



'FREE PALESTINE!'

WW talks to Charlotte Kates

WWW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

UNITED NATIONS

Friend of the oppressed or imperialist tool?

UAW contract

Workers face layoffs, plant closings

California election
Out of the frying pan

EDITORIAL 10



MUMIA ABU-JAMAL

Honored as citizen of Paris

GUANTANAMO

"Classified" U.S. repression

As Iraq quagmire deepens

Bush hails Israeli attack on Syria

By Fred Goldstein

The Bush administration, despite being bogged down in Iraq where more U.S. soldiers are being killed and wounded each week, has not given up its dream of recolonizing the Middle East. Witness Bush's enthusiastic endorsement for two days running of the Israeli government's bombing of Syria on Oct. 5.

The government of Ariel Sharon carried out the bombing of an abandoned military camp 10 miles outside Syria's capital of Damascus after a 27-year-old apprentice lawyer, Hanadi Jaradat, had carried out a suicide bombing in Haifa, Israel. Her brother Fadi, 23, and cousin Saleh, 31, had been shot to death 18 months earlier by Israeli troops.

Jaradat and her family had watched as Sharon sent infantry, tanks and bulldozers into Jenin to crack down on the Palestinian Intifada. Dozens of Palestinians were massacred during the attack, many dying under rubble as their homes were destroyed in the impoverished refugee camp of 30,000. Jenin is now ringed by Israeli tanks and armored vehicles.

Bush telephoned Sharon the day after the bombing of Syria and "made it very clear to the prime minister, like I have consistently done, that Israel's got a right to defend itself and that Israel must not feel constrained in defending the homeland." (www.salon.com, Oct. 7)

Bush then escalated his approval the next day for the television cameras. Declaring that the airstrike was "essential," Bush announced: "We would do the same thing." Of course, Bush made a cynical remark about being careful "not to escalate," as though the unprovoked bombing of Syria and the violation of Lebanese airspace were not already a significant escalation.

Bush's comments came even though Israel issued a map show-

ing the supposed locations in Damascus of leaders of Palestinian groups and 10 sites identified as Palestinian offices. The map was entitled "Terror Network in the Damascus Region."

It has been asserted that Israel did not inform the U.S. and did not get the go-ahead for the bombing. For three years it has received billions in aid from Washington while sending tanks, fighter planes, helicopters and heavily armed troops to reoccupy the territories, assassinate leaders, kill civilians, destroy homes and imprison Yasser Arafat—all to crush the Intifada. But in vain. The Sharon regime is truly desperate at being unable to stop the Palestinian resistance.

Sharon may have been making a bold gesture to cover up his inability to extinguish the Palestinian struggle. But he certainly got the go-ahead from the Bush administration, if not verbally, then in the form of unmistakable signals.

Most obviously, when Bush denounced the bombing in Haifa, he deliberately and demonstratively left out the customary warning against escalation that has accompanied every denunciation of major Palestinian attacks in the recent period.

Even more significantly, two days before the bombing the Bush administration dropped its opposition to the Syria Accountability Act, which has been held up in Congress by the administration since before the invasion of Iraq. The bill would impose sanctions on Syria if it does not end its support for the Palestinians, especially the militant group Hezbollah, and stop alleged production of chemical and biological weapons and long-range missiles.

Last month Undersecretary of State John Bolton testified before Congress that Syria was "trying aggressively to acquire and

Continued on page 6

100,000 demand

Full rights for immigrant workers



WWW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

Subscribe to Workers World

Trial: \$2 for 8 weeks.

One year: \$25

NAME

PHONE NUMBER

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

WORKERS WORLD NEWSPAPER

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

www.workers.org

Los Angeles forum

'Palestine & Iraq will be free'

By John Foley
Los Angeles

On Oct. 3, the Los Angeles Workers World Party branch sponsored a forum on the ongoing crises in Palestine and Iraq. The main talks were given by Muna Coobtee, a Palestinian WWP member in Los Angeles, and Richard Becker, a leader of the San Francisco WWP branch. John Parker, a leading organizer of the Los Angeles branch, chaired the forum.

Coobtee spoke on behalf of the Palestinian struggle. She began with an examination and analysis of Zionism, tracing its roots that began in the late 19th century with Theodore Herzl. She explained its growth after World War I, during which both the Balfour Declaration and the Sykes-Picot Agreement heralded a new era of imperialist aggression against the Palestinians. Coobtee traced Zionism's role in the formation of Israel in 1948 up to the present.

She exposed Zionism as the racist ideology of the settler state, given moral and material support by successive U.S. governments. Zionism has been and continues

to be the main justification for the brutal repression of the Palestinian people.

Her comment that "for Zionists, history in Palestine ended in 70 AD with the expulsions of the Jews by the Romans," encapsulated the spurious and ludicrous nature of their claim.

Richard Becker gave a thoroughgoing Marxist analysis and history of U.S. imperialism in the Middle East.

Becker approached the end of his talk with a call to action by the current generation of Marxists, activists and progressives, emphasizing the need to continue the work of building a mass movement and keeping the struggle out on the streets.

"With the current battleground against imperialism in the Middle East," he said, "the struggles to end the occupations of Iraq and Palestine are the ones on which we must concentrate our efforts."

He spoke about the determined Iraqi and Palestinian resistance to occupation as further examples of how the people can and do change the course of history. He concluded with Lenin's exhortation to breach the chain of imperialism at its weakest link. □

You are invited to participate in a
SPECIAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

How can the struggle for worldwide socialism be revived?

Featured speakers • Panel discussions • Workshops

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY
DECEMBER 6-7 • NYC**

(PLACE TO BE ANNOUNCED)

Sponsored by **WORKERS WORLD PARTY**

For more information call **212-627-2994** or go to **www.workers.org**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Los Angeles
269 S. Western Ave.,
Room 110,
Los Angeles, Calif. 90004
(213) 500-0529
la@workers.org

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

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

Rochester, N.Y.
2117 Buffalo Rd., PMB.
303, Rochester, N.Y. 14624
(716) 436-6458;

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

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

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

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

Washington, D.C.
P.O. Box 57300,
Washington, DC 20037,
dc@workers.org

This week ...



★ National

Los Angeles on Palestine, Iraq	2
Racist Limbaugh exposed—again	3
Paris ceremony honors Mumia	3
'Ill'-ection campaigns	3
Jobs data indicate need for organization	4
More millions in U.S. lose health care	4
Auto workers face plant closings, layoffs	5
100,000 at historic rally for immigrant rights	5
Palestine Solidarity Conference will go on	6
"We mourn the loss of Edward Said".	6
Venezuelan labor leader hosted in LA	7

★ International

Bush hails Israeli attack on Syria	1
Haiti: A history of U.S. embargoes	8
Workers, anti-militarists march in Rome	8
How imperialism has used the UN.	9

★ Editorials

Out of the frying pan	10
---------------------------------	----

★ Noticias En Español

La resistencia Palestina	12
Derechos de inmigrantes	12

WW CALENDAR

DETROIT

Sat., Oct. 11
Eyewitness report from
Pyongyang, North Korea.
Workers World meeting fea-
turing 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. 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 represen-
tative of ANSWER. \$5-\$10
donation request ed. At the
SF Women's Bldg., 3543 18th
St. For info (415) 821-6545.

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

Workers World

55 West 17 Street
New York, N.Y. 10011
Phone: (212) 627-2994
Fax: (212) 675-7869
E-mail: editor@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org
Vol. 45, No. 41 • Oct. 16, 2003
Closing date: Oct. 8, 2003

Editor: Deirdre Griswold;
Technical Editor: Lal Roohk;
Managing Editors: Greg Butterfield, John Catalinotto, Leslie
Feinberg, Monica Moorehead, Gary Wilson;
West Coast Editors: Richard Becker, Gloria La Riva;
Contributing Editors: Joyce Chediak, Pat Chin, Naomi
Cohen, Shelley Ettinger, Teresa Gutierrez;
Technical Staff: John Beacham, Joe Delaplaine, Rebecca
Finkel, Hank Sambach;
Mundo Obrero: Carl Glenn, Carlos Vargas;
Internet: Janet Mayes

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

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

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

Racist Limbaugh exposed—again

By Michael Kramer

Donovan Jamal McNabb is an African-American world-class athlete who has been the starting quarterback for the Philadelphia Eagles of the National Football League since his rookie year in 1999. He grew up in Dolton, Ill., a suburb of Chicago, and is the son of a registered nurse and electrical engineer. He is a graduate of Syracuse University with a degree in Speech Communications.

He started every game during his four years as a college quarterback. Syracuse competes in the Big East Conference, which named him offensive player of the decade—1990s—and of the year an unprecedented three times, in 1996, 1997 and 1998.

Starting quarterback is among football's most difficult positions. In addition to athletic abilities it requires exceptional leadership, intelligence and motivational skills. In 2000 and 2001 McNabb was voted by his peers in the NFL to the league's Pro Bowl all-star team. He was named the 2000 NFL player of the year by CBS Radio and has been named twice by his teammates as the club's offensive player of the year. In 2002 a broken ankle limited his play and yet he was still able to lead his team to within one game of the Super Bowl.

On Sept. 29 Rush Limbaugh

viciously insulted McNabb on ESPN's "NFL Sunday Countdown." The reactionary radio and TV announcer claimed that McNabb was an "over-rated" quarterback who received too much credit for the success of his team and was hyped by the media only because he is Black.

ESPN is owned by the Disney corporate conglomerate. The television program is watched by millions. Limbaugh has a long history of spouting white supremacist and anti-gay commentary on his own news-talk radio show.

Disney knew exactly what they were getting when they hired him: someone who would boost ratings by attracting a racist audience. Walt Disney himself was a well-known right-winger and Nazi sympathizer.

The Disney owners' plan backfired. McNabb handled a difficult situation in the middle of the highly intense NFL football season in a dignified manner and exposed Limbaugh as the piece of racist garbage that he is. He did not lose focus. He led his team to victory in its next game.

At the same time, anti-racist outrage throughout the country forced Limbaugh to resign from the program. His resignation raises the important question of why Disney and ESPN didn't fire him immediately after the incident.

The host of "NFL Sunday Count-



Donovan McNabb

down" is white, along with one of the other panelists. The other two panelists are Black. None of them challenged Limbaugh when he made his racist statement. They all offered sincere regrets and apologies the following week for not saying anything at the time.

Tom Jackson, a Black panelist, was very upset. He described the situation where "comments [by Limbaugh] made us very uncomfortable at the time, although the depth and the insensitive nature of which were not fully felt until it seemed too late to reply."

The owners of ESPN and Disney should make a formal apology to McNabb and the viewers for hiring such a rabid racist as Limbaugh at all in the name of seeking higher ratings and profits. □

By Mumia Abu-Jamal from death row

ILL-ECTION campaigns and the great Du Bois



"The Democrats won't have us and the Republicans don't want us. Is there anything to do but impotently wring our empty hands?"

—Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois, "An ABC of Color" (1969)

It is somewhat painful to look at the emerging election campaign, especially when one thinks about the concerns of the African-American community and the American working class.

Both have been virtually ignored, or, if noticed, talked to like they are idiots. Few are the politicians who want to truly tackle and engage the state of Black America, and the state of workers in America.

That's because, in the present world of political politeness, one does not really want to unsettle one group, by promising another group something, and, in the case of the workers, most politicians have conceded the field to that social force that can amass the most dough — the business class. With the exception of the former "Boy Mayor" (and now Senator) Dennis Kucinich (D-Oh.), to speak of NAFTA is a no-no. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has done more to demolish U.S. labor than the planes plowing into the Trade Centers on Sept. 11th!

Because of NAFTA and similar pro-business pacts, the jobs in America which pay the best, manufacturing, are fleeing to warmer climes, where workers are paid a tenth, sometimes a hundredth of what American workers are being paid. Most candidates out there today, Democrats and Republicans, owe their campaign monies to such corporate interests, and have no intention of cutting off their lucrative flow. They're bought; and they'll stay bought, thank you! Any idea which points to that problem is dismissed as "class war."

For African-Americans, who are over-represented in the working class, the economy is in virtual free-fall, with millions (if they are lucky enough to have a job) living one paycheck away from disaster. For them, an American economic recession spells a Depression. This, in a time when schools are doing worse than in several generations. This bodes ill for the generations coming up, for if education is a failure, what of one's life options?

Way back in the 1920s, the great scholar-activist, W.E.B. Du Bois decried both political parties, for being unworthy of Black political support. Writing for "The Crisis" Journal, Du Bois wrote:

"We are invited not to support either of the old, discredited and bankrupt political parties. In other words, we are being compelled to do what every honest thinking American wants to do—namely, support some third party which represents character, decency and ideals. Just as the two old parties have combined against us to nullify our power by a "gentleman's agreement" of nonrecognition, no matter how we vote—in the same way they have agreed to nullify the vote of every forward-looking, thinking, honest American. The revolt against this smug and idiotic defiance of the demand for advanced legislation and intelligence is slowly sweeping the country. ... May God write us down as asses if ever again we are found putting our trust in either the Republican or the Democratic Parties." (Du Bois, "An ABC of Color" (Int'l Publ., 1969), pp. 124-125)

Du Bois wrote these words over 80 years ago. How true they sound today!

On the most important issues facing the nation, war, peace, social justice, the death penalty, NAFTA, ... how similar so many of the candidates sound, regardless of their "party"!

At bottom, most of them are members of the "Corporate Party," for those are the interests that they represent.

The poor, the working class, the urban young, urban and rural seniors, they are on their own.

For economic issues are not just the stuff of the business pages; such issues are the stuff of most of our lives, as we live in the shadow of economic recession, and something that the business press praises as "the jobless recovery"! Isn't it time for a real third party? One which doesn't have its umbilical cord tethered to Wall St.? Isn't it time for a real Labor Party, that addresses the real bread and butter issues in the interests of the People?

Let us begin to think about solutions, or 80 years from now, we will still be reciting Dr. Du Bois' insights.

Paris ceremony honors Mumia

By Monica Moorehead

On Oct. 4, death-row political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal was made an honorary citizen of Paris during an award ceremony in the French capital. Former U.S. political prisoner and social activist Angela Davis accepted the award on behalf of Abu-Jamal, who has been on Pennsylvania's death row for over 21 years.

The last time the city of Paris bestowed such an award was back in 1971. The recipient then was the legendary artist Pablo Picasso.

The socialist mayor of Paris, Bertrand Delanoë, characterized the death penalty as "barbaric" and went on to say that "as long as there is a place on this planet where one can be killed in the name of the community, we haven't finished our work." (French Press Agency, Oct. 4) He raised his fist in the air and chanted, "Mumia is a Parisian!"

Upon receiving the award, Davis tied Abu-Jamal's case to the struggle against both the occupation of Iraq and the racist attacks on immigrants.

Abu-Jamal is regarded worldwide as the most well-known political pris-



Angela Davis, accepting citizenship title from Mayor Bertrand Delanoë, on behalf of Mumia Abu-Jamal. Third from left is Julia Wright, leader of International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal in France.

oner on death row. In December 1981 he was falsely accused of the shooting death of a white Philadelphia police officer. Another person has come forward to claim responsibility for the death of Officer Daniel Faulkner. Both the federal and state appeals

courts have to this day refused to hear this significant testimony that should have led to Abu-Jamal's freedom.

France abolished the death penalty in 1981. Throughout its school system, students are required to study the case of Abu-Jamal. □

MUMIA SPEAKS: an interview with Mumia Abu-Jamal. Political prisoner and award-winning journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal speaks from his cell on Pennsylvania's death row.

In this far-ranging interview, Mumia talks about prisons, capitalism, politics, revolution and solidarity. The pamphlet also includes two articles—"The oppressed nations, the poor and prisons" by Monica Moorehead, and "The death penalty & the Texas killing machine" by Teresa Gutierrez. Foreword by Larry Holmes.

Order on line at Leftbooks.org or from World View Forum, 55 West 17 Street, price: \$2.99

It's still 'High Tech, Low Pay'

Jobs data indicate need for organization, struggle

By John Catalinotto

Some investors and economists, and especially the Bush administration, have tried to make much of September's job statistics. However, their optimism is forced.

The Oct. 4 news was that in September, for the first time in eight months, more new jobs were created than old ones destroyed. The gain was 57,000.

Despite the gain in jobs, the official unemployment rate stayed at 6.1 percent.

This puts the gain in perspective: Since Bush took office there has been a net loss of over 3 million jobs—1.1 million of them since November 2001, when the recession officially ended.

All these numbers are estimates, based on a survey sampling the available data. They are subject to revision as more data are available.

Also, the official unemployment figure does not include the growing number of workers who have given up looking for jobs or work part-time. It completely leaves out most undocumented workers in the underground economy.

The official figures make jobs data look healthier than they are.

Economists agree that to reduce the unemployment rate, there would have to be a net gain of over 150,000 jobs each month.

In other words, one month's increase doth not a turnaround make.

People may wonder what it means to say that "the recession officially ended" in November 2001, since job losses have continued during the "upswing."

It means that U.S. businesses have been selling more goods and producing

more profits than they were before that time. So, on the average, the owners have been doing better. This year many stocks came up in price, so stock owners are also pleased.

On top of this, Bush has cut taxes so deeply for the wealthy that they know they're getting away with robbery. This pleases them too.

Recovery only for bosses

For workers it has been a different story. There is more unemployment and fewer jobs. This has pushed down the average wage.

Without hiring more workers, bosses have increased production in a number of ways.

They have increased productivity through technology, which has sometimes been combined with establishing new factories in parts of the world where lower wages can be paid. This has been especially true with industrial jobs, which have decreased in the United States over the past 30 years.

Even those optimistic September figures show that almost 30,000 industrial jobs disappeared last month. And since then Ford has announced another 7,700 job cuts: 3,000 in the United States, another 3,000 at its plant in Genk, Belgium, and 1,700 in Germany. The Genk workers are fighting back with a strike, burning tires and setting up barricades as they try to save their jobs.

Management has also increased productivity through speedup and longer hours. At non-unionized firms, workers are even often expected to work unpaid overtime. For example, in fall 2001 one New York-based health-insurance firm,

Empire BlueCross BlueShield, increased the work week of its 1,900 New York City employees from 37.5 to 40 hours—with no increase in pay. Layoffs followed.

According to a report published by the AFL-CIO on Aug. 5, some 2.5 million manufacturing jobs have disappeared since January 2001. Trade, transportation and utilities have lost 1 million. Professional and business services lost 748,000. And information technology and telecommunications lost 428,000 jobs.

Information technology—computer—jobs have decreased partly because the new communications technology makes it possible to hire lower-wage workers around the world.

All transnational corporations search for the cheapest way to produce—whether the work is industrial or information technology. This is one component of imperialist "globalization"—that is, the worldwide organization of production under the direction of the transnational monopolies.

Capitalist competition and the drive to constantly increase profits make this hunt for low-wage workers relentless. The irony is that the same corporations that promote chauvinist nationalism with hypocritical "buy American" campaigns have no qualms about hiring labor anywhere in the world if it raises their profits.

The patriotic, flag-waving ideology promoted by management is thoroughly anti-worker. It allows the bosses to manipulate workers here against their fellow workers abroad. Only solidarity among all workers—wherever they may be, documented and undocumented—can help beat back the bosses' layoff plans.

'High Tech, Low Pay'

In 1986 Sam Marcy, the founding chairperson of Workers World Party, wrote a prophetic Marxist analysis of developments in the U.S. economy in the book "High Tech, Low Pay." Labor statistics available at that time showed that manufacturing jobs—most of them unionized and with relatively higher pay—were being replaced by lower-paid, mostly non-union service jobs.

Marcy noted that there was a downward pressure on wages and an equalization of pay across job types. This "leveling" was being brought about not by raising low wages but by pushing down higher ones.

The relatively privileged union jobs then mainly held by white men were disappearing. The jobs they found brought them closer in pay to the more oppressed Black and women workers.

Marcy concluded that it would be necessary to organize unorganized workers to maintain the workers' living standards. He observed that the growing number of women and people of color in the work force was changing the character of the working class toward greater combativeness.

Today one could add the large and class-conscious immigrant work force to that mix, as shown by the demonstration of over 100,000 immigrant workers in Queens, N.Y., on Oct. 4.

Today Black and other workers of color and women are hit hardest by unemployment. But this doesn't erase the downward pressure on all workers.

With more industrial and other layoffs announced every day, a struggle will be necessary to save jobs. The need for solidarity is more obvious than ever before. □

A scandal of epic proportions

Millions more in U.S. lose health care

By Sharon Eolis, R.N.

Recently a scheduled surgery for an unemployed, disabled worker who had suffered a severe hip injury on the job had to be canceled.

This Latino worker, who is married and has two children, was entitled to compensation for the injury. But he and his family had no health insurance. His unemployment insurance had also run out.

At a physical exam in preparation for the compensation-covered hip surgery, he was told he had high blood pressure and a heart problem and was wheezing from an asthma attack.

Before he could get his hip taken care of, he had to have a doctor treat his medical problems. But before he could get a doctor, he had to get Medicaid.

This is the kind of frustrating, and sometimes life-threatening, situation that could face millions of people who have no medical insurance in the United States.

In September the Census Bureau issued a report titled "Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2002." It revealed that more than 43.6 million poor and working people had no health insurance. Last year saw the biggest increase in the uninsured in a decade: 2.4 million people.

As the cost of health care spirals out of control, business owners have cut back on

coverage for their employees and passed on increased premiums to the workers. Many workers unable to pay the premiums have no health insurance.

The number of workers with employer-sponsored health coverage fell by 1.3 million in 2002, to 175.3 million, even as the total population grew by 3.9 million.

Ronald Polleck, executive director of Families U.S.A., a consumer group, says: "It's hard to grasp the magnitude of the number of uninsured. It exceeded the aggregate population of 24 states."

The number of full-time workers without health insurance rose to 19.9 million in 2002. That is an increase of 857,000 over 2001.

Medicaid is a state-run program of health coverage for the poor. Many states have cut back on Medicaid programs because of the Draconian reduction in federal funds they receive for health and welfare, education and housing. Those hardest hit are the working poor who barely earn minimum wage, and are disproportionately people of color.

About 8.5 million children were uninsured in 2002. They account for 11.6 percent of the children under 18. When parents lose their jobs, their children are often eligible for Medicaid, but many states in fiscal crisis are not pursuing enrollment of children with no health care.



WW PHOTO
Healthcare workers march in Washington, D.C. last January against war in Iraq and against the budget cuts

In 2002 more men lost their employer-sponsored coverage than women. The number of uninsured men rose to 23.3 million as women jumped to 20.2 million. Texas had the highest proportion of uninsured workers—24.1 percent.

According to the Census Bureau report, one-third of the foreign-born population was uninsured—about 43 percent of non-citizens and 17.5 percent of naturalized citizens.

Some 45 percent of those living in poverty, even though they had full-time

jobs, had no health coverage.

The uninsured rate for African Americans—20.2 percent—was almost twice that of "non-Hispanic whites."

This growing misery for the workers in the United States has nothing to do with a lack of resources. The Bush administration has just asked for \$87 billion to continue the war and occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan driven by profits for the oil and military industries.

Cuts on the federal level soon mean cuts at the state and local level. Medicaid, Medicare, well-baby clinics, pre-natal clinics, child-care centers, low-income housing—all are in danger as budgets are cut to pay for imperialist war and occupation.

Larry Holmes, one of the leaders of the Act Now to Stop War & End Racism coalition, says: "Just as this report comes out that an unprecedented number of people have lost health insurance, we see the Congress preparing to vote \$87 billion more for the occupation and war. The government is literally choosing to fund death and destruction over health and life. It is travesties like this that are turning more and more working people against Bush's endless war."

ANSWER expects many groups to address this issue at the Oct. 25 mobilizations in Washington and San Francisco to end the war and occupation of Iraq. □

100,000 rally for immigrant rights

By Anya Mujarki-Connolly
Queens, N.Y.

On Oct. 4 the historic Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride—nine bus caravans carrying 1,000 immigrant workers from locales around the country—culminated in a huge rally in Flushing Meadows Park in Queens, N.Y. Queens is the most diverse county in the United States.

Rally organizers announced that over 100,000 people attended the rally. Many of them sacrificed a lot to be here.

These oppressed workers came from all around the country with their unions, senior citizen groups, community organizations and families. This was the first successful effort in recent memory to bring together people from labor, from the Asian, African, Latin American, Caribbean immigrant communities as well as the Black community to unite against the racist, right-wing, divisive anti-immigrant laws.

Using the historic Freedom Rides of the civil-rights movement of the 1960s as inspiration, the organizers first took to the roads on Sept. 20. The bus caravans traveled to 100 cities in 42 states.

Along the way the immigrant workers and their supporters drew attention to this movement's demands: legalization and a road to U.S. citizenship for all immigrant workers, 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 mobilization originated with the leaders of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees union, which pushed the AFL-CIO to back it. HERE—along with other unions that count many

immigrant workers in their ranks such as UNITE, the Food and Commercial Workers, and the Service Employees, especially its Local 1199—was the driving force behind the Freedom Ride.

But many struggles in the recent period compelled the labor movement to organize this event. The struggles of the taxicab workers in New York, the efforts of the Justice for Janitors campaign and others of the most militant organizing drives have been led by immigrant workers.

Speakers at the rally included AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, HERE Local 100 President Bill Granfield, 1199-SEIU President Dennis Rivera, U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel of Harlem, Rep. John Lewis of Georgia, UNITE Vice President May Chen, Transport Workers Local 100 President Roger Toussaint, HERE President John Wilhem, HERE Vice President Maria Elena Durazo, Farm Workers President Arturo Rodriguez and UNITE President Bruce Raynor.

Most of the speakers blamed the Bush administration for the conditions faced by immigrant workers today. Some speakers talked about the "American Dream" and said that success of workers coming to this country is measured by "working hard."

In reality, worldwide imperialism is destroying the economies and eliminating jobs in oppressed countries. This creates the conditions that force millions of workers to migrate to this country.

Here, these workers are super-exploited by the same capitalist class that exploits their labor and resources in their homeland.

There are an estimated 8 million to 10 million undocumented workers in this country. They contribute some \$730 mil-

Delegation from
Immigrant Workers
Freedom Ride greets
the rally from the
stage

WW PHOTO:
DEIRDRE GRISWOLD



lion each year to the U.S. economy. These workers face constant harassment, intimidation, discrimination and super-exploitation.

And it has all gotten worse since the Bush regime took office, especially since Sept. 11, 2001. Not to downplay the attacks on immigrants under the Clinton administration, but the attacks on immigrants since Sept. 11 are the most repressive in recent memory. They range from raids on work places and homes to punitive detention and forced registration to deportation.

So it is within this context that the Oct. 4 rally was most significant. This effort proved to be the biggest mobilization on the domestic front since the Bush regime took office.

The workers who took part in the rally are some of the most oppressed workers in this country. They are also some of the most class-conscious workers, as they come from countries dominated by U.S. imperialism.

These workers have witnessed firsthand the effects of imperialism. They understand that economic and military colonialism go hand in hand, as most recently witnessed in Iraq.

Thousands of leaflets in many different languages announcing the national protest set for Oct. 25 in Washington, D.C., against the U.S. occupation of Iraq were distributed on Oct. 4. Although the political message put out by the rally leadership was mainstream, the masses showed that they were open to a more progressive message. More important, they demonstrated that they are able and willing to mobilize for their political and economic rights as workers. □

In 4-year contract

Autoworkers face plant closings & layoffs

By Martha Grevatt
Cleveland

Members of the United Auto Workers have voted on a new four-year contract, ratifying a national agreement that grants major concessions to the bosses of General Motors, Ford, DaimlerChrysler, Delphi and Visteon.

Ron Gettlefinger, who became the UAW president in 2002, put a different spin on the concessionary agreements. He boasted that the contract "delivered on health care, economic gains, workers' rights."

Not true. It is a significant retreat from the 1999 contract and opens the door wide for massive layoffs and plant closings.

At least 10 plants in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, Maryland, Alabama, New York and New Jersey will be permanently closed or sold. More will close if they do not become "competitive." Additional job losses will result from cutting entire shifts and eliminating classifications.

At DaimlerChrysler, for example, a joint union-management task force has been set up to develop the means to eliminate up to 5,000 out of 12,000 skilled-trades positions. After the contract was ratified, 400 UAW-represented designers learned their jobs are on the chopping block.

Fifty thousand union jobs could be taken out of the domestic economy. These closings and layoffs will be devastating, not only to workers but to their communities.

Ford plans to close a van plant in Lorain, Ohio, a town dependent on steel and auto with big African-American and Latino communities. The plant is in a county with one of the state's highest unemployment rates.

Baltimore faces a shutdown of a GM assembly plant. Related industries such as rubber, glass, and other suppliers will cut back on their work forces.

On the economic front, the contract freezes wages for the first two years. Workers at Delphi and Visteon, which GM and Ford spun off under the 1999 negotiations, will work under a two-tiered wage structure. New hires will start at \$10 an hour less than current employees. Future retirees will see only a modest increase in pensions over the previous contract. For the first time since the 1960s, current retirees will have their pensions frozen, receiving only a lump sum each year. Company payments into the union pension fund will decrease.

Wall Street wants more

"Does this make the industry even a little more competitive? No," said Maryann Keller, an auto analyst and former executive who ran the Priceline.com automotive division. "This contract does nothing to even make a slight dent in the fundamental problems." (New York Times, Sept. 23)

"We believe the new contracts will not materially bolster the automakers' competitive positions," said an auto analyst from Standard and Poor, mirroring similar remarks from analysts at Goldman

Sachs and Deutsche Bank. (Detroit News, Sept. 23)

Why would any worker vote for such a contract? Gettlefinger appealed to those members who will be least hurt by the settlement. Retirement buyout offers of up to \$70,000 and the option to transfer to other plants left workers asking, "What choice do we have?"

Health benefits, which have come under repeated attack in negotiations, remain virtually untouched. A \$3,000 signing bonus made it very tempting for some workers whose jobs appear secure to vote "yes." Workers at plants not slated for closing are protected by language preventing the corporation "from closing, selling, spinning off, consolidating or otherwise disposing of any plant, asset or business unit during the term of this agreement."

On the shop floor, however, the rank and file are concerned. They don't like the job cuts. They worry about a new, stricter attendance policy that could lead to more firings.

While they can live without a raise for two years, they don't think it's right—not when the top executives got big raises and bonuses this year.

"What aren't they telling us?" asked one worker talking with others during lunch break at a DaimlerChrysler plant.

While the contracts passed with a clear majority, support was hardly unanimous. A handful of locals at each of the five companies rejected the contract.

Only 58 percent of skilled trades at

DaimlerChrysler backed the contract. At a Delphi plant in Coopersville, Mich., workers trashed the contract because of the two-tier provision for new hires. As one worker put it, "When there's no equality there's no solidarity."

This is a critical point. The Big Three will try to use the contracts' divisive nature to divide the workers.

The two-tiered wage structure is inherently unequal. There will be resentment and confusion in the open plants toward workers from closed plants, who transfer with full seniority and bump workers with less seniority. It will demand great sacrifices from families whose members face a job loss or a move to another city.

The Big Three bosses cried that they were losing money and losing market share to foreign competition. They wanted the UAW's help to become more "competitive" and "return to profitability."

They got the UAW leaders to swallow their line and push it on to the rank-and-file: that it's not labor vs. management but the U.S. industry versus Toyota and others.

Unbelievably, they got Gettlefinger and his negotiating team to cooperate in cutting employment costs. The union president said, "One of our goals has been to bring this industry together."

Auto executives, including GM Chair Rick Wagoner, praised Gettlefinger's "professionalism." (New York Times,

Continued on page 7

Interview with Rutgers student organizer

'The Palestine Solidarity Conference will go on'

By Julie Fry
Jersey City, N.J.

Students and activists from around the country will assemble at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J., Oct. 10-12 to attend the Third North American Conference of the Palestine Solidarity Movement—and to defend the conference from a serious attack by right-wing opponents of the struggle for Palestinian liberation.

Conference supporters plan to demonstrate Oct. 11 to protest Rutgers University's Sept. 12 decision to cancel the conference.

The Rutgers cancellation announcement came after a months-long racist campaign of threats and intimidation by Zionist and right-wing forces throughout the East Coast.

Workers World spoke with Charlotte

Kates, one of the leaders of the student group New Jersey Solidarity, about the conference and about the attacks she has been facing.

WW: Why do you think it is important to hold a national conference for the Palestinian liberation movement in the United States right now?

Kates: The struggle for Palestinian liberation is very critical right now. This is illustrated by the ever-increasing attacks on Palestinians and Palestinian communities. The conference is coming at a time when it is critical that forces mobilize to stand with the Palestinians because the forces mobilized against them have a lot of military, political, and economic power.

Yet, in the face of that power, the Palestinians have not conceded in over 45 years of struggle. It's really important to stand with the Palestinians in the U.S. because

the U.S. bears responsibility for crimes committed against the Palestinian people.

WW: Why do you think the conference has been attacked so viciously?

Kates: For years now they've been targeting the Palestinian people [in Palestine] and trying to eliminate their existence through expulsions, through bombings, through denying their very existence. The international movement has been under attack in the same way, trying to make it non-existent through campaigns of intimidation and fear.

Just as the Palestinian people have not succumbed to this, the international solidarity movement will not succumb to this because the Palestinian people's struggle for liberation is directly relevant to the struggle of people around the world for liberation and justice in their own communities.

WW: How have these attacks on the conference and on New Jersey Solidarity affected you personally?

Kates: It's been a crazy time. There are these real attempts to try to single people out and make examples of them and try to isolate them from people in the movement and make them seem unacceptable. So there's this crazy stuff like my picture being put up all over the place.

The harassing emails, the people who see mock posters about the conference and then email me. Turning on talk radio in the morning and listening to people talk about whether Charlotte Kates supports suicide bombings.

It's really the same kind of harassment that people have been seeing around the country where people are being targeted for doing Palestine solidarity work. The goal is to make people afraid of doing this kind of work because when people see these attacks they are worried about their job prospects, their safety.

I don't blame them. Two days after the article came out in the New York Times about me, I lost my job and I know that's why. People have these fears and it's an attempt to play on these fears and destroy the movement.

WW: Will the conference go on this weekend in New Jersey?

Kates: Yes. Hundreds and hundreds of people have already registered. There will be people coming from across the country. We're opening Friday night [Oct. 10] with a plenary. Through Saturday and Sunday we will have plenaries and workshops on a host of different topics related to the Palestinian liberation struggle. There will be an organizing session on Saturday for passing resolutions and making decisions about where the movement is going.

On Saturday, Oct. 11, there will be a demonstration on Cooper Greene, the original site of the conference at Rutgers, to protest the violations of freedom of speech by the university and express our support for the Palestinian people. □

FREE PALESTINE ALLIANCE STATEMENT

'We mourn the loss of Edward W. Said'

The Free Palestine Alliance in the United States mourns the passing of one of Palestine's beloved own, Professor Edward W. Said, and extends its deepest condolences to the entire Palestinian and Arab people, the international community, and to the Said family and friends for this monumental loss.

As a Native Son, Professor Said has narrated and championed our collective struggle as a people with a unique integrity and a deep passion. The legacy of this Palestinian Arab fighter for justice transcends scholarly and intellectual work, as he had positioned himself within the overall movement for liberation that repeatedly challenges imperial and colonial domination.

Emerging from the discourse of internationalism, Edward Said leveraged, challenged, and further developed works of such greats as Amilcar Cabral, Frantz Fanon and Ghassan Kanafani, and has exchanged discourse with modern Arab

political and intellectual leaders such as Mahdi Amel and Sadek Jalal al-Athem. Said was a probing thinker who introduced a systematic critique of "Orientalism" and a qualitative deconstruction of empire and cultural imperialism. Said challenged the obsessive dehumanization by orientalist and, recently, neo-orientalist of a fantasy "East" and a fabricated world of exotic make-belief. He belonged to a school of thinker activists who realized that the struggle for justice is also a battle of narratives, where culture and resistance are inseparable.

For the Palestinian Intifada, he was a son belonging to non-other; never losing sight that liberation is an imperative must. He stood clear on our return to our homes, recognized the structural and fundamental fallacies of the Oslo discourse, and never wavered in the struggle against Zionism and bigotry. In belonging to our people's movement, Edward Said threw a

stone at the Israeli forces from the once-occupied southern Lebanon and supported divestment as a means to ending Israeli Apartheid.

Edward Said engaged opinions and strategies that differed with his own with grace and political maturity, and as he navigated the difficult path of the Palestinian liberation movement over several decades, he held criticism and self-evaluation as paramount—all while recognizing and respecting the moral weight of the Children of the Stones and the yearning of the dispossessed who remain exiled in camps 55 years later.

Having soared After the Last Sky, it is the likes of Palestine's Edward Said that give hope to the future.

With gratitude to an undying champion, we stand in respect and pledge to carry on.

The Free Palestine Alliance-USA
September 25, 2003 □

Bush hails Israeli attack on Syria

Continued from page 1

develop chemical, biological and nuclear weapons." (www.salon.com, Oct. 7) However, Bolton had been scheduled to give similar testimony this past July but was stopped by a "revolt" among intelligence experts, who thought his planned remarks "inflated the progress Syria made in its weapons programs. ... The CIA's objections and comments alone ran to 35 or 40 pages." (Miami Herald, July 15)

The Sharon government could not have missed the fact that Bush allowed the slanderous, provocative testimony in September.

Bush's emphatic public support for Sharon's provocation diverts attention from the collapse of his "Road Map." During this crisis, the newly appointed Palestinian prime minister, Ahmed Qureia, denounced the suicide bombing but also rejected U.S. demands for an attack on the resistance. "We will not go for a civil war," he said. "It is not in the interest of our people. ... I will not listen to the Americans. I will listen to our national rights." (Independent [London],

Oct. 7) Should he adhere to this policy, it would represent an abject failure of Washington's main and most dangerous strategy against the Palestinian national movement.

The quagmire deepens in Iraq

Associating with Sharon's attack on Syria also allows Bush to keep alive his aggressive, war-like posture in the Middle East, despite the deepening quagmire in Iraq.

On the diplomatic front, Washington announced that it was probably going to have to abandon its efforts to get a resolution through the UN taking responsibility for Iraq. It could not convince France, Germany or Russia to support a prolonged U.S. occupation. Washington was facing either a close split or an open defeat in the Security Council. The decisive moment after two weeks of negotiations came when Secretary General Kofi Annan lined up with the Europeans and refused to agree to provide a UN cover for a U.S. occupation.

Another complication for the U.S. arose when the Turkish parliament finally voted to send troops to Iraq. The puppet, U.S.-

appointed Iraqi Governing Council then voted against bringing in Turkish troops. The U.S. had bribed the Turkish government with an \$8.5-billion loan to send the troops, but this thoroughly antagonized the only grouping within Iraqi society that supported the U.S. invasion—the Kurdish leadership. Furthermore, the Iraqis had been colonized by the Turkish Ottoman Empire before the British took over in 1917. The prospect of adding Turkish troops to a U.S. occupation is bound to provoke further resistance.

Meanwhile, three more U.S. soldiers were killed on Oct. 7 in two separate bombings, one in Baghdad and the other 25 miles south in al-Haswah. According to the Oct. 8 NY Times, this brought to 320 the number of troops the Pentagon says have been killed in combat in Kuwait and Iraq since March 19, 92 of them since Bush declared the war over on May 1. In addition, there have been 119 "non-hostile" deaths since the war began, the vast majority—94—being registered since May 1.

Also on Oct. 7, a mortar or rocket-propelled grenade left a large crater in the Foreign Ministry compound and there

was a rebellion in Baghdad of former Iraqi intelligence officers demanding jobs who hurled stones at U.S. troops.

"Across the city, U.S. soldiers were met by a demonstration of Shiite Muslims after closing a mosque and allegedly arresting the imam. Late in the afternoon, U.S. troops fired percussion grenades and shots in the air to disburse the crowd, which grew by the hour. By nightfall, an estimated 200 American troops backed by helicopters and at least six M1A2 tanks had sealed off the area. ..." (Washington Post, Oct. 8)

And in the northern town of Baiji, "300 U.S.-appointed Iraqi police fled the town for an American base nearby. They rejected orders from U.S. officers to return to Baiji, saying that they would be killed." (Independent [London], Oct. 7) They were running from protesters after having shot four people at an anti-U.S. demonstration.

When asked about all this, L. Paul Bremer, the head of the Occupation Authority, replied: "The situation is certainly not getting worse, that is nonsense." □

Venezuelan labor leader hosted in LA

Special to Workers World

The International Action Center and Global Women's Strike sponsored a well attended meeting and reception in Los Angeles on Oct. 4 for Pedro Eussie (third from the right), a representative of Venezuela's newly formed labor federation, CUTV. Eussie is presently touring the U.S. The event expressed solidarity with the ongoing Bolivarian revolution lead by Venezuelan president, Hugo Chávez, who remains a target of U.S. imperialist aggression.



WW PHOTO: IAN THOMPSON

Autoworkers face plant closings & layoffs

Continued from page 5

Sept. 23)

What cannot be justified is the passive and collaborative position the UAW leadership imposed on the rank and file, which led to the ratification. Tragically, the membership voted to eliminate their own jobs, and turned over the fate of some 750,000 active and retired workers to the self-serving class interests of the corporate tycoons.

The loss of thousands of additional jobs will add to the steady decline in the UAW's Big Three membership ranks. Membership stood at 700,000 in 1979. It could drop to 250,000 during the life of the contract.

Bitter global competition is behind this crisis to cut labor costs. The competition led to overproduction, tremendous increases in productivity and speedup. Also, the Big Three have recklessly expanded their overseas plants and investment in Latin America, Europe and Asia.

Never have so many cars been produced in so few hours. Roughly a year ago, DaimlerChrysler workers were scolded by

plant managers because it took, on the average, over 40 hours to build a vehicle. Now that average is down to 28 hours, and workers are told it is still not good enough.

Resistance to speedup, mass layoffs and plant closings is still alive today. Upon learning of Ford's scheme to eliminate 3,000 out of 9,000 jobs, Ford workers in Genk, Belgium, carried out a splendid struggle. Starting Oct. 2, the union has been blocking gates, burning debris and tires and stopping deliveries to the Ford factory. On Oct. 6 workers staged a 24-hour work stoppage. They plan to keep the gates blocked. Workers said they would "hit Ford where it hurts."

A group in the U.S. called the UAW Solidarity Coalition has been formed to urge members to "Vote NO until you KNOW." More opposition is bound to develop as this disastrous contract unfolds.

Last year UAW Local 122 sent a resolution to the National Bargaining Convention pointing out that workers in Europe already work fewer hours per week and have longer vacations. The resolution called for a shorter work week for U.S. workers with no cut in pay. While the Convention resolution vaguely alluded to this demand, the current contract provides for its opposite—more cars per hour, more layoffs and plant closings.

The issue of a shorter work week with no loss in pay is long overdue. It was 60 years ago—on July 3, 1943—that the UAW's International Executive Board raised the slogan of 30 hours work with no reduction in pay. It is time to fight for the shorter work week and restore the vigor and vitality of those years that made the UAW a great and powerful union.

The author, a member of UAW Local 122, has been a skilled tradeswoman at DaimlerChrysler for 16 years.



On the microphone is Sister Dorothy Pagosa of the Eighth Day Center for Justice, who recently served a three-month prison sentence for protesting at the School of the Americas.

Hundreds target Bush

On Sept. 30, the Chicago Coalition against War and Racism organized hundreds of activists outside of the Sheraton Hotel to protest President George W. Bush's presence at a \$2,000-a-plate fundraising lunch. The main demands were: "Bring the troops home now! End the occupation of Iraq!" Many more activists were illegally kept away from the protest site by police. As the luncheon ended, scores of well-to-do Bush supporters leaving the event were challenged by protestors chanting anti-war slogans and yelling "Shame!"

—Story and photo by Lou Paulsen



CREDIT: SOLIDAIRE

Ford workers at Genk, Belgium block gates with burning debris in battle to save their jobs on Oct. 2.

Workers at Ford-Genk fight back

Workers at the Ford plant in Genk, Belgium, refuse to accept the loss of 3,000 of their 9,000 jobs without a fight. Instead, since Ford announced job cuts on Oct. 2, black smoke from burning tires and other debris could be seen rising from the area of the Ford factory where workers blocked gates and stopped deliveries to the factory.

On Oct. 6 the workers staged a 24-hour strike, forcing Ford management into negotiations on Oct. 7. The gate blockage continues.

Harrie Dewitte is a doctor with "Doctors for the People" at a clinic in a working-class area in Genk. He is also an activist with the Belgian Workers Party coordinating support for the struggle in Genk. After the day-long strike, Dewitte wrote a public letter pointing out that Ford had signed two contracts. Ford made an agreement with the unions on Oct. 23, 2002, pledging to keep all the jobs at Genk intact until 2006. Also, in return for tax and other breaks of 53 million Euros (\$62 million) from the Flemish authorities,

Ford promised to invest 900 million Euros (\$1.05 billion) in the region. Dewitte noted that by breaking these contracts Ford was breaking the law. He called on the Belgian and regional Flemish governments and courts to hold Ford to the agreements.

DeWitte also called for solidarity not only among the 9,000 Belgian, Italian and Turkish-born workers at Genk but of all auto workers throughout Belgium, and to mobilize the region around the Genk plant to fight to save the jobs. The Flemish province, called Limbourg, has already suffered from the earlier closings of coal mines and then the Philips Electronic plant in 2002.

Ford management has admitted that a shutdown at Genk would affect its production throughout Europe. This includes plants in Germany, Spain and Britain. Ford plans another 1,700 job cuts in Germany.

An email solidarity note for the Genk workers can be sent to Foerd@gvhv.be.

—John Catalinotto

BRING THE TROOPS HOME

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

END THE OCCUPATION OF IRAQ

A.N.S.W.E.R. COALITION
(ACT NOW TO STOP WAR & END RACISM)
www.internationalANSWER.org
e-mail: info@internationalanswer.org
DC 202.544.3389 NY 212.633.6646

Co-sponsored by A.N.S.W.E.R. (Act Now to Stop War & End Racism) Coalition and UFPJ (United for Peace and Justice)

On eve of 200th anniversary of Haitian independence

A history of U.S. embargoes

By G. Dunkel

In 1806, Haiti was diplomatically isolated. It had audaciously declared independence two years before, after crushing Napoleon's French army sent to re-enslave it. But no country in the world recognized its independence. Certainly France, which had just suffered a major blow to its fortunes and prestige, refused. Spain still had its slave-based colonial empire in the Caribbean and Latin America. Great Britain, at that time the predominant world power, worried over its plantations in Jamaica, just 75 miles from Haiti, whose profits also depended on the brutal super-exploitation of enslaved Africans.

There was substantial trade between the United States and Haiti, even after the Haitian revolution ended slavery. Haiti sold coffee, molasses, sugar, cotton, hides and so on and bought dried cod, cloth, hardware and other bulk commodities. But Thomas Jefferson, the slave-owning, slave-selling president of the United States, was terrified by the successful slave rebellion and went so far as to call Toussaint Louverture's army "cannibals." Louverture was a leader of Haiti's liberation struggle.

Jefferson gave backhanded support to the Haitian struggle when its successes led France to consider selling Louisiana. But that was just a temporary maneuver. He was implacably opposed to Haitian independence.

He tried hard to prevent any contact between the United States and Haiti. Jefferson called upon Congress, which his party controlled, to abolish trade between the two countries. France and Spain, two major colonial powers in the Caribbean at the time, were also enforcing boycotts of Haitian trade. Consequently, partially in 1805 and finally in 1806, trade between the United States and Haiti was formally shut down.

Trade still continued on an unofficial basis. U.S. ships could call at Haitian ports, but Haitian ships were excluded from U.S. ports. This decimated the Haitian economy, already weakened by 12 years of hard fighting and much colonial sabotage.

In the 1820s, South Carolina Sen. Robert V. Hayne made the U.S. position

absolutely clear when he stated: "Our policy with regard to Haiti is plain. We never can acknowledge her independence."

The embargo let U.S. merchants dictate the terms of trade between the two countries, establishing a neocolonial relationship. Jefferson and the other racist slave owners kept the United States from recognizing Haiti until the U.S. Civil War ended slavery here in 1863. Before that time the U.S. slave owners presented the racist argument that Haiti's devastating economic decline was an example of what happens when Africans govern themselves. These slave owners did not mention that Haiti's problems were caused by cruel and punishing neocolonial economic policies and actions.

Even in the midst of a civil war fought over the existence and expansion of slavery in the United States, outright racist actions were common in Washington. In April 1862, when Sen. Charles Sumner raised the issue of recognizing Haiti and Liberia, representatives of border states like Maryland and Kentucky objected to the presence of Black diplomats in Washington. (For more information, see "The Struggle for the Recognition of Haiti and Liberia as Independent Republics," Charles H. Wesley, *The Journal of Negro History*, Vol. 2, Oct., 1917.)

French & European recognition

In the early 1800s, Haiti's government still felt threatened by France even after it had crushed Napoleon's army in 1802. In 1821 France offered internal self-rule under a French protectorate. This was essentially what Louverture thought he had won in 1801.

Haiti had given asylum and essential military and material help to Simón Bolívar in his struggle to free Latin America. But Spain still possessed Cuba and Puerto Rico, had claims over the eastern portion of the island of Hispaniola, now the Dominican Republic, and still profited from slavery. Furthermore, Haiti faced the hostility of the United States even from sectors like the Northern bourgeoisie, who weren't tied to slavery but were still thoroughly racist.

In return for official recognition as an independent nation, President Jean-Pierre Boyer offered France 150 million

gold francs indemnity and custom duties half that of any other nation. This was a tremendous sum, estimated by the present Haitian government to be \$21 billion in current dollars. After a show of force by the French navy, Haiti swiftly borrowed 24 million francs to pay the first installment.

The money was earmarked to indemnify the slave owners and their heirs for their "losses" during Haiti's revolution. For Haitians, the freedom they had won with their blood had to be also paid for in cash.

After France's recognition, Great Britain and the other European powers quickly followed suit. But the United States refused.

France's financial hold on Haiti continued until the first U.S. occupation in 1915. This hold was so complete that even when Haiti set up its Banque Nationale in the 1880s, it was done with French capital and French bank officers.

During the 1800s Haiti had two neocolonial overlords: France and the United States, both of which extracted as much as they could from the country, blaming its economic problems on what the Haitians were forced to do to survive.

Current U.S. boycott

In the 19th century, the United States and the European powers used Haiti's extreme diplomatic isolation and the devastation resulting from its revolution against the French slave owners to control Haiti. In the late 20th and early 21st centuries, the United States uses Haiti's dire poverty.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere by any measure.

Haiti's debt was \$302 million in 1980. In 1997 it was almost \$1.1 billion, which is almost 40 percent of its Gross National Product. The value of its exports has fallen to 62 percent of 1987 levels. It should be listed as a severely indebted low-income country but the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have refused to do so.

More than 80 percent of the people in the countryside regularly don't get enough to eat. Some 50 percent of the people are illiterate. Seventy percent are unemployed. Life expectancy is 56 years and falling. Infant mortality is more than double the Latin American and Caribbean

average. (Figures from PAPDA—the Haitian Platform to Advocate for an Alternative Development)

Few people in Haiti have a reliable supply of clean water and those who do buy it by the jug.

The U.S. government put an embargo on loans to Haiti from the Inter-American Development Bank and got the European Union, another large donor to Haiti, to do the same. The United States took this action because in the 2000 elections, Washington's favored candidates lost.

When U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell spoke at the Organization of American States meeting in Santiago, Chile, in June, he warned that the OAS would re-evaluate its role in Haiti if the Aristide government did not conform to OAS resolutions about the organization of Haiti's elections. This was also a warning to Latin American countries to follow the U.S. policy on Haiti.

The United States wants to rig Haitian elections so that its favored candidates win. In the 19th century, it used gunboats and threats to assure victory. Now it's more convenient to hide the hand that throws the rock behind an organization like the OAS.

But Haiti is not Florida, where George W. Bush stole the last presidential election. The first election that Aristide contested in 1990 was in fact more than just an election. It was a mass movement, a Lavalas flood to elect a people's candidate—and it swept all the encrustations and debris left over from decades of foreign interference and U.S.-backed Duvalierist terror.

Aristide's election was a shock to U.S. reliance on rigged cosmetic elections to put in politicians who will enforce neo-liberal capitalist exploitation.

Despite a 1991 military coup to oust Aristide that cost over 5,000 lives and all sorts of CIA skullduggery, popular support for Aristide remained strong. He and his party won the 2000 election. The real reasons the U.S. and European governments are withholding aid from Haiti are to force concessions out of Aristide or topple his administration should he not submit to imperialist demands—and to punish the Haitian masses as was done in the 19th century for daring to make a revolution that ended slavery. □

European Summit

Workers, anti-militarists march in Rome

By John Catalinotto

On Oct. 4 in Rome, some 100,000 anti-globalization and anti-militarization activists marched toward the meeting place of the opening conference of the European Union. The European leaders take turns presiding over the European Union. On Oct. 4 it was Italy's turn, and its right-wing president, media magnate Silvio Berlusconi, began presiding over the EU for the next period.

A banner leading the demonstration read, "You are 15, we are 400 million—for a Europe without war and racism, and with rights." The crowd held thousands of rainbow flags with the word "peace" on

them and thousands of red flags.

An army of 10,000 police guarded the ministers' meeting.

Another march through downtown Rome estimated by its European Union Federation organizers at 250,000 gathered Europe's union workers, who demanded a Europe with social support for the population.

The EU is set to adopt a "constitution" that includes developing a special military rapid deployment force of 60,000 troops to intervene worldwide. It also attacks workers' rights and lays out plans to reduce social services, while excluding immigrants to Europe from the rights it recognizes for citizens. While the EU lead-

Youths demonstrate in Rome Oct. 4



ers plan walls to keep out people, the alliance provides for the free flow of capital to allow easier domination by the monopoly multinational corporations.

Though the unions and the anti-globalization groups marched separately, they sent speakers to each other's rallies. The next major anti-war action in Italy is set for Oct. 12 when people will march on Assisi.

Meanwhile the three major union confederations in Italy have called a general strike for Oct. 24 to protest changes in pensions. The Berlusconi government wants to extend work time from 35 to 40 years before workers can collect their pensions. Governments in France and Austria have cut pensions, and it is being attempted in Germany. □

Palestine to the Congo

How imperialism has used the UN

By Fred Goldstein

As the Bush administration's quest for empire has collapsed into a struggle to extricate itself from a quagmire, Washington has been forced to resort to asking for aid. The White House and the Pentagon never contemplated facing significant guerrilla resistance and widespread hatred and resentment of a prolonged military occupation. It expected its campaign of "shock and awe" to deliver a passively compliant population.

"Be careful about how you treat people on the way up, because you will meet them on the way down" now applies directly to Washington's predicament. Having contemptuously dubbed France and Germany the "old Europe," and having insinuated that the United Nations was "irrelevant," Bush has now been trying to seek their assistance.

This has created a debate over the role of the UN and whether it would be progressive for it to assume a major role in Iraq. The confusion comes partly from the refusal of the Security Council to sanction the war back in March. This led to the false idea that France, Germany and Russia are somehow anti-war and therefore UN intervention can be beneficial to the Iraqi people.

Simple reflection on all the death, suffering and destruction caused by the UN-sponsored Gulf War of 1991 and the 12 years of sanctions approved by the Security Council, as well as the completely permissive attitude of the Security Council towards the persistent bombings in the "no fly" zones, should be enough to end the debate over a possible UN role in Iraq.

But from the broader perspective, the UN has cultivated an image of peace-loving humanitarianism and neutralism that has been used for years as a cover for the most one-sided imperialist interventions.

UN created for empire

The United Nations was conceived during World War II and negotiated by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, head of the new, rising U.S. empire, and Prime Minister Winston Churchill, head of the declining British empire. They were compelled to bring the Soviet Union into the negotiations. Not only had it survived the onslaught of Hitler, but the Red Army supplemented by Soviet guerrillas ultimately defeated the Nazis and chased their decimated forces back to Berlin. The French imperialists were included in the negotiations once the Nazis were defeated. The Chinese puppet regime of Chiang Kai-shek was also brought into the inner circle.

The UN was part of the effort to regiment the world by U.S. imperialism and its dependent junior partner in London. It was placed in New York City, a limousine ride away from Wall Street and a quick plane ride from Washington. Symbolically, John D. Rockefeller Jr. donated \$8.5 million to buy the land for it.

Its first 50 members were mostly the victorious European powers, dependencies of the British Commonwealth, and the U.S. and 20 of its Latin American client states. The socialist camp had four members. There was no representation whatsoever of the anti-colonial struggle.

It was founded officially in October 1945, two months after President Harry Truman had ordered the two atomic bombs to be dropped on Japan. The founding of the UN was coupled with the setting up of the U.S.-dominated International Monetary Fund and the World Development Bank. Thus, the U.S.

government entered the world stage as a nuclear and economic super-power. Washington's aim was to use the UN organization to pressure the Soviet Union and regiment the world.

UN cover for intervention in Palestine, Korea, Congo

Virtually every significant military, political and economic intervention carried out by the UN has been in the service of imperialism. Its first major act was the partition of Palestine and the creation of the Zionist state of Israel. In fact, the first subcommittee created by the UN was the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP).

The question of Palestine was pushed into the UN in 1947 by the British, at the urging of Washington. British imperialism was retreating from its promise to set up a Zionist state because it had been weakened by World War II and was in no condition to deal with the rebellions in its own colonies. UNSCOP, which had not one Arab or African member, recommended that the British Mandate in Palestine be divided to give 55 percent of the land to a Zionist state. This was later approved by the U.S.-dominated General Assembly.

The Soviet government, unfortunately and tragically, did not block this act. It violated international solidarity and recognized Israel.

The Zionists, with U.S. financial and political support, continued their struggle on the ground to take far more than 55 percent of the land, ultimately creating 750,000 Palestinian refugees. Thus, while the oppressed peoples of the world were opening their struggle against colonialism, the UN was being used as a cover by Washington to establish a beachhead in the oil-rich Middle East.

Shortly thereafter the UN was used as a political umbrella for the U.S.-led mobilization of world capitalism to roll back the socialist revolution on the Korean peninsula. After World War II, the progressive and socialist forces in the south, organized in the Committees for Preparation of

National Independence, were preparing for the unification of the country under a regime of national liberation. Fearing a united socialist Korea, Washington tried to permanently divide the country by setting up a puppet government in the south and holding rigged elections, after having suppressed the people's committees.

Following the Palestine example, the U.S. put the matter into the UN in 1947 and created the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea (UNTCOK). This body promptly recognized the puppet regime in Seoul as the only lawful government in Korea, completely rejecting the socialist government in Pyongyang. Orchestrated by U.S. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, the Syngman Rhee regime carried out years of provocation against the north. Finally, war broke out in June 1950. President Truman quickly ran to get a UN mandate for a devastating invasion and war to destroy the socialist government. Five million Koreans were killed and not one building above two stories was left standing in the north.

As the anti-colonial movement was sweeping Africa, Belgium was pressured into granting the Congo its political independence on June 30, 1960. As the nationalist leader Patrice Lumumba took over as prime minister, the Belgian colonialists stimulated a mutiny in the army, promoted the detachment of mineral-rich Katanga province and in July sent in troops. Their goal was to further destabilize the new regime and retake the country on the grounds that the Congolese were "not ready" to rule themselves.

The issue was pushed into the Security Council. Lumumba at first thought he could get help from the UN. But while the UN dispatched a military force to the Congo, it refused to stop the Belgian invaders. Lumumba appealed to the Soviet Union and the socialist bloc for aid.

The UN mission in the Congo was supposedly neutral, but was directed first by Ralph Bunche and then by Andrew Cordier, both former State Department officials. When the Soviets and other

socialist-bloc countries prepared to send aid, the UN forces blocked the ports and airfields to their ships and planes. Lumumba was unable to move his troops to stop the dismembering of the Congo. He was eventually assassinated. And when the smoke cleared, General Mobutu and pro-imperialist forces had gained control of the country.

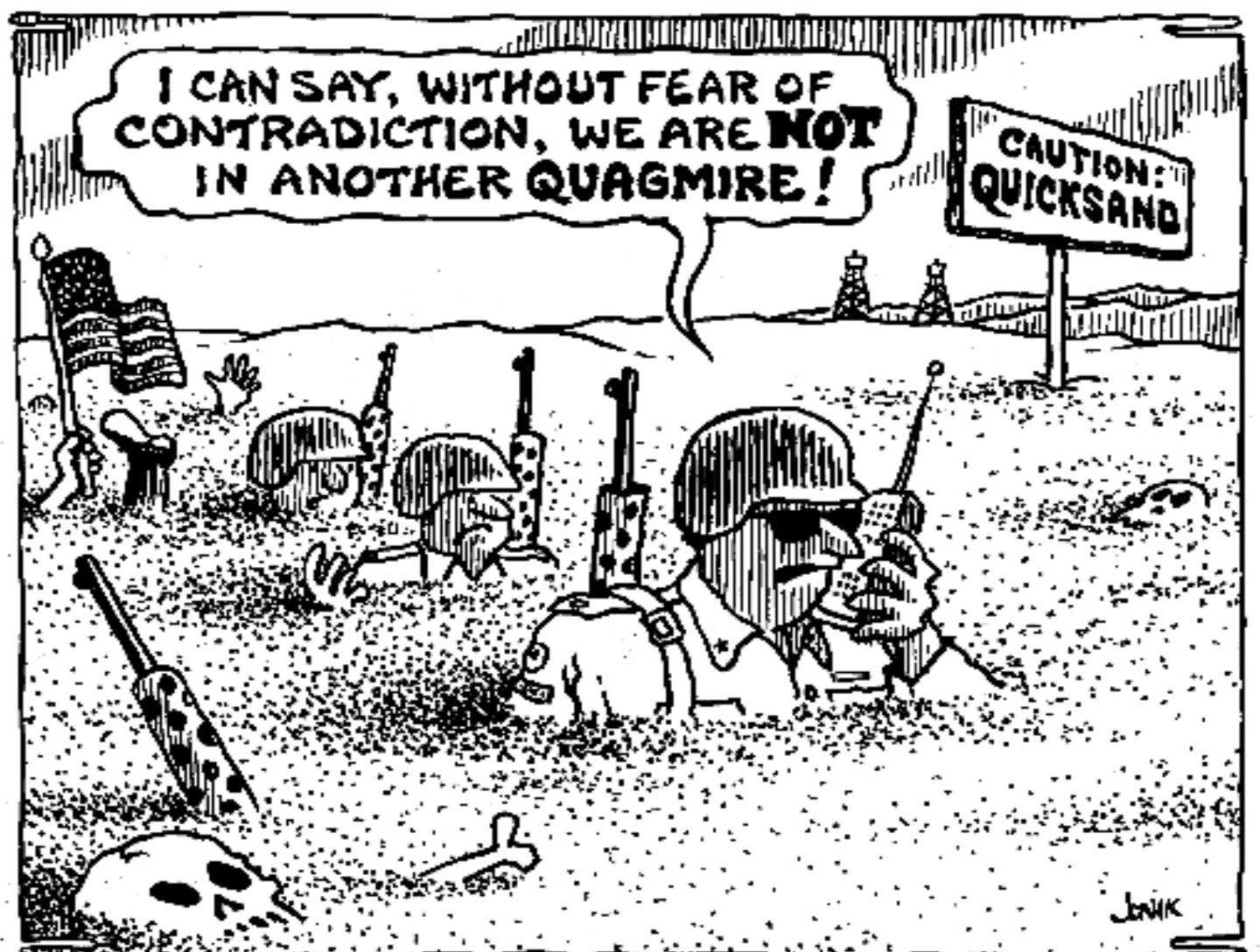
The only country in history that ever left the UN was Indonesia. On Jan. 1, 1965, the nationalist leader President Sukarno pulled out of the UN after it gave membership to the neocolonial regime of Malaysia, which was sponsored by British imperialism. Threatened with the loss of U.S. aid, Sukarno issued his famous rejoinder: "The U.S. can go to hell with its aid!"

With the Vietnam War raging, anti-U.S. hatred in Asia was heating up. When Sukarno implied that there should be an anti-imperialist united nations, Washington took it very seriously because it signaled the possibility of another massive upheaval in the region. The People's Republic of China was already in a revolutionary phase and the Vietnamese were fighting to complete their liberation.

The prospect of an anti-imperialist break with the United Nations intensified preparations by the CIA for the overthrow of Sukarno and the destruction of the Indonesian Communist Party, the largest communist party outside of the socialist countries. By November of that year the CIA and the right wing of the military, led by General Suharto, had struck and begun a massacre that would take the lives of a million people.

Sources for this article include "Our Roots Are Still Alive" (Palestine), "The Cold War and Its Origins, 1917-1960" and "The End of the American Era" (Korea); "The Soviet Union and Black Africa" (Congo); "Dilemmas of Third World Communism" and "Indonesia: Second Greatest Crime of the Century" (Indonesia).

Next: The General Assembly, the Security Council and the anti-colonial movements. □



Out of the frying pan...

The masses of workers have little to gain through the process of capitalist elections, no matter how “free” and “fair” they may appear to be. The latest spectacle in California did nothing to put a dent in that rule.

Although it is obvious, it must be stated again and again: Money dominates bourgeois elections. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who comes across as the champion of the underdog in his action movies, has amassed a fortune of half a billion dollars that lets him hobnob with the real ruling class. His ability to afford millions of dollars of television ads and his long history of being a fund-raiser for the Republican Party instantly made the media treat this screen celebrity as one of the very few “major” candidates for governor in a field of 135—even though he barely put forward a political program.

He argued that his personal wealth insulates him from “special interests.” It doesn’t work that way. For example, it’s an unspoken requirement of membership in the U.S. Senate to be at least a millionaire. And that’s who passes all the reactionary laws giving tax breaks to the rich, giveaways to the oil, gas and timber interests, and fat contracts to the military-industrial-banking complex, while putting leg-irons on workers’ efforts to unionize.

Capitalist politics is really not that different from the world in which Schwarzenegger has worked. In front of the cameras, a carefully scripted fantasy is acted out. Its almost universal message is to rely on the superhero, whether he be a Terminator II or a president or a governor, to rout the bad guys and protect the people, who are presented as weak and unable to organize in their own defense.

Gray Davis, the ousted Democratic governor, was no superhero. He was flabby and weak when it came to fighting the rapacious energy companies that stole billions from the state during the manufactured electricity crisis of two years ago. The current state budget crisis, which led to this unprecedented

recall vote, can be traced directly to that and the many other ways in which the corporate thieves milked the public treasury to boost their profits in a period of market stagnation.

The energy crisis was a perfect opportunity to educate the people on the predatory nature of monopoly capitalism. But that’s not a role the Democratic Party wanted to take on, since it too is 150-percent committed to this profit system. Nor did it want to arouse the people to the drastic situation facing them and urge them to mobilize against the corporate raiders.

That left the field open for a politically ambiguous and ambitious figure like Schwarzenegger, with his strongman image. He played to the whole house, Republicans and Democrats—taking a “liberal” stance on gay rights and abortion but opposing rights for the undocumented and having a history of support for the “English first” forces.

The election did not represent some broad sweep to the right among the voters, as could be seen by the strong defeat of Proposition 54—the so-called “racial privacy” initiative sponsored by the right wing and intended to weaken affirmative action.

Many organizations representing women, unions, environmentalists and other progressive forces put hard-earned money into the campaign against the recall and for the Democratic Party. It’s down the drain now. It would have been much better spent fighting on the issues.

The whole country is now heading into another electoral marathon. More fantasy scripts will be acted out in front of the public. The movements for social progress will be under great pressure to become a tail to the kite of whoever gets the Democratic Party nomination.

It’s a pressure that should be resisted. The place for the workers and all progressives is in the direct struggle, not in the shadow play that passes in this country for politics. □

SUBSCRIBE TO WORKERS WORLD

SPECIAL TRIAL SUBSCRIPTION
\$2 FOR EIGHT WEEKS (NEW SUBSCRIPTION)

\$25 for one year

Name _____

Phone number _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Workers World Newspaper

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

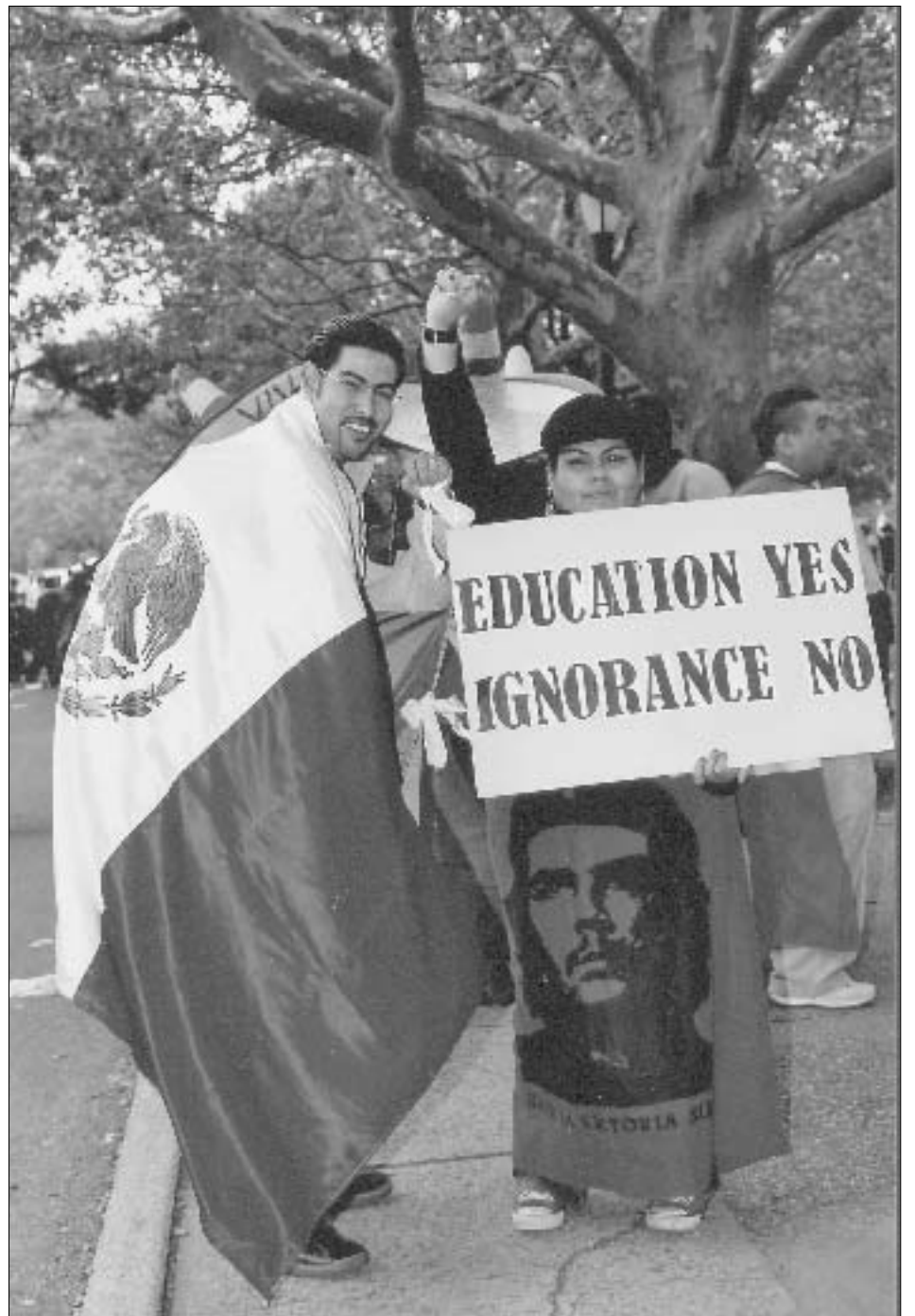


FOTO: PAT CHIN

100,000 asisten al histórico evento pro derechos de inmigrantes

Continúa de página 12

Ellos contribuyen unos \$730 millones cada año a la economía de los EEUU. Estos obreros enfrentan constante hostigamiento, intimidación, discriminación y súper-explotación.

Y todo esto se ha puesto peor desde que el régimen de Bush comenzó, especialmente desde el 11 de septiembre de 2001. Sin quitar importancia a los ataques contra los inmigrantes de la administración Clinton, los ataques a los inmigrantes desde el 11 de septiembre han sido los más represivos en memoria reciente. Estos van desde redadas en los lugares de trabajo y hogares, a la detención punitiva y registro forzado, hasta la deportación.

Así que es dentro de este contexto que el evento del 4 de octubre es más significativo. Este esfuerzo ha demostrado ser la movilización más grande en el frente doméstico desde que el régimen de Bush comenzó.

Los obreros que tomaron parte en el mitin son de los más oprimidos en este país. Ellos son también de los obreros con más conciencia de clase, por venir de países dominados por el imperialismo estadounidense.

Estos obreros han sido testigo de los efectos del imperialismo. Entienden que el colonialismo económico y militar van mano a mano, como en el caso más reciente, Irak.

Miles de volantes impresos en diferentes idiomas anunciando la protesta nacional del 25 de octubre en Washington, D.C., contra la ocupación estadounidense de Irak fueron distribuidos el 4 de octubre. Aunque el mensaje político de la directiva del mitin era general, las masas mostraron que estaban abiertas a un mensaje más progresista. Más importante aún, demostraron que ellos pueden y quieren movilizar por sus derechos políticos y económicos como obreros. □

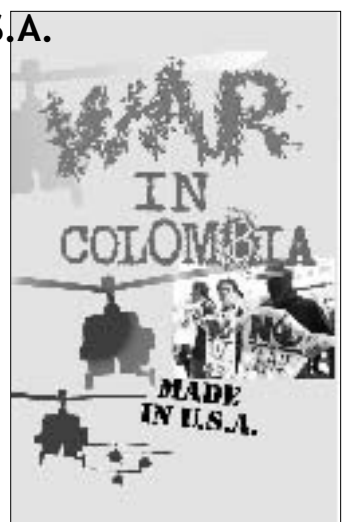
WAR IN COLOMBIA: Made in the U.S.A.

powerfully counters the Pentagon and the media propaganda with facts about what’s really happening in Colombia.

In this book the reader will find the truth about:

- the almost 40,000 Colombians who have died in the last decade;
- the more than 2.5 million who have been displaced;
- the broad sectors who are heroically fighting inhumane policies mandated by the multinational corporations like Coca-Cola;
- the background history of the struggle;
- perspectives from the FARC-EP and the ELN insurgencies, trade unionists and human rights activists.

Published by the Intn’l Action Center. List price \$19.95
At **left books.com** it’s 20% off, only \$15.95



Guantanamo translators arrested

Does Pentagon fear exposure?

By Deirdre Griswold

How many prisoners is the Pentagon holding at Guantanamo? How and why were they seized? What is their physical condition?

Why have over 30 attempted suicide? Have any died in custody?

Are they being charged with any crime? How long will they be held? What are their names, their ages? What countries and towns do they come from?

What have they told their interrogators? What methods have been used to make them talk?

None of this information is available to the public. All of it is concealed as "classified" by the Pentagon and U.S. government—which have invented a legal limbo for these prisoners, calling them "enemy combatants."

The last estimate in the press of how many are being held this way was 660 people. Most were captured during the U.S. invasion and war against Afghanistan—a very undeveloped country that has been wracked with wars ever since 1979. That was when the Carter administration decided to organize armed opposition to the new progressive regime there. Then, six months later, the Soviet Union intervened on the side of the secular government.

Washington later incurred the anger of

its fundamentalist allies when it dumped them after the Soviet Union had pulled out its troops.

Then came Sept. 11, 2001, and the U.S. government eagerly used the attacks as a justification to invade Afghanistan. It was the first test case of the aggressive Bush Doctrine and an opportunity for the Pentagon to test out and show off the power of its new weaponry.

Many Afghans and others were captured during this uneven war between a pre-industrial country and the world's mightiest military power. Those flown to Guantanamo—a U.S. base imposed on Cuba—have been held for almost two years in cages, on the other side of the world and in a climate just the opposite of what they are used to.

When seen in rare photos they are in chains and shackles, sometimes with hoods over their heads, being propped up by soldiers on either side.

Now the Pentagon has arrested three of the translators it used at Guantanamo. All three are Muslims and are U.S. citizens.

Air Force Senior Airman Ahmad I. Al-Halabi was arrested July 23. He is charged with attempted espionage and trying to aid the enemy. The Pentagon claims he tried to pass more than 180 notes from Guantanamo detainees, as well as a map of the prison and flight paths, to "a citizen of a foreign government by carrying such

notes en route to Syria, a foreign nation." If convicted in a court-martial, he could get the death penalty.

His lawyers say he is innocent and that his trip to Syria, his country of birth, was to marry a woman there.

Ahmed Fathy Mehalba, also an interpreter at the camp, was arrested on Sept. 29. He was charged with giving false statements to federal authorities. He was taken into custody at Logan International Airport in Boston, where officials say they found him carrying classified material, including compact discs with information about Guantanamo.

The nature of this information is being kept secret. Was it, perhaps, names of the prisoners so that their loved ones could finally know what had happened to them?

The third arrest was of Capt. James Y. Yee, a Muslim chaplain and Army West Point graduate. He has not been charged, but is under suspicion of having attempted to bring "classified material" out of the base. Yee was arrested at the naval air station in Jacksonville, Fla., on Sept. 10.

The commercial media are reporting all this as though the only possible issue here is espionage, a threat to U.S. "national security," the "war on terror."

Not one has even mentioned the possibility that these translators may have been moved by the deplorable conditions of their Muslim brothers, may have been

revolted by the chain-link curtain of silence meant to isolate them from their families and compatriots, and may have wanted to let at least their relatives, and perhaps the rest of the world, know what is going on there.

True, this is only speculation. Maybe nothing happened. Maybe these men have been totally set up in order to scare off any attempts from whatever quarter to reveal what is happening behind the barbed wire of Camp Delta.

But if they were carrying messages from the prisoners, or lists of their names, it is likely that these U.S. career officers couldn't stand being a part of this vicious repression any more and acted out of sympathy and compassion for their fellow human beings.

Since everything about the prison at Guantanamo has been kept secret and "classified," even information about who the prisoners are and what has happened to them is also "classified." If there are court-martials, will the military present for open scrutiny the presumed evidence against the translators—or will that, too, be a military secret?

At the end of August, lawyers from 10 countries sent an open letter to the United States calling for civilian trials for the translators. There is no way they can receive a fair trial in a military court under these circumstances. □

¿Es una solución de 'dos estados' parte del pasado?

Continúa de página 12

más de \$3 mil millones de dólares al año en ayuda militar y económica y miles de millones más por otras vías.

Creando 'hechos reales'

Sharon, Ehud Barak, quien fuera el primer ministro israelita en el año 2000, y sus predecesores se han dedicado a prevenir el establecimiento de cualquier tipo de estado Palestino real.

Desde la toma ilegal de la Franja Occidental y Gaza en la guerra expansionista de Israel del 1967, los gobiernos sucesivos-liderados ya por el partido derechista Likud o por el erróneamente nombrado Partido Laboral-han trabajado para crear "hechos reales". Estos "hechos" creados incluyen la construcción de colonias estratégicamente situadas, carreteras periféricas, bases militares y ahora una pared de apartheid, todo para evitar la posibilidad de que emerja un estado palestino viable.

Pero el resultado de este proceso puede terminar siendo muy diferente a lo que sus ejecutores tenían en mente.

El Presidente Yasir Arafat y su partido Fatah favorecen una solución de dos estados. Otros en el movimiento palestino piden un estado democrático, secular-y en algunos casos socialista-en toda Palestina, con derechos iguales para todo el pueblo.

Para aquellos que apoyan la solución de dos estados, el requerimiento mínimo es un estado real con territorio contiguo, y con el derecho a controlar sus fronteras. Ninguno de estos requerimientos fundamentales ha sido aceptado por Oslo o por el "Mapa del Camino."

Los Estados Unidos e Israel exigieron que el liderazgo de la Autoridad Nacional Palestina no solo acepte lo inaceptable, sino que también deben lanzar

una guerra civil contra las organizaciones en resistencia: como Hamas, la Jihad islámica, el Frente Popular para la Liberación de Palestina y la Brigada de Mártires Al-Aqsa-esta última organizada por Fatah.

La guerra civil que Washington y Tel Aviv están demandando sería también una guerra de clases, una guerra contra los urbanos pobres, los habitantes de las aldeas y sobre todo contra los residentes de los campos de refugiados quienes son los cimientos de la Intifada.

A pesar de su gran superioridad en armas, los líderes de los EE.UU. e Israel no han podido destruir la lucha palestina. Por eso ahora, como una condición para más negociaciones, estos líderes demandan que los palestinos se destruyan a sí mismos.

Cuando Arafat rehusó hacer esto, Washington lo denunció y buscó la manera de aislarlo, mientras buscaba un colaborador títere -un líder burgués que les serviría. Hasta ahora, esto tampoco lo han logrado.

Grietas en establecimiento israelí

Si la solución de dos estados es impedida, ¿qué opciones quedan?

Esta situación se agudiza más por el hecho de que por primera vez desde 1948, la población israelí y la población palestina entre el Río Jordán y el Mar Mediterráneo son aproximadamente iguales. Si esta tendencia sigue, para el año 2015, los palestinos serán una mayoría indisputable.

Para poder mantener su carácter sionista exclusivo con derechos y privilegios especiales para israelíes judíos, Israel tendrá que iniciar una nueva Nakba ó expulsión de palestinos mayor que la del 1948, o asumir en términos concretos un carác-

ter parecido al sistema de apartheid.

La otra alternativa es un solo estado con igualdad de derechos para todos.

A pesar de la vasta disparidad en poder y riqueza entre Israel y los palestinos, esta nueva realidad está produciendo grietas en el establecimiento israelí. Un sentimiento de duda está emergiendo. Esto se ha reflejado recientemente por sorprendentes declaraciones expresadas por varios líderes intelectuales israelíes.

En julio Meron Benvenisti, el ex vice-alcalde de Jerusalén dijo, "La conclusión es que la solución aparentemente racional de dos estados para dos naciones no puede funcionar acá. El modelo de una división en dos estados es inaplicable. No refleja la profundidad del conflicto y no corresponde a la magnitud del enredo que existe en gran parte del país.

"Se podrán construir aquí todas las murallas del mundo pero no se podrá superar el hecho que hay sólo un acuífero y un mismo aire y que todos los ríos fluyen al mismo mar. No se podrá superar el hecho de que este país no va a tolerar una frontera en su propio medio."

"El año pasado, entonces, llegué a la conclusión de que no hay otra alternativa que la de pensar en términos nuevos. No hay más opción que la de pensar en el oeste de Palestina como una sola entidad geopolítica.

"Así como los gobernantes de Sudáfrica entendieron que no tuvieron más alternativa que dismantelar el régimen, el establecimiento israelí tiene que entender que no es capaz de imponer su concepto hegemónico sobre 3,5 millones de palestinos en la Franja Occidental y en Gaza y los 1,2 millones de palestinos que son ciudadanos de Israel. Lo que tenemos que hacer es tratar de lograr una situación de igualdad colectiva y personal."

El 29 de agosto, Abraham Burg, ex líder del Knesset (parlamento) israelí, escribió en el periódico el New York Forward: "El fin del proyecto sionista ya está con nosotros. ... La enfermedad que consume las entrañas del sionismo ya ha atacado la cabeza. ... La conclusión ineludible es que la revolución sionista ha muerto."

Pilotos rehúsan órdenes de asesinar

Otra sorpresa para los círculos dominantes israelíes y la opinión pública vino en forma de una carta a finales de septiembre firmada por 27 pilotos militares activos y retirados.

La carta, enviada al comandante de la Fuerza Aérea de Israel, declaró que los pilotos rehusarían participar en más asesinatos aéreos, igual que en otras operaciones contra áreas pobladas por civiles en la Franja Occidental y en Gaza. Líderes israelíes denunciaron a los pilotos que son muy respetados por gran parte de la sociedad israelí, como "subversivos".

B'Tselem, el Centro de Información Israelí sobre Derechos Humanos en los Territorios Ocupados, reportó el 28 de septiembre que la Fuerza Aérea de Israel había matado por lo menos a 131 palestinos, incluyendo a 65 espectadores durante los últimos tres años. Asesinatos perpetrados por las fuerzas terrestres han ocasionado la muerte de por lo menos 76 activistas palestinos.

Dado el hecho que, según las encuestas, una mayoría de israelíes apoya un nivel mayor de represión, sería equivocado pensar que estos puntos de vista son generalizados. Pero sería una equivocación aún mayor ignorar la importancia potencial de la aparición de tales puntos de vista en la política dominante de Israel. □

La resistencia Palestina a la ocupación israelita:

¿Es una solución de 'dos estados' parte del pasado?

Por Richard Becker

Cientos de miles de palestinos en la Franja Occidental, Gaza, el Líbano y dentro de las fronteras del 1948 de Israel tomaron las calles el 28 de septiembre para conmemorar el tercer aniversario de la Intifada Al-Aksa.

Alrededor del mundo, se celebraron marchas en solidaridad en más de 40 países.

La masiva manifestación del 28 de septiembre, frente a la represión israelita, reafirmó que sin una justicia real para el pueblo palestino, no puede haber paz en el Medio Oriente.

En su declaración del 30 de septiembre ante la corte israelita la cual lo juzga ilegalmente, Marwan Barghouti, un líder de

Fatah-Movimiento de Liberación Nacional Palestina, dijo a los jueces y al mundo: "Estoy orgulloso de la Intifada. Estoy orgulloso de la resistencia a la ocupación israelita. Morir es mejor que vivir bajo la ocupación. Yo estoy aquí porque me resistí a la ocupación."

Hablando en hebreo, Barghouti dijo: Yo espero que los israelitas hayan aprendido que el pueblo palestino no puede doblegarse por la fuerza. Si una ocupación no termina unilateralmente o por medio de negociaciones entonces sólo hay una solución, un estado para dos pueblos.

"¿Cómo puede ser que los judíos quienes sufrieron y sobrevivieron el holocausto se permitan utilizar medios tan insufribles e inaceptables contra otro pueblo?"

La segunda Intifada comenzó el 28 de septiembre del 2000, cuando Ariel Sharon, entonces un ministro de la Cámara y ahora el primer ministro de Israel, protegido por 1.500 oficiales de la policía, invadió al Haram Al-Sharif. Ese es el sitio de la Cúpula de la Roca y el tercer lugar más santo del islam.

Los palestinos se rebelaron contra la provocación de Sharon y contra el "plan de paz" que los gobiernos de Estados Unidos e Israel intentaban forzarles a aceptar.

Desde entonces, 2.625 palestinos, un 71% de estos bajo la edad de 29 años, han perdido sus vidas, según el periódico Monitor Palestino. Durante el mismo tiempo, 749 israelitas han muerto. Más de 36.000 palestinos han sido heridos y decenas de miles más han perdido sus

hogares, destruidos deliberadamente por el ejército israelí.

Más de 7.200 prisioneros políticos palestinos están presos ilegalmente en cárceles israelitas. Ni un sólo israelita ha sido encarcelado por la Autoridad Palestina.

La tasa de desempleo palestina es más del 50%. Y a pesar de que la economía israelita está en depresión y la tasa oficial de desempleo ha alcanzado el 11%, el ingreso por cápita es 15 veces más que el de los palestinos viviendo en la Franja Occidental y Gaza.

Israel, el cual juega un papel importante en la campaña de Washington de dominar al Medio Oriente, recibe una enorme asistencia monetaria de los Estados Unidos-

Continúa a página 11

100,000 asisten al histórico evento pro derechos de inmigrantes

Por Anya Mujarki-Connolly
Queens, N.Y.

El 4 de octubre la histórica Caravana de la Libertad de los Trabajadores Inmigrantes que traía 1,000 obreros inmigrantes de sitios alrededor del país, culminó en un enorme mitin en el Parque Flushing Meadows de Queens, Nueva York. Queens es el condado más diverso de los Estados Unidos.

Organizadores del evento anunciaron que más de 100,000 personas asistieron. Muchos de ellos sacrificaron mucho para estar aquí.

Estos obreros vinieron de todas partes del país con sus uniones, sus organizaciones de ciudadanos de la tercera edad, sus organizaciones comunales y sus familias. Éste fue el primer esfuerzo reciente exitoso que reunió a sindicalistas, asiatic@s, african@s, latinoamerican@s, comunidades inmigrantes caribeñas así como a la comunidad negra, uniéndoles contra las racistas, derechistas y divisivas leyes anti-inmigrante.

Usando la histórica Gira de la Libertad del movimiento de los derechos civiles de los años sesenta como inspiración, los organizadores comenzaron el 20 de septiembre. Las 9 caravanas de autobuses viajaron a 100 ciudades en 42 estados.

Por el camino, los obreros inmigrantes y sus partidarios exponían las demandas de este movimiento: legalización y un camino a la ciudadanía estadounidense para todos los obreros inmigrantes, el derecho a la reunificación de las familias, protección de los derechos laborales en el trabajo sin tener en cuenta el estado legal, y protección de los derechos y libertades civiles de todos.

La movilización se originó con los líderes de la unión de Empleados de Hoteles y Restaurantes (HERE) que hicieron que el AFL-CIO la apoyara. HERE— junto con otras uniones que cuentan con

muchos obreros inmigrantes como UNITE, la Unión de Trabajadores de la Industria de Alimentos, y la Unión de Empleados de Servicio, sobre todo su Local 1199—eran las fuerzas tras la Caravana de la Libertad.

Pero muchas luchas recientes hicieron que el movimiento obrero organizara este evento. Las luchas de los obreros de taxi en Nueva York, los esfuerzos de la Campaña Justicia para Conserjes y otras luchas militantes han sido dirigidas por obreros inmigrantes.

Los oradores en el mitin incluyeron al Presidente de la AFL-CIO John Sweeney, al Presidente de HERE Local 100 Bill Granfield, al Presidente de 1199-SEIU Dennis Rivera, al Representante por Harlem Charles Rangel, al Representante por Georgia. John Lewis, a la Vicepresidenta de UNITE May Chen, al Presidente de los Obreros del Transporte Local 100 Roger Toussaint, al Presidente de HERE John Wilhem, a María Elena Durazo, Vicepresidenta de HERE; al Presidente de los Obreros de la Agricultura Arturo Rodríguez y al Presidente de UNITE Bruce Raynor.

La mayoría de los oradores culpó a la administración de Bush de las condiciones enfrentadas hoy por los obreros inmigrantes. Algunos oradores hablaron sobre el "Sueño Americano" y dijeron que el éxito de los obreros que vienen a este país se mide por medio del "trabajo duro."

En la realidad, el imperialismo mundial está destruyendo las economías y eliminado los trabajos en los países oprimidos. Esto crea las condiciones que obligan a millones de obreros a emigrar a este país.

Aquí, estos obreros son súper-explotados por la misma clase capitalista que se aprovecha de su trabajo y de los recursos en su patria.

Hay estimadamente de 8 a 10 millones de obreros indocumentados en este país.

Continúa a página 10



WW FOTO: PAT CHIN

Estas Invitado(a) a Participar en una
CONFERENCIA NACIONAL ESPECIAL

¿Como se Puede Revivir la Lucha Socialista Mundial?

Oradores Destacados • Paneles de Discusión • Talleres

**SABADO Y DOMINGO
DICIEMBRE 6-7**
Nueva York (el lugar será anunciado)

Patrocinado por

EL PARTIDO MUNDO OBRERO

Para más información,

Llame **212-627-2994** o visite **www.workers.org**