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## Remember COINTELPRO?

# Miami arrests seen as racist entrapment

By Larry Hales

What is behind the FBI arrest of seven Black men on June 22 in this election year, barely a year after thousands of Black and poor white residents were left to die in New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina?

Five of the men arrested in Miami are African-American, and two are Haitian. Lyglenson Lemorin was arrested in Atlanta, where he had moved. The men, who range in age from early 20s to early 30s, are charged with conspiracy.

Patrick Abraham, one of the Haitian men, had already been in the custody of immigration officials since May for staying in the United States past his visa date. Stanley Grant Phanor was in custody for weapons charges. The other men are Narseal Batiste, Naudimar Herrera, Burson Augustin and Rotschild Augustine. The men had tried to start a construction company.

According to the federal grand jury indictment, Batiste



recruited the group to set up an "Islamic Army" to wage a "jihad" in the United States and then contacted an FBI agent, who was posing as a member of Al Qaeda. Batiste allegedly gave the agent a list of necessary equipment and asked for \$50,000.

However, although several buildings are said to have been searched, no evidence was found, other than a reported list and several photos of Miami buildings that the men supposedly gave to the government-paid informant who helped set the trap. The men were not found to have any of the materials they were said to have requested. The claims that they had sworn allegiance to Al

Qaeda are farfetched as well. The only person who ever claimed to have any contact with Al Qaeda was the undercover agent.

At a June 23 news conference, FBI Deputy Director John Pistole stated that the defendants' "conspiracy" was "more aspi-

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Second annual NYC Trans Day of Action for Social & Economic Justice, June 23.

WW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

# 1969 Stonewall uprising against police repression

## 'All hell broke loose!'

By Leslie Feinberg

No recording device captured the roar or ferocity of the crowd outside the Stonewall bar, enraged by the police raid and the physical brutality and sexual and gender humiliation that was interwoven into the state repression. However, the militancy and determination of those who fought back that night—June 28, 1969—is recalled in the words of the top cop who led the raid, Deputy Inspector Seymour Pine: "I had been in combat situations, [but] there was never any time that I felt more scared than then." Pine had written the U.S. Army's manual for hand-to-hand combat in World War II and was in a mine explosion at the Battle of the Bulge.

By many accounts, the Black, Latin@ and white youth, many of them homeless and/or gender-defiant—including Sylvia Rivera, Marsha P. Johnson, Zazu Nova and Jackie Hormona—fought fiercely that night. And small wonder. These were the bodies and lives most often scarred by police terror and torture. While everyone fought bravely, historian David Carter wrote "the preponderance of witnesses who are both the most credible and who witnessed significant amounts of the action agree that the most marginal groups of the gay community fought the hardest—and therefore risked the most—on this and the following nights."

Many in the multi-national, multi-generational crowd of hundreds amassed outside the bar began to hurl their pocket change, shouting "Here's your payoff!"—referring to the common practice of payoffs between bar owners, many times tied to organized crime, and the police.

The police showed signs of panic as they were hit with a hail of flying projectiles. They retreated towards the Stonewall Inn, the club they had just emptied out in the raid. One cop near the doorway was reportedly hit in the eye with a thrown object, and was visibly bloodied. The police, wrote Village Voice journalist Howard Smith, who was at the scene, "are all suddenly furious." Three of the cops rushed the crowd to try to back them away.

But the crowd would not be pushed back. The streets outside the club belonged to the people, and they could feel it. They could see the cops were scared, too. One participant, Tom, observed, "A few plainclothesmen were surveying the crowd, obviously panicked." Ronnie Di Brienza stressed in an article in the East Village Other that, "During the height of the action, you could see the fear and disbelief on the faces of the pigs."

A beer can struck Deputy Inspector Charles Smythe in the head. Smythe, who had also been in World War II combat, later said, "I was still shaking an hour later. Believe me, I've never seen anything like it."

Pine reached out from the doorway of the bar and reportedly grabbed the first person he could lay his hands on, folk singer Dave Van Ronk, and pulled him inside the bar. Van Ronk later explained that the cops accused him of throwing the beer can. They held him down, punched him hard and kicked him. They left him handcuffed on the floor of the bar.

Pine came outside to evaluate the relationship of forces. He told the other cops: "Let's get inside. Lock ourselves inside; it's safer." Voice reporter Howard Smith went inside the Stonewall with the 10 members of the police raiding squad. They barricaded the doors with overturned tables.

And then, Pine remembered, "All hell broke loose."

Smith reported, "The exit left no cops on the street, and almost by signal the crowd erupted into cobblestone and bottle heaving."



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!

Voice journalist Lucian Truscott said he had climbed atop a garbage can to watch the action and he almost toppled when two men yanked it out from under him and heaved it at the bar's west window.

Participant Morty Manford emphasized: "And it escalated. A few more rocks went and then somebody from inside the bar opened the door and stuck a gun out. Their arm was reaching out with a gun telling people to stay back. And then withdrew the gun, closed the door and went back inside."

Yet even the threat of being shot did not stop the crowd. Historian David Carter summed up descriptions by participants of what happened next. "A general assault now began on the Stonewall Inn using anything and everything the crowd outside could get its hands on: garbage, garbage cans, pieces of glass, fire, bricks, cobblestones, and an improvised battering ram were all used to attack the police holed up inside the Stonewall Inn."

Someone, or more than one person, reportedly cut the electric and phone lines, so the police were inside without the ability to call for backup.

According to accounts compiled by historian Martin Duberman: "The cops then found a fire hose, wedged it into a crack in the door, and directed the spray out at the crowd, thinking that would certainly scatter it. But the stream was weak and the crowd howled derisively, while inside the cops starting slipping on the wet floor."

In his later Voice coverage, stinking of bigotry, Smith later wrote that from the inside of the Stonewall, "The sound filtering in [didn't] suggest dancing f—s any more; it sound[ed] like a powerful rage bent on vendetta."

Smith said he heard "the shattering of windows, followed by what we imagine to be bricks pounding on the door, voices yelling. The floor shudders at each blow."

The crowd outside roared "Gay power!" and "We want freedom!"

Pine described: "Now they really in earnest started to come after us. We covered everything [but] whatever we could find to put up against the windows and the doors didn't last very long. They began to batter this down and made some holes." The window—which the owners had reinforced with plywood and two-by-fours—was smashed and the barricaded door was swung open.

Smith peeked out a hole in the splintered plywood, and he thought it seemed that those massed outside were thousands-strong.

In anticipation of the angry crowd rushing in, the cops drew their weapons; one cop picked up a nearby baseball bat. One cop reportedly vowed, "We'll shoot the first m—f—r that comes through the door."

But it was an arm that came through the shards of the plywood covering the window. Then the scent of lighter fluid, the fiery tip of a lit match, and flames ignited inside the bar.

*Next: Police reinforcements arrive; battle shifts to the streets.*

*Email [lfeinberg@workers.org](mailto:lfeinberg@workers.org)*

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#### NEW YORK

**Thu., June 29**  
Workers World Party meeting:  
Hear Imani Henry and Leslie  
Feinberg on the LGBT struggle  
here & around the world. Also,  
guest speaker Vannia Lara on the

recent Peoples Alternative Summit  
in the Dominican Republic. 7 p.m.  
At 55 W. 17 St., 5th Fl.,  
Manhattan. For info phone  
(212) 627-2994.

#### Workers World

55 West 17 Street  
New York, N.Y. 10011  
Phone: (212) 627-2994  
Fax: (212) 675-7869  
E-mail: [editor@workers.org](mailto:editor@workers.org)  
Web: [www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org)  
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Editor: Deirdre Griswold

Technical Editor: Lal Roohk

Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, LeiLani Dowell,  
Leslie Feinberg, Monica Moorehead, Gary Wilson

West Coast Editor: John Parker

Contributing Editors: Greg Butterfield, G. Dunkel,  
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Supporter Program: Sue Davis, coordinator

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National Office  
55 W. 17 St.,  
New York, NY 10011  
(212) 627-2994;  
Fax (212) 675-7869  
[www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org)

**Atlanta**  
P.O. Box 424,  
Atlanta, GA 30301  
(404) 627-0185  
[atlanta@workers.org](mailto:atlanta@workers.org)

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

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

**Buffalo, N.Y.**  
367 Delaware Ave.,  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
(716) 566-1115  
[buffalo@workers.org](mailto:buffalo@workers.org)

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

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

**Denver**  
[denver@workers.org](mailto:denver@workers.org)

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

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

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

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

**Richmond, Va.**  
P.O. Box 14602,  
Richmond, VA 23221  
[richmond@workers.org](mailto:richmond@workers.org)

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

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

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

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

**Washington, D.C.**  
P.O. Box 57300,  
Washington, DC 20037,  
[dc@workers.org](mailto:dc@workers.org)



## HARLEM

# Meeting in solidarity with Mumia Abu-Jamal

Pam Africa and Julia Wright, leaders of International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, were featured speakers at a packed meeting at Salem Methodist Church in Harlem June 23 for an evening of international solidarity with Abu-Jamal, a revolutionary political prisoner on Pennsylvania's death row.

Abu-Jamal was convicted of the first-degree murder of a white Philadelphia police officer on July 3, 1982. His original trial was deeply flawed, with at least 29 constitutional violations, including racist behavior on the part of the presiding judge and prosecutor against Abu-Jamal, who is Black. There are federal appeals in motion, based on these violations, to try to win him a new trial.

Wright, whose father was legendary

African American writer Richard Wright, had traveled from her home in France to speak in New York and elsewhere. She discussed the significance of the April 29 ceremony, attended by Africa and other U.S. activists, where a new street in the Paris suburb of Saint-Denis was named for Abu-Jamal.

Africa, who is also the Minister of Confrontation for the MOVE organization, spoke about the recent struggle with the Philadelphia chapter of the Fraternal Order of Police, which opposes the street naming and also wants to bring back the death penalty for Abu-Jamal. The FOP got some of their allies in the U.S. Congress to put forth a reactionary resolution to pressure the French government to revoke the name "Rue Mumia Abu-Jamal."

Pam Africa, left, and Julia Wright

PHOTOS: ROBERTO MERCADO



When members of the Philadelphia City Council voted to support this resolution, Africa and other Abu-Jamal supporters went to several council meetings to demand a public hearing on the issue. Africa's message to the June 23 Harlem audience was to resist the efforts by the FOP and others to silence the movement on the issue of the street.

Other speakers at the Harlem event included Elombe Brath of the Patrice Lumumba Coalition; long-time Puerto

Rican activist Esperanza Martell; former Black Panther Rosemary Mealy; poet Sonia Sanchez, who read a message of support for Abu-Jamal from actor Ruby Dee; and Suzanne Ross co-chair of the New York Free Mumia Coalition, which sponsored the event.

Abu-Jamal sent a special, inspiring taped message to the event praising Julia Wright and Richard Wright.

—Monica Moorehead

## MILWAUKEE

# Civil suit filed in police brutality case

By Bryan G. Pfeifer

On June 19 Frank Jude Jr. filed a \$30 million claim against the City of Milwaukee on behalf of himself and Maria Jude, his wife. He consciously filed the claim on Juneteenth. According to Jude's attorney, the city can immediately reject the claim, suggest a recommendation or fail to act for four months, meaning the claim is "deemed denied." After that, a lawsuit can be filed.

The claim, among other charges, states that selective hiring, training procedures and supervision in the Police Department all were responsible for the savage beating of Jude.

"I am filing this claim to allow me to get

back what the police officers took from my family and me," said Jude. "No amount of money can undo what happened, but this claim is a first step in allowing me to recover from my injuries, my medical bills, my lost wages and jobs, and most importantly, my dignity."

Jude's claim details his near killing in October 2004 when he was savagely beaten during a party by as many as 15 off-duty white cops. The cops claimed Jude stole the wallet and badge of one of the officers, who hosted the event at his house.

On April 14 an all-white jury acquitted



Frank Jude Jr.

the only three officers charged in Jude's beating—Andrew Spengler, Jon Bartlett and Daniel Masarik—sparking worldwide condemnation and ongoing protests including an April 18 demonstration of 4,000 people. On May 15 massive motorcades from three churches converged on the federal prosecutor's office in Milwaukee demanding that a federal case be opened. Ministers from over 50 congregations participated in the "Death of Justice" motorcade, delivering petitions with over 12,000 signatures. (Final Call, June 6)

All three acquitted cops have a history

of police brutality. Bartlett has been charged at least three times with "excessive force" against Black men, including a fatal shooting of which he was acquitted by a federal jury in May. Masarik used a Taser stun gun on at least six people over a three-month period in 2005. All three continue to receive pay and benefits under a Wisconsin state law while they appeal their dismissals from the Police Department.

The Jude claim is among the biggest filed against the city. The family of Ernest Lacy, who died in police custody in 1981, also filed a \$30 million lawsuit, and settled for \$600,000. The family of Daniel Bell, who was killed by Milwaukee police in 1958, filed a \$100 million suit, and settled

On 6th anniversary of his execution

# Shaka Sankofa remembered

By Gloria Rubac  
Houston

The Houston chapter of the National Black United Front held its annual Shaka and Assata Community Work-In on June 22, to commemorate the life and contributions of Shaka Sankofa and to remember the dozens and dozens of political prisoners locked away in prisons around the United States.

The Houston chair of NBUF, Brother Kofi Taharka, began the work-in by reading the last words of Sankofa, an innocent Black man who was executed by the state of Texas on June 22, 2000, after a long struggle to win his freedom.

"I'm an innocent Black man that is being murdered. This is a lynching that is happening in America tonight.... Keep moving forward, my brothers. Slavery couldn't stop us. The lynching couldn't stop us in the South. This lynching will not stop us tonight. We will go forward.

"Our destiny in this country is freedom and liberation. We will gain our freedom and liberation by any means necessary. By any means necessary, we keep marching forward," said Sankofa as he lay strapped to the gurney awaiting his murder.

Taharka also read a moving tribute to Sankofa by death row prison activist Howard Guidry. Guidry, another innocent Black man, recently had his death sentence overturned by the federal courts and is in the county jail in Houston awaiting a retrial on July 17.

Njeri Shakur, organizer for the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement, spoke of Sankofa's courage and leadership on death row. She encouraged everyone to remember his words: "The odds and dangers we face in the struggle are great, but even greater is the power of the people."

Prince Imari Obadele, a former New Afrikan Independence Movement political prisoner, also spoke. From first-hand experience, he told of the hardships faced by political prisoners in the United States, of the loneliness of being locked away for decades and hoping that those in the struggle have not forgotten you. He spoke of his father, a founder of the Republic of New Africa, and of members of the RNA, the Black Liberation Army and the Black Panthers whom he grew up knowing. Obadele reminded the crowd of the

Continued on page 4



## Texas prisoner honors life of Shaka Sankofa

I met Shaka Sankofa face to face for the first time in the winter of 1998. It was a bitterly cold and oppressive morning on death row. Two nights before, I and six other men had been captured during a failed escape attempt, and as a result the prison was under a system-wide security lockdown. There would be no recreation and no hot meals for the indefinite future.

The cage that I was placed in was without a mattress and my clothes were effectively stripped away. I paced back and forth for most of that night to stay warm, but by dawn I was so utterly exhausted that I laid down on the cold steel bunk. With a toilet paper roll as my pillow, I slept until the next day.

When I finally came to, a Black man in handcuffs was standing in front of my cage arguing with a group of guards. By the way the guards kept anxiously looking into my cage, [I knew] they were obviously talking about me. I got up to listen.

After a better look, I realized the Black man was Shaka. He was spitting out a fiery lecture on the constitutional rights of prisoners, demanding my bare necessities and refusing to return to his cage until they allowed him to speak with me. I, on the other hand, was getting in the best position to reach through the bars and grab one of the guards. It was all that I could do to help the brother. I knew he was soon to get jumped on. But to my surprise, the guards conceded. I was brought a pair of boxers with the promise of a mattress and a blanket later in the day.

Shaka was facing a pending execution date at that time. But when the brother stepped to the bars to speak with me, his concern was entirely about MY well-being. Shaka Sankofa was willing to sacrifice himself for me. We became friends in that moment and remained so until his final execution date.

Shaka Sankofa was a leader. A father. A student of revolutionary ideology. A strong, analytical, intelligent Black man with the heart of a lion.

But above all, Shaka Sankofa is a selfless spirit, a constant flame in the struggle, reminding us all of our right to stand strong and our duty to fight relentlessly.

As we celebrate Shaka's life today, may we also embrace and carry on his fight against injustice.

Long live that African! Long live Shaka Sankofa!

—Howard Guidry, June 22, 2006, Harris County Jail

Guidry has spent the last decade on death row in Texas after being forced into confessing to a crime he knew nothing about. In September 2003, Federal Judge Vanessa Gilmore threw out the forced confession, overturned his conviction and ordered Harris County to release or retry him in 180 days. Texas appealed her ruling but lost, and Guidry now faces retrial on July 17. For more information email [Abolition.Movement@hotmail.com](mailto:Abolition.Movement@hotmail.com).

# Labor in the global economy

By Chris Silvera

Workers today need to build a real rank-and-file global fight-back movement. The labor movement must embrace grassroots rank-and-file formations like the Million Worker March Movement to unite Black, Brown, Yellow, Red and White workers into a militant force for progress on behalf of the working class. The labor movement must share its resources with these worker formations while resisting the temptation to always need to "run things" in exchange for cooperation.

The current crop of labor leaders did not rise up from the shop floor. They are the products of Ivy League and other nationally recognized universities. Others are the result of the "legacy system" that allows extreme nepotism to envelop the movement's leadership. They all joined the union at the upper levels or at the top of the organization. These Ivy League labor leaders have implemented a business model and address the issues of working families using this business approach. They are more comfortable with the bosses and politicians than they are with the rank and file.

The labor movement still suffers from the sudden and dramatic loss of leaders that began during the McCarthy era. Those tough, up from the craft, militant and analytic, movement-oriented leaders were replaced by the businessman union leader. Today we organize as if we are selling a product, instead of building a movement. Labor leadership is inviting workers to "join the union; we are the best of a bad situation," never trying to change the bad situation...

There can be no real labor movement without a class consciousness as its foundation.

The business-model union does not have sustainable attributes. In fact, it only reacts to the behavior of the capitalist and does not attempt to lead the workers in a struggle between opposing forces for dominance. It seeks to work within whatever constraints are placed around it, while ignoring the need to confront capital and defeat the greed of the corporate bosses. We must fight to implement a plan that sets forth a lasting solution for the issues affecting the working class. We must successfully work toward a shift to a workers' paradigm. Capital is in an unending quest for increased profits. There can be no part-

nership with capital. Partnerships mean that labor is in collusion with capital, and these relationships cannot be in the long term interest of the class.

It is, in fact, a sure sign of the end of the era of the AFL-CIO and a new epoch in labor.

Workers must reject any idea of "partnerships" with the bosses. We must get up and fight and become mobilized politically to elect people with a workers' agenda.

The immigration debate is centered on a failed premise of appeasing racists and xenophobes, but does not solve the problems facing workers here at home and globally as workers confront this advanced capitalist paradigm. We must beware that the walls we build do not become a prison that separates domestic workers from their global counterparts. Capital seeks unfettered global movement in search of profits; why not the worker in search of work?

Organized labor is not advancing its own agenda; its leadership instead follows the pathetic approach of the Democratic Party. The leadership that allowed U.S. workers to direct the global struggle for the eight-hour day must be resurrected in order to revitalize the labor struggle and protect the standard of living we have come to know.

The destruction of defined-benefit pension plans and health and welfare benefits, and the downward pressure on wages, must be reversed. Only the workers, mobilized to fight, will reverse the decline in labor's presence in the private sector. People join winners—and labor must begin to win. We can only reverse these trends with full labor solidarity and a willingness to "take it to the street." To be of relevance, the union must reverse the flow of capital from the workers' paychecks into the pockets of the ruling class.

Labor today must demand the same freedom of movement as capital has achieved. Workers today must be able to follow their trade as it traverses the globe. Workers must be able to take their collective-bargaining agreements and their unions and move to any country to which their work has been relocated. Just as capital seeks to remove all barriers that impede its movement, so too should labor seek unfettered movement in search of work.

In addition, the U.S. labor movement must become more attentive and involved in issues that affect workers in other countries, and the developing world in particular. The policies of the United States and the G-8 group of nations are having a profoundly negative economic impact on workers in Mexico, the Caribbean nations, Central and South America. This in turn leads to the mass migration of affected workers in search of work.

Historically, when workers lose traction—that is, the ability to support one's family—then they migrate in search of opportunities for sustaining work.

Some of these mass movements of workers were the Irish workers fleeing in the wake of the "Potato Famine," the Sicilian exodus to the United States particularly after World War I and exacerbated after the rise of Mussolini and fascism, and the mass migration of African Americans from the agricultural Jim Crow South into the growing factories in the industrial North. All mass worker migrations have one common denominator, and that is the degradation of work and oppression in the geographic areas of the origins of the worker movement.

Black people have suffered high unemployment since the end of slavery, which was the only period of full employment for Black people, and as a result must seek their own methods to minimize the effects of racism on their ability to obtain and retain work.

Black workers must be the catalyst for worker solidarity on a global scale. We must never forget that Mexico lost its northern territory because of its opposition to slavery and providing sanctuary to runaway Africans during their enslavement. It was their opposition to the expansion of slavery that led to the Mexican-American War and the subsequent loss of land for Mexico; and a most valuable gain for the United States of America. Mexicans have a point when they say that they have not crossed the border, the border crossed them.

Black workers must become relevant in their communities to gain the support of unorganized workers. Organized labor must begin to invest in their communities and related organizations. We can only organize on relevance and on a comprehensive demand for the benefit of the

working class. We must begin to harness the vast resources of the labor movement and invest in programs that lead the way for the government to propagate, such as the breakfast program initiated by the Black Panther Party which evolved into the Head Start Program as we know it today.

Black trade unionists must establish a progressive program that is tied to workers' agenda. As trade unionists, we reject all forms of discrimination within the labor movement.

Like the immigrant struggle, workers in the United States must hit the streets and demand full protection for defined-benefit pension plans, full health coverage from the cradle to the grave, protection and improvement of Social Security, and full employment for all eligible workers.

Capitalists in the United States have established a system based on checks and balances. It is not a system of cooperation and collaboration. When we work in partnership with the "corporate bosses," do we receive a partner share of the profits? If these are the terms of the "partnership," then it can be a basis for negotiations.

When the "working partners" retire, no one writes them a check for \$140 million.

Certainly, there can be no partnership when pension plans are laid to waste, workers' wages are out of step with the cost of living, and with the continued assault against the foundation of organized labor, (i.e., the erosion of Davis-Bacon), the destruction of defined-benefit pension plans, the continued increase in health-care cost sharing, and increased privatization and outsourcing. These cannot be the basis for "equal partnership." Workers will achieve equal partnership when labor checks capital and there is a real increase in working families' bank balance. Organized labor must take the helm and lead workers on a path of relevance. Organized labor must take stock of the needs of the class and forge a dynamic future.

*Chris Silvera is the chair of the Teamsters National Black Caucus and secretary-treasurer of Teamsters Local 808.*

## GUEST Commentary

### BALTIMORE

## Partial victory won over utility company

Public outrage over a proposed 72-percent rate increase by Baltimore Gas & Electric, and the actions of community groups such as the Maryland Coalition to Stop the Rate Hike, forced a special legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly to address the issue on June 13. Renee

Washington of the coalition said, "We know these politicians aren't the friends of poor and working people and the vast majority of them voted for deregulation seven years ago, so we are here to make it clear to the legislature that we want no rate hike." The legislative session resulted in a reduction of the rate hike to 15 percent. Steven Ceci, a volunteer organizer with the coalition, said, "We do feel the lowering of the rate increase is a partial victory, but we won't be satisfied until there is no rate increase."

—WW Baltimore bureau  
PHOTOS RENEE WASHINGTON



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- Guest commentary: ILWU convention denies voices of Black members
- Southeast Social Forum: 'Another South is possible'

## Shaka Sankofa remembered

*Continued from page 3*

importance of writing to and supporting the political prisoners in the United States.

Around 50 letters to various political prisoners were circulated and signed, including ones to Mumia Abu-Jamal and Leonard Peltier. A special focus of the letter writing was on political prisoner Jalil Muntaqim, aka Anthony Bottoms, who the NBUF corresponds with. Muntaqim is up for parole in July See [www.thejerichomovement.com](http://www.thejerichomovement.com) for more information. □

## Despite evictions

# Farmers vow to fight for their land

By John Parker  
Los Angeles

On June 13 at 5 a.m., Los Angeles County Sheriffs deputies obeyed their marching orders from landowner Ralph Horowitz and evicted South Central farmers from a land they have been cultivating for 14 years—a rare green space in an industrial area of Los Angeles that provided much-needed food to a community underserved by the city.

Close to 70 people were arrested in the raid led by hundreds of riot police backed up by helicopters flying overhead. Many supporters of the farmers had organized civil disobedience to defy the eviction. Some chained themselves to trees and to each other.

This eviction came in spite of the money that was raised by the farmers and charitable organizations that met Horowitz' asking price of \$16 million. Even Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, who until the eviction had shown no real intent to assist the farmers, made public comments critical of Horowitz.

After celebrities like Danny Glover, Martin Sheen, Joan Baez and especially Darryl Hannah—who refused to leave the farm until she was arrested—got involved, Villaraigosa began to discuss the issue in public.

At a news conference on the day of the eviction, Villaraigosa said that he was disappointed after trying to persuade



The South Central Farm in November 2005.

Horowitz to sell the farm. He said that after Horowitz was notified of the available money for purchase of the farm he then raised the price another \$2 million.

Villaraigosa could have used his power as mayor to first stop the eviction, and then begin the process of invoking eminent domain over the property, giving the land to the farmers. In fact, the city did use eminent domain to acquire the same property 14 years ago to use it for a garbage incinerator.

After the Los Angeles rebellion in 1992 following the Rodney King police brutality verdict, the city scrapped the incinerator idea as a concession to the community. This allowed the land to be held by a public trust and the farmers to clean up what was a dump site and turn it into a celebrated 14-acre farm.



PHOTOS: FERNANDO FLORES

Three hundred fifty families had plots on the land on June 12. On June 13, there were no families.

However, the farmers and their supporters have refused to give up the fight. They are keeping up daily vigils at the farm along with actions at the mayor's mansion demanding that the farm be returned to them. They are also engaged in a lawsuit that challenges the city's secret sale of the land to Ralph Horowitz three years ago. Since this was public land there should have been hearings before selling it, but none were held. The land, at the time valued at over \$13 million, was sold to Horowitz for \$5 million.

Said Alberto C., one of the farmers helping to coordinate fight-back actions: "Right now we are making sure there is no

more bulldozing on the property and waiting for the court hearing. On the north side of the farm half of it has been destroyed. So we will be doing a hunger strike."

He commented on the city considering the renovation of a coliseum for a National Football League team: "There shouldn't be any money for the coliseum. How can they have millions for that and none for the farm?"

The farmers are determined to maintain their struggle. Supporters have been asked to come to the daily vigils at the farm at 7 p.m.

"They may have cut down some of the trees and uprooted the crops but they haven't hurt our spirit. The land belongs to the people," said Alberto. □

## DETROIT

# Venezuelan ambassador discusses 'offensive against poverty'

By Cheryl LaBash  
Detroit

Standing ovations greeted Venezuelan Ambassador Bernardo Alvarez at a Community Meet and Greet Reception in Detroit June 14. Organized by Michigan Welfare Rights Organization, the packed grassroots potluck was supported by U.S./Cuba Labor Exchange, Justice for Cuba Coalition, Latinos Unidos, International Action Center, Call 'em Out and more.

The community reception capped a daylong visit to Michigan by the ambassador and representatives from the Venezuelan Consulate in Chicago facilitated by Michigan State Rep. LaMar Lemmons III.

Ambassador Alvarez explained how the home heating oil program that assisted 200,000 people in nine U.S. states last winter grew from needs exposed by the Katrina hurricane disaster. Bolivarian Venezuela organized immediate aid, including opening CITGO's Lake Charles oil refinery for emergency shelter, funding housing for evacuees in Houston and even bringing buses from Miami to transport stranded people to safety. But Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez predicted that the skyrocketing oil prices from the hurricanes compounding the invasion of Iraq would create even more hardships in poor communities inside the United States.

"Then we started thinking that the most vulnerable, the weak sectors of society were the low-income families who use heating oil," Alvarez said.

The crowd, many of whom are veteran fighters for affordable water, erupted in applause when Alvarez quoted President Chávez: "You know that we always talk about the North and the South. He said what is key here for me is that the South exists in the North. All these struggles we have had against neoliberalism and this idea of an inhuman form of capitalism is not only affecting us, it is affecting people in the U.S."

In addition to the social exclusion of the African American communities exposed by Katrina, Alvarez observed personally through heating oil deliveries that in Vermont and other Northeastern states many white people are also very poor. Alvarez described the condition of one oil recipient on a fixed income whose husband is unemployed and suffering from severe diabetes: "For her it is as simple as whether she heats her house or pays for medicine. As simple as that! It is incredible."

Alvarez commented that perhaps the most advanced societies are in Africa and among the indigenous in Latin America because although there is poverty no one is left behind.

As many in Detroit fear anti-immigrant deportation raids, a special note hit home with the crowd. Alvarez described how the Bolivarian government found 3 million people in Venezuela with no official identification documents. Nearly 1 million of them were immigrants from Haiti, Colombia, Ecuador and other countries. All have received Venezuelan citizenship and the right to maintain dual citizenship.

Alvarez announced a new program to

extend the free eye surgery program begun by Cuba to the U.S. Midwest. He also told of plans to transform the value of the oil discount into a social development fund.

Alvarez summed up his message saying: "The only way to fight poverty is through empowering the poor people. Be part of this offensive against poverty and exclusion."

Again, we are not going to solve all the problems. But together we can show that another world is possible, with a little resources and a lot of solidarity."

While in Michigan, Ambassador Alvarez and the Chicago Consulate delegation met with the Michigan Legislative Black Caucus in Lansing, and in Detroit with city council members and the mayor. □

## SAN FRANCISCO

# It's time to revive militant legacy of LGBT movement

By Judy Greenspan  
San Francisco

This year's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Pride celebration was in many ways dedicated to the Compton's Cafeteria Rebellion of 1966, a little-known battle against police brutality and LGBT oppression that took place here three years before New York City's Stonewall Rebellion. However, trans and queer activists had to work hard to ensure that the real heroes and struggles of the day were commemorated.

The Compton's Cafeteria Rebellion was set off in August 1966 after a police sweep of the Tenderloin and harassment of Latina, Asian, Black and white trans people, at that time self-identified as drag queens, in Gene Compton's Cafeteria, a popular eating place.

When a cop harassed and tried to arrest one of the drag queens, outraged transgender women, butch lesbians, gay men and others in the cafeteria fought back. According to the 1972 Official Voice of the Christopher Street West Parade Committee, "A police car had every window broken, a newspaper shack outside the cafeteria was burned to the ground, and general havoc was raised that night in the Tenderloin."

It was a night of struggle that transformed the early LGBT community in this city and gave rise to the early gay liberation movement. And it is a history that has been buried for too long.

On June 22, members of the transgender community, including veterans of the rebellion, gathered at the site of the old

Compton's Cafeteria to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the rebellion. A plaque placed in the pavement in front of the cafeteria site was unveiled. It reads in part, "Here marks the site of Gene Compton's Cafeteria where a riot took place... when transgender women and gay men stood up for their rights and fought against police brutality, poverty, oppression and discrimination."

One of the people honored at this plaque dedication, as well as throughout the weekend, was retired San Francisco Police Sergeant Elliot Blackstone, who served as police liaison to the LGBT community during the 1960s and 1970s. Blackstone was perhaps too effective in his friendship and support of LGBT liberation, because in 1972 he was framed on phony charges and eventually forced to retire from the police force. Unfortunately, in honoring Blackstone—an anomaly in an otherwise bigoted and anti-gay police force—the SFPD felt welcome to send its top brass to the commemoration. Their presence and statements, including a statement by Police Chief Heather Fong, blurred and marred the true meaning of the day.

The next speaker after the police was Leslie Feinberg, a well-known transgender author and activist and a managing editor of Workers World newspaper. Surrounded by police brass, Feinberg raised her clenched fist and said: "The struggle against racism, police brutality, poverty, oppression and discrimination continues today. I express my deep solidarity with the family and community of Asa Sullivan, gunned down by cops here on June 6, and other victims of racist police violence." She



Workers World banner at S.F. Pride 2006.

WW PHOTO: BOOH EDOUARDO

also demanded an end to the gentrification and destruction of the BayView-Hunters Point African American community by redevelopers and the city government.

Feinberg also called for a mobilization to pressure New York City Michael Bloomberg's administration and the New York Police Department to stop denying trans and gender-non-conforming people of color the right to march down Eighth Avenue on June 23.

The second annual Transgender rights march here on June 23 brought out several thousand transgender, transsexual, intersex and gender-variant people. While Feinberg was again a featured speaker at the rally, District Attorney Kamala Harris and County Supervisor Bevan Dufty also spoke. TIP, a transgender prisoners' rights group, marched into the crowd with picket signs protesting police brutality against the transgender community and the continued use of "three strikes" sentences in San Francisco.

A Workers World contingent carrying a banner reading, "Stonewall Means Fight Back Against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Oppression," was well received

during the march that began at Dolores Park and ended at the Civic Center.

The Dyke March on June 23 was the only event that did not host any police or city officials. Rally speakers included activists from the queer Arab and South Asian communities, as well as anti-Zionist Jewish lesbians. Dyke March organizers received threats and complaints from a local Jewish shopkeeper, but refused to allow any pro-Israel speakers. Laura Whitehorn, an anti-imperialist former prisoner, challenged everyone there to fight for the freedom of all political prisoners and to join the anti-war struggle. Tens of thousands of lesbians, led by Dykes on Bikes, marched through San Francisco that night.

On June 25, while hundreds of thousands of LGBT people from all over California and the country marched through San Francisco, members of several organizations—including the radical activist group LAGAI, QUIT (Queers Undermining Israeli Terrorism), and the San Francisco Branch of Workers World Party—carried out an action at the Civic

*Continued on page 10*

## Putting 'liberation' back into 'gay liberation'

Speech given by WW Managing Editor Leslie Feinberg at the 2006 San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade.

It's time! It's time! It's time to put the "liberation" back into "gay liberation"—into lesbian and bisexual, transsexual and transgender, intersexual and queer liberation.

No politician is gonna do it for us. The Democrats and Republicans have declared war on same-sex marriage. We need to be the ones to fight this state discrimination against our families. At the same time, imagine how we could electrify the country if we declare that people shouldn't have to get married in order to have health insurance—we demand health care for all!

Frederick Douglass said it best: "Without struggle, there is no progress." And solidarity is what unites us in struggle.

Those who fought the police at the 1966 Compton's Cafeteria Rebellion and the 1969 Stonewall Uprising knew that in their bones. Asian and Latin@, Black and white, trans and gay, lesbian and bi—when they united against a common enemy, they gathered the storm clouds of their power.

We need to gather our power today.

Our movement was born out of struggle against police violence. Let us unite today with those whose communities are occupied by police the way Pentagon troops occupy Baghdad. Let us offer our deepest solidarity to the families and communities of Black and Latin@ and Asian and Native and Arab youth gunned by



Members of Trans/Gender Variant in Prison (TIP) and Leslie Feinberg (center) protest District Attorney speaking at S.F. Trans March.

WW PHOTO

cops, like Asa Sullivan, killed by police here on June 6. We want money to rebuild our cities, not more prisons and police terror.

In the 1970s, many of us in the gay liberation movement organized in defense of Chicano farm workers struggling to create a union—the United Farm Workers—in the California fields. And Cesar Chavez and the UFW have defended gay rights. Today, the UFW is asking us to help stop union busting by boycotting Krug and Mondavi grapes. Let's tell the UFW: We support you!

Let's show solidarity with the life-and-death struggle of embattled Colombian trade unionists by supporting their call to boycott all Coca-Cola products.

Let's truly mobilize our movement in support of undocumented immigrant workers. As the federal and state governments scrutinize identification documents, many LGBT bodies, lives and loves

will be scrutinized and policed as well. The government is sowing the seeds of racism. Let's tell them: No human being is illegal! Stop deporting our loved ones! There are no borders between our struggles.

Our South Asian, Arab and Muslim immigrant co-workers and neighbors are being locked up without charges by the government in secret locations. For those who ask: How could Japanese-Americans have been interned in WWII here in California—this is how it begins! Let us raise our voices to demand: Stop the round-up of Muslim, Arab and South Asian immigrants!

In the Middle East, Wall Street and the Pentagon have been funding the brutal occupation of historic Palestine with our tax dollars. Let's organize to build the boycott of the World Pride March in Jerusalem. There is no pride in occupation!

And beware when Big Oil and Wall Street say they're going to war against

Afghanistan or Iraq or Iran in order to liberate women or liberate gay people. Since when was the Pentagon a vehicle for women's and gay liberation? Our job here is to demand: No wars for oil! Bring the troops home, now!

And what about the racist war right here? Look at New Orleans—an African American and LGBT capital. You know why the levees broke? Because the money to fortify them was channeled into the war drive. Now tens of thousands of Black people have been forced into yet another Diaspora, while real estate developers in New Orleans are popping champagne corks as they plan to gentrify the city for wealthy whites. Let us demand the right of all Katrina survivors to return home.

The same real estate interests are displacing the Black population of Bay View/Hunter's Point here. We want affordable housing for all, not war!

We want money for AIDS and breast cancer funding—not war. We want Deaf and disabled access, not wars that kill and maim. We want reproductive rights, not a war on women's bodies. We want jobs at decent wages, not an economic draft.

In order to fight for rights, as well as for liberation, we have to make the struggle against racism and sexism, and for greater and genuine respect for the leadership of people of color and youth and women the top priority of the agenda for movement building.

Can we build the kind of unity that we need to win our liberation? ¡Si se puede! ¡Si se puede! Long live the spirit of Gwen Araujo! □

## NEW YORK

# TransJustice triumphs

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

TransJustice held the second annual Trans Day of Action for Social and Economic Justice on June 23 in New York, kicking off with a rally of fiery speeches, followed by a militant march of more than 500 people who defied police restrictions.

TransJustice is a political group “exclusively by and for Trans and Gender Non-conforming [TGNC] People of Color” initiated in 2004 by the Audre Lorde Project, an organizing center for lesbian, gay, bisexual, two-spirit, transgender, and gender non-conforming people of color.

New York Police Department and Mayor Michael Bloomberg denied TransJustice organizers a permit to march down Eighth Avenue and across 42nd Street past the Port Authority Bus Terminal. The route was chosen to honor Amanda Milan, a 25-year-old African-American transgender woman who was viciously murdered near that location.

The denial of the permit showed once again a shocking contempt for LGBT lives on the part of city authorities, given the recent increase in bashings in the city. The Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project reported 566 total hate incidents in 2005,

with 233 of those classified as assaults. According to the Police Department’s own figures, the rate is up from last year. (Village Voice)

On June 10 four attackers assaulted legendary drag star Kevin Aviance, putting him in the hospital with a broken jaw, a fractured head and back, and knee injuries, and leaving him out of work during Pride month. Like so many working people in the United States, Aviance has no health insurance. The same weekend two other gay-bashing incidents in the city also sent the victims to the hospital or left them out of work. (Gay City News)

## Economic justice & trans justice

Gathering marchers first heard Jack Aponte of the Sylvia Rivera Law Project eloquently highlight issues raised by TransJustice in its call for the Day of Action.

The TransJustice call said: “The specific issues that TGNC people of color face mirror those faced by broader communities of color in New York City: police brutality and harassment; racist and xenophobic immigration policies; lack of access to living wage employment, adequate affordable housing, quality education, and basic health care; and the impact of U.S. impe-

rialism and the so-called U.S. war on terrorism being waged against people at home and abroad. These issues are compounded for TGNC people of color by the fact that homophobia and transphobia are so pervasive in society. As a result, our community is disproportionately represented in homeless shelters, in foster care agencies, in jails and prisons.”

Speaker after speaker at the rally affirmed these difficult truths and cried out for action. Jennifer Ramirez of FIERCE—Fabulous Independent Educated Radicals for Community Empowerment—identified herself as a pre-operative transgender woman and told how transgender youths are severely harassed and targeted by the police, especially in the West Village piers area.

Dee Perez, a transgender Latina representing GLOBE—Gays and Lesbians of Bushwick Empowered—was a friend of Amanda Milan. She spoke of being present as Milan lay dying amidst jeers and laughter. She ended by saying: “We will fight back! Si se puede!”

D’Angelo Johnson of TransJustice and Jay Toole of Queers for Economic Justice celebrated two recent victories. As a result of struggle, a separate “gay and trans” housing unit at Rikers Island, a New York City jail, slated for closing, will be kept open as a measure to minimize danger to detainees at risk of rape and assault. A struggle also changed a Department of Homeless Services policy used to force transgender people into shelters based on birth sex, rather than assigning housing appropriate to gender expression.



WW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

Dee Perez, left, of GLOBE

Acknowledging these wins, Toole, herself a formerly homeless lesbian, added passionately: “But we need to get our people out of jail—and out of the shelters. We need affordable housing. We need to march on the welfare offices!”

Speaking as a representative of the International Action Center, LeiLani Dowell emphasized that anti-racist and anti-imperialist organization’s strong support for transgender justice issue. Dowell characterized the permit denial as an attempt to deny the history of activism by transgender people of color. She noted that LGBT people have participated in every single struggle for social justice in the United States, both before and after Stonewall, including mobilizations to free political prisoners such as Mumia Abu-Jamal and current opposition to the war on Iraq.

Richard Burns, executive director of the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, affirmed the center’s commitment to transgender justice issues. Other speakers included the Rev. Pat Bumgardner of the Metropolitan Community Church, Charles King of Housing Works, and representatives from Jews for Racial and Economic Justice and the Green Party.

Readying for the march, the crowd heard rally moderator Lourdes Hunter say

*Continued on page 9*



New York Pride 2006.

WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

## Pride 2006 highlights

By LeiLani Dowell

An estimated half-million people turned out for Chicago’s Lesbian Gay Bi Trans Pride parade on June 25, and the multinational throng of spectators cheered wildly for the radical contingent organized by the Gay Liberation Network. Banners and signs denounced anti-gay bigots, President George W. Bush, and the Iraq war. Chants proclaimed, “Equal marriage is a right” and, “Stonewall vive, vive—la lucha sigue, sigue!” (Stonewall lives—the struggle continues!) The GLN distributed thousands of leaflets about a June 27 demonstration in Marion, Ind., against Exodus International, a religious-right project that claims to “cure” gay people. Supporting groups included Code Pink, Black LGBT & Allies for Equality, World Can’t Wait, the IWW, Pomegranate Radical Health Collective, ANSWER, and Workers World Party.

Around 200,000 marched and paraded in Seattle on June 24 and 25 at the Dyke March and the Raise your Voice March. This year’s march celebrated the new statewide gay non-discrimination law, which was passed after 30 years of marching and going to the legislature.

There were tens of thousands of people



WW PHOTO: LOU PAULSEN

## Chicago

lining Peachtree Street in Atlanta for this year’s Pride parade when a massive rainstorm forced cancellation of the program. Nevertheless, a multinational contingent from the Progressive Queer Agenda, Men Stopping Violence, International Action Center and others marched from the parade to the State Capitol, carrying banners that read: “No Homophobia! No War and Occupation! Unite to Fight the Right!”

In New York, the International Action Center’s banner—demanding full rights for all and the immediate return of troops from Iraq, as well as expressing solidarity with immigrants and Katrina evacuees—was received with loud applause and cheers.

*Lou Paulsen, Jim McMahan, and Dianne Mathiowetz contributed to this article.*

## TORONTO

# Socialist message kicks off Pride week

By Beverly Hiestand  
Toronto, Canada

More than 500 people showed up June 18 for a sold-out event here to hear Workers World Managing Editor Leslie Feinberg kick off Toronto’s Pride week.

The Toronto Women’s Bookstore—which also serves as a multinational, multicultural lesbian, gay, bi and trans community center—hosted the event at an auditorium at the University of Toronto. Many diverse community-based organizations, university groups and departments co-sponsored.

Significantly, so did many Canadian labor unions. Union sponsors included the Canadian Auto Workers; Canadian Union of Public Employees, Locals 3903 and

4400; Canadian Women in Science & Engineering—Ontario Institute for Studies in Education; Ontario Public Service Employees Union; United Steelworkers Toronto Area Council and Steel Pride. Feinberg is herself a member of Pride At Work/AFL-CIO, a national steering committee member of the LGBT Caucus of the National Writers’ Union/UAW, and an associate member of the Steelworkers’ Union.

Struggles by Canadian unions have led to court decisions in Ontario and other provinces that require employers to provide equal benefits to same-sex spouses, including bereavement leave and medical, dental and pension benefits. (www.uswa.ca)

The website of the Canadian Auto

*Continued on page 10*

## Union leaders support same-sex marriage rights

With the judges of New York state’s top court poised to rule on same-sex marriage, some two dozen city union leaders weighed in on June 26 to publicly demand an end to state discrimination against equal rights for lesbian, gay, bi and trans couples.

SEIU 1199 health-care workers’ union President Dennis Rivera said, “We ... support the right of same-sex couples to access the full and equal rights, responsibilities and economic benefits of civil marriage, and [we] oppose laws and constitutional amendments that deny that right.”

United Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten stated succinctly, “All New Yorkers who want to marry should be allowed to do so, period.”

UNITE HERE General President Bruce Raynor said he is committed to “fighting against injustice in any and all forms.” The Hotel Workers Rising campaign of UNITE HERE reached out in solidarity to the LGBT movement at Pride Month events, showing support with rainbow T-shirts, stickers and placards calling for support for contract rights.

—Leslie Feinberg

# U.S. weapons of mass destruction protested

By Kermit Leibensperger  
Baltimore

If President Bush has his way, tens of billions of dollars will be taken from public health spending in the coming years and allocated to the U.S. Army's Ft. Detrick, the headquarters of U.S. bioweapons research, located in Frederick, MD. The administration's plans for massive expansion of the number of BLS-4 containment suites and related WMD facilities were protested June 4 by a rally and march through crowds gathered for a fair in downtown Frederick.

Activists alerted the community of upcoming Environmental Impact Study hearings in late August or September, when the Army will try to gloss over the danger posed by experiments—past and future—with disease-causing viruses and bacteria for which there exist neither vaccine nor cure.

Ft. Detrick's efforts at gene splicing and other DNA modification techniques to increase the virulence of existing strains of viruses and bacteria are perhaps the most foolish and dangerous part of the Bush administration's WMD programs. In a recent four-article series on the lab, the Frederick News-Post reported Ft. Detrick had "161 mishaps" from 2002 to 2005.

Speakers representing the entire progressive-revolutionary political spectrum called on groups and individuals to work to bring out the community en masse for the hearings, and denounced Ft. Detrick's bioweapons research as not only a threat to Frederick County, but to all humanity. Documentation of illnesses and deaths related to leaks from the sprawling facilities may be found at [www.frederickpac.org](http://www.frederickpac.org).

Two speakers added very sad, personal notes to the rally, stories which deeply touched those present. Mrs. Grace Free Koehl spoke of the involuntary confisca-

tion of dairy farms, upon which the bioweapons labs were built. "One day there was a sign along the road saying we had to vacate three of our fields," Mrs. Koehl told me as she paged through a scrapbook filled with newspaper articles, photographs, and land plans documenting the Federal land takeovers and the numerous illnesses and deaths in her family, neighboring families, and farm animals that followed the opening of the Army labs. "They took fields my father rented from Dr. Rau for what was called Camp Detrick back then, along with land from other farmers."

By taking only portions of farms, the Army effectively made the farmers and their families human guinea pigs. Mrs. Koehl denounced the book "50 Year History of Ft. Detrick," recently published by the government, because it makes no mention of the forced farmland confiscations or of the health consequences to the Free family, their cattle, and the surrounding area, which came to be a "cancer cluster."

## Son of Frank Olson speaks out

Eric Olson, whose father held a key position at the nation's most secret biological warfare laboratory during the Cold War, told the rally that the government covered up the killing of his father, Frank Olson, not just once, claiming his fall of 10 stories from a Manhattan hotel was a suicide or accident in 1953, but with a second deception in 1975, when President Ford called the Olson family to the White House and apologized for the LSD that was administered to Frank Olson without his knowledge.

However, after receiving information from an old friend of his father's, Eric Olson has become convinced his father was killed because he was appalled at reports that bioweapons bombs were being tested in the

Korean War. Referring to stories that captured American pilots who confessed to dropping bioweapons were brainwashed, Norman Kanoyen confided to Olson, "It wasn't all brainwashing. Get it? Your dad found it was true." How much bioweapons testing was actually done in Korea Kanoyen didn't know or wasn't willing to say, Olson reported.

Frederick lawyer and congressional candidate Barry Kissin noted in his speech that Ft. Detrick had the creation of anthrax bombs on their agenda since 1943. At that time the Army planned to use anthrax bombs in Germany, but the project was not completed before the end of WWII.

Olson also believes his father opposed the use of Ft. Detrick-produced chemicals and biologicals in the Korean War for what was then called "terminal interrogation." This is what the Bush administration's spin-doctors now term the "extraordinary rendition" of kidnapped suspects that the CIA conducts in secret prisons in Europe, according to Dana Priest's recent Pulitzer Prize winning exposé in *The Washington Post* (December 4). "He would have known," Olson said. "He was [chief of the] Special Operations Division, the CIA—Detrick liaison for the CIA."

Olson encouraged the audience to learn details of CIA crimes, including the killing of his father, by seeing a documentary made for German public television's ARD network titled "Code Name: Artichoke—The CIA's Secret Experiments on Humans" by Egmont R. Koch and Michael Wech (Available at Satellite Video, Walkersville, MD; 301-845-2737). Olson said that PBS had scheduled to show the film, then cancelled. More information, including a transcript of the film and Olson's continuing investigation of his father's murder and other CIA criminal activities, may be found at [www.frankolsonproject.org](http://www.frankolsonproject.org). □

## 25,000 protest Bush's visit to Vienna



Vienna June 22.

By John Catalinotto

Some 25,000 people came out in Vienna June 22 to protest U.S. President George Bush's visit to the Austrian capital and especially the U.S. occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. Bush was attending a summit of European Union leaders.

The protest's size and energy reflected the opinion polls for both the Austrian and European populations—in Austria only 14 percent support current U.S. policy, while 64 percent think the U.S. plays a reactionary role in world politics. In Europe, 36 percent believe U.S. policies are the greatest danger to world peace.

Bush traveled with over 500 CIA and other security agents to organize protection and give orders to the local authorities. In addition, some 3,000 Austrian police were deployed. While they did their worst to keep the president isolated from the protest, the overwhelming public opposition broke through.

Willi Langthaler of the Anti-Imperialist Camp (AIC)—one of the organizers of the protest—reported that: "When Bush drove into downtown Vienna in his armored vehicle the road blocks brought all life to a standstill. Activists of the Anti-Imperialist Camp were uncoiling a huge banner reading 'Bush go home' from the terrace café of a multi-story building where Bush

passed by. He had to see it.

"Other guests at the café spontaneously held the banner and joined in shouting, 'Bush go home.' Even the people below on the street joined in. The police did not want to interfere. Twenty-seven years ago when a U.S. president [Jimmy Carter—to sign SALT II] came the last time to visit Vienna people were standing on the road waving U.S. flags."

The AIC report noted that this protest was as large as those that occurred before the March 20, 2003, invasion of Iraq, but that now there is much stronger popular support for an anti-imperialist position, including supporting the Iraqi resistance. Awni al-Kalemji, representing that resistance, spoke at a rally of some thousands.

Although there were two rallies—one more social democratic and one anti-imperialist—some well-known speakers like British anti-war Member of Parliament George Galloway and German member of the European Parliament Tobias Pflueger addressed the anti-imperialist rally. This shows that the anti-imperialist sector of the movement is no longer isolated and has attracted young people along with representatives of the Turkish and Arab immigrant community and radical Moslems, and some of the Austrian groups, according to the AIC report. □

## PYONGTECH, KOREA

# Farmers resist U.S. military base

*Following are excerpts of a discussion held at the New York International Action Center with the Rev. Kyu Hyun Mun, chairperson of the Solidarity for Peace and Reunification organization in South Korea, translated by Yoomi Jeong of the Korea Truth Commission. Rev. Mun is also involved in the struggle of farmers in Pyongtech, South Korea, against the expansion of military bases on their land. He planned to return to Seoul to participate in a hunger strike against the arrest of a leader in the struggle.*

I would like to extend my deepest solidarity and gratitude to those of you who have been involved in the Korean struggle all these years.

The Pyongtech farmers' claim is this: They are willing to give up the farming land they have cultivated for generations if it is in the national interest. But if it is for U.S. aggression, the farmers are adamant not to give up their land.

The farmers deeply believe their struggle is not just their own, but a step toward world peace and justice, a struggle for a better livelihood for all.

These are farmers who have historically suffered at the hands of foreign

interests. First the Japanese military came and forcibly took their land away from them. Then in 1945, the United States occupied Pyongtech at the end of World War II, made the Japanese military bases their own, and expanded them, taking even more land from the Pyongtech farmers.

The farmers had to move to new land, prime that land for agriculture and cultivate it, without government compensation or subsidies. They did this by themselves with their own hands and feet.

The farmers believe that the cultivating of food is the cultivating of life, and their own contribution to world peace. The Chinese character for "peace" depicts rice entering the mouth. The land now being forcibly taken from them—almost 320 acres, a huge amount of land—can produce six months' worth of rice for all of Pyongtech's 360,000 citizens.

They are amazed at the current situation—the South Korean government, at the behest of the United States, forcibly taking land from them. Recently, the head of the farmers' committee was arrested. My older brother is now on a hunger strike outside Cheong Wa Dae,

*Continued on the next page*



## While masses flee Ramadi siege

# Senate's war budget vote signals no 'reconciliation' in Iraq

By Greg Butterfield

On June 25 the Iraqi puppet government presented a 24-point "national reconciliation" plan that purports to help end armed resistance to the U.S.-led occupation and bring stability to the country.

Does this plan, announced by Iraqi "Prime Minister" Nuri Kamal al-Maliki, herald the beginning of a new era of stability in Iraq and the prospect of a timely withdrawal of foreign occupation troops? Or is it a cynical ploy meant to divide and conquer the Iraqi resistance movement and revive the political fortunes of U.S. President George W. Bush and his Republican allies at home, while obscuring the occupation's ongoing crimes against Iraqi civilians?

The June 26 New York Times reported that the plan offers "neither a broad amnesty for insurgents nor any new options for members of Saddam Hussein's long-ruling Baath Party, the two most heavily disputed items. ... The decision appeared to have been influenced by religious Shiites who form his base and by the American military command."

According to a June 25 British Broadcasting Corp. special report, the "reconciliation" plan "is part of a grand strategy by the Bush administration to stabilize Iraq—or to stabilize the perception of Iraq—in advance of the mid-term elections for Congress in November.

"Other parts of the plan are an insistence that democracy has arrived in Iraq and must be supported, [and] a refusal to set any date or timetable for a total withdrawal of U.S. troops," the BBC concluded.

Conveniently, a proposal by Gen. George Casey, commander of U.S. forces

in Iraq, to dramatically reduce troop levels by the end of 2007 was leaked to reporters while Maliki's plan was in the news. This gave Bush the opportunity to say Casey's plan was one option being considered, while continuing to evade any actual commitment to withdraw.

During Bush's surprise visit to Baghdad in mid-June, Maliki had promised "stability" in Iraq within 18 months.

At the Bush administration's insistence, the pliable prime minister reportedly dropped a timetable for ending the occupation from his plan, and severely narrowed the amnesty offer at the last minute.

### Democrats pro-war

Even though Maliki tailored his "reconciliation" plan to suit the Bush administration, it was too strong for some Democrats to take. In fact, some party leaders seem to be positioning themselves to the right of Bush on the issue of amnesty for the tens of thousands of Iraqi men rounded up in mass sweeps and imprisoned by U.S. troops, in some cases for over three years.

While the White House said, "Reconciliation must be an Iraqi process, led by Iraqis"—after the proper compliance with Washington's colonial mandates, of course—Carl Levin, senior Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, denounced Maliki's plan for daring to offer any kind of amnesty to "suspected terrorists" opposed to the U.S. occupation.

"That would just be unconscionable," Levin told "Fox News Sunday" June 25. "For heaven's sake, we liberated the country."

Other high-ranking Democrats joined Levin's jingoist tirade. They include Sen. Russ Feingold, who with John Kerry had sponsored a perfunctory bill to withdraw the troops by July 1, 2007. It was defeated 86-13 on June 23, as was a second vague proposal to begin withdrawing troops this year but with no definite date to end the occupation.

For all the bluster filling newspapers and airwaves about heated partisan debate on Iraq in the halls of Congress, the truth comes down to this: On June 23, the Senate voted unanimously to approve a \$517.7 billion war budget for fiscal year 2007, including \$50 billion designated to maintain the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan.

That's right. Every senator, Republican and Democrat alike, voted to approve the war budget.

What's more, they voted for nearly \$100 billion more than the House of Representatives had approved earlier in the week.

Neither of the withdrawal proposals was taken seriously by the Democratic Party senators, as their unanimous vote for the war budget proves. No worker or other opponent of war and oppression should forget this unanimous vote on Election Day. The Democrats are as much a party of imperialism and war as the Republicans.

### Ramadi under siege

Republican or Democrat, White House or Pentagon—Washington isn't the least bit interested in "reconciliation."

Lt. Gen. John F. Satler told the June 26 New York Times that no matter what, troop levels would not be reduced in Western Iraq's Al-Anbar province, considered one of the strongholds of the resistance.

There the city of Ramadi is bracing for a siege by U.S. forces like "Operation Phantom Fury," which leveled 70 percent of neighboring Falluja in November 2004.

Maurizio Mascia, program manager of the Italian Consortium of Solidarity, which provides relief to refugees in Western Iraq, told Inter Press Service: "The Americans, instead of attacking the city [Ramadi] all at once like they've done in their previous operations in cities like Falluja and Al-Qa'im, are using helicopters and ground troops to attack one district at a time.

"The main dangers for the population are the [U.S.-controlled] checkpoints and the snipers; both usually shoot at any movement that they consider dangerous—causing many victims among civilians."

U.S. troops are setting up loudspeakers and blasting messages calling on residents to flee the city or turn in suspected resistance fighters. This is after weeks of cordoning off the city of 400,000.

Imad Al-Muhammadi of the Iraqi Red Crescent said: "There is no positive sign on the American side that shows a different solution from those of Falluja and other cities which have been 'deleted' in order to be 'liberated.' Civilians, as usual, are the ones living the hardships of the occupation and definitely the ones dying in vain."

Families face "horrible living conditions in tents, abandoned schools and are staying under any roof that protects them from the burning summer sun," he said.

According to the Institute for War and Peace Reporting, "People in Ramadi ... estimate that 70 percent of the city's population have fled in the last week, many holding white flags for fear of being shot at by Marine snipers."

Meanwhile, U.S. troops in Tikrit pro-

vocatively seized a respected Sunni cleric, Sheik Jamal Abdul Karim al-Dabban, and four others as "suspected terrorists" in an early-morning raid June 24. Within hours, outraged crowds gathered in Baghdad and other cities to protest Sheik Dabban's arrest. While the military released al-Dabban later that day, claiming it was a mistake, the firestorm of anger hasn't abated. (CNN, June 24)

### What's behind Baghdad 'emergency'?

In Baghdad, Iraq's capital city of 6 million people, a state of emergency and curfew were imposed on June 23. But the crackdown had already begun June 13, with tens of thousands of U.S. and Iraqi troops flooding the streets.

The southern city of Basra has been under a similar state of emergency since early June.

Maliki ordered the state of emergency with just two hours' notice, while Friday prayers were still in progress. It included a shoot-on-site authorization for anyone suspected of carrying a weapon or displaying "threatening" behavior.

"Aren't they supposed to give us a day's notice?" asked taxi driver Muhammed Saleh. "How are people who went to work or to pray supposed to get home? This is a decision by someone who is not wise, not reasonable." (Washington Post, June 24)

The Associated Press reported that workers and worshipers scrambled to get home or find shelter before the deadline, since vehicular traffic had already been banned on Friday afternoons. "U.S. soldiers frisked men also dashing home against a backdrop of thick, black smoke rising above the white high-rise buildings of Haifa Street. Helicopters flitted back and forth overhead."

Most reports vaguely chalked up the sudden state of emergency to "insurgent attacks." However, the Washington Post, in the most detailed account published in the United States, reported that the unrest began when members of the Shiite Mahdi Army were attacked by an alleged "Sunni militia" on their way to Friday prayers.

While the U.S./Iraqi Army forces were supposedly coming to their rescue, the Mahdi Army fighters exchanged fire with them at checkpoints, and "later set up checkpoints of their own on roads leading toward the mosque." (Washington Post, June 24)

The provocative attack on the Mahdi Army is suspicious, since that group has strongly opposed the U.S. occupation. Who actually attacked the Mahdi forces, and why? The U.S. big-business media have ignored this question, but it should be asked.

What is behind the spread of so-called sectarian militias, particularly in Baghdad, where the U.S. forces are headquartered? The rise in bombings and other violent acts directed at religious groups and civilians, rather than at occupation troops and Iraqi collaborators, is strikingly similar to the work of U.S.-sponsored death squads in Central America during the 1980s.

John Negroponte, Bush's director of national intelligence, was a key figure in the creation of right-wing death squads in the 1980s. Now the so-called sectarian militias emerged on a large scale in after Negroponte's 2004 appointment as U.S. ambassador to Iraq. □

*Continued from page 8*

the office of the president.

The farmers believe the Pyongtech struggle is one for democracy, peace, justice and human rights. And we believe that the Pyongtech farmers will prevail soon. They have one demand: renegotiation between South Korea and the United States and the South Korean farmers. The South Korean government made a deal with the United States without the consultation of the farmers. The hope is that through negotiations the United States will give up on turning Pyongtech into another U.S. rapid-deployment site.

We appeal for your solidarity, which will strengthen our determination to struggle for justice and peace. □

## NY TransJustice triumphs

*Continued from page 7*

that this march was "37 years in the making" since the original Stonewall Rebellion. Tamiko Beyer of Q-Wave, an organization "for lesbians, bisexual women and trans-folks of Asian descent," recited a poem with the refrain: "We rise! We rise! We fight! We fight!"—which was taken up and chanted vehemently by the energized crowd.

Finally, Imani Henry of TransJustice, lead organizer for the Trans Day of Action for Social and Economic Justice, called on marchers to honor the memory of Amanda Milan, Sylvia Rivera, Marsha P. Johnson, and Sakia Gunn. Rivera, a Latina transgender combatant at the 1969 Stonewall

Rebellion, began Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries—STAR—along with Johnson, an African American Stonewall veteran found drowned in the Hudson River under suspicious circumstances in 1992. Gunn, a 15-year-old African American AG, or masculine lesbian, was stabbed to death in Newark, N.J., in 2003.

Henry launched the crowd into motion, saying: "We have given our blood to make sure we can live and breathe in this city every day. The mayor and the police are trying to keep us from being activists, but we are taking to the streets."

Chanting fiercely without let-up for the next two-and-a-half hours, demonstra-

tors then wound through Chelsea and the West Village, first marching past the Port Authority on 42nd Street in tribute to Amanda Milan and veering defiantly onto Eighth Avenue at one point. Marchers shouted, "Whose streets? Our streets!" to reject the police limits on their protest. Passersby carefully studied, and many cheered, the signs that covered a wide range of demands, from non-gendered access to bathrooms to an end to deportation of immigrant workers. Finally people marched jubilantly up to the LGBT Center on 13th Street and celebrated this day of TransJustice with an electric slide dance in the street. □



## Once again, defend Palestine!

Once again, the high-tech Israeli military, bought and paid for with U.S. taxpayers' money, has launched a murderous assault on the Palestinian people. On June 28 Israeli warplanes fired at least nine missiles at the only power station in Gaza, cutting electricity to 65 percent of the densely populated strip, and destroyed a major bridge. The power plant was left in flames, creating a humanitarian crisis by knocking out both the power and water supplies.

This was followed by Israeli tanks, which blasted their way into Gaza for the first time since Tel Aviv made a big point of withdrawing from the impoverished area last August.

Israeli planes also broke international law once again when they flew low over the house of Syrian President Bashar Assad in a gesture that threatened retaliation for any help Syria might give its Palestinian neighbors.

And once again, the U.S. is abetting this aggression, calling it a "response" to the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier by Palestinian militants in Gaza.

No matter what happens, Israel is always "responding" and the Palestinians are always "attacking," according to the U.S. government and media.

So it's important to look once again at how this seemingly endless conflict began.

The fact is that, although Israel was set up in 1948 under the Zionist slogan of a "land without a people for a people without a land," there were millions of people living there—the Palestinians.

Zionist terror bands—the Irgun—drove millions into exile and massacred many who resisted.

From the beginning, the state of Israel denied the rights of the Palestinians and even their existence as a people.

So it is more than disingenuous when Tel Aviv today says it can't talk to the Hamas-led elected government because the Palestinians won't recognize Israel's right to exist, and then uses this—once again—as the excuse for trying to starve out the Palestinian people and break up their political organizations.

Since Hamas took office in March, Israel has frozen tax revenues it collects from the Palestinian people that are supposed to go to the Palestinian Authority. Amounting to \$52 million a month, this deficit has left 130,000 public employees without paychecks. Israel has also closed the borders around Palestinian territory, causing shortages in food and medicine and a halt in exports.

Now, with the destruction of their power plant, the 1.4 million residents of Gaza face the worsening of what is already a dire situation.

Israel is Washington's right-hand in the Middle East. It is favored by the U.S. ruling class because it can be depended on in any struggle between imperialism and the Arab and Muslim masses. Just like the war in Iraq, these struggles are basically over who will control the oil, the most precious resource in the region.

The Palestinian struggle for self-determination is central to the worldwide struggle of oppressed peoples against imperialism. Free, free Palestine! □

## Minimum wage vs. estate taxes

The U.S. Senate, true to its class allegiance to the rich and powerful, just turned aside an increase in the federal minimum wage from \$5.15 an hour to \$7.25. It has been 13 years since the federal minimum wage was increased.

Presently, 7.3 million workers in the United States work for the minimum wage. Another 8.2 million workers are so close to the bottom that they would likely get a raise, too, if the minimum wage increased. Counting their families, at least 30 million Americans would live better.

The justification for voting against the increase was that poor people need jobs, need to learn entrepreneurship, that companies like McDonalds, Burger King, and Safeway would go out of business because they couldn't afford their

wage bill.

The same week millions of workers were condemned to work in poverty, the House passed a bill exempting a few thousand families whose estates run from \$1 million to \$5 million. This tax exemption, tacked onto ones already in place, will be worth tens of billions of dollars.

Rich people are getting richer and poor working people are getting poorer, because while the minimum wage has stagnated, inflation hasn't. That is the program Congress has established—while their wages and perks go up, the "gifts" from lobbyists pile higher and higher, and the ditch between them and the people grows deeper.

They must be replaced, lock, stock and barrel, Republicrats and Democrans alike. The sooner the better. □

## 9/11 recovery workers:

# 'Gov't deceived, abandoned us'

By Deirdre Griswold  
New York

Millionaire Christine Todd Whitman, the Bush appointee who used to head the Environmental Protection Agency, said exactly one week after the collapse of the Twin Towers, "I'm glad to reassure the people of New York that their air is safe to breathe."

Capitalist politicians, from President George W. Bush to Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, put on hard hats for the cameras and praised the "first responders," calling them heroes and offering all their support.

But today, thousands of those who worked at ground zero after the buildings collapsed are furious at the government, which they charge deceived and abandoned them.

This June 17, some 200 held a rally at the site to demand comprehensive health care for all those sickened by the work there after the disaster. "Many of the two dozen or so people who spoke at the event, including former recovery workers and their families, said that top federal, state and local officials seemed to be focusing on 9/11 memorials while workers who untangled the gnarled debris at ground zero continued to face red tape, resistance and skepticism over their claims." (New York Times, June 18)

Like U.S. soldiers sickened by the Pentagon's use of Agent Orange and depleted uranium in its wars for empire, these workers—whose health is failing after breathing in the toxic dust left by the towers' collapse—are being treated as malingerers by a capitalist government that spends hundreds of billions each year for war and for state repression at home but has cut essential services.

Many former recovery workers who are too sick to labor now find themselves unemployed and joining the 45 million

people in this country without health care.

A special program for 9/11 responders set up at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Manhattan has seen about 15,000 people since 2002, according to Dr. Robin Herbert. Almost five years after the collapse, it is still getting 100 new cases each month. So many are applying that there's now a three-to-four-month backup. As of early this year, the program had received not one penny of government funds.

In January, WABC-TV Eyewitness News reported on the death of Chris Pellegrino, a cable installer who had worked at ground zero for months. He died of lung illness at age 42 after developing "World Trade Center cough." The number of responders and recovery workers who have died, some in the prime of life, is now well over 30. Just one attorney, David Worby, said in January that 21 of his clients had died of Sept. 11-related diseases since mid-2004. (Associated Press, Jan. 18)

It took the death of a police detective, 34-year-old James Zadroga, for the state to finally acknowledge the link between breathing in the toxic dust and fatal lung disease. Zadroga's father said at the rally, however, that doctors and Police Department officials had ignored his son's sickness until it was too late.

Doctors at Mount Sinai say they're now seeing more cases of the severe lung scarring that killed Zadroga. (Newsday, June 1) They also report that cancers of the blood, kidney and pancreas are appearing among this group at a rate much higher than in the general population.

After 9/11, Congress rushed to pass the Patriot Act, which has turned into a huge boondoggle for big business. (See accompanying article, p. 10.) But when it comes to allocating tax money for a real public health program that would end the crisis in health care, these servants of capital run the other way. □

## San Francisco LGBT movement

*Continued from page 6*

Center to draw attention to the struggle of the Palestinian people for liberation and the call for a boycott of World Pride 2006 in Jerusalem.

QUIT members presented a parody of the company Estee Lauder, one of this year's LGBT Pride financial backers and a major supporter of illegal Zionist settlements in Palestine. Coining the name "Estee Slaughter," the group handed out mock "Realityfold TM" sleep masks exposing Estee Lauder's role in supporting Israel, and called for the boycott of World LGBT Pride, which will be held in Jerusalem in August. Their action was so effective that the SFPD sent its cops to stop the distribution.

QUIT members and their supporters continued handing out the anti-occupation masks until they were all distributed. The Workers World Party banner—"No Pride In Occupation, Free Palestine, U.S. Out of Iraq"—served as a backdrop for the protest and received many supportive comments throughout the afternoon. Attempts by the police and parade monitors to isolate this protest in a so-called "free speech zone" of the rally area were ignored. "Do you think anyone at

Stonewall paid for a permit?" one QUIT activist asked the event staff.

Despite attempts by City Hall and some Pride organizers to water down this year's activities, words of militancy and liberation were still heard from the podium. Leslie Feinberg reminded the crowd about the need for solidarity. Laura Whitehorn directly followed with a strong message of struggle. She said the prisons are filled with revolutionary political prisoners like Mumia Abu-Jamal, Leonard Peltier and Marilyn Buck. "It's time to free all of the political prisoners," she said. Actor Danny Glover spoke on workers' rights.

In a statement written for this year's Pride Guide, Joey Cain, president of San Francisco LGBT Pride, said: "Work to liberate our people and extend the fields of freedom in all the regions of the human heart, mind and body. Justice, equality, a place to live, health care and individual dignity are human rights, not 'market driven' privileges."

The police and City Hall and their supporters tried once again to blur the lines of struggle—but the spirit and militancy of the Stonewall and Compton's Cafeteria rebellions were clearly present throughout the weekend's LGBT Pride activities. □

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# Getting rich with 'homeland security'

By Deirdre Griswold

It didn't take them very long. Much of the gang who jumped on the bandwagon of "homeland security" when the Bush administration was still plotting the invasion of Iraq are now taking home the green as executives and consultants for companies wanting to sell "anti-terror" expertise and devices to the government.

"At least 90 officials at the Department of Homeland Security or the White House Office of Homeland Security—including the department's former secretary, Tom Ridge; the former deputy secretary, Adm. James M. Loy; and the former under secretary, Asa Hutchinson—are executives, consultants or lobbyists for companies that collectively do billions of dollars' worth of domestic security business," wrote Eric Lipton in a detailed, two-part series called "Homeland Security Inc." that ran in the New York Times starting June 18.

"More than two-thirds of the department's most senior executives in its first years have moved through the revolving door," says the initial article.

And they are being generously rewarded by the companies that want their expertise and connections. Carol A. DiBattiste increased her salary six times over when, within a month, she left her job as deputy administrator at the

Transportation Security Administration and moved to Choice-Point, a Department of Homeland Security contractor.

Ridge, the former Pennsylvania governor who signed Mumia Abu-Jamal's death warrant, was Bush's choice to be the first secretary of DHS. Last year, three months after resigning from that position, he joined the board of Savi Technology, "a maker of radio frequency identification equipment that the department pushed while he was secretary." Savi is now being bought by Lockheed Martin, a huge military contractor. Ridge is expected to profit "handsomely" from selling stock options he acquired before the buyout, says the Times.

Hutchinson began work at Venable LLP, "a Washington law and lobbying firm that represents major domestic security contractors like Lockheed Martin," one day after he left his job as under secretary for border and transportation security. He now has his fingers in companies that produce or sell data-mining software, fingerprint-identification technology and anti-radiation drugs.

The articles provide many more examples of former officials who have jumped from their "national security" jobs right into lucrative positions in the industries that lobbied them.

Why aren't these former officials in jail? Federal law prohibits officials in the exec-

utive branch from negotiating for future jobs with companies they oversee. It also prohibits them from lobbying former government colleagues or subordinates for at least a year after they leave office. But, says the article, "by exploiting loopholes in the law—including one provision drawn up by department executives to facilitate their entry into the business world—it is often easy for former officials to do just that."

The revolving door between Washington officials and corporate exec-

utives or lobbyists is nothing new. That's how every capitalist government works. But the brazenness of those who wore the cloak of "national security" has few modern parallels, says the Times.

For those worried that government snoops may be looking at your bank account, tapping your phone or reading your e-mail, remember this: State repression is driven not just by fear of "terrorists" but by the most powerful motive of all under capitalism—corporate greed. □

## Miami racist entrapment

*Continued from page 1*

rational than operational."

Yet on the day of the arrests, the capitalist media ran the story far and wide. The next day, pictures of the men were front page, with sensational captions. One would think that Osama Bin Ladin, Al Zarqawi and Jack the Ripper had all been caught together.

The treatment of these men and this case exposes racism, not only in the media, and not only in Florida, but in the United States.

The case highlights how severely reactionary the ruling class's government has grown.

### 'No weapons, no explosives'

Howard Simon, director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Florida branch, said: "We're as puzzled as everyone else. There's no weapons, no explosives, but this major announcement."

Attorney General Alberto Gonzales admitted that the men had no means or money to commit any act. Yet, he said, "We took action when we did because we believe we have an obligation to prevent America from another attack here."

Rotschild Augustine's lawyer Nathan Clarke said, "This thing took place over eight months, according to the indictment, and at the end of the indictment it says that this thing became disorganized and nobody had ever done anything or did anything."

Albert Levin, the court-appointed attorney for Patrick Abraham, said that it is a clear case of entrapment. Most of the talking was done by the paid informant. The defendants mostly listened.

No one in the neighborhood felt the men were any threat. A man named Brother Corey, an associate of the other men, said that the group the men allegedly belong to—Seas of David—mixes Islamic and Christian beliefs.

Family members and residents of Liberty City, location of the warehouse where the men live and work, said the men were quiet and well mannered. Marlene Phanor, Stanley Phanor's sister, said, "All they was doing, was trying to do, was clean up the community."

Liberty City is a poor working-class neighborhood where almost half of Miami-Dade County's over 500,000-strong Black population lives. It is one of the poorest areas in the country, in a city with a 30-percent poverty rate.

It is also where a rebellion sprang up in 1980. In 1979, cops were charged with beating to death a Black motorcyclist, Arthur McDuffie. The cops were acquitted by an all-white jury. One of the cops involved testified that McDuffie crashed his bike, and when the cops reached him he was okay. But one of the cops took off McDuffie's helmet and beat him to death, then put the helmet back on his head and

said that he received the injuries in the accident. The coroner's report contradicted the cops' original story, but, even with one of the cops testifying as to the real events, the jury still acquitted.

Residents in the area rebelled.

### U.S. funds real terrorism

The case of the seven men is indeed one of entrapment. It shows how far authorities are willing to go to demoralize communities of color and activists. This is reminiscent of the FBI counter-intelligence program known as COINTELPRO, which was used in the 1960s and 70s to break up the Black Panthers and other militant Black organizations, the American Indian Movement, and Chicano organizations, and also to spy on a few socialist parties.

However, the difference is that today the movement is not at the same point as during COINTELPRO. But the message is clear. The ruling class is becoming more reactionary, and is trying to prevent a militant movement in the streets, especially one arising from the most oppressed.

There are terrorists in Miami-Dade—but it's not these men. The real terrorists have waged a war against the revolutionary government of Cuba for nearly 50 years. They have been funded and trained by the CIA and they operate in the light, not bothering with any sort of shroud.

These terrorists have launched hundreds of attacks against the Cuban people, attacks that have led to many deaths and injuries. One of their ilk, a man reportedly responsible for blowing up a jetliner and killing 80 people, is being held on immigration violation charges, but the United States refuses to extradite him to Venezuela, where he escaped prison. This man is Luis Posada Carriles.

Posada Carriles and the other terrorists in Miami wage their war of terror in cooperation with a government that openly plans for the takeover of the Cuban government after Fidel Castro dies. So terrorists in the U.S. government's employ are okay, as long as the terror is in the ruling class's interest.

The case of the seven men begs the question: What would five Black men and two Haitian men have against the United States, since Alberto Gonzales announced that the men "view their home country as the enemy"? If one took Florida itself—from the decimation of Native peoples and slavery, to the Rosewood massacre and Jim Crow, and flash forward to the 2000 elections when Black votes were suppressed, to the killing of Martin Lee Anderson—there is plenty to despise.

The ruling class has the idea to squelch the desires of working people, poor people and the oppressed, and so the movement must see this case for what it is: a threat to organizations of people of color and activists and revolutionary organizations demanding real, deep change. □

## Socialist message kicks off pride week

*Continued from page 7*

Workers states: "We have proven that fighting back does make a difference and Pride season is one of those times that we can fight back. This year will be no exception to that history, we intend to not only celebrate Pride but politicize it. This is your opportunity to join the LGBT community and be part of the struggle for equality." ([www.caw.ca](http://www.caw.ca))

### 'An injury to one is an injury to all!'

Dan Irving—a contract faculty member at York University, a trans male and a Marxist—introduced Feinberg as a revolutionary organizer, a theoretician and a comrade, and thanked her for consistently and courageously speaking as a socialist.

The crowd cheered when Feinberg's first words expressed solidarity with Arab, South Asian and Muslim immigrants in Canada and the U.S., support for the Haudenosaunee (Six Nation) people struggling to defend their land against Canadian state repression, and a salute to Toronto transportation workers for their recent wildcat strike.

Feinberg said she thought the thing most appropriate for someone from the U.S. to raise was the need to build a militant movement against the imperialist war in the Middle East.

She warned that big-business propaganda makes imperialist wars seem like "humanitarian" interventions, "but they are wars of conquest by the fused power of the banks and corporations—the same bosses we are battling on the domestic front—who are trying to expand the domination of their capital in order to squeeze every drop of profit and secure global positioning."

Feinberg said that in the early 1990s, U.S. imperialism drowned in blood the Afghan Revolution against feudalism that was liberating women, yet in 2001 it characterized its invasion as an attempt to liberate women there. Anti-Soviet attitudes

amongst those who view themselves as progressives in the U.S. kept them from supporting the Afghan democratic revolution of 1978, Feinberg emphasized.

Similarly, anti-communism holds back the working-class struggle in the United States and Canada, she said. "We cannot fight for economic and social justice if we accept that capitalism is the end of history. Look around at all that we have built with our work, and that of our laboring ancestors. We have to collectively tear up the deed that says a few families own it all.

"We need to bring the anti-capitalist struggle out of the closet. We are on the eve of momentous struggles. We need to put a movement-wide discussion about socialism and its higher stage, communism, on our agenda now in order to position ourselves in this battle," Feinberg stressed.

She concluded that we can't wage an effective fight against our bosses unless we are fighting oppression, and that means that fighting racism, sexism and LGBT oppression have to be critical components of the agenda of labor and the progressive movement. "An injury to one is an injury to all—that's the granite truth the labor movement is built on," she said.

The audience gave Feinberg's message a prolonged standing ovation. No opposition was expressed during the long question and answer period. In fact, one person in the audience said she came to the event with doubts about what she thought Feinberg was going to say, but left with an attitude of openness and admiration for the ideas.

An event organizer stated, "We heard what we needed to hear tonight."

After the event, organizers and participants expressed great satisfaction in the fact that the large audience contained a broad representation of workers and oppressed peoples' organizations and other activists, including from the anti-war movement. □

## Líder cubano habla con periodistas en Miami

Por Deirdre Griswold

Querían tenderle una trampa. El presidente de la Asamblea Nacional de Cuba, Ricardo Alarcón, fue invitado a hablar por conexión satelital el 14 de junio con la Asociación Nacional de Periodistas Hispánicos, la cual se estaba reuniendo en Miami. Él fue interrogado por la periodista del New York Times Mirta Ojito, quién había salido de Cuba con su familia durante el éxodo de Mariel en 1980.

Desde su primera pregunta: “¿Por qué continúan reprimiendo la libertad de prensa en Cuba?”, la hostilidad de la entrevistadora quedó evidente.

Pero Alarcón no tuvo ningún problema para mostrar que Cuba no es la dictadura represiva que la comunidad en el exilio en los Estados Unidos ha presentado. Y citó a fuentes de la CIA para describir cómo el gobierno estadounidense ha ido tratando de forjar un “cambio de régimen” en Cuba desde los primeros días de la revolución.

Respondiendo a la alegación derechista de que Cuba ha encarcelado a 24 periodistas, Alarcón dijo que las personas mencionadas fueron detenidas no por escribir o expresar puntos de vista diferentes a los del gobierno, sino porque éstos eran agentes estadounidenses. Entonces se refirió a los documentos de la CIA que fueron desclasificados en 1997 donde se

describe el Proyecto Cuba de esa agencia, a veces llamado también Operación Mangosta, que comenzó en 1961.

Los documentos dan “detalles fascinantes sobre el dinero pagado a periodistas en Cuba y en el sur de la Florida,” dijo Alarcón. “Cuba ha sido sometida a una ‘ofensiva propagandística’ según las mismas palabras de la CIA,” añadió.

Estos detalles están descritos en el libro “El proyecto de Cuba: operaciones secretas de la CIA 1959-62,” publicado por Ocean Press.

Refiriéndose a los que han trabajado para los Estados Unidos en su larga historia de invasiones, bloqueo y subversión contra Cuba, Alarcón dijo: “Son dependientes del poder extranjero que ha tratado de destruir nuestro país. Tenemos el derecho a defendernos.”

También señaló que mientras “muchos periodistas han sido asesinados en Latinoamérica y en otros lugares” en años recientes, ningún periodista ha sido asesinado en Cuba desde que el régimen de Batista, apoyado por los Estados Unidos, fue derrocado en 1959.

A una pregunta sobre el porqué, con los nuevos acuerdos comerciales de Cuba con China y Venezuela, el bloqueo estadounidense todavía importa, Alarcón contestó que aunque esté cambiando el mundo, Cuba “todavía tiene que vender y

comprar — por ejemplo, algunas partes para equipos médicos que sólo vienen de los Estados Unidos ... El bloqueo nos hace pagar más por lo que compramos.”

Cuba sabe que si una compañía estadounidense compra o se combina con una firma de otro país, ésta cancelará cualquier contrato comercial que la firma tenía con Cuba.

Sin embargo aún con el bloqueo, la economía cubana está mejorando. Alarcón dijo que la vivienda es ahora una prioridad para el gobierno, el cual está construyendo más de 100,000 unidades de viviendas este año.

Ojito acusó a Cuba de impedir que su pueblo tenga acceso a la red de Internet. Alarcón contestó que el bloqueo contiene ciertas leyes que restringen el acceso de Cuba a la Red, la cuál fue desarrollada por el Pentágono. Sin embargo añadió que cada aula de clase en Cuba, hasta en las zonas montañosas más remotas, tiene computadoras para los estudiantes.

Otra pregunta insinuó que los esfuerzos de Cuba por forjar el socialismo fueron un fracaso y que la emigración a los Estados Unidos está creciendo. Alarcón señaló que antes de la revolución, en 1958, Cuba era el país con el mayor número de personas que emigraba a los Estados Unidos después de México. Durante los años recientes ese número ha ido dismin-



Ricardo Alarcón

uyendo en comparación con otros países en el área, aunque bajo el Acta de Ajuste Cubano, a l@s cuban@s se les permite entrar automáticamente a los Estados Unidos una vez ponen un pie sobre la tierra de este país.

“¿Qué pasaría si hubiera un Acta de Ajuste Dominicano o Mexicano o Haitiano?”, preguntó; añadiendo que decenas de millones más de personas latinoamericanas y del Caribe vendrían a los Estados Unidos a causa de la enorme desigualdad en las riquezas en este hemisferio.

La eficacia de Alarcón al explicar las posiciones de su país a un público que antes era reticente a oír representantes cubanos podría explicar el porqué el New York Times todavía no ha escrito nada sobre este evento aunque su propia reportera estuvo involucrada.

Sin embargo, se puede encontrar un enlace del audio del intercambio en la versión online de “Alarcón de Cuba echa la culpa a los Estados Unidos por encarcelamientos” en el Miami Herald del 15 de junio. □

## En Los Ángeles y Nueva York Activistas planean campaña para derechos de inmigrantes

Por Heather Cottin

Decenas de activistas en ambas costas del continente se reunieron el 17 de junio para lanzar un verano de lucha por los derechos de l@s inmigrantes y la unidad de l@s trabajador@s. La Coalición del 25 de Marzo en Los Ángeles y la Coalición 1º de Mayo en Nueva York convocaron conferencias de planificación para dirigirse a las políticas reaccionarias de Washington, las cuales están calculadas para provocar una reacción racista y dividir a l@s trabajador@s en los Estados Unidos.

Las dos coaliciones han estado colaborando desde principios de la primavera de este año para forjar un movimiento a nivel nacional. Ambas coaliciones ayudaron a organizar a millones de personas en las marchas del 1º de mayo para los derechos de l@s inmigrantes.

Ahora están proponiendo una serie de demandas: plena legalización para toda persona sin documentos; no murallas fronterizas; no detenciones ni deportaciones de inmigrantes; protección de los derechos civiles de tod@s; no al programa esclavista de “obreros invitados”; oposición a la “penalización” de l@s inmigrantes; derechos laborales plenos para tod@s; medidas para la reunificación de las familias de inmigrantes; revocación de sanciones contra los que emplean trabajador@s indocumentad@s; y no a las propuestas de leyes Sensenbrenner (HR-4437)

y Hagel-Martínez (S-2611).

La conferencia en Nueva York se reunió en una escuela en Jackson Heights de Queens, una comunidad de diversas nacionalidades de Asia, el Caribe, África, y Latinoamérica. Se dividió en comités que discutieron cuestiones legales, económicas y sociales.

Un grupo habló sobre la oposición a los acuerdos de libre comercio, específicamente el Acuerdo de Libre Comercio de América del Norte y el Acuerdo de Libre Comercio de Centroamérica. Junto a la Organización Internacional del Comercio y a los programas de “ajustes” impuestos por el Fondo Monetario Internacional, estos mecanismos han incrementado el nivel de pobreza y desempleo alrededor del mundo y han forzado a millones de personas a emigrar desde sus países natales hacia países desarrollados mientras se enriquecen las empresas transnacionales.

Este comité también declaró que se opuso a la ley Taft-Hartley de 1947, la cual el Congreso de Organizaciones Industriales (CIO) ha dado llamado “la ley de la esclavitud”.

El trabajo esclavizado es parte intrínseca de las propuestas de leyes migratorias actualmente bajo consideración por el Congreso. Es la razón por la cual Washington quiere un programa de “trabajadores invitados”. Los colaboradores del Congreso con el gran capital quieren resucitar al Programa Bracero bajo el cual millones de

trabajadores agrícolas mexicanos proporcionaron mano de obra barata para todo, desde los supermercados hasta el empaclado de carne, desde el trabajo agrícola hasta la preparación de comidas, desde la construcción hasta la jardinería ornamental.

“La cuestión de los derechos de l@s inmigrantes es una cuestión para tod@s l@s trabajador@s”, dijo Brenda Stokely, una líder del Movimiento de la Marcha de un Millón de Trabajador@s quien encabezó el taller en la conferencia de Nueva York sobre cómo forjar alianzas con los sindicatos. Vicente “Panamá” Alba del Local 108, del Sindicato Internacional de Obreros de Norteamérica, habló sobre reforzar la unidad con grupos en contra de la guerra, ambientalistas y otras organizaciones progresistas. Muchos han tardado en adoptar la causa de los derechos de l@s inmigrantes.

La Coalición del 1º de Mayo tiene la intención de producir literatura exponiendo la campaña reaccionaria y racista en contra de l@s inmigrantes y demostrando cómo la propuesta de ley Hagel-Martínez sería una declaración de guerra contra l@s indocumentad@s. Esa propuesta de ley podría resultar en el encarcelamiento y deportación de millones de trabajador@s y sus familias. Está calculada para dividir a l@s inmigrantes, deportando a millones mientras que promete otorgar residencia legal a otr@s que han vivido acá por más de cinco años. Pero

cualquier persona que ha usado una identificación falsa pueda ser castigada con la deportación. Como dijo Beatriz, una colombiana del taller sobre la cuestión de legalización, “Casi todo el mundo que llegó sin documentos tuvo que obtener papeles falsos para poder trabajar”.

La conferencia terminó con un plan para endosar las manifestaciones a nivel nacional a favor de los derechos inmigrantes del 15 de julio y la Conferencia Nacional para Estrategias sobre Inmigrantes, del 28-30 de julio, en la Universidad Americana en Washington, D.C.

La Coalición 25 de Marzo de Los Ángeles dedicó su conferencia a la planificación de un verano de protesta. Un mitin de estudiantes para explorar la cuestión migratoria se llevará a cabo el 15 de julio, seguido por un mitin a finales de julio para apoyar a los jornaleros. La coalición también está planeando un mitin en solidaridad con la comunidad negra de la Universidad UCLA. El estado ha recortado sus programas de acción afirmativa tan severamente que la matrícula de estudiantes negros en la universidad ha caído al nivel más bajo que nunca.

La Coalición 25 de Marzo se va a unir a sindicatos y trabajador@s no sindicalizados en una marcha en el Día del Trabajo en Los Ángeles en lo que esperan sea un día nacional de protesta y apoyo para la unidad entre l@s inmigrantes y l@s trabajador@s. □