

MUNDO OBRERO

**LÍBANO
HAITÍ**
Inmigrantes protestan
16

A message to the March 19 anti-war protests from the National Committee of Workers World Party:

Solidarity is the secret weapon of the oppressed, the exploited and the disenfranchised. In order to turn back the ruthless drive of the military-industrial-banking complex to extend its empire from Iraq to Zimbabwe to Korea to Haiti, the anti-war movement must develop the broadest solidarity—at home and internationally.

The labor movement here was built not on lobbying or public relations campaigns but on militant solidarity—in the plants and on the picket lines. With solidarity it was able to demand, not beg for, better wages and working conditions.

On March 19, the union of long-shore workers in California will be

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Students say no to military

Recruiters face resistance

By LeiLani Dowell
New York

Young people from New York to California, in colleges and high schools, are stepping up their efforts to stop the Pentagon from using the economic draft to lure their fellow students into the war machine.

Police assaulted and arrested three students at the City College of New York March 9 for peacefully protesting the presence of military recruiters at the school's career fair. Hospital records of two of the protesters, Nick Bergreen and Justino Rodriguez, show that they suffered multiple contusions and post-concussion syndrome from the incident.

Two days later, the third protester, senior Hadas Thier, received notice that she had been suspended from CCNY and barred from setting foot on campus for "posing a continuing danger."

That same day, CCNY police charged into the office of a CCNY staff member, Carol Lang, and arrested her on the charge of second-degree assault, as well as disorderly conduct and obstructing governmental administration, in connection with the protest. She was held in jail overnight.

CCNY Psychology Professor Bill Crain said of Lang's arrest: "The arrest of a staff member in his or her office is almost unheard of... The security forces are out of control, creating an atmosphere of fear and intimidation. Rational discussion with the administration has become very difficult."

In an effort to increase that same fear and intimidation of dis-

sent, the college president sent an email to the entire faculty and student body listing unfounded allegations against the students.

The incident at CCNY follows the March 3 arrest of a student at William Paterson University for handing out leaflets opposing military recruitment. Both incidents indicate the desperation of military recruiters at a time of heightened resistance—in Iraq and on campuses and communities in the United States—as well as school administrators' collusion with the state to prevent such counter-recruiting.

A statement by protest organizers at CCNY reads, "Together, the actions of the security guards, the City of New York, and the CCNY administration have served to stifle dissent and create a climate of intimidation."

FIST, No Draft No Way call March 31 actions

The youth organization FIST-Fight Imperialism, Stand Together—issued a statement the day of the initial CCNY arrests: "As the U.S. military faces shortages in new recruits—due to the resistance of youth to become cannon fodder for an imperialist war of conquest—it is stepping up its efforts to entrap youth in the military machine.... This only makes our work as counter-recruiters all the more necessary."

"FIST vows to continue fighting to end the military-industrial complex in its entirety, and applauds all involved in the effort. In addition, we will continue to fight the repression of political dissent on our campuses and on the streets."

With recruiting levels in serious decline, the armed forces'

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President Hugo Chávez meets with paper workers who took over their plant.

PHOTO: INVEPAL

Venezuelan workers seize paper industry

The key is solidarity

Continued from page 1

demonstrating solidarity with the anti-war demonstrators marching that day to mark two years since the U.S. started its assault on Iraq. The workers will lay down their tools and demand that the U.S. government bring the troops home. That's language that the super-rich corporate bosses who control Washington can understand.

Civil rights were won through solidarity at the lunch counters, in the bus stations, in the streets resisting police dogs and fire hoses, and in countless acts of every-day courage and mutual defense that pushed back the racist segregationists, the terrorist KKK and their powerful patrons.

In New York on March 19, demonstrators will gather in Marcus Garvey Park in Harlem before marching to Central Park. The multinational crowd of Black, Latin@, Arab, Asian, Native and white will be declaring their solidarity against the war makers. Gathering in Harlem is especially important as the Bush administration cuts education, housing, healthcare and even veterans' benefits in order to divert hundreds of billions of dollars into wars of conquest.

The demonstration has been organized by a rainbow coalition, Troops Out Now. The communities who feel the pain of the budget cuts the most and whose youth are under the greatest economic pressure to join the military will lead the march. This is what real democracy looks like. Get used to it.

Some figures in the anti-war movement have failed to recognize the significance of this demonstration or add their solidarity. They say they cannot support the resistance in Iraq. However, that is not one of the demands of the demonstration. Therefore, they must mean that they will not even share a platform with someone who might support the resistance. They qualify any demand for the withdrawal of U.S. troops by insisting that a "multilateral" occupation force be in place first.

This is shortsighted and a violation of the right of self-determination. What gives U.S. imperialism the right to invade and then keep its troops in Iraq even one more day when the overwhelming sentiment of the Iraqi people, expressed constantly through their heroic resistance, is to get them out?

The Iraqi people don't want MORE countries sending troops to occupy them and control their natural resources. They want to run their own country, free of outside interference. They are demanding national sovereignty, which

has come to be recognized as a right in international law only because tens of millions of people have fought and died in anti-colonial wars to achieve it.

To put conditions on the withdrawal of U.S. troops is to support the occupation.

This same political struggle in the anti-war movement came up during the Vietnam War, when some countered the slogan "Bring the troops home now" with "Negotiate now." To demand that the Vietnamese negotiate with the U.S. was to demand that they make concessions to an imperialist power which had invaded their country, killed millions of people and poisoned their land and water with toxic chemicals.

It came up again during the first Gulf War, when the slogan "Sanctions, not war" was counterpoised to "End the war." But sanctions are a form of war—and a most horrible form that killed over a million Iraqi civilians, a huge portion of them children.

The anti-war movement will go forward despite these differences, just as it did in the 1960s and 1970s. The returning troops as well as youth worried about a renewed draft will have little patience for demands that prolong the occupation, the tortures and the killing. Communities devastated by school and hospital closings, transportation cuts and higher energy bills will increasingly add their voices to the call to bring the troops home now.

In the process, let's build a spirit of international solidarity with all those who have been demonized by this imperialist government because they refuse to become subjects in a global empire ruled by Washington and Wall Street. □



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FREE LEONARD PELTIER

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WW CALENDAR

LOS ANGELES

Sat., March 19
 Troops Out Now Car Caravan to Save King Drew & Stop the War. Join this feeder caravan to the Hollywood anti-war demo. Meet at 10AM at King/Drew Hospital, proceed to the Hollywood demo.

NEW YORK

Sat., March 19
 U.S. troops out now. rally in Central Park, East Meadow, noon. Sponsored by Troops Out Now Coalition. For info (212) 633-6646 or www.TroopsOutNow.org.

Fri., March 25
 Workers World Party meeting. What's next in the struggle

against war, racism and capitalism? Hear Joyce Chediak; Larry Holmes, co-director of the International Action Center; and Carl Webb, member of Army National Guard who refused to go to Iraq. 7 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 pm. At 55 W. 17th St., 5 fl., Manhattan. For info 212-627-2994.

SAN DIEGO

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Immokalee victory at Taco Bell: Ending farmworker slavery

By Minnie Bruce Pratt and Sue Davis

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers announced a historic victory on March 8: its agreement with Yum! Brands, the owner of Taco Bell and the biggest restaurant company in the world.

This followed the CIW's four-year national boycott of the giant Taco Bell corporation. The fast-food restaurant chain serves more than 35 million customers each week in over 6,500 locations in the United States.

CIW is led by Florida agricultural workers, mostly immigrants. The group organizes for justice for farm workers and demands that growers meet U.S. and international labor standards. (www.ciw-online.org)

The CIW campaign focused on the 10 million pounds of Florida tomatoes farm

workers picked in 2004 for suppliers who then sold them to Taco Bell.

These workers make 40 cents for each 32-pound bucket of tomatoes—the same wages as 30 years ago. To earn \$50, a worker has to pick two tons of tomatoes.

Taco Bell's parent company, Yum! Brands, agreed to buy only from suppliers who up payment for the tomatoes by a penny per pound. This arrangement is precedent-setting as the increase will pass through the local Florida suppliers and go directly into workers' wages.

Around 1,500 workers will benefit immediately.

In a joint news release Taco Bell President Emil Brolick said: "We pledge to make this commitment real by buying only from Florida growers who pass this penny-per-pound payment entirely on to the farm workers, and by working



jointly with the CIW and our suppliers to monitor the pass-through for compliance. We hope others in the restaurant industry and supermarket retail trade will follow our leadership."

No to slavery

The CIW campaign also forced Yum! Brands to add language to its supplier code of conduct to require that "indentured servitude by suppliers is strictly forbidden." Employers keep many immigrant workers in slavery-like conditions, sometimes incarcerating them behind barbed-wire fences. If the workers seek to leave, they are threatened and subjected to violence that includes beatings, shootings and pistol-whippings.

In a March 10 interview with Democracy Now! radio, Gerardo Reyes Chavez, a farm worker and member of CIW, said: "Slavery is something that is still happening in agriculture. ... We don't have any kind of benefits or protections. We don't have the right to organize in most of the states in this country, so basically the conditions that we face are conditions like sweatshops but in the fields, and here in the United States."

The CIW helped prosecute five slavery operations, and won decisions against the growers that liberated over 1,000 workers.

Victory!

In early March, during the struggle's final weeks, the CIW sponsored a "Taco Bell



Truth Tour." Participants traveled from Florida to meetings in 15 states including Georgia, Alabama,

Tennessee, Illinois, Ohio and Kentucky. In Atlanta and in Montgomery, Ala., participants in the tour visited churches where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had served as pastor. They drew connections between the Black civil-rights movement and the farm workers' campaign today for just wages.

In Memphis, Tenn., the tour members paid their respects to Dr. King's memory by visiting the Lorraine Motel, the site of his assassination. They honored his coming to the city to support striking sanitation workers in their struggle for economic justice.

In Chicago, they joined local members of UNITE HERE in a picket outside the Congress Plaza Hotel. Workers at the hotel have been protesting for 18 months in a struggle for a fair contract.

Finally, the "Truth Tour" ended in Louisville, Ky., with a jubilant March 12 demonstration celebrating the farm workers' victory in their ongoing journey "from slavery to freedom."

The win was far from easy. It took a relentless nationwide struggle, led by the predominantly immigrant tomato pickers in CIW and supported by United Students Against Sweatshops and various religious groups.

A USAS news release noted, "This unprecedented victory ... would not have been possible without the hard work of USAS members booting the Bell from college and university campuses nationwide!" □

1921: Racist terror in Tulsa Black survivors demand reparations

African American detainees being led by armed guard.

PHOTO: OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



By Monica Moorehead

"The morning that the riot started we heard the shooting... just a couple of blocks from the end of Greenwood on Archer. After we heard the shooting, I came to... Jackson's Funeral Home. It was also right on the end of Greenwood, a few doors down. He (Samuel Jackson) had not been long purchasing a new ambulance... we went to the undertaker... one of the young men that drove during the funeral sessions was also going out to the garage to get the ambulance. There was a old mill right across the tracks, right on Greenwood. You could look out of the mill, they could look right over and see us. While the boy was trying to unlock the door to get the ambulance... somebody white shot out... They were up in that mill which was probably four or five stories high, and they shot out of that mill and hit the boy on the hand... Blood shot out his hand. I'm standing right behind him. He dropped the keys and we ran to the back part of the funeral home by the dead folk."

—Otis Clark

(tulsareparations.org)



Otis Clark

section of Tulsa where the Black population established prosperous businesses. These racists killed and maimed hundreds if not thousands of Black women, men and children, and burned almost all of their businesses and homes to the ground.

None of the survivors received any kind of apology, compensation or any public recognition that this massacre happened.

It was 80 years later that the Oklahoma State Legislature offered an official apology to the survivors based on a three-year study on the massacre performed by a Tulsa Race Riot Commission that began in 1997.

Lawyers, law students, members of the Congressional Black Caucus, survivors of the massacre and other supporters held a news conference and rally March 9 on the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., to file a petition with the court to demand long overdue reparations denied to the survivors in the lower courts. Those in attendance included Clark, historian John Hope Franklin and Congresswoman Maxine Waters.

A federal district court dismissed the Oklahoma lawsuit in 2004, stating that the incident happened too long ago for compensation to be granted.

Odinga Harrington from the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America told why she attended the rally. "Reparations are long overdue for the victims of the Tulsa riots, and reparations are long overdue for the descendants of slaves throughout the country." (Amsterdam News)

Go to www.workers.org/www/1999/tulsa0610.php for more information.

The year was 1921. The place was Oklahoma. And the incident—the Tulsa race riot. This event got next to no notice when it happened almost 84 years ago, but for the survivors, like 102-year-old Clark, it's like it happened yesterday.

On May 31, 1921, racist whites carried out a brutal attack against what was then known as "Black Wall Street," a segregated

HIV activists organize fightback

By Gerry Scoppettuolo
Boston

People living with HIV/AIDS and their supporters gathered March 5 at the Arlington Street Church in Boston to declare war, not on the people of Iraq or Afghanistan, but on the high prices for drugs and government censorship of effective HIV-prevention programs.

Call to Action, a grassroots group of activists, organized the event to initiate a renewed, militant response to the continual under-funding of HIV programs and the criminal redistribution of money to the war in Iraq. Speakers and participants at the conference came from the Cambridge Health Alliance, the Multicultural AIDS Coalition, the Southern New Hampshire HIV/AIDS Task Force, the Fenway Community Health Center, Local 26 Hotel Workers Union, the International Action Center from both Providence and Boston, and GayLab.

Glenn Williams, an African American gay man living with HIV, struck the key note of the meeting: "I have had tremendous support to be alive today. When I see these resources being cut, I see people where I was at 10 years ago and I worry about them. We can't allow funds to be cut. Immigration policies make it hard for some people to take an HIV test.



PHOTO: JOHN KEATING

From left to right: James Adams, GayLab; Gerry Scoppettuolo, IAC; John Powell, So. NH AIDS Task Force, Gail Beverley, Fenway Community Health Center.

If people are deported, they are getting a death sentence."

Ed Childs, chief shop steward of Local 26 Hotel Workers, expressed greetings from the union president, Janice Loux, and also spoke out against HIV immigration policies. "Our members are immigrants that have come from countries that have been colonized and occupied and are deeply affected by AIDS."

These sentiments were echoed by Gail Beverley, longtime HIV-prevention worker at Boston's Fenway Community Health Center, who runs a group for people newly-diagnosed with HIV. "For people with HIV," she said, "it's a struggle every day to pay the rent and put food on the table."

Continued on page 4

Congress rejects minimum-wage hike

History shows potential for mass struggle

By Milt Neidenberg

In one of the more despicable displays of capitalist cynicism and indifference toward low-wage workers, the U.S. Senate, accurately known as a "millionaires' club," refused in early March to raise the \$5.15-hour minimum wage.

The anti-war and draft-resistance movements, along with other progressive groups and community organizations, should be sensitive to the potential for struggle arising from this refusal.

A look at the history of the battle for a minimum wage can give insight in this area today.

March 6 was the 75th anniversary of the unprecedented nationwide protest against unemployment and poverty that brought over 1 million demonstrators into the streets in 1930. It was a day to remember.

The protest came soon after the October 1929 stock market crash which led to the Great Depression of the 1930s. It was a militant response to the 1920s, when empires of wealth arose at the expense of the workers and oppressed. Under flowing banners emblazoned "Work or Wages," over 110,000 poor and unemployed workers protested in New York City's Union Square.

An estimated 100,000 demonstrators gathered in Detroit, over 50,000 in Chicago. A like number filled the streets of Pittsburgh and there were huge crowds of the unemployed in Milwaukee, Cleveland, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver, Seattle and Philadelphia.

"In New York City, the rally was attacked by 25,000 cops. Hundreds were beaten to the ground with nightsticks, trampled by the charge of mounted police. ... A New York World reporter describing the assault at Union Square told of ... detectives, some wearing reporters' cards in hat bands, many wearing no badge, running wildly through the crowd, screaming as they beat those who looked like communists ... men with blood streaming down their faces dragged into the temporary police headquarters and flung down to await the patrol wagons to cart them away." (Boyer and Morais, "Labor's Untold Story")

Working-class history: guide to action

In spite of these vicious, unprovoked attacks that also occurred in other cities, a new stage in the history of the class struggle was in the making. It led to revolutionary working-class gains and progressive legislation—the Social Security Act and National Labor Relations Act, among many others.

From Unemployment Councils, organized by communists, socialists and militant class-conscious workers, Black and white, the Congress of Industrial Organization (CIO) ultimately came into existence. Millions of workers rushed to join, following the general strikes and plant seizures of the mid-1930s. They fought for union recognition and won unprecedented contracts from a resistant, anti-union industrial sector of Corporate America. An army of industrial union workers was born, ready to battle for additional social gains.

In 1938, they won the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). It lifted the stan-

dard of living of the poorer and most oppressed workers, unprecedented for those days. Child labor, which had flourished among unscrupulous employers, was outlawed. The minimum age was 16 for work in most non-farm jobs and 18 for work in hazardous jobs. For students between 14 and 15, the law allowed maximums of three hours on a school day, eight hours on a non-school day, or 40 hours in a non-school week.

A minimum wage was set. Time-and-a-half pay was mandated for hours over 40, and other benefits and protections. The FLSA was the result of a decade of class struggle.

Today all these social and economic gains are under attack.

Since the recession of 2000-2001, real wages have continued to fall as wages have failed to keep up with inflation. The median wage for 2004 was \$13.62, or \$8.47 above the \$5.15 minimum wage, which has been the same since Sept. 1, 1997.

At minimum wage, even at 40 hours per week, the annual wage is only \$10,500—well below the poverty level of over \$16,000 for a family of three.

In a phony debate this year the Democrats proposed a minimum wage increase in three steps of 70 cents each over the next 26 months, to \$7.25. Republicans countered with two steps of 55 cents to \$6.25 and with several pro-business provisions designed to increase poverty.

While the Republican proposals were more threatening, the Democratic provisions, even if they passed, would not slow the impoverishment of the working poor and the oppressed.

A September 2003 Merrill Lynch report compared the minimum wage to the rate of growth of CEO's salaries: "If the minimum wage, which stood at \$3.80 an hour in 1990, had grown at the same rate as CEO pay, it would have been \$21.41, rather than the current \$5.15 an hour." Whatever the reasons this Wall Street Goliath made this comparison, it does expose the outrageous gap between rich and poor. And the 2005 figures are even more shameful.

In proposing a piddling increase in the minimum wage, both the Bush administration and the Democrats are acting from political expediency. But they may be playing with fire. Putting a few more bucks in the pocket of the working poor may have been the wiser thing to do.

Repression breeds resistance!

Over the years, as the service-oriented sector of the economy surpassed the industrial sector, there were more suits filed under the FLSA than any other agency of government. There are reports of child labor abuse, overtime and minimum-wage violations, lack of health and safety training and on-site injuries due to dangerous working conditions.

Today, the FLSA is a sham—an appendage to the anti-worker, anti-union policies of the Bush administration. Led by Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, most of the protective language for the lower paid, service-oriented working poor is ignored by the agency.

In a survey entitled "Behind the Kitchen Door: Pervasive Inequality in New York City's Thriving Restaurant Industry," a broad gathering of academ-

ics, community economic development organizations, policy analysts and policy makers, immigration advocates, worker organizations, unions and industry employers signed on to an overview of workplace conditions in the New York City restaurant industry.

The study provides compelling examples of employer trespasses against minimum-wage earners. The violations include non-payment for overtime (almost a majority worked more than eight hours a day). Some worked more than 50 hours a week and others complained of 60-hour work weeks. Many reported they were paid below the minimum wage and others claimed management demanded to share their tips.

They had no union. The overwhelming majority had no health insurance, no sick leave, no vacation pay, and were forced to work while sick. Many reported health and safety violations: overheated kitchens, slippery floors, lack of safety guards on cutting machines and other dangerous working conditions.

Their complaints ended up in the shredding machines and waste baskets of the FLSA. The violations go far beyond the restaurant industry to other service-oriented workplaces: hotels, supermarkets, fast-food chains and retail stores, sub-contractors and temp agencies. Walmart, a frequent violator of the law, operates with impunity.

Drawing on their bitter experiences, minimum-wage workers, overwhelmingly immigrant, undocumented, women and youth of color, coming out of high schools and colleges and those that drop out, may be running out of patience.

There is a large turnover among these workers, but there will be more stability as jobs become even more difficult to find. Spontaneous angry protests can break out at any time, particularly by youth, representing many nationalities in these industries.

The AFL-CIO has the potential to be a catalyst for unorganized workers. It is critical for the growth of the union movement that union leaders break out of their morass of debates and begin to build a class-wide, independent movement to deepen their roots in this important sector of the working class.

Deeds are more eloquent than words. History has confirmed, especially from the class struggles of the 1930s, that a rising tide lifts all boats. □

ON THE
PICKET LINE
by Sue Davis

Longshore workers to shut ports March 19

Members of International Longshore & Warehouse Union Local 10 will honor the International Day of Protest Against the U.S. War and Occupation in Iraq on March 19 by not moving any cargo in Bay Area ports.

Instead the ILWU Drill Team will lead the labor contingent in the San Francisco protest under the slogan, "Don't starve our communities to feed the war machine."

A labor contingent is also being organized for the March 19 protest in New York City.

Cingular strike averted

Threatening to strike proved decisive in winning a decent contract for 5,300 Cingular Wireless workers. On March 7 the Communications Workers announced an agreement with an 11-percent pay increase over four years and strengthened job security. The latter was a huge issue given Cingular's recent buyout of AT&T Wireless.

SF Labor Council defends Venezuela

The San Francisco Labor Council raised a fist for international labor solidarity at its Feb. 28 delegates meeting. It unanimously passed a resolution opposing "the complaint initiated by the Venezuelan employers association, FEDECAMARAS, before the ILO [International Labor Organization meeting in Geneva on March 16] recommending a Commission of Inquiry into trade union freedoms in Venezuela. This Complaint has been endorsed and supported by employers' associations in 23 countries, including the United States.

"It is our view that the convening of an ILO Commission of Inquiry is designed to undermine the very progress of the labor movement within present-day Venezuela."

The 9-million-member Unified Workers Confederation of Brazil issued a similar statement in February.

The resolution also called upon the California Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, to follow up on its resolution passed last summer opposing funding by the national AFL-CIO supporting U.S. government policy in Venezuela.

The SFLC resolution noted, "Opposition to the ILO Commission of Inquiry on Venezuela by the U.S. labor movement is part of the same struggle to promote a new foreign policy by labor that is independent from U.S. State Department objectives." □

HIV activists organize

Continued from page 3

The Boston region received an 8.1-percent cutback in critical federal Ryan White Title I funding just days before Call to Action's event. This amounted to over \$1.2 million. The Boston Living Center, which provides the most direct services to people with HIV in greater Boston has had to endure cutbacks to its basic services, as have other AIDS Service organizations. Bush's Fiscal Year 2006 budget also calls for a \$14 million cut in the AIDS Housing Program (HOPWA).

Many speakers at the conference pledged to carry the Stonewall Warrior's "Money for AIDS, not For War" banner to the March 19 anti-war demonstration

in New York City. Call to Action explicitly condemns the Iraq war and the \$10 million per hour it steals from necessary human-needs funding. One of the workshops at the conference documented that Merck, Abbott, Glaxo-Smith-Kline and several other pharmaceutical manufacturers of HIV antivirals had after-tax, after-investment, after-research and development net profits of \$63 billion in just two years (2003 and 2003).

The conference concluded with planning to organize militant and visible opposition to the current crisis in the next few weeks starting with a contingent at the March 19 Anti-War March in New York City. For more info: Gerry Scoppettuolo (781) 273-1689, deb-sian@yahoo.com □

The basis for unity

Anti-racist solidarity and the class struggle

By Monica Moorehead

The following is excerpted from a talk at a Feb. 25 Black History Month forum in New York.

It is certainly true that Black people in the U.S. as a whole are not in the same economic and political situation today compared to a half-century ago. But can we still say that Black people in general have full equality?

Facts and figures don't lie.

According to a Jan. 17 New York Times article: "Black middle-class families on average had one-fourth of the wealth of similarly educated, similarly employed white middle-class families. ... Black families as a whole had only 10 cents in wealth for every dollar white families had, according to government figures. ... less than half of Black households own their homes, while 75 percent of white households do."

Here are statistics issued by the Urban League in 2004: "The 2000 census found that 91.8 percent of white students graduated from high school, compared with 83.7 percent of Black students. ... On average, Blacks are twice as likely to die from disease, accident and homicide as whites; the life expectancy for Blacks is 72 years, or six years less than that of whites. The average prison sentence for a Black person is six months longer than that for whites."

There were more young Black men in prison in 2002 than in universities and colleges. (Justice Policy Institute, 2000)

Lynchings, by and large, have been replaced with rampant police brutality.

Black people are "officially" 12 percent of the overall U.S. population. So where are the 12 African American senators?

Right now there is only one Black senator. There are only 39 Black members of the House of Representatives which numbers 435 members overall. We are all aware of the gross disenfranchisement of Black voters.

These facts prove that political and economic equality is still being denied to Black people as an oppressed nationality in disproportionate numbers.

What is the root cause of this inequality for Black people in the United States?

Racism is endemic to capitalism. It goes back to the days when Native nations were forced off of their lands through mass extermination, slavery and the legacy of slavery, the theft of two-thirds of Mexico, wars of colonial expansion in Puerto Rico, the Philippines and much more.

Workers on the whole are exploited by the bosses. But a vast majority of the workers are super-exploited and super-oppressed—if they belong to a particular nationality, if they are a woman, if they are attracted to the same sex or have a "different" gender expression.

Despite a range of social strata that continues to narrow as living standards, including real wages, drop, there are still two fundamental classes: the working class, the overwhelming majority of the world who own nothing but their ability to labor, and the tiny ruling class which owns everything. Therefore the struggle between these two classes is inevitable and irreconcilable.

Within this general framework racism is the main weapon that the bosses use, not only to super-exploit and super-oppress whole peoples based on their nationality, but to divide and conquer the

multi-national working class to keep us from uniting against all of the injustices.

The current movement must try very hard not to repeat mistakes made in the past on the importance of building solidarity, especially with the most oppressed. During the 1920s, the Universal Negro Improvement Association or the Back to Africa movement was the largest mass movement of Black people at that time and of the 20th century as a whole. It was an international movement of Black people, with a strong base in the United States, who were organizing to go back to their African homeland.

Their movement was led by the charismatic Jamaican leader Marcus Garvey, who was a nationalist. The U.S. government attempted to repress this movement by demonizing its leadership. Instead of defending Garvey against racist government repression, many white socialists and communists in the United States attacked him. Why? Because they disagreed with his view of putting the aspirations of Black people before the aspirations of the entire working class.

This white chauvinist behavior was a tremendous setback in the struggle against racism and national oppression, which is part and parcel of strengthening class unity. These particular communists and socialists forgot the significant principle that Lenin stressed: that Marxists must defend the right to self-determination for oppressed nations. Faced with more isolation by the broader movement and intensified government attacks, Garvey was eventually deported to England, where he passed away and eventually so did the movement he helped build.

The main lesson is that disagreeing with the nationalism of peoples of color should not become a barrier to building class unity against a common oppressor.

Uniting the struggles is key

Recently, President George W. Bush introduced his 2006 budget, amounting to \$2.57 trillion. More than 150 social programs are on the chopping block in order to make the war makers and super-rich very happy while cities and rural areas deteriorate.

These cuts will have a great impact on Medicaid, educational programs like Head Start, Pell student grants, the Environmental Protection Agency and much more.

At that same time, on top of the \$200 billion that Democrats and Republicans have already spent on the Iraq War and the so-called war on terrorism, Bush plans to ask Congress for an additional \$80 billion. This war budget represents class warfare here and abroad.

There is no doubt that Black people and other people of color will suffer from these cuts in disproportionate numbers.

The working class here is suffering from low wages, declining benefits, speed-ups, outsourcing and budget cuts. The bosses are trying to take back all the gains that were won in the 1930s and 1960s through mass, militant struggle.

The flip side is that the high-tech, low-pay restructuring of the economy is laying the material basis for forging political solidarity within the working class to carry out the struggle for human needs.

For March 19, the second anniversary of the Iraq War, there is a worldwide call for protests. Many of these demonstrations



Marcus Garvey

will demand that the money going to sustain war and occupation be spent instead on human needs.

This merging of demands is coming from strong working-class leadership—like those who initiated the Million Worker March. The MWM leadership is playing a leading role in building the March 19 protests.

The Million Worker March was initiated by the Black leadership of Local 10 of the International Longshore Workers Union in San Francisco along with Brenda Stokely and others. It signals the birth of a new, independent workers' movement to win real justice and equality especially for the most oppressed workers, including immigrant workers.

So let's win more activists to help advance the cause of liberating our class from the shackles of all forms of oppression and exploitation. They are out there, and the only way that we can attract them and win them to our ranks is to organize, organize and organize.

Long live the struggle for Black liberation! Long live the struggle for class emancipation! Build a workers' world! □

Kenya's Mau Mau, Part II

Freedom by any means necessary

Book review: "Imperial Reckoning" by Caroline Elkins and "Histories of the Hanged" by David Anderson

By Stephen Millies

In 1947 in Murang'a, women led a revolt against being forced to build thousands of miles of terraces that often washed away in the rain.

Kenyan African Union leaders went to the countryside. Jomo Kenyatta spoke to 30,000 people in Nyeri, 60 miles north of Nairobi, on July 26, 1952.

Oath-taking campaigns united people in demanding land and freedom. Most historians have smeared the so-called "Mau Mau oaths" as "savage" and "barbaric." What was barbaric was colonial occupation.

Throughout history oppressed people have taken oaths to fortify themselves. The "Tolpuddle Martyrs"—English farm workers who dared to form a union—were banished to Australia in 1834 for taking an oath.

Kenyans boycotted buses in Nairobi. Preparations were made for armed struggle. People's justice got rid of the biggest collaborator of the white settlers, British-appointed "Senior Chief" Waruhiu, on Oct. 9, 1952.

Eleven days later Kenya's colonial governor, Evelyn Baring, declared a state of emergency. His family controlled Barings Bank, founded in 1762 by the slave dealer Francis Baring. His father was Lord Cromer, the British dictator of Egypt and India.

A battalion of Lancashire Fusiliers was flown in from the British-occupied Suez Canal. Authorities rounded up more than 80 Kenyan political leaders, trade unionists and school administrators. Most of the independent schools were shut down.

Jomo Kenyatta, Bildad Kaggia, Fred Kubai and three other defendants were put on trial for allegedly leading the Mau Mau. There was no jury. Their conviction was guaranteed. Judge Ransley Thacker received a bribe of 20,000 British pounds, worth several hundred thousand dollars today.

The London Daily Telegraph called Kenyatta "a small-scale African Hitler."

Baring hoped Kenyatta's frame-up would demoralize Africans. Instead, it ignited years of guerilla warfare.

Mau Mau fighters stole weapons and ammunition from settlers' farms and military depots. Kenyan blacksmiths made

hundreds of guns in the liberated areas.

Ten more British battalions had to be rushed to Kenya. The Royal Air Force bombed guerilla strongholds in Aberdares Forest and on Mount Kirinyaga (Mount Kenya).

A total of 55,000 soldiers and cops, including thousands of British draftees, were mobilized to fight the Mau Mau.

Mass beatings, hangings

The British hanged 1,090 "Mau Mau suspects." As with Kenyatta, none of these martyrs had a jury trial.

Like those tortured in Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison, captured Mau Mau soldiers were not protected by the Geneva Convention. Being found in possession of a single bullet brought a death sentence.

Some 54 people were executed just for administering oaths. Supplying food to guerilla fighters—labeled "consorting" by British justice—sent 207 to the gallows.

By this time, the Conservatives were in office in Britain. Prime Minister Winston Churchill was Adolf Hitler to the people of Kenya.

Elkins estimates as many as 300,000

Continued on page 14

Brenda Stokely stickin' to the union:

Women workers fight for jobs and communities

By Heather Cottin

Brenda Stokely is president of AFSMCE District Council 1707 in New York, which represents 23,000 day-care and home-care workers. Her fierce pride in the rank and file of her union is embodied in the South African saying, "When you have struck a woman, you have struck a rock."

"Our union represents the lowest-paid public-service workers in the service industry, the day-care workers and home health aides," she told Workers World. "The major source of funding for their work is the federal government. The majority of the workers in these jobs are women, women of color and immigrant women."

Now these workers face a vicious campaign of privatization and union busting.

Democrats and Republicans attack services

Stokely began organizing in the 1960s when working women and the civil-rights movement demanded day care for children. Organized protests forced the federal government to respond with programs such as Head Start, while public agencies had to open public child-care facilities.

Until the Carter years, said Stokely, day care was expanding. Then, under Democratic President Jimmy Carter, cutbacks to Section 8 housing and food stamps began the attack on the poor and ended the expansion of social services.

Cutbacks under Republican Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush were serious, she said, but it was Democratic President Bill Clinton who in 1996 "ended welfare as we know it."

Clinton signed the law that created Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, to replace Aid to Families with Dependent Children. TANF is a monthly cash assistance program for poor families with children under age 18. TANF demolished most of the welfare "safety net" provisions won 60 years before through the struggles of the 1930s.

TANF includes a four-year lifetime limit on assistance. Many families reached that

limit by 2000. (state.ga.us)

Now, President George W. Bush is mounting a full-court press to scale back or eliminate public programs such as day care, health care and even what's left of welfare. The government works in tandem with capitalists devouring the public sector in the mad rush toward privatization and profit.

Brenda Stokely notes that the "move toward privatization of home health care began with the privatization of the agencies, making this a profit-making sector. The same thing has happened with prisons. And now Lockheed is bidding for the food stamp program."

Labor unions under siege

To guarantee that they can make profits from previously public services, the capitalist privatizers are simultaneously attacking the unions that represent public-service workers.

37.5 percent of public-sector workers are union members. That's compared to 9.5 percent of private-sector workers. (migrationint.com)

Unionized public-service workers get higher wages and better benefits. So big business has taken aim at public-employee unions and benefits.

Stokely pointed out that three states—Indiana, Kentucky and Missouri—have recently abolished collective bargaining for public-service employees. She added that California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has called for a state constitutional amendment abolishing union dues collection and ending the pension system for California public workers.

Reactionaries claim that the benefits to these unionized workers are "too rich." (www.acera.org)

Stokely sees these attacks on labor as an "assault on the right to organize, the right to collective bargaining, the right to pensions." The state and the capitalist class are coordinating a violent campaign against workers that "allows for a rampage of layoffs. Collective bargaining narrows the arbitrary and capricious behavior of the bosses, and allows more equitable pay and workers' right to due process. That is

why the states are going after unions."

In New York City, Mayor Michael Bloomberg has refused to negotiate with public-sector workers, ignoring collective-bargaining agreements.

In a contract yet to be formally ratified with District Council 1707, the mayor has frozen wages for day-care workers. These women make \$10,000 to \$30,000 less per year than other public employees. They live below the poverty line.

Stokely points out: "The average day-care worker makes \$26,000 a year or less. They make about \$6.48 an hour compared to the \$12 million spent an hour for war. If this same day-care worker is asking for only a 4-percent raise on their \$26,000 annual salary, they would get only 25 cents more added to their hourly wage."

New York City has simultaneously set up a two-tiered wage system for day-care teachers, with new hires to receive 11 percent less than the current workers. The city made a 2-percent wage increase after April 1, contingent upon worker give-backs. The city is offering nothing to retirees except denial of health care.

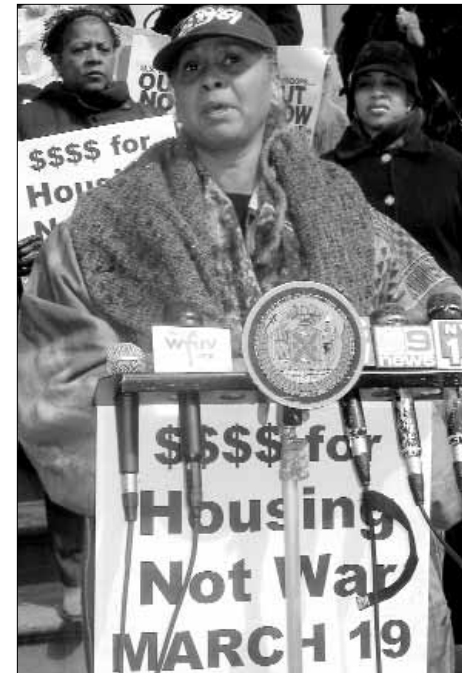
Dangerous cutbacks

Stokely said that New York City is closing 67 of 90 day-care centers. The city is not enforcing the teacher-child ratio because of cutbacks. And after-school programs for school-age children have been cut.

The city refuses to pay for the building leases of after-school programs. Bloomberg is putting all these programs out to bid to private companies.

Stokely warns that these policies will cost a lot. Understaffed facilities are dangerous to workers and deprive children of proper care. She noted that some of the women in her union work with children who have serious emotional problems. A troubled teenaged girl severely burned one worker, who was unable to get help in a crisis situation.

"When TANF was cut, mothers receiving public assistance were forced to go to work. Now, if they get wage increases of as little as \$2 a month, they are denied day care. What are they to do?"



Brenda Stokely in near zero degrees in New York City speaks at press conference for the Troops Out Now rally.

WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

Stokely continued, "These cutbacks represent tremendous losses for the communities."

A day-care teacher on Long Island told Workers World that 30 children have been cut from a school that services over 200 children. The teacher said that "the parents and children were in tears when they learned they were no longer eligible for day care." An assistant teacher who makes \$7 an hour added, "Many of our classrooms are understaffed since we can't find qualified people to work for these wages."

Child care can cost parents \$4,000 to \$12,000 a year—more than public college tuition. The co-payments poor families have to pay are over \$400 a month in most states. (tompaine.com)

Stokely concluded: "1707 workers believe day care is a right, as do the parents of their students. The activists in the communities are forming groups. There is a groundswell calling for day care to be expanded, not destroyed."

"When the bosses try to separate us by race or nationality, workers see how the two-tier system hurts them, how they are divided so that the bosses can take away pension rights and health care. They understand that they have to be unified and make alliances with the communities they work in."

Last June in New York it was the women of District Council 1707, the only public employees working without a contract at the time, who struck. Their three-day work stoppage demonstrated their militancy. And when 1707 walked, the children, parents and grandparents did too—walking the picket lines alongside their day-care teachers and staffers.

Stokely criticized union leaders who call for "class peace" when conditions facing public workers call for militancy and struggle.

A leading organizer for the Million Worker March, which ties the U.S. war on Iraq to the cutbacks in social spending, Stokely says: "While this government doesn't blink an eye as it spends \$300 million a day in its quest to subjugate another people and their resources, it turns a deaf ear to the cries of the day-care workers and other working families in need of a livable wage."

"It is therefore necessary for working people to connect the attacks on their right to just wages and to organize with the cutbacks in government spending for education, health care, and safe and affordable housing." □

KANSAS

Lesbian-gay victory over bigotry

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Voters in Topeka, Kan., beat back a March 1 attempt to repeal two city ordinances protecting lesbians and gay men. One prohibited discrimination in municipal hiring. The other banned hate crimes committed because of a victim's sexual orientation.

The victory is a stunning rebuke to arch-bigot Rev. Fred Phelps, Sr., who runs a national anti-gay campaign from his Westboro Baptist Church in the city.

Voters rejected the repeal, called the "Phelps Amendment" locally, by a count of 14,285 to 12,795. Phelps is notorious for his 1998 protest at the funeral of Matthew Shepard, a Wyoming gay college student brutally beaten to death. Phelps also picketed a Birmingham, Ala., vigil for Billy Jack Gaither, a gay white man also beaten to death in 1999.

Phelps' group travels across the U.S. demonstrating at gay-related events, including funerals of people who have died of AIDS. Its members picket with signs bearing anti-homosexual hate speech.

Underlining the victory was the same-day defeat of Phelps' granddaughter, Jael Phelps, who ran for Topeka city council, but drew only 202 votes. In contrast, open lesbian Tiffany Muller got 1,329 votes and a place on the April general election ballot. (New York Blade)

The election outcome is an encouraging sign in Kansas, where right-wing forces have also pressed to limit women's abortion rights. Kansas Attorney General Phil Kline is attempting to scapegoat women who have had late-term abortions, and the clinics and doctors who performed the procedures. Kline has subpoenaed women's personal records, with the chill-

ing implication that state officials, rather than physicians, will decide whether the procedures were "medically necessary."

Kansas was the site of the "Operation Rescue" anti-abortion attacks on women's clinics in 1991, a campaign that moved to Buffalo, N.Y., in 1992. A coalition of women activists and allies in Workers World Party, ACT-UP, Women's Health Action and Mobilization (WHAM), NOW, and the ProChoice Network formed Buffalo United for Choice, which stopped the right-wing cold in pitched street battles in April of that year.

It was also a broad Topeka coalition that defeated this year's Phelps amendment. At a local election party of hundreds, the crowd cheered the defeat. Lawyer Pedro Irigonegaray celebrated the victory: "On behalf of Topekans for equality, justice," as the group shouted together, "Freedom!" (Topeka Capitol Journal, March 1) □

Women in struggle around the world

By Kathy Durkin

If you glance at newspaper headlines or at internet news sites, you might get the idea that International Women's Day is all about Laura Bush speaking at a roundtable discussion about "equality in the Middle East."

Nothing could be further from the truth. Women the world over despise the Bush administration and its whole program, which harms women in Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Middle East—in fact, everywhere.

Internationally, women have for decades fought back against the imperialist governments' programs and actions. The current Bush regime is no exception.

The U.S. government lied about intervening in Afghanistan to "protect women's rights." In fact, after U.S. bombing and occupation, Afghan women now live in terrible conditions, in poverty, wanting for health care and housing, with a 14-percent illiteracy rate and "a maternal mortality rate 60 times more than in industrialized countries." (IRIN News)

Washington may cry crocodile tears about women's rights in Iraq. But the war and occupation have killed and injured tens of thousands of Iraqi women and their children, destroyed much of the prior quality of life, and led to impoverishment, homelessness and lack of medical care.

Palestinian women and their families have faced U.S.-backed Israeli attacks and repression resulting in many deaths and injuries, imprisonment, house demolitions and land theft. Yet they continue to boldly participate in the struggle in all areas.

International Women's Day is a yearly commemoration synonymous with struggle. Since its founding in 1910 by socialist women, this day has been marked by creative, militant actions: strikes, prison breakouts, and sit-ins and marches against imperialist war, globalization, poverty, exploitation and all forms of inequality.

Here are some highlights of this year's protests on International Women's Day.

Ten thousand Haitian women and their supporters marched in a Lavalas-led International Women's Day protest in Bel-Air in Port-au-Prince. They demanded release of their loved ones imprisoned in the National Penitentiary, reinstatement of democratically elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was ousted in a February 2004 U.S.-backed coup, and respect for their rights. Women clad in white carried photographs of their family members who'd been murdered for supporting Aristide's return. (Haiti News)

Philippine women held varied actions. Some with faces covered with masks of U.S. President George W. Bush and Philippines President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and others with fists raised, they marched at Manila's Malacanang Palace for equal rights in all spheres.

Pilakk, Makalaya and Likhaan, centers for women's health and urban poor women and youth, led a march to the House of Representatives in Quezon City to demand passage of a critically needed reproductive-rights bill that the reactionary Catholic Church hierarchy is impeding. (news.inq7.net)

This struggle has become a rallying cry for many sectors, but it especially affects poor women. Gabriela and Woman Rage! members joined the protest in Quezon City on this issue while KPML, Zoto and Kasama Ka went to Manila City Hall.

With purple and red flags blazing, 500 women and their families gathered at the Welcome Rotunda in Quezon City to denounce President Macapagal-Arroyo's sales tax hike and higher prices. As they called for her ouster, the Gabriela-NCR-led protesters called for higher wages, bet-



ter conditions for migrant workers and for real "Woman Power."

Indonesian women marked the day all over the country. Some in Solo, Central Java, rallied to protest rising fuel prices. A 29-percent rise in those necessities had sparked student and worker protests in 10 cities on March 1. (Jakarta Post)

Kurdish women—carrying Turkish-language banners reading "No to War" and "We Are Women against Violence"—joined in a march of some 5,000 Turkish women in central Istanbul to mark this special day. It was a far cry from March 6, when police brutally attacked a pre-International Women's Day protest in Istanbul, provoking international outrage.

Demonstrators in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and elsewhere in Asia called for women's equal rights, including for workers, and an end to all repressive laws and physical and sexual violence against women.

Throughout Latin America, women marched and rallied to mark this historic day.

In Asunción, Paraguay, they demonstrated for improved education, health care and housing. In Panama City, Panama, they objected to government plans to "reform" Social Security. And they marched for their rights in Ecuador, Mexico, and El Salvador.

Thousands of Brazilian women rallied on March 8. On the streets of Rio de Janeiro they chanted, "We want peace." Indigenous women marched in São Paulo. Women in the Landless Movement demanded agrarian reform at the doors of the Ministry of Economy in Brasília.

Chile's International Women's Day was dedicated to the Communist Party leader Gladys Marin. Tens of thousands paid

tribute at her funeral. Marin, whose life partner was "disappeared" during the early days of the Pinochet regime, had been forced to flee Chile. She joined the underground resistance in 1978 when she returned, and until 1990 organized opposition to the brutal U.S.-backed dictatorship. Marin was a strong fighter for women's rights.

On March 8, the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) stated that it "will always keep alive the Chilean leader's struggle for justice, human integrity and faith for the future."

Women's equality is codified into the law in socialist Cuba. The government, with the leadership of the FMC, strives constantly to improve women's lives and opportunities in all areas.

A Havana rally marked International Women's Day. Officiating were FMC's National Secretariat and its National Committee, led by President Vilma Espin, "Heroine of the Republic" Melba Hernandez, the mothers and wives of the Cuban Five political prisoners jailed in the United States, and leaders of the Communist Party, the government, and mass and student organizations.

President Fidel Castro praised Cuban women. He stressed the "extraordinary role that women have played in the Revolution" and noted that "women dignified the Revolution, which they have taken to the highest planes that any process has reached." He called attention to women's role in the troops, militias and "all forms of organization that will defend the country in case of attack or invasion." (Granma)

A celebration the same day at the Leonor Perez Maternity Home in Old Havana illuminated Cuba's excellent health-care system that has led to infant and maternal mortality rates that are "the lowest in the continent," according to Dr. Lea Guido, Cuban representative of the Pan American Health Organization (periodico26.cu) □

'Stop U.S. war on women, at home and abroad'

By Phebe Eckfeldt
Boston

"Stop the U.S. war on women at home and abroad. Money for human needs, not war!"

This was the theme of an International Women's Day celebration hosted by the Women's Fightback Network here on March 12.

"International" aptly described the participants and speakers who came to share their struggles. They included women from Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, India and the African-American community.

The program was moving, strengthening and uplifting. It was a celebration of the lives of poor and working women.

Speakers, poets, musicians and artists addressed the crowd through their voices and their works about the ongoing struggles against sexism, racism, poverty, lesbian/bi/trans oppression, for human needs and human rights and against war.

Dorothea Peacock of the WFN put it this way: "Is there really a war going on here in the U.S. against women? We don't see any bombs or fighter jets, do we? But many poor and working women feel under siege, under attack by Bush's cuts in housing, health care, child care and education.

"The devastation is felt when we can't

find a job, or there is no food in the fridge at the end of the week, or not enough money to pay for our child's asthma medication, or we want to go to college but there are no funds.

"Instead, the Bush administration's policy is to give huge bailouts to mega-corporations and billions for an 'endless war' in Iraq. Many women of color live under warlike conditions, with police occupying their communities, murdering and brutalizing at will. Immigrant women are besieged by Homeland Security, which can round them up and deport them on a moment's notice.

"But we won't shut up," Peacock vowed. "We'll keep on fighting."

Kim Rosario's 19-year-old son is in the military in Iraq. An organizer for the anti-war GI support group SNAFU, Rosario told the crowd: "Women bear the burden of war and budget cuts when our men are sent off to war or incarcerated. Grandmothers are left raising their grandchild-



Kim Rosario: 'Keep marching, keep organizing, keep fighting.'

WW PHOTO: RACHEL NASCA

dren. Military recruiters prey on our sons and daughters. They are stealing our children's futures.

"But you do have a voice and you do have a choice...don't give up the struggle. Keep marching, keep organizing, keep fighting." She called on everyone to attend the March 19 anti-war demonstration in New York City.

Other speakers included LeiLani Dowell of New York's Queers for Peace and Justice and the youth group FIST—

Fight Imperialism-Stand Together; Diane Dujon of Survivors Inc. and the Massachusetts Welfare Rights Union; Jenny Rodriguez and her two daughters who spoke on racial profiling; Oslin Brumant, a shop steward with the Boston school bus drivers' union, Steel Workers Local 8751; and a representative from the Haitian Women's Association.

Cultural performers included poets Margaret Campbell, Share'le Campbell, Jennifer Badot and Elizabeth Doran, and musician Lisa Doyle. Women artists displayed their work at tables set up in the room.

The meeting was co-chaired by Carol Brown of Dorchester People for Peace and the International Action Center and Maureen Skehan, a leader of the WFN and a Section 8 housing advocate. □

CENTURY OF STRUGGLE AND PRIDE

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Anti-war coalition looks to March 19 and May Day

By David Hoskins
New York

Hundreds of thousands of protesters will hit the streets the weekend of March 19-20 to mark the second anniversary of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. The March 19 "Troops Out Now" demonstration in New York City will be at the center of these protests.

Protesters will gather in Central Park at noon for a rally. They will march along Fifth Avenue to billionaire Mayor Michael Bloomberg's house to demand money to rebuild cities instead of for imperialist occupation. They will be joined by demonstrators marching from the 10 a.m. rally at Harlem's Marcus Garvey Park.

The Troops Out Now Coalition, meeting every Wednesday night in Manhattan, has worked hard to involve in the war resistance effort those in this country most affected by the occupation of Iraq: the working class and the oppressed communities of color. Linking the war against Iraq to the struggle for jobs, health care and education inside the United States has been a large part of this effort.

The combined cost of the Iraqi and Afghani occupations is almost \$6 billion a month. Meanwhile, poverty and homelessness skyrocket inside the United States. Most of the 40 million impover-

ished people living in the United States are women and their children. (CBS News, "Victims of Minimum Wage", March 13)

The Bush administration's agenda has intensified the conflict between the working class and the ruling class, whose interests are represented by the government. This heightened conflict shows in the growing number of desertions from the military by working class-soldiers, and in the increasing number of daylight protests at and even nocturnal attacks on military recruiting centers around the country.

As the Troops Out Now Coalition looks beyond the weekend's demonstrations it will continue the struggle to integrate the class war at home within the context of the war abroad. Black, Latin@, Asian, Arab, Native and white people—members of the multinational working class—make up the leadership of this anti-war coalition and contribute to its progressive character.

The Million Worker March has made reviving May Day one of its principal aims. The MWM-NYC, a key member of the anti-war coalition, is already working on May Day here. There is much discussion about how to revive May Day as a revolutionary day of resistance for workers. During its March 9 coalition meeting, the Troops Out Now Coalition decided to join this effort to revive May Day.

Origins of May Day

Many workers in this country do not know about the origins of May Day. This is because of the capitalists' largely successful effort to erase working-class history and disassociate today's workers from their legacy of militant struggle inside this country.

May Day has its origins in the struggle for better working conditions in the United States. The first May Day protests took place in 1886 when the American Federation of Labor called for a national strike to demand an eight-hour workday. Over 350,000 workers answered the call and participated in the strike.

Cities around the country were paralyzed as railroads and manufacturing plants were forced to close. Chicago was particularly affected by the strike. After two days of protest, police attacked striking workers, killing six. When workers protested in Chicago's Haymarket Square on May 4, 1886, and 180 cops attacked, a bomb was thrown. One cop was killed. Police then fired on the crowd. Two hundred people were wounded and seven cops later died, probably from friendly fire.

Eight radical labor leaders were rounded up and framed on charges of conspiracy. All were found guilty. Seven were sentenced to death.

Albert Parsons, August Spies, George



Engle and Adolph Fischer were executed. One defendant committed suicide and three others were eventually pardoned.

In 1889, the communist Second International declared May 1 an international working-class holiday in commemoration of the Haymarket martyrs. May Day has lived on for more than a century as an international day of protest for the most class-conscious workers around the world.

What better way to call attention to the international class struggle and demand that U.S. imperialism stop its assault on workers at home and abroad than to use this year's May Day to highlight the connection between domestic class struggle and foreign occupation?

As protesters around the country gear up for the March 19 actions, anti-war organizers are saying it is important to look ahead. They say the struggle to reinvigorate May Day will help the working class get back in touch with its militant history, and strengthen it for the struggles to

BLACK WAXX CD PROJECT

Music, minds & movement for peace

By Usavior

"Men and women of all ages and races have come together to say in one voice, that we want Troops Out Now and forever, not only from the war in Iraq, but from future wars that will oppress the poor."

So say the artists and activists who lent their voices to the phenomenal Troops Out Now CD project.

The CD's release was timed to coincide with the March 19 Troops Out Now demonstration, which will start in Harlem, and proceed down Fifth Avenue to Central Park. This "soundtrack for the movement" sports an impressive roster of musicians: Nana Soul, Spiritchild, Fifth Column, Sparlha Swa, Pam Parker & Jobari, Latisha Divine, Kahlil Khan, Goldie Braun and Rochester's Raging Grannies, as well as veteran activists like Larry Holmes, Sara Flounders, Teresa Gutierrez, Nellie Hester-Bailey, Brenda Stokely, Julie Fry, Charlotte Kates, Erik-Anders Nilsson, Narciso Castillo, Seth Tobocman (who was responsible for the cover art) and last but certainly not least Mumia Abu-Jamal.

"We wanted to take music to a new level," says Nana Soul, spokesperson for Artists and Activists United for Peace and a recording artist on Black Waxx Records. "It's time to re-politicize art...[trying to achieve and maintain freedom]... there's nothing else I'd rather sing about."

The CD took three weeks to produce which is unheard of "unless you have a level of commitment from everyone so profound that everything just flows," says Shawna Glover of Black Waxx Records and Artists and Activists United for Peace. "In the music industry you can't get anything done without eighteen signatures. But for this project, we took care of business—fast."

Though grassroots in sentiment, the presentation is anything but. The CD project showcases some of the hottest music and arrangements in professional music today. "The movement just kicked it up a notch," says Bob Law of the famed radio show Night Talk. "Now we've got to get this music on the radio. Mainstream media is not allowing



Friday, MARCH 18. . .
Hip Hop concert at the Oberia Dempsey Center
at 127 W. 127th St. in Harlem from 7 p.m. to 12 midnight.
Featuring Nana Soul, Hicoup and Haasan, Mental Notes, Afi, Bomani, Head Roc, Verses, Komplex, and Tylibah.
\$10 suggested donation...
Benefit for the Troops OUT NOW Coalition

Saturday MARCH 19. . . Troops Out Now Reception After the rally – 5 to 9 p.m.,
The New School, 55 W. 13th St. Between 5th & 6th Aves
Featuring Piano virtuoso Consuela Lee,
Social Justice Singer/Activist Pam Parker, Black Waxx Recording Artist Nana Soul, Spirit Child and Kahlil Khan of the Artist and Activist Collective Movement in Motion and many more. . . Free of charge!

these voices to be heard, and this music is ten times better than anything they're playing today."

The Troops Out Now CD Project is educational as well as entertaining, containing statistics on the cost of this war in money and lives, the wars' origins, and the lies surrounding it.

Visit www.blackwaxx.com or www.troopsoutnow.org for more information or to get the CD.

Tylon "Usavior" Washington is the producer of the Troops Out Now CD Project.

Students

Continuation from page 1

increasing inability to meet their quotas through the economic draft, and an imperialist policy that threatens more wars of aggression to come, the threat of an "involuntary" draft looms. However, a movement is steadily growing to stop the draft before it starts.

FIST and the anti-draft group No Draft No Way have both issued calls for local actions across the country on March 31. On that day, the Selective Service System is to report to President George W. Bush that it is ready to implement the draft within 75 days.

According to the No Draft No Way call: "Right now, the SSS is staffing local draft boards, training volunteer registrars to work on high school and college campuses, and streamlining its induction process. They have also gained access to the Department of Education's computer files, to ensure maximum registration. It is clear that the Bush administration is preparing for a draft."

Connecting the lack of options for working-class youths in the United States with military recruitment, the statement continues: "The same young people that Bush wants to use to fight his wars are finding it harder to pay for their education, find jobs that pay a living wage, or obtain the basic necessities, like health care or affordable housing. It is time for young people, who are already under attack from the Bush administration, to take a stand."

Knowing that the return of a draft will result in an even greater outcry of resistance, members of Congress are scrambling to introduce bills to entice and keep more recruits in the military. A bill introduced March 14 would increase education benefits under the GI Bill, and would eliminate the \$1,200 contribution troops now have to pay to sign up for the program.

Another bill, dubbed the "Military Readiness Enhancement Act," seeks to do

Growing world resistance stalls Bush offensive

By Fred Goldstein

Two years ago, on March 20, 2003, in the middle of the night, a barrage of thousands of tons of U.S. bombs and missiles coming from land and sea rained down on the banks of the Euphrates River in a sneak attack which destroyed dozens of government buildings and numerous civilian facilities.

The flashes of the exploding bombs crashing into Baghdad were played over and over on television in the U.S. as Washington military pundits and "embedded" journalists touted the so-called "shock and awe" strategy of overwhelming force which was calculated to paralyze the Iraqi government into a quick surrender and subdue the people without a fight. But in the end it was only the big-business journalists who were "awed" by the attack.

The Iraqi government never surrendered. The army and the guerrilla forces resisted heroically for several weeks. Then they all melted away to regroup as the First Infantry Division occupied Baghdad. The U.S. military high command was photographed smiling triumphantly in the Republican Palace, gloating over their "lightning" dash from Kuwait. But this mood was short-lived.

The Bush administration never dreamed

that two years after its brutal, unprovoked war of aggression it would be bogged down in a guerrilla war facing a determined resistance and worldwide demonstrations demanding "Troops out now!"

The advance of the world's greatest so-called "super-power" towards total world domination has ground to a halt under the blows of the Iraqi resistance. A determined section of the masses of people, without any governmental leadership, and with the behind-the-scenes support of a much broader section of the population, has organized itself into multiple fighting forces capable of cooperation and coordination against an enemy with vastly superior firepower and unspeakable brutality.

And Washington's problems are multiplying rapidly. It was six weeks ago that the media and the White House hailed the elections in Iraq as the "beginning of democracy." But there is still no puppet government because the opportunist politicians, clerics and so-called national leaders are consumed with infighting over the division of influence. When they finally sort it out, they will discover that they are a government in name only, without a state, and that they are a public cover for the real state—which is the U.S. military occupation.

In addition, Washington has grown

Bush never dreamed that two years after his brutal, unprovoked aggression he would be bogged down facing a determined resistance and worldwide demonstrations demanding: **'TROOPS OUT NOW!'**

more isolated each month. Its so-called "coalition of the willing" is getting smaller and smaller. The Italian, Dutch and Ukrainian governments have all announced they are pulling out. The Spanish government already pulled out its troops, as did the Portuguese.

Demonstration of vulnerability

The Iraq War was supposed to demonstrate the might of U.S. imperialism. Instead it has demonstrated its extreme vulnerability to organized, mass resistance. Washington has to relearn the lesson that you cannot conquer a people from the air. It takes troops on the ground to take territory from a people determined to fight and a government which will not surrender.

But putting troops on the ground in a foreign country whose people have fought against colonialism brings only resistance. This is the lesson of Vietnam and this is the lesson of Iraq.

The intimidation tactics of the Bush administration worldwide have only fur-

ther revealed the limitations of Washington. Bush began his second term by threatening Iran and even floating reports about having attack plans, U.S. spies on the ground and unleashing Israel's Ariel Sharon government to bomb nuclear facilities if the Iranians refused to renounce nuclear research.

The Iranian government has refused to bow down to Bush's threats. Instead the Tehran government has restated its right to carry on nuclear research as a matter of sustainable development for the country. It vowed never to give it up and has told Bush and the Europeans that attacks or sanctions will lead to resistance.

With 150,000 U.S. troops bogged down in Iraq, Washington had to back off its immediate military threat to Iran. Instead it decided to zero in on Syria. Iran has 70 million people, oil reserves, vast territory, including mountains, and a large army. Its revolution against the hated U.S.-backed Shah, who handed Iranian oil over to U.S.

Continuation on page 12

resist military recruitment

away with the "don't ask, don't tell" policy instituted during the Clinton administration - not because it discriminates against gays and lesbians, but because it wastes money and the skills of those recruits who are kicked out.

Yet these stopgap solutions won't solve the Pentagon's crisis. According to a study by a group called Gfk Custom Research, the risks of military services "are perceived to far outweigh the rewards for the vast majority of youth." And the chair of the House Armed Services Committee's military personnel panel has said he sees the recruiting problem "getting progressively worse before it gets better."

(ArmyTimes.com)

Counter-recruiters win some

Meanwhile, counter-recruiters continue to successfully win battles against recruiters on their campuses. In San Francisco, protesters with Students Against War were able to force recruiters to leave an hour early from that school's career fair. A protester told the school paper, "They realized that we weren't going anywhere and they weren't going to recruit anyone, so they left."

Other organizations, whose recruitment efforts were also hampered by the protest, said they would "ask more questions" before paying to attend the job fair again. If enough organizations end up complaining about the protests, it might make the administration think again about having the recruiters at future career fairs.

In Bloomington, Minn., students at Kennedy High School won the right to set up a counter-recruitment table next to the military recruiters' table, despite threats by the American Legion to pull funding from the school. In a commentary posted on the Pulse of the Twin Cities website, students Brandon Madsen and Matt Johnson described their first action: "The recruiters' table was abandoned.

Meanwhile, our table was mobbed by hundreds of interested students who asked questions, signed petitions, took fliers and pamphlets, and discussed politics. By the end of the day we collected 120 signatures for the petition against recruiters being allowed to invade our school. Over 100 more signed in the following days."

The students explained: "It is essential that we stand up and take action against military recruiters. The entire U.S. war

machine relies on the willingness of young people to join the military and carry out the imperialist policies ordered by corrupt politicians. If we build a mass movement of young people against the war that exposes the lies of Bush and the military recruiters, the military will be unable to guarantee a stable supply of youth to use as cannon fodder.

"We can't count on the government or our school administrators to stop military

recruiters from spreading their lies. We need to take it upon ourselves to educate and organize our fellow students, and to make our schools off-limits to recruiters. If every time they show up we provide an overwhelmingly unwelcome environment, they will simply stop coming. Already at Kennedy, in stark contrast to the six to 10 recruiters who usually show up, only one came this time." □

'Save the hospital, stop the war'

By John Parker
Los Angeles

In keeping with the spirit of the "Troops Out Now" coalition, the Los Angeles International Action Center is organizing a Troops Out Now Caravan for March 19. It will feature decorated cars and a sound system to amplify the theme of "Money for Health Care, Not War, Save King Drew."

The caravan will begin at the King-Drew Medical Center in South Los Angeles, and proceed to the anti-war rally in Hollywood called by the ANSWER Coalition.

Why King-Drew? Organizers say this facility is located in a community that is already underserved, with fewer health-care facilities per resident than the state average. This community has organized in defiance of the threat of closure, holding demonstrations of thousands.

"We in the progressive and anti-war movement need to do more to link up with their efforts since the struggle for health care involves all of us, especially as it relates to the war and its life-draining budget," reads an IAC statement on the action.

Organizers say the planning of this

event is going well, with promised participation from representatives of Service Employees Local 660, including the shop steward at King-Drew and members of the Save the King Drew Committee. Endor-

sers include UNITE Here Local 11 President Maria Elena Durazo, CISPES-LA, Puerto Rican Alliance, Bayan-USA, KRST Unity Center for African Spirituality and Latinos Against the War. □

International Women's History Month 2005

"WOMEN IN STRUGGLE"



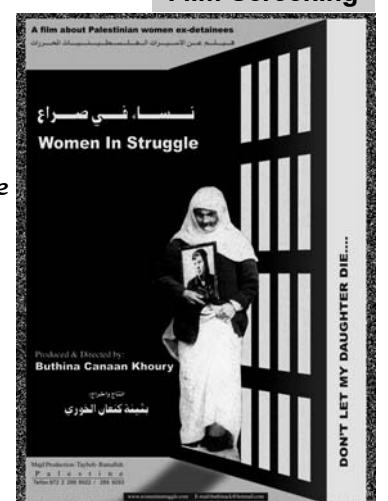
Hear: Filmmaker
Buthina Canaan Khoury

"Women in Struggle" is a documentary film that interviews four Palestinian women who tell their stories of withstanding unimaginable 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.

THURSDAY
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'Bush says no, we say go!'

Solidarity movement asserts right to visit Cuba

By Teresa Gutierrez
New York

Cuba solidarity activists who have been at the forefront of defying the U.S. travel ban are now aiming to ratchet up the struggle against those decades-long restrictions.

On March 5 in New York City over 120 people took part in a Cuba Travel Conference organized by IFCO/Pastors for Peace, Venceremos Brigade and Center for Cuban Studies. It was endorsed by several other organizations.

Not only Cuba-solidarity activists but all U.S. residents face a new period with regard to travel to Cuba. The conference urged the progressive movement to consider intensifying the campaign to defy the ban.

In the last two years, the Bush administration has carried out several ominous measures that threaten Cuba and curtail U.S. residents' civil rights.

The U.S. travel ban on Cuba is nothing new. But neither is the struggle to defy that ban. Bob Guild, director of Marazul Tours, explained that travel to Cuba is not a privilege but a right.

In 1958, in the case *Kent v. Dulles*, freedom to travel anywhere was established as a Fifth Amendment guarantee. And under the Helsinki agreements of 1975, the U.S. agreed to "commit to the free flow of people and ideas."

But when Cuban revolutionaries took destiny in their own hands on Jan. 1, 1959, Cuba forever earned the ire of U.S. imperialism. Travel to Cuba from then on became a very political issue.

Since 1961, both Democratic and Republican administrations—with a brief exception under the Carter administration, which lifted controls in 1977—have done everything in their power to prevent U.S. residents from traveling to Cuba.

Beginning in 1961, the U.S. restricted travel to Cuba via passport controls. An African American journalist, William Worthy, challenged the passport controls, much as Paul Robeson did regarding his personal travel ban. Worthy won his fight against the government in 1964.

The government then restricted travel to Cuba via currency controls under the regulations of the illegal 1963 blockade against Cuba. The blockade against Cuba is the longest such policy in U.S. history.

Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas stated in 1964: "Freedom of movement is the very essence of our free society." Yet since 1963 the U.S. has tried to prevent the people of this country from traveling to Cuba.

But not a single year since the triumph of the revolution goes by that thousands

of people travel to revolutionary Cuba in defiance of the travel ban.

In 1962 student and progressive activists began to defy the ban. Starting in 1969, thousands went to cut sugar cane or participate in construction brigades.

Not even U.S.-sponsored terrorist attacks could prevent travel to Cuba. In 1973 the Center for Cuban Studies, for example, was bombed for organizing travel to Cuba. The Local 1199 hall was bombed, injuring a union worker, after the union hosted the ExpoCuba exhibition. Nonetheless, for over thirty years Local 1199 has warmly and enthusiastically welcomed Cuba events.

Travel agents have been assassinated in the U.S. and in Puerto Rico for arranging travel to Cuba, Guild detailed. In 1976, throughout Latin America, Cubana Airline offices were bombed.

But none of these efforts—from passport restrictions to terrorist attacks—have stopped people from the U.S. from traveling to Cuba.

Sandra Levinson, director of the Center for Cuban Studies, stated at the conference, "We need to take back the right to what we have always done."

U.S. imperialism desperate

In 2004 the Bush administration carried out measures against Cuba that represent a gathering storm against the island.

Ominous declarations from Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and United Nations Ambassador John Bolton threaten "regime change" in Cuba. The State Department continues to place Cuba on the list of terrorist nations, stating that Cuba poses a security threat to the U.S.

The measures also target Cuban Americans. Travel to Cuba by Cuban Americans was restricted to one trip every three years. The family was re-defined and the Bush administration said aunts or close friends no longer had the right to visit Cuba. This was a slap to Cuban Americans whose concept of family is very different than mainstream culture in the U.S.

Under the "people to people" exchange expanded by President Bill Clinton in 1999, as many as 100,000 U.S. citizens were allowed to visit Cuba legally. Trips were organized by a broad array of groups—from the American Museum of Natural History to the Stanford Alumni to university Latin American studies departments.

Some analysts described this "people to people" policy as Track II: try to overturn the Cuban Revolution from the inside, with waves of North Americans who could possibly create an unstable situation inside the country. These efforts had some results.

Rev. Lucius Walker, front right challenges travel ban. Walker on one of his many trips to Cuba.



The U.S. Interests Section in Havana was able to galvanize a group of counter-revolutionary Cubans who were enticed with money and other ploys. The Cuban government was forced to check these counter-revolutionary efforts by arresting 75 right-wingers in 2003.

But for every North American who might have prodded counter-revolutionary behavior, many others became loyal defenders of the Cuban Revolution. Furthermore, it forced many to ponder: why is life in the U.S. so very different?

U.S. imperialism's Track II approach—subversion by encouraging contact—clearly was not working.

Track I is the approach to try to sabotage the revolution from the outside, with external hostile acts such as the blockade and terrorism.

The Bush administration has severely slashed licensed trips to Cuba. Now fewer educational institutions or faith-based groups can get licenses to travel.

What is it about Cuba?

From the very beginning of the revolution, Cuba attracted the attention and solidarity of revolutionary and progressive people around the world. Something about Cuba created a powerful magnet that drew people to it despite the best efforts of U.S. imperialism.

That something was the revolutionary socialist character of Cuba. Many people, once they travel to Cuba, will do everything in their power to return.

They feel that way because Cuba represents revolutionary hope. Cuba represents the aspirations of billions. It especially represents the aspirations of the oppressed that yearn to break free of the chokehold of oppression that imperialism has imposed on so many.

In Cuba, one can walk the streets and feel solidarity, not alienation, free of fear from racist killer police or the violence that marks life under capitalism. For those who fall ill, health care is totally free. They don't have to worry about having "insurance."

Cuba shows that a society diametrically opposed to capitalism and imperialism can be built. A popular chant at anti-war demonstrations says it well: "Cuba sends

doctors, Bush sends bombs."

Time to pay Cuba back

The Rev. Lucius Walker, executive director of IFCO/Pastors for Peace, posed a challenge not only those present at the conference but to everyone who is concerned with justice.

"Nothing has been gained without a struggle," Walker declared. Things would be so different today, he stated, if Rosa Parks had continued to sit in the back of the bus.

"What if Fannie Lou Hamer had not gotten tired of being tired?" he asked. "What about the actions of Dr. Martin Luther King or what if SNCC had not decided to take to the streets to use creative means to challenge Jim Crow?"

Walker clarified that we the movement is in a similar position today with regards to U.S. policy towards Cuba.

"If people refuse to obey the law, it cannot be enforced," he said. On the table is the challenge to travel to Cuba without licenses, and to do it in large numbers, in order to break the ban on travel to Cuba.

This summer progressives, anti-war and student activists, labor, youths and everyone are urged to participate in travel challenges to Cuba. You can organize your own travel challenge. Or people can sign onto the travel challenges already being organized by good friends of Cuba such as Pastors for Peace and the Venceremos Brigade.

To get information on these trips, visit www.ifconews.org or www.venceremos.org. Readers can also call the International Action Center at (212) 633-6646. The Pastors for Peace trip will take place from July 5 to Aug. 1, and the VB from July 21 to Aug. 1.

Walker concluded: "We have the power to make change if we care to use this power. If we use it the way the civil rights movement used it to challenge Jim Crow and racism, we can change things. Frederick Douglass said without struggle there is no progress."

Now is the time to break the ban on travel to Cuba. □

'Free the Cuban 5'

Activists from all over Cleveland packed the ACLU headquarters March 13 for the city's premier showing of "Mission Against Terror," a film telling the story of five Cuban heroes who gathered intelligence against Miami-based anti-communist Cuban exiles who plotted terrorist attacks against Cuba. The Five are now imprisoned as spies in the U.S.

The Rev. Joan Campbell, former head of the National Council of Churches, who travels to Cuba regularly and has met the families of the Cuban Five, moved the audience to tears with her remarks.



WW PHOTO: SHARON DANANN

Martha Grevatt speaks on Cuban 5.

Many expressed interest in further activity locally to support the Five, and \$300 was collected for their defense.

—Martha Grevatt

Free the CUBAN



Fernando González

Gerardo Hernández

René González

Ramon Labanino

Antonio Guerrero

Step forward for the Bolivarian Revolution

Venezuelan workers take over paper-production plant

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

Faced with death threats to Bolivarian Republic President Hugo Chávez and not-so-veiled pressure from the United States, the youthful Venezuelan Revolution is tenaciously pushing ahead new anti-capitalist measures for the benefit of its working-class population. One of these is the new Invepal, SA, enterprise.

During the last World Social Forum held in Porto Alegre, Brazil, Workers World interviewed Elio Colmenarez, executive assistant to Venezuelan Minister of Labor María Cristina Iglesias, who had been working closely with the workers in the Venepal (now Invepal) paper industry. The following background of the developing enterprise is based on that conversation with Colmenarez.

Venepal or Venezuelan paper is an industry that for 50 years milled paper products, and one of the two major paper companies in the country that was financially successful until 1996. Due to production cutbacks and abandonment of markets, it then closed some of its operations.

Two years ago Venepal filed for bankruptcy and 18 months ago it closed the plant, laying off its workers. Venepal workers refused this closure and remained in the plant. They continued operations as best they could until last August when the company completely ceased to buy raw materials.

Since then, workers have stayed in the plant, preventing management from transporting raw material or machinery out. At the same time workers organized street mobilizations demanding the government expropriate the plant.

On Dec. 2, 2004, the Banking Tribunal ruled for Venepal bankruptcy. This provoked an increase of workers' mobilizations.

Then on Jan. 7, 2005, the Venezuelan National Assembly ruled that the Venepal estate is a public utility. As such, it is subject to state action, aimed to protect the industry as important for Venezuela's paper production and as a source of jobs.

Ten days later, on Jan. 17, the government confirmed the expropriation of all Venepal's assets including the processing plant, the 5,600-hectare forest, the electric plant, etc.

This decree also stated the right of the workers to co-administer the plant. At the moment the workers are organizing a cooperative to manage the plant in conjunction with the state. In two to three years, the plant should be in the hands of the workers as their collective property.

Venezuela now imports more than 60 percent of the materials used for paper production. The educational missions or programs that the Bolivarian Revolution has been implementing require massive amounts of paper products for books, notebooks and other materials.

A leap forward

Colmenarez said the seizure is a qualitative leap that not only will allow the production of educational material but will also mean a political advance. It will mark the beginning of what is called "co-administration," an effort between the 352 workers who remained in the plant and the state, where both will share the responsibility of running the industry.

On Jan. 31 Labor Minister María Cristina Iglesias said, "Now the new strug-



Venezuela President Hugo Chávez's supporters protest U.S. threats to Venezuela's sovereignty March 12 in Caracas. Banner showing U.S. aircraft carrier reads: 'Shark, what are you looking for on my shores.'

gle for the endogenous development of the homeland begins, which means working in equal conditions, the workers along with the revolutionary government, for the benefit of the community and for all the Venezuelan people rather than for the individual's benefit."

On Feb. 6, in the "Aló Presidente" program, President Chávez hosted the Venepal workers, now called the Venezuelan Industry of Pulp and Paper or Invernal, SA, created Jan. 19. There it was announced that the state will own 51 percent and the workers' coop the remaining 49 percent of the enterprise. This model could also be repeated in other paper plants, particularly those in Maracay.

Chávez said that this is "the year of the economy and of a lot of politics." He said that much effort will be placed in developing a productive economy, in the framework of the "leap forward" (advancement both political and economically) of the revolution.

He warned owners of idle businesses: "If an entrepreneur abandons his ship, we will take it over."

To direct the cooperative enterprise away from the capitalist model, Chávez has said, "The revolutionary cooperative must be developed within 21st-century socialism."

Along with the Cuban government,
Continued on page 12

LATIN AMERICAN ROUNDUP

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

BOLIVIA

Historic unity of social movements

In October 2003, Bolivian President Gonzalo "Goni" Sánchez de Lozada was forced out of office by massive demonstrations of the poor and Indigenous population. The people firmly and militantly opposed his neoliberal measures, particularly the privatization and takeover by transnational corporations of the country's water, gas and other natural resources.

Carlos Mesa, who took Sánchez de Lozada's place on a program against neoliberalism, has clearly aligned himself with the wealthy and the transnational corporations. At the same time President Mesa vowed to penalize the massive social movement that helped put him in office.

On March 6 Mesa announced he was resigning. He said the country was ungovernable due to massive protests in the form of widespread militant roadblocks. His resignation had to be approved by Congress. Many suspected it was a ploy to mobilize support for himself. Three days later the Congress made it known that it would refuse his resignation.

In a theatrical pronouncement, Mesa then summoned his wealthy allies to stage demonstrations against the roadblocks. This reminded many of the tactics of the Venezuelan opposition.

The rich mobilized the middle classes to follow Mesa's orders. They poured into the streets waving white handkerchiefs,

shouting viciously racist slogans against the Indigenous leaders of the social movement, particularly Evo Morales, who is Aymara.

The result has been a profound polarization of Bolivian society.

This crisis has produced an historic unity among the social movements that had been divided until now. The Bolivian Workers Central of mine worker Jaime Solares, Felipe Quispe's Bolivian Workers Confederation, the coca growers federations and Movement Towards Socialism (MAS) led by Evo Morales, Coordination for the Defense of Gas, Federation of Neighborhood Boards of El Alto, and many other organizations of peasants, the landless, students, teachers, unemployed and small businesses joined to sign a "Revolutionary Pact of Unity."

The new front will meet to deepen the struggle for dignity and sovereignty that they had been carrying on as independent entities.

URUGUAY

Victory of left-center front

On March 1 Uruguay inaugurated a new president, Dr. Tabaré Vázquez, an oncologist from a poor family, born in the working-class barrio of La Teja.

Vázquez is the first Uruguayan president from the left. He won the elections through a Broad Front representing the various progressive forces, from the Tupamaro guerrillas to some of the left-

center parties.

His victory put an end to a succession of administrations of the conservative parties of Blancos (Whites) and Colorados (Reds).

Coming in the wake of Venezuela's Hugo Chavez, Vázquez's election has created high expectations. On March 1 people greeted each other with salutations of "Happy New Year." They are looking forward to the possibility of a Uruguay whose youth, long forced to emigrate in search of jobs, might now have reason to come back and help create a new country.

Tabaré and Uruguay face a very difficult road ahead, with high poverty, unemployment and a dwindling economy. Extraordinary measures are needed to raise up the masses and the country without betraying the population who put their trust in a progressive candidate. At the same time, the constant threat of imperialist intervention must be kept at bay.

COLOMBIA

Regime extradites revolutionaries to U.S.

The government of President Álvaro Uribe Vélez has complied with Washington's demands that it extradite revolutionaries from Colombia to be tried in U.S. courts. This tactic sets a dangerous precedent that goes against the international standard of respect for national sovereignty.

Last December, Colombia extradited revolutionary Ricardo Palmera, alias Simón Trinidad, an international representative of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army (FARC-EP), to the U.S.

Now Uribe plans to extradite another high-ranking member of the same revolutionary group. This time it is a woman, known as Sonia, who Washington wants to use as a witness against Palmera.

Sonia was taken from El Buen Pastor women's prison in Bogotá under heavy security and is being kept under strict surveillance in the north of the country, awaiting extradition to the U.S.

Both the FARC-EP and the National Liberation Army (ELN) are popular revolutionary guerrilla organizations arising from the extreme poverty caused by imperialism's plunder of Colombia.

Peace- and justice-loving people all over the world should oppose this dangerous move by the Bush administration and the Colombian regime. The FARC and the ELN have the right to fight for the construction of a new and just Colombia.

VENEZUELA

Coup plotters can be retried

A landmark pronouncement by the Venezuelan Supreme Tribunal of Justice on March 11 will allow four former military officers aligned with the organizers of the

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Growing world resistance stalls Bush offensive

Continuation from page

companies and tortured revolutionaries and progressives, is still very much alive in the country.

Syria is a much smaller and poorer country with only 18 million people, about the size of North Dakota. The U.S. military is now in Iraq, on the Syrian border. But even to go after Syria, Washington began by trying to drive Syria out of an even smaller country, neighboring Lebanon, with just 4 million people.

The U.S. attempted to use right-wing forces in Lebanon to undermine Hezbollah and Syria. It has branded Hezbollah as a "terrorist" organization, even though it is regarded throughout Lebanon and the Middle East as a national liberation movement responsible for driving the Israelis from southern Lebanon in 2000.

The U.S. campaign backfired when Hezbollah, the so-called "terrorist" group, organized the poor and the downtrodden of Lebanon, mostly Shiites, in a massive anti-U.S. demonstration of a million people on March 8. And 300,000 demonstrated against the bullying of Syria in the southern Lebanese city of Nabariyeh a few days later. Thousands demonstrated March 15 against U.S. interference outside the U.S. embassy in Beirut. So Washington's struggle against Syria has produced a mushrooming of anti-U.S. sentiment in both Lebanon and Syria.

Included in Bush's "axis of evil" is North Korea, officially known as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Bush has been threatening the DPRK since he took office, insulting and trying to bully the leadership. Bush broke up bilateral talks that had been taking place between the U.S. and North Korea. He insisted on six-party talks as a way of ganging up on the DPRK and refusing to recognize it as an equal.

But the North Koreans first fought a war against Japanese imperialism and then against a coalition headed by the U.S. in order to gain socialism and independence and were not about to be pushed around. When Bush refused to make any concessions in the talks, the DPRK representatives walked out and declared that they had nuclear weapons, leaving Washington with only China to turn to.

But the Chinese government expressed sympathy with the DPRK, particularly with its demand that Condoleezza Rice apologize for calling North Korea an "outpost of tyranny" during her confirmation hearings. China refused to do Washington's bidding.

Furthermore, China has just passed a law declaring that it will go to war if Taiwan declares independence. Taiwan is a province of China that was taken over by counter-revolutionaries after the 1949 revolution and put under the protection of Washington.

One of Bush's first acts was to give advanced destroyers to Taiwan and to plan a theater missile defense system aimed at China.

China's statement comes as a further blow to the aggressive Bush policy in Asia.

Bush has repeatedly denounced and threatened Cuba and has recently initiated a campaign against Hugo Chávez, the leader of the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela which has broken with imperialism and begun nationalizing land belonging to transnationals and big landlords. Chávez has even recognized the takeover of a major paper factory by the workers.

Cuba has reacted to Bush's threats by redoubling its preparations for combat with island-wide military exercises for the whole population. And Chávez has reacted to being branded a "negative influence in the region" by pushing forward with the revolution, expanding trade with China, acquiring weapons from Russia, intensifying commercial relations with Cuba and Iran, and promoting region-wide mutual aid.

On all fronts the Bush administration has been stymied by the willingness of anti-imperialist governments to stand up to U.S. threats and by the willingness of the masses of people to resist.

'Preemptive war,' 'regime change' phased out

Such a scenario was unimaginable to the militarists and strategists in the Pentagon and the White House. The Bush administration has come a long way down since it used the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks as a pretext for a campaign to vastly expand

U.S. power and domination.

In the minds of Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, his deputy Paul Wolfowitz and the neo-con war makers in Washington, by now the hoped-for "cakewalk" into Iraq would be long over. U.S. forces would be greeted as "liberators." The Pentagon and the giant oil companies would be sitting pretty, secure in their Iraqi military bases astride the Persian Gulf, raking in profits from the second-largest oil reserve in the world, and well on their way in the conquest of the entire Middle East, including Iran and Syria and even, perhaps, the overthrow of the government of North Korea.

Instead, after two years the U.S. occupation authorities are hunkered down in the Green Zone in Baghdad. Their forces cannot move about the country except at the greatest peril. They can barely get any oil out of the country and the oil companies have yet to take possession of one drop. More than 1,500 soldiers have been killed and thousands have been wounded. There is universal hatred for the occupiers. And the U.S. is running out troops.

The infamous Bush Doctrine is rarely spoken of now. In the wake of growing

Iraqi and worldwide resistance to the bullying and threatening by Washington, many of the triumphalist catch words have been quietly dropped from the vernacular of bourgeois journalism and policy talk.

Rarely does one hear the arrogant phrases of "regime change," "preemptive war," "you're either with us or against us," "the old Europe," etc.

Washington has been reduced to its old methods of subversion, sanctions, dirty tricks, threats and intimidation used by all the U.S. capitalist governments during the Cold War. Its rhetoric grows and its gesturing is menacing, but its military adventurism has been pushed back for the moment by world resistance.

The anti-war movement in this country must be part of that growing resistance. The Pentagon's frustration over being stifled in its military expansion can lead imperialism to even greater gambles.

As the Bush administration and the capitalist class intensify their attacks upon the people, the movement must expand its efforts to merge the struggle against the war with the fight for economic and social justice at home and stop the adventures of the ruling class. □

LATIN AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Coup plotters can be retried

Continued from page 11

infamous April 2002 coup against President Hugo Chávez to be retried for military rebellion.

The pronouncement invalidated an earlier decision on Aug. 14, 2002, setting the four officers free. At that time the charges against Army Gen. Efraim Vasquez Velasco, Air Force Gen. Pedro Pereira, Vice-Admiral Hector Ramirez Perez and Rear Admiral Daniel Comisso Urdaneta were dismissed, prompting continued protests from the pro-Chávez population.

The Chávez administration viewed the earlier ruling as another assault by the ruling-class-backed opposition. Vice President José Vicente Rangel called it a

"true assault on democratic legality, committed by a group of judges who proceeded to embarrassingly serve interests that were contrary to justice."

One of the major problems affecting the Bolivarian Revolution has been the legal impunity of the opposition. When they were apprehended and charged for their crimes against the population and the Bolivarian process, they were quickly acquitted, since most judges were aligned with the anti-Chávez forces.

During 2002, half of the 22 judges on the Supreme Tribunal of Justice were from the opposition. Two pro-Chávez judges were inappropriately recused or removed from that decision, leading to a vote of 11-9 in favor of dismissal of the charges against the coup plotters. □

Venezuelan workers take over paper-production plant

Continued from page 11

Venezuela's is now an example to the world of one that works on behalf of its people and its workers and not on behalf of multinational companies.

And with Cuba, Venezuelans also expect a hostile reaction from U.S. imperialism. Already the U.S. is mounting a campaign against the Bolivarian Revolution with the participation of right-wing Colombians, Cuban exiles in Miami and the Venezuelan opposition at home.

U.S. targets Venezuela

In the March 13 Financial Times of London, Andy Webb-Vidal wrote: "A strategy aimed at fencing in the government of the world's fifth-largest oil exporter is being prepared at the request of President George W. Bush and Condoleezza Rice, secretary of state, senior U.S. officials say."

The article quotes U.S. Defense Department official Roger Pardo-Maurer: "Chávez is a problem because he is clearly using his oil money and influence to introduce his conflictive style into the politics of other countries."

U.S. corporations and the Pentagon are troubled by Venezuela's growing excellent international relations, not only within Latin America and the Caribbean region where the process of economic and social integration is going full speed, but in other areas of the world as well.

During a recent trip to India, Chávez was received very warmly. In the Indian Express, reporters Bidyut Roy and Aninda Sarda wrote: "Fourteen years after the fall of the Communist-ruled Soviet Union in 1991, the Left's search for an international father figure seems to have ended. Kolkata

opened its arms wide as Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez arrived here this evening. Left leaders displayed their 'new inspiration' as the Left Front government of Buddhadeb Bhattacharya felicitated Chavez."

Iranian President Mohammad Khatami irritated Washington by visiting Venezuela and signing more than 20 agreements of trade and cooperation, among them deals for a tractor factory, housing, etc.

U.S. imperialism is working round the clock to find ways to destabilize the young

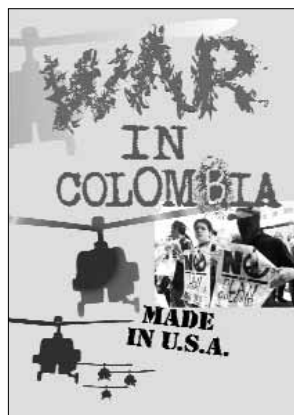
Bolivarian Revolution. Scores of CIA and Israeli Mossad agents are deployed in Venezuela. The opposition, weakened by Chávez's growing popular support, is being regrouped by Washington. Assassination threats against Chávez continue.

Colombian paramilitaries were caught last year in the center of Caracas training to kill the president. A few months ago Danilo Anderson, the prosecutor in charge of the investigation of the CIA involvement in the 2002 coup, was assassinated.

Fidel Castro said the Cuban Revolution is well grounded by now, but the Venezuelan Bolivarian Revolution is at a crucial juncture.

This revolution needs the unrelenting and total solidarity from the international community. It is the hope not only for the Venezuelan people but the people in Latin America, the Caribbean, and well beyond who have suffered the misery and exploitation of imperialist domination.

More and more people feel, "It is our revolution, a beacon for the future of our children, and we must defend it with all our means." □



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After overthrow of puppet shah

U.S. sabotages Iran's nuclear program

Following are excerpts from a talk by Ardeshir Ommani, delivered at WESPAC on March 5, entitled "U.S. Foreign Policy Toward Iran and Iran's Nuclear Program." Ardeshir is co-founder of the recently-formed American-Iranian Friendship Committee. The full talk is on the Workers World web site at www.workers.org.

Iran's interest in nuclear energy, research and know-how began in the mid-1960s under the direct tutelage of the U.S., within the framework of turning Iran the way of Israel, into a regional and nuclear power for containing the movement of Arab Socialism and its orientation towards the Soviet Union.

With the technical assistance of the U.S., the first nuclear research facility, the Tehran Nuclear Research Center (TNRC), was built in Tehran University in 1967, and managed by the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), which was founded in 1974.

Immediately after the founding of TNRC, the U.S. sold a five-megawatt research reactor to Iran. It was installed at the Amirabad Technical College in Tehran, and runs on 93-percent highly-enriched uranium. The reactor could produce up to 600 grams of plutonium per year in its spent fuel.

Simultaneously, the U.S. sold hot cells to Iran which could be used for separating plutonium from the spent fuel, and then used for the production of atomic bombs.

The question that remains to be asked is why the U.S. sold the hot cells to the Shah.

Iran became a party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) on July 1, 1968, which went into effect on March 5, 1970. Article IV of the treaty states that "Nothing in the Treaty shall be interpreted as affecting the inalienable right of all the parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with Articles I and II of this Treaty."

Furthermore, Article IV continues that "All the Parties to the Treaty undertake to facilitate, and have the right to participate in, the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy..."

U.S. backs Shah's nuclear plans

According to declassified U.S. government documents, cited extensively by Mohammad Sahimi, professor and chair of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering at the University of Southern California, in his authoritative paper "Iran's Nuclear Program," Washington in the mid-1970's advised "Iran to expand her non-oil energy base" by reasoning that "Iran needed not one but several nuclear reactors to acquire the electrical capacity that the Stanford Research Institute" paper in 1973 "had proposed, and expressing interest in U.S. companies' participation in Iran's nuclear energy projects."

Emboldened by Washington's encouragement, the Shah planned to build 23 nuclear power plants throughout the country. No authority in the U.S., France or West Germany disputed the Shah's extensive and expensive projects on the basis of the fact that Iran was rich in oil and natural gas deposits, the reasoning that [U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza] Rice recently provided for the redundancy of plans for nuclear energy in Iran.

At the time of the Shah, the only reason that the plan for the construction of such

a huge project could not be enacted was that the price of oil on the world market fell considerably, and the Shah's government was not financially capable of paying for it.

However, in 1974, the Shah's government signed a contract with West Germany's Kraftwerk Union, a subsidiary of Siemens, to begin the construction of two 1,200-megawatt nuclear reactors at Bushehr, a city in the southwestern part of Iran. Soon the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran signed a contract with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for training the first group of Iranian nuclear engineers.

Meanwhile, West Germany, France, Britain and the U.S. trained thousands of nuclear specialists from around the world. Iranian nuclear personnel received their training in Italy, Belgium and Canada, as well as the U.S.

Mark D. Skoostsky, in his June 1995 research paper on U.S. Nuclear Policy Toward Iran, writes that "while these specialists were being trained in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in order to achieve the Shah's plan for 23 nuclear power reactors, the knowledge they gained could also have been used for a secret nuclear weapons program," as it was in India.

According to Mohamad Sahimi, the classified documents mentioned above contained the information that in an address to an October 1977 symposium called "The U.S. and Iran, an Increasing Partnership," Sydney Sober, a spokesperson for the U.S. State Department, proudly announced that the Shah's government was about to purchase eight more nuclear reactors from the U.S.

Revolution fuels U.S. hostility

By 1979, when the Iranian Revolution toppled the pro-U.S. regime, the Shah had reached agreements for a total of six nuclear power reactors from France, West Germany and the U.S.

General strike in France

1.4 million workers march to defend benefits

By G. Dunkel

The third general strike in France this year, on March 10, was the biggest so far. Some 1.4 million people took part in about 150 demonstrations throughout France, according to the General Confederation of Workers (CGT), one of the trade union confederations involved. Hundreds of strikes occurred in both the private and the public sector.

Most public transportation did not run or was extremely reduced. Banks, schools, daycare centers and post offices were closed. Only long-distance flights were allowed to land since the air traffic controllers were on strike.

A headline of the right-wing newspaper *Le Figaro* summed it up: "France paralyzed."

According to public opinion polls, 66 percent of the French people supported the aims of the strike, even if the effects inconvenienced their life to some degree. They told the pollsters that they felt the strikers and demonstrators were protecting their interests—by defending French workers' rights to retirement at age 62, a 35-hour work week, six-weeks paid vacation a year and affordable medical care.

Two 1,200-megawatt German light-water power reactors at Bushehr were partly finished. Reactor Number 1 was 90-percent complete and 60 percent of its equipment was also installed, while Number 2 was 50-percent complete.

During the 1980s, the Iran-Iraq war brought heavy damage to the core areas of both reactors.

After the Iran-Iraq war, the Islamic Republic of Iran under President Rafsanjani re-initiated Iran's nuclear energy program and immediately approached Kraftwerk Union to complete the Bushehr project or ship the reactor components and technical documents that Iran had paid for.

However, the German government and Kraftwerk, under U.S. pressure, refused to honor the contract or even return the money. Left in the cold, Iran filed a lawsuit in 1996 with the International Commerce Commission (ICC) asking \$5.4 billion compensation. The case is still unsettled.

On May 5, 1987, Iran and Argentina signed agreements concerning the delivery of enriched uranium. The \$5.5-million deal would have provided Iran with a new core for its U.S.-purchased, five-megawatt research reactor at Tehran University so that the reactor would operate on 20 percent enriched uranium. The contract also included the Argentine export of the 20-percent enriched uranium to Iran.

In September 1980, the International Atomic Energy Agency approved the transfer of 115.8 kilograms of uranium, which was within the IAEA safeguards.

Although the U.S. was unsuccessful in blocking Argentina from selling the 20-percent enriched uranium to Iran, it succeeded in preventing that country from fulfilling other aspects of its contractual obligation with Iran in early 1992. Again, under heavy pressure from the U.S., Argentina backed out of the deal by the end of that year.

As early as the mid-1980s, writes Sahimi,

"A consortium of companies from Argentina, Germany and Spain submitted a proposal to Iran to complete the Bushehr-Number 1 reactor, but huge pressure by the United States stopped the deal. The U.S. pressure also stopped in 1990 Spain's National Institute of Industry and Nuclear Equipment [from completing] the Bushehr project."

After exhausting all avenues in the West in search of finding a country or a company that would not be intimidated by the threats of the U.S. and begin the work on Bushehr's nuclear energy project, Iran turned to the Soviet Union, and then Russia, to finish the job.

As long as the Shah was a partner of Israel and a puppet of the United States, it could engage in developing all sorts of nuclear energy and devices. But after the revolution, Iran does not deserve and cannot be trusted with any technological, economic and social advancement, according to Washington and Tel Aviv.

Furthermore, countries like Iran, Iraq, Venezuela and 80 percent of humanity have to be kept backward so that they don't ever dream of independence, equality, social change and especially revolution. People engaged in such changes will be branded by the U.S. empire as "terrorists, despots, dictators and rogue nations" to be disposed of.

Ommani has been an activist in the anti-war and anti-imperialist struggle for over 40 years, including against the Vietnam War. He was a co-founder of the Iranian Students Association in the 1960s, which contributed to the overthrow of the Shah, a U.S. puppet. He directly participated in the movements inside Iran that culminated in the 1979 revolution. Ommani is still very active in the anti-war movement and has collaborated with the International Action Center in the struggle against the U.S. war and occupation of Iraq.



A sign near the lead banner in Marseilles summed up the unions' demands: "Less work, more pay." This demand is in direct contradiction to the proposal of French President Jacques Chirac: "To make more, work more."

France has a number of national trade union confederations, most connected to political parties, and all but one participated in the general strike. They had various concerns, such as creating jobs, since France's unemployment rate is over 10 percent; preserving the 35-hour work week, which French workers won in the last major strike wave; protecting retirement at age 62 and medical insurance; and reversing the restructuring of education, which will mean the loss of 50,000 jobs.

But the unions came together over a single demand: preserve the purchasing power of French workers. Trade union leaders speaking to the media said that what brought large numbers of private sector workers out into the streets were the extraordinary profits of French firms.

While profits are at record levels, hiring is flat, with a number of layoffs. In the private sector, starting salaries are hovering around the minimum wage and generally speaking, workers' salaries are set as a mul-

tipple of the minimum wage. The bosses have refused to come to the bargaining table over wages, though it appears that the government will apply some pressure.

For workers in the public sector, wages have also stagnated. It appears that talks will soon start.

France is used to "hot" springs—May 1968, when the whole state tottered, was the hottest of recent memory. The current situation, while raising its specter, is so far not nearly as tense. But a contentious winter often results in a hot spring.

The French political establishment has scheduled a vote on the European Union's constitution May 29. The unions are debating how to take advantage of this vote, along with considering other tactics.

But everyone in France, both in the ruling class and the workers' movement, considers March 10 a big success for labor. □

Don't blame China

There is a growing anti-China undercurrent in the big-business media focusing on the increase in Chinese exports to the U.S. These increases follow the removal of 40-year-old textile quotas by the World Trade Organization at the end of 2004. This anti-China campaign aims to pit workers in the U.S. against China, based upon the alleged concern over job losses.

In the first place, the capitalist media's expressed concern over U.S. textile job losses has nothing to do with concern for workers. The primary concern is the loss of profitable markets and the fear of growing Chinese economic strength that can challenge U.S. capitalists for global markets.

China has already begun to export its own automobiles. It is signing trade agreements on mutually favorable terms in Latin America, the Middle East, and other spheres that U.S. imperialism and the European and Japanese capitalist powers regard as their territory. This gives developing countries an alternative to the harsh terms of trade the imperialist powers impose.

In the second place, it is pure hypocrisy for the U.S. capitalist establishment to cover its profit-hungry goals under cover of concern about workers' jobs. Every boss seeks to cut wages, reduce or eliminate benefits, use speed up, enforce overtime or put workers on part time depending upon what is best for the bottom line. And every company, large or small, always looks to introduce labor-saving devices that throw workers out of jobs.

If there were really concern for unemployed textile workers, the corporations and the government would simply continue to pay the salaries of the laid-off workers. Meanwhile they would

retrain and place the workers in decent-paying jobs—with benefits—conditions that every worker deserves. This is the way it is done in socialist Cuba. With the U.S. \$10 trillion economy, this is not much too ask.

Above all, no one should be drawn into the false argument of blaming China for the economic problems of U.S. capitalism, either the problems of the workers or of the bosses. China was carved up and held down by the colonial powers in a state of underdevelopment for close to two centuries. With one fourth of the human race, China was known as "the land of hunger" up until the middle of the last century. Only the socialist revolution of 1949 liberated it from colonial bondage and made possible the conditions for economic development.

In its struggle to overcome underdevelopment and poverty, China has shifted from its early emphasis on socialist construction to an emphasis on capitalist development and foreign concessions—but all under the control of the Chinese Communist Party. China has every right as a formerly-oppressed country to use trade as a means of development. While we have differences with the orientation of this policy and believe it endangers China's development toward socialism, that is a different question.

U.S. capitalists thought it was fine for them to take advantage of economic concessions to invest in and profit from China. But as China develops and enters the world economic arena to challenge the very profiteering powers that once held China in colonial bondage, the anti-China undercurrents here begin to rise to the surface. The working class in this country should know that its enemy is not China but the anti-labor, exploiting capitalist class that runs this country and has sweatshops here and all over the world. □

Kenya's Mau Mau

Continued from page 5

Kenyans were put through concentration camps to be "screened." Prisoners had to confess to taking the Mau Mau oath in order to be released.

Author Elkins and her assistant, Terry Wairimu, a researcher at the Kenyan National Archives, interviewed 300 survivors. Every one of these heroes had been beaten and starved. Their harrowing testimony is reminiscent of "The Theory and Practice of Hell," Eugen Kogon's account of surviving Buchenwald concentration camp.

Torture, including sexual mutilation, was routine. Detainees at the Manyani camp were clubbed on arrival. Alsatian dogs mauled women inmates at the Athi River camp. Inmates could be killed just for trying to smuggle a letter to the outside.

In Kamiti camp alone, 600 children were confined. Almost none survived.

"Hard-core Mau Mau supporters" would be selected to bury them. "They would be tied in bundles of six babies," recalled former camp inmate Helen Macharia.

The Githunguri Teachers' Training College was turned into a concentration camp equipped with a pair of gallows. Some of the slaves who built a 37-mile irrigation canal at the South Yatta camp were buried alive.

The biggest of the 55 main camps was located outside Nairobi, where thousands of inmates built a seven-square-mile airport at Embakasi with their bare hands. U.S. "foreign aid" helped pay for this atrocity.

British authorities burned almost all their records about these camps when finally forced to leave Kenya.

U.S. and British media alleged that Kenya's Land and Freedom Army was just a "tribal struggle" conducted by the Kikuyu—just as, 50 years later, President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Tony Blair claim the Iraqi resistance is confined to the "Sunni Triangle."

Concentration camps were set up for Kamba and Maasai people, too. Ole Kisio died in combat leading Maasai fighters. Luo

political leaders Tom Mboya and Oginga Odinga demanded Jomo Kenyatta's release. Fitz de Souza and other lawyers of Asian origin defended prisoners.

Stymied by their failed attempts to defeat the Mau Mau, the British military decided to starve them out, cutting off their supplies. This was real "ethnic cleansing."

Over a million Kikuyu were forced out of their homes. They were driven into 800 "emergency villages" built by their own slave labor—a tactic also used by the British in Malaya and the Pentagon in Vietnam. White settlers and Kenyan mercenaries called the "Home Guard" brutalized Kikuyu in these fenced-in areas.

"Operation Anvil" swept nearly half of Nairobi's Kikuyu population into the camps on April 24, 1954. Anyone found with a union card was picked up as well.

The world was shocked when 11 prisoners were beaten to death in the Hola camp on March 4, 1959. Colonial authorities claimed at first that they had died from drinking "contaminated water." The United Nations did nothing.

"You had to knock the evil out of a person," explained senior prison officer John Cowan, in charge of Hola and other camps. Cowan later got a plush job with the Bank of England.

Cut off from its support network, Kenya's Land and Freedom Army was finally overcome by British planes and tanks.

But 20,000 Mau Mau guerrillas didn't die in vain. Neither did hundreds of thousands of other Kenyans, whether murdered in concentration camps or killed by hunger and disease in the emergency villages. An independent Kenya was born on Dec. 12, 1963.

The last of the Mau Mau leaders—Field Marshal Dedan Kimathi—had been captured on Oct. 21, 1956. He was hanged on Feb. 18, 1957, in Kamiti Maximum Security Prison outside Nairobi.

Tony Blair and George W. Bush shed crocodile tears for Africa, but Tony Blair's government refuses to even reveal where Kamathi's body is buried. None of the bodies of the hanged Mau Mau martyrs was returned to their families. Oppressed people aren't even supposed to mourn their heroes.

But Africa remembers. The date of Kimathi's execution is commemorated annually. Streets are named for him. Mau Mau veterans have filed a lawsuit for reparations.

They are being avenged wherever people fight for land and freedom.

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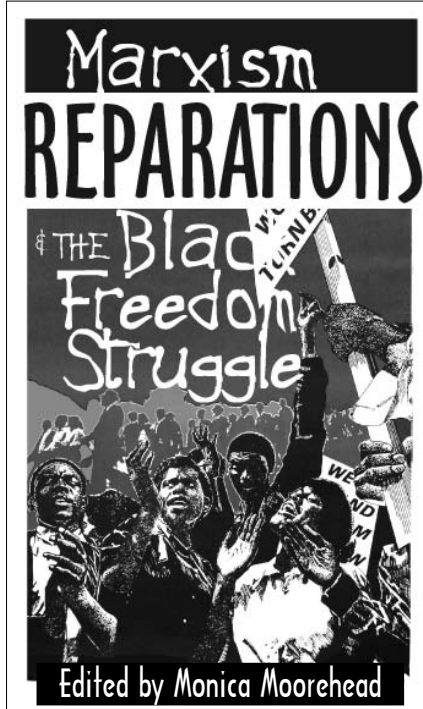
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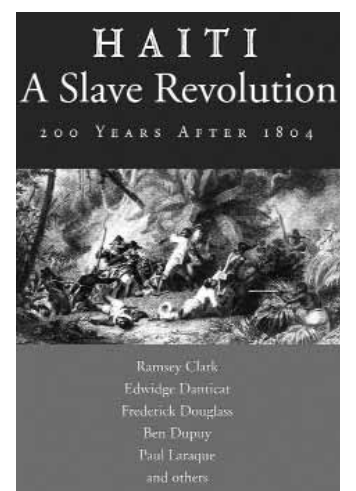
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Libaneses rechazan intervención de los EEUU

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italista de Arabia Saudita y el régimen capitalista y obediente de Hosni Mubarak en Egipto, lanzó una ofensiva para atacar y aislar a Siria después del asesinato del ex primer ministro del Líbano, Rafia al-Hariri, en febrero de este año. Los EEUU y las fuerzas reaccionarias del Líbano intentaron culpar a Siria por el asesinato y tomaron la iniciativa política de demandar el retiro de las fuerzas sirias del Líbano.

Una 'Revolución Gucci'

Los medios capitalistas han hecho de las demostraciones en la Plaza de los Mártires una causa célebre, demostraciones que fueron organizadas al estilo de las manifestaciones proimperialistas en Serbia, Georgia y Ucrania llamadas la "Revolución Cedro".

Estas demostraciones, minúsculas en comparación con la organizada por Hizbolá, tenían un carácter tan obviamente reaccionario que eran una vergüenza hasta para los mismos medios capitalistas que las cubrían.

Por ejemplo, la BBC en su noticiero del 3 de marzo dijo que a "la Revolución Cedro" se la estaba refiriendo como la "mini Ucrania". La describieron de la forma siguiente: "Algunas personas aquí jocosamente llaman el fenómeno "la Revolución Gucci" – no porque rechacen las demostraciones, sino porque muchos de los que ondean la bandera libanesa en las calles no parecen manifestantes".

"Hay mujeres jóvenes con faldas estrechas y tacones altos, llevando carteras caras de piel, lo mismo que hombres vestidos con chalecos elegantes o con zapatos tenis de marca.

"Y en una escena inolvidable, una mujer envejeciente, con su pelo muy arreglado, estaba al lado de su ayudante doméstica de Sri Lanka, diciéndole que ondeara la bandera, enseñándole las palabras árabes de las consignas...

"Pero lo que ha sido fascinante observar es cómo las clases medias y altas libanesas han despertado de su acostumbrado letargo por el asesinato de Hariri".

Un despacho de Reuters del 8 de marzo también reportaba de igual manera. Describía a un campamento levantado en la Plaza de los Mártires de las fuerzas que repetían las demandas imperialistas del retiro de las tropas sirias, "como una casa donde l@s manifestantes, la mayoría con apariencia occidental, estudiantes de clase media, estudiaban, comían, dormían e incluso trabajaban en sus laptops." "Organizaciones extranjeras" les proveían las tiendas de campaña, frazadas, y agua mineral.

Estas organizaciones extranjeras son muy conocidas en Ucrania y en otros lugares donde ciertas ONG's proveen una cubierta para la subversión imperialista.

Estas fuerzas reaccionarias han respondidas a la ofensiva contra Siria y contra Hizbolá lanzada por los carniceros ocupantes de Irak en Washington y los ex colonialistas en París que anteriormente gobernaron el Líbano y Siria.

Su base social permanece principalmente en las fuerzas políticas druces y cristianas maronitas. Estas fuerzas fueron descritas por Fadi Agha, el consejero internacional del presidente del Líbano Emil Lahoud, en una entrevista: "Yo agregaría que muchos de los líderes de la supuesta Revolución Cedro (término inventado en Washington) son los que condujeron al Líbano a 17 años de conflicto civil. ... Estos son las mismas cabezillas, señores sectarios y oportunistas que nos condujeron anteriormente a la ruina".

(CounterPunch 5/6 de marzo)

Tres elecciones, tres ocupaciones

En una declaración ultrajantemente arrogante, el presidente de los EEUU, George W. Bush ha demandado que "Todas las fuerzas militares sirias y personal de inteligencia deben salir antes de los comicios del Líbano [en mayo-F.G.] para que esos comicios sean justos y libres". (Reuters, 8 de marzo)

Pero un millón de personas ha rechazado los sentimientos de Bush, votando con sus pies al marchar en la Plaza Riyad Solh. Ell@s dejaron muy claro que están opuest@s a los intentos imperialistas de dividir a los pueblos sirio y libanés y preparar el escenario para una guerra civil en el Líbano, el derrocamiento del gobierno en Siria, o ambos escenarios.

La hipocresía de Bush de demandar un fin a la presencia de fuerzas extranjeras para poder celebrar "elecciones libres y justas", es inconcebible. Los EEUU acaban de organizar una elección en Irak bajo los fusiles de 150.000 tropas, después de matar más de 100.000 civiles iraquíes, encarcelando y matando a miles de combatientes de la resistencia, gobernando el país desde el cuartel militar y la embajada de los EEUU.

El año pasado, Washington condujo una elección en Afganistán después de bombardear al país despiadadamente, enviando tropas de ocupación y presionando a Alemania y a otros poderes imperialistas de la OTAN para ocupar la capital y las regiones circundantes. Las elecciones en la Franja Oeste y en Gaza se llevaron a cabo bajo los fusiles del ejército israelí en el fondo, armado hasta los dientes por el Pentágono.

Tres elecciones bajo tres ocupaciones por opresores imperialistas –y Bush las quiere ignorar. Sea cual fueran los problemas con la presencia militar de Siria en el Líbano, lo cierto es que Siria no es un opresor imperialista que obtiene súper ganancias del Líbano. Cualquiera que sean las ventajas nacionales que Siria quiera aprovechar por su presencia en el Líbano, también funciona como un defensor de Hizbolá y de las fuerzas de liberación nacional en el país y como una bar-

raera a la agresión por parte del estado colonialista de Israel. Eso es a lo que se opone la administración de Bush.

De hecho, la demanda de la administración de Bush de que se retiren las tropas militares sirias bajo las condiciones de la resolución 1559 de la ONU, pasada en septiembre de 2004, es parte del plan de Washington de desarmar a Hizbolá, disminuyendo así la resistencia a una intervención estadounidense en la región y abriendo la puerta a otra agresión de Israel contra el Líbano.

Bush no ha pronunciado ni una sola palabra sobre la ocupación de los Altos del Golán de Siria por parte de Israel. Ese territorio fue tomado en la agresión militar de Israel en 1967 contra Egipto y Siria, apoyado por Washington. Bush no ha pronunciado ni una sola palabra sobre el hacer cumplir el montón de resoluciones de la ONU condenando la ocupación israelí de la Franja Oeste y Gaza.

Retiro de Siria y soberanía nacional

Pero Washington de súbito ha enfocado su atención y se ha vuelto un partidario comprometido de la resolución 1559 de la ONU. Esto es porque esa es una copia, más moderada, de la Ley de Responsabilidad Siria y de la Restauración de la Soberanía del Líbano de 2003, en la cual el Congreso de los EEUU demandó no solamente que Siria retire sus tropas del Líbano, sino que Hizbolá y todas las organizaciones que sean parte de una lucha armada por la liberación de Palestina y en contra de la agresión de Israel, sean desarmadas. Severas sanciones fueron impuestas contra Siria por Washington por medio de esta legislación.

Más débilmente, la resolución 1559 pide el retiro de Siria y el desarme de Hizbolá. Según el reporte de Reuters, "Nasrallah dijo que no tiene problemas con un retiro de Siria según el Acuerdo Taif de 1989 que terminó con la guerra civil de 1975 – 1990 en el Líbano, pero no quiere tener nada que ver con una resolución adoptada en septiembre que pidió el retiro de Siria y el desarme de las milicias".

El Acuerdo Taif es un acuerdo entre los dos gobiernos y pide el retiro militar eventual de Siria que sería negociado entre ellos.

Inmigrantes protestan por la licencia de manejar

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abril, activistas para los derechos de inmigrantes tratarán de obligar a la corte a emitir un interdicto permanente contra la suspensión de licencias de manejar.

Consignas en español, coreano, bangla, urdu, hindi, cantonés, y otros idiomas resonaron mientras l@s manifestantes marchaban lentamente por las aceras estrechas después de que la policía les negó permiso para desfilar por la calle. Por toda la ruta, trabajadores y clientes se asomaban a las vidrieras de peluquerías, salones de belleza, restaurantes y otras tiendas del barrio—saludando a l@s manifestantes y abriendo las puertas para coger volantes.

La acción fue auspiciada por el Centro Hispano Cuzcatlán, Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM), New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE), y el New York Civic Participation Project (NYCPP), y respaldada por 40 sindicatos, grupos comunitarios y defensores de los derechos de inmigrantes—incluyendo el New York Taxi Workers Alliance, UNITE-HERE

Local 100, SEIU-32BJ, y New York City Labor Against War (NYC Trabajadores Contra la Guerra).

"La política del DVM, incluyendo su colaboración con el Departamento de Seguridad de la Patria, para aprehender a inmigrantes, representa la parte local de una tendencia nacional de atacar los medios de vida de millones de trabajadores," declaró Kavitha Pawria, una organizadora de política y leyes de DRUM.

Repartidores, taxistas, y otros que necesitan una licencia para trabajar, y sus familias, están sufriendo como resultado de la política del DVM. Durante la manifestación final, l@s manifestantes guardaron dos minutos de silencio para Mirza Panir, un taxista bangladeshi indocumentado que murió de un ataque cardíaco inducido por el estrés cuando fue detenido por la seguridad en el Aeropuerto LaGuardia hace dos semanas.

Uno de los organizadores de la protesta no pudo asistir a la acción porque se le quitó la licencia, luego perdió su trabajo

La manifestación masiva en Beirut fue organizada frente a la oficina de la ONU para establecer que el Líbano está luchando por su soberanía y que cualquier retiro tiene que ser bajo un acuerdo firmado entre el gobierno del Líbano y el de Siria y no bajo el mandato y los términos dictados por Washington, Tel Aviv (silenciosamente), París u otros imperialistas europeos.

También deja claro que Hizbolá no aceptará desarmarse bajo órdenes de la ONU. Se describe repetidamente a Hizbolá como una milicia terrorista. Pero no es ni milicia ni terrorista. Es un movimiento armado de liberación nacional dedicado a luchar contra el imperialismo y el sionismo.

La administración de Bush está intentando derrocar al gobierno del Líbano y hacerle firmar un pacto de paz por separado con Israel, preparando el escenario para un "cambio de régimen" en Siria. Pero la multitudinaria manifestación en Beirut contra de la interferencia de los EEUU, Francia e Israel bajo el pretexto de la resolución de la ONU demuestra que Washington ha hecho el mismo monumental cálculo erróneo en el Líbano que hizo en Irak. Ignoró totalmente el papel de las masas anticolonialistas y su determinación y capacidad de resistencia.

Bush se engañó con las momentáneas victorias políticas al obtener la ayuda de su socio imperialista menor en Francia y la colaboración de elementos burgueses en Irak, Egipto y Arabia Saudita. Pero eso fueron las capas más ricas de la sociedad del Medio Oriente, las que tienen un interés material en la colaboración de clase. Ahora, las capas pobres de la sociedad han hablado en el Líbano, igual que están hablando el idioma de la resistencia en Irak y Palestina. Bush y el Pentágono están flirteando con un desastre aún mayor en la región de Siria y Líbano si confunden los gobiernos con las masas populares.

El movimiento antiguerra debe agregar las consignas de "Manos de EEUU fuera de Siria", y "Manos fuera del Líbano" a la demanda de acabar con las ocupaciones de Irak y Palestina. Esa es la única manera de proteger los intereses de l@s oprimid@s y l@s trabajador@s en el Medio Oriente y aquí en los EEUU también. □

como repartidor, y tuvo que mudarse ese día. Un niño pequeño llevaba un letrero hecho de una caja de pizza que decía: "Por favor, permita a mi papá llevarme a la escuela."

"Gente de todos los grupos de inmigrantes se están uniendo de una manera muy histórica para decir que esta política tiene un impacto negativo sobre las familias de tod@s, sobre las vidas y comunidades dónde vivimos y trabajamos irrespectivamente de la condición migratoria ni del país de procedencia," dijo Zahida Pirani, una organizadora comunitaria del NYCPP.

Miguel Ramírez del Centro Hispano Cuzcatlán estuvo de acuerdo: "Éste es un evento histórico porque gente de muchas comunidades inmigrantes en Queens se han unido por primera vez en torno a una cuestión que tenemos en común."

Shirley Lin de NICE demandó que los políticos elegidos, Gobernador Pataki y el DVM "implementen una solución que reconozca nuestros derechos". □

Libaneses rechazan intervención de los EEUU

Manifestación gigantesca desaira la 'Revolución Gucci'

Por Fred Goldstein

El pueblo libanés se concentró en Beirut viniendo desde todas las áreas pobres del país el 6 de marzo en una masiva demostración antiimperialista y contra el sionismo. Dio un rechazo contundente a los intentos de la administración de Bush de aislar a Siria, atacar a Hizbolá y preparar el terreno para extender su guerra de "cambio de regímenes" en el Medio Oriente hacia Damasco.

Los organizadores dijeron que un millón de personas asistieron. Hasta el cálculo aproximado más moderado de la prensa comercial fue de medio millón de participantes. La toma de las videocámaras en helicópteros mostró el desbordamiento de la multitud en la Plaza Riad Solh en Beirut central tan lejos como podía alcanzar la vista. La participación en la manifestación incluyó cerca de la cuarta parte de la población entera del Líbano, la cual se estima en 4,4 millones de personas.

Una manifestación de tales proporciones en los EEUU sería de aproximadamente 50 a 60 millones de personas.

Dos grúas enormes sostenían mantas

que decían: "Gracias a Siria" y "No a la injerencia extranjera." La manifestación fue una respuesta a las demandas de la administración de Bush, de sus aliados y títeres de que Siria saque sus tropas del Líbano y que se desarme a Hizbolá.

La agencia Reuters el 8 de marzo, refiriéndose al discurso del líder del Hizbolá Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, reportó que "Nasrallah dijo que nadie en el Líbano tenía miedo de los EEUU, cuyas tropas se fueron en 1984", pocos meses después de que un carrobomba matara a 241 miembros de la infantería de marina en sus cuarteles generales en Beirut. "Nosotros los hemos derrotado en el pasado y si vienen de nuevo los derrotaremos otra vez", dijo, según reportes.

Otras pancartas en la manifestación, según Prensa Asociada, decían "Siria y el Líbano, hermanos para siempre", "América es la fuente del terrorismo", "Todos nuestros desastres se originan en América", y "No a la intervención americana-sionista, Sí a la hermandad entre el Líbano y Siria".

Nasrallah contestó a la administración de Bush, la cual ha estado intentando

deshacerse del gobierno actual del Líbano, aduciendo que es un títere de Siria. Señalando a la multitud en la plaza dijo: "Pido a nuestros socios en el país o a aquellos que nos están mirando desde lejos: ¿Son estos cientos de miles de personas títeres y agentes a sueldo de los sirios y de las agencias de espionaje?" (Prensa Asociada, 8 de marzo)

Hizbolá, una organización de liberación nacional

Hizbolá es una organización de la población chiíta, la cual es el sector más pobre de la sociedad libanesa y fue tradicionalmente excluida y víctima de discriminación. Provee servicios sociales, tiene diputados en el parlamento y mantiene su propia fuerza armada de 20.000 efectivos.

Organizada en 1984 de grupos dispersos que luchaban resistiendo a la ocupación israelí, creó una organización armada de resistencia nacional que combatió la ocupación israelí del sur del Líbano y finalmente expulsó a los israelitas en 2000. Por esto es venerada no solamente en el Líbano sino a través del

mundo árabe.

Es la fuerza política más grande, mejor organizada y disciplinada en el Líbano y está considerada popularmente como una organización de liberación nacional, esencial para mantener fuera a los ex ocupantes sionistas. Los EEUU le han dado la etiqueta de "organización terrorista" y han demandado que se desarme.

Siria ha apoyado al Hizbolá así como a otras organizaciones que luchan por la liberación de Palestina y en contra de la ocupación israelí. Siria envió tropas al Líbano en 1976 a pedido del gobierno del Líbano para separar los combatientes durante una guerra civil. Se volvió parte de una Fuerza de Disuasión autorizada en reuniones cumbres árabes ese año.

La guerra civil, fomentada por el imperialismo francés y estadounidense y por Tel Aviv, duró hasta 1989, cuando fue resuelta bajo la protección de tropas sirias. Un acuerdo nacional fue creado, el Acuerdo Taif de 1989.

La actual administración de Bush, en combinación con el imperialismo francés y con el apoyo de la monarquía feudo-cap-

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L@s haitian@s desafían la 'democracia' de escuadrones de muerte de Bush

Mientras las noticias de televisión estadounidense proyectan interminablemente las nuevas iniciativas de Presidente George W. Bush de extender la democracia y la libertad en el mundo, el pueblo haitiano ya ha experimentado su freccimiento y lo está rechazando.

Hace un año, Estados Unidos derrotó al gobierno electo del Presidente Jean-Bertrand Aristide y lo secuestró con su familia, llevándolos fuera del país para instalar al líder "democrático" nombrado por Bush, Gerard Latortue.

Miembros de escuadrones de muerte que regresaron a Haití fueron encubiertos junto a Latortue, así como a ex-miembros de la policía conocidos por su brutalidad y horrible represión contra el pueblo durante la dictadura de Duvalier.

Hoy, miembros del gobierno de Aristide languidecen en calabozos. L@s manifestantes son asesinado@s a balazos por la policía. La vida en el país más pobre del Hemisferio Occidental se ha hecho aún peor. Hay cadáveres amontonados en las orillas de los caminos y la tasa de mortalidad por todas causas es increíblemente alta.

Pero según Washington, Haití está ahora en el camino a la democracia.

Cuando 2.000 simpatizantes desarmados de Aristide trataron de desfilar por Port au Prince el 28 de febrero, demandando el regreso de su presidente secuestrado, fueron atacados a disparos por la policía. Por lo menos dos personas fueron asesinadas y 20 heridas. Las tropas de las Naciones Unidas que estaban, dirigidas por oficiales brasileños, no hicieron nada para impedir la matanza, llevando a la conde-

nación inmediata desde muchas regiones.

Quizás como respuesta a las severas críticas por su papel en Haití, que fueron expresadas por much@s brasileñ@s durante el Foro Social Mundial en Porto Alegre el mes pasado, las tropas brasileñas acompañaron a otra manifestación pro-Aristide de 2.000 personas el 4 de marzo, por las calles de la capital haitiana. Esta vez la policía no atacó a los manifestantes. La manifestación demandó el fin del gobierno "interino" respaldado por los Estados Unidos.

Más de 400 personas han muerto en la capital desde que partidarios de Aristide empezaron a intensificar sus demandas por su regreso hace cuatro meses. (AP, 4 de marzo). La mayoría de las personas asesinadas son de la base social de Aristide: el sector más pobre que rechaza que el país sea dirigido otra vez por títeres del imperialismo estadounidense y francés.

La representante Maxine Waters, ferviente partidaria de Aristide que representa la comunidad afro-americana de Los Ángeles en el Congreso de los Estados Unidos, encabezó una delegación investigativa a Haití a primeros de marzo. Visitó al ex-Primer Ministro Yves Neptune en la prisión donde él lleva una huelga de hambre, y quien dijo que las condiciones allí son "deplorables".

"Yo exhorto al gobierno interino de Haití a liberar al Primer Ministro Neptune y a todos los presos políticos en las prisiones haitianas," dijo Waters. "La represión de disidentes como el Primer Ministro Neptune por el gobierno interino debe acabar inmediatamente. Los ojos del mundo están en Haití." □



L@s haitian@s desfilan por Bel Air para conmemorar el Día Internacional de la Mujer, y para apoyar a Aristide.

Inmigrantes protestan por la licencia de manejar

Por Mary Owen
Jackson Heights, N.Y.

Un letrero hecho a mano que leía "El Derecho a Manejar es un Derecho Civil y un Derecho de Trabajadores Inmigrantes" captó el mensaje de una protesta aquí el 5 de marzo a la cual asistieron cientos de inmigrantes y sus partidari@s que vinieron de algunos de los barrios más étnicamente diversos de la ciudad de Nueva York.

Gritando "¿Qué queremos? ¡Licencias! ¿Cuándo las queremos? ¡Ahora!"; l@s manifestantes desfilaron por tres horas por el barrio multinacional de Jackson Heights en Queens para demandar que el Gobernador George Pataki y el Departamento de

Vehículos Motorizados (DVM) del estado de Nueva York dejen de portarse como si fueran los ejecutores de las leyes de inmigración, al negarles las licencias de manejar que necesitan para trabajar.

El 17 de febrero, una juez de la Corte Suprema del Estado de Nueva York, Karen S. Smith, temporalmente prohibió al DVM de tomar medidas que podrían resultar en la suspensión de casi 300.000 licencias a inmigrantes en el estado que no tienen tarjeta de Seguro Social. Unas 7.000 licencias ya han sido suspendidas. La Jueza Smith dictaminó que l@s inmigrantes sufrirían un serio e injurioso daño como resultado de la injusta práctica del DVM. En una audiencia que tendrá lugar el 7 de

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