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## U.S. troops say:

# 'Let us go home!'

## Colonial election heading for debacle in Iraq

By John Catalinotto

The U.S. destruction and slaughter in Falluja has done nothing to stop Washington's growing political disaster in Iraq, as even two CIA reports now warn.

Iraqi resistance units have increased their attacks across the country, especially in the central region from just south of Baghdad to Mosul. Anyone working for the U.S. occupation forces there is at serious risk. That region's population hates the occupation forces more each day, and many sympathize with resistance fighters.

News reports from Dec. 3 to Dec. 6 followed a familiar pattern. Eleven U.S. troops died in combat deaths, mostly from roadside bombs and ambushes. This included five Marines in Ambar province alone. Ambushes or car bombs killed more than 60 puppet Iraqi troops or civilian employees of the occupation forces. The attacks indicated that the resistance had inside intelligence.

The Bush administration has ordered an increase of U.S. troop strength in Iraq from 138,000 to 150,000 by using "stop-loss" orders that prevent 12,000 troops from leaving Iraq on schedule. Bush insists the Jan. 30 elections—which the U.S. occupation imposed on Iraq contrary to all international law—will take place no matter what, and that these troops are needed to keep order.

Dozens of political and religious organizations, most but not all from Sunni areas and Baghdad, have either called for a boycott or asked for a postponement of elections.

Less clear are the changes in consciousness and organization that go on below the radar screen of the Pentagon and its embedded reporters. This includes U.S. troop morale and the development of anti-occupation movements in the southern, mostly Shiite region of Iraq.

### Who gains from civil war?

Almost all U.S. corporate media reports of mosque or church bombings claim that the "insurgents" want to stir up "sectarian violence" and assert that a civil war is likely, especially should

U.S. troops leave. None of these reports explain how "sectarian violence" would help the anti-occupation forces unite all Iraqis to throw out the U.S. troops.

A story posted Dec. 4 by un-embedded reporter Dahr Jamail on a mosque bombing implies a possible U.S. role. (dahrjamail-iraq.com)

"The Hamid al-Alwan mosque, a small Shia mosque in the predominantly Sunni area of Adhamiya had been hit with a car bomb. ... In the end, 14 were killed, 19 wounded. ..."

U.S. and Iraqi troops didn't appear. "The Iraqi Police, however, did show up at the scene. Most of them wearing facemasks to protect their identity (this is Adhamiya) ... but one man, a muscular, arrogant, loud-spoken policeman, unmasked, was yelling, 'Of course this happened because this is a Shia mosque! The Sunni hate the Shia!'

"Members of the crowd perceived his actions as deliberately provocative and inflammatory.

"Aisha Dulaimy, a resident of al-Adhamiya, said, 'The reason for this car bomb is the Americans want to cause a split between the Shia and Sunni. But there has never been fighting between the Shia and Sunni in the history of Iraq. They want to make a struggle between us, but it will never work.'"

In an interview in the Dec. 6 German daily Junge Welt, Sammi Alaa of the resistance group the Iraqi Patriotic Alliance answered a question on Sunni-Shiite differences:

"The Western media state again and again that a majority Sunni boycott [of elections] could lead to a civil war with the Shiites. ... Ordinary people accept neither collaboration with the occupation nor the U.S. strategy of divide and conquer. There is a large pressure from below on the clerics to condemn the elections and some already have. It will thus not come to the desired religious civil war. The front line runs between the occupiers on one side and the resistance and the supporting people on the other side."

### U.S. troop morale

Meanwhile U.S. troops' daily activity is one big war crime of

*Continued on page 6*

## Haitians rally in Brooklyn "ARISTIDE, YES! CIA, NO"



WW PHOTO G. DUNKEL

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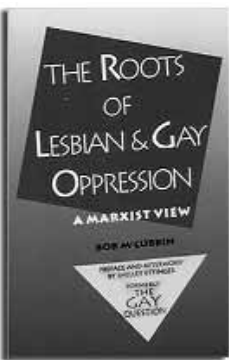
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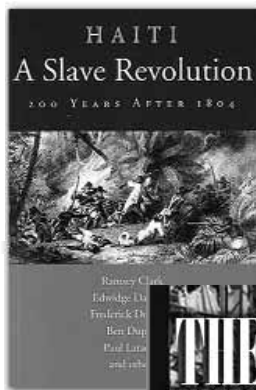
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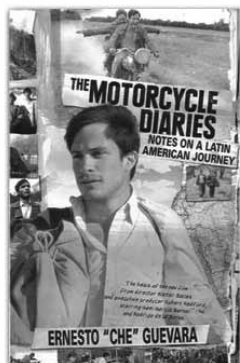
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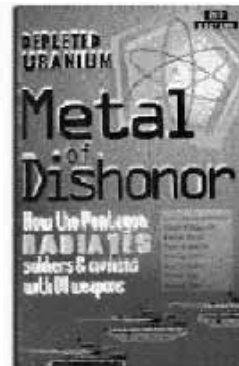
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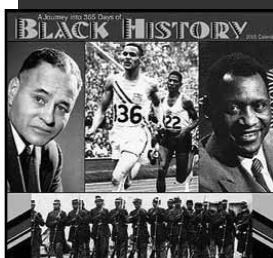
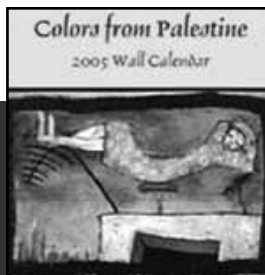
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## WW CALENDAR

### LOS ANGELES

**Fri., Dec. 17**  
Film screening. "Arlington West" is a new documentary that chronicles the creation of the symbolic soldiers' cemetery erected every Sunday by the Veterans for Peace at beaches along the Southern California coastline. Hear from the film producers Sally Marr and Peter Dudar. Also, presentations by Marcus Erikson of Vets for Peace and John Parker of the International Action Center. Sponsored by IAC-LA. 7:30 p.m. At 5274 W Pico Blvd. For info (323) 936-7266.

### NEW YORK

**Fri., Dec. 10**  
Workers World Party meeting. Hear Fred Goldstein, a member of WWP's secretariat, on the imperialist grab for Ukraine, Yoongi Jeong, from the Korea Truth Commission, on threats against North Korea, and Sharon Black,

from the Million Worker March, on action plans for the antiwar and labor movements. 7 p.m. (Dinner at 6:30) At 55 W. 17 St., 5th Fl., Manhattan. For info (212) 627-2994.

**Fri., Dec. 17**  
Workers World Party meeting. Hear Rebeca Toledo, a WWP leader, report back on the Cuba/North America Labor Conference taking place in Tijuana, Mexico, on Dec. 10-12. 7 p.m. (Dinner at 6:30) At 55 W. 17 St., 5th Fl., Manhattan. For info (212) 627-2994.

## Workers World

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# Hearing held in Raleigh 3 case

By Yolanda Carrington  
Raleigh, N.C.

A probable cause hearing was held at the Wake County Courthouse Nov. 29 for three young people charged in the "Raleigh 3" case. The case concerns a protest at the North Carolina Republican Party headquarters on Nov. 5. More than 30 people from all over the Triangle were present in Courtroom 4D to offer solidarity and support to the defendants.

Charged in the case are Melissa Brown, 18, David Hensley, 20, and Vanessa Zuloaga, 24, all of Columbia, S.C. They are accused of attempting to burn down the Republican offices. They face one felony count each.

All three were released following a major fundraising drive to secure a percentage of each defendant's \$50,000 bond.

Wake County Assistant Prosecutor Thomas Ford requested that a grand jury be convened for each defendant to determine if there was enough evidence to hold a trial. Brown and Hensley's attorneys agreed to Ford's request.

Zuloaga initially waived her right to a lawyer. At the hearing she asked District Court Judge Paul Gessner for a court-appointed attorney.

Zuloaga's request was met with an inappropriate response from Gessner, who informed her that if she were convicted of the charges, she would have to reimburse the state for her legal expenses. This writer has never heard of such an occurrence in any North Carolina felony case.

Gessner also made a snide remark about Zuloaga being able to raise her \$7,500 bond in less than two days. As such he wondered if she was really in need of a

court-appointed attorney, he said.

Gessner informed her that he would take this "fact" into consideration as he made his decision—one that could adversely impact this young woman's right to a fair trial.

Outside the courtroom, supporters of the Raleigh 3 shielded them from the prying eyes of local news media, actively using their bodies and personal effects to block cameras and video lenses.

Some of the media threatened to call court bailiffs to stop supporters from blocking them. But, as the activists later confirmed, there is nothing illegal about physically shielding a person from a camera operator's lens.

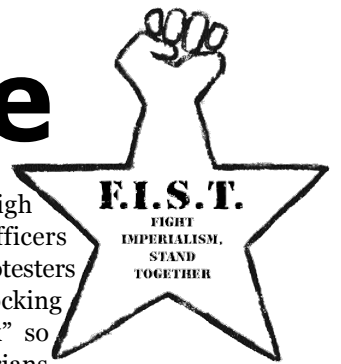
In front of the Wake County Courthouse, additional supporters held a demonstration to bring attention to the case. Although a permit was obtained for this demonstra-

tion, Raleigh police officers yelled at protesters to "quit blocking the sidewalk" so that pedestrians could move by.

This ridiculous behavior graphically illustrates the overzealous nature of "law enforcement" when confronted with the presence of political action.

The support of family, friends, and fellow activists was reassuring to those charged in the case. They know that, while they are ensnared in the clutches of the criminal "justice" system, there are like-minded people who have their backs—people who refuse to give in to the lies and intimidation of the state.

*The writer is a member of Fight Imperialism-Stand Together (FIST)*



# Rally against anti-marriage amendment: "SHUT IT DOWN!"

By Martha Grevatt  
Cleveland

Close to 500 militant protesters rallied in Cleveland Dec. 4 in defense of equal marriage rights and against State Issue One.

Issue One, passed with 62 percent of the vote on Nov. 2, amends the Ohio Constitution to prohibit same-sex marriage.

It is the most extreme of the 11 state anti-marriage initiatives just passed.

By some interpretations Issue One prevents any city, county, public school, university, or other governmental body from providing domestic-partner benefits. It threatens the domestic partner registry in Cleveland Heights, enacted earlier this year and the first in the country passed by voters.

Outraged at this attack, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans communities of Cleveland came together with straight allies to form the Equality Coalition—the rally's sponsor. Organizations represented in the coalition include Cleveland Pride, the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, AIDS Task Force of Greater Cleveland, the American Civil Liberties Union, American Friends Service Committee, and the Heights Families for Equality—which won the partner registry.

"We, the undersigned, have committed to work together to achieve equality for all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people no matter how long it takes," reads the coalition's founding statement. "We are creating a powerful unified coalition.

We are resolved to maintain our unity, gather momentum and carry on our work in the name of justice and in the spirit of a society free of homophobia and gender oppression by challenging any and all denial of rights."

The statement's tone stands in marked contrast to some conservative LGBT leaders who blame the marriage rights movement for the Bush victory.

Equally defiant were the speakers at the rally. One after another expressed anger.

"I am living with AIDS, and if I am in the hospital I have to fill out all kinds of forms just to be visited by the man I love," said Louis Farmer of the AIDS Task Force.

Other speakers included parents and children of lesbians and gay men, lesbian

mothers, and LGBT youths—none of them willing to be silent when their families are under attack.

"This is an attack on our unions," said Susan Schnur, a bus driver and a local leader in the AFL-CIO's LGBT labor organization Pride At Work. In fact, Schnur pointed out, Issue One undermines collective bargaining. Pride At Work members had passed out leaflets over the Labor Day weekend urging union members to vote "no."

Many high school and college students came downtown for the rally. The Gay-Straight Alliance of suburban Orange High School, a recognized student organization, filled a school bus to get to the protest. They joined their voices to the chant: "Every city, every town, Issue One, shut it down!" □

## SAN FRANCISCO

# WWP leaders speak about labor, antiwar struggle

By Brenda Sandburg  
San Francisco

What lies ahead for poor and working people?

A reinvigorated, dynamic struggle independent of the capitalist parties. That's what John Parker and Deirdre Griswold, leading members of Workers World Party, told a crowd at a Dec. 4 meeting sponsored by the San Francisco branch of the party.

"How can the struggle move forward after an election that seemed to paralyze a sector of the movement?" Griswold asked. "The question is really whether to retreat before a right-wing offensive or to organize a truly independent alternative."

Griswold, a member of the Secretariat of Workers World Party and editor of WW newspaper, said the Million Worker March movement is an example of that alternative.

"It's not a coincidence that the leaders of this emerging movement are Black trade unionists, because a sea change has been taking place, both in the composition and the leadership of the working class," she said. People of color, women and immigrants now make up the majority of the workforce in this country and "their consciousness is different from those who had more privileged positions in society, who didn't face the same problems."

Their militancy is in response to wage cuts, reduction in health benefits and worsening working conditions, Griswold said. The

U.S. government is so aggressive against workers now because it accomplished a counter-revolution in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

"It has emboldened the more aggressive elements within the United States ruling class—the Rumsfeld-Cheney-Wolfowitz grouping. Their doctrine of global domination whet the appetites of ExxonMobil, Haliburton and the military-industrial complex to believe there were no limits to what they could accomplish once the Soviet Union was gone," Griswold said. "They could fight two wars at the same time, threaten anyone who resisted them with preemptive nuclear attack, totally take over the Middle East, roll back the anti-colonial revolutions in Iran and Iraq." But instead they ran into growing resistance.

What is driving this murderous aggression around the world, John Parker said, is the drive for profit.

"Profit is king and the oil magnates, bankers and owners of industry will do whatever is necessary to maintain their profits, including murdering workers around the world, poisoning the environment, instituting slave-labor-like conditions and supporting outright assassinations of union organizers, as they do in Colombia at the behest of Coca-Cola," Parker said. "And like a heroin addict, the need for that profit fix is primary."

Parker, who is co-coordinator of the Million Worker March Committee in Los Angeles, talked about the necessity of fighting



WW PHOTO: CHERYL LABASH

From left to right: Brenda Sandburg, Shane Hoff, Deirdre Griswold, John Parker, Judy Greenspan.

racism, poverty and injustice at home as part of fighting U.S. imperialism and war abroad.

"You have to struggle around the issues slapping working people here in the face on a daily basis: healthcare, police brutality, environmental threats, the prison-industrial complex," Parker said. "We must win our class over to fighting the anti-imperialist struggle and the only way we can do that is by engaging in the day-to-day lives of working people."

"How can you mention the deaths of U.S. soldiers and Iraqis without mentioning what class those U.S. soldiers come from and how racism and the lack of opportunity and jobs made them go into the military? And likewise, how could we work on a demonstration against the war without also marching on a picket line and giving real support to struggles and initiatives of the Million Worker March?"

Shane Hoff, a member of the Million

Worker March Committee in San Francisco, spoke about the march's success in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 17. Initiated by the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10 in San Francisco, it called for universal healthcare, amnesty for undocumented workers, repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act and to bring the troops home now.

The national AFL-CIO leadership didn't support the march, directing their members instead to mobilize for John Kerry's election. But an AFL-CIO state organization and union locals from around the country broke ranks and mobilized thousands of members to go to Washington, Hoff said.

"There are going to be more attacks on poor and working people because of the debt from the war and deteriorating economic conditions," Hoff said. "The Million Worker March movement stands ready to meet these attacks with a powerful fightback." □

## Bush plan

# Serve up Social Security to Wall Street hogs

By Milt Neidenberg

A huge rip-off of the Social Security Trust Fund is in the making. The post-World-War-II baby boomer generation is the target.

In a preemptive strike, before the Ohio presidential votes were officially recounted, President George W. Bush announced that "reforming" Social Security is a top priority of his second term.

"Reform" is Bush's code word for privatizing Social Security contributions in personal accounts to be invested in stocks and bonds.

Currently, workers put 6.2 percent of their annual wages, capped at \$87,900, into Social Security trust funds that are invested in Treasury bonds. Employers add another 6.2 percent.

Wall Street is ecstatic over the Bush caper—which would transfer billions of dollars from the federal trust fund to private accounts that would end up in the coffers of publicly traded companies. Whether it will be mandatory or voluntary remains to be seen.

According to the Nov. 11 Wall Street Journal, the transition costs—that is, the cost of removing money from the trust fund and into private accounts—could reach \$2 trillion.

White House collusion with Corporate America, transnational banks and other financial institutions is scandalous. They stand to reap billions of dollars in fees as the government cheers them on.

In the pirates' hands, stocks and other speculative financial instruments would put baby boomers at great risk, especially in a volatile market. The baby boomers have invested their hard-earned wages in a safety net they hoped would assure them

some financial security in their senior years.

Bush's plan is to scuttle their benefits and/or force them to work past age 65. It would also lead to higher Social Security taxes and additional debt—another burden for the workers and the oppressed.

Sabotaging Social Security extends the cruel and inhuman punishment that U.S. monopoly capitalism is noted for. An era of high-tech revolution has already generated intense stress on this generation of workers.

Productivity—the whip of speed-up—has increased to double-digit levels. Employers make more demands to fatten their profits. Safety and a healthy work environment are ignored. Workers are more prone to injuries and illness while health-care benefits rapidly shrink.

They need to retire earlier, not later, and be compensated far more than seniors now receive under the law.

### Scare tactics

In order to grab the bonanza of privatizing Social Security, the Bush administration and Wall Street are waging a sinister campaign of lies. They claim that the trust fund faces insolvency.

Not so!

The worst-case scenario is that the increase in costs would grow over the next 50 years as retirees come to outnumber those paying into the system. Social Security beneficiaries are paid from the contributions of current workers. This is not the same as insolvency.

(Of course, it is to be hoped that 50 years from now socialism will not only be solving the problems of growing old, but will have wiped out the whole system of capitalist exploitation.)

Why the scare tactics? Do only greed and profit motivate these moguls of wealth?

The trust fund has already been unlocked and depleted, to pay down the huge national debt and keep the government solvent. The earlier accumulated surpluses have been replaced by IOU's—bonds and notes. Soon the government IOUs will have to be marketed to pay for the retiring baby boomers.

If the private sector, globally and at home, and foreign central banks buy the debt, they will demand higher interest rates to compensate for the risk factors. As the deficit spikes and the dollar declines, the problems will be exacerbated. Rising interest rates would add billions more dollars to the national debt.

There is a gathering storm enveloping the U.S. imperialist government. The manipulation of the Social Security Trust Fund is an integral component of it.

The Bush administration faces the staggering problem of an endless and costly war in Iraq. Homeland Security is a financial bonanza for government contractors. A permanent tax cut feeds the wealthy one-percenters. There is a trade imbalance that won't go away. And payoffs must be made to Bush's right-wing, racist, anti-union cronies for getting him elected.

The bills are piling up.

Asian countries alone lend the U.S. \$1.8 billion a day. According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United States is expected to borrow \$670 billion this year from the rest of the world.

### Easier said than done

Social Security, Medicare/Medicaid and social services are on the chopping block.

*Continued on page 10*

ON THE  
PICKET LINE

## Ohio newspaper workers strike

Members of Newspaper Guild Local 34011 in Youngstown, Ohio, went on strike against the Vindicator Printing Co. on Nov. 16. Major issues include reducing health-care costs and ending a four-year wage freeze.

After agreeing to major concessions on health care in the last round of bargaining, the Guild recently discovered that management and non-represented employees were paying no premiums and had substantially better benefits.

Though the family-owned company has been soliciting scabs from all over the country, it's had little success. A Guild spokesperson noted that if the company can pay scabs \$20 an hour for the first eight hours and \$30 for the next four, plus \$75 per day for expenses, then it can afford to pay union members the wages they're demanding.

She noted that even if the workers win, they won't make \$20 an hour.

Send letters of support and contributions to: Youngstown Newspaper Guild Local 34011, P.O. Box 1135, Youngstown, OH 44501. For more on this struggle, visit [www.unionvoice.org](http://www.unionvoice.org).

## Verizon slapped for violations

The Communications Workers union recently won an arbitration case against Verizon with major consequences, reports Local 2336.

Upholding the union's complaint that

## FIST interview with Denver activist:

# Food-service workers organize and win

By Julie Fry

It's getting harder for young people to find jobs that pay decent wages or provide benefits. Larry Hales, a member of Fight Imperialism-Stand Together—FIST—in Denver, is one of hundreds of thousands of youths who work in the food service industry with no union and few rights.

Undaunted, Hales and his co-workers decided to organize themselves. They waged a successful struggle against management at their work place, Diedrich's Coffee House. Workers World spoke to Hales about this struggle.

### Workers World:

#### What is Diedrich's Coffee House?

**Larry Hales:** It's a franchise store in Denver owned by Rob Krast, Inc. The company owns three other Diedrich's and all the Burger King restaurants in the city.

#### What were working conditions like at the store?

When Krast bought the chain, the stores had not been refurbished in a long time. We were told they were going to go down the line and fix them all up. That was in May.

In my store, the roof was leaking. The bathroom was closed because the roof had caved in. We had to go up to the building's seventh floor every time we needed to use the bathroom.

During the summer, new equipment was brought in for sandwiches and soups that had been added to the menu. The new equipment, along with a malfunctioning air conditioner, caused temperatures to get as high as 107 degrees some days.

We complained for weeks about the temperature and were told they couldn't do anything about it. The owner said there was nothing wrong with the temperature. One of my co-workers had to leave a couple of times because she got sick.

In August, they brought in a small air-conditioning unit, more than two months after we made the request.

We also never received raises that had been promised for months. The manager claimed the store was steadily losing money. Because of that, he said, wages were frozen.

#### How did you and your co-workers end up organizing yourselves? Had any of you ever been in a union before?

None of us had ever had a union job before. We started organizing in October. We reached out to a local union, but they said it would be hard for them to help us since we were in a franchise system and we were such a small unit.

We demanded a meeting with the vice president of the corporate office during work hours and got it. Our concerns were getting the raises and benefits we were

promised and being treated fairly in our store.

#### Did management threaten you after you started making these demands?

There was a lot of talk that we would be let go. The manager approached me several times and told me that he didn't like the way that I was inciting the people I worked with. The VP had talked with him because I had cited the labor laws that he was violating.

I told him we would all leave the coffee shop and that we had a right to leave if they didn't fix things. My co-workers and I decided that we would all leave if one of us was fired.

We have very good relationships with a lot of our customers and they supported us. We knew they couldn't let us go without losing a lot of customers.

#### What did you end up receiving as a result of your bargaining efforts?

We finally told them that our raises had been put on hold long enough and we wanted a decision right away. We all got what we requested, except health care. Two of us are now trying to figure out how we can work with the Burger King workers to organize jointly for health care at all Rob Krast stores.

#### What lessons do you think you learned from this struggle that could

#### be useful for other workers, especially youths, in similar situations?

I think there are a lot of people in my situation. I have a degree in English and I want to be a teacher but I can't find a job. It's a hard thing because I put myself through college with two jobs and still had loans. Those loans have to be repaid. It's a hard realization for most people that there are no jobs and they are going to be in debt for the majority of their lives after school.

I was fired from my last job when I asked for a ride home because I had bronchitis and couldn't breathe. I don't have health care and had to go to a county hospital, but I still ended up with a \$600 bill. This kind of thing destroys people's dignity. One of the things we can do is restore our dignity by standing together. That's what we are doing at my job now.

At our job, management is making money hand over fist. My co-workers and I are effectively running that coffee shop. Without management and their salaries we would be able to run the store and have decent wages and benefits for ourselves.

In this time when there are few jobs, companies are going to push as hard as they can to try to save their profits. This struggle made us realize that we can force their hand by demanding the things that we want and not backing down. □

BY SUE DAVIS

the telecommunications behemoth was improperly subcontracting out union work, the arbitrator dismissed Verizon's claims of ignorance about master contractor activities as "silly and not worthy of comment."

Noting that Verizon had agreed in its last national contract to use unionized workers whenever possible, the arbitrator ordered the company to immediately stop violating the contract. (Nov. 15 Union City, published by Metropolitan Washington Labor Council)

## Pizza drivers organize

A fledgling national union for pizza delivery drivers, whose job is annually ranked among the most dangerous, is demanding better wages and training.

Drivers started talking about unfair working conditions two years ago in an Internet chat room. Now, about 600 have already signed up with a new Teamsters local, the Association of Pizza Delivery Drivers.

Pizza delivery drivers make \$5.50 to \$6 an hour, plus tips, and are reimbursed 50 to 75 cents per delivery—no matter how far away it is.

The first two votes—at a Domino's franchise in Lincoln, Neb., and a Pizza Hut in Sudbury, Ohio—failed in late November. But just holding the votes meant overcoming "a big hurdle," APDD Treasurer Tim Lockwood told the Associated Press Nov. 21. "It's never happened before in the history of pizza delivery driving."

The bosses used a lot of familiar tricks. Pizza Hut driver Matt Howard told AP: "The company keeps calling meetings to try to talk us out of the union. They are trying to do everything they can to take away our right to vote." The owners also stacked the vote by designating several managers as drivers.

**Correction:** In the Nov. 11, 2004, issue of Workers World, the source of the "On the Picket Line" item entitled "Union win at New School" was the October 2004 National Writers Union Member News written by Pamela Vossen, NWU 3rd Vice President. □



## LOS ANGELES

### Antiwar leader receives union honor

John Parker, at left in photo, a member of the Los Angeles International Action Center and the ANSWER Coalition, received an award of appreciation Dec. 7 along with many other labor and community supporters of last year's Southern California grocery workers' strike. Food and Commercial Workers Local 770 awarded the plaques at a conference of local shop stewards. Parker and the IAC had worked out of the union's office to help unite the anti-war movement with this vital strike. They were recognized for this outstanding contribution toward building solidarity.

—Story & photo by Cheryl Labash

# Victory for Frances Newton, death row inmate

By Gloria Rubac  
Houston

On Dec. 1, only two hours before she was to become the first Black woman executed in Texas, Frances Newton was told that Gov. Rick Perry had signed a 120-day stay of execution. Newton's parents, sisters, brothers and friends were already in Huntsville.

"The governor's office just now called my cell phone and he signed it!" Newton's longtime friend Bruce Williams told Workers World.

"We're so happy and very relieved," said Iva Nelms, Newton's mother. "Frances is innocent. She just couldn't have been executed."

The family had already been briefed by prison officials about how the execution would take place and what would happen to the body.

It was a bittersweet victory for a woman who has spent one-third of her life on death row. She has always maintained her innocence.

Newton's husband, Adrian, and her two young children, Alton and Farrah, were murdered on April 7, 1987, five days before Newton's 22nd birthday. There was no evidence linking Newton to the murders. There was no blood on her body, clothing or in her car.

Yet her family was shot execution-style at close range. Blood dripped from the shooter in a trail in the house. The police admit they tested Newton's hands the night of the shootings and found she had not fired a gun.

According to results from the now-discredited Houston Police Crime Lab, her gun was used in the killings. Recent exposures about this lab have revealed that the police have lied or been wrong in at least four other death row cases, including those of Nanon Williams, Johnnie Bernal, Anibal Rousseau and Martin Draughon. Just this year a federal judge gave relief to Draughon based on the faulty ballistics evidence from Houston cops.

Newton's lawyers are now trying to get the district attorney to release the evidence in Newton's case so that it can be independently tested.

For only the last six months, Newton has been represented by attorneys David Dow and John LaGrappe. The Innocence Network at the University of Houston Law School is working on her case.

Her first court-appointed lawyer was

Ron Mock, who has sent 16 people to death row. These included other prisoners who had maintained their innocence, such as Shaka Sankofa and Anthony Ray Westley.

Mock's co-counsel in Newton's trial, Catherine Coulter, signed an affidavit a week before Newton's scheduled execution, saying that the young woman had not had effective legal representation.

### Mobilization won the stay

Abolitionists with the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement have been speaking publicly about Newton's case for the last several months after being contacted by Bruce Williams. They have been on dozens of TV and radio shows, sometimes with Williams and Nelms. They've explained the case and asked people to call the governor and the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles requesting a stay of execution.

David Elliot, spokesperson for the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, told the Houston-produced Pacifica Radio program "Fight Back!" that more than 20,000 letters have been sent to the governor and Parole Board.

The Houston chapter of the National Black United Front sent a letter to the governor demanding the stay. The letter read in part: "... the white supremacist and class orientation of the application of the Death Penalty in the State of Texas is an unquestioned fact, well documented. The historical roots of the death penalty are found in the mob lynching of African people in America. The connection between the end of slavery and the beginning of the prison industry lends to the understanding that 'History flows like a stream and is not a series of puddles disconnected from one another.'

"In 2004 the public is aware of the many inequities involving the lack of effective counsel for defendants, the Houston Police Department Crime Lab SCANDAL and malicious, unrepentant prosecution by various district attorney's offices across the



Francis Newton PHOTO: NCADP.ORG

state. Therefore, the time is long overdue for you to take bold action to stop these daily injustices by mandating an immediate moratorium on the death penalty."

African American Houston City Councilmember Ada Edwards, after learning about the ineffective attorneys and lack of evidence against Newton, publicly requested that Mayor Bill White contact the governor for a stay. And the mayor did. After U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee met Nelms, she also contacted the governor.

Letters of support for Newton can be sent to: Frances Newton #000922, Mountain View Unit, 2305 Ransom Road, Gatesville, Texas 76528.

### 'Organize! Agitate!'

Newton would have been the 337th person executed in Texas since 1982 and the fourth female put to death here since the end of the Civil War. December 2004 is now the first month since 1994 that no one has been executed in the United States.

Her reprieve was the fourth stay of execution over a four-day period.

In Kentucky, Thomas Bowling was to have been executed on Nov. 30, despite possible innocence, prosecutorial misconduct and low IQ. In Pennsylvania, George Banks was to be executed on Dec. 2, despite severe mental disability. And in North Carolina, Charles Walker was scheduled to be executed Dec. 3, although no physical evidence connected him to the crime.

There have been significant trends in recent years regarding capital punishment.

- There have been fewer executions and death sentences. And the death row population is lower than a few years ago.

- The former Confederate states now

*Continued on page 10*

## CHICAGO

### 'Fred Hampton Day' declared

Thirty-five years ago, on Dec. 4, 1969, Fred Hampton, deputy chair of the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party, was brutally assassinated by members of the Chicago Police Department as he lay sleeping. Hampton was only 21 years old.

Mark Clark, a member of the Black Panther Party's Peoria, Ill., chapter, was also killed. Other Panther members were injured during these shootings, including Hampton's companion, Akua Njeri, who was nine months pregnant.

These cowardly killings were coordinated in conjunction with the FBI's repressive Counter Intelligence Program (Cointelpro), which targeted leaders of national liberation movements like the Panthers inside the United States. Not one Chicago police officer was ever prosecuted for this terrible crime.

Today Hampton's son, Fred Hampton Jr., champions the release of U.S. political prisoners such as Mumia Abu-Jamal. Hampton is himself a former political prisoner.

The Chicago City Council unanimously approved a resolution introduced by for-



Fred Hampton WWW.PBS.ORG

mer Alderwoman Marlene C. Carter commemorating Dec. 4, 2004, as "Fred Hampton Day in Chicago."

The resolution reads in part: "Fred Hampton, who was only 21 years old, made his mark in Chicago history not so much by his death as by the heroic efforts of his life and by his goals of empowering the most oppressed sector of Chicago's Black community, bringing people into political life through participation in their own freedom fighting organization."

Hampton was one of the most dynamic, inspiring freedom fighters of any generation. One of his most notable quotes was, "You can kill a revolutionary but you can never kill the revolution."

—Monica Moorehead

# Georgia youth say **NO TO WAR!**

The Atlanta chapter of the International Action Center organized an anti-war march and rally in nearby Decatur, Ga., Dec. 4, which brought out 200 activists, many of them young people. Speakers included Patricia Roberts, whose son Jamaal Addison was the first Georgia soldier to die in the invasion of Iraq on March 21, 2003; Adam Levenstein of Atlanta Palestine Solidarity; Beth Mack, a Decatur high school student and a march organizer; and Dr. Waqas Khwaja, a Pakistani professor at Agnes Scott College. IAC organizer Dianne Mathiowetz chaired the rally. □



# Taking anti-war struggle to GIs

By Bob McCubbin  
San Diego

As part of the Stop the War Week actions called by the International Action Center, activists from the local IAC chapter and SNAFU—Support Network for an Armed Forces Union, which organizes GI resistance—held a street meeting here on Dec. 4. It was on a downtown corner where many soldiers on leave pass by. With an amplified sound system, a literature table, several bold banners and many signs, the protesters spent several hours distributing leaflets to passersby and speaking out against the U.S. occupation of Iraq.

It was a spirited and strong action. But most significant were the reactions of GIs walking by. In the past, activists had found it extremely difficult to get soldiers to take anti-war literature, and almost impossible to have calm, rational conversations with them about the struggle to end the occupation.

Interestingly, this time there were both more expressions of hostility—and more non-hostile interactions. A significant number of individual soldiers did take newspapers and flyers. And some, significantly more than in the past, stopped to talk.

In one case, this reporter offered a

Workers World newspaper to a Marine coming down the street on crutches, accompanied by several civilian friends. In a bitter tone of voice, he suggested that we didn't appreciate his sacrifice and walked on. But later, as he and his friends retraced their route, once again approaching our rally, another IAC organizer managed to engage him in conversation. If not overly friendly, it was at least a respectful exchange between Carl—an anti-war activist and veteran—and this Marine, twice wounded in Iraq.

Carl asked him why he thought it was right to invade and occupy Iraq. The Marine replied that they were helping the people, adding that many Iraqi children didn't have shoes to wear. Carl suggested that a study of Iraqi history of the last 40 years or so might give this young man a very different view of what the Iraqi people need and want. They agreed to disagree, but as they parted, it was clear that the young Marine no longer viewed these anti-war activists as his enemies.

As a side note, Carl—who works part-time at an Iraqi Chaldean center in a suburb of San Diego—mentioned his conversation with the Marine to some of the Iraqis at the center the following day.

They were furious. "All Iraqis had shoes before the Gulf War!" they insisted. □

## Anti-draft campaigns launched

Along with the "Out Now" call that was announced at the Dec. 4 antiwar conference in New York, two other important calls were introduced as well. The goal of the "I Refuse!" campaign, organized by FIST and NoDraftNoWay.org, is to gather tens of thousands of signatures from young people stating that they will refuse induction into the military under any circumstances. Local anti-draft and youth organizers will plan actions coinciding with the March 19-20 weekend. These can include demonstrations and direct actions outside recruiting stations and selective service offices, and "No Draft" contingents in the massive regional demonstrations planned for that weekend.

Kim Rosario, whose son is a GI in Iraq, announced the formation of a Committee to Support Military Resisters. She called upon activists, organizers, and military families to sign up for the committee at the SNAFU website ([www.join-snafu.org](http://www.join-snafu.org)) and pledge to support young people in the military who refuse to participate in the illegal war in Iraq.



WW PHOTO: ARTURO J. PEREZ-SAAD

Kim Rosario at anti-war conference.

—Dustin Langley, SNAFU organizer

## A step forward at WBAI-Pacific radio

By John Catalinotto  
New York

The New York metropolitan area's progressive radio listeners won a victory Nov. 29 in elections for the Local Station Board (LSB) of Pacifica's listener-sponsored WBAI radio. Winning seven of 12 contested positions, the Justice and Unity slate wound up with a slim but firm majority of the 24-member board.

The vote in effect endorses the current Black and Latino WBAI management, staff and board members who have anchored WBAI in the communities of color in New York City.

WBAI's political discussion and cultural shows represent a broad spectrum of New York ethnic and other communities, especially the most oppressed. The station is also the only broadcast outlet that provides an opening for anti-imperialist analysis of important world events.

On no other station can you find strong coverage of police brutality, reports on political prisoners, and reports from embattled Palestine and Iraq. WBAI also provides a tribune to mobilize for movement events. Many anti-war, anti-racist, pro-labor and other progressive activists in the area tune in to find out what protest to attend that day or that week.

Three years ago a pro-corporate attack grabbed WBAI for the better part of a year until a people's movement won the station back. Since then the station has recovered from program and fiscal mismanagement under the pro-corporate group and made a comeback. It has been expanding its listener base, especially in the Black and Caribbean communities in the region.

General Manager Don Rojas and Program Director Bernard White, both Black men and skilled media professionals, have overseen this comeback. The station is eighth in listeners among 800 or more

public radio stations. It is "the most ethnically diverse public radio station in the nation," says Rojas.

Despite this successful track record, the management and much of the staff came under sharp and quite controversial criticisms from some members of the prior board majority. Those most hostile included the Listeners and Staff for Progressive Elections (ListProg) slate and business associates of Gary Null, a WBAI producer and entrepreneur whose focus is alternative health.

The new board members expect that the working relationship with WBAI's staff and management will improve now that five of the nine Justice and Unity slate members running for listener-elected positions won and won strongly, as did two of three staff members.

Omwale Clay, a December 12th Movement organizer whose name is linked with the slogan "No justice, no peace," won an overwhelming vote total. At the head of the Justice and Unity slate, he was the only candidate elected in the first round in the complicated vote procedure aimed at guaranteeing proportional representation.

Youth media activist Evan Tobias and International Action Center Co-director Sara Flounders were elected on the second round. None of the opposing candidates—those sharply critical of WBAI management—won until round 13. People on or close to the slate won two other listener seats and two of three contested staff positions.

WBAI listeners know Flounders and the IAC not from media work but for political activity and analysis, especially regarding Iraq, Palestine and Haiti. The Justice and Unity victory may also at least partly reflect the growing number of activists from the Haitian, Middle Eastern and South Asian communities who are WBAI listeners. □

## U.S. troops: 'Let us go home!'

Continued from page 1

rounding up or killing a pro-resistance population as they themselves face grave and growing dangers of death or maiming.

The first signs of troop rebellion come not as full-blown political opposition to the criminal war on Iraq, but as complaints of unfair treatment.

On Dec. 6, lawyers at the Center for Constitutional Rights representing eight U.S. troops filed a lawsuit in federal court in Washington, D.C., to win the troops' release from the U.S. military. The troops say they are being kept on duty longer than their terms of enlistment specified, by "stop-loss" orders.

David Qualls, whose enlistment in the National Guard was supposed to end last July, said: "What this boils down to, in my opinion, is a question of fairness. You and I make a contract; we fulfill our contract or we breach our contract. You need to be fair. Let us go home." Qualls told reporters

he was a "patriot."

Another telling event was the Pentagon's decision to avoid what would be high-publicity courts-martial for the 23 reservist troops of the 343rd Quartermaster Company who refused a mission transporting fuel along a dangerous road in Iraq. These troops complained of poor equipment and lack of armor and escort. They are being hit with non-judicial Article 15 punishments, such as loss in rank and pay.

Under peacetime conditions, these punishments might stop troops from disobeying orders. Troops now in Iraq, however, might agree with Rickey Shealey of Quinton, Ala. Shealey, whose son Scott is a private with the 343rd, said: "I'm glad it's over with. I don't care if he comes back as a private or a general. I just want him to come back." □

# Conference calls for united march to end occupation

Following are excerpts from a report issued Dec. 5 by Anti-war 4 the Million Worker March.

A call for a united effort of anti-war forces came from the Dec. 4 Emergency Anti-war Conference in New York City. It was greeted with a renewed determination to be in the streets to fight the illegal occupation of Iraq.

The conference, called by the International Action Center, was supported by: N.Y.C. Labor Against the War, the Haiti Support Network, the N.Y. Million Worker March Committee, the Korea Truth Commission, N.J. Solidarity - Activists for the Liberation of Palestine, New School Graduate Program in International Affairs Human Rights Group, International Concerned Family & Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, AMAT-the Association of Mexican American Workers, FIST-Fight Imperialism Stand Together, Queers for Peace and Justice, Democratic Palestine, the No Draft No Way Campaign, PeopleJudgeBush.org, and more.

Panelists raised the need to organize against the draft and military recruiting, to support resistance inside the military, and to return to the streets to stop the occupation. At the conclusion of the conference, participants broke into planning groups to begin organizing the next phase of resistance to occupation. Organizing groups included: Fighting Bush's War Budget, Fighting the Draft and Military Recruiting, Solidarity with Resistance in the Military, and Action Plan: Counter-Inaugural and March 20.

Call adopted on Dec. 4th:

## OUT NOW!

**March to Central Park on Sunday, March 20, 2005**

The worldwide anti-war movement has called for massive demonstrations against the war on the weekend of March 19-20 — the second anniversary of the invasion of Iraq. We have a responsibility to respond with renewed determination and commitment in the face of the Bush administration's launching of a new phase of the war against the Iraqi people.

A few months ago, Mayor Bloomberg, the NYPD, and Bush told us that we could not march to and rally in Central Park. We do not accept this decision and are determined to challenge it in the courts and by assembling tens of thousands of people to retake Central Park—our park. The anti-war movement cannot afford, and must not allow, this infringement on our rights, especially in a city as important as New York.

We call on all anti-war and progressive activists, organizations and coalitions to work toward building a massive march on Sunday, March 20, to Central Park under the slogan "OUT NOW!"

We propose to set up an OUT NOW coalition, open to all individuals and organizations willing to work together to stop the war. The reason we are proposing that we call this movement "OUT NOW!" is because these two simple words convey the absolute zero tolerance for the occupation of Iraq that must drive our organizing henceforth. We need everyone to know that the mass movement is reopening a full-scale campaign to stop the war and end the occupation, and that the movement means business.

We encourage you to endorse this call.

### How to build March 20:

• Endorse • Organize local transportation to NYC • Download fliers from [www.PeopleJudgeBush.org](http://www.PeopleJudgeBush.org)

• Forward this email as widely as possible

### The challenges facing the anti-war movement

The following points are not submitted as the basis for unity that all must agree to before working together. They are points of discussion that merit movement-wide attention at this crucial juncture.

• We need to demand the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. occupation troops from Iraq. The occupation's sole purpose is to control the natural resources of Iraq and render the Iraqi people and their institutions subservient to U.S. corporate interest by military force. The principal function of the occupation is the destruction of all who dare to resist it, no matter the cost in Iraqi lives, the destruction of Iraq's infrastructure, and the devastation of Iraqi society.

• The most important thing about the Jan. 30 "elections" that are being organized under the U.S.-created Allawi regime, is that their purpose is to legitimize the occupation and the objectives of the occupiers. It will become more important for us to reject and expose any excuses put forward to justify the continuation of the colonial occupation of Iraq or the sending of more troops, which is already under way. There is only one issue and that is ending the criminal occupation—immediately.

• We must support politically, morally and organizationally members of the U.S. armed services who are resisting the war. Moreover, we must encourage this resistance.

• We must organize to fight any attempt by the Bush administration to reinstate the draft, and prepare to support resistance if conscription returns.

• It is time for the anti-war movement to acknowledge the absolute and unconditional right of the Iraqi people to resist the occupation of their country without passing judgment on their methods of resistance. Even the founding charter of the United Nations clearly affirms the right of an occupied people to resist by force of arms.

• Bush's doctrine of preemptive war, the occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan, and the growing threats against Iran and North Korea make it incumbent upon us to reject the notion that smaller countries must disarm and leave themselves defenseless at the demand of Bush and the Pentagon. Such demands are not only hypocritical, irrational and unjust; they amount to little more than a pretext for more invasions and occupations.

• We must continue to draw the connections between and build solidarity with all of the people in every part of the world that are resisting the empire—in Korea, the Philippines, Cuba, Venezuela, Colombia, Puerto Rico, and Haiti, where the people are actively resisting the "coupnapping" of President Aristide.

• There must no longer be any hesitation on the part of our movement regarding our support of the struggle of the Palestinian people to free themselves from occupation. As a movement we have made a huge step forward in this regard.

• We must work to facilitate the widest unity between all of the forces that are seriously organizing against the war and occupation. Those with wide differences in political positions and even a history of poor working relations will find the basis to unite in the interest of the struggle to stop the war.

• Now that the election is over, it is clear more than ever that only a peoples' mass movement can stop the war. The anti-war movement should never again sacrifice its



WW PHOTO: LIZA GREEN

## Youth take to the streets against war

On Dec. 4, hundreds of youths and students rallied and marched from the Boston Common to Copley to demand an end to the U.S. war and occupation in Iraq. The action was called by the Student Anti-War Coalition, which is made up of students from Harvard University, University of Massachusetts, Boston College, Boston University, Tufts University, Roxbury Community College and more. Stephanie Nichols, an organizer with the anti-imperialist youth and student group FIST—Fight Imperialism Stand Together—was among the speakers at the rally. □

independence and demobilize itself on behalf of a political party that supports the war.

• It is up to us to revitalize the mass struggle against the war and to insure that it is serious, uncompromising, unrelenting and supportive of a wide array of tactics—from the mass marches to the militant tactics of the youth, to the tactics that are most effective for the inclusion of workers, labor unions and people of color.

• One way of accomplishing greater fusion between the anti-war movement and the working class and the poor is through linking the issues that affect the mass of the people with the struggle against the war. Very soon the Bush administration will ask Congress to approve between \$70 billion and \$120 billion more for the war on top of the more than \$200 billion that has already been allocated for it. Congress will be voting to fund the war and occupation at the same time that students, workers, single parents, the unemployed and retirees are being hit with the most sweeping budget cuts in the government programs that they depend on since the Reagan years. Can we help galvanize those who will be outraged by the specter of their money being stolen from critical needs to pay for more death and destruction into a struggle against the war budget vote? The time frame for this struggle will be the period between the counter-inauguration protest in D.C. and around the country on Jan.20—through the second anniversary of the start of the war on the March 19-20 weekend.

• We propose to strategize and reach out to other forces with the goal of implementing this perspective. The Million

Worker March Movement has issued a call for all of the various anti-war organizations and workers' struggles to unite on the weekend of March 19-20, and we endorse this call for broad unity.

To read the report in its entirety, go to [www.iacenter.org](http://www.iacenter.org). □



WW PHOTO: DAVE SOLE

From left, members of MWM delegation, Clarence Thomas and Larry Holmes, at USLAW conference.

## USLAW attracts trade unionists, antiwar activists

Nearly 200 delegates and observers gathered in Chicago Dec. 4-5 for the National Leadership Assembly of U.S. Labor Against the War. They represented workers from unions and anti-war groups from coast to coast.

Acknowledging his disappointment over USLAW's failure to support the Oct. 17 Million Worker March protest in Washington, D.C., MWM leader Clarence Thomas urged in his address that trade unionists put the past behind them and look toward the future. Thomas called on USLAW to issue a joint call with the MWM organizers and others to build for mobilizations against the U.S. war on Iraq on the weekend of March 19-20, the second anniversary of the U.S. war on Iraq.

—Story and photo by Dave Sole

## Canadians protest Bush visit

By G. Dunkel

Canada and the United States are the world's biggest trading partners—goods valued at over \$1.2 billion cross their border daily. Canada is the world's largest country in area, but 90 percent of its people live within 100 miles of the U.S. border. Its economy is totally dominated by U.S. multinational companies.

Yet when President George W. Bush decided to visit Canada Nov. 30-Dec. 1, he was greeted by major protests in the capital, Ottawa, Ontario, and in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

When 20,000 people came out Nov. 30 to challenge Bush in Ottawa, it was the biggest protest there in years. Hundreds

even showed up to demonstrate in a snow storm at 6:30 the following morning when Bush left town.

The 7,000 who came out in Halifax on Dec. 1, a work day, made it the largest protest that city had ever seen.

Some 25 cities had smaller rallies in solidarity with Ottawa and Halifax.

Although Canada has major trade disputes with the United States—including bans on beef and softwood lumber exports that have cost that country billions of dollars—the focus of the demonstrations was opposition to U.S. imperialism and its illegal, unjust war in Iraq.

Protests started even before the visit. Michael Mandel and Gail Davidson of the

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## Subversion in name of 'free & fair elections'

# Stage set for new crisis in Ukraine

By Fred Goldstein

The U.S. and European imperialists and their stooges inside Ukraine have won a political victory, gaining the opportunity for their favored candidate, Viktor Yushchenko, to win in a new election.

Washington, the European Union and hordes of imperialist-sponsored NGO operatives have been working feverishly to overturn the election of Viktor Yanukovich on the grounds of "widespread fraud."

Whatever fraud may have occurred in the presidential election runoff on Nov. 21, freedom and fairness have nothing to do with why the imperialist world is unanimously calling for new elections.

If their object were free elections, they would raise a world outcry against the fraudulent elections being prepared by the Bush administration in Iraq, where the people are being ordered to participate in a U.S.-staged election under the gun of 150,000 occupation troops—an event so outside all international law that everyone connected with it, including the United Nations staff, should be prosecuted.

And what about when U.S. Marines nullified a free and fair election in Haiti by kidnapping and overthrowing President Jean-Bertrand Aristide? What about Saudi Arabia, guardian of Western oil interests, where there are no elections at all? Where is the outcry?

The political crisis in Ukraine is about U.S. and European finance capital taking over the country and tightening a cordon sanitaire around Russia.

### Campaign an 'American creation'

In a polemic against Russian President Vladimir Putin and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov about Western interference in Ukraine, Secretary of State Colin Powell declared, "What we have seen isn't interfering in democracy. What we have seen is the international community coming together to support democracy."

In fact, Washington has played a major role in manipulating the political process and institutions in an attempt to attain the election result it wants. It pressured the Ukrainian Supreme Court to declare the election invalid and it got the parliament to go along with a new election. This pressure comes as a climax to widespread and protracted imperialist preparation for a political and economic takeover.

Ian Tailor wrote in the London Guardian on Nov. 26 that "the campaign is an American creation, a sophisticated and brilliantly conceived exercise in Western branding and mass marketing...."

"Funded by and organized by the U.S. government, deploying U.S. consultancies, pollsters, diplomats, the two big American parties and U.S. non-government organizations, the campaign was first used in Europe in Belgrade in 2000 to beat Slobodan Milosevic at the ballot box.

"Richard Miles, the U.S. ambassador in Belgrade, played a key role. And by last year, as U.S. ambassador in Tbilisi, he repeated the trick in Georgia, coaching Mikhail Saakashvili in how to bring down Eduard Shevardnadze."

In Minsk, the capital of Belarus, U.S. Ambassador Michael Kozak, a former Latin American operative who worked on subversion in Nicaragua, ran a similar operation in an unsuccessful attempt to oust the government of Alexander Lukashenko.

When the television screen flashes pictures of crowds around government build-

ings in Kiev, Ukraine's capital, it is vital to know that these crowds, many of them made up of the middle classes that have benefited or want to benefit from privatization and the formation of thousands of small businesses, have been organized by political operatives in Washington, Wall Street and the capitals of Europe.

### CIA, NED, USAID and Soros

Institutions funded by the National Endowment for Democracy, aptly described by Michel Chossudovsky as "the civilian arm of the CIA," have virtually overrun Ukraine in the past decade. "In Venezuela," he adds, "the NED was also behind the failed coup against President Chávez and in Haiti it funded the opposition parties and NGOs in the U.S.-sponsored coup d'état and deportation of President Aristide." ([www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca))

This electoral overturn has been long in the making. The NED and U.S. Agency for International Development fund an NGO called the National Democratic Institute (NDI) that has been in Ukraine since 1993, two years after the bourgeois government in Kiev declared its independence following the collapse and breakup of the Soviet Union—a historic setback for socialism under the pressure of imperialism.

For the first election in 1994, the NDI organized a group called the Committee of Voters of the Ukraine (CVU). This coalition of bourgeois forces fielded 4,000 election monitors in the parliamentary and presidential election. After the elections, in 1995, it went around the country promoting privatization. By 1997 it had 17,000 election monitors ready. Now it has 18,000 volunteers and 160 branches throughout Ukraine.

### Albright and Woolsey, too

And who heads this organization? Madeleine Albright, former U.S. secretary of state under Bill Clinton—a fierce advocate of the destruction of Yugoslavia, architect of the takeover of Serbia, and defender of the genocidal sanctions against Iraq.

Another principal institution operating in Ukraine is Freedom House. Along with NDI, it has organized election monitors and trained campaign operatives. Heading its board of trustees is James Woolsey, a former director of the CIA. Woolsey is a hawk on Iraq and part of the Cheney-Rumsfeld faction that tried to link al-Qaeda and Sept. 11 to Saddam Hussein.

Freedom House is partly funded by George Soros's Open Society. Soros, whose wealth is estimated at around \$10 billion, has played a key role in Ukraine. In 1992 he made a billion dollars and became persona non grata in Britain when his speculation caused the collapse of the pound. He has a vast corporate empire and played a personal role in consolidating the capitalist counter-revolution in the former socialist countries of Eastern Europe.

Ask in an interview on March 3, 2004, "Could you name the sum allocated for your programs in Ukraine in 2004?" he replied, "The budget is \$5 million. Another million is supposed to be allocated for grants... It's quite possible that in the end we will spend about \$8 million." ([www.civicua.org/soros/en/index.html](http://www.civicua.org/soros/en/index.html))

Another key institution funding programs in Ukraine is the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. It is endowed by Boeing, Citigroup, the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, General Electric and the Andrew Mellon

Foundation, among others. It is also endowed by Yukos, the Russian oil company whose billionaire owner, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, tried to sell a huge chunk of it to U.S. oil companies and is now in jail.

Jonathan Steele pointed out in the London Guardian of Nov. 26: "In Ukraine, Yushchenko got the western nod, and floods of money poured in to groups which support him, ranging from the youth organization Pora to various opposition websites. ... Intervening in foreign elections under the guise of an impartial interest in helping civil society, has become the run-up to the postmodern coup d'état, the CIA-sponsored third world uprising of Cold War days adapted to the post-Soviet conditions..."

Steele puts his finger on the essential factor in the present crisis. "Ukraine has been turned into a geostrategic matter not by Moscow but by the U.S., which refuses to abandon its cold war policy of encircling Russia and seeking to pull every former Soviet republic to its side. The EU should have none of this."

It is clear that the foundations and the NGOs are basically an extension of the U.S. capitalist state, but they allow corporations and former government officials to carry on subversion in open relationships that would be more difficult to execute within the formal framework of the government.

Different factions of the ruling class get to promote their policies outside of, but in tandem with, the government. The State Department and the CIA have been working on the subversion of the Ukraine since long before the USSR broke up. The present campaign is just a continuation of that policy.

It is a delicate matter, because U.S. imperialism needs Russia's support or acquiescence in the war in Iraq, in pressuring North Korea, and in keeping military bases and an oil presence in Central Asia and the Caucasus. But at the same time, it wants to reduce Russia to complete dependency, fomenting pro-Wall Street factions inside Russia to challenge the bourgeois grouping of President Vladimir Putin and nationalist elements. The ultimate goal is a takeover of Russia.

### Not the old Cold War

The term Cold War has been used to describe the present crisis. This term has to be analyzed from a Marxist point of view. When the USSR collapsed, the Cold War, in its fundamental meaning, was over. It had been a class war between two irreconcilable social systems. The USSR was based upon the nationalized means of production, a planned economy and a monopoly on foreign trade. It was a socialist system based on production for social use, not for profit.

For a variety of reasons, all of which can ultimately be traced to its protracted isolation as a socialist state, war, and the poverty of its economic foundation, it was defeated by imperialism. The first and most crucial phase of that defeat was the destruction of socialist property relations and the establishment of capitalist relations, wage slavery, exploitation and private property—together with national oppression, poverty, unemployment and all the attendant evils that workers suffer under capitalism.

But for imperialism, simply overturning property relations and establishing a capitalist class in Russia and the former republics of the USSR is hardly the end of the process. After overturning the eco-

One British journalist calls U.S. intervention in Ukraine's election a 'post-modern coup d'état' adapted to conditions since the defeat of the USSR. Madeleine Albright and James Woolsey are both in it, along with billionaire George Soros.

conomic foundation, the ultimate goal of the giant monopolies is to seize control of the superstructure, that is, to completely take over the political systems in order to open the doors to thoroughgoing imperialist exploitation.

That is what is behind the crisis in Ukraine and is their goal with respect to Russia. Wall Street and Washington want to go back completely to the days before the working class, led by Lenin and the Bolshevik Party, seized power in Russia. Tsarist Russia had been both an imperialist country, with respect to its colonies, and a colony of Western imperialism: French, German, British and, to a lesser extent at that time, U.S. capital.

In the struggle over turning back the clock, Ukraine is a vital element. The Russian government, representing the new gangster capitalist class there, which enriched itself by seizing the wealth built up under socialism by the workers and peasants, has been struggling to hold back the invasion of Western imperialism—as have sections of the Ukrainian bourgeoisie.

In September 2003 they came together to form the Common Economic Space, composed of Ukraine, Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. With a combined population of 225 million, it is intended as a counterweight to the European Union and U.S. corporations.

Yushchenko and his group, Our Ukraine, declared their intention to destroy the CES should they be elected. This is a major factor behind the anti-Yanukovich agitation of the Western imperialists. The CES is an attempt to reconstitute, on a bourgeois basis, a Russian-centered economic bloc that would ultimately reduce and eliminate tariffs, develop a common tax policy and work towards economic coordination. This is anathema to the imperialists, both economically and in terms of the geopolitical struggle.

Their solution is to make Ukraine "European"—that is, a slave of Western capital. That would open the door to forcing Russia down the same path, back to the days of being a neocolony.

Right now, the Ukrainian oligarchs and bourgeois groupings around President Kuchma and Yanukovich are retreating, as is Putin of Russia. They are selling out the interests of not just the domestic bourgeoisie, but of the working class and peasantry, who will suffer most under a complete imperialist takeover.

The only way Russia and the republics were able to fight back against world capital was to organize a socialist republic with the working class in power. The Ukrainian workers of the Donetsk basin and the industrial regions have every right to oppose the bourgeois and petty bourgeois crowds and politicians in Kiev, who want to sell the country to the West. But the answer does not lie in Yanukovich, who is a tool of the oligarchs, nor does it lie in Putin. The only way Ukrainian workers can stave off the further encroachment of Western capital is to fight their own capitalists and reestablish a socialist Ukraine. □



# Brooklyn meeting in solidarity with Haitian struggle

By G. Dunkel  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

"Haiti at the Crossroads: What Is to be Done," was the theme of an important solidarity meeting that filled the 800-seat hall at New York City Technical College in Brooklyn Dec. 5.

Speakers at the meeting explained what the audience could do to support the struggle in Haiti to end repression, restore democracy and return President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to his rightful office.

La Troupe Makandal, which provided a cultural performance to begin the event, frequently joined its drumming to the audience's applause.

What made the evening both memorable and significant was that the two sponsoring groups, the Fanmi Lavalas (FL) Movement and the National Popular Party (PPN), have sharp differences in their vision and tactics, how they are organized, and the solutions they see for Haiti's problems.

But as Kim Ives, a founder of the North American group Haiti Support Network, put it: "They are clearly and solidly united on one thing: their complete rejection of the Feb. 29 coup d'état and the ensuing foreign military occupation of Haiti."

Both groups understand the motto of the Haitian flag and the Haitian Revolution, which triumphed 200 years ago: "Union fait la force" or "In unity lies strength." Both groups put this motto into practice in building of the Dec. 5 gathering.

Yvon Kernizan of FL said, "The people in Haiti are dying because they are poor

and the de facto government doesn't care." Kernizan then introduced Maryse Narcisses, who pointed out that "Haiti is at a crossroad and what is to be done is for each of us to support the struggle there."

When Ramsey Clark, the founder of the International Action Center and a former U.S. attorney general, came to the podium he was greeted with a wave of applause. He mentioned a conversation he had with Aristide the last week of November. He said that Aristide expressed his concern to do everything possible to end the killing in Haiti. Clark's cry, "Bring Aristide back!" brought the drums of Makandal to beat again.

Clark ended his talk by saying: "The powers in this world will never forgive a successful slave revolution, even after 200 years. But their success against overwhelming odds has to give us hope."

Brian Becker from the ANSWER Coalition asked the audience to come out for the Jan. 20 counter-inaugural protest in Washington, D.C., and the March 19-20 demonstrations to mark the second anniversary of the war in Iraq.

Pat Chin, an IAC organizer who has traveled to Haiti many times, began her talk with a chant: "Aristide in, CIA out!" Her anti-imperialist, pro-solidarity talk was interrupted frequently by the drums of Makandal, matching the applause of the crowd. (Read excerpts from her talk below.)

A wonderful video, "Kraze lespwa," showed the concrete achievements of Aristide's government in building 250 schools and markets in the poorest communities

in Haiti. All this building was accomplished only with Haiti's own resources, with no aid from foreign governments or non-governmental organizations.

Mario Dupuy, Aristide's director of communications, proclaimed: "Fanmi Lavalas is ready to talk and dialog with all sane forces in the country, while continuing its mobilizations. It feels that Haiti has no future without democracy, but that doesn't mean elections like those that took place in Florida in 2000."

The video "Nou Gen San Deslin" showed some mass demonstrations in 2003 along with participants inviting Haiti's government to take appropriate measures against the oncoming coup. After this video, Ben Dupuy, secretary general of Haiti's National Popular Party, spoke.

He began by quoting from the Dessalinien, the National Hymn of Haiti—"Se pou n mache, men nan lamen" (hand in hand, let us march)—and the audience burst into applause.

He then began to analyze U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell's recent trip to Port-au-Prince, where Powell wanted to put pressure on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) to crush the popular movement resisting in the streets.

"The UN is showing its true face as a tool of big countries like the United States and France," Dupuy said. Since both countries have other adventures, the United States in Iraq and France in the Ivory Coast, he said, they had to call on the United Nations. But the Brazilian general in charge of MINUSTAH told a congress-



Ben Dupuy

WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

sional commission in Brazil, "I command a peace-keeping force, not an occupation force."

Dupuy pointed out that "Haiti is slippery ground. The United States didn't find a cakewalk in Iraq and it won't have one in Haiti either. The mobilizations in the streets are continuing. The struggle for democracy will continue and the Haitian people will get it."

George Honorat, a leading member of the PPN who works with the National Cell of the Base of Reflections of the Popular Organizations of Lavalas, gave a brief talk on conditions on the ground in Haiti. Lain Sixth, a Fanmi Lavalas militant from the New York area, called for support in the United States for the protests in Haiti. □

## 'Aristide in, CIA out!'

From a talk given by Pat Chin at the Dec. 5 "Haiti: What Is To Be Done" rally.

It's been 10 months since President Aristide was kidnapped by U.S. Marines and forced into exile by the Bush White House working with the French government. Haiti is once again an occupied country.

Two hundred years ago, Haitian national hero Gen. Jean-Jacques Dessalines declared independence from France after defeating the once-mighty French colonial army sent to re-enslave Haiti. It was the culmination of the world's only successful slave revolution, and it terrified the slaveholding classes of the region. This included the United States with its deeply entrenched racism and a sadistic need to punish those who don't submit to its class interests.

Since then, Haiti has been economically besieged and kept mired in wrenching poverty. Haitians have been demonized and vilified like no other. "How dare these Black slaves overthrow their white masters and declare a nation," the slave masters no doubt asked themselves. Haiti has also been kept in poverty, like much of Africa, to reinforce the myth that Black people can't govern themselves and therefore need white saviors.

Since the coup-napping, horrific crimes, including police killings and an alarming increase in the number of rapes, have been unleashed on Haiti's poor majority. Most of them are supporters of Aristide who are calling for his return and an end to the occupation.

But the resistance is growing. Let's give a big round of applause to our sisters and brothers in Haiti who, under the most dreadful conditions, continue to organize and rebel against imperialist occupation.

And a big round of applause to Fanmi Lavalas and the National Popular Party, whose leaders had the foresight to unite and organize this very exciting meeting as the struggle in Haiti moves to a new level.

In 1802 the French government kidnapped and exiled Toussaint L'Ouverture. But that led to the rise of Dessalines, who took the struggle to a higher level. President Aristide has also been exiled. But the fighting, uncompromising spirit of Dessalines is now moving the struggle forward!

In its arrogance, Washington surely didn't foresee this level of resistance. They made the same mistake with Iraq. They thought they could use a form of shock and awe in Haiti to overwhelm and crush the liberation movement, to demoralize the people into silence. But, as in Iraq, it's not working in Haiti.

The anti-imperialist, anti-war movement must be linked to the fight for workers' rights and against racism. Thousands of Haitians—those lucky enough to find jobs—are being super-exploited in sweatshop assembly factories for major U.S. corporations such as Wal-Mart, Disney and others. The same corporations that exploit the working class here and that are fighting a war against Iraq pay Haitians the lowest wages in the Americas, with no union rights. People get killed in Haiti for trying to organize unions.

You can't talk about Haiti without mentioning Iraq and vice versa. Likewise, it's

hard to talk about what imperialism is doing in the Americas and in Iraq without talking about the struggle of the heroic Palestinian people. Long live Palestine!

This activity couldn't be more timely. The war is raging in Iraq. The occupation there is collapsing. Lots of people are aware of what's going on there. What many don't know, however, is that foreign occupation forces also don't control Port-au-Prince as rebellion grows more intense in Haiti.

We in this country are living in the belly of the capitalist beast. We're strategically placed to bring about change that can have a global effect, and the people of the world are looking to us to do it.

Forget about the elections. They were a distortion—manipulated, superficial B.S. that doesn't reflect where the majority of the workers of this country are. It's up to us in the anti-imperialist movement to make sure that the people of the world know that—by our words and, most important, by our actions.

That's why we have to be at the counter-inauguration in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 20. That's why we have to be out in the streets on the second anniversary of the start of the war against Iraq, set for mid-March.

There was an anti-war conference in New York yesterday. Hundreds of young people of all nationalities, war veterans,



Pat Chin

WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

resisters, students fighting the draft, and trade unionists met, and are raring to go.

They want to get over the hang-up of the election—to re-ignite the struggle like a sweeping Lavalas flood against imperialist war and occupation. They want to shake the system up in a way that's more militant, that won't compromise the fight for social and economic justice, that won't be demobilized by phony elections.

This evening's meeting is a part of that human flood. It's also "stop the war week." On Saturday in New York we'll be marching again. Join us with your drums, flags and signs to demand self-determination for Haiti, Iraq and Palestine and the rest of the colonized peoples of the world. March against the repressive Patriot Act.

Away with the coup regime. Away with the occupation. Let's build a united front against imperialism. Ki sa pou-n fe sisters and brothers, what is to be done? On your feet, on your feet, on your feet get back to the streets. □



## A growing cancer

**W**hat's the job of the state? Ask any capitalist politician or media pundit and they'll swear to you that it's to protect and serve the people. But since the people they're protecting are in the business of exploiting half the world, that means spending hundreds of billions of dollars to train and equip police and soldiers of various kinds to impose "order" in a widening area of the globe.

Hundreds of thousands of soldiers have been sent abroad, most to Iraq and Afghanistan, in the last two years. It's the job of the media, the churches and officialdom of all kinds to convince them and their families that risking death or injury is glorious and necessary to protect the folks back home.

But a lot of them are starting to think for themselves. And the reality they see on the ground is not what they were told to expect. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was briefly tongue-tied during his recent photo-op meeting with U.S. troops in Kuwait when two members of the National Guard on their way to Iraq had the temerity to speak up and ask why they weren't provided sufficient protective equipment.

Soldiers aren't supposed to speak out or think about policy issues—they're just supposed to follow orders. Rumsfeld was shocked.

The specter of Vietnam, when U.S. soldiers refused orders to destroy Vietnamese villages, fringed their officers and even deserted to the other side can't be far from the minds of those who today are trying once again to turn young U.S. workers into colonial shock troops.

The only thing they have going for them is fear—and the Bush administration has known how to manipulate that to the hilt. With the willing help of a lap-dog media, it convinced at least half the people in this country that Iraq was connected to the 9/11 attacks, when the truth is the opposite: Iraq never lifted a finger against this country but has been under attack from the U.S. since 1990.

It was the job of the "intelligence" community to make Secretary of State Colin Powell's presentation at the UN

easier by fabricating evidence that was supposed to prove Washington's claims and thereby make it possible to mobilize an invasion force. But the world knew otherwise, and with such a powerful resistance in Iraq, the CIA and other spy agencies have been discredited, leading to turmoil in their ranks.

Bush set up a new police agency, the Department of Homeland Security, that was supposed to bridge the turf wars of the CIA and FBI and give the president better information to combat "terrorism." With 180,000 employees, more cops of every kind got jobs, tens of billions more were spent, and television dutifully showed what each day's color code was.

Now Bernard Kerik has been nominated by Bush to replace Tom Ridge as head of the department. Kerik is an acolyte of former New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani and senior vice president at Giuliani Partners LLC, which sells security-related products and services. In other words, fear. Kerik spent a few months training the new, colonial Iraqi police force, which isn't all that keen on dying for U.S. oil companies and has a habit of disappearing when there is fighting. There's no evidence that Kerik has learned anything from that.

Bush is also going ahead with setting up yet another "intelligence" post, after some initial resistance from the Pentagon, which doesn't want its own spying departments downgraded in any way. But the brass got what they wanted and now millions or billions more—it's hard to keep track since everything is secret—will be spent on an intelligence czar who everyone else is supposed to report to, at least some of the time.

So where does that leave healthcare? Especially with more and more warnings that a very serious flu epidemic may be in the making? Social Security? Shrinking wages? Melting of the polar icecaps and the dollar?

Everything is going for repression and war. That's what the capitalist state is for. □

## Victory for Frances Newton, death row inmate

*Continued from page 5*

account for almost 90 per cent of all executions.

- Public support for the death penalty is at the lowest level in 25 years.
- More and more people on death row are being found innocent; 117 people have been released based on proven innocence.
- Support for putting juveniles on death row is declining. The Supreme Court will decide the constitutionality of executing juveniles in the spring of 2005.

The state of Texas, which has carried out over one-third of the 943 executions in the United States, has seen stinging reversals this year in three other cases involving death penalty convictions. This is striking considering that this conservative court generally favors capital punishment.

All the cases involved Black defendants. The Supreme Court overturned two because jurors were not told of the defendants' learning disabilities. In

February, the court lifted Delma Banks' death sentence and delivered a strong criticism of Texas officials and lower courts, saying prosecutors hid crucial information that might have helped Banks' case.

Recently the Supreme Court heard arguments for the second time in the case of Thomas Miller-El. Eight of the nine U.S. Supreme Court justices had decided last year that the case of Miller-El showed ample evidence that prosecutors deliberately excluded African Americans from his 1986 jury.

"Activists, abolitionists and all who oppose the racism and anti-poor bias of capital punishment have a duty to increase pressure on politicians and institutions that keep executions going," concluded Njeri Shakur, an organizer with the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement. "We must organize and agitate and campaign until the death penalty is put into the dust bin of history. Get involved now!" □

## Workers shut down Italy for a day

By John Catalinotto

Over a million workers from three trade union confederations joined for a Dec. 1 general strike in Italy. They were protesting right-wing media magnate and current Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's social and economic policies.

Their specific demand was to stop an \$8 billion tax cut set to be accompanied by enormous cuts in social services.

This was the fourth general strike since Berlusconi took office in 2001.

Despite heavy rain throughout the country, hundreds of thousands of workers, unemployed and retired people, and students marched and rallied in 70 Italian cities. The protests spanned the country, from the northern industrial belt to Sicily.

According to unionists, some 80 per cent of workers took part in the stoppage. Much of Italy ground to a halt.

In the decades after World War II, such a splendid general strike would probably have led to the Italian bosses and bankers making concessions to organized labor. Since the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union, however, the Western European ruling class has been on a broad offensive against the workers. The capitalists want to

reverse every gain workers made in that earlier period.

The so-called center-left parties in Italy hope for an electoral victory over Berlusconi in 2006. However, these same parties had earlier opened the door to worker givebacks. Nothing has shown that they would reverse this policy in the future.

Western European workers still retain many of the social gains already lost in the United States and Britain since the Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher governments. But everything is under attack today in Western Europe, from pension benefits to free education to health-care insurance to decent unemployment payments. Meanwhile industry moves to areas of cheaper labor in Eastern Europe or Asia.

Whether under the Social Democrat/Green alliance in Germany or the center-right governments in Portugal and Italy, workers' gains are imperiled. The Monday-night worker demonstrations in Germany, action days and even one-day general strikes would seem revolutionary here in the United States, and they are an excellent sign of workers' readiness to struggle. But in and of themselves they have not been sufficient to stop the capitalist offensive. □

## Bush Social Security plan

*Continued from page 4*

There is a growing consensus that creating private individual Social Security accounts is only the first step. The pretense is that Washington is trying to fix a problem, when it really wants to get rid of Social Security and pull the government out of the retirement business altogether.

It has been 70 years since the government was forced to deal with the demand of compensation for retired workers.

A national social security program was first discussed in 1934. The crises of a depression, overall poverty and the aged were obvious. But it was all talk.

It took a year with more than three general strikes, sit-ins and the threat of social revolution to get the government and Wall Street tycoons to respond.

The Social Security Act became law in 1935, along with dozens of laws such as the Wagner Labor Act—labor's Bill of Rights—and the National Recovery Act. These were passed to appease the 35 million unorganized industrial workers who were determined to push aside repressive laws

and institutions that had exploited them for decades.

The Congress of Industrial Organizations was born. The courage and boldness workers displayed to win their demands were contagious. Workers had a sense that the long period of defeats, repressive legislation and broken strikes was coming to an end.

Today, the workers and the oppressed have again suffered a long string of setbacks. The baby boomers and those who will follow are in debt over their heads. The benefits accrued to them—pensions, Social Security, health care—are vanishing along with their savings.

Are those explosive days of the 1930s class struggle bubbling within the workers, the unemployed and the unorganized? The Bush administration is playing with fire as it plans to savage the Social Security Act of 1935.

The labor movement and class-conscious workers should remember that it took a bold and creative strategy to get progressive laws passed. The lessons of class struggle are clear. It begins from below. □

## Canadians protest Bush visit

*Continued from page 7*

Canadian group Lawyers Against the War sent a letter to the country's immigration minister Nov. 26, outlining reasons why Bush should be excluded from Canada as a war criminal. LAW then filed a criminal complaint against Bush on Dec. 2.

In Ottawa, cops were out in great force, with helicopters, SWAT teams and all the paraphernalia of repressive crowd control. There was a short, sharp scuffle with police and some protesters were arrested.

There was a broad range of speakers at the rally in Ottawa, including politicians from the New Democratic Party, a social-democratic electoral party; leaders of the Canadian Labor Congress; Arab Canadians; and religious figures.

Denise Veilleux of the Union of Pro-

gressive Forces in Quebec (UFP) linked the war in Iraq to imperialism as a system of exploitation and oppression. She got some of the warmest applause and cheers.

Many in the crowd were French-speakers from nearby Quebec, across the Ottawa River from the capital city.

Carolyn Parish, a parliament member expelled from the Liberal Party after she trampled on a Bush doll on a satirical television show, expressed her solidarity with the Palestinian cause.

The political strength of these demonstrations will make it harder for Prime Minister Paul Martin of the Liberal Party to openly support the U.S. war in Iraq. They also showed the world that the U.S. empire is highly unpopular—even with its closest neighbors. □

# Neoliberalism and resistance in Latin America

From a talk by Berta Joubert-Ceci at a Workers World Party meeting in New York Dec. 3.

The situation in Latin America should be considered in the context of the world situation, the war in the Middle East and the U.S. economy.

We are talking about 13 countries in South America (if we count Malvinas as part of Argentina), eight in Central America and 24 in the Caribbean—with a combined population of more than half a billion people.

There is constant debate throughout the region about the class origins and revolutionary potential of the rising movements. However, we can address the overall situation that is giving rise to these movements, with particular attention to Colombia and Venezuela.

The unifying factor that gave rise to today's resistance is neoliberalism. This term means a consolidation of the measures the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, World Trade Organization and U.S. imperialism had imposed all along, but now with a consistent pattern for all countries.

The imperialists' justification for neoliberalism was to help Third World economies develop and solve their economic crises. But its real purpose was to firmly establish worldwide capitalist domination and make these countries dependent profit generators for U.S. corporations.

Some of neoliberalism's prominent features are privatization, free flow of capital, absence or reduction of tariffs, elimination of subsidies for the country's products, reduction of government agencies—particularly those involved with improving quality of life—and elimination of the social safety net.

Another feature is a balanced budget requirement. Money that was used to finance governmental agencies must now be diverted to the deficit and a huge external debt that is impossible to pay off.

## Neoliberalism ignites resistance

Logically, the simultaneous imposition of these measures leaves the population devastated and miserable. Jobs are lost to privatization while prices increase and social programs are reduced or eliminated.

In 1980, 120 million people in Latin America and the Caribbean lived in poverty. By the end of 1999, some 220 million people were poor. From 1990 to 1995, 13.6 million of the 15.7 million jobs created in Latin America were in the informal economy.

Neoliberalism has awakened a massive response from the people. The Latin American movement is very diverse, but it is mainly anti-imperialist since the struggle against neoliberalism has been its driving force.

In general, this is a new movement with different forces than in the past. Along with

traditional struggles by trade unions and the peasantry, new forms of struggle and new political formations are emerging.

Indigenous peoples defending their culture and territory from transnational corporations; students defending their right to education; women asserting their rightful place in the struggle and organizing for their families' needs; lesbian and gay people defending their rights; Afro-descendants fighting racism—all are vital components of the movement.

We should remember that state terrorism and military dictatorships have been responsible for decimating communist and socialist parties in the region. Chile and Argentina are well-known examples. But all of Latin America and the Caribbean is a region where even attempts at reform have been paid for with blood. The breakup of the Soviet Union also had an impact on the progressive forces there, as it did worldwide.

In several countries, the new movements have forced the election of presidents who, at least on paper, oppose neoliberal "free trade" agreements. This is the case in Argentina, Ecuador, Brazil, Bolivia and Uruguay.

## Colombia under siege

While the United States intervenes militarily, financially and diplomatically in every country of the region, it is most deeply involved in Colombia. The reason is the armed insurgency.

By now, we all know that Plan Colombia was not an anti-drug effort. It has been exposed to the world as a counter-insurgency plan. U.S. President George W. Bush has expanded Plan Colombia into the Andean Initiative.

Recently, the U.S. Congress approved a twofold increase in the number of U.S. military personnel and contractors allowed to operate in Colombia—all geared to increase the offensive against the insurgency.

Colombia is the second-biggest country in South America. It borders Venezuela, Panamá, Ecuador, Perú and Brazil, and has the added advantage of having both Atlantic and Pacific coasts. Colombia is wealthy in natural resources and biodiversity. Conditions like these make Colombia unique—and very desirable to the imperialist appetite.

After President Hugo Chavez took office in Venezuela in 1998, the Colombian-Venezuelan border attracted additional attention, becoming even more important for U.S. imperialism because of Venezuelan oil.

Colombia's armed resistance includes the oldest continuous guerrilla movement on the continent—the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army (FARC-EP). It was born at the height of communist and progressive effervescence in 1964.

FARC has grown to approximately

15,000 members. It controlled 40 percent of Colombian territory in 2000. The National Liberation Army (ELN), another guerrilla movement inspired by the Cuban Revolution, has a force of approximately 4,000.

Throughout its history, FARC has attempted to involve the population in constructing a democratic and just Colombia through popular assemblies, regular communications and other initiatives.

Every administration has responded with violence to the guerrillas' attempts to negotiate a political solution. But the current administration of President Álvaro Uribe has been the most violent and intransigent.

Uribe, a fascist loyal to the United States, is even trying to change his country's constitution so he can be re-elected, giving him more time to exterminate the guerrillas and all opposition to his neoliberal program.

## Unarmed groups targeted

Uribe imposed the so-called Democratic Security Act, which criminalizes political opposition and increases the powers of the police and military.

The president declared that an oil workers' strike against the privatization of ECOPEPETROL, the state oil industry, was illegal. If a strike is considered illegal, then workers are targets of the judicial system—arrests—the company—lost jobs and termination of the union—and the death squads—threats and assassinations.

Uribe considers all unarmed opposition groups sympathizers of the guerrillas, even when they are not. This includes religious organizations, labor unions, social movements of Indigenous and Afro-Colombian people, women, youths and students, peasants, etc.

Any hint of a person's connection to the guerrillas can be a death sentence. That activist and his or her family will be put on the paramilitaries' hit list.

Attacks on the unarmed movement range from mass detentions and arrests to death threats to assassinations and massacres. Those subject to detention and arrest have no right to know their accusers, who are generally paid informants.

Massacres are usually carried out where U.S. corporations stand to benefit most from depopulation: sites of so-called mega projects or valuable natural resources.

## Solidarity with rebels

The United States wants another Falluja, another Guernica, in Colombia—away from international view.

It is more necessary than ever to explain the true nature of the armed insurgency in Colombia. The international movement must not distance itself from the rebels, but put them alongside the Iraqi and the Palestinian resistance.

The insurgency is fighting not only for the Colombian people, but for all people in Latin America. And it is essential for the consolidation of the Bolivarian Revolution under way in Venezuela.

Already Colombian paramilitaries have waged mini-interventions against Venezuela from the Arauca region.

Along with Cuba, Venezuela is now the hope of the masses in the region and the world. More and more, the Bolivarian Revolution moves away from capitalism toward socialism.

The threat that the Bolivarian Revolution poses to the imperialists is underscored by Washington's many attempts to unseat Chavez, the funding of the Venezuelan opposition through the National Endowment for Democracy, and the assassination of revolutionary leaders like Danilo Anderson.

It is the task of every revolutionary to defend the righteous struggle of our sisters and brothers in the Colombian insurgency and the Bolivarian Revolution, even as we oppose the imperialist war in Iraq and everywhere. □

## Puerto Rican anti-war activist speaks at forum

Professor Héctor Rosario Rivera spoke at a Dec. 3 Workers World Party public forum in New York. Rosario was suspended by the administration at the University of Puerto Rico in Mayagüez for his anti-military activism. The six-month sanction from employment, salary, and benefits, which began this past Sept. 2, penalized him for his continued struggle against the campus ROTC and his opposition to the war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Rosario went on a 12-day hunger strike that began on Sept. 27 in front of the Capitol building in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He demanded to be reinstated to his teaching job, and justice for those who fight against the military machine. Because of public support and student solidarity actions at several university units, including complete lock-outs at three campuses within the UPR system, his suspension was reduced to four months.

Rosario is a leader of the Frente Socialista (Socialist Front) in Mayagüez. He was a guest pan-



elist at the anti-war, anti-draft conference sponsored by the International Action Center at New School University in New York Dec. 4.

—Story & photo by Arturo J. Perez-Saad

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## Conferencia urgente contra la guerra

*Conferencia Urgente Contra la Guerra hace llamado para marcha unitaria en el Parque Central para terminar la ocupación*

“El parque central le pertenecen al pueblo—marchemos al Parque Central el 20 de marzo para terminar la ocupación!”

Esta llamado al esfuerzo unitario de las fuerzas antiguerra vino de organizador@s y activistas durante la Conferencia de Urgencia que se llevó a cabo el 4 de diciembre en la Ciudad de Nueva York. Fue recibido con gran aplauso y una renovada determinación de estar en las calles luchando contra la ilegal ocupación de Irak. (véase abajo el texto del llamado)

La conferencia, iniciada por el Centro de Acción Internacional, estuvo apoyada por una amplia gama de organizaciones progresistas que incluían: New York City Labor Against the War, la Red de Apoyo a Haití, el Comité de NY de la Marcha del Millón de Trabajador@s, la Comisión Coreana de la Verdad, New Jersey Solidarity - Activists for the Liberation of Palestine, New School Graduate Program in International Affairs Human Rights Group, International Concerned Family & Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, AMAT—la Asociación Mexicana de Trabajadores, FIST - Fight Imperialism - Stand Together, Queers for Peace and Justice, Democratic Palestine, the No Draft No Way Campaign, PeopleJudgeBush.org, y otras.

L@s panelistas en la conferencia hablaron sobre la necesidad de organizar contra el reclutamiento militar, de apoyar la oposición de los soldados a la guerra, y de volver a las calles en la continuada lucha para detener la ocupación. Al final de la conferencia, l@s participantes se dividieron en grupos de planificación para comenzar a organizar la próxima fase de la resistencia a la ocupación.

Los grupos organizativos incluyeron: Luchando Contra el Presupuesto Guerrerista de Bush; Luchando contra el reclutamiento militar; Solidaridad con la Oposición a la Guerra por parte de los soldados, y Plan de Acción: Contra-Inauguración y el 20 de marzo.

### ¡FUERA AHORA!

**Marcha al Parque Central el domingo 20 de marzo de 2005**

**El mundo entero estará marchando y observando**

El movimiento antiguerra mundial ha hecho un llamado a demostraciones masivas contra la guerra durante el fin de semana del 19-20 de marzo — el segundo aniversario de la invasión de Irak. Tenemos la responsabilidad de responder con determinación y obligación renovadas ante la nueva fase de la guerra de la administración de Bush contra el pueblo iraquí.

Meses atrás, el alcalde Bloomberg, la Policía de NY, y Bush nos dijeron que no podíamos concentrarnos ni marchar en el Parque Central. No aceptamos esta decisión y estamos decidid@s a desafiarla en las cortes y a través de la congregación de miles de personas para retomar el Parque Central—nuestro par-

que. El movimiento antiguerra no puede permitirse, ni debe permitir, esta infracción a nuestros derechos, especialmente en una ciudad tan importante como Nueva York.

Invitamos a tod@s l@s activistas antiguerra y progresistas, organizaciones y coaliciones a trabajar para la construcción de una marcha masiva el domingo 20 de marzo al Parque Central bajo el lema FUERA AHORA!

Proponemos que se constituyan coaliciones ¡FUERA AHORA! abiertas a todo individu@ y organización que quiera trabajar unid@s para parar la guerra. ¡La razón por la cual estamos proponiendo que llamemos este movimiento “¡FUERA AHORA!” es porque estas dos simples palabras expresan la intolerancia absoluta a la ocupación de Irak que debe conducir nuestros esfuerzos organizativos de ahora en adelante. Queremos que se sepa que el movimiento de masas reinicia una campaña decidida a parar la guerra y a terminar con la ocupación.

El Centro de Acción Internacional [www.iacenter.org](http://www.iacenter.org)

Lo que usted puede hacer para ayudar a organizar la iniciativa del 20 de marzo:

- Endosar
- Organizar transportación a NYC
- Correr la voz — descargue los volantes en [WWW.PeopleJudgeBush.org](http://WWW.PeopleJudgeBush.org)
- Reenvíe este mensaje tan ampliamente como sea posible

### LOS DESAFÍOS QUE ENFRENTA EL MOVIMIENTO ANTIGUERRA

Los siguientes puntos no son sometidos como base para la unidad con los que tod@s deban estar de acuerdo antes de trabajar unid@s. Son puntos a discutir que merecen la atención del movimiento en esta crucial coyuntura.

- Necesitamos exigir la retirada completa, inmediata, e incondicional de todas las tropas de ocupación estadounidenses en Irak. El único propósito de la ocupación es controlar los recursos naturales de Irak y hacer al pueblo iraquí y sus instituciones esclavos del interés corporativo de los EEUU a fuerza de invasión militar. La función principal de la ocupación es la destrucción de todo aquel/la que se atreva a oponerse, no

importa el costo de vidas iraquíes, de destrucción de la infraestructura de Irak, y de la devastación de la sociedad iraquí que esto conlleve.

- Lo más importante a saber sobre las “elecciones” del 30 de enero que están organizando bajo el régimen de Alayawi creado por los EEUU, es que su propósito es el hacer legítima la ocupación y los objetivos de los invasores. En los próximos días será muy importante el rechazar y exponer cualquier excusa que se proponga para justificar la continuación de la ocupación colonial de Irak aunque sea por un solo día más, o para enviar más tropas que ya por cierto están en camino. Hay solamente una cuestión y ésa es la de terminar la ocupación criminal - inmediatamente.

- Debemos apoyar política, moral y organizativamente a miembr@s de las fuerzas armadas estadounidense que están oponiéndose a la guerra, lo que es más, debemos fomentar esa resistencia.

- Debemos organizar para luchar contra cualquier tentativa de la administración de Bush para reinstalar el servicio militar obligatorio y prepararnos para apoyar la resistencia si este reclutamiento vuelve.

- Es hora de que el movimiento antiguerra reconozca el derecho absoluto e incondicional del pueblo iraquí a resistir la ocupación de su país sin pasar juicio a sus métodos de resistencia. Hasta el código de fundación de las Naciones Unidas afirma claramente el derecho de un pueblo ocupado a resistir armado.

- La doctrina de guerra preventiva de Bush, la ocupación de Irak y Afganistán y las amenazas cada vez mayores contra Irán y Corea del Norte hacen imprescindible que rechacemos la noción de que los países más pequeños deban desarmarse y quedar indefensos por la demanda de Bush y del Pentágono. Tales demandas no son solamente hipócritas, irracionales e injustas; sino que son poco más que un pretexto para más invasiones y ocupaciones.

- Debemos continuar haciendo conexiones y construyendo la solidaridad entre todos los pueblos del mundo que se están oponiendo al imperio - en Corea, las Filipinas, Cuba, Venezuela, Colombia, Puerto Rico, y en Haití, donde la gente se está oponiendo activamente

al secuestro del presidente Aristide.

- No debe haber ninguna duda por parte de nuestro movimiento con respecto a nuestra ayuda a la lucha del pueblo palestino para liberarse de la ocupación. Como movimiento hemos avanzado en este respecto. No debemos retroceder.

- Debemos trabajar para facilitar la unidad más amplia entre todas las fuerzas que están organizando seriamente contra la guerra y la ocupación. La comunidad internacional nos exige al movimiento dentro de los EEUU. Si hay voluntad para forjar unidad, entonces éstos con amplias diferencias de posiciones políticas e incluso aquellos con un historial de relaciones dificultosas de trabajo en coaliciones, encontrarán la base de unión en el interés por la lucha para parar la guerra.

- Ahora que las elecciones han terminado, está más claro que nunca que solamente un movimiento masivo del pueblo puede parar la guerra. El movimiento antiguerra no debe jamás sacrificar su independencia y desmovilizarse a beneficio de un partido político que apoya la guerra. La tarea principal y más inmediata del movimiento antiguerra es la de volver a estar en las calles.

- Está en nuestras manos el revitalizar la lucha total de las masas contra la guerra y asegurarnos que es seria, inflexiblemente contra la guerra, implacable y que apoya una amplia gama de tácticas desde las marchas masivas, a las tácticas militantes de la juventud, y las tácticas que sean más eficaces para la inclusión de trabajador@s, sindicatos y gente de color.

- Una forma de lograr la mayor fusión entre el movimiento antiguerra y la clase obrera y los pobres es a través de la articulación de las cuestiones que afectan al pueblo con la lucha contra la guerra de una manera mucho más estratégica y substantiva. Por ejemplo, muy pronto la administración de Bush pedirá al congreso que apruebe entre \$70 y \$120 mil millones más para la guerra por encima de los más de \$200 mil millones que ya se han asignado para ella. El congreso votará para financiar la guerra y la ocupación a la vez que estudiantes, trabajador@s, padres, desemplead@s y jubilad@s se enfrentan al presupuesto más devastador desde los años de Reagan. Nuestro desafío: ¿Podremos ayudar a galvanizar a l@s que se han indignado por la posibilidad de que el dinero se quite de los programas sociales críticos para pagar más muerte y destrucción, en una lucha contra el voto al presupuesto de la guerra? El marco de tiempo para esta lucha es el período entre la protesta de la inauguración el 20 de enero y la marcha del fin de semana 19/20 en el 2do aniversario del comienzo de la guerra.

- Proponemos diseñar estrategias y acercarnos a otras fuerzas con el fin de poner esta perspectiva en acción. La Marcha del Millón de Trabajador@s ha hecho un llamado a todas las organizaciones antiguerra y de trabajador@s para unirse el fin de semana del 19-20 de marzo y nosotr@s endosamos este llamado a la unidad. □

