Iraq near Babylon be brought home.

In the Middle East and North Africa, anti-U.S. demonstrations are often threatened by the local ruling groups. The ongoing violent occupations in Palestine and Iraq can stir such strong mass response that it leads to clashes with the repressive state. Reports from Middle Eastern organizers of Against U.S. and Israeli Globalization and Hegemony say demonstrations are planned in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, Iraq, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Sudan, Morocco, Algeria, Iran and Pakistan.

In Britain, the Stop the War Coalition expects its Sept. 27 action to be massive. The protest comes as the Tony Blair administration has been put on the defensive about the lies it told to justify invading Iraq.

At least 39 countries are planning solidarity events. These include Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Japan, Macedonia, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, South Korea, Spain and Thailand.

Bush hits a low at home

In the United States the organizing is hitting its stride just as the Bush administration has had to admit that the plan to control Iraq is in a crisis. President George W. Bush now wants \$87 billion to try to bring Iraq to heel, plus the support of the United Nations he scorned getting into the war. And the Pentagon has had to announce extended duty for already war-weary reservists and National Guard GIs.

Meanwhile the economic news at home is going from bad to worse, with 2 million jobs lost in the past

two years. Bush's ratings in the polls are the lowest they've been since he was able to use the Sept. 11, 2001, attack to whip up patriotism and support for the administration and its war. This slippage has encouraged anti-war activists to step up their work.

In Los Angeles, where a protest at a Bush fundraiser brought out thousands of people earlier this summer, organizers from the ANSWER coalition are hopeful about the Sept. 28 turnout. "It was quiet a few weeks ago," said Los Angeles ANSWER organizer John Beacham, "but now there is a strong core of volunteers getting out leaflets and pasting up posters all over the county."

In Los Angeles, the emphasis is about equally on Palestine and Iraq. The top of the leaflet reads, "On the anniversary of the Palestinian Intifada," and in big type, "End Occupation in Iraq, Palestine and Everywhere. No to Empire, no to Colonialism. Bring the Troops Home Now." The text of the leaflet demands no intervention in Afghanistan, Korea, the Philippines, Africa and Latin America.

ANSWER is organizing the demonstration along with groups representing the Arab community, South Asians, Koreans and Filipinos, as well as more traditional peace groups.

Fernando Suarez, a Mexican-American who is the father of a GI killed in Iraq and who is strongly anti-war, will be speaking at a news conference and at the rally Sept. 28.

In New York on Sept. 8 an equally diverse group of 30 organizers from about a dozen organizations met at the International Action Center office to plan that city's Sept. 28 action. Groups attending included three from the Arab and Arab-American community, and also representatives from the gay community, Koreans, Philippines support groups, and the IAC and ANSWER.

The activists were determined to find ways to use banners and flags to show both solidarity with the embattled Palestinians and enthusiasm for going on the offensive against Bush and Co. over Iraq. A working meeting then followed to lay the structure for what promises to be a strong demonstration from the Columbus Circle area through midtown Manhattan.

San Francisco organizers expect a mass demonstration there on Sept. 28. They report that similar coalition meetings have taken place, and are optimistic that people will come from all over central and northern California.

Other meetings and marches taking place include: Sept. 25 in Alexandria, Va., and Rutland, Vt.; Sept. 26 in Patterson, N.J., and Chicago; Sept. 27 in San Diego, Saint Louis, Kansas City, Mo., Santa Barbara, Calif., and Detroit; and on Sept. 28 in Seattle and Boston. Details on these and some international events are listed on the ANSWER website at www.internationalanswer.org/campaigns/s28/sep25_28events.html. □

This week ...



★ National

Bush demands \$87B for occupation 1
 Protests Sept. 25-28 in U.S., world 2
 The trial of Stephen Funk. 3
 IBM workers susceptible to cancer 4
 French delegation supports Mumia 4
 Protests support LGBT students 5
 Million youth march in Brooklyn 5
 California's Prop 54 6
 LA forum on Cuban Five. 6
 Baltimore immigrant freedom march 7
 Ashcroft gets 'welcome' he deserves 7

★ International

Afghan poverty deepens, fighting grows 8
 Bush speech triggers false debate. 9
 NYC meeting in solidarity with Asian struggle. 10
 Colombia LGBT community suffers 11
 Young communists tortured in Ukraine 11

★ Editorials

Cancun, Iraq and history 10

★ Noticias En Español

Lecciones del golpe en Chile 12

WW CALENDAR

LOS ANGELES

Sun., Sept. 28

No to colonialism in Iraq, Palestine, and everywhere. Gather at noon Hollywood & Vine. March to Hollywood and Highland for 2 p.m. rally.

Every Friday

Workers World Party weekly meetings at 7:30 p.m. (Dinner at 7.) At 422 S. Western. Phone (213) 500-0529 for info.

NEW YORK

Fri., Sept. 26

Harlem welcomes Venezuela's Hugo Chavez. An evening of solidarity with the Bolivarian Revolution. 5 p.m. At Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, 120th & Malcolm X Blvd. For info (718) 510-5523 or (718) 205-7699.

Every Friday

Workers World Party weekly

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

SAN FRANCISCO

Sun., Sept. 28

No to colonialism in Iraq, Palestine, and everywhere. At Dolores Park at noon, march to Civic Center for 2 p.m.

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.

SAN DIEGO

Sat., Sept. 27

No to colonialism in Iraq, Palestine, and everywhere. Gather at noon on the University Avenue bridge over I-15 in City Heights. March at 1 p.m.

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The trial of Stephen Funk

Marine war resister sentenced to six months

By Dustin Langley

On Sept. 6, after two days of testimony and hours of deliberation, a jury of four Marines at the 4th Service Support Group command, headquarters for the Marine Reserve in New Orleans, found Lance Corp. Stephen Funk guilty of unauthorized absence and recommended a sentence of six months in prison.

Funk, the first military resister this year to face court-martial, says he was targeted for punishment because he is gay and because he spoke out against the war. He says he was the target of unfair prosecution because he was a conscientious objector who spoke at anti-war rallies. He was the only one of 28 Marine conscientious objectors to the Iraq war to face prosecution.

Funk is also to receive a bad conduct discharge, demotion to the rank of private, the Marines' lowest rank, and his pay will be docked by two-thirds during his incarceration.

The jury found Funk not guilty of the more serious charge of desertion with intent to shirk important duty, which could have put him behind bars for a year. Defense attorney Stephen Collier said he would still appeal for a lighter sentence. Collier said he will request that Funk receive a normal discharge and a prison term of 47 days. Lt. Gen. Dennis M. McCarthy, commander of the Marine reserves, has the authority to accept or reduce the sentence.

Funk was held in the New Orleans jail Sept. 7 and would likely be transported to a still undetermined military prison on Sept. 8, Collier said. He will be discharged when he's released from prison.

Funk, 21, is originally from Seattle and is half-Filipino. He joined the Marine Corps to earn money for college and because at the time he believed the experience would give him a sense of direction and discipline.

"I wanted to belong and I wanted another direction in my life, and this seemed to offer it," said Funk. "They told me I would be able to go back to school. The ads make the armed forces look so cool—'Call this number and we'll send you a free pair of boxer shorts'—and a lot of kids don't realize what's involved."

"The boot camp experience quickly snapped me back into reality, but by that time it seemed too late to do anything. The purpose of military training is to churn out non-thinking killing machines. All humans have a natural aversion to killing, and being forced to shout out 'Kill, kill, kill' every day is a major stress on the mind, body, and soul."

Funk was also alarmed by the Bush administration's rush to war against Iraq. "This war is very immoral because of the deception involved by our leaders," he said. "It is very hypocritical."

On Feb. 19, Funk's San Jose, Calif.-based unit was mobilized to load ships and cargo planes in San Diego bound for the Middle East. He felt he had no choice but to refuse.

Funk refuses to surrender dignity

For 47 days Funk was absent without leave—AWOL. During this time, he spoke at several anti-war rallies in San Francisco. On April 1, outside the Marine base in San Jose, Calif., he explained to reporters his reasons for refusing to deploy. He said: "I refuse to surrender my

dignity. I refuse to kill. The military demands obedience, but I will not obey."

After the news conference, he turned himself in to military authorities. Faced with the massive media presence, Marine Capt. Patrick O'Rourke claimed that Funk would receive only administrative punishment, and that his application for Conscientious Objector status would be handled quickly. "The Marine Corps understands there are service members opposed to the war," O'Rourke said. "He'll be treated fairly."

Once media attention died down, however, Funk was transferred to New Orleans, informed that his Conscientious Objector claim would not be processed, and charged with desertion.

As the trial opened Sept. 6, the defense presented a memo written by Marine Brig. Gen. John W. Bergman, commander of the New Orleans-based 4th Force Service Support Group. In the memo, Bergman denounces all personnel who were absent without authorization during the Iraq

war, saying they lack the "decency and loyalty" of those who served.

Funk's lawyers called this memo a sign of pre-trial prejudice, as all the jurors in the case were under Bergman's command. This memo, which Bergman now claims he didn't write, was an obvious message to the potential jurors.

The military judge, John A. Maksym, said he was "miffed" that the memo had not come to light in pre-trial hearings, and noted that the jury would be selected from among Marines under Bergman's command. That jury could be affected by any bias displayed by Bergman, he said.

The prosecution claimed that Funk was "shirking important duty" and asked for a sentence of one year's imprisonment. The jury, which consisted of three senior non-commissioned officers and one commissioned officer, deliberated for approximately three hours before returning with a guilty verdict.

Funk said he was enthusiastic about the opportunity to speak out at the trial. "I



WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

San Francisco, Sept. 4.

have always considered myself an activist and stand with the oppressed peoples of the world. I spoke out so that others in the military would realize that they also have a choice and a duty to resist."

The GI Rights group Support Network for an Armed Forces Union—SNAFU—has initiated the Stephen Funk Support Committee, which is calling for Funk's immediate release and is promoting an on-line petition calling for him to be released now. (www.petitiononline.com/stephenf/petition.html) □

BRING the TROOPS HOME NOW

SATURDAY
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"Are more people going to be killed? You bet."

—DONALD RUMSFELD
July 14, 2003

The U.S. is spending \$4 billion a month to occupy Iraq—more than \$130 million a day, that's \$5 million every hour. Remember these numbers when they say there is no money for education and healthcare or libraries, firehouses, childcare or other vital social services

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IBM workers susceptible to cancer

By G. Dunkel

Workers in San Jose, Calif.—or, in some cases, their survivors—have hired one of the top epidemiologists in the country to analyze their claims that they developed terminal cancers working for International Business Machines in designing or producing microcomputer chips and hard disks.

Dr. Richard Clapp, an associate professor at Boston University's School of Public Health, has worked on analyzing the risks at the Love Canal site near Buffalo, N.Y.; dioxin contamination at Toms River, N.J., and Woburn, Mass; and the effects of depleted uranium on Massachusetts veterans of the first Gulf War.

His statistical analyses from IBM data show increased rates of breast cancer, non-Hodgkins lymphoma and brain can-

cer among IBM employees. These data also show that cancers appear to be occurring in IBM workers earlier than the average U.S. population.

IBM is not just a software giant, a major consulting firm and a producer of computers ranging from PCs to giant mainframes and including Unix- and GNU/Linux-based servers. It is also a major manufacturer of computer chips for companies like Apple, Boeing and itself. It has recently discontinued making disk drives.

Workers in the "clean rooms" used to produce chips and disk plates have to wear "bunny suits." These are head-to-heel covers that protect the workers from dust and particles and keep the chips from being ruined.

These suits filter the air. They do not protect the workers from the powerful

fumes from chemicals such as toluene, cadmium, arsenic, benzene and trichloroethylene,—all of which are either known or suspected carcinogens. Nor can the suits protect against the compounds created by combining these chemicals together, the dangers of which have never been scientifically studied.

Nearly 300,000 workers in the United States work in plants with "clean rooms." About one-quarter of them come into contact with these dangerous chemicals. Worldwide, about a million people work in such plants, many of them owned by big U.S. corporations such as Motorola and Intel. (Figures from Mother Jones, March/April 2002.)

Microchips are used in computers, but are also in hundreds of other products like cell phones and automobiles.

Besides the lawsuits in California, hun-

dreds of people in New York and Minnesota who have or had jobs in "clean rooms" have sued IBM as individuals or groups. Since they are not represented by a union—which IBM has spent decades and big bucks avoiding—they have to take on this multi-billion, multinational corporation on their own.

IBM is apparently relying on its reputation as a safe company that protected its employees, emphasized workplace safety and went out of its way to protect its employees. The company is vigorously defending itself against the charges.

But the length of time IBM and the other large chip manufacturers took in cleaning up their plants, and the fact that they made sure to do so before the cases came to trial, indicate that IBM knowingly disregarded workers' health and safety to make more money. □

As bigots protest

Hundreds support LGBT students

The first day of school can be nervewracking. For the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students who attend the Harvey Milk School in New York City, a right-wing demonstration threatened to make the day even harder. However, 250 supporters—outnumbering the right wingers—cheered, encouraged and defended the students as they entered in the morning, and again as the students left classes in the afternoon. The demonstration was called by FIERCE, an LGBT youth of color group, and DITCH, a new lesbian group.

—Caption and photo:
Deirdre "Al Dente" Sinnott



Bush demands another \$87B for occupation

Continued from page 1

for jobs, poverty relief, schools and health care, not war and repression.

Census: Poverty grows by 1.3 million

The anti-war movement can reach out to those suffering from unemployment and poverty with factual evidence showing that war and occupation run counter to their very survival. This powerful movement is demanding that the government bring the troops home and spend taxpayers' money on jobs and poverty relief, not war.

The government, and the ruling class behind it, will only respond to an independent mass struggle. Capitalist politicians may criticize Bush for their own election-year ends, but elections have never ended wars. Only the struggle of the masses can do that.

There's plenty of evidence available to show that the huge amounts being spent on the Pentagon not only fail to "trickle down" to the people but are making conditions worse.

The American Community Survey, a Census Bureau report released Sept. 2, showed that more than 1.3 million people

in the United States fell into poverty in 2002—as the Bush administration geared up for war with Iraq and states and cities across the country began to feel the brunt of cuts in federal aid for all kinds of programs.

The number of children in poverty rose by over 600,000, to 12.2 million, the Washington Post reported. "The rate of increase in children under age 5 jumped a full percentage point to 19.8 percent living below the poverty line from 18.8 percent a year earlier," the paper reported Sept. 3.

People of color were hardest hit, but a growing number of white workers were also affected.

"The spike in economic hardship hit individuals and families alike," the Post wrote. "The report indicated that the total percentage of people in poverty increased to 12.4 percent from 12.1 percent in 2001 and totaled 34.8 million. At the same time, the number of families living in poverty went up by more than 300,000 in 2002 to 7 million from 6.6 million in 2001."

And that's just by Washington's artificially low definition of what constitutes poverty: less than \$17,960 a year for a family of two adults and two children, and

\$9,200 a year for a single adult.

It's no wonder poverty is epidemic. Over 2.7 million jobs have disappeared since 2001, according to government sources. The Economic Policy Institute, which does research for the labor movement, says the real number is more like 3.3 million.

That is the biggest sustained job loss since the 1930s.

As more and more economic analysts are forced to admit, those jobs aren't coming back.

Just four days after the poverty report's release, the U.S. Labor Department announced that 93,000 more jobs were lost in August. The official unemployment rate for the month dropped by a blip from 6.2 to 6.1 percent—not because more people were working, but because more than ever have given up hope of finding any job at all. (Associated Press, Sept. 5)

Unprecedented theft of labor power

Bosses—the capitalists—thrive on the theft of workers' labor power. Workers produce far more value than they are paid for in wages. The surplus is scooped up by

the corporate thieves in the form of profits.

Another new Labor Department study shows that the degree of this theft has reached unprecedented levels within the United States. Productivity—the amount workers produce for each hour of work—surged by 6.8 percent in the April through June quarter.

The growing productivity isn't the result of growing employment. It's bosses forcing those workers who haven't lost their jobs to work harder, for longer hours, and for less pay.

As the United Nations' International Labor Organization reported Sept. 2, "Workers in the United States put in an average of 1,815 hours in 2002 compared to major European economies, where hours ranged from around 1,300 to 1,800."

"To put it more bluntly," Joel Naroff of Naroff Economic Advisors candidly told the French Press Agency Sept. 7, "why hire when you can get your employees to work harder?"

Even as the Bush administration, Congress and Corporate America are pumping up jingoism heading into the 2004 elections, U.S. companies are moving more high-tech jobs to other coun-

French delegation shows support for Mumia



tries—the better to super-exploit workers there who must take whatever work they can get, thanks to the imperialist theft of their countries' wealth and resources.

Forrester Research Inc., a trend-analysis firm, predicts that another 3.3 million jobs will be permanently moved overseas by 2015. Many will be so-called white collar, high-tech and service industry jobs, not just factory work.

A new study by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York concluded that "The vast majority of the 2.7 million job losses since the 2001 recession began were the result of permanent changes in the U.S. economy and are not coming back, which means the labor market will not regain strength until new positions are created in novel and dynamic economic sectors," the Washington Post reported Sept. 5.

"The job market is vastly worse right now than it was a couple of years ago," said Gary Burtless of the Brookings Institution, a major Washington think tank.

The rule, not the exception

The current "jobless recovery" isn't the new phenomenon that capitalist apologists would have people think. The destruction of jobs, especially higher-paying jobs dependent on technological advances, is as endemic to the profit system as the boom-and-bust cycle.

Corporate America's current restructuring is an intensification of a process that has dominated the U.S. economy since the early 1980s, when the high-tech boom first began to destroy millions of seemingly stable, good-paying jobs.

The process continued during the first Bush administration—when the term "jobless recovery" was first coined—and under the Clinton administration. The relatively short Internet-fueled boom of the late 1990s was the exception, not the rule.

Frederick Engels, who along with Karl Marx founded the modern communist movement over 150 years ago, explained the process in his 1880 book "Socialism: Utopian and Scientific."

Engels wrote: "If the introduction and increase of machinery means the displacement of millions of manual by a few machine workers, improvement in machinery means the displacement of more and more of the machine workers themselves.

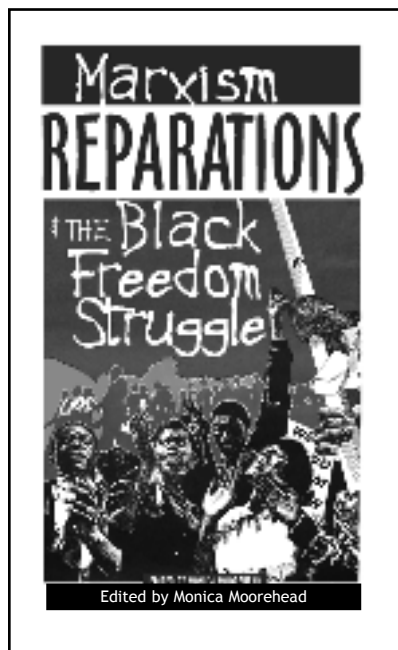
"It means, in the last instance, the

production of a number of available wage workers in excess of the average needs of capital, the formation of a complete industrial reserve army, as I called it in 1845, available at the times when industry is working at high pressure, to be cast out upon the street when the inevitable crash comes, a constant dead weight upon the limbs of the working class in its struggle for existence with capital, a regulator for keeping of wages down to the low level that suits the interests of capital.

"Thus it comes about, to quote Marx, that machinery becomes the most powerful weapon in the war of capital against the working class; that the instruments of labor constantly tear the means of subsistence out of the hands of the laborer; that the very product of the worker is turned into an instrument for his subjugation. ...

"Thus it comes about that the overwork of some becomes the preliminary condition for the idleness of others, and that modern industry, which hunts after new consumers over the whole world, forces the consumption of the masses at home down to a starvation minimum, and in doing thus destroys its own home market."

In 2003, as in Engels' day, the fight is not just to win jobs, better pay and shorter hours, but also to do away with the capitalist system that breeds unemployment, poverty, racism and war, and to replace it with a socialist system based on fulfilling human needs. □



PHILADELPHIA

International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, the MOVE Organization and a high-level delegation of French supporters held a rush-hour demonstration in Philadelphia Sept. 5 to present information on the state's refusal to provide proper health care for death-row political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. The protestors also demanded that the Philadelphia Inquirer be fair and truthful if it publishes an article investigating a custody case involving MOVE.

The French delegation included: Chantal Calliquil, member of the European Parliament; Mireille Fanon, French human-rights activist and daughter of Frantz Fanon, the famous Algerian author of "The Wretched of the Earth"; Marina Rejeski, French human-rights activist; Nicole Borvo, French senator from the Communist Party; and Jackie Hortauet, representative of the CGT, a French labor organization.

Members of the delegation planned to travel to S.C.I. Greene State Prison to visit Abu-Jamal and to meet with prison officials concerning his health.

—WW photo & caption: Joe Piette



Million youth march electrifies Brooklyn community

By Johnnie Stevens
Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn

Thousands of shoppers and workers welcomed the Fifth annual Million Youth March at Fulton and Nostrand on Sept. 6. The MYM organizers had been in battle with New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and the New York Police Department for months over the right to have a permitted march and location. This battle impacted the outreach efforts.

City Councilmember Charles Barron from Brooklyn said: "Mayor Bloomberg should have been here. The youth is our future." Barron and Councilmember Al Vann presented a proclamation to the New Black Panther Party, which sponsored the rally.

Hip-hop artist Tylibah Washington helped to bring consciousness to the youth participants and the busy Fulton street



WW PHOTO: PAT CHIN

shoppers. Tylibah, in spoken word, called for an end to the U.S. occupation of Iraq, stating that Black, Latino and poor white people are being victimized by the multinational corporations. □



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Larry Holmes

◆ Black labor from chattel slavery to wage slavery
Sam Marcy

◆ Reparations & Black Liberation
Monica Moorehead

◆ Harriet Tubman: woman warrior
Mumia Abu-Jamal (Guest Commentary)

◆ Black labor & the fight for reparations
Bill Cecil

◆ Alabama's Black Belt: Legacy of slavery, sharecropping and segregation
By Consuela Lee (Guest commentary)

◆ Black farmers demand justice
Monica Moorehead

◆ Greetings from Mumia Abu-Jamal to the 3rd UN World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia & Related Intolerance

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Proposition 54 in California

Right-wing attack on affirmative

Following are excerpts from a Sept. 7 talk given by WWP member LeiLani Dowell at a San Francisco meeting.

Ward Connerly, who brought California the anti-affirmative-action Proposition 209 in 1996, is at it again—with a new initiative called the “Classification by Race, Ethnicity, or National Origin” Initiative, also known as Proposition 54.

Prop 54, if passed, would make it illegal for the state of California to “classify any individual by race, ethnicity, color or national origin.” “Classifying” is defined as “the act of separating, sorting or organizing by race, ethnicity, color or national origin including, but not limited to, inquiring, profiling, or collecting such data on government forms.”

Connerly would have us believe that we live in a color-blind society, that a person’s race has no impact on her or his socioeconomic level, access to education, health care or housing, not to mention general, everyday harassment and discrimination. The philosophy of Connerly and his right-wing backers dismisses the unequal playing field that people of color face in every social sector, from discrimination in employment, health care and housing to the disproportionate number of people of color in prison and in the most dangerous and menial jobs in the military.

Health organizations and professionals, public officials, political organizations, religious groups, and bar associations have all spoken out against the initiative.

While the initiative’s language contains a few exemptions to the information ban in certain sectors, many of them have been condemned as being too narrow and vague, and some are simply confusing and nonsensical. For instance, the initiative contains an exemption that allows the police to “classify” folks according to race

(remember that the definition in the initiative of “classifying” includes “profiling”). Yet monitoring police profiling and police abuse in specific communities—clearly necessary if one considers just the recent attacks on the largely African-American community of Hunters Point in the Bay Area—would be illegal.

In other words, it’s okay to criminalize and profile people by race, but ensuring social justice and opportunity isn’t.

Just as insidious is the exemption that allows racial and ethnic classification of “medical research subjects and patients.” While this sounds great, the initiative actually bars what is considered by many in the medical industry to be the cornerstone of public health administration: collecting data for population-based surveys. On Aug. 29, a state superior judge ruled that the proponents’ summary statement to appear in the voter’s pamphlet had to be rewritten to accurately reflect the far-reaching health implications of the measure.

And while the initiative calls for an exemption to the Department of Fair Employment and Housing, the exemption is set to expire in 10 years—apparently Connerly expects housing discrimination to be eliminated by that time—and even that exemption states that “DFEH shall not impute a race, color, ethnicity or national origin to any individual.” Regardless, the exemption becomes something of a joke in its assumption that housing is the only area that people of color are discriminated in, and not in jobs, education, health care and other sectors as well.

Connerly had originally given the proposition the misnomer “Racial Privacy Initiative,” but he was forced to change the name on the ballot after the state attorney general refused it as misleading. However, the official website of the initiative, www.racialprivacy.org, still keeps the

name. There can be found the purported mission statement of the Initiative:

“Passage of RPI will do many things: end government’s preferential treatment based on race, and junk a 17th-century racial classification system that has no place in 21st-century America. But most importantly, RPI’s passage will signal America’s first step towards a color-blind society.”

The California Constitution “forbids state government from discriminating against or granting preferential treatment to any citizen based on race.” Therefore, since government has no reason to classify persons by race, why should it even ask us for the data? Like religion, marital status or sexual orientation, race should become a private matter that is no business of government’s. Think how refreshing it would be to throw out the entire system of checking little boxes.”

What a lofty statement. The proponents of the initiative are careful not to mention the word “racism” in their statement. While it’s true that the 17th-century racial classification system was used to exploit workers on the basis of race and that the state continues to be a racist institution, the data that are currently compiled by the state can be and is used in the struggle for equal rights, a struggle that is necessarily long and has not ceased. Yet they would have us believe that in a capitalist system that was founded and continues to thrive on racism, passage of a state initiative will simply make it all disappear.

One might as well ignore the gains of the civil-rights and other movements as well, as passage of RPI will “signal America’s first step” towards racial equality.

While the California Constitution may forbid race-based discrimination, it is obvious to even the most casual observer that discrimination still exists. And while the ruling capitalist class may find it

“refreshing” to not have to deal with checks on racism, it is clear that without these checks, long-fought-for affirmative-action rights as well as attempts to address the health and welfare needs of specific communities would be greatly inhibited.

Have the statistics compiled from the years of collecting data on race ever proven anything but the necessity of more checks on racism? Here’s just a small sample of recent headlines:

- An article in the Aug. 19 Guardian U.K. cites a report by the U.S. Justice Department that says that Black men born in the United States in 2001 will have a one in three chance of going to prison during their lifetime if current trends continue.
- An Aug. 15 Reuters article states that although breast cancer is not as common in African American women compared with other groups, it tends to be diagnosed at a later stage and is therefore more deadly.
- An article in the San Francisco Chronicle of June 19 notes that while the Latinos now represent the largest race or ethnic group in California, one-third of Latino children in California are poor.
- An article in the June 27 Asian Week newspaper notes that in San Francisco, only .01 percent of Asian Pacific Americans took an HIV test last year. The article cites a lack of culturally competent and linguistically accessible health education and risk reduction programs as part of the problem.

On Sept. 3 the state’s Fair Political Practices Commission filed suit against Connerly and his two non-profit organizations for a public disclosure of the organizations’ support roster for the initiative, as required by law. Perhaps Connerly thinks support of his initiative

LA forum demands: Free Cuban 5 & all

By John Parker
Los Angeles

On Sept. 5, a multinational audience of over 125 people attended a Los Angeles forum to demand the freedom of five Cuban national political prisoners held here in the U. S. for the “crime” of defending Cuba and its citizens against U.S.-sponsored terrorism coming out of Miami.

This Sept. 12 marks the fifth anniversary of their arrest by the FBI in Miami. Regarded as heroes defending Cuba, they have been imprisoned since that date.

Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Gerardo Hernández, René González and Fernando González are in federal prisons scattered around the United States falsely convicted of espionage conspiracy, murder conspiracy and other counts. The Cuban government sent them to the U. S. to infiltrate and survey fascist anti-Cuban terrorist groups in Miami, whose murderous activities against Cuban civilians are supported by the U.S. government.

More than 3,400 Cuban people have been killed by terrorist acts of Cuban right-wing groups such as the Cuban American National Foundation, Alpha 66, Brothers to the Rescue and others. “Miami is literally a base for terrorism,”



said featured speaker Gloria La Riva, national coordinator of the National Committee to Free the Cuban Five.

“We must understand that there is a 44-year-long U.S. war against Cuba which includes the U.S. blockade of Cuba. It involves every U.S. embassy in the world to block, stop and sabotage any economic agreements with Cuba. It has meant wars of invasion like Operation Mongoose which was the second attempt to invade Cuba. A Gen. William Smith was quoted as saying their invasion plan was supposed to ‘wipe Cuba off the face of the earth,’” recalled La Riva.

After Cuba accepted removing tactical nuclear and other weapons to protect itself from further U.S. invasion attempts, as a condition for their removal the Soviet Union extracted a promise from the United States to not invade Cuba again. “The danger of invasion became more



Gloria La Riva
WW PHOTO: BOB MORRIS

acute with the collapse of the Soviet Union,” said La Riva.

“Then the Torricelli and Helms-Burton laws were passed by the U.S. Congress to try to destabilize Cuba economically. In the spring of 1990, the U.S. conducted three simultaneous war maneuvers against Cuba in Operation Global Shield. Cuba prepared for possible attack. Throughout all of Cuba, more than 3 mil-

lion people mobilized in an operation called ‘Cuban Shield’—the armed forces, the people’s militias, the population.”

La Riva mentioned how terrorism is another weapon the U. S. has encouraged with the financing and training of terrorist groups in Miami.

In the early 1990s they felt a renewed boldness and have even been known to carry semi-automatic weapons in the streets of Miami while the cops turn a blind eye. She described the danger for activists in Miami who have dared to speak out in favor of Cuba.

It was in this context that Cuba decided in 1990 to send five brave Cubans to

Miami. La Riva mentioned the great sacrifice made by these heroes that included not being able to tell their families where they were or what they were doing, which reminds many of the plight of many political prisoners here in the United States like Mumia Abu-Jamal or Leonard Peltier who haven’t had physical contact with their loved ones in over 20 years.

Jon Hillson, co-coordinator of the Los Angeles Coalition in solidarity with Cuba, read a letter from Labanino concerning the Cuban decision to use the death penalty to discourage anti-Cuban terrorism sponsored by the United States. The letter also affirmed his dedication to continue to fight defending socialism and Cuba.

Hillson said, “There is no more determined a foe of this imperialist government than the Cuban government and the Cuban people. Imperialism must face the fact that 90 miles away from its shores David can defeat Goliath.”

Adrian Garcia, a member of the National Committee to Free the Cuban Five, read a statement from death-row political prisoner Mumia Abu Jamal in support of and solidarity with Cuba for its determination to keep the revolution alive. Abu-Jamal also had a taped message played for the event.

Muna Coobtee, member of the South-

BALTIMORE

action Rally kicks off immigrant freedom march

will wane when voters discover who his backers are. His organization, the American Civil Rights Institute, receives regular major funding from the ultra-conservative Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation of Milwaukee as well as the Scaife Foundation.

According to MediaTransparency.org, the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation is "the country's largest and most influential right-wing foundation." The Scaife Foundation is financed by the Mellon industrial, oil and banking fortune.

As President Bush requests billions of dollars more to "cover ongoing military and intelligence operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere" and while California sinks further and further into a budget crisis that translates directly into cuts in education and social services, Proposition 54 would make it easier for the capitalists, through a lack of accountability, to deny services and continue their racist program of military recruitment on campuses of color and police brutality in the streets.

Connerly had hoped that after putting the initiative on the highly contested Oct. 7 recall ballot, white conservatives would be the only ones to come out to vote. However, communities of color have been organizing against the initiative, and it stands a very good chance of being defeated in the election.

The San Francisco ANSWER Coalition plans on raising awareness on Prop 54 at the upcoming Protest Against War and Occupation on Sept. 28.

While we know that only the destruction of the capitalist system through the struggle for socialism will lead to equal rights for all, we recognize the value of fighting for the gains that people of color have won throughout the years, and the unifying of the movement through those struggles. □

political prisoners

ern California Free Palestine Alliance and the Los Angeles steering committee of ANSWER, gave updates on the case of the Los Angeles 8. These are immigrant activists whose support of Palestine was used to charge them with "subversive" activities such as leafleting and fundraising. New charges remain on two of the eight, Khader Hamide and Michel Shehadeh, whose trial is set for Sept. 15.

Coobtee said: "This case represents the right of people to speak out against injustice. Immigrants who are forced to come to this country escaping repression caused by the U.S. in their own country should have the right to speak out about that repression."

Carl Muhammad, member of San Diego ANSWER steering committee, linked the case of Native political prisoner Leonard Peltier to all political prisoners. He said: "All these cases have the same elements: jury tampering, prosecutorial misconduct ... The message is there is no Mumia, Imam Jamil, Leonard, Cuban 5—they are all one."

"Leonard Peltier spent the last 27 years in prison for a crime he didn't commit, and in a collective voice people have called his incarceration a grave injustice, and some of us have called this a crime against humanity."

Muhammad read a recent solidarity

By Sharon Black
Baltimore

On Sept. 7, some 300 union and community activists gathered at St. Matthews Catholic Church in Baltimore's Eastside community to kick off the Immigrant Workers Freedom March, which will culminate in Queens, N.Y., on Oct. 4.

Members of UNITE, the garment and textile workers union, who are involved in a campaign to organize the Mayflower laundry, helped fill the hall. There were also members of Hotel and Restaurant Employees Local 7, and Food and Commercial Workers Local 27.

Advocate groups for immigrant workers and community groups joined the effort. They include CASA of Maryland, Hispanic Ministry, Catholic Labor Committee, All Peoples Congress, American Friends Service Committee and many others.

Those present represented workers from around the world. Workers from Kenya and other African countries participated along with immigrant workers from Mexico and other parts of Central and Latin America. Filipino workers clapped as undocumented workers discussed how they suffer at the hands of ruthless bosses.

Maryland and D.C. AFL-CIO President Fred Mason was cheered as he proclaimed, "The Bush regime creates the conditions in many poorer countries that force workers to emigrate." Mason, the state's highest-ranking African American labor leader, recounted his own plight in rural Virginia and how he was forced to emigrate to find adequate work.

statement by Peltier in support of Fidel Castro and all the people of Cuba. He thanked Cuba for its unwavering support of his cause.

The latest victim of U.S. aggression against North Korea is John Yai, a Korean American activist facing trumped-up charges of spying for faxing public information to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. He was represented by a Korean activist and journalist for Minjok.com, Kil Nam Roh. Minjok.com gives news and analysis from the DPRK and South Korea and inside the United States.

Roh recently returned from a trip to the DPRK and South Korea and urged the United States to stop its aggression against the DPRK and Korean activists here in this country. Roh mentioned that the FBI had admitted targeting Yai to neutralize his activism.

National Lawyers Guild and Los Angeles ANSWER steering committee member Jim Lafferty motivated the audience to take part in the upcoming Los Angeles demonstration on Sept. 28, which is part of national actions to end the occupation of Iraq and Palestine, and in the Oct. 25 march on Washington.

There was an enthusiastic response by the audience participants to getting involved in supporting the freedom of the Cuban 5 and all political prisoners. □

Steven Ceci, an organizer of day-care workers with the Service Employees union, remarked: "Every worker should support the upcoming Oct. 4 demonstration. There are no boundaries in the workers' struggle. This country was built on the labor of millions of kidnapped people from Africa. Workers from Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Honduras and so many other parts of the world have been forced from their countries for economic and political reasons. Their labor along with that of many other workers keeps the hotels, laundries, kitchens and factories running. You can see by the great turnout tonight that Baltimore's unions are beginning to forge the unity capable of breaking the reactionary racism of the post-Sept. 11 frenzy." □



Fred Mason

WW PHOTO: SHARON BLACK

BUFFALO

Ashcroft gets the 'welcome' he deserves

By Ellie Dorritie
Buffalo, N.Y.

Buffalo and nearby Western New York towns turned out well over 300 angry activists on Sept. 8 to oppose the USA Patriot Act. The target of their wrath was U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft, who is trying to turn back a rising tide against this repressive, racist law by going on a nationwide tour. Instead, angry protests have met him in over a dozen cities, and Buffalo was no exception.

Ashcroft came here to claim the anti-justice Patriot Act is a success. He pointed to its use against six young men of Yemeni descent in Lackawanna, a depressed industrial suburb outside Buffalo, whom the Bush administration has labeled terrorists. During his visit, Ashcroft continued to refer to them as "a terrorist cell." However, the six were never even charged, let alone convicted, of being terrorists.

Solely because the six attended a religious training camp in Afghanistan, they were charged with providing material support to Al Qaeda. They pleaded guilty to these Patriot Act-sanctioned charges because the government threatened that they could face military tribunals, say their lawyers.

The crowd outside the Hyatt Hotel chanted that they were fed up with the lies

of Ashcroft and the Bush administration. They loudly denounced the Justice Department's fear tactics.

"Repeat the Patriot Act," "FBI, get outta Lackawanna" and "Fight for our civil rights," they shouted. The chanting and drumming were so loud and persistent that Ashcroft couldn't get away from them, even for a radio interview inside the hotel. The loud demonstration could be heard on the air.

The protest began with a march at 7:30 a.m. around the hotel. Marchers roared with approval as they were joined by a large feeder march of "black bloc" youth activists. The protest lasted for four hours.

The ANSWER coalition—Act Now to Stop War & End Racism—initiated the call for the protest. Many organizations and individuals quickly responded and worked together to build the demonstration. It was endorsed by the Buffalo Coalition Against Poverty, Buffalo Forum, Buffalo / WNY International Action Center, El Buen Amigo, Green Party of Erie County, New York Civil Liberties Union-WNY, Niagara University Pax Christi, Olean Area Coalition for Peace and Justice, Pax Christi WNY, ProgressiveDirectory.com, Rust Belt Books, Talking Leaves Books, University of Buffalo Faculty and Staff for Peace, WNY Peace Center and Workers World Party. □

Protest against Ashcroft in Durham, N.C., Sept. 6.



Victim of sham 'war on terrorism'

Afghan poverty deepens, fighting

By Leslie Feinberg

The Bush administration is using the second anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to squeeze billions of dollars more out of U.S. taxpayers, to pay for the Pentagon's ongoing military occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan.

The White House had used the Sept. 11 attacks as a justification to launch a bloody, high-tech war against the impoverished people of Afghanistan in the name of a supposed "war on terrorism."

On Sept. 6—the day before President George W. Bush delivered a televised speech asking the U.S. Congress to authorize an additional \$87 billion for the occupation of both Iraq and Afghanistan—the Guardian of London published an article by Michael Meacher, a senior Labor Party member of Parliament and until June a member of British Prime Minister Tony Blair's cabinet. The piece was headlined, "This war on terrorism is bogus."

Referring to Afghanistan, the first country to be hit in the "endless war," Meacher wrote: "Until July 2001 the U.S. government saw the Taliban regime as a source of stability in Central Asia that would enable the construction of hydrocarbon pipelines from the oil and gas fields in Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, through Afghanistan and Pakistan, to the Indian Ocean. But confronted with the Taliban's refusal to accept U.S. conditions, the U.S. representatives told them 'either you accept our offer of a carpet of gold, or we bury you under a carpet of bombs.'"

The day after Meacher's article appeared, a London Mail article recalled that "the BBC reported (Sept. 18, 2001) that Niaz Niak, a former Pakistan foreign secretary, was told by senior American officials at a meeting in mid-July 2001 that 'military action against Afghanistan would go ahead by the middle of October.'"

All that was needed was an excuse to unleash the war—which the White House got on Sept. 11. Congress immediately fell into line.

The might of the Pentagon military machine delivered the threatened carpet of ordnance. But two years later, the military occupation and recolonization of Afghanistan is not going well for the Pentagon brass, or for Wall Street.

Resistance rockets

Since the end of August—four months after U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld declared the war was "over"—U.S. Special Forces have been carrying out the biggest military offensives in Afghanistan since the original Pentagon onslaught in late 2001.

The military campaigns are concentrated in the southern and southeastern regions of the country, where resistance to occupation is strong and reportedly gaining momentum. The Pentagon has 15,000 troops deployed in the entire country—not enough to effectively act as a boot heel on the necks of some 25 million people who do not want to be colonial "possessions."

The weekend that Bush delivered his speech demanding more "aid," resistance fighters wounded two U.S. soldiers and killed six proxy Afghan troops.

Within a two-week period at the end

of August, about 150 people—including Afghani troops and police—were killed in fighting in southern Afghanistan. Some 400 Taliban militia troops briefly captured one of the districts of Zabul province.

Taliban recruit Habibullah told journalists: "We've the strength, guts and force to take even Kabul any time, but we know our limitations and we wouldn't be able to sustain that control. We don't have the technology to withstand B-52 air strikes. What we are trying to do is inflict maximum damage to the U.S. troops and their allies so that they get fed up and leave our country."

Money earmarked for bullets, not bread

Mohammed Hasan, a villager in a remote valley near the Afghani border with Pakistan, told reporters, "We supported the coalition because we thought that they would change our life, but so far nothing has changed."

Afghanistan is one of the poorest countries on the planet. A progressive revolution in 1978 promised land reform and freedom for women, but was soon under attack by landlord armies financed and armed by the CIA. In December 1979, when the Soviet Union sent troops in to rescue the besieged revolutionary government, Washington called it a "Soviet invasion" and began openly spending billions of dollars on the war, hiring not only Afghans but fundamentalists from other countries, including Osama bin Laden.

These reactionary forces overthrew the revolutionary government in 1996, only to themselves become targets of Washington five years later.

The U.S.-led bombardment of the country since then has further ravaged the population and the countryside.

Most Afghans have no access to health care. Rates of infant and maternal mortality are among the highest in the world. Cholera, typhoid and other diseases are rampant. (The Economist, Aug. 16)

Today, in the provinces, people have little or no access to education or even to wells for drinking water. Few landlords allow girls to go to school or women to work. Women are still regarded as chattel to be traded for debt or profit.

The bullet-scarred capital of Kabul, a city that can barely support 600,000 people, is now reportedly home to more than 3 million—most living in desperate poverty in densely populated slums.

Yet while the United States officially forks over almost \$1 billion a month on continued military expenditures in Afghanistan, it spends less than \$1 billion per year in aid.

On Sept. 6, Secretary of State Colin Powell announced in a major speech at George Washington University in the U.S. capital that his administration would soon unveil an "accelerated" assistance package which could perhaps double this to \$1.8 billion a year. However, Afghani Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani said in June that his country needs \$30 billion in aid and investment over the next five years to escape dire poverty.

The lion's share of U.S. aid to "rebuild" the country is not earmarked for food or medicine. It's to create an Afghani army and police.

Both Rumsfeld and Powell stress the need to create a domestic repressive force to take over policing from U.S. and NATO occupation forces—and to take the casualties involved.

Rumsfeld visited Afghanistan on Sept. 7 to meet with Hamid Karzai—Washington's hand-picked president of the country and a former consultant for the U.S. oil company Unocal. Rumsfeld's trip was intended to strengthen Karzai before presidential elections next June. On Sept. 7 the French Press Agency explained that Washington is trying to keep Karzai from paying a political price for the dearth of aid coming from the United States.

The weak reach of the puppet Karzai government hardly stretches beyond Kabul, the only part of the country patrolled by foreign forces. Karzai barely survived an assassination attempt in the southern city of Kandahar in September. Pentagon bodyguards saved his life. Keeping him alive is now the full-time job of pistol-packing mercenaries employed

by the infamous U.S. private military contractor, DynCorp.

Squeezing profits from misery

Much of the almost \$1 billion a month being spent on U.S. military and intelligence operations in Afghanistan goes as "humanitarian aid" to the military-industrial complex.

"A good chunk of the money being spent for the war goes into the pockets of companies like the Kellogg, Brown & Root subsidiary of Halliburton, Vice President Dick Cheney's former company," noted the July 12 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

The Aug. 11 Financial Times of London wrote: "Companies such as Kellogg, Brown & Root, a subsidiary of oil service giant Halliburton, carry out a vast range of services that once were performed by military personnel. They have supported U.S. forces in Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia and Kosovo during the 1990s and have had a huge role in the recent U.S. invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq."

This summer, for example, KBR received an open-ended \$300 million contract to build more cells for some 680 prisoners from 42 countries, captured by the Pentagon in Afghanistan in late 2001. (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, July 12) They are being caged without formal charges or trials at the Guantanamo naval base, which the U.S. illegally occupies in Cuba.

While Afghanistan is not like oil-rich Iraq, imperialist oil cartels are eager to use this strategically located country to exploit fossil-fuel reserves in central Asia.

Bush's appointment of Zalmay Khalilzad as special envoy to Afghanistan illuminates this greedy goal. Like Karzai, Khalilzad is a former Unocal consultant.

Khalilzad, whom some speculate will be named the next U.S. ambassador to Kabul, is positioned to play an important role in shaping the post-war Afghani administration, according to the April 8 Financial Times of London.

"Before coming to office, he was working to help Unocal secure a pipeline from Turkmenistan through Afghanistan, cutting out Iran and Russia. The project involved seeking the Clinton administration's support for the Taliban regime, which Khalilzad backed before changing his mind."

Khalilzad worked closely with his former boss—Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz—in urging the United States to invade Iraq. (The Herald of April 13) Khalilzad is a founding member of the Project for the New American Century, whose September 2000 report stated, "The need for a substantial American force presence in the Gulf transcends the issue of the regime of Saddam Hussein."

Since then, the May 12 New Statesman noted, "The U.S. has established bases at the gateways to all the major sources of fossil fuels, especially in central Asia."

Khalilzad wants to put up to 100 senior U.S. personnel into the core of Afghan government ministries. Washington is attempting a similar accomplishment in Iraq. (Christian Science Monitor, Sept. 8)

Some in the U.S. establishment fear the move could backfire by highlighting the colonial character of the occupation. One official complained to the Aug. 26 French Press Agency that Khalilzad "wants to build an empire. He wants to 'Bremerize' the operation"—a reference to the role of the U.S. civilian administrator in Iraq, Paul Bremer.

The article reported that "debate over the shape of the U.S. effort to rebuild

The drug landlords, their private armies and the Pentagon occupation forces are working hand in hand.



Woman disrupts Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld at the National Press Club on Sept. 10

Bush speech grows triggers false debate

Establishment critics seek to bolster occupation

By Fred Goldstein

Afghanistan—taking place as officials also wrestle with how to subdue resistance and build institutions in Iraq—has unleashed a turf war between the State Department and White House, sources said. Khalilzad reports directly to Bush's National Security Adviser, Condoleezza Rice, bypassing both the U.S. Embassy in Kabul and the State Department. Khalilzad worked under Rice when she served as a director of Chevron.

Easier said than done

Yet while Unocal is well placed in Afghanistan, resistance to the occupation has blocked its plans to construct a 1,500-kilometer, \$3.5-billion trans-Afghan natural gas pipeline.

Even attempts by German and other European powers to reopen sections of the legendary "Silk Road" trade route between Asia and Europe are proving difficult.

At this point, bankers, investors, technical advisors and aid agencies are holed up in Kabul, afraid to travel outside the capital.

Washington, which had earlier balked at letting its imperialist rivals deploy troops in Afghanistan, is now eager to use multinational forces. But one State Department official admitted that by the time the United States had changed its mind, everyone else had lost interest.

Whether Unocal can ultimately pipe the gas out of Central Asia through Afghanistan or has to find another route, the Afghani economy is not operating in a void in the meantime.

The country's economy grew by more than 30 percent last year. The boom is largely due to a bumper poppy crop.

After the Taliban banned opium cultivation in 1999, poppy production plummeted for a three-year period. Now Afghanistan is once again the world's number one exporter, noted World Bank president James Wolfensohn. Some 70 percent of the world's heroin—75 percent of Europe's and 90 percent of Britain's—comes from Afghanistan. (The Guardian, Aug. 7)

Financial experts in Kabul estimate that fully one-third of Afghanistan's economy—roughly \$1.2 billion a year—is now drawn from opium cultivation. Once refined into heroin, the value skyrockets to up to \$14 billion. And by the time it hits urban centers around the world, cut and diluted, the street value shoots up to more than \$25 billion.

When Rumsfeld was asked at an Aug. 14 Pentagon news conference what U.S. occupation forces are going to do about the soaring opium production, he demurred: "I don't really know. It's a whale of a tough problem."

Afghani peasants and townspeople say the drug landlords, their private armies and the Pentagon occupation forces work hand in hand.

"We Afghans know who these people are and what they are doing," said low-level poppy grower Mohammed Jan. He pointed to a line of mansions in a poor, rural area of eastern Afghanistan. "They belong to the commanders. Their money is from drugs, from smuggling." (Associated Press, Sept. 8)

He added, "We know that without the Americans, they would be nobody."

Abdul Raouf, a car dealer in the eastern city of Jalalabad, told AP journalists: "Everybody says warlords, but who are these warlords? They are commanders, they are government ministers." □

President George W. Bush on Sept. 7 announced that his government would submit a resolution to the UN Security Council asking for authorization of a multinational force in Iraq under U.S. command. It was an ignominious confession of the inability of U.S. imperialism to crush the Iraqi people's resistance to a colonial takeover. This should give new impetus to the anti-war movement.

In his speech, Bush blandly depicted this turnabout as almost a routine matter, in which "our commanders have requested a third multinational division," in addition to those of the British and Poles, "in order to share the burden more broadly." And he just as matter-of-factly dropped an \$87-billion bombshell. That's how much extra he will ask Congress to appropriate for the war in the next fiscal year, over and above the \$79 billion already requested.

The actual truth behind the turnabout was described in detail in the Sept. 4 edition of the Washington Post, which quoted an unnamed UN diplomat involved in the negotiations: "The U.S. had gone around knocking on just about every possible door looking for money and troops, and they got the same answer everywhere: We need some kind of a new resolution." The diplomat, referring to the military setbacks combined with the refusals of assistance, said: "All these strands came together and reached a critical mass. ... The coalition authority is broke. They need bodies."

Fearing soldiers' anger, Rumsfeld cancels speech

Washington's dire predicament was underscored when Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, on his latest visit to Iraq, had to cancel a speech to U.S. soldiers that he was due to give on Sept. 5 at their base in a palace in Tikrit. A stage had been erected and chairs set out, but the mood was ugly.

"I don't give a damn about Rumsfeld. All I give a damn about is going home," said Spec. Rue Gretton. Sergeant Green, whose first name was withheld for fear of reprisal, said: "If I got to talk to Rumsfeld I'd tell him to give us a return date." (Reuters, Sept. 5) According to the Pentagon, Rumsfeld canceled due to "a tight schedule."

On the same day that Rumsfeld was in Tikrit, the Pentagon gave the order to extend the tours of duty in Iraq and Kuwait from six months to one year for 20,000 National Guard troops and Army Reservists. An announcement about it was held up until Rumsfeld got out of the country.

Two false debates

The Bush speech with its request for more funds has generated a torrent of commentary and debate in the big business media and the political establishment. All of it is diversionary from the point of view of the interests of the Iraqi people, as well as of the working class and the vast majority in this country. It is all based upon the common position that, whether or not the situation in Iraq is the fault of Bush and Rumsfeld, U.S. imperialism cannot afford to "lose."

The ruling class has been truly stung by the determined resistance in Iraq and the failure of the Bush administration and the

Pentagon to anticipate or deal with it. The current policy is being hit from all sides, left and right.

But even with all the criticism, not one of the major ruling-class politicians, networks or capitalist newspapers has called on Congress to vote "no" on the request for funds or is urging that the U.S. get out of Iraq.

The debate is restricted to two demands: first, that before the politicians vote for the funds, the administration should demonstrate that it is going to genuinely seek a coalition with its rivals and make enough concessions to gain their support for the occupation; second, that

Bush drop his drive to make the temporary tax cuts for the rich permanent—a giveaway of \$1.1 trillion—so that the national debt does not go sky high and the entire burden of the \$87-billion add-on, plus more to come, does not fall entirely on the workers and the middle class.

But this is strictly a ruling class debate. Workers should stake out their own independent position and not be drawn into taking sides with one or another grouping in the capitalist class.

For example, the New York Times, which is strongly opposed to the Bush "unilateralist" policy, declared in its Sept. 8 editorial comment on Bush's speech that "there are still good reasons to maintain America's commitment to Iraq," but the U.S. "needs to negotiate realistically with France, Germany and Russia on expanding the peacekeeping forces and getting financial help with the huge reconstruction costs." The Times also called on Bush to abandon his future tax cuts. This sentiment, with different variations, was echoed across the spectrum of major capitalist media and among Democratic and Republican Party leaders.

No to 'internationalizing' colonialism

The argument that Washington must now build a coalition in order to avoid failing is basically an argument to strengthen the colonial occupation of Iraq by "internationalizing" it. The Times and others are saying that U.S. imperialism must make concessions to its rivals in order to strengthen the military hand of imperialism as a whole in Iraq and to safeguard the financial system in the U.S. from collapsing under the weight of a costly occupation.

To bribe the French and German ruling classes with Iraqi oil concessions, construction contracts and political influence in order to get them to vote for a UN resolution—thus relieving the pressure on the Pentagon and Wall Street—is nothing more than imperialist horse trading at the expense of the Iraqi people. It is to the advantage of the Iraqi masses that these cutthroats stay divided and fighting among themselves. Demands that they patch up their differences to better combat the Iraqi resistance are completely reactionary.

Of particular note in this regard is the position of Howard Dean, the so-called "anti-war" candidate for the presidency, who told CNN's Paula Zahn on Sept. 8 that

he would immediately reduce U.S. troops by half and replace them with foreign troops. In this he spoke like a true imperialist. He assumes that the occupation must succeed and he further assumes that he would be able to command troops from other countries to take up Washington's task of imposing great-power rule on Iraq.

The argument about suspending tax cuts for the rich in order to pay for the occupation is also an imperialist argument. Of course the tax cuts for the rich should be canceled. They should never have been granted in the first place. These tax cuts should be canceled to use the

funds for housing, health care, education, jobs and all the social benefits that are being cut—not to fund a war of conquest.

Equal spending upon war and domestic needs in the name of "fairness" is a trap that swings the working class behind a predatory occupation that is forcing U.S.

troops into the murderous and oppressive role of occupiers and denying the Iraqi people the right to determine their own destiny.

The correct demand is to vote no to the war appropriations, no to the occupation, and yes to a transfer of the military budget to social spending.

Remembering the "Bush Doctrine"

Bush's speech attempted to depict the war in Iraq and the occupation as part of the "war on terrorism" to "defend civilization." But the invasion of Iraq was planned long before Sept. 11.

All the massive destruction, the killing and wounding of tens of thousands of Iraqi soldiers and civilians in a completely unprovoked "war of choice," was about grabbing the second-largest oil reserves in the world for the profit of the oil companies. It was about gaining a stranglehold upon this strategic resource, which holds the key to economic domination over Europe, Japan and the entire industrialized world.

It was also a war for military bases and the first stage of a plan to recolonize not only Iraq but Iran, Syria, Libya and the entire Middle East—and ultimately the world. This region of the globe is the "engine of the world economy." The war against Iraq was to be a major demonstration of a strategy not mentioned much lately: the so-called "Bush Doctrine." It asserted the absolute right of Washington to initiate "pre-emptive" wars and to carry out so-called "regime change"—that is, the right of Washington to overthrow any government that tries to hold on to its independence and gets in the way of U.S. world domination and empire, whether it be North Korea, Cuba, Zimbabwe or, ultimately, China.

That's what the war against Iraq was about. That's what the occupation is about. The only answer to Bush and the ruling class is a massive mobilization to end the occupation and bring the troops home. The demonstration on Oct. 25 in Washington, D.C., will be a major step forward in this process. □

The correct demand is to vote no to the war appropriations, no to the occupation, and yes to a transfer of the military budget to social spending

The real thing

The problem for any ruling class that wields a huge propaganda apparatus designed to feed whatever it wants to the public is that it can so effectively turn night into day and fantasy into virtual reality that it can start to believe its own lies.

Take the false picture of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that is repeated endlessly, usually in the same pat phrases, by all the capitalist media in this country. Disparaging terms like "hermit kingdom" assume that the DPRK is a pariah among nations that shuns society and has no contact with or friends in the rest of the world. The editorial writers who toss off such phrases seem totally oblivious to the fact that most of the world today sees the U.S., not North Korea, as the pariah, the international outlaw, the huge threat to peace, from the Middle East to the Far East.

When U.S. representatives went to Beijing in early September for a six-nation meeting on Korea, they assumed that the other countries would acquiesce in Washington's strong-arm tactics against the DPRK. The north had been asking for one-on-one meetings with Washington to finally get a peace treaty ending the Korean War of 1950-53, or at the very least a pact with the U.S. that would be a guarantee against aggression.

The Koreans have pressed this issue ever since Bush put them on his "Axis of Evil" list and the Pentagon openly stated its right to start a war with Korea—the so-called "first-strike" policy.

The Bush administration thought it would put more pressure on the DPRK by making Russia, China, Japan and South Korea sit down at the table, too. After all, it has enormous economic and military leverage in the world and is used to getting its way.

But the administration is in trouble—in Iraq, in the world and at home, too. Everyone knows that now. The kind of brutal demands it is used to flinging out don't have the same weight they once did.

So when the U.S. representatives made it very clear that all they want is to disarm North Korea without giving it any guarantees not to attack, the Koreans rejected such a non-offer. China's vice foreign minister, Wang Yi, the host of the six-nation talks, then declared the United States was "the main obstacle" to any settlement.

It was another taste of reality—not the virtual kind—that the Bush gang hadn't bargained for.

Meanwhile, in South Korea, the population was ecstatically welcoming the DPRK's soccer team. A Washington Post reporter wrote on Sept. 8 from Seoul about the tumultuous welcome given a group of the team's cheerleaders. "They give me chills of excitement," said Park Seung Jin, a 27-year-old restaurateur who came to the games just to see the women. "We are one nation divided by foreign powers. These women help us to see Korea as one. ... North Korea is no longer my enemy. It is not South Korea's enemy either." □

Cancun, Iraq and history

It seems as though a lifetime has elapsed between the explosive anti-World Trade Organization protests in Seattle in 1999 and the current heroic Iraqi resistance to U.S. colonial occupation. These events may appear to be as different as night and day, but in reality are very connected. They have both helped to expose the multi-faceted, brutal and predatory nature of imperialism, the worldwide system of capitalism.

Today the World Trade Organization can't meet anywhere, in the U.S. or the rest of the world, without attracting protesters on the outside and sharp controversy on the inside. This year the meeting place is the Mexican resort of Cancun. The big issue is the agricultural subsidies that imperialist Europe and the U.S. use to buttress agribusiness and drive Third World farmers off their lands. The developing countries are saying "No."

Before Seattle, imperialist ideologues swore that history had come to an end, leaving the capitalist system supreme throughout the best of all possible worlds. Even nation states were supposed to be outdated, as

financial barons exploited the world's poor with "peaceful" means. The WTO faced an important challenge in Seattle from 50,000 protesters. This was viewed by workers and oppressed worldwide as a major act of solidarity with their struggles.

When the new movement of young people sprang up in Seattle, it had no intention of overthrowing imperialist rule. It was just demanding a better deal for the poorest of the poor. The Seattle police answered with tear gas and rubber bullets.

Four years later, events have shown that imperialist rule and exploitation depend on cruel military might, mainly the Pentagon's. The Iraqi resistance as well as the Palestinian Intifada have shown that even all that might can't always make a people submit. The anti-WTO demonstrators this time not only rail at the imperialist bankers, but call out slogans against U.S. imperialism and Israeli aggression. Not only has history made a comeback, but class consciousness is growing worldwide, including in the imperialist countries. □

NYC meeting in solidarity with Asian struggle



WW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

Sue Harris, Yoomi Jeong, Monica Moorehead and Janet Mayes, above.

In both the United States and Japan, progressives are responding to militarism with activities in solidarity with Korea and Iraq. Workers World Party in New York hosted a forum on Sept. 5 that heard from speakers who had recently visited Asia. Monica Moorehead of WWP and Yoomi Jeong of the Korea Truth Commission reported on a solidarity conference held in Pyongyang, capital of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and a subsequent tribunal that condemned U.S. war crimes against that country. (See WW newspaper, Aug. 14, "A view from inside North Korea.") Also on the program were Sue Harris of the People's Video Network and Janet Mayes of the International Action Center, who had attended anti-war activities in Japan on the anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. (See WW newspaper, Aug. 28, "No war on Iraq or Korea.")

Lecciones del Golpe en Chile

Continúa de página 12

en particular llevó a cabo el golpe de estado del 11 de septiembre.

En el 25to aniversario del golpe, Tim Weiner escribió en el New York Times del 12 de septiembre: "Desde 1970 hasta 1973, los Estados Unidos buscó la manera de tumbar al gobierno de Chile y al Dr. Salvador Allende, quien consideró una amenaza marxista a los intereses de los EE.UU. Bajo mando del Presidente Richard M. Nixon, la CIA organizó una operación encubierta de máxima intensidad para prevenir que Allende asumiera el puesto de presidente y, cuando falló ese esfuerzo, emprendió esfuerzos más sutiles para minarlo."

Los Archivos de Seguridad Nacional (National Security Archive), un grupo sin fines de lucro en Washington que revela archivos anteriormente secretos, publicó documentos que comprueban el papel jugado por los EE.UU. Hay documentos que revelan como Nixon mandó a la CIA "hacer que estalle la economía" para "prevenir que Allende llegue al poder o para derrocarlo".

En una vista del Senado en marzo de 1973, un vicepresidente de la ITT atestiguó que hubo por lo menos 25 reuniones entre la CIA y la ITT. Él personalmente se reunió con el entonces Secretario de Estado Henry Kissinger varias veces para planear el derrocamiento de Allende. Kissinger se volvió en símbolo del odiado terrorismo estadounidense. Hasta hoy, no puede salir públicamente sin que se proteste.

Lecciones para hoy

Mientras visitó Chile en 1971, el presidente cubano Fidel Castro dijo: "Cada sis-

tema social piensa ser eterno hasta que la historia lo corrige. En toda la historia, todo sistema social que ha sido atacado se ha defendido y se ha defendido con violencia. Ningún sistema social se ha disuelto por propia voluntad. Ningún sistema social ha renunciado a favor de los revolucionarios."

El imperialismo nunca podrá reconciliarse con los intereses de l@s trabajador@s y l@s oprimid@s. Ya sea en el Chile del 1973 o en la Venezuela de hoy, l@s revolucionari@s tienen que permanecer vigilantes ante la naturaleza predatoria del imperialismo.

Y más que vigilancia: tienen que estar list@s para organizar y combatir.

En 1973, el imperialismo estadounidense estaba resuelto a atrasar el reloj en las Américas. Quería apagar las llamas revolucionarias que inspiradas en la Revolución Cubana se fueran a extender a otras regiones del hemisferio. Pero falló en ese intento.

Y a pesar de que la lucha libertadora en Chile sufrió un gran atraso, la lucha no puede ser extinguida.

En el 2002, manifestantes chilenos combatieron a la policía en el 29no aniversario del golpe.

En agosto del 2003, trabajadores demandando mejores beneficios y condiciones de trabajo hicieron el primer paro nacional en 20 años.

Hoy, mientras la clase dominante intenta dominar el corazón y la mente del pueblo al repetir de nuevo las imágenes de los sucesos trágicos de las Torres Gemelas, debemos recordar el otro 11 de septiembre. Esa fecha demuestra que si la humanidad va a seguir adelante, el imperialismo tendrá que ser vencido de una vez y para siempre. □

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COLOMBIA

LGBT community suffers greatly from war

The following is excerpted from remarks to a New York meeting by Juan Carlos Vallejo, a human rights activist and university professor from Colombia, on the repression of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people there.

Some years ago, after one of the many military confrontations in Colombia that generally result in civilian deaths and a large amount of material destruction, I traveled in the company of two Norwegian colleagues for humanitarian endeavors in a village far east of Medellín.

In one of the destroyed streets, we found a corpse covered with a white sheet.

What was interesting about it was that two days after the end of the battle, no civil, military or humanitarian authority had taken the legal task of removing the corpse. When we asked in the neighborhood who he was, they responded: "It is Marina, the town's queer. He has not been removed because the priest from the

church has forbidden to even touch him and they will not bury him in the cemetery because he was a sinner."

My two partners and I collected some money and we paid a cemetery worker to help us bury the corpse, clandestinely, at night. I improvised a "removal certificate," using black shoe polish that I gathered from the neighbors. The rigor mortis and state of decay was evident.

He was a man approximately 30 years of age, white, dressed with female clothes and rollers in his hair. He had keys that we assumed were from his house. He had a bullet penetration in his right head bone and the left side of his face had been partially destroyed from the exit of that bullet. According to the story I gathered, the man was caught in the crossfire between the two armed groups in the conflict.

That same night, in the middle of a great storm, we gave him, as the religious call it, a "Christian burial." In a

cross that we set we wrote an improvised name—"N. N. Oscar Wilde II"—to avoid that he be exhumed by instruction from the church's priest. We left his certificate and keys in a closed envelope with the worker who helped us, with instructions that it be given only to the first civil authority or police that reached the place.

The LGBT community is one of the great victims of the conflict in Colombia. Not only because of the civilian deaths, which are missing from the statistics and the books, but also from the same acts of discrimination and continuous aggression to their rights and physical well-being that they suffer in the streets and villages of Colombia.

The LGBT community is invisible to humanitarians, to war scholars, to the media. Their suffering, pain and tragedy are not addressed in the aid and reparation programs offered by governments. They are taken as victims for study pur-

poses, but they are discriminated against even for burial.

Today I raise my voice, once again, to claim a space, an acknowledgment, a reparation for the Colombian LGBT community. From my condition as heterosexual, I have defended for many years the freedom for any sexual preference of every human being. A freedom that yet today, in the dawn of the 21st century, continues to be violated by those who take upon themselves the right to think and choose for others.

Here in New York City, capital of the world, we have a clear example. People opposed to the education and progress of this community. People opposed to the opening of the Harvey Milk School for LGBT youth, so that members of this community may finish their secondary education.

If this happens here, can you imagine what happens in a country rife with war? □

UKRAINE

Young communists tortured, face secret trial

By John Catalinotto

In the fall of 2003, 10 members of the Young Communist League of the Ukraine face a secret trial for alleged "terrorist activities." While the case has received little publicity in the West, some progressive forces, including the International Action Center, have taken it up as a severe violation of human rights.

Ten of the youths were arrested beginning on Dec. 13, 2002 and over the next two weeks, starting with a raid by Ukrainian State Security on a house in the city of Nikolaev. Searches and arrests followed in Odessa, Kiev and Dnepropetrovsk.

Security agents used explosive devices to blow down the door in the Nikolaev apartment. According to one report, the fourth youth there attempted self-defense.

Some of the young communists arrested were involved in publishing the communist Internet newspaper, Left.ru.

The Ukraine has a right-wing, pro-capitalist government that has even been trying to join NATO. If it succeeds in this, Ukrainian youth can become cannon fodder for occupation armies in Afghanistan and other imperialist-occupied countries.

Living conditions in the Ukraine have deteriorated for the mass of the population since the collapse of the USSR. This

summer the hot, dry weather has reportedly wiped out up to 75 percent of the summer crops in what was once considered the bread-basket of the USSR.

Supporters of the young people say torture was used to wring confessions from them. Some reportedly had ribs and other bones broken.

One of those arrested, Evgeny Semenov, was able to get a letter out of prison last June. He wrote: "Here, in the Odessa prison, with me there are my nine comrades, arrested and tortured systematically throughout six months of the interrogation. Now our case is closed and the trial begins some time in the fall.

"In order to cover up tortures that we were subjected to, the Ukrainian Department of Security is planning to keep our trial secret, with no defense lawyers for us and without the presence of the public, let alone any journalist or observer."

Semenov writes that the defendants plan a hunger strike if the trials are secret.

The defendants and their party are asking that people who support human rights write letters of protest to the Ukrainian Parliament-Rada at Kiev-008, Grushnevskaya Street #5, Litvin V.M. or email at: www.rada.ua. Other addresses can be found at Left.ru. □

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11 de septiembre de 1973: Lecciones del Golpe en Chile

Por Teresa Gutiérrez

La fecha del 11 de septiembre siempre estará grabada en la mente del pueblo chileno. Los revolucionarios y progresistas que estuvieron activos en las décadas de los sesenta y setenta tampoco olvidarán esa fecha.

En ese día del año 1973, un golpe político de tipo fascista se llevó a cabo. Decenas de miles de chilenos fueron masacrados y el gobierno progresista del Presidente Salvador Allende, un socialista, fue derrocado. En pocos días una dictadura de orientación estadounidense fue instalada, encabezada por el carnicero General Augusto Pinochet.

El gobierno de los Estados Unidos, bajo la presidencia de Richard M. Nixon, llevó a cabo este "cambio de régimen" sangriento con la complicidad de la clase dominante chilena. Y fueron las principales corporaciones transnacionales de los Estados Unidos-como la International Telephone and Telegraph Co., y la Kennecott Copper Co.-las que trabajaron arduamente con la CIA para planear la contrarrevolución y dar las órdenes.

Este año es el 30mo aniversario de ese fatídico día. La nueva generación de militantes y progresistas necesita saber lo que pasó en septiembre 11 de 1973. Es importante porque el 11 de septiembre no deber ser recordado sólo como el día en que las Torres Gemelas (World Trade Center) y el Pentágono fueron atacados.

La fecha debe servir como recordatorio de que el gobierno de los Estados Unidos masacró decenas de miles de chilenos en 1973.

Los trabajadores querían un cambio

En septiembre de 1970 el Doctor Salvador Allende Gossens había sido elegido presidente de Chile. Allende había sido un estudiante activista que ayudó a fundar el Partido Socialista de Chile en 1933. Luego como representante en el Congreso de Chile, Allende se dio a conocer como "el campeón de los pobres."

Allende corrió, sin éxito, para la presidencia tres veces antes de ser finalmente elegido en 1970 como el candidato de la Unidad Popular-una coalición de socialistas, comunistas y otros que querían un cambio social.

La victoria fue un reflejo del sentimiento de la clase obrera chilena y del fervor revolucionario que entonces se extendía por el mundo. Estudiantes, obreros y oprimidos batallaban en diferentes frentes. Cientos de miles marchaban contra la guerra de los Estados Unidos en Vietnam o por los derechos civiles y de los obreros.

En todo el Tercer Mundo-

como se les refería a los países súper explotados entonces-la gente oprimida llevaban a cabo luchas heroicas por la liberación nacional. Sus héroes eran el Che Guevara y Patrice Lumumba.

Las masas chilenas no fueron una excepción.

La elección de Allende mostró que los obreros chilenos quería más. Ellos querían un cambio social fundamental-para terminar con la pobreza y la explotación.

Ellos querían Socialismo. De hecho, Allende ganó la elección por su plataforma política que declaraba la riqueza del país como propiedad del pueblo chileno.

Desde la elección de Allende en 1970 a septiembre 11 de 1973, todo el mundo observaba los acontecimientos en Chile con aliento en suspenso. Durante esos tres cortos años, una intensa batalla se dio entre dos fuerzas sociales.

¿Quién ganaría? ¿Los obreros y oprimidos que desesperadamente luchaban por sus intereses o la militarista y reaccionaria burguesía chilena que abogaba por el imperialismo estadounidense?

¿Podría Allende cumplir sus promesas a los obreros usando el mismo estado que había servido a los intereses capitalistas por generaciones o los obreros se tomarían el poder totalmente como en Cuba y comenzarían a forjar una revolución socialista?

Esas eran las preguntas de entonces.

La población se movilizaba

En septiembre de 1970, un editorial publicado por el New York Times advirtió que si Allende implementaba ciertas medidas, se haría necesario la toma del poder militarmente. Hasta cambios de miembros en las cortes pondrían al nuevo gobierno en peligro, advirtió The New York Times.



En octubre de 1970, Allende tuvo que cancelar su aparición a la elección formal por el Congreso porque se había impuesto la ley marcial. El comandante superior de las Fuerzas Armadas chilenas, General Schneider Cherau, había sido asesinado como una clara advertencia para Allende después de solo un mes de las elecciones.

A pesar de estas advertencias, por los próximos tres años el gobierno de Allende llevó a cabo las medidas que reflejaban los deseos de las masas populares. Grandes terrenos fueron divididos y las tierras entregadas a los campesinos pobres. Allende nacionalizó muchas industrias, incluyendo la del acero, del carbón y la crucial industria del cobre.

Tres gigantes corporaciones estadounidenses de la industria del cobre en ese entonces-Kennecott, Anaconda y Cerro Corp.-fueron nacionalizadas. Estas empresas tenían el control del 80% del total de producción de cobre en Chile y habían estado sacando ganancias de ese país en cifras de \$80 millones al año. (Mundo Obrero 1971).

El gobierno aumentó los salarios, congeló los precios, dio subsidio a la leche e hizo accesible para los chilenos el cuidado médico y la educación. Buscó relaciones favorables con el gobierno revolucionario cubano.

Las masas populares se movilizaron y organizaron. Los obreros de las industrias textiles y automovilísticas tomaron las fábricas para prevenir despidos masivos. Lucharon por cualquier medio para defender sus logros. En las comunidades la gente construyó nuevos barrios y les llamaban la Nueva Habana.

Muchos de estos movimientos habían sido organizado por el MIR-Movimiento de Izquierda Revolucionaria de Chile.

El MIR apoyó al gobierno de Allende pero también manifestó cautela. El MIR

fue una de las pocas organizaciones en Chile en ese entonces que comprendió que había una diferencia real entre toma de presidencia y toma de poder. En marzo de 1972 advirtió que "el no organizar, no movilizar y no luchar sería abrirle las puertas al fascismo."

La sangre fluyó en la calle

El imperialismo de los Estados Unidos, incapaz de reconciliarse con el nuevo Chile, trabajó día y noche para tumbar al gobierno de Allende.

El gobierno de Salvador Allende se limitó a actuar de acuerdo a la constitución y a las leyes burguesas. A pesar de que el pueblo exigía armas, el gobierno no las proporcionó. Últimamente los trabajadores no pudieron defenderse del terror desatado por los militares.

A pesar de las evidencias abrumadoras del aumento en la fuerza y descaro de los ele-

mentos reaccionarios chilenos que favorecían a los EE.UU., el gobierno de Allende vaciló. Una "huelga" nacional fue organizada por la Confederación Nacional de Dueños de Camiones que paralizó a 70.000 camiones. Como en Venezuela hoy, esta huelga realmente fue un paro patronal con el propósito de sabotear la economía.

Unos pistoleros asesinaron al principal jefe militar de Allende. Aún así, el gobierno de Allende intentó conciliarse con los partidos capitalistas en vez de llamar a una respuesta popular revolucionaria.

El 11 de septiembre de 1973, Allende fue derrocado por un sangriento golpe de estado militar. Los generales fascistas cercaron y capturaron los partidarios de Allende y a muchos otros, ejecutándolos en el acto.

Decenas de miles fueron detenidos en un gigante estadio deportivo. Muchos fueron torturados, violados, mutilados y aniquilados. Por días la sangre fluyó en las calles. Muchas historias de resistencias heroicas emergieron mientras artistas, sindicalistas, estudiantes, mujeres y otros más se defendían.

Víctor Jara, un querido cantautor de esa generación, fue asesinado en ese estadio. Hoy su música vive y sigue inspirando una nueva generación de revolucionarios. Recuentos de su muerte hablan de su heroísmo, de cómo intentó mantener en alto el espíritu de los compañeros torturados. Se cuenta que cuando los generales le cortaron la lengua para imposibilitar que cantara, palmeaba y taconeaba fuerte para hacer sonar ritmo. Luego le mutilaron las manos antes de matarlo.

Es posible que jamás sepamos cuántos chilenos fueron aniquilados ese día. Las cifras oficiales muestran una cantidad parecida a la de los perdidos el 11 de septiembre de 2001. Muchos chilenos dicen que el número real llega a decenas de miles.

Aviones militares llevaban cadáveres para tirarlos en el mar, dejando a los familiares atormentados sin saber el destino de sus seres queridos.

La muerte de Salvador Allende el 11 de septiembre es controversial todavía. Muchos dicen que el se suicidó, mientras que otros dicen que fue ejecutado. Una foto famosa lo muestra portando un arma defendiendo al Palacio Presidencial. Antes de morir, hizo una inspiradora declaración al pueblo chileno: "Trabajadores de mi patria, tengo fe en Chile y su futuro. Superarán otros hombres este momento gris y amargo en el que la traición pretende imponerse. Sigán ustedes sabiendo que, mucho más temprano que tarde, de nuevo se abrirán las grandes alamedas por donde pase el hombre libre, para construir una sociedad mejor. ¡Viva Chile! ¡Viva el pueblo! ¡Vivan los trabajadores!"

Terrorismo imperialista

La reciente publicación de documentos hasta ahora secretos ha confirmado lo que muchos izquierdistas decían en aquel momento: que el imperialismo estadounidense y la administración de Nixon

Continúa a página 10