

MUNDO OBRERO

¡Defendamos Palestina! EDITORIAL 12

Planes de EEUU para un 'cambio de régimen' en Cuba 12

HEAT WAVE
Nature vs. unnatural capitalism 2

SPIRIT OF ROSA PARKS
Boston summit links struggles 3



PHOTO: MISSISSIPPI REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM COALITION

ABORTION CLINIC
Mississippi women organize defense 5

SUBSCRIBE TO WORKERS WORLD NEWSPAPER

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

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP
WORKERS WORLD NEWSPAPER
55 W. 17 St. NY, NY 10011 212-627-2994
www.workers.org

After Qana massacre U.S./Israeli war crimes exposed to the world Lebanese resistance puts up a good fight

By Sara Flounders

Aug. 2—Three weeks after launching massive air strikes on Lebanon and attempting several ground offensives, the Israeli apartheid state has failed to achieve any tangible military results. But the widespread destruction it has wreaked has generated world outrage.

On the night of Aug. 1-2, helicopter-borne Israeli commandos flew 60 miles deep inside Lebanon to attack a hospital in Baalbek, not far from the Syrian border. In the nearby hamlet of al-Jamaliyeh, "villagers said at least 15 civilians were killed during Israeli airstrikes providing cover to the commandos. The dead included seven members of one family caught in their backyard." (New York Times, Aug. 2)

The next day, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert announced that thousands of Israeli troops had "entirely destroyed" the infrastructure of Hezbollah, the Lebanese resistance organization.

But even as Olmert was speaking in Jerusalem, "shadowy Hezbollah fighters, flitting between shattered villages and underground bunkers, were showering Israel with the biggest barrage of rockets in the 22-day-old war."

The Times report went on: "Much of southern Lebanon was a landscape of destruction today, with smoke rising from shelled villages, roads cratered and littered with ruined cars. Israeli soldiers, including paratroopers, clawed their way less than four miles into Lebanon, meeting stiff resistance from guerrillas setting ambushes and firing from hidden positions."

The continued opposition by the lightly armed but highly

organized Hezbollah has shown the world that Israel, even with its endless supply of U.S. high-tech weapons, is no longer invincible. But this hated proxy for U.S. imperialism is very dangerous. It has called up thousands of additional troops and is inten-

DEMONIZING HEZBOLLAH
New name, same war game 8
CHÁVEZ IN IRAN
Solidarity trumps Washington's threats 9

sifying its offensive using U.S.-supplied tanks, planes, armored earth movers and bunker-buster bombs.

This ruthless all-out war, which is against both the Lebanese and Palestinian people, is not due to the capture of one Israeli soldier in Gaza or two in Lebanon, as Tel Aviv says. Nor was the massacre perpetrated by Israeli missiles in the Lebanese town of Qana early on the morning of Aug. 30 due to a targeting error or faulty intelligence on the part of the Israeli command.

Photos of the death and destruction caused by this attack on the homes of defenseless civilians have aroused an international outcry.

On July 25, Israel had launched a U.S. missile that destroyed a well-marked, well-known United Nations observation post in southern Lebanon, killing four UN personnel. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan charged the targeting of the post by Israeli

Continued on page 11

'NO JUSTICE? NO PEACE!' Protests demand end to U.S./Israeli terror



PHOTO: MAJED

According to Al-Awda New York, approximately 3,000 men, women, and children rallied and marched outside the Israeli UN Mission July 28 with fists raised to demand that the U.S. government stop all financial support of the Israeli state; that the Israelis cease fire and withdraw from all Lebanese and Palestinian lands; that the Israelis release all of the more than 10,000 Arab and Palestinian political prisoners, of whom approximately 1,000 are women and children; and that all Lebanese and Palestinian refugees be immediately allowed to return to their homes to live in safety. See centerfold.

Queens, N.Y., residents' petitions demand 'Power for the people!'

The Power for the People campaign launched a petitioning drive on July 26 during the afternoon rush hour in the predominantly working class, immigrant community of Sunnyside in Queens, New York. The campaign is in response to the power outage that impacted many neighborhoods in Queens beginning on July 17 during a heat wave followed by a major thunderstorm.

At least 100,000 residents had little to no power for more than a week, causing many hardships including the loss of perishable foods and the lack of air conditioning or fans in the midst of a terrible heat wave. Con Edison, the main energy provider in New York City, is attempting to downplay its role in this catastrophe. (Go to www.workers.org to read the article, "First outage, then outrage in Queens, NY" in the Aug. 3 issue.)

An organizer of the Power for the People campaign told WW, "The response on the first day of petitioning was tremendous. We gathered 200 signatures in just two hours and many volunteered to help with the campaign, including South Asians, Latin@s, Eastern Europeans and other working class people who live in the neighborhood. We expect to have more volunteers as the word of the campaign spreads.

"Petitions are being distributed door to door in large building complexes. We will be petitioning again on July 31. Con Ed wants to give the impression that full power has been restored to our neighborhoods and that everything is back to normal. Nothing could be further from the truth. Several large building complexes are operating on generators provided by Con Ed, and not on the main power grid. People on Staten Island were also without power for a while last week."

The infrastructure in New York City is deteriorating day by day while tax dollars are being spent on wars of aggres-



sion in Iraq, Palestine and Lebanon to make the rich richer while the people here are also suffering. This campaign in Queens shows the type of grassroots movement that is needed here and around the country to fund human needs, not wars for Big Oil profits.

The campaign will be bringing the community's concerns and demands to a Public Service Commission hearing in Queens in early August. For petitions, more information and to volunteer, go to www.powerforthepeople.info, email powerforthepeople2006@yahoo.com or call 718-512-5442.

—Story and photo by Mary Owen

Deadly heat wave more than an act of nature

By Larry Hales

Aug. 1—The heat wave that began in California two weeks ago has roasted the Midwest and is now moving on to the East Coast. Forecasters predict several days more of blistering temperatures, reaching triple digits in many areas.

Reported heat-related human deaths in California have climbed to 164; an estimated 16,500 cows also perished from the heat there, which finally eased three days ago. Daytime temperatures of 115 degrees persisted for almost two weeks in the agricultural Central Valley. At least two farmworkers and four others who worked out of doors are believed to have died from heat stroke, according to a representative of the United Farm Workers.

Last year, four farmworkers died of heat in the Central Valley. Many immigrant workers, especially the undocumented, are super-exploited and denied basic rights. They are compelled to bring in the crop despite extremely dangerous conditions posed by rising temperatures.

After the four deaths last year, new laws were enacted in California that were supposed to protect workers whose jobs expose them to the elements. The law is very minimal and requires the very least from bosses, like providing a quart of water an hour, shade structures, and a chance for a five-minute paid break in the shade.

However, as one worker put it, "Maybe it's 94 degrees and you want to stop but you need money to pay the rent and get paid for the full day so you push yourself."

Figures on heat-related deaths are just starting to come in from Chicago's Cook County, where nine people are reported to have died since July 17. Ten were reported dead in Oklahoma and 12 in Missouri. Many of those who died were elderly; most perished in super-heated homes or apartment buildings.

A recently released government report shows a 54 percent increase in heat-related deaths between 1999 and 2003. In that five-year period, 3,442 people died from excessive heat, an average of 688 per year. Exposure to excessive heat, according to George Luber, an epidemiologist at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "is one of the major weather-related causes of death."

"Every one of those deaths is preventable if folks are aware of some of the preventive measures." He added, "We do have evidence that these events are going to increase in frequency, severity and duration as global climate changes."

The report says most at risk are the poor, especially children and the elderly, as well as outdoor workers.

The high temperatures have frequently led to power outages. In St. Louis and Chicago, when temperatures

Continued on page 3



This week ...

★ In the U.S.

- Queens, N.Y.: 'Power for the people' 2
- Deadly heat wave more than an act of nature 2
- Boston: linking struggles 3
- Legal update on Mumia Abu-Jamal's case 3
- Immigrant rights activists meet to plan next steps . . . 4
- 'Immigrants in! Minutemen out!' 4
- Defense of abortion clinic 5
- Reproductive rights of young women under attack . . . 5
- A healthcare plan for the uninsured 5
- Aug. 5 national day of protests grows 6
- Hear Arab, U.S. activists speak on Middle East crisis. . 6
- March across Brooklyn Bridge 6
- Houston protesters say 'No justice! No peace!' 6
- Poison DUst shown in Denver 8
- Maryann Mahaffey 10
- New York shows support for Cuba, Venezuela 11

★ Around the world

- U.S./Israeli war crimes exposed to the world 1
- Worldwide protests slam U.S.-Israeli aggression 7
- Lebanese Communist Party statement 7
- Scare campaign against Hezbollah 8
- Chávez in Iran 9
- Elections in the Congo 10

★ Editorials

- Meanwhile, back in Iraq 10
- With Cuba and Fidel 10

★ Noticias En Español

- Cuba 12
- Palestina 12

Workers World

55 West 17 Street
New York, N.Y. 10011
Phone: (212) 627-2994
Fax: (212) 675-7869
E-mail: editor@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org
Vol. 48, No. 31 • Aug. 10, 2006
Closing date: Aug. 2, 2006

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, Fred Goldstein, Teresa Gutierrez, Larry Hales, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Cheryl LaBash, Milt Neidenberg, Bryan G. Pfeifer, Minnie Bruce Pratt
Technical Staff: Shelley Ettinger, Maggie Vascassenno
Mundo Obrero: Carl Glenn, Teresa Gutierrez, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Donna Lazarus, Carlos Vargas
Internet: Janet Mayes
Supporter Program: Sue Davis, coordinator

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

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

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.

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

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

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

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

Atlanta
P.O. Box 424,
Atlanta, GA 30301
(404) 627-0185
atlanta@workers.org

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

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

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

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

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

Denver
denver@workers.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



BOSTON

Linking the struggles stressed at city-wide summit

By Bryan G. Pfeifer
Boston

The Boston Rosa Parks Human Rights Day Committee's (BRPHRDC) objective of principled unity in the progressive movement under the leadership of those communities most impacted by the government's criminal neglect and abandonment took a bold step forward at a City-Wide Activists' Summit July 30.

Held at the Cultural Café, an alternative cultural venue of art and politics that highlights the struggle of the Afro-Latin@ diaspora, the summit's main goal were broadening the coalition and embracing other struggles, particularly those of the most oppressed. Another top focus was building support for an Aug. 29 rally in Roxbury, Mass., on the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina as well as the date that 14-year-old Emmett Till was murdered by racists in 1955.

The summit is the most recent development in building what has become known as a new political force in Boston fighting against poverty, racism, sexism and war. Many African American and Latin@ youth organized, planned and carried out the summit's activities, playing a decisive role along with veterans of the Black and other national liberation and civil rights movements.

Summit co-chairs Eric Jones, Pepe Abola and Eva Skillicorn of the youth organization Rosa 7053 worked with

Dorotea Manuela, co-chair of BRPHRDC and long-time Puerto Rican activist, and Clemencia Lee, a founding member of BRPHRDC, in facilitating the summit.

Participants included a multinational composition of labor and community organizations from the Greater Boston area. Representatives from diverse anti-war organizations including United for Justice with Peace and various high school and college groups attended.

Decades-long activist and former Massachusetts State Representative Mel King recognized the Rosa Parks committee as a vital new political force in Boston, congratulated the efforts of the organization and pledged his support for future actions. The summit is "a great step forward" and "I have great hope" for it, said King.

Boston City Councilor Chuck Turner also participated and pledged his support.

'Make the connections'

Tony Van Der Meer, professor of Africana Studies at UMass Boston, co-chair of the BRPHRDC and co-founder and program director of Cultural Café, opened the summit with these words: "The idea of Katrina for us is how we've been Katrina-ized. When we're talking about Katrina we're talking about government neglect of the poor and people of color. We have to address this in the context of other issues. There's a need for us to deal with immigration in relationship to Katrina. There's a relationship to what's happening in Lebanon right now in terms of Katrina because it's all based on U.S. policy."

Van Der Meer added, "When we talk about the question of the right of return for Palestinians, that's something that rings true for African Americans, particularly in New Orleans right now. Where they're going to build a wall of death along the border and not build a wall of life in terms of fixing the levees after Katrina, there's a

relationship. When we organize we have to make these relationships clear to poor and oppressed people. It's our responsibility to make these connections and tie them into our organizing."

Ahmad Kawash, from the Palestinian American Congress and a long-time Palestinian activist, denounced the U.S.-Israeli war on Lebanon and Palestine and specifically the massacre at Qana, which took place hours earlier and killed 57 civilians, 37 of them children.

"There's only one victim here, there's no two victims. There's the Lebanese and Palestinians. The Israelis are citizens of war, they are soldiers of war. We did not come to their houses and homes and bomb them. They came to us and they occupied our land and they have been doing this campaign of terror against us and against our people. People, we have to be really united and we have to keep going. We have to demand of ourselves always. We have to keep going and going and going," said Kawash.

Eric Jones, a leading African American member of Rosa Parks 7053, who spoke after Kawash, stated, "I just wanted to thank the Palestine American Congress for donating \$100 to Rosa 7053."

Cassandra Clark Mazariegos just returned to Boston from Paris where her Urban Essence Dance Collaborative troupe performed extensively. Mazariegos, during a group session report back, summed up the collective conscience of the day: the importance of fighting U.S. imperialism, the common enemy abroad and at home.

Activist, people's artist and author Askia Toure prefaced his poems "To a Dark Horse" and "American Nightmare" by stating, "We were activists and freedom fighters who utilized our poetry for that spirituality; that common testimony to our humanity, our beauty and our strength, our people-ness so that we just weren't some poet or some musician.

[John] Coltrane wasn't just some saxophonist; he was a grandmaster and spiritual, almost like a priest with a saxophone. So again today we have to rouse up the spirit of liberation and our greatest humanity within ourselves."

Dorothea Peacock of the Women's Fightback Network began her talk by declaring that "Stop the war on women at home and abroad" is her organization's main slogan.

Peacock, who grew up under Jim Crow in Florida, stated, "The women's movement has a huge stake in fighting for justice, against wars and all kinds of oppression. The fragments of bombs fallen in the U.S. is as follows: tax breaks for the rich, budget cuts for nearly 200 social programs mostly affecting people of color, women and children. Women are more likely to use these programs because we are poorer than men. At the end of the week there's no food in the fridge for our children, no money for medication. This is war. What we need is social programs reinstated—no more money siphoned off for Pentagon war budgets, for Bush's war in the Middle East, and the war on Lebanon. We need to build strong, independent movements that are multinational and multigenerational and that represent the most oppressed."

Peacock concluded by calling on those present to join the Aug. 5 and Aug. 29 demonstrations. "Women and children are dying from bombs. Our sisters and brothers—the Palestinians and Lebanese freedom fighters—need our support in their struggle for freedom and liberation."

Andrea Hombeim of the Statewide Harm Reduction Coalition (SHARC), which is waging many campaigns including fighting jail/prison construction, said, "Prisons exist as part of the social control structure. They are mostly about controlling people and not about creating justice.

Continued on page 4

Deadly heat wave

Continued from page 2

soared and the power went out, hundreds of people had to be evacuated from their homes, especially the elderly.

Chicago resident Lenora Stinson said of the disorderly planning, "It's a mess. It's a big mess. Everybody's panicking—they don't know where they're going."

In Queens, N.Y., some people still lack power after an outage that began two weeks ago.

National, state and local officials seem to have spent most of their time urging people to conserve energy, putting the crisis on the backs of consumers.

Capitalism and its state apparatus have no answer for this growing crisis. A bare minimum statute like that passed in California doesn't offer any respite for super-exploited workers and doesn't deal with what workers have to do to survive and take care of their families in capitalist society.

Liberal politicians and the capitalist media have of late touted Al Gore's film, "An Inconvenient Truth," which shows the seriousness of global warming but puts the onus for reversing it on the personal lifestyle of consumers.

The destruction of the environment comes directly from unplanned, profit-driven capitalist production and the wars it generates. The film presents it as a moral issue without saying what class is responsible. It is the ruling capitalist class that cannot let up in its drive for profit, whether that means exploiting fossil fuels, super-exploiting workers around the world, or unleashing war on those who resist its dictates—whatever produces the greatest profit. □

Legal update on Mumia Abu-Jamal's case

Following are excerpts from a letter written by Robert R. Bryan, the lead attorney for death row political prisoner, Mumia Abu-Jamal. To download the 124-page brief go to www.iacenter.org or www.millions4mumia.org

Dear Friends:

On July 20, 2006, we filed the Brief of Appellee and Cross Appellant, Mumia Abu-Jamal, in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, Philadelphia. (Abu-Jamal v. Horn, U.S. Ct. of Appeals Nos. 01-9014, 02-9001.) This brief is of great significance concerning my client's right to a fair trial, due process of law, not to be subjected to cruel and unusual punishment, and equal protection of the law, guaranteed by the Fifth, Sixth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. The issues the court is hearing are:

Claim 14 Whether Mr. Abu-Jamal was denied the right to due process of law and a fair trial because of the prosecutor's "appeal-after-appeal" argument which encouraged the jury to disregard the pre-

sumption of innocence and reasonable doubt, and err on the side of guilt.

Claim 16 Whether the prosecution's exclusion of African Americans from sitting on the jury violated Mr. Abu-Jamal's rights to due process and equal protection of the law, and contravened *Batson v. Kentucky*, 476 U.S. 79 (1986).

Claim 25 Whether the verdict form and jury instructions that resulted in the death penalty deprived Mr. Abu-Jamal of the right to due process of law, equal protection of the law, and not to be subjected to cruel and unusual punishment, and violated *Mills v. Maryland*, 486 U.S. 367 (1988), since the judge precluded the jurors from considering any mitigating evidence unless they all agreed on the existence of a particular circumstance.

Claim 29 Whether Mr. Abu-Jamal was denied due process and equal protection of the law during post-conviction hearings as the result of the bias and racism of Judge Albert F. Sabo which included the comment that he was "going to help 'em fry the n—r."

The National Lawyers Guild, and the

NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., will be

filing separate amicus curiae (friend of the court) briefs in the near future. This should strengthen our quest to see justice done.

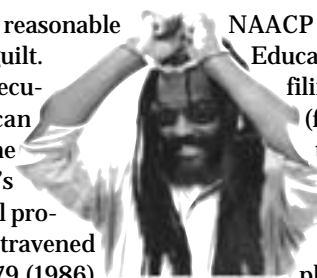
It is a remarkable accomplishment that the court is

hearing issues that go to the very essence of Mr. Abu-Jamal's right to a fair trial. This is the first time that any court has made a ruling that could lead to a new trial and freedom. Nevertheless, he remains on Pennsylvania's death row and in great danger.

Mr. Abu-Jamal, the "voice of the voiceless," is a powerful symbol in the international campaign against the death penalty and for human rights. The goal of Professor Judith L. Ritter, associate counsel, and I is to see that the many wrongs which have occurred in this case are righted and that this brave man is freed.

Your support and concern is appreciated.

With best wishes,
Robert R. Bryan □



Immigrant rights activists meet to plan next steps

By Heather Cottin
Washington, D.C.

More than 150 immigrant rights activists met in Washington, D.C., on July 28-30, for an intense weekend of discussions about the next steps in the struggle. The multinational gathering drew activists from Virginia, Pennsylvania, Nevada, Louisiana, California, New York, Oregon, Washington, Maryland, Michigan, Texas, New Jersey, New Mexico and Arizona.

This National Grassroots Immigrant Strategy Conference was convened at

American University by the National Immigration Solidarity Network to address issues confronting undocumented immigrants and their supporters, and to make plans for action.

The conference was unanimous in its rejection of proposed anti-immigrant legislation—both Sensenbrenner-King (HR 4437) and Hagel-Martinez (S-2611).

The conference agreed to support a variety of activities in the next few months, including another National Conference called for Aug. 12-13 in Chicago. The March 25th Coalition in Los Angeles and

the May 1 Coalition in New York City both plan to send significant delegations.

The conference voted to institutionalize the May 1 boycott—a work stoppage on that date this year which was called “A Day without Immigrants”—and to hold Labor Day actions on Sept. 2-7 around the country with the message that “Immigrant rights are workers’ rights.”

The conference endorsed “Camp Democracy” in Washington, D.C. The week-long encampment linking anti-war issues to domestic injustices in the U.S. was initiated by anti-war activist Cindy Sheehan. Sept. 7 at Camp Democracy will be dedicated to immigrant rights.

Jesse Díaz, of the March 25th Coalition, proposed actions to protest incarceration, deportation and U.S. militarization at the Mexican border be held in conjunction with the planned European Social Forum on Oct. 7—an international day of action and mobilization for migrants rights. Díaz discussed the increase of ICE/Dept. of Homeland Security raids, and the harassment of Latin@s and immigrants by police and ICE agents.

The Student and Youth Organizing workshop addressed the struggle of undocumented youth denied access to universities and schooling.

Members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Caucus explained the crisis of LGBT families who do not have the protection of marriage. This not only denies the right to health insurance. Not being able to marry a partner who is a citizen—a right afforded to heterosexuals—threatens the undocumented partner with deportation.

The Women’s Caucus focused on the special concerns of immigrant women who face intimidation from international sex traffickers, as well as U.S. border

guards. Families in countries kept technologically underdeveloped by imperialism face economic devastation from “free trade” agreements. When their farms and livelihoods are gone, they either have to migrate to cities—where unemployment runs very high—or risk their lives crossing the borders with their children.

Participants discussed the disastrous effects of “free trade” in nearly every workshop. The numbers of undocumented workers from Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and the newly-impoorished capitalist Eastern Europe have increased exponentially during this period of aggressive imperialist “globalization.”

The March 25th Coalition, which spearheaded the May 1 boycott known as “A Day without Immigrants,” showed videos of their actions at the Mexican border against the Minutemen vigilantes. Jesse Díaz outlined plans for marches next April—from Brownsville, Texas, and San Diego, Calif.—converging at El Paso to protest the Minutemen vigilantes and the militarization of the U.S. border policy.

Immigrants perish in the desert every year trying to cross into the U.S. For example, the Tucson-based organization “No More Deaths” estimates that 279 people died crossing the Arizona border between October 2004 and October 2005.

Immigrant rights groups in the Southwest are planning to organize a series of “Border Tours” to take activists to areas where the Minutemen vigilantes and U.S. Border Patrol are terrorizing immigrants, predominately Latin@s.

A highlight of the conference was the report of a Latin@ organizer from New Orleans who showed a video of May 1 in New Orleans, demonstrating solidarity between the Black community and Latin@ immigrants. □

Anti-racists tell bigots

‘Immigrants in! Minutemen out!’



WW PHOTO: HEATHER COTTIN

By Heather Cottin
New York

On July 26, a militant pro-immigrant rights picket line, organized by the May 1 Coalition and others, confronted the presence of the Minutemen in lower Manhattan near Ground Zero.

The Minutemen is the name of a two-year-old racist group that has organized armed, terrorist, anti-immigrant vigilantes on the northern and southern borders of the United States.

“We are calling on all supporters of immigrants rights to help us send a clear message to the Minutemen: Get out of our city!” said May 1 Coalition member Teresa Gutiérrez, who, along with two other organizers, was harassed with hate calls and threats by the vigilantes in the days before the protest.

One Minuteman told Gutiérrez that their meeting was to be a “prayer meeting,” in front of Ground Zero, but instead the event was organized to promote a book by Jim Gilchrist, the Minutemen’s fascist founder.

Gilchrist works with the Nazi-affiliated Council of Conservative Citizens. Some Minutemen are with the National Alliance. Some wear Nazi swastikas. At the July 26 protest, one of the Minutemen gave the Nazi salute to the anti-racist protesters.

Over 200 protesters drowned out Gilchrist’s speech, chanting, “Racists go home!” Their signs read, “The Minute Klan are not welcome in New York.”

The demonstrators reject the Minutemen’s opposition to what they call “illegal immigration.” “No human being is illegal,” shouted a woman who sneaked into the Minuteman rally. She quoted Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who stated, “Never forget that everything Hitler did in Germany was legal.”

Coalition member Larry Holmes noted, “This protest is a followup to the recent protest at CNN headquarters against racist TV personality Lou Dobbs. Dobbs’ show promotes the same racist attitudes as the Minutemen.”

Filipina activist Berna Ellorin, who is a Bayan representative to the May 1 Coalition, said, “The Minutemen are simply using the congressional debate [about legalization of immigrants] in Washington, D.C. right now as a pretext and platform to push their agenda of hate politics that espouses total state repression and a hierarchy of human beings based on race and citizenship. They will simply fail in every attempt.”

Scores of demonstrators broke through a police pen and surged across the street toward the 30 Minutemen, who were visibly shaken. The police, the armed protectors of the Minutemen, forced the protesters back.

“If it wasn’t for the cops, you wouldn’t stand a chance!” chanted the demonstrators. With drums beating and whistles blowing, they shouted, “Immigrant workers built this town. Racists, fascists, get out! Get down!” □

Linking struggles at Boston summit

Continued from page 3

Stand up and raise our voices!”

“Rosa 7053 is the voice of Boston’s hard working, intelligent and socially conscious youth. We stand against injustice at home and abroad. 7053 is the booking number when [Rosa Parks] was arrested for a remarkable act of civil disobedience. Today we are also ready to stand up and raise our voices as our ancestor Rosa Parks did on Dec. 1, 1955,” said Noelia Cabrera during a special presentation by the youth group where they all wore their new Rosa Parks T-shirts.

“The goal of Rosa 7053 is to raise consciousness and awareness amongst the masses of youth in today’s America. By speaking out against injustice both big and small we resolve to effect change through unified, organized action. We came together because we must unite. There is work to be done across boundaries of class, color and turf. Rosa 7053 is dedicated to spreading the word and helping other youth free their minds from the mental jail cell called internalized oppression,” concluded Cabrera.

Teri Hinton of the Boston Workers Alliance and Survivors Inc. learned of the summit because a member of the BRPHRDC attended a Workers’ Alliance meeting.

“We have to have a vision and we have to be unified in that vision. How can we

build a movement if we’re not unified? We all have to work together. And even though we fight for different causes, we have to become united to fight this demon. I’m really tired of being dehumanized and demonized by the system. We have to put some action to it. Like go for the protest on Aug. 29. Go for Aug. 5. We have to do something. Without action there’s nothing. So get on your sneakers. Get the head band going. Be ready to work, march the streets and do what we gotta do. Our organizations are gonna do what we have to do to help build this movement,” said Hinton to sustained applause.

At the summit’s closing a general statement from the activists present defending human rights and the dignity of working people, specifically people of color, was agreed upon. A forthcoming resolution with concrete actions proposed along with a unity statement weaving the struggles together will be issued to the Greater Boston progressive movement after further consultation at upcoming RPHRDC meetings.

A rousing version of ‘Solidarity Forever,’ led by USWA Local 8751 member Stevan Kirschbaum was sung by all those present.

For more information call 617-524-3507, email: rosaparksday@brphrd.com, or visit www.brphrd.com or www.iac-boston.org. □

In defense of abortion clinic

Women activists lead fight against right-wing

By Kathy Durkin

During the week of July 15-22, the right-wing in Jackson, Mississippi, was set back by strong pro-choice forces who gathered to protect the Jackson Women's Health Organization—the only clinic in the state that performs abortions.

"I feel very victorious. There were no arrests, nor was anyone hurt. The clinic didn't close down. And we got a lot of support and made friends in the community," Michelle Colón, president of Jackson-area NOW and member of the Mississippi Reproductive Freedom Coalition, told Workers World.

Women's rights activists sprang into action when they learned that "Operation Save America," formerly named "Operation Rescue," led by notorious reactionary Flip Benham, was coming to Jackson for a week to try to shut down this facility. Their aim was to make Mississippi the first state to have no clinics providing abortions, and frighten and intimidate women from exercising their reproductive rights. The women were determined to stop the right-wingers who had been trying to shut down this vital clinic for years.

As Colón explained, "This clinic provides critically-needed reproductive healthcare for low-income women."

In the last ten years, she said, six clinics in the state had closed due to more restrictive laws and rightwing pressure. Private physicians' high fees and public hospitals'

restrictive policies limit poor women's accessibility to services.

NOW and the Mississippi Reproductive Freedom Coalition, which includes Unity Mississippi, a lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender organization, planned a week of pro-choice activism, community outreach and education about reproductive healthcare. Women from around the state and from other parts of the country joined in, making up a strong, diverse force of African-American and Asian women and men, LGBT people, and many youth—all opposed to the rightwing attack.

The week of progressive actions started on July 15, when hundreds of women's rights activists rallied at Smith Street Park in Jackson, outnumbering the reactionaries by ten-to-one. Despite bomb threats and attempted disruptions, the pro-choice rally was held. Supporters there included representatives of Anti-Racist Action, Common Ground, The World Can't Wait, Radical Women, the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, Mid-South NOW, Feminist Majority, and many pro-choice activists and supporters from throughout Mississippi and beyond.

While in Jackson, the small group of bigots incensed the whole city. With messages of extreme hatred, they vociferously attacked women's right to choose, the lesbian and gay community and Islam. They harassed the clinic's staff and clients for eight days with verbally abusive tirades, slurs, signs, and photographs. They

A healthcare plan for the uninsured

By Joan Marquardt
San Francisco

On July 25, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously approved healthcare coverage for uninsured people living in this city.

The San Francisco Health Care Security Ordinance is the result of combining two different proposals: one from the mayor, Gavin Newsom, and the other written by progressive, gay supervisor Tom Ammiano. The latter plan was widely supported by organized labor and grassroots organizations.

Scheduled to go into effect in 2007, the ordinance will require employers of 20 or more workers to provide healthcare coverage. Employers already providing some form of group insurance must show that they spend a minimum of one dollar per worker hour on healthcare.

Employers who do not offer insurance to their non-management workers will be required to pay between \$1.06 and \$1.60 per worker hour into the new Health Access Plan.

The new plan will emphasize preventive care and early treatment. It will allow workers to have a regular doctor of their choice and access to care at both public and private hospitals and clinics. It will not cover dental care and only some eye care and elective surgery.

The plan will include uninsured workers no matter what their income, immigration status or pre-existing medical condition. It will replace the current inefficient method of healthcare delivery via expensive emergency-room care, which is accessed by workers who have nowhere else to go

when they absolutely have to have medical care. The yearly city costs for emergency-room care are about \$104 million.

The new plan will still be partly financed by the city, but with additional funds from business and the workers themselves.

The plan will not be free, but for people currently uninsured, estimated between 82,000 and 85,000 San Franciscans, the plan is a big step forward. That is because the presently uninsured are mostly workers at jobs that offer no healthcare benefits and pay too little for the workers to buy health insurance on their own.

These workers cannot access state Medicaid healthcare and other services currently available to the masses of unemployed and those barely surviving on public assistance.

Despite loud objections from business interests and threats of endless legal challenges, the plan passed. Speaking about this victory for the working class in San Francisco, Don Bechler of Healthcare for All said: "The importance of this legislation is that it covers a lot of people," and "The business community has been defeated on this one by labor. This is very significant."

This victory is one step forward in the struggle for universal healthcare for everyone, against the profit-motivated, lucrative big business of healthcare that includes the giant pharmaceutical companies, the equipment suppliers, the hospital corporations and private medical insurance providers. The city of San Francisco has set an example for the rest of the state of California and the entire United States.

Healthcare for people, not for profit! □

PHOTO: MISSISSIPPI
REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM
COALITION

Activists defend
abortion clinic in
Jackson.



harassed churchgoers and drove a car into a crowd of youth.

They even burned the Koran and shredded a rainbow gay pride flag. But these attempts to whip up bigotry and hostility backfired when Jackson residents became outraged at their actions.

Also, solidarity began growing between divergent forces. This was demonstrated at the State Capitol on July 21, when many groups with different views gathered to decry the rightwing and "defend one another when we saw bigotry, hatred and violence being incited by the other side," said Colón.

The week of activism concluded the next day with a March for Women's Lives that gathered at the State Capitol in memory of women who had died from botched abortions worldwide.

But the struggle is far from over. Mississippi is a key state in the national struggle for reproductive rights and one of the most restrictive in the country, where as in many states, low-income and young women face the toughest hurdles in getting their reproductive health care needs met.

State officials there seek a strict abortion ban or at least a reduction in abortion access. The Democrats and Republicans officially oppose abortion rights. In March, a restrictive abortion ban passed in the state legislature; alleged pro-choice legislators caved-in to the other side and abstained on the vote that passed the ban.

Reproductive rights of young women attacked

By Sue Davis

In the continuing assault on women's right to abortion, the majority male and millionaire Senate voted 65 to 34 on July 25 for a bill ironically named "Child Custody Protection Act" that makes it a federal crime to help a young woman obtain an abortion by crossing state lines to avoid parental notification laws.

Last year the House passed a similar measure carrying the penalty of a year in jail and a fine. President George Bush has said he will sign the bill once both houses agree on the final wording.

Is this law necessary? Those who support it claim it's needed to defend parental rights. But in reality, there are a number of important reasons why a young woman would go to another state for an abortion and not want her parents to find out! Incest, rape, fear of punishment for getting pregnant and fear of being forced to carry an accidental pregnancy to term are obvious reasons.

It's extremely unlikely, as the bill's hypocritical cheerleaders claim, that a young woman would be forced to have an out-of-state abortion against her will. At the same time it's a travesty of justice to punish a grandmother, neighbor, minister or scout leader who seeks to help a young woman caught in a desperate personal crisis. The compassion and loving kindness motivating such action should be commended, not criminalized.

That contradiction only exposes the

But Colón expressed her optimism about the struggle ahead for crucial women's reproductive rights as the pro-choice movement develops in her state. She told of the formation five months ago of the Mississippi Reproductive Freedom Coalition, when "a small group of women of color came together then, and for a whole month, we outnumbered anti-choice representatives in Jackson."

Colón told of the readiness of women activists to mobilize in the months ahead—against intimidation by rightwing groups, to gain reproductive healthcare for Mississippi women, especially those who are low-income, and to stop a state ban on abortion. She told WW that this is a "human rights issue," and that "the Mississippi pro-choice voice will fight to provide reproductive healthcare." □

Support reproductive rights in Mississippi

To help organize for and fund reproductive healthcare in Mississippi, send donations to: Mississippi Reproductive Freedom Coalition, P.O.B. 3833, Jackson MS 39207 and Jackson Women's Health Organization, 2903 North State St., Jackson, MS 39216. □

bill's real purpose: to further limit, stigmatize and punish a young woman who wants an abortion and to make it virtually impossible for her to avoid a pregnancy she doesn't want. The bill will force a young woman to carry an unintended pregnancy to term, thereby exposing her to parental retaliation and totally denying her reproductive rights.

Who will be hurt the most by this bill? Poor young women of color, particularly those living in rural areas, who already have the fewest opportunities in the capitalist U.S. That makes this bill not only sexist and anti-youth but racist and anti-poor as well.

Some Senators who opposed the bill attached an amendment to create new grants for sex education and counseling to prevent pregnancies, but that amendment was defeated by a strict party-line vote of 51 to 48. That action exposes the lawmakers' anti-sex, anti-youth bias—and their callous disregard for young women's right to express their sexuality while controlling their reproductive capacity.

Young women in the 26 states that have parental notification laws will not be protected by the bill. Rather they will be punished and their reproductive rights denied. The bill should be renamed the "Forced Pregnancy Act" or the "Disempowering Young Women Act."

Passage of this bill is yet another in a long list of reasons why those who support women's rights need to fight to defend them. □

August 5 national day of protests grows

By Sharon Black

Organizers from coast to coast have reported that the call to demand "U.S. Out of the Middle East" on Aug. 5 is growing as the outrage over the U.S./Israeli war has deepened. Actions are set from New York City to San Francisco, from Boston to Los Angeles, from Detroit to Atlanta and in many other cities and areas.

Larry Holmes, a national spokesperson for the Troops Out Now Coalition exclaimed, "It is imperative that anti-war activists and all justice-minded people act immediately and forcefully to oppose the U.S./Israeli war. Israel could not have launched its criminal invasion on Lebanon and Palestine if it did not have the full support of U.S. imperialism."

Holmes continued, "The Aug. 5 actions will build for the national demonstrations on August 12th in Washington D.C., San Francisco and Los Angeles." The Troops Out Now Coalition is organizing buses for the D.C. mobilization. New York City protesters have set a 4 p.m. march from Times Square to Rockefeller Center on Aug. 5.

Joan Marquardt reported that activists with the International Action Center in San Francisco are planning an outreach and street protest on Aug. 5 to build for the demonstration on Aug. 12. Sacramento, Calif., is also planning to protest on Aug. 5.

In Southern California, Los Angeles is holding a major regional activity at the Westwood building including a march which has the support of Arab and Muslim forces. San Diego activists are organizing transportation for both weekends in Los Angeles. There will also be a local protest in San Diego on Aug. 12 called by the San Diego chapter of the National Council of Arab Americans and San Diego Al-Awda.

Steven Ceci, a Baltimore union organizer, pointed out that "workers in the U.S. will lose in this war also." The All Peoples Congress, a city-wide community group in Baltimore, is planning an Aug. 5 protest in the Black community.

Washington, D.C., IAC spokesperson Pam Parker explained that all of the work-

ers she has talked to in the anti-war movement are anxious to respond, especially after the horrible massacre in Qana, Lebanon, committed by the Israelis.

In Cleveland, a rust belt city that has seen workers thrown on the scrap heap by the bosses, the Fight Back Center is marching from a popular local park. Activists in Chicago, which has been the site of major immigrant rights protests, are planning Aug. 5 protests and buses to the Aug. 12 march in D.C.

The Boston Rosa Parks Human Rights Day Committee, which launched a major march to honor Rosa Parks this past Dec. 1 and has helped to revive the struggle against racism, is one of the key organizers for the August 5th actions.

In Michigan, communities are uniting. The Michigan Emergency Committee Against War and Injustice (MECAWI) called for a protest in downtown Detroit. Jerry Goldberg, a MECAWI organizer, explained, "There are nightly demonstrations in Dearborn, Mich. Many of the residents of this mostly Arab community have family members in Qana and they are outraged. Within minutes of the most recent massacre protesters gathered at the site of a memorial to the victims of Qana which was established in Dearborn following the 1996 massacre. Dearborn was declared a sister city with Qana. The Congress of Arab American Organizations has declared Aug. 5 in Detroit as one of their nightly actions."

In addition, Rochester, N.Y., and Buffalo, N.Y., are holding a regional New York State action on Aug. 4. Atlanta, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Tuscon, Ariz., along with other areas have reported actions for this coming weekend. □



WW PHOTO: MONICA MOOREHEAD
Palestinian activist Samia Halaby speaks at July 28 rally at Israeli UN mission in NY, above and below.

Hear Arab & U.S. activists speak on Middle East crisis

The New York branch of Workers World Party held a timely and important forum July 28 entitled "Voices of Resistance to the U.S.-Israeli War in Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine—Understanding what's at stake."

The speakers included Sara Flounders, WWP; Samia Halaby, Defend Palestine

and Al Jisser Group; Wael Mousfa, Arab Muslim American Federation; Ahmad Al Arabi, Al Awda Palestine Right of Return Coalition; Isser Mikel, National Council of Arab Americans and Larry Holmes, WWP and Troops Out Now Coalition. To hear podcasts of all the talks and discussion, go to www.workersworld.net. □



PHOTO: MAJED

March across Brooklyn Bridge



Around a thousand people marched across the Brooklyn Bridge July 29 to protest U.S. complicity in Israel's attacks on Lebanon and Gaza. Besides contingents of Lebanese, Palestinians and South Asians, there were contingents from progressive and anti-war organizations, like the International Action Center, International Socialist Organization, Workers League and Progressive Labor, as well as contingents of both Orthodox, anti-Zionist Jews and non-Orthodox Jews.

—Story and photo by G. Dunkel

Houston protesters say 'No justice! No peace!'

Special to Workers World

Over 500 Palestinians, other Arab people and their supporters rallied across from the federal courthouse in downtown Houston on July 28 to demand an end to Israeli aggression in both Lebanon and Palestine.

Demonstrators waved dozens and dozens of Palestinian and Lebanese flags. Others draped them over their shoulders. Three "bodies" were wrapped in what was made to look like bloody flags, to represent the victims of the U.S./Israeli bombing.

The passionate crowd chanted, "U.S. generosity, Israeli monstrosity!" and "All

the Hitlers are the same! The only difference is their name!" as people gathered. Then Fady Quaddura welcomed everyone and introduced the many Palestinian and other Arab speakers.

Also invited to speak were several U.S. activists, including Gloria Rubac from the International Action Center, who drew loud cheering when she said that all people in the U.S. could have healthcare and New Orleans could be rebuilt if the U.S. would stop arming Israel. An announcement was made for a fundraiser for the people of Lebanon to be held the next day at the Arab American Cultural and Community Center. □

Worldwide protests slam U.S.-Israeli aggression

By John Catalinotto

Across the world people have mobilized to demonstrate their anger against the Israeli attack on Lebanon and the reactionary U.S. role in the Middle East. Demonstrations took place all through the weekend of July 28-30 and then stepped up as news broke of the murderous massacre of civilians in Qana, Lebanon.

Actions are scheduled on six continents for the weekend of Aug. 4-6, turning this into the first weekend of global demonstrations.

The most dramatic protests have taken place in the Arab countries. What is significant is that in some countries that are U.S. client states strong, anti-U.S. and anti-Israeli protests took place.

Following the attack on Qana, on July 31 over 1,000 protesters faced off against hundreds of police in downtown Cairo, chanting slogans against U.S. imperialism and criticizing Arab leaders for not acting fast enough against the Israeli invasion and bombing.

Jordan and Egypt are U.S. client states and have recognized Israel. Protesting there means challenging the governments. Even more surprising was the report of a demonstration in eastern Saudi Arabia. According to a July 31 Reuters report, "Shi'ite men and women managed to stage two protests, marching in the towns of al-Qateef and al-Awamiya on July 29." Protesters carried pictures of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah. Demonstrations also took place in Morocco.

In Iraq, even those forces in the puppet Iraqi government have spoken out against the Israeli aggression and the U.S. role. The Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani condemned the Qana massacre and called on the international community to press immediately for a ceasefire and put an end to this "horrendous misery." Meanwhile



More than 5,000 protesters stormed the UN building in Beirut on July 30 after the massacre in Qana. The U.S. has kept the UN Security Council from even discussing a cease-fire resolution while Israeli forces invade Lebanon.



thousands of people in Moqtada Al-Sadr's group demonstrated in Baghdad and Nasiriyah.

In Syria, a U.S. target, the Associated Press estimates that on July 30 some 2,000 women dressed in black gathered at a main square in downtown Damascus carrying Lebanese and Hezbollah flags. In Amman, the capital of neighboring Jordan, more than 1,000 people marched to nearby United Nations' offices, shouting "Death to Israel" and "Down, down U.S.A."

There were demonstrations against Australian Prime Minister John Howard in Perth, protests at three places in Britain and a march in Belfast, Ireland on July 29. That day 100 demonstrators marched before the U.S. Embassy in Reykjavik, Iceland, and 6,000 marched in Brussels, Belgium, where the headquarters of NATO is. A march went across the Brooklyn Bridge in New York that same day. Some 600 people gathered to protest in downtown Lisbon, Portugal, on July 26.

In Israel, some 200 people protested

July 30 following the news of the Qana bombing, and another military reservist refused duty in Lebanon.

In Turkey a three-day sit-in protest of Israeli aggression in the Middle East staged outdoors at Istanbul's Taksim Gezi Park ended July 28 with a public rally gathering some 3,000 protestors organized by the trade union confederation (DISK). Protesters flew balloons on which "Peace" and "Murderer America get out of Middle East" were written.

Protests set for Aug. 4-6

Protests the weekend of Aug. 4-6 are planned in 11 cities in Britain and at least that number in the United States. Other actions are set for Brussels and in Paris and other French cities, in Mexico City, and in Heidelberg, Germany.

Protests are expected following prayer on Aug. 4 in many countries that are

mostly Moslem, and by the Arab and Moslem Diaspora in all parts of the world.

In addition, some 63 Communist Parties signed a statement calling for an end to the U.S.-Israeli aggression and encouraging anti-war actions. □

'Appeal for resisting the Zionist occupier and defending our land, and people'

The Lebanese Communist Party issued the following statement on July 29.

Our Lebanese People:

The army of the Zionist enemy is continuing its aggression against Lebanon for its third consecutive week. From its very beginning stage, this aggression has taken the form of a savage predatory war. Neither man nor stone is safe from its fiery hell, nor are human and civil institutions, the media, or the infrastructure. The Zionist killing machine has most recently targeted even international observers.

This savage raging storm that took as its pretext the kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers has exceeded all possible responses in such circumstances as it seeks to wreak vengeance on Lebanon and its people in an attempt to inflict the greatest possible harm to Lebanon under the heading of destroying the military and command structure of Hezbollah with the most intensely destructive and deadly weapons and with the most cowardly and barbaric means.

The United States has revealed itself as a vicious and shameless participant in this war. Its administration has proclaimed openly that it hopes to see the "dawn of a new Middle East," completing

its plan for seizing control of the region, its resources, and the destinies of its people, a plan that was launched with the American invasion of Iraq more than three years ago.

Although the Zionist air force, navy, and artillery have continued to kill and destroy, they have failed to achieve their assigned goals and so the Zionists have now been compelled to launch a ground offensive, something they have tried to avoid since their ignoble departure from Lebanon in the year 2000.

For a week now they have been trying to advance in order to occupy Lebanese lands in the district of Bint-Jbeil, specifically the Marun ar-Ras junction, the town of Bint-Jbeil, and the surrounding area. Those murderers are trying to occupy and desecrate our holy land once again, to impose their conditions and the conditions of their masters by means of the killing, massacres, displacement, and destruction at which the Zionist war machine excels in criminality and savagery.

And as usual, Washington is backing them up and supporting them; even if that means that it must oppose the whole world!

The viciousness of the aggression and the dangerous goals it has set itself place

serious responsibilities upon the people of Lebanon: to repulse, resist, and frustrate its aims. They also obligate the Lebanese government to abandon the policy of complicity, complacency, or dreaming about American or "international" protection.

The United States is a participant in the aggression and it must be treated firmly on this basis.

The people and government must unite in the confrontation, taking all the necessary stances and measures on the level of policy, military action, security, and people's livelihood. To this end we need a real government of national unity that distinguishes between Lebanon's friends and enemies in the light of the results of the aggression, a government that constitutes a real backer and partner with the heroes of the resistance who once again are the makers of Lebanon's glory, defending its land, sovereignty, unity, and existence in the face of the criminal American-Zionist war machine.

Our Lebanese People: Israel is trying once again to occupy parts of the land of Lebanon, to destroy its people, and its civilization.

The Islamic resistance continues to make heroic sacrifices and score heroic victories. Our army is standing steadfast

after its officers and men were targeted in what amounted to a cowardly assassination attempt. At this time duty to the homeland calls on us to join in the resistance struggle and stand up to the occupiers and their crimes.

This is our duty as political parties, leftist and democratic patriotic forces, personalities, and fighters who once played an honorable part in defending the homeland against aggression, who in the Lebanese National Resistance Front in 1982 and afterwards performed acts of heroism that our people remember with pride and glory.

We call on our youth to bring back that experience, to take inspiration from it, and build upon it, joining the resistance struggle by standing steadfast in their villages and towns. We call on them to take up arms and meet the hordes of the aggressor in defense of our land, our sovereignty, our people, and all things we hold sacred.

The homeland is passing through a historic stage. Our people will triumph, bringing in the dawn of freedom, sovereignty, and unity for our homeland and Arab nation, vanquishing and routing all those who would plunder, invade, and occupy. □

Scare campaign against Hezbollah echoes buildup to Iraq invasion

By Greg Butterfield

The U.S.-funded client state of Israel is using U.S.-built jets to rain U.S.-supplied bombs, death and terror upon the civilian population of southern Lebanon.

But viewers who tuned into Good Morning America July 28 were greeted by Richard Clarke, a former top Bush administration advisor and now ABC News consultant, frothing about the alleged threat of a terror attack on U.S. soil by Hezbollah (Party of God), the political and military organization defending Lebanon from the U.S./Israeli invasion.

Clarke not only raised the threat of Hezbollah " sleeper cells " inside the U.S. He also warned of armed Hezbollah guerrillas crossing the borders from Mexico and Canada.

Offering no evidence for any of this, Clarke claimed Hezbollah was working hand-in-hand with Al-Qaeda, the group accused of masterminding the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. He said both of these organizations were being sponsored by the government of Iran.

Finally, he warned that Hezbollah, acting on behalf of Iran, could take action to "draw the U.S." into a war with Iran.

Clarke gave an astounding, breathless performance. Interviewer Diane Sawyer accepted his dramatic conclusions without a single challenging question.

A more astute journalist might have asked, for example, why the government of Iran—a developing country of 68 million people—would so deliberately provoke the world's nuclear superpower into attacking it. Or why Tehran's Shi'ite Islamic government would be supporting Al-Qaeda, which the Bush administration claims has been killing Iraqi Shi'ites friendly to Iran?

But no such questions were forthcoming.

Demonization campaign

Clarke is no lone voice from the fringe. His alarm-filled appearance on a popular morning talk show is part of a much bigger campaign by the Bush administration, the Republican and Democratic political establishment, and the corporate media to

demonize the Lebanese people's resistance movement and frighten the U.S. population into quietly going along with whatever atrocities may come next—whether it's Israel's July 30 massacre of more than 60 civilians, mostly children, in the village of Qana, a possible UN/NATO occupation of Lebanon, or a broader war against Syria and Iran.

In late July, the FBI notified 18,000 U.S. police agencies, "warning them to remain vigilant about Hezbollah," according to a report by ABC News correspondent Pierre Thomas, even though "there is no credible intelligence pointing to an imminent Hezbollah attack on the United States."

Media reports on the Hezbollah "threat" now routinely claim that before 9/11, officials believed the group was "just as dangerous [as Al-Qaeda]—perhaps even more so." (Los Angeles Times, July 30) Former State Department official Richard L. Armitage calls them "the A-team of terrorists." And so on.

And the Democratic Party opposition? "I have no criticism of the president on this issue because I think he is doing the right thing," Senator Chuck Schumer of New York told CNN.

"While President Bush routinely faces criticism from congressional Democrats over the Iraq war and his domestic policies," the San Jose Mercury News reported July 30, "there's been little criticism over his stance on Israel's campaign against Hezbollah in southern Lebanon. That has freed him to stand firm against growing international pressure for an immediate cease-fire."

This quick mobilization of the capitalist state to demonize Hezbollah also provides further evidence that Washington was no surprised bystander to the recent events in Lebanon and Palestine.

The capture of a few Israeli soldiers was not the cause, but rather a pretext, for the brutal assaults on Gaza and southern Lebanon. Israel, which is completely dependent on the U.S., economically, politically and militarily, could not have launched such a campaign without the go-ahead from the White House.

Lebanese Americans and others have

charged that the FBI's "warning" is nothing but a green light to amp up political harassment and threats against Arab communities. Dearborn, Mich., has the largest concentration of people of Lebanese descent in the U.S.—some 30,000. A local businessman was recently forced to flee the country after the FBI accused him of giving money to Hezbollah-linked charities.

"If the FBI wants to come after those who support the resistance done by Hezbollah, then they better bring a fleet of buses," Osama Siblani, publisher of the Arab-American News, told the Chicago Tribune. Some 10,000 people rallied in Dearborn against the U.S./Israeli assault on Lebanon July 18.

The imperialist establishment is banking on misinformation and public ignorance about the true nature of Hezbollah, an organization that emerged more than 20 years ago as a movement of popular resistance against the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon.

Although based in the Shi'ite Muslim community, it has won wide acclaim and support from Sunnis and others in Lebanon and throughout the Middle East for its staunch resistance to Israeli aggression and its efforts to rebuild the infrastructure and social services wrecked by the occupiers.

Since Israel was forced to withdraw its troops from southern Lebanon in 2000, Hezbollah has become an important national political force. It has members in the Lebanese parliament and global recognition as a legitimate political party—except in the U.S., where the Clinton administration officially declared it a "terrorist" organization in 1997.

Workers in the U.S., whose unions are frequently labeled "criminal" by bosses, police and government officials, especially when they go on strike to defend their members, should understand that just because the authorities call an organization "terrorist" doesn't make it so.

Big lies, then and now

The fear-mongering against Hezbollah eerily echoes the years and months before the U.S.-led invasion and occupation of Iraq.

Poison DUst shown in Denver

On July 30, activists in Denver and the surrounding area filled the Mercury Cafe to hear Dr. Sue Harris, director of the film Poison DUst, speak. Poison DUst is about the use of depleted uranium (DU) in U.S. weaponry all over the world and how it is a main cause of Gulf War Syndrome in U.S. troops.

The film points out that there were initially less than 200 U.S. casualties from

the first Gulf War, but now, 14 years later, over 10,000 are dead and over 200,000 are on full disability.

The film describes the danger of low level radiation and how it affects children most of all. It shows the effects of DU on Iraqi children. It also gives a history of U.S. duplicity concerning atomic power since the beginning of its use.

Dahlia Wasfi, an Iraqi-American physi-

cian, spoke about her recent trip to Basra, Iraq, to visit family members. She remarked on the jump in cancer rates in the area, how her family had been affected and on the conditions that persist there.

Following introductory remarks by Harris, and the showing of an hour segment of the film, the audience asked questions. Sheik Ibrahim Kazerooni was quick to point out, when the question was asked about other factors that might be responsible for the rise in cancer rates, such as burning oil, that during the first U.S. war against Iraq, the burning pipe lines were in Kuwait, not Iraq, and that there had been a jump in cancer rates only in Iraq. Incidence of cancer there has since increased over 300 percent.

Harris spoke about further projects, such as a full-length documentary on the effects of DU bombing by the U.S. navy on the people in Vieques, Puerto Rico. All copies of the film sold out, as did copies of the anti-military recruiting book, *We Won't Go!*

This event was hosted by the Denver International Action Center.

—Larry Hales

Poison DUst

A documentary video that opened many eyes. The Pentagon uses DU to coat weapons and vehicles because it is extremely hard—and cheap, the unwanted byproduct of nuclear energy and weapons programs. Filmmaker Sue Harris interviewed U.S. soldiers returned from Iraq, where they were exposed to DU dust. Many suffer mysterious ailments and have children with birth defects. The Iraqi people have even more to worry about. They live in an environment that will be poisoned by DU for hundreds of thousands of years. "Poison DUst" is an 84-minute DVD.

Order online from www.Leftbooks.com



Beginning within hours after the 9/11 attacks, the Bush administration and its mouthpieces tried to tie the Iraqi government of President Saddam Hussein to the tragedy. They claimed Iraq's secular Ba'athist government was working with Al-Qaeda, despite their longstanding ideological and political enmity.

There was never a shred of evidence to back either claim. Of course, that doesn't prevent Congress from re-raising the charge any time a new opinion poll shows growing opposition to the Iraq war.

Remember the anthrax letter scare shortly after 9/11? News reports were full of allegations that it was the work of Iraqi scientists. Instead, it turned out the anthrax had originated in a Pentagon laboratory in Maryland. No one was ever charged for the resulting deaths.

And in late 2002 to early 2003, as the Pentagon moved steadily towards its brutal and illegal "shock and awe" invasion of Iraq, the Bush administration held out the phantom threat of an "Iraqi terror attack" to cow people into going along with an illegal war. It was a wholly manufactured myth, just like "weapons of mass destruction."

How does Hezbollah view Al-Qaeda? Asked by the Ria-Novosti news agency about an alleged Al-Qaeda solidarity message broadcast on Al-Jazeera network, a Hezbollah spokesperson declared it "a forgery manufactured by U.S. and Israeli intelligence services."

The Hezbollah spokesperson stressed that Hezbollah has never maintained bonds with Al-Qaeda since they do not share the same ideology or religious beliefs. "Hezbollah defends the interests of Lebanon and the entire Arab world, whereas Al-Qaeda plays a role that helps the U.S. administration. Its actions do nothing but damage the interests of Islam and all Muslims," the spokesperson concluded.

The current anti-Hezbollah crusade has another aim as well—to distract workers' attention from the ever-deepening crisis of the U.S. occupation forces in Iraq.

The Iraqi resistance continues to grow day by day. The occupiers can no longer even maintain their fragile control of Baghdad, where they and their client regime are headquartered.

After months of hinting that significant numbers of U.S. troops would be brought home by the end of this year, the Pentagon now says that troop levels will actually increase in coming months—from just over 130,000 to 135,000. (Times of London, July 29)

Every week brings new revelations of despicable crimes by U.S. military personnel against Iraqi civilians. At least 100 Iraqis are dying violently every day under the U.S.-led occupation. "[U.S. officials] are criminally responsible for the hundred deaths every day. They should be tried for their crimes, not that such trials are possible in our country," wrote Andrew Greeley in the July 28 Chicago Sun Times.

And the United Nations Committee on Human Rights, echoing an earlier report by the UN Committee on Torture, has called on the U.S. to close its secret detention facilities throughout Europe and other parts of the world and to grant the Red Cross access to detainees. (Reuters, July 28)

This is no time for workers and progressives in the U.S. to be distracted by lies about Hezbollah. It's time to confront the terrorists headquartered in Washington and build solidarity with the people struggling for self-determination throughout the Middle East. □

Chávez in Iran

Solidarity and cooperation trump U.S. threats

By Deirdre Griswold

The president of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, was given a hero's welcome in Iran when he stopped there on July 29-30 toward the end of a whirlwind tour that also has taken him to Argentina, Belarus, Russia and Vietnam.

The Venezuelan leader declared his solidarity with Iran, a country on George W. Bush's prime hit list—his so-called "axis of evil." It was a courageous stand taken at a time when Washington is threatening Teheran with sanctions, U.S. troops are still occupying Iraq, and Israel is carrying out yet another invasion in the Middle East, with Washington's blessing, while continuing its military assaults on the Palestinian people.

Chávez's visit was a declaration to the world that international solidarity in the struggle to break free of imperialist domination can bring together targeted peoples on every continent, regardless of politics, religion, language or culture.

He met with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Ahmadinejad praised Venezuela's "tangible anti-imperialist" foreign policy. Chávez replied, "Once we are united, we can defeat imperialism. And if we are divided, they will eliminate us."

Ahmadinejad bestowed on Chávez the country's most prestigious award, the medal of honor of the Islamic Republic. (Iranian News Agency)

Chávez was accompanied on the trip by his energy minister, Rafael Ramírez. Venezuela is the fifth-largest oil exporter in the world. Its state-owned oil company, PDVSA, is now spending billions of dollars every year on extensive programs to bring literacy, low-cost housing, and free education and health services to the poor.

This alarms the U.S. corporate world. Chávez, writes the Wall Street Journal of Aug. 1, has been "steering the oil company into political, economic and philanthropic ventures that have distracted it from its core business of finding and producing more oil."

Even more damning in the Journal's eyes, PDVSA "has turned away from traditional partners like U.S. major Exxon Mobil Corp. and is doing much more business with state companies from Iran, China and India. This weekend, during a visit to Teheran by Mr. Chávez, Iran pledged to invest \$4 billion in two Venezuelan oil fields. The two nations also unveiled a raft of joint ventures, including

a refinery in Indonesia."

The \$4 billion investment in Venezuela by Iran's Petropars is its largest outside the country, according to Oil Minister Kazem Vaziri Hamaneh.

Besides cooperating in oil and petrochemicals, the two countries also have signed an agreement for Iran to begin assembling its "Samand" sedan automobile in Venezuela in October.

Shaking off colonial legacy

Like most of the world today, Iran and Venezuela are both developing countries still trying to shake off the legacy of decades of open colonial rule. That period was followed by neocolonialism, when transnational corporations and banks based mostly in the U.S. and Britain exercised control over their valuable petroleum reserves.

While supposedly independent, the governments in both countries were run by puppets of foreign oil companies until mass upheavals brought about political change.

The current lopsided world economic order, where imperialist monopolies have sucked out the wealth of resource-rich nations and left them poorer than ever, is now being challenged in country after country.

The imperialists no longer have a monopoly on modern technology, however, despite all their efforts to keep it under wraps. Faced with sanctions, embargoes and all kinds of international arrangements that put the developing world at a disadvantage, countries like Venezuela and Iran are looking to one another, not to the U.S. or Britain, for trade agreements and exchanges of technology that don't come with a thousand strings attached.

Who has nuclear weapons?

The Bush administration is making a crusade out of attacking Iran for its efforts to develop nuclear power. It was the U.S., of course, that brought the world into the nuclear era more than 60 years ago when it exploded the first atomic bomb at Alamogordo, N.M. It then became the first—and only—country to drop these



In appreciation of Venezuela's support at this critical moment, President Ahmadinejad presents Hugo Chávez with Iran's most prestigious award, the medal of honor of the Islamic Republic. Both men are standing in front of photo.

horrible weapons on civilians, when it still had a monopoly on these weapons.

Since then, at least eight more countries have acquired nuclear weapons. Some 31 countries are generating nuclear power, and 56 countries operate nuclear reactors.

For Washington to charge, as it does, that Iran is a danger to the world because it is developing the ability to generate nuclear power is like a pickpocket running through a crowd yelling "Thief! Thief!"

Right now, the only nuclear-armed state in the Middle East, Israel, is carrying out a war of aggression against neighboring Lebanon. It is acting with the full collaboration of Washington, which has rushed additional missiles to Israel and blocked the UN Security Council from calling for an immediate ceasefire despite the vast humanitarian crisis that Israel's bombings and invasions have caused.

During his trip to Iran, President Chávez called on third world countries to support Iran's inalienable right to develop and make peaceful use of nuclear energy.

"Now that the world is faced with the reduction of oil output and the growth of consumerism, it is better to seek alternative energy resources that can be substituted for the fossil fuel," he told a joint press conference with President Ahmadinejad.

He also denounced Israel for its targeted bombing of the shelter in Qana, Lebanon, where over 60 people, the majority women and children, were killed.

A shameful resolution

The day after Chávez left for Vietnam, the U.S. was able to push through a resolution in the UN Security Council that gives Iran until Aug. 31 to suspend uranium enrichment or face the threat of economic and diplomatic sanctions. Almost immediately, different views about what

The imperialists no longer have a monopoly on modern technology, however, despite all their efforts to keep it under wraps. Venezuela and Iran are looking to one another, not to the U.S. or Britain, for trade agreements and exchanges of technology that don't come with a thousand strings attached.

the resolution meant were voiced by members of the council.

U.S. Ambassador John Bolton, a hard-liner Bush appointee, called it a "tough resolution" that "demands action." The Wall Street Journal, however, called it a "weakened" resolution.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Kislyak said the resolution does not carry the "automatic" threat of sanctions. "There is no automatic system, but the Security Council could examine further steps to persuade Iran to carry out the recommendations of the IAEA," Kislyak was quoted by Interfax as saying. "Of course, no one is going to look at any use of force," he added.

No one?

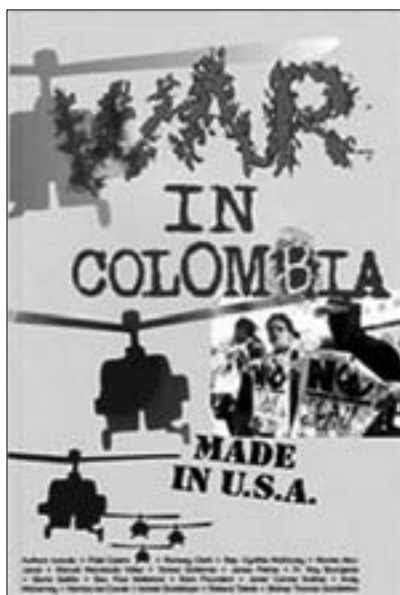
For months, investigative journalists like Seymour Hersh have been reporting on the Pentagon's plans to attack Iran's nuclear facilities. With war now raging in Lebanon, Iran is being mentioned as a supporter of the national liberation movement Hezbollah and, by implication, a valid target for Israeli planes and missiles.

Russia and China may have demanded changes be made to the U.S. version before they voted for the resolution, but they should know that the imperialists will use even a "weakened" resolution as justification for further aggression. George W. Bush and then Secretary of State Colin Powell, it should be remembered, pushed the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to say that Iraq was not complying with its inspection demands; they then used the excuse of Iraqi "weapons of mass destruction" to launch the horrendous shock and awe blitzkrieg of Baghdad.

It turned out that Iraq had no WMDs, of course. Iran has no nuclear weapons. The U.S. has over 10,000 nuclear warheads and is spending billions on perfecting "bunker buster" weapons and an "anti-missile shield." It should be clear where the danger of high-tech war is coming from.

If the UN were a body that truly represented the world's people, its resolutions would be demanding the disarming of the imperialists whose wars have killed tens of millions over the past century.

Yet even the extreme military threats from Washington have not been able to hold back the rising tide of mass struggle against imperialism, which has despoiled this planet and impoverished so many of its people. Needed social change will come from the streets, not from the diplomatic compromises of a divided world "community." □



WAR IN COLOMBIA MADE IN U.S.A.

A book from the International Action Center covers the struggle in Colombia from the perspective of trade unionists, human rights activists, and the FARC and ELN insurgencies.

Authors include: Fidel Castro, Ramsey Clark, Javier Correa, Rep. Cynthia McKinney, Mumia Abu-Jamal, Gloria Gaitan, Raul Reyes, Manuel Marulanda, Stan Goff, Teresa Gutierrez, James Petras, Sen. Paul Wellstone, Roy Bourgeois, Garry Leech and others.

Order from leftbooks.com



Meanwhile, back in Iraq

U.S. -Israeli aggression created a new crisis in Lebanon and caught the attention of most of the world's media. Despite the drop in media reports from Iraq, there has been no letup in Iraqi suffering, and the Pentagon has only dug itself deeper into its quagmire. On one day, Aug. 1, about 60 people were killed in Iraq. About half were troops and police of the Iraqi puppet government.

In the few days before Aug. 1, another eight U.S. occupation troops died under fire, four of them Marines in Anbar province, where the resistance is strongest. That brings the U.S. troops killed to 2,578 since the March 20, 2003, invasion.

Earlier in the summer the Bush administration said it was aiming to pull 30,000 of the 130,000 U.S. troops out of Iraq by the end of the year. Bush lied. It was a convenient lie aimed at stopping some feeble Democratic Party opposition to Bush's war tactics. "If conditions allow" meant if the Iraqis give up and stop fighting against the occupation. While Bush made no major announcements of a change in plans, the U.S. troop level has gone up to 134,000. Now unnamed Defense Department officials are saying "forget about the troop reductions."

This is bad news for Iraqis, whose life has been torn apart by the U.S. occupation. It is also bad news for U.S. troops, who were in Iraq only reluctantly and were looking forward to getting the hell out in one piece. Of the troops, the

3,500 members of the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team may have received the worst news: after surviving a year in the resistance strongholds west of Baghdad and then preparing to return to Fort Wainwright in cooler and safer Alaska, the soldiers were ordered into Baghdad for another four months. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld signed the orders himself on July 27.

If a recent National Public Radio broadcast was any indication, the patriotic fervor of the Stryker Brigade soldiers' families was beginning to wane. Indeed, many spouses saw the new orders as a stab in the back from an administration that had no business going to war in Iraq in the first place. And they said this on national radio.

It is already obvious that the Israeli massacres in Lebanon haven't solved the U.S. dilemma in Iraq. They have only expanded the crisis. And the hardened response of the Bush administration of putting more troops into Iraq despite the low level of support from the home front for the occupation is a challenge to the anti-war movement.

The administration's latest troop escalation in Iraq shows that a low level of support in the opinion polls, about 32 percent, doesn't even slow down the Bush gang. Nor will a tepid Democratic Party opposition in Congress. To stop these war criminals will take not only a popular mobilization, but a real confrontation that provides obstacles to the Pentagon's carrying out the war, done on as massive a scale as is possible. □

With Cuba & Fidel

Fidel Castro is an extraordinary revolutionary whose life's work has been to liberate Cuba from U.S. imperialism's voracious control and build a society in which the masses can live in dignity. He is an inspiration especially to the peoples of Latin America, but his name and socialist Cuba's generosity resonate with the oppressed everywhere.

Now, for the first time, he has temporarily delegated his functions as leader of several bodies in the Cuban government to other responsible comrades, including Defense Minister and First Vice President Raúl Castro and Political Bureau members José Ramón Balaguer, José Ramón Machado, Esteban Lazo Hernández and Carlos Lage Dávila.

In an Aug. 1 message to the Cuban people, Comrade Castro explained that a grueling schedule in recent weeks, when he visited several cities in Argentina and then attended commemorations in Cuba of the 1953 guerrilla attack on dictator Batista's Moncada Barracks, led to his health "breaking down." He was operated on for intestinal bleeding and is now recuperating, in the capable hands of the Cuban medical establishment.

It testifies to the strong revolutionary institutions built up in Cuba since the revolution that the island is calm, even though it continues to face blatant hostility from the world's most dangerous

imperialist power, just 90 miles from its shores. It is calm despite the deep sadness among the Cuban people over their leader's health crisis. There is enormous affection for Fidel, as he is universally called. He has been the commander in chief of the epic struggle that propelled his small and beleaguered country into a world-class example of how, even under adverse external conditions, a socialist revolution can liberate the resources of society to be used first and foremost to advance the health, education and security of the people.

Even capitalist newspapers here have to admit the great respect and love of the Cuban people for Fidel, although most television images focus on the discredited counter-revolutionary exiles in Miami who, like monarchists after the French Revolution, yearn in vain for a return of the old days.

Fidel will be 80 years old on Aug. 13. He has asked that official celebrations be postponed until December, when he expects to be up and about again. In the meantime, we join the multitudes of progressive people around the world who wish him a speedy recovery. We offer our heartfelt solidarity to Comrade Raúl Castro, himself a veteran and indispensable organizer of all the great struggles that liberated Cuba, and to the rest of the Cuban leaders who are shouldering additional responsibilities in this period of Fidel's recuperation. □



Maryann Mahaffey being arrested in March, 1996 for supporting the Detroit newspaper strike.

Detroiters mourn progressive official

By Cheryl Labash
Detroit

Maryann Mahaffey, 81 years old, succumbed to complications from T-cell leukemia on the morning of July 27. She was loved in Detroit's union halls, block clubs and community meetings and respected everywhere for her tireless, tenacious struggle for poor and working people on local, national and international issues—not only in her work as an elected official, but in her community work.

Mahaffey retired from the Detroit City Council in her longstanding role as president in 2005 when treatment for her illness sapped her energy. Mahaffey had served almost continuously since 1990 as president, a position filled by the candidate with the highest vote total.

A social worker and educator, she won her first term in 1973 in the same election as Coleman A. Young, the first African American mayor of Detroit. She firmly supported Mayor Young's affirmative action policies that confronted racism and discrimination in city employment, and took on Detroit police department brutality.

She was a convener of the 2005 National Conference to Reclaim Our Cities, demanding money for our cities, not for war.

The defining moment of her youth came during World War II when she worked in an Arizona internment camp for Japanese Americans. Her experiences there ignited a passion that she carried for the rest of her

life to fight all forms of discrimination and injustice. From pressing for domestic partner benefits to opposing the Korean, Vietnam and Iraq wars, from fighting for equality for women to defending welfare, water and voting rights, she helped give these and other struggles voice at the council table and in the streets.

In the critical period for the Cuban Revolution after the collapse of the Soviet Union, Maryann Mahaffey traveled to Cuba along with another councilperson. When the Pastors for Peace Caravan got held up at the border, she used her elected position to intervene. As recently as this past April, she helped launch the Michigan Campaign to Free the Cuban Five.

In June, she attended the community "meet and greet" for the Venezuelan ambassador—the result of an invitation issued by the Detroit City Council last September.

A few weeks before her death, she joined an anti-war demonstration in suburban Ferndale, defending the right to carry "honk against the war" signs after police issued tickets to silence that form of protest.

Speaking of her arrest on the strong Detroit newspaper strike picket line in 1996 and her staunch refusal to talk with reporters from the scab papers, she stressed, "If you stand for something, then do it. And if there is a penalty, then pay it. Otherwise, how will people know you're really serious?"

She is survived by her life partner, Hy Dooaha; her daughter, Susan Dooaha; and a city that won't be the same without her. □

Elections in the Congo

By G. Dunkel

The turnout for elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo was massive, according to media reports, even in the eastern provinces where conditions are still tense, and violence and armed conflicts still frequent, despite the fact that a formal peace agreement was signed four years ago.

More than 9,700 candidates are running for 500 seats in parliament and 32 candidates are vying for the presidency. There will only be one round of voting for parliament, so in big election districts like Kinshasa, the capital, a candidate with 1 percent of the vote who leads all the rest could win a seat.

There will be two rounds of voting for president. The current president, Joseph Kabila, is the favorite to win. He took over after his father, Laurent Désiré Kabila, was assassinated in 2001.

It will take more than three weeks to count the vote. A second round in the presidential election, if needed, is tentatively scheduled for October.

The wars in the Democratic Republic of Congo from 1997 to 2002 cost between 2

and 4 million lives—the bloodiest conflict since World War II—and completely destroyed whatever infrastructure was left after Mobutu Sese Seko ran the country from 1965 through 1997.

Mobutu was installed with the connivance of the United States, Belgium and France after they engineered the assassination of the last popularly elected president, Patrice Lumumba.

The vast wealth that Congo's minerals generate has been siphoned by these imperialist powers, rather than for roads and health care and education. As a result, today Congo has less than 200 miles of roads outside its cities, which is why ballots for this election, and all the election equipment like ballot boxes and voting lists, had to be transported by air.

The United Nations has 17,000 troops in the Congo—backed by 2,000 or so troops from the European Union. The UN also has 1,000 election observers there and estimates that it will spend more than \$400 million on this vote.

More than 90 percent of the population of Congo lives on less than \$1 a day. □

New York shows support for Cuba, Venezuela



Left, Rev. Lucius Walker and Ileana Núñez Mordoche and above, Leonard Weinglass and Bonnie Massey.

A program full of politics and culture was held in solidarity with Cuba and Venezuela on July 29 at a packed hall at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Labor Center in Manhattan. This event coincided with the 53rd anniversary of the heroic assault on the Moncada Barracks, which helped to launch the July 26th Movement. This movement was in the forefront of organizing the victorious Cuban Revolution in 1959.

Today, socialist Cuba, led by President Fidel Castro, and the anti-imperialist Venezuelan government,

led by President Hugo Chávez, are viewed as the beacons of hope and inspiration for millions of workers and oppressed peoples throughout Latin America and the rest of the world seeking national self-determination and liberation.

The speakers at the event included Ileana Núñez Mordoche, ambassador of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations; Leonard Weinglass, an attorney representing the case of the Cuban 5 political prisoners; Rev. Lucius Walker, Friendship Caravan/IFCO Pastors for Peace; Bonnie Massey, Venceremos Brigade; and a representative of Francisco Arias Cárdenas, ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations.

—Story and photos by Mike Eilenfeldt

U.S./Israeli war crimes exposed to the world Lebanese resistance puts up a good fight

Continued from page 1

forces was “apparently deliberate.”

The direct hit on the UN observation post took place after eight hours of phone calls from UN headquarters in New York to the Israeli command, telling them to cease its shelling in the area. As in past Israeli invasions, the attack on the post forced the UN to withdraw forces it had stationed to mark a cease-fire line.

It is important to understand that this is the way Israel has fought every war. It has invaded Lebanon five times in the past 30 years. It has also invaded Jordan, Egypt and Syria and bombed Iraq—all with full U.S. diplomatic, political and military support.

Since the creation of the Zionist state of Israel, well-publicized, targeted massacres of hundreds of civilians have been used to force the evacuation of tens of thousands of Palestinians and to empty out wide areas of their land. The destruction of the Palestinian village of Deir Yassin is only the most infamous of the 33 massacres that forced 75 percent of the Palestinian people off their land in 1948. In the 58 years since then, Israel has continued to seize more land and expel more Palestinians while refusing to allow any of them the right to return.

On April 18, 1996, the Israeli army had committed an earlier massacre in the same town of Qana. Its shells hit a UN compound where hundreds of civilians had sought refuge, resulting in 106 deaths. Then, too, the Israeli command called it “mistaken targeting.”

After that attack the UN appointed a Dutch military adviser, Maj.-Gen. Franklin van Kappen, to investigate the massacre. Van Kappen reported that the Israeli army had “intentionally attacked the UN compound.” Of course, Israel has never been punished for this 1996 war crime in Qana or for its hundreds of other massacres.

The Israeli military is now engaged in a ruthless battle to clear a wide swath of land along the Lebanese border. While relentlessly pounding the whole area, they have ordered the local population to flee. More than 1 million Lebanese—one quarter of the population—are now refugees in their own country.

After almost three weeks of total U.S. support for Israel's aggression, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice announced from Jerusalem on July 30 that Tel Aviv would begin a 48-hour pause the next day in its bombing of south Lebanon and would allow civilians to leave the area. It was a tactic to depopulate the south. But

thousands of Lebanese have stayed because they are poor, have large families, don't have the vehicles or resources to leave, or don't have anywhere to go.

Israel's fraudulent story

The claim by the Israeli military that it targeted the low-rise building in the narrow streets of Qana because it thought Hezbollah was using it to fire missiles is a fraud.

Tom Clonan, a security analyst for the Irish Times newspaper, wrote on July 31 that the type of missile being used by Hezbollah cannot be launched from within houses, mosques, hospitals or even the UN facilities that Israel has targeted.

Hezbollah's missile launchers create a massive back-blast. They can only be fired from open ground, says Clonan. To try to fire them from within a building would result in instant death for the missile crew and the probable destruction of the missile before its launch.

The missiles are fired on open ground from the backs of flat-bed trucks. Since they generate an enormous flare of light, heat and sound energy when fired, they are instantly detected by Israeli high-tech systems.

Hezbollah forces disperse immediately after firing a missile. Such flat-bed trucks with multi-launch systems can hardly be hidden in a small village like Qana, let alone inside a building like the one that was demolished.

There were no scorch marks from a Hezbollah missile launch visible in the area near the destroyed house and no Hezbollah fighters among the dead or wounded. The Israelis knew the village was populated.

Massacre as a political weapon

Israel has a history of using massacres to intimidate a population under occupation. In 1982 after Israel invaded and occupied Lebanon all the way up to Beirut to force the withdrawal of Palestinian resistance fighters, it sent death squads into the disarmed Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila. Hundreds of defenseless refugees were executed.

Ariel Sharon's role in this massacre was so well known that even the Kahan Commission set up by the Israeli Knesset, or parliament, found him guilty of war crimes. He was then dismissed as Israeli defense minister. This hardly hurt his support among hard-core Zionists. He never served a day in prison and went on to become prime minister.

Zionist military policy has drawn on tactics, including massacres to drive out

indigenous people, that have been used by the U.S. ever since its wars against the Native peoples in North America.

Massacres of civilians who supported resistance to U.S. imperialism were used extensively in Washington's wars in the Philippines, Korea and Vietnam.

In the 1991 U.S. war on Iraq, in an effort to break the people's morale, the Pentagon fired two laser-guided “smart bombs” directly into the well-marked Amariyah bomb shelter in Baghdad, filled with civilian families. The number of people estimated to have been incinerated by the missiles ranges from 500 to 1,500.

Aggression masked as self-defense

Despite decades of U.S. sanctioned and financed aggression, Israel is always described in the corporate media as an army defending itself from attack. Both Gaza and Lebanon are portrayed as quiet until Hamas or Hezbollah initiate attacks. Nothing could be further from the truth.

After the Lebanese resistance led by Hezbollah forced Israel to withdraw its occupying troops in 2000, Israel routinely bombed, raided and violated Lebanon and continued to occupy its Shabaa Farms area. This May, Israel again bombed Lebanon and assassinated two Palestinian activists. As a further provocation, it bombed areas in the south that support Hezbollah. All this was barely mentioned in the U.S. corporate media.

Israel also continued to hold hundreds of Lebanese prisoners in violation of a prisoner exchange agreement. Hezbollah made it clear that it captured the two Israeli soldiers in order to facilitate an exchange of prisoners with Israel.

Claiming self-defense, Israel used the seizure of the two soldiers as a pretext to launch an all-out war that it and the U.S. had been planning for more than a year. It was only after Israel had bombed Lebanese cities, including the capital, Beirut, had smashed Beirut's infrastructure of electricity, water and communications, had destroyed its port and airport, and had bombed convoys of fleeing civilians that Hezbollah responded by firing rockets at Israeli cities.

Although Hezbollah's rockets are far smaller than Israel's missiles, not as accurate and do far less damage, this was one of the few times in all the decades of Zionist attacks on surrounding countries that major Israeli cities had themselves come under sustained attack. Nevertheless, Israel, with full U.S. backing, has refused to end its aggression despite calls

from all over the world for a cease-fire.

While Israel has tried to destroy the infrastructure of Lebanon in preparation for an invasion, for the first time it has had great difficulty moving beyond the border because of Hezbollah's stiff resistance and careful preparation of tunnels and bunkers.

To the south of Israel, in Gaza, where 1.5 million Palestinians are concentrated, Israeli aggression has never ended. When Hamas won a democratic election there in January, both the U.S. and Israel responded by attempting to starve and divide the entire population. Aid, credits and loans were cut off. Even Palestinian tax revenue was illegally withheld. Shipping and transport was halted. Work permits were denied en masse.

On June 9, more than two weeks before an Israeli soldier was seized in a Palestinian commando operation, an Israeli missile attack had killed a Palestinian family of seven picnicking on a Gaza beach. On July 13 another Israeli missile killed nine Palestinian civilians and two activists. On June 24, the day before the soldier was captured, Israel captured a Palestinian doctor and his brother in Gaza.

But after the capture of its soldier, Israel, claiming self-defense, kidnapped dozens of democratically elected parliamentary representatives and cabinet members. It destroyed the only power plant in Gaza and bombed apartment blocks, ambulances and schools.

The corporate media continue in all news coverage to present these crimes as Israel's justified response to totally unprovoked attacks.

Threat of wider war

A cornered beast can become more dangerous. The U.S./Israeli inability to defeat Hezbollah may lead them to commit even more desperate measures and greater crimes.

With the U.S. unable to break the resistance in Iraq or create a stable puppet government there, the assault on Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon may be the next stage in a far wider war: a full-scale military assault on Syria and Iran.

The Bush administration has made it clear that it is supporting the Israeli offensive because imperialism is determined to shape a “new Middle East.” Yet everywhere its plans are in deep disarray.

In the face of such dire threats, what is called for is an aroused global movement that stands in full solidarity with all the peoples under attack—be they Palestinian, Lebanese, Syrian, Iranian or Iraqi. □

EDITORIAL

Una vez más, ¡defendamos Palestina!

Una vez más, las fuerzas armadas tecnológicamente avanzadas de Israel, compradas y pagadas con el dinero de los contribuyentes estadounidenses, han lanzado un ataque sanginario contra el pueblo palestino. El 28 de junio aviones militares israelíes lanzaron por lo menos nueve proyectiles hacia la única central eléctrica en Gaza, cortando la electricidad al 65 por ciento de la población en una zona altamente poblada, y destruyeron un puente importante. La central eléctrica fue dejada en llamas, creando una crisis humanitaria al destruir tanto los suministros de agua como los de energía.

Esto fue seguido de ataques por tanques israelíes, que abrieron su paso con explosivos en camino a Gaza por primera vez desde que en agosto del año pasado Tel Aviv se retiró con bombos y platillos de esta zona empobrecida.

Los aviones israelíes también violaron las leyes internacionales una vez más cuando sobrevolaron a baja altitud la casa del presidente de Siria Bashar Assad, un gesto que amenazó a Siria con represalia si les da ayuda a sus vecinos palestinos.

Una vez más, Estados Unidos está apoyando esta agresión, llamándola una “respuesta” al secuestro de un soldado israelí por militantes palestinos en Gaza.

No importa lo que pase, según el gobierno estadounidense y sus medios de propaganda, Israel siempre está “respondiendo” y los palestinos siempre están “atacando”.

Por ello es importante examinar una vez más cómo empezó este conflicto que parece no tener fin.

El hecho es que, aunque Israel fue establecido en 1948 bajo el lema sionista de “tierra sin un pueblo para un pueblo sin tierra,” había millones de personas que estaban viviendo allí—los palestinos. Bandas de sionistas terroristas—el Irgun—corrieron a millones al exilio y masacraron a much@s que resistían.

Desde su establecimiento, el estado de Israel negó los derechos de los palestinos y aún su presencia como pueblo.

Por eso es más que hipócrita cuando Tel Aviv dice hoy en día que no puede hablar con el elegido gobierno de Hamas, porque los palestinos no reconocen el derecho a existir de Israel, y entonces usa este razonamiento—una vez más—como el pretexto para tratar de hacer rendirse por hambre al pueblo palestino, y romper sus organizaciones políticas.

Desde que Hamas asumió el poder en marzo, Israel ha congelado los ingresos de los impuestos que recauda del pueblo palestino y que supuestamente deben ir a la Autoridad Palestina. Llegando a \$52 millones al mes, este déficit ha dejado a 130,000 emplead@s públic@s sin sueldo. Israel también ha cerrado las fronteras que rodean el territorio palestino, resultando en la escasez de comida y medicinas y un paro en las exportaciones.

Ahora, con la destrucción de su central eléctrica, los 1.4 millones de habitantes de Gaza se enfrentan con el empeoramiento de lo que ya es una situación grave.

Israel es la mano derecha de Washington en el Medio Oriente. Está favorecida por la clase poderosa de los Estados Unidos porque puede contar con Israel en cualquier conflicto entre el imperialismo y las masas árabes y musulmanas.

Igual que en la guerra en Irak, estos conflictos son mayormente sobre quién controlará el petróleo, el recurso más valioso de la región.

La lucha palestina por la autodeterminación es una cuestión principal en la lucha global de los pueblos oprimidos contra el imperialismo. ¡Libertad para Palestina! □

Todavía se está tratando de derrocar la Revolución Cubana Documentos detallan planes de EEUU para un ‘cambio de régimen’

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Aún cuando el gobierno estadounidense toma posiciones más agresivas en el Medio Oriente, no pierde tiempo en infligir más daño a otras naciones en el mundo.

Como parte de la búsqueda del dominio mundial por la administración de Bush, el Departamento de Estado publicó un reporte el 5 de julio sobre los planes para su “Comisión para la Asistencia para Liberar a Cuba” (www.cafc.gov). Es un documento de 93 páginas para incrementar la agresión contra Cuba socialista, escrita sin respeto alguno por las leyes internacionales o a la soberanía nacional.

La comisión está presidida por la Secretaria de Estado, Condoleezza Rice y por el Secretario de Comercio, Carlos Gutiérrez. El reporte continúa y expande la campaña hostil de la administración estadounidense hacia la Revolución Cubana.

El primer reporte, cuando la administración se develó por primera vez en junio del 2004, tenía cientos de páginas describiendo medidas dirigidas a la intensificación del bloqueo, al desaliento del turismo y de las inversiones en Cuba, a la restricción del flujo monetario y a las visitas de familiares a la isla. Éste hasta redefinió el concepto de lo que es la familia. Tías, tíos y prim@s fueron expulsados de la lista de familiares cercanos que podían visitar a sus familias en Cuba.

Según su propia descripción, el nuevo documento “representa el trabajo de más de 100 colaboradores de 17 departamentos y agencias federales durante el curso de varios meses.”

Obsesionado con Venezuela

Este expresa la preocupación de la administración de Bush y su base corporativa por los desarrollos revolucionarios en toda América Latina. Cuba siempre ha sido un faro de luz para las revoluciones populares, no solo en la región, sino en todo el mundo. Recientemente, ha dado grandes pasos en las relaciones de comercio e internacionales. Su economía está creciendo y sus relaciones con Venezuela, en particular por medio de la Alternativa Bolivariana para las Américas, (ALBA) han abierto nuevas vías para la isla.

El la página 24 del documento, Estados Unidos habla de su preocupación por la relación cubana-venezolana: “Este eje también socava nuestros intereses en una Venezuela más democrática y merma también la gobernanación y las instituciones democráticas en toda la región. Juntos estos dos países están avanzando una alternativa retrógrada y una agenda antiamericana para el futuro del hemisferio y están encontrando una resonancia con los gobiernos populistas y las poblaciones marginadas en la región.”

La obsesión con Venezuela queda aparente a través de todo el documento. Desde el comienzo en su primer párrafo este arremete diciendo que “hay claras señas que el régimen está utilizando dinero provisto por el gobierno de Chávez en Venezuela para reactivar su red en el hemisferio para socavar los gobiernos democráticos.”

Realmente, Venezuela está ayudando a Cuba a resistir el bloqueo y reconstruir su economía.

Un párrafo en la introducción condensa el plan: “Recomendaciones para aligerar el fin de la dictadura de Castro incluyen: medidas para darle poder al pueblo cubano para prepararse para un cambio reforzando el apoyo a la sociedad civil; rompiendo el bloqueo del régimen a la información; una estrategia diplomática para socavar la estrategia de sucesión apoyando el derecho del pueblo cubano a determinar su futuro; y medidas para negar ingresos al régimen de Castro que es utilizado para reforzar su aparato de seguridad represiva y que ayuda al régimen (a resistir) la presión para un cambio.”

El título del primer capítulo también demuestra las metas patentes de Washington para un cambio de régimen: “Apresurando el fin de la dictadura de Castro: tran-

sición, no sucesión”.

Según la Constitución Cubana, el vicepresidente se convertiría en presidente si algo le pasara al comandante en jefe. Para prevenir lo que EEUU estima que sería la continuación de la revolución, el documento dice abiertamente que está trabajando para asegurar que “la estrategia de sucesión del régimen de Castro no funcione”. Sigue, “Ha llegado la hora de una acción audaz, decisiva y de mensajes claros”.

El contenido del segundo capítulo es particularmente absurdo e insultante. Dibuja un retrato totalmente falso de la vida en Cuba, la cual por mucho tiempo ha sido reconocida por la ONU como el país más avanzado en Latinoamérica y el Caribe en términos de proporcionar cuidado de salud y educación gratis al pueblo.

Bajo el título “Ayudando a los cubanos a responder a las necesidades humanitarias y sociales críticas”, el gobierno de EEUU, que abandonó a miles de sus propios pobres después del huracán Katrina, dice que quiere ayudar a Cuba a superar los problemas de agua e higiene, cuidado de la salud, nutrición y educación. “Las condiciones no van a mejorar mientras Fidel Castro siga en el poder”, dice.

Este extenso documento detalla los planes para el aumento de la campaña de desinformación emitida y transmitida hacia Cuba por radio y televisión Martí, incluso a través de terceros países. Establece un fondo de \$80 millones para fortalecer una oposición política. Interesantemente, la oposición ha criticado la publicación del fondo, entendiéndolo que el recibir abiertamente el dinero de Washington no estaría en sus mejores intereses.

Debajo del subtítulo “La Creciente Oposición Democrática Cubana”, el documento demuestra a quiénes los EEUU intentará enfocar entre el pueblo cubano: “A nivel de base, los jóvenes, las mujeres y los afro-cubanos son las categorías sociales claves para el crecimiento continuado del movimiento de la sociedad civil en Cuba”.

Refuerza las regulaciones de las exportaciones a Cuba, mencionando específicamente al Concilio Cubano de Iglesias, que los EEUU considera una organización “administrada por el régimen”.

Partes del reporte son simplemente ridículas. Sin embargo tres componentes causan una grave preocupación.

Una tiene que ver con lo que no se incluye. Debajo del título del primer capítulo, un párrafo corto impreso en bastardillas dice: “Este es un reporte público. Por razones de seguridad nacional e implementación efectiva, algunas recomendaciones están contenidas en un anexo secreto por separado”.

Ya se sabe que durante muchos años agentes de los EEUU han llevado a cabo más de 600 intentos de asesinato contra Castro, al igual que la colocación de bombas, asesinatos y una campaña de desestabilización. ¿Qué es lo que no están diciendo? ¿Están refiriéndose a otro intento de asesinato? ¿Un plan de incursión militar?

La segunda es la referencia a “necesidades humanitarias y sociales críticas”. Cualquier persona que haya visitado Cuba sabe que esto es algo ridículo. La economía está mejorando ahora rápidamente. ¿Se refiere esta sección a la devastación que está planeando EEUU en el “anexo secreto”?

Finalmente, EEUU por primera vez está intentando extender el bloqueo de Cuba a otros países por medio del control de importaciones de níquel. Níquel es una fuente importante de ingreso para Cuba. Esta comisión propone el establecimiento de un “Equipo de trabajo de varias agencias del gobierno que se enfoque en el níquel cubano para reforzar el actual régimen de control y certificación de importaciones de níquel”.

Este reciente ataque no puede pasar desapercibido. La defensa de Cuba debe estar muy alta en la agenda de todo el pueblo progresista de los EEUU. □