

# WORLD SAYS NO TO WAR OF CONQUEST

People demand jobs, schools and health care-not racist blitzkrieg

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*Workers World Party issued the following statement on the outbreak of the U.S. attack on Iraq on March 19.*

It should be clear to everyone by now. The U.S. government has been clamoring for the disarmament of Iraq—which was basically accomplished by the first Gulf War—so that its own military, by far the most destructive in the world, could attack and conquer a virtually defenseless nation one-tenth its size.

Never has there been a more naked case of outright aggression than this war. Even a United Nations that has acquiesced for over 50 years in one U.S. military intervention after another—starting with Korea and continuing through Vietnam and scores of other wars and armed operations, large and small—could not go along with this one.

If the UN has become “irrelevant,” using Bush’s word, it is because this world body, which includes the governments of both oppressor and oppressed nations, is incapable of indicting the U.S. government for its flagrant crimes against peace and war crimes in violation of the UN’s own charter and all international law.

In his speech on March 17 giving Iraq “final notice,” President George W. Bush said he was attacking that country “to enforce the just demands of the world.” That alone showed that the whole speech was based on outrageous lies. While governments may be paralyzed under the pressure of the world’s economic and military superpower, never before

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have the people of the world expressed their opposition to a war with such fervor, and in such overwhelming numbers.

The billionaire-owned media corporations repeat Bush’s lies as the truth. And they will continue to do so. It is already clear that U.S. special teams have been organized to produce justification for this war of aggression by “finding” Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. What the UN could not find in years of inspections, the U.S. is sure to “find,” one way or another. Documents presented by the U.S. and Britain that alleged Iraq tried to obtain uranium were exposed at the UN as forgeries. But exposure of new pretexts is not likely in the “fog of war,” when territory has been taken and those disputing the U.S. claims can be killed at the drop of a hat.

Knowing that Washington is exerting intense pressure on the media to repeat its charges uncritically, so as to deliver some semblance of public support for this unpopular war, it is necessary that the world be totally skeptical of whatever self-

*Continued on page 10*



WW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

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## Once again, protesters flood streets of U.S., world

A quarter of a million people marched in Washington, San Francisco and Los Angeles on March 15. Above, march that converged on White House.

**Protests erupting around the globe** 5-8

# NO BUSINESS AS USUAL! NO WAR ON IRAQ!

## Anti-war response plan NATIONAL CALL TO ACTION

### United emergency action plan Walkouts and protests

Download leaflets and placards at [www.internationalanswer.org](http://www.internationalanswer.org) and [www.votewar.org](http://www.votewar.org)

George W. Bush has promised to unleash an all-out war against Iraq, possibly as soon as March 19. We join with peace-loving people all over the world in challenging this 48-hour war ultimatum. At this critical moment, we urge all people of conscience to oppose this illegal war of aggression by participating in the following actions:

#### NEW YORK CITY

### Sat. March 22

Gather at 11:30 a.m. for march. Assemble down Broadway from 41st Street to 36th Street.

#### THE DAY WAR STARTS

**NO BUSINESS AS USUAL THAT DAY.**  
Walk out of work, school or home.

Converge starting at 12 noon and into the night.

There will also be **March 22** regional demonstrations at the White House in **Washington, D.C.**, at 12 noon, **San Francisco, Los Angeles** and other cities around the country.

All other organizations and coalitions are invited to join this call!  
[www.internationalANSWER.org](http://www.internationalANSWER.org)

#### BALTIMORE Day bombing begins: Gather at War Memorial Plaza across from City Hall, 100 Holiday Street, at 5 p.m.

Come to the All Peoples Congress Hall at 426 E. 31st Street to pick up flyers and posters. For more info call (410) 235-7040.

#### CHICAGO Day bombing begins: Gather at Federal Plaza, Adams & Dearborn streets, at 5 p.m.

Larger follow-up protest at the same time and location the next day. Students walk out of school day after the attack.

#### BOSTON Rally & march at Government Center at 5 p.m.

(Protest will be held the same day at 5 p.m. if attacks begin before 12 noon EST. )  
If they begin after 12 noon EST, protest will be the next day at 5 p.m.)

#### Initial Endorsers:

International ANSWER coalition  
The Greens/Green Party USA  
Not In Our Name Project  
NYC Forum of Concerned Religious Leaders  
New York City Labor Against the War



Residents of Western Addition, a predominately African American community in San Francisco, demonstrate their support for anti-war protesters March 15.

WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

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

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

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#### WW CALENDAR

##### BOSTON

#### Sat., March 22

International Women's Day forum in solidarity with the women of Iraq and all women under attack. Featuring: Korean anti-war activist Yoomi Jeong; poet and author Minnie Bruce Pratt; guerilla performances by DAGGER (Dykes with a Cutting Edge from the Theater Offensive). Music by Puerto Rican activist Marta Rodriguez. Sponsored by Women's Fightback Network and ANSWER. Childcare. Light potluck. \$5 donation. 6:30 p.m. At Cambridge YWCA, 7 Temple St. For info (617) 522-6626 or wfn@iacboston.org.

At Chicago Temple, 77 W. Washington St. For info (888) 471-0874.

##### NEW YORK

#### Fri., March 21

Emergency Workers World Party meeting on the war crisis. 7 p.m. At P.S. 41, 11th St. west of 6th Ave. For info (212) 255-0352.

#### Sat., March 22

March for Peace & Democracy. Sponsored by United for Peace & Justice. Noon. Location to be announced. For info (212) 603-3700 or (212) 633-6646.

##### SAN FRANCISCO

#### Sun., March 23

"The Iraq War and the U.S. drive for global domination." Meeting of the San Francisco branch of Workers World Party will discuss the Bush administration's plans to take over Iraq and dominate the world. 5 p.m. At 2489 Mission St. room 28. For info (415) 826-4828.

##### CHICAGO

#### Sun., March 23

The lesbian, gay, bisexual & transgendered community is coming out against war & racism. An afternoon of action and political education featuring Leslie Feinberg of the IAC and author of "Stone Butch Blues." Sponsored by Queer to the Left, Sangat, Chicago Anti-Bashing Network, IAC, ANSWER. 2-5 p.m.

#### Workers World

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BUFFALO, N.Y.

# Abortion foes abandon trial strategy

By Beverly Hiestand  
and Ellie Dorritie, Buffalo, N.Y.

Right-wing terrorists who want to deny reproductive rights for women—the right to decide when and if to bear children—had vowed to use the murder trial of James C. Kopp as a media circus. They had to shift gears.

In an interview with two reporters from the Buffalo News in the Erie County Holding Center last November, Kopp admitted that he fatally shot Dr. Barnett Slepian, a respected ob-gyn doctor who provided abortions. Slepian was killed in 1998 with a bullet from a high-powered rifle while at home with his family. However, Kopp denied he had committed any crime.

Kopp, and the reactionary current that politically supports him, had announced that they would use the trial to argue that this was an act of “justifiable homicide” and maintain a media presence throughout the trial, which had been expected to last about one month.

However, on March 11, Kopp chose a non-jury trial in which no one would testify. As a result, he was tried on March 17 with no witnesses—not even Kopp himself. Instead, County Judge Michael L. D’Amico reviewed 35 pages of stipulated facts, listened to attorney arguments and handed down the guilt verdict the next day.

Sentencing is set for May 9. The second-degree murder charge carried with it a sentence of a minimum 15 years and a maximum of 25 years to life in prison.

What changed the plans of Kopp and his anti-abortion network?

The right wing faced some objective obstacles. Two previous national right-wing mobilizations that attempted to shut down all the Buffalo women’s clinics that provide abortions—in 1992 and 1999—were defeated by Buffalo United for Choice, a grassroots coalition.

This year, on Jan. 22—the 30th anniversary of the hard-won Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion—a small cabal of “Army of God” commandos held a media conference in front of the Erie County Holding Center where Kopp has been detained.

They had threatened to mass at a large women’s health clinic downtown and use whatever force was required to stop all abortion procedures in the city that day. They also reportedly issued threats against the lesbian, gay, bisexual and

transgender community.

But at the news conference, the Klan-like group was vastly outnumbered, in the middle of a work day, by pro-choice activists, including those who reconstituted BUC 2003. The reactionaries never showed up at the women’s health clinic.

Rainbow Peacekeepers, which formed as community self-defense during the 1999 right-wing threats against the LGBT communities here, also reformed for the Jan. 22 Army of God arrival. When police told Rainbow Peacekeepers that they had sent the Army of God away and that the LGBT community defenders should “stand down,” activists quickly convened and decided to maintain their presence in defense of clubs and bars that night.

Across the U.S., pro-choice activists, health care providers for women, and activists who oppose the reactionary agenda of the ultra-right closely watched developments in this trial. They expressed their interest in organizing, mobilizing and traveling to Buffalo to help beef up the local progressive movement.

BUC 2003 had been planning a poster-campaign in Buffalo to mobilize those who were enraged that Kopp would claim there was any justification for the brutal murder of a respected and loved women’s physician. It was clear that a consistent presence of pro-choice supporters from all over this economically hard-hit, multinational city would be at the courthouse.

And a progressive movement against the war drive and racist roundups of Arab, Muslim and South Asian people was also picking up steam.

If the right wing was looking to pick and choose their battleground, Buffalo was shaping up to be a third-strike defeat.

## Kopp was not alone

At least eight physicians who performed abortions in the United States and Canada have been shot or shot at since 1993. Three were killed.

Kopp is reportedly the primary suspect in four shootings of abortion providers in Canada and New York. Canadian authorities have recently stated that they intend to seek Kopp’s extradition to stand trial in Ancaster, Ontario, on charges that he shot another abortion provider, Dr. Hugh Short. But authorities in the U.S. have already said they are not likely to respect that call for extradition.

Kopp also faces federal charges in U.S. District Court of obstructing access to an

abortion clinic, which carry a maximum life sentence. He will stand trial in Brooklyn with Loretta C. Marra and her husband, Dennis J. Malvasi, who are charged with aiding Kopp as a fugitive in Europe for two and a half years after Dr. Slepian’s assassination.

After Kopp agreed to truncate his Buffalo trial, District Attorney Frank J. Clark’s office reported that it would write letters to the judge in Brooklyn who is hearing the cases of the three. (Buffalo News, March 12)

## Did the state strike a deal?

Glenn E. Murray, a lawyer representing the pro-choice community, said he found that move by the DA’s office bizarre. “I’m surprised that even though he has never admitted his guilt”—Kopp refuses to plead guilty although he admits the shooting—“and can still appeal his conviction, he’s been offered letters asking for favorable consideration for the federal judge in his case and for his confederates, Loretta Marra and Dennis Malvasi, in their cases.”

The decision by Kopp and his political advisors to a trial without testimony, said Vicki Saporta, executive director of the National Abortion Federation in Washington, D.C., means that, “We lose access to a lot of information that potentially could be helpful,” including opportunities to cross-examine Kopp about his network.

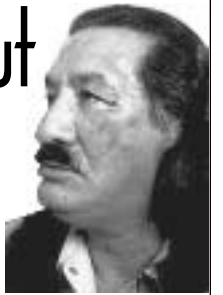
Katherine Spillar, an executive vice president of the Feminist Majority Foundation in Washington, tracks anti-abortion extremists. She stressed, “The only person prosecuted is the man who pulled the trigger, not the network we believe chooses the target, helps carry out the shootings and helps him escape. Until the network is hunted down, this will never stop. We never get beyond the theory of the lone gunman.”

Bush claims to be waging a muscular “war on terror,” sending hundreds of thousands of U.S. troops around the world. But his government shows no muscle when it comes to saving the lives of health care providers, or helping women gain control of their bodies and their lives. His claim to be fighting terror is just a cover for imperialist expansion and racist repression.

Events here have shown, however, that the movement rising up to stop the reactionary war—abroad and at home—can rout the right wing and defend and expand the rights of women and all oppressed people. □

FREE  
LEONARD PELTIER

## Leonard Peltier speaks out against U.S. wars



World-renowned Native political prisoner Leonard Peltier sent the following statement to the March 15 anti-war demonstrations in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco. He is serving two consecutive life sentences for the shootings of two FBI agents in 1975, despite the fact that government authorities admit they don’t know who fired the bullets. The following are excerpts:

This day is no different than that day in 1975, when I stood up to FBI-assisted violence on the Pine Ridge Reservation. What is at stake now is not very different from then. The American government strong-armed the people of Pine Ridge, too. Their interest wasn’t to protect the Indigenous People living in strife and poverty, who even to this day can’t make ends meet, but to support multinational corporations that even now are only after the natural resources from a land rich in uranium.

Iraqi oil is the key. It means everything in this so-called “War on Terror.”

But the greed doesn’t end there. Reports in the last few weeks show private American corporations’ profiteers like Vice President Dick Cheney’s former employer are already in place, ready to take government contracts to rebuild a war-ravaged country blown apart by American bombs and to service military personnel that this administration plans to house there. An occupation force, then.

My own case ended in violent action by the U.S. government and the FBI. In whose interest was this done? For the people of the Pine Ridge Reservation? For Native People throughout this land? For Indigenous Peoples throughout the world? In the interest of the American public? This sort of aggression nearly destroyed my People.

Let my life serve as a reference point to all of you today. I urge you to consider the knowledge Indian people gained in the face of terrorism. If we had unified early on, worked together rather than as separate nations, we may have prevailed.

These are our brothers and sisters, Aunties and Uncles, we go to bomb. ... I encourage you all to continue together, united. Speak with one voice.

Say NO to war!

Aho. Megwetch.  
Leonard Peltier

# MUMIA WEEK

By G. Dunkel  
New York

While the rulers of the United States are beginning a massive and murderous assault on the people of Iraq, they have not forsworn their program of murdering poor Black and Latin people one by one, a program that goes by the name of the “death penalty.”

Mumia Abu-Jamal is a world-renowned journalist and tireless fighter for freedom who is on death row precisely because he is a Black man who has dared to speak truth to power. Despite growing evidence proving his innocence, Mumia is still in danger of execution for a crime he did not commit.

To make sure that his case is not for-

gotten and to raise the issues of racism and repression in the context of their ongoing work, a number of New York groups have gotten together to plan a Week for Mumia from Friday, March 28, through Saturday, April 5—the 35th anniversary of Martin Luther King’s assassination.

• **March 28:** The Jericho Movement will be celebrating its fifth anniversary with dinner and an event at St. Mary’s Church in Harlem from 6 to 10 p.m. For more information, call (212) 502-1143.

• **Morgan for Mumia, a group of postal workers,** will hold street screenings of the Arnold Beverly videotaped confession proving Mumia’s innocence outside the Morgan Postal Facility in midtown



Free Mumia Abu-Jamal  
for news & background visit:  
**Millions4Mumia.org**

Manhattan during the week.

• **April 1: International Action Center/Millions for Mumia,** 39 West 14th St., Room 206, will have an evening dedicated to Mumia starting at 7 p.m. For information, call (212) 633-6646.

• **April 4: ProLibertad will show a Spanish-language film** on the case of Mumia at El Centro Tambouril, 2005 Amsterdam Ave., at 6:30 p.m. For information, call (718) 601-4751.

• **April 5: Community Cultural Celebration at the House of the Lord Church,** 415 Atlantic Ave., Brooklyn, emceed by Imhotep Gary Byrd with performances by Amiri and Amina Baraka, Suheir Hammad of Def Poetry Jam, Ngo Thanh Nhan and many others. □

## As capitalist crisis deepens

# Wall St. pins hopes on 20,000-lb. bombs

By Milt Neidenberg  
Retired Teamster

This article is written as the U.S. imperialist war of aggression against Iraq is imminent. Within hours, bombs and missiles are scheduled to rain death and destruction upon the Iraqi people.

Foreign policy is an extension of domestic policy. The Bush doctrine of preemptive war has long-range imperial goals, but one of its immediate aims is to try and gain a quick victory in order to restore confidence and stability to Wall Street and its financial institutions.

The stock market, which has been in a long slide, momentarily shot up March 17 on news that the decision had been made to go to war. But the growing resistance of millions of anti-war protesters will ultimately roil up these markets and exacerbate the capitalist economic crisis.

The panic of 2003 had already begun before President George W. Bush made his war speech. Fear and uncertainty had sunk roots into Wall Street. And while the launching of the attack may bring a temporary boost to big capital, the impending preemptive war against the Iraqi people will only intensify the class struggle here and abroad.

The stock market has responded like a yoyo to every war rumor. For months it went down, with only an occasional up. Bankers and big-time investors, awash in hundreds of billions of dollars, have been running helter-skelter to find a haven for their wealth.

The economy is suffering from more than war jitters.

A mid-19th century British trade unionist said of capitalism's irrational drives that an "insatiable greed for profit is inherent in the very nature of capital. With adequate profit, capital is very bold ... 100 percent will make it ready to trample on all human laws; 300 percent and there is not a crime at which it will scruple, not a risk it will not run, even to the chance of its owner being hanged." (Quoted by Karl Marx in "Capital," Vol. 1)

Three years ago, the war was on a back burner. NASDAQ, the trading market for high-tech corporations, was the darling of Wall Street. Membership grew to about 5,000 companies, among them emerging Internet, computers, communications and biotech firms—Microsoft, Cisco Systems, Intel and others. They were the growth powerhouse of Wall Street.

Initial public offerings (IPOs) from the new core stock sectors were viewed with boundless optimism. There was no limit to how high stock prices could go. The "New Economy" had swept over the old industrial-based corporations that once were the backbone of the U.S. economy. Money poured unceasingly into dot-com, wireless, e-commerce, software and telecommunications firms. The Dow Jones Industrial Average, monitoring 30 blue chip corporations, hit a high of over 11,700 in those heady days and the NASDAQ reached its peak of 5,048 on March 10, 2000.

Today, even after the March 17 rebound, the NASDAQ index is still below 1,400. Investors, many of them small and first-timers, were wiped out as trillions of dollars evaporated from their portfolios. The Dow Jones in this period fell more than 4,000 points; even with the recent rise, it hovers around 8,000. The Standard & Poor's 500 stock index has spun downward to around 800. The IPO market is all

but dead.

It was three years ago this month that the giant bubble broke. It had been speculative, irrational, exuberant and doomed to collapse. But it was more than a bubble bursting. It was the first symptom of a stock market crash involving a significant sector of high-tech industries and financial institutions. Enron and WorldCom went bankrupt. The stock of Qwest, Motorola, AOL, Cisco, El Paso, Corning and Sun Microsystems, to name a few, lost 80 to 90 percent of its value. (New York Times, March 10)

Yet it wasn't until a year later, in March 2001, that the government officially announced that the economy was in recession.

"Many stocks still haven't finished working their way through the after-effects of one of the greatest bubbles in investment history. ... If history is any guide, it will take more than the nearly three years that have passed to move beyond the aftershocks," wrote the Wall Street Journal on March 3.

Significantly, WorldCom's bankruptcy has confirmed this prognosis. The company was forced to write down the value of its assets by an additional \$80 billion. Wall Street continues to be infected by corporate scandals, criminal accounting practices and theft of assets, taken right out of the pockets of the employees.

The sliding stock market—the heartbeat of the financial institutions—is a reflection of overproduction and a shrinking economy. General Motors and Ford, two global giants that have been a major prop for the economy, are in crisis. From high points, Ford dropped 68 percent, GM 60 percent. The New York Times reported on March 14 that "prominent analysts rate their prospects as not much better than a dot-com." What a shocking comparison.

Ford reported that it would cut second-quarter production 17 percent, and GM announced over 10-percent production cuts in its North American operations. One analyst pointed out, "Ford would be bankrupt if not for its blue chip name." He wondered whether GM was in much better financial shape than Ford.

Following the GM announcement, the stock of Delphi Corp., the world's biggest auto parts supplier and dependent on GM, dropped 8.1 percent. Visteon, once owned by Ford, dropped 7.8 percent.

The fallout will spread to their suppliers—glass, rubber, steel and other contractors. Dealers overstocked with lots full of cars will become immediate casualties.

The surge in fuel prices has impacted other transportation sectors. The airline industry, plagued by bankruptcies, is demanding a \$10-billion government bailout to weather the costs of war and "homeland security."

In today's crisis, the workers are bearing the heavy burden of a recession/war economy. Over 300,000 jobs were wiped out in February. Construction dropped 48,000 and the service sector lost an estimated 204,000 jobs, as reported by the U.S. Labor Department.

Household income has dropped precipitously as layoffs mount and pensions and other forms of income are lost. Consumer spending is in free-fall, a warning signal that the economy is in deep trouble. It is feared that the housing market bubble is about to burst, one of the last props that has helped keep the economy afloat.

Huge budget deficits plague federal, state and local governments, exacerbating the economic crisis.

Wall Street spinmeisters are hoping that the war will be short and victorious, followed by a quick economic recovery. Meanwhile, the economic news is going from bad to worse.

It's not unusual for the government to attempt to cover up a developing capitalist economic crisis. They've done it before. On Oct. 19, 1987, even after the stock market crashed 508 points in one day, financial analysts, stockbrokers and investment bankers used the expression "a correction." It was not until a week later that David Rockefeller, on CNN, called it a stock market crash of the dimensions of 1929—though it fell short of that catastrophe. Not every stock market crash leads to a capitalist economic collapse.

As the stock market enters its fourth year of decline, Wall Street profits are under siege. Earnings are shrinking steadily, and opportunities for business investment that expands production have dried up.

As a consequence, "Almost every major firm has begun to make bigger bets with its own money, investing in a variety of vehicles including interest rates, currencies and commodities," wrote the Wall Street Journal on March 12. These investments are called derivatives.

A derivative is a contract, a trade, that permits investors to make a bet without having actual ownership of a physical asset. A financial derivative involves betting on fluctuations in commodity prices, interest rates, currency and credit ratings. Much of this risk is "backed" by IOUs.

Banks, which used to carry billions of dollars of lending risk on their balance sheets, are involved in the betting craze. Now they can, and do, pass the risks on to investors and insurance companies.

The risks are enormous but the profits can be huge. It was not too long ago that the Long Term Capital Management

hedge fund, a Wall Street/bankers' private portfolio, invested billions in derivatives. Substantial losses sustained by these elite players from the ruling class rocked the stock market. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York saved their fortunes on Sept. 23, 1998, with a \$3.5-billion bailout—at a tremendous cost to tax-paying workers.

### Fictitious capital on astronomical level

Betting on derivatives has now reached astronomical levels. It amounted to a record \$128 TRILLION in the first half of 2002, the latest period for which figures are available. That comes to more than 10 TIMES the value of the U.S. annual gross national product. (New York Times, March 8)

Marxists call this obscene accumulation of wealth fictitious capital. The political economist L. Leontyev wrote, "During crises and upheavals, fictitious capital depreciates at a catastrophic speed, causing a far-reaching effect on the whole economy because this capital is linked by thousand of threads through banks, the monetary system, etc., with actual production and circulation." ("A Short Course in Political Economy," Progress Publishers, Moscow, 1968)

These obscene riches come from the profits accumulated from the labor of millions of workers. That's who created that wealth. What will it take for the wealth to be invested, not in imperialist war, but in jobs, housing, education, health care, the environment—in other words, in fulfilling the needs of all the people? It will take a change in the economic system itself.

Capitalism leads to catastrophe, whether in the form of wars or depressions or both. That inevitably brings about a struggle to replace ownership by a billionaire elite with social ownership—socialism.

The time is soon approaching when the multinational working class, the poor, and the oppressed will be on the front lines of the global class war to regain what rightfully belongs to them. □

## Ghost of McCarthy

By Leslie Feinberg

Entertainment moguls are channeling the mean spirit of Joseph McCarthy in their witch hunts against well-known industry workers who publicly express opposition to a U.S. war against Iraq.

The Screen Actors Guild board of directors issued a statement on March 3 explaining, "Some have recently suggested that well-known individuals who express 'unacceptable' views should be punished by losing their right to work."

The actors' union statement referred to the 1950s "blacklists"—or more accurately "redlists"—that destroyed many careers and forced others, like Charlie Chaplin, to flee the country. This rapacious red-baiting was part of the witch-hunts led by Sen. Joseph McCarthy against communists and progressives after World War II.

On the same day IATSE, the labor union representing technicians and other workers in live theatre, film and television production and trade shows, publicly said that it, "unconditionally concurs with and supports SAG's statement condemning any hint of blacklisting that is being threatened as a result of any public state-

ments that disagree with the current administration's dictates."

Celebrities known for their anti-war views are reportedly barred from having an opportunity to speak as Oscar presenters at this year's Academy Awards. "Meryl Streep, Sean Penn, Vanessa Redgrave, George Clooney, Dustin Hoffman and Spike Lee are among those who will not be speaking amid fears they could turn the ceremony into an anti-war rally," reported The Scotsman March 11. Susan Sarandon and Tim Robbins are also said to be on the unofficial list.

"In a move denounced by some as a return to McCarthyism, star presenters have been ordered to stick to scripts," The Scotsman continues, "while winners, who the producers have no control over, could find their acceptance speeches cut if they say anything more than a brief thank you."

In February, "Bowling for Columbine" director Michael Moore thanked the French for not supporting the war while accepting an award in Paris. And on March 8, he received a loud ovation for a very mild statement at the Writers Guild of America awards: "What I see is a coun-

# Air Force psywar against protesters

Brass at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California are using psychological warfare against the anti-war movement. They have announced that once the U.S. invades Iraq, troops are authorized to use all necessary force, including "shoot to kill," to stop activists who trespass on the grounds of the military complex. (Associated Press, March 15)

The use of deadly force is always a military option. What is new is announcing this option with fanfare. Spokesperson Maj. Stacey Bako told reporters on March 14, "They all have to be dealt with as very specific threats, whether they're vandalizing a sign, crossing the green [no trespassing] line or infiltrating the backcountry."

Her statement on the military directive was issued the day before major mass rallies and marches against U.S. military aggression in the state.

On March 14, Dennis Apel, a member of Guadalupe Catholic Worker, sprayed the base's entrance sign with a vial of his own blood as a symbolic anti-war action. He was arrested and charged with misde-

## Chicago priest to GIs: 'Lay down your arms'

Fr. Robert Bossie of the Eighth Day Center for Justice called on U.S. soldiers, "especially those of the Roman Catholic faith," to "lay down your arms" and to refuse to participate in an assault on Iraq. He was speaking at a March 18 news conference with other representatives of Chicago's anti-war movement.

Bossie said, "When I served in the U.S. military, maintaining and servicing nuclear weapons, no priest ever counseled me about the morality of what I was doing." When asked by a journalist if his opinion would change if Iraq used chemical weapons against U.S. troops, he said it would not. "In that case, Iraq would be using the weapons as a defense against invasion." □

## in Hollywood

try that does not like what's going on. Let's all commit ourselves to Bush's removal in 2004."

Of course, Hollywood bosses have always urged actors, comedians, singers and others to build their careers during wartime by performing for troops. It would be surprising if the 75th anniversary Academy Awards program closed with no mention about support for those "serving our country" and "protecting our freedom."

Only dissenters will be gagged with Ashcroft's brand of political duct tape.

Martin Sheen, star of the "West Wing" program, is reportedly facing pressure within the television industry for speaking out at anti-war protests.

Many angry reports have surfaced that producers of the recently televised Grammy awards program had suppressed anti-war statements of any kind.

And songs by the Dixie Chicks, big winners at that awards ceremony, are facing economic reprisals by the radio and music industry, even after their lead singer apologized for having recently told a London audience that the band was ashamed that George Bush was from Texas. □

meanor counts of trespassing and vandalism. Could the penalty for such activity really be raised to a death sentence?

This intimidation will not deter activists, vowed Peter Lumsdaine of the Vandenberg Action Coalition, one of the organizers of plans to protest on the base. "I think it does underline that people in the nonviolent resistance movement are willing to take some risks," he concluded.

—Leslie Feinberg

## CHICAGO

### Strong labor turnout

Ten thousand people turned out for a March 16 rally in Chicago. Participation by labor and oppressed communities was the highest yet in this city. Those who stayed to the end of the rally marched past the Leo Burnett Building. The Burnett ad agency, one of the Pentagon's top 100 defense contractors, has been targeted by student protestors for its creation of the "Army of One" recruiting campaign.

—WW Chicago bureau

## SAN FRANCISCO

### Financial district disrupted

About 200 protesters marched on March 14 through the San Francisco financial district just after dawn. When stock brokers tried to rush out the doors of the exchange for their 7 a.m. morning coffee break, they found anti-war demonstrators blocking the pillared entrance. Dozens of activists sat down at the busiest intersections, tying up traffic in the financial district for hours. One of the more than 70 people arrested was former President of the Pacific Stock Exchange Warren Langley, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel. □



Washington, D.C., March 15.

WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

## Vets take stand against war

In a letter to President George W. Bush on March 18, war veterans "strongly questioned" a U.S. invasion of Iraq and sought a meeting at the White House. (www.veteransforcommonsense.org)

The letter, initiated by the Washington-based group Veterans for Common Sense, was circulated by e-mail to vets only days before and quickly gathered almost 1,000 signatures. High-ranking officers, including two retired vice admirals and a retired brigadier general, signed onto the statement, as did

singer and vet Kris Kristofferson.

The letter warns of the possibility that an invasion of Iraq would likely entail "protracted siege warfare, chaotic street-to-street fighting in Baghdad, and Iraqi civil conflict," raising fears of "casualties not witnessed since Vietnam."

It also cited United Nations predictions of massive Iraqi casualties, including 1.26 million children under age five at particular risk. □

## New York St. Patrick's Day Parade

### 'Lift the bigoted ban!'

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg marched in the city's St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 17, despite censure from lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans groups here and in Ireland. Organizers of the annual parade bar LGBT people from marching under their own banners.

"After blocking a permit for a peaceful anti-war march on Feb. 15, Mayor Bloomberg is now supporting the city's largest annual display of homophobia. I repeat: New York's St. Patrick's Day Parade is the largest annual, city-supported display of homophobia—in the U.S. and around the world," charged Dian Killian at a Feb. 27 news conference at City Hall. Killian is a member of United Auto Workers Local 1981 and is on the steering committee of Pride at Work-N.Y.—the lesbian, gay, bi and trans constituency group

of the AFL-CIO.

On March 15, members of Belfast's LGBT community protested the bigoted exclusion. They have demonstrated this solidarity with the New York LGBT community every year since 1993. The Castle Street picket took place outside the office of Aer Lingus. The airline was targeted because it is one of the main corporate sponsors of the New York parade.

P.A. MagLochlainn, president of the Northern Ireland Gay Rights Association, stated, "Gay women and men can take part in St. Patrick's Day Parades in Dublin, Cork and Belfast—but they cannot in New York. The parade in New York has been multi-ethnic for years, but the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America bans gay people from the parade. This bigoted ban is long since out of date." □



Martin Sheen speaks to anti-war protest in Los Angeles on Jan. 18.

WW PHOTO: JULIA LA RIVA

# 100,000 converge on White House

By Monica Moorehead  
Washington, D.C.

With just three weeks' notice, over 100,000 determined protesters came together to Washington, D.C., on March 15 under the broad demand of "No war on Iraq." They traveled from 36 states and over 100 cities. They came from as far away as Mississippi, Nebraska and Florida, spending anywhere from 24 to 36 hours each way on buses and vans.

The International Act Now to Stop War and End Racism (ANSWER) coalition was the main organizer of the demonstration. It had called for worldwide emergency protests in order to make one more gallant attempt to stop the war being pushed by the warmongering Bush administration against the defenseless country of Iraq.

Much of the crowd was young and spirited. The racial make-up was multinational in character as Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, Jews and atheists marched side by side against war and racist genocide. There was a mixture of both the movement and the broad mass of the people, who brought with them colorful banners and placards with creative slogans and graphics that ranged from the most political to the most satirical.

The march achieved its objective of surrounding the White House. The streets around Bush's presidential palace were thronged as demonstrators streamed by the tens of thousands from the Washington Monument rally site onto 17th Street, then followed H and other streets almost to the Capitol building—several miles—before returning to the rally site.

The rally was also a reflection of many political views and experiences of both U.S.- and foreign-born activists and representatives. The rally was co-chaired by national ANSWER leaders Peta Lindsay, Mara Verheyden-Hilliard, Elias Rashmawi and Larry Holmes. Each one spoke on the need for multinational working-class unity and militancy in the struggle against imperialist war. Each one reminded the crowd of the need to walk out in protest from their jobs or work places once war breaks out, along with other forms of resistance.

Representatives of groups making up the ANSWER steering committee spoke, including Macrena Cardenas, Mexico Solidarity Network; Chuck Kaufman, Nicaragua Network; Genevieve Villamora, Gabriela Network/Bayan; Ihab Darwish, Free Palestine Alliance-US; Brian Becker, International Action Center; Lina Hashem, Muslim Student Association in the U.S. and Canada; Cheri Honkala, Kensington Welfare Rights Union; Carl Messineo, Partnership for



Washington, D.C., March 15.

WW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

Civil Justice; Bek Hyun, Korea Truth Commission; and Esam Omeish, Muslim American Society. Francisco Rivera, president of the National Lawyers Guild at American University, spoke on the heroic struggle against the U.S. Navy in Vieques, Puerto Rico.

These presentations raised the military threat that the U.S. rulers pose for every part of the globe in their quest for world domination, including the loss of more jobs, healthcare, childcare and other necessities here at home.

Talks by Saad Kadhim, Iraqi American Anti-War Coalition; Dr. Hani Awadallah, Arab American Civic Center; Ghazi Khankan, Council on American Islamic Relations; and 11-year-old Shaheen Malik of Kids Against the War provided Muslim, South Asian and Middle Eastern voices against the war.

Carl Messineo spoke as a Jew who supports the Palestinians' right to return to their homeland, and stressed that opposition to Israeli occupation of Palestine is not anti-Semitism.

Important representatives of the anti-war forces within the labor movement addressed the rally: Gene Bruskin from U.S. Labor Against the War; Joclyn Williams, president of the Washington, D.C., Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO; and Michael Letwin from New York City Labor Against the War. They spoke about the role of workers in opposition to the war here and worldwide, including massive anti-war strikes and work stoppages.

ANSWER youth and student organizers Caneisha Mills, Sarah Sloan and Sarah Friedman reflected the leadership that young people are providing to the growing anti-war, anti-imperialist movement.

They urged everyone to prepare for the next step: "When war breaks out, walk out!"

Rev. Patricia Ackerman from the Fellowship of Reconciliation and Bitta Mostofi from Voices in the Wilderness spoke of their recent experiences in Iraq. Sara Flounders from the Iraq Sanctions Challenge focused on how this war will have a devastating impact on Iraqi

women.

Damu Smith, a leader of D.C.-based Black Voices for Peace, and Rev. Graylan Hagler from the Plymouth Congregational Church presented an African American perspective against the war. Rev. Herbert Daughtry, national pastor of the House of the Lord Churches, stated loud and clear that President George W. Bush, not Iraq, is the real threat.

Nadia Marsh from Doctors and Nurses Against the War and John Boyd, president and founder of the National Black Farmers Association, made strong links between the erosion of social programs at home and the billions being spent on war.

Statements of solidarity from United American Indians of New England and Native political prisoner Leonard Peltier were read by Elias Rashmawi and Ben Carnes from the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, respectively. Tribute was also paid to political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal, who has been an outspoken opponent of the war on Iraq. Teresa Gutierrez spoke as a representative of the National Committee to Free the Cuban Five on recent developments involving increased U.S. repression of these imprisoned patriots.

Imani Henry, representing Queers for Peace and Justice, reminded the crowd that the Iraqi people share the same enemy as the lesbian, gay, bi and trans communities—the U.S. government. Judi Cheng, an organizer of Support Network for the Armed Forces, spoke of the rapes within the Air Force Academy and the economic draft.

Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark outlined the impeachable offenses Bush is guilty of as the crowd chanted "Impeach Bush."

Dennis Brutus, a former political prisoner under the apartheid South African regime, urged everyone to remain vigilant in opposing the war. □



March 18 protest at New York's Union Square Park.

WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO



San Francisco, March 15.

WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

# Marchers keep coming out against war

By Brenda Sandburg  
San Francisco

Despite a forecast for heavy rain, 100,000 people turned out for a massive anti-war protest in San Francisco on March 15.

The protest drew people from throughout California and as far away as Seattle and Salt Lake City, Utah. This time the 1.5-mile march route went from Civic Center Plaza to Jefferson Square Park, traveling through the Western Addition, a predominantly African American community. Many people joined in the march as it went by.

The march took more than two-and-a-half hours to reach the park. Under sunny skies, dozens of contingents showed powerful opposition to the Bush administration's plans to attack Iraq.

Students from Berkeley, Santa Clara, Davis, San Francisco State and Mills College drew cheers as they marched by.

A large labor contingent included the Service Employees International Union, International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10, United Auto Workers Local 1935 and the National Writers Union.

The American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee had a powerful contingent. Several musicians' groups marched, including Musicians Action Group, which

gave a moving rendition of the South African freedom song Amandla.

"I was heartened by today's turnout, as this is the fourth event in five months," said Hari Dillon, president of the Vanguard Foundation. "Just like people saw during the Vietnam War, this has to be an ongoing thing."

The San Francisco protest was initiated by the ANSWER coalition and the Vanguard Foundation, and supported by many organizations. Speakers at the opening and closing rallies exposed the murderous plans of the Bush administration to re-colonize Iraq and take over its resources.

Richard Becker, West Coast coordinator of the International Action Center and a member of the ANSWER Steering Committee, described the horrific death the U.S. plans to inflict with the 21,000-pound bomb it exploded in Florida last week. A fuel-air explosive too big to be dropped from a B-52, the bomb is wheeled out of a transport plane and dropped by parachute. Its initial explosion creates a cloud of aerosolized fuel over a range of several football fields, while a second explosion creates a firestorm and pressure wave that ruptures the organs of any living thing underneath it.

"But of course that's not a weapon of mass destruction, according to the media here," Becker said. "While the U.S. lead-

ers keep talking about Iraq's theoretical weapons of mass destruction, they have surrounded Iraq with the greatest array of deadly weapons ever assembled."

Keynote speaker Cynthia McKinney, a former Congress member from Georgia, declared that the war "is about oil and regional interests" and noted that veterans are increasingly joining the anti-war ranks.

"They know the horror of coming back to face the Pentagon and the Department of Veterans Affairs for help with post-traumatic stress syndrome, Gulf War syndrome, exposure to Agent Orange and depleted uranium, cancer, birth defects, Lou Gehrig's disease, infertility, memory loss and homelessness," McKinney said. While the military has spent \$25 billion to get the troops in place, "our government can't give a warm meal and shelter to the veterans who served our country and are now in need."

Gloria La Riva, president of the Typographical Sector/Media Workers Union, said the Bush administration has intended to attack Iraq no matter what the country did. "Every time Iraq complies with demands that no sovereign country could reasonably accept, the U.S. demands more," La Riva said. "Next the U.S. will demand that the Iraqi people dye their hair blonde and change their eyes to blue."

Other speakers included actors Martin

Sheen and Danny Glover, Father Bill O'Donnell, who just spent six months in prison for demonstrating at the School of the Americas, and representatives of many labor, religious and community groups.

Alicia Jrapko of the Free the Cuban Five Committee spoke of the five Cubans being held in U.S. prisons for defending their country from terrorist attacks by anti-Cuba groups in Miami. "Every time somebody tells you Bush is fighting terrorism, remember the Cuban Five who are imprisoned for fighting terrorism while the real terrorists are walking the streets of Miami," Jrapko said.

Tony Gonzalez of the International Indian Treaty Council told the crowd that Native people "well know what the world is feeling, threatened by a government so arrogant, so brutal it cares only of economic gains and the power it seeks." He called on people to remember Leonard Peltier, who was framed by the U.S. government and has spent 27 years in prison for standing up to defend his community.

Several speakers linked the struggle of the Iraqi people with that of the Palestinian people.

"The war against Iraq is about \$800 billion worth of oil," said Henry Clark of the West County Toxics Coalition. "It's about neutralizing every country in the Middle East so the U.S. can control the region." □

# Downpour can't stop people's outpour

By Adrian Garcia  
Los Angeles

Under a sea of umbrellas and torrential downpours, Los Angeles' anti-war movement sent a decisive message to Washington on March 15: No to Bush's planned war on Iraq.

Following much speculation that the day's event would be cancelled due to the weather, the turnout far exceeded the organizers' expectations. The strength of the Southern California anti-war movement was dramatically displayed, as demonstrators filled the streets of downtown Los Angeles despite heavy rainfall.

The soaked crowd marched through downtown to a mass rally that featured speeches by the Rev. Jesse Jackson, actors Alfre Woodard, Mira Sorvino and David Clennon, activist Tom Hayden and columnist Arianna Huffington.

"The fact that on one of the worst days of the year in Los Angeles, over 50,000 people would turn out to say no to war proves that the message of today is: as Bush and his crowd become weaker and weaker, we of the peace movement of the



Los Angeles, March 15. Pictured in lower left corner is Ron Kovic, disabled veteran and anti-war activist.

WW PHOTO: JULIA LA RIVA

world, of Los Angeles, of the United States, become stronger and stronger," said organizer Jim Lafferty of the National Lawyers Guild and the ANSWER coalition (Act Now to Stop War & End Racism).

The Rev. Jesse Jackson told rally-goers, "We want peace in our world and we want

it now. We deserve it now. Don't let racism stop you. Don't let anti-Semitism stop you. Don't let anti-Islamism stop you."

Alfre Woodard and Mira Sorvino encouraged anti-war activists to persist in their struggle against this unjust and immoral war campaign.

Sorvino told the crowd, "I have never

done anything like this before," referring to her participation in an anti-war demonstration. Sorvino is definitely not alone. Every day thousands of people decide they can no longer sit idly by while the reactionary government in Washington methodically tramples on the will of the people. □

# People of the world say with one voice: NO WAR!

By John Catalinotto

Three men met at a military base on an island in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean on March 16 to plot the unleashing of a murderous war on the people of Iraq. As George Bush, Tony Blair and Jose Maria Aznar plotted carnage in the Azores, 6 billion people in the rest of the world surrounded them, the vast majority of them demanding peace.

Some 3 million to 5 million people had joined ranks the day before around the world to say "No war on Iraq." March 15 turned into an urgent international day of action just four weeks after 15 million had demonstrated worldwide to establish a powerful mass anti-war movement, which has continued to confront U.S. imperialism.

As the U.S. attack approaches, this movement has begun job actions, strikes, boycotts, e-mail campaigns, blocking trains and ships, anything to stop the war before it starts. On March 14 workers throughout Europe followed the call of the Confederation of European Trade Unions and "crossed their arms" at noon for 15 minutes in a symbolic general strike. The strongest



Madrid, Spain, March 15.



Tokyo, Japan, March 15.

participation was in Greece, Italy, Spain and Germany.

March 15 protests took place in 2,000 cities in 98 countries, CNN reported. This was even more widespread than a month earlier. Turnouts were dramatic: Millions marched in Madrid, Barcelona, Bilbao and dozens of cities in the Spanish state. Hundreds of thousands of union workers marched in Milan, Italy. These two countries' governments have supported the U.S. war, but their populations are fighting against it.

Another 100,000 came out in Berlin to form a human chain throughout the city; 150,000 in France, including 100,000 in Paris; 60,000 in Brussels; 20,000 in Copenhagen, Denmark; and 15,000 in Athens, Greece.

## LONDON No business as usual for Big Oil trading

Anti-war activists shut down the International Petroleum Exchange in central London on March 17 for almost two hours. Some brokers told media that as many as 20 women and men entered the trading floor chanting against the imminent U.S. and British invasion of Iraq. They reportedly unplugged telephones and hung up a banner.

They forced the exchange to suspend

## Protests strong in the Arab world

Another 200,000 demonstrated in Sana'a, Yemen, and tens of thousands marched in Baghdad, pledging to defend their country against U.S./British occupation. And thousands more marched in Amman, Jordan; Beirut, Lebanon, Cairo, Egypt, and many Palestinian cities and refugee camps as the Arab world coordinated its actions with the U.S. and European movements.

People took to the streets throughout Europe, Asia, Oceania and the Americas. Thousands more turned out in Moscow, Tokyo, Bangkok, Seoul, Calcutta, New Delhi, Wellington and New Zealand. Some 250,000 marched in Montreal—even more than on Feb. 15. Protests took place in

## AUSTRALIA

### Protests target prime minister

In addition to major marches and rallies on March 15, many other powerful protests and acts of resistance against the U.S. war drive took place from coast to coast and around the world, but received scant media notice.

In Australia, about a dozen Greenpeace activists wearing blue berets and green fatigues to look like United Nations "peacekeepers" blockaded the official residence of the prime minister on March 12 to protest his decision to join in any U.S.-led attack on Iraq. The protesters held aloft banners charging Howard is a "war criminal." Passing motorists honked in audible support.

Activists also chained themselves under UN-look-alike four-wheel-drive vehicles to block the entrances to John Howard's home. As a result, the prime minister was unable to leave for parliament in his own vehicle. Four anti-war protesters were taken into custody; none were charged.

One Australian peace group has issued a call to boycott all trade with the U.S., Britain, Australia and their allies, and for an ongoing go-slow strike inside these countries, until the war ends. (indymedia) □

Vancouver, Toronto and at least 40 Canadian cities; Sao Paulo, Brazil; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Mayaguez, Puerto Rico; and many other cities and countries.

The movement targeted the symbols of U.S. political and military power, including the White House, the Rhine-Main Air Base near Frankfurt, Germany, the military base at Suda in Crete, U.S. embassies in Greece, Cyprus and Mexico City, and U.S. ships illegally unloading in Iskenderun, Turkey. Hundreds surrounded the naval base in Portsmouth, England, and others burned U.S. figures in effigy in Delhi, India, in a protest called by 22 secular parties.

### What next for the movement?

With war imminent, this new world movement has vowed to continue the

*Continued on page 10*

## Washington's stooge

# Djindjic assassination exposes U.S. role in Serbia

By Heather Cottin

Zoran Djindjic is dead, shot down by snipers' bullets on March 12. Djindjic had the distinction of being one of the only nationally known politicians in Serbia to support the U.S./NATO 78-day bombing campaign of Yugoslavia that began exactly four years ago on March 24, 1999.

The authors of the assassination are still unknown. Many speculate that infighting in organized crime was behind it. Though he was unpopular, even hated by the masses, no one expects his death to improve the political climate in favor of the left.

Based on Djindjic's sellout of Yugoslavia, a commentary by author Neil Clark that appeared in the Guardian newspaper of Britain on March 14 described him as "the Quisling of Belgrade," referring to the Norwegian politician who turned that nation over to the Nazis during World

War II.

Djindjic, wrote Clark, was the point man when the U.S. and other Western governments engineered "the removal of a government that did not suit their strategic interests." The West called it "humanitarian intervention." In reality it was "regime change," as is now planned on an even larger scale in Iraq.

That earlier regime change was based on destroying Yugoslavia's economic infrastructure, targeting civilians and then threatening a new war while freely supplying cash to the so-called Democratic Opposition of Serbia.

The figure many Serbs called "the German" was brought to power in 2000 when the Western-backed DOS overthrew the Socialist Party-led government of Slobodan Milosevic. Breaking Yugoslav and international law, in June 2001 Djindjic delivered Milosevic into the hands of the Hague Tribunal, the court

NATO created and ran.

Djindjic presided over the privatization of the factories, mines and social services of Yugoslavia, facilitating the breakup of more Yugoslav republics after the coup that brought him to power in 2000. Under Djindjic, Yugoslavia's social services were privatized or dismantled and sold cheap to U.S.- and Germany-based monopolies, while crime, drug trafficking and poverty flourished. He even agreed to abolish the name "Yugoslavia," which had united the various peoples of the Balkans for more than half a century.

Under Djindjic's program of privatization, utility prices soared, unemployment rose to 30 percent and real wages fell by 20 percent. Now over two-thirds of Serbs live below the poverty line. He became premier not by being elected to office, but through an agreement among the anti-Milosevic forces—especially with the more popular Vojislav Kostunica—that recog-

nized Djindjic's connections to German and U.S. imperialism.

The Serbian government is using Djindjic's assassination as an excuse to institute political repression, directing their attacks on the remaining supporters of Slobodan Milosevic. The police have been militarized, the news media is under restriction, and the Serbian government has declared a state of emergency.

Zoran Djindjic was the corrupt beneficiary of U.S. regime change and instituted the economic reforms that destroyed Yugoslav society as surely as the NATO bombs destroyed its infrastructure.

Many in the U.S., even in the progressive movement, were deceived and their anti-war sentiments neutralized by the media's demonization of Milosevic and the Serbian people. Now they see similar techniques used against Iraq to justify another brutal intervention that has nothing to do with the stated motives. □



# Bush crosses the Rubicon

By Fred Goldstein

With his declaration of war against Iraq, Bush and his administration have ushered in a new and dangerous phase in the post-Soviet world politics of imperialism.

The brutal offensive being launched by the White House and the Pentagon against the Iraqi people is a war only in the formal sense of the word: two states and two armies confronting each other. It is more accurately described as a 21st-century, high-tech, murderous colonial expedition to re-subjugate a people who once were claimed as subjects by the British Empire.

Assuming that Washington is successful in its aggression, the underlying results of a U.S. military victory will be multifold: U.S. corporate control of the oil fields and their immense profits; Washington's control over the strategic oil supply of its imperialist rivals; the Pentagon positioned in the heart of the Middle East, poised for expansion; and a government of occupation to be followed by a puppet government as pliable as any colonial regime.

## U.S. economy 1,000 times that of Iraq

Consider the relationship of forces. The U.S. is a country of 290 million people. It is the richest country in the world. It has a \$10-trillion economy. Iraq is a country of 23 million people with a gross domestic product estimated at between \$5 and \$10 billion a year, depending upon the sources. This was reduced from \$50 to \$60 billion by 12 years of U.S./UN sanctions.

The Pentagon will submit a \$399-billion budget for the next fiscal year. Iraq's military budget is \$1.4 billion. Iraq's military forces have been degraded by massive destruction in the 1991 Gulf War and by the sanctions. Even the \$1.4 billion does not allow them to buy spare parts for unworkable equipment or upgrade their military in any way.

The Pentagon has already spent many times more on military preparations than the entire Iraqi defense budget. By the time the first weeks of fighting are over, the U.S. will have spent more on this war than the entire gross domestic product of Iraq.

Formerly the most developed country in the Middle East, Iraq's sanctioned economy is approaching the poverty level of sub-Saharan Africa.

Iraq is ringed by 1,000 U.S. and British warplanes, five U.S. aircraft carriers, each with 70 fighter planes, each plane capable of launching guided bombs that can hit 700 targets in one day, regardless of weather conditions.

There are 30 cruisers and destroyers equipped with satellite-guided Tomahawk cruise missiles. There are F-117 stealth fighters and B-1 stealth bombers, which will be part of the "shock and awe" blitzkrieg designed to deliver 3,000 missiles and bombs in the first 48 hours of the war.

Washington has 800 computerized Abrams tanks and scores of Apache helicopters that can fire over the horizon. It has computer-guided artillery, bunker busters and a massive 21,000-pound terror bomb capable of mass destruction. Its troops have night goggles, heat sensors, high-tech portable bridges, amphibious assault vehicles that can emerge from the sea and travel at 25 miles per hour in the sand. All its forces are commanded by the latest computerized battle-control equipment.

The fact that the Pentagon's plans may

be foiled by Iraqi resistance does not change this unfathomable disparity in military strength. This illegal assault is nothing but a modern-day version of the colonial expeditions in which the oppressed were vastly outgunned by the superior military technology of the colonial powers.

## Other imperialists fear U.S. monopoly on oil

But all this firepower will be used not only to subjugate Iraq. It will be used to nullify all the oil concessions for drilling that have either been under discussion or negotiated between the government of Saddam Hussein and at least two dozen oil companies from 16 countries, including France, Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Algeria, Malaysia, Canada, Turkey, Vietnam, Italy, Spain, South Korea, Britain and the Netherlands. (Wall Street Journal, Feb. 27) Should this invasion succeed, it will increase the economic and military dependence of the whole world on Washington and Wall Street.

This is what has precipitated the crisis in the United Nations Security Council and in NATO. The German and French imperialists and the Russians are not inherently opposed to preemptive attack upon an oppressed people. In fact, all those ruling classes wish they had the power to do it themselves, as they have done in past periods.

But they are weak powers that cannot act preemptively. Furthermore, because of their weakness, they cannot afford to be associated with such a policy. And to make matters worse, this policy of Washington is also directed against them and their interests.

The one thing that would immediately reconcile them to a preemptive invasion of Iraq is if the U.S. ruling class would honor their contracts and invite them to share in the spoils.

If the White House and Wall Street were to have told the French that TotalFinElf could keep its concession to develop the oil fields in Majnoon with a potential 30 billion barrels of oil; if they were to have told Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and the German imperialists that they could bid on concessions, and told the Russians that they could keep their West Qrna oil fields with a capacity of 800,000 barrels a day, that would have put an immediate end to the diplomatic crisis.

This sheds light on the argument about multilateralism versus unilateralism. The U.S. ruling class wants multilateral diplomacy, in other words, include everyone in the alliance, seek them out, give them a role and console them. But it doesn't want multilateralism when it comes to the spoils.

To the European capitalists, multilateralism means share the loot. Unilateralism means that the U.S. corporations and the Pentagon take it all. That is what the turmoil in the Security Council and NATO is all about.

## Why U.S. wanted UN and NATO

The United Nations Security Council was formed at the end of World War II. It was structured even earlier by President Franklin Roosevelt and the U.S. ruling class to accommodate and help lift up the exhausted European imperialists, and to include and discipline the Soviet Union.

NATO was formed in 1949 to unite the Western imperialist world against the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe—the socialist camp. NATO was used to confront and threaten the USSR for 40 years. The German imperialists were on the front

**The anti-Soviet collaboration between Washington and its European rivals is no longer there to act as a restraint upon the imperial ambitions of the U.S. ruling class and the resistance of the Europeans to those ambitions.**

line of that struggle and Washington backed them fully.

The UN was used to partition Palestine and set up the Zionist settler state of Israel. It was used to wage a brutal war against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In general, it served the purpose of U.S. imperialism over the years. When it did not, Washington just went around it or overrode it. It used its veto numerous times, especially to stop condemnations of Israeli aggression.

But with the collapse of the USSR and the defeat of the socialist camp, the anti-Soviet collaboration between Washington and its European rivals is no longer there to act as a restraint upon the imperial ambitions of the U.S. ruling class and the resistance of the Europeans to those ambitions.

Ignoring the UN is not the root of this crisis. In fact, when Washington wanted to invade Yugoslavia, it knew it faced a Russian veto in the Security Council. The U.S. government simply ignored the UN and turned to NATO. But that did not precipitate any crisis because the French and German imperialists were with the U.S. in the war. Furthermore, Washington under the Clinton administration was still in the mode to share the spoils and the German bosses were allowed to retain their "sphere of influence" in the region.

## Pentagon wants to 'punish' Germany

But things have drastically shifted with the advent of the Bush administration. In the Feb. 16 edition of the London Observer an article spoke about the U.S. "punishing" Germany for its insubordination on the question of Iraq.

"America is to punish Germany for leading international opposition to a war against Iraq," wrote the Observer. "The plan—discussed by Pentagon officials and military chiefs last week on the orders of Defense Secretary Rumsfeld—is designed 'to harm' the German economy to make an example of the country for what U.S. hawks see as Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's treachery.

"We are doing this for one reason only: to harm the German economy," one source told the Observer last week. "The aim is to 'hit German trade and commerce,' according to the Pentagon, and 'make an example' of Germany that will 'force other countries heavily dependent on U.S. trade to think twice about standing up to America in the future.'"

Many of the leading lights in the ruling class establishment, including former President Jimmy Carter and former national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski, among others, have chided the Bush administration for its "clumsy" diplomacy. But this is concealing the truth.

Clumsy or bungling, as some would put it, implies that one accidentally and unintentionally does something either destructive or disruptive. There has been nothing unintentional about the arrogant diplomacy of the hard core of the Bush right-wing, so-called "neo-conservative" foreign policy group. When Donald Rumsfeld

denounced "old Europe," he was not being clumsy but making a flat-out assertion that Washington had captured the vassal states of Eastern Europe, and that the French and the German imperialists were now enemies.

To reaffirm the imperial arrogance of the right wing, Rumsfeld calmly said, in the midst of the Security Council crisis, that if the British government of Tony Blair was getting cold feet just because his Labor Party and the majority of the British people were against the war, then the U.S. did not really need them and was quite prepared to go to war without even one major ally.

Bush and his cabinet have dwelled over and over again on the Sept. 11 disaster as a turning point in making a war against Iraq a necessity. The entire ruling class knows this is a fraud. Try as they might, the Bush administration was never able to produce an iota of evidence linking the government of Iraq to Sept. 11 that could stand up to international scrutiny.

September 11 was a turning point in that it served as the political cover for the world-conquering Bush administration to open up a long-planned global offensive, all but laid out in its National Security Strategy document of September 2002. This campaign began with planting U.S. military forces at bases in the oil-rich Caspian Sea region under cover of the war against Afghanistan. That was followed by unleashing the bloody regime of Ariel Sharon for an offensive to crush the Palestinian national movement. Now comes the third phase: an all-out war to destroy the sovereignty of Iraq.

This brazen declaration of war by President George W. Bush for the openly stated purpose of destroying the regime of Saddam Hussein marks a new phase in the open struggle for global domination by Washington—the struggle for a U.S. imperialist world empire.

## Empires mean subduing rival ruling classes

Every form of society based upon class exploitation, from slavery to feudalism to capitalism, has shown a tendency toward the establishment of an empire. The relations of domination exercised by the exploiting classes over the exploited—whether they are slave holders over slaves, lords over serfs, or capitalists over workers—also drive the relations among the exploiters themselves.

The first and primary function of every ruling class state is the forcible subjugation of the exploited classes and the enforcement of existing class relations. But the empires of Alexander the Great, of Rome's slaveholders, of Charlemagne, of the Ottoman Turks and their military-feudal aristocracy, of Britain with its colonial capitalists, and numerous other historical examples illustrate the tendency of each ruling class to use its state not only for the forcible suppression of the exploited classes but as an instrument in the struggle against contending ruling classes.

Under historical circumstance favorable to the development of this tendency,

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WORKERS WORLD PARTY  
STATEMENT

# WORLD SAYS NO TO War of conquest

People demand jobs, schools and health care—  
not racist blitzkrieg

*Continued from page 1*

serving “revelations” are conveniently produced.

Bush has already declared that his troops are “liberators,” not conquerors. A huge operation is underway to manufacture the necessary images to convince a disbelieving world that the Iraqis want to be invaded.

This war is not an aberration or the irrational act of one leader. It has the backing of the most powerful ruling class in the world, even though mass opposition has caused some in their camp to fear the consequences. It represents a convergence of the capture of political power by the “neo-conservatives” around Bush with the uncontested military supremacy of the U.S. since the collapse of the socialist bloc and the inability of Big Money to turn around a growing worldwide capitalist economic crisis, which is drying up markets and pitting global corporations and imperialist ruling classes against each other.

Many people who have believed in “the system” are stunned by events that reveal a glaring disconnect between the political establishment and the will of the people. Congress has not responded in any way to their fervent appeals, other than to hand over to the president its constitutionally mandated authority to declare war.

As these momentous events move inexorably forward, there is literally no debate in the Congress, and none demanded by the leaders of the “opposition” party. Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, a Democrat now positioning himself for the 2004 election, is trying to make his support for the war more palatable to the people by wrist-slapping the Bush administration, saying it didn’t do a good enough job of rounding up international support—for a brutal, criminal, illegal assault on a nation already weakened by 12 years of sanctions.

No one in the leadership of the two establishment political parties dares mention the crass subject of oil and this administration’s incestuous relationship with companies like Dick Cheney’s Halliburton, which has already been promised hefty contracts in rebuilding the oil industry in a Pentagon-run post-war Iraq. And how could they? That would give the whole game away—the political game that all senators know so well, of speaking in the name of the people while defending the interests of big capital, whose lobbyists pay them off generously.

The war abroad is accompanied by a sharp escalation in the war at home—a racist war of the billionaire class to intensify its exploitation of the workers of this country.

It is not mere coincidence that United Air Lines chose March 17, the day of Bush’s war speech, to file a formal request with the bankruptcy court to dissolve its contracts with airline workers, including pilots, flight attendants and machinists.

This war, and those to follow as the Bush Doctrine of U.S. domination is put into effect across the globe, will cost working people here trillions of dollars, besides the lives and limbs of unknown numbers of young soldiers. Who else will pay for the aircraft carriers, fleets of

fighter planes, and deployments of hundreds of thousands of troops with high-tech weapons of all kinds? The executives of Enron and Exxon/Mobil? No, they will be trying to squeeze all they can get out of wages, pensions and health coverage, while allowing social services to wither as taxes are cut on the rich.

Coming on top of an already frightening economic decline, the war is spurring on the bosses’ offensive against the unions, many of which are now standing up and challenging the war and the domestic repression that goes with it.

## Two world views

Two very different views of the world are emerging as this crisis deepens.

The Bush view, the view promoted by the right-wingers who dominate government and the media, is of a frightening future where the U.S. is armed to the teeth, at any cost, and will strike out at any time, because some among the billions of people around the world who suffer unbearable conditions may seek to retaliate on the country that has built this horrible “new world order.”

People in the rich imperialist countries should know that the global banks and corporations have been destroying local economies, leaving whole countries destitute, unable to provide even clean water to their people, let alone health care, education and jobs. Imperialist intervention cannot solve these problems, it only makes them much worse.

All promises that war is waged to benefit the Iraqi people, or the Afghans, or the Koreans are but lies told by would-be conquerors. We don’t have to guess what U.S.-style “democracy” will be like. Just look at the oppression of the Palestinians by “democratic,” U.S.-financed Israel, or “democratic” Turkey’s bloody repression of the Kurds. A government installed in Iraq on U.S. bayonets will be a puppet regime well trained in providing heart-warming photo ops but subservient to the demands of the U.S. oil corporations.

But there is another view of the world that has been gaining ground in recent years and which many young people passionately believe in. It is of a world where science and technology become the property of the people and are used to bring literacy, health, good food, a modern infrastructure based on sustainable development, and a clean environment to the billions on this planet.

Safety and security in such a world does not require thousands of nuclear weapons, arsenals of chemical, biological and “conventional” but deadly weapons like those possessed by the Pentagon, or endless wars of aggression. Such a world can be built on the solidarity and struggles of the working people and all who have been oppressed by the capitalist system.

At this moment, the war on Iraq transcends all other issues. As this ruling class brings the war home with ever greater fury, it can expect that every domestic struggle will become an anti-war struggle. The war machine can and must be defeated by a mighty movement to bring the troops home. Money for jobs, education and health care, not endless imperialist wars of aggression! □

## Seattle & Olympia, Wash.

# Activist’s death galvanizes anti-war forces

By Jane Cutter  
Seattle

The activist communities of Olympia and Seattle, Wash., especially those who knew and worked with Rachel Corrie, have been deeply affected by her murder. The day she was killed, March 16, a vigil was held in Olympia. In Seattle, hundreds gathered at the University of Washington campus following a previously scheduled showing of the film “Jenin Jenin.”

The impact of Corrie’s death has also served to bring into greater focus the interconnection of the struggle against the U.S. war on Iraq and the Palestine solidarity struggle. At an anti-war vigil in Seattle on March 16, in which vast numbers of activists formed a 3.5-mile human chain around Green Lake, protesters called out her name.

Some in the local peace movement had



Rachel Corrie

sought to ban or censor talk about Palestine from the anti-war discourse. Rachel’s murder by an Israeli soldier, driving a U.S.-made military bulldozer, paid for with U.S. tax dollars, has brought home to many the reality of life for the Palestinian people. □

## With one voice: ‘NO WAR’

*Continued from page 8*

struggle. In Britain, the Stop the War Committee has announced mass mobilizations for both March 22 and March 29 in London, whether or not the war has begun. There are also demonstrations planned for March 22 in New York City and in Amsterdam.

The European labor movement plans to extend its successful symbolic action on March 14 into a four-hour general strike on March 21.

Worldwide, the movement has agreed to hold immediate local actions the day the U.S. launches its onslaught, or the day after, if the attack begins at night. It will protest in capitals or major cities the following weekend. This attack is coming without the cover of United Nations approval, as existed in 1991—or even NATO approval, as the Pentagon had during its bombing raids on Yugoslavia in 1999—and with the minimum allied sup-

port for the U.S. military machine.

Those government leaders who back the U.S. assault are themselves isolated in their own countries. Blair’s cabinet members are beginning to resign, Aznar faces millions in the streets, and Australian Prime Minister John Howard has been pelted with eggs in the streets of Adelaide. And even with a mammoth propaganda machine that keeps repeating the most egregious lies to the population, a strong anti-war movement has grown within the U.S.

Under these conditions, the world considers Bush, Blair and Aznar rogue leaders of rogue states who are endangering the lives of everyone on earth. As such, the movement has authorized strikes, direct action, calls for refusal of soldiers in the imperialist armies to fight, and whatever else it takes to impede the U.S. war machine, stop murdering Iraqis and bring the troops home from the Middle East. □

## Bush crosses the Rubicon

*Continued from page 9*

the struggle among city states, feudal dynastic states, or modern-day capitalist states ends up in the widespread domination of one ruling class over the others.

Within the framework of modern-day imperialist society, the U.S. ruling class has been won over to an open move in the direction of world empire. This is the new mentality in Washington. The U.S. ruling class has momentarily, provisionally and with worries and misgivings, accepted it, pending the outcome of this struggle.

But they are rightfully worried about this adventure. The ruling class here cannot but notice that the French, the Germans and the Russians have been acting openly in concert during the final phase of this crisis. The prospect of a period of inter-imperialist rivalry at a moment when the entire situation in the Middle East may blow up in their faces cannot but make them anxious. Especially as they face the prospect of a firestorm of

mass resistance to U.S. aggression and war crimes.

Most importantly and fundamentally, the urge to empire in the imperialist epoch confronts the ruling class with a worldwide camp of the working class and the oppressed. They are no longer isolated from one another as were the slaves of the Roman Empire, the serfs of the Holy Roman Empire or the peasants and super-exploited peoples under the British Empire.

The working class today is interconnected by global mass production and modern communications. It has a capacity for international solidarity, widespread organization and combat that previously exploited classes did not have. Furthermore, it has over a century of experience of national liberation struggles and socialist revolutions to draw upon.

This war for empire could spark the beginning of the movement to undo not only the empire, but imperialism and capitalist exploitation itself. □

## Crushed by Israeli bulldozer

# U.S. student's fate familiar to Palestinians

By Leslie Feinberg

Rachel Corrie faced down a super-sized, armor-plated Israeli Army bulldozer in an attempt to stop it from demolishing the home of a Palestinian doctor and his family in southern Gaza on March 16. She was crushed to death in the Al-Salam refugee neighborhood of Rafah City, defending the Palestinian movement she held so dear.

The 23-year-old activist, a college student at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Wash., had been working in Rafah for seven weeks as a member of the Palestinian-led Grassroots International Protector for Palestinians/International Solidarity Movement (ISM).

These and other "internationals" put their bodies on the line as human shields. The ISM explained in a March 17 "Statement on the murder of Rachel Corrie" that they are attempting "to protect Palestinian human rights and lives precisely because formal international bodies have refused to take action to do so." The statement emphasizes, "Rachel joins 1,900 Palestinians who have been killed by Israeli soldiers and settlers since September 2000."

Masri, the doctor whose home she protected, recalled her: "She was very brave and beautiful, a special friend to me and my family. She only wanted to help us, and she paid with her life."

Palestinian women carried an empty coffin draped in their national flag through the streets of Gaza the day after her death to show their solidarity with the young activist who had so courageously demonstrated hers.

Palestinian Authority President Yasir Arafat called Corrie's parents the following day to express his condolences and reportedly told them that the Palestinian people embrace their daughter. The same day, from Ramallah in the West Bank, he referred to Rachel Corrie as "our sister; our martyr."

The very same bulldozer that crushed Corrie's life also killed a nine-months pregnant Palestinian woman, Nuha Sweidan, on March 3 while destroying her next-door neighbor's home, reports Evergreen faculty member Steve Niva. Sweidan bled to death under the detritus, holding an 18-month-old daughter in her arms. Her unborn baby also perished. (Palestine Chronicle, March 17)

The U.S.-supplied that D-9 Caterpillar military vehicle.

Hundreds marched in New York City on March 17 to condemn Corrie's killing and "to protest U.S. culpability for supplying Israel with the financial aid, weapons, diplomatic and moral support that underpins Israel's continuing assault on the Palestinian people and their land." The protest brought together activists from Jews Against the Occupation, Direct Action for a Free Palestine, Stop U.S. Tax-Funded Aid to Israel Now, and the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee.

### Eyewitnesses of the horror

Arutz Sheva, Israel National News, tried to divert outrage against Corrie's killing by providing the web location of an AP photo reportedly showing Corrie burning a mock U.S. flag during a February rally in the Gaza Strip. And the article baited the international support movement about where it gets its meager funding.

The Israeli Army termed her death a "regrettable accident," but claimed she ran

in front of the bulldozer. Witnesses say that's a lie. And photos of the hours-long confrontation located at [www.palsolidarity.org](http://www.palsolidarity.org), chilling and painful to view, bear out their account.

The ISM statement recounts that the face-off with the military lasted almost three hours. When a bulldozer advanced, Corrie—wearing a fluorescent orange jacket with reflective stripes, and shouting through a megaphone for it to stop—climbed onto the mound of dirt to face the driver. Troops in a nearby tank that flanked the standoff were reportedly in communication with the driver.

Corrie was visible to them all, witnesses emphasize, waving to the driver to halt. And her seven fellow ISM activists—three U.S. and four British—cried out to the driver in fury and horror.

But, "The bulldozer continued to advance so that she was pulled under the pile of dirt and rubble. After she had disappeared from view, the driver kept advancing until the bulldozer was completely on top of her. The driver did not lift the bulldozer blade and so she was crushed beneath it. Then the driver backed up—effectively running over her again."

Fellow activists rushed to dig out her massively injured body. "My back is broken; my back is broken," she told them. An ambulance rushed her to Al-Najar Hospital where she died.

BBS News of Charlotte, N.C., quoted a man named Mohammed, web weaver of the pictorial site "Rafah Today," who also witnessed the attack. He said that in addition to seeing Corrie killed, he saw the IDF bury another member of the ISM. But Palestinians were able to dig him out and save his life. (BBS, March 17) The man was injured and hospitalized, according to the March 17 Palestine Monitor. Israeli troops also reportedly shot and killed a Palestinian man on the street, who the U.S. media has not named.

### Walking her talk

Evergreen faculty member Peter Bohmer remembers Corrie as active in her union, 1199 SEIU, and staunchly opposed to the U.S. blockade of Cuba, Bush's "war on terror" and the Pentagon war drive.

She worked tirelessly to build the Sept. 11, 2002, protest at Percival Landing in downtown Olympia against the U.S. bombing of Afghanistan and against domestic state repression, he wrote. "So it is very fitting that the vigil last night, Sunday, March 16, against the war in Iraq and to honor and mourn Rachel, was at Percival Landing. Close to 1,000 people attended."

Corrie had taken part in a televised people's trial in Gaza, which charged President George W. Bush with war crimes for U.S. support of Israel's assault there. (news14.com, March 17)

"She strongly opposed the Israeli occupation and supported a Palestinian state," he recalled. "She had studied Arabic at Evergreen and decided to go to the Gaza Strip in occupied Palestine for winter quarter."

"Part of her reasoning was that it was important to have international observers there as Israeli aggression was likely to increase when the U.S. attacked, bombed and invaded Iraq. She strongly opposed the U.S. war against Iraq."

Her parents, Cindy and Craig Corrie—who live in North Carolina—are both members of the Charlotte Coalition for Peace and Justice. "We are very proud of



Palestinian women carry empty coffin draped with their national flag through the streets of Gaza City to show solidarity with Rachel Corrie.

her courage and what she stood for," Craig Corrie said after hearing of her death. (news14.com, March 17)

### The other U.S.-backed war in Middle East

While the eyes of the world are riveted on the Pentagon military machine advancing on Iraq, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has been given a green light from Washington to ratchet up the war against the Palestinian people.

Menachem Klein, an Israeli political scientist at Bar Ilan University near Tel Aviv, said Sharon's raids are "a kind of rehearsal. ... And the thinking is that if the world gets used to these short-term occupations, it will digest the long-term one."

Corrie's family made public a Feb. 7 e-mail she wrote them in which she relayed, "I hear an escalation of war of Iraq is inevitable. There is a great deal of concern here about the 'reoccupation of Gaza.' Gaza is reoccupied every day to various extents, but I think the fear is that the tanks will enter all the streets and remain here. ... If people aren't already thinking about the consequences of this war for the people of the entire region then I hope they will start. ...

"Once you have experienced the reality of a world that isn't surrounded by murderous towers, tanks, armed 'settlements' and now a giant metal wall, I wonder if you can forgive the world for all the years of your childhood spent existing—just existing—in resistance to the constant stranglehold of the world's fourth-largest military—backed by the world's only superpower—in its attempt to erase you from your home."

Corrie was moved to describe life for Palestinians in the apartheid garrison state.

The fenced-in Gaza Strip that is still Palestinian-controlled has been regularly pummeled by Israeli tank and helicopter raids.

Arutz Sheva claimed Corrie was killed "trying to stop a bulldozer from razing the home of a terrorist in Gaza." In fact, the home was one of some 602 civilian houses that have reportedly been completely razed in Rafah—a city of about 140,000 people, some 60 percent of whom are refugees from their original homes in historic Palestine. The Israelis have reduced the houses to rubble to build a 14-meter high prison wall with gun towers along the perimeter of Rafah to the border. Far more homes have been partially destroyed in the construction.

Corrie and other ISM activists had also been defending two water works that the Israeli military were attacking in an attempt to destroy 60 percent of the total municipal water supply.

Just hours after Corrie's death, some 30 Israeli tanks pushed into the Nusseirat

refugee camp in central Gaza, killing at least six Palestinians, including a two-year-old girl. (Los Angeles Times, March 17)

"Internationals" like Corrie have worked to bring world attention to the conditions in Gaza.

Dr. Mustafa Barghouti, from the Palestinian non-governmental network that spearheaded the international solidarity campaign, stated, "The killing of Rachel is a tragedy. We express our sorrow, anger and disgust at this cold-blooded murder and we call for international condemnation of this event, and the ongoing Israeli policy of indiscriminate killings of Palestinians and internationals."

Corrie was the first member of the group to be killed, but the violence has been increasing. Several others have been badly hurt, reports the March 18 Herald in Jerusalem, "including elderly U.S. Jewish activists attempting to prevent Jewish settlers from attacking Palestinian farmers working their land."

Michael Sheikh, media coordinator of the ISM, wrote about two recent incidents on Feb. 14. ISM members faced machine-gun and tank fire and were nearly run over in a deliberate bulldozer attack. A Palestinian activist with the group was sadistically brutalized. (electronicintifada.net)

Urgent calls to the U.S. Consulate to stop the Feb. 14 attacks, Sheikh explained, were rebuffed: "Though its international activists have often encountered a level of hostility from their missions in Israel which are expected to protect them, this is the first time a consulate has stated explicitly that it will take no responsibility whatsoever for the welfare of its nationals performing peace work in the Occupied Territories."

He concluded, "We believe that this is part of an Israeli plan to step up its campaign of terror against the people of Palestine once the U.S. commences its invasion of Iraq."

The U.S. State Department said it "deeply regretted" Corrie's death, which it termed "tragic." And it called for an immediate and full investigation—to be conducted by the government of Israel and the Israeli Defense Forces.

Barghouti stressed that Corrie's death "is an extremely dangerous precedent as it means the Israeli army is ready to kill international peace activists in order to frighten them away, so that the army can carry out its crimes against Palestinians without witnesses and with impunity. This is especially dangerous with the impending Gulf war."

"We call for more internationals to come at this terrible time, and not let the Israeli military isolate Palestinians."

The ISM statement after Corrie's death makes clear their resolve: "We pledge to continue actively working for the ideals of freedom and justice that Rachel died for."

IPROLETARIOS Y OPRIMIDOS DE TODOS LOS PAÍSES, UNÍOS!

# MUNDO OBRERO

## Los hechos refutan los cargos de los guerrreadores

# Respuestas a las muy repetidas mentiras

Por Greg Butterfield

En su apuro para entrar en guerra contra Irak, el Presidente George W. Bush, el Primer Ministro Británico, Tony Blair y compañía han dicho muchas mentiras y las han repetido frecuentemente.

Estas mentiras son publicadas en las páginas frontales de los periódicos y durante tiempos de gran visibilidad televisiva. Aún cuando estos son confrontados por autoridades en los asuntos, los mismos periódicos, las cadenas de televisión y de radio ignoran o ubican la información en un lugar o tiempo obscuro donde no será repetida tantas veces.

Por eso como servicio público a los millones de personas que se oponen a la guerra, a aquellos que están al frente llevando los mensajes anti guerra al trabajo u hogar, en la escuela o en las barricadas, Workers World/Mundo Obrero ha reunido algunas de las mentiras más ilustres—y hechos para refutarlas.

La verdad es que la administración de Bush y la América Empresarial son mentirosas y agresoras. El movimiento anti guerra necesita entender que el pueblo Iraquí tiene todo el derecho de defenderse contra aquellos que quieren roban su soberanía. De otra manera el movimiento arriesga irse por el camino equivocado envuelto con el lema “ganar sin guerra”—o sea, aceptando el argumento de Bush de que Irak “debe ser” desarmado y re-colonizado, solo que de manera diferente.

### LA ACUSACIÓN

#### Irak está por producir armas nucleares, o ya los tiene.

“Una pieza de evidencia importante vinculando a Irak a un programa de armas nucleares parece haber sido fabricado, dijo el principal inspector nuclear de la ONU ayer en un reporte que cuestionó los cargos de Estados Unidos y Britania sobre las ambiciones secretas nucleares de Irak,” escribió el Washington Post.

“Documentos que supuestamente confirmaban la compra por oficiales iraquíes de Uranio en Africa hace dos años fueron considerados “no auténticos” después de un cuidadoso escrutinio por expertos de la ONU e independientes, dijo Mohammed ElBaradei, director general de la Agencia Internacional de Energía Atómica, a Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU.

“ElBaradei también rechazó un cargo importante de la administración de Bush hecho dos veces por el presidente en importantes discursos y repetidos por el Secretario de Estado, Colin L. Powell ayer—que Irak ha tratado de comprar tubos de aluminio de alta tensión para usar en procesos centrífugos para el enriquecimiento del uranio.

El director dijo claramente, “No hay indicación alguna de comenzar de nuevo actividades nucleares.”

El Post agregó, “Dudas sobre [los] cargos comenzaron a emerger poco después que los inspectores de la ONU regresaron a Irak el pasado noviembre. “ Para enero,

La AIEA, ya había concluido de que el tubo de 81 mm comprado por Irak no se podía usar para la producción de armas nucleares, y las intenciones eran de uso convencional en los proyectiles de artillería. Justo lo que los iraquíes han dicho todo este tiempo.

Powell fue forzado a reconocer que los documentos proveídos por la inteligencia británica tratando de comprobar que Irak había estado tratando de comprar uranio eran falsos. Pero después, él dijo que los Estados Unidos tenía “nueva” evidencia de un programa de armas nucleares Iraquí. ¿Tendrá alguien la oportunidad de examinar estos cargos antes de que las bombas comiencen a caer?

### LA ACUSACIÓN

#### Irak tiene otras armas de destrucción masiva.

Para sorpresa de la administración de Bush, el 7 de marzo, el director principal de inspecciones de la ONU, Hans Blix, reportó que Irak estaba “proactivamente” cooperando con los inspectores. ...Hasta ahora no hay evidencias de que Irak tiene armas prohibidas, dijo Blix.

Más evidencias llegan del defector Hussein Kamel, el director de armas de Irak. La administración de Bush cita con frecuencia a Kamel, quien hulló hacia los Estados Unidos en 1995, cuando estos decían que Irak tenía armas de destrucción masiva.

Pero en la edición del 3 de marzo de la revista norteamericana Newsweek se reveló que Kamel “dijo a la CIA y a la inteligencia británica y a los inspectores de la ONU en el verano de 1995 que después de la Guerra del Golfo, Irak destruyó todas sus armas biológicas y químicas junto con los proyectiles que los cargarían.”

La admisión respaldó los testimonios de los pasados inspectores de armas de la ONU—incluyendo a Scott Ritter, un ex marino de los Estados Unidos—que Irak estaba libre de armas de destrucción masiva para mediados de la década del noventa.

Recientemente la Casa Blanca dijo que dos misiles de al-Samoud de Irak violaron la distancia de 95 millas autorizada por la ONU y por lo tanto estos calificaban como armas de destrucción masiva. Los misiles excedieron la distancia en 17 de las 40 pruebas. Bagdad accedió a destruir los misiles como muestra de buena fé para la ONU. Hasta ahora Irak a destruido más del 25% a plena vista de los inspectores. Pero los oficiales estadounidenses se burlaron y continuaron enviando tropas para matar o dar la vida.

“Los inspectores de la ONU verificaron la destrucción de misiles por Irak, las reuniones privadas con los científicos de armas de Irak, las visitas a locales donde las armas biológicas y químicas fueron destruidas en 1991 y una serie de vuelos por aviones espías U2 han sido recibidos con encogidas de hombros y desprecio en Washington,” dijo Robert Scheer el 4 de marzo en la edición del periódico Los Angeles Times.

“La arrogancia es sorprendente,” dijo Scheer. “Hemos exigido que un país se desarme y aún cuando lo está haciendo, decimos que no importa; es muy tarde; allá vamos.

“Tiren sus armas y esperen por la masacre.”

### LA ACUSACIÓN

#### Saddam Hussein colaboró en los ataques del 11 de septiembre. El es aliado de Osama bin Laden.

¿Se acuerda de los títulos terroríficos en los periódicos afirmando que Irak fue responsable del pánico de ántrax en los fines del año 2001?

Cuando la noticia se filtró que el ántrax se originó de una instalación militar en Maryland, el reportaje virtualmente desapareció de los medios de comunicación corporativos.

No hay ninguna evidencia involucrando el gobierno de Irak a los sucesos del 11 de septiembre del 2001 tampoco. Pero esto no ha impedido a Bush y compañía de repetir a esta mentira grande una y otra vez, con la esperanza que el pueblo lo va a creer.

El ex presidente Jimmy Carter, resumiendo su oposición a la estrategia actual de Bush en un artículo invitado publicado en el New York Times el 8 de marzo admitió, “Esfuerzos americanos de vincular Irak con los sucesos de los ataques terroristas no han sido convincentes.”

La presentación del pueblo árabe por los medios comunicativos refuerza la idea falsa de que todos los árabes comparten el mismo punto de vista y están unidos en alguna conspiración “terrorista” de grandes proporciones. Pero por supuesto esto también es una mentira. Hay distinciones de clase, de ideología y diferencias políticas tanto en el mundo árabe como en cualquier otra parte. Bin Laden, un religioso fanático, tiene poco en común con Saddam Hussein, un nacionalista burgués.

En febrero, en un intento de fomentar una histeria favoreciendo la guerra, los medios noticieros corporativos difundieron porciones de una cinta grabada supuestamente por Osama Bin Laden. Pero algunas partes de la cinta fueron censuradas, como por ejemplo el comentario siguiente sobre el gobierno del Partido Socialista Baáth de Saddam Hussein:

“Los socialistas son infieles dondequiera que estén, o en Bagdad o en Aden. ... tal guerra que pueda ocurrir estos días es similar a la guerra entre musulmanes y romanos, cuando los intereses de los musulmanes acompañaron a los intereses de los persas, y los dos combatieron en contra de los romanos”. (Reportado por Alexander Cockburn en la revista semanal La Nación el 3 de marzo.)

Periodista africano-americano y preso político Mumia Abu-Jamal comenta: “Si esta es una “conexión”, entonces el Gen. [Ariel] Sharon y el Presidente [Yasir] Arafat tienen una “conexión” si solamente por antagonismo y odio mutuo”.

### LA ACUSACIÓN

#### La guerra no tiene nada que ver con ganancias petroleras. Es una guerra de la democracia en contra de la dictadura.

“Hay muchas oportunidades para hacer negocios en esta guerra”, se entusiasmó Michael Renner del Instituto World-Watch, una institución consejera para negocios. “Representa los intereses más grandes de la industria petrolera que están en juego”.

Irak tiene reservas petroleras comprobadas de 112 billones de barriles—segundo solamente a las de Arabia Saudita. Y según creen algunos expertos todavía hay más que descubrir.

Siguió Renner, “Un cambio de régimen en Bagdad va a volver a barajar y dar a las compañías petroleras británicas y estadounidenses. Estas tendrían una buena oportunidad de obtener acceso directo a los campos petroleros de Irak por primera vez en 30 años que significaría una ganancia caída del cielo con un valor de cientos de billones de dólares”.

El periódico San Francisco Chronicle del 8 de marzo reportó por primera vez la noticia de que Kellogg Brown & Root Services “ha ganado un contrato con el Pentágono por consejo sobre como reconstruir los campos petroleros después de una posible guerra”. Kellogg Brown & Root pertenece a Halliburton, la compañía encabezada por Dick Cheney antes de su nombramiento como vicepresidente por la Corte Suprema de Justicia de los EE.UU.

“El contrato fue revelado en el último párrafo de una declaración del Departamento de Defensa...” el Chronicle reportó. “La declaración llama por sugerencias de cómo bregar con incendios en pozos petroleros y por valorar otros daños a instalaciones petroleras”.

Halliburton, es una de cinco empresas compitiendo por \$900 millones en contratos para “reconstruir a Irak” según reportó el periódico Wall Street Journal el 10 de marzo.

El ganador sería responsable por arreglar a las carreteras, puentes, porciones de la red nacional del tendido eléctrico, más “importante económicamente” a las empresas monopolistas británicas y estadounidenses para hacer fluir de nuevo las ganancias petroleras.

¿Crear democracia? El intento es más parecido al colonialismo al estilo racista y tradicional.

El plan de guerra del Pentágono con la etiqueta “sobrecogimiento y susto” dejaría caer entre 3000 y 4000 bombas y misiles sobre Bagdad y su población civil durante las primeras 48 horas. Niños menores de 15 años de edad conforman la mitad de la población de Irak. ¿Serán ellos los víctimas principales de esta guerra “democrática”?

¿Y qué es lo que va a seguir? Bush planea sustituir el gobierno de Irak con un régimen colonial bajo el mando del Gen. Tommy Franks y un “gobernador” civil aún sin nombrar. Este plan ha provocado la ira de hasta la “oposición iraquí” aliada con Washington. □