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From Black Teamsters' Caucus: Farrakhan to address Black labor

By Chris Silvera
Chair of the Teamsters National Black Caucus

The Teamsters National Black Caucus is an organization of Black trade unionists fighting to defeat discrimination inside and outside of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. We believe in educating and activating the rank and file.

The Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan, on behalf of the Millions More Movement, will be addressing the delegates attending the Caucus's 30th Annual Educational Conference and Banquet. Our conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency, McCormick Place, Chicago, on Aug. 16-21. Minister Farrakhan will be the Keynote

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No refuge for Bush as Anti-war activists occupy Crawford

By Dustin Langley

While the events of the past few weeks have proven that the Pentagon is not capable even of successfully occupying the Green Zone in Baghdad, as of Aug. 16 the anti-war movement in this country has successfully occupied Crawford, Texas, the home of President George W. Bush.

This remarkable development, which has given the U.S. anti-war movement a new burst of vitality, is due largely to the efforts of Cindy Sheehan.

Sheehan is from Vacaville, Calif. Her son Casey Sheehan was killed in Baghdad's Sadr City on April 4, 2004. Shortly after her son died in Iraq, Sheehan co-founded the group Gold Star Mothers for Peace.

A message on the Gold Star Families Web site says, "We want our loved ones' sacrifices to be honored by bringing our nation's sons and daughters home from the travesty that is Iraq IMMEDIATELY, since this war is based on horrendous lies and deceptions."

Sheehan vowed to occupy Crawford while she was addressing the annual Veterans for Peace convention Dallas on Aug. 5. She

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Langley from Crawford

Aug. 17—People have converged here from all over—I just spoke to someone who drove overnight from Atlanta. Everybody's walking around with so much enthusiasm. It's a tangible feeling that we're at the center of something—of a movement that can really grow and stop the war. I'll be sending updates to Workers World. Visit www.workers.org.



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World Youth Forum challenges U.S. imperialism

By Julie Fry
Caracas, Venezuela

Fry is a national leader of the youth group FIST—Fight Imperialism, Stand Together.

The 16th World Festival of Youth and Students, held this year in Caracas, Venezuela, officially ends tomorrow—Aug. 15—after a week of demonstrations, seminars and various festivities. The conference was hugely successful, drawing more than 15,000 participants from over 40 different countries.

The largest delegations, apart from the huge group of Venezuelans, were the Colombians and Brazilians. Their delegations combined accounted for more than 5,000 of the Festival's participants. Countries such as Angola, Syria, Palestine, Vietnam and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) also sent significant delegations.

Throughout the week, delegations from all over the world expressed their solidarity with the Bolivarian Revolution of Venezuela.

The thousands of Venezuelan delegates and volunteers who were responsible for the tremendous success of the Festival offered countless insights into the developing society in Venezuela.

International delegates toured neighborhoods here in Caracas and went on trips to the various provinces. During these tours, local Venezuelan citizens explained some of the many new social programs that have been instituted during the revolution.

They explained and showed some of the progress that has been made in their own communities in matters such as education and literacy, medical care and housing.

The Festival also gave participants the opportunity to meet

and learn from delegations from other countries.

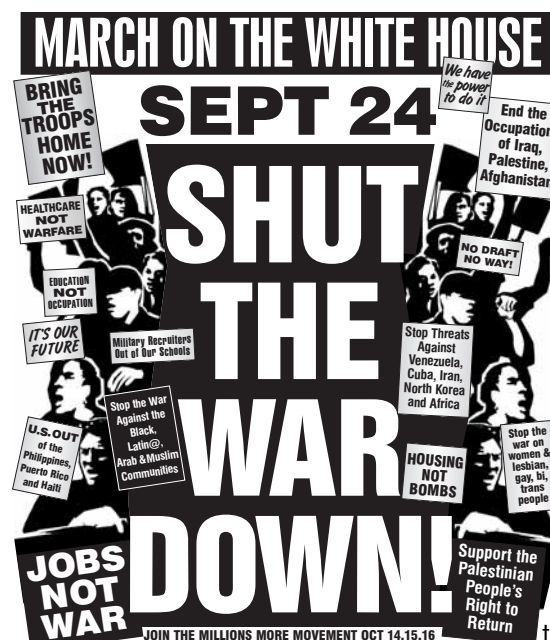
■ **U.S.-Cuban delegations meet**

One of the most significant of these meetings took place between the large Cuban delegation—which included more

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President Chávez



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1965 WATTS REBELLION:

Are conditions ripe again today?

By John Parker
South Los Angeles

August 11th marked the 40th anniversary of the 1965 Watts Rebellion, or "riot," as the Los Angeles Times referred to it in reporting on a commemoration held here last week.

Conservatives and liberals in the media emphasize the violence and "looting" over and over again, and sparingly talk about the poverty preceding the rebellion. Rarely, if at all, is police brutality mentioned, nor the systematic economic oppression here in South L.A.

And what about war? In 1965, as again today, a U.S. war was hurting working and poor people at home and threatening the quality of life, especially in oppressed communities. And, like today, the corporate media and both conservative and liberal politicians refused to call for an immediate end to the Vietnam War, thus allowing its damage to compound year after year, especially for the most oppressed.

The L.A. Times, in reporting on the commemoration in Watts, was quick to point out individual cases of violence perpetrated by "rioters," yet failed to mention the killings and brutality committed by the police.

In fact, the Watts Rebellion was prompted by an act of violence by the LAPD. The Aug. 26, 1965, issue of Workers World newspaper carried a report from a community activist titled: "Report of Rebellion—Straight from the L.A. Battlefield." It gave a close and personal view of the events.

"Wednesday afternoon (Aug. 11): Two blood brothers got in their car and started to drive off. They were stopped within a block by a C.H.P. (California Highway Patrolman). The driver had left his license at home; some kids on the block ran back to the brothers' house, told their mother what had happened. She walked down to the scene and everything was cool. The C.H.P. was okay and was getting ready to let the brothers go back home when up drove some Los Angeles Police Department cops acting like Gestapo troops.

"They threw one kid over the hood of their car very roughly (you know, spread eagle). Up to this point the mother was on the side of the cops, but when this happened to her son naturally she objected. Then they turned on her. When one of the cops kicked her, it was on. Brothers started coming off rooftops and out of holes in the ground to get in on it..."

That type of humiliation and brutality by police was commonplace leading up to the rebellion; in this case it occurred once too often.

Not only was community violence small compared to police violence, but the economic destruction by the "looters" was minute compared to big business's attacks on the standard of living of Watts residents. At that time, according to the census count, they suffered the highest unemployment of all L.A. residents and the worst education and educational opportunities, as well as the highest rate of inadequate housing in all L.A. County.

Their communities had systematically been looted by the system and its wars.

Are the conditions that facilitated rebellion ripe now?

Repression, racism, poverty

In terms of police violence, here are some incidents in recent years:

- Maria Peña and her father, Jose Peña, were killed for no reason by the LAPD in Watts.
- L.A. sheriffs shot 150 rounds at an unarmed man in a Compton residential area; stray bullets flew into people's homes.
- 13-year-old Devin Brown, who was unarmed, was killed by an L.A. cop.
- Margaret Mitchell, a mentally ill homeless woman, was killed by L.A. police.
- Tyisha Miller was shot to death by L.A. police while sitting in her own car waiting for help to fix a flat tire.

The most recent rebellion in L.A. was caused by the police beating of Rodney King, which was caught on videotape.

Many more cases of police brutality happen on a daily basis in Watts but don't get videotaped.

What about economic racism against the community of Watts? The Greater Los Angeles United Way and Urban League have filed a report regarding the state of Black people in Los Angeles in 2005. Here are some of the findings:

Forty-four percent of Black high school students fail to graduate with their class in four years. Black people have the highest rate of homelessness and make up an estimated 30 percent or more of the county's homeless population. They have the highest overall death rate and receive longer prison sentences than other groups.

In terms of household income, Blacks have the lowest median household income—\$31,905, as compared to \$53,978 for whites. In

terms of racist violence, although Blacks account for just 10 percent of the county's population, 56 percent of racial hate crimes target Blacks.

Like the editors of the L.A. Times, many liberals spend a lot of time blaming youth and crime within Watts for the lion's share of its problems. Even within Watts, some who have bought into this Reaganite logic blame welfare, which they say has made residents weak. What is pre-supposed in this blame is that changing the situation in Watts depends on whether Black people can change their destructive behavior. What they need to do, say these folks, is get political power by registering and voting.

Once again, what liberals and apologists for this system who use these patronizing and racist arguments refuse to see are the facts that belie any of their solutions.

In the report mentioned before, the Urban League and United Way analyzed what they called "civic engagement." Black people in Los Angeles received the highest score of all ethnic groupings measured, including whites. Thus, regarding representation in the county's top elective offices, Black people went up from just 1 percent in 1960 to 14 percent in 2004. In addition, Black people rated high-

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WW front page, Aug. 26, 1965



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LOS ANGELES

Sat., Aug. 20
Street meeting/rally. "Shut the War Down!" 2 p.m. at CNN, 6430 Sunset Blvd. (at Cahuenga). Sponsored by International Action Center-LA (323) 936-7266.

NEW YORK

Fri., Aug. 19
Workers World Party meeting: The FIST youth group will report on the World Festival of Youth and Students just held in Caracas, Venezuela, where 20,000 pledged

to struggle against imperialism. 7 pm. (Dinner at 6:30) At 55 W. 17 St., 5th Fl., Manhattan. For info (212) 627-2994.

Fri., Aug. 26
Workers World Party meeting: Solidarity with immigrant workers, with leaders from the Mexican immigrant workers' and day laborers' struggles; plus a report by Sharon Eolis on her international solidarity fact-finding mission to the Philippines. 7 pm. (Dinner at 6:30) At 55 W. 17 St., 5th Fl., Manhattan. For info (212) 627-2994.

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'Stop the execution of Frances Newton!'

By Gloria Rubac
Houston

The mobilization to stop the execution of Frances Newton is in high gear and growing by the day. Her execution is set for 6 p.m. on Sept. 14.

Frances Newton would be the first African American woman executed in the state of Texas in over 100 years. Although Texas leads the country with 346 of the 979 executions since 1976, Texas has executed only two other women: Karla Faye Tucker and Betty Lou Beets.

Houston is Newton's hometown. Her family still lives in the Acres Home neighborhood where she grew up. All over the city people are organizing. They are signing postcards to the governor to stop the execution.

DVDs of Frances Newton speaking are being shown at churches and mosques and on university campuses. E-mail appeals are going out around the world. Houston's Pacifica radio station is putting out urgent appeals for Newton's life as public service announcements and as part of their programs.

Newton's supporters will gather in Austin, the state capital, on Aug. 27, for a march to demand the execution be stopped. Demonstrators will march to the governor's mansion and encircle it with yellow crime scene tape. The committee will put Gov. Rick Perry on notice that if he allows the execution to proceed, he will indeed be guilty of a crime: killing an innocent person.

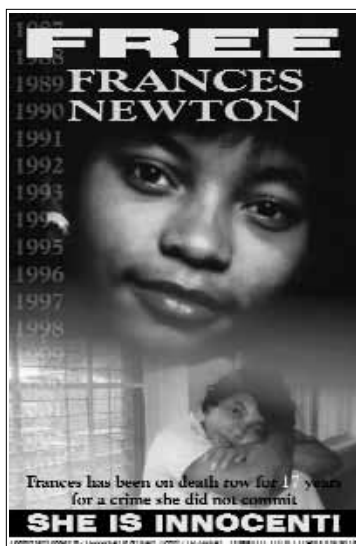
On Labor Day weekend, the Committee to Free Frances Newton will do outreach and visibility at a Houston festival that celebrates, promotes and preserves the history and culture of the African American Sunnyside community. Organizers expect more than 20,000 to attend.

On Sept. 7, the Committee to Free Frances Newton and the Campaign to End the Death Penalty will co-sponsor a forum at the University of Texas in Austin on women and the death penalty. Newton's mother, Jewel Nelms, will be the featured speaker.

Let the facts be heard!

The Houston district attorney says Newton murdered her husband and two children in 1987 for insurance money. The Texas Innocence Network, whose attorneys representing her, say that she is innocent, and that there is no physical evidence, no motive and no time when she could have killed her family.

Her current appeal also stresses that she would not be on death row today if not for her court-appointed, totally incompetent attorney, Ron Mock. Mock's representation of Shaka Sankofa in his 1981 trial is one reason Sankofa



was executed by Texas and then Gov. George W. Bush in 2000.

The facts have never been presented before a court of law.

The evidence showed that Newton's husband was shot at point-blank range in his temple. His blood and brains spewed out onto the killer, who left drops of blood on the carpet into the children's room where they were shot.

Yet Frances Newton had no blood on her body, her clothing, her car or on anything she possessed. The police admit there was no cleanup done in the apartment. They also admit that they tested Newton's hands shortly after the

murders and that the test showed she had not fired a gun.

The police say there were nitrates from gunpowder at the bottom of the long skirt she was wearing. Yet no traces were found on her hands, sleeves or sweater. That means she would have had to bend over and shoot from ankle height. The test used to determine the presence of nitrates did not determine whether they were from gunpowder. Nitrates can also come from fertilizer. On the day of the murders, Newton had picked up her daughter at her uncle's house where they had been working in the garden.

Earlier this year, when the current attorneys requested that the court allow testing of the skirt to find the source of the nitrates, the request was denied because the state's previous test had destroyed the nitrate evidence. Also, the now-discredited Houston Police Crime Lab stored her skirt with her murdered family's clothing, thus cross-contaminating all the evidence.

How you can help

Frances Newton recently told a Dutch journalist: "It's been very difficult, but knowing that I am innocent, it gives me hope and it gives me courage to fight and believe that the truth will come out. I've been discouraged by the court system and the low standard they hold attorneys to. So to say that I have hope in the court system itself, no I can't say that."

Organizer Njeri Shakur says: "We agree with Frances that the court system does not deserve our faith. But what the committee has faith in is the power to make changes through struggle and unity. As Shaka Sankofa, executed in Texas on June 22, 2000, said: 'The odds and the dangers we face in the struggle are great. But even greater is the power of the people.'"

Support letters can be sent to: Frances Newton, #922, Mountain View Unit, 2305 Ransom Road, Gatesville, TX 76528. Check out the website www.freefrances.org to order DVDs of Frances Newton speaking, and to send postcards or e-mail the Texas governor from this site. You can also contact Gov. Rick Perry at Office of the Governor, PO Box 12428, Austin, TX 78711-2428, Phone: (512) 463-2000, Fax: (512) 463-1849. □

Detroit City Council supports exiled revolutionary

The Detroit City Council unanimously passed a resolution declaring July 17, 2005, "International Hands Off Assata Day" in support of the African American freedom fighter, Assata Shakur. July 17 is Shakur's birthday.

The resolution included a brief synopsis of Shakur's political history, including her being a target of the FBI's racist Counter Intelligence Program (Cointelpro) during the 1960s and 1970s. The resolution denounced the \$1 million bounty put on Shakur's head by the U.S. government May 2 to encourage her being kidnapped from Cuba. She has been living in exile there since her escape from prison in the United States in 1984.

To read the resolution in its entirety, go to www.workers.org/2005/us/resolution-0825/.

—Monica Moorehead

leftbooks.com carries "Assata: An Autobiography"

LEONARD PELTIER Message from solitary confinement

Reprinted from www.leonardpeltier.org,
the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee.

Aho my relations,

As I sit here in my solitary confinement cell at USP Terre Haute, and reflect over the past month's events, I can't help but feel an overwhelming sense of love and gratitude for each and every one of you who have so diligently stood by me in this time of crisis. As you already know by now, on June 30, 2005, I was transferred from Leavenworth Facility to Terre Haute USP. The reason for my transfer, according to the Federal Bureau of Prisons administrative staff, was that the Leavenworth Facility was downgraded from maximum security level to medium, and therefore I could not remain at Leavenworth due to my illegal sentencing and consequent maximum security rank.

I was transferred without notification to my attorney, Barry Bachrach, and my family. Upon my arrival to Terre Haute I was placed

in solitary confinement and was told that I would remain in solitary confinement until my personal file arrived. My personal file arrived, but I remain in solitary confinement allegedly for security reasons. I am confined to a cell that is 8'X 8'; it has a window that is covered from the outside with an elaborate shield that allows me to see 2-3 inches



Self-portrait by Leonard Peltier

of the sky out of the top and 2-3 inches of the ground. All prisoners are supposed to get at least one hour of sunlight or outdoors and so I am taken from my cell to what is called a Recreation Room (Rec Cage), and the only sun or outdoors that I see is from some windows high up in this large room with a few air holes in them. I am able to walk up and down and this fulfills the one hour of sunlight or outdoors recreation time.

Whatever the system's logic is, it seems that I won't stay in Terre Haute for much longer and will be transferred again. I do not know when and where, nor do I know if this cruel game will be over after another transfer. After all, removal and relocation have been used to break our people from the beginning of this country's history. This keeps my Defense Committee from taking the necessary steps to re-establish an office, but they are doing everything they can to help me in this most precarious and uncertain situation. ...

A month in solitary is beginning to take a toll on me but your letters give me much hope and encouragement. Many of you have written, e-mailed and called USP Terre Haute and other organizations. This has brought some improvement to my solitary confinement. I am now getting my medications on a daily basis, I can write out, I am receiving my mail, and I am allowed one phone call a month. I am allowed contact visits for those persons authorized on my visiting list. The contact visit is restricted to a two-hour period, and is conducted through a glass pane and a phone. I am allowed to visit with my attorney without those restrictions.

At this time I am asking that you continue to call/write/e-mail ... requesting that my security level be downgraded to medium due to my health, age and good behavior and that I be transferred to a medium security institution with all my hard earned prisoner privileges restored. In case I am transferred please add the new facility (keep checking our official Website: www.leonardpeltier.org) to your contact list and ask them to respect my human rights and prisoner privileges. Again, I thank you for your support and prayers and hope that I may one day soon be among you.

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse,
Leonard Peltier

URGENT UPDATE: Peltier writes, "On Aug. 15, I was transferred to USP Lewisburg in Pennsylvania." The Leonard Peltier Defense Committee urges: "Please contact USP Lewisburg to make sure Leonard regains all his hard earned prisoner rights, especially his religious rights, visitations, regular phone calls and ability to paint." Contact: Warden, USP Lewisburg; phone: (570) 523-1251; fax: (570) 522-7745; e-mail: LEW/EXECASSISTANT@BOP.GOV

MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

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Letter to the editor

Voting Rights struggle generates optimism

I went to Atlanta on Aug. 6, to participate in the march and rally celebrating the 40th anniversary of the passage of the Voter Rights Act and agitating for extending the law beyond 2007. I had been asked to represent my union, Local 375 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, one of the larger public-sector unions in New York City's District Council 37.

I estimate the march at between 15,000 and 20,000—at least 90 percent African American. Giving out fliers and marching with the AFSCME contingent, one of the largest, I got a good view of the other contingents and the spirit of fight-back. The NAACP was the largest, with delegations from all across the South—from Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas to North Carolina. The members of the Arkansas NAACP contingent wore AFSCME union shirts and hats, a dramatic illustration of the civil-rights movement's close connection to the union movement.

Right behind the NAACP were the "Change to Win" unions that recently split from the AFL-CIO. In the lead were a large number from the Service Employees International Union, followed by a substantial contingent from UNITE HERE, and a group from United Food and Commercial Workers. The Teamsters leadership was noticeable by its absence.

The largest union marching was the AFSCME contingent. Within the AFL-CIO they are the most hostile sector to the recent split. But the factionalist rhetoric of both factions at the recent AFL-CIO convention in Chicago was completely absent due to the overwhelming feeling of camaraderie among the thousands of participants, overwhelmingly African American.

Copies of a statement from the

Million Worker March Movement, written by MWMM leaders Clarence Thomas and Saladin Mohammad, were distributed to hundreds of rank-and-file members of both factions. The leaflets, headlined, "Racism & sexism: major pillars of the crisis in the U.S. trade union movement," went so quickly that I saw only a blur of hands reaching out.

There was genuine unity and a militant resolve to defend the Voting Rights Act against the racist, right-wing Bush administration strategy to scrap the law. Also significant, the marchers were determined to expand the Act and extend voting rights to immigrants and the undocumented. There was a sense of the need for unity to resist the Bush administration's wars and occupations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the war at home against the entire working class, organized and unorganized.

This was a bold challenge to their leaders, to Democratic politicians, and labor officials. Civil rights and civil liberties, and fighting racism, as well as strong opposition to the war, were at the top of their agenda—the motor force that brought them to Atlanta.

When I arrived at the stadium—site of the rally—I was pleasantly surprised that the first speaker, just before the main rally, was Louis Farrakhan of the Nation of Islam. Right next to the AFSCME tent on the stadium infield (the largest), was the tent staffed by the Nation of Islam, advertising the Millions More March on Oct. 14.

The International Action Center had a banner, and IAC activists distributed thousands of fliers for the pro-Palestinian, anti-imperialist section of the Sept. 24 anti-war demonstration in Washington, D.C.

Many civil-rights organizations

were there, along with the two rival sections of the labor movement. There were some small peace groups and an anarchist group, as well as a banner from Planned Parenthood.

Most of the talks from the dais, particularly the white Democratic Party speakers such as House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, were very forgettable, in contrast to those from Jesse Jackson and a few members of the Black Congressional Caucus.

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, introduced by Jesse Jackson, was the first speaker. He gave a tepid talk on the Voting Rights Act and raised no other issues. Andy Stern of "Change to Win," in my opinion, also missed the boat. His energetic repetition of the "Change to Win" slogan didn't appear to resonate with the anti-war sentiment of the crowd.

It was clear that Andy Stern, president of SEIU, and John Sweeney were insensitive to the crowd's mood of fight-back. Both Sweeney and Stern appeared to be more concerned with avoiding offending the pro-imperialist Democratic Party politicians on the stage than with making a timely appeal to a sympathetic anti-Bush, anti-war audience.

The composition of the march and rally lifted the spirits of this movement veteran. I came away physically tired but politically refreshed. The incredible "unity in diversity" was the very picture of what we are striving for. It reminded me that all social, economic and political change starts from below. The march and rally contained a seed of future unity that is essential to defeat this imperialist system. A lot more needs to be done, but the future could be clearly seen by those who chose to look.

—Mike Gimbel,
Executive Board member,
Local 375, AFSCME



Chris Silvera and son, Bashiri, at 2005 May Day rally

tirelessly to improve the wages, benefits and working condition of all workers.

Besides being chair of the Teamsters National Black Caucus, Silvera is also secretary-treasurer of Teamsters Local 808. The International Brotherhood of Teamsters has 400,000 Black members. Silvera was one of the co-coordinators of the Oct. 17, 2004, Million Worker March on the East Coast. □

ON THE PICKETLINE

By Sue Davis

Youngstown strikers win!

The editorial, circulation and classified workers at Youngstown, Ohio's Vindicator newspaper walked a picket line for 261 days—through winter blizzards, spring showers and summer sizzle. But their determination and solidarity paid off bigtime when they signed a new three-year contract on Aug. 3.

Before and during the early months of the strike, Vindicator's owners refused to bargain and offered no raises, even though the workers hadn't had a raise in five years. But the workers appealed for community and labor support, and Vindicator's circulation and advertising revenue took a nosedive.

Members of Newspaper Guild Local 34011 forced Vindicator to the bargaining table. In addition to raises of 45 to 63 cents per hour and signing bonuses, the new contract offers language protecting newsroom jobs and establishes a joint union-management committee to iron out workers' issues. "These were long, tough, protracted negotiations, but we achieved things we didn't think we could accomplish," said Bernie Lunzer, the Guild's international secretary-treasurer, who participated in the negotiations.

"Was it worth it? Absolutely," said Local 34011 President Tony Markota in an Aug. 9 news release. "We established that you have to negotiate to settle a contract; otherwise the consequence can be a strike. In the future, management will have to take bargaining seriously and not presume that they can bully their way through it."

Markota noted that management was "just stunned" when only 20 out of 170 members crossed the picket line in nearly nine months.

But that proves, once again, the power of union solidarity.

Qwest workers authorize strike

The 25,000 Qwest workers represented by the Communications Workers Union in 13 states voted overwhelmingly to strike if a fair contract was not reached by Aug. 13, the day the contract expired.

As of Aug. 15, however, they opted to work while negotiations continue.

The major issues at stake: Qwest's demands to shift health-care costs onto workers and retirees, increase mandatory overtime and to cut pension benefits. The union bargaining team delivered petitions from more than 10,000 active and retired workers calling for the company to maintain its current health benefits.

During a number of job actions throughout the district, which runs west from Minnesota to Washington state and south to Arizona, workers reminded management that "we are the front line, not the bottom line," and that the high-quality service the workers provide is essential to Qwest's success.

Teachers join Wal-Mart boycott

The two biggest teacher unions flunked Wal-Mart on Aug. 10 when they joined a "back-to-school" boycott organized by the Food and Commercial Workers. The 2.7-million-member National Educational Association, the biggest U.S. union, and the 1.3-million-member American Federation of Teachers urged parents to buy school supplies elsewhere to protest the billion-dollar retailer's unfair labor practices.

Holding rallies in 32 cities, the unions demanded that Wal-Mart boost wages, provide adequate health benefits and abide by child-labor and anti-discrimination laws. In 2005 Wal-Mart was fined for violating child-labor laws in three states. Class-action lawsuits charging racist and sexist discrimination are currently in litigation. More information about Wal-Mart's anti-worker practices is available at www.walmartcost-you.com.

In a separate protest on July 20, two dozen labor activists crashed a dinner party thrown by Wal-Mart CEO Lee Scott at a posh Washington, D.C. restaurant. The activists handed out literature detailing how taxpayer money subsidizes Wal-Mart's low wages and calling on people to sign a pledge not to buy school supplies at Wal-Mart. To take the pledge, visit www.wakeupwalmart.com.

FROM BLACK TEAMSTERS' CAUCUS:

Farrakhan to address Black labor

Continued from page 1

Speaker at our banquet on the evening of Aug. 20.

In Chicago, we pick up the torch that was carried so valiantly by the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The clergy, the civil rights warriors, the anti-war movement and Black Labor have joined together to mobilize the working class to "forge a fight-back."

The Million Worker March Movement and the Teamsters National Black Caucus have joined with the Millions More Movement to put forward a workers' agenda with a list of demands which includes workers' and human rights; the right to a job with a living wage; the right to organize; the right to strike without being replaced; the right to national health care; the enforcement of civil rights against all racist and discriminatory acts; the right to affordable housing, and an end to the war in Iraq. We

must protect and enhance Social Security and multi-employer pension plans which should be guaranteed for all working people. Education is a right, not a privilege.

Common cause has brought us together to build a movement powerful enough to affect social and economic justice. This movement must be built and led by the "millions who carry the rich on their backs." We must let Wall Street corporate bosses, who control both political parties and run our government, know that we will not accept the theft of jobs, resources and the future of our children instead of the rebuilding of our cities and the full restoration of vital public services.

The membership of the Teamsters National Black Caucus comprises officers, stewards and rank and file labor activists. The organization continues to stretch forth its hands in support of all worthy actions that uplift all workers. TNBC has worked

San Diego County

Unity against anti-immigrant forces

By Bob McCubbin
San Diego

The city of Carlsbad, Calif., in northern San Diego County, was the scene of a racist, anti-immigrant rally on Aug. 11. Inside the auditorium, an audience of racists cheered each speaker's virulent attacks on immigrant workers.

But outside, a united protest of Mexican, Chican@, Muslim and white progressives gathered to denounce the hate-fest.

The racist, immigrant-bashing program featured U.S. Rep. Tom Tancredo of Colorado, who recently suggested that the United States should bomb Muslim holy sites in the Middle East; James Gilchrist, co-founder of the anti-immigrant Minutemen project; and California State Sen. Bill Morrow, who hopes to replace super-militarist Randy "Duke" Cunningham in the U.S. House of Representatives. Cunningham is currently under federal investigation for reportedly personally profiting from his votes in favor of federal defense contracts for the MZM Co., which is owned by a personal friend of his. He has announced he will not run for reelection.

Anti-racist forces who rallied outside

were joined by Latin@ families from the apartment complex across the street. Many held signs reading "¡Caza migrantes no pasarán!"—meaning "Immigrant hunters are not welcome here!"

Members of San Diego FIST—Fight Imperialism, Stand Together—and the San Diego International Action Center held a banner with the message "¡La batalla de los obreros no tiene fronteras!—No borders in the workers' struggle!"

Police in large numbers from all over San Diego County mobilized. Their attempts to provoke protesters were unsuccessful, although as the protest drew to a close, a racist complained to the police that he felt threatened by the Latin@ people standing across the street. The police responded by charging the community residents standing in front of their homes, forcing them inside.

The struggle for justice for immigrant workers, both documented and undocumented, and against racist terror is heating up in San Diego County. The day before the racist Carlsbad rally, a community meeting against police brutality took place in the neighboring town of Vista. In the space of five days, in three separate incidents, police had killed three young



WW PHOTOS: GLORIA VERDIEU

Latino men, all unarmed, in Vista. Three hundred people gathered to denounce the police and demand an end to police terror against communities of color.

The anti-immigrant "Minutemen" have

announced a second San Diego border mobilization beginning on Sept. 16, Mexican Independence Day. A united movement is mobilizing to challenge them. □

Support growing for Somerville 5

By the Women's Fightback Network
Boston

Demanding the immediate reinstatement of the Somerville 5 into Somerville High School, supporters picketed outside the offices of School Superintendent Anthony Pierantozzi on Aug. 5. Chanting, "Youth need schools, not racist police!" and, "Say no to racism in our schools," picketers received lots of support from passing motorists.

A delegation met with Pierantozzi on Aug. 12 to press for reinstatement of the Somerville 5. The delegation included African American leader and Boston City Councilor Chuck Turner, the Rev. William Dickerson from Greater Love Tabernacle Church of Dorchester, parents of the Somerville 5 and representatives from the Committee to Defend the Somerville 5.

Supporters and families of the Somerville 5 are angry that the five Black youths—Calvin Belfon, Cassius Belfon, Earl Guerra, Isiah Anderson and Marquis Anderson—have been barred from attending school since April 20. That night they were victims of racial profiling and police brutality at the hands of white cops in Medford, Mass. They were punched, clubbed, maced, called racist names and arrested.

Medford police claim that the youths were harassing customers in a Store 24. But the clerk on duty that night has said that there was no disturbance in the store. Other witnesses say the same.

Yet the school superintendent, with the principal's backing, suspended the five indefinitely.

None of the five has ever had any problem in school. They have good academic records and are outstanding athletes. None has any prior criminal record.

The Committee to Defend the Somerville 5 has stated that this is an extension of racial profiling into the school system. The students have been found "guilty until proven innocent."

Coaches and teachers have sent letters of support on behalf of the five youths. Three hundred students signed a petition for their reinstatement. More than 200 people in the space of one week contacted the past superintendent's office to demand the same.

Other groups that are behind them are the Nation of Islam, NAACP, Massachusetts Association of Minority Law Enforcement Officers, the Women's Fightback Network and the International Action Center.

"These youth are not a threat. The real threat is racist police," Robert Traynham of the Committee to Defend the Somerville 5 explains. "We demand that school officials stand behind our youth of color by acknowledging that racial profiling and police brutality exist and that our youth are victims of it."

"We demand that they allow these youth to continue their education. Racist policies like these force our children out into the streets, unemployable, and ripe for the military recruiters or ending up in prison." □



WW PHOTOS: LIZ GREEN

Picket outside the court house on Aug. 9 hearing for the Somerville 5.

Day laborers set up 'Hooverville'

Day laborers evicted from yet another house in Farmingville, Long Island, in New York, have set up a campsite in the backyard. As of mid-August, the town has closed seven day laborers' homes. Officials say they plan to close 117 more. The workers set up a campsite similar to the "Hoovervilles" that homeless people created during the capitalist depression of the 1930s. The town now plans to prosecute the day laborers for "illegal camping."

— Photo and story by Heather Cottin



'Camp Casey' actions spread across the U.S.

By Monica Moorehead
New York

By demanding a meeting with President George W. Bush regarding her son Casey's death in Iraq, Cindy Sheehan has helped galvanize the anti-war movement here and worldwide.

Sheehan and hundreds of her supporters have set up "Camp Casey" on the outskirts of Bush's Texas ranch to force a face-to-face meeting with Bush. With every passing day, more and more people who are fed up with the war are making their way to Crawford by car, plane and other modes of transportation.

Sheehan's efforts go way beyond just seeking justice for her son, Casey—a GI who was killed five days after he arrived in Iraq in 2004. She demands that the United States get out of Iraq now, and also that Israel get out of Palestine. She has spoken out against "American imperialism" and also for the impeachment and jailing of Bush for war crimes.

The Troops Out Now Coalition took the initiative to urge the U.S. anti-war move-



NEW YORK



DETROIT



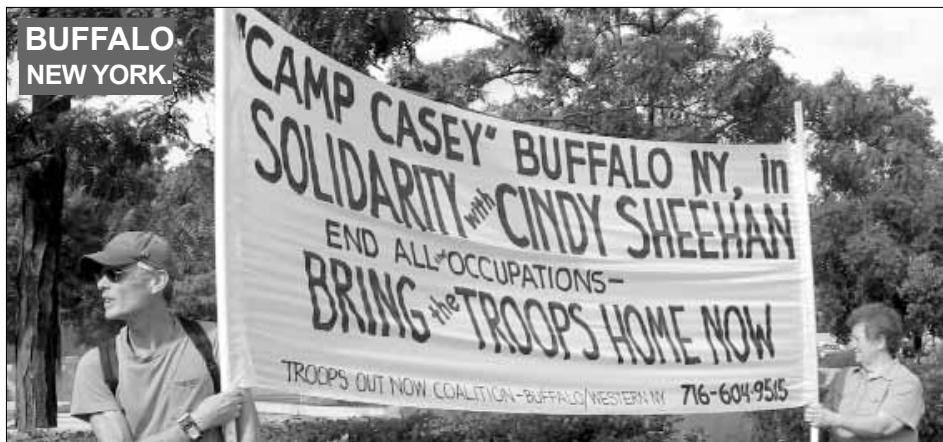
NEW YORK

WW PHOTOS: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD



PHILADELPHIA

WW PHOTO: BERTJA JOUBERT CECI



BUFFALO NEW YORK

WW PHOTO: ELLIE DORRITTE

ment to quickly organize "Camp Casey" solidarity actions to help build more momentum against the war and the economic devastation that it is causing at home.

New York City

Hundreds of people gathered here at Union Square Park in the Village for an impromptu rally on Aug. 15. A symbolic tent was set up during the rally, with a

sign reading "Camp Casey New York." Activists have vowed to stay in the park until Aug. 17.

Larry Holmes, co-director of the International Action Center, told the crowd that Cindy Sheehan is playing a role reminiscent to the one played by Rosa Parks 50 years ago when Parks refused to give up her seat on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Ala. Parks' heroic stance ignited the massive modern-day civil-rights

No refuge for Bush: anti-war activists occupy Crawford

Continued from page 1

said, "That lying bastard, George Bush, is taking a five-week vacation in time of war."

She announced that she would go to Bush's 1,600-acre ranch in Crawford and camp out until he "tells me why my son died in Iraq. I've got the whole month of August off, and so does he."

As 200 veterans stood and cheered, she said: "My son was killed in 2004. I am not paying my taxes for 2004. You killed my son, George Bush, and I don't owe you a penny. ... You give my son back and I'll pay my taxes. Come after me and we'll put

this war on trial."

She left Dallas with a busload of veterans and anti-war activists and has since been camped out near Bush's ranch. She says she intends to stay until the president meets with her, she is arrested or the end of August.

So far, Bush has refused to interrupt his five-week vacation to meet with Sheehan. He has other priorities.

For instance, on Aug. 13 his motorcade sped past the grieving woman and the 800 crosses lining the road, whisking Bush to a multi-million-dollar Republican fundraiser. The contrast

between the motorcade and the demonstrators painted a clear picture of which class pays and which profits from Bush's agenda of endless war.

That day Bush told reporters: "I think it's important for me to be thoughtful and sensitive to those who have got something to say. But I think it's also important for me to go on with my life, to keep a balanced life. ...

"I think the people want the president to be in a position to make good, crisp decisions and to stay healthy. And part of my being healthy is to be outside exercising. So I'm mindful of what goes on around me. On the other hand, I'm also mindful that I've got a life to live and will do so."

On Aug. 14, he again sped by Camp Casey, as Sheehan's roadside encampment is known, on his way to a Little League game.

Meanwhile, from a gathering of a few dozen activists, the crowd at Camp Casey has grown to hundreds. Veterans of the current war, military families, active-duty military personnel and activists from all over the country have answered the call to "come to Crawford!"

Sheehan has become a worldwide symbol of opposition to the war. Solidarity rallies have been held as far away as New Zealand.

Over the Aug. 13-14 weekend, more than 500 rallied in Crawford. Demonstrators included members of Iraq Veterans Against the War, Veterans for Peace, Gold Star Mothers for Peace and Code Pink.

Despite smears by far-right hate media and threats of violence by Bush supporters, people continue to pour into Crawford.

ford. Across the United States, local organizers are mobilizing delegations to join the occupation of Crawford as part of a new wave of opposition to the war.

In a Newsweek poll released Aug. 14, 64 percent of those asked said they do not believe the war in Iraq "has made Americans safer." Sixty-one percent said they disapprove of the way the president is handling the war.

This opposition is fueling those who are taking to the streets and pursuing Bush right to his home.

Those who can't go to Crawford are taking action locally. The Troops Out Now Coalition initiated a call for an Aug. 15 day of solidarity actions with Camp Casey across the United States, as a way to escalate the pressure on Bush. "Camp Caseys" were set up in dozens of cities across the United States, including New York City, Philadelphia, Boston, Detroit and Charlotte, N.C. Other organizations planned for candlelight vigils on Aug. 17, with more than 1,000 actions scheduled.

One military parent from Ohio who traveled to Crawford said: "Every voice that comes behind Cindy Sheehan sparks a new voice, and someone else stands up. Someone else is not afraid anymore."

This demonstrates where the real power of the movement is: in taking to the streets. Cindy Sheehan has sworn to follow Bush to Washington in September when he finishes his vacation. The anti-war movement must also be there to confront Bush and demand, "Bring the troops home now!"

Langley is a Navy veteran and a national organizer for Troops Out Now Coalition.





WW PHOTO: CHERYL LABASH

Detroit

movement. Holmes said Sheehan could be referred to as the “Rosa Parks” of the anti-war movement.

Other speakers told the crowd that “no business as usual” tactics must be deployed to shut down the war in Iraq, and also reminded the crowd about the important anti-war demonstration in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 24.

Camp Caseys nationwide

At “Camp Casey Philadelphia,” held at the federal building in Philadelphia, Michael Berg, whose son Nicholas was also killed in Iraq, spoke about the courage that Sheehan demonstrated. “I would even go to jail if it would bring my son back,” Berg said.

Slogans on signs included: “100,000 Iraqis, 1,800 U.S. soldiers and the Truth—all casualties of Bush’s war for oil.”

In Las Vegas, an Army recruiting station was forced to shut down when 25 protesters, organized by the Peace Now anti-war coalition, formed a picket line around it.

Other solidarity actions took place in Boston, Detroit, Miami, San Francisco, Atlanta, Phoenix, Portland, Ore., Kansas City, Mo., Buffalo and Rochester, N.Y., Traverse City, Mich., and countless other cities, large and small.

On Aug. 17, an estimated 1,000 candlelight vigils against the war are scheduled to take place around the country. On the same day, in Baltimore, the All People’s Congress is organizing a send-off rally for Eddie Boyd, an African American veteran who counsels homeless veterans. He will be traveling to “Camp Casey” in Crawford.

The Los Angeles International Action Center, along with the Filipino organization Bayan-USA and the Korean youth organization Mindullae, will be sending a delegation to Crawford on Aug. 20.

Other solidarity actions are being planned in mid-August.

Sheehan, who has vowed to stay in Crawford until the end of August while Bush is on vacation there, will be joining thousands of protesters in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 24. □

On oil and women's rights

How new Iraqi constitution compares to old one

By Deirdre Griswold

As the old saying goes, you can’t make a silk purse out of a sow’s ear.

The spinmasters who try to invent a decent rationale for all the destruction and pain caused by the invasion and occupation of Iraq are searching for flattering words to describe the content of the new constitution—a document that still has not been finalized, despite the expiration of a U.S.-set Aug. 15 deadline. The various factions seeking to be U.S. imperialism’s favored partners in the plunder of the country are still slugging it out over how much power each group will have in the state structure.

The word “democracy,” of course, appears in the media again and again. “Rights for women” were once touted as a goal of the occupation regime, but they have quietly faded away. One thing is for sure, however: the right of foreign oil companies to fatten off Iraq’s copious natural resources will be in the constitution in the tightest lawyerly language possible.

What will be missing from this document are the social guarantees that once existed in Iraq—before two U.S. wars and the present occupation tore down the economy of this oil-rich country and imploded its infrastructure.

The last Iraqi constitution was enacted in 1970. Its economic and social provisions were the product of the 1958 anti-colonial revolution that had kicked out the British colonialists. Article 13 stated very clearly: “National resources and basic means of production are owned by the People.” This is the article that laid the basis for Anglo-U.S. imperialism’s undying hatred of the Iraqi state. It made it unconstitutional for any foreign oil company—whether ExxonMobil or British Petroleum—to own any part of Iraq’s vast oil and gas resources.

Another article of the 1970 constitution, Article 19 on Equality, contained two sections: “(a) Citizens are equal before the law, without discrimination because of sex, blood, language, social origin, or religion. (b) Equal opportunities are guaran-

teed to all citizens, according to the law.”

This is the article under which women were to achieve tremendous progress in education and employment in Iraq. Was the constitution really carried out, or was it just an empty document?

There are many, many sources to show that Iraqi women under the previous regime advanced the furthest of any country in the Middle East. But perhaps the source that would appear most credible to people in the United States is “A Country Study: Iraq,” issued in 1990. This book, according to its foreword, is “one in a continuing series of books prepared by the Federal Research Division of the Library of Congress under the Country Studies/Area Handbook Program sponsored by the Department of the Army.” (<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/iqtoc.html>)

The U.S. government commissions the preparation of this series of books, which cover virtually every country in the world. Known as the Country Studies, their purpose is to provide U.S. military, diplomatic and intelligence officers with relatively accurate information about the areas to which they are sent. If U.S. spies, generals and ambassadors had to rely on the disinformation about these countries that is conveyed by presidential statements and the mass media, they would be ill-prepared for their jobs.

Here’s what this book had to say about Iraqi education: “Between 1976 and 1986, the number of primary-school students increased 30 percent; female students increased 45 percent, from 35 to 44 percent of the total. The number of primary-school teachers increased 40 percent over this period. At the secondary level, the number of students increased by 46 percent, and the number of female students increased by 55 percent, from 29 to 36 percent of the total. Baghdad, which had about 29 percent of the population, had 26 percent of the primary students, 27 percent of the female primary students, and 32 percent of the secondary students.”

On how education was developed throughout the country, the book says that “The Baath regime also seemed to have

made progress since the late 1960s in reducing regional disparities, although they were far from eliminated

Accordingly, in the mid-1980s the government made plans to expand Salah ad Din University in Irbil in the north and to establish Ar Rashid University outside Baghdad. The latter was not yet in existence in early 1988 but both were designed ultimately to accommodate 50,000 students. In addition, at the end of December 1987, the government announced plans to create four more universities: one in Tikrit in the central area, one each at Al Kufah and Al Qadisiyah in the south, and one at Al Anbar in the west.”

The whole system of education was provided by the government, free of charge. Medical care was also the best in the Middle East. That’s what oil wealth can do for a country when its natural resources are not in the hands of foreign capital. However, what was recognized as a right in the old constitution will not be in the new, “democratic” one.

The Country Studies book observes that in the 1980s, as a result of Iraq’s war with Iran—a war encouraged by Washington because of U.S. imperialism’s fear and hatred of the Iranian Revolution—the shortage of men led to an acceleration of women moving into positions of authority in Iraqi society.

“In the mid-1980s, observers reported that in many ministries the overwhelming proportion of employees were women. Foreign contractors have encountered women supervisors on huge construction projects, women doctors in the hospitals, and even women performing law enforcement roles. This emancipation—extraordinary for an Arab country—was sanctioned by the government, which expended a significant amount of propaganda publicizing the role of women in helping to win the war.”

Will the U.S. Army generals of today admit to any of what their own researchers said about Iraq in 1990? Not likely, since the Pentagon has to portray everything about Iraq under Saddam Hussein as “evil” in order to justify its criminal attack on the country.

All these accomplishments of Iraq were destroyed by the Bush administration’s invasion and occupation that began in March 2003. The infrastructure had already been deeply compromised, of course, by the first Gulf War in 1990 and the years of economic sanctions that followed.

The U.S. has so demonized Iraq’s leader, Saddam Hussein, that it is considered subversive here even to mention the social progress that was made during those days. Hussein was a bourgeois nationalist leader in a country trying to emerge from foreign domination. He was no more bloody than the leaders in the United States who presided over its early years of slavery, the extermination of much of the Indigenous population, and the wars of expansion against Mexico, Cuba and the Philippines. However, the crimes of U.S. presidents during that period are excused in our history books by the rapid industrial development of the country.

The development of the Iraqi nation after the 1958 revolution is also a fact, and the intervention of the Western imperialists has dealt a criminal blow to the aspirations of the Iraqi people. It is no surprise, therefore, that most of them support the resistance that is dealing hammer blows to the occupation forces. □

World Youth Forum challenges U.S. imperialism

Continued from page 1

than 1,500 people—and the U.S. delegation.

The meeting took place Aug. 12, only a few days after both delegations received news that the Cuban Five imprisoned in the U.S. will receive a new trial outside of Miami. [See related article, page 8]

The meeting was an opportunity for both delegations to exchange information about the Five and to explore what could be done to build more solidarity and ultimately free these Cuban heroes.

The esteemed panel at the meeting included Aleida Guevara—eldest daughter of revolutionary leader Che Guevara. Two of the Cuban Five’s children took part in the panel—Tony Guerrero, eldest son of Antonio Guerrero; and Irma González, the elder daughter of René González.

The two U.S. panelists were Bonnie Massey, a leader of the Venceremos Brigade, and FIST leader LeiLani Dowell, who also works with the National Committee to Free the Five.

All of the panelists stressed the impor-

ance of escalating the struggle to free the Five at this critical time.

The final major political event of the Festival is the two-day-long anti-imperialist tribunal Aug. 13-14. There, representatives from countries that have been victims of U.S. imperialism are presenting testimony and evidence of the crimes committed against their people by the U.S. government.

Representatives from Colombia, Haiti, Cuba, Vietnam, Korea, Palestine and many other countries are speaking about the atrocities that have been perpetrated and continue to be carried out by the Pentagon and the CIA.

Fernando Suarez del Solar, father of the first GI killed in Iraq, testified about how the U.S.-imperialist-led war in Iraq has affected his family.

LeiLani Dowell was invited to speak as the representative of youth in the U.S. She testified on Aug. 13 on the effect of imperialism on youth in the U.S., particularly on youth of color.

She presented evidence on the racist and anti-poor tactics of military recruiters

and on how youth in the U.S. are made to bear the brunt of the U.S. government’s illegal wars.

When Dowell said that youth in the U.S. look to Cuba and Venezuela as positive examples and that we need to build revolution in the United States, she received thunderous applause.

The highlight of the tribunal was the testimony of Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez at its closing on Aug. 14. He presented evidence of the role of the U.S. government in trying to destroy the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela.

Chávez explained how the CIA had orchestrated the April 2002 coup against him and that the U.S. government was responsible for threats to his life.

But he affirmed that there was no way for the U.S. to stop the Bolivarian Revolution from moving forward.

FIST sent a sizable delegation to the Festival. Look for more detailed reports from FIST members on the various significant activities during the Festival in upcoming editions of Workers World and visit www.workers.org. □

Cuban Five ruling confirms climate of fear in Miami

By Teresa Gutierrez

The Aug. 9 ruling by the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in the case of the Cuban Five was as surprising as it was groundbreaking.

The five are Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino, Gerardo Hernández, Fernando González and René González. After monitoring the actions of right-wing Cuban groups in Florida that have a history of terrorist acts against Cuba, they were arrested in 1998 and charged with conspiracy to commit espionage and murder. They were tried in the highly politically charged atmosphere of Miami.

The new ruling, issued 16 months after their lawyers filed an appeal, was based on the lower court's denial of their motion for a change of venue, as well as several other due process violations.

The convictions and sentences for all Five were overturned by this decision. The three-judge panel determined their trial had been unfair and unanimously ordered that any new trial not be held in the Miami area.

In the 93-page decision, the court states: "They [the five] appeal their convictions, sentences, and the denial of their motion for new trial arguing ... that the pervasive community prejudice against Fidel Castro and the Cuban government and its agents and the publicity surrounding the trial and other community events combined to create a situation where they were unable to obtain a fair and impartial trial.

"We agree, and REVERSE their convictions and REMAND for a retrial."

While the struggle to free the Cuban Five is far from over, the ruling is a historic decision that brings them one step closer to home. One of the most conservative courts in the country delivered a favorable ruling as a result of overwhelming evidence, as well as the international struggle to expose the truth about the case.



Ruling on venue is unprecedented

Leonard Weinglass, noted civil rights attorney and the lawyer for Antonio Guerrero, said of the decision: "This is really an historic opinion. Never before in the history of the U.S. has a Federal Circuit of Appeals reversed a trial court's finding with respect to venue. This is a first. This is a remarkable decision that will be studied in law schools and cited in future cases throughout the country."

Weinglass told the press that he believes the decision will especially impact cases involving the rights of those accused in so-called war on terror cases.

In the decision the judges cited over 100 incidents showing that Miami was a hostile environment for the trial. The court determined the trial was not fair because of "community prejudice, extensive publicity and prosecutors' inflammatory remarks."

"The perception that these groups could harm jurors that rendered a verdict unfavorable to their views was palpable," it stated, after describing how evidence at trial disclosed "the clandestine activities of not only the defendants, but also of the various Cuban exile groups and their paramilitary camps that continue to operate in the Miami area."

The attorneys for the Five had been subject to harassment. Even Paul McKenna, the court-appointed lawyer for Gerardo Hernández, was accused by Jose Basulto in the courtroom of being a communist spy and an agent of the Cuban intelligence service. Basulto was trained by the CIA for the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion and other terrorist activities against Cuba. He is a leader of Brothers to the Rescue, an innocent-sounding name for a group that has provocatively flown its planes into Cuban air space.

The court wrote: "Our review of the evidence at trial is more extensive than is typical for consideration of an appeal involving the denial of a motion for change of venue. This is so because the trial evidence itself created safety concerns for the jury which implicate venue considerations. ...

"The evidence submitted in support of the motions for change of venue was massive," the court wrote.

Studies reveal atmosphere of intimidation

The decision cited a study conducted by Florida International University Professor Gary Patrick Moran. The Moran study illustrated the overwhelming anti-Cuba sentiment that exists in Florida.

It showed that 69 percent of all respondents and 74 percent of Latino respondents were prejudiced against persons "charged with engaging in the activities named in the indictment." Over one third said they would be worried about "criticism by the community if they served on a jury that reached a not-guilty verdict in a Cuban spy case."

One potential juror—David Cuevas—stated that he "would feel ... intimidated and maybe a little fearful for my own safety if I didn't come back with a verdict that was in agreement with what the Cuban community feels. I would probably be a nervous wreck, if you want to know the honest truth."

Another potential juror, a banker in

charge of housing loans, was "concerned how ... public opinion might affect [his] ability to do his job." Another stated that he believed that "Castro is a communist dictator and I am opposed to communism so I would like to see him gone and a democracy established in Cuba."

In February of 2001, five months after the trial had begun, a demonstration against the Five was held outside the courthouse, adding to a tense climate.

The court noted that in March, cameras were focused on the jurors as they left the building. Jurors reported they felt pressure and were concerned they were being filmed "all the way to their cars and [that] their license plates had been filmed."

The decision cites another study that supported the motion for a new trial. Conducted by a legal psychologist, it showed that "49.7 percent of the local Cuban population strongly favored direct United States military action to overthrow the Castro regime." Ominously, 26 percent of the local non-Cuban population and 8.1 percent of the national population surveyed favored this action.

Another study conducted by Dr. Lisandro Perez of Florida International University concluded that "the possibility of selecting 12 citizens of Miami-Dade County who can be impartial in a case involving acknowledged agents of the Cuban government is virtually zero...."

Media contaminated the jury

The role of the media in contributing to an unfair trial was well documented. The media often would request names of jurors.

Copies of the Miami Herald covering the case were found in the jury assembly room.

The ruling cites the district judge in the case, Joan Lenard, who said she was "increasingly concerned" that various persons connected with the case were not following her order to refrain from giving out information or opinions, based on the "parade of articles appearing in the media...."

As the case continued, media attention grew. Anti-Cuba elements held a press conference outside the courthouse during a lunch break.

The decision points out that much of this case took place during the highly publicized struggle to get the Cuban right-wing in Miami to release Elián Gonzalez so he could be returned to his father in Cuba. Elián is the 6-year-old boy who was found alone, clinging to an inner tube, in the Straits of Florida after his mother had died at sea trying to reach the mainland on a makeshift raft.

It also points out other discrepancies during the trial, such as a lack of seating for the families of the Five, while there was ample seating for right wingers, who were put directly behind the prosecution. This added to the partisan and tense climate in the courtroom.

In July and August several of the Five had again appealed for a new trial and a change of venue. They pointed out that, after a seven-month and very complex trial, the jury had failed to ask questions and instead issued a quick verdict.

What next for the Cuban Five?

The next step in the case of the Five is to wait for the response of the U.S. Attorney in Miami, who can appeal the decision. Bail could be set or denied. The court has determined that the Five, who have been scattered in prisons across the

Campaign to free seized Cuba aid hits the road

By Teresa Gutierrez

In another sign of a "perfect storm" of support brewing for Cuba, the group Pastors for Peace announced that it is taking its struggle to win the release of humanitarian aid for Cuba on the road.

Last month, on July 21, the humanitarian aid headed for Cuba was seized at the U.S./Mexican border by the U.S. government—U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers.

They reportedly received their instructions from U.S. Customs, and are refusing to return the 43 boxes of computer equipment and 12 computers that were earmarked for Cuban children with special needs.

In spite of this repressive government action, the 16th Pastors for Peace caravan was able to cross the U.S.-Mexico border at the Hildago/Reynosa International Bridge, with 140 tons of aid and most of the 11 vehicles and 150 members and travel on to Cuba.

Seven members of the caravan stayed with the seized materials to continue the campaign to win the release of the seized equipment and ensure that it gets to the

Cubans as intended.

A recent statement from IFCO/Pastors for Peace explained that in the last few weeks those who stayed at the border established a very strong presence in the McAllen, Texas/Hildago, Mexico area. They have won support from area churches and community groups.

"We have received extensive local press coverage," they report. "Just about everyone here knows who we are and why we are in town."

But it's become clear, they added, that the decision to free the equipment is not a low-level one that will be made in Hildago. "We were told," they write, "that the order to seize the computers was given from a very high level of government, as high as the White House."

Understanding where the pressure needs to be applied, IFCO-Pastors for Peace has announced that the next phase of the struggle will be to take the campaign to free the seized aid on the road.

One of the first stops was Aug. 15 at "Camp Casey," set up outside President George W. Bush's "Summer White House," his ranch in Crawford, Texas. There, the Revs. Lucius Walker, Luis

Barrios and Diane Baker met to show solidarity with anti-war protester Cindy Sheehan, who set up the encampment to demand that Bush be held accountable for her son's death as a soldier in Iraq.

Ellen Bernstein of Pastors for Peace, who is also on the caravan in Texas, told Workers World that the caravan has been extremely helpful in talking not only about the computers and the travel ban but also the Cuban 5. The bus they are on, she said, has pictures of the five on it, and Texans around the state are asking about the case.

The Pastors for Peace campaign will continue on to Alice, San Antonio, Dallas, Houston, and Austin, Texas, and to other cities that hosted the caravan as it made stops along its trip to Cuba.

While they're on the road, the activist presence in Hildago will be maintained. Supporters from Mexico and the United States plan to hold weekly vigils on the bridge every Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

To see photos and video clips about this important campaign, and for more information on how you can be a part of it, visit: www.pastorsforpeace.org. □

Continued on page 11

PALESTINE:

Historic achievement, new dangers

By Sara Flounders

Israel's decision to pull 8,000 settlers out of the Gaza Strip has historic implications for the future, not only of Zionism, but for U.S. domination of the Middle East.

For decades Israel, armed to the teeth by Washington, could be counted on to serve U.S. corporate interests and protect the vast profits extracted from this region. It has been a key part of the Pentagon's strategic architecture that has allowed U.S. imperialism to politically and economically dominate the entire region.

But consider the situation now.

Today there is an upheaval in the most reactionary wing of the Zionist movement about the Aug. 15 deadline for withdrawal of 8,000 Israeli settlers from Gaza. Splits and resignations rend the Tel Aviv government and the military.

At the same time, U.S. troops are bogged down in Iraq. They face more than 65 sabotage attacks a day. There is instability and chaos surrounding the Aug. 15 deadline for the presentation of a U.S.-engineered constitution.

And in the U.S., support for the Pentagon occupation is falling. According to a CNN/Gallup/USA Today poll this month, which echoes other surveys, a 55-percent majority now feel the U.S. "made a mistake in sending troops to Iraq." Some 56 percent say some or all GIs should be brought home now. (csmonitor.com, Aug. 1)

The individual and collective resistance seen for decades in Palestine is being replicated today on a larger scale in Iraq.

The fact that Israel is forced to withdraw from even an inch of confiscated Palestinian land is a victory of the steadfast Palestinian resistance. It is an achievement of historic dimension.

Imperialism and Zionism

Historically, Zionism as a political movement has always been tied first to British and then to U.S. imperialist power.

Israel as a state was financed and supported as an outpost for protecting imperialist interests in the heart of the Arab world. Israel couldn't have lasted a day, let alone 57 years, without massive infusions of U.S. economic and military aid.

With this funding Israel could be counted on to attack any popular movement that threatened U.S. corporate interests in the region. The U.S. was willing to give billions of dollars to maintain endless war and instability in the region. Since its creation in 1948, the Israeli military has invaded, bombed or occupied Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon.

Expansion, aggression and expulsion of the Palestinian population have been the guiding policy since 1948. Following the 1967 war, Israel seized Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Giant, heavily militarized forts—euphemistically called "settlements"—were established in the West Bank and on the Gaza Strip in violation of United Nations conventions and international law. Settlements that now hold more than 250,000 people were built to surround Jerusalem and cut it off from the West Bank.

The settlements were not just a mobilization of religious fanatics. Every possible financial incentive was used to lure Israeli settlers to Gaza and the West Bank. Homes were far larger while rents were much cheaper than inside the 1948 borders of Israel.

The Israeli state carried out the confiscation of Palestinian land. They built schools, daycare centers, shopping malls and subsidized industries and agribusiness. Electrified security fences and rings of cement walls surrounded these suburban enclaves. Further stretches of Palestinian land were confiscated to build military posts and bypass roads and to clear security perimeters. Tens of thousands of Israeli troops were stationed in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

All of this was financed with billions of dollars of U.S. aid.

Resistance could not be broken

Since the first Palestinian Intifada, or uprising, began in December 1987, Israeli troops have been increasingly bogged down in efforts to quell the revolutionary struggle for Palestinian self-determination. The most extreme tactics—bulldozing homes, massive round-ups, detention and torture—were used. Despite 38 years of militarized occupation, the resistance could not be uprooted.

Now Zionist leaders find they cannot continue the occupation of both the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Gaza Strip is an impoverished, sandy strip of land that is a mere five miles wide by 25 miles long. In the midst of the 1.3 million Palestinians living there, in one of the most densely populated pieces of land in the world, Israel established 21 heavily fortified settlements. In the midst of great poverty, posh villas were built for 8,000 settlers.

But rotating tens of thousands of Israeli soldiers into Gaza to protect these settlements from Palestinian resistance fighters became untenable for the Israeli state and for its backer, U.S. imperialism.

Through the most brutal forms of pressure—followed by negotiations, bribery and endless promises of some form of Palestinian state—every effort has been made to divide the resistance and open a civil war in the Palestinian movement.

Having failed to do that, the Zionist movement is at war with itself.

Phony sympathy for settlers

The corporate media in the U.S. are giving enormously sympathetic coverage to the settlers as they are uprooted from their fortified suburban enclaves. Yet those who took over Palestinian land by force will receive \$300,000 in relocation expenses, paid by U.S. taxpayers, and new homes in other settlements, also built on stolen land.

There is no sympathy in the media for

the tens of thousands of uprooted Palestinians who have lived for decades as refugees.

While dismantling its illegal settlements and military bases in the Gaza Strip, Israel will still maintain a full-scale sea, air and land siege of the territory. Their plan is for Gaza to remain an open-air prison under Israeli control.

Israel's greatest fear is that the Palestinians will take full advantage of the pullout of the military bases and do as much as possible with their new situation. The mood of continuing resistance in Gaza is visible in signs there that read: "Today Gaza, tomorrow Jerusalem and the West Bank," and "Resistance wins—let's go on!"

Struggle continues

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, the architect of the settlement policy and guilty of the most brutal attacks on the Palestinian people, did not initiate this withdrawal out of any recognition of or respect for Palestinian rights.

It is a political calculation to aggressively expand settlements in the West Bank, especially those surrounding Jerusalem, while abandoning isolated settlements that are difficult to sustain. While the media focus on Gaza, the construction of the three-story high Apartheid Wall, which makes ghettos of Palestinian towns and villages, will continue.

Sharon makes no secret of his strategy. "The settlement blocs will continue to exist. I will not negotiate on the subject of Jerusalem. The blocs will remain territorially linked to the state of Israel," he told Israeli television on Aug. 10. "At the same time, there will be no return of Palestinian refugees to Israel."

This is clearly a strategy carried out in the closest coordination with the Bush administration. Sharon reiterated in an Aug. 12 news conference, "I prefer to reach an agreement with the Americans rather

Continued on page 10

Gas prices fuel 1-day strike in Haiti

By G. Dunkel

On Aug. 8, the Association of Owners and Drivers of Haiti (APCH) held a countrywide, one-day strike over a sharp, unannounced increase in fuel prices. Jean Winston Bazile, spokesperson for APCH, said, "This is a warning strike, asking for the collaboration of the people. Our next step will be to park all our minivans in front of the offices of the Ministry of Commerce and the National Palace. Because we cannot continue to function this way."

Changeux Méhu, president of APCH, added, "We are determined and we cannot continue to enrich rulers who take no consideration of the precarious life of the poorest sectors of Haitian society. It is necessary that this change; we can't tolerate such acts."

The people who use the APCH minivans, which supply the only mass transit available throughout Haiti, supported the strike, even though it forced them to walk to work. "We have had enough. We can't accept such a situation, which increases our misery," was a typical response of those interviewed. (Haïti-Progress, Aug. 10)

On July 28, the National Popular Party (PPN) and Fanmi Lavalas held a major

demonstration in Cap-Haitien, the second-largest city in Haiti. It demanded an end to the military occupation by UN troops, which are in Haiti under orders of the imperialist-controlled Security Council, and the return of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the popularly elected president who was kidnapped and forced into exile in February 2004 by U.S. troops. The date was chosen to mark the 90th anniversary of the first U.S. occupation of Haiti.

The march gathered in Rond-Point Samori, a poor neighborhood, and proceeded to Notre-Dame Square without incident.

Another, similar demonstration was held in Valières, a small city in northeast Haiti.

While the people's struggle continues, however, some politicians who claim to speak for Fanmi Lavalas, the party created by Aristide, have registered it in the fall elections and intricate political maneuvering fills the fancy hotels of Port-au-Prince.

The PPN released a statement on July 28 on the situation inside Haiti: "Today, despite massacres and genocides perpetrated by George Bush, in Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine, Haiti, he believes he can call progressives 'terrorists.' But the world has never known a terrorist of such a horrible character as George Bush. They call

militants who peacefully resist against the coup-napping of Feb. 29 [2004] bandits, while the biggest gangster in the country, Andy Apaid [Haiti's richest businessman], has given arms and money to the Labanière gang to kill people living in Cité Soleil. Why don't they arrest him? ...

"Has Venezuela sent arms and soldiers

to kill us? No. Has Cuba sent arms and soldiers to kill us? No. We say, Long live Venezuela! Long live Cuba! Long live the International Tribunal on Haiti.

"The PPN declares that ... it is not ready to sell its conscience, that it has just one destiny, to fight for the total liberation of our country." □

HAITI A Slave Revolution

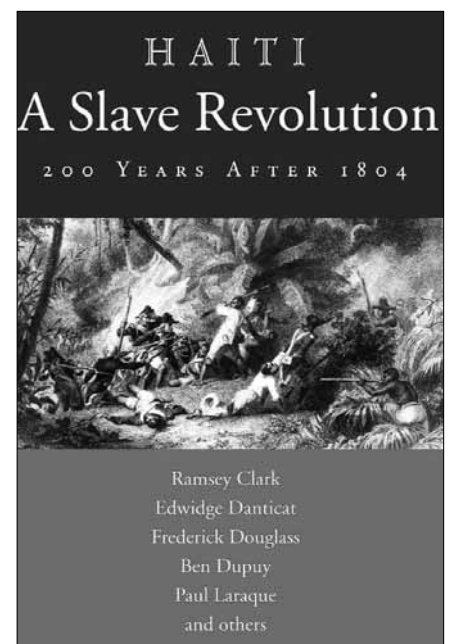
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NARAL was right!

Horse trading is as common in Washington today as it once was in Cheyenne. Deals are made between Democrats and Republicans to add this provision to that bill, or let a nomination to a powerful post go through, in exchange for some quid pro quo.

It appears that the deal is in for Congress to go along with Bush's nomination of Judge John Roberts to the Supreme Court. That's the word from the corporate media as of this writing. Groups like NARAL Pro-Choice America are terribly worried that this will mean an all-out assault on women's right to choose abortion—a right now recognized in most of the developed world.

There was another deal recently—the one federal prosecutors made with Eric Rudolph. He was allowed to escape the death penalty by pleading guilty to murder in the 1998 bombing of a Birmingham women's clinic, which killed an off-duty police officer and critically wounded a nurse, and in the bombing at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics that killed one woman and injured more than 100. He also confessed to setting off bombs at an abortion clinic and a lesbian bar that welcomed gay men, trans people, bisexuals and other allies in Atlanta in 1997.

Under the agreement, Rudolph got the chance in court to spew out his view that “deadly force” is necessary to keep women from exercising their right to terminate a pregnancy, and he avoided a trial which could have led to unearthing the political network that helped him escape capture for more than five years. Did the authorities or the media ever invoke the phrases “cop killer” or “animal” to describe this terrorist? No, that's just for the poor and oppressed.

But the media have gone ballistic over a television ad opposing Roberts' nomination that NARAL ran—and then withdrew after enormous pressure. Liberal or conservative, they have spent much more ink and airtime attacking NARAL than they did reporting on Rudolph's confession to mass mayhem and murder. (A

search of Google News for “Eric Rudolph” turns up only 1,230 recent hits; a search for “NARAL” turns up 3,830.)

The point of the NARAL ad was to show that Roberts has a history of opposing abortion—although he is downplaying it during the nomination process. And that he is soft on the violence against clinics that provide abortions, along with other health services for women. He does and he is.

Roberts gave legal support to “Operation Rescue” when it held a week-long national mobilization there to shut down women's clinics in Buffalo, Roberts' home town, not long after a prominent doctor, Barnett Slepian, had been murdered in his home there by a sniper. Slepian had been a target of the anti-abortion right wing.

MSNBC just unearthed a letter Roberts wrote while he was a lawyer in the Ronald Reagan White House. In it, he gave his legal endorsement to a plan for Reagan to send a supportive telegram to a “memorial service” for aborted fetuses. Roberts' October 1985 memo said the telegram was “an entirely appropriate means of calling attention to the abortion tragedy.” This memo is just the latest in a long paper trail showing Roberts' affinity to the anti-woman right wing on this issue.

The Democratic Party, which claims to support women, has gone along with the campaign against NARAL and now appears poised to let Roberts—who is also anti-worker and a racist—join the Supreme Court without a fight.

The lesson is all too clear: Women, and all groups oppressed and exploited under this system, cannot depend on either capitalist party. Looking to the next election is not the answer. We must build an independent, militant movement that can shake up both parties. Last year's massive pro-choice rally in Washington showed that the people, especially the young who are now developing a high level of social consciousness, have the will and the energy to do it. □

NCAA to limit racist team names & mascots—in postseason

By Mahtowin

The National Collegiate Athletic Association's Executive Committee announced Aug. 5 that it would prohibit some colleges with what it terms “hostile or abusive” Indian imagery from hosting post-season basketball tournaments beginning in February 2006.

Eighteen team names and mascots—including Florida State University's Seminole, Illinois' Illini, and Southeastern Oklahoma State's Savages—were on the list of offenders. Schools already selected as tournament sites would be asked to cover up any offensive logos.

This victory is the result of years of struggle by Native and non-Native students and other activists throughout the country. In recent years, some schools, pressured by progressive students, staff and faculty members, have taken the lead not only by changing the name of their teams and eliminating racist mascots, but, in the case of Wisconsin and Iowa, by refusing to schedule sports contests against schools that use Native team names or mascots.

While the NCAA announcement is a step in the right direction, unfortunately the decision lacks sufficient breadth. It applies only to the sport of basketball, and only to the college teams that make it to the post-season. The NCAA officials dragged through years of study even to make this ruling, and ultimately decided that they did not have the authority to force schools to change nicknames or logos in all circumstances.

Florida State has vowed to appeal the NCAA decision, continuing to insist that its team “honors” the Seminole people. “If Florida State wants to honor the Seminoles, then change the name ... to Florida Seminole University — that has dignity,” retorted Suzan Shown Harjo, president of the Morningstar Foundation in Washington, D.C.

“It's something very different than a mascot or belittled entity,” Harjo continued. “People honor their institutions. But the first thing [pro-mascot supporters] do is skip species. They say, ‘Next, PETA will tell us not to use bears.’ Then they go off on leprechauns, insects, mythical beings — all non-human entities. That's the point: Natives are dehumanized, turned

into larger-than-life, or smaller-than-life, non-human beings.”

Some of the offending institutions such as Florida State have produced Native people to say that they approve of the use of the team names or mascots. This is a typical racist tactic used to confuse the public and to hide the fact that many Native people reject the idea that the use of Native mascots or team names honors their culture.

Charlene Teters (Spokane), a National Coalition on Racism in Sports and Media vice president and longtime activist against the commercialization and use of Native team names and mascots, argued the point in a message posted on the group's Web site. “Using our names, likeness and religious symbols to excite the crowd does not feel like honor or respect; it is hurtful and confusing to our young people. To reduce the victims of genocide to a mascot is unthinking, at least, and immoral at worst.”

The colleges are “not willing to give up the money,” according to long-time Anishnabe activist Vernon Bellecourt. He was referring to merchandising revenues and the resistance of some schools to change. “We would hope that [the NCAA decision] was the handwriting on the wall that would urge them to drop these team names and mascots.”

Millions of dollars are made every year by so-called amateur athletics at colleges. This money is made off the backs of talented athletes — hundreds of whom will not even be granted a diploma from the college for which they play. If schools such as Florida State and the University of Illinois really want to “honor” Native people, they could, for example, fund Native studies programs and scholarships for Native students with some of the money they have earned from their huge athletics programs and merchandising revenues.

The money made by the University of Illinois or Florida State pales in comparison to the revenues made by the owners of professional teams with vile team names or mascots such as the Washington Redskins, Atlanta Braves and Cleveland Indians.

Information for this article was gathered from the AP wire service and also from the NCRSM website.

PALESTINE: Historic achievement, new dangers

Continued from page 9

than to reach an agreement with the Arabs.”

The right of return and the right of the Palestinians to their own state, with Jerusalem as the capital, are the very demands that the solidarity movement will need to keep in the forefront.

The days ahead are an extremely dangerous time for the Palestinian movement. The danger is that the Israeli government will orchestrate some horrendous attack to regain credibility with the ultra-right wing of the Zionist movement and try to dampen the Palestinian mood of victory.

This is a vital time to be especially vigilant and to step up the

level of solidarity and support for the Palestinian resistance. The links between billions of dollars for war in Iraq and billions of dollars of support for Israel have never been clearer. As support for the U.S. war in Iraq continues to slide, it is essential to show that U.S. aid to Israel is part of the same war. □



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Mass firing sparks Heathrow walkouts

By G. Dunkel

The workers at Gate Gourmet, serving British Airways at Heathrow airport in England, were faced with a sharp contract dispute: their employer wanted to cut wages by 25 percent, lay off many full-time workers, replace them with temporary hires, pay straight time for overtime hours and so on.

Gate Gourmet is a private company based in Switzerland but owned by an American billionaire through a venture capital firm, Texas Pacific. It has 22,000 employees, operates in 29 countries and make 535,000 meals a day for some of the world's largest airlines.

GG workers at Heathrow gathered in the cafeteria for a lunchtime union meeting Aug. 10, but before they finished management got on a loudspeaker and told the 600 in the room, mainly Indian women, that they had been fired for "illegal industrial action." Later the cops showed up and the workers were escorted off the premises.

The management even sent terminations on the same grounds to workers out sick or on vacation. It had already trained scabs, and appeared to be itching to use them.

But the workers beat them to the punch. The ground workers at British Airways walked out in solidarity with their fellow workers at GG the next day.

Both the GG workers and the BA ground



Gate Gourmet workers in Heathrow.

crews are represented by the same union—the Transport and General Workers' Union, called T&G. But since the walkout was completely illegal under British law, the T&G didn't call for the strike.

Some of the employees had worked for British Airways in the 1990s, before GG came on the scene, when BA was doing its own catering. Many of the Indian women had husbands, brothers, cousins, friends and neighbors who worked on the ground crews.

Tara Shah, one of the fired workers, said the company appeared to have miscalculated the opposition. "We are very strong and we are angry. This gives me hope." (India Times)

Another fired employee, Sabajit Sidhu, a mother of two, said the bosses underestimated the resilience of the workers and the ties that unite airport workers of all races, ages, religions and sexes.

"I work for Gate Gourmet but some of my relatives are baggage handlers," she

said. "I am very proud of the fight we are showing. They treated us terribly."

The ground workers were back after a day, but their absence had had a huge effect on BA's operations: 110,000 passengers didn't fly, 10,000 pieces of luggage were lost in the system, and 100 planes and 1,000 staff members wound up all over the globe in unscheduled places.

After four days, stranded passengers were still waiting to get out of London.

The Washington Post estimates that the out-of-pocket cost to BA is around \$73 million; the damage to its reputation is incalculable.

The Teamsters and UNITE HERE, who represent 6,000 GG workers in the United States, said in a press release on Aug. 12: "The International Brotherhood of Teamsters and UNITE HERE Union members stand in solidarity with the more than 800 Transport & General Workers (T&G) Union members fired by Gate Gourmet at London Heathrow International Airport. Teamsters and UNITE HERE represent over 6,000 workers at Gate Gourmet in the U.S. Teamsters and UNITE HERE union members will send delegations to Gate Gourmet's U.S. management throughout the country demanding the London workers be rehired immediately."

Whether the courageous workers at GG/Heathrow win a decent contract, their struggle and the solidarity it has gathered have gained worldwide attention. □

New York meeting hears

'The truth about Zimbabwe'

The International Action Center hosted an important meeting in New York on Aug. 16 about the current situation in the African country of Zimbabwe—known as Rhodesia during British colonial rule. The guest speaker was Omowale Clay, a leader of the Brooklyn-based December 12th Movement.

Clay was part of a six-member delegation that traveled throughout Zimbabwe this spring, before and during parliamentary elections there. Clay showed an illuminating documentary he had produced called "More Fire," which showed the mass mobilization of Zimbabwean war

veterans, women and youth, especially in the rural areas, who support President Robert Mugabe and his political party, ZANU-PF.

Mugabe has been the victim of a vicious smear campaign by President George W. Bush and Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair because of the African leader's support for the right of the Zimbabwean people to take back the land stolen from them by white colonial settlers, beginning in the late 1800s.

—Story and photos
by Monica Moorehead



Scene from "More Fire" (above). (l to r) Omowale Clay, Kwaaze Jamerias Aug. 16.

Cuban Five ruling

Continued from page 8

country, can finally come together in Miami to discuss their case among themselves and with their lawyers. But the prosecutor may stall all this.

The Cuban government has rightly asked that the Five be sent back to Cuba immediately, since they have been determined to be innocent.

The work to free the Five must not only continue, it must intensify. The National Committee to Free the Cuban Five is encouraging supporters to contact members of Congress to help obtain visas so their families can visit them at this very critical time. Some family members have been denied visas for over seven years. This is inhumane and a violation of international law. Other educational and political work is necessary.

Why was this ruling made? "A fair trial in a fair tribunal is a basic requirement of due process," states the decision.

It says that while the state "may prosecute with earnestness and vigor" and "strike hard blows," it is not at liberty to "strike foul ones."

Yet in case after case in courts through-

out this country, innocent people are rushed to conviction after obviously biased trials.

One could argue that "foul blows" are the norm, not the exception.

So why did this court rule in favor of the Five? Why did it do such a thorough job of reviewing the evidence in an appeal involving the denial of a motion for change of venue?

What everyone on both sides will be weighing is how much this ruling may indicate a shift in the political situation with regard to U.S.-Cuba relations. Has the political influence of the right wing in southern Florida come down a notch? They are closely associated with the Bush dynasty. But are they being seen as a liability by other powerful capitalist interests?

After 45 years of trying and failing to destroy the Cuban Revolution, imperialism's goal remains the same but its tactics may need to change.

A few months ago who would have thought that avowed terrorist Luis Posada Carriles would be held in custody by the Bush administration—even if only on

immigration charges?

The political and legal work done by the Five themselves, their attorneys and all their many supporters, as well as the strenuous support for them from the Cuban government and people, has had a big impact internationally.

On May 27, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions of the UN Human Rights Commission passed a resolution concluding that their imprisonment and treatment was arbitrary and incompatible with international standards; it called on the U.S. government to rectify the situation.

The partial victory in the case of the Cuban Five should be used to open up a wider struggle in solidarity with Cuba.

Whatever the shift in climate, it is up to the solidarity movement in this country and around the world to create the conditions that will free the Cuban Five, end the U.S. blockade of Cuba and lift the travel ban. Extraditing Luis Posada Carriles to Venezuela for his crimes against Latin Americans, including his role in the mid-air bombing of a civilian Cuban airliner in 1976, is also in order. □

Watts 1965

Continued from page 2

est in voting, military service and "citizenship."

So, blaming Black people in Watts for voter apathy or lack of initiative in getting involved in legislative battles and politics is very misplaced.

One thing to note, however, is that these reports relied on census data, which does not take into account much of the immigrant population. This could worsen some of the results for Asian and Latin@ populations in L.A.

What caused the Watts Rebellion? Political and economic repression—which breeds state violence, more police and more brutality.

But, more importantly, what caused the Watts Rebellion was the courage of African people here in the U.S. to fight back against repression. Since the rebellion, the people of Watts have been able to win some demands for hospitals and better educational opportunities that give at least temporary relief from the worst symptoms of this oppressive system. It is an inspiration to the world to "riot" against U.S. imperialist oppression, from Watts to Iraq. □

Madre de soldado ultimado en Irak confronta a Bush

Por Dustin Langley

El Presidente George W. Bush creyó poderse escapar de la declinante situación en Irak escondiéndose, durante unas vacaciones de cinco semanas en su enorme rancho en Crawford, Texas. Pero los horrores de la guerra le han seguido hasta allá.

Cindy Sheehan, cuyo hijo de 24 años Casey Sheehan de Vacaville en California murió en Bagdad el 4 de abril de 2004, está decidida a confrontar a Bush.

El 6 de agosto, ella llegó hasta allá en un autobús organizado por los Veteranos por la Paz y Veteranos de Irak Contra la Guerra. Una vez llegaron a Crawford, ella comenzó a caminar hacia el rancho. Le acompañaban veteranos, activistas locales, madres de Gold Star y otras activistas que habían llegado de muchas partes del país.

Eventualmente fueron detenidos por la policía local y el Servicio Secreto. Para el 9 de agosto los manifestantes ya habían acampado en la vía que lleva al rancho. Activistas de todas partes de Texas y Estados Unidos se han unido a la protesta que han llamado, Camp Casey, el nombre del hijo de Sheehan, para exigir de Bush una respuesta.

Un soldado activo de la ciudad de Fort Hood fue allá el 7 de agosto para expresar su apoyo a Sheehan y sus esfuerzos. Las Madres Gold Stars for Peace (Estrellas Doradas para la Paz) anunciaron que

familias desde Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Arkansas y otros estados que han perdido a sus hijos por la guerra estaban planeando unirse a Sheehan en Crawford.

Los organizadores por la paz de Arlington West están planeando unirse a ellos y erigir una cruz por cada soldado estadounidense muerto en Irak.

Dennis Kyne, un veterano con 15 años en el ejército de los Estados Unidos quien fuera paramédico durante la primera Guerra del Golfo, se unió a la protesta el 6 de agosto. Él dijo: “¿Por qué el presidente—el Comandante-en-Jefe—no se reúne con la madre del soldado caído? ¿De que tiene miedo?”

En una movida para silenciar a Sheehan, el Servicio Secreto le informó el 8 de agosto que tenía hasta el 11 de agosto para retirarse o sería arrestada bajo el cargo de “amenaza a la seguridad nacional.” Sheehan dijo que sus intenciones son las de quedarse, aunque conlleve el arresto.

La inhumanidad de Bush queda expuesta

Sheehan se reunió con Bush una vez, poco después de la muerte de su hijo, cuando fue invitada a la Casa Blanca para una breve visita en junio del 2004. Ella dijo que Bush se comportó como si estuviera en una fiesta, entrando al salón preguntando en voz alta, “¿a quien estamos recordando hoy?”

Ella recuerda que: “Sus labios se movían

pero no había nada en sus ojos ni en su conducta que mostrara que a él en realidad le importaba o que tenía alguna compasión. Este es un ser humano totalmente desconectado de la humanidad y de la realidad. Su mirada estaba vacía, como conchas huecas.”

Ella recuerda que Bush la llamó “Ma” o “Mom” durante la visita, nunca se aprendió su nombre y no sabía el nombre de su hijo. “No quiso mirar las fotos de Casey. Ni siquiera sabía el nombre de Casey. Cada vez que tratábamos de hablar sobre Casey y de lo mucho que lo extrañamos, él cambiaba la conversación.”

Poco después de la reunión, ella ayudó a formar el grupo Gold Star Mothers for Peace, y comenzó a hablar en contra de la guerra. Ella dice que durante sus viajes ha visto que la “gente está hastiada de la guerra y quieren hacer algo para pararla.”

En junio, Cindy Sheehan testificó en una audiencia en Washington, D.C. sobre los memorandos de Downing Street. Estos son los documentos británicos recientemente publicados que expusieron el hecho de que Bush intentaba invadir a Irak casi desde el comienzo de su primer término, y que “los hechos y la información secreta eran compuestos alrededor de esta política” de invasión.

Autobuses y automóviles llenos de activistas están en camino hacia Crawford para apoyar a Sheehan. Los organizadores están pidiendo a todo mundo que

llamen o envíen mensajes por correo electrónico a la Casa Blanca (comments@whitehouse.gov — 202-456-1111) y exigir que Bush se reúna con Sheehan. También se le está pidiendo a todo activista a que se solidarice con Sheehan en Crawford. Información actualizada se puede leer en www.meetwithcindy.org.

Sheehan comentó dirigiendo sus palabras a Bush “Y otra cosa que quiero que me diga es: ‘¿Cuál fue la causa noble por la que Casey murió? ¿Fue por libertad y democracia? ¡Mierda! Él murió por petróleo. Él murió para hacer a sus amigos más ricos. ¡Él murió para expandir el imperialismo americano en el Medio Oriente. Nosotros no somos más libres aquí, gracias a su Acta Patriótica. Irak no es libre. ¡Saque a América de Irak y a Israel de Palestina y parará el terrorismo!’”

“Ahí fue, usé la palabra ‘I—imperialismo, dijo Sheehan. “Y ahora voy a usar otra palabra ‘I—impeachment (destitución) — porque no podemos tolerar que esa gente sea perdonada. Ellos tienen que ser juzgados por crímenes de guerra e ir a prisión.” (Counterpunch)

Sondeos públicos muestran que la mayoría de personas quieren el regreso de las tropas ya. Pero somos los activistas los que debemos asegurarnos que este sentimiento sea reflejado en masa el 24 de septiembre en la protesta contra la guerra en Washington, D.C. □

Mientras los niños mueren de hambre en el Sahelo

Por Deirdre Griswold

La cadena noticiera británica BBC, ha estado mostrando conmovedoras imágenes de niños muriendo de hambre en Níger, uno de los varios países en la región africana conocida como el Sahelo, donde cantidades de personas están en grave peligro porque una plaga de mangostas destruyó sus siembras en noviembre del año pasado.

Casi ninguna ayuda de alimentos ha llegado a estos países, aún cuando los donantes en los países imperialistas ricos han tenido nueve meses para responder a las peticiones de la ONU.

Un reporte de la BBC dijo que si la ayuda hubiera sido enviada pronto a Níger, se hubiera necesitado sólo un dólar por niño para evitar la hambruna. El costo ahora podría ser 80 veces esa cantidad, suponiendo que la ayuda alimentaria llegue del todo. Ninguna explicación se ha dado del porqué las organizaciones que todos los años recogen cientos de millones de dólares, supuestamente para proveer ayuda en exactamente este tipo de situaciones, no han hecho virtualmente nada.

Se conoce mundialmente que el calentamiento global, resultante de la quema de combustible en los países desarrollados imperialistas ha contribuido a la expansión del desierto en el Sahelo y al sufrimiento de millones de personas.

Lo que tampoco se menciona en conexión con esta hambruna y sufrimiento son los cientos de millones de dólares que muy silenciosamente el gobierno de los Estados Unidos está utilizando para operaciones militares en África, región de ricos recursos naturales-bajo la excusa de la “guerra contra el terrorismo”.

Hambre, petróleo y las tropas estadounidenses

La región de hambre al sur del Sahara también incluye a Malí, Chad y Mauritania, donde un golpe militar popular sin derramamiento de sangre derrocó al gobierno pro EEUU de Ould Taya. Taya fue derrocado mientras se encontraba fuera del país, acudiendo al funeral del Rey Fahd de Arabia Saudita. Grandes depósitos de petróleo fueron descubiertos recientemente en Mauritania, que espera comenzar a producir el próximo año. El gobierno derrocado fue el primero en el África musulmana en reconocer a Israel-a insistencia de Washington.

Según el periódico Christian Science Monitor, en su edición del 9 de agosto, “Washington había enlistado al señor Taya como socio principal en su Iniciativa Contra el Terrorismo Trans-Sahara (ICTTS), un programa de cinco años a un costo de \$500 millones que comenzó en junio en nueve países del Oeste y Norte de África, (Argelia, Chad, Malí, Mauritania, Níger, Senegal, Nigeria, Marruecos y Túnez). Unidades americanas ya han comenzado a entrenar a 3.000 soldados de Mauritania y otros ejércitos del Sahara para mejorar la seguridad en las fronteras en una región considerada ser un cuartel de actividades terroristas.”

¡Quinientos millones para la “lucha contra el terrorismo,” pero ni un centavo para los niños hambrientos!

En septiembre pasado, dos meses antes de que la plaga cubriera el área, los marinos estadounidenses estaban en Chad entrenando soldados bajo el comando del Mayor Paul Baker. “Estamos contemplando a África como un lugar de creci-

miento para la Marina y el Departamento de Defensa,” dijo Baker. Existe gran evidencia de actividad terrorista en el continente. Y hay la necesidad de proteger la rápidamente creciente industria petrolera de África. Así que el ejército estadounidense está prestando atención.” (Christian Science Monitor, Sept. 17, 2004)

El Pentágono también se está metiendo en la región de Darfur en el oeste de Sudán. Según un comunicado del Comando estadounidense europeo, el 7 de agosto aviones contratados por los Estados Unidos mudaron 49 oficiales de la policía de Ruanda, de Kigali a Darfur. Esta operación comenzó el 14 de julio con el despliegue de 150 oficiales de la Fuerza Aérea estadounidense, “para proveer apoyo logístico y de aviación a las fuerzas de Ruanda como parte de la misión de expansión de la Unión Africana en el Sudán, conocida como AMIS II. La Unión Africana (UA) planea aumentar su presencia en la región en más de 7.700 soldados para el mes de septiembre.

“Como parte de un mayor esfuerzo de la OTAN, Estados Unidos trasladará tres batallones de soldados de Ruanda a Darfur para mediados de septiembre. El traslado del primer batallón de 680 soldados y 14.500 libras de carga comenzó el 17 de julio y fue completado el 27 del mismo mes por aviones C-17 y C-130 de la Fuerza Aérea EEUU. Los C-130 también trajeron 190 soldados de Ruanda previamente desplegados, desde El Fashir hacia Kigali. ...

“Dos batallones adicionales de Ruanda, de aproximadamente 540 soldados cada uno, están siendo transportados por aviones contratado por Estados Unidos.

“El Presidente Bush el 15 de julio autor-

izó unos \$6 millones adicionales en gasto de emergencia para que el Departamento de Defensa apoye la transportación de las fuerzas africanas a Darfur para mejorar la seguridad y hacer posible la asistencia humanitaria para aliviar el sufrimiento de aquellos que han sido desplazados por el conflicto en la región.”

El ejército de Ruanda, el cual tiene estrechas relaciones con el Pentágono, invadió al Congo oriental-un área rica en minerales-y jugó un papel importante en la guerra que costó más de 3 millones de vidas. ¿Y ahora el Pentágono dice que está transportando tropas ruandesas a Darfur por razones “humanitarias”?

Darfur al oeste de Sudán es otra área en África donde se descubrió petróleo recientemente. Sudán también tiene pozos petroleros en el sur, los cuales ha estado desarrollando con la ayuda de China. Esto ha hecho del país un objetivo principal para los Estados Unidos y los británicos. Estos gobiernos imperialistas ayudaron a instigar la contienda en Darfur y ahora la están usando de excusa para una intervención militar, haciendo que la Unión Africana autorice su papel.

Los políticos imperialistas hacen el trabajo a nombre de las grandes corporaciones y los bancos que han estado despojando al África. No saben de vergüenza. Su retórica sobre “ayuda” y “asistencia humanitaria” es solamente una máscara para continuar el saqueo de las riquezas de África, especialmente su petróleo y su riqueza mineral.

¿Es de sorprenderse que el nivel de resistencia-llamado “terrorismo” por los imperialistas-esté creciendo en África también? □