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BATTLE OF NEW YORK

Huge protests say: NO Bush, NO war!

By Leslie Feinberg
New York

As we go to press on Sept. 1: Police have arrested hundreds more. Among them were 11 ACT-UP members arrested on trespassing charges after getting inside Madison Square Garden in a third internal disruption. They chanted "Bush lies. Stop AIDS. Drop the debt now!" Among the many protests today 8,000 people forming a giant unemployment line. Tens of thousands of labor unionists rallied within shouting distance of the convention. And thousands rallied in Central Park for reproductive rights.

All the king's horses and all the king's men couldn't hold back the tide of protest that has engulfed Manhattan during the Republican National Convention. Hundreds of thousands have taken to the streets in defiance of police-state-style repression.

Based on the placards they painted and the chants they yelled, the occupation of Iraq and the lies of George W. Bush were the primary compelling forces that drew the multitudes of people into the vortex of struggle.

That the rebellious protests have continued all week despite an army of some 30,000 police, advanced weaponry and "crowd

control" techniques is a monumental political defeat for the administration. They have further damaged U.S. imperialism's standing in the world, already tattered by the strength of the Iraqi resistance.

The mammoth police mobilization may have turned Madison Square Garden—home to the GOP shindig—into a fortress, but on two occasions protesters were able to infiltrate the GOP's jamboree to deliver their militant message in person. On Sept. 1, several got within 15 feet of the stage inside the convention.

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Other youth activists demonstrated that Republican delegates couldn't stay holed up in the convention center day and night, hounding them wherever they went.

On Aug. 31 the struggle in the streets erupted in widespread civil disobedience across the island from Wall Street to Madison Square Garden. Activists—by the thousands, hundreds, or just dozens—skirmished with an overall police mobilization of tens of thousands using high-tech equipment and brutal tactics. These actions revealed the strong, rising current of youth leadership of all nationalities, particularly youths of color. By that

Continued on page 6



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Wisconsin hard hit by growing poverty

By Bryan G. Pfeifer

If anyone has any doubts about the ruling class's unrelenting onslaught against the working class and oppressed in the United States, recently released poverty statistics by the Census Bureau for 2003 should put them to rest.

One of the states with the worst social crisis is Wisconsin. Reporting on the Census Bureau's figures released Aug. 26, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel wrote that 528,000 people out of a population of 5 million are estimated to be living below the poverty level in the state. That is a ten-year high.

With costs of rent, and of staples such as milk and gas, increasing, the federal poverty thresholds of \$18,810 for a family of four and \$12,015 for two people are abysmal and impossible to survive on.

Even worse, the bureau found that 187,000 children are in poverty and that 593,000 Wisconsin residents were without health insurance in 2003. That is a staggering 46 percent increase over 2000.

And although urban areas like Milwaukee and Madison with large populations of nationally oppressed people, especially women and children, have been decimated, rural and semi-rural areas of the state have been steamrolled as well.

Census figures show Waukesha County, just northwest of Milwaukee, with the second-lowest poverty rate in the United States in 2003 among the 233 counties with a population of 250,000 or more. But Karen Tredwell, director of the Food Pantry of Waukesha, is skeptical.

"It's very difficult for me to reconcile the information that poverty is reaching low percentages in Waukesha County," she said. In July the pantry helped more people than any month in its 25-year history. "That's a huge number of people in need in this very wealthy country." (www.jsonline.com)

Although it is undeniable that the continuing loss of mostly union manufacturing jobs due to capitalist eco-

nomie policies like NAFTA—estimated at 84,000 since January 2001—has had a devastating impact in the state, the Journal Sentinel completely ignored an objective factor ravaging Wisconsin: W-2.

Wisconsin became known as a national leader in "welfare reform" by implementing a pilot program, "Pay for Performance," in 1996. It was a precursor to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families. TANF replaced the 60-year-old federal welfare program when the welfare-repeal law, passed by Congress and signed by President Bill Clinton in August 1996, became effective on Sept. 1, 1997.

TANF lifted most federal mandates on all 50 states, allowing them to develop their own workfare programs, as they came to be popularly known. Under the old program, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, states were required to abide by strict federal mandates. TANF, in contrast, allowed states to create their own limits and programs with a bare minimum of federal oversight and regulation.

There is a five-year lifetime limit for benefits under TANF. After recipients use up five years' worth of benefits they are on their own to survive, or not.

The results have been catastrophic.

"We have gone since 1996, when Pay for Performance hit, from distributing 1.5 million pounds of food to 10 million on an emergency basis," said Sherrie Tussler, executive director of the Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee.

"If people don't see that as a troublesome statistic, they surely should see the census numbers as troublesome. A lot of people are piecing together two and three jobs just to be able to make a rent payment. All of those things are symptomatic of a lack of household income to meet basic needs."

TANF dismantled AFDC, the guaranteed federal entitlement program that had been in effect since it was won through militant struggles by the working class and oppressed in the 1930s. Both contenders for the 2004 presidential election support TANF. Democratic contender Sen. John Kerry voted for its passage.

Under the leadership of Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson, now Bush's Health and Human Services secretary, Wisconsin created the most demanding workfare program, called W-2. Under W-2, non-profit and private agencies with multi-year state contracts replaced counties in dispensing services to recipients.

One of the greatest victories for the ruling class in the recent period, the TANF legislation and many states' workfare language was largely written by right-wing think tanks such as the Heritage Foundation, bankrolled by capitalist philanthropies like the Bradley Foundation.

Since 1997 labor and community organizations and even the corporate media have reported on W-2 agency executives profiting from contracts that rewarded agencies providing minimum levels of service, and declaring recipients "job-ready" prematurely, among many other abuses.

From the outset various labor and community organizations such as the Milwaukee-based Job is A Right Campaign denounced W-2 as a slave-labor, union-busting program, and called for the unionization of W-2 workers.

The way to end the wrenching poverty described in the Census Bureau's survey is not to steer the working class and oppressed to vote for capitalist politicians like Bush and Kerry who profit from their misery.

The way forward includes mobilizing and fighting in the streets for people's programs like AFDC and to organize the unorganized.

The Oct. 17 Million Workers March in Washington, D.C., is just such an endeavor.

See www.millionworker.org. □

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NEW YORK

Sat., Sept. 18

Rally for socialist candidates
 John Parker, Teresa Gutierrez
 and Leilani Dowell. 2 p.m. at
 P.S. 41, 116 W. 11 St.,
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Nov. 13-14

Workers World Party National
 Conference. Details to come.
 For info (212) 627-2994.

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Then you should check out what Workers World Party is doing and saying. This party has been fighting for socialism and against the crimes of the profit-mad capitalist system since 1959. It practices affirmative action, building multinational unity and solidarity, and promotes the leadership of those most held back in this racist, sexist, homophobic society. For decades, it has been in the forefront of the anti-war, anti-imperialist movement and has given leadership in many workers' struggles.

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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.

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Behind the 'democratic' façade

Racism's role in U.S. elections

Based on a talk by Dianne Mathiowetz at an Aug. 13 Workers World Party meeting in New York City.

The airwaves and newspapers are filled with talk about the upcoming elections. Voting in them is presented as the highest form of democracy.

No matter how corrupt or unrepresentative the process of candidate selection and election is, the result will be heralded as the will of the people, the only legitimate and effective avenue for popular participation.

In analyzing the role of elections under capitalism and developing a strategy to overturn the rule of the few and the wealthy, understanding the struggle against racism and white supremacy is key to building the requisite unity for victory.

Revolutionaries in the United States, the epicenter of racism and imperialism, have to be ever conscious of history.

When this country was founded on the basis of bourgeois-democratic principles, voting was the exclusive right of white property-holding men. It wasn't even considered that women or slaves would have a political voice.

Despite the 15th Amendment to the Constitution, which extended suffrage to former slaves after the Civil War, and the 19th Amendment that gave women the right to vote in 1920, African American men and women faced overwhelming obstacles in exercising that right, especially in the South.

In addition to poll taxes, literacy tests and other bureaucratic measures designed to prevent Black people from voting, there was the very real threat of physical violence and economic reprisals from the racist power structure and its armed goon squad, the Ku Klux Klan. Black people literally risked death to register to vote.

Reality of Jim Crow

The reality of "Jim Crow" segregation, with its separate water fountains, bathrooms, train cars, hotels and schools, is less than 40 years in the past.

Just decades ago it was standard practice for Black people to be forced to sit in

the back of the bus; to stand aside for a white person passing on a sidewalk, eyes cast down; to labor long and hard for pitiful wages for "Mr. Charlie" as a sharecropper; and to have beatings and lynchings and rapes go unreported and unpunished.

The social, political and economic reality for millions of African Americans and other people of color remained separate and apart from the bourgeois principles of "all men are created equal" and "liberty and justice for all."

In the 1950s and 1960s a powerful civil-rights movement, fueled by the shared experience of every kind of racial indignity and oppression, swept through the small towns and cities of the South. Many tens of thousands of women, men and young people defied water cannons and snarling dogs, fire-bombings and bullets to force certain concessions from the government.

This movement created a different national social climate. A series of laws were passed, including the 1965 Voting Rights Act, which furthered the ability of Black people and others to participate in electoral politics.

Throughout the South and the whole country, there are now Black mayors and judges, city council members and sheriffs, and members of the U.S. House of Representatives. Currently, the Senate and the presidency remain an exclusive white millionaires' club.

Yet, as the recently released report "The Long Shadow of Jim Crow: Voter Intimidation and Suppression in America Today" by People for the American Way and the NAACP details, the bourgeois-democratic right to vote has still to be completely won for Black people and other oppressed peoples in this country.

Florida: an ongoing struggle

Many are aware that in the 2000 presidential election in Florida, thousands and thousands of people, mostly African American, Haitian or Spanish-speaking, were denied the right to vote because their names were wrongly deleted from the register. George W. Bush's election was only possible because of this massive voter fraud.

But the mainstream media have paid

little attention to the ongoing struggle in Florida to prevent a similar purge from taking place again.

The administration of Florida Gov. Jeb Bush has delayed instituting the many changes in voting procedures that were mandated as a result of investigations into the 2000 election.

So hundreds of poll watchers are being recruited from around the country to prevent the disenfranchisement of seniors, the disabled, people of color and non-English-speaking voters in 2003.

According to the report, recently in the Orlando area, armed plainclothes officers from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement questioned elderly Black voters in their homes. It was supposedly part of an investigation into voting irregularities in a mayoral election, but the clear intent was intimidation.

In 2000, police set up barricades and conducted identification stops around voting locations in the Black community in Miami and other Florida cities.

Many other instances of the use of an obvious and intrusive police presence around polling places in African American and immigrant communities are cited in the report, in places from South Carolina to Pennsylvania to California.

Another common device has been directed mailings to communities of color giving false information about election dates, voting requirements and polling locations.

Case of Cynthia McKinney

The 2002 re-election defeat of U.S. Rep. Cynthia McKinney of Georgia is still another example of the ongoing attempt to stifle electoral participation from the Black community.

McKinney represented her majority Black constituency by addressing issues of racism and reparations, women's and labor rights for five terms from 1993 to 2003.

She earned the unrelenting enmity of the right wing by supporting justice for Palestinians and challenging the Bush administration after Sept. 11, 2001, during its build-up to war on Iraq.

She was defeated in her re-election bid two years ago when millions of dollars

from groups such as the American Israel Political Action Committee filled her opponent's coffers—and some 40,000 Republican voters crossed over and voted in the Democratic primary.

However, in July, in a stunning reversal, McKinney won the Democratic primary. Now she is virtually certain to win back her seat in the House of Representatives come November.

McKinney's primary campaign galvanized hundreds of volunteers who went door to door to motivate people to go to the polls.

The denial of voting rights is one of the many forms of inequality that stem from this racist system. The racial disparity in unemployment, wages, the prison population, death sentences, child mortality, incidence of disease, life expectancy and education—all reveal the blatant discrimination that prevails in this "democracy."

The election of any capitalist politician will not solve these deep-rooted contradictions. However, there can be no question that all workers should defend against racist attack the right to vote and hold office, like the right to a job and decent housing, health care and education.

Throughout its 45-year history, Workers World Party has expressed, in word and action, its solid support for the struggles of oppressed peoples against racism, white supremacy and discrimination. Every ploy devised by the ruling class to divide and confuse workers must be exposed and fought. And that means defending oppressed people's right to vote and hold office without incurring a racist backlash.

Workers World Party's election campaign is another way to give an independent voice to the needs and aspirations of working and oppressed people. Capitalism has failed to meet its own definitions of equality. By presenting socialism as a viable and necessary alternative, WWP candidates unmask the charade of bourgeois electioneering.

All the millions who are disenfranchised, marginalized and alienated by this political system—prisoners, the homeless, immigrants, youths—are included in the struggle for a socialist future as critical partners in the working-class movement. □

Another police killing sparks protest

By Adrian Garcia
El Monte, Calif.

In a summer that has witnessed police shootings of unarmed Latinos and beatings of subdued Black men caught on videotape, a militant march of several hundred demonstrators made its way through the working-class neighborhood of El Monte, Calif., on Aug. 28. The protesters demanded an immediate end to police brutality in their community and throughout the world.

The demonstration was prompted by the July 20 death of David Viera at the hands of El Monte police. Viera, a young Chicano father of three, was shot to death after police stopped the car he was riding in. Police said Viera and the driver, Raul Moreno, were suspects in a "gang shooting."

Police claim that Viera failed to obey orders to vacate the vehicle and attempted to retrieve something from beneath the passenger seat—possibly a weapon. The police riddled the car with bullets, mortally wounding Viera.

No weapon was recovered. Viera and Moreno were exonerated as suspects in the earlier shooting.

Among the Aug. 28 demonstrators were many family members of people victimized by police brutality.

Norma Martinez spoke about her two-year struggle to bring the Downey, Calif., police to justice for the killing of her son, Gonzalo Martinez, in February 2002. Gonzalo Martinez was shot 34 times with an automatic machine gun after a minor police chase. When he exited the vehicle, police supposedly confused a cigarette he was holding for a weapon. The incident was videotaped and sparked international outrage.

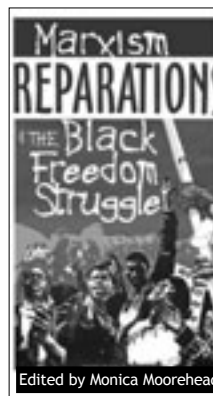
The Friends of David Viera Committee, family members and the Brown Berets organized the march and rally that concluded in Arceo Park in El Monte.

A strong contingent from the International Action Center also took part in the spirited demonstration, prominently displaying placards that read "¡Justicia para David! Justice for David!" and a banner reading "Stop police brutality!" □



WW PHOTO: JULIA LA RIVA

Protesters demand justice on Aug. 28 for David Viera and all victims of police brutality.



- ◆ Racism, national oppression & the right to self-determination *Larry Holmes*
- ◆ Black labor from chattel slavery to wage slavery *Sam Marcy*
- ◆ Reparations & Black Liberation *Monica Moorehead*
- ◆ Harriet Tubman: woman warrior *Mumia Abu-Jamal (Guest Commentary)*
- ◆ Black labor & the fight for reparations *Bill Cecil*
- ◆ Alabama's Black Belt: Legacy of slavery, sharecropping and segregation *By Consuela Lee (Guest commentary)*
- ◆ Black farmers demand justice *Monica Moorehead*
- ◆ Greetings from Mumia Abu-Jamal to the 3rd UN World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia & Related Intolerance
- ◆ Nigerian women take over Chevron Texaco *Monica Moorehead*
- ◆ Nigerian women's takeover ends in victory *Monica Moorehead*
- ◆ Causes of turmoil in Jamaica PART I PART II PART III *Pat Chin*
- ◆ The driving force behind the land seizures *Monica Moorehead*

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Build the MILLION WORKER MARCH!

A groundswell of union support

By Sako Sefiani
Los Angeles

On Aug. 27, the Postal Workers Union formally joined the growing list of unions along with other organizations across the country that have endorsed the Million Worker March—set for Oct. 17 in Washington, D.C., at the Lincoln Memorial.

The Postal Workers convention took place in the Los Angeles Convention Center Aug. 20-28. With 330,000 members, it is the biggest postal workers' union in the world.

The resolution states: "Whereas, the majority of Americans are continuing to experience a decline in health care, good wages, job and pension security, educa-

tion, environmental protection, the protection of unions and are suffering the consequences of a war initiated under false pretenses prior to the United Nation's completing its investigation, and

"Whereas there has been a monopolization of the media and union busting of media workers which has made it difficult for labor's voice to be heard,

"Therefore, be it resolved that American Postal Workers Union endorse the Oct. 17, 2004, Million Worker March, a union movement to communicate our resolution to restore democracy, empower working people and end the promotion of continual war which now dominates the U.S. foreign policy."

The Million Worker March-Los Angeles

organizing committee was a guest exhibitor during the union's biennial convention.

MWM-LA members and volunteers passed out leaflets and talked with union members. John Parker and Marc Rich, Los Angeles co-chairs of the MWM, addressed a group of postal worker delegates and some local union presidents in a meeting at the Convention Center.

Also on Aug. 27, United Teachers Los Angeles, which represents the Los Angeles school district, endorsed the march during its annual leadership conference held in Palm Springs, Calif.

These endorsements came on the heels of Teamsters General Secretary Treasurer Thomas Keegel's Aug. 18 announcement that the Teamsters would contribute "a significant amount of money" to the MWM. The contribution was given to Chris Silvera, secretary-treasurer of Teamsters Local 808 and president of the Teamsters National Black Caucus, during the 29th annual Conference of the Teamsters National Black Caucus in Orlando, Fla.

A large and growing number of unions and their locals have endorsed this historic march on Washington. On July 30, Transport Workers Local 100, with 35,000 members in New York City, endorsed the march, and leaders said they will actively mobilize members.

On Aug. 6, the third biggest AFSCME local, Local 1550 from Houston, endorsed the MWM, announcing it will send buses to Washington. On Aug. 12, AFSCME Council 92, the second biggest council representing over 30,000 workers, threw its support to the march. Council 92 announced that it will actively mobilize in the Greater D.C. area, and help to coordinate for the march.

On Aug. 30, the opening day of the Communications Workers convention in Orange County, Calif., MWM-LA members distributed thousands of fliers about the march. MWM-LA will petition the union to endorse the march.

After decades of stagnating wages,

eroding health and retirement benefits, anti-labor trade policies, union busting, and military adventures for profit and world domination by both Republican and Democratic administrations, U.S. labor is starting to speak for itself because no one else will.

The MWM promises to be a turning point for labor, which has been undermined and marginalized with devastating consequences for working people.

The Clinton years set the stage for shrinking wages and benefits through so-called free trade and "globalization" while corporate profits skyrocketed. Military spending remained absurdly high, leaving little for education, health care, retirement or other basic needs. And now, with both presidential candidates promising to continue the war in Iraq by sending many more sons and daughters of the working class to a profit-driven war, the U.S. labor movement needs its own voice more than ever before.

As the Mission of the Million Worker March, posted on its web site (www.millionworkermarch.org), declares: "In our name, a handful of the rich and powerful corporations have usurped our government. A corporate and banking oligarchy changes hats and occupies public office to wage class war on working people. They have captured the State in their own interests.

"The vast majority of working Americans are under siege. Social services and essential funding for schools, libraries, affordable housing and health care are slashed and eliminated.

"Decent-paying jobs are disappearing through outsourcing and privatization whose real purpose is to break unions and roll back the gains of one hundred years of struggle.

"Sweatshops and starvation wages are imposed on workers across the world and deployed against workers at home to undermine our jobs and our benefits. ...

"The time has come to mobilize working people for our own agenda." □

Open letter to women activists

The following letter was distributed to thousands of women at the pro-reproductive rights march and rally on Aug. 28 in New York.

Why do women need to participate in the MILLION WORKER MARCH on Oct. 17 in Washington, D.C.?

Because we are workers and we deserve pay equity, health care, child care and more. ...

Because ... women need to be paid for the value we produce. We continue to be paid less than men (on average 22 percent less in 2002) and face other forms of discrimination on the job. Sexism and racism help the boss get richer at our expense and often keep us divided. We seek to end all forms of discrimination in the work place and in our communities.

Because ... women, especially single mothers and immigrants, need jobs that pay a national living wage, like \$15 an hour, so we can adequately support our families and put an end to poverty once and for all. We affirm that a job is a human right.

Because ... women need to organize and belong to unions. Women workers, especially women workers of color, are the largest sector of workers demanding the right to unionize, though their rights are being violated on a daily basis by the bosses who spend millions of dollars to prevent unionization and to bust the unions that exist. We affirm that the right to work, the right to organize, and the right to join unions are human rights.

Because ... women need a national universal single-payer health-care system that guarantees health care is a right of all people from cradle to grave. Women need the full range of reproductive services, including birth control, abortion on demand, and Ob-Gyn coverage.

Because ... women need fully subsidized, community-controlled child care so they can work without worrying about the safety, health and educational needs of their children.

Because ... women need the right to same-sex marriage in every state, unbiased child custody rulings, and the freedom to work and live openly and safely as lesbians, bisexuals, and trans people.

Because ... women need our tax dollars to be spent not on war but on life-affirming quality education and schools, affordable housing and community services that meet the needs of everyone from the very young to the very old. Women, children and the aged are forced to bear the brunt of the budget cuts while the Pentagon

feeds off the gravy train. We need to bring all U.S. troops home now, defend the civil rights of all people, especially Arabs, Muslims and immigrants, and stop the fearmongering and scapegoating.

Because ... women need to make sure our demands are heard loud and clear in the fight-back movement. We need to unite with all workers to send the corporate bosses a strong message: We don't like the way you're running things. We need real power over the decisions that affect our lives.

Women have been playing a crucial, leading role in organizing the Million Worker March. We invite you to join us in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 17.

In solidarity,

Brenda Stokely, President, AFSCME District Council 1707; New York Regional Co-Convenor of Million Worker March

Sharon Black Ceci, Steward, UFCW Local 27; Baltimore/ Washington, D.C. Coordinator of MWM

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A call to young workers

By Steven Ceci
Organizer, Service Employees Local 500

The state of young workers is desperate and needs to be addressed.

You don't need statistics to know that youths, young workers, and students are catching hell. But statistics do give concrete evidence about these poor conditions that youths face.

Jobs & unemployment

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' "Current Population Survey," the July unemployment rate for white youths 16 to 19 years old was 14.9 percent. For Latin@ youths from 16 to 19 it was 23.8 percent. That's pretty bad, but African Americans 16 to 19 years old had a jobless rate of 40.5 percent.

Black teenagers are two-and-a-half times more likely to be unemployed than

white teenagers.

Homelessness, health care & AIDS

Young people make up a big portion of those who are homeless, uninsured and living with AIDS. The National Coalition on Homelessness reports that approximately 39 percent of the homeless population is under the age 18.

The fastest-growing population of HIV-positive people is those under the age of 25. The Bush administration has cut funding for AIDS prevention programs that promote condom use.

Education, prisons & the military

Prison spending grew five times as fast as spending for higher education in the past 20 years, according to a report released Aug. 25 by the non-profit Justice Policy Institute, based in Washington, D.C. The study examined prison growth in 17 states considered key to this year's presidential election.

And with the growing prison and jail population, nearly twice as many Black men in their early 30s have been to prison than have obtained a bachelor's degree, according to the same report.

In 1999, the last year that national statistics are available from the U.S. Department of Justice, juvenile facilities reported a 50-percent increase of youths locked up compared to 1991. Youths of color account for 35 percent of the U.S.

VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS NEEDED NOW!

MILLION WORKER MARCH

SUN. OCT. 17 2004

LINCOLN MEMORIAL
WASHINGTON, D.C.





Lanis Deek



Ben Dupuy



Dennis Brutus



Yoomi Jeong



Muntu Matsimela



Sara Flounders



Ramsey Clark



Manik Mukherjee



Teresa Gutierrez



Jo Wilding



Gerry Condon



Deirdre Sinnott



Fernando Suarez



Larry Holmes



Hana al-Bayati



Akira Maeda

Javier Barandiaran
& Maria Rosa Penarroya

Khadouri al-Kaysi



Lenora Foerstel



Julie Fry



Imani Henry



Stephanie Nichols



Emelyn Tapaoan

WW PHOTOS: G. DUNKEL

'RESISTANCE IS JUSTIFIED'

War Crimes Tribunal finds Bush & Co. guilty

By Deirdre Griswold
New York

The people in the audience doubled as judges at the Iraq War Crimes Tribunal, held here Aug. 26 in the Martin Luther King Auditorium.

After hearing and discussing the charges for six hours, the 500 attendees had no doubt about the verdict: "Guilty! Guilty! Guilty!" they roared.

In a just world, President George W. Bush and his fellow conspirators would then have been led off in handcuffs. But the audience didn't expect that. They know it will take a sustained struggle to end U.S. imperialism and its crimes around the world, of which the brutal wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are but the latest example.

Sara Flounders of the International Action Center, who co-chaired the tribu-

nal, explained that it aimed to continue and strengthen the resistance to war and occupation, both in the targeted countries and here in the United States.

A 19-point indictment of Bush and other top officials in his administration and at the Pentagon had been drawn up by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, founder of the IAC. The full indictment and other details of the tribunal can be found at www.peoplejudgebush.org. The indictment was read at the opening of the tribunal with dramatic flair by IAC activists Emelyn Tapaoan, Imani Henry and Stephanie Nichols.

No one watching the news can be ignorant of the U.S. military's high-tech onslaught against the cities, towns, markets and mosques of Iraq. Even pro-war media like Fox News can't help but show U.S. tanks firing heavy weapons and U.S. planes dropping deadly bombs on crowded neighborhoods. All this in a small country thousands of miles away that has never attacked or threatened the United States.

The indictment showed precisely why these acts are more than vicious and reprehensible: They are war crimes, crimes against peace and crimes against humanity, as these terms have been defined in international conventions since World War II.

Reports from other world tribunals

Many of the speakers reported on the work of tribunals held around the world.

Professor Akira Maeda of Japan described hearings in Manila, Philippines, on U.S. bombings of civilians in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Koichi Inamori, a prosecutor for tribunals in Tokyo and Kyoto, Japan, reported on the campaign against deploying Japanese troops to Iraq.

Joachim Guilliard told of plans in Germany to focus on German complicity in the Iraq war.

Ayca Cubukcu, an organizer of the World Tribunal on Iraq held in New York this May, explained that the judging of the United States for war crimes will culminate in March 2005 with a final tribunal session in Istanbul, Turkey.

A close-up view of the Iraqi struggle came from Hana al-Bayati, an Iraqi-French documentary film maker who worked on the Brussels, Belgium, Tribunal. Referring to fighting in Najaf, Falluja, Sadr City and other areas under U.S. attack, she said, "We have to support the resistance," explaining that it is "a fight for the people to control their own resources." She placed the Iraqi resistance in the context of the

movement against globalizing corporations.

After describing how unity is being forged by many sectors of the Iraqi population—"leftists, Islamists and Baathists"—al-Bayati concluded that "whatever course they take is legitimate because they are occupied by a foreign power."

Khadouri al-Kaysi, an Iraqi living in the United States, described the horrors of everyday life for his relatives in Basra. Ghazwan Al-Mukhtar, a retired Iraqi engineer, said that 100,000 Iraqis have passed through U.S. detention centers like Abu Ghraib and that "everything now is worse than under Saddam Hussein."

In person and on videotape, the tribunal heard from resisters in the U.S. military, past and present. Dustin Langley of Support Network for an Armed Forces Union said the movement must "shock and awe the war criminals in Washington," and explained why young men and women have an obligation to resist committing war crimes.

Fernando Suarez, whose son Jesus was one of the first GIs to die in Iraq, said: "I'm here because Bush broke the law in Iraq. My son died of an American cluster bomb. Bush doesn't own this country. You have the power to stop this."

In a filmed interview, Pvt. Brandon Hughey explained he was seeking asylum in Canada because "I can't go kill people in a war my government cannot justify."

Gerry Condon, who spent time in Canada as a Vietnam War resister, said the Canadian Labor Council—equivalent of the AFL-CIO here—has taken a stand supporting U.S. resisters today.

Maria Rosa Peñarroya and Javier Barandiaran, from the Spanish state, gave precise testimony representing dozens of interviews conducted in Baghdad hospitals with Iraqi civilian victims during the bombing attacks of March-April 2003.

Jo Wilding, who drove an ambulance in Falluja for five days during a U.S. siege of the city, told how U.S. forces shut down the main hospital, cut off water and electricity, and fired on her ambulance, hitting a woman in premature labor.

The deliberate destruction of Iraq's infrastructure was described by Denis Halliday, who resigned as head of the United Nations "Oil for Food" program. In a video interview, he called the sanctions against Iraq "genocide."

Dennis Brutus, who fought South African apartheid, said: "We have the right to resist the occupation charade of transfer of authority to a puppet government created by the U.S. This is not true sover-

eignty." Brutus called Washington "the principal agent of terrorism all over the world."

"So long as imperialism exists, the possibility of war is there," said Manik Mukherjee of the All-India Anti-Imperialist Front, which has organized mass demonstrations against the Iraq war. He called for international coordination in the struggle against imperialism.

Practically no country is untouched by U.S. aggression. This has laid the basis for an international movement.

Yoomi Jeong of the Korea Truth Commission explained how "what's happening in Iraq today happened in Korea 50 years ago."

Ben Dupuy of Haiti's National Popular Party talked of his country's two-centuries-long resistance to French and U.S. imperialism.

Teresa Gutierrez of the New York Committee to Free the Cuban Five told how the Venezuelan people now chant, "Hold on Iraq, the world is rising."

Lamis Deek of Al Awda described the resistance of Palestinian prisoners now on hunger strike against U.S.-backed Israeli repression.

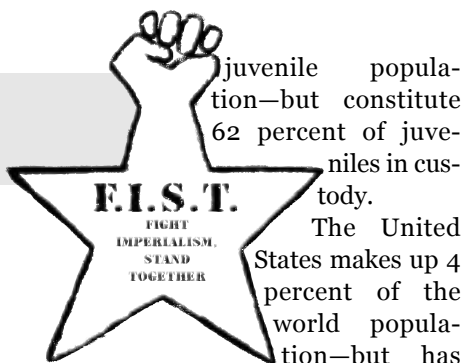
John Parker, West Coast IAC organizer, questioned the imperialists' motives in Sudan. In 1998, he visited the pharmaceutical plant there that was destroyed by U.S. missiles.

In a fiery speech, AFSCME District Council President Brenda Stokely invited the anti-war movement to be part of the massive workers' mobilization to take place on Oct. 17 in Washington. Known as the Million Worker March, it will "offer a space for the voice of the people to identify the real enemy."

All this took place as New York was under siege by tens of thousands of police preparing for protests at the Republican National Convention. The hundreds attending the tribunal had to wait in long lines to pass police-imposed security checks. Larry Holmes of the ANSWER steering committee announced that the next day there would be an emergency news conference at City Hall to demand free access to the streets and parks of the city.

Ramsey Clark, founder of the IAC, then put the question to the audience: "The U.S. government spends more on the military than all others on earth—all in the service of corporate wealth. It is a clear and present danger to the planet. This assault on Iraq is beyond question a war of aggression, which the Nuremberg trials said was the supreme crime. How do you vote?"

The answer was loud and clear. □



juvenile population—but constitute 62 percent of juveniles in custody. The United States makes up 4 percent of the world population—but has about 25 percent of the world's prison population.

Because of the lack of good jobs and affordable education, many young people are forced into an economic draft and sent away to Iraq to commit atrocities like those in Abu Ghraib prison, while youths in the United States face prison abuse here at home.

Stand up, fight back & organize

There are times when common interests are tied so closely that unity and action are the recipe for victory. Workers in general, but particularly older and younger workers of color, are catching the brunt of capitalist exploitation, which leads to poverty, racism, and imperialist wars of plunder.

We younger workers have a great opportunity through the Million Worker March to have our voices be heard and take an active, leading role in the working-class movement. We can show that we are some of the best fighters for workers' and oppressed people's rights and demands such as universal health care, the right to organize, a national living wage, bringing the troops home now, and stopping police brutality and racism. □



WW PHOTOS: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD (TOP ROW), PAT CHIN (BOTTOM ROW)

Huge protests say: NO Bush, NO war!

Continued from page 1

evening police had taken more than 900 people into custody, bringing the official total of anti-RNC arrests to 1,460. (New York Times, Sept. 1)

Half a million march

The week of protest also drew large marches and rallies.

In sweltering heat that turned the city into the Baked Apple, hundreds of thousands of people poured into the streets on Aug. 29 in the week's most massive march. The demonstration had been prepared for almost a year by the United for Peace and Justice coalition.

The authorities had refused to grant a permit for marchers to rally in a vast expanse of Central Park capable of comfortably holding such huge numbers, so the more than half a million marchers packed the wide avenues of New York for six hours, able to move at only a snail's pace.

They came from all walks of life, from states all over the United States—as far away as Hawaii, Texas and Florida—and from other countries.

Veterans, deployed GIs' loved ones, labor unionists, youths, whole extended families, long-time anti-imperialist and anti-oppression fighters, seasoned anti-capitalist activists and those demonstrating against the government for the first time in their lives—they united together in the streets for hours before the march began.

And when they stepped off and marched on Madison Square Garden, the RNC site, they roared their opposition to war and occupation for empire, and to attacks on civil liberties. They voiced their enmity toward the Bush administration. And they demanded jobs and health care.

Many of the angry messages conveyed by hand-made placards and banners, though wildly creative, are unprintable.

The Democratic Party, which could have mobilized its apparatus to provide a sea of red-white-and-blue "Kerry for President" signs and stickers, seems to have made a decision not to.

It was clear that many, many in the predominantly white, young crowd were prepared to vote for Kerry as "the lesser of two evils," even if some had to hold their noses to do so. But if they thought that pulling

the lever for Kerry was enough action to create change, they would have stayed home until Nov. 2.

Instead, they mobilized to come to New York from far and wide—despite an official campaign of fear and intimidation to keep them away—to march in the streets and make their own voices heard.

After the march ended, hundreds went to the forbidden grounds of Central Park. Thousands thronged in Union Square. Later that night, smaller groups of activists faced down riot police while trying to confront Republican delegates partying on Broadway and in tony restaurants.

Youths confront GOP delegates

On Aug. 29, the Mouse Bloc—named for the little critter elephants reportedly fear most—showed on Broadway's "Great White Way" at theaters and restaurants where delegates wined and dined. Police attacked and arrested demonstrators on the sidewalks, including taking 25 lesbian, gay, bi and trans activists holding a "kiss-in" into custody.

Determined activists, with youths in the lead, demonstrated on Aug. 31 that big-business politicians and their hangers-on could run, but they couldn't hide.

Republican delegates reportedly holed up in a restaurant on East 28th Street while police made nearly 40 arrests outside.

Wisconsin delegates were confronted by activists chanting, "Who would Jesus bomb?"

Texas delegates staying at an upscale mid-Manhattan hotel were greeted by activists posing as employees of "Hallibacon," who grunted through plastic pig snouts and rolled around in stacks of "\$100 bills" with Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney's photos on them. The protesters charged Cheney and Halliburton with war profiteering in Iraq.

Delegates staying at the Carlton Hotel on 27th and Madison also ran into protesters and trashcans on fire.

Demonstrators picketed outside Sotheby's auction house as members of the Tennessee delegation inside were bidding on the estate of deceased country-western singer Johnny Cash. At least one angry protester explained that Johnny Cash made music about "the poor and beaten down," not the ones who do the beating

down. (Daily News, Sept. 1)

"Around 8 p.m., delegate buses were forced to unload a block from Madison Square Garden," AM New York reported. (Sept. 1) "Harried delegates were escorted by cops past the protesters under a barrage of anti-Bush chants. Leslie Finn, a delegate from Missouri, said his bus was stuck for more than an hour as protesters chanted from the sidewalks."

At Madison Square Garden, according to the Sept. 1 New York Post, "the protests got physical—and a little wet—as Bush-haters roughed up and spit on GOP delegates who got caught up in the demonstration crowds as they tried to enter the convention."

The Sept. 1 New York Times reported that, "As protesters converged on Herald Square in the evening, the police tried to contain the increasingly raucous crowds. Hundreds of protesters seemed to get too close to the buses of delegates and the crowd became unruly as the police moved in metal barricades and used scooters to try to push the crowd back. Those who would not move were arrested, and each time the police moved in to make an arrest, they were swarmed by protesters."

Demonstrators, unable to press forward to the Garden, broke up into groups and took over the streets and avenues, chanting, "1, 2, 3, 4, we don't want your oil war!"

The crowd also cheered a group of some 20 activists as they laid down and locked arms in the middle of Broadway.

Traffic was stalled for hours as police tackled and arrested people indiscriminately.

One GOP delegate with a Stars-and-Stripes top hat on her head emerged from shopping at Macy's to find herself face to face with thousands of angry protesters. "Omgod, how do I get to the Garden?" she asked one cop.

"Good luck, lady," he replied, as she reportedly fled. (Daily News, Sept. 1)

'The streets belong to the people!'

Thousands of activists also held other actions throughout the day and evening and many tried to march on the convention itself.

Civil disobedience on Aug. 31, aided by text messaging and cell phone technolo-

gies, erupted in the streets outside the New York Public Library, Herald Square, Union Square, Irving Plaza, Madison Avenue, in front of Fox News Channel studios in midtown, and on the sidewalks that line "Ground Zero"—site of the former World Trade Center complex—and elsewhere.

Hundreds of police were on hand to secure the blocks surrounding the New York Stock Exchange before it opened at 8 a.m.

An hour later 14 youths were arrested by three to four times as many police for the "crime" of stringing a ball of yarn across the street to call attention to their anti-profits message.

Police made an estimated 200 arrests at a demonstration of several thousand who marched near Ground Zero to oppose the occupation of Iraq. This protest was organized by the War Resisters League and the School of the Americas Watch.

According to media reports, the group had abided by an agreement that they could march on the sidewalk, two abreast, to the Garden. But once the march was underway, police unrolled orange nets to trap them and began mass arrests. Out-of-town journalists were also enmeshed in the roundup.

"We don't know why we are being arrested, we were just crossing the street," one activist told reporters. "We were told if we didn't do anything illegal we would be allowed to march on the sidewalk and we did just that."

North of Ground Zero, hundreds of other demonstrators surged into the streets for a "die-in." Police immediately "netted" them and began sweeping arrests. The remaining hundreds marched up Broadway, where scores were able to hold a successful action in the street just blocks from the convention center.

In the afternoon, two women tried to unfurl a banner on the steps of the New York Public Library. Police wrestled them to the ground, but fellow protesters surrounded the police chanting "Oink! Oink!"

Cops cordoned off the block with netting and rioted, throwing people to the ground.

Police also busted anti-war demonstrators, particularly youths, as they left large rallies in Union Square.

Many other protest actions took place

ANSWER Boston defends activists

'Police state campaign will not work'

The following news release was issued Aug. 31 by ANSWER Boston (Act Now to Stop War & End Racism) after police harassment and surveillance of two local activists.

ANSWER Boston strongly condemns the recent front-page articles in the Aug. 27 New York Daily News and the Aug. 27 Boston Herald attacking Boston activists Richard Picariello and Kazi Toure for being "dangerous terrorists."

It should come as no surprise that these articles were published on the eve of the Aug. 29 demonstration in New York City against war and occupation. Articles of this type, as well as the continued harassment of activists throughout the country, are a blatant use of the media as an arm of Homeland Security to try to intimidate and prevent people from exercising their right to free speech and their right to stand up in opposition to war and racism.

Since 9/11 there has been an assault on the rights of Arab and Muslim

Americans and an increase in the harassment of anti-war activists. Activists from throughout the country have reported being visited, followed or otherwise harassed by agents of Homeland Security. Over the past several months we have seen an increase of this type of activity first in Boston for the DNC, which included retinal scanning, state-of-the-art video surveillance and unconstitutional search and seizures on the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, and now during the Republican National Convention in New York.

This police state campaign to silence dissent has not and will not work. Thousands marched through the streets of Boston on July 25 and at least 500,000 through the streets of NYC on August 29. Many more demonstrations will take place during the course of the RNC. We understand all too well that these attacks on the anti-war movement, community activists, and trade unionists are nothing more than the domestic front of Bush's "endless war" against those who stand up

in opposition to the goals and aspirations of U.S. imperialism for world domination.

More and more of the people in this country are beginning to realize that the true terrorists reside in Washington, D.C. They are the ones who have unleashed horrific wars against the people of Iraq and Afghanistan. They are the ones who continue to support the racist genocide of the Palestinian people. They are the ones who illegally kidnapped the president of Haiti, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, and who have murdered thousands of his supporters and imprisoned thousands more. They are the ones who attempted to overthrow the government of Hugo Chavez in Venezuela and when that failed funded the recent referendum to oust Chavez that also failed. They are the ones who continue to fund the Pentagon with money stolen from our communities. They are the ones who fill the prisons with people whose only crime is to be a person of color. They are the ones who should be highlighted on the front page of every newspaper with the caption "dangerous terrorist."

Both Picariello and Toure are well-known activists in the Boston area who have a long history of standing in solidarity with those who have been unjustly singled out by the government for harassment and/or imprisonment. ANSWER Boston stands in solidarity with them, unconditionally, and defends their right to organize and protest free from this state-sponsored harassment. We call on all justice-loving people to stand up and let these government agencies and their allies in the media know that "we will not be intimidated; we will not be silenced!"

We demand that Bush/Homeland Security cease and desist from all acts of harassment, surveillance, illegal imprisonment, etc., of the Arab and Muslim community, the anti-war movement, community activists and trade unionists.

Homeland Security must be dismantled and the racist, unconstitutional Patriot Act must be repealed. □

during the day, in front of the Bureau of Immigration, at the Port Authority Bus Terminal, in subways and on side streets.

The big-business media, charged with being propaganda machinery, were also targets of Aug. 31 protests. More than 1,000 people protested outside the studios of pro-war Fox News, chanting, "Fox lies, people die."

Demonstrators threw fake blood and heckled a live broadcast by Chris Matthews as he hosted MSNBC from Herald Square.

Eric Laursen, a spokesperson for the A31 Action Coalition, which coordinated many of the Aug. 31 actions, concluded, "We've showed that there are thousands of people in New York who are willing to stand up to the police. The streets of New York belong to the people."

'Whose streets? Our streets!'

The week of events leading up to the RNC began on Aug. 26 with a war crimes tribunal.

Despite police harassment of the more than 500 activists from the United States and around the world taking part in the tribunal, the event concluded with a unanimous verdict of "guilty" against President George W. Bush and his administration.

And the tribunal declared that resistance—from Iraq to Palestine to the streets of Manhattan—is a right.

That same day, 11 AIDS activists were arrested after taking off their clothes in the street outside Madison Square Garden. They did it to dramatize their demand that Washington make funds available to help confront the epidemic in poorer countries.

Four other protesters now face a grand jury hearing for what they did that same day: unfurling a mammoth banner down the side of the posh Plaza Hotel on Fifth Avenue. The word "truth" on the banner pointed in the opposite direction from the word "Bush."

On the evening of Aug. 27, the monthly "Critical Mass" bike ride, which usually draws hundreds of bicyclists, grew to thousands to protest the convention. They tied up traffic and chanted anti-Bush slogans.

Police viciously attacked the bicyclist-activists, injuring some and arresting more than 260.

Earlier in the day, hundreds of mothers

with young children, a few dads and other supporters pushed strollers across the Brooklyn Bridge in a demonstration organized by Mothers Opposing Bush. Malissa Smith said she took part because "Bush is taking away our children's future. Money for preemptive war takes away money from child care."

The next day, women and their allies, estimated by organizers at 25,000 strong, massed at Cadman Plaza in Brooklyn and marched over the Brooklyn Bridge to rally in front of City Hall.

This reproductive rights march was initiated by groups that included Planned Parenthood of New York City, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, NARAL Pro-Choice America, National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health, Black Women's Health Imperative and the Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Trans Community Center.

Many speakers denounced the Bush administration for its anti-abortion, sexist and anti-lesbian attacks and its pandering to the religious right, which has spearheaded violence against women's health clinics. Rally speakers also pointed to the impact of racism, particularly on health care funding for women of color.

A NARAL speaker received enthusiastic applause when she called for an end to all occupations—"of Iraq, Afghanistan and our bodies."

'Fight AIDS, not Iraq!'

Midday on Aug. 30—the first formal day of the RNC—an estimated 10,000 people took part in the Still We Rise Coalition March.

Gathering at Union Square, they marched on the Garden chanting, "Fight AIDS, not Iraq!" The multinational protest also revealed the strong, rising current of youth leadership—particularly youths of color.

Hours later, at 4 p.m., a "March for Our Lives" started with a rally at the United Nations. The Poor Peoples Economic Human Rights Campaign organized the event. When demonstrators tried to march toward 34th Street without a permit, police in huge numbers and a line of vans tried to

WWP candidates' statement condemning RNC-cop repression can be read online at www.vote4workers.org

Protester being handcuffed by N.Y. "finest" on Aug. 29.



block the protesters' forward motion.

But the crowd would not stop. They chanted: "Whose streets? Our streets!" Faced with this militant defiance, the police backed down and the protesters marched to Madison Square Garden.

Police arrested at least 10 during the demonstration.

Dozens of smaller actions also took place on Aug. 30.

Plans for other rallies and marches are gathering steam. A Sept. 1 Labor Day rally called by the Central Labor Council to protest Bush's anti-worker policies is expected to draw thousands.

Later that evening a mobilization sponsored by NOW-NY to protest Bush's war on women, workers, people of color, the poor and immigrants will assemble in the East Meadow of Central Park.

On Sept. 2, the day Bush addresses the RNC, Artists & Activists United for Peace are scheduled to rally and march from the Harlem State Office Building. The rally will feature City Councilperson Charles Barron, Bob Law, the Rev. Herbert Daughtry, Don Rojas and Nellie Bailey.

At 7 that evening, while Bush is speaking inside the Garden, a "Rally to End the Colonial Occupation of Iraq, Haiti, Palestine & Everywhere"—called by the ANSWER coalition—will take place outside. □



Aug. 29 march.

Negroponte memo focuses on Iraqi oil as U.S. loses control of western cities

By Deirdre Griswold

Even as the Bush administration was using the Republican National Convention to try to project an image of unassailable strength, attacks on U.S. forces in Iraq grew to 60 a day. The level of resistance is now even higher than before the June "transfer of power," which was meant to give a semblance of stability and sovereignty to the occupation.

In western Iraq, U.S. troops cannot enter the cities. They are "confined mainly to heavily protected forts on the desert's edge. What little influence the Americans have is asserted through wary forays in armored vehicles, and by laser-guided bombs" (New York Times, Aug. 29)

In Falluja and Ramadi, where U.S. troops took some of their heaviest casualties, the decision had been made to "flatten" the cities and then send in Iraqi troops under U.S. command to reestablish control. "The culmination of that approach came with the recruitment of the so-called Falluja Brigade," wrote the Times, "... who marched into the city in early May, wearing old Iraqi military uniforms, backed with American-supplied weapons and money. But the Falluja Brigade is in tatters now Men assigned to the brigade, and to the two guard battalions, have mostly fled, Iraqis in Falluja say, taking their families with them, and handing their weapons to the militants." Falluja is just 35 miles west of Baghdad.

With Falluja in the hands of the resistance, videotapes showing the confessions and executions of collaborators are being sold in the marketplace for 50 cents each,

reports the Times. Both the chief of a battalion of the U.S.-trained Iraqi National Guard and the governor of Anbar province are seen confessing on one video. Another shows a man identified as an Egyptian named Muhammad Fawazi admitting he was paid \$150 each for planting electronic chips in houses to be targeted in U.S. bombing raids.

The videotape then cuts to a segment taken by the U.S. military itself.

"The black-and-white tape, giving the pilot's eye view," writes the Times, "shows a district of Falluja on a moonlit night, with the targeting crosshairs fixed on a large, low building across the street from a mosque, whose minaret throws a moon shadow onto the street. The sound of the pilot breathing into his mask can be clearly heard, with an exchange with a controller that speaks for the nonchalance of modern warfare.

"I have numerous individuals on the road, do you want me to take them out?" the pilot asks

"After a pause, the controller replies, saying, 'Take them out.' ...

"A huge blast of smoke and flame erupts on the road, enveloping the men, as the pilot cries 'Impact!'

"The controller then closes the exchange. 'Oh dude!' he says, with what appears to be a chuckle."

The videotape then shifts to "scenes of devastation after an air attack on Falluja. It shows a crater, rubble, people piling up belongings, injured being carried into a hospital, and distraught-looking groups of civilians, including children." It is not hard to imagine the burning hatred for the

occupation that all this evokes.

Faced with this rising resistance, U.S. Ambassador John D. Negroponte, ensconced in Baghdad in the largest U.S. Embassy in the world, has recommended in a cable to the State Department that Washington shift \$3.37 billion from the reconstruction of Iraq's infrastructure and spend it instead on Iraqi police and military forces. If adopted, this new plan will undoubtedly convince even more Iraqis to actively join the resistance.

The Aug. 30 Wall Street Journal, which first reported on Negroponte's cable, notes that the money had originally been intended for water, sewage and electricity projects. It comes from \$18.4 billion in reconstruction aid allocated by Congress last November, nearly a year

ago, but which remains largely unspent so far, even though daily life in Iraq has become a sheer hell due to the breakdown of basic services.

The Journal, which speaks to the corporate world and its keen interest in the exploitation of the region's rich oil resources, notes that, "More than \$255 million is aimed at expanding production at the Kirkuk and Rumaylah oil fields. The goal, one official said, is to raise Iraqi oil output to three million barrels a day by the end of the year from the current 2.2 million."

The resistance has recently carried out spectacular attacks on oil pipelines across the south, but 2 million barrels of oil a day are still being shipped abroad. The funds are going largely to pay for the U.S.-led occupation. □

Endless unemployment line



To protest Bush's economic policies, more than 5,000 people holding "pink slips" formed a symbolic unemployment line that wound for miles through New York City on Sept. 1, from Wall Street to Madison Square Garden.

PHOTO & CAPTION BY DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

Activists tell Bloomberg, cops

'Central Park & the streets belong to the people'



WW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

Labor leader and New York co-convenor of the Million Worker March, Brenda Stokely, speaks at an Aug. 27 press conference in front of NY City Hall. The press conference was called to denounce the Bloomberg administration and the police authorities' denial of permits for rallies in Central Park on Aug. 28 and Aug. 29 against the Republican National Convention and police repression. Other speakers included City Councilpersons Charles Barron and Bill Perkins; Nellie Bailey, Harlem Tenants Council; LeiLani Dowell, Queers for Peace & Justice; Julie Fry, Fight Imperialism—Stand Together (FIST) youth group; Not In Our Name representative; Dustin Langley from the GI resistance group SNAFU; and Larry Holmes and Sara Flounders, co-directors of the International Action Center. Over 50 activists attended the press conference called on one day's notice. Many held signs exposing police repression during the RNC especially targeting young people.

—Monica Moorehead

During anti-RNC week

Supporters rally for Starbucks workers

By Tony Murphy
New York

The coffee giant Starbucks has frequently been a target of protesters, mostly for its anti-environmental, pro-corporate and anti-people practices. On the first day of the anti-RNC-protest kickoff weekend, a mid-Manhattan Starbucks was again the target of a demonstration—this time supporting an effort by its workers to form a union.

Starbucks workers in New York generally start at under \$8 an hour. While employees who work 20-plus hours are eligible for medical coverage, 40-hour work weeks are rare. In fact, bosses shuffle schedules to avoid them.

The workers' central demands at this store are increased pay, guaranteed hours with the option of full-time status, and an end to understaffing.

In July, Starbucks appealed a National Labor Relations Board decision in favor of a union certification election. On July 28, the board accepted Starbucks' appeal of the decision.

That effectively blocked the election since a ruling on the appeal could take years.

But the Starbucks workers' struggle has attracted supporters. On Aug. 28, over 150 people protested in a dynamic demonstration, marching from the site of the organizing drive to Starbucks' regional office and back.

Demonstrators included someone dressed as a giant coffee cup with work-

ers' demands printed on it, participants fresh from the day's earlier March for Women's Lives, and teams of legal observers from the New York Civil Liberties Union and the National Lawyers Guild.

Like the public fight between New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and anti-war groups over the right to protest, the solidarity rally for the Starbucks workers was also a free speech battleground. The New York Police Department deployed an array of beat cops, plainclothed motor-scooter cops and others who generally harassed the protest by drawing and re-drawing "protest zones."

Demonstrators held their ground, vocally asserting their constitutional right to protest and assemble. The police tried to block the final 100 feet of the march by refusing to let protesters end in front of the store where it began—but gave in when the protesters chanted, "Let us march! Let us march!" and surged forward.

Ultimately four people who decided to challenge the restrictions were arrested. Two of them, store workers Daniel Gross and Anthony Polanco, were arrested when they stepped outside the designated protest area.

After being released, Gross expressed confidence about continuing the campaign to win union rights for service and low-wage workers through campaigns that rely less on NLRB elections and more on militant tactics.

More information is available at www.starbucksunion.org. □

Police-state tactics vs. right to protest

Bush, Bloomberg make war on New York

By Fred Goldstein
New York

The months-long, carefully orchestrated campaign of intimidation against protests at the Republican National Convention, spearheaded by Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York, was aimed at protecting the representatives of his fellow billionaires and millionaires from the justifiable wrath of the people.

Under the political cover of the so-called “war on terrorism,” Bloomberg, Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly and the Bush administration mounted a major show of force in an effort to forestall a militant, Seattle-type protest.

Bloomberg was the point man for the Secret Service, the Department of Homeland Security, the Justice Department and the Pentagon. He had the complicity of the totally pliable big business media, which reinforced the message of intimidation and passed over the gross violations of constitutional rights, endorsing police-state tactics, just as it cheered on U.S. aggression in Iraq when it was embedded with the Pentagon.

When they planned their convention over a year ago, the Republican Party and the Bush administration undoubtedly planned to make a triumphant march into New York City after having set up a puppet government in Afghanistan and completed their conquest of Iraq. But that was then, and this is now.

Now they have come to New York—historically a center of progressive, radical and revolutionary politics—as an invading army of reaction that has stirred the anger of the world.

They are the bloody occupiers who cannot subdue the national resistance of the Iraqi people. They are the architects of torture at Abu Ghraib prison, Guantanamo and Afghanistan. They are the corrupt tools of Halliburton and the oil billionaires. They are the benefactors of the military-industrial complex and the darlings of the rich through their tax cuts. They engage in sabre rattling in every direction and have promised “endless war.”

Add to this the Patriot Act and all the racist and repressive measures they have carried out. Throw in their economic program of cutbacks across the board on social spending, anti-union policies and attacks on overtime pay, among other things. Then consider their totally reactionary social program of racism, attacking women’s reproductive rights, and denying equality to lesbians, gays, bi and trans people.

The very presence in New York City of this assemblage of political reactionaries and their obscenely opulent ruling class sponsors is a major provocation. It is no wonder that Mayor Bloomberg had to enter into an alliance with the Bush administration and the Republican Party in order to come up with the \$75 million they are spending on the most massive show of force in the history of any city against its people.

Warmakers are lawbreakers

The “war against terrorism” was invoked to justify unprecedented measures taken to prepare for repression against the masses of people. Over 30,000 police were deployed to protect the RNC, including 10,000 street cops in the area surrounding Madison Square Garden. They were supplemented by hundreds of bicycles and scooters for mobile tactics clearly aimed, not at a conspiracy of a few, but at the resistance of the many.

Bloomberg took a “law and order” line from day one, promising to crush anyone who, in the eyes of the ruling class, breaks the law.

It was an attempt to divert attention from the fact that the Bush administration has violated just about every international law with regard to war, including the United Nations Charter and laws like the Geneva Conventions that forbid preemptive invasions and military aggression, plus the U.S. Constitution.

As a consequence of these violations of law, tens of thousands of Iraqis and Afghans have died. Hundreds of thousands more have been wounded, made homeless and had their livelihoods destroyed. Almost 1,000 U.S. troops have now been killed and many thousands more seriously injured.

The capitalist ruling class has violated these laws to advance the interests of the oil companies, the Pentagon and the transnational corporations seeking profits and control of the Gulf region.

Bloomberg, Kelly and the entire capitalist media do not want to call attention to these violations of law. The authorities are prepared to brutalize and jail protesters who want to take to the streets to protest the crimes of Bush.

By these standards of “upholding the law,” Bloomberg and Kelly would have arrested Martin Luther King Jr. and the tens of thousands of civil rights demonstrators who committed civil disobedience to overturn the lawlessness of segregation.

It was the right of the African Americans and the civil rights movement to use whatever means available to overturn the criminal, racist practices of segregation and racism in general.

It is certainly the right of the political movement to struggle in the streets to prevent imperialist aggression, intervention or colonization of Iraq, Palestine, Haiti or anywhere else, and to prevent crimes against the poor, against people of color, against women or lesbian, gay, bi or trans people.

It is the right of workers to fight for their survival against the bosses despite court injunctions, anti-labor laws and other “legal” means that restrain labor from defending itself against the exploiting capitalist class.

Right to resist war crimes

The movement has to insist that the right of the people to defend themselves against ruling class injustice takes absolute and total legal priority over the right of the oppressing classes, such as those represented by Bloomberg and Kelly, to enforce their will upon the people.

It is important to protest against the use of “excessive force” and put the police and the government on the defensive about their brutality. The unprovoked and completely disproportionate aggression by the cops must be exposed.

But we should also point out that no force by the capitalist state against people fighting for their rights is justified.



Police hold back massive crowd as float burns during Aug. 29 march against RNC in NY.



Bicyclists are arrested during Aug. 29 march against the RNC in NY.

political and cultural center of the country. It is the stronghold of the reproductive rights movement in the country. It has the largest lesbian, gay, bi and trans community in the country. It has a huge immigrant community and a sweatshop industry with massive numbers of super-exploited workers.

It is the largest city in the country by population. Its massive numbers of workers and oppressed people are concentrated into a very small geographical area, which facilitates united action.

New York is where the first major post-World War II mass urban uprising against racism and police repression took place—in 1964, with the Harlem rebellion. Dozens of rebellions followed around the country.

Abortion rights were won in New York before the rest of the country. The Stonewall Rebellion took place in New York in 1969, spawning a world-wide struggle for lesbian, gay, bi and trans rights.

During the Vietnam War, massive, militant demonstrations against the war and the draft forced the government to close down draft boards and deterred government officials from coming to the city. On Feb. 15, 2003, half a million people marched in New York, trying to prevent Bush from invading Iraq.

Great labor demonstrations shook the city during the 1930s. Ever since the unions have periodically demonstrated their militancy and organization. The Labor Day demonstrations, although tame in recent years, attract tens of thousands and are an annual reminder to the ruling class of the sleeping giant living here. This is also true for the annual turnout of a million people for Brooklyn’s Caribbean Day and the yearly massive Puerto Rican Day parades. Recently, 100,000 immigrant workers and their supporters held an unprecedented and historic demonstration in the multinational borough of Queens.

The ruling class knows that poverty in this country is growing, including in New York, which houses some of the richest millionaires and billionaires in the world. This parasitic class sees only continued occupation and military expansion. Whether Kerry or Bush gets elected, plans for the draft are on the drawing board. The weak capitalist recovery presages another bust, while the workers have never recovered from the last one.

This is what the deployment of 30,000 police on 12-hour shifts, and the public

Continued on page 10

Whatever class-based complaints the government utilizes to justify its repression of the protesters against the RNC should be regarded as subordinate to the legal right to demonstrate to stop monumental war crimes, crimes against the poor, the racist death penalty, crimes against the environment, and so on.

The recently emerged Bush-Ridge-Ashcroft-Bloomberg axis of reaction has more than the short-term goal of suppressing demonstrations at the RNC. The longer-range goal is to intimidate the entire working class and progressive and revolutionary movements in New York, while sending a signal to the country as a whole.

There is much talk about how New York is a Democratic Party town and this is what’s behind the massive demonstrations. To be sure, the Democratic Party is strong in New York, even though it serves the same ruling class, for the same reactionary aims as the Republicans. But for the ruling class, that’s not the primary significance of this show of force in crowd control and mass repression.

Bloomberg fears NYC’s workers and oppressed

New York is a major center of progressive and revolutionary politics. The ruling class knows the country is headed into a period of deepening military intervention and war, as well as a deepening and insoluble economic crisis. Bloomberg, with the backing of Wall Street and Washington, anticipates coming struggles and is moving to strengthen the state apparatus while waging a campaign of intimidation.

New York has been vilified around the country by the ruling class media for its progressive character. It is a labor town with more union members than any other city. It has become the most multinational city in the country, with a majority Black, Latin@, Asian, Arab and other peoples of color. It has Harlem, the African American



In sickness & in poverty

There are different ways to measure the state of the capitalist economy. Sales. Profit margins. Stock prices. Those show how good the economy is for the bosses.

Credit card balance. Bank account. Weekly income. These show how good or bad it is for an employed worker.

How many children are hungry. How many people ask for money in the street. How many are sleeping on the street. How many are dying on the street. These show how bad it is for unemployed workers and uninsured workers with illnesses.

It's hard to capture the meaning of an economic downturn from a bunch of numbers. But the Census Bureau released some statistics as August ended that translated into the pictures painted by the last paragraph.

There was even some controversy about the timing of the publication of these numbers. Some Democrats said they were released early so they didn't hit the media closer to the election. Let's look at the numbers and see what they mean.

The number of people in the United States living below the poverty level increased in 2003 by 1.3 million, from 34.5 million to 35.8 million. Children accounted for some 800,000 of the increase.

One of every eight people in this enormously wealthy country is dirt poor.

One hand-made sign at the big anti-Bush demonstration Aug. 29 read:

Milosevic: on the counterattack

The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague, Netherlands, seems incapable of presenting a convincing case against its most famous defendant, even when it stacks all the rules against him. Former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic opened his defense case Aug. 31 with a blistering political attack, not only on the illegitimate court but also on the NATO forces that created it.

Even as Milosevic was blasting the NATO aggressors for working over 10 years to destroy the multi-ethnic and multi-religious state of Yugoslavia, the factual testimony against him presented in two years of the prosecution case was evaporating.

The latest pre-defense revelation came out in an article in the Ottawa Citizen, which interviewed a Canadian detective sergeant, Brian Honeybourn. The detective had joined the hunt for mass graves in the occupied Serbian province of Kosovo. Honeybourn said, "It seems as though The Hague is beginning to panic" because no one could find mass graves in Kosovo.

Honeybourn was on one of the United Nations teams searching for the "mass graves." But the biggest burial site contained 20 bodies—not an astonishing number after a year-long civil war and 79 days of NATO bombs.

Milosevic had four hours to present his defense opening. The prosecutors

"1.3 million more poor. Cost of the war: \$144 billion." While the war doesn't explain why the number of poor grew, it is certainly true that the \$144 billion could be looked at as more than \$4,000 that could go to everyone living in poverty.

Another important statistic: There were 1.4 million more people without health insurance. This number grew from 43.5 million to almost 45 million, or 15.6 percent of the population. It actually leaves out a few million people who don't want to be counted because they don't have legal papers, but they also don't have health insurance. Since most of the very poor are eligible for Medicaid, this means that as many as 80 million people—poor or without insurance—are living a precarious existence.

These numbers mean that more people are hungry, more live in the streets, and more are sick with no medical care and more likely to die.

This is where capitalism has brought the people in the richest country in the world in only 13 years of uncontested world domination, since the 1991 collapse of the USSR. The profit system was supposed to be humanity's only future. But the temporary victory of the bosses wasn't, as some capitalist apologists argued, the end of history. It was the start of another chapter of class struggle that will revive the struggle for socialism. □

had taken three days to present their opening arguments in February 2002. This is typical of the ICTY: The judges believe if they outweigh the defendant by at least six to one, they will beat him. The prosecution has a team of 1,300 employees at \$100,000 each per year; Milosevic has a few assistants and almost no funds.

Now, to make sure he will lose, the court plans to strip him of his right to defend himself. They plan to use his illness—high blood pressure and heart problems—as an excuse to impose unwanted counsel on him. Ninety internationally famous lawyers, including former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, have already protested this last unjust tactic.

Milosevic's only advantage is that he is not guilty of the 66 charges against him. And that he can present a powerful political argument against the U.S.-NATO aggressors who tried to bomb Yugoslavia flat to intimidate those they didn't murder. □

Against brutal abuses

Palestinian prisoners fight back with hunger strike

By Michael Kramer

Thousands of Palestinian prisoners held in Zionist jails began a hunger strike Aug. 15 to protest prison conditions. The strike has generated broad solidarity throughout the Palestinian community, including those living in 1948-Occupied Palestine (a.k.a. Israel), and in the Diaspora.

"They have tried legal means to improve their conditions," said Khalida Jarrar, director of the Ramallah-based Adameer Prisoners' Support and Human Rights Association. "But nothing has worked. This is their last avenue."

Since the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip regions of Palestine in June 1967, over 650,000 Palestinians have been imprisoned. Today the Israeli regime holds 7,500 Palestinian political prisoners.

They are incarcerated in a vast system of military prisons, civilian prisons and secret prisons known as "administrative detention centers."

The prisoners charge that their basic rights are systematically violated. They accuse Israeli authorities of violating Israeli and international law.

As if to prove the point, on Aug. 24 the Israeli Ministry of Health declared its hos-

pitals off-limits to the hunger strikers.

The Zionist occupation of Palestine is administered through the U.S.-armed-and-financed Israeli settler state. Israel attempts to project a democratic façade through the use of a complex legal system. However, the authorities can ignore any of its laws for reasons of "national security"—which includes maintaining apartheid-like conditions for the Palestinian population.

A full list of the prisoners' demands can be found on the web site of the Committee for the Families of Political Prisoners and Detainees in the West Bank at www.pal-solidarity.org. They include an end to: beating prisoners, confining children with adults, strip searching visiting family members, and providing only starvation diets.

At the end of August the strike was going strong. Prisoners refused meals and took only water, milk and salt.

Ahmad Sa'adat, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and prominent Palestinian parliament member Marwan Al-Barghouti were taking part in the hunger strike from their jail cells.

Solidarity actions are being organized throughout the world. □

Bush, Bloomberg make war on New York

Continued from page 9

practice sessions in crowd control, were about.

Ruling class behind attacks on demonstrators

Mayor Bloomberg was said to be worth \$4 billion when he bought the office of mayor. But it's not his wealth alone that makes his intervention in the process of expanding the capitalist state so significant.

Bloomberg is not just an ordinary mayor. He made his fortune by gathering up-to-the minute financial information from all the bond, stock and commodity markets—not just in the U.S. but worldwide—and making it rapidly available to the ruling class and to all speculators. As such, his firm has contact with commercial and investment banking, great brokerage houses and finance capital in general, making him perfectly suited to set up a virtual temporary police state, abridge the rights of the masses by diktat, and have the entire capitalist media embedded with him and his police commissioner, Raymond Kelly, just the way they were embedded with the Pentagon during the invasion of Iraq.

This is what gave Bloomberg the authority to purchase and publicly exhibit the Bear Cat, a 15-ton, \$200,000 armored vehicle with openings for firing tear gas or other ammunition. This is why the media were invited to a Brooklyn airfield to see and hear a demonstration of a super

sound system—used by the U.S. in Iraq—which is capable of virtually paralyzing a mass gathering at its loudest ranges. This is why the cops let the big mass demonstration on Aug. 29 pass, arresting "only" 200 people, but then pounced on smaller demonstrations in the following days to test out their new techniques, such as throwing nets over people and mass detention at pens with chain fences and razor wire, like in Iraq or Guantanamo.

It is said that foreign policy is an extension of domestic policy. In the case of the repression at the RNC repression, the domestic policy of repression was calculated to stop protest against the foreign policy of occupation. The goals were both intimidation and practice, the way the Pentagon tries to intimidate the world and also practices its new weapons systems in each military action, from the Gulf War of 1991 to Yugoslavia in 1999 to the invasion of Baghdad last year.

But while Bloomberg and Kelly may have succeeded for now in keeping a large-scale rebellion from breaking out, they were not able to break the spirit of the people, who came out in record numbers brimming with anger and hostility to the warmakers.

Just as in Iraq, where the vicious occupation has bred a mighty resistance, the police-state tactics of Bush, Bloomberg and Kelly will only open the eyes of a new generation to the need for militant mass struggle. They will pave the way for the rebellions and resistance of the future. □

MARKET ELECTIONS: How democracy serves the rich By Vince Copeland

Every four years, big money chooses the presidential candidates. Their war chests filled to the brim, they are then packaged by the media as "the people's choice." It's U.S.-style democracy—of the rich, by the rich and for the rich. But how do these chosen politicians win the votes of the millions as well as the millionaires? Who has been excluded from voting? How were electoral politics used to betray Black freedom after the Civil War? How did two Roosevelts wield reform at home to facilitate empire-building abroad? Why did no 'normal' elections take place between 1960 and 1976? Market Elections takes us into smoke filled rooms and raucous conventions to tell the story.

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INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

CHILE

Crimes of Pinochet and Kissinger

Stripped of immunity by Chile's Supreme Court Aug. 26, former dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet is now open to prosecution for the deaths of thousands of leftist political activists during his rule from 1973 to 1990.

A U.S. Senate committee report also revealed in July that Pinochet, now 88, had hidden \$8 million in assets from international prosecutors, aided by Riggs Bank, the largest bank in Washington, D.C. (Washington Post, July 15)

Pinochet ordered the deaths as part of Operation Condor, the military code name for the collaboration of six South American regimes—Chile, Bolivia, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay and Argentina—in the murder and torture of tens of thousands of leftists and their families during the 1970s. (Reuters, Aug. 27)

The CIA backed these six military dictatorships, including the "regime change" that brought Pinochet to power in 1973. The coup, engineered by U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, resulted in the death of popularly elected Socialist President Salvador Allende, the slaughter of some 30,000 worker-organizers and the torture and exile of tens of thousands more.

Chilean courts have asked Kissinger to testify about the coup. On Aug. 26 new information emerged from the nonprofit National Security Archive that Kissinger also encouraged brutal human rights violations during the Argentinean "dirty war," the New York Times reported.

Kissinger has had to limit his international travel because he could face arrest as a war criminal in some countries. (MediaStudy.com)

The U.S. has attempted to shield ruling class political figures from prosecution by refusing to recognize the United Nations International Criminal Court, authorized in 1998 to prosecute cases of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity against nationals of countries unwilling or unable to try the cases themselves.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Colonial dogs of war bark again

South African police arrested Mark Thatcher, son of ex-British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Aug. 25 on suspicion of bankrolling a coup against President Teodoro Obiang Nguema of Equatorial Guinea. The country is sub-Saharan Africa's third-largest oil producer.

Thatcher allegedly invested \$275,000 in the coup attempt. According to the Aug. 29 London Times, other British financiers could be implicated, including Jeffrey Howard, Lord Archer, deputy chair of Britain's Conservative Party when it was headed by Thatcher's mother, and David Hart, the ruling-class figure who advised her during the 1980s miners' strike.

The coup attempt collapsed in March 2004 with the arrest of 89 mercenaries when their jet stopped in Harare, Zimbabwe, to pick up an arms shipment. Most were South Africans.

Among the group was Thatcher's close friend Simon Mann, formerly of Britain's elite Special Air Service commando unit, who has run private "hired-gun" military

companies in South Africa and Britain. (London Times)

Mann pled guilty and was convicted Aug. 27 of violating Zimbabwe's Firearms Act and Public Order and Security Act by conspiring to buy and possess weapons. (Harare Herald)

Also part of the attempt was Mann's assistant, Nick du Toit, a former commander of apartheid South Africa's notorious "Buffalo" regiment, which murdered and tortured Namibian freedom fighters. (London Times)

On Aug. 29 the London Times speculated: "Did western governments quietly give the nod to the attempted coup, while remaining firmly on the sidelines?" Those in the inner circle of the coup evidently believed that part of the Bush administration backed the overthrow of President Obiang Nguema.

PANAMA

Did Bush arrange terrorist pardons?

Cuba broke diplomatic relations with Panama Aug. 26 after outgoing President Mireya Moscoso pardoned four Cuban right-wing terrorists convicted of plotting to kill President Fidel Castro during a 2000 visit. On their release, three of the men immediately flew to Miami.

All four—Luis Posada Carriles, Gaspar Jimenez, Guillermo Novo and Pedro Remon—have a history of terrorist acts and close links to counter-revolutionary Cuban American groups.

Remon pled guilty in 1986 to conspiring to bomb the Cuban Mission to the United Nations and assassinate the Cuban ambassador.

Novo was convicted in the 1976 Washington, D.C., car-bomb murder of former Chilean diplomat Orlando Letelier, a cabinet minister in the Salvador Allende government, and his colleague

Ronni Moffit. That conviction was later overturned on a technicality. (Associated Press)

Peter Korhnbluh, author of "The Pinochet File," notes that Novo was "one of the leading Cuban exiles who collaborated with the Chilean secret police in the 1970s to conduct terrorist operations outside of Chile."

After he left Cuba in 1959, Posada trained under the CIA. In connection with Alpha 66, a Miami terrorist group, he organized bombings, drug running, murders and assassination attempts in an effort to destabilize Cuba's revolution. He was convicted in Venezuela for the 1976 bombing of a Cubana airliner that killed all 73 people on board, but escaped from prison in 1985. (Working For Change)

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's government also broke diplomatic ties with Panama in protest. Meanwhile Panamanian students, outraged by the pardons, threw Molotov cocktails at police. (CNN.com)

Both the U.S. State Department and President Moscoso deny the Bush administration pressured her to pardon the four terrorists, CBS News reported. As he campaigns for re-election, Bush needs to carry the key state of Florida, where the right-wing Cuban organizations have been a dominant political force.

Next week Moscoso must hand over power to President-elect Martin Torrijos, who is friendly to Cuba, condemned the pardons, and announced plans to restore diplomatic relations when he takes office. (CNN.com)

KENYA

Masai lead fight for land

The struggle of African peoples to regain their lands from colonial occupation is expanding. In Kenya, Masai pro-

testers are marching onto the huge ranches of white settlers and reclaiming the rangeland as pasturage for their traditional cattle herds. The Masai are one of over 50 different tribal nations in Kenya.

In August 2002, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe's government began to expropriate land from white farmers who defied a timetable to relinquish the massive farm holdings acquired during colonial occupation. Before those land seizures, 4,500 white commercial farmers controlled at least 70 percent of the most arable lands. Black workers on these lands earned the equivalent of \$5 per month. (Workers World, Aug. 29, 2002)

The Kenyan actions began in mid-August on the 100th anniversary of the British establishment of reservations for the Masai far from the lush Rift Valley, and far from any land desired for European settlement.

On Aug. 24 a group of Masai attempted to march from downtown Nairobi to the British High Commission to dramatize their rejection of these colonial agreements. Police in riot gear fired tear gas, attacked the marchers, and shot and killed an elderly Masai man. Over 100 Masai have been arrested.

The government calls the occupying Masai "invaders" and refuses to recognize their historic claims. A "land reform" proposal in a new draft constitution suggests the reduction of current 950-year leases to white ranchers to 99 years. The minister for lands and housing, Amos Kimunya, says, "when those leases expire ... it is possible that the land may be reallocated." (New York Times, Aug. 25)

The government is also intent on protecting Kenya's growing tourist industry by discouraging the country's other nationalities from asserting land claims and keeping the Masai dependent and on display for tourists.

Roselinda Soipoan, a Masai lawyer defending the protestors, said: "We're associated with wild animals. If a tourist comes to Kenya and doesn't see a Masai, it's like they didn't see an elephant or rhino. We're human beings, and we have a right to agitate for our rights." (New York Times)

Kenya won its independence in 1964 after a protracted struggle directed in part by Jomo Kenyatta, who became the first president. Kenyatta was a leader of the Mau Mau, a secret society drawn mainly from the Kikuyu nation, which fought an armed rebellion against the British for self-determination in the 1950s.

—by Minnie Bruce Pratt

Protests stop Powell visit to Olympics

It's not only New York where the Bush administration is running into confrontations with angry people.

On Aug. 28, Secretary of State Colin Powell was scheduled to visit Athens, Greece. He had two major duties there. One was to make a splash as a guest of honor at the Olympics. The other was to arm-twist the Greek government into putting some support behind the U.S. occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan.

On the evening of Aug. 27, thousands of people called out by the Stop the War Coalition and other anti-war forces marched into downtown Athens toward the U.S. Embassy. Attacked by a heavy contingent of police using tear gas, the demonstrators nevertheless fought and held their ground for four hours.

They were cheered on by "thousands of bystanders, Greeks and foreign visitors for the Olympic Games, who applauded and participated in condemning the U.S. crimes in Iraq," according to organizers.

For the next day, the Communist Party of Greece (KKE) announced another protest and hung a giant sign from the Parthenon that read, "Powell, killer, go home." The KKE leaflet noted that "Colin Powell visits Athens in a moment when the U.S. along with its allies slaughter the Iraqi people, while at the same time the U.S. is backing the Israeli atrocities

against the Palestinian people."

Powell got the message. The next day, the State Department announced that the secretary had "urgent responsibilities" and had to cancel his visit.

—John Catalinotto

Workers World Party presidential candidate, John Parker, at the half a million strong anti-war, anti-Bush march in NY on Aug. 29.

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Bush, Kerry y Venezuela

Por Monica Moorehead

No se requiere ser genio para poder adivinar la actitud de la administración actual en la Casa Blanca frente a Venezuela. El Presidente George W. Bush se ha puesto abiertamente de parte de la oligarquía derechista de Venezuela y su referéndum reaccionario que fracasó en el intento de derrocar al presidente Hugo Chávez, elegido democráticamente.

Bush, junto a la CIA, ayudó a orquestar el ilegal golpe de estado del 11 de abril del 2002, durante el cual Chávez fue tomado prisionero. Dos días después, gracias a la intervención directa del pueblo venezolano, Chávez volvió al palacio presidencial con una bienvenida popular triunfal.

El Senador John Kerry, candidato a la presidencia por el Partido Demócrata, tiene también su perspectiva sobre Venezuela. El 19 de marzo, Kerry hizo una declaración en apoyo al referéndum. Lo siguiente es extracto de esa declaración:

“Durante su presidencia, el Presidente Chávez ha socavado repetidamente las instituciones democráticas empleando métodos extralegales, incluyendo deten-

ciones por motivos políticos para consolidar su poder. De hecho su estrecha relación con Fidel Castro ha provocado graves preocupaciones sobre su compromiso de liderar un gobierno verdaderamente democrático”.

Kerry siguió diciendo: “Además, las políticas del Presidente Chávez han sido perjudiciales a los intereses nuestros y los de sus vecinos. Él ha perjudicado los intentos de erradicar el cultivo de drogas al permitir que Venezuela se vuelva un refugio para los narcoterroristas, y ha sembrado la inestabilidad en la región por su apoyo a los insurgentes antigubernamentales en Colombia”.

Dejando a un lado cualquier diferencia en tácticas, o retóricas, Bush y Kerry comparten el punto de vista de que Chávez es “antidemocrático” a pesar de que los votantes varias veces le han dado un amplio margen de victoria. Bush y Kerry se identifican con los intereses de la burguesía compradora, en vez de con los de la vasta mayoría de las masas venezolanas.

El Partido Mundo Obrero está postulando tres candidat@s de la clase traba-

jadora y de nacionalidades oprimidas en las próximas elecciones: John Parker para presidente, Teresa Gutiérrez para vicepresidenta, y Leilani Dowell para Congresista en California. L@s candidat@s publicaron una declaración sobre Venezuela varios días antes de la derrota del referéndum del 15 de agosto.

Su declaración dice en parte: “Desde que asumió la presidencia en 1998 y fue reelegido en 2000, el Presidente Chávez consistentemente ha movilizad@ los trabajadores y campesin@s venezolan@s a luchar por sus propios intereses. Él le ha hecho frente al imperialismo estadounidense tanto en su país como internacionalmente, incluso oponiéndose a la brutal guerra y ocupación en Irak. Ha dispuesto utilizar las ganancias petroleras para cubrir las necesidades del pueblo y distribuir tierra para la gente pobre.

“Su gobierno ha fortalecido las relaciones con Cuba socialista desafiando así a los Estados Unidos. Cuba a su vez, ha extendido la mano en solidaridad, proporcionando personal para ayudar con servicios de salud, alfabetización y programas docentes.

“El pueblo venezolano entiende que el referéndum revocatorio es otro complot del imperialismo estadounidense y de los ricos de Venezuela para darle marcha atrás a la historia. El régimen de los EE.UU. ya sea Republicano o Demócrata, no puede tolerar un país independiente en Latinoamérica que sea fuertemente antiimperialista, y que busca la manera de utilizar las ventas del petróleo y otros recursos para mejorar la vida de los pobres y oprimidos en vez de llenar los bancos del capital financiero de los Estados Unidos.”

El tópico de Venezuela es un ejemplo importante del porqué un partido revolucionario marxista participa en las elecciones burguesas.

Candidat@s como Parker, Gutiérrez y Dowell están participando en las elecciones de 2004 no para hacerlas más válidas. Est@s candidat@s están utilizando la arena electoral como una plataforma para hablar la verdad desde el punto de vista de clase e independientemente al movimiento político general, del cual muchos han sucumbido al fenómeno “cualquiera menos Bush”. □

ATENCIÓN MOVIMIENTO ANTI-GUERRA: Te necesitamos en la Marcha del Millón de Trabajadores

¡Que regresen las tropas a casa ya!
¡Presupuesto para empleos y salud no para guerra!

Este otoño habrá una histórica oportunidad para unir el movimiento anti-guerra con el movimiento de la lucha obrera. Ésta es una gran coyuntura que l@s activistas anti-guerra no deben dejar pasar.

Algunas de las voces más enérgicas y activas del movimiento obrero junto a la participación activa de organizaciones que representan movimientos y causas progresistas, estarán “abordando autobuses” hacia Washington, D.C., el domingo 17 de octubre, para la MARCHA del MILLÓN de TRABAJADORES. Un mar de trabajadores - de cada industria, de cada sindicato y de cada lugar en donde l@s trabajador@s desean una unión, de cada parte del país—llegará a la capital para exigir trabajos, salarios decentes y derechos laborales.

También expresarán su cólera por las muertes sin sentido que ocurren cada día en Irak y en otras partes. ¿Por qué? Porque son las familias de l@s trabajadores quienes llevan la carga, son sus seres queridos quienes son enviados a pelear y morir, y es su dinero el robado para pagar por la guerra y la ocupación.

Lo que hace única a la Marcha del Millón de Trabajadores es que l@s organizadores principales quieren hacer de la demanda anti-guerra “Finalizar la Ocupación de Irak, y que Regresen las Tropas a Casa Ya” la central en el mensaje de la marcha.

Suba al autobús para demandar que:
Traigan las tropas a casa ya • Empleos y salud, no guerra • Salarios decentes y derechos laborales • Derechos para l@s

trabajadores inmigrantes • Fin a los despidos y la destrucción de uniones • La juventud necesita escuelas, no cárceles • Que se Termine la ocupación de Irak
Cómo involucrarse:

- Endose la Marcha del Millón de Trabajadores
 - Instale un comité “Anti-Guerra por la MMT”
 - Organice un autobús desde su área
- La llamada para la Marcha del Millón de Trabajadores fue iniciada por el Local 10 del International Longshore & Warehouse Union en San Francisco. La creciente lista de endosadores incluye a: la Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; Bill Lucy, Secretario-Tesorero, AFSCME; la National Education Association; Transportation Workers Union Local 100 (NY); AFSCME District Council 1707 (NY); South Carolina AFL-CIO; Farm Labor Organizing Cttee; AFSCME District Council 92 (MD); D.C. Labor Against the War; International ANSWER; actor Danny Glover; American Indian Movement; ILWU Local 34; Troy y Albany Labor Council (NY); National Immigration Solidarity Network; New York City Labor Against the War; Global Women’s Strike; Teamsters Black Caucus; comediante Dick Gregory; Myra Shone y Ralph Schoenman, Taking Aim, Pacifica; Asociación Mexicano-Americana de Trabajadores (AMAT); National Association of Letter Carriers, Branch 3825; Howard Wallace, co-founder, Pride at Work; Jim Houghton, Director, Harlem Fight Back; Justice 4 Homeless, SF; United Steel Workers of America Local 8751; International Action Center; former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark; Nellie Bailey,

Harlem Tenants Council; Howard Zinn, historian; Noam Chomsky, linguist; AFSCME Local 95, Local 205, Local 215, Local 389, Local 167, Local 1881, Local 1930; International Longshore & Warehouse Union Entire West Coast division; CUE Local 3; y muchas más.

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LA MARCHA DE UN MILLON DE TRABAJADORES

EMPLEOS CON DIGNIDAD

WASHINGTON, DC
17 DE OCTUBRE, 2004

¡ QUE REGRESEN LAS TROPAS AHORA !

www.million worker march.org