

# WORKERS WORLD

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite!  
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MAY 3, 2007

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50¢

## MAY DAY

# We salute all immigrant workers

*A message from Workers World Party to the May Day marchers.*

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As a party of workers born here and in other lands, we applaud and congratulate every person who is a participant in the May 1st demonstrations across the country and around the world. In spite of deportations, ICE raids, attacks by vigilantes, and the constant day-to-day abuses on and off the job, the movement for immigrant rights has fought on. This courage inspires all workers!

Please know that many workers born here are on your side. Your fight is a fight for basic human rights. It cannot be separated from the fight by all workers for higher pay, for health care and pensions, and to stop abuse by the bosses. Workers refuse to be fooled by the racist lies of the Lou Dobbses of this country. Workers refuse to believe those who say that people who are forced to leave their homes and risk tremendous hardship are the problem.

Your movement has provided many valuable lessons for all workers. You have boycotted shopping. You've stopped work. You've refused to go to school. These actions and the wonderful marches and picket lines are a breath of fresh air filling all of us with hope.

You have also made May Day live again in the United States. This is a long overdue accomplishment. May Day originated in this country. But its history as a day to commemorate workers' struggles worldwide has been hidden and buried here. Why? Because the bosses and multinational corporations fear that workers will learn the lessons of this day. They fear that workers will act on their own behalf to demand justice.

No worker or human being should ever be considered "illegal" because they have crossed a border. Multinational corporations cross borders around the globe. They outsource jobs to countries like India and the Philippines where they can pay workers a tenth part of the value of what they produce. They feel free to plunder the African continent and occupy Iraq to control its oil resources.

The people of Mexico have been forced to cross the border because they can no longer survive in Mexico. U.S.-imposed policies like NAFTA and CAFTA have made these conditions worse. And we musn't forget that much of the southern and western parts of the United States were seized through military force in the 1840s. These areas rightfully belong to the Mexican people.

Capitalism in the stage of imperialism knows no borders or boundaries. We as workers should know no borders either!

The many immigrant workers from the around the world bring valuable traditions, history and culture to the workers' movement here in the United States. This is true whether the immigrants are from the Caribbean, South or Central Americas, Africa or Asia, the Middle East or Europe.

Unity, solidarity and action are most important for all of us. As workers, we need unity, solidarity and action to fight to bring about a new world free of war, poverty and injustice. In this new world all workers can live in dignity and freedom without exploitation.

### Marxism & the struggle for worker & immigrant rights

- The revolutionary potential of the immigrant rights movement
- Building Black/Brown unity to fight for the rights of all workers
- Special update on Mumia Abu-Jamal

Hear local leaders of the May 1 Coalition, community groups and unions on these topics. Speakers vary in different cities but include Teresa Gutierrez, Prof. Tony Van Der Meer, Mia Campbell, Steve Gillis and Larry Holmes.

#### Boston, May 5 at 6:30 p.m.

Action Center, 284 Amory St. (the Brewery),  
Jamaica Plain, Mass. 617-983-3835  
Donation. Childcare and refreshments.

#### New York, May 4 at 6:30 p.m.

Solidarity Center, 55 W. 17 St., 5th Floor,  
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For similar meetings & discussions in other cities, or to get involved with Workers World Party, call local branches at the phone numbers listed on page 2.

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*¡Sí se puede!*

**Workers World Party**

# Behind the decline of MLB Black players

By Mike Gimbel

I grew up as a devoted fan of the Brooklyn Dodgers. Jackie Robinson was my favorite player. Baseball, at that time, was by far the favorite game of the Black community. Football was viewed as a primarily white college sport and professional football and basketball were far behind professional baseball in popularity because football and basketball required going to college, something mostly unavailable to working class youth at that time. Professional baseball, on the other hand, has always been a sport that working class and immigrant youth could aspire to.

Today the tables have turned almost 180 degrees despite the fact that football and basketball are still heavily dependent on youths getting into a big-time college football or basketball program at schools where Black attendance is continually declining.

Baseball is viewed by many in the Black community as a white game and almost all Black youth are fans of football and basketball. This is true even though many in the Black community are effectively locked out of the very universities they root for by the enormous financial costs of getting a college education.

Today only 8.3 percent of Major League Baseball players are U.S. Black players, a decline from 19 percent a couple of decades ago; yet more than 40 percent of MLB players are non-white, many of them Black Latino players such as Red Sox "superstar" David Ortiz or the "non-Hispanic" Atlanta "superstar" Andruw Jones from Dutch-speaking Curaçao.

Today the sport of baseball is moving in two opposite directions, both away from the Black community. On one side are the white-privileged, organized U.S. amateur leagues. On the other, the participation and love of the game that existed in the Black community has been "transferred" to the Latin@ community, particularly those immigrants from the Caribbean. Where, prior to 1947, MLB players were 100-percent white, the league is now less than 60 percent white, yet the perception about race in baseball is just the opposite, and deservedly so. Why?

The big-business media portray this change in fan loyalty as emanating from the Black community itself. Nothing could be farther from the truth! Big money, as in every industry, is the "decider." Sports are part of the entertainment industry. All industries under capitalism must obey "the bottom line." Fan participation and loyalty follows, not leads, the money trail under capitalism.

Let's say you are an athletic Black youth. Most athletes are not 6'6" to 7' tall. That eliminates most athletes, Black or white, from making it in the National Basketball Association. Most athletes are not the behemoths that dominate the National Football League.

While the average MLB player is taller and bigger than the average athlete, a large percentage of MLB players are "relatively normal" size. Most athletes are of "relatively normal" size and the average salary and the length of career in MLB is greater than for any other sport.

Because of the remarkable history of past Black fan loyalty, MLB should logically be a bigger "magnet" for Black athletes than the NFL or the NBA. In any case, most athletic youths would be glad to make it in any professional sport, be it football, baseball or basketball. Professional sports careers, especially for youth in the projects, are a

way to escape the poverty of the projects and make a better life for themselves.

Jackie Robinson didn't select the Brooklyn Dodgers. The Brooklyn Dodger owners selected and signed him. The same is true at every level of team sports. Today's MLB owners find it economically more rewarding to scout, sign and train players from the Caribbean than spend the same money scouting, signing and training players from the Black community.



While we should demand that the fabulously rich MLB owners do more to recruit players from the Black community, MLB discrimination pales before the insulting attitude that prevails at the college level. MLB prefers to draft college players over high school players because college players are better trained and more developed.

## NCAA lily-white policies

MLB teams need to spend less time and money to develop players they find in college to get them to the point where the player would be ready to play in the majors. MLB would draft Black college players, if they existed, but the National Collegiate Athletic Association has designed a tracking system that pushes Black athletes almost exclusively into college football and basketball. The players aren't there to be drafted because college baseball is almost "lily-white."

There are no two ways to say it: the NCAA hierarchy is racist. The NCAA tracks Black athletes into football and basketball because that is where the money is. Billions of dollars are involved in these college "amateur" sports. This is big business. Millions are paid to (mostly) white coaches and fabulous multi-million dollar facilities are built to house the "games," while the NCAA bans payments to the impoverished Black players who are tracked into these sports. Many of these players never even earn a diploma and end up back in the projects with no future, while the big-business colleges reap the benefits.

Author Kyle Veasey wrote, "Out of 62 baseball programs sponsored by the six major [college - ed.] conferences, none have a Black head coach. ... The NCAA says a school can offer no more than 11.7 scholarships to baseball players" while football gets 85. "The athlete from a poor family who wants to pay for college is, more often than not, out of luck. Full scholarships are rare in college baseball, with most players getting only a percentage of their tuition bill paid for. ... The Black players that do appear in college baseball usually have football scholarships." ("More than the ball is white," The Decatur Daily, July 9, 2005)

As a result, Black players with many major college baseball teams number only one or none on the entire team and few major college teams have as many as four Black players. Also the attendance at college games is almost totally white, at the same time that college baseball attendance is rising,

A big spotlight needs to be put on the NCAA's racist policies. Can we allow these racists to "kidnap" the beautiful game of baseball that the Black community played such an important role in creating?

The legacy of Jackie Robinson is under attack by the NCAA. In the 1960s, many progressives, especially activist college students, picketed and disrupted games whenever the South African apartheid regime sent its athletes here. Black construction workers picketed and disrupted lily-white construction projects, demanding jobs. Can't we do something similar today? Isn't it about time? □

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## Smithfield Packing struggle mixes

# Black-Brown unity, environment & workers' rights

By Shafeah M'Bali and Peter Gilbert

Smithfield Packing is a glaring example of how capitalism creates all kinds of victims of oppression, who when they take a broader view, can push the strategic weak point of the system and open a way for many others to win a victory.

Smithfield has spawned three different movements: one demanding the right of workers to organize a union and to collectively bargain with the company; another resisting environmental poisoning, and a third composed of immigrant workers and their allies fighting repression based on their nationality status.

Smithfield Packing is the second largest meat packing company in the U.S. and runs the world's largest pork processing plant in Tar Heel, N.C. Smithfield workers, primarily Latin@ and African-American, butcher and pack 176,000 hogs per week under harsh health and safety working conditions. These workers have been fighting to establish a trade union for 14 years.

The company has increased its level of viciousness to fend off workers' efforts. It has played Mexican and Black workers against each other, women workers against men and young versus old. It has attempted to intimidate Latin@ workers by threatening to have the government deport them.

### Dirt, danger and discrimination

While unionized in most locations outside of North Carolina, in this southern state Smithfield has fought vigorously to prevent its employees from forming a union. Elections to unionize the plant held in 1994 and in 1997 were initially lost. But a National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) judge made a landmark decision overturning the results. The decision charged Smithfield with multiple violations of federal labor law, violations that destroyed the conditions for a free and fair election.

Since the plant opened, Smithfield workers have fought for the right to organize a union and to collectively bargain in the face of criminal and sometimes violent repression by the company, at times with the state's collusion.

In addition to the challenges to organizing any union in the U.S. South, especially with a very multinational workforce of mostly African-American and Latin@ workers, workers have faced spies, deportation and plant-closing threats, false arrests, police attacks and racist hate speech.

In 2006, after having been found guilty of a long list of illegal anti-union policies in the previous union election, Smithfield is now calling for a new election. Having experienced the threats, illegal firings and physical attacks at the previous election, workers are instead demanding full recognition of the union immediately.

As one worker, Ronnie Simmons, put it: "If the company held another election, they would just intimidate and violate our rights again and then we'd have to wait another ten years for it to wind its way through the courts. We need help now and we need our voices to be heard and respected now. We've been fighting for far too long. Our workers want a union now. It's long overdue."

The Employee Free Choice Act, which the U.S. Senate will debate next week, would allow all workers to form a union without having to be subjected to undemocratic elections where, like at Smithfield, workers are subject to attack and harassment by management. Some senators have threatened to filibuster to prevent a vote, and Bush has promised a veto.

To force the company to recognize the union, workers are building a more permanent movement rather than following traditional union strategies. Workers are simultaneously building community and political pressure on the company, while fighting for winnable gains inside the plant.

On Jan. 15, when workers stayed out of work to honor Dr. Martin Luther King and demand the holiday off, production dropped by 9,000 hogs. Last November, in response to firings of immigrant workers, hundreds of workers walked out for two days, and won concessions from the company including the rehiring of the fired workers.

### Fighting environmental racism

This huge Smithfield plant has a major environmental impact on the water and air of eastern North Carolina. Like the hogs that it slaughters, Smithfield keeps trying to throw its weight around. But the state's environmental justice movement is pushing back hard. The plant pulls 2 million gallons of water per day from the water aquifer and returns about 3 million gallons of waste water into Cape Fear River. It is currently pressuring the state to increase the amount of water it is allowed to use.

Lisa Sorg wrote, "In the 1990s, the North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources fined Virginia-based Smithfield \$60,000 for environmental violations, including high levels of fecal coliform bacteria and chlorides in the discharge; in 2002, DENR fined the company more than \$10,000 for purchasing hogs from banned farms.

"Yet, just as Smithfield has begun to clean up its act, the company is asking DENR to remove essential environmental protections from the Tar Heel plant's wastewater discharge permit, which is up for renewal. At the world's largest hog slaughterhouse, Smithfield wants DENR to lift limits on groundwater withdrawal, rescind requirements for environmental management systems—internal controls that monitor environmental performance—and revoke the ban on buying hogs from farms built after Dec. 1, 2002, that still use waste lagoons." (Weekly Independent)

Smithfield contracts control 90 percent of industrial hog production facilities, 90 percent of which are located in eastern North Carolina, a region that is virtually the most underdeveloped area of the state with the highest percentages of the state's Black population.

Hogs produce four times the amount of waste that humans do. With 10 million hogs, and waste systems made up simply of clay-lined holes in the ground (euphe-



Smithfield rally in New York, October 2006.

WWW PHOTO: SHARON BLACK

mistically called lagoons), the fouling of air and water has developed into a major issue being fought by the environmental justice movement in North Carolina.

This movement, primarily based in the African-American community, has been working with North Carolina legislators to come out with a bill that will put a ban on all lagoons and spray fields; put a \$50 million fund in place to assist the farmers with getting cleaner technology on the ground to get rid of the old lagoon/spray field system; set aside \$10 million to help communities that have been affected by the industry to get their wells repaired; and select an Environmental Justice Commission that includes community members to follow-up on the hog problems.

Rep. Carolyn Justice from Pender County has met with the environmental justice movement, traditional environmentalists and the front-line farmers to craft this bill, H1115. Of all the bills on this issue presented to date, it is the most comprehensive in giving consideration to the community. This is the first time in 10 years that the environmental justice movement, traditional environmental groups and farmers have spoken in one voice.

### Black/Brown unity: We must stand together

Smithfield has collaborated with Immigration Customs Enforcement since June through the IMAGE program, where, according to the union, "the company submitted the names of organizers as a tactic to intimidate some workers and get rid of others." (Washington Post, Jan. 29, 2007)

On Jan. 24, ICE arrested and deported 21 workers, including union activists and leaders of last November's work stoppage by Latin@ workers. Many other workers have been forced to leave their jobs out of fear of deportation.

Smithfield has used threats of deportation to divide workers and keep the union out, but struggles for immigrant rights have united and empowered Smithfield

workers. Last May Day, 5,000 workers, many from Smithfield, marched in nearby Lumberton, N.C. This year workers plan to march again. (<http://www.maydaymovement.blogspot.com>)

After Smithfield fired several dozen workers for alleged problems with their social security numbers, about a thousand workers walked out for two days in a show of strength and solidarity.

Despite the repeated attacks by the company in collusion with ICE, the workers at Smithfield continue to show their strength. Every Friday, hundreds of workers—many of them Latin@—wear their yellow union T-shirts to show solidarity with each other and to commit to struggle for justice.

In the past, the company has been able to weaken union building efforts by pitting Black and Brown workers against each other. They have spread lies, rumors and stereotypes to each group about the other. The company had, in the past, held separate meetings for Latin@ and Black workers to divide them and had segregated the plant by type of job.

In the past, groups such as the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) and the Black Workers For Justice have held joint educational programs allowing African-American and Latin@ workers from various workplaces to learn about each other's community, history and struggles.

At Juneteenth, a Black community celebration of the ending of U.S. slavery, Latin@ workers learned about the legacy of slavery, Jim Crow segregation and current issues in the Black community.

At the same event, Black workers learned about the harmful economic and political effects of NAFTA that drives the movement of Latin@ workers across national borders to find work and feed their families.

Examples of mutual solidarity and respect also include inclusion of FLOC in the Wilson/Down East Labor Council, support and attendance at FLOC union demonstrations by Labor Council members and Latin@ workers' honoring Dr. King by refusing to come into work Jan. 15.

Shafeah M'Bali is co-editor of *Justice Speaks*, the publication of the Raleigh-based *Black Workers For Justice*. Peter Gilbert is a leader of *Raleigh FIST—Fight Imperialism, Stand Together—and a former union organizer at Smithfield.*



## Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Sat • May 12 Writers for Mumia

Join writers, poets, journalists & activists who will read from their work and/or discuss the latest developments in Mumia's case,

From 1 to 5 pm at the Community Church of NY, 40 East 35th St., between Madison & Park. For information call Writers for Mumia at 212-633-6646.

## Thurs • May 17 • 9:00 am

All Out for Philadelphia in front of U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, 6th & Market Streets

Support the right for a new trial!

Mumia has always fought for people's rights!

A united, broad movement can save Mumia from a legal lynching!

Go to [www.Millions4Mumia.org](http://www.Millions4Mumia.org) for more background information on this significant case that epitomizes the struggle against racism, repression and injustice inside the U.S.

For bus information from New York City and Jersey City on May 17, call 212-633-6646.

## Their laws and ours

# The Flint sit-down and the 'human property right' to a job

By Martha Grevatt

One of the issues hotly debated in 1937, the year of the Flint sit-down strike, was the strike's legality. Even some historians who viewed the sit-down as morally just saw it as being against "private property rights under the law." (Lorena Hickok and Jean Gould, "Walter Reuther, Labor's Rugged Individualist")

In the eyes of General Motors it was clearly illegal, "striking at the very heart of the right of the possession of private property." (Sidney Fine, "Sit Down")

Regarding all other law as subordinate to its sacred right of possession, GM naturally marshaled all the forces of law and order to enforce court-ordered back-to-work injunctions.

Workers, who rendered the injunctions unenforceable, had their own interpretation of the law. GM, not the United Auto Workers' union, was flouting the law by refusing to obey the Wagner Act granting unions the right to organize. This was proved when the government-sponsored LaFollette Committee on Civil Liberties uncovered GM's vast network of company spies and its huge private arsenal, destroying any pretense of company neutrality.

To the cries that they were breaking the law by seizing private property, workers had their own arguments. "CIO lawyers placed the 'worker's right to his job,' a concept which had been recommended for sympathetic consideration by the U.S. Commission on Industrial Relations in 1915, as the chief argument in favor of the worker sitting at his machine," writes Edward Levinson in "Labor on the March."

"What more sacred property right is there in the world today?" asked Homer Martin, UAW president at the time. "This property right involves the right to support [a worker's] family, feed his children, and keep starvation away from the door." (Foster Rhea Dulles, "Labor in America.")

Other UAW officials and rank-and-file members also expressed these sentiments.

And they advanced the argument that a job is a human right, and that human rights are more important than property rights. When their detractors saw a contradiction between their two lines of reasoning, the union countered that a job is a human property right.

University of Illinois Law School Dean Leon Green sided with the workers, calling the sit-down "an instrument of the industrial relation and in no sense unlawful."

It was not until 1939, when the sit-down fever had subsided as more and more workers were winning union contracts, that Congress declared the tactic illegal.

Still, writers continued to develop legal arguments that a worker has a right to his or her job. In the 1950s and 1960s, writing on behalf of the typographical union, Arthur Porter and William Gomberg defended "Job Property Rights."

Though pressed at the time of the sit-down, Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins refused to characterize the sit-down as illegal. Sam Marcy referred to Perkins' position years later in his 1984 work "High Tech, Low Pay."

As Marcy points out, Perkins "defended the right of the workers to occupy the plants. She did so not before the occupation, but toward the end of it. It would be foolish, of course, to take this action as a literal example of what must be done today. But it is relevant and enlightening as a bare outline and guide to how the workers can fight today to extend their rights to include the right to seize and occupy the plants. It is a logical and inevitable phase in the struggle of the labor movement, as imperative a necessity and as vital to the existence of the trade union

movement as any of the preceding phases in its history."

These words are so relevant to auto workers today. In ways that Marcy had only begun to predict, workers in the auto and auto-parts industries continue to be ravaged by profit-hungry companies. More often than not their livelihoods are being destroyed with the aid of bankruptcy courts—at Dana, Delphi, Collins and Aikman, Tower Automotive, and the list goes on.

If Chrysler is sold, who is to say the new owners won't follow suit, citing the loss of \$1.5 billion in 2006.

Yet as this newspaper has often pointed out, when a corporation is in bankruptcy, it is no longer the owner but the debtor in possession. As the larg-

est creditors, the auto unions could legally exercise the right to seize the plants. They would merely be defending their right to their property—their jobs.

Interestingly, the same 1915 government-sponsored Commission on Industrial Relations, cited above as at least casually supporting job property rights, actually called for the abolition of private ownership of the U.S. coal industry. Influencing this conclusion by the commission, which was set up to investigate the causes of labor unrest, was the massacre of Colorado coal miners by John D. Rockefeller's hired guns.

The report recommended turning all of the mines over to the miners to run them collectively!

Now would be a good time for auto workers to speak out for their right to take over the plants. Could they possibly do a worse job than their bosses? Besides, they would only be defending their legal and human rights. □



LABOR HISTORY

## Workers demand jobs and CORI reforms

By Gerry Scoppettuolo  
Boston

A thousand mostly African-American and Latin@ workers marched on the Massachusetts Statehouse on April 19 demanding jobs and Criminal Offender Records Information (CORI) reform. Though the action started at 10 a.m. on a weekday, busloads of people from Springfield and Worcester, Mass., joined unemployed rank-and-file workers from Boston's neighborhoods. The militant march shut down major streets in the downtown area, defying repeated police attempts to move it onto the sidewalk, as it traversed the miles from Malcolm X Boulevard in Roxbury to the Boston Common.

CORI laws give employers access to job applicants' criminal records and job dismissals dating back decades. These laws are designed to make it hard or impossible for workers to get a job, any job, keeping many workers in a permanent status of unemployment. Due to the racist nature of the court system, CORI laws hurt people of color the most and are part of a general assault on all working people. CORI acts the same way as the "pass laws" did in apartheid South Africa: a permanent and official bar to good jobs and hopeful futures.

Landlords also have unfettered access to CORI, resulting in the permanent homelessness of growing ranks of people forced through the criminal justice system. Throughout the state, it is common that entire families are collectively punished with eviction from public housing due to the alleged "crime" of a young family member. Since the beginning of the era of "homeland security," employed workers are increasingly losing their jobs and their housing when government agencies, act-



Black Workers Alliance takes to Boston's streets

WW PHOTO: MAUREEN SKEHAN

### IN SPAIN, AUSTRALIA

## Auto workers strike to save jobs, benefits

By Martha Grevatt

Since the February announcement that Delphi, the former parts division of General Motors, would close a plant in Puerta Real, Spain, the workers have been fighting back. They have held massive demonstrations, have sat down inside the plant, and have blocked the plant entrance with burning barricades.

On April 18 the struggle to save 1,600 Delphi jobs and thousands more directly affected took a huge step forward with a one-day general strike. Called 90 percent successful by Spanish unions, the strike brought out hundreds of thousands of workers, shutting down 14 municipalities in the province of Cádiz. "Silent" is how the unions described the cities, with public transportation barely running and garbage pickup nonexistent.

Hundreds of militant workers protested outside the Interior Ministry office in Cádiz, shouting: "If Delphi closes, war, war, war." Similar actions took place in other municipalities, while in Barcelona some 300 Delphi workers marched in solidarity.

Pressed, Spanish Prime Minister José Zapatero has stated that "the government is not going to fail the workers of Delphi nor the Bay of Cádiz."

All over the world, auto workers are beginning to realize that only dramatic, militant action can stave off the global corporate assault. On April 12, workers at the Coghlan-Russell plant in Geelong, Australia, staged a sit down strike, after being idled without pay and being denied entitlement benefits. Ten days later, Ford, one of Coghlan-Russell's two major customers, came up with \$1 million to keep the plant open for at least a year. The 49 victorious strikers are returning to work. □

ing with extra-judicial powers under the boss's notion of "guilty until proven innocent," take away professional licenses and work permits due to mere allegations and unprocessed arrests.

The April 19 march was organized by the Boston Workers Alliance, a blossoming organization of Boston City Councilor Chuck Turner's District 7 Roundtable. Security and police liaison was commanded by Bishop Felipe Teixeira, with support from "Team Unity" Boston City Councilors Felix Arroyo, Sam Yoon and Charles Yancey, Cambridge Mayor Ken Reeves, and Ex-Prisoners and Prisoners Organizing for Community Advancement (EPOCA).

Fielding solidarity contingents were the Women's Lunch Place, the Union of Minority Neighborhoods, the International Action Center, the Rosa Parks Human Rights Day Committee, the Jericho Movement, Community Change Inc., Project Hip Hop, and the Boston School Bus Drivers Union, which drove

Continued on next page

# One-day Detroit Workers World conference: A great success

By Kris Hamel  
Detroit

Workers World Party in Detroit hosted a one-day school and mini-conference on Marxism and Revolution on April 21. Activists came from Cleveland, Chicago, Grand Rapids and E. Lansing, Mich., as well from Detroit and the metropolitan area.

Party members and friends—including new friends and youths—heard the opening keynote talk by Leslie Feinberg from New Jersey, a Workers World newspaper managing editor and well-known author and leader in the lesbian, gay, bi and trans (LGBT) movement. Feinberg powerfully recounted her own introduction as a Jewish transgender lesbian worker to the Workers World Party branch in Buffalo in 1973 in order to explain concepts relating to Marxism as applied today by a revolutionary party.

A panel of leading women comrades then expanded on three key aspects: Debbie Johnson on the national question and national oppression, Cheryl LaBash on Marxist economics and the nature of



Some of the participants in the Marxism and Revolution conference in Detroit, April 21.

capitalism, and Martha Grevatt on the origins of gender—women's and LGBT—oppression and how ending class society will abolish it.

The afternoon session heard from Willie "JR" Fleming of Chicago on the struggle against rampant police brutality and anti-racist housing struggles in that city. Party leader Jerry Goldberg spoke on applying Marxism to today's struggles by utilizing transitional demands and how to do it.

LeiLani Dowell of New York City, a Workers World newspaper managing editor and leader of the youth organization FIST—Fight Imperialism, Stand Together—ended with a talk on what it means to belong to a revolutionary party like WWP. After the conference, four young people signed up to go to Cuba this summer on a youth brigade being organized by FIST.

Between presentations, a lively dis-

cussion took place on many topics, with participants applying Marxist theory to today's struggles and the ultimate struggle for socialism and communism. A short animated documentary, "The Manifestoon," was shown, and an old-fashioned protest sing-along rounded out the program.

Conference participants left the day-long event uplifted by the high level of political discussion and focus on Marxism and the party. □

## 'Poison DUst' director explains video

By Workers World Milwaukee Bureau

Community members and political activists attended the Milwaukee premier film screening of the Peoples Video Network (PVN) documentary "Poison DUst" on April 21 at the Center Street Library, an important gathering space for the Black community. The event was dedicated to long-time International Action Center organizer Rachael Nasca, who died unexpectedly on March 22.

A slate of community activists spoke before Sue Harris, director of "Poison DUst," screened the documentary and engaged in a question and answer session.

IAC-Milwaukee member Bryan G. Pfeifer opened the program by describing the origins, history and mission of the IAC. He hailed recent youth actions in Wisconsin—including a recent protest against an Army recruiting station for which 21 youth were arrested, youth pro-

testing restrictive racist policies at Mayfair Mall, and the occupation of the multi-millionaire Sen. Herb Kohl's Madison office by dozens of members of the Campus Anti-War Network. He ended by calling on all those present to support the May 1 "Day without Latinos" statewide civil rights march and boycott sponsored by Milwaukee-based Voces de la Frontera.

Leaflets for the May 1 action were distributed, as were "Stop the War on Iran" posters and announcements of upcoming events sponsored by the Industrial Workers of the World, the Latin American Solidarity Committee at UW-Milwaukee and Africans on the Move.

People's poet De'Shawn Ewing (Pyramid) electrified the crowd with two of his poems connecting the domestic war and the U.S. war on Iraq and other countries. Ewing's words interspersed these

themes with themes of the Black freedom struggle, including the murder of Emmett Till.

Ammar Nsoroma, a member of Africans on the Move and the Pan African Revolutionary Socialist Party and a well-known people's artist in Milwaukee with many murals throughout the city to his credit, said that the war on Iraq is an outgrowth of capitalism and imperialism and that to end all wars for profit these economic systems must be abolished and replaced with socialism.

During the question and answer session Harris described how "Poison DUst" has been screened numerous times publicly throughout the United States and internationally, including in Cuba, Korea and Japan.

One woman described her outrage at not hearing about depleted uranium any-

where in the corporate media until she received a leaflet for this event. She said she would now be getting the word out and asked for more information, as did many others.

During and after the event many took copies of "Poison DUst" for personal viewing but also to screen for loved ones, veterans and at other community spaces.

Longtime community activist and people's poet Eric Jefferson closed with his poem "Blessed Summer."

The Peoples Video Network donated a copy of "Poison DUst" to the Center Street Library and a copy to the Central Library that could potentially be circulated throughout the 30 branches in the Milwaukee County Library System.

To obtain a copy of "Poison DUst" call PVN at 212-633-6646 or see [www.peoplesvideo.org](http://www.peoplesvideo.org). □

## Anti-brutality group to host block party

By Tracy Schilling  
Denver

Colorado Communities United Against Police Brutality will be hosting its first community block party in mid-May.

Denver area citizens formed Colorado CUAPB in October 2006, after Loree McCormick-Rice and her daughter, Cassidy, were brutalized by Officer DeShazer of the Aurora Police Department. The group is a coalition that currently includes members of the Mexican National Liberation Movement, the International Action Center, Cop Watch, and the New Black Panther Party, along with other individuals.

CUAPB actively resists some of the most common forms of oppression: brutality, harassment, and persecution by law enforcement and social service agents.

Members assist those being targeted by drawing public attention to these abuses through demonstrations and media exposure; observing and recording police stops in progress—known as "cop-watching"; providing legal referrals and information about people's rights; and attending court with defendants whose rights have been violated.

Since the police and other agents of the state most often perpetrate their abuses against persons and communities of color, CUAPB encourages members of these communities to unite to fight back against their common oppressor. At the same time, the organization recognizes that there are differences in their struggles, and promotes self-determination for these oppressed communities.

CUAPB mainly focuses on local police brutality. However, the coalition recognizes and seeks to spread awareness about the connection between the local and international struggles of oppressed peoples against imperialism.

The purpose of having community block parties is to raise awareness about the prevalence and extent of the abuses, and to organize resistance against them.

The first gathering, the Malcolm X block party, will occur on May 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. It will be held at La Raza Park in Denver, which is on the northeast corner of Osage St. and W. 38th Ave. CUAPB intends for the park to be a "no drugs, no alcohol, and no cops zone" during the event.

The block party will feature M1, from the rap group dead prez. Other perform-

ers will be local, and will include Paas, Jaime from the Flo Bots, and AKX. There will be speakers including Glenn Morris of the Colorado American Indian Movement (CO AIM); Melissa Kleinman of Fight Imperialism, Stand Together (FIST); Glenn Spagnuolo of Recreate 68; Larry Hales, Danny Salcido and Shareef Aleem of CUAPB; and Dahlia Wasfi, an Iraqi woman, who will speak about the U.S. war on and occupation of Iraq.

While the theme of the party will be seriously political, the gathering will also be fun and family-friendly. There will be no charge for food and beverages. Services such as massage therapy, acupuncture, confidential HIV/AIDS testing, and self-defense and street medic training will also be offered for free. Youth will be invited to help paint a mural of political heroes.

As a way toward holding the police accountable, CUAPB plans to form a people's tribunal to review cases of police brutality and other state abuses, and to expose the perpetrators and pressure officials to truly bring about "justice for all."

To get involved, come to the Malcolm X party for some serious fun or call the Colorado CUAPB hotline at 303-279-6348. □

Continued from page 4

a sound truck. Student groups from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Boston College, Roxbury Community College and Harvard College also joined the line.

According to Boston Workers' Alliance, "For entry-level applicants, Black people with criminal records have a 5-percent chance of being called back for interviews. Black people without records have a 14-percent chance. Whites with records have 17-percent chance, and whites without records have 34-percent chance." (BWA CORI fact sheet) In fact, a person's race is one of the first things that is placed in the CORI criminal record. CORI is therefore a green light to employers and landlords to engage in racial profiling. It marks someone for inferior treatment based on nothing but a profile and a history.

Following a rally at the Boston Common, hundreds of marchers occupied the Massachusetts Statehouse for many hours, pressing their demands on legislators and the new governor, whose campaign promises included CORI reform. The protestors vowed to keep up the struggle, and many spoke of returning next week to join the May Day/Great American Boycott rallies and marches for immigrant rights. □

# History of Mexican-Black solidarity

Following are excerpts from a talk given by Debbie Johnson at a meeting in Detroit during Black History Month this year.

There is a long history of Mexicans welcoming and assisting Blacks fleeing American slavery. The fact of the matter is that when white “slave-hunting” militias would come into Mexico demanding that their “property”—the enslaved workers—be returned, many Mexicans rejected these pleas and were angered at the fact that these slave hunters would have the audacity to enter Mexico and attempt to impose their laws in a nation that had already banned slavery for moral and religious reasons.

As early as 1811, the Rev. Jose Morelos—a Mexican of African descent—led an all-Black army brigade to help fight for Mexican independence. In 1855 more than 4,000 runaway slaves were helped by Mexicans in Texas to escape and find freedom in Mexico. The Underground Railroad was not just into Canada. It went south as well.

Indeed, throughout three centuries, African slaves were joined by Mexicans in opposition to the exploitation of Africans by European “immigrants—settlers—on the North American continent. Just a few examples of this long and rich history of solidarity are:

- **In 1546, Mexico recorded the first conspiracy against slavery,** which occurred in Mexico City among a coalition of enslaved Africans and indigenous insurgents.

- **In 1609 in Vera Cruz, Mexico, Yanga established the first free pueblo** of formerly enslaved Africans in the Western Hemisphere.

- **In 1693 within the area of the “United States,”** which was in fact Mexican territory, an alliance between African runaways and rebellious indigenous tribes developed and resulted in considerable cooperation and intermarriages between them. It was much like that which developed between African people and the American Indian communities.

- **In 1820, in Mexico, the pro-independence army** commanded by Black Gen. Vicente Ramon Guerrero

was joined and saved by the courageous Mexican/Indigenous leader Pedro Ascencio. This army won many battles in resisting French and American colonial wars of occupation.

- **In 1836, during the battle of the Alamo,** Mexican troops fought not only to keep the U.S. from annexing Texas, but also to abolish the dreaded practice of slavery carried out by pro-slavery white settlers. While the Mexican people did not have to join in this fight, they believed slavery was wrong, and they helped fight to stop it. Mexicans consistently took in and helped Black slaves

who would run away from the U.S. Another “underground railroad”—this one south of the border—saved the lives and allowed the freedom of thousands of African people fleeing enslavement

by European settlers.

- **During the period before the Civil War, Mexican authorities refused to return enslaved runaways to the U.S.** slaveholders. Aided by Mexicans in Texas, thousands of runaways escaped to freedom in Mexico. The U.S. government had to send 20 percent of its whole army to the Mexican border to try to stop this and intimidate the Mexican people, but the people continued to aid escaping slaves.

- **In 1862, during the Civil War, at the same time French colonialists** had invaded Mexico seeking to take over. However, at the battle of Puebla on May 5, the Mexican defenders, with the help of freed African slaves—this army was considered the complete underdog—defeated and turned back the French invasion. It was a great victory, now celebrated as Cinco de Mayo. This victory was also a blow to the slaveholders of the United States.

- **One historical event, organized through the solidarity of Mexican, Blacks, Indigenous and Asian people, was the “Plan de San Diego.”** This was intended as a general uprising by these peoples joined in the Southwest, initiated in an effort to regain the lands stolen in the U.S.’s aggression in the 1840s, which include California, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and other states of what is now the U.S. Southwest. The

plan actually addressed and recognized the contributions of Blacks, Asians and Indigenous people by granting them freedom and autonomy. Although the plan was not successful, it revealed the long history of solidarity of peoples of color in struggle against those who would enslave them.

- **In 1866, Mexican President Benito Juarez confirmed an 1851 land grant giving Black people in Mexico a sizeable place of refuge at Nacimiento.**

- **More recently, in 1960, the Latin American communities were excited by the hosting of the Cuban delegation, led by Fidel Castro** in their historic visit to Harlem and the United Nations. This pride and joy was shared and celebrated equally by the African American community.

- **In 1964 that joint celebration and welcome was laid out by the African American and Latino community to the heroic revolutionary leader Che Guevara.** The pride and joy of each of these communities with the presence of Che would be remembered and celebrated for years.

- **In that year, Che Guevara also met with the revered Malcolm X, as Malcolm offered his solidarity and appreciation for the work Che had done with freedom fighters in the Congo as they fought against the neocolonial “immigrants” [settlers] there.**

- **In 1968, solidarity was developed in Southern California** and the Southwest among the Brown Berets, Black Panthers, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and other progressive youth organizations.

- **In 1992, during the April 29 rebellion in Los Angeles, Latino and African American neighbors** recognized their common plight, and demonstrated their collective rage against continuing acts of injustice, oppression and exploitation.

- **Then came the magnificent immigrant-rights demonstrations** of last spring. What glorious events they were, across the country, in wave after wave of white and brown—the white clothing of the millions of demonstrators and the brown faces of the Latino/ Mexican peoples who were joined by Central America and South American workers, which were also joined by Caribbean, Asian, African, and African American allies. Make no mistake about it, this class solidarity shook the ruling class to its very toes. It frightened and deeply worried them. It gave a glimpse, even in the midst of periods of reaction, of the crucial struggles that are on the agenda.

The current attacks against immigrants must be seen as attacks on all workers. This current assault on Latinos/Mexicans is just another tactic—like racism, homophobia and sexism, that the ruling class uses to pit workers against each other. The only winners when this happens are always the bosses. □

## PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF STRUGGLE

## Grand march for amnesty announced

By V. Edwards  
San Francisco

Immigrant- and workers'-rights groups working together as the Movement for an Unconditional Amnesty held a news conference at the Mission Cultural Center here in San Francisco on April 18 to announce the upcoming “Grand March for Unconditional Amnesty,” set for May 1.

The march will assemble at noon in Dolores Park and will end with a rally at the Civic Center.

Speakers representing the movement came from various groups and all spoke in support of unconditional amnesty for all. They stressed the fact that global economic restructuring victimizes millions of workers around the world, forcing them to emigrate to try to secure their families' survival.

The movement's demands include:

legal permanent residency now, no to HR 1645, stop the brutal raids and the separation of families, no more deportations, stop the militarization of the borders, no more deaths, no to the “Guest Worker Program,” no exploitation, no slavery, liberation of all detainees and closure of detention centers, and respect the rights of immigrant workers.

Speakers at the news conference included: Claudia Arrollo, an artist with a political-theatre group; Lucrecia Bermudez of the Movement for Immigrant Rights; Clarence Thomas of the Longshore Workers Union; Marko Maillano from the Kabataang maka-Bayan Pro-People Youth; Gloria La Riva from the San Francisco Labor Council; Lupita, a representative from the office of San Francisco Supervisor Sandoval; and Ramon Cardona of the International Institute of the East Bay. All are members of the Movement for Unconditional Amnesty. □



Kojo Livingston, Darrel 'Sess 4-5' Warren, Ryan Wadsworth, Arthur Saenz

WW PHOTO:

## Meeting highlights Katrina-Rita disasters

By Gloria Verdieu  
San Diego

On April 21 organizers Kojo Livingston and Darrel “Sess 4-5” Warren began the first leg of the People's Hurricane and Relief Fund's West Coast Tour here in San Diego. The Coffee House on 30th and Broadway was standing room only. A very diverse crowd came to get an update on what is happening on the Gulf Coast 18 months after Hurricanes Rita and Katrina hit.

Students came from San Diego State University, Point Loma High School, San Diego FIST (Fight Imperialism - Stand Together) as well as some teachers from some of the local schools. Tchaiko

Kwayana from Point Loma High School spoke of some of the work students at that school are doing to get books, art supplies and computers to the schools in New Orleans. Some students from SDSU had gone to New Orleans during spring break to see it for themselves as well as to find out what they could do to help.

The program started with filmmaker Arthur Saenz showing his video “Down But Not Out.” This film set the tone for Sess and Livingston to talk about the struggles that the people in New Orleans are dealing with on a day-to-day basis.

The two organizers will also be meeting with activists in Los Angeles, Santa Cruz and San Francisco. □

# Why Black workers should support immigrant rights

By John Parker

As Saladin Muhammad of the Southern-based Black Workers for Justice stated so well, the Black struggle is fundamental to any struggle for justice since it is African slave labor that created the economic base and the political base to control the vast stolen wealth in this country.

That struggle makes this national liberation movement of an oppressed people permanently attached to the general working class struggle for liberation. This is why it became the standard bearer and representative of all the struggles for self determination of oppressed people and labor rights here in the U.S.

The demand for self determination was dramatically highlighted by the immigrant community, led by Latin@ workers on May 1, 2006. And, by calling for a boycott and utilizing aspects of a general strike, it made it clear that this was also a labor issue—linking it, like the Black liberation struggle, to the overall struggle for working-class liberation.

Given the potency of these two movements it is essential that a strategic alliance be made between the African-American and Latin@ movements that is concrete and deals with the most pressing issues facing both communities.

In terms of supporting immigrants, some in the Black community ask the question, What have they done for us?

This is an understandable question given that the Black struggle in this country has been ignored to the point of condoning genocide. Just look at how organized labor failed to rise to the occasion during the Katrina crisis, nor did the progressive movement in a big organized and consistent way. Although there are many examples of individual organizations and activists who were heroic in that struggle, a movement in defense of Katrina survivors has yet to get off the ground.

The ruling class makes great use of these inadequacies in our movement and plays the same game on Black, Asian and Latin@ workers that was played in the 1930s on white workers to convince them that they had no interest in uniting and building solidarity with Black workers. Although only the bosses controlled the amount of jobs available, they pushed the idea that Black workers were stealing their jobs and community resources. Because of this they were able for many years to convince white workers that Black workers should not be in their unions. By cre-

ating division through the further promotion of white supremacy and the super-exploitation of Black workers they were able to keep the union movement weak and the amount of jobs, wages, benefits and quality of life of white workers as low as possible.

Today, as if following the same script, there is an unrelenting drive by the ruling class in this country to divide Black, Asian and Latin@ people through sensational stories of atrocities by one against the other in the corporate media.

Regarding Mexican immigrants and their children, the message says that what helps Mexican people hurts Black people. And, what hurts Mexican people is no concern of African Americans. In addition, the powers that be tell us that Mexican and Chicano people have never done anything in defense of Black people.

The only way you can come to this conclusion is to ignore history.

It was not too long ago that African slaves here would escape, not only heading north during slavery, but south to Mexico. They did this because the

Mexican people and their government provided sanctuary and included those African refugees into their families. Even though the U.S. government threatened war against Mexico for this, the Mexican government did not budge (see article on page 6 on this history).

We have much in common. We are each other's neighbors in most parts of Los Angeles. Therefore police harassment and killings in our neighborhoods affect us both. And, as the government and local authorities step up the raids and deportations that separate Latin@ families (as the slave blocks did to African families during slavery), Black people in this country will be affected. In these roundups that leave children as orphans, the only criteria of these armed immigration gangsters who storm into workplaces and houses in the Black and Latin@ communities is this: do you look non-European?

Now there are calls from Congress to deputize local police as federal immigration agents. Imagine how threatened we in the Black community will be if the LAPD gets a hyper boost to their powers

of harassment and lethal force.

This year's May 1 Boycott rally in Los Angeles includes Cynthia McKinney as a keynote speaker and is demanding an end to these raids and deportations as well as demanding justice for the survivors of Katrina victims and an end to police and state terror against the Black community.

Rosa Parks showed the way by inspiring the Montgomery Bus Boycott. That movement was responsible for lifting the quality of life of every working person in this country. That is the potential of this latest boycott.

Please join Cynthia McKinney and others on May 1 at 12 noon at Olympic and Broadway in Los Angeles and let's build that strong united movement for jobs, education, health care and against U.S. war.

*Parker is West Coast coordinator of the International Action Center and Coordinating Committee member of the National May 1 Movement for Worker and Immigrant Rights (www.mayday-movement.blogspot.com)*

## Mumia supporters expose police terror

*Following are excerpts from a N.Y. Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition press release.*

On April 23, a press conference was held on the steps of City Hall in New York denouncing the outrageous and illegal police tactics aimed at silencing support for internationally renowned journalist and writer, Mumia Abu-Jamal, who has been on Pennsylvania's death row for almost a quarter of a century.

A Hip Hop concert, organized by young supporters of Abu-Jamal, was scheduled to take place on April 15 at the Remote Lounge. For a week prior to the scheduled concert, the police pressured the club owner to cancel the event, but the owner stood firm. Then, two nights before the scheduled event, the police barged in on the club, issued 16 citations, involving thousands of dollars in fines, and escalated the threats against the owner. Fearing for his family and himself, the owner at this point cancelled the event. The event was promptly moved to Solidarity Center and was held with great enthusiasm, but with anger at the police action.

The case of Mumia Abu-Jamal will be heard on May 17 before the Third Circuit



WWW PHOTO: LAL ROOHK

From left to right, Gwen Dobrow, Monica Moorehead, City Councilperson Charles Barron, Orrie Lumumba & Suzanne Ross at City Hall press conference.

Court of Appeals in Philadelphia. Mumia has his first real chance of winning a new trial in that court after being convicted of the murder of a policeman almost 25 years ago. The Fraternal Order of Police, the prosecution and their allies are doing everything possible to undermine that possibility.

It is in that context that the attack on the Remote Lounge must be responded to seriously, as it mirrors a long history of similar actions in Philadelphia. In that city, a scheduled event highlighting famed actor Danny Glover for April 24, Mumia's birthday, at the Clef Club, was just moved because of similar police tactics. □

## Immigrants to strike, boycott, march

Special to Workers World

Last year's massive immigrant worker protests stopped the repressive Sensenbrenner Bill. This year the situation for immigrant workers is still precarious, and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) department has stepped up its roundups of immigrant workers, often tearing families apart and leaving children without care.

Faced with this situation, the movement of immigrant workers has planned another day of protest on May Day. Javier Rodriguez is the media and political strategist for the March 25 Coalition responsible for last year's massive demonstrations first in Los Angeles and then in other parts of the country and a co-founder of this year's May 1st National Movement.

In an April 19 interview on Democracy Now! Rodriguez expressed optimism about the group's expectations this year: "We have 63 organizations that have convened the second national boycott for May 1: Great American Boycott II," he says. "We have at this time approximately 16 states on the list with about 75 cities, all the major cities in the country, from Los Angeles all the way to New York."

### 'Corporate-designed reform'

Meanwhile Democratic Congress members have proposed new legislation known as the STRIVE Act or the Gutierrez-Flake Bill. While this proposal doesn't contain all the repressive elements that the Sensenbrenner Bill did, it falls far short of what most immigrants are willing to settle for. Rodriguez called the STRIVE

Act "corporate-designed immigration reform."

"We defeated Sensenbrenner and the Hagel-Martinez bill," he continues. "And a new version of immigration reform has come to the fore. ... The difference now, in terms of us, we're a lot better organized. We have been able to pretty much consolidate the mass movement."

For May 1, said Rodriguez, "we expect a large turnout, not just on the streets in over 75 cities, but also the boycott. ... Last year, just in Los Angeles alone, we almost closed the whole city down. We had over four million people participating."

### Mexico and Venezuela

Rodriguez explained that the group has also organized in Mexico, where more than 1,000 organizations are participat-

ing. "And we are closing several of the ports of entry from Mexico to the United States. Last year, just from Juarez and El Paso from Juarez, over 40,000 workers refused to enter to work to El Paso on May 1. This time around, it will be Brownsville, Reynosa/McAllen border, and also Juarez again." Venezuela will also be participating, he said.

On the West Coast of the U.S. the International Longshore Workers Union has passed a resolution to close down the ports on May 1. "The trucking industry, those that pull the cargo, also are with us. ... United Teachers of Los Angeles are with us, [as well as] the major coalitions in the country that closed down the cities last year in San Antonio, the Border Social Forum; in New York, the May 1 Coalition; and others." □

## World conference in Caracas

# Women back Nobel nomination for Evo Morales



May Day, Bolivia 2006.

By Kris Hamel  
Caracas, Venezuela

More than 1,000 participants here at the 14th World Congress of the Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF) had the opportunity to add their names to petitions urging the selection of Bolivia's President Evo Morales Ayma for the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize.

Morales, from the Aymara nation, is the first Indigenous president of Bolivia, the poorest country in South America despite its riches in minerals and natural gas. The Indigenous peoples of Bolivia have been brutally repressed during 500 years of colonial occupation and political dictatorship supported by the country's wealthy elite and right-wing oligarchy with the backing of the U.S. government.

Morales won a landslide victory in the December 2005 election after years of activism and a campaign that relied on

support from social movements, which are organizations of neighborhoods and areas, Indigenous groups, peasants, students and workers. He has begun implementing plans for the nationalization of natural gas and other resources and agrarian reform to take arable land from a handful of wealthy families and redistribute it to the poor.

The six-language Web site, "Evo Morales Premio Nobel de la Paz 2007" ([www.evonobel2007.org](http://www.evonobel2007.org)), describes the fundamental reasons why the Bolivian president deserves this year's Nobel Peace Prize. They include his struggle for dignifying the original peoples of Bolivia, of the Americas and of the world; his respect for cultural diversity; his defense of the sovereignty and self-determination of the peoples; his defense of natural resources and care of the environment and ecology; his governing with partici-

pation of the social movements; and his permanent fight for social justice, Latin American and Caribbean integration, and peace and coexistence among the nations.

Bolivian activists are urging progressive people around the world to support the nomination of Evo Morales for the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. They ask that the following norms be adhered to in adding a "solid endorsement" of Morales for the award: 1) signatures must include a person's first and last name, profession, city and country; 2) organizations and institutions should include the organization's name, the principal activity to which it is devoted, and country; and the message or endorsement should be addressed to "International Campaign Evo Morales Nobel Peace Prize 2007." Signatures and endorsements should be emailed to [solidaridad@evonobel2007.org](mailto:solidaridad@evonobel2007.org). □

# Cuba asks worldwide protests over terrorist Posada

By Brenda Ryan

Demonstrations were held throughout Cuba after a U.S. court released terrorist Luis Posada Carriles from a Texas jail. Posada is to go to trial May 11 on charges of entering the U.S. "illegally." But the people of Cuba want him to be tried for blowing up a commercial Cuban airliner in 1976.

In the most moving demonstration, the families of the 73 people killed on the Cuban jet held a vigil outside the U.S. mission in Havana on April 20, holding aloft large photographs of those killed by Posada.

The Women's International Democratic Federation of Cuba is asking organizations around the world to hold protests on May 11 to demand that Posada be extradited to Venezuela to be prosecuted. He was convicted in Venezuela in 1976 for masterminding the bombing but escaped from prison in 1985 and went to El Salvador. In 2005 he secretly entered the U.S. to seek asylum and three months later was

arrested in Miami.

The federal court in El Paso, Texas, had announced April 4 that it would not grant Posada bail, but U.S. District Judge Kathleen Cardone reversed the decision the following day. Posada was released on \$350,000 bail on April 19. In her order Cardone said the federal charges against the "frail" 79-year-old Posada concerned only his entry into the United States, not his actions outside the country.

In an interview in Juventud Rebelde, the newspaper of Cuban youth, José Pertierra, a lawyer representing the Venezuelan government, said, "The U.S. government should have deemed Posada as a terrorist or as a person whose release from prison could pose a harm to the country's foreign relations.

"Instead of doing this, the government opted, on Jan. 11, 2007, to move him from the custody of the Homeland Security Department to the custody of federal marshals, and to try him for committing migratory fraud," Pertierra said. "Therefore, the judge gave her verdict

based on the lightness of the charges, the old age of Posada and his delicate health."

The Bush administration has refused repeated requests by the Venezuelan government to extradite Posada. For decades it has backed his terrorist activities.

Posada was recruited by the Central Intelligence Agency in the 1960s and trained for the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion. After escaping from prison in Venezuela he was involved in Washington's war against the Nicaraguan Sandinistas in the 1980s. He also waged other terrorist campaigns in Cuba. In a 1998 interview in the New York Times he claimed responsibility for a string of hotel bombings in Havana in which 11 people were injured and an Italian businessman killed. He also plotted to assassinate Fidel Castro during an Ibero-American summit meeting in 2000. He was imprisoned in Panama for the conspiracy but pardoned by the president of Panama in 2004.

Cuban President Fidel Castro denounced Judge Cardone's release of Posada in

a message in Granma. The verdict "could only have come from the White House," he wrote. "The government of the United States and its most representative institutions had already decided to release the monster."

"The people who trained him and ordered him to destroy a Cuban passenger plane in midair with 73 athletes, students and other Cuban and foreign travelers on board, together with its dedicated crew ... could not possibly act any different," he said.

Castro noted that added to this injustice, the Cuban Five, who were imprisoned in the U.S. for supplying information on terrorist conspiracies against Cuba, "were condemned in a fraudulent manner to sentences that include two life sentences and they stoically withstand cruel mistreatment."

In its call for protests for the extradition of Posada, the Cuban Women's Federation also demands freedom for the five Cuban heroes, "the true anti-terrorist fighters." □

# Protests greet Bush over Iraq war

Special to Workers World

In a week when a bomb attack on a U.S. base near Baghdad killed nine and wounded 20 U.S. troops and when the puppet prime minister of Iraq pleaded with the U.S. command to stop building a wall to split Iraq's capital city, protests against the Iraq war and especially against the U.S. president continued throughout the country.

On April 20, with Bush speaking in Grand Rapids, Mich., hundreds came out to line the streets demanding that the troops be brought home, with some calling for President George Bush's impeachment.

On April 21 over 400 people marched and rallied in Greensboro, N.C., against the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, against torture and for the impeachment of Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney.

Groups that took part and/or spoke included Action Center For Justice, Chapel Hill Students for a Democratic Society, CodePink Charlotte, Grassroots Impeachment Movement (GRIM),



Grand Rapids, Mich., April 20.

Greensboro Peace Coalition, Justice at Smithfield Campaign, NC Labor Against The War, UNCG Campus Anti-War Coalition, Cakalak Thunder drummers, the World Can't Wait, ANSWER and

Troops Out Now Coalition, musical performances and others.

Local activists with Food Not Bombs provided food and drinks to the protesters.

The two keynote speakers in Greensboro were Cindy Sheehan, founder of Gold Star Families For Peace, and Terri Johnson, Iraq War GI resister.

David Dixon contributed to this article.

PHOTO: TAMARA ST. CLAIR



# Women's delegation meets Cuban 5's relatives

Members of the U.S. delegation to the 14th Congress of the Women's International Democratic Federation had the opportunity to meet with Irma Schwerert, mother of René González, and Rosa Aurora Freijanes, wife of Fernando González. The following are excerpts from their remarks. The Congress was held from April 9-13 in Caracas, Venezuela.

## Irma Schwerert

When we arrived in Venezuela, the first thing we did was ask when the U.S. delegation would arrive. We believe that the people of the United States are most important to the case of the Five.

Oral appeals will be held in the case of the Five in August, and we are urging you to contact the press, the State Department and the prosecutor to let them know that the world has its eyes on this case.

The worst problem with the case is that more people in the United States do not know about the case. We should ask the press, if there were five people who knew in advance about the World Trade Center attacks, wouldn't they be regarded as heroes?

This is a purely political case, and news of it is being silenced because the U.S. government cannot explain to the people of the United States how, if they are fighting the "war on terror," they could have imprisoned five men who are fighting terror, and then released known terrorist Luis Posada Carriles.

We know the sentiment of the people of the United States, and know that they will defend our cause.

The case is now in appeals, but the U.S. government is going to try to drag it out

and make it endless. Only a political struggle will free the Five.

Meanwhile, the relatives of the Five have been denied visas to the United States—preventing them from visiting their loved ones—and told they are a threat to U.S. security.

To the mothers in the United States who have lost their children to the unjust war in Iraq, we stand in solidarity. Their children have not died for a just cause, and it is very sad. We too have suffered, like them, the loss of our children.

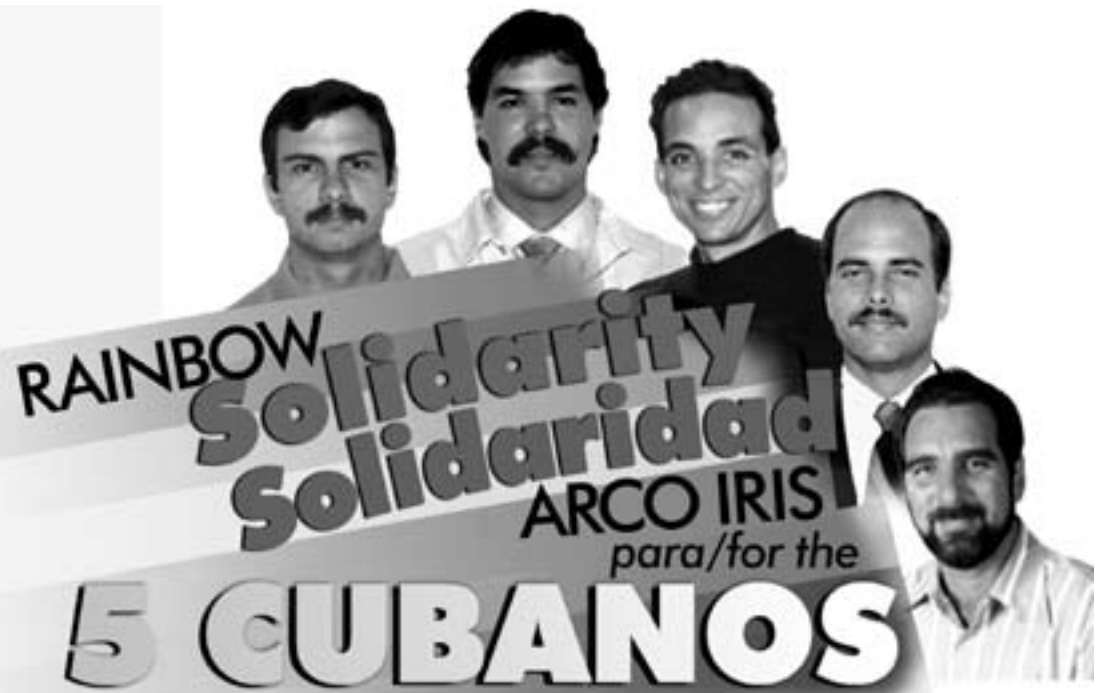
To all political prisoners—anybody who is in prison because of their defense of a cause—and their relatives in the United States, we say that the mode of force and ideology is accompanying them. Don't give up. The truth will prevail and all just struggles will win and grow forces. A big hug from Cuba! We love you.

## Rosa Aurora Freijanes

We have to continue the legal process in support of the Five, but we know that the fight won't be won in the courts.

This is not a short struggle. The Five have now been imprisoned for almost nine years. We must strengthen as well as speed up the campaign for public recognition of the case. We need to multiply the number of solidarity groups in the United States.

When the U.S. government says they are launching a "war against terror,"



Fernando González, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Gerardo Hernández and René González.  
www.freethefive.org

they speak of an unjust, double morality. The same goes for their version of "human rights"—what about the human rights of Olga [Salanueva, spouse of René González], Adriana [Pérez, spouse of Gerardo Hernández], René and Gerardo?

We are asking the movement in the United States: regardless of the campaign you are working on, please have the case of the Cuban Five present.

The Five, by attempting to prevent deaths in Cuba, were also attempting to prevent deaths in the United States. The same Miami terrorists involved in attacks against Cuba have also been involved in crimes against people in the United States.

When the Five were imprisoned, they made a call of solidarity to the people of the United States. For this, they were put in solitary confinement, where they remained for 17 months. When the appeals process began, they were also kept in solitary so they couldn't talk to their lawyers. They are now integrated in these high security prisons, which have had several bloody incidents.

Regardless, the Five stay firm in their principles and the cause for which they have already given years of their lives.

For more information on the case of the Cuban Five, visit [www.antiterroristas.cu](http://www.antiterroristas.cu), [www.freethefive.org](http://www.freethefive.org), or [www.freethefive.org](http://www.freethefive.org).

## French Elections

# Centrist to face rightwinger in second round

By G. Dunkel

Over 84 percent of registered voters cast their ballots April 22 for one of the dozen candidates running in the first round of France's presidential election. The two candidates going on to the May 6 second round are Nicolas Sarkozy of the right-wing Union for a Popular Movement (UMP), who got 31.2 percent of the vote, and Ségolène Royal of the centrist Socialist Party with 25.9 percent. These vote totals are the official results released by the Ministry of the Interior.

While the U.S. news media are presenting the second round as a clear choice between left and right, it really is a choice between a candidate, Royal, who offers a soft approach to controlling and exploiting the workers and the oppressed and another candidate, Sarkozy, who has a hard and abrasive approach.

Sarkozy has been particularly hostile toward the working-class families of North African and sub-Saharan African origin who live in the suburbs, or banlieues, of French cities. There was a large turnout of voters there.

In 2005, the banlieues erupted in a six-week-long rebellion over racist police repression, poor housing, lack of jobs and lack of opportunities. Thousands of cars, government buildings—like police substations and post offices—and bank branches were burned.

Sarkozy was interior minister at the time, and in charge of putting down the rebellion. He used violent force and vitriolic denunciation, calling the protesters "scum and riffraff" who should be "pow-



French demonstrators say 'quarantine' fascist Jean-Marie Le Pen.

er hosed out of their communities and France." A large majority of those arrested were French citizens, born in France, although often with parents or grandparents who were immigrants.

After the revolt, there was an intense voter registration campaign in the banlieues, along with a major effort to document their grievances and let the broader French public know what they are. Over a million people in the banlieues registered and most of them voted April 22.

This revolt was a major but not open issue in the campaign. The pro-capitalist candidates preferred talking about identity, nationality and patriotism. Royal accused Sarkozy of inflaming divisions and opening up gulfs among the French

people. Her solution, however, was to urge students to learn the French national anthem and for families to keep a French flag in their pantry to display on patriotic holidays like Bastille Day.

Sarkozy urged tough enforcement of existing laws and tough new laws. He wants illegal immigrants rounded up and expeditiously sent home.

Sarkozy also wanted to win some of the supporters of Jean-Marie Le Pen, the candidate of the National Front (FN). The FN is called "far right" but a better characterization of it is "fascist." Le Pen boasts of having been an intelligence officer during the Algerian War, and a number of 2002 news reports conclusively tied him to cruel, bloody torture of supporters

of Algerian freedom during that war to maintain France's empire.

In 2002, because the Socialist Party candidate did so poorly, Le Pen managed to come in second. At that time the vast majority of left voters cast their ballots for the center-right Jacques Chirac, who won in a landslide.

Le Pen's presence in the 2007 campaign opened up a huge debate on the left. The question was whether to vote for real left candidates who opposed the neoliberal policies of privatization and cutting social services that were favored by all the capitalist candidates including Royal—or to vote for Royal to make sure she, and not Le Pen, would make the second round.

This debate cut the left parties' vote totals, which all together was only 10.5 percent. It was particularly sharp in the Communist Party, which drew under 2 percent of the vote, an historic low. But all the parties and organizations on the left had to address it.

Many believe that if the left parties had been able to maintain the unity they achieved during the campaign that defeated the European Union Constitution in 2005, they would have been able to run a more powerful campaign to challenge the neoliberal policies of the major capitalist parties.

The left party that most clearly solidarized itself with the struggles of the banlieues, the Revolutionary Communist League (LCR), did the best among the left with 4.1 percent of the vote. Neither the Workers Struggle party, the ecologists nor anti-globalization leader Jose Bove was able to have a significant impact. □

## Overturn the anti-abortion ruling

On April 18 the Supreme Court issued a 5-4 decision upholding a 2003 ban outlawing a procedure for second trimester abortions. In 2000 the court, in a 5-4 decision, found the ban unconstitutional because it denied an exemption to protect the health of the pregnant woman.

What's changed since 2000? It's the composition of the inherently undemocratic Supreme Court—whose justices are appointed for life by the president—with the retirement of Sandra Day O'Connor, who wrote the 2000 decision, and with two new Bush-appointed anti-choice justices on the bench.

By affirming this ban, five white men with no medical expertise trumped the American College of Gynecologists and Obstetricians, which has testified that the procedure is medically necessary.

Women will be maimed or die because of this decision.

The decision praised the sanctity of motherhood and patronized women, saying it was in women's best interests—because some women might regret having such a procedure at some point in the future.

Countering that, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg wrote in a minority opinion, "This way of thinking reflects ancient notions of women's place in the family and under the Constitution—ideas that have long since been discredited."

The New York Times called Justice Anthony Kennedy's opinion the "new paternalism." But there's nothing new about it. It's the "old patriarchy."

Patriarchy is the centuries-old subjugation of women under male authority—in the home and office, on the assembly line, and in the laws of the state.

While the women's liberation movement has succeeded in elevating women's economic and social status, patriarchy persists.

Women's right to abortion strikes at the very heart of patriarchy. It asserts that women have the right to control their bodies and their lives. That's why

there's such a profound, continuing struggle over abortion and all the other social, economic, cultural prerequisites needed for women's full reproductive rights.

President Bush praised the decision. It's a vital part of his reactionary agenda. Bush, the most notorious serial killer in the world today, had the audacity to say: "The Supreme Court's decision is an affirmation of the progress we have made over the past six years in protecting human dignity and upholding the sanctity of life."

What about the thousands of children in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Palestine who have died? What about poverty, homelessness, and hunger right here at home?

This decision is as much part of Bush's war against the workers and oppressed at home as are police brutality and state-sanctioned death-row lynching, below-poverty minimum wage, attacks on unions, raids and deportations against immigrant workers, and denial of same-sex marriage.

Anti-choice forces—part of Bush's base—will use the decision to attack abortion rights from any angle they can find in state and local legislatures. Already 30 states outlaw this type of abortion, and many are prepared to outlaw all abortion should Roe v. Wade be overturned—which Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas wrote that they were ready to do.

What can we do to fight this decision?

We have to mobilize in the streets. That's how we were able to win Roe in the first place. We have to say it loud and clear: having the right to abortion is essential for women's right to life.

Women and men supporters must rally and march, petition and protest in every corner of the country. That way we can build a strong, united movement to overturn this ruling.

Just as we fight to end the war in Iraq and to stop a war against Iran, we have to fight the war at home. This decision is an integral part of that war. □

## Supreme Court rule protested



Washington, D.C., April 2004. Women demand right to choose.

WWW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

About 150 mostly young women turned out on April 18 for a demonstration called on three hours' notice by NY-Naral ProChoice America. They were protesting the landmark misogynist Supreme Court decision upholding the ban on second trimester abortions. Sue Davis, a long-time reproductive rights activist, rallied the crowd to take to the streets to defend women's right to legal, safe, accessible abortion. "We won Roe v. Wade in 1973 when women all over the country marched to legalize abortion," she said. "That's what we have to do again—only in even greater numbers—to finally secure reproductive rights for all women."

—WW New York bureau

## Imperialist blockade and CIA anti-gay

### Behind the 1980 'Mariel

By Leslie Feinberg

Several thousand self-identified homosexual Cubans were among the some 120,000 who left the island over a two-month period in 1980 from the port of Mariel and sailed to the U.S. The media in the imperialist countries, whose capitalist classes are hell-bent on re-colonizing Cuba, broadcast an anti-communist interpretation of what produced that migration at Mariel.

Workers World Party founder Sam Marcy wrote, "The 1970s were the high point in Cuba's revolutionary influence, not only in Latin America but in Africa, Asia and even Europe. Cuba was part of a worldwide surge in the working-class movement and particularly among oppressed countries. U.S. imperialism was on the defensive, especially after its historic defeat in Vietnam and its inability to either crush or tame the Cuban Revolution." (Workers World newspaper, Sept. 22, 1994)

Cuban women and men were fighting bravely alongside their African comrades to defend the people of Angola, Namibia and Ethiopia from colonialism and imperialism.

U.S. finance capital tried to isolate and destroy the Cuban Revolution.

U.S. banks and corporations commanded Washington not to recognize Cuba's right to diplomatic recognition. Captains of the military-industrial complex ordered their generals and admirals to attack the island using various weapons—covert and overt—including enforcement of the economic blockade of the island, which is an illegal act of war. The Pentagon refused to retreat from the military base it built at Guantánamo—now a site where the interrogators incorporate anti-gay and anti-trans humiliation, rape and attempted dehumanization as part of their sadistic torture of Muslim men and boys.

And 1980 was the year that Ronald Reagan won the White House administration.

Marcy concluded, "A period began when the most intense economic, political and diplomatic pressure was exerted on Cuba. In the background was always the threat of U.S. military intervention, causing the Cuban government to spend a great deal of its resources on military defense."

#### CIA targeted homosexual Cubans

Between 1979 and 1984—before and after Mariel—scholars Lourdes Arguelles and B. Ruby Rich interviewed Cuban émigrés in the U.S., Spain, Mexico and Puerto Rico. The two researchers also interviewed Cubans who chose to stay on the island and be a part of building a socialist society.

The two summed up their scientific research in a report titled "Homosexuality, Homophobia, and Revolution: Notes Toward an Understanding of the Cuban Lesbian and Gay Male Experience." It was first published in the summer of 1984 in Signs, A Journal of Women in Culture and Society. (For more on immigration from Cuba after 1959, see Lavender & Red, part 90, workers.org.)

Arguelles and Rich reveal how U.S. finance capital used its secret police agency to politically target the same Cuban

homosexual/transgender population it had once exploited for profit.

"The year 1979 was an unsettled one," Arguelles and Rich wrote. "Even though living conditions were better than in any previous period and compared favorably with those in the rest of the Caribbean, there were serious problems." They pointed out that the economy suffered under the heavy weight of the U.S. blockade and suspicious outbreaks of biological epidemics destroyed harvests of cash crops. This forced Cubans to work harder and faster and for longer hours in order to raise overall productivity.

The U.S. allowed Cubans who had emigrated in the early years of the revolution to travel back to the island. Arguelles and Rich noted, "The visits of 'the American cousins' increased consumer envy and added to the effectiveness of counter-revolutionary propaganda.

"Lesbians and gay men were particularly vulnerable," they explained. "The CIA targeted the homosexual intelligentsia and worked to persuade its members to defect, promising generous academic grants and publishing contracts."

Arguelles and Rich continued, "The more cost-effective ploy of blackmail was also used, especially against those gays less willing to leave, in the hope that political anxiety would force victims into exile. Carlos Alberto Montaner, a Madrid-based anti-Castro writer, for example, published two full pages listing names of homosexuals inside Cuba in an attempt to discredit them and to encourage them to migrate. Such cynical 'assistance' in coming out continues to be a favored weapon against lesbians and gay men who are well integrated into the revolution."

The two researchers added, "The visits also provided a context in which Cuban lesbians and gay men could hear of the more open and affluent gay lifestyles available in the United States as a benefit of consumer capitalism. Other common reasons for wanting to emigrate included the lack of career

mobility in a still under-developed economy and, for men, a traditional desire for the adventure of travel that had to focus on emigration since the United States and other capitalist nations deny tourist visas to Cubans. For some Cuban gays (especially for the men), emigration also provided wider sexual parameters than they felt could ever be possible in Cuba."

#### Exception to a rotten rule

U.S. imperialism demonstrated how its laws either kneel to its overall capitalist class objectives, or are forced to bend.

After the Cuban Revolution shut down U.S. finance capital's burgeoning sex and casino industries that had exploited mass numbers of homosexuals, U.S. immigration authorities unofficially lifted the part of the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1952 that had been used to bar and deport those it labeled "sexually deviant"—but only for homosexual Cubans.

The Cold War Florida Legislative Investigation Committee made no mention of the influx of homosexual male Cubans into the state in its report on its own anti-gay witch hunt in 1964. The McCarthy-style state witch hunt tried

Continued on the next page



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

extortion

## boatlift'

to break up unity in the struggle against white-supremacist apartheid in the U.S. Deep South. (Lavender & Red, part 55, workers.org)

Washington lured Cubans to risk their lives at sea by creating an exception to immigration rules and quotas that barred legal migration to the U.S. Any Cuban who arrived on U.S. soil was promised admission, with perks.

Cuban President Fidel Castro challenged Washington's immigration manipulation and hypocrisy by opening the port at Mariel from April 21 to Sept. 28 in 1980, allowing any Cubans who wanted to leave to go to the U.S. Some 120,000 Cubans left, out of the country's total population of 11 million.

Even the estimates of how many homosexual Cubans left from Mariel in 1980 demonstrate political manipulation by the U.S. government.

Reporting for the publication Paris Match, Nina Sutton cited a "nonofficial State Department source" as saying at least 10,000 Cuban homosexuals had emigrated at Mariel. However, Julia Preston stated in the New York Village Voice dated Dec. 10-16, 1980, that "As many as 3,000 gay Cubans passed through refugee camps this summer. Now about 350 are left, almost all men, the others having been sponsored out mainly to gay communities throughout the country."

Gay Cubans were not welcomed into the homosexual-hating, right-wing-dominated Cuban émigré enclaves and anti-communist organizations.

## Under state duress

At U.S. borders, all individual immigrants face tremendous pressure under interrogation from border police, immigration judges and officials and in detention centers.

Researchers Lourdes Arguelles and B. Ruby Rich explained in 1984 that "Cuban 'refugee' testimony and subsequent conversations with the newly arrived Cubans, for example, becomes the main source for evaluation of Cuban gay life, despite knowledge of the pressures on émigrés to testify to political persecution in their country of origin in order to attain the legal and economic advantages of refugee status in their new country."

Arguelles and Rich stated, "The success of this interpretation has served anti-Cuban interests, most notably the American state, rather well. First, credibility of the story has neutralized badly needed support for the Cuban revolution among its natural allies (North American progressive lobbies) and legitimated the presence in traditionally liberal circles of some of the more reactionary elements within the Cuban émigré population."

Reinaldo Arenas left Mariel for the U.S. in 1980. Imperialist movie and banking capital—without which no star-studded, big budget movie is filmed or distributed—brought Arenas' memoir depicting life in Cuba as a "police state" for homosexuals to the screen. Leonardo Hechavarría and Marcel Hatch, in their October 2001 article "Gays in Cuba, from the Hollywood School of Falsification," categorically concluded, "We know of no Cuban, for or against their government, who finds the movie credible. Neither do smart gay activists." (For more about the movie, also see Lavender & Red, part 93.)

Next: 'Many more chose to stay.'  
E-mail: lfeinberg@workers.org.

## M★NDO OBRERO

## Gobierno de EEUU rehúsa acusar a Posada Carriles de homicidios

Por Cheryl LaBash

El gobierno de los EEUU tiene en su custodia a Luis Posada Carriles, quien organizó el atentado en pleno vuelo del avión de pasajeros civiles, matando a 73 personas en 1976 y quien también dirigió el estallido de bombas en hoteles turísticos cubanos en 1997. El plan de los EEUU es de dejarle libre de nuevo.

Las opciones legales son claras: extraditarlo o procesarlo. Venezuela, el país donde él planificó el atentado aéreo y desde donde se escapó de la cárcel en 1985, pidió su extradición en 2005.

La Convención para la Supresión de Actos Ilegales en contra de la Seguridad de la Aviación Civil, ratificada en 1971, requiere que él sea extraditado o procesado en el país donde esté residiendo, sin excepciones. Pero Posada Carriles, un asesino entrenado por la CIA, inconvenientemente expone el reino de terror de los EEUU perpetrado alrededor del mundo, especialmente en contra de Cuba socialista y de los movimientos por la autodeterminación en los países del Sur y Centroamérica.

Por eso Posada Carriles está detenido solamente por cargos de fraude e inmigración hasta su juicio el 11 de mayo. El 12 de abril le faltaba solo una firma para estar libre bajo fianza. Sólo una apelación a última hora en la Corte del Quinto Circuito de los Estados Unidos postergó su liberación hasta el 17 de abril. La única manera de continuar con el encarcelamiento de Posada es acusarlo de terrorismo y asesinato.

Pero, como escribió el Presidente Fidel Castro de Cuba el 10 de abril, para que al Presidente Bush "acuse a Posada Carriles es equivalente a acusarse a sí mismo."

"El más genuino representante de un sistema de terror que ha sido impuesto al mundo por la superioridad tecnológica, económica y política de la potencia más poderosa que ha conocido nuestro planeta, es sin duda George W. Bush. . . . Solo de la Casa Blanca podían proceder las instrucciones para el fallo dictado por Kathleen Cardone, jueza de la Corte Federal de El Paso, Texas, el pasado viernes, concediéndole la libertad bajo fianza a Luis Posada Carriles."

"Fue el propio presidente Bush quien eludió en todo momento el carácter criminal y terrorista del acusado. Se le protegió imputándole una simple violación de trámites migratorios. La respuesta es brutal. El gobierno de Estados Unidos y sus instituciones más representativas decidieron de antemano la libertad del monstruo."

"Los antecedentes son bien conocidos y vienen de muy atrás. Los que lo entrenaron y le ordenaron destruir una nave cubana de pasajeros en pleno vuelo, con 73 atletas, estudiantes y otros viajeros nacionales y extranjeros a bordo, además de su abnegada tripulación; los que, estando preso el terrorista en Venezuela, compraron su libertad para suministrar y prácticamente dirigir una guerra sucia contra el pueblo de Nicaragua, que significó la pérdida de miles de vidas y la ruina del país por décadas; los que le dieron facultades para contrabandear

con drogas y armas a fin de burlar las leyes del Congreso; los que con él crearon la terrible Operación Cóndor e internacionalizaron el terror; los que llevaron a la tortura, la muerte y muchas veces a la desaparición física de cientos de miles de latinoamericanos, era imposible que actuaran de otra forma."

El suave tratamiento del sangriento asesino Posada Carriles contrasta abruptamente con las crueles condiciones en que están Rene González, Fernando González, Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, y Antonio Guerrero. Estos cinco héroes cubanos que valientemente monitoreaban organizaciones privadas que planeaban ataques contra Cuba dentro de los Estados Unidos, están sufriendo duras sentencias de hasta dos cadenas perpetuas en prisiones de máxima seguridad. A sus familiares se les niegan o les demoran las visas para visitarlos.

El Instituto Cubano de Amistad con los Pueblos (ICAP) "exhorta a todos los amigos de Cuba por todo el mundo a crear un movimiento masivo para protestar la perpetración de otro ataque contra la dignidad humana. Demandamos justicia y que los crímenes de Posada Carriles sean castigados." Que se encarcele a Posada y se liberen a los Cinco Cubanos.

Vea [www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org) para leer el mensaje entero de ICAP.

**Nota de la redacción) A la fecha de publicación de este artículo, Posada Carriles fue puesto en libertad bajo fianza y se encuentra en Miami.**

## GEORGIA

## Protestas exponen trato inhumano de inmigrante

Continúa de página 12

asistencia legal viene desde Atlanta a casi tres horas de viaje por automóvil.

A fines de marzo del 2007, la oficina general del consulado de El Salvador en Atlanta comenzó a recibir cientos de llamadas de detenid@s sobre las condiciones deplorables en Stewart.

Quienes llamaron dijeron que un@s 1.000 inmigrantes llevaban a cabo una huelga de hambre de dos días para protestar por la falta de cuidado médico, la mala comida, el acceso limitado o inexistente de abogados, los castigos excesivos y la restricción de contacto con las familias.

La edición del 22 de marzo del periódico

Atlanta Latino publicó la historia y dio voz a la lucha de l@s inmigrantes que ocurría tan lejos de cualquier centro poblado.

Miembros del equipo del Cónsul General Asdrúbal Aguilar entrevistaron a decenas de detenid@s incluyendo a Guillermo Antonio Carpio de 70 años de edad quien tiene VIH, Parkinson y diabetes. Él habló de la falta de cuidado médico y comida adecuada. Pasan días antes de que las personas detenidas reciban atención médica o medicamentos. Porque la mayoría fue arrestada en sus lugares de trabajo, no llevaban consigo una dosis completa de sus medicamentos, y mucho menos los documentos con sus historiales médicos.

Muy pocos de los 311 empleados de la

cárcel hablan español y la comunicación con l@s más de 100 detenid@s de países asiáticos es aún más problemática.

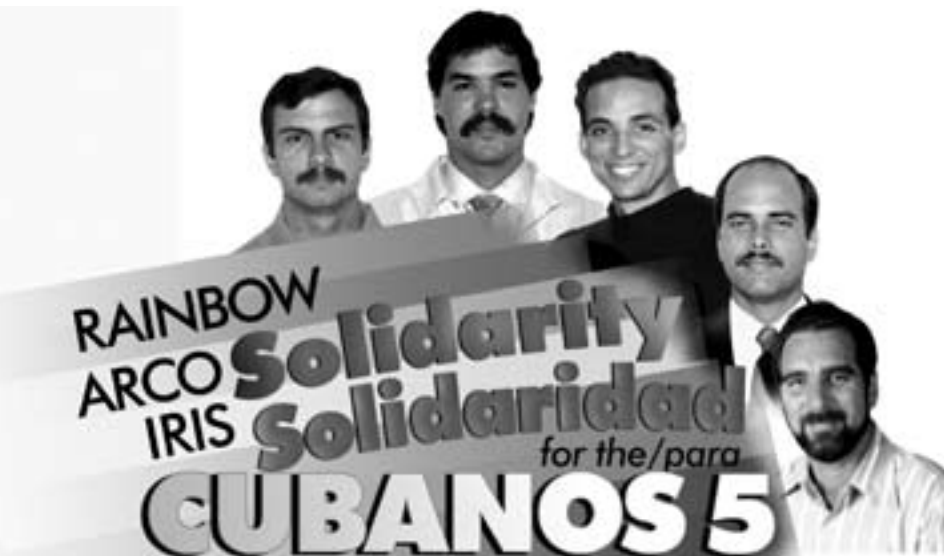
José Saúl Hernández Arqueta dijo a los investigadores que él y su esposa fueron arrestados en octubre de 2006 en una redada en una planta empacadora de carne en Houston. Su hijo de 8 años de edad estaba en la escuela y se quedó solo. Unos familiares lo cuidaron pero no sabían de su condición médica. El niño falleció por un ataque de asma. El angustiada padre dijo, "mi esposa se encuentra actualmente en una prisión migratoria en Texas y no sé si ella siquiera sabe lo que le ha pasado a nuestro hijo".

Entre los más de 1.200 detenidos en el centro hasta la fecha, algunos son ex trabajadores de la planta procesadora de carne de la Swift en Marshalltown del estado de Iowa, quienes fueron arrestados el 12 de diciembre de 2006 cuando las redadas por agentes del ICE se llevaron a cabo en 6 estados y detuvieron 1.300 personas acusándolas de violaciones migratorias.

En la prisión también están trabajador@s de la planta de procesamiento de carne de cerdo Smithfield en Tar Heel, del estado de Carolina del Norte, lugar de una fuerte campaña de organización sindical.

Después de la huelga de hambre, todas las mujeres fueron reubicadas al Centro de Detención del Condado de Etowah en Gadsden estado de Alabama.

La escritora habló en un mitin en representación al Centro de Acción Internacional.



Fernando González, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Gerardo Hernández y René González.  
[www.freethethefiveny.org](http://www.freethethefiveny.org)

# MUNDO★OBREIRO

¡Proletarios y oprimidos de todos los países, uníos!

## Saludamos a tod@s l@s trabajador@s inmigrantes ¡SÍ SE PUEDE!

### Declaración del Partido Mundo Obrero/Workers World

Como partido de trabajador@s nacid@s aquí y en otras tierras, aplaudimos y felicitamos a cada persona que participa en las demostraciones del Primero de Mayo a través del país y alrededor del mundo. A pesar de las deportaciones, las redadas de la ICE, los ataques de vigilantes, y de los abusos constantes que día a día ocurren en y fuera del trabajo, el movimiento por los derechos de l@s inmigrantes ha seguido luchado. ¡Esta valentía inspira a toda la clase trabajadora!

Sepan que much@s trabajador@s nacid@s aquí están de su lado. Vuestra lucha es una lucha por los derechos humanos básicos. No puede separarse de la lucha de tod@s l@s trabajador@s por conseguir un sueldo justo, un plan médico y pensiones, y para detener el abuso de los patrones. L@s trabajador@s rechazan ser engañad@s por las mentiras racistas de los Lou Dobbs de este país. Asimismo rechazan creer a los que dicen que quienes son forzad@s a dejar sus hogares y se arriesgan pasando enormes dificultades, son el problema.

Vuestro movimiento ha dado muchas lecciones valiosas a tod@s l@s trabajador@s. Ustedes han boicoteado comprar. Dejaron de trabajar. Se negaron a ir a la escuela. Estas acciones y las maravillosas marchas y líneas de piquete son una inspiración que nos llena de esperanza

Ustedes también le han dado vida nuevamente al Primero de Mayo, Día Internacional de l@s Trabajador@s en los Estados Unidos. Este es un hecho que por largo tiempo era necesario. El 1º de mayo se originó en este país. Pero su historia como día para conmemorar las luchas de la clase obrera mundial, se ha ocultado aquí. ¿Por qué? Porque los patrones y las corporaciones multinacionales temen que l@s trabajador@s aprendan las lecciones de ese día. Temen que l@s trabajador@s actúen en favor propio para exigir justicia.

Ningún/a trabajador/a o ser humano debe ser considerado “ilegal” porque ha cruzado una frontera. Las corporaciones multinacionales constantemente cruzan las fronteras alrededor del globo. Subcontratan fuerza laboral en países como India o Filipinas donde pueden pagar a l@s trabajador@s una décima parte de lo que producen. Se sienten libres de saquear el continente africano u ocupar Irak para controlar sus recursos petroleros.

El pueblo mejicano se ha visto forzado a cruzar la frontera porque no puede sobrevivir más en México. Las políticas impuestas por los EEUU como el TLCNA y el TLCCA han hecho que estas condiciones empeoren. Y no debemos olvidarnos de que gran parte de la región del suroeste de los Estados Unidos fue tomada por fuerza militar en los 1840. Legítimamente le pertenece al pueblo mejicano.

El capitalismo en la etapa del imperialismo no reconoce fronteras o límites. ¡Nosotr@s como trabajador@s tampoco debemos reconocer ninguna frontera!

L@s trabajador@s inmigrantes que vienen de diversas partes del mundo traen tradiciones, historias y culturas valiosas al movimiento obrero aquí en EEUU. Esto es cierto ya sea que l@s inmigrantes sean del Caribe, del Sur o Centro América, de África o Asia, o del Oriente Medio o Europa.

La unidad, la solidaridad, y la acción son lo más importantes para tod@s nosotr@s. Como trabajador@s, necesitamos de la unidad, la solidaridad y la acción para luchar para hacer un mundo nuevo libre de guerra, de pobreza y de injusticia. En este mundo nuevo tod@s l@s trabajador@s pueden vivir con dignidad y libertad sin ser explotad@s.

**Sí se puede,  
Partido Mundo Obrero**

### GEORGIA

## Protestas exponen trato inhumano de inmigrantes

Por Dianne Mathiowetz  
Lumpkin, Ga.

El 14 de abril, las organizaciones “Prison and Jail Project” basada en Americus y Alterna, organización comunitaria de LaGrange, ambas en el estado de Georgia, tuvieron una marcha de protesta a la entrada del Centro de Detención de Stewart County en Lumpkin en Georgia.

Comenzando en la plaza de la corte, unas 40 personas, incluyendo niñ@s pequeños y dos personas en silla de ruedas, portaban carteles y mantas denunciando la política represiva del gobierno hacia l@s trabajador@s inmigrantes y sus familias.

L@s orador@s declararon frente a las puertas del centro su solidaridad con l@s detenid@s. Joseph Wiley Jr., abogado residente en Columbus, quien fue al centro de detención después de la protesta para reunirse con sus clientes, prometió hacerles saber de la protesta en apoyo a sus derechos humanos.

Lumpkin, el centro del condado Stewart, fue llamado así en honor a Wilson Lumpkin, un gobernador y congresista de Georgia en el siglo 19. Lumpkin, quien también fuera senador, estaba identificado en los libros de historia como un protector de los “derechos estatales” y de “la expulsión de los indios”.

Localizado a unas 30 millas al sur de Columbus, la población de Lumpkin es de 1.265 residentes con una población 70% africana-americana. Según las cifras gubernamentales más recientes casi el 27% de sus residentes viven en la pobreza. En la población menor de 18 años, cerca del 36% son pobres.

En 1999, la “Corrections Corporation of America” (CCA), la empresa más grande propietaria y que opera las prisiones privadas, escogió a Lumpkin como el sitio para la construcción de una prisión de seguridad mediana de 1.524 camas. La CCA maneja 65 prisiones en 20 estados y en el Distrito de Columbia con una capacidad total de alojar 72.500 prisioneros. La terminación de la construcción del proyecto gigantesco a un costo de \$45 millones de dólares, fue detenida por varios años mientras la CCA buscaba una agencia gubernamental que llenara las celdas con un amplio margen de ganancias.

En el otoño del 2006, este centro de detención comenzó a operar como centro de inmigración y aduanas (ICE por las siglas en inglés). Cuando comenzaron a través del país las redadas en los centros de trabajo por agentes armados de inmigración, much@s de l@s arrestad@s terminaron en esta prisión que está rodeada de alambres de púas, situada en medio de un inmenso campo, a una milla aproximadamente de la próxima población rural de Georgia.

El único abogado en el área es el alcalde de Lumpkin, “Ed” Cannington Jr. quien fue elegido en 1979. Allí no hay ninguna población latina o asiática. El abogado de inmigración más cercano está en Columbus. La mayoría de la