

## MUNDO OBRERO

Los inmigrantes y primero de mayo 16

Rumsfeld y los generales 16



WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

Immigrants at Lisbon march help commemorate Portugal's 1974 revolution. See page 14.

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# MAY DAY

# Immigrant struggle lifts up all workers

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

A giant has awakened in the heart of imperialism. The "invisible" workers who for decades have been vilified and exploited in quasi-slavery conditions, who get up at dawn to pick the vegetables and fruits we all eat, who work in the crowded and many times unsafe areas of restaurants, shops and food processing plants, who clean and tidy hotels and homes, who take care of children and toil in so many areas for a meager wage with no benefits—they have awakened to take their rightful place in the history of the working class struggle in the United States.

They are spearheading a revival of working class struggle with a call for a boycott and strike on May Day. Not even a massive roundup by Immigration of more than 1,100 undocumented workers in many areas of the country on April 20, clearly aimed at turning back this movement, has dampened its ardor.

At no time in the recent history of this country, since the courageous African-American movement for civil rights, has a struggle so shaken the very foundations of the imperialist order. Hundreds of thousands of undocumented workers and their allies have been in an almost constant mobilization across the

country, sparked by anti-immigrant legislation approved last December by the House of Representatives.

The Sensenbrenner-King bill, which declares itself to be for "Protection of Borders, Anti-terrorism and Illegal Immigration Control," represents the most vicious racism of the ultra right in this country. It also attempts to stimulate the vicious xenophobia that was purposely whipped up after 9/11.

Even though other immigration bills are pending in the Senate, not one calls for full rights or amnesty for undocumented workers. Basically, what has been going on there is a debate between the ultra right and the right.

This struggle happens at a crucial time in the U.S. The Bush administration is embroiled in the so-called global "war on terror," which includes the quagmire of war and occupation in Iraq. Nevertheless, the U.S. still intervenes in Afghanistan and threatens Iran, North Korea, Venezuela and Cuba, funneling hundreds of billions of dollars into military aggression.

At the same time, social services at home are totally underfunded. The budgets for schools, health care, public housing, repairing levees, inspecting meat, even veterans' benefits—vir-

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PHOTO: ROBERTO MERCADO

## As rich get Katrina funds

# Survivors who are poor suffer health crisis

By LeiLani Dowell

As news about the fate of survivors of hurricanes Katrina and Rita fades from the headlines, the aftermath and continuing effects of what many call "hurricane America" continue for them. That hurricane persists in providing safety and security for the wealthy few while ignoring the needs of the poorest sections of the working class.

A study released April 18 by the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University and the Children's Health Fund describes a "second crisis" found in FEMA's temporary housing in Louisiana—an alarming epidemic of chronic medical conditions and mental health disorders, compounded by a lack of treatment and prescription medicine. (The complete study findings can be accessed at [www.ncdp.mailman.columbia.edu](http://www.ncdp.mailman.columbia.edu).)

According to a press release, the study found that:

- More than one-third of children have at least one diagnosed chronic medical condition and are more likely to suffer from asthma, behavioral or conduct problems, developmental delay or physical impairment, and learning disabilities.
- Nearly half the parents surveyed reported that at least one of their children had emotional or behavioral difficulties not observed before the hurricane.
- More than half the women caregivers showed evidence of clinically diagnosed psychiatric problems, such as depression or anxiety disorders.
- On average, households have moved 3.5 times since the hurricane, some as many as nine times, often across state lines.
- More than one-fifth of the school-age children who were displaced were either not in school or had missed 10 or more days of school in the past month.

The authors of the report stress that failure to address the physical and mental health needs of survivors will have long-term consequences. Yet Anthony Speier, Louisiana's director of disaster mental health, says that although 500 crisis counselors are being paid for by the federal government, the money allocated for them cannot be used to treat mental or behavioral disorders. (New York Times, April 18)

### Who gets redevelopment money?

Meanwhile, in New Orleans, "Just as disparities between rich and poor were exposed in the days after Hurricane Katrina, class and wealth seem to be playing a significant role [in redevelopment].... While [the wealthy, gated community of] Eastover is full of the sounds of saws ripping wood and the pneumatic punch of nail guns, the sound of the Lower Ninth Ward is mainly silence." (New York Times, April 25)

On its face value, the redevelopment plan being used in New Orleans calls for community control—residents get to decide as a group what their vision is for the rebuilding of their neighborhoods. However, funds and resources to enlist the help of planners, architects and other experts are not attached to this plan.

In addition, the plan requires residents to determine how many of those displaced will be returning to the neighborhood—an estimate that the city will use to decide whether areas will be rebuilt and provided city services, turned into swampland, or sold to the highest-bidding developer.

This redevelopment plan was first proposed by the

euphemistically titled "Bring New Orleans Back Commission," with real estate executive—and George Bush fundraiser—Joseph Canizaro at the helm.

Unlike wealthier home-owning areas, only one small enclave in the Lower Ninth Ward, the Holy Cross neighborhood, had a homeowners' association, according to the Times. In the wealthier areas these associations have been useful in tracking down residents and contracting professional planners to devise blueprints for rebuilding.

The largely African-American Lower Ninth Ward has the largest number of residents currently displaced throughout the country. They are being denied the ability to participate in the planning process due to lack of means to travel to the area. At the same time, gas and potable water have not been reestablished in the area, and FEMA has cited this as the reason for still not delivering residential trailers there.

### Pork-barrel emergency funding

With the need for resources clearly still a critical issue for many hurricane survivors, criticism has fallen on the emergency "supplemental" spending bill the Senate will consider in early May, with a price tag of \$106 billion. Even though the continuing occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan were never an "emergency" and the Department of Defense budget for 2006 is already \$419.3 billion, the largest portion of the bill would spend an additional \$72 billion for military operations in those countries.

However, the main criticism of the bill is in response to other allocations, such as \$4 billion for the already well-subsidized farming industry and \$1.1 billion for fishery projects, including \$15 million for a "seafood promotion strategy."

When funding for all the other projects in the bill is shaved away, the amount left for hurricane recovery efforts is \$27 billion—a measly amount compared to the magnitude of the task.

Louisiana officials point out that the cost of rebuilding the levees alone—a crucial task with the hurricane season now weeks away—will cost upwards of \$6 billion. The Senate bill would add only \$600 million to the \$1.5 billion approved by the House for Gulf Coast levees and flood control projects. To date, the Bush administration has not come up with a formal plan to rebuild the levees.

Recent audits show that up to \$1 billion was wasted by FEMA in the immediate aftermath of the storms, when it bought trailers and rented whole cruise ships to provide temporary housing that was impractical and unwanted. (Washington Post, April 14) While cruise lines and trailer companies profited, many hurricane survivors wound up in expensive but inadequate hotel rooms while the government's Section 8 housing program that provides subsidies for apartment rentals went unused.

### Democrats play politics on the backs of survivors

Yet the opportunism of the two major political parties knows no bounds. Just as the Republican party held its 2004 election-year national convention in New York in order to capitalize on sentiment surrounding the 9/11 attacks, now the Democrats are considering holding their national convention in New Orleans in 2008.

The Democratic National Committee held its spring meeting in New Orleans from April 20 to 22. The Democrats' response to a city with one of the highest

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### DETROIT

#### Sat., May 6

Workers World Party public meeting on "Reviving Marx & Lenin." Talks and discussion in preparation for the Workers World Party national conference on the struggle to revive socialism. Dinner served. 5 p.m. At 5920 Second Ave. For info (313) 831-0750.

#### Sat., May 6

Women's right to choose is under attack like never before and it's time to once again organize ourselves to fight back! Come to an organizing meeting to help launch a Detroit-area committee of activists to defend women's right to reproductive choices, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. At 5920 Second Ave., Detroit (just north of Wayne State University). For info (313) 837-2369 or email [detroitaction@netscape.net](mailto:detroitaction@netscape.net).

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**ON THE PICKETLINE**

By Sue Davis

**Building workers win big**

Workers in 3,000 of New York City's most expensive residential buildings stood together against some of the city's biggest real estate moguls and voted to strike when their contract expired on April 21. And the real estate barons, who had demanded huge givebacks, were forced to back down in the face of unity.

Here's how building worker Milton Vera assessed the victory of the 28,000 workers in SEIU Local 32BJ: "From the get-go the union was up-front in fighting management's demands for a wage freeze and givebacks on health care and pensions. The demonstration on April 18 was the biggest 32BJ had held in years. Management was playing hard ball, but 32BJ stuck together. Management could see we were dug in, and we weren't about to give in. That's why we won such a good contract."

Rather than a wage freeze in the first year of the contract, door attendants, supers, porters and other service workers will get a \$10-a-week raise in October and an increase of 8.5 percent over the four-year contract. The workers' health care continues to be paid 100 percent by the bosses and their co-pays remain the same. Rather than have their pensions frozen, the workers will continue to receive a weekly contribution of \$10. This victory shows what's possible when workers flex their muscles and demand what's rightfully theirs.

**Hunger strike gets support**

Support is growing for service workers at the University of Miami, mostly immigrants, who since March 1 have been on strike against Unicco for a union contract and an end to labor violations. They escalated the struggle when several members started a hunger strike on April 4. Members of Students Toward a New Democracy (STAND) joined the water-only fast on April 14. And service workers at Nova Southeast University in nearby Davie, Fla., also went on strike against Unicco on April 10.

On April 11, the day after immigrant workers held massive rallies all over the country, immigrant workers in Boston, also employed by Boston-based Unicco, held a one-day fast and rally in solidarity with their brothers and sisters in Miami.

Charles Steele Jr., national president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, went to Miami to show solidarity with the Rev. James Bush III, who has been organizing community activities in support of the service workers.

On April 19, STAND members took over the admissions office to demand that the university support the workers' demand for union representation by SEIU Local 11.

On April 21, SEIU President Andy Stern and SEIU Executive Vice President Eliseo Medina joined the hunger strike for three days in support of the right of the workers to form a union.

Though University of Miami President Donna Shalala, who was secretary of Health and Human Services in the Clinton administration, has asked SEIU and Unicco representatives to continue to negotiate, STAND and SEIU say that's not enough. They want Shalala to tell Unicco to stop violating the law and recognize the union's card check, which shows that 67 percent of the workers want to be represented by SEIU. Call Shalala at (305) 284-5155 to demand that the university recognize the union.

**Teachers call to end war**

The California Federation of Teachers passed a strongly worded resolution on March 26 calling for an end to the war in Iraq. It stated that the war was draining sorely needed funds from education and other vital human services and was the "overriding" issue affecting the conditions of teachers and students in the U.S. today.

The resolution stated that "California's share of the cost of the war (more than \$31 billion) alone could have funded nearly 550,000 new public school teachers for one year." It ended with a call "to work for a reordering of national political and economic priorities toward peace, economic and racial justice, labor rights, true security and human needs." □

**As leader goes to jail****Struggle of NYC transit workers continues**By Milt Neidenberg  
New York

They were a beautiful sight, marching across Brooklyn Bridge on April 24. Thousands of union members, side by side with civil rights and community activists, were supporting President Roger Toussaint of Local 100, Transport Workers Union. Toussaint was on his way to the Tombs prison in lower Manhattan to serve a 10-day sentence for leading an "illegal" three-day strike during the height of the holiday season this winter.

Many chants and signs targeted the infamous, anti-union, anti-worker Taylor Law, which outlaws strikes in the public sector in New York state. As Toussaint entered the Tombs, he expressed the strength of his convictions: "I stand here today because a judge has found me guilty of contempt of court. The truth of the matter is, I have nothing but contempt for a system that gives employers free rein to abuse workers."

The strike, which began on Dec. 20, was authorized by an overwhelming vote of the membership as the only alternative to the city's attack on the union. The power of the three-day strike sent shock waves through the establishment and showed that illegal laws can be defied through the will and sacrifice of the workers.

The 34,000 transit workers for three days crippled the New York citadel of high finance. Billionaire Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Gov. George Pataki, the capitalist media and the bourgeois courts ganged up on the transit workers' leader, an immigrant from Trinidad, furious that he had shut down the city during the peak holiday shopping time. Toussaint and TWU members, who comprise multiple nationalities, were characterized by the officials as "thugs" who should all be jailed.

**Wall Street wail**

In a vengeful April 21 editorial in the Wall Street Journal, mouthpiece of finance capital, anger boiled over. It confirmed the huge losses suffered by businesses: "New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg ... has estimated that the three-day strike last December cost the city \$1 billion in foregone business. In that light, the fines and lost dues seem mild."

The editorial praised the decision of Supreme Court Justice Theodore T. Jones, calculated to financially break the union. It said, "The real hammer was [the judge's] ruling that the union's right to the automatic deduction of dues from workers' paychecks should be suspended for 90 days, and possibly longer." The court fined the union \$2.5 million and ordered the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to deduct two days' pay from the rank and file for each day of the strike.

Toussaint immediately criticized the ruling. "The results are unfair, excessive and political. ... The MTA engaged in provocation and there was no responsibility for that assigned by the court." Toussaint was referring to the MTA's bargaining tactics, including a demand that the union accept a two-tier provision assigning a pension cost to new hires—a violation of state law. Currently, under the Taylor Law, no sanctions are levied against management when they violate their own laws.

When a settlement of the strike was first reached, TWU members rejected it by a narrow margin of seven votes, out of over 20,000 cast. But recently they voted by over 70 percent to reverse this and accept the contract.

They are now on a collision course with the MTA, which

**Katrina funds***Continued from page 2*

poverty rates in the U.S. before the hurricane struck, which was deprived of the funds to maintain critical levees, leading to the ensuing devastation, has been as sluggish and neglectful as the Republican response. Their main concern is to use the ongoing Gulf Coast tragedy to push for the presidential win in 2008.

While it is very possible that many voters across the country will desert the Republicans because of the administration's lack of response to the hurricane, and their own disdain for the Iraq war, a growing number of working and poor people are coming to realize that the true solution to the crisis of imperialism at home and abroad lies in the organization of the people to end capitalism once and for all.

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WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

has arrogantly ignored this democratic process and swept from the table the tentative agreement that it had signed. It is demanding binding arbitration under Taylor Law procedures. Toussaint has rejected binding arbitration as a violation of the rank and file's right to vote on any subsequent contract. It is unclear what the outcome of current contract talks will be.

In truth, the union was provoked by the MTA, which refused to bargain in good faith. Toussaint's "crime" was to lead the union's fight for a decent contract. Mayor Bloomberg, Governor Pataki and the media then orchestrated an anti-union, racist campaign. But the riding public and New York's overwhelmingly multinational and working class communities didn't buy the attack on the union.

Each work day, under hazardous working conditions and unsafe environments, the TWU workers get almost 8 million subway and bus riders to their destinations. In return, the MTA issues 16,000 disciplinary citations annually. Toussaint characterized the attitude of MTA management as "plantation justice."

**Necessary act of civil disobedience**

In a number of speeches, Toussaint invoked the names of Rosa Parks and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., referring to the infamous days when racism and segregation were sanctioned by law. He spoke reverently about Parks' determination, in the face of imprisonment, to defy an illegal and immoral law that kept Black people in the back of the bus. Her courage led to the historic Montgomery bus boycott of 50 years ago, forced the end of racial segregation on public buses and started the modern civil rights movement.

Today there is another tsunami of protest as millions of undocumented workers and their allies have taken to the streets, demanding civil and human rights. It is fitting that on April 1, tens of thousands marched across this same Brooklyn Bridge to demand legalization and respect for 11 to 12 million undocumented workers.

**Repression breeds resistance**

A common thread of struggle weaves the various people's movements together toward a classwide unity. The undocumented, African-American workers and other peoples of color and their communities are under attack from the government through anti-union, anti-worker repressive laws and the courts that uphold them. The organized labor movement today has a multinational rank and file, with many low-paid workers, especially in service industries. Women as well as lesbian, gay, bi and trans workers are integrated in this broad mosaic. The potential to alter the relationship of class forces has never been more favorable.

May Day is coming—the international workers' day. The struggle for the eight-hour day, so tied in with the Haymarket Massacre in Chicago in 1886, became the rallying cry of the masses against bosses and oppressors and brought forth the perspective of a socialist future. May Day 2006 is the 120th anniversary of that historic event. Boycotts, withholding labor, forums, teach-ins, school walkouts, a day without shoppers, and other forms of protest are planned for this special day to honor the contributions of all immigrants and their fight for dignity, respect and legal rights.

On May 1, TWU Local 100 President Roger Toussaint will be in Tombs jail. His imprisonment expresses eloquently the spirit of defiance and resistance that characterizes May Day. □

# What makes imperialism a 'colossus with feet of clay'

*The material below is part of a longer document on "Reviving Marx & Lenin" written by Fred Goldstein of the Workers World Party Secretariat in preparation for the May 13-14 Party conference. This section deals with the effects of the high-tech revolution on the working class.*

The bosses embraced the high-tech revolution for its own sake, apart from the military application, because the capitalist economy and their profits were stagnating. The German and Japanese imperialists were getting back onto their feet and cutting deeply into the world market share of the U.S. corporations.

The late Sam Marcy, chairperson and founder of Workers World Party, in a very important book entitled "High Tech, Low Pay: A Marxist Analysis of the Changing Character of the Working Class," published back in 1986, analyzed this earlier stage of the high-tech revolution and its effect on the working class in the United States.

In a section devoted to its effect on the unions, he traced the phases of the development of the productive forces under capitalism from the manufacturing phase of simple cooperation to the industrial revolution and large-scale machinery, to mass production, what is known as "Fordism" or assembly line production, in the early 20th century. He then described the high-tech phase:

"This [mass production] stage has now given way to another phase of technological development. The mass production period, which began with Ford and continued for a period of time after the Second World War, was characterized by expansion. But the current stage, the scientific-technological stage, while continuing some of the earlier tendencies of development, contracts the work force.

"Like all previous stages of capitalist development, the current phase is based on the utilization of workers as labor power. But its whole tendency is to diminish the labor force while attempting to increase production. The technological revolution is therefore a quantum jump which requires revolutionary strategy to overcome."

Marx's studies had showed that the advance of capitalist technology subordinated the workers more and more to the machine, made work more and more monotonous, increased the division of labor and reduced the skills of the workers. The final result was to lower the wages of more and more workers by setting them in competition with one another, all to increase the profits of capital. The high-tech revolution, Marcy showed, has accorded completely with Marx's analysis.

Marcy noted the decline of manufacturing jobs and the growth of service jobs. But he did not simply talk about them as a bourgeois category. The main aspect of the shift from manufacturing to service was, for the vast majority of workers forced into this change, a shift from high-wage jobs to low-wage jobs.

## Changed character of the working class

Marcy promoted various tactics and strategies for the struggle against the anti-labor assault, many of which are completely applicable today. But also impor-

tant were the sociological observations he made and the political conclusions he drew. "It is this highly significant shift from the higher paid to the lower paid which is dramatically changing the social composition of the working class, greatly increasing the importance of the so-called ethnic composition of the working class, that is, the number of Black, Latin, Asian, women and other oppressed groups, particularly the millions of undocumented workers..."

The changed social composition of the working class—both from the point of view of the growing numerical significance of the oppressed and the increasing preponderance of low-wage workers over the higher-paid, more privileged workers—matters "a great deal," wrote Marcy, "because in terms of political struggle, the objective basis is laid for political leadership to be assumed by the more numerous segment of the class. ..."

"While it continues to ravage the living standards of the workers, at the same time it lays the objective basis for the politicization of the workers, for moving in a more leftward direction and for organization on a broad scale."

The tendency of imperialism to build up the privileged layers of the working class at home, which Lenin had observed, was already in the 1980s beginning to be counteracted by the application of automation, robotization and new industrial processes, mini-mills, etc., as the higher-paid workers in heavy industry—steel, auto, rubber, electric, the bastions of the AFL-CIO—were being undermined by capitalist technology and being pushed into the lower-paying service industries or long-term unemployment.

Marcy and other communists were rightfully anticipating that the high-tech assault on the workers would lead to an upsurge of the class struggle. The basis for this prognosis was both subjective and objective. The process of pauperization of the working class would project the more militant sections of the workers forward, while the increase in the productivity of labor would intensify capitalist overproduction and accelerate an economic crisis.

## Collapse of USSR & extension of high-tech revolution

However, the collapse of the USSR and Eastern Europe and the opening up of China to capitalist investment served as powerful counterweights to an upsurge. From the political point of view, imperialism in general and U.S. imperialism in particular, as the principal adversary of the USSR and socialism, no longer had to contend with a rival social system. The ruling class could drop all pretense of being for the people, of being against racism and oppression,

and of allowing labor a "seat at the table." The demise of the USSR, in addition to demoralizing militants in the labor movement and the movement in general, removed all inhibitions of the capitalist establishment and strengthened the right-wing assault.

President Clinton teamed up with the Republicans to swell the capitalist treasury

The tendency of imperialism to build up the privileged layers of the working class at home, which Lenin had observed, was already in the 1980s beginning to be counteracted by the application of automation, robotization and new industrial processes. The higher-paid workers in heavy industry were being undermined by capitalist technology and pushed into the lower-paying service industries or long-term unemployment. Marcy and other communists were rightfully anticipating that the high-tech assault on the workers would lead to an upsurge of the class struggle.

by destroying the welfare system, which had originated in the New Deal, and plunged millions into deeper poverty—mostly women and their children. Clinton and Newt Gingrich teamed up again in a crucial bloc to pass NAFTA (which was first proposed by Reagan), deepening the attack on the workers in the U.S. and Canada and on the workers and peasants of Mexico.

## Global runaway shops: off-shoring & outsourcing revolution

The growing division of labor in the production process allowed its segmentation on a world basis. Commodities—everything from Boeing 737s to amusement park equipment to Barbie dolls—were now being produced in what the bourgeoisie calls "global production networks" and "global value chains." Labor power was drawn into the process of expanded capitalist exploitation and super-exploitation from around the globe and distributed in such a way as to squeeze the most surplus value out of a growing low-wage global workforce.

Off-shoring (moving to or setting up in low-wage countries industries that had previously paid high or even moderate wages in the imperialist countries) and outsourcing (contracting out what were or would have been high-wage jobs to contractors in low-wage countries) is gathering momentum in the board rooms of corporations.

This is what the labor movement used to call "runaway shops," that fled to either break up or prevent unionization. For example, the unionized textile and shoe industries in New England fled to non-union, low-wage states in the South. But with the opportunity for even lower wages, these capitalists, based on the high-tech revolution, have now fled abroad to Asia, the Caribbean, Central America and elsewhere to escape from even the low wages of the southern United States.

The early phase of off-shoring and outsourcing based upon the new technology was aimed principally at manufacturing. But while the war against manufacturing continues, the outsourcing and off-shoring of digitalization and communications technology is rapidly spreading to the service industry. Call centers and computer programming are the most widely known examples of this process.

But now, in addition, research and development, engineering, much so-called "back office" work in industrial companies, the insurance, financial and other services are all eligible. Everything from reading x-rays to dental laboratory work, i.e., virtually every type of job that can be shipped out or digitalized and that does not require person-to-person contact, is either already being outsourced or its outsourcing is being contemplated. By one esti-

mate, somewhere in the vicinity of 14 million service jobs in the U.S. are eligible for being moved overseas.

This has been accompanied by a revolution in communications—satellites, cell phones and fiber optics; in transportation—giant freighters powered by powerful gas turbine engines, jumbo cargo jets, automated ports and containerization; and sophisticated servers and databases. The export of capital that Lenin observed as being so prominent a feature of imperialism has taken giant leaps forward as a result of these new expanded opportunities for exploitation and super-profits. Each monopolist grouping must pursue this course in the struggle for profit, lest it be overtaken and destroyed by its rivals.

## Right-wing turn in the capitalist state part of anti-labor offensive

This development was completely integrated with and strengthened by an historic right-wing reorientation of the capitalist state, beginning at the end of the Carter administration and taking on a full head of steam under Reagan. The bosses went sharply and ruthlessly from a policy of class compromise, forced upon them during the upsurge of the thirties and continued after the war, to an aggressive policy of rolling back all social and economic gains of the workers.

President Jimmy Carter began the right-wing turn with major cuts in welfare, a military build-up, and his infamous statement that "Life is unfair," referring to the denial of federal funds to poor women for abortions. The new regime was dramatized by the planned ambush to break up the air traffic controllers' union, PATCO. The PATCO attack, which was carried out by Reagan, had been planned under Carter. Reagan cut social services by \$750 billion, cut taxes for the rich by an equal amount, and began a \$2 trillion military buildup, the so-called "full court press" against the USSR. He also inaugurated the policy of neoliberalism abroad, while in fact carrying out the same neoliberal austerity programs and removal of obstacles to capital at home.

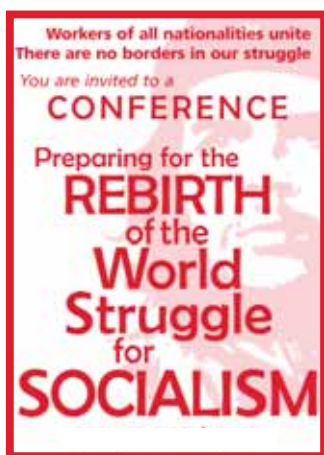
The anti-labor offensive has been carried out by Republican and Democratic administrations for almost three decades now. It is still going strong. Witness the latest assault on the UAW and the airlines unions. And it has been greatly strengthened by the global reorganization of capitalism under the impact of the scientific-technological revolution.

## The export of capital, high tech, and the working class today

This new stage of high-tech reorganization is profoundly significant for the class struggle in the U.S. and other imperialist countries, along the very lines that Marcy indicated in his book "High Tech, Low Pay." The new reorganization of capitalist manufacturing and services on a global basis has allowed imperialism access to a vast reservoir of labor in India, China, the ASEAN countries, Latin America, the Caribbean, parts of Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, and even low-wage parts of Western Europe.

The initial effect of this development upon the proletariat of the U.S., Europe and Japan, is to set them in direct competition, job for job, with workers being super-exploited on a neocolonial level. In the past era of imperialism, when colonial and neocolonial labor was largely restricted to mining, plantations and transport—that is, to

*Continued on next page*



## What do immigrant rights, Katrina, war have in common?

# Socialist conference will connect the dots

By Monica Moorehead  
New York

Immigrant workers on the march! Justice for Katrina and Rita evacuees! Organizing to stop imperialist war! Youth and students fighting for a brighter future!

What do all these issues have in common? They are just some of the important developments and struggles that will be major topics for discussion at the upcoming national conference entitled, "Preparing for the rebirth of the world struggle for socialism."

This event, sponsored by Workers World Party, will be held on May 13 and 14 in New York.

This conference could not have been called at a more significant time, for many political reasons. A new movement for immigrant rights has seemingly sprung up overnight from a grassroots level and has shaken the entire political establishment to its core. How will this unprecedented development, emanating from one of the most oppressed sectors, impact on the entire U.S. labor movement—which has been on the defensive since the early

1980s? How can the rest of the progressive movement maximize class solidarity with immigrant workers?

The aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita has helped to expose the ugly realities of racism, national and class oppression that millions of poor African Americans face on a daily basis. How can class unity be forged in the struggle to support the right to self-determination of the Black nation and for the reconstruction of the Gulf Coast?

The heinous, military occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan continues while the Bush regime is losing its grip. While the people in the U.S. want to bring the troops home and spend their tax dollars to fund human needs, not war, the White House and the Pentagon are now threatening to attack Iran. What can be done to strengthen the anti-war and anti-imperialist movement here and worldwide? What is the impact of the revolutionary uprisings in Latin America, the Caribbean, Middle East, Asia and Africa on the world struggle for liberation and sovereignty?

Students and youth of all nationalities are facing a bleak future with an onslaught

of cutbacks in education, job programs and recreation. Black, Latin@ and Indigenous youth face all forms of racist repression in disproportionate numbers, from police brutality to incarceration. Women and lesbian, gay, bi and trans people continue to face sexist and homophobic attitudes and bigotry non-stop.

Working people in general are finding it harder and harder to make ends meet due to massive layoffs, wage cuts, no health care, outsourcing and much more.

What these struggles and so many more have in common is the necessity to revive the struggle for socialism against capitalist inequality, not just in the poorer, developing countries but in the rich capitalist ones, starting with the most powerful one of all—the U.S.

Contrary to the bourgeois pundits who have declared socialism to be dead and gone, the May 13-14 conference will be exploring why socialism is as relevant today as it was when the 1917 Russian Revolution gave such hope and inspiration to workers and oppressed on every continent.

For any socialist or activist who is thirsting for real social change, no matter



**MAY 13 & 14 ★ NYC**

11th Street & Sixth Avenue  
School Auditorium

For pre-registration and preconference documents, go online to

**workersworld.net**

Workers World Party National Office  
55 West 17th St., New York, NY 10011  
Read Workers World newspaper online at  
**workers.org**

what your political background, this particular conference will present a great opportunity to share a meaningful exchange of views and information with leaders and organizers in the anti-imperialist, working class struggles.

To pre-register and for more information, go to workersworld.net. □

## 'Colossus with feet of clay'

*Continued from page 4*

supplying raw materials and agricultural products to the imperialist centers for manufacturing, processing and distribution—it was impossible for the monopolies to set up direct competition in manufacturing, let alone services, between the workers in "their own countries," as Lenin put it, and their colonial wage slaves. The productive process had to reach the level of development at which, for example, low-wage workers in Brazil could be employed to assemble a dashboard, which could then be shipped to Detroit to be placed in a "kit" of sub-assemblies containing most or all the parts of the car, and then shipped to China for final assembly and sale.

This is what the high-tech revolution has wrought. It has changed everything for the workers of the world. The bosses, once having seen the profit possibilities inherent in their technology, have plunged ahead at breakneck speed to develop and spread it to every facility and process in every crevice of the globe possible. It has detonated a new wave of intense competition among the giant monopolies for profit advantage, in which the further intensification of the exploitation of the working class everywhere is the goal.

The inevitable effect of this process is to further lower wages in the U.S. and the imperialist countries in general. Wages for most workers in the U.S. have been either stagnant or declining relative to inflation for almost three decades now. With each new recession it is harder and harder for the high-tech, off-shoring, outsourcing capitalist economy to absorb labor power and create jobs. And each boom ends up with greater economic inequality.

While service jobs are being outsourced in increasing numbers, manufacturing jobs are still being destroyed by high tech. One consequence of the destruction of union manufacturing jobs is the intensification of national oppression. It has been shown that one of the principal means for African-American workers to lift themselves up out of poverty was through semi-

skilled industrial jobs. The decline in auto, steel, rubber and other industrial sectors is taking a disproportionately heavy toll on Black workers. The increasing proportion of women in the workforce is a direct result of the lowering of wages for jobs of all sorts. The trend is fed not only by the increased number of jobs open to women as a result of high tech but also because more families need a minimum of two wage earners just to make ends meet. Furthermore, the feminization of the workforce on a worldwide scale is growing as the bosses set up their international production networks, many of which include sweatshops. The struggle for women's rights and the class struggle are bound to reinforce each other and give a new energy to the global class struggle.

### Imperialism without colonies

This new phase of imperialism, however, has another side that is highly significant and overlooked in the West. It pertains to so-called "neoliberalism."

The development of neocolonialism as a form of imperialism without colonies was made prominent by Kwame Nkrumah, the late president of Ghana, who was overthrown in a military coup in 1966 that many suspected was organized by the CIA. Nkrumah was a radical leader of the anti-colonial movement, an ardent anti-imperialist and an advocate of African unity in the form of Pan Africanism. One of his most renowned works, published in 1965, was entitled "Neocolonialism: the Last Stage of Imperialism."

In the introduction to his work, which was an important contribution to bringing Lenin's imperialism up to date, Nkrumah stated:

"The neocolonialism of today represents imperialism in its final and perhaps most dangerous stage. In the past it was possible to convert a country upon which a neocolonial regime had been imposed—Egypt in the 19th century is an example—into a colonial territory. Today this process is no longer feasible. Old-fashioned colo-

nealism is by no means entirely abolished. It still constitutes an African problem, but it is everywhere in retreat. Once a territory has become nominally independent it is no longer possible, as it was in the last century, to reverse the process. Existing colonies may linger on, but no new colonies will be created. In place of colonialism as the main instrument of imperialism we have today neocolonialism.

"The essence of neocolonialism is that the State which is subject to it is, in theory, independent and has all the outward trappings of international sovereignty. In reality its economic system and thus its political policy is directed from the outside."

This was written in the era of decolonization, when the imperialists were trying to fly under the radar and hold on to influence in the dozens of former colonies that were being formally declared independent and were joining the United Nations. The old colonial powers made a strategic political retreat in the face of the post-war anti-colonial wave. This retreat was hastened by the triumph of the Chinese Revolution; the armed struggles in Korea, Algeria and Cuba, and the nationalist uprisings in Egypt, Iraq and other places. Seen in this light, what is today called neoliberalism is in fact an aggressive form of neocolonialism, in which the underdeveloped countries of the world are forced into becoming platforms for world capitalist production by the monopolies, suppliers of cheap labor and havens for investments by finance capital of all types.

The IMF, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization are the enforcers of neocolonialism, the battering rams that break down all obstacles to the unobstructed penetration of imperialist capital investment and commerce by forced agreements to surrender their economic sovereignty. Under neocolonialism the dependent regimes become tax collectors for the big banks and yield up the super-profits, of the type that Lenin referred to when he was describing the export of finance capital during the earlier stage of imperialism and direct colonial rule. Nkrumah's early description of countries that "have all the

trappings of international sovereignty" but are "directed from outside" is as widely applicable now as it was then.

The neoliberal destruction of all barriers to investment and trade is the political-legal foundation for the high-tech reorganization of capitalist production by the transnational corporations and the banks. But while this reorganization of the export of capital has assisted in disorganizing the workers in the imperialist countries, it is destined to have the opposite effect in the underdeveloped, the neocolonial and oppressed countries. Indeed, this new phase of imperialism has another side, to which the progressive and leftwing sectors of the labor movement must pay the closest attention. It helps the proletariat in the low-wage countries to develop numerically and socially, and it helps them become cohesive as a class. It helps those drawn into the workforce to escape unemployment and rural poverty and puts them in a position to organize as workers. The newly developed proletariat is most susceptible to class consciousness and militancy once it gets organized. (The newly proletarianized peasantry was the basis of the Russian Revolution and the vanguard of the Chinese Revolution.)

This capitalist process is bound to improve the workers' level of organization and their ability to carry on the class struggle. The struggle will enable them to raise their wages and improve their working conditions and become a leading force in the struggle against imperialism. Hundreds of millions of workers are being drawn into capitalist production and the proletariat is growing numerically on a world scale. This is the inevitable outcome of the expansion of capital and it is an objectively favorable development for the future of the global class struggle and for world socialism.

On the other hand, it will further level the wages of the upper strata of the working class in the imperialist countries, and in the U.S. in particular, where the globalization process of capital investment is pronounced, along with Germany and Japan. □

## Denver activist arrested

# 'Police brutality is the rule'

*FIST (Fight Imperialism, Stand Together) organizer Larry Hales was the victim of police brutality in Denver on April 15. Below are excerpts from an interview with Workers World reporter LeiLani Dowell.*

**WW: What happened on April 15?**

**LH:** I got into a phone argument with the owner of a restaurant regarding an unauthorized credit card transaction. Later the cops arrived at my house. When I asserted my rights, they screamed and threatened me with arrest. One cop went to see if I had a warrant, which I figured I didn't.

Another cop clasped my wrists behind my back. When the first returned, I was told I was under arrest and put in cuffs. One cop looped his arm under my left arm while another pulled in the opposite direction, creating extreme pressure on my wrists.

Nobody read me my rights. I told one cop his behavior was unnecessary and abusive, that I had known of no warrants against me, and that I thought he was violating my rights. He shoved me up against the door of the car, hit me in my midsection and pushed me, hitting my head on the entrance to the car. He then threw me in, and missed shutting my head in the door by a few inches.

Once I was in the car they showed me



Larry Hales speaking at anti-war rally.

cells built for one person, three people were crammed, and four in the two-person cells. It is a 23-hour lockdown and the lights are always on, with leaking toilets that reek of urine and feces. People sleep on the floor on thin mats. Many are there for small bond

issues, but don't have money to post bond.

I pled guilty because I had no sleep and was shaken up by the abuse, worried about my partner, and don't have much money. Atty. Mark Burton is fighting to have my guilty plea withdrawn and get the other charge from the coffee shop dropped.

**Has this police harassment happened to you before? Do you think you're being targeted?**

Once a cop followed me into my apartment building, questioning what I was doing. When I refused to answer, the cop called backup, pushed me against the wall and searched me, and eventually woke up my landlord to verify my address.

the warrant, which was from a coffeehouse I had worked at that filed trumped-up charges against me for organizing workers. (See [www.workers.org/ww/2004/hales1216.php](http://www.workers.org/ww/2004/hales1216.php))

The warrant was issued then, but I was not notified about it. It was used so the company could get a restraining order, barring me from over 20 Burger Kings and coffeehouses they own. That order was thrown out by a judge.

**What were conditions like in the jail?**

I was put in Denver City Jail and sentenced the next day to three days in jail.

The conditions are indescribable. In



I was also harassed at a "community meeting" of cops, landlords and business owners that wanted to "wage a war against drugs" by pushing homeless people out and profiling people of color.

Some other activists and victims of police brutality think the police are targeting me, along with other activists, but I don't know. The Denver police do have spy files on activists that have been compiled since the early 1980s.

I think what it shows is that the Denver cops have no regard for people's rights. What happened to me is the general rule and not the exception. They have a racist mentality and a history of brutal tactics and killings of unarmed people.

The police and city officials released statistics that show an increase of crime, but arrests are up and the jails are filled to the brim. The city is now building a \$600 million jail, while closing down three schools. There are no housing solutions for over 11,000 people. □



Community remembers teenager killed by racist mob.

WW PHOTO: STEPHEN MILLIES

## Demand justice for Manny Mayi

By Stephen Millies  
New York

Nearly 100 people marched down Broadway here on April 19 to demand justice for Manuel Mayi. A mob of white racist youths had chased the son of Dominican immigrants 16 blocks through the Corona section of Queens on March 29, 1991.

They used baseball bats, pipes and a fire extinguisher to beat "Manny" to death. He was just 18 years old.

A blue fog of police protection immediately descended upon the perpetrators. Cops refused to let witnesses ride in police cars to find the killers. One alleged killer was later allowed to join the police department.

Queens District Attorney Richard Brown postponed court proceedings 47 times.

Now, 15 years later, the Justice Committee of the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights, founded by the late Richie Perez, called upon supporters to come to City Hall Park. People marched to the local office of New York State Atty. Gen. Elliot Spitzer, who is running for governor, to demand action.

A delegation including Mayi's mother, Altagracia Mayi, attempted to go upstairs. So did Juanita Young, whose son Malcolm Ferguson was killed at point-blank range by cops in the Bronx.

Young says they were stopped by chief investigator William Casey, who denied

that his office had received letters seeking Spitzer's intervention, even though they had been signed for.

But confronted with this determined group, Casey was forced to accept a copy.

When Transit Workers Union Local 100 went on strike, Spitzer moved faster than greased lightning to fine them. His family has a \$500-million real estate fortune. No wonder his New York City office is just a block away from Wall Street.

Outside Spitzer's office, Altagracia Mayi told protesters how her son was a Queens College student who wanted to be an engineer. "Everybody has a mother," she said. "But now I have no Mother's Day."

Tony Rosario described how his son Anthony Rosario had been shot in the back eight times by police officers Patrick Brosnan and James Crowe on March 12, 1995. They also pumped 14 bullets in the back of Anthony's cousin, Hilton Vega.

Both of these cops had been bodyguards of former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, who after the killings called them to offer his congratulations.

"We have to close ranks," declared Vicente "Panama" Alba, executive board member of Laborers Local 108.

City Council members Hiram Monserrate and Rosie Mendez demanded action. The Justice Committee's Jessica Sanclemente put Spitzer "on notice," while David Galarza challenged Spitzer, who has cultivated the image of a liberal Democrat, to live up to his own words.

The voice of the late Richie Perez, who stood by the Mayi family from the beginning, was heard on tape. Martha Laureano-Perez, co-coordinator of the Justice Committee and wife of Richie Perez, spoke. So did members of the October 22nd Committee against police brutality, the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement and the Dominicana Alliance.

Demonstrators marched to "One Police Plaza," the fortress headquarters of the New York Police Department, to hold a brief rally before dispersing. □

## 'Women fight back!'

By Workers World Detroit Bureau

"Women fight back! Defend reproductive rights," was the theme of an April 22 Workers World Party forum in Detroit.

Palestinian activist and socialist Andrea Lavigne gave a presentation on the origins of women's oppression during the transition from tens of thousands of years of communal and egalitarian societies, which were based on matrilineal lines, to the ownership of private property and the development of a patriarchal ruling class.

Osaine Reamer, a Cuban revolutionary and member of the Federation of Cuban Women, reported on women's reproductive rights in Cuba and how abortion is viewed as a social and health issue, not a political or religious one. She told how young girls and boys in Cuba are educated from an early age about issues relating to sexuality and reproduction.

In a talk about the struggle for reproductive rights in the U.S., Kris Hamel reviewed the history of the struggle for the right to choose abortion. She updated the audience on the current attacks, including the almost total ban on abortion taking

effect July 1 in South Dakota. Hamel concluded that the struggle of women for reproductive rights is an integral part of the class struggle against all forms of oppression and injustice under capitalism.

The meeting was chaired by WWP leader Debbie Johnson.

Susan Farquhar motivated the audience to get involved in the struggle. She announced the first meeting of the Detroit Action Committee to Defend Reproductive Rights, which will take place at 2 p.m. on May 6, at 5920 Second Ave.

For more information on this meeting, please call (313) 378-2369 or email: [detroitaction@netscape.net](mailto:detroitaction@netscape.net). □

Andrea Lavigne, Kris Hamel, Debbie Johnson, Susan Farquhar and Osaine Reamer.

WW PHOTO: DAVID SOLE



# Immigrants and the origins of May Day

By Stephen Millies

May Day is the international holiday of the working class. It's a public holiday in 110 countries, according to the website of the Nigerian Labor Congress.

Most workers get the day off in South Africa, Nigeria, Mexico, Malaysia, Italy, Haiti, Germany, France, Egypt, Cuba, China, Brazil, North Korea, Bangladesh, Belgium and Argentina—and many other countries. But not in the United States, where May Day was born 120 years ago.

Back in 1886, it was the norm in northern cities like Chicago for workers to put in 60, 70 or more hours a week, while Black workers and farmers in the post-bellum South toiled under conditions only a notch above slavery, held down by the terror of organized lynchings by agents of the huge landowners.

The Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions—soon to be renamed the American Federation of Labor—demanded an eight-hour day. It called for workers to strike on May 1, 1886, to make it a reality.

An estimated 340,000 workers walked out that day from 12,000 factories and other workplaces. Many were immigrants. In New York City 40,000 went on strike. Eleven thousand tramped through Detroit. Six thousand Black and white workers marched together through a segregated park in Louisville, Ky.

Chicago was the heart and soul of this movement. As many as 80,000 workers went on strike there.

The wealthy counterattacked. Six Polish workers were killed in Milwaukee. Chicago cops fired on strikers in front of the McCormick reaper works, killing at least two.

Organizers called a mass meeting in

Chicago's Haymarket Square on May 4 to protest. Police attacked the rally as it was about to disperse. Someone threw a bomb.

Seven police died. The capitalist newspapers and politicians went wild. They didn't care about the workers at this rally who were shot by police. Or that several of the officers were actually killed by other cops.

The bloody episode gave the millionaires the chance to try to destroy the movement for an eight-hour day. Worker organizations and newspapers were raided. Hundreds were arrested.

Eight leaders were brought to trial: Samuel Fielden, Oscar Neebe, Michael Schwab, Louis Lingg, George Engel, Adolf Fischer, August Spies and Albert Parsons.

None of them was accused of throwing the bomb. Only two were even present at Haymarket. Yet they were all charged with murder because they allegedly "incited" the bomber by what they wrote and said.

While these defendants were the best fighters for the eight-hour day, they had a broader vision. They were revolutionaries. They wanted to abolish an economic system where millionaires ruled while millions lived in poverty.

August Spies was editor of the German daily Arbeiter-Zeitung (Workers' Gazette). Albert Parsons edited the biweekly Alarm.

Parsons had been driven out of Waco, Texas, for publishing a newspaper supporting Reconstruction and African-American rights. In Waco he met his partner, Lucy Gonzales Parsons, a woman of color.

The trial of these worker leaders was a legal lynching. A special bailiff who hand-picked the jury bragged, "These fellows are going to be hanged."

While Oscar Neebe was sentenced to 15 years of hard labor, the seven others were condemned to death. Spies told the judge,

"If death is the penalty for proclaiming the truth, then I will proudly and defiantly pay the costly price! Call your hangman!"

An international defense movement tried to save their lives. AFL president Sam Gompers denounced the verdict. Irish writer Oscar Wilde—who a few years later would be railroaded to jail because he was gay—signed an appeal, along with Frederick Engels, the collaborator of Karl Marx. The eldest son of the martyred Abolitionist John Brown supplied fresh grapes to the prisoners every day.

Fielden and Schwab were reprieved the day before their scheduled execution and given life imprisonment instead. Louis Lingg either committed suicide or was murdered in his cell.

On Nov. 11, 1887, Engel, Fischer, Spies and Parsons mounted the gallows in Cook County Jail. Parsons was the only one of these martyrs to have been born in the United States. The other four were immigrant workers from Germany.

As a hood was pulled over the head of Spies, he declared: "There will come a time when our silence will be more powerful than the voices you strangle today."

Parsons proclaimed, "Let the voice of the people be heard ..." as the trap door was sprung.

Cuban revolutionary hero José Martí assailed the executions of these labor leaders in La Nación, a newspaper published in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

In 1893 Illinois Gov. John Peter Altgeld pardoned the remaining Haymarket prisoners.

## May Day is workers' day

The struggle for an eight-hour day didn't end with the executions. The 1888 AFL convention called for strikes and

demonstrations on May 1, 1890.

U.S. workers couldn't win this struggle by themselves. President Samuel Gompers sent a delegate to the founding congress of the Socialist International, which opened in Paris on July 14, 1889.

Among the parties that eventually joined this international were the Bolsheviks, led by V. I. Lenin, which carried out the Russian Revolution in 1917.

The AFL's call for demonstrations was enthusiastically endorsed by this congress. May Day was born. Frederick Engels greeted the half-million who marched in London two days later on May 3, 1890.

While raising two children, Lucy Parsons never gave up struggling. In the 1930s she fought for the Scottsboro defendants, eight young Black men framed on phony rape charges. In 1942 Lucy Parsons died in a suspicious fire. She was 89 years old. The FBI promptly confiscated her 1,500-book library.

The anti-communist witch hunt of the 1950s wiped out the May Day marches that used to be held here.

But this year will be different. Immigrant workers are calling for a "Great American Boycott" on May 1.

It was largely European immigrants who established May Day over a century ago. African Americans—who had their own "Great Migration" to Northern cities—have played a vanguard role in every progressive struggle. Now immigrants from Africa, Asia and the Americas are spearheading the revival of May Day in the country whose multinational working class gave it to the world.

*Millies is an Amtrak signal tower operator and member of District 1402 of the Transportation Communications Union.*

# Immigrant-bashers occupy land stolen from Mexico

By B.J. Sanders

As Congress fights over what anti-immigrant law to impose, and the right wing rails against the powerful new movement demanding legalization of undocumented workers, one question is never addressed by the politicians and pundits: Who does the land of the United States really belong to?

The "founding fathers" and their successors stole the entire country from the Indigenous nations through centuries of war, treachery and genocide. A huge swath of the country was torn from Mexico.

Texas, California, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona and parts of Colorado, Wyoming, Oklahoma and Kansas belonged to the Mexican@ people. The Spanish had first annexed Mexico, killing millions of indigenous people.

Even before the Mexican people won liberation from Spain in 1821, rulers in this country were plotting to take their land, proclaiming with cruel arrogance that it was their manifest destiny to take whatever they wanted.

The United States spread westward, seizing land to expand the slave territories. Proslavery Southerners began settling in Texas. John Ross writes in "The Annexation of Mexico: From the Aztecs to the IMF" that, by 1835, they outnumbered the Mexican population seven to one. Ten years later President John Tyler annexed Texas to the Union. But that wasn't enough.

In 1846, President James Polk provoked a war with Mexico to grab more land. He sent U.S. troops into territory

that he declared the United States suddenly had rights to. When Mexico fought back against the invaders, Polk got Congress to declare war on Mexico.

After nearly two years of brutal slaughter of the Mexican people, the United States took half of Mexico in the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Washington promised to pay Mexico \$15 million for this vast territory, but Ross notes that only about half that amount was ever paid.

## History of profits from immigrant labor

It is bitterly ironic that the right wing in the U.S. is now waging a vicious campaign—from the vigilante Minutemen to proposed legislation that would put up a 700-mile wall along the border—against Mexican@s crossing onto land once owned by their ancestors.

The United States was built on the labor of millions of Africans captured and sold into slavery. The capitalist class grew rich through murder, torture and horrific brutality. The railroads were laid, factories and steel plants run, and crops planted and harvested with the blood and sweat of millions of immigrants from China, Mexico, Europe and Latin America.

The Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroads hired 10,000 Chinese workers and 3,000 Irish laborers to build the first transcontinental railroad. Howard Zinn writes in "A People's History of the United States" that the Union Pacific used 20,000 workers "who laid five miles of track a day and died by the hundreds in the heat, the cold and the battles with

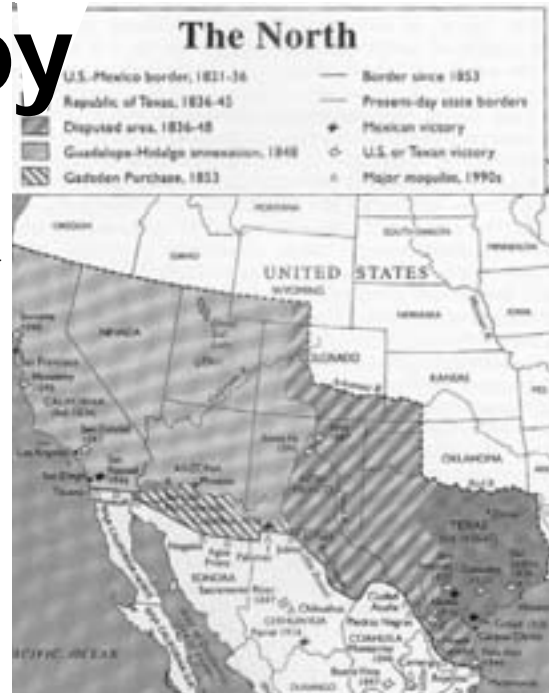
Texas, California, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona and parts of Colorado, Wyoming, Oklahoma and Kansas belonged to the Mexican@ people. The Spanish had first annexed Mexico, killing millions of indigenous people.

Indians opposing the invasion of their territory."

From 1860 to 1880 nearly 200,000 Chinese entered the country, primarily on the West Coast; over the next 20 years, 9 million immigrants arrived in the United States.

The United States portrays itself as a welcoming refuge for immigrants. "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free," proclaims the poem engraved on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty, the ultimate symbol of U.S. beneficence. But the capitalist government in reality has welcomed immigrants only when businesses needed their labor. In the early years of the 20th century, Mexican workers could gain entry into the U.S. for a few cents. In 1942, the U.S. implemented the Bracero Treaty that allowed Mexican@s to immigrate, but only temporarily, to do agricultural work in the fields.

But when their labor has not been needed, the U.S. government has whipped up a racist assault against immigrants. In 1892, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act prohibiting Chinese laborers from entering the country. During the Depression it pressured nearly 500,000 people of Mexican heritage to leave the country.



Many who were born in the United States or had citizenship had to leave in order to avoid being separated from their families. Then, in the early 1950s, the government launched a racist campaign that resulted in the deportation of millions of undocumented Mexican@s.

Now Congress, the Bush administration and corporations are debating how to deal with undocumented immigrants. But hundreds of thousands of people have marched in cities across the country demanding legalization of the 11 million undocumented immigrants.

They know this land does not belong to the politicians and corporations. It belongs to the working people, including immigrants, whose labor is essential to keep every aspect of the country functioning. □

*John Ross's "The Annexation of Mexico: From the Aztecs to the IMF" and Howard Zinn's "A People's History of the United States" can be found at [www.leftbooks.com](http://www.leftbooks.com).*

# Build a Black-Brown alliance for justice and human rights!

*This statement, issued on April 18, was written by Saladin Muhammad of the Black Workers League. The BWL is a political collective engaged in work in the trade union movement, Black political power movement and other social justice movements in North Carolina, parts of the U.S. South and a few other areas throughout the country. For more information, write to BWL, P.O. Box 934, Rocky Mount, NC 27802.*

Hurricane Katrina was a 21st-century snapshot of the genocidal direction of the U.S. government. It exposed the reality of conditions faced by working class African Americans and peoples of color under U.S.-style democracy. It also creates a new sense of urgency to mobilize power outside of the electoral arena to challenge racist and repressive legislation, like HR 4437. There has yet to be a massive upsurge that expresses the deep outrage of the African American masses against the U.S. government for this crime against humanity.

The U.S. government's cutting of funds to repair Gulf Coast levees led to hundreds of avoidable deaths of working class African Americans and poor people and massive destruction of homes, personal belongings and social institutions by the floodwaters of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Now the government wants to enact legislation to allocate funds to construct a 700-mile wall of death along the U.S.-Mexican border and racist policies to keep Mexican and Latin@ workers out and to further marginalize them within the U.S. economy and political system. These are two sides of the same U.S. imperialist system of national oppression.

At the heart of the conditions faced by the African Americans in the Gulf Coast and throughout the Black Belt South is the role that the South has played for centuries as a center for U.S. exploitation; super-exploiting Black labor and squeezing super profits out of every aspect of Black life, leaving little to no resources for health care, education, housing and other infrastructure for addressing human needs. The rapidly growing immigrant Latin@ population in the South also suffers and is oppressed by these long-standing and racist conditions that are further intensified by language and cultural oppression.

The upsurge among Latin@s throughout the U.S. against the criminalization and attacks on undocumented Mexican and Latin@ immigrants, and the political tone of resistance it is setting, must be seen as a direct challenge to the Bush-led government and corporate agenda that left thousands of African Americans to die in the Gulf Coast and that tried to make them the scapegoat for the government's deliberate neglect and failed evacuation. The Reconstruction movement developing in the Gulf Coast and among African Americans nationally must embrace and unite with this mass upsurge as a call to action for all of the oppressed to boldly resist repression and genocide.

Let's be clear. The corporations want to super-exploit immigrant workers. They just don't want to be responsible for paying them the value of their labor or to provide social services and basic democratic rights that enable them to survive and raise their families. They are using anti-immigrant legislation to mask the truth about the massive unemployment and the crises facing U.S. workers and the huge



WW PHOTO: MONICA MOOREHEAD  
Saladin Muhammad at weekend of protests in New Orleans last December.

financial debt of the government that has been caused by corporate bailouts, restructuring and imperialist wars—trying to make immigrants the scapegoats for the crisis. This criminalization is also aimed at creating a xenophobia (hate of foreigners) against the rising tide of change developing throughout Latin and South America that challenges U.S. global policies.

The efforts by the U.S. government and corporate media to divide African Americans and Latin@s are no accident and should not be ignored. They try to make each community feel that it is more deserving than the other of the crumbs and political status given them by the two major political parties and U.S. government. By centering all politics on elections, one community is played against the other by projecting them as voting blocs. Witness the media mantra over the past four years: "The rising number of Latino voters threatens to end both GOP and Democratic courting of the black vote and could push concerns specific to Blacks to the sidelines." (Earl Ofari Hutchinson, Pacific News Service, April 10, 2006)

Yet, the wages of workers of both communities are the lowest; and their institutions and public services are the most neglected by local, state and federal government. The regions where the majorities of African Americans and Latin@s have lived since the founding of the U.S.—the South and Southwest—are where the working class is most economically exploited, politically oppressed, systematically disenfranchised and suffers the most brutal racist treatment. The unity of these two communities would constitute a major political force for human rights and global justice.

U.S. corporations have closed hundreds of plants in the U.S. and moved them to Mexico to exploit cheap labor and have imposed economic policies on the Mexican government, like NAFTA, that has caused massive unemployment for many agricultural workers and small farmers in Mexico. These plant closings have created massive unemployment in the North and Midwest, especially among African American workers, causing the deterioration of major urban inner cities.

This has fostered a reverse migration of many Black workers back to the South since 1970. Both migrations result from U.S. economic oppression in the U.S. and Mexico.

The dispersal of thousands of mainly African Americans throughout the U.S. from the Gulf Coast was a racist act, using the disaster to carry out a form of ethnic cleansing—trying to eliminate the Black majority in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast in the interest of white political rule and corporate profits. The evacuees are experiencing government abuses—forced evictions, voting rights obstacles and racist treatment from FEMA—with no organization or political base from which to resist without the support of activist forces within the African American liberation and progressive social movements in the various cities.

Like with the undocumented immigrant Latin@ workers, the media has criminalized Hurricane Katrina and Rita survivors, labeling them as "rapists," "drug dealers" and "con artists" invading other people's cities and communities. This criminalization is done to take attention off of the government abuses and corporate corruption and to try and justify government repression. African American evacuees from the Gulf Coast have become internal U.S. "immigrants" with an uncertain future.

Forced migration has been part of the reality of oppressed nationalities in the U.S., beginning with the Native Americans, who were forced off their traditional lands, and African Americans, many being forced out of the South where they lived and worked for more than 300 years. The "illegal" label placed on undocumented immigrants by the U.S. government and white supremacists should be rejected in the vocabularies of all oppressed nationalities in particular and all working people in general.

It is important to point out within the African American community the important role played by Mexico in the struggle against slavery. When Mexico won its independence from Spain in 1821, it banned slavery throughout its country. Thousands of runaway slaves went into Mexico to escape slavery. This angered Southern plantation owners and the U.S. government, which declared that white supremacy should be the law of the land—promoting "Manifest Destiny" as its imperialist slogan.

Mexico's opposition to slavery was a factor leading to the U.S. government's military invasion of Mexico in the 1840s and its annexation of one-third of Mexico's country. Even in defeat, Mexico refused to include a provision to return runaway slaves in the peace treaty following the U.S. and Mexican war. African Americans must also support the right of Mexican and Latin@ immigrants to cross the U.S. border without repression and criminalization in search of work and social needs to support their families.

The struggle against the U.S. system of oppression is not a competition between the oppressed to declare themselves as the leaders of the struggle. The initiative from any sector of the oppressed must be seen as an opening for all of the oppressed to come forward and intensify their struggles.

Yes, there must be recognition that these are two independent movements with their own demands and leaderships. However, there must also be a conscious effort to develop an understanding and

practical work to build the political and strategic links and interdependence of these movements as a force for progressive social change throughout the U.S. and for global justice. Workers and oppressed peoples throughout the world have been desperately hoping for such a powerful interconnecting movement to develop inside of the U.S.

Reconstruction in the Gulf Coast must not be just a physical rebuilding project, rebuilding institutions and social relations as they were prior to the disaster. It must be a movement to build people's democratic control of resources, policies and institutions based on self-determination that involves the Black majority and working-class masses in deciding the terms and conditions of their Reconstruction. It must fight for democratic rights and worker protections for undocumented immigrants and must include them in the discussions and mass decision-making processes of the Reconstruction movement in the Gulf Coast and among the dispersed survivors.

This Reconstruction movement in the Gulf Coast must help to point out the need for the complete Reconstruction of the whole of U.S. society and contribute to the building of such a movement. This will help people to better understand the importance of the struggle against racism and for African-American self-determination in bringing this about.

This Reconstruction movement must draw on one of the most progressive periods in U.S. history—the African American and white progressive-led Reconstruction era in the South after the Civil War. These governments were the first to assure free public education for all people, gave women the vote and built public institutions that were open to all without discrimination.

As the two largest and super-exploited nationally oppressed communities inside the U.S., the fate of African Americans and Latin@s are connected, especially under a system that is rapidly eliminating democratic rights and labeling all peoples of color as potential "terrorists." Black and Brown unity will help to expose the deeply racist nature of U.S. democracy and raise the bar of the struggle against racism among those who really want radical change.

The call for a May 1 national boycott of jobs, businesses and schools is a protest against the U.S. government's repressing of people's human rights and needs and relegating them to racism and corporate greed. It is a call to action for people to boldly challenge a government that criminalizes people for trying to work to support their families, that would leave its people to die in the Gulf Coast, and that spends billions for wars to kill and dominate the world.

May 1—"May Day"—is celebrated by millions of workers throughout the world to express the need for worker solidarity in the struggles for workers' rights and human rights. It began based on a struggle by U.S. workers in the 1880s for the eight-hour day and in opposition to government repression against the labor movement. The May 1 Boycott must also be a mobilization that calls for a major campaign to build Black and Brown unity as an anchor for the unity of people of color and workers in struggling for human rights and global justice.

Boycott against immigrant repression and for Gulf Coast Reconstruction! □



# 'Stop anti-immigrant bills!'

Thousands of people marched through the Mission District of San Francisco to the Federal Building on April 23 as part of a Bay Area Day of Action for Immigrant Rights. Organized by immigrant groups and their supporters, the protest was called to "Stop anti-immigrant bills in Congress." Signs throughout the crowd called for the legalization of all immigrants.

The Bay Area Day of Action was organized by the Bay Area Immigrant Rights Coalition, *Deporten a la Migra* (Deport the Migra) coalition and many other progressive organizations from the area. A larger protest is being planned for May 1, a national day of boycott and protest for the rights of immigrants. The recently formed May 1 Coalition, comprised of immigrant rights groups, unions, churches, student groups and community organizations from Northern California, has



called for a march and rally on May 1 beginning at 11 a.m. at Embarcadero and Market streets and ending at the Civic Center Plaza. For more information, contact the May 1 Coalition at (510) 776-8020.

—Story & photo by Judy Greenspan

## Immigrants are scapegoated

We are told that immigrants are taking away jobs from American workers, that they undercut wages. They are blamed for unemployment and are accused of coming to the U.S. to get rich and use our social services.

All the preceding are lies and/or distortions of the truth.

Who is responsible for the large influx of immigrants from Mexico and other countries south of the border?

After U.S. corporations plunder the natural resources and wealth from their countries, the people are left jobless, destitute and starving. They risk their lives to cross the border into the U.S., not seeking riches but only for the survival of themselves and their families.

The blame belongs to the employers and a system in which a handful of people, protected by governments, exploit the vast majority of people around the world.

Another lie is that immigrants downgrade wages. The reality is that the employers, competing among themselves, downgrade and undercut wages to greedily

increase their profits. The immigrant must accept any wage just to stay alive. Immigrants do work that, in most cases, the non-immigrant worker will not accept at the low wages offered. We must not believe the lie that immigrants undercut wages.

The solution against declining wages is for immigrants to become part of a united workers' movement.

When this happens, the employers will not be able to drive down wages. The benefits of unionization will be for all workers, non-immigrants as well as immigrants.

That immigrants are sponging on the taxes paid by non-immigrants is a lie. The reality is that immigrants, collectively, pay more than their share of taxes for the limited social services, education and/or health benefits they receive.

Divide and rule is a tactic of the ruling elite governments. Corporate America's propaganda against immigrants is a divisive strategy

Aaron A. Moss, DDS, PhD



## MAY DAY

### Immigrant struggle lifts up all workers

Continued from page 1

tually all programs that provide the support and services people most need—have been drastically cut or eliminated.

In the private sector, there are massive layoffs and a corporate offensive to cut pensions and health care, even in unionized jobs. A close look at health care alone highlights the critical situation for the masses in the U.S. A recent study by the Commonwealth Fund, a private health-care policy foundation, found that in just four years the proportion of people lacking health care coverage soared—from 28 percent in 2001 to 41 percent in 2005.

According to Karen Davis, president of the Fund, "The jump in uninsured among those with modest incomes is alarming, particularly at a time when our economy has been improving. If we don't act soon to expand coverage to the uninsured, the health of the U.S. population, the productivity of our workforce, and our economy are at risk."

Immigrants aren't responsible for any of this. Capitalism is.

At a slower pace and not as extreme, the cutbacks and layoffs here are creating conditions similar to those that have driven the immigrants to leave their own countries in search of work. Their homelands have suffered under financial demands imposed by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, which work in the interests of U.S. corporations.

The immigrant workers' struggle is also an antiwar struggle. Immigrants are well aware of the economic war that Washington has launched against their countries, aided at times by the Pentagon—as in Plan Colombia, which gives U.S. military and economic aid to a regime that allows death squads to crush unions. While the economic penetration is mostly carried out through so-called "free

trade agreements," they are accompanied by the buildup of U.S. military bases throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. And economic strangulation can also be an act of war, like the sanctions were in Iraq.

Millions of undocumented Mexicans have had to cross the border because the devastating and genocidal NAFTA trade agreement, which Mexico was pressured to sign by the U.S., bankrupted its farmers.

Their fight is not only for recognition and respect for their own rights, but for each and every working person here who is under attack by greedy corporations that wage war at home and abroad to meet their insatiable thirst for profits. What workers won in past struggles is being taken away.

The undocumented workers who participate in the May Day Boycott are especially courageous, and their action will strengthen the entire working class in the United States. As Roger Toussaint, president of the transit workers' union in New York City and himself an immigrant worker from Trinidad & Tobago, said to a rally before he was jailed for leading the transit strike, "You have to take risks in order to win."

Our undocumented brothers and sisters are taking that risk. The workers' movement, the anti-war movement and progressives in general should strive to support their efforts in every way possible—for it will benefit all. Their struggle is our struggle. They are part of the working class here, not outside of it, and they are the most exploited part.

By raising the banner of mass struggle and taking a path independent of both Republicans and Democrats, they are setting a tone of resistance, challenge and defiance that is so needed to show the true power of the workers and end this long period of retreat. □

## Immigration blues



Taken from an April 2 commentary.

Now, as polls show growing disenchantment with both political parties, the issue of immigration is raised once again, as politicians seek to stir the pot of social resentment.

Voices are raised, tempers are frayed, proposals are launched, and the destinies of millions are apparently held in limbo.

But, in numbers not seen for generations, mostly Mexican-born (or related) families pound the pavements in protest, demanding amnesty for the millions who live and work, in the most thankless jobs, here in the U.S.

The immigration "discussion" masks deeper currents in American life, of those who dread the approaching dawn when those who number the nation's majority are brown, instead of white.

As the government and the servile corporate media hawked fear to trap the nation into the Iraq War, so now fear is once again merchandised for political gain. The perpetual fear of the foreign other, the fear of Spanish-speaking people, who are called "criminal" for daring to cross the Rio Grande, to inhabit the lands stolen from their ancestors!

The truth of the matter is that it is highly unlikely that over 11 million men, women and children will be returned to Mexican territory. That's because businesses, especially those engaged in agriculture, would virtually go out of business if their immigrant-based workforce up and disappeared.

But, like most people, many Latin@ immigrants are involved in other businesses and industries in U.S. life. Guess who's doing the lion's share of the work to actually rebuild New Orleans? (In case you've not guessed, let me just say it—It ain't FEMA!)

With the exception of Native Americans (as in so-called "Indians"), and African Americans, every person in the U.S. today is a descendant of a willing immigrant. (OK, strict historians will object that many poor whites, especially in the Southern states, were sent to Prince George, Maryland, as indentured servants, as part of a penal sentence.)

But the point is clear. Immigration was consciously used to craft the U.S. as a white nation. For centuries, certain racial groups, like Chinese, for example, were specifically excluded by law from citizenship. (Like their Mexican counterparts, many Asians were needed in the building of this country as cheap labor.)

As law professor Ian F. Haney-Lopez has shown in his book, "White by Law: The Legal Construction of Race" (N.Y.:NYU Press, 1996), American courts and legislatures have consistently defined "citizens" as "whites" and, over the course of centuries, millions of people were denied entry to the U.S., or even if allowed in were denied citizenship, because they were not "white." In 1882, Haney-Lopez explains, the U.S. Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, which barred Chinese workers for a decade. In 1884, the Act was expanded to bar all Chinese people, and shortly thereafter an indefinite ban was implemented. State and federal court decisions banned Syrians, Asian-Indians, Palestinians, mixed-race people and multitudes of others on the basis of insufficient whiteness!

That ugly history may be reborn in this latest "battle" over Mexican immigration. Political storms have a way of giving way to political hurricanes that even those who planned them cannot control.

Several years ago, a right-wing politician in California tried to ride the anti-immigrant train to the White House. This man was Pete Wilson, and his playing with fire left him politically burnt. Angry Hispanics in California sent him, and some of his colleagues in the Republican Party, into retirement.

But this era of politicians, trying to create an issue that protects them from the falling numbers of the incumbent Bush Administration, look at Wilson's fate as ancient history.

Perhaps the recent demonstrations, massive in their size, vociferous in their spirit, have given them pause.

Time will tell.

The political entity that truly befriends this growing segment of the U.S. population will have tapped into a powerful social force.

Don't expect it to be either the Republicans or the Democrats.

Go to [prisonradio.org](http://prisonradio.org) to hear Mumia's audio commentaries.

# Six Nations fight for their lands in Canada

By Stephanie Hedgecote and Mahtowin

A seven-week Native occupation of reclaimed lands in Caledonia, Ont., was attacked at 4:30 a.m. on April 20 by the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

During the invasion, according to Native sources, the OPP and RCMP used pepper spray, kicks and punches, attempting to terrorize the unarmed Haudenosaunee (Six Nations/Iroquois) protesters, many of whom were women and their children. The protesters fought back with every means at their disposal and were able to repel the police attack.

In response to the initial attack, hundreds of reinforcements arrived to join the initial protesters and blocked a highway.

On March 3, Rotinoshon'non:we (Haudenosaunee or Iroquois) people had set up camp on a piece of land near Caledonia known as the "Halimand Tract" to protest the illegal giveaway by the Canadian government of Six Nations land for a large suburban housing development. This land was stolen from the Six

Nations in 1841, in violation of all Canadian laws affecting First Nations. Caledonia is close to the Six Nations of Grand River Reserve.

The OPP and the Ontario provincial government have responded to the Haudenosaunee encampment with incursions, arrests and brutality against the peaceful occupation of unarmed Indigenous people. Threats by the OPP have continued for weeks, accompanied by a build-up of repressive force.

The OPP and RCMP made 16 arrests in the April 20 raid. But lawyer Chris Reid says, "Not only did they not shut down the protest, but it's grown larger and stronger. They feel vindicated, that they've done the right thing." Reid said his clients face mischief and assault charges.

Many Native people and supporters have called upon the provincial and federal governments to avoid another "Ipperwash." In 1995, an unarmed Anishnabe protester, Dudley George, was killed by an OPP sniper at a land occupation at Ipperwash Provincial Park, Ont.

His brother, Sam George, spoke out recently on the land issue at a press con-

ference in Toronto. "Our land is disappearing too fast. We feel like if we don't take a stand and the government doesn't wake up, pretty soon we're not going to have what we have."

## Support rolls across Canada

Once again, the tinderbox that is Canada has begun to ignite as a result of the Native struggle for land and sovereignty. Once again, Native peoples and their supporters have shown that they will stand as one in a crisis.

Numerous support protests have broken out in support of the cause. Mohawks from the Akwesasne Reserve protested near a Canada-U.S. border crossing with picket signs. Support from passing motorists was reported.

Mohawks from the Tyendinaga Reserve near Marysville, east of Toronto, blockaded a road with old school buses and bonfires. The blockade held up freight and passenger trains and the Canadian National Railway obtained a court injunction to bring force down upon the protesters.

Tyendinaga Mohawk spokesperson

Shawn Brant said about 30 Mohawks would maintain the bonfires near Marysville, Ont., "until proper, dignified and respectful talks" are held to resolve the Caledonia dispute.

On April 21, Mohawks of Kahnawake stopped traffic on the Mercier Bridge, near Montreal. This bridge was also a focal point of a crisis in 1990.

Trade unions and other organizations in Canada, including the Canadian Auto Workers and the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, have condemned the OPP attacks at Caledonia and have called upon the government to negotiate and reach an equitable solution to the land claim issue with the Haudenosaunee.

For the time being, the OPP has been forced to stand down at Caledonia, but protesters and their supporters remain vigilant, as a force of more than 1,000 OPP, RCMP and Canadian Army troops has been reported in the area.

Sources include BBC, canoe.com, The Globe and Mail, the Toronto Star, WBAI's Indigenous First Voices and Mohawk Nation News (based in Kahnawake).

## 'Divine Strake'

# Pentagon end-run around nuke test ban

By Leslie Feinberg

"Divine Strake"—the strange name for a scheduled test blast of 700 tons of explosives on Western Shoshone land on June 2—is nothing but a Pentagon end-run around the ban on nuclear weapons testing. It is scheduled at a time when a wing of the U.S. military and political establishment is considering the use of a new generation of tactical nuclear "bunker-busters" that they hope can drill far deeper underground into case-hardened facilities.

Investigative journalist Seymour Hersh reported in the April 17 edition of the New Yorker magazine that the Pentagon brass are arguing about whether or not to drop such a "bunker-buster" bomb on Iran's main centrifuge plant at Natanz, some 200 miles south of Tehran.

The Federation of American Scientists announced on April 3 that Divine Strake "was designed to simulate the effects of just such a bomb."

This use of conventional explosives to test capabilities for a tactical nuclear strike is a mighty rattling of Pentagon sabers. Washington proved its willingness to do the unthinkable when it dropped atomic bombs on the civilian population of Hiroshima and Nagasaki—the only country to ever detonate these powerful weapons—in an attempt to exert the military, economic and political hegemony of U.S. finance capital over the planet.

Today, as resistance to the imperialist empire mounts—from Baghdad to Caracas, from Pyongyang to Tehran—Washington is seeking to develop even more weapons of mass destruction.

The National Strategic Gaming Center of the National Defense University (NDU) at Fort McNair—which trains senior

Pentagon officers—is planning an "exercise" targeting Iran's nuclear energy capabilities on July 18, six weeks after Divine Strake.

The Divine Strake test blast "could be a move to threaten Iran, North Korea or any other regimes that the United States is not pleased with," concluded Anatoly Tsiganok, head of Russia's Center for Military Forecasting. He added that Divine Strake test could also be regarded as an attempt to demonstrate U.S. military superiority over Russia and China. (Novosti, March 31)

## Quarrel over tactics, not strategy

Federal officials and the U.S. corporate media continue to repeat Washington's assertions that the humongous explosion scheduled for June 2 is not another step towards what would be an illegal renewal of nuclear weapons testing. That's a hard promise to swallow.

"The test is aimed at determining how well a massive conventional bomb would perform against fortified underground targets," stated the March 31 Washington Post.

But according to the April 11 Las Vegas Sun, "Critics are scoffing at the Bush administration's claims" that Divine Strake "is unrelated to the effort to build a nuclear bunker-buster."

Divine Strake would detonate 700 tons of heavy ammonium nitrate saturated with fuel oil emulsion—the equivalent explosive power of 593 tons of TNT. The test would be the largest controlled conventional blast in military history and the biggest overall weapons test since the Cold War. Its explosion would create a 10,000-foot mushroom cloud and shake the surrounding earth at roughly 3.1 to 3.4 on the Richter scale while gouging a 36-foot-deep crater.

To grasp its sheer destructive capabilities, the resulting explosion would be some 280 times bigger than the one that gutted the Federal Building in Oklahoma City in 1995.

Divine Strake is not a step towards a new conventional weapon. The most gigantic and powerful conventional weapon in the Pentagon arsenal is MOAB—short for "Massive Ordnance Air Blast"—which weighs in at 21,000 pounds, far less than the 700 tons of explosive material to be gathered together and blown up on June 2. The B-2, with its immense bomb bay, can only carry a weapon of some 40 tons.

The Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)—a euphemistically named Pentagon combat support agency—openly stated in its budget for the fiscal year 2007 that Divine Strake would "develop a planning tool that will improve the war-fighter's confidence in selecting the smaller proper nuclear yield necessary to destroy underground facilities while minimizing collateral damage."

Then on April 10, DTRA officials did an about-face, claiming that the description about the "smaller proper nuclear yield" has changed. Divine Strake is now only a test for conventional weapons, they maintained.

The disagreement in the Pentagon over what has been characterized as the "Rumsfeld" hard-line strategy is not a dispute between doves and hawks. Both wings of this buzzard are in a dispute over which tactics will be most effective to maintain world hegemony.

## Western Shoshone call for resistance

Divine Strake also shows utter contempt and disregard for the Western Shoshone.

The DTRA claims that "No adverse impact on the environment or health of exercise participants or local residents is anticipated."

The Western Shoshone vehemently disagree. At stake is the land, water and air that sustains them, as well as their sovereignty, self-determination and treaty rights.

Official figures released by the Centers for Disease Control show that at least 15,000 people died as a result of nuclear testing at the same U.S. military site between 1945 and 1992.

With the Pentagon pressing for the June 2 test, the Nevada environmental group Citizen Alert has sent a letter to the departments of Defense and Energy charging that the 700-ton explosion risks spewing surface radioactive contamination from past bomb tests into the air. The blast site is also less than 90 miles northwest of urban Las Vegas.

The U.S. military has conducted 1,050 tests of nuclear weapons in the Marshall Islands and in Nevada, Utah, Mississippi and other states since 1945. The last underground test was in 1992; the last atmospheric detonation was in 1963.

Sounding like a Dr. Strangelove, DTRA head James Tegnalia boasted to the French Press Agency March 30, "I don't want to sound glib here but it is the first time in Nevada that you'll see a mushroom cloud over Las Vegas since we stopped testing nuclear weapons." He said that "Divine Strake" would be the "largest single explosive that we could imagine."

A Western Shoshone delegation traveled to Geneva in March to win support from the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). On March 10, CERD officials publicly called on Washington to "freeze," "desist" and "stop" the threat to carry out its weapons testing on Western Shoshone land and its attempts to build a high-level nuclear waste dump at Yucca Mountain.

"Our people were forcibly removed from their homes at the Nevada Test Site where the Western Shoshone had lived for thousands of years, without being told that our lands would be used for testing of nuclear weapons," stated Thomas Wasson, chair of the Winnemucca Indian Colony. "After destroying our lands and causing untold death and human misery with their radiation, the U.S. government now wants to do the same thing again. They must be stopped, for the good of the Western Shoshone and all people." (desertnews.com, April 23)

lfeinberg@workers.org

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## No excuse for it

# Israel tries to starve out Palestinians

By Joyce Chediak

The Tel Aviv government says that, because Hamas has a majority in the Palestinian Authority (PA), Israel has no choice but to “act unilaterally” and can “have nothing to do” with the PA. Don’t be fooled. The Hamas electoral sweep is not the reason for the latest Israeli belligerence toward the Palestinian people. It is just the latest excuse.

“Unilateral actions” by Israel against the Palestinian people are not new. These actions began a decade ago and intensified when the Palestinian Intifada began in 2000. What Israel calls “unilateral actions” are acts of war. This war against the Palestinian people has continued, no matter which group had a majority in the Palestinian Authority or who led the PA.

Israel’s latest cries of outrage concern the refusal of many in the PA to condemn an April 17 suicide bombing in Tel Aviv claimed by the Islamic Jihad. In a twist of logic, Israel says it is holding the PA responsible for the bombing, even though Islamic Jihad is not part of the Palestinian government. Atef Adwan, a Hamas minister in the PA’s cabinet, called this a “pretext to act against the Palestinian institutions and act against the people of Palestine.”

Israel is a settler state, built on the very bones of Palestinians. Israel has never recognized Palestine’s right to exist or the Palestinian people’s right to sovereignty and independence. Yet Israel is refusing to talk to the Hamas-dominated PA because Hamas does not “recognize Israel’s right to exist.” This too is a pretext.

Yassir Arafat, who headed the PA until his death in 2004, signed the Camp David Accords in 1993, recognizing “the right of the state of Israel to exist” in exchange for Israel recognizing “the Palestine Liberation Organization as the representative of the Palestinian people.” Yet the Israeli government soon refused to talk to Arafat and actually held him prisoner in his

Ramallah headquarters for the last three years of his life, repeatedly bombing that building.

During that period, Israel began an unprecedented assault on Palestinian civilians, leaders, businesses and the PA infrastructure itself, attempting to thwart any and all forms of Palestinian sovereignty. Between September 2000 and March 2004 alone, economic losses due to Israeli bombings, border closings, curfews, arbitrary arrests and delays at the hundreds of Israeli checkpoints forced 69 percent of Palestinian firms to shut down or reduce production, resulting in a 51 percent reduction in the GNP. Today, 75 percent of Palestinians live in poverty, trying to survive on less than \$2 a day, according

to the Palestine Monitor.

Now, citing Hamas’s presence in the PA as its excuse, Tel Aviv is refusing to give to the Palestinian Authority the roughly \$50 million Israel collects monthly in tariffs on goods imported by Palestinians.

The Bush administration and the European Union are joining this effort to strangle the Palestinian people by withholding funds that amount to some \$600 million a year.

The result is that the Palestinian Authority cannot pay the salaries of its 164,000 employees.

Hamas has called this a “silent genocide against millions of men, women and children” in the occupied Palestinian territories, “and a punishment of the Palestinian

people for electing Hamas.”

This war on the Palestinians would not be possible without Washington’s support. While pretending to be “even-handed,” the Bush administration bankrolls the killing of Palestinians and the strangling of their economy by giving Israel \$5 billion a year and supplying it with the latest U.S. weapons.

Despite the latest state terror directed against them, the people of Palestine remain determined to continue their struggle for self-determination, sovereignty and independence. Their heroic and difficult struggle deserves worldwide support. Progressives here can give strategic assistance to this just fight by demanding that the U.S. stop all aid to Israel. □

## Facts on the ground

The Israeli government disregarded the Palestinian Authority and attacked the Palestinian people and infrastructure long before Hamas was an electoral majority in the PA. Here are some statistics on the attacks from September 2000 to March 2004, gathered by the Palestine Monitor.

**Deaths and injuries:** 2,859 Palestinians killed, 19 percent of them children; more than 41,000 have been injured and 2,500 permanently disabled.

**Attacks on medical personnel and services:** 25 medical personnel were killed while on duty, 425 injured and 121 ambulances attacked and damaged. Palestine Medical Committee ambulances were denied access at roadblocks 991 times. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, 129 sick Palestinians actually died at roadblocks, denied access to treatment. Hospitals and clinics were attacked and damaged 291 times and 71 emergency personnel and volunteers arrested.

**Checkpoints:** 120 Israeli checkpoints

in the West Bank and Gaza divide the West Bank into 300 separate clusters and the Gaza Strip into three separate clusters. The West Bank was held under severe internal closure 66 percent of the days, and partial internal closure 34 percent of the days; Gaza 94 percent of the days. Closure causes water and gas shortages and other humanitarian problems.

**Arrests and detentions:** Since March 2002, 15,000 Palestinians have been detained, 6,000 of whom remain imprisoned; 1,700 have neither been tried nor had charges brought against them. Some 350 Palestinian children are incarcerated, 30 without being charged. Many of the prisoners are subjected to torture and don’t receive adequate medical attention.

**Property damage:** More than \$666 million (U.S.) in Palestinian residential property was destroyed or looted; 720 homes destroyed by selling and demolition, and 11,553 damaged, affecting 73,600 people; 34,606 olive and fruit

trees were uprooted, 1162.4 dunums of land confiscated and 14,339 dunums of land bulldozed or burned. (A dunum equals one-quarter acre.)

**Economic conditions:** Total income losses were estimated at between \$3.2 billion to \$10 billion. This does not include the cost of the destruction of public and private property. Total income lost in wages was \$59.4 million. Unemployment in Gaza was 67 percent, in West Bank 48 percent. Israel prevented 125,000 Palestinians from going to work.

**The wall:** The border between Israel and the West Bank is 230 miles, but the 15-foot concrete wall now being built will be double that length, snaking through the West Bank, separating and strangling Palestinian communities. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Human Affairs Director David Shearer said the establishment of the wall has led to the confiscation of 35,000 dunums of West Bank land so far. —J. Chediak

## Seminar in Spain charges:

# U.S. occupiers complicit in Iraq murders

By John Catalinotto  
Madrid, Spain

Representatives from anti-war groups in eight countries met here the weekend of April 21 to 23 to discuss a grim emergency: the assassinations and disappearances of hundreds of Iraqi scientists, doctors, teachers and other intellectuals under the U.S.-UK occupation. They heard firsthand the plight of Iraqi academics and medical professionals who struggle to live amid constant threats, physical violence, kidnappings and the operation of death squads.

Academic officials and trade union leaders in the Spanish state also spoke out at a seminar against the U.S. occupation. Evidence was presented that the U.S. occupation is responsible for the suffering of the Iraqi people, including the assassinations, and that the U.S. has the motive and means for carrying them out.

The main callers of the conference were this country’s Statewide Campaign to End the Occupation and restore the Sovereignty of Iraq (CEOSI), the BRussels Tribunal from Belgium and the International Action Center from the United States. Other groups from Germany, Sweden, Britain and Portugal, which had been active in the World Tribunal on Iraq,

also contributed to the discussions.

CEOSI and the BRussels Tribunal have documented the killings of 220 health professionals and 190 academics in Iraq. They say the occupation planned or at the minimum allowed these killings to take place. Such destruction of the intellectual capital of the country threatens to destroy Iraqi society, eliminating its future just as the pillage of its museums eliminated its past.

The discussions were carried out within the framework of the conclusions of the World Tribunal on Iraq, which last June in Istanbul found the U.S. guilty of war crimes for its invasion and sided with the Iraqis’ right to resist the occupation, including by armed struggle.

Iraqi speakers included Eman Khamas, a journalist, author and former director of the group Occupation Watch in Baghdad; Professor Ali, a teacher of molecular genetics at the University of Baghdad, and Dr. Sami, a surgeon at the Hospital for Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery at Baghdad’s General University Hospital. All three held the occupation responsible for the crimes being committed against the Iraqi people.

Khamas had just finished a six-week tour of the United States. She made a strong point that the U.S. was still actively carrying on a war against the Iraqi people. “Bush said on May 1, 2003, that the war

was over. He lied. The U.S. has continued the war against the Iraqi people. Cities, hospitals, schools are still being bombed.” She said that even when schools are functioning, they are often closed for security reasons—such as when the National Assembly is meeting. Khamas pointed out that up to 300,000 Iraqis have been killed since the invasion of March 20, 2003.

She raised the question of security under the occupation. “Many women,” said Khamas, “don’t go to school or college because they are afraid.” Meanwhile, political events that are made much of in the U.S. media and by politicians in Washington “are completely irrelevant to the ordinary Iraqi people.”

### ‘Hell on Mesopotamia’

Professor Ali, a scientist, was held in prison for months under suspicion of working on weapons of mass destruction—which turned out not to exist. He was held in the same prison as high-level politicians of the Baathist regime. He called the occupation “hell on Mesopotamia, where chaotic disorder and organized crime flourish.”

Dr. Sami had been threatened with death and fired at while in his office. He had received all his education free from the Iraqi government, including post-doctoral

training, and noted that since 1990 the U.S. has targeted the education and health systems in Iraq while “before 1991 the entire educational system was free for Iraqis.”

The general tone of the seminar was that nothing good could come from the occupation, that it should end as soon as possible, and that the Iraqi people have the right to drive out the foreign troops.

Participants from Spanish universities included Carlos Varea of CEOSI, who had been in Iraq during the war in 2003 as an observer, Prof. Pedro Martinez Montavez, who pointed out that Iraqi society had never before the occupation been split in a sectarian way as it is now, and Rosa Regas, general director of the National Library, who noted that if terrorism were measured by the number of civilians killed, then Bush would be the number one terrorist.

The meeting was held in the Julian Besteiro School, an extensive training school for trade union organizers and cadres. Many trade unionists participated in the discussion, including Manuel Bonmati, in charge of international relations for the UGT union confederation.

International speakers in the seminar discussion included Joachim Guilliard from the German Iraq Committee, Manuel

*Continued on page 14*

# Haitian president-elect turns to Cuba, Venezuela

By G. Dunkel

It has been more than two years since Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was elected with the overwhelming support of the people, was forced out of the country by U.S. officials and a right-wing "de facto" government was installed. Haitians are now waiting to see if their choice in the first election since then, President-elect René Préal, will be seated on May 14 as promised.

Conditions in this impoverished country have only grown worse since the "coup-napping."

Because they had not been paid for five months, and are expected to work without gloves, brooms, buckets and other supplies, the support staff of the Hospital of the State University of Haiti (HUEH) went on strike April 7. Doctors, nurses and other medical personnel followed a few days later, unable to work in the unsanitary conditions produced as blood, wastes and all kinds of debris piled up throughout the HUEH, the main public hospital in Port-au-Prince.

Workers at other public hospitals throughout the country—in Cap-Haitien, Gonaïves, Jacmel and Cayes—have also walked out. Some haven't been paid for seven months. In some areas outside Port-au-Prince, local authorities came to an agreement with the strikers, who then went back to work.

But the agreements were broken, so the strikers went out again, even angrier. Observers say this attack on public health care may be one way that the de facto gov-

ernment is putting pressure on Préal. It wants to enmesh him in big problems from day one.

Electricity and water are also sporadic in Port-au-Prince, with some poor neighborhoods nearly completely deprived.

The public health crisis in Haiti made a visit by Préal to Cuba from April 14 to 19 particularly important. As Préal told the media there, Cuban doctors "have held more than 8 million office visits and done more than 100,000 operations. In Haiti, we say after God comes Cuban doctors."

He also held warm talks with Cuban President Fidel Castro on a range of subjects from economic development to electric generation and education. Cuba has a major program to train Haitian doctors. Some 120 Haitians have already graduated from medical school there and 600 are enrolled. Besides the normal quota of Haitian business leaders in his entourage, Préal also brought Haitians who needed medical care. He himself extended his visit to get a hernia operation.

Préal's next visit before his inauguration will be to Venezuela. The current authorities in Haiti, who are hand-picked by imperialism, turned down Venezuela's offer to join Petrocaribe, a program run by Venezuela to provide cheap gasoline to poor Caribbean countries. They say it's because they don't have a government-owned distribution center and don't want to build one in competition with Haitian businesses. Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez, in his weekly television broadcast on April 23, announced Préal's visit and said Venezuela would donate a distribu-

tion center to Haiti after it joins Petrocaribe, some time after the inauguration.

A major reason why so many cities and towns in Haiti don't have electricity is that they don't have the money to buy fuel to run their generators.

Runoff elections for parliament were held on April 23. They came off without the contention that marked the February election for president. However, thousands of people with valid voter cards were turned away from polling stations where they had voted in February. They were told to check the Internet for places where they could vote—an onerous task for poor people without computers who get only a few hours of electricity a week.

While the de-facto government says it doesn't have the money needed to run hospitals, generate electricity and provide clean water, it got millions of dollars from "donor countries" to run elections and create photo IDs for those registering.

The United States and Canada, the two countries with the biggest "aid" programs in Haiti, don't just deny Haiti the economic aid it deserves.

Jeb Sprague, a freelance journalist writing for *Haiti-Progress* (April 12 to 18), charges that "In the years leading up to Haiti's 2006 presidential and legislative elections, ... the International Republican Institute (IRI) helped form and coach three coalitions of right-wing and social-democratic parties, which were all partisans of the Feb. 29, 2004, coup d'état against President Jean-Bertrand Aristide."

IRI is an international agency of the U.S. Republican Party that gets its fund-

ing from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), whose funds in turn come from the U.S. Congress, with a mandate "to promote democracy throughout the world."

IRI charged Fanmi Lavalas, Aristide's party, with not being "democratic." But it guided some FL breakaways into the Movement for the Installation of Democracy in Haiti (MIDH), whose candidate for president was former World Bank official Marc Bazin. Bazin received only got 0.68 percent of the Feb. 7 vote.

Washington has been pushing Bazin as Haiti's leader for a long time. In 1990, when Aristide was elected for the first time, the *New York Times* predicted Bazin would defeat him because only the poor, who "don't vote," were for Aristide. Bazin got 14 percent of that vote.

IRI and USAID even went so far as to assist a "socialist" coalition to contest the recent vote. Most of the candidates for this "socialist" coalition had supported the coup against Aristide and in reality represent the left wing of the Haitian bourgeoisie.

Préal's party, Lespwa, did not take any IRI or USAID money. His election was assured only after tens of thousands of Haitians came out into the streets and demanded that their votes be counted and respected.

The Haitian people are going to support Préal as long as they see him trying to resolve the huge problems affecting their country. The help he gets from Cuba and Venezuela will be a key element in this struggle to improve the condition of the Haitian people. □

## May 20 marches to demand

# 'U.S. hands off Cuba, Venezuela'

By Cheryl LaBash

Anti-war demonstrators and immigrant rights marchers should add May 20 to their calendars. They can bring their struggles together on that day in Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles at demonstrations to demand "U.S. hands off Cuba and Venezuela."

Working together, these two countries of Latin America are providing advanced medical care, not only to the citizens of their own countries, but to all who need it. Together, they have restored vision to tens of thousands and brought basic health care and immunization to villages from Haiti to Ghana. Together, they are lifting the cloud of illiteracy, helping young and old alike to participate more fully in their societies.

This human development aid is offered free, without debt or conditions.

At a time when so many young people in the U.S. graduate from universities burdened by a lifetime of debt for school loans, 100 students from this country are studying medicine in Cuba on full scholarships—which include tuition, books, room and board. Four hundred scholarships are still available.

In the United States, the Venezuelan national oil company, CITGO, was the only oil company to respond when home heating oil prices spiked after Hurricane Katrina. CITGO currently provides discounted fuel in cold weather states from Maine to Illinois.

Cuba and Venezuela both offered immediate aid to the Gulf states after the

hurricane. Cuba mobilized 1,586 doctors and 36 tons of supplies. Washington turned their offers away, condemning many poor Gulf Coast residents, most of them Black, to unnecessary death and suffering.

### Targets of U.S. aggression

Cuba and Venezuela are beacons of hope for the poorest people throughout Latin America and in the United States. At the same time, they are targets of overt and covert U.S. military and economic aggression.

The unsuccessful CIA-backed coup attempt against Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez in April 2002 and the 45-year-long U.S. economic blockade of the island of Cuba are the most infamous examples.

The May 20 demonstration in Washington, D.C., will march past the office of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED). In its "Review of U.S. Policy Toward Venezuela," the U.S. Department of State admits that NED "and other U.S. assistance programs provided training, institution building, and other support to individuals and organizations understood to be actively involved in the brief ouster of the Chávez government."

The coup attempt was followed by a 10-week oil production boycott organized by the Venezuelan equivalent of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. By choking off oil revenues, these bosses attempted to undermine and stop the Bolivarian programs that are uplifting the poorest Venezuelans. But in the next attempt to stop the Chávez leadership—a recall ref-

erendum in August 2004—a massive turnout of voters overwhelmingly supported their president at the polls.

### Struggle of Bolívar still lives

The present-day machinations against Venezuela and Cuba are a continuation of the 1823 Monroe Doctrine defining the Western Hemisphere as the United States' "sphere of interest."

During that same era, the Spanish colonizers were defeated in this hemisphere—not by the U.S. but by the great liberator Simón Bolívar, who led the struggles to create republics in Colombia, Venezuela, Peru and Bolivia.

The Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela today not only takes its name from this independence fighter but continues the struggle to unite and liberate the Americas.

Today Cuba and Venezuela represent a continent-wide movement to break away from the hardships and unemployment created by neoliberal free-trade agreements like NAFTA and the harsh demands of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. This economic suffering—combined with the bloody U.S.-trained military dictatorships that have suppressed Caribbean, Central and South American workers and peasants—gave rise to northward emigration.

Now some of these same women and men are marching in the streets of the U.S., rightfully demanding full rights for immigrant workers.

The date of the May 20 demonstrations in Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles is

itself significant.

The U.S. wrested control of Cuba from Spain on May 20, 1902. As a condition of nominal independence, Cuba was forced to include the Platt Amendment in its constitution, allowing the U.S. the right to intervene at will and to lease Guantanamo Bay in perpetuity.

This date has traditionally been used by Washington to announce anti-Cuba measures. In 2002, President George W. Bush announced the reactionary "Initiative for a New Cuba." Each year at this time threats are made to overthrow the gains of socialist Cuba and restore vicious capitalist exploitation. New measures are anticipated this year.

May 20 also coincides with African Liberation Day (ALD). In Washington, D.C., marchers will gather at 10 a.m. at Malcolm X Park—the site of the ALD celebration later that evening.

Marchers will begin by greeting the Cuban Interests Section and then proceed to the Sheraton Hotel and National Endowment for Democracy (NED) on their way to Lafayette Park, across from the White House. The Sheraton Hotel in Mexico City refused accommodations to Cuban representatives, caving in to the U.S. blockade of Cuba.

In Los Angeles, demonstrators will gather at the downtown Federal Building at noon for a 1 p.m. march and rally. Volunteers are needed: please call (213) 383-9283 or (323) 936-7266.

For more information, check the website [www.may20coalition.org](http://www.may20coalition.org). □

## NEPAL

# Mass protests bring partial people's victory

By David Hoskins

A third week of protests across Nepal brought significant concessions from the royal government, but only after massive state violence against demonstrators.

In his first real response to the demands of parliamentary opposition parties and the armed revolutionary movement, King Gyanendra on April 24 agreed by royal proclamation to reinstate the dissolved House of Representatives. After 19 days of strikes that virtually shut down the country, he also agreed to return to the role he held prior to assuming dictatorial powers in February 2005.

The third week of strikes and protests was the most intense, with hundreds of thousands of demonstrators pouring into the streets despite government curfews and shoot-to-kill orders. At least eight protesters were shot dead and hundreds more injured by police forces.

Protesters' anger was evident as crowds fought back against the security forces that attacked them. Gyanendra's government at last came under serious criticism from the United Nations, United States and India, who are trying to distance themselves from the violence ordered by a monarch they have long supported against

the revolutionary movement.

The leaders of the opposition party alliance, which includes the electoral United Marxist-Leninist Party and United Left Front, have welcomed the reinstatement of parliament. The opposition alliance's first act was to name Girija Prasad Koirala, president of the bourgeois Nepali Congress Party, to head the new government. Koirala had served as premier three separate times after elections in 1991.

Those elections were held after massive street demonstrations brought down the Rashtriya Panchayat system, which had outlawed political parties and governed through royalist councils. The protests forced Gyanendra's brother, King Birendra, to allow the drafting of a constitution and multiparty elections.

Today's opposition parties have vowed to make elections to a constituent assembly, with powers to draft a new constitution that will determine the fate of Nepal's monarchy, the primary task of the new parliament. They also promised to launch a detailed investigation into abuses by security forces so that perpetrators might be brought to justice.

Press reports indicate that reaction on the streets is mixed. While the rank-and-file activists and protesters are happy that

the government has started to acknowledge their political demands, many feel that reinstatement of the dissolved house is not enough. Thousands of people marched through the streets in celebration and to encourage opposition leaders not to compromise basic political positions with the king.

The revolutionary forces led by the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) [CPN (M)] insist that the King's proclamation does not go far enough in addressing the people's demands. A joint statement signed by CPN(M) Chairman Prachanda and Chief of Foreign Relations Baburam Bhattarai expressed concern that the opposition parties could be committing an historic mistake by prematurely accepting reinstatement of the House.

U.S. officials have repeatedly counseled Gyanendra to make some concessions in an attempt to drive a wedge between the opposition party alliance and the revolutionary forces. The two groupings previously reached an agreement based on 12 points of understanding, which include an end to autocratic monarchy and elections to a constituent assembly.

Despite their disagreement over the government's offer, both the CPN(M) and the alliance parties have reiterated their

commitment to the 12-point agreement and to further cooperation in the people's movement.

The CPN(M) has issued a new protest program that will include a continuation of mass protests and demonstrations as well as a blockade of Katmandu valley and district headquarters in order to keep up pressure for timely elections to a constituent assembly.

Meanwhile, the CPN(M) has continued its armed offensive throughout the countryside. Its People's Liberation Army (PLA) recently launched simultaneous attacks in Chautara on government army barracks, the district administrative office, a police post and the local jail.

The CPN(M) launched its people's war in 1996. It was not difficult for the revolutionary forces to find a mass base of support in a country where only 10 percent of the people have access to electric power, more than 85 percent live in rural areas without running water or basic sanitation, and malnutrition is rampant among children.

The CPN(M) has vowed to continue armed actions in the pursuit of establishing a revolutionary government free from the feudal monarchy and capable of pursuing the construction of socialism. □

## What imperialists don't say

# Oil is behind struggle in Darfur

By G. Dunkel

The mass media in the U.S., France and Britain are writing a great deal about the suffering in the Darfur region of western Sudan and the tensions between the Sudanese government and neighboring Chad. Not surprisingly, they write very little about the economic interests these three imperialist countries have in the oil recently discovered in this part of Africa.

Chad, which was once a French colony and still is occupied by French troops, is accusing Sudan of supporting and encouraging an April 14 raid on its capital, Ndjamena. It is threatening to expel 200,000 Sudanese living in Chad who get their support from the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Sudan—which at one time was a British colony, but has since been using its oil to develop an independent economy—charges that Chad has been supporting rebellion in Darfur. Sudan wants the UNHCR to financially support the 15,000 Chadians who have fled to Sudan recently to escape heavy fighting in eastern Chad.

The fierce fighting in eastern Chad at the end of March resulted in the combat death of Chadian Army commander Brig. Gen. Abakar Youssouf Mahamat Itno, underlining the army's decline.

### China plays a different role

Darfur is known to have major yet untapped oil reserves, representing a vast amount of potential wealth at a time when crude oil has risen to nearly \$75 a barrel.

While France and the U.S. are the only two imperialist countries with significant military forces in Africa, Britain still plays a major diplomatic and political role there, generally in coordination with Washington.

China plays a different role. The Western imperialists see China as their growing competitor for Sudan's oil.

China has actually helped Sudan's eco-

nomical development while serving its own needs for oil.

According to a Dec. 23, 2004, report in the Washington Post, China National Petroleum Corp. (CNPC), owned by the Chinese government, invested \$300 million in an expansion of Sudan's largest refinery, doubling its output. The refinery now supplies most of Sudan's petroleum needs.

The CNPC also began trial production of oil at a field in southern Darfur in 2004 and has a 41-percent share of the oil from a field in the Melut Basin. Another Chinese firm, Sinopec Corp., built a 1,000-mile pipeline from that complex to Port Sudan on the Red Sea, where China's Petroleum Engineering Construction Group has built a tanker terminal.

All in all, China buys about two-thirds of Sudan's oil.

### U.S. policy: divide and rule

After Sudan achieved its formal independence from Britain in 1956, the country went through a period of internal struggles. Beginning in the 1970s Sudan began moving in a radical Islamic direction, rejecting the neocolonial relations that the United States and other European powers wanted to impose.

A well-organized and well-financed rebellion in southern Sudan began soon after. The United States supported the south financially, politically and militarily in order to divide and conquer. By tightening an economic embargo on the Sudanese government, the U.S. could also exert economic pressure.

Washington even went so far as military attacks, like the cruise missile strike in 1998 that blew up the only pharmaceutical plant in Sudan. No proof was ever offered to back up the imperialist pretext that the plant manufactured chemical weapons, or that Sudan was somehow connected to terrorist bombings in Kenya and Tanzania.

A delegation led by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark of the

International Action Center visited the ruins of the plant and confirmed that it had simply been making medicines.

In 2005, the central government and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement—the group which led the struggle in the south—ratified an agreement. The settlement granted the south substantial autonomy, a 50-50 split of oil revenues and a referendum on full independence within six years. China was instrumental in the negotiations for this peace agreement.

Once the Sudanese settled this conflict, the imperialists needed another one to keep up the threats and pressure on Sudan.

### Washington foments division

Drought and the subsequent encroachment of the desert have led to fighting over grazing and water rights in Darfur, which escalated in 2003 into a major conflict. The fighting has grown so intense that tens of thousands of people are reported to have died and 200,000 to have fled across the border into Chad.

Two competing armed movements—the Sudanese Liberation Army and the Movement for Justice and Equality—won some early victories against the Sudanese Army. These two armed movements maintained their logistic and training bases in the eastern part of Chad, near the border with Darfur.

Once the rebellion in Darfur began, the Sudanese government set up counter-militias, called Jinjaweed, recruited from nomadic ethnic groups in Darfur who mainly speak Arabic. The Sudanese Liberation Army and the Movement for Justice and Equality recruited from ethnic groups in Darfur who don't use Arabic.

The U.S. government, among others, is trying to exacerbate these differences by defining this conflict as between "Arab vs. black." Washington has accused Sudan of "genocide" and "ethnic cleansing." However, Paul Moorcraft, a British expert on Sudan, points out, "Darfur's Arabs are black, indigenous African Muslims—just

like Darfur's non-Arabs."

The African Union has 7,000 troops in Darfur trying to keep the peace. But the imperialist powers want more direct control by replacing the African Union forces with either NATO or UN troops in order to further imperialist interests in the region and to deny the Sudanese control over their own territory.

### Propaganda for NATO intervention

The New York Times, whose right-wing columnist Nicholas D. Kristof just won a Pulitzer prize for demanding U.S. intervention in Darfur, supplies the liberal cover for imperialist troop deployment.

Two Zionist groups, the American Jewish World Service and the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, have taken a very active role in building a national rally set for April 30 whose main demand is direct U.S. intervention in Darfur to "stop the genocide." The AJWS is pushing to replace the African Union soldiers in Darfur with 20,000 UN or NATO troops.

But that would require the approval of the UN Security Council. China is very likely to veto any such resolution. So the U.S. and Britain are stepping up their propaganda against Sudan and against China's significant support and investment there.

France, the main competing imperialist power in Africa, is concerned about Sudan. But its real worry is Chad and its oil, which is currently being extracted by a consortium led by ExxonMobil. France is concerned that a key part of its sphere of influence in Africa is shrinking.

The World Bank has forced a deal on Chad that restricts how that country can spend its oil revenue and that limits its oil income per barrel to \$10 to \$15 less than world market prices. (Jeune Afrique, April 16-22)

Opposition to the World Bank oil deal is growing in Chad. And many Chadians

*Continued on page 14*

## A day without workers?

**W**hat if the working class were suddenly to—disappear?

Stock traders love to think that their cleverness is what makes the markets go up and their clients earn dividends. But what would happen to General Motors stock if the workers in their auto and truck plants were to suddenly—disappear?

Wholesalers and retailers pride themselves on their almost clairvoyant sensitivity to consumers' whims. Isn't that where their profits come from? They think so. But what if, one early morning, when the dew still sparkled on those few blades of grass that somehow find their way up through the paved parking lots, there was no one to open the doors of the megastores, no one to unload the trucks and wheel away the bulky cartons, no one to sort the goods and trundle them to their assigned shelves? What would happen to the profits then?

As long as workers come in and do their jobs, they can be almost invisible to the bosses. Any number of grand economic theories can be invented to deify those with money and what seems to be power while demeaning those who do all the work.

But—

A delightful, quirky comedy a few years ago called "A Day Without a Mexican" captured the spirit that was bubbling even then among immigrants, who now are flexing their muscle and reminding the grand overlords of capitalism of the astounding limitations of this greedy system.

Without Mexicans (or Caribbean bus drivers, Filipina nurses, Vietnamese shrimpers, Korean greengrocers and so on) life would grind to a halt in much of this country. In the film, no explanation was given. The Mexicans just disappeared. The employers who had taken them for granted were helpless, hapless, discommodulated, ready for a breakdown—until they just as mysteriously reappeared.

What a great metaphor for a general strike. It seemed like fantasy then. Today it is taken much more seriously.

This is written a few days before the May 1 Great Boycott and Strike. No one knows what will happen. But some day it will happen. Some day workers all over this country—immigrants and native born, service workers and factory workers, from the deep South to the frozen North, from private industries and offices to every type of public agency—will walk off the job in a concerted action. And all the illusions about the great stability and power of capitalist rule will be shattered.

It will only be the beginning, of course. It will be the first great lesson. Power concedes nothing without a demand. But the demands will be forming in the people's minds. They will force their way, be whispered, then shouted, then emblazoned on a million banners.

When the workers disappear, even if for a day, it will have started. When they come back, with their demands formulated and a vision of what the future could be like, the world will have changed irrevocably. □

## From Mexico City to Buenos Aires

# 1960s: Youth demand lesbian, gay rights

By Leslie Feinberg

The rising resistance of national liberation movements in the 1960s around the globe—from Asia to Africa, North America to South America—many of them led by communists, helped inspire a militant era of battle for gay liberation.

The year 1968 saw struggles for people's power. In South Vietnam, the National Liberation Front's Tet Offensive, which surprised and battered the Pentagon force, was the turning point in the war. In France, a student struggle generated a workers' general strike that shook the capitalist government. In the U.S., rebellions ignited in Black communities in more than 100 cities as word spread of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In urban areas throughout Latin America—from Mexico City to Buenos Aires—a rebellious student movement defied repression to insist on greater freedoms in countries economically and often politically dominated by U.S. finance capital.

As the wave of youth rebellion rose, it lifted the demand to end "lesbian" and "gay" oppression. (The quotation marks are recognition that these sexual identities and the social realities in which they exist are not universal.)

Mexico was a particular political milestone. There, the demand for gay liberation did not arise in the same way it had in the U.S.—where brutal police raids on transgender/lesbian/gay people in bars or restaurants sparked spontaneous rebellions on both the West and East Coast during the 1960s. Nor did a small group demanding same-sex rights have to struggle to bring their grievances to the larger left-wing political movement.

In Mexico in 1968, the demand for "gay" liberation was a dynamic component of the student upsurge, articulated from within its own leadership. Lesbian and gay Mexican@s organized to make "gay" rights one of the many demands voiced by a huge and courageous student protest in Mexico City.

### Solidarity cemented unity

The student movement rocking Mexico in 1968 was part of the deepest political upsurge since the Mexican Revolution, observes Max Mejía in his essay "Mexican Pink."

An upcoming segment of this Lavender & Red series will provide more details about the subsequent Tlatelolco massacre and mass arrests of youth and workers on Oct. 2 in the Plaza de las Tres Culturas during the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City, specifically focusing on the role of the CIA.

Mejía explains, "The demands of the 1968 student movement included those of an entire generation of Mexican youth.

Outstanding among the demands were political freedom and also sexual and personal freedom. Gays and lesbians were among the movement's activists and main leaders." The movement "expressed women's desire for freedom, as well as gays' and lesbians'."

Mejía stresses the way in which solidarity cements political unity. "Their presence under the banner of solidarity with other oppressed people—political prisoners, workers, peasants—earned support and sympathy for their cause. Their daring behavior and their repeated exposure of abuses gained them the support of the feminist movement and the left, changed the attitude of the traditional yellow press, and won over prominent intellectuals. Most important, they convinced a wide sector of society of the legitimacy of their demands."

Mejía concluded that the struggle won "greater public visibility of Mexico's gays and lesbians; support for their exposure of police abuse from a broad sector of public opinion; legitimization of the struggle for civil rights; and the emergence, through the influence of their example, of other gay groups in several cities, most notably in Guadalajara and Tijuana."

### 'Desire and militancy'

In his essay, "Desire and militancy: lesbians, gays and the Brazilian Workers Party," author James N. Green offers an overview of the lesbian and gay rights movement in Brazil.

Green recalls, "Brazilian gays and lesbians were living under the most repressive years of the military dictatorship which ruled the country from 1964 to 1985. ... Although homosexual men and women were not specifically targeted by the dictatorship, the increased numbers of military police in the street, the arbitrary rule of law, and the generalized clamp-down on artistic and literary expression all created a climate which discouraged the emergence of a Brazilian lesbian or gay rights movement in the early 1970s."

In Argentina, however, Green notes that a group of 14 men in a working-class Buenos Aires suburb met in 1969 to form Nuestro Mundo (Our World), the country's first gay rights organization. "By 1971 six divergent Argentine groups had come together to form the Frente de Liberación Homosexual de Argentina (Homosexual Liberation Front of Argentina)."

That year, the Frente de Liberación Homosexual formed in Mexico. And in 1974, "lesbians" and "gays" in Puerto Rico had founded Comunidad de Orgullo Gay (Gay Pride Community) and published the newspaper "Pa' Fuera."

Next: 1960s in U.S.—police brutality meets resistance from coast to coast.

*lfeinberg@workers.org*



PART 61

**Lavender & Red** focuses on the relationship over more than a century between the liberation of oppressed sexualities, genders and sexes, and the communist movement. You can read the entire, ongoing Workers World newspaper series by Leslie Feinberg online at [www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org). Stop and get a subscription while you're there!



### Celebrating Portugal's 1974 revolution

Immigrants in Portugal participate in a demonstration of tens of thousands of people celebrating the anniversary of the April 25, 1974, revolution. At that time, prolonged liberation struggles in its African colonies had brought the fascist dictatorship in Portugal to its knees. A rebellion in the armed forces ended more than 40 years of fascist rule and opened the door to a worker upsurge that came close to taking power.—Photo and story by John Catalinotto

## Seminar in Spain

Continued from page 11

Raposo from the Portuguese Tribunal, Dirk Andriaensens of the BRussels Tribunal, Prof. Ian Douglas, a visiting professor from Scotland at the University of Nahah in Palestine, and John Catalinotto of the International Action Center in the U.S.

During the second day, participants focused on what actions can be taken to bring global attention to the destruction of Iraq's intellectual and professional resources and hold accountable those directly responsible, including the occupying power. These include appeals to organizations of university professors, the United Nations and other bodies that could possibly support an independent investigation of the circumstances surrounding these killings.

The texts of talks at the seminar will

be posted at the sites of CEOSI, the BRussels Tribunal and the IAC ([www.iacenter.org](http://www.iacenter.org)). □

## Oil & Darfur

Continued from page 13

also resent the fact that French soldiers are still guarding government buildings 45 years after independence.

The U.S. want to get President Déby out and a new president in who relies on it, not France. The very day of the attack on Ndjamena, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick called on Chad to adopt a "different political process" and to reach a "satisfactory arrangement" with the political opposition. Undersecretary of State for African Affairs Donald Yamamoto began a two-day visit there on April 24. □

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## MUNDO OBRERO

# L@s inmigrantes y el origen del 1ro de Mayo

Continúa de página 16  
televisión.

Los organizadores llamaron a un mitin en la plaza Haymarket de Chicago el 4 de mayo para protestar. La policía atacó a los manifestantes cuando se dispersaban. Alguien lanzó una bomba.

Siete policías murieron. Los periódicos capitalistas y los políticos se enfurecieron. No les importaban los trabajadores contra los cuales la policía había disparado. O que en realidad varios de los policías fueron matados por otros policías.

Ese sangriento episodio le dio a los millonarios la oportunidad de tratar de destruir el movimiento que luchaba por la jornada de ocho horas. La policía hizo redadas contra organizaciones y periódicos de trabajadores. Cientos fueron arrestados.

Ocho líderes de los trabajadores fueron enjuiciados: Samuel Fielden, Oscar Neebe, Michael Schwab, Louis Lingg, George Engel, Adolf Fischer, August Spies y Albert Parsons.

Ninguno fue acusado de lanzar la bomba. Solo dos de ellos estaban presentes en la plaza Haymarket. Sin embargo todos fueron acusados de asesinato porque supuestamente "provocaron" al lanzador de la bomba por medio de lo que habían escrito o dicho. La libertad de expresión cesó de existir en Chicago.

Mientras que estos acusados eran los mejores luchadores por la jornada de 8 horas, también tenían una visión más amplia. Eran revolucionarios. Querían abolir el sistema económico donde los millonarios dominaban y millones vivían en la miseria.

August Spies era el redactor del diario alemán Arbeiter Zeitung (periódico de los trabajadores). Albert Parsons editaba el periódico bisemanal Alarma.

Parsons había sido expulsado de Waco, Texas —no muy lejos de donde ahora George Bush tiene su hacienda— por haber publicado un periódico que apoyó al programa de la Reconstrucción (prometiéndole derechos e indemnizaciones a los ex esclavos liberados durante la Guerra Civil). En Waco conoció a su pareja y colaboradora, Lucy Gonzales Parsons, una mujer de color.

El juicio de estos líderes de los trabajadores fue un linchamiento legal. Un alguacil especial que personalmente escogió al jurado presumía diciendo, "Estos muchachos van a ser ahorcados."

Mientras que Oscar Neebe fue sentenciado a 15 años de trabajos forzados, los siete restantes fueron condenados con pena de muerte. Spies dijo al juez, "...si el castigo por proclamar la verdad es la muerte, entonces, orgullosa y desafiantemente pagaré ese alto precio. ¡Llame a su verdugo!"

Un movimiento internacional de defensa intentó salvar sus vidas. El presidente de la AFL Sam Gompers denunció el veredicto. El escritor irlandés, Oscar Wilde, que pocos años después sería condenado injustamente por ser homosexual, firmó una apelación, junto a Federico Engels, el colaborador de Carlos Marx.

El hijo mayor de John Brown el abolicionista martirizado, les llevaba a diario uvas frescas a los prisioneros.

La pena de muerte de Fielden y Schwab fue conmutada el día antes de ser ejecutados y convertida en cadena perpetua. Louis Lingg se suicidó o fue asesinado en su celda.

El 11 de noviembre de 1887, George Engel, Adolf Fischer, August Spies y Albert Parsons subieron a la horca en la cárcel del Condado Cook. Parsons era el único de estos mártires que había nacido en los EEUU. Lingg, Engel, Fischer y Spies eran

trabajadores inmigrantes de Alemania.

Cuando cubrían la cabeza de August Spies, el declaró: "Vendrá un momento cuando nuestro silencio será más poderoso que las voces que Uds. estrangulan hoy."

Albert Parsons gritó en el momento en que abrió el escotillón, "Que se escuchen las voces del pueblo..."

Era el aniversario 56 de la ejecución de Nat Turner en Jerusalén, Virginia el 11 de noviembre de 1831. Turner había encabezado la rebelión de esclavos más grande en la historia de los EEUU.

El revolucionario cubano, José Martí condenó la ejecución de estos líderes de los trabajadores en La Nación, un periódico publicado en Buenos Aires de Argentina.

En 1893 el gobernador del estado de Illinois, John Peter Altgeld perdonó los restantes prisioneros de Haymarket. Por este acto de valentía política fue arruinado política y económicamente.

## El 1ro de Mayo es el día de l@s trabajador@s

La lucha por la jornada de 8 horas no terminó con las ejecuciones. La convención de 1888 de la AFL llamó a huelgas y manifestaciones para el 1ro de Mayo de 1890.

Los trabajadores no podían ganar esta lucha ellos solos. El presidente Gompers envió un delegado al congreso fundador de la Internacional Socialista, que comenzó en París el 14 de julio de 1889, día del centenario del asalto a la Bastilla que inició la Revolución Francesa.

Entre los partidos que eventualmente se unieron a esta internacional estaban los Bolcheviques, encabezados por V.I. Lenin, que realizaron la Revolución Rusa.

El llamado de la AFL para las manifestaciones fue endosado con mucho entusiasmo por este congreso. Así nació el 1ro de Mayo. Dos días después, Federico Engels

saludó a la multitud de medio millón de personas que marchó en Londres, el 3 de mayo de 1890.

Mientras criaba a sus dos hijos, Lucy Parsons nunca abandonó la lucha. En los años 1930, ella luchó por los acusados de Scottsboro, ocho jóvenes negros falsamente acusados de violación. Ellos fueron rescatados de la silla eléctrica del estado de Alabama en una lucha encabezada por Adam Clayton Powell, hijo, y el Partido Comunista.

En 1942, Lucy Parsons murió en un misterioso incendio. Tenía 89 años. El FBI confiscó de inmediato su biblioteca personal de 1500 libros.

Hoy, el 1ro de Mayo se celebra por casi todas partes excepto en los EEUU. La caza de brujas anticomunista de los años 1950 puso fin a las marchas que solían celebrarse en este país.

Pero este año será distinto. L@s trabajador@s inmigrantes están llamando al "Gran Paro Americano" para el 1ro de Mayo. La clase de millonarios —que se ha vuelto en una clase de multimillonarios— oprime a l@s inmigrantes pero pasaría hambre sin ell@s.

Eran mayormente inmigrantes europeos los que establecieron el 1ro de Mayo hace más de un siglo. L@s africanos americanos@s, quienes tuvieron su "gran migración" a las ciudades norteamericanas, han jugado el papel de vanguardia en cada lucha social progresista. Ahora inmigrantes desde África, Asia y Latinoamérica están encabezando el renacimiento del 1ro de Mayo en el país cuya clase trabajadora multinacional le dio al día al mundo entero.

Millies es operador de señales de las torres para los trenes Amtrak y miembro del Distrito 1402 de los Trabajadores de Comunicación del Transporte. □

# Generales difieren agudamente acerca de Rumsfeld

Continúa de página 12

York Times describió como el "Show Donny" y "un ritual diario." Casi todos los días, Bush ha visto la necesidad de repetir sus declaraciones en apoyo a Rumsfeld.

Como comandante-en-jefe, Bush es por supuesto, en última instancia, el responsable de las decisiones de Rumsfeld. Él sabe que si el ejecutor principal de la política de guerra de su administración pierde, él podría ser el siguiente.

Como una muestra más de la crisis interna, ha habido una sacudida fuerte en la Casa Blanca. Karl Rove, el "niño genio" que guió la carrera política de Bush desde antes de que éste se convirtiera en gobernador de Texas hasta que llegó a la Casa Blanca, y quién dirigió la campaña de reelección de Bush en el 2004, ha sido expulsado de su papel como principal coordinador de la política en la Casa Blanca. Se cree que Rove está implicado en la filtración a la prensa del nombre de la agente de la CIA Valerie Plame, después de que ella y su esposo, el ex embajador Joseph Wilson, no verificaron las falsas afirmaciones de la administración sobre las Armas de Destrucción Masiva. Rove estaba una vez considerado la tercera persona más poderosa en la Casa Blanca.

El vocero de Bush, Scott McClellan también ha sido forzado a salir de su puesto después de casi tres años en su empleo. El tenía la tarea de tratar de desviar las preguntas vergonzosas de la prensa sobre la política de la administración en Irak.

Si la estrategia de Rumsfeld hubiera

funcionado, nada de esto estuviera pasando. Pero una lucha de resistencia prolongada está ahora profundamente arraigada en la población iraquí. Más y más iraquíes y soldados estadounidenses mueren en un conflicto que no terminará mientras la ocupación continúe.

Washington ha fallado grandemente en el intento de estabilizar un régimen neocolonial en Irak. Lo que precisamente ignoraron totalmente desde el primer día —los sentimientos del pueblo iraquí— ha hecho imposible el efectuar el "cambio de régimen". Han matado o capturado a los antiguos líderes del país, devastado a gran parte del país, y virtualmente instigaron una guerra civil, pero no han logrado establecer un régimen títere con la fuerza y la autoridad de aplastar el compromiso iraquí para la autodeterminación que nació en la revolución anticolonial de 1958.

Todo esto hace recordar el desastre en Vietnam, que terminó solo después de que la guerra se extendiera a los países vecinos de Camboya y Laos, de que ocurrieran rebeliones en cientos de comunidades oprimidas y estallara un movimiento anti-guerra militante, con defecciones en una escala masiva y motines entre las tropas del ejército de los Estados Unidos, que frecuentemente rehusaba combatir y hasta mataron a sus propios oficiales en la zona de la guerra. Los generales deben temer que esto puede pasar de nuevo mientras que los partidarios de Rumsfeld acusan a sus críticos de "politizar a las Fuerzas Armadas".

Mientras que se formulan los motivos más nobles para explicar el porqué un país como los EEUU va a la guerra, la verdadera razón es siempre lo mismo: para mejorar la posición en la lucha global por los mercados y las ganancias de parte de los explotadores corporativos. El descontento que está siendo expresado actualmente sobre esta guerra se origina desde dos fuentes distintas.

Hay la oposición de las masas, horrorizadas por el sufrimiento que ha provocado la ocupación y quieren que vuelvan las tropas a casa y se ponga un alto a la matanza. El descontento con lo que está haciendo Bush ya ha alcanzado un 60 por ciento en las encuestas.

Pero también hay un debate entre el establecimiento de la clase dominante sobre si los planes de guerra de Rumsfeld están conduciendo a derrotas aún más grandes para los EEUU, lo cual ellos realmente entienden como derrotas para la dominación de los EEUU sobre el mundo.

En este momento, Irak es el foco de sus temores. Hasta el Senador Richard Lugar (Republicano del estado de Indiana) se ha desviado cautelosamente de la política de la Casa Blanca y ha llamado a la negociación directa con Irak sobre su programa nuclear. Lugar encabeza el poderoso Comité de Relaciones Extranjeras del Senado.

Daniel Ellsberg, famoso por los Papeles del Pentágono, ha llamado a las figuras militares que no están de acuerdo con Rumsfeld a que no dimitan y que en vez

de ello filtren al público los planes actuales de un ataque contra Irak. El 1971 Ellsberg era el analista del Departamento de Defensa que otorgó al periódico New York Times 7.000 páginas de documentos secretos que destruyeron muchos de los mitos del gobierno sobre la Guerra de Vietnam.

Según un artículo de la revista New Yorker del 17 de abril por el periodista investigador, Seymour Hersh, los planes para atacar a Irak desde el aire son masivos, muy avanzados y lo que pareció inimaginable mientras existía la Unión Soviética: con el uso de armas nucleares tácticas. El primer uso de armas nucleares fue declarado un crimen contra la humanidad hace muchos años por la Asamblea General de la ONU, pero a ese organismo mundial le falta dientes.

Muchos de aquellos que sienten que la doctrina de Rumsfeld de depender de armas de alta tecnología ha fallado en Irak, quieren que se envíen más tropas al Medio Oriente —así como quieren los políticos en el liderato del Partido Demócrata. Y ¿de dónde van a llegar las tropas? El fantasma del reclutamiento militar obligatorio se mueve furtivamente detrás de este debate.

La lucha para forzar retroceder el imperialismo, regresar las tropas a casa y permitir a los pueblos del mundo controlar sus propios destinos no va a salir de los altos mandos militares o de los partidos políticos capitalistas, sino del renacimiento poderoso de la clase trabajadora y del movimiento progresista aquí. □

## El 'Gran Paro americano del 1º de mayo 2006' por los derechos de l@s inmigrantes cobra impulso

Por Sharon Black

El llamado nacional para el "Gran paro del primero de mayo 2006: No compras, no escuela, no trabajo" para demandar derechos completos para trabajador@s inmigrantes y sus familias está cobrando impulso. Este llamado, iniciado por la Coalición del 25 de marzo contra la HR4437 — una coalición popular que surgió de la acción en Los Ángeles que atrajo a cientos de miles de trabajador@s inmigrantes a las calles el pasado mes — ha comparado la acción del Primero de Mayo con el boicot del transporte en Montgomery, Alabama en 1955. L@s organizador@s quieren ejercer ese día tanto su poder político como el económico.

El llamado ha tocado los sentimientos de muchas comunidades inmigrantes.

Para much@s trabajador@s inmigrantes el primero de mayo es celebrado en sus países de origen como un día para conmemorar la lucha de la clase trabajadora y se celebra con marchas y asambleas por todo el mundo.

En Los Ángeles, los chóferes de taxis han prometido cerrar el aeropuerto LAX y los troqueros cerrarán el puerto. Hay manifestaciones que están siendo planeadas tanto en ciudades grandes como pequeñas por todo el país, incluyendo a Los Ángeles, San Francisco, Dallas, Chicago, y Nueva York. Dondequiera que sea posible, l@s estudiantes y trabajador@s están planeando acciones individuales o colectivas. Muchos negocios pequeños, especialmente en la comunidad mexicana, cerrarán.

El fin de semana del 22 de abril, much@s organizador@s se reunirán en

Chicago para formar una red nacional para continuar este ímpetu. Después de esta reunión, habrá una conferencia de prensa en Washington, D.C. el 24 de abril, fecha en que se reanuda la sesión del Congreso.

En la Ciudad de Nueva York, el Movimiento de la Marcha de un Millón Trabajador@s y la Coalición de Tropas Fuera Ya, las cuales estaban planeando un mitin y una marcha desde Union Square el Primero de Mayo, votaron para apoyar el movimiento de derechos de inmigrantes y la acción del "Gran Paro Americano". Las coaliciones ya habían tenido una marcha y mitin el año pasado para restaurar el día del Primero de Mayo y estaban activamente haciendo planes para marchar otra vez este año. Chris Silvera, el secretario tesoro de la Local 808 de los Troqueros

y presidente de la Junta Nacional de Troqueros Negr@s, declaró "Nosotros apoyamos y abrazamos este movimiento." Su local sindical es el anfitrión de la Coalición del Gran Paro Americano Primero de Mayo de 2006, la cual está compuesta por muchas comunidades inmigrantes en la Ciudad de Nueva York, incluyendo las comunidades latina, filipina, asiática sureña, africana y caribeña.

L@s organizador@s nacionales están haciendo planes para apoyar política y legalmente a cualquier trabajador/a o estudiante que sufra alguna forma de represalia debido a su participación en las actividades en apoyo de l@s inmigrantes.

Para más información puede visitar la página [www.nohr4437.org](http://www.nohr4437.org) o comuníquese con [granmarcha2006@hotmail.com](mailto:granmarcha2006@hotmail.com). □

## L@s inmigrantes y el origen del 1ro de Mayo

Por Stephen Millies

El 1ro de Mayo es el día internacional de la clase trabajadora. Es un día libre en 110 países, según el portal en la Web del Congreso del Trabajo de Nigeria.

La mayoría de l@s trabajador@s tiene ese día libre en Sudáfrica, Nigeria, México, Malasia, Italia, Haití, Alemania, Francia, Egipto, Cuba, China, Brasil, Corea del Norte, Bangla Desh, Bélgica, Argentina y en muchos otros países. Pero no en los Estados Unidos donde nació el 1ro de Mayo hace 120 años.

En el año 1886, era la norma en ciudades del norte como Chicago, trabajar 60, 70 o más horas a la semana, mientras que los trabajadores y campesinos negros en los estados sureños laboraban bajo condiciones un poco mejor que las de la esclavitud y enfrentaban el terror organizado de los linchamientos por agentes de los mismos terratenientes.

La Federación de Oficios Organizados y Sindicatos, que luego se convertiría en la Federación Americana del Trabajo (AFL por las siglas en inglés) demandó una jornada de trabajo de ocho horas. Llamó a

una huelga de trabajadores para el 1ro de Mayo de 1886 para convertir la demanda en realidad.

Se estima que ese día, 340.000 trabajadores se fueron a la huelga en 12.000 fábricas y en otros lugares de trabajo. Muchos eran inmigrantes. En la Ciudad de Nueva York 40.000 se fueron a la huelga. En Detroit, 11.000 marcharon por las calles. Seis mil trabajadores blancos y negros marcharon juntos en medio de un parque segregado en Louisville del estado de Kentucky.

Chicago era el corazón y el alma de este movimiento. Tantos como 80.000 traba-

jadores salieron a la huelga allí.

Los ricos contraatacaron. Seis trabajadores polacos fueron asesinados en Milwaukee. La policía en Chicago disparó contra los trabajadores frente a la fábrica de máquinas de cosechar McCormick, matando por lo menos a dos de ellos.

Hoy, la familia McCormick controla un imperio de medios de comunicación que incluye a los periódicos Chicago Tribune, Los Angeles Times, Baltimore Sun, Newsday y un par de docenas de estaciones de

*Continúa a página 14*

## Generales difieren agudamente acerca de Rumsfeld

# Chocan en cuanto a cómo ganar las guerras, no cómo detenerlas

Por Deirdre Griswold

El estrés y la tensión dentro del gobierno de Bush, el Pentágono y el Congreso han alcanzado un nivel de intensidad nuevo y sin precedentes. Esto viene no sólo de la desesperada posición del ejército en Irak sino también de la aprensión sobre los planes reportados para un nuevo asalto contra otro país rico en petróleo en el Medio Oriente—Irán

Varios generales jubilados, obviamente hablando también por muchos oficiales activos, han criticado abiertamente al Secretario de la Defensa, Donald Rumsfeld y han pedido su renuncia. Desde el 19 de abril estos incluyen a tres de la Marina—el General Anthony Zinni, quien encabezó el Comando Central de los Estados Unidos a finales de los años noventa, el teniente general Gregory Newbold y el teniente general Paul K. Van

Riper—además de cuatro generales de la Armada: los comandantes generales Charles Swannack, quien encabezó la División Aérea 82 en Irak; John Batiste, quien dirigió la División de Primera infantería; John Riggs y Paul Eaton.

Estos generales no son palomas de la paz. Ellos quieren ganar esta y otras guerras para el dominio imperialista estadounidense sobre el mundo. Pero ellos han perdido la confianza en la doctrina

Rumsfeld que proclama hacerlo con un mínimo de tropas terrestres apoyadas en un poder aéreo de alta tecnología.

La intervención de los altos jefes militares en esta lucha política no tiene nada progresista. Hasta el Washington Post, el cual pide la renuncia de Rumsfeld, dijo en un editorial el 18 de abril, que una revuelta militar "amenaza el principio democrático esencial de la subordinación militar al control civil."

Rumsfeld está ahora luchando por su vida política. El 14 de abril, el presidente George W. Bush tuvo que interrumpir sus vacaciones de pascua en Camp David con una declaración pública diciendo que el secretario de la defensa "tiene mi completo apoyo y mi más profundo aprecio." Pero las críticas continuaron.

La administración entonces congregó a sus propias figuras militares ante la prensa, incluyendo al General Tommy R. Franks del Ejército, quien dirigió las tropas en Afganistán e Irak; el General Richard B. Myers de la Fuerza Aérea, ex jefe de la Junta de Jefes. Hasta ahora ningún oficial de alto rango de la Fuerza Aérea ha hablado contra Rumsfeld, quien apoya el poderío aéreo.

Rumsfeld ha ido ante las cámaras para defenderse, en lo que el periódico The New

*Continúa a página 14*

## Marcha en Washington SÁBADO 20 DE MAYO

Un amplio grupo de organizaciones locales y nacionales de los EEUU han hecho un llamado para una Marcha en Washington para demandar el cese de las campañas de mentiras, amenazas y sanciones contra Cuba y Venezuela.

DEMANDAREMOS:

¡Alto a la intervención y campañas hostiles de los EEUU contra Venezuela; Defendamos la soberanía de Venezuela!

¡Alto a la guerra económica y política de Washington contra Cuba; Que cese el bloqueo de Cuba!

¡Que se permita a l@s ciudadan@s y residentes legales de los EEUU viajar libremente a Cuba; Normalización de las relaciones EEUU-Cuba!



¡Que se extradite al terrorista Luis Posada Carriles a Venezuela; Y se liberen los Cinco Anti-terroristas Cubanos presos! Cierre del campo de tortura de Guantánamo; Devolución de Guantánamo a Cuba!

¡Alto a la intervención de EEUU

El 20 de mayo miles de personas en las calles responderán a estas políticas demandando:

# ¡MANOS FUERA DE VENEZUELA Y CUBA!

Inicio: 10AM  
PARQUE MALCOLM X  
(calles 15 y Euclid NW) Se marchará hacia el Parque Lafayette, frente a la Casa Blanca para concentración principal a las 2  
[www.may20coalition.org/spn](http://www.may20coalition.org/spn)