

## MUNDO OBRERO

Ruptura en la AFL-CIO

12

## TELESUR SPEAKS TO LATIN AMERICA

Bye, bye CNN news monopoly

9

## IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

Day laborers meet on Long Island

5

Monitoring the 'Minutemen' in Calif.

5

## BOLTON, THE PIT BULL

On Bush-Cheney leash

3

## PATRIOT ACT RENEWED

What's the excuse this time?

3

## UZBEKISTAN VS. PENTAGON

Gov't says: Get out!

8

# War grinds up more Iraqis, GIs as Counter-recruitment spreads like wildfire

By Hussam Eltayeb and Dustin Langley

On the morning of July 29, activists with FIST (Fight Imperialism—Stand Together) in Raleigh, N.C., learned that the U.S. Army was launching a recruitment drive on the campus of North Carolina State University. The goal of the recruiters was to target incoming freshmen attending their orientation to the university.

Within a two-hour time frame, Raleigh FIST members along with a dozen other antiwar activists surrounded the Army recruiters and formed a picket line surrounding their Hummer. Activists carried placards denouncing the war, the draft and military recruiting.

While picketing the recruiters, activists collected signatures on the "I Refuse" petition from No Draft No Way. ([www.nodraftnoway.org/petition.shtml](http://www.nodraftnoway.org/petition.shtml))

After only a few minutes, the recruiters packed up and left. As they fled the scene, one of the activists pursued them, flapping her arms and squawking like a chicken, as others followed them with signs and chants that said "No blood for oil" and "Money for jobs and education, not for war and occupation."

Resistance to military recruitment is spreading like wildfire.

### Recruiters' lies caught on video

This spring in Colorado, 17-year old David McSwane went undercover, posing as a high-school dropout with a marijuana habit trying to enlist in the U.S. Army. "I wanted to see how far they'd go to get another soldier," said McSwane, a reporter for the Westwind at Arvada West High School in Arvada, Colo. With the help of a 15-year-old friend on camcorder and his 11-year-old sister with a still camera, McSwane helped expose the extent to which recruiters are driven to dishonest tactics by the crisis in military recruiting.

When McSwane was finished with his investigation, Army recruiters had been caught encouraging him to purchase a phony high school diploma and accompanying him to a head shop to buy him a detox kit to help him pass the Army's drug test.

"I was shocked," McSwane said. "I'm sitting there looking at a poster that says 'Integrity, Honor, Respect' and he is telling me to lie."

Those familiar with military recruiting tactics know well that this is not an isolated event. In fact, lying, threatening potential recruits, making false promises, and other dishonest practices are becoming more common. By the Army's own count, there were 320 substantiated cases of what it calls "recruitment improprieties" in 2004. Nearly one in five recruiters were investigated last year for misconduct.

According to a New York Times story on May 3, 2005, recruiters feel forced to "play fast and loose with the rules just to get by." Many described falsifying records, forging high school diplomas and lying to potential recruits, promising them that they would not be sent to Iraq. One recruiter was caught on tape threatening a student with arrest if he didn't come in for a meeting at the recruiting station.

The Army, desperate to make up a recruiting deficit of about 8,000 this fiscal year, is unable to find enough qualified recruits and is having to overlook or cover up factors that would usually keep people out of the military. One recruiter in Ohio told the New York Times that one out of every three enlistees has a problem that normally would disqualify them from service. "The only people who want to join the Army now have issues," he said. "They're troubled, with health, police or drug problems."

This crisis in military recruiting is a direct result of the ongoing occupation of Iraq. Before the war, it was easier to lure young people with false promises of easy money for college and high-

Continued on page 9



## Harlem speakout links housing crisis to war

6

## NYC housing struggle heats up

4

Members of Picture the Homeless with Nellie Bailey of Harlem Tenants Council, at podium.

## SUBSCRIBE TO WORKERS WORLD

Trial subscription: \$2 for 8 weeks  
One year subscription: \$25

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

WORKERS WORLD NEWSPAPER  
55 W. 17 St. NY, NY 10011 212-627-2994  
[www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org)

# Community blocks Baltimore bus cuts

By Sharon Black  
Baltimore

Community anger and protests have blocked a plan to cut bus service in Baltimore city. The plan would have left thousands of low-wage workers without access to jobs in the surrounding county and stranded seniors and the poor without transportation.

The original plan, called Greater Baltimore Bus Initiative, would have cut Baltimore bus routes by 14 percent and taken 90 buses a day off the streets during peak evening hours. Its implementation was also planned to take place on the anniversary of the Million Man March and the Million Worker March, this Oct. 16—a fact noted by community organizations.

Renee Washington, a community organizer with the All Peoples Congress, was excited. She stated, "This would not

have happened if we had not threatened to boycott and shut the buses down if the MTA implemented this plan. It was outrageous. We collected hundreds of names on petitions, distributed thousands of fliers, and have received dozens of letters and calls from riders who wanted to organize."

Both the All Peoples Congress and the Baltimore NAACP had called for major protests and picket lines in August, with the intention of organizing direct resistance in October. The Amalgamated Transit Workers, representing the bus drivers, along with community groups also charged the state with racism because this plan overwhelmingly impacted African American riders.

Washington added, "We will continue to protest. This is a victory but we expect that the state will try to phase in partial cuts in early spring. We are being watchful and are continuing to mobilize." □

# Pickets demand justice for Smoot

Baltimore City State's Attorney Patricia Jessamy was picketed by two dozen people when she attended a fund-raiser and birthday party at the Baltimore Rowing Club on July 31.

Family members, supporters and community activists were protesting and demanding that Jessamy indict the prison guards who killed Raymond Smoot on May 14 in the notorious central booking facility in Baltimore. Over 30 inmates have died there over the last two years because of the deplorable conditions at the prison.

The Emergency Coalition for Justice called the protest and has been spearheading efforts to bring justice for the victims of central booking, along with the victims of police brutality.

On May 14 Raymond Smoot was brutally beaten by prison guards at the central intake prison. Eyewitnesses say the beating was done by over 25 prison guards. It has now been almost three months since the killing of Smoot and no murder indictments—no indictments of any kind—have come down on any of the prison guards.

Andre Powell, an organizer with the Emergency Coalition, says that "the community will not lie down and watch

as poor and working people are arrested and thrown in jail because of the 'zero-tolerance' policies of the mayor and police department." Powell adds that the coalition, along with Smoot's family, will be holding monthly vigils in front of Central Booking every 14th of the month, the date of his murder.

—Steven Ceci



PHOTO: RENEE WASHINGTON

"Raymond was a father, brother, uncle and friend to everyone"

*This week ...*

**WORKERS WORLD**  
**WW**

★ **In the U.S.**

- Counter-recruitment spreads like wildfire . . . . . 1
- Community blocks Baltimore bus cuts . . . . . 2
- Pickets demand justice for Smoot . . . . . 2
- Bolton: A pit bull on a ruling-class leash . . . . . 3
- New round of attacks on civil liberties . . . . . 3
- Struggle for affordable housing heats up . . . . . 4
- On the picket line . . . . . 4
- Trans workers win rights at Raytheon . . . . . 4
- Day laborers hold national conference . . . . . 5
- Confronting 'Minutemen' on the border . . . . . 5
- INS raid tears parents from kids . . . . . 5
- 'Stop the war from Harlem to Iraq!' . . . . . 6
- World champion speaks out against Iraq war . . . . . 6
- U.S. judge sentences Yemeni to 75 years . . . . . 7
- Many GIs come back with mental wounds . . . . . 7
- Community rally hits war, cuts . . . . . 7

★ **Around the world**

- Travel challengers return from Cuba . . . . . 8
- Uzbekistan tells U.S. military to leave . . . . . 8
- Telesur is on the air . . . . . 9
- Venezuelan envoy tells of social gains . . . . . 9
- Solidarity follows wave of racist attacks in Britain . . . 10
- What the North Koreans are up against . . . . . 11
- Truman was a war criminal . . . . . 11
- 10,000 protest U.S. training in Okinawa . . . . . 11

★ **Editorials**

- Labor and the war . . . . . 10

★ **Noticias En Español**

- Ruptura en la AFL-CIO . . . . . 12

**WW CALENDAR**

**NEW YORK**

**Fri., Aug. 5**  
Workers World Party meeting:  
Report from socialist Cuba. Hear from members of the recent Cuba Travel Challenge and see video clips. 7 p.m. (Dinner at 6:30.) 55 W. 17 St., 5th Fl., Manhattan. For info (212) 627-2994.

**Every Friday**

Workers World Party meeting. Come hear Marxist analyses and lively discussion of world events and working class struggles. 7 pm. (Dinner at 6:30) At 55 W. 17 St., 5th Fl., Manhattan. For info (212) 627-2994.

**Workers World**

55 West 17 Street  
New York, N.Y. 10011  
Phone: (212) 627-2994  
Fax: (212) 675-7869  
E-mail: editor@workers.org  
Web: www.workers.org  
Vol. 47, No. 31 • Aug. 11, 2005  
Closing date: Aug. 3, 2005

Editor: Deirdre Griswold  
Technical Editor: Lal Roohk  
Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, LeiLani Dowell, Leslie Feinberg, Monica Moorehead, Gary Wilson  
West Coast Editor: John Parker  
Contributing Editors: Greg Butterfield, Fred Goldstein, Teresa Gutierrez, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Milt Neidenberg  
Technical Staff: Shelley Ettinger, Maggie Vascassenno  
Mundo Obrero: Carl Glenn, Teresa Gutierrez, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Donna Lazarus, Carlos Vargas, Internet: Janet Mayes

Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly except the first week of January by WW Publishers, 55 W. 17 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10011. Phone: (212) 627-2994. Subscriptions: One year: \$25; foreign and institutions: \$35. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 55 W. 17 St., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from University Microfilms International, 300 Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48106. A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Send an e-mail message to wnewssubscribe@workersworld.net.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 55 W. 17 St., 5th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10011.



WW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

## Subscribe to Workers World

- Special trial subscription \$2 for eight weeks
- \$25 for one year

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Workers World Newspaper**

55 West 17 St. NY, NY 10011 (212) 627-2994

**JOIN US.** Workers World Party (WWP) fights on all issues that face the working class and oppressed peoples—Black and white, Latino, Asian, Arab and Native peoples, women and men, young and old, lesbian, gay, bi, straight, trans, disabled, working, unemployed and students.

If you would like to know more about WWP, or to join us in these struggles, contact the branch nearest you.

**National Office**  
55 W. 17 St.,  
New York, NY 10011  
(212) 627-2994;  
Fax (212) 675-7869  
wwp@workers.org

**Atlanta**  
P.O. Box 424,  
Atlanta, GA 30301  
(404) 627-0815  
atlanta@workers.org

**Baltimore**  
426 E. 31 St.,  
Baltimore, MD 21218  
(410) 235-7040  
baltimore@workers.org

**Boston**  
284 Armory St., Boston,  
MA 02130  
(617) 983-3835  
Fax (617) 983-3836  
boston@workers.org

**Buffalo, N.Y.**  
P.O. Box 1204  
Buffalo, NY 14213  
(716) 566-1115  
buffalo@workers.org

**Chicago**  
27 N. Wacker Dr. #138  
Chicago, IL 60606  
(773) 381-5839  
Fax (773) 761-9330  
chicago@workers.org

**Cleveland**  
P.O. Box 5963  
Cleveland, OH 44101  
phone (216) 531-4004  
cleveland@workers.org

**Denver**  
denver@workers.org

**Detroit**  
5920 Second Ave.,  
Detroit, MI 48202  
(313) 831-0750  
detroit@workers.org

**Houston**  
P.O. Box 130322,  
Houston, TX 77219  
(713) 861-5965  
houston@workers.org

**Los Angeles**  
5274 West Pico Blvd.,  
Suite 203  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
(323) 936-1416  
la@workers.org

**Philadelphia**  
P.O. Box 9202,  
Philadelphia, PA 19139  
(610) 453-0490  
phila@workers.org

**Richmond, Va.**  
P.O. Box 14602,  
Richmond, VA 23221  
richmond@workers.org

**Rochester, N.Y.**  
(585) 436-6458  
rochester@workers.org

**San Diego, Calif.**  
3930 Oregon St.,  
Suite 230  
San Diego, CA 92104  
(619) 692-4496

**San Francisco**  
2940 16th St., #207  
San Francisco,  
CA 94103  
(415) 561-9752  
sf@workers.org

**State College, Pa.**  
100 Grandview Rd.,  
State College,  
PA 16801  
(814) 237-8695

**Washington, D.C.**  
P.O. Box 57300,  
Washington, DC 20037,  
dc@workers.org

# Bolton: Pit bull, on a ruling-class leash

By Fred Goldstein

It is a commentary on how reactionary John Bolton is that President George W. Bush, in order to make him the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, had to resort to a so-called "recess appointment" and make an end run around one of the most reactionary political bodies in the imperialist world—the millionaires' club of the U.S. Senate.

Bolton is the candidate of the most reactionary, die-hard elements in the Bush administration, who are reacting to the present crisis facing Washington and the Pentagon in Iraq and Afghanistan by further stoking world tensions.

Bush's new ambassador to the UN is on record with such quotes as:

"There's no such thing as the United Nations."

"There is an international community that occasionally can be led by the only real power left in the world and that is the United States, when it suits our interest and when we can get others to go along."

"If the UN secretary [sic] building in New York lost 10 stories, it wouldn't make a bit of difference."

In an interview five years ago on National Public Radio, Bolton told Juan Williams, "If I were redoing the Security Council today, I'd have one permanent member because that's the real reflection of the distribution of power in the world." When Williams asked him which member, he answered, "The United States." (New York Times, March 9, 2005)

## Why they did it

Bush and Karl Rove want to feed the racist, chauvinist appetites of their right-wing base, which has a visceral hatred of the UN and always wants to cut it down, if not destroy it altogether. Their hatred arises from resistance to any force or institution that could put any restraint upon U.S. imperialism.

They hated the Security Council during the Cold War because it gave the Soviet Union, and later People's China, a say in world affairs. After the collapse of the USSR, they hated it because it gave their imperialist rivals a veto over Washington's affairs.

And they despise the General Assembly, which they regard with racist, colonialist, "great power" contempt, because it gives governments of oppressed countries a forum to criticize U.S. imperialism and imperialism in general.

In addition to domestic considerations, the Bolton appointment is a way for Bush to keep the aggressive right-wing atmosphere alive in foreign policy, to compensate for the deepening quagmire in Iraq.

The UN cannot put up the armed resistance that the Iraqi people are doing. There will be no casualties coming home and no hundreds of billions in treasure spent by letting Bolton loose in the UN to carry out Bush's "reforms"—such as doing away with the Human Rights Commission, which has recently criticized Washington.

What the foreign policy implications are remain to be seen. But it is ominous that Bolton is coming to office just as the imperialists are forcing a crisis with Iran over its attempt to acquire nuclear power. It is also a moment when Washington is attempting to use the six-party talks to disarm socialist North Korea.

Washington has threatened to bring both these issues to the UN Security Council or the International Atomic Energy Agency to set the stage for sanctions and further aggression against these two countries.

Bolton is considered by large sections of the ruling class to be a great liability. In the second Bush administration he was pushed out of an important policy position as secretary of international affairs and disarmament. He was moved to the UN and denied the powerful post of deputy secretary of state.

Bolton called Kim Jong Il, the leader of North Korea, a "tyrant" in the midst of sensitive negotiations. He has bullied and spied upon government officials in order to spin the intelligence on Iraq's so-called weapons of mass destruction.

He threatened Iran. He charged Syria with working on weapons of mass destruction. He branded Cuba as a "terrorist state" making biological and chemical weapons of mass destruction. All false accusations.

Bolton has escalated the threats from Washington in every direction, all the while disregarding the fact that the Pentagon was rapidly losing the capability to control even Baghdad. There is a great fear among many government strategists that he will increase the isolation of U.S. imperialism.

## A Bush-Cheney loyalist in 2000

But Bolton has a secret weapon. He was part of Jim Baker's legal team during the 2000 election struggle. He is not only a long-time figure in the right-wing establishment, a member of the American Enterprise Institute and the Project for the American Century. He is also a Bush-Cheney loyalist.

Known nowadays as Cheney's pit bull, Bolton shined in 2000. According to the www.stopbolton.org website, he was "a veteran of Southern electoral campaigns" and he "appealed to the racism of white voters" during the 2000 election campaign. He got his experience in the 1980s during a Republican Party campaign to "beat back the voter registration campaigns organized by labor and black organizations."

"Bolton put his hard-ball approach to partisan politics to work" during the racist

campaign to exclude Black voters in 2000, says the stopbolton website. It quotes from a July 2002 Wall Street Journal article that said Bolton's "most memorable moment came after the U.S. Supreme Court ordered a halt to the recount" and Bolton "strode into a Tallahassee library, where the count was still going on, and declared: 'I'm with the Bush-Cheney team, and I'm here to stop the vote.'"

The Journal said that "after thanking Bolton for his services," Cheney was asked what job Bolton would get in the new administration." Cheney is said to have replied, "My answer is, anything he wants."

The Bush administration, the Democrats and the capitalist media have all made this outrageous appointment seem as though it were impossible to stop, because of the alleged right of the president to make appointments when the Senate is not in session.

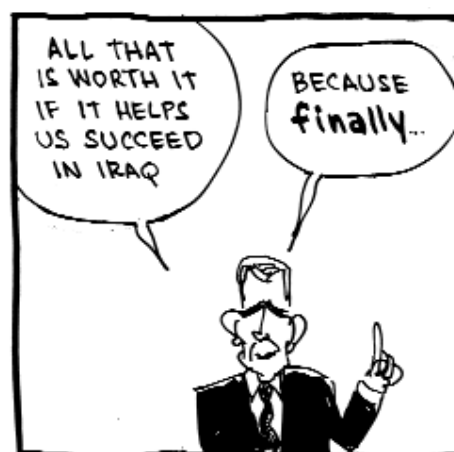
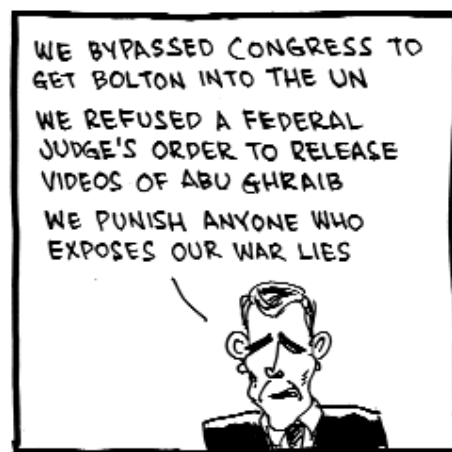
This so-called "explanation" shows what a fraud capitalist politics is. In the first place, Bolton is accused of offenses such as perjury and intimidation, among others that are punishable under the Senate rules. If the Democratic Party and the capitalist opposition in the media were serious about putting up a fight, they would point this out and refuse to accept the appointment until the matters were adjudicated.

But even more fundamentally, the entire argument about this being a "recess appointment" allowed under the Constitution is false.

## A violation of the Constitution

Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution states that "The President shall have

*Continued on page 10*



## Renewal of Patriot Act

# New round of attacks on civil liberties

By Larry Hales

On Friday, July 29, with the weekend looming, the U.S. Senate passed a bill to reauthorize the U.S. Patriot Act. The House of Representatives had passed its version earlier in the month. Some provisions of the dangerous and sweeping act were set to expire this year.

All but two of the provisions were renewed indefinitely. The two not permanently authorized are the ones that have garnered the most attention.

One provision calls for roving wiretaps, which allow authorities to eavesdrop as people switch phones. Another provision gives authorities the right to search library and store records regarding media that customers may have purchased or borrowed.

Legislation that was passed in June would require that police get traditional search warrants before checking library or bookstore records. That legislation is attached to the budget for fiscal year 2006, but the Bush administration has

vowed to veto it.

The House's version of the Patriot Act renewal, like the Senate's, makes permanent 14 of the 16 provisions under the act. It gives a 10-year extension on the two not made permanent; this version passed by a vote of 257 to 171. The Senate version gives a four-year extension to the same provisions, and it passed unanimously.

The Patriot Act is similar to the 1996 Antiterrorism Act, which has many times been declared unconstitutional. While it had been drafted earlier, the Patriot Act was not signed into law until October 2001, soon after 9/11, and it passed the House with only 66 votes against it. There was only one "no" vote in the Senate.

The Patriot Act could have had great difficulty passing, but was rushed through taking advantage of the shock of the 9/11 attacks. While many people were reeling, the Bush administration charged full-speed ahead, meeting hardly any resistance in Congress.

The bill greatly restricts civil liberties. Its repressive provisions give the govern-

ment power to arbitrarily detain people for up to six months, to get access to medical records and to step up surveillance on individuals deemed to have questionable affiliations.

The Patriot Act—along with the REAL ID Act, which was signed into law on May 11—especially targets immigrants, greatly limiting their ability to move freely about the country.

Some Democrats in Congress opposed various provisions of the Patriot Act, saying they were too sweeping and intrusive. However, the entire law should be abolished, as well as the REAL ID Act, the Anti Terrorism Act, and the new Gang Prevention Act. All are aimed at strengthening the state at the expense of the workers and poor while inequality and economic instability keep growing.

It's not realistic to expect that any real battle against the Patriot Act will come from the halls of Congress. Both parties have already shown their willingness to go along with the Bush administration, continually voting more money for the brutal

Wars being waged overseas. The battle over the Patriot Act must be waged in the streets by the anti-war movement, immigrant rights organizations, anti-racists and all progressives, radicals and revolutionaries.

The danger is that, as opposition grows against the designs of the ruling class, the Patriot Act will be expanded. As the anti-war mobilizations for this fall gear up, the repressive, racist acts that have been signed into law must also be addressed. The current reactionary regime is ratcheting up its attacks against immigrants, workers and the poor, and more attacks are promised as the failing ruling class venture in the Middle East becomes ever more difficult for them.

Recently, with the attacks in London, the Western imperialist nations have intensified their propaganda about a "war on terror," but the true war on terror is against the class that wages war for profit, denies the people health care, housing and education, and commits wholesale slaughter in Iraq and Afghanistan while sanctioning the occupation of Palestine and Haiti. □

# Struggle for affordable housing heats up

By Imani Henry  
New York

Recently, over a five-day period, housing activists here held two important rallies and issued a call for a moratorium on the use of eminent domain.

Over 350 tenants and advocates from all five boroughs gathered July 24 in front of 552 Academy St., in Manhattan's Inwood section, to release a report and launch the new "Fix It Now" campaign. The tenants there have been in a bitter fight for years with their landlord over repairs to their building.

Fix It Now, affiliated to Housing Here and Now, is a city-wide initiative endorsed by over 100 community, labor, social housing groups and social service agencies.

Organizers of the Fix It Now campaign expose and target "New York City's worst 10 landlords" to force them "to immediately fix their most serious code enforcement violations." ([www.nycworstlandlords.com](http://www.nycworstlandlords.com))

On July 25, State Sen. David A. Paterson called for a moratorium on the use of eminent domain. Paterson's district includes Harlem and the Upper West Side, both impacted by gentrification and loss of rent-stabilized housing.

His call for the moratorium was spurred by the June 23 Supreme Court 5 to 4 decision that allows the seizure of private homes and small businesses by local governments, which can then be handed over to corporate developers to be torn down to make way for large retail chains or luxury housing.

Residential communities in Brooklyn and Manhattan have been fighting to keep their homes as the Bloomberg administration has plotted the building of sports stadiums and shopping malls.

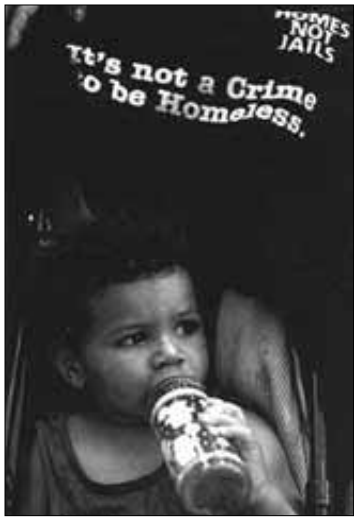
Nellie Hester-Bailey of the Harlem Tenants Council, a leading force in the struggle against the gentrification of Harlem, was alongside Paterson at the media conference. Hester-Bailey was one of the key organizers of a July 31 rally at Marcus Garvey Park where hundreds came out to demand money for housing, not for war.

## Housing coalition gains

"We thought we could win more if we came together," Jennifer Flynn told Workers World. Flynn is executive director of New York AIDS Housing Network (NYCAHN), one of the main groups within the Fix It Now Campaign.

According to Flynn, many of these groups within the coalition are long-time neighborhood tenant associations that were fighting their own particular housing battles. Many had never worked together before, let alone worked with this many advocacy groups, labor unions or social services agencies that came into the coalition.

But by coming together for the purpose of coordinated city-wide direct action campaigns, they were able



to force politicians to broker a deal with Mayor Michael Bloomberg for more affordable housing.

The five-point platform of the Housing Here and Now Coalition includes enforcement of the city's promise to raise \$1 billion from the luxury housing at the Battery Park City complex to go towards building affordable housing. The platform also stresses the enforcement of housing code standards and the building of permanent housing for people living with HIV and AIDS.

According to the website of Housing Works! Inc., a leading New York City AIDS organization, Bloomberg announced in May that he was adding an additional \$187 million to the 10-year capital plan of the city's Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) to build

supportive housing for people with disabilities, including HIV/AIDS.

Bloomberg also announced that the Department of Health had earmarked \$25 million over five years toward development of supportive housing for people with AIDS, allowing more than 240 housing units to be built or renovated. ([www.housingworks.org](http://www.housingworks.org)) These promises must be kept.

The coalition also demands inclusionary re-zoning of the Greenpoint-Williamsburg areas of Brooklyn, two areas where gentrification has devastated affordable housing, forcing out their multi-national, working class communities.

According to the Here and Now Coalition, "The Mayor has begun an effort to re-develop much of New York City by proposing the re-zoning of dozens of neighborhoods in all five boroughs, including the West Side of Manhattan, Greenpoint-Williamsburg and Bedford-Stuyvesant in Brooklyn, Flushing, Queens, and the South Bronx. ... Inclusionary Zoning requires that, in exchange for the ability to build larger buildings or convert a manufacturing area into a residential area, a minimum of 30 percent of the units created be affordable to low- and moderate-income New Yorkers.

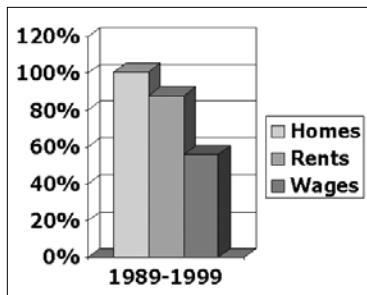
"The community in Greenpoint-Williamsburg is calling for a 40 percent guarantee of affordable housing, given the low-income and working class makeup of the community and projected displacement from the re-zoning."

On May 11, Bloomberg announced the building of 3,500 affordable units in Greenpoint-Williamsburg. His

press statement suggested this was "the most aggressive affordable housing strategy in the City's history."

According to the Pratt Institute for Community and Environmental Development website, one of the groups that worked in solidarity with the grassroots Greenpoint-Williamsburg movement, "What they won is significant: fully one-third (33 percent) of the housing created by this re-zoning will be affordable to low- and moderate-income people (about 3,500 units out of 10,900 total, over the next 10 years)."

*Next: It took struggle!*



# Trans workers win rights at Raytheon

By Bryan G. Pfeifer  
Boston

As a result of pressure from within and without, the Raytheon Company announced the week of July 24 that it is expanding its equal opportunity employment policy to include transgender and transsexual workers. ([www.boston.com](http://www.boston.com)).

Based in Waltham, Mass., Raytheon is one of the "Big Six" defense corporations and employs 80,000 people internationally. Presently, 71 of the Fortune 500 corporations include gender identity and gender expression in their policies.

Since January 2004, 40 of these companies, including Ford, Pepsi, Wells Fargo and Staples, have

expanded equal opportunity employment policies to cover transgender and transsexual workers.

These initial concessions didn't come without a fight.

Amanda Simpson, a chief engineer and test pilot at Raytheon in Tucson, Ariz., transitioned from male to female about six years ago. She learned the corporation didn't include transsexual workers or employees who express their gender differently.

Instead of transferring to another job within Raytheon or quitting, Simpson and other trans workers fought to have the corporation's policy changed.

Similar internal company protests resulted in changes at other corporations and are ongoing in many others. □

## ON THE PICKETLINE

By Sue Davis

## Youngstown strikers hold the line

Striking reporters, photographers, copy editors and truck drivers at Youngstown's Vindicator newspaper voted 85 to 17 on July 27 to reject the company's latest contract offer. The workers, represented by Local 34011 of the Newspaper Guild, an affiliate of the Communication Workers, have been on strike since Nov. 16.

Even though the contract offered 6-percent raises over three years—which is 6 percent more than was offered last November—the workers don't like new terms by which management can lay off staff. "The layoff language is the most important at this point," said local Vice President Shaulis Flora. (Associated Press, July 28)

On July 28 the Vindicator announced it would begin hiring permanent replacements. Local 34011 President Anthony Markota countered that his members were so fed up with bad working conditions that "they're willing to lose their jobs over it. That's how bad it is." (Pittsburgh-Post Gazette, July 29) For instance, Markota pointed out that the paper has 18 supervisors in the newsroom overseeing 53 workers.

Despite the company's threat, only two reporters crossed the picket line that day to return to work. Since the strike began nearly nine months ago, only 24 of the 179 union members have done that. The strikers have received strong support from the community. On July 9 they were bolstered by a fundraiser hosted by the Detroit local of the Newspaper Guild, which organized the event to commemorate 10 years since its own hard-fought battle in Detroit.

## Marchers protest farm worker deaths

Salud Zamudio-Rodriguez was the first California farm worker to die this summer from heatstroke. Working on July 13 in 105-degree heat, frantically trying to keep up with a tractor moving at triple time in order to finish a bell pepper field, Zamudio-Rodriguez collapsed just before his shift ended, his body shaking violently from heatstroke.

The United Farm Workers led a march July 24 in Arvin near the Kern County fields where, his family and co-workers said, the 24-year veteran had worked "like few other men could. Eight and 10 hours a day, he moved like a machine up and down the rows." (Los Angeles Times, July 31) Since then, two other workers have died in 108-degree heat in the San Joaquin Valley—one picking melons, the other grapes.

The Farm Workers marched to demand passage of state law AB805, which would require growers to add rest periods and shade to protect workers when temperatures rise above 95 degrees. The growers oppose the proposal as "too burdensome." Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger called on July 23 for the growers to voluntarily give workers breaks in the shade.

But the Farm Workers have already tried that. "Last year, after the death of Asuncion Valdivia from heatstroke, we sent letters to the major table grape growers," UFW President Arturo Rodriguez told the L.A. Times. "We asked them to take voluntary steps to deal with the heat. Not one grower responded to our call or implemented changes."

The workers, only too well aware of how the state favors the big growers, are determined to press for higher wages and tougher standards.

## State says 'No strike,' California nurses picket

Some 9,000 nurses who work in University of California hospitals had voted to strike for one day on July 21. But the state intervened. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's Public Employees Relations Board got a Superior Court judge to block the strike on July 20.

Undeterred, but really angry, the nurses rallied and picketed at six hospitals around the state on July 21.

"UC nurses are outraged that the University would go to court to block their democratic right to strike—an action taken against no other UC employees—on the heels of its refusal to negotiate with the nurses on the critical issue of safe patient care and its intent to sharply erode retirement and health benefits for the nurses," said Rose Ann DeMoro, California Nurses Association executive director in a July 20 CNA press release.

A hearing is scheduled for Aug. 11 when the board and UC are demanding a permanent injunction against the nurses.

## Unity and struggle on Long Island

# Day laborers hold national conference

By Heather Cottin  
Hempstead, N.Y.

Day laborers—jornaleros—from 16 states, together with other immigrant rights activists, met at Hofstra University on Long Island from July 27-31 for a conference on the current conditions and struggles of these oppressed workers in the United States.

Participants traveled from as far away as California and Texas, as well as Maryland, New Jersey and New York.

The conference assembled at different locations throughout the weekend.

Buses carried conference participants to a protest in Farmingville, L.I., which has become the site and symbol of both racism and resistance for the U.S. day laborer movement.

Because Farmingville has become a symbol of the crisis for jornaleros in the U.S., the National Day Labor Organizing Network (NDLON), headquartered in California, organized this year's national conference on Long Island.

On the evening of July 28 the normally hushed streets of Farmingville resounded with the voices of hundreds of day laborers and other activists chanting "El pueblo unido jamás será vencido!" ("The people united will never be defeated!")

Conference participants also traveled to New York City, suburban Westchester County and Brookhaven in Suffolk County.

Local day laborers charge that officials from the Long Island town of Brookhaven have conspired against jornaleros—throwing them out of their homes and tolerating firebombing and other violent acts of racism.

As the rallying activists filled up the parking lot of Suffolk County headquarters, they sang and chanted to keep up the fighting spirit. They sent a message to County Supervisor Steve Levy, who has reportedly spearheaded recent racist attacks on the workers: "Escucha! Estamos en la lucha!" ("Listen! We are in the struggle!")

### Struggle and unity

The programs and cultural events of the conference at Hofstra focused on struggle and unity.

Jornaleros number in the hundreds of thousands across the United States. In some states, like Maryland, these day laborers have won legal "shape-up" sites—where they wait for day job assignments—and cultural centers. Their struggle has also won financial support from the state.

Jornaleros in Los Angeles have made the city provide nine shape-up centers which also provide English-language and computer classes, and other services. "One thing that happens here is that workers stand tall, they look at people face to face as equals, not seeking their permission, not as oppressed people or men begging for jobs but as persons with pride," said Pablo Alvarado, national coordinator of NDLON. "Because you can't intimidate people who have pride."

The jornaleros and their supporters from Austin, Texas, perform guerrilla theater to teach workers how to negotiate for their own safety and benefit.

José Zorraquín from Seattle came from Casa Latina. "A few weeks ago, the state gave us a van to get people to jobs, for a ride share program." The workers organ-



PHOTO: THE WORKPLACE PROJECT

Immigrants are reaching out to other workers.

ized to get this van.

In contrast, some workers came to the conference from states where there is absolutely no support for day laborers. During the Casa Maryland workshop, which presented a radical method of teaching English and organizing, Juan from Virginia noted that in his town workers were not able to have English classes. Nor were they able to organize for a safe and legal gathering site with bathrooms, heat or electricity.

Edilberto, a worker from a legal but under-funded shape-up site in Freeport, N.Y., stressed that an organization like NDLON could help provide unity and pressure to get more local and state support.

Zorraquín agreed. "I learned at this conference that the people who are the most hurt are those who don't have a leader on their esquina [corner]. They need to be organized in unity with other day laborers from all over the U.S. We are not terrorists, we are not violent; all we want is work. We are not taking jobs, Latin@s are here to work for their families."

Racism raised its head as the conference moved around the metropolitan area. "We encountered racism on the streets of Farmingville when we were protesting. When we were walking, you could feel the coldness of racist people in that town. This woman on the corner, saying, 'Go home, don't be bothering us,'" Zorraquín said.

"Then when we went to Westchester to Sarah Lawrence College, racists came to disrupt the meeting."

But the activists were undaunted. As they began their cultural evening with the haunting song "Comandante Che Guevara," Faustino Morales, who is supporting five children back in Mexico, said this conference "served as a unifier and provided critical understanding from inside the centers of work for the jornaleros."

Morales, who has an adult lifetime of political organizing, concluded, "The most important thing is for the jornaleros to be unified. But we have to be unified with African Americans and other members of the U.S. working class." □

## Eyewitness to a racist mobilization

# Confronting 'MINUTEMEN' on the border

By Ruth Vela  
Campo, Calif.

Bumping along in the back of a small truck on a lonely dirt trail near Campo, Calif., cleared by the Border Patrol for their use, I am astonished by the desolation of this place. Here the border between the U.S. and Mexico is nothing more than a flimsy metal fence. For those who cross here, the border itself poses the most minimal of threats.

As we climb the mountain, making our way towards the Minutemen's campsite, I grab my bullhorn, point it toward the border and shout warnings in Spanish into the darkness: "Good evening, friends. We are here to warn you that there are Minutemen in the area. They are nearby. They have come armed and have every intention of hurting you."

In California, on the border, immigrant men, women and children die at a rate of one per day. Since the initiation of Operation Gatekeeper in 1994, those attempting to cross have been continuously pushed east, where the climate and terrain are treacherous and extreme.

Out in the desert, migrants die from rattlesnake bites, heat exhaustion, fatigue, hunger and dehydration. Some get lost and are found dead within short distances of a home or town. Many are never found.

Making matters worse is "Operation Border Watch," launched by former Marine James Chase.

Chase, whose rhetoric is more strident than that of the "official" Minutemen,

advised potential volunteers for his racist campaign to bring baseball bats, machetes, stun guns, rifles and shotguns to his camp-out.

Apologists for the Minutemen like to downplay the added danger they bring to the area, claiming the men are just older retirees doing their patriotic duty; that they are armed merely with a few bright lights and binoculars. Many naïve supporters of the Minutemen are quick to point out that it is illegal to carry firearms in California and that the Minutemen couldn't possibly be armed.

A foghorn announces our arrival at the Minutemen's camp. Arriving is always a mixture of adrenaline, fear and excitement. Instantly we are blinded by floodlights. As the men holding them move closer to us, we hear the sound of guns coming out of holsters and shotgun shells moving into firing chambers. Soon the racist verbal attacks and slurs start flying out of their mouths, as do threats to shoot us.

How different the reality of this ugly, Nazi-like mobilization in San Diego County is from the way it is nightly prettied up by CNN commentator Lou Dobbs. The well-remunerated Dobbs has the full backing of his boss, corporate media giant CNN, in his efforts to publicize and proselytize for the anti-immigrant Minutemen.

And standing behind CNN is a significant section of the ruling class that has

decided that a full-blown national campaign of scapegoating immigrant workers is the way to go. No one should underestimate the political significance of this media campaign. As the Bush dream of global empire crashes to earth in the Iraqi desert, ways must be found to divert the anger of the masses, and immigrant workers have

always been an easy target.

There needs to be a national campaign in defense of immigrant workers—documented and undocumented. Plans are underway for a regional fight-back mobilization when the Minutemen bring reinforcements to San Diego on Sept. 16. But a simultaneous National Day of Action would be even better. □



## Behind the headlines

# Migra raid tears parents from kids

Undocumented immigrant workers contribute billions in profits to the U.S. capitalist economy. But they face what can only be described as state terror, as this news item shows.

La Migra—the despised immigration police—raided a poultry factory in Arkadelphia, Ark., on July 28. The agents arrested 119 workers and dragged them off to face deportation.

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement raid left no time for the parents of about 30 children to call and make arrangements for their care. Kids as young as 3 months old were left behind after the police siege was over.

"A lot of those families had kids in day care in different places, and they didn't know why Mommy and Daddy didn't

come to pick them up," Arkadelphia Mayor Charles Hollingshead told reporters. Even the Clark County sheriff expressed anger at the Migra—albeit merely for bad planning and lack of communication between police agencies.

José Luis Vidal explained that his sister and brother-in-law were deported to Laredo, Mexico, while their children aged 10, 5 and 1 were left after the raid without care. "The children are very sad, especially the baby," Vidal explained in Spanish. "She cries all the time."

Every worker in the U.S., of every nationality, will benefit from a strong movement that declares: "No worker is 'illegal.' There are no borders in the workers' struggle."

—Leslie Feinberg

## Community speakout says:

# 'Stop the war from Harlem to Iraq!'

By LeiLani Dowell  
Harlem, N.Y.

A July 31 Harlem community speakout and rally held at Marcus Garvey Park under the banner of "Housing, not war" showed the depth and breadth of antiwar support and solidarity there, as well as the connection between wars at home and abroad.

The rally, sponsored by the Harlem Tenants Council (HTC) and the Troops Out Now Coalition (TONC), was also a mobilizing event for the Sept. 24 march on Washington. A number of the speakers were representatives of groups that are TONC members.

Nellie Bailey, HTC spokesperson, chaired the event, saying, "The remedies to the problems we face always come from the people."

Brenda Stokely, a Million Worker March Movement national leader, spoke about "building a movement like the kind that said no to slavery. What [rights] we have exist because the people organized in their own name."

Larry Holmes, International Action Center co-director, connected the struggle against occupation everywhere with the racist searches and occupation of police in the New York City subway system, saying, "The war has no geographical boundaries. We're gonna either let them declare martial law over here, or we're gonna get to the root of this and stop this war!"

Samia Halaby of the Defend Palestine Coalition said, "They kill our children, hunt us like animals, starve us, steal our land and children, imprison and torture us, destroy and steal our art. Doesn't this sound like Palestine, Haiti, Iraq and Harlem? Our solidarity is crucial."

Charles Jenkins of Transit Workers Union Local 100 and the MWMM, said, "Our children get sent off to war, and if they come back, they can't even find a job. We need to defend our communities."

Peter Anderson, a Harlem activist since the 1980s, said the definition of terrorism should include the miseducation of Black and Brown children, and their subsequent incarceration.



Charles Barron, Brenda Stokely, Larry Holmes and Elombe Brath.

Stuart Edwards of the All-African Peoples Revolutionary Party and Elombe Brath of the Patrice Lumumba Coalition stressed that the struggle for Africa's liberation must be incorporated into the antiwar movement.

Malik, a cultural performer, received cheers when he said, "Malcolm X was a strong supporter of the Cuban revolution; were he alive today he would be a strong supporter of Venezuela."

New York City Councilperson Charles Barron said, "They design our communities to keep us economically repressed, then tell us our only option is joining the military. If you're going to die, die fighting your oppressor." Barron has authored local resolutions to halt military recruiting on campuses, to normalize relations with Cuba, and in support of Assata Shakur.

Jonah Birch, a representative of the Campus Antiwar Network, announced a counter-recruitment contingent at the Sept. 24 march on the White House.

Tiokesen Ghost Horse, co-host and co-producer of First Voices Indigenous Radio on WBAI, told the crowd that the history of the United States is one of occupation. He stressed that "Capitalism is not the model to be followed. It is a war against the earth."



Sara Flounders

Fatima Prioleau from Women with HIV/AIDS Advocating and Mobilizing announced that a group of people with HIV/AIDS and their allies would be marching from New York to Washington, D.C., from August until October with their demands.

Larry Hamm of the Newark, N.J.-based People's Organization for Progress closed the community speak-out, saying, "We can't get tired now, we have to do everything to mobilize and turn out thousands in our neighborhoods. We must make it impossible for them to conduct war without feeling the fire from our communities. But let's not stop at war. Let's end a system that needs war and imperialist conquest to survive. Let's take the legacy that Malcolm X and Martin Luther King left us and build a people's movement."



Bernard White



Charles Jenkins

Other speakers included Dustin Langley, No Draft No Way; Kadouri Al-Kaysi, Committee in Support of the Iraqi People; Charlotte Kates, New Jersey Solidarity Activists for the Liberation of Palestine; Brian Barraza, Association of Mexican-American Workers; Gwen Dobrow, New York Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition; Shep McDaniels, Hands Off Assata Coalition; Omowale Clay, December 12th Movement; Bernard White, general manager, WBAI radio; Carlos Rovira, September 24th National Coalition; Saul McKantz and Sam Anderson, Black New Yorkers for Educational Excellence; Chuck Mohan, Guyanese Workers United; Sara Flounders, International Action Center; and Jim McMillan, a Vietnam veteran who was exposed to Agent Orange and is now about to be evicted. □

## World champion speaks out against Iraq war

By Monica Moorehead

Whether they follow sports or don't, millions of people around the world know of the extraordinary accomplishments of Lance Armstrong. He is the U.S. cyclist who recently won his record-setting seventh consecutive Tour de France championship.

There is something even more significant that Armstrong has done, but the commercial media continue to downplay it. He has become an outspoken critic of the Iraq war.

At the beginning of the war in 2003, Armstrong publicly raised his doubts about it, citing that the U.S. did not have the backing of certain European allies or the United Nations. Nevertheless, while distancing himself from George W. Bush regarding the Iraq war, he remained the president's friend; Armstrong comes from Texas.

Two years later, with more than 100,000 Iraqis and 1,800 U.S. troops dead, Armstrong has come out stronger against this

war. Following his recent cycling victory, Armstrong had this to say: "The biggest downside to a war in Iraq is what you could do with that money. What does a war in Iraq cost a week? A billion? Maybe a billion a day? The budget for the National Cancer Institute is four billion. That has to change. Polls say people are much more afraid of cancer than of a plane flying into their house or a bomb or any other form of terrorism." (edgeofsports, July 26)

Armstrong has also come out in support of women's right to choose and for the separation of church and state. Some credit the influence of his life-partner, rock singer Cheryl Crow, for him taking a progressive stance on these issues.

### Being a great athlete is not enough

Armstrong is admired by millions of people around the world and for good reasons. The Tour de France is arguably the most challenging of all individual sports. It has the largest number of participants than any other professional sport in the

world—200 cyclists. The event is carried out in stages over a week's time. Each cyclist has to travel a certain amount of miles each day, which is recorded by Tour officials. The athlete who reaches 2,500 miles—including cycling up and down mountainous terrain—in the shortest amount of time is the winner.

To win this kind of race once is astonishing, but to win it seven times in a row is unbelievable. And what makes Armstrong's achievement even more amazing is that he was not expected to live before his first Tour de France victory. He had been diagnosed with testicular cancer. Somehow, he did beat the odds through treatment following the removal of the cancerous growth.

Armstrong has been an inspiration to millions of cancer survivors. He has been a major spokesperson in raising money to find a cure for the deadly disease.

Armstrong, along with Steve Nash, the 2005 National Basketball Association's Most Valuable Player, are the two most recognizable athletes who have spoken



Lance Armstrong

against the Iraq war. While this is admirable, it is now time for their actions to speak louder than their words.

They can take a lesson from Muhammad Ali, another great athlete and political activist. Ali not only spoke out against the Vietnam war in 1967 but came out into the streets to protest. He made a great sacrifice for this principled stance when his heavyweight title was taken away from him for almost four years.

Armstrong and Nash have the opportunity of taking that great leap to political activism by making a commitment to come to Washington, D.C., on Sept. 24 for the national march and rally against war and occupation. □

# Punished for helping Palestinian children

By Charlotte L. Kates  
New York

The harsh sentence imposed here July 28 on a Yemeni religious leader grabbed by U.S. agents in Europe illustrates clearly the political nature of the persecution of Sheik Mohammed al-Moayad and his assistant and co-defendant, Mohammed Zayad. It also shows the lengths to which the U.S. government will go to justify its campaign of intimidation and harassment of Muslim and Arab people.

Al-Moayad, who had been entrapped in Germany by U.S. FBI agents and extra-



WW PHOTO: MONICA MOOREHEAD

Charlotte L. Kates speaking on July 31 in Harlem.

ditioned to the United States in 2003, was sentenced to a total of 75 years in prison and a fine of \$1.25 million. During the sentencing hearing, Judge Sterling Johnson openly displayed contempt for the elderly sheik. He strolled behind the bench as al-Moayad was explaining his charitable activities and the fact that he had never worked to harm the people of the U.S., but rather to help his fellow Arabs in Yemen and in Palestine. As defense attorney William Goodman was describing why the organization Hamas, which administers charities for Palestinian refugees, is so popular in the Arab world, the judge interrupted him to declare the group "evil."

In justifying the extreme sentence, Johnson referred to material support for al-Qaeda—despite the fact that al-Moayad had been acquitted of those charges at trial. He also quoted statements by disgraced FBI informer Mohamed Alanssi—but Alanssi had never appeared in the courtroom, because even the prosecution viewed him as a tainted, disreputable witness.

The judge engaged in a detailed chronology of the events of Sept. 11, 2001. While admitting that al-Moayad had neither been accused nor convicted of any involvement with those attacks, he declared that it was, nevertheless, relevant to sentencing.

Judge Johnson sentenced al-Moayad to the maximum penalty, 15 years, on all five counts for which he was convicted, for a total of 75 years' imprisonment. He then added a \$250,000 fine for each charge, for a total of \$1.25 million.

The behavior of the judge and prosecutors in this case clearly revealed that it was a political case meant to put all activity in support of Palestinian and Arab causes—in the U.S. and internationally—at risk for U.S. government persecution and repression.

## Helped Yemeni, Palestinian children

Sheikh al-Moayad had directed various charitable institutions in Yemen, including a bakery and a grocery that distributed food to the poor, schools for boys and girls, a computer center and a free medical clinic. His charitable work extended to supporting not only Yemenis, but his fellow Arabs in Palestine, including raising funds for schools, school supplies and other provisions for Palestinian children.

Although a well-known figure in Yemen, he had not been targeted by the Yemeni government nor the U.S. government for his activities until a Yemeni informer and con man, Mohamed Alanssi, introduced himself to the FBI in November 2001 with what testimony and later press coverage would reveal to be promises of spectacular information in exchange for financial compensation.

Alanssi, visiting Yemen on behalf of the FBI, eventually lured al-Moayad and Zayad to Germany to meet with a supposed wealthy would-be contributor. He turned out to be an undercover FBI agent.

Al-Moayad and Zayad were arrested and flown to the United States amid spectacular promises of the capture of people responsible for providing millions in funding to Al-Qaeda. In the meantime, Alanssi set himself on fire in front of the White



Sheik Mohammed al-Moayad

House on Nov. 15, 2004, demanding

more money from the FBI for his testimony. He never testified from the stand in this case.

Despite never having entered the U.S. before, al-Moayad and Zayad were placed on trial under U.S. laws. Even in this repressive climate, they were acquitted of charges of material support to al-Qaeda, but were convicted of materially supporting Hamas—in Palestine—and various conspiracy charges.

In their home country of Yemen, Hamas is a completely legal organization. It is well-known and respected throughout the Arab world for its role and participation in the Palestinian resistance.

Thus, Arab support for Palestine—in the Arab world itself—was criminalized under U.S. law in this trial.

This case indicates a dangerous precedent by which activists from around the world can be kidnapped and brought to trial in the U.S. In this, it is similar to the case of Colombian rebel leader Ricardo Palmira.

In addition, it comes at a time of increased repression of Arab and Muslim activists in the U.S. The trial of Professor Sami al-Arian in Florida continues and the Los Angeles 8—Palestinians facing deportation since 1984 for purely political activities—are being prosecuted once more in California.

Al-Moayad's attorneys plan to appeal both his conviction and the sentence. This case will need the support of all who are concerned about political repression and political freedom in the U.S. and internationally.

Charlotte Kates is an activist with New Jersey Solidarity-Activists for the Liberation of Palestine and Al-Awda New York.

## Pentagon study

# Many GIs come back with mental wounds

By David Hoskins

The U.S.-led occupation of Iraq continues to take its toll—not only on Iraqi civilians but also on the mental as well as physical health of U.S. soldiers.

A recent survey of 1,000 U.S. troops returned from combat zones revealed that 30 percent of them have developed combat-related mental health problems, ranging from depression to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Combat-induced psychoses are to blame for over 33 soldier suicides since the beginning of 2003.

The mental health disorders of military personnel arise from the brutality of combat and the sense of helplessness felt on the front lines of battle. The military deploys a variety of techniques in an attempt to strip soldiers of their humanity and transform them into instruments of war.

These techniques include combat simulation meant to desensitize new recruits. Other applications, such as instrumentation command, allow trainees to simulate a range of operations, from the piloting of F-117 stealth jets to the execution of indirect-fire mission exercises. But it's nothing like real combat situations.

The bulk of the U.S. fighting force comes from the working class, including communities of color. It would be natural for these soldiers to feel empathy toward their oppressed counterparts on the opposite side of the battle line, despite the desensitization training. The horror of being surrounded with bloodshed and death is aggravated by the realization that the troops are seen as occupiers, not liberators.

The stress associated with this realization can manifest itself in a variety of ways. Psychological problems such as depression and PTSD are one manifestation.

Resistance is the other.

Fragging, a form of resistance that involves the elimination of superior officers by their subordinate troops, has resurfaced in the Iraq conflict. The specter of fragging raised its head in June with the alleged killing of two U.S. Army officers by a staff sergeant.

During the Vietnam War there were 788 confirmed cases of fragging between 1969 and 1972. Eighty four of these ended in the deaths of the targeted officers. Other methods of resistance included desertion, failure to report for redeployment and mutiny. These also have reappeared with the latest Iraq war.

Resistance is a healthy psychological response to the disregard for human life on the part of military brass. It provides a catharsis from the degradation soldiers are forced to mete out against the populations they occupy, and are forced to endure themselves at the hands of the brass.

Military medical officials have sought to downplay the severity of the problem, insisting that a few dozen combat stress control teams can adequately respond to soldiers' mental health needs.

This approach fails to address the root of the problem: people who join the military want to feel pride and contribute to their family's safety. The realization that they are simply pawns in an imperial chess match can undermine soldiers' mental stability.

The best solution for soldiers' mental health needs is the fulfillment of the Iraqi people's demand for an immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops and an end to the occupation. Short of that it is up to individual soldiers to reclaim their humanity and their sanity by resisting this unjust war. □

## DETROIT

# Community rally hits war, cuts



WW PHOTO: DAVE SOLE

Andrea Hackett, whose daughter recently returned from combat duty in Iraq.

"Money for Detroit, not for war in Iraq" was the theme of a neighborhood rally July 30 in Detroit's Zussman Park. It was called by the Michigan Emergency Committee Against War & Injustice (MECAWI) to link the financial crisis facing the city—including budget cuts, wage cuts and layoffs of city workers—to the hundreds of billions being spent on war and occupation in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere.

Over 200 people from the neighborhood came out to hear speakers and music. Hot dogs were grilled and given out. The rally had been built with sound cars going up and down the streets for two weekends, while almost every store, beauty salon and gas station in the area put up posters and leaflets. Local youth provided socially conscious rap music.

—Story and photo by David Sole

## All fired up

# Travel challengers return from Cuba

By Ellie Dorritie  
Buffalo, N.Y.

With fists punching the air and triumphant smiles, chanting “We’re the Venceremos Brigade—ONE! We went to Cuba—TWO! The freedom of our people, THREE, is what we’re fighting FOR!” the returning travel challengers marched over the Peace Bridge from Canada into the U.S. on Aug. 1.

They returned to a whistling, stomping, singing, yelling, banner-waving welcome here. Resisting attempts by Homeland Security to restrict the rights of the welcoming crowd, supporters surged forward to embrace the triumphant travel challengers.

They had defied the more-than-four-decades-long U.S. ban on travel, and they couldn’t wait to tell about it. Their stories came pouring out.

Tshaka Barrows of Oakland, Calif., declared, “It’s an honor to defy such an unjust law. The sacrifice we make is small compared to the terrible damage this policy is causing to the Cuban people.

“The level of support and caring and love for the people in Cuba, not just in the government but right down to the com-

Challengers come across the Peace Bridge from Canada.

WW PHOTO CHERYL LABASH

munity, is like medicine for my soul, especially coming back here to the U.S., which is such a difficult place in terms of building community.”

Ed Felton of Brooklyn, N.Y., said, “As a second-time Brigadista, I was reminded again that the core of the revolution in Cuba is that there’s a brilliant leadership in every community.”

Liz Hernandez, a Cuban-American from the Bronx, N.Y., told WW, “This was my first time going, and the Cubans were so warm, welcoming me as a lost daughter, so proud I was doing political work. I oppose the U.S. policy that tried to prevent me from seeing Cuba for myself. I am in complete solidarity with Cuba, and I feel it should be able to maintain its position as a sovereign nation.”



Referring to the Cuban Five, she said, “I oppose the U.S. unjustly arresting and imprisoning five amazing heroic men who were fighting [anti-Cuban] terrorists, doing exactly what the U.S. only says it’s doing. I will continue to travel to Cuba until this crippling blockade is lifted.”

Ignacio Meneses of the Cesar Chavez Labor Challenge of the U.S.-Cuba Labor Exchange, from Detroit, said, “We just have visited a country who never has made a criminal act against the United States, and at the same time we exercised our con-

stitutional right of free movement to peacefully exchange ideas with the people of Cuba. I honestly believe that is a basic human right.”

Among those crossing the border into Buffalo were eight members of the Cesar Chavez Labor Challenge from New York, Detroit and San Jose, Calif. Five were members of the Women’s Challenge from Seattle and 53 travel challengers went with the 36th Venceremos Brigade from Maine, Massachusetts, New York, D.C., Texas, New Mexico and California. □

# Uzbekistan tells U.S. military to leave

By Leslie Feinberg

The government of Uzbekistan hand-delivered an eviction notice to the Pentagon on July 29, via U.S. Embassy officials in the capital of Tashkent. The official document ordered the U.S. to close its military base in Karshi-Khanabad in the south of the country within 180 days.

Just days earlier, U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld had assured reporters that it wouldn’t matter much if Tashkent issued a demand to vacate the base. Rumsfeld said the Uzbek base wasn’t all that important to Pentagon operations against Afghanistan. “We’re always thinking ahead,” he told reporters. “We’ll be fine.”

In May, however, Pentagon mouthpiece Bryan Whitman had described the Uzbek base as “undeniably critical in supporting our combat operations.”

Why is there a U.S. airbase in this former Soviet republic in the first place? The U.S. military moved into the base, dubbed K2, just weeks after the 9/11 attacks in 2001, which served as the pretext for the Pentagon to invade Afghanistan.

Since then, thousands of National Guard, Reserve and active duty units have used the base as a logistical hub to launch military operations, move military supplies, and house aircraft, equipment and some 3,000 U.S. troops. The base’s long runway can accommodate large military planes, making costly mid-air refueling unnecessary.

James O’Halloran, editor of “Jane’s Land Based Air Defence” and owner of the British-based company Research Analyst Defense, stressed that “the close could have significant impact on the way U.S. forces conduct and support combat and reconstruction operations in neighboring Afghanistan.” (EurasiaNet, July 31)

Reconstruction? Tell that to the Afghan people who are suffering terrible deprivation from the war.

Col. James Yonts said the Pentagon will now have to fortify and expand its air bases in Afghanistan at Bagram, north of

Kabul; Kandahar in the south; and Manas in nearby Kyrgyzstan.

## Who armed the ‘unarmed’ coup attempt?

Washington’s spin is that this ouster is rooted in events in the eastern city of Andijan in Uzbekistan on May 12 and 13.

Tashkent officials maintained that their soldiers suppressed a coup in Andijan, killing some 170 people, half of whom they described as armed militants. Western-backed “human rights” agencies argue that far more were killed and that these were unarmed, peaceful demonstrators.

The reported rioting in Andijan followed “color-coded” coups in former Soviet Republics: next-door neighbor Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine and Georgia. Washington is widely believed to have had a hand in these “regime changes.”

The events at Andijan don’t sound so peaceful when described by Kabul Parpiyev, identified as a fugitive leader of the May 12-13 attempt to overthrow the Uzbek government. He surfaced for an interview with journalist Alisher Saipov, published in The Globe and Mail of Toronto on Aug. 1.

Parpiyev describes his group as having been armed with handguns and submachine guns. He recalls cars and buildings burning as his men organized a jail break for 23 local businessmen reportedly accused of religious extremism. He vowed to continue to use terror tactics to overturn the current government.

Reporter Saipov arranged follow-up telephone interviews with Parpiyev, including one with The Times of London.

## Political to-ing and fro-ing

Since May, Washington has used the events at Andijan as a political lever over the Uzbek government. “The White House was at first muted in its criticism of the massacre,” explained the Guardian of Britain on Aug. 1, “but the State Department has grown increasingly vocal in condemning the attack and calling for an independent investigation.”

On July 28, U.S. and British ambassa-

dors tried to change the subject at a closed-door Security Council briefing about Africa and put Andijan on the agenda. Russia blocked the maneuver.

The following morning, at 5:30 a.m., a Boeing 747 ostensibly arranged by the UN used the K2 base to airlift to Romania more than 440 Uzbeks who had crossed the border into Kyrgyzstan. Romanian Foreign Minister Mihai Razvan Ungureanu said that the Uzbeks would travel on to other countries, including the U.S., where they will undoubtedly be debriefed and some recruited by U.S. intelligence agencies.

That same day U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice telephoned the Kyrgyz government to demand the release from its district jail in Osh of Uzbek prisoners who face criminal charges stemming from the Andijan coup attempt. At least initially, Kyrgyzstan refused to comply.

Tashkent immediately ordered the Pentagon base closed within 180 days, resulting in the cancellation of senior State Department official R. Nicolas Burns’ plans to travel to Tashkent to demand an international investigation into Andijan.

Washington may tighten the thumb screws on Tashkent’s leaders. “NATO defense ministers are to meet in Berlin next month,” reported the Aug. 1 Financial Times. “German officials said Donald Rumsfeld, U.S. defense secretary, could use the meeting to galvanize opposition to Uzbekistan. The U.S. had tried to get criticism of the Uzbek government included in the final communiqué of a meeting in June.”

German officials are expressing worries that if Washington ratchets up pressure on Tashkent, Berlin may lose its key military base in southern Uzbekistan, which houses transport aircraft and helicopters, and flies troops and supplies to German operations in the Kabul area and the northern towns of Feyzbad and Kunduz.

“There isn’t a sensible alternative to this base,” bemoaned a German defense ministry official.

Uzbekistan is the first of the former

Soviet Central Asian Republics now in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to order the Pentagon out of its country. On July 5, the SCO—made up of China, Russia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan, and with new observer members Iran, India, Pakistan and Mongolia—demanded that the U.S. provide a timetable for militarily pulling out of Afghanistan and Central Asia.

That’s why today a front group like Freedom House, which receives funding from the U.S. government through the National Endowment for Democracy, USAID and the State Department, ranks Uzbekistan “not free,” along with Zimbabwe, Syria and North Korea—countries that have refused to surrender their sovereignty to imperialism.

The order to close the K2 airbase is just one move on what Zbigniew Brzezinski cynically referred to as “the Great Chessboard” of Central Asia. In his book by the same name, Brzezinski—advisor to the Rockefeller dynasty and the Carter administration—reiterated the importance of U.S. finance capital securing a monopoly over the energy-rich and geopolitically strategic region.

But U.S. imperialism is finding it hard to impose its hegemony and the profits of war are not flowing like oil.

The sheer might of the Pentagon was able to set up Hamid Karzai as titular president of occupied Afghanistan and Zalmay Khalilzad as U.S. ambassador to occupied Iraq. Both have been insiders with the Bush-connected oil company, Unocal. Nevertheless, the military machine is mired, facing strong insurgency in Iraq and renewed resistance in Afghanistan.

Uzbekistan has just signed a strategic partnership agreement with Moscow involving a \$1-billion investment by Russia’s state gas company, Gazprom. (The Scotsman, Aug. 1)

Now the Pentagon is being booted out of its first base in Central Asia since 9/11.

Does this matter to U.S. finance capital? In the lingo of Rumsfeld himself: “You bet.” □



# Venezuela launches media revolution

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

The Bolivarian revolution of Venezuela has broken the imperialist monopoly on worldwide television reporting. On July 25 it launched Telesur, a television channel capable of reaching all of Latin America.

Until the launch, corporate-controlled media had a hammerlock on international news reporting. Big business giant Time-Warner owns CNN in the U.S. The British government, which certainly serves the interests of the ruling class, not the workers, controls the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC). And right-wing stations Univision and Telemundo have the monopoly in the Spanish-language countries of the Western hemisphere.

In announcing the creation of Telesur, its new president, Andrés Izarra, asserted: "Telesur is an initiative against cultural imperialism and against imperialism in any of its expressions." Izarra resigned his position as Venezuelan Minister of Communication and Information to avoid any conflict of interest in heading up the new initiative. (venezuelanalysis.com)

## TELESUR IS ON THE AIR

Aram Aharonian, the new channel's director, linked Telesur's task to Bolivarian goals by saying: "We are convinced that there is no way to change reality unless we first see it as it is."

Aharonian also noted the importance of community media as "truly horizontal spaces of information and steps forward in democratization."

But he stressed that alone this media was insufficient: "We could have hundreds of community media, but if 93 percent of the audience is controlled by a monopolistic structure, we will advance very little in the direction of democratization."

Present at the announcement of the launch was the Telesur advisory board of distinguished intellectuals from Latin America, the U.S. and Europe. These included Pakistani-British filmmaker and writer Tariq Ali; Nicaraguan poet and former Sandinista Minister of Culture

Ernesto Cardenal; Uruguayan journalist and historian Eduardo Galeano; editor-in-chief of the French political journal *Le Monde Diplomatique*, Ignacio Ramonet; U.S. founder of the Free Software Foundation, Richard Stallman; African American actor Danny Glover; Jamaican American civil rights activist and singer Harry Belafonte; and Argentinian Nobel Peace Prize winner Adolfo Perez Esquivel, among others.

U.S. efforts to counter Telesur's free flow of information have begun. Conservative U.S. Rep. Connie Mack, a Republican from Florida, has proposed a propaganda broadcast aimed at Venezuela similar to that of Radio and TV Marti directed against revolutionary Cuba.

Mack argued this "free press" is necessary in order to guarantee privatization and capitalist development in Venezuela. On July 20, Mack's bill, an amendment to the Foreign Relations Authorization Act of

2005, passed in the House by voice vote. (venezuelanalysis.com)

But international support for Telesur is broadening.

Arabic language news network Al-Jazeera is open to a "strategic alliance" with Telesur, according to Telesur president Izarra. (english.aljazeera.net)

And the governments of Argentina, Cuba and Uruguay are co-sponsoring the channel together with Venezuela.

In April 2002 the big-business-owned radio and television stations in Venezuela actively promoted a U.S.-instigated coup attempt against democratically elected President Hugo Chávez. But through the Bolivarian process, hundreds of thousands of poor and working class people had begun to question corporate control. Spreading the truth about what had happened by word of mouth and a few small community radio stations, they poured into the streets and smashed the coup.

Now the establishment of Telesur promises a voice for the people of Latin America that can step into the ring of international reporting and slug it out with the bought-off media. □

## Venezuelan envoy tells of social gains

By Arturo J. Pérez Saad  
New York

William Izarra, Venezuelan Chancellor to Asia and a former military commander, gave an informal talk July 11 to a room full of leaders and activists in the New York area. Describing the revolutionary process going on in his country as anti-imperialist, he gave insights into some recent developments.

Last Aug. 15, after the rich with the backing of the U.S. had campaigned to destabilize Venezuela, President Hugo Chávez won broad support for his policies in yet another referendum. Since then, quite a few of the wealthy have left for Miami and there has been relative calm.

To overcome the poverty of the vast majority, the Venezuelan government is using 30 percent of the country's oil prof-

its, which used to be siphoned off by eight rich families, to fund community programs.

"Misión Robinson" has reduced illiteracy to less than 4 percent of the population. "Misión Sucre" is a public health project where doctors deliver quality health care in the remotest and poorest sectors of the country. Over 18,000 Cuban medical personnel participate in this program.

"Barrio Adentro" and many other programs bring subsidized education, schooling, food, housing and work to the most affected communities.

Izarra told how in May 1967, when he was a military officer who flew helicopters, the army found a Cuban lieutenant on Venezuelan land whose goal was to train Venezuelan guerrillas. "I met him as he was held captive under a tent. I asked him why he was here. He said that he believed

in international solidarity, the participation of the masses and that he volunteered to fight for justice. The next day, when I returned, the lieutenant was dead, shot through one side of his head, his hands tied behind his back." This made a huge impression on Izarra. He left the military shortly thereafter.

Today, he says, Venezuela is trying to achieve "the common good for all." He talked about Venezuela's good relations with the Vietnamese people, "who demonstrated that even the most advanced military with the most modern equipment can't win if it does not have conviction. They first threw out the French, then the U.S."

He explained how, since the failed coup attempt against President Chavez, Venezuela has had nine elections and every time the revolutionary process has moved

forward. Some mayors of towns, however, still do not follow the constitution and select their own cabinets. The U.S. is funding groups like Súmate to participate in political subversion. "It is illegal in any country to accept funds from another country to overthrow the government. The representatives of the rich are being held accountable on charges of treason.

"Our goal is to have popularly elected and participatory mayors who function as the voice of the masses and are rooted in socialism.

"We have a lot of idle land that we are giving back to the peasants and the indigenous people. We have had many military exercises to defend our sovereignty. Chávez has the people behind him and is increasing the national military reserve to over a million and building popular militias." □

## Counter-recruiting spreads like wildfire

Continued from page 1

tech job training. But now, youth and parents realize that enlisting means a good possibility of being sent to Iraq and that can mean joining the 1,800 who have already died in Iraq or coming home permanently scarred or traumatized. The Army Surgeon General has announced that 30 percent of U.S. troops returning from the Iraq war have developed stress-related mental health problems three to four months after coming home.

But it's not just the risk to life and limb that's driving recruiting numbers down. Polls now show that most in the U.S. believe that the invasion of Iraq was a mistake. It is now widely understood that the Bush Administration lied about weapons of mass destruction, and that this is a war of conquest, not liberation.

Joe Satterthwaite, a 16-year-old student in Boston, told the *Globe*, "It doesn't seem fun or interesting to be going over to Iraq to fight people and kill them. And the whole thought of dying when you're 18 sounds pretty bad."

The Dallas Morning News, in a story titled "Army battling decline in black recruits," quoted 18-year-old DeTorrian Rhone, who said, "Most of the kids say they don't want to fight for a country that's pickin' on other countries. I don't want to

fight because this [Iraq] war was stupid, it wasted money. Army people are getting killed for nothing, and we should have stayed in our own business."

Instead of rushing to enlist, many are now organizing to keep recruiters off campus and out of their communities. Parents, teachers, students and activists are forming local groups to challenge and expose the lies of the recruiting machine.

In New York, City Council member Charles Barron, working with the Troops Out Now Coalition, has introduced a resolution that would ban military recruiters from public schools.

The proposed law, which will be taken up by the council's Education Committee, would prohibit representatives of the armed services from utilizing any Board of Education facilities for the purpose of recruitment and prohibit the board from disclosing any student information to the military without prior written authorization from such students' parents or guardians.

Larry Holmes of the Troops Out Now Coalition commented, "The United States military is aggressively engaged in recruiting young people in the public schools. The military concentrates its recruiting efforts on communities of color where, due to poverty, inadequate educa-

tion, bleak job opportunities and misinformation, young people are easy prey for military recruiters. Parents generally tend to be unaware that public schools are required to provide the military with lists of student names and addresses.

"But legislation alone is not enough," Holmes continued, "It will be up to community activists, students and youth organizers, antiwar activists and parents to turn a piece of legislation into a rallying call for mass organizing strong enough to ban the warmakers from our schools."

The No Draft No Way network, a counter-recruiting and antidraft organization, is planning a fall campaign called "An Army of None." The network, which has thousands of volunteers across the U.S., will work to establish "military-free zones" in schools and communities—areas where recruiters are unable to operate because of organized opposition.

As part of this strategy, No Draft No Way is producing thousands of Activists Tool Kits, which will include "We Won't Go: The Truth About Military Recruiting & the Draft," a 120-page book that will expose military recruiters' lies and tactics. The book will also lay out tactics for organizing against recruiting in schools and communities. Accompanying the book will be a two-hour DVD that will include video

presentations about military recruiting and counter-recruiting activities, as well as printable fliers, posters and opt-out forms. The book and DVD will serve as a complete organizing kit, and No Draft No Way plans to distribute thousands of copies to youth, parents and activists.

In addition, No Draft No Way is encouraging local organizers to work to pass resolutions in their PTA, student government, school board, or city council banning military recruiters from local schools.

Throughout the fall, No Draft No Way organizers will also be confronting military recruiters on campus, in their communities and at their recruiting stations. Peter Gilbert, one of the organizers of the Raleigh action against military recruiting, said, "We've already had success in driving recruiters off of our campus, and we know that nationwide, counter-recruiting activists are having a real impact. Recruiters now know that they can't come on to our campus without being confronted and challenged by activists who will expose the truth behind their sales pitch.

"Now is the time to take it up a notch and declare every school and neighborhood absolutely 'off-limits' to recruiters."

*Eltayeb is a member of Raleigh FIST. Langley is a No Draft! No Way! organizer.*

# Labor & the war

The AFL-CIO passed a resolution on July 26 that calls for a rapid end to the Iraq war. The resolution, put forward by the General Executive Council, is being called a “major change of course” for the labor federation by U.S. Labor Against the War.

And to some old-timers in the labor movement, this looks like a big change. The AFL-CIO’s failure to oppose the Vietnam War nearly tore the federation apart and was part of the reason the United Auto Workers left it in 1968. Union members could be found at all the protests against the Vietnam War, but they were there without the official support of the big union federation.

This time it is indeed very different. When the AFL-CIO convention opened in Chicago it found itself flooded with 18 different anti-war resolutions from state federations, central labor councils and local unions. That reflects the serious shift by union members from passive opposition to the war to a more active call for bringing the troops home immediately. Everyone knows that a majority of the union membership—indeed, of the whole population—is against the war on Iraq.

When the AFL-CIO gathered to meet in Chicago, President John Sweeney and the General Executive Council took one look at all the anti-war resolutions and stepped back. Some of the resolutions were based on the excellent statement endorsed by the San Francisco Central Labor Council, which had given full endorsement to earlier anti-war demonstrations. Most of them were similar to the Wisconsin AFL-CIO’s resolution, which was passed by many other state conventions. All these resolutions had the endorsement of large numbers of union members.

Instead, the General Executive Council introduced at the last minute its own, much more watered-down resolution, one that did not mention

the terrible toll the U.S. occupation is taking on the people of Iraq, did not mention the torture chambers in Guantanamo and Abu Ghraib, did not mention the theft of Iraq’s resources by the invaders’ big business partners.

This resolution was maneuvered into the convention’s agenda as a replacement for the 18 resolutions brought by the member unions. It was only the quick intervention of Fred Mason, president of the Maryland/District of Columbia AFL-CIO and co-convenor of U.S. Labor Against the War, who proposed an amendment to the resolution, that brought some of its wording more into line with what all the anti-war resolutions sent to the convention said and what the majority of union members had expected would be passed.

As for the Change to Win Coalition, set up by the Teamsters, SEIU and several other unions, some of which disaffiliated from the AFL-CIO while the convention was going on, they have yet to say one word on the war.

What may matter more than the exact words of the resolution, however, is how it is seen and understood by union members and their supporters.

It is already clear from news reports and conversations with members of the AFL-CIO unions that many see this resolution as an endorsement of a firm anti-war position.

Every union member should take this resolution and run with it, using it as an endorsement of the kind of militant action that is necessary to really bring the troops home. This includes getting involved with counter-recruitment efforts at local schools and getting members of your local to go to Washington on Sept. 24 and join the massive anti-war rally to be held outside the White House.

That’s in keeping with the spirit of the majority of the anti-war resolutions put forward at the AFL-CIO convention. □

## BRITAIN

# Solidarity follows wave of racist attacks

By Leslie Feinberg

The escalation of racist profiling in Britain’s “war on terror” is flashing a green light to white supremacists and anti-immigrant bashers. However, as state repression and the bigotry it generates grow, so too do expressions of unity from people of all nationalities.

Anthony Walker was a victim of the racist terror. The Black 18-year-old student, his 17-year-old white girlfriend and his 17-year-old cousin suffered a “torrent of racial abuse” from a racist in front of a pub July 29 as they stood at a Liverpool bus stop at 11:30 p.m. They tried to leave the area, but were confronted by a gang of reportedly three or four lynchers. Walker’s cousin and girlfriend ran to get help. When they returned, they found Walker dead, an axe stuck in his skull.

Grief and rage brought more than 1,000 people out to rally with Walker’s family on Aug. 2. The Walker family stood on the steps of St. George’s Hall, flanked by anti-racists from Unite Against Fascism, the Merseyside Coalition Against Racism, politicians and religious leaders.

Gege Walker told those gathered that she felt overwhelmed by the “sea of faces” and the wave of support she is getting following her son’s murder. “I am receiving letters from people I don’t even know—from America, from Canada, phone calls from Ireland, you name it, and letters of condolence. I don’t know how to thank you, I applaud all of you and thank you from my heart.”

Gege Walker thanked her son’s friends in the crowd for the tributes they have paid to him.

Leroy Shepherd held up a photo of Walker, his nephew: “If your son or my son is walking down the street with a white girl and people see it and they don’t like it, are they going to kill him? This isn’t right. It has got to stop. You have got to stop it now.”

### Racism: no secret

Labor MP Edward O’Hara tried to dismiss the horrific murder of Walker as “random,

exceptional and representative of absolutely nothing.”

Huyton, where the attack occurred, is a middle-class area of roughly 40,000 in which Black families are 1.4 percent of the population.

David Okoro, Walker’s cousin, told the Liverpool Echo, “There have been examples over the past year and a half of our family suffering racism, particularly the children. That’s not a secret.”

He emphasized, “Liverpool can change things by challenging this behavior and not condoning it.

“Judging by the amount of tributes and messages of support, it has shown that the people of Huyton are standing up against this. That has restored some of my faith in the people in this area.”

One of the first victims of this wave of racist attacks was a Brazilian killed by trigger-happy police after the government approved a “shoot-to-kill” policy following the London bombings. A public memorial for Brazilian Jean Charles de Menezes—pinned down by plainclothes British police while they pumped eight bullets into his body—took place in London’s Parliament Square on July 29, coinciding with a memorial in his homeland.

It was eventually admitted by the police that Menezes had nothing to do with the bombings and that the police attack on him was a “mistake.”

Angry protests in Brazil demanding justice targeted the British Embassy in Brasilia and the British consulates in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo.

Menezes’ body was returned to his hometown of Gonzaga, a rural town of some 6,000 residents. Police estimated that more than 10,000 people passed by his coffin. Stores and homes were draped in the colors of the Brazilian flag. At the burial, the crowd applauded Menezes, a tradition at burials of dignitaries.

The signs around his hometown express the mood succinctly: “We want justice!” demands one sign. Another reads: “Jean, martyr of British terrorism!” □

# Bolton: Pit bull

Continued from page 3

Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session.”

In fact, the vacancy in the UN ambassadorship did NOT arise during the recess of the Senate. It arose when the Senate was in session. It arose when the former ambassador resigned.

This is not an emergency appointment caused by a sudden death or illness or resignation. This appointment was dragged out for months while the Senate was in session so that the capitalist politicians there could all get themselves off the hook and not take responsibility in the event that Bolton becomes a liability.



The Lavender & Red series by Leslie Feinberg explores the history of the socialist movement and the struggle for sexual & gender liberation. It can be read online at

[www.workers.org/lavender-red](http://www.workers.org/lavender-red)

**MARCH ON THE WHITE HOUSE**

**SEPT 24**

**SHUT THE WAR DOWN!**

**BRING THE TROOPS HOME NOW!**

**HEALTHCARE NOT WARFARE**

**EDUCATION NOT OCCUPATION**

**IT'S OUR FUTURE**

**U.S. OUT of the Philippines and Puerto Rico**

**Stop the War Against the Black, Latin@, Arab & Muslim Communities**

**Stop Threats Against Venezuela, Cuba, Iran, North Korea and Africa**

**HOUSING NOT BOMBS**

**Stop the war on women & lesbian, gay, bi, trans people**

**Support the Palestinian People's Right to Return**

**End the Occupations of Iraq, Palestine, Afghanistan**

**We have the power to do it**

**NO DRAFT NO WAY!**

**Military Recruiters Out of Our Schools**

**JOIN THE MILLIONS MORE MOVEMENT OCT 14,15,16**

**TROOPS OUT NOW COALITION**  
212-633-6646 [www.troopsoutnow.org](http://www.troopsoutnow.org)

**HARLEM TENANTS COUNCIL**  
212-234-5005

Volunteer: 39 W. 14 St., #206, NY, NY 10011 TONC buses going to D.C. Sept. 24 from Harlem and the NYC region  
TONC is a member of the Sept. 24 National Coalition initiated by the ANSWER coalition

# What No. Koreans are up against

By Deirdre Griswold

This is what the North Koreans are up against at the six-power talks that have been taking place in Beijing:

First, there is the belligerent Bush administration, which has made it very clear that if it got the chance it would crush the independent socialist state in Korea, which has resisted colonial and imperialist rule for over a century now, and reduce the country to a vassal in the name of "regime change."

Bush made a big deal of adding the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to his short "axis of evil" list, in effect saying to the Koreans, "You're next." This was back in the days when he thought he was going to vaporize any resistance in Iraq and then move on to

other conquests.

The latest tactic of the Bush administration is to bolster its relations with Japan, the colonial power that earned the undying hatred of the Korean people for over three decades of cruel oppression and exploitation.

What do the Koreans see when they sit down with the U.S. delegates and try to have a discussion about ending the Pentagon's occupation of the Korean peninsula, removing the nuclear threat from the whole area, and signing a peace treaty to end the Korean War, which still has not been resolved more than 50 years after the 1953 cease-fire?

They see a country that is involved in two totally unjust wars right now, and is willing to sacrifice the lives of young soldiers—not to speak of the Iraqi and

Afghan people—to achieve its economic and geopolitical goals of world domination.

They see a country that has most of the world's nuclear weapons, and even dropped two on hundreds of thousands of civilians at the end of World War II, that is now drafting plans for modernizing and upgrading its nuclear arsenal, that refuses to rule out the first use of nuclear weapons—yet is telling the Koreans they had better not have any of their own weapons in self-defense.

They see right-wing ideologues who, like John Bolton, the newly appointed U.S. ambassador to the UN, don't conceal their hatred and contempt for the rest of the world. In fact, Bolton even revels in it, as his now-dissected record makes clear. As for Korea, he personally

insulted the leader of the country when he was there supposedly as a "diplomat."

Under these conditions, one must admire the sagacity, self-restraint and patience of the North Koreans in even sitting down with representatives of the imperialist power that has tried for so long to either belittle or crush them.

Let us hope that their efforts are not wasted on political neocons who only know how to insult and threaten. All the Korean people—north and south—want the U.S. troops out and real peace in the area so their long-separated families can be reunited and cooperation can grow between the two halves of the country.

If maneuvering, threats and arrogance frustrate a positive outcome of these talks, the onus will be completely on the imperialist U.S.-Japan alliance. □

## New research on Hiroshima, Nagasaki

# Truman was a war criminal

By John Catalinotto

Why was Harry Truman's decision to use atomic weapons against Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, 60 years ago, like George Bush's decision to invade Iraq in 2003? They were both war crimes, of course. And they were both based on a Big Lie.

In Bush's case the lie was the now-discredited claim that the U.S. had to invade Iraq to stop the use of "weapons of mass destruction." In Truman's case, it was that the U.S. had to drop A-bombs to force the Japanese to surrender—or this would require a land invasion that would cost hundreds of thousands of U.S. casualties.

With the 60th anniversary of the bombings coming up, it is more than likely that the big lie of 1945 will be repeated ad nauseam by politicians, corporate media and bought-off historians of U.S. academia. There are, however, two historians who are marshaling old and new arguments and facts to expose this lie.

They are Peter Kuznick, director of the Nuclear Studies Institute at American University in Washington, D.C., and Mark Selden, from Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. Kuznick and Selden presented their latest findings at a press conference July 21 organized by Greenpeace in London. The Greenpeace site has a video presentation by the two historians.

Their findings support an argument made earlier: that the main reason the U.S. used nuclear weapons on Japan was to get a jump start on the war against the Soviet Union. Truman used the bomb in 1945 so the U.S. could threaten to use it against Korea, Vietnam and in many other battles. These new findings reveal that the U.S. officials making the decisions themselves knew and admitted their Big Lie was a lie.

The two historians studied the diplomatic archives of the U.S., Japan and the USSR. They found that on Aug. 3, 1945, three days before Hiroshima, Truman agreed at a meeting that Japan was "looking for peace." All the U.S. senior generals and admirals, including Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, Gen. Douglas MacArthur and Admiral William Leahy, told him it was unnecessary to use the A-bomb to defeat Japan. "Impressing Russia was more important than ending the war," Selden says.

Kuznick and Selden also show that the Japanese authorities were anxious to avoid a Soviet invasion of the Japanese

main islands. The USSR officially entered the Pacific war on Aug. 9, 1945, sweeping through Japanese-occupied China and half of Korea.

At the press conference, Kuznick and Selden didn't discuss in detail why the Japanese imperialists feared a Soviet occupation more than one by the U.S., when the U.S. posture was so hostile to Japan. The Japanese imperialists' fear can only be explained by the socialist underpinnings of the USSR, which threatened a change in property relations wherever the Red Army liberated territory. This happened, for example, in Eastern Europe and East Germany.

On Aug. 15, 1945, Truman ordered a survey of the war events. Published over a year later, it stated: "Based on a detailed investigation of all the facts, and supported by the testimony of the surviving Japanese leaders involved, it is the Survey's opinion that certainly prior to 31 December 1945, and in all probability prior to 1 November 1945, Japan would have surrendered even if the atomic bombs had not been dropped, even if Russia had not entered the war, and even if no invasion had been planned or contemplated." Nov. 1 was the date the U.S. had planned the invasion.

### 'A crime against humanity'

In Hiroshima, an estimated 80,000 people were killed in a split second on Aug. 6. Some 13 square kilometers of the city were obliterated. By December, at least another 70,000 people had died from radiation and injuries. Three days later, on Aug. 9, the U.S. dropped an A-bomb on Nagasaki, resulting in the deaths of at least 70,000 people before the year was out. About a quarter of the casualties were Koreans forced to work in Japan at the time.

Kuznick and Selden put most of the blame on Truman. "He knew he was beginning the process of annihilation of the species," says Kuznick, "It was not just a war crime; it was a crime against humanity."

A revealing comment regarding U.S. war crimes came from John Bolton, recently appointed U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. Bolton was arguing in 1998 against the International Criminal Court. "Much of the media attention to the American negotiating position on the ICC concentrated on the risks perceived by the Pentagon to American peacekeepers stationed around the world," wrote Bolton. ... "[O]ur real concern should be for the president and his top advisers."

Bolton continued: "The definition of 'war crimes' includes, for example: 'intentionally directing attacks against the civilian population as such or against individual civilians not taking direct part in hostilities.'"

Bolton wrote that under the ICC rules, U.S. leaders could have been found guilty of a war crime for dropping atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and for all the aerial bombardments of German and Japanese civilian areas.

The A-bombs were not the only crimes. U.S. nighttime raids using conventional bombs against residential areas of Tokyo,

Osaka and other industrial cities caused hundreds of thousands of Japanese civilian deaths, and Dresden, Germany, was obliterated in early 1945, killing mainly refugees. But Truman's decision opened the door to massive use of these new terror bombs.

Now the Bush administration, fresh from being caught in a series of lies justifying aggression against Iraq, plans to increase the Pentagon's reliance on a new generation of nuclear weapons. On the 60th anniversary of Hiroshima, it is past time to organize to prevent the new crimes U.S. imperialism has in its plans. □



PHOTO: JAPAN ANTI-WAR JOINT ACTION COMMITTEE

## 10,000 protest U.S. training in Okinawa

Some 10,000 residents rallied in Igei Park, Kin Town, Okinawa, on July 19 to protest increased military training with live ammunition at the U.S. Marine base at Camp Hansen, which is near residential areas. The Marines aim to train troops in anti-guerrilla warfare for urban areas.

The almost spontaneous outpouring only four days after the new training was announced showed the extent of Okinawa residents' anger against training of urban counter-insurgency forces and plans to build a new U.S. base in nearby Henoko, according to a report to Workers World from the Japan Anti-War Joint Action Committee (AJAC). This upsurge was so strong, says AJAC, that the Liberal Democratic Party and other administration parties were obliged to join the rally and Gov. Keiichi Inamine of the Okinawa

prefecture addressed it. Some of the audience booed his appearance.

Sixty years after World War II, many U.S. bases and over 40,000 troops remain in Japan. They cause the most popular resentment on the small island of Okinawa, far south of the main Japanese islands, where about half the U.S. forces are stationed. Struggles against U.S. bases there are similar in many ways to those carried out in Puerto Rico, especially on the island of Vieques.

AJAC also reported that Igei residents are sitting-in every day to protest the training and the new base. They told the sympathetic crowd: "From last autumn, through cold winter, to hot summer, we sit-in day by day. We won't allow this training. We will struggle at the risk of our life."

—John Catalinotto

## Ruptura en la AFL-CIO

# La unidad es lo más importante para luchar contra los patronos

Por Milt Neidenberg

Julio 25—“Nosotros no estamos tratando de dividir el movimiento obrero—estamos tratando de reconstruirlo,” dijo Andy Stern, presidente del Sindicato Internacional de Empleados de Servicios (SEIU, siglas en inglés), durante una conferencia de prensa un día antes de la convención en el 50 aniversario de la fundación del la AFL-CIO.

¿Serán estas palabras transformadas en hechos? Sólo si hay un cambio de las prácticas pasadas.

“Nosotros”, se refiere a la Coalición Cambiar para Ganar, la cual consiste de los sindicatos International Brotherhood of Teamsters; la United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW); la unión de los textiles “Industrial and Textile Employees”, la cual se unió al sindicato de los trabajadores de los hoteles y restaurantes, Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees, para formar el sindicato UNITE/ HERE; el sindicato Laborers International Union-North America (LIUNA); y el sindicato de los trabajadores del campo el United Farm Workers (UFW).

En la mañana del 25 de julio cuando la convención comenzó, Andy Stern y el presidente de los Teamsters, James Hoffa, Jr. anunciaron que se habían retirado de la AFL-CIO y formarían otra federación. La UFCW y el UNITE/HERE boicotearon y amenazaron separarse antes del final de la convención de cuatro días. LIUNA y el UFW acordaron estar presentes.

En una nutrida conferencia de prensa, Stern explicó el porqué del retiro. “Nosotros creemos en un cambio fundamental, no en una reforma paulatina.”

Esto no es cierto si lo juzga la historia. La cuestión entre los dos grupos es estrategia y tácticas, combinadas con una lucha burocrática por el poder entre líderes que son en su mayoría hombres blancos. Aún cuando anunciaron la separación, ellos adoptaron un lenguaje conciliatorio indicando que Stern y Hoffa esperaban continuar cooperando con la AFL-CIO al seguir trabajando con el Partido Demócrata.

La Coalición Cambiar para Ganar quiere cambios drásticos e inmediatos en la estructura de la federación y en la asignación de fondos para cumplir con nuevas metas organizativas. Ellos quieren reemplazar el liderazgo de Sweeney e imponer la alianza de un número de pequeños afiliados para lograr una fórmula de “densidad” indefinida.

Sweeney, líder del consenso, ha estado dispuesto a negociar una contra propuesta modesta. Pero su estrategia básica era la de ser re-elegido y proteger los puestos de la mayoría de los miembros del Consejo Ejecutivo, el cual habría sido disuelto por las propuestas de Stern. Esto no se negociaba.

Sweeney tomó posesión de la AFL-CIO en 1995. Él será reelegido para un quinto término a pesar de una historia de 10 años de retroceso. Ha sido el tutor de Stern a quien le ha entregado el SEIU. Los dos ofi-

ciales tienen ambiciones conflictivas.

La separación no tiene precedente, no hay prácticas previas o lecciones de las cuales aprender en toda la historia en los 108 años de la AFL, comenzando con su nacimiento en 1886. Y ciertamente no en la disociación del 1938 cuando el Congreso de Sindicatos Industriales rompió con la AFL. Eso resultó del levantamiento que estremeció las bases mismas de la explotación capitalista.

La AFL-CIO y la “Cambiar para Ganar” están ahora en territorio desconocido con trampas sin marcas.

### Fortaleciendo el movimiento obrero desde abajo

Un repaso de los años recientes puede ilustrar las diferencias entre las luchas de los trabajadores y las acciones del liderazgo burocrático de la AFL-CIO.

En 1998 el entonces presidente de los Teamsters, Ron Carey ganó una gran victoria contra la poderosa compañía de entrega de paquetes, la United Parcel Service. En una huelga de 15 días, él estremeció a los jefes corporativos cuando movilizó a los obreros de base y forjó una unidad entre los trabajadores de tiempo completo y los de tiempo parcial. Él forzó un contrato sin concesión alguna y aseguró una cuota de 2000 empleos permanentes al año para los trabajadores de tiempo parcial.

Tres años antes, él fue instrumental en lograr que Sweeney ganara la presidencia de la AFL-CIO. Después de la victoria contra la UPS, el gobierno lo incriminó y James Hoffa jugó un papel importante en las elecciones para reemplazarlo con el apoyo del gobierno. Carey fue traicionado por ambos campos.

En octubre del 2002, los patronos de los trabajadores de los muelles en la costa occidental del país, representado por la Asociación Marítima del Pacífico, (AMP), cerraron las puertas al sindicato International Longshore and Warehouse Union por rehusar firmar un mal contrato.

Productos militares y otros bienes de consumo quedaron estancados. Barcos llenos de mercancía quedaron varados en los muelles. Los muelles estaban atiborrados de cajas de carga, y los camiones quedaban en filas de muchas millas. La huelga cerró 29 puertos de la Costa Occidental.

La administración Bush/Pentágono intervino para forzar al ILWU a regresar a sus labores bajo la prohibición judicial Taft-Hartley, aunque el sindicato no estaba en huelga. Una corte federal sostuvo la prohibición judicial ilegal.

La AFL-CIO, la cual incluía a la SEIU y sus aliados actuales, no respaldó a la ILWU. Ellos no movilizaron a sus miembros para mantener los puertos cerrados y resistir el uso ilegal de la Taft-Hartley durante el cierre. Fue un mal uso del poder de la administración Bush/Pentágono, pero una gran oportunidad para tener una acción sindical unida y se perdió. La Taft-Hartley de 1947, la ley anti obrera más opresiva en la historia de los

Estados Unidos todavía está en los libros.

En octubre del 2003, cuando l@s trabajador@s de mercado del sindicato UFCW salieron en huelga contra los supermercados gigantes liderados por la Safeway, Albertson’s y las tiendas Ralph’s propiedad de la empresa Kruger, las cadenas iniciaron un paro patronal contra l@s trabajador@s. Durante cuatro meses l@s trabajador@s de los supermercados lucharon contra las cadenas de supermercados. ¿Dónde estaban Sweeney y Stern? No se les vio por ningún lado.

Los camiones conducidos por miembros del sindicato Teamsters no salieron de los almacenes cuando est@s trabajador@s, muy mal pagad@s, de diversas nacionalidades y principalmente mujeres, bloquearon los almacenes y supermercados. Much@s de ell@s fueron arrestad@s. Aislad@s, excepto por algún apoyo de la comunidad y de las fuerzas anti guerra, est@s trabajador@s acumularon muchas deudas y fueron forzad@s a aceptar una estructura salarial de dos niveles.

Finalmente, pasó el desastre de la AFL-CIO que costó a sus afiliados sobre \$100 millones—sólo del sindicato SEIU más de \$40 millones— para elegir a John Kerry. Ellos movilizaron a millones de miembros para tocar las puertas y obtener votos.

Compare este apoyo hacia Kerry conducido con una movilización total de ambos Sweeney y Stern, con los minúsculos recursos y la poca solidaridad de la AFL-CIO hacia la resistencia heroica de l@s miembr@s de base durante las huelgas mencionadas. Hay mucho que recapacitar por parte de las federaciones rivales para acoplar las palabras con los hechos.

### ¡Hechos, no palabras!

Sweeney, en su discurso central en la convención, habló de planes para el futuro, no de las lecciones del pasado. “El movimiento sindical nos pertenece a todos—a cada trabajador—y nuestro futuro no debería estar dictado por las demandas de ningún grupo o por las ambiciones de ningún individuo”. Qué vacío de significado. ¡Qué mucha retórica!

¿Podrá esta lucha de los líderes por el poder, que ya ha producido una ruptura, motivar a 13 millones de trabajador@s sindicalizad@s? ¿Acelerará esta ruptura el ataque incansable del gobierno, de Wall Street, y de la “América Corporativa”, que actualmente tienen el ímpetu para más ataques?

¿Estaban las hermanas y hermanos sindicalistas que pasaban 24 horas al día y siete días a la semana tratando de pagar sus cuentas, enterad@s de que estaba ocurriendo una ruptura? ¿Les informaron de lo que sucedía antes de que ocurriera la separación?

Después de una década de regresión por la dirigencia de la AFL-CIO, el segmento sindical multinacional, de baja paga, mujeres, inmigrantes, y el segmento de trabajador@s de servicios, está buscando una perspectiva fresca y una nueva dirección. ¿Podrá esta ruptura cumplir con

estas expectativas?

Ambas facciones rivales están a prueba. Ambas necesitan manifestarse con hechos y no con palabras. A olvidarse del palabreo. Si hubieran tenido alguna preocupación por los asuntos fundamentales, hubieran exigido el fin inmediato de la ocupación de los Estados Unidos, la cual ha desviado billones de dólares de los servicios sociales que desesperadamente se necesitan. Ellos demandarían “que regresen las tropas a casa ahora. Que cese la muerte y la destrucción lanzada contra el pueblo iraquí y afgani. Alto al trágico flujo de muertos y heridos estadounidense”.

Ellos comenzarían a atacar el racismo institucionalizado capitalista y la opresión nacional y abrirían las puertas al liderazgo, actualmente dominado por hombres blancos, a mujeres, negr@s y latin@s y a otr@s trabajador@s de color.

Ellos se removerían de la política exterior de este imperio en declive y de los ataques represivos contra l@s inmigrantes. Se separarían del National Endowment for Democracy, instrumento de la CIA que soborna al Centro de Solidaridad de la AFL-CIO a que preste apoyo a la contrarrevolución, especialmente contra Venezuela.

### Un frente unido en formación

L@s millones de pobres y de trabajador@s no sindicalizad@s representan una fuerza laboral cuyo trabajo produce las mercancías y servicios que proporcionan riquezas y ganancias a unos pocos parásitos. Su trabajo no tiene fronteras. Es internacional. La explotación y la revolución de la alta tecnología l@s han unido mundialmente, y el potencial para una lucha unificada de la clase obrera está a su alcance.

Esto es especialmente cierto durante este período de reducciones desastrosas e implacables en los niveles de vida, empeorado por el racismo y la opresión nacional. La ruptura de los líderes en el AFL-CIO ha ocultado esta visión. Pero sólo por un momento histórico.

Wall Street y la América corporativa y su comité ejecutivo en la Casa Blanca y las instituciones legislativas y judiciales, han reestructurados el capitalismo monopolista según las líneas de clase social.

Unidad y lucha, no divisiones burocráticas, es lo necesario. L@s 13 millones de trabajador@s sindicalizad@s no le deben lealtad a ninguna de las dos facciones. La homogeneidad del liderazgo de la AFL-CIO ha sido quebrada. La dilución del poder burocrático puede abrir las puertas a l@s miembr@s de base para que dirijan los sindicatos para sus propios intereses.

La AFL-CIO y la Cambiar para Ganar están en una encrucijada. La crisis necesita de la intervención de la clase trabajadora oprimida y multinacional, unida con los movimientos de los pueblos socialmente oprimidos y con las comunidades, para organizar y prepararse para las grandes luchas que se aproximan. □