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Lebanese reject U.S. intervention

Huge Beirut rally rebuffs 'Gucci revolution'

By Fred Goldstein

The Lebanese people converged on Beirut from all the poor areas of the country on March 6 in a massive anti-imperialist, anti-Zionist showing. They gave a resounding rebuff to efforts by the Bush administration to isolate Syria, attack Hezbollah and set the stage for expanding its war for "regime change" in the Middle East to Damascus.

Organizers said 1 million demonstrated. Even the most moderate estimate by the big business press was half a million. Overhead panning of the demonstration by video cameras showing it overflowing Riyadh Solh Square in central Beirut for as far as the eye could see in all directions. The demonstration was close to one quarter of the entire population of Lebanon, which is estimated at 4.4 million.

A demonstration of similar proportion in the U.S. would be in the range of 50 to 60 million.

Two giant cranes held banners saying "Thanks to Syria" and "No to foreign interference." The demonstration was an answer

to the demands by the Bush administration and its allies and stooges that Syria remove its troops from Lebanon and that Hezbollah be disarmed.

Reuters of March 8, referring to a speech by Hezbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, reported that "Nasrallah said no one in Lebanon feared the United States, whose troops left Beirut in 1984"—a few months after a car bombing which killed 241 Marines at their headquarters in Beirut. "We have defeated them in the past and if they come again we will defeat them again," he is reported to have said.

Placards at the rally, according to the AP, said "Syria & Lebanon brothers forever," "America is the source of terrorism," "All our disasters are from America," and "No to American-Zionist intervention, yes to Lebanese-Syrian brotherhood."

Nasrallah answered the Bush administration, which has been trying to get rid of the present Lebanese government, claiming it is a puppet of Syria. Pointing to the crowd in the square he said: "I ask our partners in the country or those looking at us

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MARCH 19: Anti-war march to start in Harlem

By LeiLani Dowell
New York

On the weekend of March 19-20, the U.S. government will once again be facing worldwide protests against the illegal and brutal occupation of Iraq. In New York City, activists from various communities and struggles have formed a vibrant coalition to stop the war at home and abroad.

The Troops Out Now Coalition will be marching on March 19 from Harlem to Central Park and then on to Mayor Michael Bloomberg's residence. Its literature explains: "We call this movement

'OUT NOW' 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."

The coalition chose Jan. 15, the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's birthday, to first announce its plans because "trying to emulate his courage in the struggle against racism and against the war in Vietnam is more important than ever. We believe the best way to honor his memory

is to continue the struggle against war and racism."

On March 9, the coalition will hold a press conference at City Hall to announce the introduction of a resolution in the City Council calling for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, as well as to spend the money appropriated for the war to fund cities.

Starts at Marcus Garvey Park

The march route on the 19th holds special significance. The day will begin at 10:00 a.m. in the African-American com-

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Murders of judge's family show

Law is lax when terror suspects are racists

By David Hoskins

Speculation is intense surrounding the murder of the husband and mother of Chicago federal judge Joan Lefkow.

Lefkow herself had earlier been targeted for assassination by Matt Hale and the white supremacist World Church of the Creator after she enforced an appeals court ruling in a trademark case and ordered the group to change its name. She later levied a \$200,000 fine and found Hale in contempt of court for defying the court order. Hale has been in prison since April 2004 for soliciting the assassination of Lefkow in retaliation for her ruling.

The U.S. Marshals Service has been charged with protecting federal judges and prosecutors since 1789. If it is determined that the Feb. 28 double murder of Michael Lefkow and Donna Humphrey was carried out as a result of Judge Lefkow's ruling, it would mark the first time that the U.S. Marshals Service failed to protect the family member of a federal judge targeted over a case decision. (Quad City Times, March 1)

The FBI is investigating the incident and has maintained that it is far too early to make assumptions and that a large number of angles must be investigated. This is despite the fact that a number of individuals representing disparate organizations, ranging from the progressive Southern Poverty Law Center to the Zionist Anti-Defamation League, and including several white supremacists themselves, believe that individuals sympathetic or affiliated to Matt Hale and the World Church of the Creator were willing and capable of carrying out the murders. (Christian Science Monitor, March 3)

Hale's group, which is also anti-Semitic, incorrectly believed that Lefkow and her family were Jewish.

Questions remain on how the killers were able to circumvent the tight government protection and private

security system in order to carry out the murders.

If there was government complicity at some level, it certainly would not be the first time in racially motivated killings. United States' intelligence agencies have a history of involvement and concealment when it comes to terrorist attacks perpetrated by white supremacist organizations.

For example, it took decades before anyone from the terrorist Ku Klux Klan was brought to justice for the death of four young girls as a result of the bombing at the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala. The FBI, which had thoroughly penetrated the Klan, was the main obstacle to bringing the fugitive terrorists who perpetrated this crime to account. (Newsweek, July 21, 1997)

By casting a wide net of suspicion, instead of focusing closer scrutiny on Matt Hale and the white supremacist movement, the FBI could again provide significant opportunity for a racial terrorist organization to escape trial.

Meanwhile, the FBI, as an instrument of the racist state, targets innocent individuals and organizations in other cases.

Case of Cuban Five

The case of the Cuban Five is a prime example of the U.S. intelligence agencies' perverse sense of priorities. In 1998 agents arrested five Cubans who had carefully collected and provided Cuba with evidence of terrorist plots planned by right-wing Cuban exile organizations in Miami. The Cuban government turned over the information to the FBI.

Instead of acting on the evidence to ensure that the terrorist plots were prevented, the five were charged with espionage and convicted after a trial in an area infamous for its bias against Cuba. They were held in solitary confinement for 17 months. Almost seven years later, these five brave Cubans are still incarcerated in U.S. prisons for attempting to prevent real terrorists from attacking innocent civilians in the U.S. and Cuba.

For months the media and the government have been preoccupied with targeting Muslim organizations and charging them with alleged terrorist ties. Often the usual liberal judicial processes have been violated as suspects found themselves detained without charges or the right to counsel. Many are known to have been tortured.

Nicaraguan hero barred from U.S.

And just recently, a Nicaraguan woman beloved in her country for risking her life in the struggle to overthrow the dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza was denied a visa by the U.S. State Department on the grounds that she had been involved in "terrorism." Dora Maria Tellez led the brigade that liberated the city of Leon during the Nicaraguan Revolution, and later became minister of health. Tellez was recently appointed as the Robert F. Kennedy visiting professor in Latin American studies at Harvard University, but now cannot enter the U.S. to assume her teaching post. (Guardian [Britain], March 3)

Meanwhile, the real terrorism legacy of Birmingham lives on as right-wing extremists suspiciously slip past government security to carry out the execution of a judge's family members.

And a racist, imperialist foreign policy ensures that the federal government wastes working people's dollars on investigating charitable organizations that provide much-needed social programs in places like occupied Palestine and Lebanon, while real terrorists such as the World Church of the Creator and the KKK are allowed to roam the streets with impunity. □

Vermont towns vote down the war

By Leslie Feinberg
Burlington, Vt.

Vermont activists put the Iraq War on the agenda of Town Meeting Day here this year. The New England tradition of town meetings is rooted in the 17th century.

On March 1, a snowy day, Vermonters spoke out in what is believed to be the first formal referendum on the U.S. war against Iraq. The resolution got on the agenda in some 56 towns—more than 20 percent of the state's municipalities—after 5 percent of the voters signed petitions.

By evening, at least 40 towns had passed the call for the president and Congress to withdraw U.S. troops from Iraq.

Three other towns tabled the resolution for consideration, three refused to consider it, and four defeated it.

Vermont has the highest per-capita rates of National Guard deployment and casualties in the Iraq War of any state in the country. National Guard members from 200 of this small state's towns and cities have been shipped off to fight a war which the resolution made clear was based on lies.

While the resolution has no sharp teeth, anti-war activists who worked to put it on the agenda stress that they did so to create a grassroots discussion in schools, town halls and libraries.

Feinberg spoke to an audience of 900 in Burlington on March 4. She urged all to take the grassroots anti-war movement into the streets on March 19.

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WW CALENDAR

BOSTON

Sat., March 12

IWD speak-out featuring Oslyn Brumant, Local 8751, UAW; Diane Dujon, Mass. Welfare Rts.; LeiLani Dowell, FIST; Kim Rosario, mother of GI in Iraq and others. At YWCA, 7 Temple St., Cambridge. Sponsored by Women's Fightback Network, (617) 522-6626.

LOS ANGELES

Fri., March 11

IAC film showing. "Mission Against Terror," the story of the Cuban Five. Learn about the case of these five held as political prisoners in the U.S. Featured Speaker: Walter Lippmann, writer, editor of CubaNews. Child care available. 7:30 p.m. At 5274 W Pico Blvd, rm 203.

Sat., March 12

Workers World Party Class: "A Revolutionary History of Mexico." Featuring Adrian Garcia, educator and activist with a long history in progressive struggle. 4 p.m. Child care available. At 5274 W Pico Blvd, rm 203 (halfway between La Brea & Fairfax).

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Why fight for empire?

By LeiLani Dowell

In February, both the Army Reserve and the Marine Corps missed their recruiting goals for a second consecutive month. The Army Reserve fell 1,936 recruits short of its active-duty personnel goal—the first time in five years that this has happened—and 33 short of reserves. The Marine Corps was short 192 recruits in February and 84 in January—marking the first time in 10 years that it has had trouble reaching its goals.

In response, the U.S. military is stepping up its efforts to entrap youth in the military machine. Democracy Now! reported on March 3 that the military is adapting its marketing pitches to recruit more African-Americans and Latin@s.

Ron Jacobs reported in the March 5/6 Counterpunch that students at the University of Vermont in Burlington recently received emails from a recruiter in the area with the heading “Army pays off student loans.” And both the Army and the Marines are increasing the number of recruiters—the Marines by 10 percent, the Army by 20 percent—and offering larger enlistment and reenlistment bonuses to recruits and soldiers.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Army is pushing its video game as a recruiting tool. The gaming website XGP Gaming describes it: “Built in partnership with the U.S. Army ... ‘America’s Army: Rise of a Soldier’ offers the most true-to-life Army experience, allowing you to create a soldier and take him through the thrills and adventure of an army career.”

This summer the game, which has been available via the Internet, will be sold for the Xbox and PlayStation 2 gaming consoles.

Recruiters are trained in the mentality that allows sexual abuse to be committed with impunity within the military, and as such present a serious threat to the youth they are exposed to.

The Indianapolis Star of March 1 reported on the case of a 36-year-old recruiter who had been arrested for sexual assault against six young women, most of them high school students. This is the latest of at least six reported cases of sexual assault by recruiters in the two years since the passing of the federal No Child Left Behind Act, which allows military recruiters greater access to students’ personal information. Charges against recruiters have been filed in Baltimore, California, Indianapolis and New York.

In the Indianapolis case, investigators have said that the recruiter, Indiana National Guard Sgt. Eric P. Vetesy, used official information to target young women who were particularly vulnerable to authority, due to their ages and backgrounds. Since Vetesy’s arrest, he has been removed from a recruiting assignment, but was able to remain in the Indiana National Guard.

Chief Pentagon spokesperson Lawrence Di Rita blamed media coverage of the atrocities in Iraq for the decline in recruits. He evidently doesn’t want youth or their parents to know how terrible this war is. “I mean, without question, when there’s the kind of coverage that there has been about casualties—and we certainly mourn all the casualties, but they are covered—parents factor those kinds of things in to what they want their children doing,” he said.

Resistance to military recruiters has picked up in campuses and communities throughout the United States. Protests have been held in Atlanta, Berkeley, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Hackensack, N.J., Los Angeles, Madison, Wis., New Haven, Conn., New York, Philadelphia, Seattle and Temescal Canyon, Calif., to



name a few. Several of these protests have successfully kicked recruiters off campus, and several have resulted in the arrest of protesters.

On March 8, the San Francisco Board of Education will consider a motion to cut all its ties with the military, including “ending military recruitment on campuses; ending the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC); and guaranteeing that all students and parents are informed of their right to deny military recruiters access to their names, addresses and telephone numbers.”

In the face of a brutal occupation that Washington isn’t planning to end anytime soon, and the very real possibility of a draft—the Selective Service is set to report to the White House on March 31 that things are in order to implement the draft within 75 days—this resistance is only bound to grow.

Youth from across the country will be in the streets on March 19, the second anniversary of the war, to fight for their lives. □

Teachers, students plan anti-war strategies

By Heather Cottin
New York

When Educators Against the War planned a conference in New York, they thought that 400 to 500 people would show up. Instead, an overflow crowd of 770 packed into the auditorium and classrooms of Hunter High School here on March 5. One third of the participants were students, mostly from high schools.

Students and teachers from as far away as California, Vermont and Virginia came determined to organize anti-war activity in schools and colleges across the country.

Over and over, comments focused on the devastating effects that the war on Iraq has had on education here: increased class size, austerity budgets, elimination

of after-school programs and a host of other indications of a federal and state offensive against education.

An “Anti-war Strategy” workshop participant said the \$200 billion for the war coupled with severe education cutbacks seems engineered to induce poor youth to become cannon fodder for the U.S. war machine.

One of the best-attended workshops was on “How to build an anti-war movement in the high schools.” It was led by high school students who are mobilizing for March 19 and working on anti-recruitment activities.

A high school student from Mineola, Long Island, who came alone was grateful to find other young people like herself organizing in their schools. Teachers who felt isolated among conservative

colleagues were able to connect with people in similar circumstances, and to plan activities and campaigns to bring the anti-war movement into their schools.

The No Child Left Behind Act has forced high schools and colleges to mandate registration for the military. Recruiters are “swarming all over the schools in working-class areas,” said a teacher from Harlem. Several workshops and union caucuses discussed campaigns against recruitment.

Conference organizers included anti-war activists from unions representing students and educators, from elementary through graduate schools. Barbara Bowen, president of the Professional Staff Congress, said, “The struggle against the war has energized unions but at the same

time [this] has drawn the wrath of management—and politicians like [Governor George] Pataki and [Mayor Michael] Bloomberg.” The PSC faces a measly 1.5 percent wage increase.

In a workshop called, “Struggling for a contract in the context of struggling against the war in Iraq,” Bowen said it was “personally difficult to negotiate a contract and organize the PSC against the war, but it is necessary to do both.”

A proposal by a conference organizer to support a universal draft to “democratize” the economic draft received little support.

The overwhelming turnout for this conference indicates that the anti-war struggle is thriving and growing in the schools, and the link between the state, the war and the economy is becoming clear. □

March 19: anti-war march to start in Harlem

Continued from page 1

munity of Harlem with a rally at Marcus Garvey Park, located at 5th Avenue between 120th and 124th streets.

According to east-harlem.com, “Marcus Garvey Park is one of the oldest public squares in Manhattan. Central to the life of Harlem for more than 150 years, it has served as a meeting place for neighbors, a front yard and play area for schoolchildren, and a holy place for members of local churches.” Surrounding the park are the Harlem branch of the New York Public Library, North General Hospital, and a number of schools and places of worship, including the Handmaids of Mary Convent, one of the few Black convents in the United States.

The park, originally known as Mount Morris Park, was renamed in honor of Marcus Garvey in 1973. Garvey started the United Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), the first modern Black nationalist organization, in 1914. The UNIA attracted thousands of supporters at its peak and boasted more than 800 chapters.

Following a cultural rally at the park,

the protesters will march to a military recruiting station on 125th Street and Malcolm X Avenue (Lenox Avenue). One of the busiest stations in the U.S., it is a perfect location to protest the economic draft that snares so many poor youth, particularly youth of color in Harlem.

Noon rally in Central Park

The march will continue on to the East Meadow in Central Park (97th Street and 5th Avenue) for a major rally at noon.

In 2004, protesters were denied the right to march on Central Park during the Republican National Convention. Once again, Mayor Bloomberg’s office is attempting to stifle the antiwar movement by denying a permit to march—but this time after the Central Park rally, when protesters have applied to march down Fifth Avenue.

Fifth Avenue is home to many of the wealthiest in the city, and the Bloomberg administration is clearly attempting to shield them from the anger of the working class, who will be out in force to demand money for social services, not war, racism and domestic repression.

Dock workers to shut down ports March 19

Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10 announced on March 9 that it will honor the International Day of Protest Against the U.S. War and Occupation of Iraq by not working any cargo in San Francisco Bay Area ports on March 19.

While police claim there is a moratorium on new marches on Fifth Avenue, permits have been issued recently for other new marches. The coalition remains in negotiations with the police about this matter.

At 3:00 p.m., the march will continue to the mayor’s mansion on 79th Street to demand “Fund cities, not war!”

Speakers and performers at the Central Park rally will include a recorded message from Mumia Abu-Jamal in prison, singer/poet Patti Smith, New York City Councilperson Charles Barron, attorney Lynne Stewart, International Action Center founder Ramsey Clark, Professor Howard Zinn, and others.

Buses, car caravans and peace trains are expected from many parts of the country. Activists in St. Paul, Minn., are organizing a bus. People are flying in from San Diego, Calif., to take part in this significant day of action. New organizing centers are being added daily.

In the New York area, antiwar groups, churches, unions and community organizations are preparing to take to the streets on March 19. Some are organizing feeder marches. People in Connecticut, Long Island, New Jersey, Upstate New York, and Westchester are organizing “Peace Trains” on public transportation lines to get to the event.

More than 40 groups are actively participating in the Troops Out Now Coalition.

There will be other anti-war protests in 30 different states that weekend, the second anniversary of the war on Iraq. Also notable will be the one in Fayetteville, N.C., home of the largest U.S. military base.

For more information on the Troops Out Now Coalition and the New York rally on March 19, visit www.troopsoutnow.org. □

Fight dictates of 'control board'

Hundreds pack meeting against school cuts

By Bryan G. Pfeifer
Springfield, Mass.

A Northeastern snow storm that eventually dumped over seven inches on the area that day didn't stop over 800 teachers and their allies from packing the Central High School auditorium here on March 1 for a public speak-out to tell the city's Finance Control Board: Hands off teachers and all city workers!

The public forum, part of an ongoing campaign by the Springfield Education Association, exposed the control board's attempts to move money out of the already-strapped school budget to pay for other city expenses; its unilateral cuts in benefits that will cost city employees, including educators, thousands of dollars; and its threats to cut even further the wages and benefits of teachers and other city employees.

The SEA, an affiliate of the Massachusetts Teachers Association and the National Education Association, represents 2,500 teachers and 3,000 retirees.

An 'out of control' board

The supposed mission of the five-member Control Board is to make Springfield "solvent." The board has full control of the municipal budget and spending, and its decision-making powers supersede the mayor and the City Council, thereby legally side-stepping elected city officials. But the board members' salaries, as well as those of an executive and assistant director, are paid by the city.

The Massachusetts legislature created the board in early July 2004 through a bill signed by Gov. Mitt Romney, a Republican. The justification was Springfield's deficit of \$23 million in last year's annual budget of \$442.3 million. (www.mass.gov)

The composition of the board shows the determination of powerful financial and political interests to protect their investments in the city.

Although SEA president Tim Collins sent a letter on behalf of the union inviting Control Board members to the speak-out, most didn't show. Invited but not

present were state Revenue Commissioner Alan LeBovidge, a former vice chair of Price Waterhouse Coopers; Jake Jacobson, a Harvard and MIT graduate billed as a "turn-around specialist"; Tom Trimarco, former chair of the state's retirement fund; and the board's executive director, Philip Puccia, who is a former adviser at the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The SEA placed effigies with name tags of the no-show board members on stage and a banner declaring, "Control Board is the Death of our City." Mayor Charlie Ryan and City Council President Tim Rooke, members of the Control Board by virtue of their office, did attend. In an attempt to circumvent the March 1 public speak-out, the Control Board scheduled a March 7 speak-out at City Hall during morning school hours.

"If there is one group of people in the city of Springfield that is not responsible for this financial crisis it's the children in our public schools, and the governor's 'out of control board' seems intent on balancing the city's budget at their expense," said Collins at the speak-out, addressing teachers wearing green "Helping teachers teach" T-shirts and "Save Springfield's Schools" buttons.

School system has been starved

Dozens of teachers spoke, many describing the tall odds they face to educate Springfield's children, a majority of whom are African American and Latin@. In the face of increasing budget cuts, many teachers work extra non-paid hours and purchase supplies with their own money so students can receive an adequate education.

A Springfield elementary teacher since 1978, Sally Suomala, said: "Springfield schools were very highly rated. My kids had opportunities that kids don't have now, like elementary gifted and talented programs. Art and music programs are now down to the bare bones. In Springfield, kids today just don't have a full, well-rounded program."

According to a recent SEA survey distributed at the speak-out, 80 percent of teachers contemplate leaving the Spring-

field school district and 40 percent have sent resumés to other districts. Recent Massachusetts state budgets have cut more in per pupil spending than any other state in the country. These cuts have had their greatest impact on urban school districts. In Springfield this has led to the loss of 300 teaching positions and 200 teacher aid positions. (www.seateachers.com)

The board's freezing of wages and threats to cut benefits have made Springfield's teachers the lowest-paid in Hampden County. Due to wage freezes, Springfield schools have lost over 160 licensed, highly qualified teachers to surrounding communities, where they are earning anywhere from \$3,000 to \$12,000 more a year.

Union members and allies at the speak-out also emphasized that the city's situation is a crisis manufactured at the state level because the city historically has received less state funding than more affluent and majority-white cities, and thus is at a constant disadvantage in meeting its budget needs.

Suomala, like her fellow workers, stresses that a fight-back approach is correct but depends on unity and solidarity.

"We have to instill a spirit of hope," she said. "We have to believe that if we stick together we can get through this and restore our school system to what it used to be."

Catherine Donaghy of the Western Mass International Action Center said workers and students alike eagerly scooped up hundreds of March 19 "Troops Out Now" leaflets connecting the war with workers' issues. In cities across the U.S., including Springfield, the U.S. war on Iraq and the increasing Pentagon budget have led to draconian cuts in social programs and public services.

"The forum was full of energy, and the teachers are determined, focused and angry about the control board's actions to attack them and all workers in Springfield, union and non-union, and their communities as well as making the children suffer. Many of the teachers expressed solidarity with the March 19 actions," said Donaghy. □

ON THE

Students build ties with unions

Students at opposite ends of the country have organized support for labor on their campuses.

Students at the University of Colorado in Boulder voted last year to spend \$280 million in student fees to help pay for needed construction after the state cut funds for higher education. But they attached provisions requiring construction workers to receive family health care coverage, be trained and be paid the local prevailing wage.

When they discovered this fall that the university hadn't complied, they formed a coalition with area labor groups and held meetings with the university. Now the workers have those protections. (Feb./March 2005 America@Work)

At Georgetown in Washington, D.C., students held a spirited noon-time rally for a living wage for university workers on Feb. 9. Then they marched to the campus administration building where they presented a list of 10 demands. On March 2 they held another rally, this time with AFL-CIO Metro Council President Jos Williams and several night-shift campus workers. The students vow to push the Georgetown Living Wage campaign to a new, more militant stage. (Feb. 9 and March 4, Union City)

Wal-Mart, U.S. & Canada

There are four new developments in the struggle to stop the anti-labor practices of Wal-Mart, the world's largest retailer, which is wallowing in \$10.3-billion profits stolen from workers' wages.

The effort to install a Wal-Mart in the New York City borough of Queens was soundly defeated in mid-February by a hefty coalition of labor, community and legislative representatives.

There's been an uproar over the Labor Department's recent settlement of child-labor complaints against 24 stores in three states.



Immigrants march for drivers' licenses

By Mary Owen
Jackson Heights, N.Y.

A hand-lettered sign reading "The Right to Drive Is a Civil Right and an Immigrant Worker Right" captured the message of a March 5 protest here by hundreds of immigrants and their supporters, who came from some of New York City's most ethnically diverse neighborhoods.

Chanting "What do we want? Licenses. When do we want them? Now!" protesters marched for three hours through the multinational Jackson Heights neighborhood of Queens to demand that Gov. George Pataki and the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles stop acting as immigration enforcement, denying them the drivers' licenses they need to work.

On Feb. 17, State Supreme Court Justice Karen S. Smith temporarily restrained DMV from taking actions that could suspend nearly 300,000 licenses statewide

for immigrants who don't have Social Security cards. Some 7,000 licenses have already been suspended. Judge Smith ruled that immigrants would suffer wrongful and serious harm under the DMV's unjust practice. At a hearing scheduled for April 7, immigrant rights activists will press for a permanent injunction against the drivers' license suspensions.

Chants in Spanish, Korean, Bangla, Urdu, Hindi, Cantonese and other languages rang out as protesters moved slowly over narrow sidewalks after police refused to let them march in the street. Along the route, workers and customers crowded the windows of barbershops, nail salons, restaurants and other neighborhood storefronts—nodding, waving their support, and reaching out the door for leaflets.

The event was sponsored by Centro Hispano Cuzcatlán, Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM), New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE), and the New York Civic Participation Project

(NYCPP) and endorsed by 40 immigrant rights, labor and community groups and unions—including the New York Taxi Workers Alliance, UNITE-HERE Local 100, SEIU-32BJ and New York City Labor Against War.

"The DMV's policies, including its collaboration with the Department of Homeland Security to apprehend immigrants, represent one local piece of a nationwide trend towards attacking the livelihood of millions of immigrants," said Kavitha Pawria, a legal and policy organizer at DRUM.

Delivery workers, taxi drivers and others who need licenses to work, along with their families, are suffering under DMV policies. At a concluding rally, demonstrators observed two minutes of silence for Mirza Panir, an undocumented Bangladeshi taxi driver who died two weeks ago from a stress-induced heart attack when security stopped him at LaGuardia Airport.

One protest organizer could not attend the event because he lost his license, then his delivery job, and was forced to move that day. A small child wore a sign made from a pizza box that said, "Please let my daddy drive me to school."

"People from all immigrant groups are coming together in a very historic way to say that this policy is negatively impacting everyone's families, lives and the neighborhoods where we live and work regardless of immigration status and country of origin," said Zahida Pirani, a community organizer with NYCPP.

Miguel Ramirez of Centro Hispano Cuzcatlán agreed: "This is a historic event because people from many different immigrant communities in Queens have come together for the first time around a common issue."

Shirley Lin of NICE called on elected officials, Governor Pataki and the DMV to "implement a solution that recognizes our rights." □

Supreme Court ruling too late

By Gloria Rubac
Houston

Wal-Mart had agreed to pay \$135,540 to settle complaints involving 85 youths without having to admit any wrongdoing. And the Labor Department agreed to give the chain 15 days' notice before investigating any future complaints. The upshot: The Labor Department's inspector general agreed on Feb. 20 that the department "was wrong to give Wal-Mart advance notice before investigating complaints." Wal-Mart executives had contributed heavily to President Bush's re-election. (New York Times, Feb. 21)

Meanwhile, in Canada on Feb. 25, Quebec's labor relations board ordered Wal-Mart to stop intimidating workers in the midst of an organizing drive by Food and Commercial Workers' Local 503. Three cashiers at the St. Foy store reported various types of intimidation, including threat of a negative job evaluation. This is the second unfair labor practice ruling against Wal-Mart in Quebec since September 2004. (New York Times, Feb. 26) When Wal-Mart announced in mid-February that it would close its store in Jonquiere, Quebec—the only one where workers have successfully unionized and were trying to negotiate their first contract—the AFL-CIO initiated a petition drive in protest. You can sign it at www.unionvoice.org/campaign/walmart_accountable.

Defend Social Security

The Working Families division of the AFL-CIO has initiated a petition to stop President Bush's anti-worker scheme to privatize Social Security. Statistics recently computed by The Center for Economic and Policy Research show that the plan will actually cost the average worker \$152,000 in retirement benefits. Sign the petition at www.unionvoice.org/campaign/ProtectSocialSecurity. □

The U.S. Supreme Court has finally bowed to mass and world pressure and outlawed the execution of people for crimes committed when they were minors. While many are rejoicing, this move comes too late for too many.

Since 1642, the U.S. has executed at least 366 persons for offenses they committed as juveniles. The youngest was James Arcene, a Native child who was 10 years old at the time of his alleged crime. Since World War II, the youngest was a 14-year-old African American, George Stinney, who was so small that the oversized mask fell off his face while he was being electrocuted by the state of South Carolina. He weighed only 95 pounds.

Since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976, 22 juveniles have been executed, all in Southern states, 13 of them in Texas. Of the 22, half were African American.

Who were some of these children who were killed?

Napoleon Beazley graduated with honors, was president of his senior class, a star athlete, and active in his church in the small town of Grapeland, Texas. He had no criminal record. Yet, succumbing to peer pressure, he was involved in a car jacking that ended in murder. Because of his background, activists felt his case was perfect to show that juveniles deserve a chance to live and rehabilitate themselves. However, Beazley was executed by the state of Texas on May 28, 2002.

Almost 100 people protested Beazley's execution. Afterward, his family greeted supporters and spoke with the media. His parents, Rena and Ireland, his sister Maria and his brother Jamaal had stood by Beazley. They fought until the end, doing radio and television shows, speaking to rallies and urging people to contact the governor.

Glen "Mookie" McGinnis, a gay African American youth, dropped out of high school in 10th grade. He had a difficult childhood. His mother had drug problems and was in and out of prison. His grandmother raised him. At 17 he robbed a dry



Shaka Sankofa

cleaners and shot the owner.

Two weeks before he was executed, CNN asked McGinnis if the death penalty was a deterrent to crime. "I didn't even know the death penalty existed when I was arrested. I was living on the streets, living day to day, trying to breathe. Death penalty? It was on the streets, all the time. I saw it every day where I grew up. But if I knew about a death penalty from the papers or TV, it passed me by. ... But now I think about my execution all the time, all the time." When he was executed on Jan. 25, 2000, he was 27 years old.

Perhaps the best-known juvenile was Shaka Sankofa. This year will mark the fifth anniversary of his execution.

Sankofa was born Gary Graham to an alcoholic father, Willie Graham, and a mentally ill mother, Thelma Griffin. He was raised by his father and his stepmother, Elnora Graham, in an oppressed community in Northeast Houston, amid extreme poverty. Although his parents and stepmother loved him dearly, life was difficult. He recalled as a young child having to chase and drag his mentally ill mother home when she took off down a neighborhood street totally nude, while neighborhood children laughed at her.

In 1981, he was arrested for robbery and soon afterward charged with the murder of a known drug runner—a charge he always denied. After his court-appointed attorney, Ron Mock, gave him absolutely no defense, Graham was sent to Texas death row in 1981. During his 19 years of confinement, Graham educated himself, evolving from a street kid to an educated man and a revolutionary. He participated in political education on the row, organized hunger strikes, and started a death-

row newspaper called Endeavor, which had a circulation of thousands around the world. He abandoned his slave name in 1995 and became Shaka Sankofa.

By the time of his June 22, 2000, execution, Sankofa had supporters on every continent, from movie stars to civil rights leaders to Catholic nuns to members of the British parliament and the Texas legislature.

But his truest supporters were those African Americans who saw Sankofa as one of them.

Almost 3,000 people gathered in Huntsville on June 22, 2000. His stepmother and daughter, as well as Bianca Jaggar, Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson, were joined by thousands who hoped against hope that then-governor George W. Bush would do the right thing.

Just as Bush has today become the occupier and executioner of the Iraqi people, he executed 152 people while governor of Texas. He didn't care that because of the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, signed by President Bill Clinton, no court anywhere had ever heard the real evidence in Sankofa's case. He decided that the movement to free Sankofa could not be allowed to succeed.

Lying on a gurney awaiting the needle, Sankofa said, "Know that I love all of you for your blessing and strength, for your courage, for your dignity, the way you have come here tonight, and the way you have protested. Keep moving forward. Slavery couldn't stop us. The lynchings in the South couldn't stop us. This lynching will not stop us tonight. We will go forward. Our destiny in this country is freedom and liberation. We will gain it by any means necessary." □

'Justice for Jeffrey Baez!'

Make killer cops pay, says community

By Alex Gould
Providence, R.I.

The Latin@ community in this area is not satisfied with a jury decision rejecting a wrongful death suit brought by the family of Jeffrey Baez.

Baez was 22 years old on the early morning of Dec. 4, 2002. He worked at McDonalds and as a freelance landscaping laborer, and dreamed of being a cartoonist. Born in New Jersey, he was living with his mother, Luz Minerva DiLones, a nurse's aide, south of Providence.

But Baez was unfortunate enough to be a young Latino man whose van looked to Providence patrolman Merrick Cook like one that had been reported stolen. Within minutes Baez had three police cruisers on his tail.

After driving a few blocks, at what police admitted were low speeds, Baez stopped the van at the corner of Potters and Dexter. The police radioed each other that he was about to "bail" out of the vehicle. Baez stepped into the intersection and

was knocked over the hood of Cook's cruiser. When he slid to the pavement, he was crushed under the wheels of officer Michael Otrando's police car.

The officers assembled at the scene admit that they checked for and found a pulse in Baez, whose body was described in court testimony as "wrapped around the rear axle." But no medical rescue was called. Before dawn, Jeffrey Baez was dead. He was unarmed and no weapons were found at the scene.

After more than 24 hours, the police allowed DiLones to see her son's body, through a glass pane at the morgue. "They [the cops] don't think you have feelings," she says, describing her treatment by the Providence police. "They think you are an animal."

Baez's family and the campaign against police brutality at DARE (Direct Action for Rights and Equality, a grassroots community organization in Providence) know that his death was no "accident." DARE members and others concerned with police brutality observed the pro-

ceedings of his mother's wrongful death suit against the City of Providence, giving her support as she and her lawyers tried to break the blue wall of silence and lies around her son's death.

On the stand, police officers contradicted earlier sworn depositions about their locations and communications on Dec. 4 and admitted to moving the body and the police cruisers, crucial for the scientific reconstruction of the collision, before the official departmental investigation. But after three days of testimony, and a brief deliberation interrupted by two fire alarms, the jury found the city of Providence not liable on March 2.

DiLones and the entire DARE police committee said that their fight for justice was not over. The police committee members are planning a public response.

Why was it even necessary to put Baez's mother, friends and supporters through months of expensive procedures to be compensated for his "wrongful death"? How could his gruesome killing

have ever been "right"? How could the officers, and the Providence Police department as a whole, be exonerated for their role as judge, jury and executioner when they caught Baez Driving While Latino? Why would police officers engage in a life-threatening chase over an alleged crime of property?

Why is the threat of public humiliation and abuse at the hands of police officers so present in the minds of Black and Latin@ youth that, as one DARE activist noted at a police brutality committee meeting, they will almost always risk greater harm and arrest by running away?

How can there be equal justice under the law in a state where immigrant workers are denied the right to drive, one in every five Black men are denied their right to vote, and thousands are denied their rights to jobs, housing, health care, and other vital necessities?

Only a militant, broad-based struggle for socialism can resolve these burning questions.

Gould is a member of DARE.

Thinking about sisters in the struggle

By Gloria Verdieu

Excerpted from a talk at an International Women's Day event in San Diego on March 5, sponsored by the International Action Center.

When we think of sisters in the struggle what comes to mind?

Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells, Mary McLeod Bethune, Septima Clark, Fannie Lou Hamer, Ella Baker.

Black women of the civil rights movement and the Black liberation movement. Black women were a major part of the women's liberation movement.

Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), NAACP, Black Panther Party—all are organizations in which Black women played major roles.

Political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal devotes a chapter in his recently published book "We Want Freedom" to the Panther women.

Frankye Malika Adams said this about the BPP: "Women ran the BPP pretty much. I don't know how it got to be a males' party or thought of as being a males' party. Because things, when you really look at it in terms of society, these things are looked on as being women things, you know, feeding children, taking care of the sick, and uh, so yeah, we did that. We actually ran the BPP's programs."

One of the first women to join the party was Tarika Lewis. In her first year of service she advanced in rank and was appointed to teach political education classes. Regina Jennings, Rosemary Mealy, Kathleen Cleaver, Afeni Shakur (mother of rapper Tupak Shakur) and Assata Shakur (exiled in Cuba) are names of other women of the BPP.

Safiya Bukhari had this to say about the service of women in the BPP: "In its brief seven-year history (1966-1973) women had been involved on every level in the BPP."

When we think of sisters in the struggle the MOVE Organization women come to mind. Pam Africa, Ramona Africa and the women who are a part of the jailed Move

Nine, imprisoned now for over 26 years: Debbie Sims Africa, Janet Holloway Africa, Janine Phillips Africa and Merle Austin Africa, who died in prison in 1998.

The MOVE Organization advocates natural childbirth, feeding children natural food, teaching children at home. As with the BPP, the women play an important part.

Black women socialists

Sisters in the struggle also include Black women who have embraced socialism, the struggle for self-determination, the struggle for a better world for all, for change. Lucy Parsons, Mabel Byrd, Capitola Tasker, Lulia Jackson, Louise Thompson, Claudia Jones, Louise Thompson and Angela Davis are just a few.

Lucy Parsons, born in 1853, joined the Socialist Labor Party and fought for the rights of labor, Blacks and women until her death in 1942. She started as an anarchist demanding the abolition of all forms of political authority. In the early 1900s she worked in the radical Chicago Working Women's Union and the Socialist Labor Party, and she was one of the first women to join the International Workers of the World (IWW). At the founding convention of the IWW, Parsons dealt with the subjugation of women by noting "wherever wages are to be reduced, the capitalist class uses women to reduce them." In 1939 Lucy joined the Communist Party (CPUSA) and spent the last years of her life building that party during its militant days.

In 1934 three Black women joined the U.S. delegation that traveled to Paris for the International Women's Conference. Mabel Byrd was elected one of the conference secretaries. Capitola Tasker and Lulia Jackson stunned the conference with their eloquent testimonies about Afro-American struggles for human dignity.

When delegates at the convention called for a "peace" resolution, Lulia thundered, "Ladies, it has just been said that we must not fight, that we must be gentle and kind to our enemies, to those who are for war. I can't agree with that. Everyone knows the cause of war, it is

capitalism. We can't just give those bad capitalists their supper and put them to bed the way we do with our children. We must fight them." Lulia Jackson was active in the bitter Pennsylvania miner strikes and was familiar with the violence perpetrated by the owners.

Louise Thompson studied Karl Marx and V.I. Lenin and emerged as a leader in the Harlem Branch of the CPUSA. In the 1930s her apartment became a forum where Black intellectuals and activists discussed the Bolshevik Revolution and the party's position on African Americans in the South. In 1932 she went to the Soviet Union with a group of Black writers and actors. Louise was known throughout Harlem as "Madame Moscow" for her support of Russia. She formed the Friends of the Soviet Union. She also worked with party leaders in ending job discrimination and demanding unemployment relief during Harlem's Depression years.

Claudia Jones was born in Trinidad and became one of the most respected members of the CPUSA. Jones joined after working with them in the defense of the Scottsboro Brothers. She was a firm believer in the CPUSA's political theory during that period that Blacks in the South constituted an oppressed nation, not just a discriminated race, and consequently they had the right to self-determination. She worked with CPUSA's Women's commission and led Harlem's Council of Unemployed.

An uncompromising fighter for black liberation, Claudia Jones's life was consumed with struggle. When corporate America exploited Black workers, she fought them. She was a militant defender of sharecroppers, domestics and laborers. She was declared a criminal during the frenzy of the late 1950s. She was indicted under the fascist Smith Act and sentenced to prison in New York

State. After 10 months in jail, she was released and deported to England as an "undesirable alien." Soon after arriving in England, she fell ill and died. Her imprisonment, deportation and early death demonstrated the lengths to which America would go in silencing radical Black women.

Angela Davis's commitment to the struggle of Black people intensified on Sept. 9, 1963, when four Black girls were murdered in the racist bombing in a Baptist church in Birmingham. Denise McNair, Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley and Carole Robertson were playmates of Angela's sister, Fania. As part of her militant activism, Angela Davis organized rallies and demonstrations defending the political prisoners known as the Soledad Brothers and she herself became a political prisoner.

These are just a few. We are many.

We use this month as a spark, but history should be taught all year long—Black History, Mexican History, Asian History, Indigenous people's history, Women's History—the People's History. All people of all nationalities, all cultures have contributed to where we are today and we have to continue to acknowledge this. We must study our history, what happened in our past to help us to move on to the future. □



Abortion rights under siege in Kansas

By Kathy Durkin

An outrage is taking place in Kansas. Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline, a fierce long-time opponent of women's right to choose, has been secretly investigating two women's health clinics and demanding the complete medical records of 90 women who had undergone abortions. Last October, a local judge upheld his subpoenas and issued a gag order forbidding the clinics from notifying their patients about the investigations into their personal histories.

The situation came to light recently when the two facilities, including the Wichita Women's Health Care Services, submitted legal briefs to the Kansas State Supreme Court stating they would not comply with these subpoenas and turn over the medical records sought. Their briefs accused the attorney general of a "secret inquisition" and "fishing expedition" endangering doctor-patient confidentiality and women's constitutional rights." (New York Times, Feb. 25)

Kline claimed to be looking for cases of statutory rape, although the subpoenaed

records involve adults as well as youth and go far afield of the abortions, and into the women's personal histories.

On March 3, Kline, an author of the state's restrictive abortion laws, admitted he was investigating the two clinics for performing late-term abortions, and that doctors could be prosecuted for doing so. (New York Times, March 4)

Kansas is one of 31 states that have enacted late-term abortion bans, although it allows the procedures if a woman's health is in danger.

It is a pivotal state in this struggle. Because abortions are not available in 87 percent of U.S. counties, many women must travel to obtain them. Hundreds of women annually go to the Women's Health Care Clinic in Wichita, Kan., one of the clinics under attack and one of the few that provides late-term procedures.

Kline's actions are chilling. If state officials, not doctors, can review medical records to determine if the procedures were "medically necessary," they can then go on to criminally prosecute doctors and clinic providers for performing "unnecessary abortions."

The clinics' legal papers raise the possibility of government agents intrusively appearing at the houses of women who've had abortions, demanding personal information, thus trampling on their legal rights to privacy and due process.

Women's reproductive rights and civil liberties' advocates see a deliberate campaign of harassment and intimidation of doctors and women.

NOW President Kim Grandy explains, "The Kline controversy is just the latest in a series of Bush-emboldened extremist actions by right-wingers—and from Florida to Iowa to California and Kansas, we're seeing unprecedented invasion of our privacy for political ends. This search-and-seizure reflex treats women like 'terrorists' instead of women exercising their constitutional rights." (www.now.org/news)

Kline is following on the heels of former U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft, who, a year ago, led the Justice Department charge and subpoenaed 900 medical records of women who had undergone abortions at six medical facilities. But a strong public campaign and legal struggle pushed Ashcroft back and the subpoenas

were dropped.

NARAL warns of "the most extensive restriction on abortion rights by any state in over 10 years" in Michigan, where a new law goes into effect at the end of this month. Although disguised as a prohibition on late-term procedures, it threatens to ban nearly all abortions, even in the first trimester, and even when medically necessary.

The Michigan State Medical Society is against the ban because "it endangers women's health." (www.plannedparenthood.org)

The ACLU, Center for Reproductive Rights and Planned Parenthood Federation of America went to federal court in Michigan in early March on behalf of women's health clinics, doctors and their patients, to try to stop the sweeping abortion ban.

The Bush gang is using the late-term abortions issue as an entryway into banning all types of abortions—their ultimate goal in the war on women's rights. Their anti-reproductive rights stance emboldens the forces seeking to overturn Roe v. Wade, the legal right to abortion, which was won in 1973 through long, hard struggle.



FIST youth leader:

'Biology is not destiny!'

By Stephanie Nichols

Excerpted from remarks to a Workers World Party International Women's Day event in New York on March 4.

The president of Harvard University, Lawrence Summers, made some disgusting sexist remarks Jan. 14 at the National Bureau of Economic Research Conference on Diversifying the Science & Engineering Workforce.

He said that the reason such a low percentage of women graduate college with PhD's compared to men is because "in the special case of science and engineering, there are issues of intrinsic aptitude, and particularly of the variability of aptitude, and that those considerations are reinforced by what are in fact lesser factors involving socialization and continuing discrimination."

He was saying that women have a lower intrinsic aptitude than men when it comes to subjects like mathematics and science. Intrinsic aptitude means one's inherent ability to understand.

This is actually part of a "scientific" theory called biological determinism [that] basically justifies the class and race structure of capitalism. It claims that humans—their appearance, behavior and even long-term fate—are entirely determined by genes. Biological determinists disregard or deny the effects of environmental variables on the expression of a given gene. It rules out the discrimination and oppression in society, and instead it actually justifies these things.

It also justifies the ruling class by claiming that they just have better genes than everyone else. It justifies lower wages for women because we're supposedly genetically inferior.

Biological determinism is the same theory that the Ku Klux Klan uses.

And it was actually taught as a required course at Harvard University up until the early 1980s.

President Summers, a former chief economist at the World Bank and former U.S. Treasury secretary under Bill Clinton, also stated during this conference that "The relatively few women who are in the highest-ranking places are disproportion-

ately either unmarried or without children, the emphasis differing depending on just who you talk to."

During a good portion of his remarks he tried to make a case that females are only genetically inclined for child rearing and that we're not capable of handling hard work on top of that.

War on women

While doing some research for this speech, I typed the word "woman" into the Google news search.

This is where the word "woman" is used most often in the news: "Woman drops indecent assault complaint," "Mystery of Derry woman's abduction," "Woman, 90, attacked at Montreal metro station," "Woman, 81, beaten to death in home," "Woman cut in the face during theft attempt," "Man held in rape of lost woman, 24," "Eyed in wife's murder, husband nabbed in North Carolina," "Australian soldiers shoot Iraqi woman and her child while on patrol in Baghdad."

Those were articles from just the first two pages of the search results.

This week the Associated Press ran an article [that] opened, "Ten years after a landmark UN conference adopted a platform aimed at global equality for women, the United States is demanding that a declaration issued by a follow-up meeting make clear that women are not guaranteed a right to abortion."

It has been almost a year since over a million women marched in Washington, D.C., on April 25 at the March for Women's Lives. What has happened in the year since that march? Most of that movement slipped and fell for the Democratic Party.

We are living in a time when most women and children don't have access to decent health care. We still don't have equal pay or equal access to decent jobs, either. Women make up more than 60 percent of workers who earn minimum wage, which amounts to only a little over \$10,000 per year before taxes.

The inequality and inferiority created by capitalism also breeds violence against women. Every nine seconds, a woman is being beaten in the United States. Nearly two out of every five women in the U.S. have been physically or sexually assaulted sometime during their lives.

Young women, women who are sepa-



WW speakers shared IWD program with Cuban guests.

PHOTO: ROBERTO MERCADO

rated, divorced or single, low-income women and women of color are disproportionately victims of assault and rape. Every year approximately 132,000 women report they have been victims of rape or attempted rape; more than half knew their attackers. It's estimated that two to six times that many women are raped, but do not report it.

Approximately 17 percent of pregnant women report having been battered, and the results include miscarriages, stillbirths and a two to four times greater likelihood of bearing a low birth-weight baby. Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women between 15 and 44 years of age in the U.S.—more than car accidents, muggings and rapes combined.

Abused women are disproportionately represented among the homeless and suicide victims. Fifty percent of all homeless women and children are fleeing domestic violence.

The average sentence for the murder of women [in domestic violence] is only two to six years in prison. The average prison sentence for a woman who kills her intimate partner is 15 years. Sixty-three percent of young men between the ages of 11 and 20 who are serving time for homicide have killed their mothers' abusers.

And there are some startling new statistics put out by the Justice Department in December about the number of women in prison, which has been increasing dramatically over the past decade. Just over 101,000 women served in prison last year. The incarceration of women is growing much faster than men. Since 1995, the total number of women in prison has jumped 48 percent, largely due to the so-called war on drugs.

It's a war on women and children.

Sexism: Who profits?

During the 1960s and 1970s, women were mobilized out on the streets fighting back, not only against the Vietnam War, but demanding the right to our own bodies.

In comrade Dorothy Ballan's book, "Feminism and Marxism," which she wrote during that period, she says, "It is perfectly obvious that in contemporary bourgeois society, sexism pervades practically all areas of life. Indeed, sexism has become the predominant feature of bourgeois culture in America, and becomes more so every day. ...

"Is it not plain even to the most naïve, that sexism is a 'commodity' in a general system of commodity production and exchange where profit is the very essence of all that exists?"

Right now, while imperialism is on the brink of possibly losing to the heroic Iraqi resistance; while it pumps billions and billions more dollars into that war alone, it is trying more and more ways to steal from our class in order to keep fueling its empire.

Capitalism is in a crisis.

Now, more than ever, it must be our objective to fight back. Just as sexism pervades all areas of life under capitalist society, we must fight back against it in all areas of our work [and in] the movement, as well.

Our party has a revolutionary history in this struggle. And we must keep that struggle alive, smash this oppressive system as a whole and guarantee the basic human rights and needs to an education, health care, a decent job and equality—with socialism. □

Beginning under Clinton's presidency and increasing during Bush's, legislatures are capitulating to right-wing forces by enacting varied laws restricting abortions. From 1995-2004, 409 anti-abortion restrictions have been enacted. (www.naral.org)

The Bush forces seek to push back all reproductive rights, including birth control, emergency contraception and public school sex education. It is part of their overall attempt to wipe out the political, social and economic gains and rights won through decades of struggle by a broad range of progressive movements.

Pro-choice, health-care and civil liberties' organizations are fighting back against the right-wing attacks on women's rights. They are showing that adamant, forceful opposition in the streets, in the courts and everywhere is the only way to push back the reactionary forces and secure the legal right to abortion.

Any equivocating on the part of politicians, including leaders in the Democratic Party like Hillary Clinton, or any false notion that the ultra-right can be expected to "compromise" on reproductive rights is a dead end. The only way to stop them is united mass action and struggle. □

Palestinian 'Women in Struggle'

In a new one-hour documentary, four Palestinian women tell their stories of withstanding unimaginably brutal torture and long years of imprisonment by Israel for the "crime" of wanting to free their people and their land from the U.S.-backed Israeli state. "Women in Struggle" was made by Palestinian filmmaker Buthina Canaan Khoury.

The women, who were imprisoned at different times since the 1970s, talk about their experiences against the background of the difficulties and suffering of daily life today for the Palestinian people—including the long lines to go through Israeli army checkpoints and the huge apartheid wall being built.

More than 7,600 Palestinian political prisoners are currently being detained by Israel and 108 of them are women. Filmmaker Khoury discussed their plight at the International Action Center in New York after a showing of the film on March 1. The standing-room crowd was moved, outraged and inspired.

Khoury is currently touring the U.S. showing "Women in Struggle." For the schedule of showings see www.womeninstruggle.com.

—Marsha Goldberg



Palestinian holds photo of her martyred daughter.

Eyewitness Falluja:

An Iraqi view of the U.S. attack

Mohammad J. Haded was one of the few physicians who remained in Falluja, Iraq, during the November 2004 attack by U.S. troops. The German daily Junge Welt published an interview with him on Feb. 26, conducted by Rüdiger Göbel. Below are excerpts translated from the German by WW managing editor John Catalinotto.

About 5,000 families—about 25,000 to 30,000 Iraqis—remained during the U.S. major offensive in November in Falluja, the rest of the inhabitants having fled. Meanwhile some returned. We estimate that about 20 percent of the population of Falluja returned.

Apartments and houses that were not destroyed directly by U.S. bombs were devastated later. Furniture was smashed into little pieces. Besides, innumerable houses were purposefully set on fire. Even schools and hospitals were destroyed.

Still today corpses are found under the rubble of destroyed houses. An unknown number of dead people were thrown by the U.S. troops into the Euphrates River. The U.S. Army announced that 1,200 people had been killed. We ourselves pulled out and then buried more than 700 corpses. Beyond that we cannot give accurate data.

We have innumerable pictures and also films, on which you can see who was killed in Falluja. I invite everyone to come into our city. I can bring you together with children who had to watch their parents being shot by Americans. And I will bring you together with men who saw how their children and their wives were killed.

There was and there still is resistance in Iraq and also in Falluja. The resistance against the occupation is legitimate and

corresponds to international conventions. It is not, however, by any means legal to bombard civilians. That is permitted neither to the Americans nor to opponents of the occupation.

Many Iraqis are of the opinion that the attacks on civilians are not the responsibility of the resistance, but that in the long run the Americans and the secret services of the neighboring countries are behind them. It is similar with Musab al-Zarkawi, with whose existence the Americans justified the attacks on Falluja. Where is al-Zarkawi today? He is a phantom, who manages to show up exactly where he can be used. It doesn't matter if it is in Kirkuk, Mosul, Tikrit, Samarra, Ramadi, Baghdad or Basra—everywhere, where there is resistance, al-Zarkawi manages to emerge where he is useful.

The city hospital lies in the west and is separated by the Euphrates from the city itself. Between seven and eight in the evening [of Nov. 8, 2004, when the major attack called "Dawn" began—JC], U.S. soldiers encircled and occupied the 200-bed hospital. At the time about 30 patients were still in the hospital. Although there was no resistance and also no fighters were being treated, the physicians and the maintenance personnel, 22 persons, were immediately arrested. We were thrown to the ground, bound and later interrogated. We were told we would have to vacate the hospital, patients as well as the caregivers. Afterwards the hospital was wiped out, even the medical instruments were destroyed.

The Americans were inside, looked through everything, and asked us again and again where the terrorists were hiding. If they had found someone there from

the resistance, they would never have released us physicians again.

At the same time as the occupation of the hospital, the bombardment of the entire city began. The detonations were to be heard clearly. Even rescue cars were attacked. First inhabitants tried to bring the wounded with their passenger cars into a hospital. But everything that moved on the roads was fired on.

We finally established a field hospital in the eastern part of Falluja. In principle it was no more than an outpatient clinic. We gave the exact location of the building to the Americans. Two days later it was bombed, so this emergency station was thus lost. We finally established a second emergency-aid clinic, which was actually not functional. We had practically nothing there. Water and electricity were turned off, and the telephone no longer worked.

The conditions were catastrophic and nevertheless we operated on 25 wounded people there. We had no medicines, however, and the wounds became infected. For all practical purposes the patients lay in their death beds. Those with major injuries were lost. In the surrounding houses we looked for volunteers who helped us with cleaning up and to wash away the blood. My 13-year-old son was among the helpers.

After seven days I went to the Americans. I asked to be allowed to drive with a car and a white flag through the roads and to gather the remaining inhabitants in a mosque. In one hour I had collected about 50 people from their homes, approximately 10 families. Two days later there were 200 Iraqis in the mosque. Some told me that American soldiers had purposely fired their weapons at families, even those holding white flags. Also in the

mosque we had set up a small outpatient clinic.

Up until today the central hospital is surrounded by U.S. soldiers. Patients must come on foot. Whoever comes by passenger car is fired at.

Some people had stayed in Falluja because they had no relatives in Baghdad with whom they could find accommodation. Others were ashamed to be in tents living like refugees. Others would gladly have fled, but had no car. However, most of those who remained simply could not imagine that the Americans would fight with such a rage. They did not believe that the U.S. soldiers would bomb and shoot directly at civilians and at whole families. Fighters, yes, but unarmed people, women, children, wounded people, old people?

I arranged with the U.S. forces to have a small group of volunteers from the 200 people in the mosque gather the dead bodies from the roads. An outbreak of epidemics was threatened, and the smell of decay was terrible. These volunteers told me later that many women and children as well as old people were among the victims.

People [in Falluja] hate the Americans—Americans generally, not only U.S. soldiers. They are occupiers, killers and terrorists. Almost every family in Falluja has to mourn a victim; how can you expect any other reaction there?

Even if it doesn't look that way at first sight, in the long run the Americans lost in Falluja. Which else does it mean when an Empire uses all its power to attack what is a small city, without any moral scruples? That is the beginning of the end.

Further information:
www.iraktribunal.de. □

Anti-imperialism strong in Lebanon

Huge rally dwarfs 'Gucci Revolution'

Continued from page 1

from abroad: Are these hundreds of thousands of people puppets? Is all this crowd agents for the Syrians and intelligence agencies?" (AP, March 8)

Hezbollah a national liberation movement

Hezbollah is a mass organization of the Shiite population, which is the poorest sector of Lebanese society and was traditionally excluded and discriminated against. It provides social services, has members in parliament and maintains its own armed force of 20,000.

Organized in 1984 out of scattered groups of resistance to Israeli occupiers, it created an armed organization of national resistance which fought the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and finally drove them out in 2000. For this it is revered, not only in Lebanon but throughout the Arab world.

It is the largest, most organized and disciplined political force in Lebanon and is popularly regarded as a national liberation organization, essential to holding the Zionist occupiers at bay. It has been labeled a "terrorist organization" by the U.S. government, which has demanded that it be disarmed.

Syria has supported Hezbollah as well as other organizations fighting for the liberation of Palestine and against the Israeli occupation. Syria sent troops to Lebanon in 1976 at the request of the Lebanese government to separate combatants in a civil

war. It became part of an Arab Deterrent Force authorized at Arab summit meetings in that year.

The civil war, fomented by French and U.S. imperialism and Tel Aviv, lasted until 1989, when it was settled under the protection of Syrian troops. A national accord was created called the Taif Accord of 1989.

The current Bush administration, in league with French imperialism and with the support of the feudo-capitalist oil monarchy of Saudi Arabia and compliant capitalist regime of Hosni Mubarak in Egypt, launched an all-out offensive to attack and isolate Syria after the assassination of the former prime minister of Lebanon, Rafik al-Hariri, in February. The U.S. and the reactionary forces in Lebanon tried to frame up Syria for the killing and took the political initiative to demand the withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon.

A 'Gucci Revolution'

The capitalist media had made a cause célèbre out of earlier demonstrations in Martyrs' Square that were organized on the model of the pro-imperialist demonstrations in Serbia, Georgia and the Ukraine and dubbed the "Cedar Revolution."

Those demonstrations, tiny by comparison to the one called by Hezbollah, had such an obviously reactionary class and political character that they were an embarrassment, even to the capitalist media covering them.

For example, the BBC news of March 3 said that the "Cedar Revolution" was being referred to as a "mini-Ukraine." They described it as follows: "Some people here are jokingly calling the phenomenon 'the Gucci revolution'—not because they are dismissive of the demonstrations, but because so many of those waving the Lebanese flag on the street are really unlikely protesters."

"There are girls in tight skirts and high heels, carrying expensive leather bags, as well as men in business suits or trendy tennis shoes.

"And in one unforgettable scene an elderly lady, her hair all done up, was demonstrating alongside her Sri Lankan domestic helper, telling her to wave the flag and teaching her the Arabic words of the slogans....

"But what has been fascinating to observe is how Lebanon's middle and upper classes have been woken from their usual lethargy by the assassination of Hariri."

A Reuters dispatch of March 8 was in a similar vein. Reporting on one of the tent camps in Martyrs' Square of the forces echoing imperialism's demand for Syrian withdrawal, it was described as "a home from home where protesters, most of them westernized, middle-class students, study, eat, drink, sleep and even work on their laptops." They were being given tents, blankets and mineral water by "foreign organizations."

These foreign organizations are well

known in Ukraine and other places where certain NGOs provide a cover for imperialist subversion.

These reactionary forces have responded to the anti-Syria, anti-Hezbollah offensive launched by the occupying butchers of Iraq in Washington and former colonialists in Paris who once ruled Lebanon and Syria.

Their social base lies mainly in the Maronite Christian and Druze political forces. These forces were described by Fadi Agha, the foreign policy adviser to Lebanese President Emil Lahoud, in an interview: "I would add that many of the leaders of the so-called Cedar Revolution (a term coined in Washington) are those who took Lebanon to 17 years of civil strife. ... These are the same warlords, sectarian barons and opportunists who led us once before to ruin." (CounterPunch, March 5/6)

Three elections, three occupations

In an outrageously arrogant statement, U.S. President George W. Bush has demanded that "All Syrian military forces and intelligence personnel must withdraw before the Lebanese elections [in May—F.G.] for those elections to be free and fair." (Reuters, March 8)

But a million people have given the lie to Bush by voting with their feet in Riyadh Solh Square. They made it clear they are against U.S. imperialist attempts to divide the Syrian and Lebanese people and set the stage for either a civil war in Lebanon,

U.S. troops couldn't kill the truth

Uproar in Italy after attack on journalist

By John Catalinotto

Will the Pentagon get away with murder again? Or will the U.S. gunfire that killed a top Italian intelligence agent and nearly killed journalist Giuliana Sgrena arouse a mass movement in Italy that forces the government to pull its troops out of Iraq?

That would be the most important outcome of these criminal acts by the U.S. military in what has been a criminal war and a criminal occupation. A look at the background will help in following the events as they develop.

Sgrena, a journalist for the progressive Italian daily, *Il Manifesto*, had been writing articles from Iraq until early February. Her articles reported U.S. occupation atrocities inflicted on the Iraqis. She wrote of the horrible treatment of Iraqi prisoners, what appeared to be the U.S. use of napalm in Falluja, and the deaths of many obvious non-combatants there.

On Feb. 4 she was kidnapped by a resistance group named "Mujahedin without Borders." Sgrena's own report was that her kidnappers believed she was a spy, as she was asking everyone questions. In the course of the month they held her captive, Sgrena appeared on a video pleading for her release and asking the Italian government to withdraw its troops from Iraq.

A movement grew up in Italy to demand her release, along with that of French journalist Florence Aubenas and an Iraqi driver, Hussein Hanoun. The movement that made these demands on the Iraqi resistance forces was also against the war. Millions of Italians identified with Sgrena both on human terms, as happens when someone in danger is reported on daily, and because she was a courageous anti-war journalist.

On Feb. 19, some half-million people demonstrated in Rome demanding the release of Sgrena and the withdrawal of Italian troops from Iraq.

Role of the Italian government

The right-wing government headed by media magnate Silvio Berlusconi has aligned Italy's foreign policy with that of the U.S. and the Bush administration. He has kept 3,000 Italian troops in Iraq—mostly away from the combat zone—despite the overwhelming opposition of the Italian population to the U.S. war there. His government is vulnerable on the war issue as well as economic issues, but so far he has managed to stay in office since he won the 2001 elections.

Had he succeeded in using the Italian state power to bring Sgrena back to Italy unharmed, Berlusconi would have emerged in as good a political position as possible under the circumstances. He would have shown mercy for a political enemy and independence from his U.S. allies regarding Italian affairs. Italy's foreign intelligence service, SISMI, was given the responsibility of arranging the turnover of Sgrena.

SISMI has a history of working hand-in-hand with the CIA against socialist countries or against rebellious countries in the "Third World." In this case, the SISMI agent in charge of the operation, Nicola Calipari, was the one to make arrangements for Sgrena's release with the Iraqi resistance, something Washington looks unkindly upon. Calipari wound up killed by U.S. troops within a mile of the Baghdad airport and the plane back to Rome.

U.S. forces and journalists

In Iraq, the U.S. military has tolerated journalists as long as they were "embedded," that is, as long as what they saw was controlled by the U.S. generals. Others have faced more than the usual dangers.

On April 8, 2003, U.S. tank fire killed Reuters cameraman Taras Protsyuk and a Spanish television network Telecinco cameraman, Jose Couso, in the Palestine Hotel in Baghdad. The same day, Al-Jazeera television reporter Tariq Ayoub was killed on the other side of the Tigris River by a rocket fired from a plane.

Since then at least 63 journalists have died in Iraq. CNN chief news executive Eason Jordan said at the Davos meeting on Jan. 27 in Switzerland that perhaps a dozen weren't just collateral damage but were killed on purpose by U.S. fire. That remark cost him his job.

U.S. military authorities have even blamed media coverage for the Army's failure to recruit new volunteers. According to the *New York Times* of March 4, "Top Pentagon officials acknowledged that the graphic images of casualties from Iraq and the obvious danger of serving there had caused many parents to advise their children to avoid joining the military now."

In Sgrena's case, the Pentagon considered her a communist reporter, causing trouble for them in Iraq. Sgrena herself has given two reasons why U.S. forces might have deliberately targeted her. First, because she had information for a story that they would not want to see published. Second, to punish the Italian government for negotiating with the Iraqi resistance over possible ransom payments.

Sgrena's captors had warned her that the U.S. forces didn't want her to return safely to Italy: "They declared that they were committed to the fullest to freeing me, but I had to be careful—the Americans don't want you to go back."

What happened on the road?

After the shooting on the airport road, the Pentagon claimed that the car had been speeding toward a checkpoint, that U.S. troops had flashed lights warning the car to stop, that the driver ignored their signals and that they only then peppered the car with hundreds of rounds. The story sounded as unlikely as the one told by the New York City undercover cops who killed Amadou Diallo. They claimed he pulled a wallet that looked like a weapon before they fired 41 shots.

"I only remember fire," Sgrena wrote. "At that point, a rain of fire and bullets hit us, shutting up forever the cheerful voices of a few minutes earlier. The driver started

yelling that we were Italians. 'We are Italians, we are Italians.' Nicola Calipari threw himself on me to protect me and immediately, I repeat, immediately I heard his last breath as he was dying on me."

No checkpoint, no lights, no warning. Another SISMI agent, who had been driving the car, backed up her story. Even the Italian government agreed and demanded an investigation and an explanation from the U.S. The Italian foreign minister, Gianfranco Fini, the head of a neo-fascist party, refuses to allow that the U.S. might have ambushed the Italians, but even he demands something more than the utter contempt Washington has offered its Italian ally.

Sgrena's partner, Pierre Scolari, suggested the incident was intentional. "I hope the Italian government does something because either this was an ambush, as I think, or we are dealing with imbeciles or terrorized kids who shoot at anyone," he said.

It's true that hundreds if not thousands of Iraqis have been killed by troops at roadblocks who were frightened that the next car bomb might get them, and whose orders of engagement allow the murder of civilians. But it's also true that the U.S., which was in control of the airport and the only road to it, knew that Sgrena had been released and that a special plane was waiting to take off for Italy within minutes. More damning information is expected to come out.

Italians are honoring Sgrena on International Women's Day, March 8, and there have been vigils and sit-ins at the U.S. Embassy in Rome and consulates in other cities. A mass demonstration is set for March 19 in Rome against the occupation and war. It is these actions that will determine if Berlusconi follows the Spanish ex-Prime Minister José María Aznar into the dustbin of history for his support of U.S. aggressive wars.

To read Sgrena's articles in English, see www.ilmanifesto.it/pag/sgrena/en/.

the overthrow of the Syrian government, or both.

The hypocrisy of Bush to demand an end to foreign forces in order to have "free and fair elections" is beyond measure. The U.S. has just engineered an election in Iraq under the guns of 150,000 troops, after killing over 100,000 Iraqi civilians, jailing and killing resistance fighters in the thousands, and running the country from U.S. military headquarters and the U.S. Embassy.

Last year Washington stage-managed an election in Afghanistan after bombing the country mercilessly, sending in occupation forces and rounding up German and other NATO imperialist powers to occupy the capital and surrounding regions. The elections in the West Bank and Gaza were carried out with the guns of the Israeli military in the background, armed to the teeth by the Pentagon.

Three elections under three occupations by imperialist oppressors—and Bush wishes to ignore them. Whatever the problems with the Syrian military presence in Lebanon, Syria is not an imperialist oppressor garnering super-profits from Lebanon. Whatever national advantages Syria gains from being in Lebanon, it also functions as a defender of Hezbollah and the national liberation forces in the country and as a barrier to aggression by the Israeli settler state. That is what the Bush

administration is opposed to.

In fact, the Bush administration's demand for withdrawal of Syrian troops under the terms of UN resolution 1559, passed in September 2004, is part of Washington's design to disarm Hezbollah, thus diminishing the resistance to a U.S. intervention in the region and opening up the door for renewed Israeli aggression against Lebanon.

Bush has not mentioned one word about the occupation of Syria's Golan Heights by Israel, territory taken by conquest in the 1967 war of aggression against Egypt and Syria, which Washington supported. Bush has not said one word about enforcing the piles of UN resolutions condemning the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

Syrian withdrawal and national sovereignty

But Washington has suddenly focused its attention on and become a determined advocate of UN resolution 1559. That is because this resolution is a toned-down replica of the Syrian Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003, in which the U.S. Congress demanded not only that Syria remove its troops from Lebanon, but that Hezbollah and all organizations waging the armed struggle for Palestinian liberation and against Israeli aggression be disarmed.

Severe sanctions were applied to Syria by Washington under this act.

In watered-down form, resolution 1559 calls for both Syrian withdrawal and the disarming of Hezbollah. According to the Reuters dispatch, "Nasrallah said he had no problem with a Syrian pullout under the 1989 Taif Accord that ended Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war, but would have no truck with a UN resolution adopted September that called for a Syrian withdrawal and militia disarmament."

The Taif Accord is an agreement between the two governments and calls for eventual Syrian withdrawal of troops to be negotiated between them. The mass demonstration in Beirut was called in front of UN offices there to make the point that Lebanon is fighting for its sovereignty and any withdrawal must be under an agreement signed by the Lebanese government with Syria and not at the command and under the terms dictated by Washington, Tel Aviv (silently), Paris or other European imperialists.

It also makes clear that Hezbollah will not accept any UN-mandated disarmament. Hezbollah is repeatedly described as a terrorist militia. It is neither terrorist nor a militia. It is an armed national liberation movement dedicated to fighting imperialism and Zionism.

The Bush administration is trying to

overturn the Lebanese government and get it to sign a separate peace with Israel, setting the stage for "regime change" in Syria. But the mass demonstration in Beirut against U.S.-French-Israeli interference under the guise of the UN resolution shows that Washington has made the same monumental miscalculation in Lebanon that it made in Iraq. It totally discounted the role of the anti-colonial masses and their determination and capacity for resistance.

Bush was deceived by momentary political victories in getting his imperialist junior partner in France to collaborate and getting the collaboration of bourgeois elements in Iraq, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. But that was the upper crust of society in the Middle East, which has a material class interest in collaborating. Now the lower stratum of society has spoken in Lebanon, just as it is speaking the language of resistance in Iraq and Palestine. Bush and the Pentagon are courting an expanded disaster in the Syrian-Lebanon region if they mistake governments for the masses.

The anti-war movement should add the slogans of "U.S. hands off Syria" and "Hands off Lebanon" to its demand to end the occupations in Iraq and Palestine. That is the only way to safeguard the interests of the oppressed and the workers in the Middle East and right here at home. □



The tiniest victims

Most people on the planet are aware of the U.S. war and occupation against Iraq. And the vast majority of the world's population are against this brutal, illegal war. But a war of a different kind is getting very little media attention, even though it is just as brutal.

It is a war against not just children but newborns. It is a crime against humanity of gigantic proportions.

According to the March 3 publication of the highly respected international medical journal, *The Lancet*, the deaths of 3 million newborns worldwide—that's 10,000 each day—could be prevented if the poorer, developing countries had easy access to technologically advanced research and health care for preventable diseases associated with neonatal care.

An additional 1 million more babies die within the first month of being born under similar conditions. So in total, 4 million deaths of babies could easily be avoided.

Most of these deaths occur in former colonial countries, mainly in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

"Virtually all (99 percent of deaths) occur in low- and middle-income countries, yet most research, publications, and funding focus on high-tech care for the 1 percent of deaths that occur in rich countries," the study stated.

The study went on to say that "the

three major causes of neonatal deaths are infections: sepsis, pneumonia, diarrhea, and tetanus (accounting for 36 percent of deaths); premature birth (28 percent); and problems related to complications during childbirth (23 percent). Infections are the major cause of death after the first week of life." (OneWorld.net, March 3)

Some of the solutions offered to stop neonatal deaths include two 20-cent anti-tetanus injections during pregnancy, exclusive breastfeeding, clean delivery and antibiotics.

"At less than one dollar per capita per year in additional spending to provide these life-saving interventions to 90 percent of mothers and babies, the cost is affordable," said Gary Darmstadt, an advisor with Save the Children USA, one of the study's architects.

While solutions to this genocidal war on babies certainly exist, they require not just resources but the eradication, root and branch, of the economic system that breeds poverty, war and racism. That system is capitalism and is based on making profits, not meeting human needs.

If tiny socialist Cuba can sustain the lowest infant mortality rate in all of Latin America, just imagine what a socialist world could do to insure that every human being has a bright future, beginning as a healthy newborn. Let's not just imagine it, but fight until it becomes real. □

Anti-woman scheme fails

It's the same approach the slicker money-grubbing corporations have. Hire a few women executives and PR spokespeople at fancy salaries and then you can better put over rapacious policies that hurt, underpay and degrade women and workers in general. The tobacco companies did it. The drug companies followed suit. Women, it seems, are more believable, even when they're just reading the scripts of the sexist ruling class.

The Bush administration thought it could do it, too. Big mistake. When the UN Commission on the Status of Women set up meetings in New York 10 years after the Beijing Women's Conference, Washington aggressively tried to put over its thoroughly reactionary agenda on women's issues. Ambassador Ellen Sauerbrey, who says that most women's groups in the U.S. are in a liberal conspiracy to destroy the family, headed a team of conservatives who demanded language be added to the 1995 Beijing agreement to explicitly exclude abortion from the definition of women's rights.

It was an attempt to hijack the conference on women's equality, which wanted to discuss implementing programs to ameliorate poverty and poor health among women. When the U.S. delegates tried to insert an anti-abortion section into the one-page statement that re-asserted the Beijing Conference's final declaration, how-

ever, they struck a rock. Women from all over the world spoke out forcefully against the U.S. position. No one supported it. Finally, the arrogant imperialists pulled back and the world's women celebrated their victory.

It's a sign of the times. The momentum toward U.S. imperialist world domination that seemed so strong after the collapse of the USSR has been broken by the heroic Iraqi resistance. The Pentagon's efforts to crush that resistance are alienating a whole new generation here and abroad, just as during the Vietnam War.

Liberation struggles are once again on the rise, most notably in Latin America and the Middle East. A similar political climate spurred on the women's movements of the 1960s and 1970s, and it can happen again. This time, women and people of color are much more prominent as leaders of the anti-war and social justice movements.

Nevertheless, women in this country are facing new attacks on reproductive rights as well as an anti-worker offensive. They'll bear the brunt of social service cuts mandated by the military-industrial-banking complex so the war machine can be expanded.

It's encouraging to know that the women of the world are unanimously in solidarity with our struggles to beat back this right-wing attack. □

Kenya's Land and Freedom Army

Mau Mau against the British Empire

By Stephen Millies

Has any liberation movement been more slandered than Kenya's Land and Freedom Army, usually referred to as the Mau Mau? This term is still used by racists as a club to attack Black people.

Right-wing columnist Ann Coulter, outraged that Halle Berry won an Oscar in 2002, complained that this Black artist had "successfully mau-maued her way to a Best Actress Award."

Former Vice President Daniel Quayle's chief of staff, William Kristol, said Carol Mosely Braun "mau-maued" the U.S. Senate when, as the only African American woman member in the Senate's history, she stopped a charter renewal for the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Thousands of Mau Mau guerrillas wrote a heroic chapter in the book of liberation with their blood. As with the French in Algeria, it was the armed struggle in Kenya that compelled the British imperialists to grant independence to their African colonies.

At last, two new books by British scholars expose the atrocities the colonial regime committed in suppressing this freedom struggle: "Imperial Reckoning" by Caroline Elkins and "Histories of the Hanged" by David Anderson.

Queen Victoria's British Empire declared a "protectorate" over Kenya and Uganda in 1895. What was being protected was the theft of the best farmland by a few British settlers. Among them was Lord Delamere, who stole 160,000 acres.

Machine guns and bayonets forced African people into "native reserves" modeled on Indian reservations in the United States. They weren't allowed to grow coffee or other commercial crops. As in South Africa under apartheid, Africans were forced to carry passes.

Kenya's Kikuyu people, who farmed some of the most fertile land in the country's central section, were particularly affected.

"We have stolen his land," confessed Col. Ewart Grogan, a white settler. "Now it is time to steal his limbs." (Walter Rodney, "How Europe Underdeveloped Africa")

Compulsory labor was required of African women and men.

Building a 582-mile railroad from the Indian Ocean port of Mombasa to Lake Victoria was key to the exploitation. Some 30,000 workers from British-occupied India were used. Some 10,000 died or were maimed in the process.

Occupation sparked resistance. On March 14, 1922, police gunfire crushed a rally of 8,000 Africans in Nairobi, called to protest the exiling of Kikuyu leader Harry Thuku.

White settlers standing on the Norfolk Hotel's porch joined in the shooting. Fifty-eight Africans were murdered.

Supporters of this movement formed the Kikuyu Central Association in the mid-1920s. Jomo Kenyatta, later to be independent Kenya's first prime minister and president, became editor of the KCA's monthly newspaper, *Muigwathania*, in 1928.

Schools became a battleground. "Illiterates with the right attitude to manual employment are preferable to products of the schools," declared the official Beecher Report on Kenyan education in 1949. At the time, three high schools admitted a total of 100 African students annually.

An independent school movement blossomed in the late 1920s. By 1952, some 50,000 students attended 300 African-controlled schools. The KCA founded the Githunguri Teachers' Training College.

Kenyatta went abroad in 1929 to represent

the KCA in London and didn't return to Kenya until 1946. Pan African leader George Padmore, then an organizer for the Communist International, influenced him. Kenyatta also studied briefly in Moscow.

"When the missionaries arrived, the Africans had the land and the missionaries had the Bible. They taught us to pray with our eyes closed. When we opened our eyes, they had the land and we had the Bible," observed Kenyatta.

Catholic and Protestant missionaries were as indispensable as Maxim guns to British colonialism.

An Anglican bishop wrote the racist Beecher Report.

However, Kenya's freedom fighters included Christians. Muslims also joined the liberation struggle. But the official churches lined up British-appointed "chiefs" and their followers to be informers against the Mau Mau.

Army smashes general strike

Many Kikuyu people became sharecroppers or laborers on white farms, often on the same soil that had been stolen from their families. Others were forced off the land altogether.

The population of the capital city, Nairobi, doubled between 1938 and 1948.

As early as 1930 police shot down strikers at the Uplands Bacon factory and jailed their leaders. A Kenyan working class was being formed. By 1948 there were 385,000 African wage workers; their average annual income was \$73.

British imperialism press-ganged 75,000 Kenyans to fight in World War II. Among them was Waruhiu Itote, who was to become known as the Mau Mau's "General China."

Like Vietnam veteran Geronimo ji Jaga, who defended the Los Angeles Black Panther Party office against police attack, or American Indian Movement leaders who liberated Wounded Knee, these Kenyan vets put their military skills to good use.

While stationed in India, Itote learned from an African American GI about how Haitians had risen in a slave insurrection and defeated Napoleon's armies. He could see for himself that Britain was forced to depart India and Pakistan in 1947. After the war, the future "General China" worked as a locomotive fireman in Nairobi's railroad yards.

Kenyatta became president of the Kenyan African Union on June 1, 1947. Trade unionists were some of the KAU's most militant leaders.

Fred Kubai organized Nairobi's taxi drivers and became secretary of the Transport and Allied Workers' Union. Bildad Kaggia was a leader of the Clerks and Commercial Workers Union. The British would jail both Kubai and Kaggia together with Kenyatta.

Along with Makhan Singh, Kubai and Kaggia founded the East African Trade Union Congress on May Day, 1949. The next May Day the EATUC issued a call for independence and majority rule.

The British imperialist government, administered by the social-democratic Labor Party, immediately arrested these union leaders. In response 100,000 Kenyan workers joined a general strike.

Nairobi was paralyzed for nine days. Only a mobilization of the army and police broke this strike.

EATUC president Fred Kubai was jailed for eight months. General Secretary Makhan Singh was detained without trial for 11 years.

Their jailing symbolized the unity of Kenyan workers of Asian and African origin against colonialism.

Next: Freedom by any means necessary.

book review

Haitians challenge Bush's death-squad 'democracy'

By Deirdre Griswold

While U.S. television news drones on endlessly about President George W. Bush's new initiatives to spread democracy and liberty in the world, the people of Haiti have already tasted his offering and are spitting it out.

One year ago, the U.S. overthrew the elected government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and spirited him and his family out of the country to make way for Bush's appointed "democratic" leader, Gerard Latortue.

Elevated along with Latortue were returning death squad members and former police known for brutalizing and horribly repressing the people in the days of the Duvalier dictatorship.

Today, members of the former Aristide government languish in dungeons called prisons. Demonstrators are fired on and killed by police. Life in the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere has gotten even worse. Corpses pile up by the roadsides and mortality from all causes is staggeringly high.

But to hear Washington tell it, Haiti is now on the road to democracy.

When 2,000 unarmed supporters of Aristide tried to march through Port au Prince on Feb. 28, demanding the return of their kidnapped president, they were fired on by police. At least two were killed and 20 wounded. United Nations troops at the scene, commanded by Brazilian officers, did nothing to stop the killing, leading to immediate condemna-

tion in many quarters.

Perhaps in reaction to this strong criticism over their role, which also was expressed by many Brazilians at last month's World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, the Brazilian troops on March 4 accompanied another pro-Aristide demonstration, this time of 2,000 people, through the streets of the Haitian capital. The police did not attack this time. The demonstrators called for an end to the U.S.-backed "interim" government.

More than 400 people have been killed in the capital since Aristide loyalists began intensifying their demands for the president's return four months ago. (AP, March 4) The vast majority murdered are from Aristide's social base: the very poor who reject letting the country go back to being run by stooges for U.S. and French imperialism.

Rep. Maxine Waters, a strong supporter of Aristide who represents the Black community of Los Angeles in the U.S. Congress, led a fact-finding delega-



Haitians march through Bel Air to mark International Women's Day and to support Aristide.

tion to Haiti in early March. She visited former Prime Minister Yves Neptune in the prison where he is conducting a hunger strike and pronounced the conditions there "deplorable."

"I urge the interim government of Haiti to set Prime Minister Neptune free and release all political prisoners in Haitian prisons," said Waters. "The interim government's repression of dissenters like Prime Minister Neptune must end immediately. The whole world is watching." □

Experts in int'l law back Milosevic

By John Catalinotto
The Hague, Netherlands

Might doesn't make right. NATO forces were able to break up Yugoslavia but that doesn't make its kidnapped former leader a criminal.

Fifty people interested in the defense of the former Yugoslav president attended an international conference here Feb. 26 to discuss "The Hague Proceedings against Slobodan Milosevic: Emerging Issues in International Law."

The group was concerned that the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) is attempting to cut short his legal defense.

And even as Milosevic fights for time to rebut the charges against him, the U.S. and the puppet Iraqi regime have plans to put another former leader of an invaded country on trial: Saddam Hussein.

The meeting brought together top jurists in international law, mainly from Europe and the United States but including a representative from India. The speakers made persuasive presentations exposing the illegitimacy of the ICTY and the case against President Milosevic.

The case has gone through a number of phases since NATO forces kidnapped the Serb leader from prison in Belgrade in June 2001. When the proceedings opened in February 2002, the media dubbed them the "trial of the century." Milosevic and Serbia were to be blamed for 10 years of civil war in the Balkans in the 1990s.

However, Milosevic was able, even with the minimal assistance available to him and despite serious medical problems, to turn the tables on the ICTY during cross-examination and indict the leaders of NATO for 10 years of aggression aimed at destroying Yugoslavia.

The result was that the corporate media stopped reporting on the trial, thus turning it into a de facto secret kangaroo court. Now the prosecution is attempting to limit Milosevic's active defense case and bring the trial to a close as rapidly as possible.

International jurists

Present at the Feb. 26 conference were former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, former Bulgarian presidential candidate Professor Velko Valkanov, Professor Dr. Hans Köchler of Austria, Professor Aldo Bernardini of Italy, Canadian inter-



Ramsey Clark at meeting in The Hague.

WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

national attorney Christopher Black, Dr. John Laughland of Britain and Professor Bhim Singh, chair of the Jammu Kashmir National Panther Party. Maitre Tiphaine Dickson of Quebec had to cancel her appearance but submitted a paper read by one of the participants.

Clark, a founding member of the International Action Center, said his visit to Milosevic the day before had showed the "triumph of the human spirit" and called the president "undaunted." Clark said "the violence and deaths of the wars on Yugoslavia were caused by others" and "the real crime was that of organizing the war."

Clark compared the situation in Yugoslavia to that of the U.S. Civil War, although in the Balkans the reactionary side won. "He [Milosevic] was blamed for doing what Abraham Lincoln did in the American Civil War—and that was trying to preserve the Union. Lincoln said many times that his sole purpose was to preserve the Union, yet here the United States' sole purpose was to destroy Yugoslavia, so that the 'end of history' would appear real," said Clark.

"To do that you had to demonize and destroy the leadership that aimed to preserve the Yugoslav union," he added. "And to have its way the United States had to corrupt the United Nations and international justice."

Professor Valkanov pointed out that with regard to both Serbia and Iraq, "the United States violated all laws" to carry out military attacks on these countries.

Vladimir Krsljanin of the International Committee for the Defense of Slobodan Milosevic announced plans to staff an office in The Hague. Two young activists will help Milosevic prepare his defense case in the remaining time and publicize the results. Krsljanin asked for the necessary financial and organizational support from those who understand the importance of refusing to allow NATO powers to be the sole ones to write the recent history of the Balkans. □

FRANCE

High school students protest massive cuts

By G. Dunkel

Over 130,000 high school students in over 100 cities demonstrated all over France on March 8 to demand the repeal of a new law restructuring their schools. They also want the minister involved, François Fillon, fired. These were the first nationally coordinated demonstrations on this issue, after many regional ones in February.

In France, education at all levels is a national responsibility.

Opposition to Fillon's plan was so strong that the government had to declare it to be an "urgent bill" to get it through parliament. Basically, it limits almost all students to a "basic level of education." They will be trained to read, write, calculate and use a computer. History, geography, modern languages, science, literature, economy and sports would be options that the state would no longer fund.

Special funds that have been allocated to North African, West African and other immigrant communities, as well as poor rural areas, are also slated to be cut. Some 50,000 jobs in education would be eliminated.

Diplomas will vary from school to school. This means that union contracts currently in force won't apply to the starting salaries of students who go directly into the work force. The bosses will be allowed to pay whatever they want.

The right-wing government of Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin and President Jacques Chirac picked January and February to put through the changes because the winter vacations make it difficult for the students to organize a massive national protest. While the right wing has been trying to restructure education in France since 1986, this is the first time it has managed to get a bill through parliament.

So on Feb. 15 the students had organized regional demonstrations. At least one protest was held in every major city and in many small ones. The largest were in

Paris and Marseilles.

The weather was miserable in much of France, with hail and cold, blustery winds. Nevertheless, 15,000 protesters turned out in Marseilles, France's Mediterranean port, and from 50,000 to 100,000 in Paris, according to organizers.

As trains from the Paris suburbs—where the workers, immigrants and poor live—discharged the students, they formed up and jogged to the subway, chanting and shouting: "Students on strike! Fillon resign! Fillon, students are going to boot you in the ass!" It was an impressive display of raucous, political anger. But controlled, giving the riot cops in the stations no excuse to intervene.

At the Place de la République, the crowd was exuberant, chanting, dancing, jumping up and down, but it waited until 2 p.m. for the march to the Bastille to begin. Besides focusing on the cutbacks, the slogans and chants made it clear that Fillon's plan would make it much harder for working class youth to get the high school training needed for further education or a skilled job.

All the major education unions in France had contingents in the student-initiated demonstrations, because Fillon's plan not only cuts 50,000 jobs, it also requires unpaid overtime and slashes the services that schools can offer their students.

While primary schools have not had a formal restructuring, Fillon has changed the way enrollments are counted, which has meant some classes are cut and the remaining are overcrowded, by French standards. Parent groups have responded by occupying their local schools and also by participating in the high school protests.

A coalition of trade unions is planning a one-day general strike March 10 of all public employees to raise the issue of the 35-hour week, attacks on the retirement system and to push for a general wage increase. Fillon's plan obviously will also be attacked.

Dunkel was in Paris in February.

Gobierno venezolano expone amenazas de EE.UU. contra la vida de Chávez

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Revisando el correo electrónico y noticias de América Latina, un tema sorprendente se pronuncia: amenazas a la vida del presidente venezolano, Hugo Chávez.

El 13 de febrero, la agencia de noticias Reuters citó al Presidente Fidel Castro diciendo, "Yo digo a la opinión pública mundial: si ellos asesinan a Chávez, la responsabilidad caerá totalmente sobre el presidente de los Estados Unidos, George W. Bush."

El presidente Castro hizo recordar a todos sobre los múltiples atentados contra su propia vida. Él agregó que su asesinato en este tiempo no alteraría significativamente o revertiría la Revolución Cubana, porque esta está firmemente arraigada en las masas populares, pero que la Revolución Bolivariana está en una fase decisiva.

El 20 de febrero en su programa de radio y televisión Aló Presidente, el presidente venezolano, Hugo Chávez dijo: "Si algo me pasa a mí, yo responsabilizo al presidente de los Estados Unidos. Yo quiero que el pueblo venezolano sepa que yo no me voy a encerrar en Miraflores. Yo estaré con ustedes en las calles. Yo estoy entregado a Dios pero yo sé que estoy condenado a la muerte."

Estas declaraciones fueron seguidas por varias declaraciones por Bush, la Secretario del Estado, Condoleezza Rice y una campaña periodística contra Chávez tanto en los Estados Unidos como en el periodismo oligárquico de Venezuela. Hay una gran preocupación en el gobierno de Venezuela el cuál ve a estas sucesos como una campaña para cambiar la opinión pública contra la Revolución Bolivariana y poder así justificar una intervención abierta contra esta.

Las declaraciones de Rice durante su confirmación en la cual dijo que "Chávez es una fuerza negativa en la región" son famosas.

El Ministro de Comunicaciones, Andrés Izarra pidió al pueblo venezolano que estuviera alerta por la "ofensiva política y por la prensa" que ha estado llevando a cabo la administración de Bush contra la Revolución Bolivariana en su jornada para deshonorarla y aislarla.

Diciendo que el gobierno nacional está siguiendo de cerca la denuncia hecha por el Presidente Chávez, Izarra produjo varios documentos que ilustran la campaña sistemática de "información tergiversada y de acusaciones sin base alguna," dirigidas a manipular a la opinión pública.

Él identificó tres argumentos básicos usados contra Venezuela: "que el Presidente Chávez es un cómplice de terrorismo internacional; que Chávez es una amenaza inminente para la democracia del Hemisferio Occidental; y que el gobierno de Chávez va rápidamente acercándose hacia la autocracia, una democracia autoritaria o una dictadura elegida."

Izarra declaró que estos términos han sido usados por portavoces del Departamento del Estado de los Estados Unidos y por las agencias de inteligencia, y que han sido repetidos por los medios de difusión; él mencionó a los medios periodísticos, Washington Times, Washington Post, Fox News, Wall Street Journal y el Miami Herald.

El 23 de febrero, en sus esfuerzos de dar a conocer estas amenazas a la comunidad internacional, el Ministro de Exterior de Venezuela, Alí Rodríguez se dirigió al Consejo Permanente de la Organización de Estados Americanos en Washington, D.C., en una sesión extraordinaria a petición del gobierno venezolano. Dirigiéndose a los

representantes de los 34 países miembros, Rodríguez dijo, "Nosotros nos vemos obligados a poner en alerta a la opinión pública mundial."

"Las amenazas imperialistas solo se tornarán más fuertes mientras la Revolución Bolivariana se mueve hacia el camino anti-imperialista y lejos de la explotación capitalista de su pueblo y recursos naturales.

PDVESA, la compañía nacional petrolera, está mostrando no solo a las masas venezolanas sino a todos los pueblos del mundo lo que significa utilizar las ganancias para el beneficio de las masas, y no para aumentar las riquezas de unos pocos.

Se están produciendo muchos cambios rápidamente en Venezuela, uno tras otro, no solamente avances sociales, sino avances económicos también, nacional e internacionalmente con nuevos acuerdos comerciales.

Uno de los cambios internos es la inauguración de INVEPAL, la Industria Venezolana Endógena de Papel. Es un modelo de la gerencia compartida entre el gobierno y los trabajadores. Chávez lo describió así, 'En el modelo capitalista tradicional, el dueño hace todas las decisiones, y acá está en las manos de los trabajadores, en este modelo de gerencia compartida.'

Las preocupaciones de los venezolanos serían sin sentido si no fuera por la evidencia trágica e histórica en Latinoamérica y el Caribe, donde los Estados Unidos han derrocado jefes de estado elegidos democráticamente por medio de golpes de estado sangrientos.

Venezuela misma ha sido el recipiente de acciones asesinas inspiradas por los EE.UU. como por ejemplo el golpe de estado de abril de 2002, la huelga patronal y sabotaje de PDVESA, los aproximadamente 100 paramilitares colombianos entrenando para asesinar a Chávez que

fueron capturados en Caracas el año pasado, y el asesinato reciente del procurador Danilo Anderson, que estaba investigando el papel jugado por la CIA en el golpe de estado del año 2002.

Estos actos asesinos hacen recordar el caso siempre presente de Salvador Allende en Chile. Pero también hay los asesinatos de Jorge Eliécer Gaitán en Colombia, Torrijos en Panamá, y todas las invasiones criminales, intervenciones y masacres —en Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua y Honduras, la República Dominicana, Haití, Grenada y más.

No hay lugar en la región donde los EE.UU. no haya lanzado una intervención de una manera u otra para evitar que se establezca el desarrollo de gobiernos responsables a las necesidades de sus pueblos.

Pero esta vez, las condiciones en la región son muy distintas. Se considera a Venezuela la mayoría abrumadora de Latinoamérica como su revolución, su líder, su inspiración. Y el mismo pueblo venezolano está comprometido a su defensa y su desarrollo.

Chávez mismo aludió a la posibilidad de una intervención de los Estados Unidos. Él dijo: No se equivoque, Sr. Bush. Si esto pasa, se provocará un incendio en Venezuela. Y esto se va a extender a los demás pueblos de Latinoamérica y de América del Sur. No se atreva, porque creo que lo vas a lamentar."

Él había mencionado anteriormente que Venezuela sigue incrementando su capacidad defensiva y va a seguir formando las Unidades Básicas de la Defensa Popular. Él dijo, "Venezuela no intervendrá en ningún lugar, pero repito, nadie debe intervenir con Venezuela, aquí estamos listos a defender nuestra Patria cueste lo que cueste". □

El Tribunal Supremo decide contra pena de muerte para jóvenes

Por Gloria Rubac

"¡Esta es una victoria de mayor importancia para todos los partidarios de la abolición de la pena de muerte! Otro soporte de la pena de muerte racista y contra los pobres ha sido quitado," declaró Njeri Shakur a través de sus lágrimas de alegría el 1 de marzo, al saber que el Tribunal Supremo de los Estados Unidos había decidido cinco jueces a cuatro que la pena de muerte para los jóvenes es castigo cruel y extraordinario y contra la Constitución de los Estados Unidos.

Esta decisión afecta a 72 personas encarceladas bajo la pena de muerte en los Estados Unidos que tenían 16 o 17 años cuando fueron acusados de homicidio capital. Veintinueve de estas personas están en las cárceles de Texas.

La última persona que fue sentenciada a la pena de muerte en Texas fue Robert Acuña, condenado por homicidio capital en agosto del año pasado. Sus abogados de defensa trataron de persuadir al fiscal de

Houston a demorar el juicio hasta que el Tribunal Supremo tomara la decisión anticipada, pero el fiscal lo negó.

Bárbara Acuña le dijo a Mundo Obrero, "Yo me puse tan feliz y aliviada con esta decisión hoy. Todo ha sido tan traumático para nuestra familia. Apenas puedo esperar a ver a mi hijo esta mañana. Les agradezco mucho a todos esos abogados y activistas que han luchado por esto."

Acuña y otras madres de presos condenados a la muerte hablarán en una conferencia de la prensa el 2 de marzo, llamada por el Movimiento de Texas para Abolir la Pena de Muerte. Ellas hablarán sobre la decisión y sus efectos sobre una familia que ha tenido un hijo de 17 años condenado a morir por el estado.

Uno de los casos más conocido de jóvenes en Texas fue el de Shaka Sankofa, ultimado por el estado en el año 2000. Otro caso fue el de Napoleón Beazley, ultimado en año 2002. Los padres de Beazley respondieron a la decisión con emociones mixtas, "Sabemos que ésta es una victoria

y estamos muy felices pero a la vez, nos duelen todavía nuestros corazones por Napoleón. Esta decisión debía haberse tomado más pronto," dijeron ellos.

Desde 1976, cuando la pena de muerte fue restaurada en los Estados Unidos, 22 jóvenes han sido ultimados legalmente, 13 de ellos en Texas.

El primer asesinato por ley de un delincuente juvenil ocurrió en 1642: Thomas Graunger, 16 años, en la colonia de Plymouth, Mass. en los 360 años desde entonces, aproximadamente 365 personas han sido ultimadas por crímenes juveniles.

La persona conocida como la más joven de ser ultimado legalmente en los Estados Unidos, fue James Arcene, un niño indígena que tenía 10 años cuando ocurrió el crimen del cuál era acusado.

Desde la Segunda Guerra Mundial, la persona más joven que se ha muerto en los Estados Unidos debido a la pena de muerte, fue George Stinney, un joven africano-americano de 14 años. Él era tan

pequeño, y sólo pesaba 95 libras, que la máscara no le quedaba y se le cayó de su cara mientras que lo electrocutaba el estado de Carolina de Sur.

De los 73 delincuentes juveniles que actualmente están encarcelados bajo pena de muerte, y ellos que ya han sido matados en esta época, dos de tres son o han sido o africano-americano@ o latino@. De las 10 delincuentes juveniles femeninas matadas en los Estados Unidos, ocho fueron africana-americanas y una indígena. En cada uno de estos casos, la víctima fue blanca.

Los estados del Sur componen 84 por ciento de todas las penas de muerte impuestas en delincuentes juveniles desde 1973. Sólo tres estados—Texas, Florida y Alabama—contienen la mitad de esos casos condenados a la pena de muerte.

La lucha masiva independiente debe seguir hasta que la pena de muerte racista y contra los pobres, sea abolida para siempre. □