

# Rallies defend civil rights

## March on FBI building in D.C.

By Greg Butterfield  
Washington, D.C.

Speaking to a crowd gathered outside the Justice Department and FBI headquarters, Brian Becker declared, "The last thing that President Bush, Attorney General Ashcroft and FBI Director Mueller want to see is hundreds and thousands of people in the streets, saying we will resist the repression against immigrants and defend our right to protest."



### STAY VIGILANT 4 MUMIA!

Recent court decisions shouldn't lull the movement. It's time to fight harder than ever. Workers World Party statement. 2

Becker is a spokesperson for ANSWER—the Act Now to Stop War and End Racism coalition—which organized the Washington demonstration. Activists in 30 other cities responded to the coalition's call and organized local actions to defend civil rights.

Close to 1,000 people turned out for this bold protest on the very doorstep of the police agencies that have rounded up and detained without charge thousands of Arab, Muslim and South Asian immigrants since 9/11. Now the government is also moving to strip the rights of U.S. citizens it labels "enemy combatants."

Those who came represented a wide swath of the U.S. working class and political movement, from Muslim workers brought by their mosques and lesbian, gay, bi and trans activists to union members and the anti-war movement. Young people marched alongside grandparents and families. Many carried the flag of embattled Palestine or wore T-shirts supporting political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Noting the crowd's strength in diversity, and saying that the president speaks only for the 1 percent of the population that owns 40 percent of the wealth, Becker said, "We are Bush's worst nightmare."

While the numbers were modest compared to the 100,000-strong protest in solidarity with Palestine on April 20, organizers emphasized that June 29 represented a rising fight-back against the widening domestic assault



## 30 cities hit Bush, Ashcroft

By Leslie Feinberg

Roundups of Arab, South Asian and Muslim immigrants in the United States and the chilling attacks on civil liberties in this reactionary political climate are designed to freeze domestic dissent. But in defiance of this new "cold war," a resistance movement is germinating.

Evidence? Between June 27 and 29, activists in more than 30 cities in the U.S. took part in coordinated demonstrations against the trampling of civil rights by Attorney General John Ashcroft and the FBI—including a demonstration in front of the headquarters of the political police in Washington. The International ANSWER—Act Now to Stop War & End Racism—coalition issued the call for the wave of protests.

### San Francisco

In San Francisco on June 28, 400 people gathered at Powell and Market streets and marched to the Federal Building. The crowd included many youths and political and labor activists, and many who were new to demonstrations.

The constellation of speakers gave a glimpse of the political currents coalescing in an independent movement that is standing up against a common enemy.

Eyad Kishawi of the Free Palestine Alliance spoke about the banning of the General Union of Palestinian Students at San Francisco State University after a protest against the Israeli massacre of Palestinians. The struggle of the Palestinian people is linked with the fight for civil liberties in the United States, Kishawi said. The thousands of Arab men arrested by the U.S. government "were guilty of one thing: belonging to a race, a class, that is antithetical to everything that the empire stands for."

Mario Santos, of the Filipino group BAYAN International, said airport screeners in San Francisco and Oakland are among the many people of color being deported. They are being denied civil liberties "because U.S. capi-

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### WALL STREET SHOCKERS

WorldCom, Adelphia—what does their fall mean for the people? What's happening to the capitalist economy? 4-5

### SHOWDOWN ON THE DOCKS

The Bush administration is talking 'national security' to stop a strike by militant longshore workers. But the bosses may force one over job cuts. 7



WW PHOTOS: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD  
Top, Mara Verheyden-Hilliard, above, Mahdi Bray.

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### LETTER CARRIERS BEWARE

New evidence shows the government knows who sent the anthrax letters. He may have helped poison 10,000 Africans as well as postal workers here. EDITORIAL 10



San Francisco march against the government's assault on civil liberties, June 28.

WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

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**WORKERS WORLD PARTY STATEMENT**

# Mumia needs our vigilance!

The global crisis caused by the Bush administration's policy of "unending war" has placed tremendous burdens and responsibilities on all progressive and revolutionary organizations and activists.

But while the need to oppose the U.S. war drive, defend the Palestinian people and resist repression against the Arab, Muslim and South Asian communities is paramount, the movement must also remain vigilant in its defense of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Abu-Jamal, a former Black Panther, award-winning journalist and tireless revolutionary activist, was a victim of the colossal government frame-up operation known as Cointelpro and its local extension by the Philadelphia Police Department.

Now, in the name of "homeland security," federal authorities are trying to re-institute and reinforce the kind of police spying and dirty tricks that resulted in the imprisonment of Abu-Jamal and so many other Black, Latino and Native revolutionaries in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s.

Twenty years ago, on July 3, 1982, Abu-Jamal was sentenced to death for the killing of a white Philadelphia cop. The sentence followed an outrageous police frame-up and racist mockery of a trial under "hanging judge" Albert Sabo.

Since then, Abu-Jamal's name and face have become synonymous with the worldwide struggle against the racist U.S. death penalty.

Since federal Judge William Yohn struck down Abu-Jamal's death sentence last December, his case has been confined to the legal arena. Yohn ruled that the jury in Abu-Jamal's 1982 trial was improperly instructed on its sentencing options. He said the prosecution must either seek a new sentencing hearing within 180 days or Abu-Jamal would be taken off death row and automatically given a sentence of life in prison.

At the same time, Yohn ignored evidence of constitutional violations presented by Abu-Jamal's legal team that should have been the basis for a new trial, if not his immediate release.

Yohn also refused to admit new evidence of Abu-Jamal's innocence, including the testimony of eyewitnesses who say they were coerced by police

during the original trial, and the taped confession of self-described mob hitman Arnold Beverly, who says that he, not Abu-Jamal, killed Philadelphia Police Officer Daniel Faulkner on Dec. 9, 1981.

**The struggle will decide**

A flurry of recent federal rulings on the death penalty could reinforce a false impression that Abu-Jamal's life is no longer in jeopardy, or even that state-sponsored executions are on the way out.

On July 1, U.S. 2nd District Court Judge Jed S. Rakoff ruled that federal executions are unconstitutional, due to the high rate of innocent people on death row.

The ruling is important insofar as it shows yet another crack in the ruling class consensus on the death penalty. And it will open up new challenges for the death-penalty abolition movement.

Rakoff's ruling, which applies to federal executions in New York, Connecticut and Vermont, will be appealed and undoubtedly accompanied by a new wave of racist, pro-death-penalty propaganda.

Likewise, recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions regarding the death penalty—for example, the ban on executing mentally disabled people—have a double-edged character.

On one hand, it reflects the tremendous growth of anti-death-penalty sentiment here and worldwide.

On the other, it demonstrates a conscious effort by the repressive arm of the capitalist state to "clean up" its image by doing away with some of its most horrendous abuses in order to keep the death penalty as part of its arsenal against the working class and oppressed people.

A less publicized June 17 Supreme Court ruling could have immediate, dangerous consequences for Abu-Jamal. It threw out a ruling made by the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals last November and restored the death sentence of Pennsylvania death row inmate George Banks.

The lower court had overturned Banks' sentence based on improper instructions to the jurors in the sentencing phase of his trial. Judge Yohn's ruling one month later was



**FREE Mumia Abu-Jamal!**

based at least partially on this precedent.

There is now a very real danger of Yohn's ruling being reversed—especially if the U.S. capitalist establishment feels it has successfully weakened the momentum of Abu-Jamal's supporters.

More than 180 days have passed since Yohn overturned Abu-Jamal's death sentence. Yet he remains on death row.

In light of these developments, the movement must take seriously the threats by Democrat Ed Rendell to execute Abu-Jamal if he is elected Pennsylvania governor this year.

Nor can we be content with a life sentence. Mumia Abu-Jamal is an innocent man and a vital leader of the movement of oppressed and working people for equality and social justice. He must be freed to take his rightful place in the struggle.

Ultimately, it won't be the courts that decide Abu-Jamal's fate but the struggle in the streets, on the campuses and in the communities. The strength of the movement, not only for solidarity with Abu-Jamal, but for all political prisoners, against the death penalty, against war and racism, will win his freedom.

Let this be a wakeup call for all revolutionary and progressive forces to make Abu-Jamal's struggle for life and freedom central to our work together with all the other critical issues. We must be ready to act on a moment's notice to mobilize broad and massive actions to defend Mumia Abu-Jamal.

*This week ...*



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**WW CALENDAR**

**BALTIMORE**

**Sat., July 27**  
"Labor for Reparations." Rally sponsored by Labor for Reparations including Dr. Kwame Oabayomi; Sally Davies, President AFSCME District Council 92; Eric Easton, Vice President, National Action Network; All Peoples Congress, ANSWER. 3 p.m. At Unity United Methodist Church, 1433 Edmondson Ave. For info (410) 235-7040 or apcbaltimore@pipeline.com.

**CHICAGO**

**Thu., July 11**  
Eyewitness Palestine. Featuring Richard Becker, International Action Center; Mahmud Ahmad, Free Palestine Alliance; and new video "Palestine Fights for Freedom." 7 p.m. At Room 161-Schmitt Academic Center, DePaul University-Lincoln Park Campus. For info (773) 878-0166 or email billbeth@rcnchicago.com.

**Fri., July 12**

In Bridgeview, Ill.: Eyewitness Palestine. Featuring Richard Becker, International Action Center; Mahmud Ahmad, Free Palestine Alliance; and new video "Palestine Fights for Freedom." 7 p.m. At the Al Aqsa School, 7361 W. 92 St., Bridgeview. For info (773) 878-0166 or email billbeth@rcnchicago.com.

**WINDSOR, CANADA**

**Fri.-Sun., July 26-28**  
Cuba Labor Conference. With leaders of the Cuban Workers Federation (CTC), featuring Pedro Ross Leal, CTC General Secretary. Includes update on the situation in Cuba, role of Cuba's unions in Cuba's recovery. Sponsored jointly by U.S.-Canada labor unions. To register contact: U.S.-Cuba Labor Exchange at phone/fax: (313) 561-8330 or laborexchange@aol.com

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To read books by and about Mumia Abu-Jamal go to **Leftbooks.com**

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## Drive a stake in slavery's rotten heart

# 'Pay reparations, free political prisoners'

By Monica Moorehead  
New York

Two important news conferences here have helped bring attention to issues affecting the Black movement's quest for social justice.

The first took place on June 17 when Black activists and elected officials met on the steps of City Hall to call for reparations. The press conference focused on three resolutions on the local, state and national level that call for setting up commissions to examine the economic and political impact of the Trans-Atlantic African slave trade on the African American population today.

The African slave trade greatly enriched the coffers of the U.S. capitalist economy, helping to propel the U.S. to its position as the dominant imperialist country in the world. At least 4 million African people were brutally exploited by not being paid one penny for all the great wealth they created.

The speakers at the news conference all talked of the racist inequities that the African American community continues to suffer in U.S. society, including youth incarceration, police brutality, inadequate education, health care, housing and much

more—all rooted in the legacy of slavery.

Speakers included U.S. Rep. John Conyers of Michigan, the architect of the first reparations bill introduced in Congress in 1989. Roger Green, a New York State Assembly member, spoke on current legislation calling for a statewide commission to determine the impact of slavery in New York City from 1625 until 1827.

City Councilperson Bill Perkins spoke about a local reparations bill entitled the "Queen Mother Moore Resolution for Reparations." Moore was a beloved African American activist for more than 60 years who demanded reparations until her passing.

Other speakers included the reverends Herbert Daughtry and Al Sharpton. Attorney Roger Wareham spoke on the historic lawsuit that has been filed in the New York and New Jersey courts demanding that particular corporations that profited off the slave trade pay reparations. Viola Plummer, a leader of the December 12th Movement, raised the rally in Washington, D.C., calling for reparations that will take place on Aug. 17.

On June 26, also on the steps of City Hall, City Council member and long-

Viola Plummer, co-chair of Millions for Reparations, which is organizing a Washington, D.C., rally on Aug. 17.



PVN PHOTO: SUE HARRIS

time social activist Charles Barron called for the release of all political prisoners. Barron brought special attention to the cases of political prisoners Jalil Muntaqim and Robert Seth Hayes, who are both up for parole this month. Former political prisoners Safiya Bukhari and Herman Ferguson from the Jericho Movement and former Black Panther leader Kathleen Cleaver joined Barron at the news conference.

Barron has introduced the first legislation in the history of New York City bringing attention to political prisoners

incarcerated because of the FBI's racist Cointelpro attacks.

Part of Barron's press statement read, "I am introducing a resolution which condemns the criminalization of political activity and expression as a method of political control, and abuses by agents of the U.S. government, including law enforcement agencies which are designed to stifle political beliefs. ... There is past precedent for support of the cause of other political prisoners. Why can they not do the same for Black political prisoners?"

## State repression and the Black struggle



WW interview with Safiya Bukhari

PART 2

By Imani Henry

In Part 1 former political prisoner Safiya Bukhari said that her personal experience with police harassment, not the revolutionary program, inspired her to join the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense. Her appreciation for the program would develop after she joined the BPP.

This part of the interview focuses on the FBI's brutal attack on the Panthers under Cointelpro.

On April 2, 1969, 21 members of the Black Panthers in New York were indicted on charges of conspiring to blow up five department stores, a police station, railroad tracks and the Bronx Botanical Gardens. Those arrested were held on \$100,000 bail each. Many Panther followers and supporters considered this a form of "ransom bail" used by the district attorney and the court system to keep freedom fighters in jail throughout the protracted trial process. On May 13, 1971, after mass protests, they were acquitted of all the trumped-up charges. The Panther 21 defendants included Afeni Shakur, mother of the late rap artist Tupac Shakur.

Fred Hampton, at the age of 20, became leader of the Chicago chapter of the BPP. From his work with the free health care clinic to the free breakfast program to organizing community control of the police, he evolved into a beloved leader of the Black community.

On Dec. 4, 1969, Chicago police assassinated Hampton while he was sleeping, along with Mark Clark. Four other Panthers were also shot, beaten and arrested. Hampton had just been appointed to the Party's Central Committee as chief of staff.

Bobby Seale and Erica Huggins were both indicted and later acquitted of murder charges in the death of a police informant.

**Safiya Bukhari:** I tell people straight up that it was the New York Police Department that made me decide to join the Black Panther Party. In college I supported the war in Vietnam. I was so far to the right it was ridiculous. I was writing essays on "Why we should be in Vietnam." But by the time the summer of 1969 was over, in November, I was in the party.

That's why I got involved. If these police are supposed to be the protectors of the community and they're violating rights, then somebody has to stand up and speak up against it.

We saw several attacks that came down so quickly with the Cointelpro program. Everything was just geared to making sure that we did not get a chance to work step by step through stages of political education, to organize in the community in the method that would have insured that the masses of the people would have been involved in our movement by the time it came to the stage of armed struggle.

**Imani Henry: What work did you do with the Panthers?**

**SB:** As part of my work, we did community self-defense, community organizing, the breakfast programs, the liberation schools. I did welfare rights organizing. The welfare rights organization that came into existence came out of a lot of

the work we did organizing welfare mothers. I sold papers in my community because papers were very important. That's how you got the information out. I taught political education classes.

And soon I was given a section. My section was 125th to 116th streets from 7th Avenue to 1st Avenue. That's a big section, but we didn't think that it was going to happen overnight. So I would spend a lot of time out in the community organizing. Be aware of what's going on in your community and make your daily reports of what you encountered. That's how you learned about the community that you lived in and the issues that affected your community.

Basically we organized on whatever were the needs of the community. I remember this sister had gotten raped and we went to work with her and the person who attacked said they were coming back, and so we set up this sting to catch the person who had raped this sister.

**IH: How did Cointelpro impact the East Coast BPP?**

**SB:** Well, during this time the Panther 21 were on trial. A big part of the organizing was to make sure the courtroom was filled and money was there for their legal defense.

The 21 were basically the leadership of the New York chapter of the party prior to them getting captured. They thought that by taking the leadership away they would destroy the New York chapter of the party.

**IH:** So was the raid on the office?

**SB:** No, on their homes. Simultaneously, all these people were arrested almost at the same time, during the early morning that day.

**IH:** So this is a perfect example of Cointelpro—a systematic raid on everyone's home, 21 people.

**SB:** Actually, 1969 was a very bad year for the party. 1969 was the year Fred Hampton and Mark Clark were killed in Chicago. Also during this time Panther leaders Bobby Seale and Erica Huggins were arrested in New Haven, Conn. Huey Newton was already in jail and BPP Minister of Information Elridge Cleaver was forced into exile.

There was like a command coming from somewhere in the party on what to do. So even though we were doing the community programs, the government's operation to destroy the party continued. Most of the time I was in the party, the issue of political prisoners was the major thing because we had Panther trials going on all over the country.

So if they weren't already on trial, their offices were being raided and more people were going to jail. The media were televising raids on Panther offices.

By 1971, the government's dissemination of false information played upon internal contradictions within the organization that brought a split in the party and basically the disintegration of the party.

Next—Part 3.

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## Capitalist boom leads to bust

# Wall Street reels as WorldCom collapses

By Milt Neidenberg

The fallout from the financial crisis at WorldCom, the second-largest long-distance telephone service provider in the country, is incalculable. The corporation, which is on the edge of a Chapter 11 bankruptcy, controls over 70 percent of Internet traffic at some point, about 30 percent of consumer long-distance phone calls, and 50 percent of all corporate communications in the U.S.

Chief Executive Officer John Sidgemore announced that another 17,000 workers would be laid off immediately. Of a predominantly non-union workforce that once totaled 80,000, some 6,000 have already been axed. Sidgemore assured the government, which relies heavily on WorldCom circuits, that there would be no disruptions of vital communications, meaning the workloads of the remaining workers will increase dramatically.

Sidgemore, who dumped most of his shares in the company while management was cooking the books, has stashed away close to \$90 million. But his take is much higher when additional benefits are included. Other insiders, including former and current officers and board members, walked away with hundreds of millions of dollars.

One long-time WorldCom employee in New Jersey told Workers World how the layoffs were carried out: "You could hear a pin drop. Those of us who didn't receive a pink slip watched as cardboard boxes piled up outside the buildings were handed out to our sisters and brothers. Management told them to fill up the boxes with the personal belongings they had accumulated during years of service. Most controlled their emotions. They were followed by guards to make sure the company property was secure."

### Capitalists' old lament: too much capacity

WorldCom's demise, following the boom and bust period currently affecting the strategic telecommunications industry, has triggered a monumental crisis. There is just too much capacity and competition within the industry—too many sellers and not enough buyers. It has drawn the attention of the Bush administration, the Securities

and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Federal Communications Commission and congressional oversight committees.

All are frantically grasping for Band-Aids to dampen the growing anger over this criminal activity—and, most importantly, to allay the fears that the fallout will not be isolated but will affect the economy as a whole.

The collapse of any individual industrial or financial institution, even one as large as WorldCom, might have only limited significance for the overall economy. On occasion, the financial markets even shrug off these developments and play up what is positive to calm the jittery nerves of investors. Capitalist propaganda, through the powerful and tightly controlled media, can often do this. But this time it may prove more difficult, given the crisis.

A Wall Street Journal front-page article on June 27, titled "Stock Market Complicates Central Bank's Challenge to Revive U.S. Economy," showed concern about accumulating scandals—Xerox has joined the growing list—and wonders whether the gloom and doom on the market will affect economic growth.

"There is a risk that at some point the cumulative impact on business, investor and consumer confidence of declining stock prices and the drumbeat of news of corporate malfeasance takes a toll on growth," warns the Journal article.

Federal Reserve Board Chair Alan Greenspan has challenged the analysts' concern. He would like the public to believe that the economy is improving, and that what goes on in the stock market does not affect economic growth.

Tell that to the millions of unemployed. The stock market is the heart and nerve center of the capitalist system. Its health determines the entire economic and class underpinning on which the market rests.

Sam Marcy, the founder of Workers World Party, wrote in "Wall Street Crash, What Does It Mean?" in 1988: "The stock market should not be understood in the narrow sense. It broadly encompasses the heads of the biggest banks (such as the Federal Reserve Board), the heads of other exchanges and government agencies like the SEC. It is the most prominent representative of capitalist production itself."

The hope for a vigorous recovery from the 2001 recession is fading, notwithstanding the efforts of Greenspan to spin a web of damage control. Evidence is piling up that the demise of WorldCom is just the tip of the iceberg.

### The rot behind the stink

A wave of bankruptcies and accounting scandals has laid bare what is going on in the giant financial and corporate institutions. Corporate/banking heads and many of their boards of directors have stacked the books with phony profits to rip off billions of dollars in bloated salaries, stock trading, stock options and bonuses. Huge losses that were covered up have now come to light.

WorldCom was just one of many corporations that gave its top executives exorbitant freebies while covering up \$3.8 billion in losses.

Corporate malfeasance is compounded by an increasingly weak economy, a falling dollar—now at its lowest level against the euro in 28 months—huge government and corporate debt, and the flight of international capital, which had been a key factor in U.S. economic expansion. Most significant, consumer confidence dropped to a four-month low, the second biggest drop since Sept. 11.

Are the wizards of Wall Street worried that another 1929 stock market crash is on the horizon? Whether their fears and anxieties will be realized remains to be seen, but the danger lights are flashing. The capitalist economy is on a slippery slope, sliding in that direction.

The stock market overall has been in decline since well before 2002. The NASDAQ market has plunged 72 percent, the biggest drop in any major market since the 1929 crash. This is where the high-tech dotcoms have been traded.

The prestigious Standard & Poor's 500 is down nearly one third. The Dow Jones industrial average has dropped 2,000 points, from 11,000 to around 9,000 in two years.

The bursting bubble of the vast telecommunications industry threatens to affect many other Fortune 500 financial/corporate titans.

A statistic in the New York Times June 27—one day following the WorldCom collapse—put it in sharp perspective. Merrill Lynch, the country's largest brokerage corporation, has tracked the top 20 stocks, measured by the number of accounts that each major investor held at the beginning of the year. These investors have suffered a significant loss of 36.1 percent in that period.

Those wiped out over the last two years are not just the average Main Street investors. These are the big boys, who invest big-time in blue-chip corporate/banking behemoths such as General Electric, IBM, Citigroup, Microsoft, AOL Time-Warner and other illustrious giants that make up the 20 most widely held stocks.

Most significant, the roll call of the 20 behemoths reveals that they, too, are not immune from a growing economic crisis. It confirms that they are subject to the declining rate of profit. Overproduction inhibits them from expanding and investing in new technology. It drives them to reduce their workforce, increase productivity and aggravate the economic crisis further. All this can only speed up the class struggle.

The WorldCom executives, whose scandalous conduct has come to light because of overproduction, are linked to the most powerful banks in the world. The lenders to WorldCom include Bank of America,

*Are the wizards of Wall Street worried that another 1929 stock market crash is on the horizon? Whether their fears will be realized remains to be seen, but the danger lights are flashing. The capitalist economy is on a slippery slope*

lead agent for all three WorldCom credit lines; J.P. Morgan Chase, Citigroup, Fleet Boston Financial, Mellon Financial, Bank One and Wells Fargo.

### Trillions appear to vanish

Also in difficulty are the holders of \$28 billion in WorldCom bonds, whose value is now down to 13 cents on the dollar, as well as the shareholders, whose stock is currently floating at around 6 cents. Clearly, if WorldCom petitions for bankruptcy, much of this equity will become worthless.

It is estimated that over \$2 trillion has been lost in the financial markets since the Enron debacle.

More and more what emerges is the outline of a general economic crisis. The stock market is an integrated element of the entire financial services industry—the multitude of banks, credit unions, insurance companies, mortgage associations and, most important, pension funds that are the lifeline of senior workers who have labored long years for economic security.

The stock market is not just a barometer but an economic summary. It is intimately bound up with the world economy—an economy dominated by U.S. imperialism. It is wedded to the boom and bust cycle and to the crisis of overproduction that results in mass layoffs and poverty.

The workers will bear the brunt of this collapse. Since the recession began in March 2001, 1.2 million U.S. workers have been laid off, nearly 170,000 of them from the telecommunications industry. More will be laid off now that the bubble has burst. Few will ever be hired back. Add this to the previous victims of unemployment and poverty and a major economic catastrophe is in the making.

The economic crisis has mushroomed into a political crisis, even though the Bush government and the Democratic Party have only minor quarrels. Both are marching in lockstep with their allies on Wall Street.

Since Bush initiated his "war on terrorism," framed in a frenzy of patriotism, the attacks on the workforce, their jobs, civil rights and labor rights have dramatically increased. Immigrant-bashing, racism and sexism are on the rise.

If the labor movement is to win back a measure of economic and political justice, then as a first step, working class solidarity and unity must take precedence over the patriotic war cries of the Bush administration. There is no other way.

## Victory in Baltimore

# Community group fights utility

By Sharon Black  
Baltimore

At a press conference on June 27, the All Peoples Congress announced a temporary victory after Baltimore Gas & Electric Company announced that its downtown offices would remain open until 2003.

The company had said two months ago that it would close its last two customer service offices on July 1, provoking protests from the All Peoples Congress and the Office of People's Counsel.

BGE had arranged for customers to pay their bills at ACE checking. ACE has come under attack from senior advocate groups and has been sued by consumer groups for fraudulent loan practices. It provides "pay day loans."

Workers at both locations were slated

to lose their jobs.

All Peoples Congress organizer Renee Washington stated, "People would have been ripped off, first by BGE and then by ACE checking, which would have taken advantage of people with cut-off notices who were desperate to have gas and electric service.

"We fought hard, held protests and collected petitions. Both the workers inside the building and the community were united in wanting to continue service. We are proud of this victory but understand we must keep up the fight for justice."

BGE will continue with plans to close a smaller office outside the city and will reduce hours. The All Peoples Congress has vowed to continue fighting and has called on the community to remain vigilant.

## Squeezed dry by big corporations

# Buffalo workers need jobs, not gimmicks

By Bev Hiestand  
Buffalo, N.Y.

Another promise to bring new jobs and the possibility of an economic turnaround to this increasingly impoverished city has come to an abrupt end. Adelphia Communications Corp., the country's sixth-largest cable television operator, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on June 25.

In June 2000, Adelphia pledged to construct a 15-story operations center on Buffalo's waterfront and create 1,000 jobs. Since then, 800 workers have been hired and placed in existing downtown office space awaiting completion of the center. The city and state agreed to give the company incentives, including \$50 million of state money and tax breaks. City officials and business leaders touted the Adelphia center as a catalyst for development of the inner city and harbor.

The Buffalo area was once known for its industrial might, but it has lost more than half its factory employment since 1958. The March 6 Buffalo News reported that the Buffalo-Niagara region had lost 4,300 jobs over the preceding 12 months as employment at local factories fell to the lowest level in at least 44 years.

Beginning in March of this year, evidence began to surface that Adelphia founder John Rigas and other family members kept two sets of books. They greatly understated company deficits and over-inflated subscriber numbers.

Adelphia later disclosed it had guaranteed \$2.3 billion in loans to Rigas, his family and Rigas-controlled companies. Adelphia has since revealed that the family borrowed an estimated \$3.1 billion. They used company cash or assets to buy and run the Buffalo Sabres hockey team, expand their personal cable company holdings, acquire timberland and invest in a golf course. (New York Times, June 23) Rigas's daughter reportedly used a \$3.7-million company-backed loan to make a movie.

Since the disclosures, Adelphia stock has plummeted from \$20.29 a share to pennies.

### Blow to workers and poor

A June 16 Buffalo News article concluded, "For more than 1,000 Adelphia workers locally, the price could be the loss of their jobs as the company is broken up to try to pay off its more than \$14 billion in debts."

Adelphia secured \$1.5 billion in financing from J. P. Morgan Chase and Citigroup on June 21 to allow it to operate while reorganizing. (New York Times, June 24) The money comes with conditions not revealed yet. But downsizing is often part of such restructuring.

There's the possibility the Sabres team could leave town. That could cost Erie County and New York State taxpayers tens of millions in written-off or reduced paybacks on state loans that helped build the HSBC Arena. The Buffalo News also notes that team owners owe the city more than \$1.5 million for stadium ground rent and roadwork outside the arena.

The loss of hundreds of jobs is one more blow to the working and oppressed people of this city. As better-paid whites and their families have left the city for the suburbs, the burden of poverty in this city has been disproportionately carried by the African American, Puerto Rican and other oppressed communities. The last U.S. census declared Buffalo the eighth most segregated city in the country.

According to the March 4 Buffalo News,

"Estimates show one in four people in Buffalo are poor, but many experts believe there are far more people below the poverty line here and across the United States than the numbers suggest."

A newly published analysis of census data reveals Buffalo has the sixth-highest rate of child poverty in the country—nearly 40 percent.

This past year 300 teachers and school administrators were laid off because of a severe city budget crisis. This means fewer teachers and larger class sizes. Further cuts may be made this summer if more state and city funding is not received. This could mean elimination of kindergarten, counselors, music teachers, social workers, sports programs and more.

### Who profits, who pays?

Politicians, banks, business development corporations and contractors have put forth numerous schemes over the years: constructing a new convention center, now proposing another one, building a new baseball stadium, a hockey arena and a subway that only runs the length of Main Street. All these projects were pitched as magnets for investors, developers, shoppers, tourists and jobs.

Instead, they brought profits to the developers and banks and very few jobs. All were built with taxpayer money.

While inner-city homes in the poor and oppressed communities are deteriorating, the city is converting empty downtown buildings into luxury apartments costing more than \$1,000 a month. This is being promoted as a way to bring people back into the deserted downtown area. Yet thousands of poor people who live in the area won't be able to afford these apartments and condominiums.

Now city officials are rushing to capitalize on the biotech industry. They are promoting the development of a government- and industry-sponsored bio-informatics complex in Buffalo. Cities around the globe are competing for research into new drugs and medical therapies expected to follow the recent mapping of the human genome. (Buffalo News, June 16)

The University of Buffalo, Roswell Park Cancer Institute and Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute—with some private pharmaceutical companies and government sources—will open a research complex here. Some \$290 million of the funds to build it are from state and federal monies.

The 11 research partners, including pharmaceutical giants Pfizer and Bristol-Myers Squibb, hope to take advantage of

any commercial products generated by these and other research projects. But the partners won't provide venture capital to the center.

That means huge amounts of hard-earned tax dollars of working people will be used to develop new drugs that pharmaceutical companies will appropriate and sell at exorbitantly high prices. And most poor and oppressed people in Buffalo, who lack health insurance, will not be able to purchase them.

A study on the growth of U.S. biotechnology released by the Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank, cautioned that if research is successful, it will take a decade or more to bear significant fruit and will require a considerable investment of time and money. (Buffalo News, June 16)

The newspaper quoted Paul Nickels, public affairs director for the Edison Biotechnology Center in Cleveland, who said, "Buffalo's heart will get broken on occasion. You'll have a young company, which starts growing, then it will go away. Somebody will throw money at it and lure it to Maryland."

### Big MAC hard to swallow

"There's a conspiracy going on to bring the city of Buffalo to its knees, to force the city into bankruptcy, or a situation where a state control board is called in to run City Hall," warned Common Council President James W. Pitts, who is African American.

He added: "There's a need for community-based planning ... based on the real needs and concerns of people in the neighborhoods. This is what we need to make Buffalo strong. Buffalo's future is not giving money to the big, rich developers. It is giving money to the people who matter." (Buffalo News, May 30)

According to news reports, some local officials are proposing a municipal assistance corporation—like the one instituted in New York City in 1975—to oversee lending money to Buffalo.

The loans, guaranteed by the federal government, would hinge on Buffalo's ability to "pass major reforms." The state would be asked to temporarily waive some of its mandates—notably the Taylor Law, governing public employees and contract negotiations.

The banks, of course, want to keep that part of the Taylor Law that prohibits workers from striking. What they want to end is the requirement that companies accept arbitration rather than unilaterally impose wage and benefit cuts or restraints on workers.

During the 1975 bank takeover of New York by the Municipal Assistance Corporation (MAC) and Emergency Financial Control Board (EFCB), these two unelected Goliaths ruled the city. They controlled all city revenues and had the power to approve or reject all city contracts—including labor contracts. They laid off tens of thousands of city employees and decreed wage freezes, increased subway fares and tuition, and slashed city services.

African American and Latino communities, and all the poor and unemployed, bore the brunt.

The unions fought back. But the MAC and the EFCB—backed by the governor and a powerful array of bankers and insurance tycoons—overpowered the labor movement. The unions were forced to accept crushing cutbacks. Only after the unions agreed to commit millions out of their pension funds to bail out the city did the bankers relinquish their grip on New York and the threat of bankruptcy eased.

But the labor movement and the oppressed communities never completely recovered from the 1975 financial crisis.

### Marx was right!

Revelations of corrupt, greedy corporate owners are no surprise. It is evident that Enron, Tyco International and Adelphia Communications are not the exception, but the rule.

Karl Marx wrote that for a really high profit, a capitalist would commit murder; but for one even higher, he would risk death. Lenin, the leader of the first socialist revolution in 1917 in Russia, added that for a profit, a capitalist would sell the rope used to hang him.

The solution for Buffalo is not another greedy capitalist scheme—it lies in the anti-capitalist class struggle. Here in Buffalo there have been several recent examples.

This spring tens of thousands of students, teachers, parents and local activists organized several large rallies and school walkouts protesting the gutting of public education. Some suggested that the billions going to the Pentagon for war could be put to good use building new schools and hiring more teachers.

Workers at New Era Cap Co. in nearby Derby, who make major league baseball caps, ratified a contract on June 27 after an 11-month strike. The workers, represented by the Communications Workers union, waged a heroic struggle against sweatshop labor and unsafe working conditions. Their efforts were more powerful because of support from the AFL-CIO and United Students Against Sweatshops, a campus-based rights group. Students and activists in the Buffalo area mobilized picket lines and educated the public about corporate globalization and sweatshop labor.

On March 2, 20,000 health care union workers, doctors, patients, parents and supporters held a rally that was the turning point in stopping Kaleida Health Corp. from closing Children's Hospital.

In June, patients and families from the poorest neighborhoods in Buffalo—including immigrants from many countries—joined union health care workers in rallies to demand that Kaleida not close a community health care clinic that offers culturally-sensitive and competent care.

What working and oppressed people in Buffalo need most is to broaden these struggles for jobs and safe working conditions, education and health care.



WW PHOTO: GLORIA LA RIVA

Buffalo doesn't need another capitalist 'get rich' scheme. Above, workers from New Era Cap Co., who just won a contract after an 11-month strike. Backed by an AFL-CIO boycott and area students and activists, they showed that what this impoverished region needs most is a fightback.

# 30 cities protest Ashcroft-Bush

Continued from page 1

talism is undergoing a crisis," Santos said.

Speakers called attention to political prisoners who were targets of Cointelpro, including Geronimo Ji Jaga, Leonard Peltier and Mumia Abu-Jamal.

"How many African American and Latino and union activists were victims of setups, campaigns of lies and neutralization?" asked Gloria La Riva, president of the Typographical Sector of Media Workers Local 39521.

Jack Heyman of International Longshore & Warehouse Union Local 10 said the government had tried to deport ILWU leader Harry Bridges, who led the historic 1934 strike in San Francisco, and to remove another leader, Archie Brown, from the union's executive board. The government accused both of them of being communists. "The fight is still going on," Heyman said. The union is in a heated contract struggle now. Government officials called the union and said, "You shouldn't disrupt trade," Heyman noted.

Walter Johnson, secretary-treasurer of the San Francisco Labor Council, reported that the council had endorsed the march. "It's time to send a message across the nation that there won't be a new Cointelpro," he stressed.

Frank Martin del Campo of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement and Howard Wallace of Service Employees Local 250 and the national board of Pride at Work also spoke.

Alicia Jrapko of the National Committee to Free the Five Cuban Political Prisoners in the United States noted the hypocrisy of the U.S. government, which imprisoned the five for infiltrating terrorist Cuban-American organizations in the U.S.

The Rev. Ted Frazier, a leader of the NAACP in San Francisco, pointed out that despite public exposure of Cointelpro in the 1970s, the government has never stopped its activities against progressive people.

Other speakers included Maad Abu-Ghazalah of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee-San Francisco; Zulma Oliveras, Comité '98; Riva Enteen, National Lawyers Guild; Ayanna Labossiere, a Haitian-American high school student; and Judy Greenspan of California Prison Focus.

Richard Becker of the International ANSWER coalition and the International Action Center said: "Bush and Ashcroft and those behind them are trying to intimidate those opposed to the war at home and abroad. If we let them intimidate us and don't speak out, they win. And that's why



WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

Kingston, New York

it's so important that everyone is protesting here and around the country today."

## CHICAGO

A contingent organized at the initiative of the Chicago Anti-Bashing Network (CABN) raised similar issues at Chicago's annual Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Trans Pride march on June 29. "Stop the hate, stop the fear, immigrants are welcome here!" boomed out of loudspeakers as several hundred thousand people—a mirror of this multinational and multi-gender society—marched or cheered from the sidelines. The defense of immigrant rights was greeted with applause and cheers.

Other groups taking part in the contingent included the Chicago Coalition Against War and Racism, the Chicago chapter of the International ANSWER

coalition, Refuse & Resist!, Illinois Greens, Hyde Park Coalition Against the War and the Palestine Aid Society.

Crowds cheered the chant: "Arab and Muslims are under attack. What do we do? Rise up, fight back!" This chant was repeated with "lesbians," "gays," "people of color" and other victims of class society.

Just before the march ended a group of 20 right-wing religious hecklers with all the tenacity of a flat-earth society were drowned out by the contingent's chant: "One, two, three, four: Show the bigots to the door. Five, six, seven, eight: We don't need your filthy hate." Hundreds of people in the area loudly applauded the contingent.

"What a great day; what a great experience," one marcher told Workers World. "Pride made us proud!"

# 'Civil rights are under

Continued from page 1

on people's rights.

In May, Attorney General John Ashcroft and FBI Director Robert Mueller announced a vast expansion of police powers to target groups and individuals in the name of "homeland security." This included lifting restrictions that had been placed on domestic spying after the 1976 exposure of Cointelpro. This FBI Counter Intelligence Program was set up to divide, conquer and destroy the civil rights, Black Power, anti-war and other progressive movements.

Many workers do not yet know that they will be affected by this beefing up of police measures. And some in the progressive movement may be fearful of taking a stand in the current political climate. Organizers said they hoped this action would show that it is necessary and possible to speak out and fight back.

"We all have a stake in defending civil rights, and this demonstration proves that people are responding," said Mahdi Bray, executive director of the Muslim American Society's Freedom Foundation, who co-chaired the rally. "They say it's about 'homeland security.' As an African American, as a Muslim, this is my home, and I don't feel more secure."

June 29-30 was Pride weekend in New York, San Francisco, Chicago and other big cities. But many lesbian, gay, bi and trans activists took time out to show their solidarity here with a visible and vocal presence.

Lesbian trans activist and author Leslie Feinberg said, "Our enemies are clever. They want us to think we can't work to-

gether. That's what Cointelpro was about—dividing us and our movement.

"We have people of many beliefs and nationalities here today. That's our strength. There are those who said this could not be done, but we are doing it today.

"We have to show our enemies that we are strong by staying united," she concluded.

The need to build a united front against repression, racism and war was echoed by many speakers. A statement from Rep. Cynthia McKinney of Georgia said, "We must work together to insure that our rights are protected."

Speaking of the raids on Muslims, the Rev. Graylan Hagler, senior minister of Washington's Plymouth Congregational Church, challenged the authorities, "If you come after them, I invite you to come after me. Civil rights have always been treated as a convenience by the leaders of this country. But we can resist. We can take to the streets."

"The Bush administration is criminalizing dissent," charged Mara Verheyden-Hilliard, an attorney with the Partnership for Civil Justice. "Bush, with his all-war all-the-time agenda, knows people will want to protest the spending of billions on war while schools and health care are being cut back."

## 'We'll push the FBI back'

"These dangerous measures affect all of us," said Larry Holmes, co-director of the International Action Center and rally co-chair. "But we won't go back," he declared. "We'll push the repression back. We'll push the FBI back."

Kathy Hoyt, executive coordinator of Nicaragua Network, told how she and

## BOSTON

# Rally demands freedom for Jaoudat Abouazza

By Workers World  
Boston bureau

On June 27, 100 supporters of Jaoudat Abouazza held a militant picket line outside the JFK Federal Building in Boston, then packed an Immigration and Naturalization Service hearing inside. Abouazza, a young Palestinian activist, participated in the hearing via videoconference. At the end he was able to see the courtroom gallery overflowing with supporters.

Abouazza was stopped by police for an alleged traffic violation on May 30. He was detained and questioned repeatedly by the FBI. At a subsequent court appearance the government cited leaflets found in his car—for a legal and permitted pro-Palestinian protest at the June 9 Israel Day festival—as the justification for his detention.

Since then he has been beaten and thrown into solitary confinement. Four of his teeth were forcibly extracted without his permission. A broken tooth was left in his mouth and continues to cause pain and bleeding.

At the June 27 hearing, Abouazza's lawyer, Nelson Brill, requested that the judge set bond for his release. Brill presented proof of the wide community support for Abouazza, including a clergy member, labor union representatives and Arab community leaders present in the courtroom. Prosecutors objected, claiming Abouazza was a "flight risk."

Immigration Judge Shapiro denied the bond request, despite the clear and present danger of continuing brutalization by the government and guards in the Bristol County Jail.

Brill also argued that Abouazza, a Canadian citizen, should be allowed a "voluntary exit" to his country of citizen-

ship instead of being deported. A voluntary exit means that Abouazza would be able to return to the United States in the future.

Again the government objected, demanding that he be deported so that "if Abouazza ever tried to surreptitiously re-enter the U.S. it would be a major felony."

Exposing their real motives, the government representatives expressed their frustration that despite the continuous acts of intimidation, harassment and brutality, Abouazza would not give them detailed information on his political activities or those of organizations and individuals supporting him and the Palestinian cause.

Judge Shapiro ruled in favor of Abouazza's request for voluntary exit. However, the government plans to appeal the ruling and has 30 days to do so.

Abouazza still faces many other legal challenges from the government. For example, the Middlesex County District Court listed Abouazza in default because he missed a court appearance for the traffic violations. A warrant was then issued for his arrest. But he missed the court appearance because the INS had him in custody and refused to allow him to attend, despite a court order.

The Jaoudat Abouazza Defense Committee says the anti-war, anti-repression movement must keep up the pressure on the INS, jail authorities and the district attorney to drop all the charges and release Abouazza immediately.

In addition, supporters say, it is essential to continue pressing for humane medical treatment, including access by Abouazza's own physician and dentist. For more information, call the Jaoudat Abouazza Defense Committee at (617) 522-6626.





Los Angeles, above and right

WW PHOTOS: JULIE LA RIVA

## LOS ANGELES

For two hours on June 28 there was no business as usual in front of the downtown Los Angeles Federal Building, as 125 loud demonstrators protested the new repressive powers unilaterally seized by the FBI.

John Parker of the International Action Center likened the new measures to the days of J. Edgar Hoover's Cointelpro when Martin Luther King Jr., Fred Hampton and Leonard Peltier were targeted.

ANSWER organizers were interviewed by the Los Angeles Pacifica radio station KPFK and the Front Page program on KJLH, an African American-owned radio station. UPN News also covered the protest.

## BUFFALO, N.Y.

Buffalo ANSWER unfurled a long banner at the FBI building that read: "Stop the FBI attacks on our civil rights."

Placards called for an end to racial and religious profiling. One demanded money for jobs, education and health care, not repression and war. Unemployment, cuts in school budgets and the closing of health care facilities have been devastating the workers and oppressed of Buffalo. Many drivers honked their car horns and waved



in support.

The protest was covered on two television stations.

## PROVIDENCE, R.I.

Demonstrators took over the steps of the Federal Building in downtown Providence June 27, in front of an attentive rush-hour audience of bus riders at the city's public transportation center. Protesters chanted, "They say Cointelpro, we say hell no," and "Get up, stand up; stand up for your rights." Two local TV stations covered the protest on the evening news.

U.S. marshals, disturbed by the unified resistance displayed by Black, Latino, Arab, Native and white activists on their doorstep, repeatedly threatened "problems" if the group didn't move to the sidewalk. The demonstrators refused to budge an inch.

# attack—fight back!

other Central America solidarity activists were targeted for FBI harassment during the 1980s, including threats against their children and other family members.

"Yesterday they came for us. Today we stand with you," she pledged.

Other speakers testified that the latest government attacks aren't abstract legal matters. Marcus Jean, a Haitian-born member of the Boston school bus drivers' union, told how a job grievance led to his being branded a "terrorist."

Amer Jubran, also from Boston, spoke on the case of young Palestinian activist Jaoudat Abouazza, who was detained, questioned by the FBI and tortured. Abouazza remains in jail.

Sam Jordan brought greetings from African American political prisoners Mumia Abu-Jamal and Eddie Conway, and urged support for Imam Jamil Al-Amin. Teresa Gutierrez asked demonstrators to sign a petition in support of five Cuban prisoners held in U.S. jails because they infiltrated U.S.-backed anti-Cuba terrorist groups.

"We're in the middle of the biggest corporate crime wave in history," said IAC Co-director Sara Flounders, another rally co-chair. She listed Enron, Tyco and WorldCom as examples. "There's no Patriot Act against these corporate looters," she pointed out.

Imam Abdul Alim Musa, representing Washington's largest Black Muslim mosque, warned the crowd against swallowing any U.S. justification for a new war. "When they want something, they set the stage to do it," he said, citing famous pretexts like the sinking of the battleship Maine and the Gulf of Tonkin hoax. The Masjid al-Islam mosque also helped with

security for the demonstration.

Dr. Hani Awadallah of the Arab American Civic Organization said: "There's no room for national liberation for the Palestinians in the U.S. agenda. But Palestinian liberation will go on no matter what George Bush, Ariel Sharon and Condoleezza Rice say."

## Free-speech fight on Washington Mall

A highlight of the day's activities was the march from the FBI/Justice Department offices to Farragut Square Park.

The march passed the Folk Life Festival on the Mall. Thousands of festival goers saw the demonstration. Many lined the street to watch and listen, giving it the feeling of a dynamic street meeting.

Organizers rapped to the crowd about the dangers to working people of the Bush/Ashcroft measures. A popular chant was, "Civil rights are under attack. What do we do? Act up, fight back!"

Mounted Park Police threatened to arrest demonstrators handing out leaflets to bystanders. When Brian Becker protested, he was also threatened with arrest.

But ANSWER pushed back this police attempt to quash the First Amendment. The Partnership for Civil Justice immediately intervened on the leafleters' behalf.

Over the march's sound system, Becker told onlookers about the police attempt to suppress free speech, causing some on the sidewalks to join the protest.

After a concluding rally, protesters returned home, many saying they felt a renewed sense of determination. They agreed with Larry Holmes, who said, "This is the beginning of the struggle to defend our movement."



San Diego

WW PHOTO: GLORIA VERDIEU

## DETROIT

Protesters picketed in front of Detroit's McNamara Federal Building, headquarters for the area FBI, during rush hour on June 28. Southeast Michigan, with its large Middle Eastern

population, has been a particular target of increased FBI and INS harassment.

A number of demonstrators reported they had personally been victims of FBI and Detroit police "Red Squad" harassment and surveillance in the 1960s and 1970s.

## SAN DIEGO

ANSWER initiated an action at the local Federal Building. After an opening rally, protesters marched to the Hall of Justice and back for a final rally. The crowd was very spirited, carrying signs reading "Stop FBI abuse of our civil rights," "Free Mumia and Leonard Peltier" and "You will never suppress the power of the people."

Carl Muhammad of the Peace & Freedom Party chaired the rally. Speakers included Bob McCubbin from the International Action Center, Craig Mace from the Free Mumia Coalition, Zola Muhammad from the Coalition to Free Imam Jamil, Tim Helsley from the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, Gloria Verdieu from ANSWER and Terry Hanks from the Committee Against Police Brutality.

## KINGSTON, N.Y.

The Mid-Hudson National People's Campaign organized a protest on June 29 in coordination with the International ANSWER protests. It was held outside an FBI branch office across from a busy shopping mall. Close to 90 local residents took part in the picket line and rally, which was co-sponsored by several local groups including Women in Black and the Green Party.

*Bev Hiestand, Bill Massey, Brenda Sandburg, Beth Semmer, Mike Shaw, Jack Smith, David Sole and Gloria Verdieu contributed to this article.*



Washington, D.C.

WW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

## Solidarity on the Oakland waterfront

# Longshore workers fight to keep the docks union

By Bill Hackwell  
Oakland, Calif.

A big struggle is brewing between Pacific Coast Longshore workers, backed by unions around the world, and a consortium of shipping companies supported by the Bush administration. The main issue is management-backed technology changes that would eliminate jobs. The stakes are huge. Last year \$260 billion worth of cargo passed through West Coast ports.

Even before the contract deadline of July 1, Bush's "homeland security" czar phoned the head of the International Longshore & Warehouse Union to pressure the workers not to strike.

On June 27, just days before the contract expired, hundreds rallied here in the fourth-largest U.S. port. Cranes that pluck containers from the ships formed a backdrop as labor leaders from the transportation and maritime industry, both national and international, spoke of their support for the 10,500 members of the ILWU.

Negotiations between the union, representing dock workers at 29 ports along the West Coast, and the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) have ground to a halt. The shipping bosses have demanded that the workers give back hard-won benefits and accept a wage freeze. While these are the immediate issues on the table, the real

*Continued on page 11*

## Pride in San Francisco

# Marches rock to anti-capitalist beat

By Brenda Sandburg  
and Saul Kanowitz  
San Francisco

Calling for an end to capitalism, war and racism, this year's San Francisco Dyke March made a bold alliance with people around the world who are under attack from the U.S. government and military.

As more than 10,000 women gathered in Dolores Park for the June 29 event, the organizers of the 10th annual march read a statement about its anti-war theme. "We march to oppose the ongoing attacks against Afghanistan, the devastation of the Palestinian homeland and the very likely future air strikes targeting Iraq, the Philippines, Colombia and Cuba."

The statement continued, "Tonight, we march for the complete and total eradication of capitalism, war and racism. We march for an end to the insanity of misogyny. We march for queerness and against assimilation."

Organizers of the march used signs from the International ANSWER—Act Now to

Stop War and End Racism—coalition to express this anti-war message. ANSWER also had a banner in the march proclaiming, "From Stonewall to Palestine, people fight back. No pride in occupation—free Palestine." The banner included the black, green, white and red Palestinian flag merging with the lesbian/gay/bi/trans rainbow flag.

During the four-hour rally and celebration before the march—co-chaired by Zulma Oliveres of Comite '98 and performance poet Tina D'Elia—speakers repeatedly raised the struggle of the Palestinian people.

"I'm wondering why only a handful here are standing up against the racist apartheid state of Israel," said Palesa Bev Ditsie, a member of Sister Rise Up from Soweto, South Africa. "Why celebrate Pride without recognizing the brothers and sisters of Palestine?"

"We can't separate our struggle from the Iraqi people suffering from U.S. sanctions," said Bintal Thawra of the Arab Women's Solidarity Association of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. "I



WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

rise up with my Colombian sisters, my Afghani sisters, my Palestinian sisters, my Indigenous sisters, my undocumented and incarcerated sisters."

### Pride in being pro-Palestinian

On June 30, tens of thousands of people lined Market St. from the Embarcadero to Eighth St. to watch the 32nd San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Trans Pride march. Among the 300 contingents was the "No pride in occupation" anti-war contingent that marched in solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Initiated by Queers Undermining Israeli Terror (QUIT) and supported by International ANSWER, Workers World Party, Committee for a New Colombia (CNC) and others, this contingent brought a strong message of support for the Palestinian people and opposition to the U.S.-Israeli war of occupation.

Onlookers clapped as the contingent passed with its multi-colored banners.

Hundreds of flyers with an anti-war message from transgender lesbian activist Leslie Feinberg were distributed along the

route. Feinberg called for the LGBT movement to put war, racism and attacks on civil liberties on its agenda as it did after the Stonewall Rebellion in 1969.

A flyer from QUIT explained why the LGBT community should be concerned about the Palestinian struggle: "Because the same U.S. government that engages in police brutality against the LGBT community and communities of color engages in imperialism and racism in other parts of the world and we must stand against all of these."

Making the links between struggles around the world, the CNC banner read, "No pride in occupation or intervention. U.S. out of Colombia. Israel out of Palestine."

Contingents protesting Bush's imperial war drive and attacks on civil liberties and in support of Palestinian liberation also were a part of Pride marches in Boston, New York, Chicago and Los Angeles. Contingents of lesbian, gay, bi and trans Muslims also planned contingents in the Philadelphia, Washington and New York Pride marches.

## Supreme Court backs school vouchers

# Another scam aimed at the poor

By Martha Grevatt  
Cleveland

A Supreme Court ruling in favor of school vouchers is going to hurt the very people it claims to be helping. It will take money away from the public education of poor schoolchildren, especially children of color.

The June 27th decision involved a suit by the Cleveland Teachers Union, but it has wide ramifications throughout the country.

Several thousand Cleveland students have received vouchers worth up to \$2,250 towards tuition in private and parochial schools.

The public schools have lost millions of dollars under this program. Cleveland is already one of the poorest school districts in Ohio, and has suffered financially from property tax abatements to wealthy developers.

The Cleveland Teachers Union accuses the court of engaging in union-busting by funding schools where teachers are usually not unionized.

The union's lawyers had charged that the voucher program violates the separation of church and state. Over 95 percent of the students receiving vouchers from public funds are attending religious schools. One-third of them were already attending those schools before the voucher program, and now take advantage of government subsidies.

Right-wing supporters of vouchers around the country have been waiting for the outcome of the Cleveland case. Now they have been given the green light to subsidize religious instruction at the expense of poor students who don't get vouchers. In Cleveland itself, voucher proponents want to increase the number of voucher students, increase the amount of subsidy per student, and expand the program to include high school students.

This decision is being called the most significant ruling on education since

Brown vs. Board of Education—the 1954 Supreme Court decision that struck down segregated schools. This analogy deliberately gives the impression that the ruling is favorable to African American students. Voucher supporters say it allows Black parents to make the same school choices as middle-class parents in the suburbs.

In reality, it has made the public schools even more segregated by allowing more white children in Cleveland to leave them. Those students who don't get selected by the private schools—and they are the vast majority—suffer from the resulting funding cuts.

Some leaders and elected officials in the Black community support vouchers, but many do not. When the case first went to the Supreme Court, a huge rally against vouchers was held in a church in the Black community where leading clergy from Cleveland and around the country spoke. The NAACP is opposed to school vouchers. After the ruling, the Cleveland Plain Dealer's leading Black columnist condemned the decision.

The high court's ruling argued that vouchers don't violate separation of church and state because parents have the option of sending their children to secular private schools. But most parents cannot afford the tuition at those schools, even with the vouchers, and many cannot transport their children to the outer-ring suburbs where the schools are located.

Studies show that voucher students do no better academically than students in the struggling public schools. The voucher schools can reject any pupil as unqualified. There is no proof that this "faith-based" theft of public education benefits anyone but the Christian right wing by subsidizing its pro-Bush propaganda.

Like tax "reform" and welfare "reform," this attack on public education adds up to yet another theft from the poorest workers carried out by this pro-big business government.

## As Bush piously swears allegiance 'under God'

# Church group fined for travel to Cuba

By Bill Massey  
Chicago

The Bush administration spouted fire and brimstone when a federal district court ruled that the pledge of allegiance is unconstitutional and in violation of the separation of church and state because of the phrase "under God." The same Bush administration, however, is attacking Wisconsin churchgoers.

Three members of the Central United Methodist Church (CUMC) of Milwaukee are facing large fines for traveling to Cuba three years ago to celebrate the 100th anniversary of their sister church in Havana.

In 1994, CUMC established an ongoing relationship with a Methodist Church in Havana called La Trinidad. In 1999, La Trinidad sent a formal invitation to CUMC to send members to join its anniversary celebration.

CUMC, which works with the Milwaukee Coalition to Normalize Relations with Cuba, sent six parishioners to Cuba. They related that they had a very positive and

moving experience in Havana.

On the return of the church members to the United States via Toronto, U.S. officials told them their visit had been illegal. They were questioned and the officials copied their papers and identification before allowing them back into the country.

Now, more than three years later, three of the six are targets of a "crackdown" by the Bush government. The crackdown is not new. It began under the Clinton regime. During Clinton's last year in office, 188 persons were notified of fines for traveling to Cuba.

But under Bush, who called for a "crackdown on excessive travel to Cuba," 766 people were fined in his first year in office, and the number is still climbing.

Of the six who traveled to Cuba, two were African American men and four were white—two women and two men. The two African American men—Theron Mills and William Ferguson—were each fined \$7,500. Dollora Greene-Evans, one of the white women, was fined \$5,000.

Continued on page 10



## Mother of civil rights martyr at Pride rally

# 'Living is all about taking risks'

By Leslie Feinberg  
New York

Under a blazing June sun, an 86-year-old woman climbed to the stage at New York's Lesbian/Gay/Bi/Trans Pride rally June 23. Thousands cheered her, many rising to their feet to applaud. Her name is Dr. Carolyn Goodman, a woman who has worked for social justice most of her life.

The ovation also acknowledged an excruciating loss in Dr. Goodman's life. The Ku Klux Klan murdered her son, Andrew Goodman, in 1964. Andrew Goodman, James Chaney and Michael Schwerner—three civil rights workers—were shot to death on a deserted road in Neshoba County, Miss. The Klan, with the help of county officials, carried out the lynchings.

The deaths of these three young men—Black and white youths struggling together against Jim Crow apartheid—stunned the country and the world. The movie "Mississippi Burning" is based on this painful milestone in the civil rights movement. Many would argue that the outrage provoked by their brutal killings helped speed up winning the 1965 anti-racist Voting Rights Act.

Workers World asked Dr. Goodman where her life's path forked into social activism.

Goodman, raised in "that whole era of the Depression," grew up in Long Island. "In those days it was the country—potato land." She describes herself as "a very perceptive little kid," who noticed economic inequity.

She later went to school in upstate New York and met her future husband, Robert Goodman. "He was organizing the farmers up there because they were being robbed by the big farm companies in the early thirties. We were organizing there as undergraduates and got kicked out of school for awhile. So it went."

Goodman continues: "Then we got into the whole period of fascism and Hitlerism. I became very active in the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee rescuing young

children escaping from Franco's Spain. Much of what I did was at risk in those days. That was my life," she remembers.

"My son was raised in that milieu."

### Conviction and courage

Goodman's voice softens as she recalls her son Andrew. "He decided he wanted to go South to register Black voters. It was a time when television was in its infancy, but we had seen the [police] dogs and the sheriffs and what was happening to the civil rights workers."

Andrew was 20 years old at the time. Since he was under 21, he needed parental permission. She says she and her husband discussed the values with which they'd raised their children: "We can't just talk about it, we have to mean what we say. We have to give Andy our permission."

She remembers that her son later called and said, "Mom, I'm not going to Canton, I'm going to Meridian." She says, "Canton at that time in Mississippi was relatively safe. But we knew what was happening in Meridian. My heart sank. I wasn't happy at all, but there's no way that I wanted to convey that to Andy."

"Well, there he went," she says in a quieter timbre. "And there are certain memories I have of the moment he left, taking his little duffel bag with him and taking little things in case he was picked up. Memories of the fact that as a musician he had taken recordings. I got all that back when they found their station wagon. I got back Andy's duffel bag, the recordings, all seared and burnt. All these memories will never leave me."

Goodman's voice strengthens. "On the other hand, there's something about Andy's having gone that will always help my spirits to soar. He was like these people [at the Pride rally] who have the courage of their convictions."

Goodman says of the Pride rally, "I have a lot of admiration for the people there." She remembers the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion against police repression that ignited the modern lesbian, gay, bi and trans



PHOTO: FRANK MARRERO

Right to left, Dr. Carolyn Goodman, performer Flotilla De Barge, and Leslie Feinberg backstage at Pride rally.

movement and how hard it was to be "out" before then.

She sees a relationship between the civil rights struggle and the LGBT movement. "I think there's a strong connection—the kind of courage that it took to do what lesbian, gay and trans people did. They were asserting their rights to be people in the way that Andy saw that Black people were not slaves to their society—they had rights. And people at Stonewall were not slaves to the society either. These are all civil and human rights."

Goodman says she has seen change in her lifetime since the civil rights movement: "We can now not only stand up together, we can sit down together."

She adds, "As far as the gay and lesbian and trans movement is concerned, I think there have been changes there, too. I think it came later, and I think it's in process, but I'm optimistic about it."

Goodman stresses, "I think the future lies with the young people. Let's encourage them and reach them and let them know

they are the future. And it's up to us to endow them with that knowledge and to open up their resources."

What would she say to someone who is frightened by the murders of Andrew Goodman, James Chaney and Michael Schwerner? Goodman doesn't miss a beat: "I would answer that if one is satisfied with the state of the world as it is at this moment, and you're happy with the status quo, why then don't take the risk. But if you don't cross the street from this side to that side, you might just melt there."

"Every time you cross the street you take a risk," she concludes. "You've got to take a risk in order to live; that's what living is all about. If you want to live, to breathe the air, to feel like a person, to feel like you have a reason to be in the world—take a risk."

## June Jordan: people's poet

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Poet/activist June Jordan passed away from breast cancer on June 14 at the age of 65. She was born in 1936 in Harlem to Jamaican-born parents Granville and Mildred Jordan. Her father was a nightshift postal worker and her mother a nurse.

Jordan was one of the most published African American writers ever—the author of 28 books, mostly poetry and political essays. Revered as a teacher and supporter of community-centered education, she founded the Poetry for the People Program at the University of California at Berkeley.

Her life-long commitment to the struggle for justice included youthful work against McCarthyism, support for the Nicaraguan revolution, opposition to apartheid in South Africa, and speaking out against the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and for Palestinian rights:

"I was born a Black woman and now

I am become a Palestinian against the relentless laughter of evil."

(From "Living Room: New Poems," Thunder's Mouth Press, 1985)



PHOTO: KAREN MCANINCH

## PROVIDENCE, R.I.

### Community wins civilian oversight of cops

Members of DARE, a Providence, R.I.-based community group, celebrate the passage of a law setting up the Providence External Review Authority, a civilian agency to oversee police conduct. DARE led a two-and-a-half-year campaign for the agency after Black off-duty officer Cornell Young Jr. was killed by on-duty white cops in January 2000, touching off angry protests.

—Bill Bateman



## Anthrax and Mr. Z

A tremendous challenge looms for the postal workers and their unions. The government knows who probably sent the deadly anthrax letters, but has done nothing about it.

This shocking assertion doesn't come from us. It was first made by Dr. Barbara Hatch Rosenberg, a prominent expert on biological weapons who reported her findings on the American Society of Scientists Web site. An article about her views appeared in the March 18 New Yorker magazine.

Now the culpability of the government has been suggested by an even weightier establishment source: the New York Times. In an op-ed piece on July 2, Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Nicholas D. Kristof describes in detail the person responsible, identifying him only as "Mr. Z" for obvious legal reasons.

He is not somebody from the Middle East, says Kristof, but a "true-blue American with close ties to the Defense Department, the CIA, and the American biodefense program."

He had access to an isolated residence last fall that could be a government "safe house." The FBI "knows that Mr. Z gave Cipro to people who visited it," says Kristof. Cipro is the antibiotic recommended to counteract anthrax.

While the Bush administration pretends that its strengthening of the repressive apparatus here and abroad is for "fighting terror" and "homeland security," and has put more than a thousand Muslim and Arab people behind bars, it has allowed the prime suspect in the domestic anthrax attacks to use multiple passports and identities and "travel abroad on government assignments, even to Central Asia," says Kristof.

His identity appears to be an open secret in Washington. Kristof says many experts are "buzzing about Mr. Z behind his back."

Kristof notes that the FBI has polygraphed him, searched his home twice and interviewed him four times. But the agency has not placed Mr. Z under surveillance or asked a handwriting expert to analyze any similarities between his writing and that on the letters that accompanied the anthrax.

The political police also declined to obtain comparison anthrax samples from labs until March and allowed the stocks of anthrax at Iowa State University to be destroyed before they could be tested. Scientists at two likely labs—Fort Detrick,

Md., and Dugway Proving Ground in Utah—were not systematically polygraphed until June.

This person has an extreme racist political pedigree that is also known to Washington. Kristof says he has "claimed that he participated in the white army's much-feared Selous Scouts" in Rhodesia, before it became Zimbabwe. He "also claims involvement in the former South African Defense Force," which committed horrendous crimes against the African majority before apartheid was finally dismantled.

The worst recorded outbreak of anthrax in history occurred in Rhodesia from 1978 to 1980, exactly the period when the liberation movement was winning the war against the Selous Scouts and white minority rule. The disease raged in the African-owned Tribal Trust Lands. Some 10,000 Black farmers were sickened and 182 died, but the white elite of Rhodesia and their cattle were untouched. There was suspicion that the disease was spread by aerial spraying.

The FBI and the Bush administration appear totally unconcerned that a person with Mr. Z's background has worked high up in the biological weapons program of the U.S. and is viewed by his colleagues as a prime suspect in the anthrax murders.

But postal workers, many of whom are African American, must look at it differently. There have been nine known deaths since the letters started to appear—the majority postal workers. All were purposely exposed to anthrax. If that's not "terrorism," what is?

Don't they have the right to conduct an independent investigation of what is going on? Kristof ascribes a benign motive to the killer: he "probably had no intention of killing people. ... My guess is that the goal was to help America by raising preparedness against biological attacks in the future."

But what if the goal of this unregenerate racist was something much more sinister? To provide a pretext to dismantle civil liberties and strengthen a police state? And/or to wage war on countries U.S. imperialism wants to conquer, like Iraq? And what if the cover-up is similarly motivated?

The workers' movement—particularly the postal workers' union—has the right to take control of this investigation and pry it open to public view, here and around the world.

## 'Endless war' claims more civilians

# U.S. bombs Afghan wedding party

By John Catalinotto

An allegedly errant U.S. bomb killed 40 civilians and wounded another 70 at a wedding party in central Afghanistan July 1, according to local Afghan authorities. The casualties included children.

Other sources from inside Afghanistan, speaking on the radio show "Democracy Now!," said that bombs and rockets were fired at Afghan civilians. Some estimate the number of deaths at up to 250.

The wanton killing of civilians in Uruzgan province reminded the world that the slaughter started by U.S. forces last October in Afghanistan continues to this day.

It is also a reminder of just why Washington is currently refusing to participate in so-called peacekeeping assignments in Bosnia unless U.S. troops are immune from international war crimes charges. The Pentagon officers and the Bush administration know all too well that their forces do indeed commit war crimes.

The Pentagon insisted its forces were attacking a legitimate, hostile target in the area. By the following day the U.S. Central Command, which is responsible for U.S. military operations in Afghanistan, admitted that one of its operations "may have resulted in civilian casualties."

The brief statement said: "Close air support from U.S. Air Force B-52 and AC-130 aircraft struck several ground targets, including anti-aircraft artillery sites that were engaging the aircraft."

Afghan authorities—themselves allied with the U.S. occupying forces at present—gave a more detailed version of the U.S. attack, according to the Associated Press and Reuters.

Raaz Mohammad, a spokesperson for the provincial governor, said: "We have buried victims of the bombing in the village of Deh Rawud. They include women and children."

Bismullah, communications chief of Uruzgan province, said celebrants were firing weapons in the air, a wedding custom in rural Afghanistan, when U.S. planes attacked.

Some reports say that U.S. air gunships and a Special Forces unit were hunting Al Qaeda fighters in the region and mistook the celebratory fire for an ambush, then called in air support from B-52s flying at 30,000 feet. Other Pentagon reports say it may have been an errant 2,000-pound bomb from the B-52, which was aiming at another target.

One of those wounded at the wedding was Haji Mohammed Anwar, who Afghans said was one of the first prominent local figures to rise up against the former Taliban regime. Anwar is reportedly a friend of President Hamid Karzai, who was placed in power by the U.S. occupying troops.

According to the Reuters article, there was widespread anger in the streets of Kabul, the Afghan capital, after the U.S. bombing. "It's not the first time this happened," said Abdul Wahood. "Enough is enough. We want Karzai to make the Americans stop."

Wahood may have been referring to an earlier bombing in Uruzgan province that killed 30 civilians. Or to the thousands of Afghan civilians who have been killed by U.S. bombs since the Bush administration launched its criminal "war on terror" that has terrorized Afghanistan and much of the world.

## Church group fined for travel to Cuba

Continued from page 8

More than 200,000 U.S. nationals visit Cuba every year, according to a CUMC release. The U.S. Treasury Department reports that 60,000 defied the U.S. travel restrictions last year.

The government now issues licenses that allow some people to travel to Cuba. But they are generally reserved for journalists and academics.

The travel restrictions are imposed to keep the people of this country from seeing the tremendous progress Cuba has made since the 1959 revolution. This progress has been made in spite of Cuba's past legacy of colonialism and the virtual war waged by the U.S. government through its blockade, terrorism and unrelenting campaign of abuse.

In addition to denying the people of this

country the freedom to travel, the selective and racist manner in which people are punished is totally unjust.

According to the Milwaukee church, "Although our government's 40-year economic blockade against Cuba contributes to the daily hardships of our friends and neighbors there, our members who visited Cuba a number of times in recent years have been warmly received by the Cuban people at all levels.

"Our members do not believe any fine is justified and they want to help defend the right of all of us in this country to travel as free people."

For more information on the case of the Milwaukee 3, contact: Central United Methodist Church, 639 N. 25th St., Milwaukee, WI 53233; phone (414) 344-1600; or email [efk0937@aol.com](mailto:efk0937@aol.com).

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## Argentine police kill protesters

# As crisis deepens, so does repression

By Alicia Jrapko

It was no coincidence. Two “piqueteros” from the Coordinadora of Unemployed Workers Aníbal Verón were brutally gunned down by police in a train station in Buenos Aires on June 26. At the same time, the Argentine minister of the economy, Roberto Lavagna, landed in the United States to meet with International Monetary Fund Director Horst Koehler and U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Paul O’Neill.

The desperate mission of this new official was to beg for an emergency loan so Argentina could continue to pay its rising debt to many international financial institutions, including the IMF itself.

The Argentine peso has continued to slide in relation to the dollar. One dollar now buys 3.95 pesos, the highest since January, when the decade of pegging the peso to the dollar ended. International banking experts still believe that the Argentine government has not fulfilled all the requirements imposed by the IMF and the World Bank.

### People resist international banks

One of the main reasons the Argentine government has been unable to implement the neoliberal policies imposed by powerful foreign financial institutions is that the people of this South American country have been in motion since last December.

On June 26 the ruling class of Argentina unleashed brutal repression against them, demonstrating a change in tactics on the part of the unelected Duhalde regime and the sharpening of the class struggle.

Like the corporate media in the United States, the Argentine mainstream media has been demonizing the victims for fighting back and ignoring the root causes of the crisis. Most bourgeois journalists, for example, ignore the fact that since the economic crisis began, more than 100 children have died every day in Argentina’s cities, or that 30 percent of the population is unemployed, or that people in the poorest neighborhoods have resorted to eating horses, rats and frogs.

Some 250,000 people marched March 24 to mark the anniversary of the 1976 military coup in Argentina. School teachers, right, haven’t been paid in months.

WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

This time the media is blaming the piquetero movement. In a country of closed factories and economic depression, it is important to point out that this new movement has escalated the union tactic of the strike by cutting off highways and bridges to stop the transportation of goods and products. This growing movement has become one of the most militant forms of organization in Argentina.

The piquetero movement had called for a day of coordinated actions on June 26. Activities took place in Rosario, Misiones, Tucumán, Salta, Córdoba, Neuquén, Mar del Plata and many other cities.

In Buenos Aires, four organizations of unemployed workers—including the Coordinadora of Unemployed Workers Aníbal Verón, the Piquetero Bloc, Barrios de Pie and the Movement of Retired and Unemployed of Raúl Castells—participated in the action.

Their requests included salary increases for employed and unemployed workers, food for the unemployed, opening of people’s and school kitchens, self-administration of subsidies going to the unemployed, health care and education for all, and an end to hunger and repression.

### Police shoot protesters

In Buenos Aires the protesters were brutally attacked by a combined force of infantry, federal and provincial police, the naval prefecture, dogs, assault vehicles and helicopters. As a result, two piqueteros died—Darío Santillán and Maximiliano Costeki, both members of the Coordinadora of Unemployed Workers Aníbal Verón. Another 90 people were wounded,



many by shotguns, and more than 150 were detained.

The state repression did not end there. It spilled into the locality of Avellaneda, on the other side of the Pueyrredón Bridge, including inside the Fiorito Hospital, where many of the wounded had been taken. Police attacked the headquarters of the Communist Party in the same zone.

“The ugly face of capitalism is surfacing as never before. Hunger and repression, two faces of the same coin,” said one activist with the Association of Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires. “The lack of response by this bourgeois government to the current crisis has pushed them to show their real monstrous, ugly and bloody face.”

Referring to the repression, she added, “We are not the violent ones. Our struggle is for life; they represent death. We will continue the struggle and Darío and Maximiliano and the 30,000 disappeared [during the military coup of 1976] will guide us and will give us the necessary strength until the final victory.”

The following day, on June 27, thousands of people participated in mass soli-

darity demonstrations in Buenos Aires. Participants included the National Piquetero Bloc and numerous leftist organizations, students and the neighborhood assemblies born during the struggle last December, which was the catalyst for the fall of then-President Fernando de la Rúa.

The real causes of the violence in Argentina are the neoliberal policies dictated by the IMF and the World Bank. These policies of exploitation and slavery have generated a new dynamic movement in Argentina that is looking for fundamental solutions to the problems of the workers. While the state terror is armed to the teeth, the workers—employed and unemployed—and the mass organizations have responded with sticks, stones and cooking pots.

President Duhalde has blood on his hands, and Darío and Maximiliano are his first victims.

Compañeros Darío Santillán and Maximiliano Costeki, presente!

*Jrapko was in Argentina in March and witnessed a popular assembly of the Coordinadora of Unemployed Workers Aníbal Verón.*

## Longshore workers fight to keep the docks union

Continued from page 7

issue is keeping the waterfronts and all ports in the U.S. unionized.

The PMA, in conjunction with a consortium of companies called the West Coast Waterfront Coalition, is calling for new technology that would take shipping clerk jobs off site and into smaller ports around the world, in areas where unions are weaker and non-union labor is allowed. This would open the door for other functions of dock work to go the same way, pre-

senting a challenge to organized labor.

The shipping magnates would like nothing better than to weaken the ILWU. The West Coast Waterfront Coalition represents some of the largest shipping corporations, including WalMart, The Gap, Nummi Auto, Nike and others. The sole reason they have formed this generously financed coalition is to break the unions. The coalition is drawing up contingency plans in case of a strike to keep the docks open and to ship goods in other ways.

The other component on the owners’ side is the Bush administration, which has called on the workers not to strike. “Homeland security” czar Tom Ridge even called ILWU President Jim Spinosa to tell him this was not a “good time for a strike.”

The dock workers show no sign of being intimidated by these ruling class tactics. The rally assembled a strong array of supporters who made it clear they will back the ILWU and honor a strike if they walk out.

Spinosa’s talk responded to the pressure about national security: “We demand real national security, the security of our jobs and health care. We demand a share of the wealth we produce every day.”

Teamsters President James Hoffa said that the 1.4 million Teamsters who drive

trucks to and from the docks would honor and join any picket line set up by the Longshore workers.

Ken Riley, president of International Longshoremens’ Association Local 1422 in Charleston, S.C., said East Coast dock workers would support a strike by the ILWU. Riley understands union solidarity. Five members of his union were attacked by cops; then state officials tried to railroad them on felony charges. Unions around the world responded and their case was won.

Support from international unions is coming in, including the International Transport Workers Federation and the International Dockworkers Council. The ILWU in Vancouver, Canada, has vowed to shut down that port if there is a strike. President Wilson Borja Diaz of the National Federation of State Service Workers in Colombia said his union would support the ILWU, despite the repression Colombian trade unionists face.

London Rankin, president of the Panama Canal Pilots Union, got a huge cheer from the crowd when he said that no pilot would navigate any ship through the locks and the canal would be shut down if there was a strike.

Many unionists came from industries

outside shipping because of the ILWU’s long history of militancy and unwavering support for other workers’ struggles. The Central Labor Councils of Alameda, San Mateo and San Francisco were there, as were the Bay Area Rapid Transit Chapter of Service Employees Local 790, the Seafarers Union, the San Francisco Media Workers Union and many others.

The ILWU’s militant and progressive history goes back to the 1934 general strike in San Francisco, which began after Longshore workers Howard Sperry and Nick Bordoise were killed and 109 others were injured in a police attack on the docks. Since that time the ILWU has represented the most progressive wing of the labor movement on the West Coast.

The union refused to unload cargo from South Africa during the struggle to end apartheid. In April 1999 the ILWU shut down all major ports on the West Coast for a day in support of death row political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Gloria La Riva, president of the Typographical Sector of the Media Workers Union, told the crowd that all unions and progressive people should stand in solidarity with the ILWU. “After all the support they have given, it is time to reciprocate,” she said.

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## Después del golpe fallado en Venezuela

# Sindicalistas quieren saber papel jugado por la AFL-CIO

Por Milt Neidenberg

Una controversia ha aterrizado en el medio del territorio de la jerarquía de la AFL-CIO en Washington, D.C., involucrando a la agencia internacional de la federación laboral —el Centro Americano por la Solidaridad de Trabajo Internacional (ACILS por las siglas en Inglés). ¿Estuvo ACILS relacionado con las fuerzas contrarrevolucionarias que intentaron derrocar al presidente venezolano Hugo Chávez y su gobierno elegido democráticamente?

John J. Sweeney fue elegido presidente de la AFL-CIO en 1995 cuando derrotó a una burocracia derechista encabezada por Lane Kirkland y Thomas R. Donahue que se había mantenido en el poder por más de 17 años. Creció el optimismo mientras que Sweeney limpió la casa de la “guardia antigua”, incluso la sección internacional, que había sido una fachada por los intereses de la política extranjera del gobierno de los Estados Unidos y había participado en tumbar a gobiernos progresistas. El nombre antiguo de esa sección, el Departamento de Asuntos Internacionales, fue descartado para eliminar el hedor que había producido sus actividades.

Ahora que el liderazgo de Sweeney está siendo analizado, sindicalistas se están preguntando, ¿qué sabían? y ¿qué hicieron? durante estos días fatídicos que resultaron en ese golpe de estado de corta vida en Venezuela.

Es indiscutible que el golpe de estado fallado expuso las maquinaciones de la administración de Bush, que había prestado ayuda y consuelo a los líderes del golpe antes y durante la toma del poder de 48 horas. Washington dio alabanzas al golpe fascista durante sus horas tempranas de control. Después se retiró apuradamente cuando falló, escondiéndose detrás de una fachada de refunfuños pseudo democráticos.

La administración de Bush detesta el régimen de Chávez abiertamente por sus relaciones calurosas con Cuba e Iraq, su política independiente sobre el petróleo, y su oposición al Área Libre de Comercio de las Américas, (ALCA), el plato fuerte de la estrategia de comercio de Washington en este hemisferio.

¿Resultaron pillados en esta telaraña de un golpe fascista los líderes de la AFL-CIO? El 12 de febrero, un mes antes del golpe, la AFL-CIO, en colaboración con el National Endowment for Democracy (NED) —que es bien conocido por proporcionar una imagen falsa de buenas intenciones por actividades de corte de la CIA— auspició una reunión cerrada para solamente los altos rangos, destacando a representantes a la Confederación de Trabajo de Venezuela. Los líderes de la CTV habían participado recientemente en una cantidad de cierres patronales y otras actividades en colusión con Fedecámaras, la organización principal de la oligarquía de comercio venezolano, y un sector de los militares, para cerrar a la empresa estatal petrolera de

Venezuela, PVSA. Retrospectivamente, estas actividades fueron los últimos ensayos por el golpe.

La NED auspició todos los gastos del evento, que incluyó varias reuniones con varios líderes de la AFL-CIO, según Catherine Hoyt, co-coordinadora de la Red de Nicaragua. Hoyt fue una organizadora de un piquete de la sede de la AFL-CIO en Washington para protestar la reunión del 12 de febrero. La coalición ANSWER también participó en ese piquete.

### Grupo laboral depende en financiamiento del gobierno

NED es una agencia gubernamental creada y financiada por el Congreso durante la administración de Reagan en 1983. La Agencia por el Desarrollo Internacional (AID) y la NED han sido los patrocinadores principales del ACILS.

La NED tiene una rica experiencia en subvertir a los gobiernos resistentes a las demandas del imperialismo estadounidense, como Nicaragua en 1989, por ejemplo. Con una asignación anual de \$33 millones y mucho más desde fuentes privadas, conspira con el gobierno de los EE.UU. a recorrer al mundo, desde África a Asia a Latinoamérica y el Caribe en búsqueda de aliados donde la intervención directa de oficiales del gobierno de los EE.UU. pueda ser inoportuna. Su reputación por la subversión y sobornos es ampliamente conocida.

Mucho de esto ha salido al conocimiento público desde que el golpe fascista falló y Chávez volvió al poder. El New York Times del 25 de abril, avergonzado por los acontecimientos, publicó un título grande en el primer plano, “Apoyo Financiero Dado por EE.UU. en la Mira por Conexiones al Intento de Golpe Contra Chávez”. El artículo reportó que “mientras que Chávez chocaba con varios grupos comerciales, laborales y noticieros, la NED incrementó su ayuda, cuadruplicando su presupuesto por Venezuela hasta más de \$877.000”.

El artículo menciona que ACILS recibió \$154.377 de la NED por su proyecto sobre Venezuela, solamente una porción de los \$4 millones que han sido reportados que la NED contribuya a este centro de la AFL-CIO. Previsiblemente, el Times evitó mencionar el papel más grande jugado por la administración de Bush. La intención del periódico fue simplemente exponer al NED y su relación con la AFL-CIO.

Sacudido por estas revelaciones, la AFL-CIO decidió publicar una declaración: “La AFL-CIO y los Derechos Obreros en Venezuela”, que se puede encontrar en su página del Web. La idea básica de la declaración fue de atacar abusivamente al Presidente Chávez.

“Desde el momento que asumí el poder en 1999, Hugo Chávez dirigió un asalto contra la libertad de asociación, con la intención debilitar o eliminar las instituciones principales de la sociedad venezolana, incluso los sindicatos”. Defendi-

endo el papel del CTV, la declaración sigue: “En el medio de este asalto, la CTV dirigió un proceso impresionante de democratización con la ayuda del Centro de Solidaridad de la AFL-CIO”.

### CTV muy cercano al líder del atentado

La declaración también “inequívocamente condena la tentativa de golpe de estado” y trata de limpiar la participación de la CTV. “No existe ninguna evidencia de que la CTV o sus líderes fueron más allá de la expresión democrática de descontento”, concluyó la declaración. “La AFL-CIO continuará apoyando a la CTV.”

Hay mucho en la declaración que es deshonesto, delusorio y perturbante para muchos de los sindicalistas progresistas que han estado al tanto de los eventos en Venezuela. Es innegable que la CTV participó en el atentado y que la NED estuvo íntimamente conectada con la CTV, financiando sus operaciones contrarrevolucionarias. La declaración de la AFL-CIO cubre todo esto. Y tampoco hay un comentario o ataque contra la administración de Bush por su apoyo abierto del intento de golpe de estado.

Hasta el periódico The New York Times del 25 de abril admitió, “el líder sindical, Carlos Ortega, trabajó muy cerca con Pedro Carmona Estanga.” Carmona, presidente del grupo empresario Fedecámaras, fue escogido a liderar el gobierno fascista de corta vida junto con secciones del ejército. Fue responsable por el régimen de terror de 48 horas contra la clase obrera y el movimiento progresista, que apoyaban al Presidente Chávez. Los trabajadores llenaron las calles en cifras de cientos de miles para retornarle al poder.

El Ministro de Educación venezolana, Dr. Aristóbulo Istúriz, habiendo sido él mismo un líder sindical del gremio de los maestros y Vice presidente de la Asamblea Constituyente, dio un relato vívido del atentado a una audiencia de sindicalistas progresistas reunidos en los salones del gremio AFSCME Distrito Concejal 1707 en la ciudad de Nueva York el 10 de mayo. El dijo que durante el atentado, “Carmona fue a Miraflores [el palacio presidencial] y reunió a toda la oligarquía que estaba en control de la economía, pero, interesante-mente, él dejó a los líderes mafiosos en control de los sindicatos afuera.”

Los líderes de la AFL-CIO se han puesto en una posición inaceptable. Sus lazos a la NED los han puesto del lado opuesto a la clase obrera en América Latina. Los obreros en todo el hemisferio han demostrado una profunda hostilidad contra la intervención de los Estados Unidos. Ellos están opuestos al papel que juegan el Fondo Monetario Internacional, la Banca Mundial y en especial la amenaza que la ALCA plantea sobre sus vidas.

Desde el 11 de Septiembre, la AFL-CIO ha sido debilitada por el Presidente George W. Bush, quien ha aprovechado el momento para desatar una ofensiva anti obr-

era y racista. Los líderes se han sucumbido ante las decisiones de la administración de Bush de encender una guerra más amplia en el extranjero y así justificar una campaña “anti terrorista” aquí.

Cientos de miles de millones de dólares han sido desviados de las necesidades del pueblo al Pentágono y la “defensa de la patria.” Ambos partidos han iniciado recortes en los programas sociales y proyectos de ley más represivos contra la beneficencia pública y más recientemente el apoyo para la ALCA dando así a Bush más poder para expandir su estrategia de globalización. Para agregar a la lista de enemigos de Sweeney, su base dentro de la burocracia está bajo ataque por el presidente del sindicato de los Teamsters, James Hoffa, quien está colaborando con la administración de Bush. Hoffa se sentó junto a Bush durante la inauguración presidencial y ha exigido más apoyo para los candidatos republicanos.

### Es una situación muy triste a la redonda

Sin embargo, represión crea resistencia. Movimientos contra estas políticas imperialistas, empresariales, bancarias continúa creciendo. Un ejemplo es la concurrencia de 100.000 activistas el 20 de abril en Washington para oponerse a la guerra contra los obreros, los inmigrantes y los pobres de aquí, y su expansionismo en el extranjero, particularmente contra el pueblo palestino.

El desarrollo de la tecnología ha revolucionado los medios de producción pero también ha traído una miseria sin medida para la clase obrera, a quienes se les hace imposible comprar las necesidades de la vida mientras que los ricos y su oligarquía se alimentan insaciablemente del trabajo de las masas trabajadoras.

La lucha de clase es contagiosa. Es mundial. Y se continuará alimentando del descontento y reforzará el desarrollo de la solidaridad internacional.

La promesa de la solidaridad internacional se construye desde abajo. Debido al apetito insaciable de Wall Street y el establecimiento bancario/empresarial, la resistencia crecerá entre los 13 mil miembros multinacionales de miembros, hombres y mujeres de la AFL-CIO.

¿Podrá la AFL-CIO encontrar su camino a estas fuerzas y romper con las políticas pro guerra y anti obrera de los dos partidos capitalistas? Es mejor observar la posición actual de la AFL-CIO desde la perspectiva de la lucha de clases global que se está desarrollando. En el Día de los Trabajadores, Primero de Mayo, un día nacido en la lucha de clase, decenas de millones de obreros, socialistas, progresistas y activistas de conciencia de clases llenaron las calles en todo el mundo en contra de las muchas cuestiones que enfrenta su clase. Mucho de estas protestas estaban dirigidas contra los propósitos de guerra imperialista de los Estados Unidos. Los eventos fueron inspiradores y ejemplar.