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WW PHOTO: TOM DOBAN

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**WORKERS WORLD NEWSPAPER**

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## NATIONAL MARCHES ON OCT. 25

# Labor ranks say: 'Bring troops home'

By Sharon Black

Mounting casualties in Iraq and the call-up of an additional 15,000 reserve troops have increased popular resistance here in the U.S. to the war. Combined with Bush's recent demand for \$87 billion for this military operation, these events have aroused growing support for Oct. 25 national demonstrations to "End the occupation" and "Bring the troops home now."

Rank and file trade unionists have begun pressing their locals to pass resolutions in support of these actions, and are making plans to bring their fellow workers to the protests in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco.

Thousands of people came out Sept. 25-28 to protest the Iraq occupation and in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle. On Oct. 4 hundreds of thousands of immigrant workers, with strong backing from organized labor, will be mobilizing in Queens, N.Y., to raise demands for immigrant rights.

Despite the national AFL-CIO's position of silence on the issue of war and occupation, rank-and-file union officials and members are nevertheless speaking out. Labor is becoming an important component of the anti-war movement.

The union members' sons, daughters and loved ones are dying in this war. Programs that affect union members and provide jobs are being slashed because of the ever-growing budget spent on war. This has fueled opposition.

Boston's school bus drivers' union, Steel Workers Local 8751, is gearing up for the Oct. 25 national march. The union and other area labor groups have formed ANSWER (Act Now to

Stop War and End Racism) Labor. Local 8751 has also passed a resolution against the occupation, and is organizing buses to bring workers to the march.

Michigan's Emergency Committee Against War and Injustice has distributed a special four-page labor newsletter against the war and is organizing buses from that region. Dave Sole, president of UAW Local 2334, has endorsed and is helping to spearhead this movement.

In San Francisco, the AFL-CIO Labor Council has passed a hard-hitting resolution supporting the Oct. 25 protest. This reso-

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lution has become a model for union locals across the country.

In New York City the 200,000-member 1199/Service Employees, which represents health and human services workers, has voted to support the Oct. 25 demonstration. The union is providing free bus transportation to members. New York City Labor Against the War, which has been in the forefront of all the national protests against the war, is also mobilizing.

The University of Massachusetts/Amherst Graduate Employee Organization, UAW Local 2322, passed a resolution supporting the anti-war protest. Chicago's Teamsters Local 705, which represents United Parcel Service workers, went on record opposing the war and called for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq.

Labor from Chicago, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Cleveland and Atlanta is also organizing for the march. □

## Widespread mass rallies for Palestine, Iraq 6-7



WW PHOTO: JULIA LA RIVA

Fernando Suarez del Solar, father of a Marine killed in Iraq, and Ron Kovic, author of 'Born on the Fourth of July,' at head of Sept. 28 march in Los Angeles.

# Immigrant freedom riders cross the country

By Leslie Feinberg

On Sept. 20, some 900 immigrant workers and their supporters boarded buses in Seattle, Portland, Ore., San Francisco, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Minneapolis, Chicago, Houston, Miami and Boston. They are traveling 20,000 miles of U.S. highways to stop at more than 100 cities and towns to educate and agitate for immigration reform. Others joining along the route are swelling their numbers.

The four stated goals of this dramatic action are: legalization and a road to citizenship for all immigrant workers in this country, the right to reunite families, protection of workers' rights on the job without regard to legal status, and protection of the civil rights and civil liberties of all.

The riders will join an expected crowd of tens of thousands on Oct. 4 for a massive rally in Queens, N.Y. The borough is home to immigrants from around the world.

Debbie Timko, president of statewide Local 150 of the Service Employees Union in Minnesota, said, "The goal is to get white, non-union members to see that corporate greed is eroding their economic status as surely as it is enslaving vulnerable immigrant workers."

Freedom Ride sponsors include some powerful unions within the AFL-CIO, among them the Hotel and Restaurant Employees, the Service Employees, and the United Farm Workers.

This Freedom Ride was inspired by Black and white civil-rights activists who traveled to the South in the 1960s to overturn Jim Crow segregation.

Now, as then, armed authorities are being used as a weapon to attempt to turn back this social progress.

In El Paso, Texas, for example, U.S. Border Patrol officials stopped two buses carrying close to 100 of the Freedom Riders. The riders were ordered off the buses and interrogated.

But the civil-rights activists held up the printed cards that each is carrying. The card explains that they are exercising their right to remain silent, that they do not consent to being searched and will not give up any of their rights, and provides the contact information for their lawyers.

Hilda Delgado, a Freedom Ride spokesperson, refused to say if any of the individuals on the bus were undocumented. Instead she stressed that the people on the bus represent 10 million undocumented immigrants who contribute some \$730 million each year to the U.S. economy.



WW PHOTOS: TOM DORAN

Immigrant workers rally in Atlanta.

## 'Si, se puede!'

Racists are attempting to organize opposition to the Freedom Ride in cities and towns along the route. But in every reported instance, big crowds of cheering supporters have overwhelmingly outnumbered these handfuls of anti-immigrant forces, including Nazi and Klan organizations.

Support rallies are braiding together local organizing demands with the civil-rights trek's goals.

In Phoenix on Sept. 23, a boisterous crowd estimated by police at 500 greeted the Freedom Riders with thunderous cheers. "Si se puede!" chanted union workers and community members at the rally. "It can be done" is the motto of the migrant workers' struggle.

The Smithfield Packing Co., touted as the biggest pork-packing plant in the world, was the target of a support rally in Fayetteville, N.C. Latino immigrants make up much of the plant's work force of 5,000. The hundreds at the rally, including many Smithfield workers, denounced Smithfield bosses for illegally firing employees for union activity. Members of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees also took part in the rally.

In Atlanta, some 5,000 people marched with the Freedom Riders from the Catholic Mission in Doraville—a working-class suburb with a big immigrant population from Latin America and Asia—to the Auto Workers Local 10 union hall.

The march was loud and enthusiastic, punctuated by chants in Spanish, cheering, and guitar and drum music.

Organizers from Coordinadora de Lideres Comunitarios de Atlanta, a group led mostly by women, raised the demand of their local struggle to make driver licenses available for immigrant workers without Social Security numbers.

The multinational crowd, which included many Black and white union workers, so exceeded the union hall's capacity that organizers had to bring the sound system outside and hold the rally in the parking lot.

Many lined up for leaflets publicizing the Oct. 25 anti-war protest in Washington, D.C., and some held up the fliers demanding "Bring the troops home now!" like posters as they marched. □



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## WW CALENDAR

### DETROIT

#### Sat., Oct. 11

Eyewitness report from Pyongyang, North Korea. Workers World meeting featuring Monica Moorehead, editor of WW newspaper. 5 p.m. Dinner will be served. At 5920 Second Ave. For info (313) 831-0750

### LOS ANGELES

#### 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

#### Friday, Oct. 3

Workers World Party weekly meeting. Topic: "Should the movement look to the UN to counter the U.S.?" 7 p.m.

(Dinner at 6:30) 55 W. 17th St., 5th fl., Manhattan. For info (212) 627-2994.

#### Friday, Oct. 10

Workers World Party weekly meeting. Topic: "Immigrant workers & the class struggle." 7 p.m. (Dinner at 6:30) 55 W. 17th St., 5th fl., Manhattan. For info (212) 627-2994.

### SAN FRANCISCO

#### Tue., Oct. 14

'Eyewitness Afghanistan: The real cost of war.' Hear Mobin Karimi, Afghan Muslim Assoc., and Razia Ghousi, AMA, who've recently traveled to Afghanistan. Also a representative of ANSWER. \$5-\$10 donation request ed. At the SF Women's Bldg., 3543 18th St. For info (415) 821-6545.

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## 15,000 mobilized for Iraq

# Pentagon brass fear reservist walkout

By Dustin Langley

Lt. Gen. James Helmly has announced that next year he and other Pentagon leaders will be closely monitoring retention rates in the 205,000-person Army Reserve, which he heads. That will be when soldiers stationed in Iraq come off long tours of duty. Will they leave the reserves? "Retention is what I am most worried about. It is my No. 1 concern," Helmly said. (USA Today, Sept. 30)

The Pentagon had mobilized two more Army National Guard brigades, numbering more than 10,000 troops, for deployment to Iraq and notified another 5,000 soldiers that they might be next. The 30th Infantry Brigade from North Carolina and the 39th Infantry Brigade from Arkansas will mobilize in early October.

A Sept. 27 Department of Defense statement said: "These units can expect to be in the Iraqi theater for up to 12 months. The total length of mobilization is up to 18 months to allow time for equipping, training, mobilizing, leave and demobilizing activities."

Gen. Peter Pace, vice chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said more U.S. National Guard and reserve units could be called to serve in Iraq if the United States fails to convince other countries to join the occupation forces there. "By around the end of October, beginning of November we should be alerting the forces that need to be called up," he told reporters.

With Iraqi resistance continuing, the Pentagon announced in early September that tours of duty would be extended to a year for both regular and reserve soldiers.

The summer saw growing dissatisfac-

tion among U.S. troops in Iraq—as well as increasing complaints from family members at home, some of whom have become anti-occupation activists.

Fernando Suarez de Solar, whose son Marine Lance Corp. Jesus Suarez de Solar was killed in Iraq, recently said: "I lost my son in this illegal war. My grandson lost his father in this Bush war. And I ask you, Mr. President, how many kids do you need for this illegal war?" (Stars & Stripes, Aug. 14)

Troops in Iraq face blistering heat, lengthening deployments and continuing resistance. They are growing angrier. One officer said: "They vent to anyone who will listen. They write letters, they cry, they yell. Many of them walk around looking visibly tired and depressed. ... We feel like pawns in a game that we have no voice [in]."

"Make no mistake, the level of morale for most soldiers that I've seen has hit rock bottom," said another soldier, an officer from the Army's 3rd Infantry Division in Iraq. (Christian Science Monitor, July 7)

"The way we have been treated and the continuous lies told to our families back home has devastated us all," a soldier in Iraq wrote in a letter to Congress. (CSM, July 7)

A Sept. 26 announcement of the call-up came just as 192 soldiers arrived home from Iraq for two weeks, the first in a rest and recuperation program apparently intended to reduce complaints from families and GIs.

### Some troops have to pay their way home

But even this program, which will eventually be expanded to include 800 troops

daily, is drawing fire from military families. It's because the military is only paying for flights as far as Baltimore. Eventually, the Pentagon claims, it will also have flights to Atlanta, Dallas-Fort Worth and Los Angeles.

Soldiers who live outside these cities will have to pay for their own fare to get the rest of the way home. Because of the uncertain scheduling, they must purchase the ticket on the same day, when it is most expensive.

Jan Hogan has two nephews stationed in Iraq. Hogan checked the price of a same-day ticket from Baltimore to St. Paul, Minn., and was quoted \$1,200. A private in the Army makes just over \$1,000 a month. She said President George W. Bush should use some of the money collected in his campaign fundraising tour to help fly the troops the last few miles home.

"I'd like to take some of those millions he raised and help those two boys as well as all the others," Hogan said of her nephews. (Associated Press, Sept. 27)

### Plus \$8.10 a day for hospital meals

It's not just airfare that the soldiers will have to pay for. Hospitalized troops, including those wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan, are being charged for their meals: \$8.10 a day.

"Some things don't meet the common-sense test, and this is one of them," said a

soldier injured in Iraq in June. He has received two meal bills, one for \$24.30 from the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, and a second for more than \$300 from the Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio.

"It's not a good precedent to have when a service member, having received wounds in Iraq, to see the first correspondence from his government after he gets out is a bill to pay for the hospital stay," said the 16-year Army veteran, who asked his name not be used for fear of reprisal.

Since GIs get a meal allowance of \$8.10, the Pentagon wants to get it back. Said Lt. Col. Rose-Ann Lynch, a Pentagon spokesperson, "The law now in effect was set in place to prevent troops from double-dipping."

Meanwhile, U.S. corporations are more than "double dipping." Their wealthy owners are pocketing millions of dollars in contracts from the colonial occupation of Iraq while receiving huge tax cuts from the Bush administration.

According to the Aug. 28 Washington Post, Halliburton, whose former head, Vice President Dick Cheney, still gets "deferred compensation" of up to \$1 million a year, has won more than \$1.7 billion in contracts in Iraq. The firm stands to make hundreds of millions more under a no-bid contract awarded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. □



## Protest drives Nazis off campus

Some 200 youths, students, teachers and Buffalo, N.Y., residents held a rally and drove an ultra-right-wing racist and anti-Semitic group off the University of Buffalo's South Campus on Sept. 27. Black, Asian, Latino and white people from all spectrums of life, religion, sexual orientation and gender came out to the rally called by the Buffalo International Action Center. They outnumbered the racists 40 to one.

The racists called themselves the "Racial Nationalist Party of America." Using Nazi-like terminology, their vicious official rally slogan was opposition to "Jew Communism in our schools."

An active police presence protected the Nazi group. Police turned their backs toward the bigots and faced the anti-Nazi protesters.

It is no coincidence that these fascists showed up to promote division at a time

when the Arab communities in Buffalo face a government witch hunt and frenzy of anti-Arab propaganda, and when the Black community is under intensified police harassment.

Erie County Executive Joel Giambra had told progressive people to stay home to avoid possible violence. At the rally, the Rev. Darius Pridgen said: "The county executive said we should ignore the Nazis and stay away. We have ignored too much for too long. We came to do the right thing." Pridgen is an African American activist who had earlier led a successful struggle here against racist profiling at a large regional mall.

In the end all five members of the Racial Nationalist Party of America were seen fleeing from the demonstration. Activists and community members had once again booted the bigots out of Buffalo.

—Story and photo Matthew L. Schwartz



## Students organize against war & cutbacks

With thousands of others looking on, some 500 students demonstrated in front of the California State University at Northridge Student Services building on Sept. 24. They were protesting the recent 30-percent increase in students' fees, demanding the reinstatement of the 2,300 faculty and teachers laid off due to cutbacks, and demanding an end to U.S. military occupation in Afghanistan, Iraq and other countries.

This class-conscious demonstration lasted five hours. It had been initiated by a coalition of student organizations under the umbrella name of Students Against War and CSUN Students UPJ.

Last semester this same coalition took over the student government, which it now runs. The activists have used their position to bring together the Muslim Student Union, the Black Student Union, MEChA and many other campus groups to fight for student issues.

The diversity and inclusiveness of this coalition was reflected in the dozens of students who took to the rally microphone to talk about how the fee increases, classroom overcrowding and military spending have harmed them. "We're mostly working-class students here at CSUN," said one Latina graduate student. "We can't afford to attend more expensive schools like USC

or UCLA. These fee increases hurt us!"

"You're paying more and getting less," said a young Asian student. "Classes are canceled due to lack of teachers. So many students are packed into classrooms that we have to sit on the floor and each semester we're offered smaller loans and fewer grants."

An African American woman said, "Bush is sending poor people to fight his war of oil and empire. These are mostly people of color, and they're only in the military because no one else is hiring!"

The crowd cheered when one Latino student said: "I recently went to Cuba and let me tell you, education there is free! The people get health care there for free! We want that here now!"

When the protesters were denied entry into the Student Services building they marched through hallways, disrupted classes and drew hundreds of additional students and supportive faculty members to their protest.

Students also repeatedly announced plans for the Los Angeles ANSWER anti-occupation protest and encouraged students to get involved and attend.

Northridge students vow to continue their struggle as they reach out to other campuses across Southern California.

—Story and photo by Joe Delaplaine



## As politicians point fingers

# Growing poverty needs organized response

By Monica Moorehead

While the Bush administration and Congress are shelling out virtually unlimited funds for the horrific war and colonial occupation against the Iraqi people, they are also waging another war here in the "land of plenty."

The casualties of that war of intensified economic aggression are increasing.

According to a Sept. 26 U.S. Census Bureau report, those living in poverty increased to 12.1 percent of the population in 2002. The 2001 impoverished rate had been officially 11.7 percent. That's an additional 1.7 million people plunged into poverty.

Today there are 34.6 million poor people in the United States. That's defined as an individual annual income of \$9,183 or less, or an income of \$18,392 or less for a family of four.

The number of those in poverty is actually much higher—if the millions of extremely low-paid undocumented workers who have migrated to the United States from Latin America, the Caribbean,

Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe are included.

The number of people living in severe poverty—those who earn less than half the official poverty income—increased from 13.4 million in 2001 to 14.1 million in 2002. Of those, African Americans and those living in the Midwest experienced the most dramatic drop in their living standards.

The Census Bureau report also states that median household income—half the households earn that amount or less—decreased in 2002 by \$500 to \$42,400. Per capita income fell by 1.8 percent to \$22,784, the first decline in 12 years. Per capita income, which considers the mean income of everybody, regardless of age, is derived by dividing the total income of all people 15 years old and over in a geographic area by the total population in that area.

The overall poverty rate among African Americans rose to 24.1 percent from 22.7 percent over the entire U.S. States with a higher concentration of African Americans such as Arkansas, Mississippi, South

Carolina, Virginia, plus Washington, D.C., suffered a poverty increase even worse than the national average. In the Midwest, once referred to as the "industrial heartland," the states hit hardest are Illinois, Michigan, Missouri and Ohio.

To make matters even worse, the Census Bureau announced in a separate report on Sept. 30 that there are now 43.6 million people in the United States who are without any kind of health insurance. This marks an increase of 6 percent, or 2.4 million, from 2001 to 2002.

Government officials say 15.2 percent of the population is without health insurance. But if all those who are undocumented are included, the rate would be much higher.

The overall situation will only get worse for the working class as more jobs disappear.

The Internal Revenue Service released startling data on Sept. 26 showing that the richest 1 percent of people living in the United States "lost" income in 2001. But don't feel too sorry for them, they paid \$66 billion less in taxes, and will pay even

less as more tax cuts for the wealthy go into effect.

### The real causes of poverty

Once the U.S. government released the report on the growing poverty rate, what was the Democrats' response?

Did they call for the unions to mobilize for a national emergency march on the White House? Such a march could demand billions of dollars in relief for the workers and the poor, through creating millions of jobs, and health care for all.

The Democratic Party has the clout with the union leadership to ask them to respond concretely to this national crisis. Instead, the Democrats used the opportunity to point fingers at the Republicans in typical demagogic fashion. The Republicans in turn went on the defensive. After all, the capitalist elections are only a year away.

The Democrats are hoping that President George W. Bush's economic policies of helping the rich get richer and the loss of 2.7 million jobs since 2001 will prompt his ouster from the White House in 2004.

While what they are saying is undeniable, is Bush's pro-rich, anti-worker, anti-poor program the root cause for so much suffering in the United States?

President Bill Clinton's 1996 so-called welfare reform legislation and his reneging on his 1992 campaign promise to create millions of new jobs helped lead to the deepening schism between rich and poor.

But the policies of presidents are symptomatic of what is happening below, in the inner workings of capitalism—a system that feeds off profits at the expense of the full social development of humanity.

Capitalism today has taken the form of imperialist globalization. Worldwide socialized production has become more privatized in ownership by a small clique of super-rich corporations and banks. This privatization destroys local economies in the poorer countries. Therefore, workers from the developing countries have become displaced in the millions as they search for decent-paying jobs inside rich, imperialist countries like the United States.

Just as capital investment knows no border when it comes to super-exploitation, the workers' struggle knows no border in the struggle to seek jobs.

If Cuba, a country lacking natural resources, can provide quality health care for all of its citizens, why not the United States? If Cuba can provide jobs and a guaranteed income, why not the United States? Socialism, an economic system based on planned production and socialized ownership of the means of production, is the answer.

The workers and oppressed inside the United States may not be ready to fight for socialism at this moment. But right now an organized fight is needed to demand that the more than \$1 trillion that goes to the Pentagon budget, the occupation of Iraq and tax breaks for the rich be diverted to providing jobs, health care, housing, education, full citizenship for immigrants and much more.

The Oct. 25 march in Washington, D.C., is a timely opportunity to connect the war against the working and oppressed peoples at home with the war for empire abroad. □

# BRING the TROOPS HOME NOW

**SATURDAY  
OCT 25  
MASS MARCH  
11am Washington Monument  
(17th St. & Constitution Ave. NW)**

"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

**Money for jobs, education & health care—NOT WAR!**

**Defend civil rights & civil liberties**

**Fightback against the Patriot Act**

# END THE OCCUPATION OF IRAQ

Leaflet issued by **A.N.S.W.E.R.** (Act Now to Stop War & End Racism) **COALITION** www.internationalANSWER.org  
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## WORKERS WORLD PARTY

# Who we are and what we stand for

**A great social earthquake is coming.** Our 21st-century global economy is being run by a 19th-century class of robber barons. Their unbridled greed is leading humanity and the planet we share toward catastrophe. As poverty and misery grow, the rich keep getting richer. A small group of imperialists are sucking out profits from all over the world.

This boss class is cutting millions of jobs while promoting every vile prejudice to try to turn worker against worker. It is in a union-busting frenzy, attempting to root out any form of worker organization. This big business government has rounded up thousands of immigrants. And it's using the economic draft to militarize the youth and send them to war yet again.

This increasingly repressive rule of a wealthy oligarchy just can't go on forever. There's a fightback coming.

Workers World Party was built on the confidence that regular working people CAN overcome capitalism, can take back from the class of exploiters the wealth they have created, and create a society that meets the needs of all.

Can't we control technology to make work lighter and our lives better, instead of having it threaten our jobs?

Can't people of different nationalities, sexes and genders cooperate and share the resources equitably in our increasingly diverse societies?

Can't we radically restructure the economy and put billions into solving basic human needs—food, housing, health care, education—instead of letting the wealth be channeled into private fortunes and into armies, weapons, prisons and police that protect this unjust status quo?

Workers World says YES! There is a way to do all this. If workers organize to fight, nothing is impossible. The key is class solidarity and the building of a mighty movement for socialism.

### Solidarity against all forms of oppression

Since its founding in 1959, this party has been putting into practice what it means by solidarity. It has supported the struggles of all oppressed peoples. It has recognized the right of nations to self-determination, including the nationally

oppressed peoples inside the United States. It supports affirmative action as absolutely necessary in the fight for equality. It opposes all forms of racism and religious bigotry.

Solidarity means fighting for an end to sexism and women's oppression. Women's right to control their bodies must not be restricted. Women must be able to decide freely whether or not to have children—which means having access to legal, safe abortion as well as to free quality healthcare and childcare. Women need equal pay for comparable work, and recognition/compensation for housework.

Solidarity means support for the struggle of lesbians, gays, trans and bis for full social rights and an end to harassment and discrimination. Love is not a crime and should not have to be in the closet.

Solidarity means guaranteeing immigrants the same rights as all other workers, no matter how they got here. Many immigrants leave home because the same banks and corporations that oppress workers here have taken over their countries. Discrimination is unjust, especially on this continent where everyone except the Native peoples came from somewhere else. Solidarity means building bridges to workers' struggles in other countries.

When one section of our class is held back, all suffer eventually. Uniting to fight against all forms of oppression helps raise the whole class.

### Where is the world going?

A new internationalism is developing. As problems go global, so does the people's response. We have demonstrated together by the millions to stop U.S. imperialism's war on Iraq. Worldwide protests have condemned the unjust world economic order and the colonial occupation of Iraq and Palestine and supported the peoples' resistance there. How can we build on that international solidarity?

Workers World respects the many social revolutions of the last century. Some were for national liberation from colonialism. Others went further and tried to build socialism. Their biggest internal problem was starting out from

a level of extreme underdevelopment. Every revolutionary state immediately became the target of subversion, sanctions and often outright military aggression by hostile and powerful imperialist powers. Many have received terrible setbacks.

Nevertheless, these revolutions inspired the workers and oppressed of the world. They showed that it's possible to kick out the bosses and reconstruct society without them. WW supports those trying to hold on to the gains of those great mass struggles and resist the tide of reaction and corporate globalization washing over the world. We want to learn from the mistakes and from the accomplishments in order to build a socialist future.

The U.S. rulers have used their victory over the Soviet Union in the Cold War to launch a new and "endless" war for total domination of the globe. They claim "Marxism is dead" and U.S. empire is all that's left. But Marxism is based on the class struggle, and that is growing every day along with capitalist globalization.

It is time that we in this rich, powerful, oppressor country do our share to revive the hope of humanity that a better world is possible for all. The key to transforming the world is here, in the "belly of the beast."

The corporate bosses are handing this task to us. They are bringing back home the kind of super-exploitation they have imposed on the Third World. They are dragging off our young people to oppress others in wars of plunder and profit. They are forcing the working class to organize and fight back just to survive.

### Join the fight for socialism!

So Workers World has been building a party, based on the great revolutionary concepts of Marx and Lenin, which learns from the mass movements while helping them grow and develop. It works with others to build the broadest mass actions while promoting the struggle for socialism and exposing the deceptions of both Democrats and Republicans—two capitalist parties that have always supported imperialist war and plunder.

Read Workers World newspaper-in print or on the Web at [www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org)—and you will see what we are doing in the struggle movements. You will see that this is a party that welcomes everyone who wants to fight for socialism and against oppression. You will see how we bring a revolutionary analysis to current events.

You're welcome to write us or contact our branches (see list on page 2) to ask questions, learn more about the Party, and find out how to join. □

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# END THE OCCUPATIONS ■ BRING THE

## Anti-war movement hits the streets

By combined Workers World bureaus

Thousands of people went into the streets in the U.S. on Sept. 25-28 to protest the occupation of Palestine and Iraq, as well as other U.S. occupations. Over 200,000 demonstrated worldwide in more than 45 countries.

The ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism) coalition, in its action plan last spring, had supported a call by Palestinian groups for an international day of action on the third anniversary of the Al-Aqsa Intifada—the uprising of the Palestinians. Following the growth of Iraqi resistance to occupation, the protest was expanded to also call for an end to U.S. occupation in Iraq and other countries.

The call gained support from a broad array of anti-war, anti-imperialist, immigrant and community organizations in many U.S. cities. Many stepped up their efforts after Bush's recent speech calling for \$87 billion to shore up the failed occupation in Iraq.



WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL



PHOTO: ROBERT MCCLARY

### 5,000 in Los Angeles

"Let there be no doubt. This was a protest," uttered the lead news anchor for KCAL 9 news in Los Angeles as he introduced the Sept. 28 ANSWER-organized demonstration that made its way through the streets of Hollywood.

Among the 5,000 attendees at the march and rally were labor, immigrants' rights, Asian and Palestinian organizations.

A strong and vibrant contingent of Latino military families—Familias de Militares Hispanos—chanted "Regresen las tropas hoy"—bring the troops home now. Fernando Suarez del Solar, the group's spokesperson and father of a U.S. Marine killed in Iraq, told the crowd that when his son died, the government lied to

him about the cause of death. "Bush does not have any moral fiber," commented Suarez in reproach.

Michel Shehadeh, one of the Los Angeles 8—pro-Palestine activists the government tried and failed to deport for a decade—warned about the dangers the Patriot Act presents to activists who dare question Washington's reactionary policies. "This war has nothing to do with terrorism," commented Shehadeh. "It is about corporations getting war profits."

Bolstered by the people's movement against the U.S. occupation of Iraq, Democratic presidential hopeful Dennis Kucinich made a last-minute appearance. He took the position that control of Iraq should be turned over to the United Nations.

## World anti-war movement joins

By John Catalinotto

The worldwide movement that first arose last winter as a desperate attempt by millions to stop U.S. aggression against Iraq made its first post-war appearance on Sept. 26-28. Tens of thousands of people in over 40 countries came out to demand an end to the occupations of Iraq and Palestine.

Last spring the movement chose the Sept. 27-28 dates to honor the third anniversary of the 2000 Intifada, or uprising of Palestinians against the Israeli occupation.

Since June, the growing Iraqi resistance has made the U.S. occupation another major focus for the protest. This was especially true in countries whose governments sent troops to Iraq, like Spain and Poland, or were considering this move, like Turkey, South Korea and Japan. British Prime Minister Tony Blair, caught in a web of lies, is in deep trouble in Britain, and President George W. Bush is on the defensive.

In size, the protests could not compare with those last Feb. 15. Yet a Madrid organizer's remarks characterized things well: "Despite the demobilization of the summer holidays and the censorship of the

media, 10,000 people flooded downtown Madrid. The protest Sept. 27 was larger than we expected, and double the size of those we held a year ago."

The movement, if not at its full height, was on its feet once more—on five continents.

### Asia and South Asia

Some 3,000 people marched some two miles through downtown Seoul, South Korea, on Sept. 27. They carried banners reading "U.S., leave Iraq" and "Don't make young Koreans murderers." The United States has asked for up to 10,000 South Korean troops for Iraq.

There were also protests in Japan, the Philippines and Thailand.

In India, where the rightist regime recently reversed a decision to send troops to Iraq after the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad was blown up, at least one demonstration took place Sept. 26. In Kolkata (Calcutta), protesters demonstrated their anger by burning effigies of Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in front of the U.S. Consulate.

Over 5,000 people, led by 50 children from the dozen Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, marched through Beirut on

Sept. 27. "Palestine and Iraq are the conscience of the nation," read one placard. Another vowed: "We choose armed struggle in the face of defeat and imperialist Zionist terrorism."

Some 100 people braved state repression in downtown Cairo, Egypt, to express the same sentiments. Demonstrations were also expected in Algeria, Morocco and Iraq itself.

Teach-ins were reported from Mexico and Uruguay in Latin America.

Organizers in Turkey said 10,000 people protested in the capital, Ankara, and thousands more in Istanbul, where unions and others said, "End the occupation of Iraq," "Freedom for Palestine," and "If you send the army to Iraq, send Tayyip [Turkey's president] and his son with them."

In Athens, Greece, some 10,000 demonstrators gathered at Syntagma Square where they heard a message from Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian president of the Labor Center of Jerusalem. The main slogans were "End the occupation of Iraq," "Freedom for Palestine" and "No Greek army to Iraq."

In Cyprus, 200 activists from the Greek and Turkish communities joined with Palestinians and Iranian refugees to

march from Nicosia's main square to the U.S. Embassy and from there to the Israeli Embassy.

### Pull British, Polish, Spanish, Danish troops out of Iraq

The biggest demonstration—100,000, according to organizers from the Stop the War Coalition—took place in London on Sept. 27. It had strong support from the large Muslim community in Britain and from the labor unions, whose leadership has in the past two months taken a position of open opposition to the Blair government, demanding that he resign.

The movement in Poland gathered 1,000 people in central Warsaw Sept. 27 to protest Poland's participation in the U.S.-led occupation of Iraq. Many high school and university students and young workers took part. They carried giant "playing cards" with pictures of George W. Bush, Tony Blair, the Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski and Prime Minister Leszek Miller. One slogan was "Miller, Kwasniewski, Bush's two little doggies."

The Spanish state, which also has troops in Iraq, drew protests of a reported 25,000 in Barcelona, and thousands more in Seville, Granada, Malaga, Tenerife in



# TROOPS HOME ■ ON TO OCTOBER 25

## from coast to coast



CHICAGO

WW PHOTO: BETH SEMMER

Elias Rashmawi

John Beacham, organizer for ANSWER and contributing writer for the Workers World newspaper, exhorted the crowd to stand in solidarity with the Palestinians, the people of Iraq and all those working people being oppressed under the capitalist system. "Their battle is our battle," exclaimed Beacham. Beacham also asked people to join the socialist cause, proclaiming, "Socialism provides solutions to poverty and racism."

### San Francisco, Seattle, San Diego

In San Francisco on Sept. 28, more than 5,000 people marched, chanting "Self-determination, not occupation," "Bring the troops home now" and "Money for jobs and education, not for war and occupation." The demonstrators marched from Dolores Park in the Mission District to the Civic Center. Large delegations attended from the Filipino and Korean communities.

In Seattle that day, some 300 activists from diverse organizations came out to rally and march against occupation and to bring the troops home now. Protesters

gathered at Occidental Square for an initial rally, co-chaired by Jane Cutter of ANSWER and Joaquin of Anak Bayan. Speakers included Mike Dedrick of Vets for Peace, Joann Alcantera of Gabriela Network and Nizar Mansour of Voices of Palestine.

Mansour, a graduate of Bethlehem University, spoke of the everyday racism experienced by Palestinians under occupation. "I will fight for my land, not because I am a terrorist but because I am a revolutionary."

In San Diego on Sept. 27, the ANSWER Coalition's march and rally drew over 60 activists. Rappers and poets were intermingled with

speakers from Veterans for Peace, California Coalition Against Poverty, Raza Rights, GI Rights Committee, the ANSWER coalition and the International Action Center.

### Chicago, Detroit

After a march on the Israeli Consulate led by the Coalition for Justice in Palestine, nearly 500 people attended an indoor rally at the First United Methodist Church in Chicago's Loop on Sept. 26. Nearly half the audience came from Chicago's African-American communities.

Popular African American talk radio show host Cliff Kelly and Mahmud Ahmad of the Free Palestine Alliance chaired the rally, which called for an end to occupation and colonialism from Palestine to Iraq and across the world.

Long-time immigrants-rights activist Emma Lozano of Pueblo Sin Fronteras described the Immigrant Freedom Ride and the departure of the Chicago contingent the next day. Lionel Jean-Baptiste, a member of the Evanston, Ill., City Council and a longtime fighter for social justice, spoke out in defense of Zimbabwe and its President Robert Mugabe. Kathy Kelly of

## the resistance

the Canary Islands and other cities, besides the 10,000 in Madrid.

Organizers of the "No to War" national coalition reported over 1,000 marching in Copenhagen, Denmark, with particular aim at the Danish government for ordering troops to participate in the war on Iraq and the present occupation. The main slogan was "The government has lied Denmark into war—pull the troops out!" There were also smaller demonstrations in Aalborg, Aarhus and Esbjerg.

There were demonstrations of 500 in Helsinki, Finland, some 1,000 in Vienna, Austria, and protests in Sofia, Bulgaria, and Oslo, Norway. In Brussels, Belgium, more than 2,000 people from 50 organizations demanded the immediate withdrawal of foreign troops as they condemned the occupation of Iraq and Palestine. In Paris, France, 8,000 people took to the streets.

In Italy, some 150 people took over the Padova City Hall for two hours. A national protest is planned for Oct. 4 in Rome.

In Germany, some 1,000 people demonstrated in Berlin and another 100 in Bonn. In Heidelberg, site of the U.S. military headquarters, some 150 activists sang "The Sloop John B" to remind the U.S. soldiers they perhaps "wanna go

home." They also renamed the U.S. base's "Mark Twain Village" the "Gen. Custer Village" as they considered this both a reminder of what can happen and more appropriate than naming it after the anti-imperialist writer.

In the United States, many of the protests were initiated by the ANSWER coalition. They also demanded an end to the U.S. military intervention in Korea, the Philippines, Colombia and anywhere else on the globe. Some 5,000 people demonstrated on Sept. 28 in Los Angeles, the same number in San Francisco, 2,500 in New York, 500 in Boston and 300 in Seattle. There were also protests on Sept. 26 and 27 in Chicago, San Diego, and other U.S. cities.

Besides the countries named above, there were protests set in Mexico, Thailand, Australia, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq and Palestine.

In response to a call by ANSWER for solidarity actions in tandem with the national demonstration Oct. 25 in Washington and San Francisco, groups have called demonstrations to protest Bush's visits the week before in Japan and the Philippines, at an Iraq "Donor's Conference" in Madrid on Oct. 23-24, and in Norway and Italy as of last notice. □



NEW YORK

WW PHOTO: G DUNKEL

Voices in the Wilderness, who had just returned from Iraq, called for an end to the U.S. war on the Iraqi people.

Elias Rashmawi of the Free Palestine Alliance and the International ANSWER Steering Committee described how U.S. imperialism's strategists view the Middle East as essential for world domination because of its position encompassing major waterways and access to three continents, as well as its rich oil deposits.

Former Congressperson Cynthia McKinney called for an end to the war against the people of Iraq and related how the Bush administration had put U.S. service members in harm's way. McKinney called for the U.S. troops to be brought home now.

Larry Holmes of the International Action Center and the ANSWER Steering Committee gave a rousing talk that highlighted the importance of the anti-war movement staying in the streets.

Other speakers represented Internationals for Justice in Palestine, the Chicago Anti Bashing Network, the Chicago Coalition Against War and Racism and the International Action Center.

A Detroit anti-war, anti-occupation

protest on Sept. 27 drew 125 people. Speakers included the mother of an anti-war GI currently in Iraq. A member of UAW Local 6000 representing Michigan state workers spoke about the drastic concessions and budget cuts going on in Michigan while billions go to the war and occupation. The action was sponsored by Michigan Emergency Committee Against War & Injustice.

### New York, Boston

In New York on Sept. 28, a loud and spirited crowd of more than 2,500 gathered at Columbus Circle to call for an end to the occupation of Palestine and Iraq. The demonstrators, organized by a broad coalition of labor, community, youth and anti-war groups, marched through midtown to the East Side, stopping at the Philippine, Colombian, Korean and Israeli missions to the United Nations.

Speakers included Larry Holmes of the International Action Center; Saeed Ariqat, prominent Palestinian-American journalist and DC Bureau Chief of Al-Quds newspaper; Brenda Stokeley of NYC Labor Against the War, and representatives from many international solidarity organizations. The program featured an exciting mix of music and culture from many of the occupied countries.

In Boston, hundreds of protesters waved rainbow flags and chanted as they marched behind a pickup truck from the city's Copley Square to the Park Plaza Hotel.

Protests and meetings were also scheduled over the weekend in St. Louis, Kansas City and Alexandria, Va.

Contributors to this report include Adrian Garcia in Los Angeles, Gloria Verdieu in San Diego, Jane Cutter in Seattle, Bill Hackwell in San Francisco, Bill Massey in Chicago, Dave Sole in Detroit and Dustin Langley in New York.



BOSTON

WW PHOTO: LIZA GREEN

## Historic Harlem meeting

# 'Cuba speaks for itself'

By Minnie Bruce Pratt  
New York

With solidarity and struggle anything is possible—from ending apartheid in South Africa to freeing the Cuban Five to creating socialism. That was the message on Sept. 27 at a gathering called “Cuba Speaks for Itself.” A cheering crowd of over 600 people filled the Church of Intercession in Harlem, N.Y., for an evening with Cuban Minister of Foreign Affairs Felipe Pérez Roque.

As the program began, the multinational and intergenerational crowd waved Cuban flags and chanted, “Cuba sí, bloqueo no!” The U.S. government has been trying to strangle revolutionary Cuba with a trade embargo and blockade for over 40 years.

With a colorful banner demanding “Free the Cuban Five” hanging inside the sanctuary, the Rev. Canon Frederick B. Williams welcomed the gathering to his church that serves both Harlem and Washington Heights, reflecting the lineage of freedom struggles shared among Cuba and African American, Latino, and other oppressed communities in the United States.

This theme of solidarity was repeated throughout the evening. Host Harry Belafonte, legendary African American performer and committed champion of social justice, strode to the microphone along with co-host Jane Franklin and announced, “We are here to stand in solidarity with the Cuban Five!”

The Cuban Five are Cuban patriots railroaded into U.S. prisons. They were convicted of espionage for their activities in defending Cuba against right-wing terrorist assaults by anti-Cuba forces centered in Miami. ([www.freethethefive.org](http://www.freethethefive.org))

New York State Assemblymember Jose Rivera from the Bronx held up his fingers in the peace sign and said that in supporting Cuba he had the approval of his entire district. He thanked the people of Cuba for their aid to Puerto Rico in the successful struggle to get the U.S. Navy out of Vieques.

Gloria La Riva, coordinator of the Committee to Free the Cuban Five and an organizer in the ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism) coalition, stressed that the persecution of the Cuban Five is an overt attack on Cuba. She said that the next few months will be crucial to their fate.

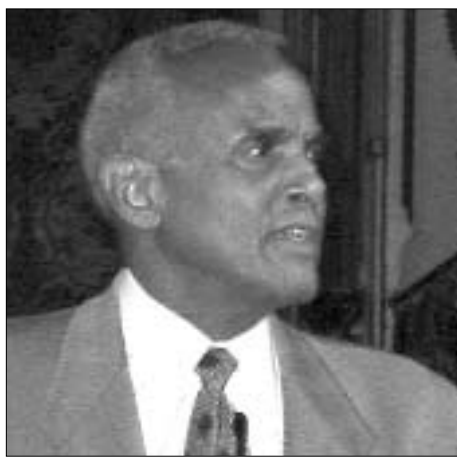
Gerardo Hernández, Ramon Labañino, Fernando González, Antonio Guerrero and René González had previously been held for 17 months in solidarity confinement. Now they are being denied visits from their loved ones, whom they have not been allowed to see for over five years.

A petition campaign to demand that President George W. Bush release the five is under way. La Riva also appealed for financial support and signatures for a full-page ad in the New York Times. She noted that three of the five had fought in Angola, in the struggle against South African apartheid, and noted, “It is the people’s struggle that has always freed political prisoners.”

A new generation of activists saluted Cuba. They included Monifa Bandela of Black August. That is a group of young organizers melding political action and cultural awareness, especially in their Hip Hop Project that brings together U.S. and Cuban hip hop artists. Bonnie Massey spoke from the Venceremos Brigade, which has been breaking the ban on travel to Cuba since 1969.

Cuba’s commitment to providing health care to all people by educating a new generation of medical workers was saluted by Alice Hernández of IFCO/Pastors for Peace. That group has organized over 14 caravans of supplies to Cuba, breaking the travel and trade ban. Hernández, an educator and secretary of the Puerto Rican Nationalist Party, pointed out that over 500 scholarships, worth over \$100 million, are being offered to young people who wish to study medicine in Cuba.

Graciano Matos of the U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange reported that the third and most recent exchange was the biggest. Almost 300 young people from 23 states took part. Many of them were present at the



Harry Belafonte and Felipe Pérez Roque

Sept. 27 event.

### Pérez Roque mobilizes support for Cuban 5

Foreign Minister Pérez Roque began by offering special thanks for the crowd’s solidarity with the Cuban Five. He said the five had acted “to prevent U.S. citizens and Cuban citizens from dying in these terrorist attacks.”

He asked for continued commitment to ending the U.S. blockade of Cuba. He noted that the blockade has cost his country over \$72 billion in trade over 40 years by closing off trade with Cuba’s nearest neighbor and preventing tourism. Cuba has a superb health-care system, whose researchers have produced the only vaccine in the world that can prevent meningitis, but the blockade prevents its sale.

A United Nations General Assembly vote to end the blockade passed, 173 to three. The three votes against were from the United States, Israel and the Marshall Islands. The United States ultimately vetoed the measure in the Security Council.

Pérez Roque enumerated many of Cuba’s gains. Among the most striking: Average life expectancy is 76 years, and infant mortality is only six babies out of every 1,000 live births. This compares to an infant mortality rate of 15 in Washington, D.C., the United States capital—and 23 in that city’s African American community.



WW PHOTOS: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

He discussed the massive Cuban effort to provide technical and medical personnel, supplies and education to the poor and developing countries of the world. Forty thousand engineers, doctors and professors from other countries have graduated from Cuban schools recently. Thirty thousand of them are from Africa.

There are 200,000 Cubans serving as teachers and technicians in 130 countries, and 4,000 Cuban doctors serving in rural areas in 20 countries.

Pérez Roque aroused the biggest of several standing ovations when he recalled that “2,000 Cubans died fighting against apartheid and colonialism. We were faithful and shed our blood, not for Cuba to have any oil wells.

“We didn’t fight and we didn’t die for Cuba to own any diamond mines in South Africa. When the fight was over, and Cubans returned they only brought the remains of our dead.”

In his official United Nations speech a day earlier, Pérez Roque had asked, “Must the occupation of Iraq cease?” And he answered: “Yes, it must. And the sooner the better. ...

“Must the Iraqis be left alone to freely establish their own government and institutions and make decisions on their natural resources? Yes. They are entitled to it—and they will not relinquish the fight to that end.” □

## Venezuelan labor leader describes revolutionary process

By Deirdre Griswold  
New York

A representative of Venezuela’s new labor federation, the CUTV, told a progressive audience here on Sept. 26 that while the U.S. government and the multinational corporations are obsessed with bringing down the government of Hugo Chávez, the Venezuelan people are in motion and determined to defend their revolutionary process.

Pedro Eussie spoke at a solidarity meeting held in a packed hall at the premises of the health and hospital workers’ union 1199 SEIU.

A plot to attack Chávez’s plane had just been uncovered by the Venezuelan government, forcing the president to cancel a planned visit to the United Nations.

Eussie described how Venezuela, the fifth-largest oil producer in the world, has earned the enmity of U.S. big business by pursuing its stated goal that “the country should belong not to the multinationals, but to the Venezuelan people. Venezuela

has the sovereign right to define its economic and foreign policy and its form of democracy.”

Venezuela has declined to join the Free Trade Area of the Americas, being promoted by the U.S., and instead proposes a trade alliance of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. This conforms to the

aims of the great Latin American liberator Simon Bolívar, after whom the Venezuelans have named their struggle—the Bolivarian Revolution.

“We take very seriously the threats against our revolution,” Eussie said. “There is a ‘Plan Venezuela,’ and the extreme right-wing continues to try to destabilize our country. What happened in Chile has not happened in Venezuela, but, as in



WW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

Pedro Eussie

Nicaragua, we have a permanent state of siege. And the plan to wear down the revolutionary process comes from the U.S.” He added that the revolutionary process is ongoing, and that they are still fighting to consolidate power.

Eussie described the CUTV, which has joined with the bosses in a campaign to destabilize the Chavez government,

as Venezuela’s “false labor movement.” He pointed out that it gets resources from the National Endowment for Democracy, a noble-sounding front for right-wing political projects begun under the Reagan administration. Eussie also criticized the AFL-CIO for funding the CUTV.

“We have been going to workers here to demand accountability from their unions,” he said. “We understand that the interests

of the multinationals are not those of the great majority of people in the U.S.”

Some capitalists in Venezuela have been shutting down plants in industries like plastics, oil, textiles and agricultural products and moving their capital out of the country. Eussie says that workers have taken over 20 such facilities and are preparing to operate them by themselves. “This is a qualitative advance in our movement,” he stressed. “The workers are asserting their authority against savage capitalism.”

Teresa Gutierrez of the International Action Center and other speakers at the meeting called on people here to step up their solidarity with Venezuela and its revolutionary efforts to elevate the majority of the people while resisting sabotage by the elite and U.S. imperialism. Speakers included Harry Simon of the Unión del Barrio (Neighborhood Unity) in San Diego, Phoebe Jones Schellenberg of Global Women’s Strike in Philadelphia, and William Camacaro of the Coalition to Support the Bolivarian Revolution. □



## Imperialism by any name

# The U.S., the 'United Nations' & Iraq

By Fred Goldstein

Secretary of State Colin Powell has been globe trotting and working overtime to negotiate a United Nations resolution on Iraq acceptable to France, Germany and Russia. His goal is to give some "legal" cover for other governments to send troops and money to bolster the crisis-ridden U.S. occupation regime, which is under daily attack from the Iraqi resistance.

The struggle between Washington and Paris over the terms of the resolution and the prospect of UN intervention has drawn sections of the anti-war movement into their own debate over this question. Some sections have gravitated to the position that the UN should be given the administration of Iraq in order to replace or dilute the power of the U.S.-created Coalition Provisional Authority.

The much-publicized pronouncements by French President Jacques Chirac—that there must a rapid transition to Iraqi "sovereignty" and the UN must occupy a "vital role" in the political process and reconstruction effort—are now being adopted, with variations, by sections of the movement.

Some of the openly social-democratic forces are simply signing on to an imperialist solution. Others argue that the most urgent task is to weaken and end the Pentagon's harsh absolute rule and that the Iraqi state has been smashed and society so fragmented under the occupation that Iraqi self-determination cannot practically apply right now. Some have even drawn the conclusion that "Bring the troops home" is an incorrect slogan.

Thus, there is a search for some illusory third way that seeks to avoid imperialist oppression, but in fact leaves the imperialists as the dominant force in Iraq, directly or indirectly.

### War and sanctions with UN label

A simple exercise of near-term memory should be sufficient to utterly reject a UN takeover as the solution in Iraq. It was under UN auspices that world imperialism and its clients, led by the Pentagon, carried out a 42-day air war against Iraq in 1991 that destroyed its basic infrastructure, including its water supply system, and killed an estimated 200,000 people. Iraq was left poisoned with radiation from thousands of depleted-uranium shells.

And it was the UN that approved the 13-year sanctions regime. This was a true campaign of mass destruction. It killed an estimated 1.5 million people, including 500,000 children, many of whom died because medicine, water purification instruments and chemicals, and other basics were embargoed. For most of those 13 years, the U.S. and British air forces carried out regular bombings in the so-called no-fly zones, under the false but unchallenged claim that they were acting pursuant to a UN resolution.

And finally, it was the UN Security Council that after the latest war passed the resolution legalizing Washington's role of Occupation Authority for one year, acquiescing in its military, political and economic control over Iraq. The occupation status is renewable after a year based upon consultation.

### France, Russia, Germany stood to lose by war

All this seems to have been obscured since last March, when the UN Security Council tersely refused to sanction the Bush administration's unilateral, unpro-

voked war of colonial aggression against Iraq. With U.S. imperialism supported only by its underling, Tony Blair of Britain, the Security Council has since been viewed as an "anti-war" force by some.

In reality, the post-war struggle between France, Germany and Russia on the one hand and Washington and London on the other over the role of the UN is a continuation of the pre-war struggle that led to the final refusal to endorse the war.

In the political sphere, this is a struggle by the leading imperialist powers of continental Europe to contain Washington in its drive to strengthen its absolute world domination, as outlined in the Bush National Security Strategy document of September 2002.

In the economic sphere, where the tensions are greatest, the resistance in the Security Council to the war was really a resistance by French, Russian and German transnational corporations to being displaced or shut out by U.S. corporate power, enforced and protected by the Pentagon.

The French oil giant TotalFinElf had a \$4-billion contract to develop Iraq's Majnoon oil field. Russian oil giant Lukoil had a \$20-billion contract to drill the West Qurna oilfield and Zarubneft had a concession to drill the bin Umar oilfield. These companies had spent years working out these agreements. In addition, Iraq owed Russia between \$7 billion and \$12 billion. Their only hope to execute the agreements and recoup their loans was to have the sanctions lifted. Once the Pentagon moved and the Baathist regime was overthrown, the U.S. authorities would take control of Iraq's oil and finances and would inevitably cut down or totally exclude their rivals.

German interests in Iraq were considerable. According to an article in the Washington Times published back on Feb. 20, "direct two-way trade between Germany and Iraq amounts to about \$350 million annually, while another \$1 billion is sold via third countries." Iraq was prepared to "give priority" to German companies at the annual Baghdad trade fair in November 2001, in order to encourage German opposition to the war and deepen the split with Washington, according to the Times. "Some 101 German companies were represented at the Baghdad exposition, including companies offering air-conditioning equipment, energy and transportation services, cosmetics, textiles and other products."

In addition, as revealed in the 12,000-page arms declaration that the Iraqi government gave to UN weapons inspectors in December 2002, German corporations were "the market leaders in supplying Iraq, even in the decade after the Gulf war," continued the Times. The document listed "80 German firms" as suppliers of weapons and industrial devices. Iraq's debt to Germany was undisclosed but was said to be significant.

The French, German and Russian governments were stalling for time, for more inspections, for overflights, for any means to stop the war and lift the sanctions—not out of concern for the Iraqi people but because they did not want to lose their stake in the profits.

### European powers scheme to regain position through UN

The struggle today over transferring authority to the UN in the post-war period is really about trying to regain positions lost. A March 25 dispatch in the April 17

edition of Alexander's Gas & Oil Connections, a widely read industry publication, said: "Worried that it could be shut out of business deals in post-war Iraq, France is drawing up plans to win French companies access to lucrative oil and reconstruction contracts, officials said. The government is determined that French companies will be part of the rebuilding of Iraq, despite President Jacques Chirac's opposition to the war."

The publication reported that "a meeting between France's most powerful business federation, government leaders and the French-Iraq Association for Economic Cooperation was scheduled for April 3." It went on, "France opposes any U.S. reconstruction plan that would sideline United Nations development agencies, multilateral organizations and non-governmental aid groups."

Thus the French ruling class was plotting to get back into Iraq when the war was still on. And a key to their plan was to use the United Nations. The same can undoubtedly be said for the Russian and German bosses and bankers. Their problem was that the rapid dominance of the U.S. in the air and ground war quickly gave the Pentagon a lock on the entire operation in Iraq. All the other imperialists were shut out. Even those U.S. firms that were not closely tied to the Bush administration were being shut out, not to speak of the French, Russians and Germans.

So dominant was the U.S. after taking Baghdad that the UN Security Council passed the above-mentioned resolution to ratify the U.S.-British occupation and "grant" them complete financial, political and economic control over Iraq for 12 months.

### Iraqi resistance opens door

But the Iraqi resistance has turned the tide. With the U.S. military suffering casualties daily and with general hatred of the U.S. occupation growing—along with mass unemployment, poverty and social disintegration in Iraq—the French, German and Russian governments and business magnates are trying to utilize Washington's crisis to push their way back into Iraq via the UN. Their motivation is now even greater. Before the war they were constrained in their profit taking by the independent government of Iraq. Now they will deal with a compliant colonial regime that will multiply their profits.

As things stand now, the U.S. Agency for International Development is giving out the contracts. It is handing out billions to Dick Cheney's cronies at Halliburton and its subsidiary Brown & Root; to Bechtel, Fluor, Stevedoring Services of America and MCI-WorldCom, among others. More U.S. firms are greedily lining up to cash in on the \$87 billion Congress is about to vote on.

The other imperialists want to change that around. They want UN agencies to grant contracts under the supervision of the Security Council, meaning that U.S. and British monopolies will have to share with French, Russian and German capitalists. This would be the wedge by which these rival bandits could force their way into the picture. They need to be on the ground in Iraq with authority and access to the political and economic process. Only in this way can they make their connections, build their own factions, and take part in shaping the puppet colonial administration. Above all, they want to keep their eye on the development of the oil fields.

### Security Council: a group of predatory powers

The argument over whether the UN should take over Iraq is completely obscured by the very term "United Nations." First of all, what is meant is really the UN Security Council. But the Security Council is not an independent entity. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan must do what he is told by the U.S. government or other imperialist governments. He has no genuine authority. The Security Council members—aside from the People's Republic of China, which is not taking part in the horse trading—are independent imperialist states, each with its own predatory interests.

Keeping that in mind, and eliminating the obfuscating term "UN," the two sides of the argument reduce to the following: Should Iraq remain in the exclusive grip of the Pentagon, its corporate masters on Wall Street and the U.S. oil industry, along with their junior colonialist partners in London—or should the Iraqi people be set upon by the entire collection of imperialists in the Security Council and be picked apart and exploited by a "multilateral" gang of corporate cutthroats operating through an international front agency?

In either case, the Iraqi people would still be subjected to super-exploitation and domination by imperialist capital. In either case, the Iraqi people would be denied true sovereignty and self-determination.

The role of the anti-war movement is to fight to get U.S. troops out of Iraq and to oppose the sending in of any other occupation troops under the guise of "peacekeepers." The absolute precondition for the Iraqi people to regain their independence and sovereignty as a nation is to expel imperialism and its instruments of military, political and economic power from their country.

It is certain that the Iraqis will never get sovereignty through a puppet regime that has decreed that the world of international capital has the right to purchase 100-percent ownership of any enterprise in the country, except for its oil. Most of the anti-colonial movements of the 20th century struggled to limit the penetration of capital from the imperialist powers. This was elementary national self-defense against economic enslavement. The 1958 revolution in Iraq was the beginning of the struggle to bar the door to foreign corporate takeover. Now that door is wide open.

### Bring the troops home!

How the Iraqis will reconstitute themselves after the terrible blows of imperialism, the destruction of their independent state, and the devastation to their national development delivered by the war and occupation cannot be known now. Whether they can find a way to soon bridge the gaps and unite in the face of imperialism in order to rebuild, or whether there is to be strife and conflict until the situation is resolved, only the future will tell.

One thing is for sure. The only type of leadership that can regain the sovereignty and independence of Iraq is one that will emerge in the struggle against imperialism, not one that collaborates with it. Whatever hardships they may endure, it is for the Iraqis to determine their own future, free of the pernicious influence of imperialism. The role of the anti-war movement is to get imperialism—whether in its "unilateral" or "multilateral" form—off the backs of the Iraqi people. □

## workers world editorial

# AFL-CIO, immigrants & Venezuela

There are no borders in the workers' struggle." That truth, based on the granite foundation of unity among working and oppressed peoples around the world against their bosses at home and abroad, is the only basis on which a strong labor movement can be built.

That's the kind of solidarity that the AFL-CIO is strengthening with its support of the current Freedom Ride by immigrant workers and their supporters across the United States. Union members of all nationalities have turned out at rallies to extend their own solidarity with immigrant workers—documented and undocumented.

And by modeling the Freedom Ride after a chapter in the mighty civil rights struggle and stopping to rally at the Market House in Fayetteville, N.C.—the once-central site for the auction of enslaved African people—the movement for immigrant rights is extending its solidarity with a powerful segment of oppressed people who were forcibly brought to this country in chains.

But the AFL-CIO leaders are breaching that unity and doing the bosses' bidding when they fund counter-revolutionary activities against the government of Hugo Chávez, which was voted in by the workers and peasants of Venezuela. That's exactly what the AFL-CIO's American Center for International Labor Solidarity, which gets most of its money from the quasi-governmental National Endowment for Democracy, has been doing. It passes these unregulated government funds on to the so-called Venezuelan Federation of Labor, the CTV, a group of bribed union bureaucrats who

have been collaborating with the Venezuelan oligarchy and U.S. imperialism and opposing Chávez's "Bolivarian Revolution."

Washington and Wall Street fear that the broad social movements for economic change sweeping Venezuela could lead to a transfer of power and ownership from the imperialist owners of industry and banking and the national capitalists to the laboring and disenfranchised masses. That's how U.S. imperialism felt about the Salvador Allende government in Chile after 1970.

And as it did with Salvador Allende in Chile, U.S. imperialism is using the CIA and all the covert economic and political weapons at its disposal to try to bring down the popular Chávez government in Venezuela. In April 2002, when a CIA-backed coup briefly deposed Chávez, millions of Venezuelan workers and peasants mobilized to restore his presidency.

There are no borders in the workers' struggle.

Only the U.S. and Venezuelan bosses profit from overturning the Chávez government, which is carrying out land reform and extending workers' rights. A victory for imperialism and its allied ruling class in Venezuela would be a profound defeat for laboring and oppressed people throughout the Americas.

The leadership of the AFL-CIO needs to demonstrate its commitment to the motto that the union movement is built upon: "An injury to one is an injury to all."

U.S. bosses are attacking Venezuelan workers. It's urgent to unite, shoulder to shoulder, with the life-and-death struggle by Venezuelan workers and oppressed people. □

## Capitalism is no paradise

# Polish workers fight massive job cuts

By Greg Butterfield

The French Press Agency reported Sept. 26: "On Sept. 11 a demonstration by thousands of miners in the capital [of Poland] Warsaw turned violent, with some 40 Polish police officers and several demonstrators injured during a pitched battle which involved Molotov cocktails, tear gas and water cannon."

Poland. Twenty-two years ago it was the center of world attention as U.S. imperialism, the Roman Catholic Church and homegrown reactionaries concentrated their efforts on undermining what was left of socialism there.

Today, if you hear of Poland at all, it's about the now fully compliant capitalist government being one of the few willing to send troops to back the racist U.S./British colonial occupation of Iraq.

But there's a lot going on in Poland: stuff the U.S. ruling class doesn't want workers here to know, because it undermines their mythology that Polish workers are much better off under capitalism than under the workers' state that existed from the end of World War II until the early 1990s.

This mythology was built up through the 1980s with the promotion of the misnamed Solidarity union movement. Solidarity's leaders answered to Washington and the Vatican. They did everything in their power to mobilize Polish workers against the socialist government, promising that under capitalism jobs and money would be plentiful for all.

When the leaders of Solidarity actually came to power, they presided over the sell-off of state industries to foreign banks and the loss of millions of jobs. Workers in the union began to struggle against their former "leaders."

Today strike actions, protests and sit-ins are on the agenda for Polish workers. The workers are battling to stop massive job cuts and plant closings in the run-up to May 1, 2004, when Poland is scheduled to join the European Union.

A key requirement for the governments of formerly socialist countries that want to join the EU is to end all state subsidies to struggling industries. That means big layoffs.

Meanwhile, Britain's LNM Group, headed by Indian-born billionaire Lakshmi Mittal, is poised to seize control of Poland's national steel industry, one of the world's largest, and restructure it to the liking of Western banks. (Business Standard, Sept. 29) That means more layoffs.

Miners, steel workers and railroad workers, the backbone of the country's industrial working class, are taking the lead in fighting back. But you'd never know it by reading the U.S. or Western European press. One of the few reports published in English was that FPA release mentioned above.

By late September, militant actions had spread across Poland's industrial centers. Workers sat in at the headquarters of Poland's biggest mining company, KW, which employs 87,000 workers. On Sept. 25, some 40 miners launched a below-ground sit-down strike in one of KW's pits.

The next day, thousands of miners walked off their jobs to block roads in Silesia in southwest Poland, to protest the planned restructuring that would close four coal pits in the region by 2006 at the cost of 36,000 jobs.

The miners blocked roads by crossing them backward and forward, the French Press Agency said.

In Katowice, the largest town in the southern industrial region, railway workers joined the miners to block railroad tracks for more than an hour.

"It's not just about four mines, but the future of Silesia," said Eugeniusz Kuchta, a member of the mine rescue workers' union. "Over the past few years around 100,000 jobs have been scrapped in Silesia and now they want to get rid of 30,000 more."

The actions were timed to coincide with a visit by Economy and Jobs Minister Jerzy Hausner. He was greeted by hundreds of booing and hissing women miners and miners' spouses.

To read more about what U.S. imperialism and Western banks did to Poland, check out "Poland: Behind the Crisis" by Sam Marcy. It's available free on the Web at [www.workers.org/marcy/cd/sampol/index.htm](http://www.workers.org/marcy/cd/sampol/index.htm) or send \$6 to WW Publishers, 55 W. 17 St., 5 Fl., New York, NY 10011. □

# Rightwing aims to overthrow Aristide in Haiti

By G. Dunkel

The struggle to reverse the Haitian elections of 2000, which saw President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and his Lavalas Party win a large popular victory, is reaching a boiling point.

The economic pressure that the United States, the European Union and multilateral lenders applied—holding up some \$500 million in aid and loans to the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere—hasn't succeeded in bringing down Aristide. The opposition, loosely grouped into an organization called the Democratic Convergence, is badly split.

The more moderate faction wants to let international and economic pressure, combined with political agitation well funded by U.S. foundations, get elections that they can win.

The opposition's right-wing faction, a combination of bourgeois political forces and the gang-like Macoutes left over from the rule of "Papa Doc" and "Baby Doc" Duvalier, is trying to apply the "zero-based option." That is, they want to force the government to resign. In past years they would have used the army to make a coup, but Aristide has disbanded the army.

In Cap-Haïtien, Haiti's second-largest city, some local affiliates of the "Democratic" Convergence, the Opposition Front of the North (FRON) and Interested Citizens (CI), held a series of demonstrations the week of Sept. 15 designed to provoke

clashes with Aristide supporters. The FRON publicly warned undertakers in Cap-Haïtien to be prepared for a large number of cadavers.

The general strike that the FRON called to wrap up its week of protests failed. The people made a point of going to work.

Amiot Métayer, whose nickname was "the Cuban," was a major and militant supporter of Aristide in Gonaïves, a city between Port-au-Prince and Cap-Haïtien. He had led some sharp attacks on the "Democratic" Convergence. When he was sent to prison for these attacks, members of his popular organization were able to break him out.

On Sept. 22 Métayer's body was found on a roadside, shot once in each eye and through the heart and back. Several days of demonstrations in Gonaïves by his supporters followed.

They set up barricades of burning tires and exchanged gunfire with the police. At least five protesters and two police officers were wounded, Haiti's Radio Metropole reported.

The National Peoples Party (PPN), a progressive party headed by Ben Dupuy, has called for a mass protest in Port-au-Prince on Sept. 30, to say that the people will fight against another coup. This protest will denounce the "Democratic" Convergence, which proclaims that only "big shots should have political power." It also will protest "all the foreign countries which support Haiti's oligarchy" and the armed wing of the Convergence. □

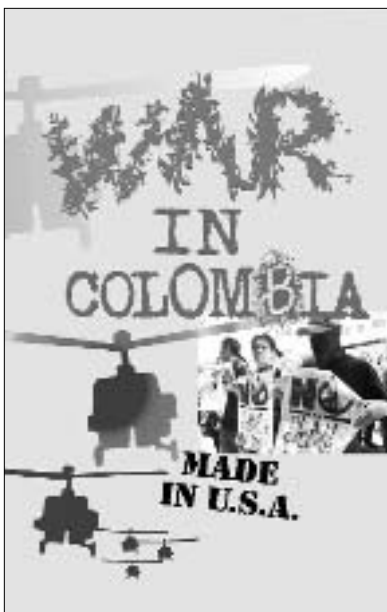
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## Palestinian resistance to Israeli occupation

# Is a 'two state' solution history?

By Richard Becker

Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon and inside the 1948 borders of Israel took to the streets on Sept. 28 to commemorate the third anniversary of the Al-Aksa Intifada.

Around the world, demonstrators in more than 40 countries marched in solidarity.

The mass outpouring on Sept. 28, in the face of heavy Israeli repression, was a reaffirmation that without real justice for the Palestinian people, there can be no peace in the Middle East.

In his Sept. 30 closing statement before an Israeli court illegally trying him, Marwan Barghouti, a leader of Fatah-Palestine National Liberation Movement, defiantly told the judges and the world: "I am proud of the Intifada. I am proud of the resistance to Israeli occupation. To die is better than living under occupation. I am standing here because I resisted Israeli occupation."

Speaking in Hebrew, Barghouti said: "I hope the Israelis have learned that the Palestinian people can not be brought to yield with force. If an occupation does not end unilaterally or through negotiations then there is only one solution, one state for two people.

"How can the Jews who suffered and survived the Holocaust allow themselves to resort to such insufferable and unacceptable means against another people?"

The second Intifada began on Sept. 28, 2000, when Ariel Sharon, then a Cabinet minister and today Israel's prime minister, protected by 1,500 police, invaded the Haram Al-Sharif. That is the site of the Dome of the Rock and the third-holiest site of Islam.

Palestinians rebelled against Sharon's provocation and against the "peace plan" that the United States and Israeli governments were attempting to force them to accept.

Since that time, 2,625 Palestinians, 71 percent of them under the age of 29, have been killed, according to the Palestine Monitor. During the same time, 794 Israelis have been killed. More than 36,000 Palestinians have been wounded, and tens of thousands more have had their homes deliberately destroyed by the Israeli military.

More than 7,200 Palestinian political prisoners are imprisoned illegally in Israeli jails. Not a single Israeli is imprisoned by the Palestinian Authority.

The Palestinian unemployment rate is over 50 percent. And despite the fact that Israel's economy is depressed and official unemployment has reached 11 percent, Israel's per capita income is more than 15 times that of Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza.

Israel, which plays a key role in Washington's drive to dominate the Middle East, receives enormous assistance from the United States—more than \$3 billion annually in official military and economic aid and billions more through other channels.

### Creating 'facts on the ground'

Sharon, Ehud Barak, who was Israeli prime minister in 2000, and their predecessors have all been dedicated to preventing the rise of any kind of real Palestinian state.

Since the seizure of the West Bank and Gaza in Israel's expansionist war of 1967, successive Israeli governments—



WW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

Worldwide support for Palestine has opened cracks in the Israeli establishment. Here, demonstrators in New York on Sept. 28.

whether led by the right-wing Likud or the misnamed Labor Party—have worked to create "facts on the ground." These created "facts" include building strategically located settlements, by-pass roads, military bases and now an apartheid wall, all in order to preclude the possibility of the emergence of a viable Palestinian state.

But the outcome of this process may end up being very different than what its executors had in mind.

President Yasir Arafat and his Fatah party are for a two-state solution. Others in the Palestinian movement call for a democratic, secular — and in some cases socialist — state in all of Palestine, with equal rights for all people.

For those who support a two-state solution, the minimum requirement is for a viable state, with contiguous territory, and the right to control its borders. None of these fundamental requirements have been met by either Oslo or the "Road Map."

The United States and Israel demanded that the Palestine National Authority leadership not only accept the unacceptable, but also that they should launch a civil war against the resistance organizations: Hamas, Islamic Jihad, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade—the latter organized by Fatah itself.

The civil war that Washington and Tel Aviv are demanding would also be a class war, a war against the urban poor, the villagers and above all the residents of the refugee camps who are the bedrock of the Intifada.

Despite their vast superiority in weaponry, the U.S. and Israeli leaders have been unable to destroy the Palestinian struggle. So now as a pre-condition for further negotiations, these leaders demand that the Palestinians destroy themselves.

When Arafat refused, Washington denounced and sought to isolate him, while searching for a comprador-puppet—a bourgeois leader who would do its bid-

ding. That has not succeeded thus far either.

### Cracks in the Israeli establishment

If the two-state solution is precluded, what choices will remain?

This question is sharpened by the fact that for the first time since 1948, the Israeli and Palestinian populations between the Jordan River and Mediterranean Sea are roughly equal. If present trends continue, by 2015 Palestinians will be in the clear majority.

To maintain its exclusivist Zionist character with special rights and privileges for Jewish Israelis, Israel will have to either institute a new Nakba—that is, expulsion—of Palestinians on a scale far exceeding 1948, or openly concretize its apartheid character.

The other alternative is one state with equality of rights for all.

Despite the vast disparity of power and wealth between Israel and the Palestinians, this new reality is causing cracks in the Israeli establishment. A mood of doubt is growing. This is reflected in startling recent proclamations by some leading Israeli intellectuals.

In July Meron Benvenisti, former vice-mayor of Jerusalem, said: "The conclusion is that the seemingly rational solution of two states for two nations can't work here. The model of a division into two nation-states is inapplicable. It doesn't reflect the depth of the conflict and doesn't sit with the scale of the entanglement that exists in large parts of the country.

"You can erect all the walls in the world here but you won't be able to overcome the fact that there is only one aquifer here and the same air and that all the streams run into the same sea. You won't be able to overcome the fact that this country will not tolerate a border in its midst.

"In the past year, then, I reached the conclusion that there is no choice but to think in new terms. There is no choice but to think about western Palestine as one geopolitical unit.

"Just as the South African rulers under-

stood, at a certain point, that there was no choice but to dismantle their regime, so the Israeli establishment has to understand that it is not capable of imposing its hegemonic conceptions on 3.5 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza and 1.2 million Palestinians who are citizens of Israel. What we have to do is try to reach a situation of personal and collective equality."

On Aug. 29, Avraham Burg, former speaker of the Israeli Knesset (parliament), wrote in the New York Forward newspaper: "The end of the Zionist enterprise is already on our doorstep. ... The disease eating away at the body of Zionism has already attacked the head. ... The inescapable conclusion is that the Zionist revolution is dead."

### Pilots refuse assassination orders

Another shock to both Israeli ruling circles and public opinion came in the form of a letter in late September signed by 27 active and retired reserve military pilots.

The letter, sent to the commander of the Israeli Air Force, stated that the pilots would refuse to take part in any further assassinations by air, as well as other operations against populated civilian areas of the West Bank and Gaza. Israeli leaders denounced the pilots, who are held in high regard by much of Israeli society, as "subversive."

B'Tselem, the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, reported on Sept. 28 that the Israeli Air Force has killed at least 131 Palestinians, including 65 bystanders, in assassinations over the past three years. Ground force assassinations have killed at least 76 more Palestinian activists.

Given the fact that, according to opinion polls, a majority of Israelis support greater repression, it would be wrong to think that these views are today widespread. But it would be a bigger mistake to disregard the potential significance of the emergence of such views in the Israeli mainstream. □



# Mientras Bush vacila en el escenario mundial: es el delincuente de la guerra 'anti-guerra'

Por Fred Goldstein

El Presidente George W. Bush, cuya popularidad se desvanece junto con los esfuerzos de los Estados Unidos de aplacar la resistencia iraquí, pronunció un discurso contradictorio en la ONU el 23 de septiembre. Él mantuvo la posición de Washington como el señor supremo del mundo, con el derecho de lanzar una guerra "preventiva" de agresión colonial contra Irak a la misma vez que pidió asistencia "multilateral" por parte de sus rivales imperialistas y otros países para levantar la decadente y aún más costosa ocupación. Pero no ofreció dejarlos entrar pronto.

Mientras tanto, los medios comunicativos multimillonarios estaban ocupados empujando al jubilado General Wesley Clark como el nuevo candidato "anti-guerra". Lo que ellos no mencionan es que la conducta de Clark como comandante de la OTAN durante los 78 días de bombardeos aéreos contra Serbia y Kosovo en 1999, los cuales fueron dirigidos contra objetivos civiles, lo califica totalmente para ser acusado de ser el mayor criminal de guerra.

En su discurso, Bush declaró que "El Consejo de Seguridad estuvo en lo correcto al exigir a Irak que destruyera sus armas ilegales y probar que lo había hecho. El consejo de Seguridad estuvo en lo correcto en prometer serias consecuencias si Irak se rehusaba a cumplir.

"Y porque hubo consecuencias, porque la coalición actuó para defender la paz y la credibilidad de las Naciones Unidas, Irak es libre. Y ahora nos acompañan los representantes de un país liberado."

## Libertad para vender al país

Un anuncio el 20 de septiembre había clarificado la nueva "libertad" a ser disfrutada por los iraquíes. El Ministro de Finanzas, Kamel Keyhani, quien está subordinado al observador estadounidense, Paul Bremer, anunció una nueva ley que

permite la inversión extranjera y el 100 % de apropiación en todas las áreas de la economía iraquí, excepto en el petróleo. Esto fue descrito por los mercaderes iraquíes como una "ocupación mundial" permanente de la economía iraquí, la cual trataría al pueblo iraquí como "inmigrantes en su propia tierra." (Los Angeles Times, Sept. 23)

Poco antes del discurso de Bush, se escucharon las noticias de que la "libertad" iraquí incluía la prohibición dictatorial de los servicios noticiosos Al-Jazeera y Al Arabia. Esta medida prohíbe la mayor fuente de noticias que no es controlada por la ocupación y sus títeres, fortaleciendo el dominio completo estadounidense en la información.

En el mismo día salieron noticias de que la División Aérea 82 pidió bombardeos aéreos sobre una finca en el pueblo de Sibir después de que esta sufriera una emboscada. A media noche los jets ya habían lanzado proyectiles sobre la finca, donde 15 personas dormían, matando a tres e hiriendo a otros tres. No se encontraron armas. (International Herald Tribune, Sept. 24)

## Robo multilateral

La sesión en la ONU tomó un carácter de debate entre Bush y los imperialistas franceses representados por el Presidente Jacques Chirac. Los franceses están exigiendo que la "soberanía" se le debe entregar a los iraquíes en "cuestión de meses" y que la ONU debe encargarse del proceso político. Todo esto en nombre del multilateralismo. Por otra parte, la administración de Bush dice que esta determinará el itinerario y que los iraquíes deben pasar por un largo proceso constitucional y electoral para que Washington pueda voluntariamente entregar su control.

Pero la verdad es que Chirac y el imperialismo francés no tienen ningún interés en una verdadera soberanía iraquí. Lo que concierne a Chirac es que los representantes políticos de los banqueros y corpo-

raciones transnacionales francesas entren lo más pronto posible en el proceso político para poder influenciar al nuevo régimen colonial. Los franceses están desesperados por cubrirse con la ONU para poder intervenir en el proceso de robo de Irak antes de que las corporaciones estadounidenses cierren todas las puertas de ese proceso. Este es el significado del "multilateralismo" del imperialismo francés.

Washington está perfectamente contento de aferrarse al control hasta que logre un agarre firme sobre el nuevo aparato estatal. El problema es que la resistencia iraquí se ha profundizado. Más soldados estadounidenses mueren cada día y Bush ha tenido que imponer sobre el pueblo estadounidense un costo de \$87 mil millones de dólares. El imperialismo estadounidense necesita ayuda, pero la administración de Bush odia tener que dar pasos que podría implicar limitaciones sobre la suprema autoridad imperial de Washington y del Pentágono.

En un editorial titulado "la fallada alocución" el periódico Washington Post del 24 de septiembre dijo que Bush "se rehusó a diluir el monopolio de poder actual que tiene sobre la administración de ocupación, el programa de reconstrucción o los contratos que han sido entregado casi exclusivamente a empresas estadounidenses. No es de sorprenderse que esta fórmula no es de buen gusto para ninguno de los gobiernos que han estado discutiendo una posible contribución para Irak, y uno a uno se han retirado."

Lo que no dijo el Post es que el plan entero de la administración de Bush ha sido derrocado por la resistencia iraquí, que es el hecho fundamental en la situación. La solicitud del Post al multilateralismo y al llamamiento a la ONU por su ayuda en "estabilizar" la situación en Irak es en realidad una apelación a Bush de dar concesiones a los rivales de Wall Street para fortalecer al imperialismo en Irak antes de que toda la empresa colonial fracase.

## El criminal de la guerra "anti-guerra"

El Gen. Retirado Wesley Clark se ha lanzado en la carrera presidencial para aprovecharse de la popularidad mermada de Bush, basada en la crisis de Irak y la profundización del sufrimiento. Se han referido a Clark como el candidato "anti-guerra".

Es una medida del cinismo de la política burguesa en los EE.UU. que un general de cuatro estrellas que ha ordenado las fuerzas de la OTAN en una guerra aérea asesina, hizo planificación militar para la invasión de Haití en 1994 y fue comandante de una compañía durante la guerra colonial contra Vietnam pueda ser considerado un candidato "anti-guerra".

Clark es un militarista absoluto y su afirmación de que está en contra de la guerra es el colmo de la demagogia electoral. Él era comandante de la guerra aérea en Yugoslavia, durante la cual cada blanco, cada vuelo de ataque, y cada misil o bomba fue aprobado desde el nivel de la comandancia. Dejaron caer alrededor de 35.000 bombas de dispersión sobre ciudades y pueblos. Las embajadas de China

y Grecia fueron bombardeadas después de que los dos países expresaron su oposición a la guerra. Puentes y fábricas, escuelas, hospitales e iglesias fueron destruidos con gente adentro. La estrategia de bombardear a civiles desde el aire para desmoralizar al pueblo de Serbia fue una política de Clark. (Ve al libro: Hidden Agenda: U.S./Nato Takeover of Yugoslavia, por el Centro de Acción Internacional, 2002)

Pero lo que también permanece en el registro es que Clark tuvo problemas con sus comandantes porque quería enviar soldados a luchar cuerpo a cuerpo a la guerra. Desde el punto de vista de Clark, una de las secuelas inconvenientes de la Guerra de Vietnam fue la renuencia del Pentágono de aceptar bajas. (Hidden Agenda, p. 162) El consideró que la guerra en Yugoslavia era el momento oportuno para recuperarse de eso.

Él tiene cualidades peligrosas y aventuristas, que se encendieron durante la guerra de Yugoslavia cuando los rusos enviaron un contingente de tanquetas a ocupar el aeropuerto de Prístina hacia el final de la guerra. Clark dio la orden al general británico encargado, Gen. Ten. Michael Jackson, a que bloqueara la pista. "No voy a comenzar la Tercera Guerra Mundial por usted", dijo Jackson, y rechazó el orden.

Fuera del historial de Clark en otras guerras, su intento de pintar una historia personal de postura en contra de la guerra es una completa falsificación. Ante de la guerra, su posición más "anti-guerra" fue "Esperemos Atacar", que fue el título de un artículo en la revista Time publicado el 14 del octubre pasado. La organización Precisión e Imparcialidad en el Reportaje (Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting) ha excavado sus declaraciones anteriores.

El 21 de enero el dijo en la cadena noticiera de televisión CNN, "Creo que el presidente tendrá que tomar la acción a pesar de que los aliados tienen sus reservas". Para el 5 de febrero, le dijo a la misma cadena que "la credibilidad de los EE.UU. está en la línea, y Saddam Hussein tiene estas armas y entonces... vamos a proceder y hacer esto y el resto del mundo tiene que alinearse con nosotros". Él dijo a Miles O'Brien de la CNN que Saddam Hussein "absolutamente" tenía armas de destrucción masiva.

Para el 10 de abril, el día después de la toma de Bagdad, Clark escribió un artículo extático en el periódico London Times declarando que "el olor de la victoria está en el aire". George W. Bush y Tony Blair "deben sentirse orgullosos de su resolución ante tantas dudas", siguió, y los planificadores militares habían "hecho la decisión correcta" en moverse rápido.

El día siguiente, Clark estuvo escribiendo en el Times que "si hay una lección que se destaque más, debe ser esta: El poder militar americano, especialmente cuanto está fortalecido por el de los británicos, no hay hoy fuerza capaz de resistirlo. ¿Defenderse de nosotros? ¡Ni intentar! Y esto de es vanidad, es un hecho".

Todo esto subraya el papel imprescindible del movimiento masivo e independiente en contra de la guerra, el cual está movilizándose actualmente para una gran protesta el 25 de octubre. □

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