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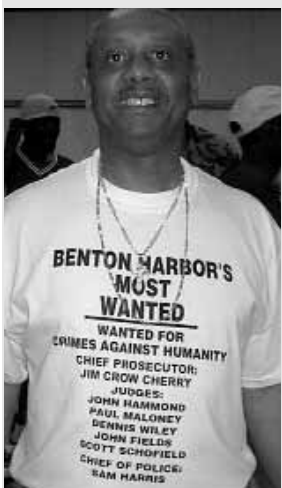
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Rev. Edward
Pinckney

WW PHOTO:
CHERYL LABASH

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As death toll in Iraq rises Bush promises even more war

Growing U.S. anti-war movement demands 'OUT NOW!'

By Fred Goldstein

June 28—President George W. Bush tried desperately tonight to reverse the growing opposition to the Iraq War and his own declining poll numbers. His crude method was to yet again wrap himself in the Sept. 11 disaster and his so-called “war on terrorism.”

His goal was to divert attention from the growing number of U.S. dead and wounded, the mounting cost of the war, the terrible suffering of the Iraqi people, and deepening resistance to U.S. colonial occupation.

Bush’s talk was laced with numerous references to Sept. 11, in order to conjure up fears of another attack and link the war somehow with preventing it. He depicted fighters against the U.S.-British occupation as “terrorists” in almost every other paragraph of his talk, and threw in a quote from Osama bin Laden to wrap everything up in a neat “anti-terrorist” package.

But the Iraqi people, who have suffered colonial rule for hundreds of years, do not need bin Laden or anyone else to prompt them to resist U.S. tanks, armored personnel carriers and humvees rumbling through their neighborhoods.

They do not need any encouragement to fight an oppressive invasion force that has killed well over 100,000 Iraqis and regularly sweeps through towns and cities, rounding up thousands of males from 15 to 55, and throwing them in horrendous detention camps like Abu Ghraib.

Bush borrowed Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld’s terminology to brand the Iraqi resistance as “criminals” joined by “remnants” of Saddam Hussein’s army and foreign fighters. He implied that it was an isolated band unconnected to the Iraqi people.

He was trying to cover over the increasingly obvious fact that the resistance can strike at the U.S. military and its puppet troops and police at will, in every region of the country, from Basra in the south to Mosul and Kirkuk in the north as well as Baghdad. There are 30 to 40 attacks every day and they are becoming more effective each month.

It does not take a military genius to figure out that any prolonged resistance such as this has tens of thousands of active members who are supported by the general population of millions. Otherwise, it could not continue.

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Trans Pride fills the streets—from New York to San Francisco



WW PHOTO: LESLIE FEINBERG

Marchers on the first ‘Trans Day of Action’ in New York City on June 24 demanding ‘Jobs, education, housing and health care—not warfare!’ Passersby stopped to applaud and cheer the militant demonstration. See page 7.

Harry Hay:

Painful partings

By Leslie Feinberg

As Harry Hay's dream of organizing homosexuals took on material reality with the formation and growth of the Mattachine Society in 1951, he faced painful partings.

Hay approached Anita, his partner of 13 years with whom he had adopted two children. He told her about the therapist who had said that Hay could "close the book" on his gay sexuality. "I told her that what the psychiatrist had said wasn't true, that the book would not close." Hay explained that he saw homosexuals as a scapegoated minority that had to be organized. The two were legally divorced in September 1951. ("The Trouble with Harry Hay")

The end of his heterosexual marriage resulted in the loss of almost all the friendships the couple had shared.

One of the closest of those friends, Martha Rinaldo, remembered the conversation she had with Hay weeks after his breakup with Anita. "He explained why this had happened and that he hoped it wouldn't make any difference in the way I felt about him.

"Because of the witch hunts that were starting up on leftists," Rinaldo continued, "I remember saying something to the effect of, 'Harry, are you sure you aren't trying to jump out of that fire—and that you're not jumping into a bigger fire?'"

"None of us who weren't gay knew anything about the intensity of feeling that must involve," she concluded. "Looking back, I don't see how I could have said something like that." ("The Trouble with Harry Hay")

'Coming out' to his party

Hay still faced another huge loss in his life.

In autumn 1951, Hay recalled, "I decided that organizing the Mattachine was a call to me deeper than the innermost reaches of spirit, a vision-quest more important than life. I went to the Communist Party and discussed this 'total call' upon me, recommending to them my expulsion." ("Gay American History")

The most details about why Hay called for his own expulsion, and what happened when he approached party leaders, can be found in Stuart Timmons biography, "The Trouble with Harry Hay."

"At that time," Timmons explained, "the Party was calling upon each member in one of its periodic re-registration campaigns. This was a project of the County Verification Committee of the Party, to make sure there was nothing politically vulnerable about the membership and to protect against a growing number of infiltrators and informers."

Communists were being witch hunted, ordered to register as "foreign agents" and plans for internment of leftists were not just talk.

"Hay took this opportunity," Timmons wrote, "to present his situation, in a considered, formal and political manner, to his district section organizer, Miriam Sherman." Sherman and Hay had been friends since they'd met at the Horton dance company in 1934, where she was an accompanist.

When they sat down to talk about his membership, Hay handed Sherman a report. "It was two or three typed pages," Hay later said, "that outlined my services to the Party and my current involvement in the Mattachine."

Timmons added, "His continuation in the Party, he con-

cluded, even under the best of circumstances, would be a liability to the organization, so he recommended his own expulsion as a security risk because of his homosexuality."

Hay elaborated on how he arrived at this serious decision. "Since homosexuals were forbidden membership in the Party, according to its own constitution, I felt that those members in California who knew my Party work would know I had never endangered Party security. But, were this matter to be aired in the *People's World* or the *Daily Worker*, members in other states might feel the Party had been lax about safeguarding the membership.



PART 40

The entire Lavender & Red series, which explores the history of the socialist movement and the struggle for sexual & gender liberation, can be read online at www.workers.org.

I felt that a proposal for my expulsion would exonerate the California Party in their eyes, and that was the important thing."

Hay and Sherman sat talking for hours at her kitchen table. "I said that I felt that this was an important conversation she and I were having politically, and that one of these fine days, when it had been made clear that my people were socially responsible, maybe we could all come back together again. But at that moment we couldn't."

Sherman later described, "It was traumatic for me. I felt this guy was such an original thinker and hard worker and asset to the Party."

Timmons said that Sherman "probed uncomfortably" to see if Hay knew other, as she described them, "AC/DC" party members.

Hay responded by describing to her "the ancient and traditional pact faithfully adhered to in the Homosexual Brotherhood wherein one never reveals the identity of another without his permission—under any circumstances—even

in the face of Party membership requirements."

Hay continued, "I suddenly realized what that could mean, and so did she, and we both got involuntarily teary-eyed. Like so many other Party people in those Loyalty Oath and McCarthy-ridden times, we had both experienced best friends who turned out to be FBI spies. We all had friends and relatives whose Jewish cousins in Poland or Germany had their hiding places and identities revealed to the Nazis by friends, neighbors, and even family members.

"After looking at each other for that long, blurry moment, Miriam blurted out, 'Could that be why the Party always insisted that homosexuals shouldn't become Party members or shouldn't be allowed to come close to inner Party life?'"

Hay concluded, "If I had gotten involved with a guy who had been an FBI snitch, this reason would have been very legitimate as regards Party security."

Any sympathetic reader can understand how difficult it was for these two comrades and friends of many years to try to sort all this out at the kitchen table. But this needs sorting out, even now.

Mixing apples and oranges

Yes, gays and lesbians were considered "outlaws" by the state at that time. The cops and courts actively hounded and persecuted them, and tried to use this legal vulnerability to manipulate anyone in their custody so as to extort cooperation or provide information.

However, having to hide their sexuality in order to remain members of the CPUSA made lesbian and gay, bisexual, transgender and intersexual comrades more vulnerable to extortion and state pressures, not less.

And wasn't the state bearing down on communists, too? Weren't communists being fired and hounded on the basis

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WW CALENDAR

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Sat., July 16

Brunch & book signing with Leslie Feinberg. Feinberg is a managing editor of WW newspaper and an author of *Stone Butch Blues*, and *Trans Liberation*, among other works. Sponsored by Workers World Party. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. At 5274 W Pico Blvd., Suite 203. For info (323) 936-1416.

Sat., July 16

IAC Forum: Lavender & Red, featuring Leslie Feinberg, lesbian transgender author and activist. 2 p.m. At the Gay & Lesbian Center, Village at Ed Gould Plaza, 1125 N McCadden Pl. (one block E of Highland, N of Santa Monica Blvd). For info (323) 936-7266.

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Benton Harbor rally defends African American reverend

Following are excerpts from an article written by Abayomi Azikiwe, editor of the Pan-African News Wire, who attended the June 25 rally. Email ac6123@wayne.edu to get the entire article:

“We are here today to let the world know that enough is enough. There is no reason in the world why we should be like we are today.”

These were the words of Rev. Edward Pinkney while opening up a recent rally in this southwest Michigan city. Pinkney, a local African American minister, lecturer and community activist, is the Benton Harbor executive director of the Black Autonomy Network of Community Organizations (BANCO). He has been an outspoken critic of the current conditions prevailing in Benton Harbor, a majority African-American city of approximately 11,000 people.

Police brutality has been rampant, resulting in the beatings, torture, humiliation and even deaths of people at the hands of the local authorities in Benton Harbor, neighboring Benton Township, Berrien County as well as the State Police. In June 2003, youth who are victims of astronomical rates of unemployment rose up in rebellion for three days, effectively making the issues in Benton Harbor symbolic of the overall crisis of the cities in the United States.

The rebellion, which received international press coverage two years ago, was sparked by the death of a young motorcyclist who was chased down to his death by Benton Township police. Over the last two years people have continued to receive harsh treatment from the law-enforcement agencies patrolling the city.

Rev. Pinkney recently led a successful recall campaign against City Commissioner Glenn Yarbrough on Feb. 22. In retaliation, he was arrested on April 18 by the Benton Harbor police and charged with four felonies and one misdemeanor.

These counts carry the possibility of a long prison sentence. All of the charges are



Supporters of Rev. Edward Pinkney.

WW PHOTO: CHERYL LABASH

related to allegations surrounding the voting in the recent recall election against Commissioner Yarbrough.

According to Berrien County prosecutors, Rev. Pinkney illegally influenced voters to support the recall campaign against Yarbrough. He has been accused of misleading voters and paying people to cast their ballots against Yarbrough.

Rev. Pinkney has emphatically denied the charges. BANCO and its supporters around the state contend that the prosecution of this community activist is clearly politically motivated.

As a result of the unwillingness of the local authorities to accept the outcome of the recall election, the Berrien County prosecutor went to court to have the election results overturned. Another election will be held on the status of Yarbrough on August 2. BANCO is attempting to mobilize people to recast their ballots in support of the recall, with a scheduled July 30 rally.

Statements of solidarity

Local activist Rev. Carl Brown of BANCO said that “when the people take a stand great change can take place.”

Rev. Brown also stated that “when a group of people stand up for what is right, and that is all we are doing is standing up

for what is right, we can demand that they do what is right.”

Marian Kramer, co-chair of the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization in Highland Park, said: “These are some of the same tactics that were used in the South to take away our rights. They always want to implement the Constitution to protect the rich. What about our constitutional rights? We are not going to have our rights unless we organize.”

“This fighting that is taking place in Benton Harbor is an economic fight. It is an economic fight over who going to be able to eat, have a home, education and recreation.”

A representative of the Michigan Emergency Committee Against War & Injustice (MECAWI) as well as the Detroit Coalition Against Police Brutality (DCAPB) from Detroit stated that “we are here to express our solidarity with Rev. Pinkney and BANCO in this very important fight we are

Continued on page 6

What, to the American slave, is your 4th of July?

Following are excerpts from a 1852 talk by Frederick Douglass, a former slave and a leader in the fight against slavery.



What, to the American slave, is your 4th of July?

I answer: a day that reveals to him, more than all other days in the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim.

To him, your celebration is a sham; your boasted liberty, an unholy license; your national greatness, swelling vanity; your sounds of rejoicing are empty and heartless; your denunciations of tyrants, brass fronted impudence; your shouts of liberty and equality, hollow mockery; your prayers and hymns, your sermons and thanksgivings, with all your religious parade, and solemnity, are, to him, mere bombast, fraud, deception, impiety, and hypocrisy—a thin veil to cover up crimes which would disgrace a nation of savages.

There is not a nation on the earth guilty of practices, more shocking and bloody, than are the people of these United States, at this very hour.

Go where you may, search where you will, roam through all the monarchies and despotisms of the old world, travel through South America, search out every abuse, and when you have found the last, lay your facts by the side of the everyday practices of this nation, and you will say with me, that, for revolting barbarity and shameless hypocrisy, America reigns without a rival. ■

Crack becomes faultline in Angola 3 case

By Marina Drummer

In the June 30 issue, Workers World reported news of the Angola 3 case: that the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals ordered a lower court to hear evidence about suppressed testimony during Herman Wallace's trial for the murder of a guard in Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola, La.

Herman Wallace, Albert Woodfox and Robert King Wilkerson received more good news in late June. All three men are plaintiffs in a lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union. The lawsuit charges the Louisiana Department of Corrections and the Angola Prison administration with the constitutional violations of cruel and unusual punishment and lack of due process, in regard to their over 33 years of solitary confinement in the hellhole of Angola prison.

The lawsuit was so strong that it prompted U.S. Magistrate Docia L. Dalby to write in her recent ruling, “The present matter, of course, involves confinements of 28 to nearly 33 years, durations so far beyond the pale that this Court has not

Herman Wallace, Albert Woodfox & Robert King Wilkerson



found anything even remotely comparable in the annals of American jurisprudence.” But the ACLU was unable to continue litigating the case due to lack of resources. So the case had been inactive for the past few months.

Now the law firm of Holland & Knight has agreed to represent the Angola 3 in the civil lawsuit. George Kendall and Steve Hanlon will assume the roles of lead counsels. They will work with Nick Trenticosta serving as local counsel.

Kendall and Hanlon have a long history of civil-rights litigation. They head up the firm's Community Services Team. A trial is anticipated for the end of this year.

In another important development, the United States Supreme Court ruled in late June that prison officials may not move an

Continued on page 10

Stop legal lynching of Somerville 5

By Phebe Eckfeldt
Boston

“Racial profiling is a polite name for racial hatred and racial prejudice. I feel the pain that it carries—it hurts!”

“What we have to endure: driving while Black, walking while Black, the beatings, maiming, imprisonment, even death. All directed at our Black children. Yes, it hurts to endure low-quality schools with military recruiting offices, and the return of segregated schools again here in Boston. It hurts that our children are expelled from school and evidence disappears before trial.”

So stated Dorothea Peacock of the Women's Fightback Network. She was speaking at a June 21 meeting of the Committee to Defend the Somerville 5.

Peacock continued: “Ask ourselves! Isn't it ironic that today a trial is held in Mississippi for the lynching of three civil-rights workers. Lynching? Yes, the ropes of injustice are still around our children's necks, resulting in harsh punishment before investigation, because of the color of their skin.

“Are we going to sit silently by and let racial prejudice assault our children? No! Let's nip it in the bud by standing and speaking out for the Somerville 5—by any means necessary!”

Peacock's remarks drew loud applause from the many people who'd come to the

meeting to lend their support and roll up their sleeves to help out.

The Somerville 5 are Black youths. On April 20, they were beaten, maced and clubbed by Medford, Mass., police. They were gang-profiled and called racist names. This unprovoked violent attack by the police resulted in the 5 youths being arrested, jailed and expelled from school.

Family members of the Somerville 5 talked proudly and with love of their sons and their accomplishments, goals and futures. They were full of hope and promise, but the night of April 20 plunged them all into a nightmare.

Relatives discussed this nightmare of police lies, media frame-up and legal lynching. They thanked people for coming out in support of the Somerville 5 and their families. And they urged supporters to continue to fight the crime of racial profiling and police brutality that has reached epidemic proportions around the country.

The committee then spent the rest of the meeting discussing concrete plans of action. There will be two pickets outside the next two court hearings, on July 5 and July 6. Supporters are urged to bring signs and banners and demonstrate at 8:30 a.m. on both days, outside Cambridge District Court, 40 Thorndike Street in Cambridge.

Drop all charges now! Investigate the Medford Police! End racial profiling and police brutality! For more information call: (617) 522-6626. □

Day Laborers struggle after racist evictions

By Heather Cottin
Long Island, N.Y.

In the early hours of June 20, while several dozen tenants of a tiny bungalow at 33 Woodmont Avenue in Farmingville, N.Y., on Long Island, were still sleeping, Brookhaven town authorities raided the dwelling and evicted them from their home.

Town authorities claimed concern for the terrible living conditions the workers, most of whom are Mexican, faced. But this expulsion was a racist political attack meant to drive Latinos out of Long Island.

The raid showed the government's contempt for the thousands of Latino day laborers, the jornaleros who work for low wages under brutal conditions in the landscaping, construction and restaurant industries across the region.

Among Latino immigrants and their supporters, the response was immediate. Local organizers from Centro de Apoyo de Farmingville, United Day Laborers, of Long Island, the Freeport Worklink Center, in Nassau, the Workplace Project, Jobs with Justice and several churches and community groups marched and rallied on June 26 to fight the evictions and defend the rights of the jornaleros.

Suffolk County Supervisor Steve Levy warned that another 123 homes in Farmingville face similar raids. He refused to meet with members of Centro de Apoyo, the immigrant support committee in Farmingville, or any of the Long Island organizations in support of the day laborers.

"I will not meet with them on this matter," he said. "I'm not one who's going to be intimidated by their antics or marches. Bring it on." (New York Times, June 26)

Levy played to his racist constituency by calling the organizers of the march and rally in support of immigrant rights "a lunatic fringe." (Newsday, June 28)

Farmingville is a village where racists have organized vicious attacks on undocumented Latino workers in the past. The virulence of the local reactionaries is even the subject of a documentary called "Farmingville."

Two years ago, the racist Sagem Quality of Life group organized a sparsely attended conference against Latino immigrants and day laborers. The racists invited Glenn Spencer, leader of the vigilante American Patrol, and members of the Minutemen to participate.

And it was in Farmingville where, in 2000, racists kidnapped two Mexican jornaleros from their home, took them to an unoccupied building and viciously beat them.

It was in Farmingville that, one summer night in 2003, a gang of local teenagers firebombed a house in which a Mexican family was asleep in their beds. The family escaped with their lives.

'Housing is a right!'

"We were evicted without notice," said Benito Martinez, one of the residents thrown out into the street June 20. "Others from my house were out working, or standing on the corners, seeking work. They weren't allowed back to collect their clothing."

Benitez added. "We have to speak up, we have to work together to fight these evictions."

The Rev. Allan Ramirez from the Brookville Church in nearby Nassau County held up a small dog. "If 30 dogs were found living in this house, the county or town would have found homes for them! But these Latino immigrants were treated worse than dogs!"

"They were thrown out into the street, here at ground zero, around the corner from the very place that racists burned one

June 26
protest.

PHOTO:
CARLOS
CANALES



family out and almost killed two other Mexican day laborers five years ago."

Ramirez told Workers World that the police and the Suffolk County government were conducting an "ethnic cleansing campaign against Latino immigrants, trying to drive these people out of the county."

Nadia Marin Molina, director of the Workplace Project, the main group organizing jornaleros on Long Island, told Workers World that the issue of the day laborers in Farmingville points to the crisis in housing throughout the region.

Recently, the Workplace Project was called to defend Latino tenants facing eviction from an apartment in Farmingdale, in Nassau County. That building houses 150 immigrant families.

Latino jornaleros in other parts of Long Island are often homeless. They face arrest for loitering.

In Suffolk, County Supervisor Levy tried to deputize the police force to arrest undocumented workers. Protests made Levy retreat from this threat. But Marin Molina said that if homeless workers are arrested for loitering, they will be turned over to the Immigration and Naturalization Service for incarceration and deportation.

"The jornaleros are the most exploited workers in the U.S. At this moment their demand is housing, and housing is an issue for everyone. This is an issue many people can organize around, because housing is a right—here in Farmingville and across the country." □

Citizens & immigrants protest racist Minutemen

A group of close to 100 U.S. citizens and immigrants gathered on June 25 to protest the racist anti-immigrant group known as the "Minutemen," who were holding a conference at the Bridgewater Sports and Ice Arena here. The group included Black, white, Asian and Latino activists from different organizations and political affiliations. People were there from

Workers World Party, Casa Freehold, the Progressive Labor Party, People's Organization for Progress and the Central N.J. Coalition for Peace and Justice, to name a few.

The heat and humidity did not wilt the energy and spirit of the protesters, who chanted: "¡No somos ilegales! ¡Somos trabajadores!" (We're not illegal! We're workers!) and "¡Las luchas obreras no tienen fronteras!" (Workers' struggles have no borders!).

There were about 20 police officers—10 of whom were in full SWAT gear—at this demonstration, which was energetic but peaceful. There was never any threat of violence. Yet, when the demonstration broke up and protesters walked up the hill to the parking lot of the arena where some of the protesters had parked their cars, the police lined up and one of the SWAT members pointed his machine gun at the protesters.

The participants from Casa Freehold handed out fliers announcing a July 4th demonstration for immigrants' rights in Freehold. The demonstration is from

Continued on page 5

Iraqi anti-occupation trade unionists tour U.S.

Special to Workers World

The history of the General Union of Oil Workers in Iraq is unique. It was founded 11 days after the fall of Baghdad in April 2003. That August, the union struck for three days and won wage increases for its members.

GUOW fought Halliburton's subsidiary Kellogg, Brown, Root against privatization of the oil industry, and the military industrial occupation of Iraq.

Since the strike, the union has grown to over 23,000 workers in 10 oil and gas companies in Basra, Amari, Nassiriya, and Anbar provinces. Yet it is not recognized as the collective bargaining representative of the oil workers.

From the very beginning of the occupation, GUOW denounced Paul Bremer and the U.S. Coalition Provisional Authority and the Allawi puppet government.

GUOW President Hassan Juma'a Awad, a co-thinker and colleague of GUOW General Secretary Faleh Abbood Umara, wrote an article in the Feb. 18 Guardian of London. It was headlined, "Leave Our Country Now." Some excerpts:

"From the beginning, we were left in no doubt that the U.S. and its allies had come to take control of our oil resources ... Our union has ... shown it is able to stand its



Clarence Thomas, co-chair of the Million Worker March and Local 10 executive board member; Faleh Abbood Umara, general secretary, General Union of Oil Workers (GUOW); and Trent Willis, pres., of International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), Local 10 and co-chair of Million Worker March

ground against one of the most powerful U.S. companies, Dick Cheney's KBR (subsidiary of Halliburton), which tried to take over our work places with the protection of occupation forces ...

"We reject and will oppose all moves to privatize our oil industry and natural resources. We regard this privatization as a form of neocolonialism, an attempt to impose a permanent economic occupation to follow the military occupation. ...

"And today we are resisting this brutal occupation together, from Falluja to Najaf to Sadr City. ... We as a union call for the withdrawal of foreign occupation forces and their military bases. We don't want a timetable—this is a stalling tactic."

GUOW leader in SF

More than 200 Local 10 members attended. On June 16 in San Francisco, Local 10 of the International Longshore Worker Union hosted a meeting with Umara of GUOW.

The Million Worker March sponsored events for the Iraqis at other venues. MWM's Clarence Thomas presented Umara with MWM tee shirts, pens and DVDs. A videotape of Thomas' visit to Baghdad in October 2003 was shown.

In addition to ILWU Locals 10 and 34, the Iraqi union leaders have met with labor councils in the Bay area—San Francisco and Alameda (Oakland). And they spoke at a packed meeting at St.

Joseph the Worker Church in Berkeley.

There were also meetings with oil workers in the Los Angeles area and in Martinez, a port in the Bay area, who are seeking to establish bilateral relations with GUOW. During the West Coast trip, the GUOW leaders appeared at many other events.

As a result of the tour, the potential for international solidarity with Iraqi workers and their unions will grow. The strategy laid out by the GUOW leadership is a splendid example of a perspective that has the support of the Million Worker March Movement and those anti-imperialist, anti-racist forces here that want an immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops and the end of the occupation. □

ON THE PICKET LINE

by Sue Davis

Teamsters hold the line on health benefits

More than 2,000 Teamsters—delivery and vending machine drivers and warehouse workers—won their strike against Coke on June 1. But that's no reason to stop boycotting Coke. That boycott, called by Colombian union leaders who charge that Coke bosses are behind the death squads targeting labor activists there, will stay in force.

The Teamsters in East Hartford, Conn., and Los Angeles were able to beat Coke back with a picket line. They pounded the bricks for a week before Coca-Cola Enterprises gave in to all their demands: an across-the-board increase in wages and pension payments and—the most important issue—maintenance of the current health-care plan.

"It was a tough fight, but our members stayed committed to seeing this through to the end," Jim Santangelo, president of Joint Council 42 and secretary-treasurer of Local 848, said in a June 6 news release. "There was too much at stake for us not to take a stand." As the release noted, "With the rising cost of health care becoming a larger problem every day in [North] America, it was of utmost importance that the workers win this fight."

Cincinnati Bell workers win good contract

After weeks of rallies and a marathon down-to-the-wire bargaining session, 2,000 Cincinnati Bell workers won a decent three-year contract. Not only did they win a 7.5-percent wage increase, but also a 10-percent increase in pension payments for current employees.

Health benefits will remain the same through 2006, with only a moderate price increase in 2007. A new health reimbursement account was set up for future retirees.

A big issue for members of Communications Workers Locals 4400 and 4401 was employment security. The contract created several new ways to address that. Processes were set up to negotiate job titles and wage rates, explore new opportunities in emerging-technology work and negotiate work that is contracted out.

"These provisions mean that there will be opportunities for more union work in the future than there would have been prior to this contract," said Local 4401 President Edwina Davis in a May 16 news release.

Northwest workers fight back

What did Northwest Airlines workers do in Detroit to counter the company's demands for \$800 million in concessions and cutbacks? Flight attendants, mechanics and ramp workers held a June 15 informational picket line at Metro airport to defend their pension plan and protest proposed pay cuts. The three unions represent nearly 18,000 Northwest workers across the United States. □

Childcare providers fight for union rights

By Alex Gould
Providence, R.I.

On June 22, Rhode Island Gov. Donald Carcieri vetoed the Family Childcare Providers Business Opportunity Act of 2005. The act would have allowed the state's 1,300 licensed and hundreds of other unlicensed home-based day-care providers, members of the union Service Employees 1199, to bargain collectively with the state for wages and benefits.

As wages fall behind inflation for most workers, and welfare payments are eliminated, home-based day-care workers have become essential for working parents in Rhode Island. While the state subsidizes day-care fees for 13,000 parents, these subsidies are being cut to pay for tax cuts for the richest Rhode Islanders.

Day-care workers are poorly compensated for their central role in the state's economy. The Day Care Justice Co-Op, an organization of day-care workers that preceded the union drive, found that after deducting the cost of children's toys, books, food, safety equipment and sometimes assistants, the day-care workers, mostly Black and Latina women, ended up with a wage of only \$2.76 per hour.

The workers have organized to demand justice for themselves and the children they care for. They signed union cards. In May 2004 they marched through the streets of Providence and held rallies at the state legislature.

Grace Diaz, a home day-care provider

and member of Service Employees 1199, was elected to the Rhode Island House of Representatives as a Democrat with support from her union.

They have stood up to the viciously anti-union and sexist Providence Journal, speaking out in letters to the editor and opinion columns. The Journal ran an anti-union editorial on June 11 headlined "Spank the Babysitters Union." And the newspaper is campaigning to uphold the governor's veto.

The day-care workers have shown that even the most oppressed workers can organize, on the job and politically. But their struggle has not yet overcome the anti-union Democrats and Republicans who control the state's political forums.

At first the day-care providers' goal was to be declared state employees, thus able to collectively bargain with the state under existing law. Since the state regulates their hours, issues certifications, and sets work rules for the home day-care providers, this was more than reasonable. But against opposition from the Democratic-led state legislature and the governor, the union decided to back the "Business Opportunity Act."

That left the day-care workers with the misleading title of "independent contractors," but allowed the union to bargain on their behalf.

In backing the bill the union, which has marketed its campaign as "kids come first," gave up the right to strike or take any kind of job action. This concession will

weaken the child-care workers at the bargaining table. The union has stressed that the legislation will keep parents off welfare and will not create any state employees.

Even with this concession, the Democrat-controlled state legislature barely mustered enough votes to override Carcieri's veto. The bill passed 23 to 13 in the Senate, and 41 to 27 in the House. In the House, 11 Democrats voted against the bill. In the Senate, eight Democrats voted against the bill.

Child-care workers are hoping that no more will waver, because a three-fifths majority vote is needed to override the governor's veto.

Even if the veto is overridden in the state legislature, the child-care workers face a long struggle for decent wages and benefits. They deserve the support of the entire state AFL-CIO, which should refuse to adapt itself to the right wing, anti-union demonization of state employees and welfare recipients. Solidarity, not preemptive compromise, will be the key to victory.

And if day-care workers have the determination and ability to get elected to state office, why not build a party that doesn't hesitate to fight for the rights of workers and their unions? Workers and oppressed people need a party of their own, one that won't take away the right to strike while recognizing the right to bargain.

Victory to the child-care workers!

Alex Gould is a member of Food and Commercial Workers Local 328.

'A blow by liberal judges'

While liberals anticipate and gear up for the next Supreme Court nominee and how to defeat the reactionary Bush administration's conservative choice, liberal judges in the court dealt another blow to workers and the poor. On June 23, the court handed down a decision to allow local governments to seize private property for private ends.

The 5-4 decision came after residents in New London, Conn., sued the state. The city of New London had seized residents' property to pave way for private development. The city stated the development would create jobs and lead to an increase in municipal tax revenue.

The residents asserted in their suit that the seizure was a violation, and was not for "public use," referring to the eminent domain clause in the Fifth Amendment. The clause states in part, "nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation." The city claimed that increased tax revenues and job creation constituted "public use" and therefore the seizure was within the confines of the eminent domain clause.

This Supreme Court ruling comes on the heels of another in which these judges decided that the federal government could prosecute sick patients who use marijuana in the 10 states that had previously allowed medical use of the drug. That ruling ignored soaring prescription drug costs and rising health care costs, and the fact that marijuana provides a cheap alternative respite from chronic pain and nausea.

The ruling on June 23 paves the way for wealthy developers to snatch the land and homes from the poor and pay the most meager price. The price is being determined after years of urban flight

and neglect—undoubtedly far less than the average price of a home today, which is estimated to consume between 30-50 percent of the average household's income. Many of the people in low-income areas who are willing to sell their homes do so out of desperation.

Advocates of private property, some of them dissenters in this ruling, say that the ruling circumvents the very foundation of this country—private property rights. The ruling, though, is nothing more than an affirmation of private property rights.

It is a ruling to benefit the rich and to give away property in the inner cities. This property has been devalued through years of poverty and desperation and neglect, due to the loss of well-paying jobs, the crumbling public school system and the lack of social services.

Workers and the poor are being blamed for a capitalist system that puts profit over need. Under capitalism, the poor have only a right to their poverty.

Now, the rich are moving in to reclaim the devalued land, develop and send the values of the land skyrocketing, pushing the surrounding poor out. This gentrification is nothing new and is happening around the country, from Harlem to communities in Los Angeles.

To the poor and workers, there is a sparse difference between liberal and conservative, and this ruling by the Supreme Court is an example of the little differences that separate liberal judges from conservative ones. In the end, both cater to the ruling class. Only when the workers and poor are mobilizing does the Supreme Court hand down different judgments, and then only to

save the ruling class as a whole.

As the economic crisis in this country deepens, the ruling class cares less and less about the squeeze on workers and the poor and the capitalist state will use whatever measures necessary to perpetuate this system. The only thing stopping them is the determined opposition of workers and the poor, and therein the difference lies.

—Larry Hales
Denver

Immigrant protest

Continued from page 4

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Anyone wishing for specific information on the demonstration on July 4 should call Casa Freehold Coordinator Rita Dentino at (732) 492-1852.

It should be noted that the Minutemen tried to hold a conference in Freehold at the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall across from the muster zone about a couple of months ago. But Casa Freehold, a group comprised of immigrants and U.S. citizens advocating for the rights of immigrants, waged a successful telephone and email campaign to get the VFW to cancel it.

Freehold and Bridgewater are both fairly well-to-do suburbs. The biggest difference is that Freehold has a large immigrant population. Bridgewater itself does not, although surrounding and nearby municipalities of Bound Brook, Somerville, Plainfield and North Plainfield do. Many Latinos work in Bridgewater as they do in Freehold.

The Borough of Freehold has not backed off from any of its repressive measures against immigrants. It is necessary to show the borough that we shall not let the abuses continue. We are fighting back in solidarity with our immigrant sisters and brothers.

—Dave Schraeger
Bridgewater, N.J.

ATLANTA PRIDE

Cheers for anti-war group

Roars of approval rose from the tens of thousands gathered along Atlanta's Peachtree Street for the annual Pride parade when the anti-war contingent marched by.

Mixing street theater with political education, the group was led by "George W.

Bush," clutching an oil can and a globe. His puppetmaster "Dick Cheney" manipulated the strings.

Surrounded by costumed "Secret Service agents" who menaced the crowd, anti-war activists defied them by distributing copies of the leaked Downing Street

memo that revealed Washington had created a pretext for the invasion of Iraq.

The International Action Center banner reading "Bush lied! Thousands have died! Bring the troops home now!" was greeted with cheers and applause.

Rhythmic drumming encouraged

those in the crowd to add their voices to the chants.

The contingent was organized by two lesbians who have brought their George Bush puppet show to many local demonstrations, adding a creative visual element to the anti-war movement.

—Dianne Mathiowetz

NEW YORK PRIDE

Youths, anti-war coalition show solidarity



Members of the Troops Out Now Coalition and FIST - Fight Imperialism, Stand Together youth group, march in NYC Pride June 26 to say "No Pride in Occupation! Liberation for all peoples!"



WW PHOTOS: MONICA MOOREHEAD

Harry Hay: Painful partings

Continued from page 2

that they were "security risks"? The CPUSA actually went underground during periods in which the leaders feared fascism was imminent.

It is important to remember that the CPUSA did have real security concerns—all communists did at that time. But the party's stance that prohibited gay and lesbian members can't be justified on that basis. The CP officially barred gay and lesbian members from joining, putting it on a political basis: that homosexuality was a result of the degeneracy of a decadent capitalist system.

This position flew in the face of the revolutionary leadership of Lenin and the early Bolshevik Party in Russia. Within weeks after the 1917 seizure of state power by workers and peasants, the Bolsheviks had removed the czarist anti-gay law that had made same-sex love vulnerable to state repression. They explained that this was a political action to tear down the walls dividing homosexuals from the rest of society.

It was an amazingly bold step for the new workers' state to take—one far in advance of anywhere else in the world at the time. And this advance was made not in a country with a long history of bourgeois enlightenment, but in one recently emerged from feudalism and medieval authoritarianism.

By the time the Communist Party had been firmly established in the United States, however, it took its outlook on homosexuality from the regressive re-criminalization of homosexuality that emerged in the Soviet Union under Stalin's leadership. As imperialism continued to surround and isolate and menace the workers' state, making it harder to build socialism, the grouping that took over the leadership after Lenin's death retreated from earlier revolutionary posi-

tions on many social issues.

Marx stressed that, since the partitioning of society into exploiting and exploited classes, the dominant ideas of any epoch have been the ideas of the owning classes. The bureaucracy Stalin came to personify in the USSR was not a new owning class. But its growth reflected the problems arising from the preponderance of capitalism on a world scale. These problems derived not from an inherent weakness in a socialist, planned economy itself, but from not enough socialism.

Under the weight of imperialist pressures and lack of material resources, old divisive prejudices—learned like habits over centuries of life under feudalism and capitalism—crept back in.

In the U.S. during the Cold War, the inability of the CPUSA to take a revolutionary position on same-sex love weakened the communist movement. The capitalist class here seized the opportunity to gay-bait communists and to subversive-bait homosexuals as primary weapons in the Cold War.

'Lifelong friend of the people'

It says a lot about Hay's character and his commitment to the struggle for a communist future that he put the party ahead of his own life's struggle. But his attempt to justify his organization's position on the basis of security really only illuminates how hard it was for him to face the fact that he had to leave the party in order to organize a movement against same-sex oppression and state repression.

The CPUSA leadership didn't take lightly the loss of Harry Hay, a party educator and theoretician.

Sherman described Hay's coming out as a gay man to her as "less a shock than an eye-opener," because it made her think about homosexuality in political terms for the first time.

Timmons explained, "She added that the manner in which he handled it posed a challenge to the Party. For a respected, valued Party member to make such a declaration was 'something new,' she said. 'Nobody knew how to handle it.'"

The paperwork regarding Hay's membership was taken up on county, state and national levels of the CPUSA before a decision was made.

Hay concluded, "They rejected 'expulsion,' and, in honor of my 18 years as a member and 10 years as a teacher and cul-

tural innovator dropped me as 'a security risk,'" but they added that he would be considered "a life-long friend of the people." ("Gay American History")

The CPUSA lost a committed communist from its ranks. And the work that Hay was setting out to accomplish in building a movement for same-sex emancipation, and developing a historical and theoretical understanding of the roots of this form of oppression, had to take place outside the Communist Party.

Next: 'We had no words!'

Benton Harbor rally

Continued from page 3

facing in Benton Harbor.

"We were here two years ago right in the aftermath of the rebellion. We drove around earlier today and we saw the vacant houses, we saw the presence of the police, we saw evidence of unemployment and poverty in this city, the same type of issues we are facing in the city of Detroit. So this is our fight as well as the fight of the people of Benton Harbor and Berrien County and throughout the length and breadth of the Midwest and the United States."

Roderick Casey of Ypsilanti Township in Washtenaw County, who is leading a statewide petition drive to enact a 50-50 racial makeup of juries in criminal and civil cases, addressed the Benton Harbor rally. "This is designed to create a balance in our judicial system," Casey said. The Ypsilanti Township activist was a victim of police brutality and racism, and spent over two months in jail on trumped-up charges stemming from prosecutorial misconduct.

Local authorities in Berrien County are continuing with their attempted frame-up of Rev. Pinkney. His defense lawyer recently filed for a reconsideration of the charges

against him. The motion was denied.

In addition, his defense lawyer attempted to have Judge Paul Maloney recused from the case since he has been a target of protests led by BANCO. The judge's name appears on a T-shirt that has been worn by activists in the city entitled: "Benton Harbor's Most Wanted." According to Rev. Pinkney, Maloney claimed that he was not aware of any protest actions against him by BANCO over the last several months, despite the fact that the t-shirts have been worn inside his courtroom during legal monitoring campaigns by local activists.

"We are now going after the prosecutor, James Cherry," Rev. Pinkney said. He has accused the prosecutor of political bias against BANCO.

Legal fees for the defense of Rev. Pinkney are mounting. It will take approximately \$25,000-\$30,000 to build a credible defense against the felony and misdemeanor charges.

Send donations for the legal defense to Attorney Tat Parish c/o Rev. Edward Pinkney, 1940 Union Street, Benton Harbor, MI 49022 or call (269) 925-0001.

First Trans Day of Action draws 1,000

By LeiLani Dowell
New York

Lesbian Gay Bi Trans Pride weekend in New York began June 24, with a militant rally and march led by TransJustice of more than 1,000 people demanding rights for trans and gender non-conforming (TGNC) people and in solidarity with social and economic justice for all.

The first annual Trans Day of Action for Economic and Social Justice was endorsed by over 100 organizations and individuals, from as far away as Puerto Rico to Canada and San Francisco. The march was endorsed by the vast majority of national lesbian, gay, bi and trans organizations, as well as immigrant-rights, anti-police-brutality and racial-justice organizations.

TransJustice is a project of the Audre Lorde Project, a center for lesbian, gay, bisexual, two-spirit and trans people of color community organizing.

Speakers and activists from the LGBT communities, as well as straight allies and activists, spoke of unity as key to victory in the struggle, connected the U.S. imperialist war on people of color around the world with the war on people of color and LGBT people at home, and expressed their commitment to continuing the struggle.

The opening rally was chaired by TransJustice Program Coordinator Imani Henry, who told the crowd: "Right now, in San Francisco, there are trans people and their allies marching in the streets. This coast-to-coast visibility and solidarity of many movements is what the powers that be fear the most."

Henry said the fact that the march was held at all was a significant victory. The day before the event, police had informed the organizers, after weeks of negotiation, that they were denying them a permit to rally in Union Square.

Organizers spent the entire day fighting with the police, camped out at both the Parks Department and Sixth Precinct offices to ensure their right to march. Several New York City Council members, especially those of color, lent their support, calling the police and Parks Department to demand permits be granted and charging them with discrimination. It wasn't until 6 p.m. the night before that the cops conceded to the organizers' demands and granted a permit.

Opening the rally was longtime African American activist Kira, who after experiencing brutality, mobilized trans women



Imani Henry

in the first struggle for trans people in the shelter system in the late 1990s. She told the crowd, "I'm living proof that you don't have to have some sort of title to do something for the community."

The Rev. Pat Bumgardner of the Metropolitan Community Church expressed her gratitude for what the TGNC community did 36 years ago, by resisting police brutality at the Stonewall Inn, an event that sparked the modern LGBT movement. She said, "The trans community taught us all to be what we are looking for." She further called for open immigration policies and open borders.

Desiree Gordon from the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, a leading force against police brutality and in defense of political prisoners in the United States, gave a powerful solidarity message. She said: "You don't have to know me; I will defend you. We are committed to defending the human rights of our community; you are our community, and we are a part of yours. We are proud of the legacy of LGBT struggle." She said that within her organization, they are in the process of rewriting their points of unity to include the fight against heterosexism and homophobia.

Moni Alam spoke for the South Asian organization Desis Rising Up and Moving. She also told the crowd: "As immigrants, our struggle is one. Together we will fight the criminalization of people of color,



WW PHOTOS: LESLIE FEINBERG

Jesse Lokahi Heiwa and March for trans justice June 24.



trans people and immigrants in jails. Together we will fight the REAL ID Act."

Dean Spade of the Sylvia Rivera Law Project described the significance of the day. He spoke of what it means to be marching together to say that we are a movement for social and economic justice: "Our well-being is connected to all. We want to start our work with those who are most vulnerable." He rightly called out Washington's "war on terror" as a war on immigrants, people of color and trans people, and said the movement must be in solidarity with those most visibly attacked.

Hyun Lee of CAAAV: Organizing Asian Communities, told the crowd: "The U.S. is building military bases around the world, they are confiscating land from indigenous people and forcing young girls into sweatshops. We so desperately need each other, so that together we can work for the righteous cause of justice."

Larry Holmes of the Troops Out Now Coalition told everyone that the anti-war movement is in total solidarity with TGNC struggles, that there is no difference in the struggle to fight for LGBT rights and the struggle to stop the war, and that in solidarity we will win. He encouraged everyone to go to D.C. for the Sept. 24 mobilization against the war.

Rickke Mananzala of FIERCE!, a youth organization that recently called for a community cop watch in the West Village neighborhood, led the crowd in a chant from Assata Shakur: "It is our duty to fight. It is our duty to win. We must love each other and support each other. We have nothing to lose but our chains."

Many of the groups whose representatives spoke not only organized contingents to march, but also provided security, legal and logistical support, and mobilized within their own movements to bring people out to the event.

Other speakers included New York City Councilperson Margarita Lopez, LGBT Center Director of Policy Miriam Yeung, Carrie Davis of the Gender Identity Project of the LGBT Center, Debanuj Dasgupta of the Queer Immigrant Rights Project, lesbian trans historian and activist Leslie Feinberg, and Dee Perez of GLOBE, the first LGBT group in the Brooklyn community of Bushwick.

The opening rally was followed by a militant march that went through the meat-packing district, where historically thousands of arrests of trans women have taken place; to St. Vincent's Hospital, which budget cuts threaten to close; and across 14th Street to finally arrive at Union Square, the historic site of a number of labor rallies throughout the last century.

At the end of the rally, the buzz at Union Square plaza from many of the participants was that they had not experienced such a diverse movement come together before, and that they were excited about the potential for organizing for next year's Trans Day of Action. □

Trans march kicks off Pride celebration

In one of the most gleeful events ever held in San Francisco, thousands marched in support of transsexual and transgender rights on June 24. The Trans March was the kickoff event of Pride Weekend. It marked a historic recognition of the trans movement. People cheered, smiled and celebrated as they marched from Dolores Park to the Civic Center.

The Oakland Fejacks, a witty cheerleading group, chanted and danced the entire route. Their chants made connections between the fight for trans rights and the fight against the U.S. government's oppression of people in other countries. "Occupation is a crime, free Iraq and Palestine," they shouted.

The following night the community came out for the annual Dyke March. Tens of thousands of women filled the streets for as far as the eye could see, joyously marching from Dolores Park to the Castro. Workers World Party had a contingent marching under the banner: "No Pride in

war, racism and occupation."

And on June 26, hundreds of thousands of people celebrated the 35th annual Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Trans Pride parade. People lined the streets several rows deep along the entire parade route. Dykes on Bikes led off the parade. The dozens of contingents included a large Gay-Straight Alliance of youth, the Service Employees union, the LGBT labor group Pride at Work, and the Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits.

San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom rode a bicycle in the parade. Newsom was warmly received by the crowd for defying state officials and opening City Hall to more than 4,000 same-sex marriages last year.

—Photo & story
by Brenda Sandburg



As Iraqi resistance mounts powerful attacks

CIA fingered for kidnapping in Italy

By Greg Butterfield

The latest blow to the Bush administration's "war on terror" came from an unexpected source: a judge in Italy, a key European ally of the U.S. war on Iraq.

On June 24, Judge Chiara Nobili issued a warrant for the arrest of 13 CIA operatives in Italy in connection to the kidnapping of Islamic cleric Hassan Mustafa Osama Nasr, also known as Abu Omar. Nasr, an Egyptian national living as a political refugee in Milan, was "disappeared" by U.S. agents on Feb. 17, 2003, in blatant violation of Italian sovereignty.

Accused of recruiting fighters against the Iraq occupation, Nasr was flown to Egypt, where he was reportedly tortured. He was released in 2004 for medical treatment, then rearrested, and hasn't been heard from since. (Reuters, June 24)

Opposition politicians in Italy are calling for a full investigation into the tactic known as "extraordinary rendition," in which suspects are seized outside U.S. borders and taken to third countries where they can be more easily tortured.

They also want to know if the right-wing government of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi was involved. (The Independent, June 27)

Further warrants may be forthcoming against senior military officers at the U.S. air base in Aviano, where Nasr was held before being flown out of Italy.

But George W. Bush was already in the hot seat when word of the Italian arrest warrants leaked.

During a June 24 Washington photo-op with Ibrahim al-Jaafari, prime minister of the U.S.-dominated regime in Iraq, Bush again had to defend his refusal to present a timetable for a withdrawal of U.S. troops. He claimed he was "not giving up on the mission." (New York Times, June 25)

Bush plans a prime-time televised speech from Ft. Bragg, N.C., June 28 to press his case. But while he could count on al-Jaafari to faithfully echo his sentiments, few others will.

Recent polls show a record high 60 percent of U.S. respondents opposed to continuing the Iraq occupation. Military recruitment is falling precipitously despite

a media blitz aimed at young people. The occupation is in such crisis that an "Out of Iraq" legislative caucus has finally appeared in Congress, where until now only a handful of Democrats have opposed the war.

And inside Iraq, armed resistance fighters, backed by massive popular support, are daily showing that the U.S. occupiers cannot win.

Police station surrounded

On June 20, resistance forces mounted a daring early-morning assault on Baghdad's biggest police station, using mortars, rocket launchers, grenades, gunfire, and finally car bombs, surrounding the station with 80 cops inside. At least four police were killed.

A nearby barracks of the pro-occupation Iraqi military was also hit.

The Pentagon and Iraqi government refused to allow media access to the area for several days while they got their story straight. But no one could miss the true message: the resistance is not only alive, it is growing in size and sophistication,

and can strike in the very heart of U.S.-controlled territory.

Rory Carroll, Baghdad correspondent of The Guardian of Britain, wrote on June 24: "The attackers retreated after two hours, leaving dozens dead and captured. But if the objective was to send a message of power and determination, it succeeded."

Graffiti has spread throughout the Hi al-Elam district reading, "We will be back."

The resistance stormed another police station in Ramadi June 25, killing 13 police. It simultaneously targeted military collaborators in Samarra, Reuters reported.

How has the Pentagon responded to this militant rejection of its occupation? In the only way it knows how: with more repression.

The military announced that it plans to "expand its prisons across Iraq to hold as many as 16,000 detainees." (Associated Press, June 27) The prison population at three military complexes—Abu Ghraib, Camp Bucca and Camp Cropper—has nearly doubled in the last year, to more than 10,000. □

Pentagon wages war on women

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

At least four U.S. women soldiers died in a June 24 attack by the Iraqi resistance on a U.S. military convoy in Falluja. Eleven of the 13 Marines wounded were also U.S. women. The deaths may be the most female U.S. service members killed in one incident since World War II. (New York Times, June 25)

The casualties highlight the contradictions between liberal Democrats' call for women's equality, the Bush administration's boast of liberating women through imperial war, current Pentagon policies, and the on-the-ground experience of both U.S. and Iraqi women.

More than 11,000 women in the U.S. armed forces are now deployed in Iraq—about 8 percent of the 138,000 Pentagon troops in the country. Thirty-seven have died to date.

Women and Pentagon torture

The U.S. women soldiers' deaths come in the midst of an intensifying debate

about the role of women in Pentagon combat—and U.S. torture.

The initial Marine statement about the June 24 attack said that the female Marines had been used to search Iraqi women and children in order "to be respectful of Iraqi cultural sensitivities."

How can a colonial-style military occupation be "respectful of cultural sensitivities"?

Of the tens of thousands of Iraqi civilians reported killed since the U.S. invaded, more than half were likely women and children, according to estimates and analysis used by Iraqi Body Count. (www.iraqbodycount.net/)

The torture and rape of Iraqi women—including prisoners—by U.S. troops and mercenaries has been invisible in the big business U.S. media. But photographs of such horrific incidents have circulated in the hundreds among U.S. troops. (www.aztlan.net/iraqi_women_raped.htm and www.womenagainstrape.net)

Yet President George W. Bush, in a press conference last year, tried to justify the war in Iraq as opposing a "fanatical

political ideology" that seeks to "oppress and persecute women." (New York Times, April 14, 2004) In fact, before the U.S. war, Iraqi women had made great progress in jobs, education and social standing, and were considered among the most liberated in the Middle East.

Evidently, the Pentagon also used its research into "Iraqi cultural sensitivities" to train U.S. women soldiers to humiliate and terrorize male Iraqi prisoners through specifically sexualized and racialized torture.

The world saw the Abu Ghraib prison photographs of Pfc. Lynndie England dragging an Iraqi man on a leash. A pattern of similar systematic torments of Iraqi men by women GIs has emerged in other Pentagon prisons in Afghanistan and Guantanamo, including details contained in documents recently obtained by the American Civil Liberties Union through the Freedom of Information Act.

Economic draft of U.S. women

U.S. imperialist war is bleeding money from domestic budgets. As social safety nets

and services are cut, women—the most impoverished—are gravely affected. Sixty percent of all poor adults in the U.S. are women—and an estimated 20 percent of African American women and Latinas in the U.S. live below the poverty line. (U.S. Census Bureau 2002)

Often women—in an attempt to survive, get health care for themselves and their children, or get access to education—see the U.S. military as their only option.

But what they find when they get there is not the "equal opportunity" that flag-wavers put forward as the goal of military service for women. They are likely to be abused and even raped by their fellow soldiers—the same soldiers who abuse the women of these occupied countries.

The Miles Foundation, which compiles information on violence in the U.S. military, says that 8 percent of Gulf War veterans report being sexually abused during Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and 30 percent of all female veterans reported rape or attempted rape during

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Military database violates students' privacy

By David Hoskins

The regular army and the reserves of the four military branches have been unable to fulfill recruitment goals for months. The military's recruitment problem has worsened as the insurgency in Iraq grows and support for the war falls at home. The U.S. ruling class has already resorted to a number of measures intended to shore up recruiting targets.

The Bush administration's attacks on education funding, job training and affirmative action have effectively limited options for young workers and people of color. As a result, many young people who would have otherwise entered the work force or enrolled in college have joined the military.

Still, the armed forces have failed to recruit the numbers necessary to continue occupying Iraq and Afghanistan and be

ready to invade other countries. So, to address its recruiting problems, the Pentagon has used a provision of the No Child Left Behind Act to create a database of 16-to-25-year olds.

The database, created by a private contractor, includes the student's contact information, Social Security number, height, weight and other information. The idea is to assist the military to more effectively target potential recruits and replenish its shrinking ranks.

Privacy advocates and civil-liberty groups point out that the database is a violation of the federal Privacy Act. This law requires that government agencies allow for a consultation period of public comment before creating any additional record systems.

The Pentagon itself admits that it violated the law by failing to inform Congress of the database when it was first created in 2003.

Yet David Chu, under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness, defended the database's creation. Trying to use the threat of a draft to scare the database's opponents into silence, Chu said: "If we don't want conscription, you have to give the department of defense, the military services an avenue to contact young people to tell them what is being offered. It would be naïve to believe that in any enterprise, that you are going to do well just by waiting for people to call you."

Chu unwittingly acknowledged that the days of the "all-volunteer" army are numbered. He has indicated that with recruiting down, there are two choices available: re-institute the draft or create a massive database that allows recruiters to target and intimidate young people into service.

Parents of 16-to-18-year-old high school students have expressed outrage that students are being targeted for military recruiting without their parents'

knowledge. They say it is hypocritical for the government to recruit students to kill other young people overseas without parental notification even as the Bush administration attacks young women's right to privacy by trying to require parental consent for abortion.

Low recruiting levels have created a crisis for the U.S. ruling class. The Pentagon's recent admission that the army reserve is turning into a "broken force" raises the possibility that this database is simply a prelude to resurrecting the draft.

Every attempt to bolster recruiting has been met with opposition by the masses, who are unwilling to barter the lives of their sons and daughters in exchange for U.S. imperialism's goal of global occupation for exploitation and greed.

The writer is an organizer with the youth group, Fight Imperialism, Stand Together. Contact FIST@workers.org for more information.



Brazil fights for accessible anti-AIDS drug

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

Since early June, the government of Brazil has been focusing on the task of securing the supply of antiviral medication to its HIV-infected population. On June 1, a commission from the Brazilian House of Representatives approved a bill that prohibits the patenting of vital drugs for the prevention and treatment of the disease. This makes it possible for state pharmaceutical laboratories to manufacture as generic otherwise expensive anti-HIV drugs.

Roberto Gouveia from the ruling Workers Party (PT), author of the bill, said that "it aims to promote well-being and to advance a humanizing model; we cannot remain subject to profits."

Brazil is encouraging other countries to take advantage of World Trade Organization rules and not be beholden to voracious pharmaceutical companies that, with their extraordinarily high prices, put people's health and well-being at risk. The WTO agreements on intellectual property allow governments to produce a generic version of a high-priced patented medicine if an agreement cannot be reached

with the patent company and there is a health threat.

Most recently, Brazil alarmed greedy U.S. pharmaceutical Abbott Laboratories when it announced June 24 that it would break the patent for Abbott's drug combination of Lopinavir and Ritonavir, named Kaletra, unless Abbott lowers its high price or allows Brazil to manufacture a generic version.

The Associated Press reported June 24, "Health Minister Humberto Costa said Brazil is able to act on its own because it has legislation that allows the government to break drug patents in cases of a health emergency or if it rules the pharmaceutical industry is engaged in abusive pricing."

Abbot and some reactionary voices in the United States have responded that Brazil does not have an AIDS emergency. That's a typical answer from a callous for-profit medicine manufacturing company. But it is Brazil's aggressive prevention programs that have kept AIDS from being an epidemic for millions of Brazilians.

Brazil is recognized internationally as a leader in AIDS prevention and treatment programs that are available absolutely free to anyone who needs them. Brazil has

been criticized by the religious right wing, particularly in the United States, for its nonsense, non-discriminatory policy.

In May, Brazil publicly criticized the Bush administration's anti-abortion and pro-abstinence AIDS program and rejected \$40 million in aid for anti-HIV programs. Brazil refused to sign on to a declaration condemning prostitution. Officials said that would have interfered with helping sex workers to protect themselves and their clients from infection.

Organizations provide free condoms and carry out an extensive prevention program, including treatment and care of orphan children.

The Brazilian anti-HIV program has been an example that many other developing nations are following. It has been praised by many organizations worldwide, including the World Health Organization and the Gates Foundation.

In 2003, the WHO announced that it would use the Brazilian program as a model to treat poor people infected with the virus. That same year, Bill Gates' foundation awarded \$1 million, stating: "Brazil has shown that with perseverance, creativity and compassion, a country whose peo-

ple are affected with the AIDS virus can fight against the epidemic. Brazil is saving lives and saving resources at the same time; this should be an inspiration for the world."

But the high cost of newer essential drugs is jeopardizing the program. Health authorities say Brazil is now treating 170,000 patients with HIV/AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases. However, an increase to 215,000 patients is expected by 2008.

A great many will be people over 50 years old, mostly women, who are now the fastest-growing sector of the population contracting the virus. In the last 10 years the number of cases of women over 50 grew 567 percent.

Abbott Co. officials have 10 days to respond to Brazil. If they do not lower the price or permit the production of a generic equivalent, Costa said that Brazil is ready to take action, and "will be issuing the compulsory license order." He added, "Brazil will follow through and break the patent."

The country is in similar negotiations with two other anti-HIV-drug manufacturers, Merck & Co. Inc. and Gilead Sciences Inc. □

Killer Coke's deadly policies exposed

By Bryan G. Pfeifer

A formidable struggle against Coca-Cola's labor and human-rights violations in Colombia and elsewhere continues building in the United States, Canada and many other countries. The Student Coalition to Cut the Coca-Cola Contract—with over 20 organizations representing 5,000 students at the University of Michigan—dealt the latest blow to the multi-billion dollar corporation.

In a June 20 news release, the coalition announced that the university has placed Coke "on probation" until August 2006 because of the corporation's actions in Colombia and India.

Atlanta-based Coca-Cola markets four of the world's top five soft-drink brands: Coke, Diet Coke, Fanta and Sprite. Founded in 1886, the company has operations

in more than 200 countries. It produces nearly 400 beverage brands, including Dannon, Dasani, Minute Maid and Nestea.

Amit Srivastava, a leading member of the U of M student coalition and a member of the India Resource Center there, said: "The students at Michigan have secured a significant victory for the people of India and Colombia. Their actions have paved the way for other colleges and universities to join the growing number of campuses applying pressure on the Coca-Cola Co." (www.IndiaResource.org)

The university's concession came only after a massive months-long campaign at various U of M campuses. Actions included two public hearings at the university. Representatives of Sinaltrainal, the labor union at Coca-Cola plants in Colombia, participated in the hearings, along with members of the Steel Workers union and

United Students Against Sweatshops. Sinaltrainal is asking supporters to boycott all Coke products.

After a 10-month investigation by a university Dispute Review Board—an advisory body created by the university under pressure from the student coalition—Coke was found guilty of violating U of M's Vendor Code of Conduct. According to the DRB, the decision was based on both scientific proof of high pesticide levels in Coke soft drinks in India and the corporation's repeated violations of labor laws in Colombia.

In India, Coke has been selling products laced with pesticides, including DDT—sometimes at levels as high as 30 times those allowed by United States and European Union standards.

On May 19, the Food and Drug Administration barred a shipment of Coke prod-

ucts made in India from entering the United States. The grounds: the products were "unsafe" and "not conforming to U.S. laws."

At U of M, the DRB said it would further assess the issues of Coke depleting groundwater and disposing of its toxic waste as fertilizer to farmers around its plants in India.

The DRB ordered Coke to submit to a third-party independent investigation regarding its corporate practices in India and Colombia by Sept. 30. An audit is to be completed by March 31, 2006. Coke is then supposed to adhere to a corrective action plan in place by May 31, 2006.

Furthermore, the university has renewed its contract with Coke only on a conditional three-month basis, beginning in June 2005 and pending satisfactory action by the corporation.

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Citing concern for safety of civilians

Zapatistas announce a Red Alert

By Ruth Vela

For only the third time in 11 years, the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN) in Mexico has issued a Red Alert.

It comes after the Mexican government massed thousands of troops in areas where the EZLN has supported the self-government of indigenous peoples.

The world was introduced to the struggle of the Zapatistas in January 1994. Since then they have been committed to defending the lives of the indigenous peoples of Mexico. For the past 12 years they have struggled against foreign governments as well as their own in an effort to provide land, liberty and dignity for those who have built Mexico.

"We suffer, we fight, we die, we resist," Subcomandante Marcos, a leader of the EZLN, said of the struggle.

The EZLN itself is more than just an army. The Zapatista communities or Caracoles have become true community centers. These are places where indige-

nous families live and have access to health care, housing and education as well as exposure to the art, music, dance and dress that make up their culture.

Unfortunately, these communities have come under a new and more brutal attack from the Mexican government, which is working in conjunction with the United States to carry out operations similar to those of Plan Colombia.

Attacks on the Zapatista community and its supporters have always existed, but have escalated dramatically in recent years, along with the overall repressive climate experienced by activists across the country.

Climate of repression

This climate is exemplified by the assassination of human rights lawyer Digna Ochoa in October 2001, as well as the police murder of 19-year-old Pavel Gonzalez, a student at Mexico's National Autonomous University. His bruised and battered body was found on April 24, 2004,

hanging from a tree. Professionals who inspected it wrote a report that he had endured both torture and rape for over eight hours.

Later that day a note was found inside the premises of the campus saying Pavel was killed as an example and that anyone who decided to continue their participation in activism would be next.

Sadly, just the name Pavel has become a threat used by the police against other youth, like the May 28 political prisoners. For four days in May 2004 the Summit for the Free Trade Agreement of the Caribbean, Latin America and the European Union (TLCUEM) was held in Guadalajara. Close to 8,000 people joined the demonstration. On the major day of action, police arrived in full riot gear, armed with batons, tear gas, shields and guns. Police moved in full force towards demonstrators, threatening them with batons and gas grenades.

Demonstrators scattered over the main streets, running away; 111 young people

were arrested and imprisoned after a mass street sweep. This was done under state instructions to arrest any "young person" walking the streets that night. Eight months later, the provincial judge handed out four-year sentences to the five remaining prisoners. Their current bail totals \$8,000 U.S.

Zapatista communities are not exclusive to the state of Chiapas. There are many all over Mexico and they too have come under attack. Agiabampo 2 in Sonora is a community like many others in Mexico, in that it struggles for recognition of its land titles, livable wages and decent housing. The community declared itself to be in solidarity with the Zapatista movement in a brave revolutionary effort to struggle against the government.

In response, the Mexican government came down hard on Agiabampo 2 one night last December, sending paramilitary troopers directly to the homes of movement leaders before dawn. Windows were

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Iran's workers to U.S.: hands off

With the Bush administration threatening war on Iran, that country's presidential election got world attention, more than any election since the 1979 revolution that overthrew the shah and ousted the U.S. neocolonial regime.

The U.S. media reports all claimed surprise over the victory of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the mayor of Tehran. The real surprise was the emergence of the Iranian workers, whose votes gave Ahmadinejad his victory.

Iran is in a deep economic recession, with unemployment estimated at between 15 and 20 percent. There have been widespread protests by workers, unlike anything seen for two decades.

The presidential candidate the U.S. expected to win, Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, is a wealthy business owner. His economic program was to accelerate privatization and encourage more foreign investment. He invited in the World Bank and its neoliberal policies. As for the threats from the U.S., Rafsanjani was seen as someone friendly to the European imperialist powers who could also be accommodating to the U.S.

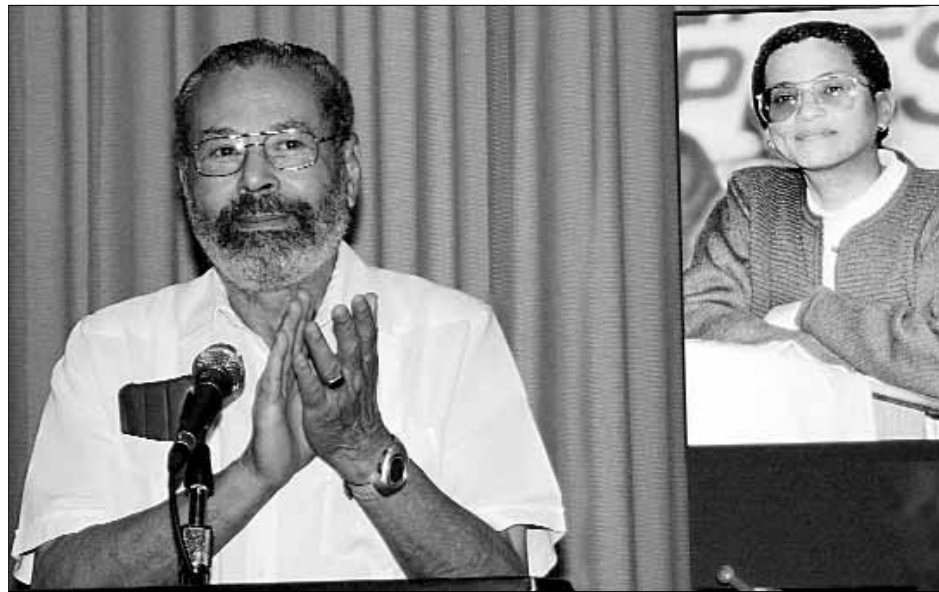
After all, he was one of the principal operators in the "Iran-Contra" affair,

when Ronald Reagan and Oliver North secretly sold arms to Iran, while it was at war with Iraq, in return for Iran's help in securing the release of U.S. hostages in Lebanon.

Ahmadinejad, on the other hand, was one of the organizers of the 1979 takeover of the U.S. Embassy, exposing it as a spy den that ran secret police operations inside Iran meant to keep in place the puppet regime of the shah.

Ahmadinejad, the son of an iron-worker, ran a populist campaign, blaming the emergence of private banks and the privatization program for the deepening unemployment and poverty. Some even describe him as an Islamic socialist. That probably better describes what many workers hope they'll get through this election. Ahmadinejad promises he'll bring more jobs, higher wages, better housing, expanded health insurance and more social benefits for women. He also promises a fairer distribution of Iran's vast oil wealth—instead of by "one powerful family," as he put it.

Iran's workers and poor came out and voted in numbers big enough to send a message. The vote was for jobs, not the World Bank. And the vote told the U.S.: hands off. □



Ben Dupuy and photo of Pat Chin.

WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

Memorial held for Pat Chin

Close to 200 people gathered at the Lang Center in New York June 25 to remember Workers World Contributing Editor Pat Chin, who died of breast cancer May 16. The meeting, billed as a celebration of her life, featured talks, performances, photo and literature displays and a videotape, all paying tribute to this remarkable revolutionary and her contributions to the struggle for socialism.

Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, Haiti's National People's Party Secretary General Ben Dupuy, Korea

Truth Commission leader Yoomi Jeong, anti-death-penalty lawyer Joan Gibbs, and Yugoslav anti-imperialist writer Nadja Tesich addressed the gathering. A long lineup of Workers World Party members also paid tribute. In fact, so many of Pat Chin's comrades spoke that the program ended an hour later than planned. Beautiful a capella singing was provided by Jacque DuPree, Pam Parker and Naomi Cohen. Chin's family members were also in attendance.

—Shelley Ettinger

Bush promises more war

Continued from page 1

Bush had the audacity to condemn "foreign fighters" he claimed came from Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and other points in the Middle East to fight in Iraq. But how can a government that sent 150,000 troops half way around the world to occupy and take over an Arab state complain about "foreigners" in Iraq? The foreign "terrorists," as far as the Iraqi people are concerned, are the U.S. military forces that bring helicopter gunships, F-16 fighter planes, howitzers and other high-tech firepower into their midst to rain down death and destruction.

It is only natural that Arabs and other Muslim peoples who have suffered under British and French colonialism, followed by the domination of U.S. oil companies and the chief U.S. client in the Middle East, Israel, would come to the defense of their Iraqi neighbors to help them expel Washington and the Pentagon. Every one in the Middle East knows that Washington invaded so that U.S. oil companies could get control of the second-largest oil reserves in the world—110 billion barrels.

What Bush never mentioned once in his speech was the "weapons of mass destruction" that served as the pretext for the war. Neither did he mention the Downing Street memo which documented how he and Tony Blair planned to invade Iraq and that the U.S. manufactured the "intelligence" information to fit the war plan. Bush's repeated reference to "terrorists" was a deliberate attempt to divert attention from these recent exposures.

Bush declared over and over that this was a war for "peace and freedom," and that Washington wanted to leave as soon as the "mission was completed." He never mentioned the 14 permanent military bases that the Pentagon is now building in

Iraq, nor the stranglehold that U.S. corporations like Cheney's former firm Halliburton and other transnational corporations want to put on Iraq.

Bush expressed sympathy for the families of soldiers killed in Iraq and then went on to say that is was all "worth it." Of course, Bush and the Pentagon are prepared to fight to the last drop of blood of the U.S. troops and the Iraqi people.

Bush said he would not send any more troops because the commanders on the ground say they have enough soldiers. But the truth is that the U.S. military has no more troops to send. In fact, none of the services are meeting their recruiting requirements and the Pentagon is in danger of having to institute the draft as more and more youth get the message about the strength of the resistance in Iraq.

Bush tried to help out personally by encouraging reenlistment and asking people to join the military. Given the daily news reports from Iraq, he is not likely to get many recruits.

Above all, Bush did not mention the cutbacks to education, health care, food supplements, aid to the poor, and all the social services that are being sacrificed on the altar of the \$300-billion war effort in Iraq. He did not mention the 1,740 U.S. dead, the 12,000 wounded, and the tens of thousands of soldiers suffering post-traumatic stress syndrome from being forced into this brutal war of occupation.

Bush was trying to change the subject from mass suffering to "terrorism." But the Iraqi resistance will keep on fighting to free its country from colonial occupation. The working class and the oppressed peoples in the U.S. will continue to suffer from the consequences of this war. The only "timetable" that means anything is for total and unconditional withdrawal. And the only way to get it is to mobilize the people in a mass movement to stop the war.

No speech by Bush, no matter how many lies he tells, can stop the growing discontent of the people and the resistance that is sure to come right here at home. The next step in the revival of the anti-war movement will be the Sept. 24 mobilization in Washington, D.C. □

Pentagon's war on women

Continued from page 8

their active duty.

Yet the U.S. House of Representatives voted on May 24 to deny U.S. military women who are victims of sexual assault any access to abortion or emergency contraception at military hospitals. Even if the women are willing to pay for these services themselves, the vote was still "No!" For the 100,000 U.S. women living on bases overseas, including Afghanistan and Iraq, this vote effectively denies them the right to an abortion, even if they become pregnant as the result of rape. (New York Times, May 29)

The mainstream debate about the role of women in the Iraq War concentrates on whether or not women soldiers should be fighting on the front lines. Under pressure from a Pentagon suffering from record low recruitment, Congress backed off in May from trying to restrict women's assignment in combat positions. (Feminist Wire Newsbriefs, May 26)

But despite the public rhetoric about whether or not female troops should be in combat positions, the reality of the Pentagon war is changing the rules, no matter

what speeches are being made about the proper role of women. Commanders in Iraq are already deploying women as turret gunners in Humvees and in other roles that place them in a kill-or-be-killed position. (New York Times, 25 June)

However, counter-recruiters are organizing to keep the military's hands off young people vulnerable to adventurist military hype, and especially young women who will suffer specific oppression in the U.S. armed services.

LeiLani Dowell, a spokesperson for the youth group FIST—Fight Imperialism, Stand Together—emphasizes, "Since 'No Child Left Behind' passed, and the recruiters were allowed on campuses, young women have reported dozens of cases of sexual harassment and rape by the recruiters. In one case, a recruiter told a young woman she had to have sex with him in order to sign up.

"Not only is there sexism inside the military, but we need to fight to keep recruiters out of our high schools and off campuses. We cannot allow our young women—or men—to be dragged into this dirty, illegal war." □

Faultline in Angola 3 case

Continued from page 3

inmate into solitary confinement or lockdown without first providing the prisoner with both fair notice of why the classification might change and a chance to challenge the placement. This is a significant ruling, because for many years the courts did not recognize that a prisoner has a "liberty interest" in not being placed in severe living conditions.

Now that the court has recognized this right, all rights to due process and fundamental fairness must be provided. This

ruling will greatly help win the Angola 3 case.

For more information on the case, visit the website, www.angola3.org

The writer is a leader of the National Coalition to Free the Angola 3.

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HAITI

Resistance grows along with repression

By G. Dunkel

The Haitian economy is crumbling even further into misery. The Haitian National Police (PNH), with the firm backing of United Nations forces in Haiti, are increasing their attacks on poor neighborhoods in Port-au-Prince and throughout Haiti. The Pentagon is pouring in logistic support for the Haitian regime created by Washington.

Yet the Haitian people are maintaining their intractable, heroic resistance to foreign occupation and oppression.

Early in June, according to a communiqué of the Dessalinien Army of National Liberation (ADLN), “[T]he Northern Front of the (ADLN) occupied the northern town of Borgne just as it did the northern town of Plaisance in February. Four policemen stationed in the town’s police station surrendered when so ordered by the commander of the ADLN’s assault team. They realized the town and the police station were truly captured.” The ADLN is named after a leader of the Haitian Revolution, Jean-Jacques Dessalines.

The communiqué said that the ADLN refused the cops’ offer of money and jewelry, but “confiscated one pair of military boots, two .38-caliber pistols, one 9-mm pistol, two homemade pistols, a 12-gauge shotgun and a bulletproof vest. Those

weapons will now serve to defend the dignity of the Haitian people.”

In Plaisance, the northern town of 70,000 people where the February attack of the ADLN took place, Fanmi Lavalas and the National Popular Party held a major demonstration June 16, marching from the soccer stadium to National Route 1. (Haiti-Progres, June 22)

Thousands of farmers came into town to march under slogans such as “Down with the occupation—down with the de facto Latortue government” and “Down with selections, up with honest elections, like President Aristide’s.”

The march, followed by some speeches, took place without major incidents.

However, the next day the PNH attacked the poor neighborhood of Bel Air in Port-au-Prince, a neighborhood where support for kidnapped President Jean-Bertrand Aristide runs deep. Three people were killed outright by gunfire and one died later. Some of the severely injured refused to go to the hospital, afraid the cops would attack them on the way or once they arrived.

One cop was killed by gunfire.

According to the Haitian Information Project, Natalie Luzius, 17, was killed while protecting her 6-month-old son. Her brother told HIP, “Natalie was cooking when they killed her. She wasn’t even on the street. They fired into our home

without warning and without cause.”

People living in Bel Air think the police attack was retaliation for a demonstration June 14 in Port-au-Prince that drew thousands of people into the streets to demand the return of President Aristide and constitutional government, the release of political prisoners and an end to repression. They also denounced the “selection elections” planned for October and November by the U.S. ambassador and the de facto government.

According to a broadcast by Kevin Pina of HIP, less than 3.5 percent of the eligible voters—about 150,000 people out of 4.1 million—have registered in the two

months since the voting rolls were opened. This is despite the fact that everyone eligible is obligated to register and needs to carry an identity card showing they did so. (Flashpoint, June 22)

The attitude on the street is that Haiti already had a free and fair election and picked Aristide, a president the Haitian people wanted, but the bourgeoisie responded with a coup, organized and financed by the United States. People say voting in a “selection election” is not worth the trouble of going to the polls—especially if by staying away they can expose the Haitian bourgeoisie and the United States. □

Killer Coke’s deadly policies

Continued from page 9

The DRB further stated that if Coke doesn’t meet these deadlines and satisfactory progress isn’t made, “the University business relationship with Coca-Cola shall be suspended and Coca-Cola products shall not be offered at the University, which includes but is not limited to vending, food service operations, athletic events and University-catered events.”

Killer Coke’s history

In the United States, Coke has a history of discriminating against African Americans. In June 2000 the corporation settled a class-action lawsuit with over 1,500 Black workers. There was massive evidence of unequal pay, biased promotions, a racially hostile work environment and retaliation against workers who aired grievances, according to the book “War in Colombia: Made In USA.” (www.left-books.com)

In Colombia, Coke’s main Latin American bottler, Panamco, is charged with hiring right-wing paramilitaries to assassinate and terrorize union leaders, their loved ones and their communities. (www.killercoke.org)

Since 1989, at least eight union leaders from Coke’s bottling plants in Colombia have been murdered by paramilitary forces. In the United States, the Steel Workers union is suing Coke and Panamco under the Alien Claims Tort Act for having “contracted with or otherwise directed paramilitary security forces that used extreme violence and murdered, tortured, and unlawfully detained trade union leaders.” (www.uswa.org)

More than 3,000 labor unionists have been assassinated in Colombia since 1990. In the recent period, many U.S.-based corporations and the U.S. imperialist government, mostly through Plan Colombia, have worked hand-in-glove with the Colombian government and ruling class to perpetuate this terrorism.

Some 63 percent of the people of Colombia live in poverty—25 percent in abject misery.

But international unity and solidarity with Colombian unions is building rapidly:

• In April, the Representative Assembly of the 525,000-member New York State United Teachers union, an affiliate of the Federation of Teachers, adopted a resolution to refrain from serving or selling Coke

products at its offices, events or meetings. (www.nysut.org)

• In recent months federations, labor councils, and unions across the United States have passed scores of resolutions to protest Coke’s labor and human-rights violations, banning Coke machines and products from union halls, and demanding schools remove Coke machines. The unions include various locals of the Postal Workers, California Federation of Teachers, Communication Workers, Service Employees, Auto Workers, and Steel Workers. Many Canadian and British union locals have passed similar resolutions. (www.killercoke.org)

• Bowing to massive student pressure, Rutgers University in New Jersey did not renew Coke’s exclusive beverage contract, effective June 1, 2005. Active campaigns to ban Coke are now under way at over 30 campuses in the United States and other countries.

• An “International Campaign to Hold Coca-Cola Accountable” workshop was held at the World Social Forum at Porto Alegre, Brazil in January. There, over 500 activists learned about ways to protest Killer Coke and support Colombian unionists. (www.iacenter.org)

Motisola Abdallah, an African American woman and one of the original four plaintiffs who brought the discrimination lawsuit against Coke in 1999, sums up the struggle against Coca-Cola as long-term and global. It proves that workers wherever they live are all in this together. A corporation like Coca-Cola isn’t just unfair to its workers in one place. Injustice runs throughout a business where profit is the driving motivation.

“Anyone fighting for justice can’t give up. Together we can bring change, real harmony, real justice.” (War in Colombia)

□

Zapatistas announce a Red Alert

Continued from page 9

shattered as women, men and children were forced from their beds and thrown out into the cold. They were forced to watch as community leaders were beaten, handcuffed and carried away by police.

Several months later the community was forced to publicly withdraw its statement of alliance with the EZLN for safety reasons. This new blow to the Zapatista struggle, while it comes as an unexpected shock to the world, is part of a series of attacks launched by a capitalist government which, like so many others, puts profit before people.

Civilians being evacuated

Still, the June 19 Red Alert from Chiapas that went out to the People of Mexico and the Peoples of the World causes feelings of great pain and sadness to many who have followed and supported this magnificent rebellion.

It announced the closure of the Caracoles or Zapatista communities of Oventik, La Realidad, Morelia, La Garrucha and Roberto Barrios, as well as all the headquarters of the authorities of the different Rebel Zapatista Autonomous Municipalities.

Members of the different Good Government Juntas and the autonomous authorities are being evacuated to safe areas.

It is clear from the statements of the EZLN that the indigenous communities are seriously concerned for the safety of all civilians currently in Zapatista territory, especially those charged with maintaining the autonomous health system. Yet what is also clear is the genuine love

and respect this movement has for the indigenous people.

In the Red Alert statement Subcomandante Marcos assures that community health services will continue to function and makes clear that the EZLN is distancing itself from the civilians who will provide these services for their safety. He goes on to demand that “they be treated as civilians with respect for their life, liberty and goods by government forces.”

He lists all the services and actions that must be shut down and thanks supporters of the struggle, assuring the world that this is not farewell.

In a letter to the National and International Civil Society, Marcos speaks of doing “something else and we will make the results public at the proper time.” On behalf of the EZLN women and girls, the old and young, Mexicans and people from other countries, he thanks intellectuals, artists, scientists and workers for their support of this movement.

Marcos’ message also reflects the spirit of rebellion of Stonewall, commemorated in June. Speaking of lessons the EZLN has learned and taught, he says, “We thank the homosexuals, lesbians, transsexuals, transgender persons, those who shared with us their struggle for respect for difference, knowing that it is not a defect to be hidden. Those who demonstrated that courage has nothing to do with testosterone and who, time and again, gave us some of the most beautiful lessons of dignity and nobility we have received.”

¡Que vivan los Zapatistas!

The writer is an organizer of FIST—Fight Imperialism, Stand Together—youth group.



El comunista y el general parten

En Portugal, la lucha continúa

Por John Catalinotto

Era solo una procesión fúnebre. Pero comprobó contundentemente que los reportes de la muerte del comunismo en Europa eran falsos.

Cientos de miles de trabajador@s, campesin@s y activistas del Partido Comunista de todo Portugal marcharon en Lisboa el 15 de junio. Portaban mantas de color rojo con el martillo y la hoz, formando un vasto mar de humanidad mientras marchaban detrás del carro fúnebre que portaba los restos del líder comunista Álvaro Cunhal. Un espectador notó que por tres millas, desde la Avenida de Liberdade hasta el cementerio Morais Soares de Lisboa, “las calles de Lisboa estaban teñidas rojas”.

Cunhal, quien murió el 13 de junio a los 91 años de edad, había pasado 74 años como militante dirigente del Partido Comunista Portugués (PCP). Fue su secretario general del 1961 hasta el 1992, jugando un papel importante en la revolución de 1974-1975 que liberó a Portugal de cuatro décadas de dictadura fascista, y fue una figura cardinal en el Portugal del siglo XX. Hasta sus últimos días, ayudó a asegurar que el PCP que él había hecho tanto para construir, quedaría leal a la lucha por el socialismo.

Mientras su cuerpo entraba al crematorio, decenas de miles de militantes del partido con lágrimas en los ojos, levantaban sus puños y sus banderas rojas y cantaban el himno del movimiento comunista mundial —La Internacional. Y gritaban la consigna hecha popular por los movimientos de liberación nacional de las que una vez fueron las colonias africanas del Portugal fascista: “A luta continúa.”

Esa consigna también fue coreada en los actos fúnebres de otro revolucionario portugués que había fallecido dos días antes de Cunhal. El General Vasco Gonçalves era un líder del Movimiento de las Fuerzas Armadas que derrocaron a la dictadura fascista el 25 de abril de 1974. Gonçalves, quien tenía 83 años de edad cuando falleció, había liderado a los soldados portugueses que rehusaron luchar contra los movimientos de liberación de Angola, Mozambique y Guinea-Bisau.

Bajo el mando de Gonçalves como primer ministro, Portugal reconoció la liberación de las colonias y comenzó en Portugal la reforma agraria más amplia de Europa, mejorando las vidas de millones de trabajador@s rurales y campesin@s portugueses. L@s trabajador@s en Portugal llaman a Gonçalves “mi general”.

Gonçalves fue el oficial de más alto rango y uno de los pocos marxistas que se unió a “la rebelión de los capitanes” en contra del régimen fascista a principios de la década de los 1970. Abrazó el proceso revolucionario en Portugal, e incluso en años recientes contribuyó con sus escritos y discursos a la defensa de los ideales socialistas.

Gonçalves y Cunhal, el general y el comunista, lucharon hombro a hombro durante la fase más progresista de la revolución portuguesa, la cual casi logró la toma del poder por parte de l@s trabajador@s, de no haber sido que las fuerzas contrarrevolucionarias dentro y fuera de Portugal pararon su desarrollo.

Fue un indicio de la influencia de Cunhal y su partido que el gobierno capitalista de Portugal estuviera obligado a declarar el 15 de junio como un día de luto y hasta los enemigos más viciosos e intransigentes de Cunhal y del comunismo tuvieron que reconocer su valentía, honestidad y dedicación a la causa de l@s trabajador@s.

Vida de Cunhal entrelazada con la del PCP

Como much@s otr@s activistas y líderes comunistas del siglo XX, Álvaro Cunhal recibió su inspiración política de la Revolución Rusa del 1917 que sacudió al mundo, y la cual, por primera vez en la historia, elevó a una clase social oprimida y explotada a la sede del poder estatal. Nacido en 1913, ya se había unido al PCP para el 1931. En



El General Vasco Gonçalves



el 1935 fue elegido para liderar la organización juvenil del partido, y pronto estuvo llevando a cabo la lucha en la clandestinidad, como tant@s comunistas portugueses@s tuvieron que hacer.

Organizando clandestinamente, exilio, cárcel, torturado por la odiada policía política fascista, jugando un papel en la Guerra Civil de España —esto fue lo que experimentaron tantos líderes comunistas europeos en los años treinta y cuarenta, lo cual Cunhal todo vivió.

Como organizador juvenil fue encarcelado en 1937 y de nuevo en 1940, cada vez por un año y cada vez torturado. Cada vez que lo soltaban de inmediato reingresaba a la lucha. A principio de los 1940 Cunhal se volvió organizador dirigente del partido, jugando un papel en tres importantes huelgas generales regionales, hasta que fue arrestado en 1949. En 1950 ante un tribunal, volteó las cartas contra sus acusadores, atacando al gobierno fascista de Antonio Salazar y defendiendo el programa y las acciones del PCP.

Esta vez el régimen fascista intentó encarcelarlo para siempre. De hecho estuvo preso hasta el 1960 en la temida prisión Peniche, pasando ocho de esos años en confinamiento solitario. Pero él y otros ocho presos comunistas descendieron por una ventana con una soga hecha de sábanas en un escape dramático, uno que sin duda dependió de la habilidad organizativa del aparato clandestino del PCP que ellos habían ayudado a forjar. Poco después de su escape, Cunhal fue elegido secretario general del PCP, un puesto que mantuvo hasta el 1992.

Mientras que el PCP profundizaba sus raíces con l@s trabajador@s rurales y urban@s de Portugal, especialmente en la región de Alentejo al sur de Lisboa, también estuvo ayudando a las luchas revolucionarias de liberación nacional en las colonias, estableciendo estrechas relaciones de trabajo con Augustinho Neto en Angola, Amílcar Cabral en Guinea-Bisau y Samora Machel en Mozambique.

Bajo el impacto de la interacción entre las luchas de liberación, el caos en el ejército colonial y la lucha de l@s trabajador@s en contra del fascismo, la situación revolucionaria se desarrolló rápidamente. Terminó con el derrocamiento del fascismo y la liberación de las colonias.

Esta es una lección histórica que ciertamente la administración de Bush va a ignorar mientras persigue su programa por la dominación del mundo. Con los incidentes de asesinatos de oficiales militares por soldados de rangos inferiores que está ocurriendo actualmente en las



Álvaro Cunhal

fuerzas armadas de los EEUU en Irak, tod@s l@s que quieren parar la campaña de conquista irracional del imperialismo estadounidense deben

prestar mucha atención a la experiencia portuguesa.

Álvaro Cunhal se había distinguido como artista gráfico y, bajo el seudónimo de Manuel Tiago, como novelista competente. Pero la mayor obra de su vida fue el propio partido.

En el período después del 1975, Cunhal fue uno de los pocos líderes comunistas de Europa Occidental que rehusó caer en la trampa del supuesto eurocomunismo, el cual realmente significaba desviarse de la lucha de clases y volverse partidos socialdemócratas electorales abandonando la perspectiva de una lucha social para lograr el socialismo. Incluso después de que la contrarrevolución en la URSS había hecho inevitable una retirada táctica, él siguió insistiendo en que su partido debía continuar luchando y jamás debía abandonar la meta de alcanzar el socialismo.

Los medios de comunicación corporativos de los EEUU y hasta en Europa del Oeste ignoraron casi totalmente la enorme marcha en Lisboa. Algunos de los periódicos más influyentes sí publicaron obituarios que por lo menos insinuaban la importancia e influencia que tuvo Cunhal. Pero la clase dominante imperialista odia pagar el tributo debido a un líder de los trabajadores, e intentaron demonizarlo empleando etiquetas para caracterizarlo, de “estalinista” y “seguidor de la línea dura”.

Como escribió el Partido Mundo Obrero en su mensaje de condolencia al PCP, estos intentos a insultos simplemente significaron que Cunhal “rehusó entregar ni un solo centímetro a la clase capitalista, y por esto ha mantenido la lealtad de l@s trabajador@s y comunistas alrededor del mundo”.

Si los medios de comunicación detuvieron toda publicidad, fue porque la clase dominante estaba preocupada de que esta manifestación abierta del sentimiento a favor del comunismo por centenares de miles de trabajador@s en un país de 10 millones de habitantes, no era simplemente un último suspiro de nostalgia por el comunismo del siglo XX.

La marcha fúnebre fue también la manifestación más concreta a favor del comunismo en Europa del Oeste desde el 1989 y el colapso de la Unión Soviética.

Junto al fracaso reciente de la constitución de la Unión Europea en Francia y Holanda, fue otro indicio de que la ofensiva capitalista que ha ido avanzando a todo vapor desde 1989, se puede encontrar con una muralla de resistencia por parte de l@s trabajador@s.

Adiós, camarada Gonçalves, adiós camarada Cunhal. A luta continúa.

Catalinotto, uno de l@s director@s editoriales de este periódico, ha sido el corresponsal en Nueva York del periódico del PCP, Avante, desde hace nueve meses.