

MUNDO OBRERO

Libaneses luchan bajo lluvia de bombas 12

Feliz cumpleaños



Happy 80th Birthday FIDEL 5

PENSION RIPOFF

Workers World in court 5

MICHIGAN ELECTION

Anti-war forces join battle 3

MEXICO IN STRUGGLE

Election still in doubt 8

WHO WANTED MCKINNEY OUT?

2

SUBSCRIBE TO WORKERS WORLD

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

Will U.S.-Israel honor cease-fire?

Lebanese unity behind victory

By Sara Flounders

In every conflict, morale is a material factor. Often it is the decisive factor.

Now that a cease-fire has gone into effect—on Aug. 14—after Israel's brutal 30-day bombing and invasion of Lebanon, it is clear that Lebanon has emerged more united than at any time in its history. Hezbollah has a new standing and wide popularity all over the country.

The entire war, in which Israel had full U.S. support, was based on arrogant assumptions of technological superiority and a political miscalculation that the bombing of whole towns, reservoirs, fuel storage depots, roads, ports, bridges and hospitals would divide the Lebanese people and force Hezbollah to disarm.

Instead, the ruthless attack united the population as nothing else has in Lebanon's long history. It is Israel that has emerged divided, consumed by infighting and purges, with its reputation as an invincible military machine shattered before the whole world.

The U.S. and Israel wanted to teach the Lebanese people a lesson through "shock and awe." The people organized, mobilized and learned through their own experience a very different lesson.

The struggle is far from over.

Cease-fire resolution

The most important point to know regarding the UN Security Council cease-fire resolution on Lebanon is that Israel has never abided by any UN resolutions or been restrained by UN forces stationed for 58 years along its borders.

Just hours before the cease-fire was to go into effect, Israel used more than 50 helicopters to ferry hundreds of commandos into Lebanon in the largest Israeli military operation since the October 1973 war. Lt. Gen. Dan Halutz, Israel's military chief of staff, had already said on Aug. 12 that he had tripled the number of his troops in Lebanon to 30,000. (New York Times, Aug. 13) Halutz said he expected the fighting to continue despite the cease-fire resolution.

The heaviest attack on Beirut since the war began came on the last day. Israeli bombers struck repeatedly at the working class Haret Hreik neighborhood in south Beirut. A hospital in Tyre was bombed repeatedly and fire brigades were unable to reach it. They struck in the Bekaa Valley and hit a power plant near Sidon.

A convoy of 500 vehicles of fleeing Christian Lebanese civilians, led by soldiers of the Lebanese army who had announced their plans to the Israeli forces, were targeted north of Merj' Uyun.

After signing the UN cease-fire resolution, Maj. Gen. Benny Gantz,

head of the ground forces branch of the Israeli army, told reporters that the cease fire was not a cessation of Israeli army activity in the Lebanon arena. According to an Aug. 13 Reuters news report, Israeli officials said operations that were "defensive" in nature were permissible. Of course, Israel asserts that all its military actions are defensive.

STOP OCCUPYING LEBANON, PALESTINE, IRAQ

- Protests across U.S. 6
- Worldwide action 7
- Risk of new U.S.-Israeli aggression 10

U.S. and other Western diplomats asserted that they would not object to "mopping up" operations to "clear out" Hezbollah fighters.

Setbacks breed divisions in Israel

Israeli political, military and intelligence forces are in the midst of a deadly struggle to apportion blame for their fiasco in

Continued on page 9



The forces working against Cynthia McKinney

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

Progressive people across the country are asking the question: How could Georgia Rep. Cynthia McKinney have lost the Aug. 8 run-off election against a virtually unknown candidate, DeKalb County Commissioner Hank Johnson?

While there are many elements that combined to produce her defeat, the primary cause was the unrelenting hostility of the ruling circles towards McKinney's political positions and to her being an example of a form of Black empowerment.

The deep-felt antipathy by powerful monied interests to any manifestation of independence from "business as usual" politics in Washington birthed a concerted campaign to nullify the choice of African-American voters and elevate a candidate more acceptable to the ruling class and conservative whites.

The local Atlanta media played an especially egregious role in misrepresenting and vilifying McKinney's character, judgment and accomplishments. Adjectives such as "controversial," "confrontational," and "divisive" were used when mentioning her name.

On the other hand, Johnson, who is also Black, was routinely described as "soft-spoken," and the implication was that he was "rational" and "moderate."

McKinney didn't back down

First elected to Congress in 1992, McKinney was an outspoken opponent of the Bush administration's policies on issues ranging from the war on Iraq to cutbacks in social programs.

She took on the blatant disenfranchisement of Black voters in the Florida election in 2000. She held a hearing that determined that Florida state officials knowingly used faulty data to remove tens of thousands of registered voters from the precinct lists for being convicted felons.

McKinney helped expose the horrific conditions of Katrina evacuees. She castigated the Patriot Act and compared it to the FBI's Cointel program that targeted Dr. Martin Luther King, the Black Panther Party and other freedom fighters during the 1960s.

She stood up for African nations to get favorable trade agreements and loans to improve their economies.

The right-wing focused on a lengthy radio interview she did in 2001, where she commented on the Bush administration's objections to there being an official investigation into 9/11. She stated that the public had the right to know what the administration and the various governmental agencies knew about any impending threats and when they knew.

In this period prior to the onset of the war on Iraq, any and all criticism of the Bush administration was treated as heresy. McKinney was pilloried in the press, called a "wacko" and worse.

The documentary film "American Blackout" covers how McKinney was targeted by the American-Israeli Political Action Committee (AIPAC) for her support of Palestinian and Arab rights in the 2002 election.

Fourth District Republican voters crossed over and voted by the thousands for her Democratic primary opponent, Denise Majette, causing her to lose her seat in Congress.

McKinney became a sought-after speaker and was featured at anti-war rallies and programs across the country.

The film ends with her remarkable re-election come-



Cynthia McKinney

back in 2004 and shows her walking towards the Capitol, where she is stopped by a policeman who does not recognize her. This particular officer immediately apologizes, and as McKinney and her companion walk on, she comments, "Some things never change."

Vicious vilification and voter fraud, again

Hank Johnson centered his campaign on the much publicized incident where McKinney was stopped by another white Capitol policeman as she entered the building where her office is in March 2006.

His explanation for putting his hands on a six-term representative was that he did not recognize her because she had a "different hairstyle."

There was little mention in all the coverage of this episode of McKinney's support of a lawsuit by Black members of the Capitol Police documenting pervasive and systemic racism in the agency, including the use of derogatory language by white officers to Black officers and when talking about Black members of Congress. The suit claims that African-American legislators are deliberately challenged to show their credentials even though the white policemen recognize them.

Although a Washington, D.C., grand jury declined to bring any charges against McKinney, it was repeatedly stated by the Atlanta media and by Johnson that McKinney had struck a police officer, thus "embarrassing her constituents."

The 4th Congressional District in Georgia is majority African-American and a heavily Democratic stronghold. However, the Georgia General Assembly redrew the redlines for congressional districts in the last session and included parts of Gwinnett and Rockdale counties—suburban areas that historically vote Republican.

In the July 18 Democratic primary, McKinney received 47 percent of the vote, Johnson got 44 percent, and a third candidate, a white businessman who did not live in the district and had no history in the Democratic Party, got almost 9 percent. In 41 states, she would have been declared the winner of the primary, but in most of the southern states, including Georgia, a party candidate has to receive 50 percent plus one more vote in order to win. Otherwise, the top two vote-getters participate in a run-off election held three weeks after the primary.

The other peculiarity of Georgia election law is that voters can choose either party's ballot in the primary. Only one other state allows members of one party to help select the candidate of the other party. In the 2002 election, it was the crossover vote of thousands of Republicans for Majette that brought about McKinney's loss that year.

The McKinney campaign headquarters received many complaints of malfunctioning electronic voting machines that either did not have McKinney's name on the screen or that registered Johnson's name when the person voted for McKinney. In some precincts, the polls opened two hours late because the machines weren't working.

Tens of thousands of dollars flowed into Johnson's campaign coffers immediately following the July primary election. Prominent Bush supporters like Home Depot co-founder Bernie Marcus as well as leaders of the Georgia Republican Party sent big checks.

Johnson recently sent a letter to Jewish voters, declaring his 100 percent support for Israel's assault on Lebanon. He insinuated in a radio debate that McKinney had ties

Continued from page 4

This week ...



★ In the U.S.

- The forces working against Cynthia McKinney 2
- Anti-war activists to run in Michigan election 3
- Cops shoot Black 13-year-old in Chicago 3
- Big retailers battling minimum-wage increase 4
- Nurses fight bosses' attempt to split union 4
- Pension crisis alarms even Wall Street 5
- Harlem rally: 'Viva Fidel' 5
- Bush gang is bad for women's health 5
- Tens of thousands say: End the occupations 6
- Immigrant rights activists meet near Chicago 8

★ Around the world

- Lebanese unity behind victory 1
- Worldwide protests in solidarity with Lebanese 7
- Statement of Lebanese Communist Party 7
- Challenger fights on for Mexican election recount 8
- U.S. & Israel set back in Lebanon 10
- Issues behind 'terror plot' in Britain 11

★ Editorials

- Free the Cuban Five 10

★ Noticias En Español

- Libaneses luchan bajo lluvia de bombas 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. 33 • Aug. 24, 2006
Closing date: Aug. 16, 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

© Copyright under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 2.5 License. You are free to copy, distribute, display the articles with full attribution for noncommercial purposes. Any other use requires permission (www.creativecommons.org).

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



Anti-war activists to run in Michigan election

By Kris Hamel
Detroit

Activists with the Michigan Emergency Committee Against War and Injustice (MECAWI), a prominent anti-imperialist, anti-war group centered in Detroit, have entered the November elections with a statewide Stop the War Slate on the Green Party of Michigan ticket.

At the Green Party nominating convention, held Aug. 5 near Lansing, the Stop the War Slate overwhelmingly won the nomination of David Sole for U.S. Senator. Thirty-nine out of some 50 delegates from around Michigan voted for Sole, a revolutionary socialist and founding member of MECAWI.

This significant development originated several months ago when MECAWI activists approached the Green Party of Detroit about utilizing the party's ballot status to push forward a statewide campaign for the mid-term elections against U.S. wars at home and abroad. A unique alliance with the Greens was forged.

Sylvia Innwood, a leader of the Detroit Greens and the Green Party of Michigan, spoke on the importance of the alliance with the Stop the War Slate in her keynote address to the party's convention. Innwood also officially nominated Sole as U.S. Senate candidate.

Candidates who support the full Stop the War Slate program were invited to join. The five-part program is:

Stop the Pentagon's Wars: Immediate and unconditional U.S. withdrawal from Iraq and Afghanistan. Bring the troops home NOW. U.S. hands off Iran, North Korea, Venezuela and Cuba. End the U.S.-financed occupation of Palestine. Stop domestic spying and restrictions on basic rights.

Stop the War on People of Color, Women, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People: Restore and defend affirmative action. End police brutality and racist profiling. Stop racist anti-immigrant attacks. Defend reproductive rights for women—Stop the rollback of Roe vs. Wade. End attacks on lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender people—full civil rights and benefits now.

Stop the War on Working People (including unemployed, disabled and low-



Kristen Hamel, second from left, is running for State Representative from the 1st District in Detroit. Dave Sole holding right side of banner is the Green Party Candidate for U.S. Senate.



WW PHOTOS

income people): Free national health care for all. Stop price gouging by pharmaceutical companies. Free prescription drugs for seniors and low-income people, including contraceptives. Quality and affordable childcare. Affordable water, gas and electric rates—no shut-offs. Increased and equal funding for quality education in all school districts. Give youth jobs and recreation programs, not jails. No union-busting. No strikebreakers. Stop plant closings and mass layoffs—a job is a right. No bankruptcy by corporations to destroy pensions, health benefits and contracts. Guaranteed jobs for all who are able to work. End homelessness with construction of low-income housing. Raise the minimum wage to at least \$15.

Stop the War on Immigrants: No human being is "illegal." End the harassment, deportation and exploitation of immigrant labor. Amnesty and citizenship rights for all immigrants—not criminalization. No fences at borders.

Stop the War on the Environment: Stop corporate pollution of the environment. Immediate clean up of urban and rural dump sites. A statewide plan for a mass transit program that will substantially curtail the use of gasoline and diesel fuel.

Turn the election into a protest

According to literature distributed at the Green Party convention on Aug. 5, "the Stop the War Slate hopes to make this mid-term election a protest against Washington's war drive and especially the U.S. wars on Iraq, Palestine, Lebanon and Afghanistan. On Aug. 4, MECAWI organized an

important protest in downtown Detroit against the U.S.-Israeli terror being unleashed on Lebanon and Palestine."

As the lead candidate of the Stop the War Slate on the Green Party ticket, U.S. Senate candidate David Sole, a long-time member of Workers World Party, is already well-known to the anti-war movement throughout Michigan.

The Slate brochure described the impact of the anti-war organization Sole helped found. "Through its persistent anti-war organizing, MECAWI has forged ties with anti-war activists throughout Michigan—in the Upper Peninsula, Traverse City, Ann Arbor, Lansing, Saginaw, Grand Rapids and other cities and towns. It has been in the forefront of exposing how the billions of dollars spent on the Pentagon are robbing poor and working people here at home. MECAWI organized the National Conference to Reclaim Our Cities last fall in Detroit, which drew national attention for linking the fight against the war with the struggle against poverty, homelessness and cutbacks."

Sole's campaign brochure noted, "While the majority of the people oppose the wars, the Republicans and Democrats are united in their support. In recent votes, all but a handful of representatives expressed support for the continued military occupation of Iraq and the U.S.-sponsored Israeli terror against Lebanon and Palestine. Debbie Stabenow, the Michigan Democratic senator and candidate for reelection, voted for war in each and every instance.

"Around the country, anti-war activists

are beginning to make their voices heard in the electoral process by challenging traditional pro-war candidates. Witness how Senator Lieberman, a notorious hawk and big-business lackey, is having trouble even winning his own party's nomination. With an aggressive Michigan Green Party anti-war election campaign, there is the potential for this election to be a turning point for many who are ready to break with the 'lesser of two evils' voting pattern."

Other Stop the War Slate candidates who were nominated along with Sole are Kevin Carey for State Board of Education, Michigan State University second-year student Lauren Elizabeth Spencer for Michigan State University Board of Trustees, Wayne State University student Michael Merriweather for Wayne State University Board of Governors, and Lloyd Clarke for State Senate from the 32nd District, which includes Saginaw.

At the tri-county nominating caucus of the Greens held in Detroit on July 15, Stop the War Slate member Kristen Hamel was nominated as candidate for State Representative from the 1st District in Detroit, as was Kyle McBee for State Senate from the 13th District in Oakland County.

All the Stop the War candidates on the Green Party ticket are anti-war activists with a collective history spanning many decades in every progressive struggle. They hope to conduct a vigorous campaign throughout Michigan that will directly link the many hardships facing people in the state with the Pentagon budget and wars on working and oppressed peoples around the world. □

Cops shoot Black 13-year-old in Chicago

By Eric Struch
Chicago

Ellis Woodland, a 13-year-old African-American youth from the Cabrini-Green neighborhood on Chicago's Near North Side, became the latest victim of cop terrorism on Aug. 7. Woodland had just left his brother's birthday party and was on his way to a neighborhood baseball game when he was accosted by two white cops, who accused Woodland and his friend of participating in an alleged robbery. Woodland, having been harassed by cops who stole his house keys just days before, decided to make a run for it. The cops gave chase and fired four shots, hitting Woodland in the stomach, thigh and arm. He is now listed in critical condition at Children's Memorial Hospital.

The cops are trying to claim that Woodland pointed what appeared to be a Smith and Wesson 9mm semiautomatic at the officers. The "weapon" the police have produced to back up their dubious claim

is actually a Daisy PowerLine 93 CO2 BB gun. Woodland's father, Ellis Woodland Sr., said, "I never bought him a BB gun. His mother never bought him a BB gun. They shot him, handcuffed him and left him for dead."

BB guns are illegal in Chicago. Daisy Outdoor Products does not sell BB guns at retail outlets in Chicago, nor do they ship them to the city. While there is no concrete evidence of this in this case, it is widely known that many cops carry an unregistered gun not issued by the department in the squad car for use in just such a situation.

Everyone in the community who knows Woodland knows he is not involved in any "gang activity." His father was involved with street organizations years ago. He says, "The police harassed me every day, every day. And now it's got to the point where they were harassing my son. I didn't raise my son to be like me. I didn't raise him to get shot down like a dog." Woodland attends the Dvorak school on

the West Side and lives with his mother. He is described by his relatives as an "A-B student" and by school officials as a "pretty good student." Ellis Woodland Sr. says of his son, "I got some bad kids, and he's not one of them."

The mood in the community after this terrorist act was explosive. More than 200 Cabrini-Green residents held a militant demonstration in front of the Near North police district building, located in the heart of Cabrini-Green at Division and Larabee. One of the demands of the demonstrators was "Chicago police: Stop trying to kill our children!" Community activist Deirdre Brewster said: "This is a community that is fed up. It's obvious."

The recent Burge report, which exposed institutionalized police brutality and torture in Chicago [see Workers World, Aug. 17], has apparently strengthened the atmosphere of impunity within the Chicago Police Department. The cops felt bold enough to beat and mace several demonstrators. Several Cabrini-Green

residents arrived on the scene to defend the demonstrators. Brandishing baseball bats and sharpened broom handles, they forced the violently aggressive cops to back down.

The recently constructed police station at 1160 N. Larabee was built in anticipation of extensive condominium development in Cabrini-Green. The cop station is there to make the condo-colonialists feel safe. Cabrini-Green is surrounded on three sides with the most expensive property in the city of Chicago. A 63-year-old former resident named Jimmie Blossom put it this way: "I know they want the neighborhood. It's prime property. They are trying to get the poor people out of here. It's crap, man. I was brought up here."

At the demonstration, when Thomas Strong, Woodland's uncle, asked the cops why nobody from the station had bothered to address the family about his nephew's shooting, a reply came from the crowd, "Because he's Black and he lives in Cabrini-Green!" □

Big retailers battling minimum-wage increase

By Lou Paulsen
Chicago

Despite fierce opposition from the retail industry and Chicago's Democratic mayor, the Chicago City Council on July 26 voted to require large chain stores to pay higher wages and health benefits. The "Big Box" ordinance covers over 40 stores in big chains such as Target, Home Depot, and Wal-Mart (which will open its first Chicago store soon), with an estimated total of 10,000 workers, or about one of every eight retail sales workers in the city.

The bill passed by a 35-14 vote, which would be one vote more than enough to sustain it if Mayor Richard Daley decides to veto it. But now, the big chains have opened a campaign of economic reprisal against Chicago's poorest communities. Both Target and Lowe's have suspended plans to build stores in the Black community. The purpose is to pressure aldermen to change sides, so that when Daley does veto the ordinance, his veto will be sustained.

If that doesn't work, the Illinois Retail Merchants' Association has threatened to challenge the ordinance in the state courts.

Under the new law, beginning in July 2007, stores of 90,000 square feet or more owned by companies with \$1 billion or more in annual sales must pay workers (including part-time workers) at least \$9.25 an hour plus \$1.25 an hour in benefits, increasing to \$10 plus \$3 in benefits in 2010. Many of these large chains now provide no health benefits at all, especially

for part-time work, and pay as little as \$6.50 per hour.

Similar laws have been passed in Santa Fe and Albuquerque, N.M.; in San Francisco; and in Washington, DC.

The bill was initiated in 2004 by the Grassroots Collaborative, an alliance of ten community and labor organizations, and the Living Wage Coalition, which swelled to over thirty members in support of the bill. It included community organizations such as Chicago ACORN and the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, churches, the Chicago Federation of Labor, and unions, including the United Food and Commercial Workers, the Service Employees International Union, and UNITE/HERE. Volunteers staged rallies and vigils, knocked on doors, and kept up the pressure on members of the council up until the day of the vote.

Chains try to intimidate Chicago's poor

The chains warned that they would abandon Chicago if the bill were passed, and recruited ministers and community groups in the poorest and most oppressed areas of the city to campaign against it. Attempting to mobilize the poor and unemployed against the bill, they vilified proponents as "robbing people of jobs" at a press conference with Mayor Daley two days before the vote.

According to a report in the Chicago Defender, organizers for The Woodlawn Organization, which opposed the ordi-

nance, packed a media event against the bill by distributing a leaflet at the Ickes Homes housing project reading, "Do you want a job at Wal-Mart?" and telling people to bring their résumés.

Council member Emma Mitts, whose poor and Black community on the West Side is the site of Chicago's first Wal-Mart, told the media, "You have to make them come in and give a wage before you raise it to a living wage." Of course, this argument for a "sub-living wage" is an argument against any minimum wage at all; it pits all the workers and unemployed against each other in a contest of who is most desperate and will work for the least.

However, an economic analysis of the bill, available on the AFL-CIO website, paints a different picture. While the bill is estimated to provide \$68.4 million per year in additional wages and benefits, this is only about two percent of the estimated \$3.2 billion a year in sales that the workers at those stores generate.

The chains have now threatened to punish the neighborhoods whose aldermen and women voted for the bill, and locate stores only where they voted against the wage increase, or else suspend new construction entirely. In noisy media announcements, Lowe's announced that it would not sign leases on property on the South and Southwest side; Target claimed it would suspend plans for stores at 119th and Marshfield and in Uptown; and Wal-Mart said it was putting plans for 20 Chicago stores "on hold."

Supporters of the ordinance have denounced these threats, which have been orchestrated with City Hall. On Aug. 7, the Living Wage Coalition issued a report blasting Target's action, pointing out that it has taken \$10 million in "tax incentive" subsidies for its Chicago stores and now isn't even willing to pay a living wage.

The problems of the poor and unemployed in Chicago are very real, particularly in the Black and Latin@ communities. As the struggle to defend the ordinance continues, it is also high time to deliver wages, benefits, and jobs programs for the hundreds of thousands of workers and unemployed people in Chicago who are not covered by this bill. □

Cynthia McKinney

Continued from page 2

to "terrorists" because of Arab and Muslim names on her contributors list. Much of this was a replay of the dirty politics employed in the 2002 election.

While it appears that there was some crossover voting in the July 18 primary, according to the Aug. 13 edition of the Atlanta Journal Constitution, 6,000 plus additional voters came out for the run-off than voted in the primary, largely from the predominantly white, wealthy and Republican neighborhoods of North DeKalb County.

It is almost unheard of for there to be more votes cast in a run-off than in the primary election. The conclusion of political analysts is that many from the ABC—Anybody But Cynthia—crowd who had not bothered to vote in the primary jumped into the run-off to help defeat her.

The article concludes that McKinney's support in the largely Black and working class neighborhoods of the 4th District remained strong. Figures show she received 75 percent of the Black vote, but it was the infusion of thousands of new voters from the northern areas that swung the election to Johnson's favor.

Hundreds of 4th District residents worked on McKinney's campaign, and volunteers came from out of state as well. While local anti-war activists were visible, and Cindy Sheehan and Medea Benjamin attended a campaign event, the Connecticut race between Lieberman and Lamont absorbed the attention and energy of national groups such as MoveOn.org and others.

McKinney did not give a traditional concession speech. She gathered as many of her supporters and campaign volunteers onto the stage as would fit to stand with her and had the song "Dear Mr. President" by Pink played over the sound system.

With the lyric asking how "he could sleep at night," she then enumerated her many differences with the Bush administration's policies of war, racism, environmental degradation and its failure to provide decent healthcare, education and jobs for the people of the US.

She repeated her desire to stand with the people of Venezuela, Haiti, Cuba, Bolivia, Palestine, Iraq and Lebanon as they struggle against U.S. domination to chart their own destiny. She challenged her supporters to say "Sir! No Sir!" to any attempt by Bush to send more troops into war in the Middle East.

The writer was an active campaign volunteer for Cynthia McKinney.

Nurses fight bosses' attempt to split union

By Lou Paulsen
Chicago

Over 200 nurses marched on the Chicago headquarters of the American Hospital Association (AHA) Aug. 8 to challenge the association's argument before the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) that tens of thousands of nurses are really "supervisors" and have no union rights. The march was organized by the National Nurses' Organizing Committee, a nationwide union established by the California Nurses' Association.

About half of the participants were from hospitals in Chicago such as Stroger Memorial and Provident, while the rest were from other states from California to Maine. Chanting "Union power" and carrying signs, they picketed at the front of the AHA's headquarters building. Twenty of the nurses sat down in Franklin St. and blocked downtown traffic for over 40 minutes.

The cases before the NLRB concern "charge nurses" who mostly organize work and communication on a particular shift. While they also delegate tasks to other nurses or health care workers, they have no power to hire, fire or discipline workers. In many settings, nurses perform charge duties only part of the time.

The AHA wants the NLRB to overturn its past precedents and radically expand the definition of "supervisor." Nurses fear that Bush appointees on the NLRB will do this in the coming weeks in a set of cases



WW PHOTO: LOU PAULSEN

Nurses block Chicago street for 40 minutes.

called the "Kentucky River" cases. This decision would affect not only nurses but hundreds of thousands of other workers who are not at the bottom of the ladder.

The AHA is the trade association representing 6,000 hospitals in the United States. It argues that "it is essential that charge nurses perceive themselves ... as part of hospital management" because "where charge nurses are permitted to unionize, they are more likely to align themselves with unionized staff nurses during labor disputes."

Nurses tried for decades to work with "management" to improve the working conditions of nurses and to improve the quality of patient care, with little success. While a little over half of the hospitals are non-profit organizations, in the capitalist

health-care environment all hospitals must compete with each other; they act like any capitalist firm, cutting wages, limiting workers' rights, and cutting back the nursing staff even though it has been shown to hurt patient care.

Nurses organized unions when it became clear that they had no power outside the collective actions of their unions to improve their working conditions or to improve patient care. A NLRB ruling removing a significant portion of nurses from unions would make charge nurses involuntary scabs with no right to organize, to speak out, or to associate with their fellow nurses.

At their action here the nurses gave their answer to the hospital industry: "We will not be divided!" □

WW in court as

Pension crisis alarms even Wall St.

By Deirdre Griswold
New York

Workers World was in court here on Aug. 11 arguing for a dismissal of the charges against the newspaper in a lawsuit being pursued by Renco, a company owned by billionaire Ira Rennet.

At issue in the defamation case are articles that appeared in WW last February having to do with the fate of workers at WCI Steel, which was then owned by Renco. (WW, Feb. 14, "WCI Steel bankruptcy robs workers' pensions") At the time of the WW articles, the WCI Steel pension fund reportedly had a \$117 million shortfall and the quasi-governmental Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. had filed a lawsuit in order to force Renco to assume responsibility for the shortfall.

Attorneys from the media law firm Davis Wright Tremaine, who are representing the newspaper pro bono, argued before Justice Edward Lehner of New York State Supreme Court that Renco's complaint should be dismissed because the WW articles in question represented an expression of opinion that is protected under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and New York state law.

A brief submitted earlier by the attorneys had summed up Renco's complaint this way: "When the smoke and mirrors of Renco's opposition are cleared away, what remains is a plaintiff unhappy with the critical opinion expressed in a political paper which has consistently taken the side of the workers against the side of big business."

The substance of the WW articles was that many large corporations have turned to bankruptcy courts to find a way out of the obligations to workers agreed to under union contracts.

The pension crisis in this country has grown even bigger since WW's articles on WCI Steel. Recently, both retirees and active General Motors and Delphi workers demonstrated in front of Delphi's headquarters in Troy, Mich. Their signs read "Fund pensions, not fraud" and "No more givebacks."

Delphi, an auto parts supplier, is in bankruptcy court in Michigan, where it is

seeking to set aside its union contracts.

Delphi was spun off by GM and now employs mostly temporary workers at much lower wages. They get no health insurance or other benefits, explained Delphi retiree Jesse Garcia of Flint, Mich. Garcia said he joined the protest, which was organized by Soldiers of Solidarity, because, "I'm concerned about my kids. I've got two of them living with me now, and they can't afford cars or apartments on what they make." (Oakland Press, Aug. 12)

While millions of older workers are worrying over whether they'll ever have enough financial security to stop dragging their weary bodies to a job, big corporations are raising the bloated pensions of their top executives.

An article in the June 23 Wall Street Journal provided hard-to-get figures on the huge pensions being promised executives who are already rich. The headline says it all: "Hidden Burden: As Workers' Pensions Wither, Those for Executives Flourish—

Companies Run Up Big IOUs, Mostly Obscured, to Grant Bosses a Lucrative Benefit."

The Journal article points out that while many big companies complain that pensions are a drain on their bottom line, they don't readily give out figures on whose pensions they're talking about.

GM, in its latest annual report, wrote: "Our extensive pension and [post-employment] obligations to retirees are a competitive disadvantage for us."

Early this year, GM announced it was ending pensions for 42,000 workers. "But there's a twist to the auto maker's pension situation," said the Journal article. "The pension plans for its rank-and-file U.S. workers are overstuffed with cash, containing about \$9 billion more than is needed to meet their obligations for years to come."

"Another of GM's pension programs, however, saddles the company with a liability of \$1.4 billion. These pensions are for its executives."

The article gives examples of many other companies where pensions for top executives—who can retire with as much as \$5 million a year for the rest of their lives—add up to hundreds of millions of dollars in liabilities. Clearly, even Wall Street is worried that this will backfire, enraging both workers and shareholders.

Wheeling-Pittsburgh is a steel company that forced workers to take a pay cut when it went into bankruptcy in 2003, around the same time as WCI Steel. It just announced a pay increase and a supplemental pension plan—but only for top executives. (Associated Press, Aug. 15)

Terms like "class war" are starting to appear in small-city papers in the depressed industrial heartland of this country. It's a war that confronts workers of all ages, genders and national origins, as young and old are being forced to pay for the limitless greed of this capitalist profit system.

Email: dgriswold@workers.org

Harlem rally

'Viva Fidel'

Over 300 people attended a spirited rally at St. Ambrose Church in Harlem in New York City to celebrate the 80th birthday of President Fidel Castro of Cuba and to express solidarity with the Cuban revolution. The audience was predominantly Black and Latin@. The Cuba Solidarity Network, the Patrice Lumumba Coalition and the December 12th Movement sponsored the rally. Long time activists, Nellie Hester Bailey and Rosemari Mealy moderated the program. Following numerous solidarity messages, talks and spoken word presentations, a large birthday cake with 80 lit candles was brought to the stage and everyone sang happy birthday to Fidel. The First Deputy to the Cuban Mission at the UN, Héctor Ramírez, thanked everyone for coming out to display love and respect for the Cuban leader, who is still recuperating from stomach surgery.

—Story & photo by Monica Moorehead



Bush gang is bad for women's health

By Sue Davis

The Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR) in a report filed with the UN Human Rights Committee in July blew the whistle on the Bush administration's many attacks on women's health and lives both in the U.S. and around the world.

In a comprehensive 44-page document, CRR catalogued the many ways over the past six years the Bush government has consistently restricted reproductive health care, including family planning and safe, legal, accessible abortion, promoted inaccurate sexual health education and increased inequality in reproductive health care for women of color. (The complete report can be down-

loaded from www.crlp.org.)

"African Americans, Latinas, Native Americans and other nonwhite ethnic groups in the United States feel the brunt of government-imposed reproductive health restrictions because they are much more likely than whites to be poor, to lack health insurance, or to be subject to government-imposed restrictions on reproductive health coverage," stated the report.

"As a result, they fare worse than whites on every measure of reproductive health, including the following indicators: maternal and infant mortality, unintended pregnancy, abortion, sexually transmitted infections and contraception."

Young women also face formidable barriers because of restrictive laws regarding

abortion. "Mandatory parental notification or consent laws [in 26 states] expose many young women to violence, anger, coercion and expulsion from the home by disapproving parents," said the report.

In testimony before the UNHRC on July 10, Kim S. Buchanan, CRR senior fellow, noted that the government has funded a multi-million-dollar campaign replacing comprehensive sex education with "abstinence-only-until-marriage" programs that distort and suppress information about contraception and condoms and promote harmful gender stereotypes.

Buchanan cited studies showing that not only do such programs fail to prevent premarital sex, but youth who only receive such misinformation are more likely to have unprotected sex, leading to higher risk of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) that go untreated and are transmitted to others.

While the Bush administration is guilty of crimes against women in this country, it's also guilty of exporting its false and dangerous policies under the guise of providing aid. For instance, in developing countries with high rates of HIV infection, such as Uganda and Botswana, U.S. offi-

cial have forced AIDS-prevention services to adopt its ineffective abstinence-only program.

"Since late 2002, when Uganda's prior, comprehensive HIV-prevention strategy was replaced by a U.S.-funded abstinence promotion strategy, the yearly incidence of new HIV infections has doubled," testified Buchanan.

The Bush administration's "Global Gag Rule," which forbids any recipient of U.S. aid to provide information about or referrals for abortion, is another international attack on women's rights. Studies link implementation of the gag rule in foreign countries with increased transmission of STIs, including HIV, and death of women who undergo illegal abortions. The estimated rate is 200,000 such deaths a year.

While Bush will surely dismiss this report like a slap on the hand, those in the movement for social and economic justice need to heed it. CRR's report is really an indictment of Bush's many crimes against women in the United States and around the globe. And that's yet another reason to forge a united movement to fight to put an end to these crimes. □

drag king dreams

Here's the next transgender classic from Leslie Feinberg, author of internationally-acclaimed novel *Stone Butch Blues*. *Drag King Dreams* takes readers on a thrilling new gender journey.

Only at Leftbooks will your book include a bookplate autographed by award-winning author Leslie Feinberg. Order online at www.Leftbooks.com



IN THE U.S.

Tens of thousands say: END THE OCCUPATIONS

By Monica Moorehead
Washington, D.C.

Significant demonstrations were held across the United States on Aug. 12 in opposition to the U.S./Israeli aggression in Lebanon and the brutal occupation of Palestine and Iraq. The National Council of Arab Americans, the ANSWER Coalition and the Muslim American Society Freedom Foundation initiated these demonstrations.

Even though a United Nations-sponsored cease-fire in Lebanon was agreed upon this past weekend by Hezbollah—the Lebanese Islamic Resistance Movement, the Lebanese government and the U.S.-backed Israeli regime, the Zionist terrorists continued their bombardment of Beirut and other parts of Lebanon as the demonstrations here and worldwide took place.

The organizers report that 30,000 demonstrators came out in **Washington, D.C.**; 15,000 in **San Francisco**; 5,000 in **Los Angeles**; 600 in **Seattle** and 300 in **Orlando, Fla.** In Washington, a rally took place in Lafayette Park and was followed by a march that surrounded the White House. Buses brought protestors from Michigan, Illinois, New York, Florida, Virginia, Massachusetts, New Jersey and other areas.

Very large Lebanese and Palestinian flags that covered half an acre were carried in the Los Angeles march and sent a strong political message. Toni Arenstein, an activist and nurse, explained to a Los Angeles Times reporter why she attended the rally: "I am a Jewish woman and I stand in full solidarity with the Lebanese and Palestinian resistance, and also I am outraged at the billions of dollars ... the U.S. government is spending to fund the Israeli war machine when people here are suffering." (LA Times, Aug. 13)

Demonstrations took place in other areas as well. The vast majority of the demonstrators were from the Arab, Muslim and South Asian communities within the United States, especially youths, along with progressive currents of the anti-war movement coming out to show their solidarity.

In **San Diego**, about 500 people gathered at the fountain in Balboa Park to protest the U.S.-backed Israeli attack on Lebanon and the ongoing war against the Palestinian people. Called by the local chapters of the National Council of Arab



WASHINGTON, D.C.



LOS ANGELES

Americans and Al-Awda—the Palestine Right to Return Coalition, the action was co-sponsored by the Middle East Cultural and Information Center, the Muslim American Society Freedom Foundation, the Muslim Student Association West, the International Action Center, the International Socialist Organization and the Council on American Islamic Relations.

The rally was chaired by the IAC's Carl Muhammad. Speakers included protest organizers Yousef Abudayyeh and Zahi Damuni. Damuni announced the formation of a relief fund for the victims of Israeli bombings in Lebanon. A representative of Workers World Party read a

recent party statement at the rally hailing "the resistance led by Hezbollah and Hamas" and calling on all anti-imperialist and anti-war forces "to join together to mobilize to stop this criminal war and end the occupation of Palestine."

In **Philadelphia** on Aug. 11, activists demonstrated against the U.S.-Israeli war demanding an immediate cease-fire, a complete withdrawal of Israeli military from Lebanon and Gaza and an end to U.S. aid to the Israeli military. The protest started at City Hall, then marched through the shopping district reaching out to thousands of people—many of whom raised their fists or honked their car's horn in approval of the marchers' demands.

The groups that organized for the pro-



PHILADELPHIA



WW PHOTOS: TOP, BERTA JOUBERT-CECI; ABOVE, MONICA MOOREHEAD

test included the Philadelphia chapters of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Jewish Voices for Peace, the Network of Arab American Professionals, SUSTAIN, Suburban Philadelphia Greens, Bubbes & Zaydes (Grandparents) for Peace in the Middle East, the IAC and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

In **Columbus, Ohio**, protestors gathered at the State House on Aug. 12. The organizers were unable to get a permit to hold the demonstration on the State House grounds, so the protest took place on the sidewalk, with signs facing traffic. The demonstration was sponsored by Arab Americans of Central Ohio, the Central Ohio Peace Network, the Committee for Justice in Palestine, the Community Organizing Center, the Council on American-Islamic Relations Ohio, the Islamic Foundation of Central Ohio, the Islamic Society of Greater Columbus, the Progressive Peace Coalition, the Middle East Peace Committee, and the International Socialist Organization. The main organizer was Dr. Ahmad Al-Akhras, Vice Chair of CAIR-National.

Berta Joubert-Ceci, Gregory Elich, Bob McCubbin and Scott Scheffer contributed to this article.

Email: mmoorehead@workers.org



SAN DIEGO

WW PHOTO: BOB MCCUBBIN



SAN FRANCISCO

WW PHOTO: JUDY GREENSPAN

Worldwide protests in solidarity with Lebanese

By John Catalinotto

The international protests of U.S.-Israeli aggression came in two waves, one across mostly Muslim countries in Asia and Africa on Aug. 11, and then another on Aug. 12 and 13 in South America, Europe and North America. The Lebanese and other Arab Diasporas provided the core of the demonstrations in many countries, along with anti-imperialist groups and Muslims outraged by George Bush's slanders about "Islamofascists."

The demonstrations, just as those a week ago, showed growing support for the Lebanese resistance movement and specifically for Hezbollah and its leader, Hassan Nasrallah, and also were directed as much against U.S. symbols as against Israel.

In Africa there were significant protests in Nairobi and Mombasa in Kenya, in Noukachott in Mauritania and in Durban, South Africa, where the South African Human Rights Organization held a march of over 1,500 to the U.S. Consul General, and in Mogadishu in Somalia.

Tens of thousands of students in Klang Valley, Penang, Bangi and Johor Baharu in Malaysia protested on their campuses after Friday prayers against the Israeli killing of Lebanese civilians. In Kuala Lumpur, the capital, various groups launched a boycott of Coca-Cola drinks and Starbucks coffee to protest the U.S. role in Israel's military offensive in Lebanon and Gaza.

There were also protests Aug. 11 in Lucknow, India, demanding the government raise its voice against the Israeli attacks, and also in Damascus, Syria; Karachi, Pakistan; and Dhaka, Bangladesh. In Istanbul, Turkey, the left organizations played a greater role in the protest. There was also a protest for the first time on this issue in Azerbaijan.

Perhaps the most important protests in the Arab world took place in Egypt, where they had a strong character of opposition to the Egyptian government, considered a client of the U.S. in the region.

After the Friday prayer in many regions of Egypt there were spontaneous clashes between demonstrators and the police. At

the Al-Azhar Mosque in Cairo, police pushed hundreds of demonstrators into the inner court and surrounded the building. The angry crowd burned an Israeli flag and chanted, "Whether Sunni or Shiite, we are all Islamic resistance fighters." They also denounced Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, saying "Mubarak will fall."

There were similar protests in Damanhour, Damietta and Minya, other Egyptian cities.

There were also protests in Toronto, Ont., and other cities in Canada on Aug. 12. Another protest is set for Aug. 15 in Montreal, when former U.S. Secretary of State Gen. Colin Powell is scheduled to address the Jewish National Fund, a group that has land holdings in Israel and the Occupied Territories.

Demonstrations were scheduled in Uruguay, Mexico and various cities in Brazil. In Asunción, Paraguay, activists from about a dozen social and political organizations demanded that there be a break in the negotiations of a free trade agreement between Mercosur—a trading body grouping South American countries—and Israel.

Some thousands demonstrated in Paris and other French cities, in Vienna in Austria, in Geneva in Switzerland, on Aug. 12, and in Madrid and other cities in the Spanish state on Aug. 13. In England, Scotland and Ireland, where there had been a mass demonstration on Aug. 5,



PHOTO: SAID SAMIR

there were smaller actions in London, Edinburgh and Dublin.

Probably the most significant of the European demonstrations took place in Berlin, Germany, where the traditional peace movement has in the past refused to come out in force to oppose Israeli policies. The post-World War II German ruling class has instrumentalized the left's revulsion of anti-Semitism to disarm it before imperialism and Zionism.

This manipulation, combined with heavy right-wing, anti-Muslim propaganda in the ruling-class media, has made

it difficult to mobilize. The local Berlin regional government even passed a law making it illegal to carry a Hezbollah flag or a picture of Nasrallah on a protest.

Nevertheless, some 15,000 people, about a third of them from the traditional movement, marched in Berlin. One of the talks was given by Fanny-Michaela Reisin of European Jews for a Just Peace. Here are a few excerpts from her speech:

"The rulers in Israel are misusing not only my name. They have the audacity to call upon the names of my murdered ancestors. Without shame they try to justify their evil deeds in Lebanon and Palestine by doing them in the name of my grandparents, who were murdered in the concentration camps and mass graves of the Nazi regime.

"The dead cannot defend themselves. But I, born and raised in the shadow of their murders, tell the rulers starting from Prime Minister [Ehud] Olmert, Secretary of Defense Peretz and above all Commander in Chief [Dan] Halutz, that I deny them the right to call upon the memory of those innocently killed to justify their program of raw power and destruction."

Email: jcat@workers.org



Statement of Lebanese Communist Party on cease-fire

The Lebanese Communist Party, a participant in the struggle for national defense in Lebanon against the U.S.-Israeli invasion, issued the following analysis of the United Nations resolution for a cease fire on Aug. 14.

Will the American-Israeli aggression against Lebanon stop after the unanimous adoption by the Security Council of Resolution 1701 yesterday?

One month and a day after the start of the American-Israeli aggression against Lebanon, after the failure of that aggression and its inability to achieve its aims, after America's repeated use of stalling tactics, delaying expected sessions of the Security Council, and after numerous American drafts that were proposed and then retouched by France, it was the battlefield in the south of Lebanon and the noble resistance that have imposed a new reality hitherto unknown to Israel in all its long history of battle in the region and its many well-known wars.

After attacks and retreats in every village in the south, after which the enemy claimed to have won some sort of victory or achieved some goal, the dust has cleared and it is obvious that the field is truly in the hands of the Islamic resistance that is defending, resisting, and inflicting losses and military casualties on the occupying enemy. This reality has exhausted America's excuses, its store of delaying tactics and its time. What has been taking place on the field of battle has resulted in a growing number of splits and differences and varying interpretations in many quarters—within Lebanon, between Israelis, between Europe and America—it has shuffled the cards.

Diplomats worked feverishly and intensely until the resolution was passed and announced today against the backdrop of the decision by the Israeli government to expand the scope of its military operations on the ground in the south up to the al-Litani River, operations that are disconcerting militarily and politically

inside Israel. We might say that the Security Council resolution was issued so as to allow the international community to catch its breath in the raging battle, to allow it to make a calm reassessment, not only in terms of the latest developments on the battlefield, but also in terms of the latest political developments as well, and the transformations taking place there (in the Arab states' positions and the internal Lebanese position, for example).

The resolution, therefore, was the result of the steadfastness of the resistance forces and the people together. The question now is: how seriously will it be implemented? Will it be regarded as a first step or a temporary truce? Many questions could be raised if we look deeply into each paragraph of the resolution that was finally issued. But it is demonstrable that an agreement on this resolution would not have been achieved if all the means available to Israel to change the reality on the battlefield had not been exhausted, and if not for the

changes in the positions of various parties (France, various groups in Lebanon, the Arab states, and the change from a stance of giving legitimacy to the aggression to one of embracing yesterday's Security Council resolution).

Despite that, we can see that there are many landmines strewn about the "field" of this resolution that does not meet the minimum Lebanese requirements as represented by the seven points that the Lebanese government put forth unanimously, even though parts of them were picked out and inserted.

- The agreement excluded the demand for Israel to be brought to trial under international law for the savagery of its aggression against the territory and people of Lebanon. Instead, the agreement condemned Hezbollah as the instigator of the fighting, ignoring all of Israel's crimes and acts of aggression against Lebanon.

- The agreement did not include a call

Continued on page 8

Challenger fights on for Mexican election recount

By LeiLani Dowell

Protesters blocked the entrance to the main offices of three foreign banks in Mexico on Aug. 9, in a continuing escalation of civil disobedience to demand a full recount of votes in the July 2 election—in which big-business candidate Felipe Calderón claimed victory over Andrés Manuel López Obrador by a margin of half of a percentage point, despite charges of fraud [see *Workers World*, Aug. 10].

The three banks—U.S.-owned Citigroup's Banamex, Spain-owned BBVA's Bancomer, and British-owned HSBC—were forced to shut down for several hours. The banks in Mexico, all but one of which is foreign owned, are symbols and participants in the “free trade” reforms that have been devastating to Mexico's poor and working people, and which Calderón has promised to continue.

The escalation of protests began on July 30, with encampments of López Obrador supporters, and López Obrador himself, along the Paseo de la Reforma in Mexico City. The encampments have continued along with other actions such as the seizing of tollbooths and blocking of the agricultural ministry on Aug. 8.

A limited recount of just 9 percent of Mexico's polling places ended on Aug. 13, and as of Aug. 15, results had not been announced. López Obrador has vowed to continue this struggle, saying on Aug. 13 that he and his supporters are “prepared to resist for as long as it takes. We could be here for years if the circumstances warrant it.” He has called for protests on Sept. 1, when President Vicente Fox gives his last state of the nation address, and again on Sept. 6, the deadline for the electoral

court to name a president elect.

In an Aug. 11 op-ed article in the *New York Times*, López Obrador wrote: “Mexico has a history of corrupt elections where the will of the people has been subverted by the wealthy and powerful. Grievances have now accumulated in the national consciousness, and this time we are not walking away from the problem. The citizens gathered with me in peaceful protest in the Zócalo, the capital's grand central plaza, speak loudly and clearly: Enough is enough.”

Copper workers under attack

David Bacon of *New American Media* reports that the copper mining business, meanwhile, is taking the supposed victory of Calderón as a “green light to crack down on striking mine workers.” Mexico's federal labor board ruled on July 12 that 1,400 Nacozari, Sonora miners, who have been striking since March 24, have abandoned their jobs. According to Bacon, the ruling allows mine owners Grupo México—which poured money into the Calderón campaign—to legally shut down operations and then reopen the mine without the union.

The same day as the ruling, arrest warrants were issued against 21 strikers in Sonora by the state's Governor Bours Castelo, while the Fox administration issued arrest warrants against six union leaders and raided the union's national office in Mexico City. Miners at the Cananea copper mine, who have also been striking since June, voted to end the strike rather than face similar closure. (*New American Media*, Aug. 9)

Oaxaca in turmoil

In Oaxaca, thousands marched on Aug.

13 to demand an investigation into the Aug. 10 killing of protestor José Jiménez. Jiménez was shot in the heart at a demonstration of 8,000 organized to demand the resignation of Gov. Ulises Ruiz. The day before, two men and a 12-year-old boy were gunned down on their way to another rally in Oaxaca.

Protests and encampments have continued in the state since a violent June 14 police raid on a rally in support of higher wages for teachers. The protestors, who have organized themselves since that raid

into the Popular Assembly of the People of Oaxaca (APPO), have seized a local television station and confiscated 35 buses. They held for several hours four people that they said were associated with the Jiménez killing on Aug. 11.

On Aug. 11, teachers' union leader Eran-gelio Medoza González was arrested. A protest organizer told AP that González was being held on federal charges of blocking public access and taking over city buses.

Email: ldowell@workers.org

Statement of Lebanese Communist Party on UN

Continued from 7

for an immediate cease-fire but for a cessation of military operations. This means that the door is left open for Israel and its army to adjust themselves to the resolution and take whatever required military steps they believe to be appropriate according to joint Israeli-American needs.

- In the agreement America makes a temporary tactical retreat following the failure of the aggression and its inability to achieve its aims, in an attempt to create a situation where it can take hold of what is going on and bring into play some of its well-known cards, such as the Lebanese internal situation.

- The resolution ignores the matter of the prisoners; it leaves the subject of the Shabaa Farms area outside the discussion with the aim of possibly using that later in deals with regional players.

- It is noteworthy that every point in the resolution that is in the interests of Lebanon is a preparatory point, a statement about something for which matters are to be prepared; while every point that is in the interests of Israel is a point for actual implementation.

Much can be said about the resolution but in any case this agreement would not have been reached had it not been for continuing, impressive, patriotic, popular steadfastness; had it not been for the courageous resistance that once again affirmed that Lebanon with its patriotic and Islamic resistance and the steadfastness of its people, and with the rallying of all the patriotic and democratic forces around the resistance, cannot be turned into an arena for the American scheme for the region. It will not be made into a launching point for the “New Middle East.” Lebanon will only be a place of steadfastness, patriotism, and Arab identity, regardless of whatever dreams some might entertain about transferring it from the patriotic Arab shore to the American shore.

Until this moment all the international attempts to implement the American-European resolution 1559 have failed. Equally a failure have been all attempts to achieve any of the goals of the American-Israeli aggression other than the goal of killing the women, children, and innocent people who paid the price for this neo-Nazi hatred. The attempts of some of the March 14 forces—including Saad al-Hariri, who flew into Beirut on a French helicopter with American-Israeli permission, trying to look like a political savior, spreading the notion that the solution came as a result of his tireless efforts abroad all throughout the period of the aggression—all that will be of no use unless we accept the principle of a national conference on the basis that Lebanon has won a victory over the American-Israeli scheme and we must work quickly and with all our might to rise to the level of our responsibilities to the country to make use of this victory politically in order to take a step forward towards the building of a state of law and institutions, free of confessionalist political assignments and above narrow sectarian interests.

The people and resistance of Lebanon have displayed their mighty steel will and we must now frustrate all attempts to gut and empty this patriotic victory of its contents on the military, political, economic and social levels. Our central task must be to fortify and bolster Lebanese national unity, preventing any infiltration, reinforcing the legitimate confrontation with the on-going American-Israeli scheme against our homeland. □

Immigrant rights activists meet near Chicago

By Heather Cottin Hillside, Ill.

Some 325 immigrant rights delegates from 25 states met on August 11-13 in Hillside Ill., outside Chicago. The group named itself the “National Alliance for Immigrant Rights.”

Most of those attending were Mexican@s from Chicago's March 10th Coalition, the group which initiated the massive immigrant rights marches in Chicago this spring. The group agreed on opposition to both congressional immigration bills, Sensenbrenner (HR4437) and Hegel-Martinez (S2611). Those at the conference said, “No law is better than a bad law” and opposed a guest worker program, immigrant detention centers and “English only” legislation. The conference called for a moratorium on deportations.

Nineteen Minutemen vigilantes stood outside the conference at one point, their racist, pro-slavery Confederate flags flying, their anti-immigrant signs resting on their paunches.

Former Young Lord Vincente “Panamá” Alba of New York's May 1 Coalition added that the immigrant communities were facing serious crises in food and housing, raids and arrests by police and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The Women's Caucus resolution, unanimously accepted, called for a defense of the rights of women as workers and mothers. Women face exploitation as domestic

workers, and confront the cruelty of the international sex trade, rape and brutality from police and the Border Patrol.

After a short struggle, resolutions supporting the Gulf Coast evacuees and against the war in the Middle East were passed. The resolution presented by New York and Los Angeles activists on Katrina reads in part: to “support the right of return, right to housing, and the right to jobs for African American, immigrant, and poor white workers, the survivors of Katrina and Rita, in the Gulf Region.”

A teacher from Los Angeles' March 25th Coalition said, “To immigrant students nothing is given, but they sacrifice everything in wars for a government who despises them.”

Ignacio Meneses from Detroit said many immigrants in Michigan are people of Middle Eastern backgrounds, facing detentions and deportation every day. “Failure to oppose U.S./Israeli policies in the Middle East would be a betrayal of comrades in the struggle for immigrant rights.”

Meneses continued, “Immigrants don't come to the U.S. looking for ‘democracy.’ They are looking to escape their economies, destroyed by U.S. commercial policies.” The case of Elvira Arellano and her young son Saúl epitomizes this.



WW PHOTO

The case of Elvira and Saúl Arellano

Elvira Arellano was “driven to come to this country by the economic policies of the United States.” Arellano said she is an activist with Pueblo Sin Fronteras, which organizes families with U.S. citizen children facing separation by deportation. She went seven times to Washington, D.C., to testify before Congress, putting family unity at the center of the immigration debate. She mobilized a mass protest on July 5, 2005, in Chicago, a demonstration that drew 50,000 people. She helped form the Coalition for African Asian Arab European Latino Immigrants of Illinois (CAAELII).

ICE called her and ordered her to pack her bags and report for deportation.

She called on everyone at the conference to pick up their cell phones and lodge protests with Senators Dick Durbin and Barack Obama. They did. □

Lebanese unity behind victory

Continued from page 1

Lebanon. Although this war was more highly planned than any other offensive in Israel's history, the military was completely unprepared and untrained for what it encountered.

Israeli miscalculation, like the U.S. underestimation of the Iraqi resistance, was based on imperial arrogance. The Israeli military had functioned as a colonial police force for years against an unarmed Palestinian population in the West Bank and Gaza.

The Israeli onslaught was intended to divide Lebanon and reignite civil war. The failure of U.S./Israeli plans is pulling Israel apart politically. The media there is full of attacks on military leaders and politicians, demands for wholesale resignations, inquiries, investigations and charges. A vicious debate on failures in training, preparations, analysis and intelligence has emerged. The attacks and counter attacks are the best indication that the war has not gone well.

The military had promised that the entire war could be accomplished in a week or two, largely with air power.

In Israel's largest newspaper, Yediot Aharonot, columnist Nahum Barnea wrote: "We did not win. ... Israel comes to the cease-fire announcement bruised, conflicted and disturbed."

Channel 2 of Israeli television reported on Aug. 11 that several of the most senior military officials wrote a letter to chief of staff Halutz complaining that "the war plans were in chaos."

An article by Uri Avnery, a journalist and writer with the liberal Zionist peace group Gush Shalom, has been circulating widely on the group's Internet site. Entitled "What the hell has happened to the army?" it says Israeli officers were completely unaware of the defense system built by Hezbollah—the complex infrastructure of hidden bunkers with stockpiles of food, equipment and weapons.

Avnery makes the point, "If a lightweight boxer is fighting a heavyweight champion and is still standing in the 12th round, the victory is his—whatever the count of points says."

In summing up the reason for Israel's failure, Avnery makes the point that "the common denominator of all the failures is the disdain for Arabs, a contempt that has dire consequences. It has caused a total misunderstanding; a kind of blindness of Hezbollah's motives, attitudes, standing in Lebanese society, etc. ... Even a strong army cannot defeat a guerrilla organization, because the guerrilla is a political phenomenon."

The strongest attacks within Israel are coming from right-wing politicians like Benjamin Netanyahu of the Likud Party and the far-right forces of Avigdor Lieberman. They are pushing for a wider war and no removal of the thousands of illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

All the Zionist forces—the hardcore right-wing, the centrists and the liberals—fear that the real damage from the war is that it has endangered their strategic relationship with U.S. imperialism as its attack dog in the region. This is the source of millions of dollars in U.S. military, economic and technical aid, investments and credits that flood into Israel on a daily basis and sustain an artificial economy.

Almost every article and attack in the Israeli media points out that the Israeli military was given time, support, equipment and diplomatic coverage to destroy Hezbollah and failed in its assignment. Itamar Rabinovich, a former ambassador to Washington, said, "Part of the reckon-

ing will be our reputation as a strategic partner, when we tell the Americans, 'Give us the tools and we'll do the job.'"

Llamas in Lebanon

The Israeli media has been full of stories of bad planning, shortages and soldiers' complaints of lack of food, water and equipment. Exhausted soldiers had to be rotated out every three days because the scale of Hezbollah attacks made it impossible to erect barracks, showers, field kitchens or command centers.

According to the Aug. 12 Washington Post, the Israeli military "was having so much trouble moving supplies over the rough terrain that it experimented with using llamas as pack animals. The experiment failed when an entire train of llamas sat down on the job, forcing the military to abort an expedition."

The 60-ton Merkava tank is considered the world's most advanced and the most able to provide protection for ground troops. It is the pride of the Israeli army. With deadly efficiency, Hezbollah fighters destroyed more than 20 tanks with anti-tank weapons. They also downed an Israeli air force helicopter with a new missile called the Wa'ad—Arabic for "promise." And early on they destroyed one of Israel's most important high-tech ships. Hezbollah claims to have hit three Israeli ships.

One of the few journalists permitted to accompany Israeli forces into Lebanon was Nahum Barnea, a leading Israeli political commentator. He reported in embarrassing detail the misfortunes of

the unit he accompanied and made an analogy that will be recognized worldwide. "The battle between the IDF and Hezbollah is reminiscent of the famous Tom and Jerry cartoons. ... Tom is a strong ambitious cat. Jerry is a weak but clever mouse. Jerry teases Tom. Tom fights back. In every conflict between them, Jerry wins."

Barnea's advice to Prime Minister Olmert is: "There is no sense in investing in a lost cause. Adding more ground forces to those already stuck in Lebanon will not bring about the hoped-for turnaround in the Lebanese gamble. With American support, Israel still has a chance of getting out of this war with decent accomplishments. Take what they are offering you, Ehud Olmert. Take it and run."

Rebuilding Lebanon

One day after the cease-fire began, Hezbollah's extensive social services system shifted from a war footing to the huge task of rebuilding. The leader of Hezbollah, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, promised that "the brothers, who are your brothers," will take on the reconstruction.

The instructions to the whole population are clear. Each family should fill out a claim form listing address, size of house, scale of damage and furniture lost. Immediate payments will be distributed. Nasrallah promised to pay a year's rent for those with destroyed homes, saying Aug. 14 that "we can't wait for the government."

Hezbollah's immediate promise to aid

in the rebuilding—along with widespread confidence that the resistance won a victory over Israel—is shaping a determined and united mood across Lebanon.

For more than two decades, Hezbollah's social networks provided needed services, especially to Lebanon's poor Shia population, that the weak, divided government could not fulfill. Before the Israeli attack, Hezbollah already ran a whole series of hospitals, clinics, schools and social centers.

When the Israeli bombing began, Hezbollah social services responded when the government could not. They provided the ambulances and the scores of searchers who pulled people from the rubble. They helped organize the placing of tens of thousands of refugees in schools, public parks and private homes. (Christian Science Monitor, Aug. 16)

In Beirut alone, Hezbollah organized 10 mobile medical teams that cared for 14 schools each, in two-day rotations. This aid helped 48,000 people; another 70,000 were treated in houses by other professionals.

In a Hezbollah kitchen near downtown Beirut, volunteers worked shifts over vats of rice and stew to provide 8,000 hot meals a day—part of a 50,000 daily total they distributed across Beirut.

It is this mobilization of the whole population that made it possible for those fighting at the front to have the will and the means to successfully resist an all-out attack that both Israel and the U.S. had thought would be irresistible. □

DEMAND
Accountability
for
U.S./ISRAELI
WAR CRIMES
in Lebanon
and Palestine

HEAR THE CHARGES
AUGUST 30
Wednesday 6-9 pm

United Nations Church Center
777 UN Plaza • 44 St & 1st Ave

For information contact the INTERNATIONAL ACTION CENTER
55 W. 17th St, 5th Flr, NY, NY, 10011 212.633.6646
www.iacenter.org • www.PeopleJudgeBush.org

WAR CRIMINALS

How can I get involved with the Campaign for Accountability

- 1. Become a volunteer with the Campaign for Accountability**
Regardless of where you live, you can volunteer to help gather information to support the **Campaign for Accountability**. Go to www.iacenter.org for a detailed listing of research categories
- 2. You can send information, reports, photos and videos you think should be included to actioncenter@action-mail.org.**
- 3. Help to organize an event in your city.**
We can send speakers, video, photos and testimony. Contact us at **212.633.6646** or actioncenter@action-mail.org.

We depend on your help. Please make a DONATION to support this important project.

All donors of \$50 or more can be listed in the Program Journal on August 30th.

Support this grassroots effort for truth and justice. Donate online at <http://iacenter.org/iacdonate.shtml> or mail a donation to:

INTERNATIONAL ACTION CENTER
55 West 17th St, 5th Flr,
New York, NY, 10011
212.633.6646



Free the Cuban Five

While Bush's so-called "war on terror" rages on in the Middle East and against communities of color at home, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against five Cubans who were in the United States specifically to prevent terrorism.

The Cuban Five—Fernando González, René González, Antonio Guerrero, Gerardo Hernández, and Ramón Labañino—have been held in U.S. prisons for the past eight years for the "crime" of defending their native Cuba against well-documented terrorist attacks. A year ago, a three-judge panel of the 11th Circuit Court ruled that the Five should receive a new trial given that the original one was held in Miami—the city where many terrorist plots against Cuba have been organized, and where lawyers have documented coercion and threats against the trial's jurors. This latest ruling on Aug. 9 reverses the earlier findings of the three-judge panel, and denies a new trial to the Five.

This month, working and oppressed people the world over are celebrating the 80th birthday and healthy recovery of Fidel Castro. U.S. imperialists are fuming with the knowledge that, due in large part to the remarkable leadership of Comandante Fidel, the Cuban people will continue their revolution should anything happen to him.

Put into context, this ruling is yet another attempt by the imperialists

to punish socialist Cuba—not just for surviving the past 53 years, but for helping to put imperialism on the defensive in the "battle of ideas." That battle has exposed to the world that the biggest terrorists sit in the White House, and that their reign of terror extends to Latin America, the Middle East, and beyond.

Yet the ruling has implications for all people facing the U.S. criminal "justice" system. At an emergency press conference on the ruling on Aug. 10, National Lawyers Guild attorney Bruce Nestor explained, "The decision really gives tremendous power to the government to bring politically motivated prosecutions and to then select a favorable location where community prejudice will favor the government and allow the government to obtain a conviction where the evidence did not support a conviction."

The struggle for the Five—who are renowned as heroes in Cuba—is not over. A national march and forum on Sept. 23 in Washington, D.C., takes on greater importance, as well as local actions throughout the country that week.

Free the Cuban Five! U.S. Hands off Cuba!

For more information visit www.freethethefive.org.



Aug. 12 Washington, D.C., march.

WWW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

Subscribe to Workers World

Special Trial Subscription \$2 for eight weeks (new subscription)
\$25 for one year

Name _____ Phone number _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Workers World Newspaper
55 West 17 St. NY, NY 10011

www.workers.org
(212) 627-2994

U.S. & Israel set back in Lebanon

Risk of new military

By Fred Goldstein

It is now clear to the world that the United Nations resolution to halt the fighting in Lebanon, negotiated by the Bush administration and its lesser imperialist partner, France, was motivated by Washington's desire to cut its losses and the losses of its Israeli clients.

Demonstrating renewed capacity for denial in public, President George W. Bush unabashedly proclaimed "victory" in his press conference of Aug. 13, pointing to provisions of Security Council Resolution 1701.

Bush was flanked by his war advisers: Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley. He had just come from the Pentagon where he met with Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, who was apparently too busy to accompany Bush.

Rumsfeld passed up the opportunity to be present as Bush tried to palm off a humiliating defeat for Washington and Tel Aviv as a "victory." Perhaps Rumsfeld wants to keep his humiliation within the confines of the Iraq occupation and not take any more "credit" for another all-out U.S. debacle, such as took place in Lebanon.

Bush's argument was based upon the alleged humbling of Hezbollah. No one asked him to explain certain aspects of the "victory," which he had defined in the first days of the Israeli aggression as "going to the root cause of the problem" and "never going back to the status quo"—in other words, the destruction of Hezbollah by the Israeli military and the establishment of a subservient regime in Beirut that would passively follow the dictates of Washington.

Had anyone asked, he would have been hard-put to reconcile his claims of victory with certain inconvenient facts: for example, that Hezbollah fired 220 to 250 rockets into Israel, the highest number of the war, on the last day of fighting; that the Israeli military suffered its highest daily casualty count of 24 soldiers killed and many more wounded on the day before the cease-fire; that the Israelis were unable to hold key strategic towns in southern Lebanon after 34 days of fighting; and that Hezbollah and its leader, Hassan Nasrallah, have grown immeasurably in political stature and popularity, not only in Lebanon but throughout the Middle East and beyond, while Bush and the Israeli government are more isolated and despised than ever.

Suddenly, a cease-fire looked good

Bush's claim of victory was echoed by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert in the Knesset, despite the deepening understanding throughout Israel that its military had been humiliated in the longest war in its history by a guerrilla force that it was unable to vanquish despite its U.S.-supplied high-tech weaponry.

According to the New York Times, which is deeply pro-Zionist, "Nahum Barnea, a columnist with the country's largest newspaper, Yediot Aharonot, said, 'We did not win.' Israel, he wrote, 'comes to the cease-fire bruised, conflicted and disturbed.'"

On Aug. 14, the day before Bush's "victory" speech, the Times in a front-page article by a combined team of three reporters put it bluntly:

"When Israel began its counterattack on Hezbollah one month ago, the Bush administration backed the Israeli plan to destroy the militia and its arsenal of rockets, resisting efforts by France and other allies to call for a cease-fire.

"But as the assault wore on and it became evident that Hezbollah was a far more fearsome and skilled adversary than Israel had first thought—and as Lebanese casualties mounted—American policy moved more urgently toward seeking an immediate political solution."

As the Israeli offensive was collapsing, Condoleezza Rice had to rush to New York and "just force this [resolution] through by going there and sitting there until it got done."

The Times revealed that, in the fight over the wording of the resolution, the U.S. had to change a key provision that would have given an international force key military powers. "Hezbollah, which is part of the Lebanese government, would not accept a resolution that appeared to directly empower foreign forces to disarm it."

Thus the "defeated" (according to Bush) Hezbollah

was able to veto a key provision proposed by U.S. imperialism. Hezbollah also vetoed other provisions, including one that would have allowed Israeli forces to remain on Lebanese territory.

Bush and Cheney have once again demonstrated their capability for denial, shown so prominently during the disastrous U.S. occupation in Iraq. They are unable to distinguish between a vaguely worded and ambiguous resolution and the hard reality of defeat at the hands of popular resistance forces on the ground.

A historic first

The historic importance of this development is enormous. This is the first time that Washington has had to turn itself inside out diplomatically to save its Israeli clients from disaster. Before this, during times of Israeli aggression the U.S. government has had to use its diplomatic activity to put limits on Tel Aviv because, if left to themselves, the Israelis would harm the interests of U.S. imperialism by going too far. This is the first time they had to use diplomacy to rescue the Israeli military during combat with a section of the Arab masses.

To make matters worse for them, this happened under circumstances in which Washington took as much responsibility for the campaign of brutal aggression as did Tel Aviv. In fact, there are strong indications that the Bush administration conspired with the Israelis to have them execute a program that amounts to Bush's own foreign policy. The Israelis might have been fighting their own war. But they were given more than just permission to launch this aggression. They were either encouraged or told to do it.

Robert Parry did much to expose the Iran-Contra scandal during the Reagan administration. In an article posted Aug. 13 on consortiumnews.com, he wrote:

"Amid the political and diplomatic fallout from Israel's faltering invasion of Lebanon, some Israeli officials are privately blaming President George W. Bush for egging Prime Minister Ehud Olmert into the ill-conceived military adventure against the Hezbollah militia in south Lebanon.

"Bush conveyed his strong personal support for the military offensive during a White House meeting with Olmert on May 23, according to sources familiar with the thinking of senior Israeli leaders."

Olmert agreed that "a dose of military force against Hezbollah might damage the guerrilla group's influence in Lebanon and intimidate its allies, Iran and Syrian, countries that the U.S. has identified as the chief obstacles to its interests in the Middle East."

As part of Bush's drive to create a "new Middle East," said Parry, he urged Olmert to attack Syria. Parry quotes the Jerusalem Post of July 30: "Israeli defense officials told the Post last week that they were receiving indications from the U.S. that America would be interested in seeing Israel attack Syria."

While Olmert rejected an attack on Syria, he "did agree to show military muscle in Lebanon as a prelude to facing down Iran over its nuclear program."

Bush, Cheney and Iran

Seymour Hersh has written, in a similar but slightly different vein, a lengthy piece entitled "Watching Lebanon" in the issue of the New Yorker magazine dated Aug. 21:

"President Bush and Vice-President Dick Cheney were convinced, current and former intelligence and diplomatic officials told me, that a successful Israeli Air Force bombing campaign against Hezbollah's heavily fortified underground-missile and command-and-control complexes in Lebanon could ease Israel's security concerns and also serve as a prelude to a potential American preemptive attack to destroy Iran's nuclear installations, some of which are also buried deep underground."

Hersh claims that this plan was devised well before July 12, when Israel used the pretext of a minor military action at the border, in which Hezbollah captured two Israeli soldiers, to launch a sudden all-out savage attack on the entire country of Lebanon, slaughtering close to a thousand civilians, displacing a million and destroying the country's infrastructure.

Whether or not Parry's and Hersh's sources are reliable as to the specific details of their revelations, the aggressive and adventurist political and military

adventures from Washington, Tel Aviv

orientation of the Bush administration makes it essential for the anti-war movement, the workers and the oppressed, and all progressive and revolutionary organizations to remain vigilant and prepare for the next phase of the struggle. It may come sooner or later, but it is inevitable.

The present cease-fire, should it hold—and it very well may not—must be viewed at best as an interlude in which both U.S. imperialism and the Israeli Zionist regime will prepare for new wars of aggression. Undoubtedly the anti-imperialist forces in the Middle East are themselves preparing for such an eventuality.

This is the latest in a series of humiliations for the Bush administration. The war in Lebanon itself was supposed to rescue its sinking policy of creating a “new Middle East” and prosecuting the struggle against national self-determination under the guise of the so-called “war on terrorism.” But instead it destroyed the image of invincibility of Washington’s front-line military police force in the Middle East—Israel. This is objectively a huge setback for Washington, Bush and Cheney’s delusionary outlook notwithstanding.

The vulnerability of the Pentagon when facing mass resistance has been demonstrated before the whole world for over three years in Iraq. With all its weapons of destruction, the most powerful military in the world has been fought to a standstill by a fragmented resistance.

U.S. forces were also put under heavy

military pressure by a growing resistance in Afghanistan, which has now spread from the south to the north. Washington had to rely on NATO to bail it out of Afghanistan.

The popular electoral victory of Hamas in Palestine was another humiliation for the Bush policy of trying to liquidate the national liberation movement.

Danger of renewed aggression

If the U.S.-backed campaign in Lebanon had succeeded, Washington would have been emboldened in its aggression. Nevertheless, it would be foolhardy to think that defeat will guarantee that the imperialists will reverse their aggressive policy. On the contrary, they are all the more desperate to find a way to impose their will upon the people of the region.

Hezbollah and all the militant fighters in Lebanon have won a great victory. Their achievements are unprecedented in the Middle East since the founding of the Israeli state in 1948. However, this brings an even greater danger of renewed aggression by both Israel and the U.S.

During the Israeli campaign the drum-beat against the Iranian government has grown louder and louder in all Bush’s press conferences and in pronouncements by the U.S. military in Iraq concerning alleged Iranian interference. U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad held a press conference in Baghdad blaming Iran for U.S. troubles. The capitalist media has been sounding the alarm against Iran and Syria.

As the Aug. 31 deadline approaches, at which time Iran is supposed to renounce its nuclear program or face the sanctions of imperialism through the UN Security Council, the anti-Iranian hysteria is bound to grow.

While the Bush administration has virtually been at war with much of its own capitalist foreign policy establishment since it took office, a ruling-class consensus could crystallize around opening hostilities against the Iranian government.

Many imperialist strategists felt that Iraq under Saddam Hussein was not really a major threat to U.S. imperialist interests and not worth all the negative consequences of a preemptive war. Iran, on the other hand, is seen as a growing regional anti-imperialist force, with a population of 70 million, economic power and wide influence.

Israel will also become more dangerous. It is a nonviable settler state sitting in the middle of hundreds of millions of oppressed people. It is tied to Western imperialism in general, but especially to U.S. monopoly capital. From the beginning of its existence in 1948 to the present day, the Israeli ruling class and much of its privileged population have lived with the bunker mentality of a besieged and illegitimate state living on land stolen by the expropriation of an entire people.

For such a regime to suffer a defeat at the hands of the Arab masses is intolerable to its rulers, who will be driven to seek to restore its military reputation. Whether

it will do this right away or take time to rebuild remains to be seen. The great fear in Israel’s ruling class right now is that it has shown itself to be an unreliable instrument, a failed ally of Washington.

Netanyahu urges a ‘next time’

Benjamin Netanyahu, the ultra right-wing former prime minister and leader of the right wing of the Likud Party, made a speech in the Knesset denouncing Olmert, the Israeli high command and the cabinet for failing in the war. He said that Israel must rebuild its alliance with the U.S. “No one allies with the weak,” said Netanyahu. He offered to restore the strength of the alliance with Washington based on waging a common struggle against Iran.

In a speech to the Knesset, Olmert said that Israel would be more prepared “next time.” The Israeli ruling class is presently in a state of confusion. Recriminations are flying back and forth. But it is doubtful that the Israeli military can be reconciled to accepting the present humiliation without eventually carrying out some adventure in the region.

Events are pushing both Washington and Tel Aviv in the direction of new adventures. From each popular victory comes a greater struggle. The movement must fight to stop any new aggression by Washington, or its clients in Tel Aviv, whether against Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Palestine or anywhere. □

RACISM, WAR

Issues behind the ‘terror plot’ in Britain

By Larry Hales

Headlines across the world on Aug. 10 announced that an alleged “terror plot” to bring down 10 to 12 airliners, on route from London to the U.S., was “foiled” by British, U.S. and Pakistani intelligence services. The plot involved chemical and/or gel explosive compounds that were to be brought on planes separately and mixed in flight. Aircraft passengers were told they would not be able to carry any liquids onto planes.

Four days later, British and U.S. federal authorities downgraded the threat levels of both countries. British authorities lowered the threat on British flights from critical to severe. The Homeland Security Department reduced the threat level of an imminent attack from a red “severe” to an orange “high” on flights to the U.S. from Britain. All other flights remained at orange “high.” The Transportation Security Agency eased the carry-on baggage restrictions.

The decision to magnify this case and make it appear that it was close to coming into fruition was calculated to divert attention away from Israel’s brutal assaults against Lebanon and the Palestinian people. The resistance was holding its ground as Israel was massacring children, women and men and dropping huge payloads in Lebanon.

British and U.S. authorities sparred over the timing of the announcement. One senior British official said that an attack was not imminent.

An article in the Aug. 11 New York Times alludes to the collusion of Britain and the U.S. on the timing of the arrests and subsequent announcement: “According to a senior administration official who spoke anonymously about how Mr. Bush handled the plot inquiry behind the scenes, it

became clear that the British investigation had ‘a significant U.S. element to it.’ By Friday [Aug. 4], the investigation had become ‘a significant focus’ of the president’s morning intelligence briefings, the official said. ... [On Aug. 6] Mr. Bush spent 47 minutes on the telephone with Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain. ‘At that point [t]here was no sense of timing as far as when the takedown would take place,’ the official said.”

The released details surrounding the plot are sketchy still. So far, 25 arrests have been made, of people who are mainly of Pakistani descent. All are Muslims born in Britain. Police said 46 warrants were executed with 22 still going on, and that 20 vehicles were confiscated.

However, what was not revealed was what kind of evidence had been found, if any, although British authorities are saying they located the house where chemicals might have been mixed.

According to the sparse information released, the bomb was to be composed of organic peroxides, to be mixed with other chemicals aboard flights to create an explosive reaction. However, one chemist says such a plot would require a lot of highly concentrated materials, and mixing them on a plane would be difficult—the mixer might kill him or herself, but not cause much damage to an airplane. Additionally, the materials would have needed to stay cool, which would have been extremely difficult.

Much like in the case of the young African-American men arrested in Miami in June [see *Workers World*, June 29], residents in the town where many of the suspects were arrested say that they were friendly and ordinary.

Supermarket owner Mohammed Nazam was with Tayib Rauf, one of those

arrested, until 2:30 a.m. the morning of the arrests. Rauf had made a delivery and was picking up a check from Nazam, and they talked for a couple of hours.

“He probably still had my check in his pocket when he was picked up—around four in the morning—from his home. If he were a person involved in a gang, he wouldn’t be sitting with me chatting, would he?” Nazam said. A business associate of the family said that Rauf thought police had been following him for four or five months.

One of the two women arrested was pregnant, and a male arrestee had recently posted a profile on a dating website. These are odd circumstances for people that were supposedly within days of killing themselves.

Some of the suspects had not obtained passports, and none of them had purchased airline tickets.

Claims that the suspects were part of al-Qaeda or some other group are also coming under question. British, U.S. and Pakistani intelligence are now admitting that they are not aware of any of the suspects meeting with al-Qaeda operatives.

The “terror plot” was an attempt by the Bush and Blair administrations to ratchet up fear and anti-Arab sentiment. In racist and jingoistic terms, Bush related the plot to the U.S. “war with Islamic fascists”—an attempt to justify the current U.S./Israeli war and occupation and prepare people for an expanded war throughout the Middle East.

Bush’s statement will no doubt be used in an attempt to heighten anti-immigrant sentiment as well. At an Aug. 2 rally of South Asians in Edison, N.J., protesters were met by counter protesters making anti-immigrant and racist slurs. The rally was to condemn police brutality experi-

enced in July by an Indian man, Raj Parikh. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials arrived at the rally—apparently in collaboration with police—and arrested Parikh for being out of status.

Muslims in the area of Britain where most of the arrests took place are suspicious of the charges and fear that they will be targeted by police or attacked. British authorities have revealed that they had indeed been watching the suspects for months.

However, why such an attack would be planned at all invariably has to be pointed out—regardless of whether or not this current plot really existed.

Great Britain was one of the most ruthless and despicable colonizers and enslavers of people the world over, and has more recently been the junior partner of U.S. imperialism.

Both countries have embarked on a failing mission to subjugate Iraq and steal the Iraqi people’s resources, and both are ardent supporters of Israel and its proxy war against the Palestinian and Lebanese people. Both are seeking wider war in the Middle East region.

As Bush re-labels the racist “war against terror” a fight against “Islamic fascism,” people around the world are increasingly starting to buck back from being held under the foot of western imperialism.

The governments of the imperialist west, especially Britain and the U.S. and their client governments, are at odds with the masses of people and will denigrate any people’s resistance, no matter how justified.

It is important to point out that the aggressors in this case are the imperialists. It is their policies that lead to acts like the tragedy of 9/11 and the attacks on the subways in Britain. □

Libaneses luchan bajo lluvia de bombas

La opinión mundial se vuelve en contra de la agresión EEUU-Israelita

Por Sara Flounders

9 de Agosto—El gabinete de guerra de Israel decidió hoy unánimemente enviar sus tropas hacia más adentro del Líbano. Esta decisión es la profundización de la guerra terrestre. Es un intento para destruir el movimiento de resistencia dirigido por Hizbolá antes de que cualquier tipo de cese al fuego sea acordado por las potencias imperialistas en complicidad con Israel.

Es importante ver lo que los aviones, helicópteros, tanques, bombas tipo racimo, y otros equipos destructivos israelitas suplidos por los EEUU ya han hecho a un país más pequeño que la mitad del tamaño y la población del estado de Nueva Jersey.

Los aviones israelitas—más de 60 a la vez—circulan la costa del Líbano esperando sus turnos para tirar bombas sobre un país que no tiene ningún sistema de defensa contra los ataques aéreos.

Secciones enteras de Beirut, Tyre y Sidón han sido totalmente destruidas. Más del 75% del sur de Beirut está destruido. El sur del Líbano ha sido despoblado. Villas y pueblos destruidos. La infraestructura, incluyendo los aeropuertos, las carreteras, los puentes principales, las plantas eléctricas y las refinerías de petróleo fueron destruidas en los primeros días del ataque israelí.

Las víctimas de los ataques sobrepasan ampliamente los mil que se han publicado—un tercio de estos son niños—porque los trabajadores de rescate ya no pueden entrar a los sitios que han sido totalmente destruidos. No hay una cifra de las miles de vidas que se han perdido debido al stress extremo, a la falta de medicinas urgentemente necesitadas o a las aguas contaminadas.

El 6 de agosto—en el aniversario del ataque atómico de EEUU contra Hiroshima—el Comité Independiente Israelita para un Medio Oriente Libre de Armas Atómicas, Biológicas y Químicas publicó un reporte sobre las muchas bombas destructoras de búnkeres, GBU-28—que Israel ha recibido del Pentágono. El reporte declara que las bombas contienen uranio, el cual avienta polvo tóxico radioactivo.

La mayoría de la población ya está falta de provisiones básicas. El combustible es tan escaso que ni los generadores de electricidad casi funcionan. El bombardeo de los tanques de almacenaje de petróleo cerca de la costa ha contaminado playas, ríos y reservas de agua. La electricidad, la sanidad y la recolección de la basura han desaparecido. Los hospitales y las organizaciones de servicios sociales y humanitarios están sobrecargados.

Más del 25% de la población—un millón de personas—han quedado desamparadas. Los refugios son llevados a escuelas, salones religiosos, parques y carreteras.

Hizbolá unifica la resistencia nacional

La resistencia nacional dirigida y organizada por Hizbolá ha propinado golpes continuos al ejército israelita. El ejército israelí, considerado una vez invencible por sus tanques armados, ha sido retrasado, desviado y hasta detenido por las armas contra tanques de la resistencia.

Aunque Hizbolá no tiene los proyectiles de precisión o de enorme potencia destructiva como las bombas de Israel, todavía tiene la capacidad de disparar más de 100 cohetes al día, cerrando un tercio del norte de Israel.

Hizbolá ha pasado años organizando y entrenando a miles de personas en tácticas militares. También ha dado mucha atención a las necesidades económicas y sociales de los sectores más pobres de la sociedad.

El laberinto de túneles y refugios subterráneos bien construidos ha permitido que unidades pequeñas bien

organizadas de Hizbolá y otros grupos de la resistencia conduzcan emboscadas numerosas.

Cada tanque destruido, cada helicóptero de ataque derribado envía el mensaje que Israel no es invencible.

En invasiones anteriores, Israel podía contar con el apoyo de los sectores más conservadores y privilegiados de la sociedad libanesa, estableciendo incluso un ejército fascista de colaboradores. El colonialismo francés, y las políticas de los EEUU e Israel han reforzado las antiguas divisiones que existen hace siglos en el Líbano en grupos rígidos políticos, religiosos, y étnicos.

Pero esta vez, la destrucción masiva que Israel ha infligido, y la organizada resistencia militar y la movilización política para confrontarla, han unificado al Líbano en contra de Israel y en contra de los EEUU.

Al fracasar la estrategia militar de Israel, Tel Aviv se encuentra en una crisis parecida a la que enfrentan los EEUU actualmente en Irak. Todo el Medio Oriente está sumamente energizado viendo que una movilización popular del pueblo es una arma poderosa. A través de toda la región, el apoyo total por la guerra de parte de Washington ha unificado y reforzado la opinión popular en contra del imperialismo estadounidense.

Acusaciones de crímenes de guerra

Tres judíos marroquíes han presentado a la Corte Suprema de Justicia en Rabat un documento acusando al Ministro de Defensa de Israel Amir Peretz, nacido en Marruecos, de cometer crímenes de guerra.

El activista izquierdista Abraham Tsarfati, el autor Amran al Malich, y el representante de derechos humanos Zion Asidon, declaran que Peretz debe ser enjuiciado en Marruecos por su doble ciudadanía Marroquí/Israelita. Ellos explican que “La ley de Marruecos permite el juicio de cualquier ciudadano de Marruecos que ha cometido crímenes de guerra dentro o fuera del país”.

El papel del Ministro de Defensa Peretz revela la bancarrota política de los sionistas liberales—en una crisis son sionistas primero. Peretz es ex activista de la organización Paz Ahora y líder de la confederación sindical sionista, Histadrut. Su elección como jefe del Partido Laboral Israelí fue proclamada en Israel, y hasta por algunos progresistas en los EEUU, como una señal de grandes cambios.

Sin embargo, el Partido Laboral Israelí ha sido parte del gobierno israelí, junto al Partido Likud, durante la mayoría de los seis años de la Intifada Palestina. El papel del Partido Laboral en Israel, es similar al del Partido Demócrata en las políticas imperialistas de los EEUU.

Las pruebas masivas de crímenes de guerra de parte de Israel y el apoyo descarado a estos crímenes de los EEUU han indignado a quienes ordinariamente se quedan callados.

Israel ha atacado ambulancias de la Cruz Roja claramente marcadas, convoyes de refugiados, un refugio de bombardeos en Qana, hospitales y la entera infraestructura civil. El coordinador humanitario de la ONU para el Líbano, David Shearer advirtió que, “Los ataques deliberados contra la infraestructura civil es una violación del derecho internacional”.

El periódico The Guardian de Bretaña reportó el 8 de agosto que Israel “ha amenazado atacar representantes de las fuerzas de paz de la ONU si intentan reparar puentes dañados por bombas en el sur del Líbano”.

Planeando y preparándose para la guerra

La invasión israelí y el asalto desenfrenado contra el Líbano y su ataque masivo contra los palestinos en Gaza

no fueron el resultado de la captura de un solo soldado israelí por Hamás en Gaza, ni de la captura de dos soldados israelíes por Hizbolá en la frontera libanesa.

Estos soldados fueron capturados para forzar un intercambio de los más de 10.000 prisioneros detenidos por Israel. Ha habido ataques incansables israelíes contra las dos zonas por años y ha habido acciones de resistencia por parte de las dos organizaciones, y otras fuerzas palestinas y libanesas.

El periódico San Francisco Chronicle del 21 de julio explicó: “La respuesta militar de Israel por aire, tierra y mar a lo que consideró una provocación la semana pasada por militantes de Hizbolá se está desarrollando según un plan que fue finalizado hace más de un año.”

Un artículo en el Washington Post del 16 de julio estaba titulado, “(Los) Ataques son llamados parte de una extensa estrategia: EEUU, Israel se proponen debilitar a Hizbolá, los militantes de la región.”

Resoluciones de la ONU por un alto al fuego

Después de resistir el llamado por un cese al fuego cuando Israel inició su campaña de bombardeo, los Estados Unidos, junto a Francia, ahora han introducido una “resolución por un cese al fuego” en el Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU que es en realidad un plan para formalizar la ocupación israelí y reforzarla con fuerzas militares internacionales.

La resolución demanda el desarme de Hizbolá pero no de las fuerzas militares israelitas. Ni siquiera demanda la retirada de tropas israelíes del Líbano. Las fuerzas israelíes se quedarían allí hasta que una resolución futura las reemplace con fuerzas internacionales.

La resolución permite que Israel continúe sus operaciones militares ofensivas “por propósitos defensivos”.

Jonathan Cooke, un periodista basado en Nazaret, apuntó en un artículo de Znet el 7 de agosto que medios hebreos dijeron que el plan fue delineado con “la íntima participación israelí”.

Washington, que apoya totalmente a Israel, ha obstruido todos los anteriores llamados internacionales a un cese al fuego. La resolución es solamente una maniobra de los imperialistas para producir un plan que Hizbolá no pueda aceptar.

Peligro de una guerra más extensa

Mientras Israel amplía la guerra, e invade más profundamente dentro del Líbano, crece el peligro de una guerra más extensa.

El 5 de agosto, aviones de guerra israelí bombardearon el pueblo sirio al-Qaa en la frontera, matando a 33 agricultores sirios y civiles libaneses e hiriendo a 14. En dos cartas a la ONU, Siria demandó una investigación completa por la ONU de las masacres de personas civiles en al-Qaa y en el refugio en Qana, en el Líbano.

Los medios israelíes reportan que el Primer Ministro Ehud Olmert dijo en una reunión de 50 portavoces gubernamentales el 7 de agosto, “Nuestro enemigo no es Hizbolá sino Irán que emplea a Hizbolá como su agente”.

Con el hecho de que la guerra estadounidense en Irak es más imposible de ganar cada día, y con una resistencia poderosa en el Líbano, la amenaza aumenta que la administración de Bush trate de ampliar la guerra. Un gran sector del movimiento contra la guerra en el Occidente históricamente ha apoyado el estado de Israel, el cual comparte los objetivos del imperialismo estadounidense en el Oriente Medio. Estos recientes ataques contra los pueblos libaneses y palestinos muestran que no es posible apoyar a Israel y estar a la vez contra la guerra.

El pueblo árabe y musulmán de toda la región está bajo un ataque feroz y creciente. Están emprendiendo una resistencia heroica.

Lo que ahora es necesario es que la solidaridad internacional reconozca la justicia de su lucha. □

SUBSCRIBETE A MUNDO OBRERO

\$2 por 8 semanas de prueba \$25 por un año WW Publishers, 55 W. 17 St., NY, NY 10011