

Iraqis vs. the empire

NEWS FROM BAGHDAD 7

Wave of protests sweeps the globe 11



WW PHOTO: PAT CHIN

Rising resistance, coast to coast 8-9

Can labor stop this war? 4

War siphons billions from economy 4

Media coverage: All spin, all the time 5

Turkey, the U.S. and the Kurds 6

When bombs fell on Belgrade 10

EDITORIAL

By Fred Goldstein

Whatever finally happens in the battle for Baghdad, the initial resistance by the Iraqi people to the murderous bombing of their capital and the invasion by heavily armed U.S. and British ground troops has shown that the Bush administration's plans for rapid and complete domination of Iraq were based upon lies and illusions.

The terrible bombing of Baghdad, Mosul and Kirkuk with hundreds of cruise missiles and thousands of bombs has caused enormous destruction and many casualties. The Iraqi people are in grave danger of an even greater criminal bombing offensive as U.S. forces escalate the battle to take Baghdad.

Nevertheless, the great difficulties faced by the U.S. invasion forces, despite their overwhelming military superiority, show how profoundly the Pentagon planners have underestimated the will and ability of the people to resist imperialist aggression.

It bodes ill for Washington's plans for empire and world conquest.

Iraqis didn't follow Washington's script

According to the script written by the Washington war planners, the massive bombing of Baghdad combined with a lightning blitzkrieg by armored divisions, covered by close air support, was supposed to bring about a collapse of the Iraqi leadership, the defection of military leaders, a national uprising against the government of Saddam Hussein and the welcoming of U.S. military forces as liberators.

But the Iraqi people did not follow the script written by President Bush, Vice President Cheney, Defense Secretary Rumsfeld, and the rest of the right-wing, world-conquering militarists in the White House and the Pentagon. Rather than acting out Washington's illusions, they acted in accordance with reality. They apparently never believed for one minute that the imperialist armies of the U.S. and of Iraq's former colonizers in London were coming to "liberate" them. They acted on the basis

that the gigantic high-tech military machine was there to conquer them.

Refusing to be objects of history and passively await their fate, they have written their own script of resistance. They have launched a determined and widespread campaign of desert and urban guerrilla warfare, the most difficult type, to compensate for the staggering inequality of military force that they are facing.

Whether or not this can change the ultimate outcome of the war, it is a glorious example of heroism, self-sacrifice and determination for all the workers and oppressed.

When the U.S. and British military forces came storming across the Kuwait-Iraq border, they tried unsuccessfully to enter one city after another in southern Iraq. The conventional wisdom was that they would be welcomed with open arms because of the hostility of the Shi'ite Muslim population of the south to the regime of Saddam Hussein. Instead, they ran into a wall of popular resistance from Umm Qasr to Basra to An Nasiriyah, and throughout the region.

The crucial port city of Umm Qasr has a population of 4,000. A Washington Post correspondent told MSNBC-TV on March 24 that the occupation of Umm Qasr was supposed to take four to eight hours. Instead it took five days because of the fierce resistance.

The British Royal Marines were supposed to take control of Basra at the opening of the campaign. Presumably, they would easily enter this city of 1.5 million, the second largest in the country and the center of the Shi'ite southern region. They were primed to exhibit Basra as an example of how the Iraqis were lined up waiting for their liberation.

As of this writing—March 26—the British forces are still unable to enter the city.

As they marched further north, U.S. Marines were supposed to enter Nasiriyah and cross the Euphrates River on their way to Baghdad. It took three days of fighting with heavy air support

Continued on page 6

NATIONAL MARCH

Stop the war on Iraq!

Bring the troops home!

**SATURDAY • April 12TH
12 NOON • WASHINGTON, D.C.**

SURROUND THE WHITE HOUSE

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Subscribe to Workers World

STAY ANTI-WAR ALERT
Trial: \$2 for 8 weeks. One year: \$25

NAME _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

WORKERS WORLD NEWSPAPER
55 W. 17 St. NY, NY 10011 (212) 627-2994
www.workers.org

Called by the **A.N.S.W.E.R. COALITION** Act Now to Stop War & End Racism
BOSTON 617-522-6626 • CHICAGO 773-878-0166 • NEW YORK CITY 212-633-6646 • WASHINGTON DC 202-544-3389
LOS ANGELES 213-487-2368 SAN FRANCISCO 415-821-6545
email: info@internationalanswer.org www.internationalanswer.org



WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

ANSWER blocks entrance to Bechtel, San Francisco, March 20. The city was shut down and 1,600 protesters were arrested.



WW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

A quarter-million march against the war, New York, March 22.



WW PHOTO: JULIA LA RIVA

Los Angeles, March 22.

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

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

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

Atlanta P.O. Box 424,
Atlanta, Ga. 30301
(404) 235-5704

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

Boston 31 Germania St.,
Boston, Mass. 02130
(Enter at 284 Amory St.)
(617) 983-3835;
Fax (617) 983-3836
boston@workers.org

Buffalo, N.Y.
P.O. Box 1204
Buffalo NY 14213
(716) 857-2112
buffalo@workers.org

Chicago P.O. Box 06178,
Wacker Drive Station,
Chicago, Ill. 60606
(773) 381-5839;
Fax (773) 761-9330;
chicago@workers.org

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

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

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

Los Angeles
422 S. Western Ave.,
Room 114,
Los Angeles, Calif. 90020
(213) 487-2368
fax (213) 387-9355
la@workers.org

Philadelphia
P.O. Box 9202,
Philadelphia, Pa. 19139
(610) 352-3625;
phila@workers.org

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

Rochester, N.Y.
2117 Buffalo Rd., PMB.
303, Rochester, N.Y. 14624
(716) 436-6458;

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

San Francisco
2489 Mission St.
Rm. 28,
San Francisco,
Calif. 94110
(415) 826-4828;
fax (415) 821-5782;
sf@workers.org

Seattle
1218 E. Cherry #201,
Seattle, Wash. 98122
(206) 325-0085;
seattle@workers.org

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

Washington, D.C.
P.O. Box 57300,
Washington, DC 20037,
(202) 347-9300
dc@workers.org

This week ...



★ National

- Cuban 5 held in abysmal conditions 3
- Cop gets off in Dorismond killing 3
- Mumia on 'Axis of arrogance' 3
- Can labor shut it down and save lives? 4
- Unionists march in NYC protest 4
- War costs rise as rich get tax cuts 4
- Media monopoly 5
- Cheney is licking his chops 5
- Quote of the week 5
- Save community libraries 5
- Oscar winner denounces Bush's war 5
- U.S. demos keep up the pressure 8
- Anti-war anger in Baltimore 8
- Women slam war and budget cuts 9
- Protesters storm San Francisco streets 9

★ International

- Iraqis vs. the empire 1
- Kurds squeezed by oil politics 6
- U.S. offensive in Afghanistan 6
- Internationals in Baghdad 7
- New York meeting on Venezuela 10
- Wave of protests sweeps world 11
- Hockey fans boo war flag 11

★ Editorials

- When bombs fell on Belgrade 10

★ Noticias En Español

- El mundo dice no a la guerra de conquista 12

WW CALENDAR

LOS ANGELES

Sun., March 30
Anti-war rally and peace march.
Gather at noon in Pershing
Square, 6th & Hill, and march to
the downtown Federal Building,
Temple & Los Angeles. For info
L.A. ANSWER (213) 487-2368.

SAN FRANCISCO

Every Sunday
Workers World Party weekly
meetings. These educational
meetings cover current events as
well as struggles of peoples from
all over the world. 5 p.m. At
2489 Mission St, room 28. For
info (415) 826-4828.

NEW YORK

Every Friday
Workers World Party weekly
meetings at 7 p.m. Phone (212)
627-2994 for topics and location.

Tue., April 1
Mumia: A powerful voice against
war and racism. Guest speaker:
Pam Africa, International
Concerned Family and Friends
of Mumia Abu-Jamal. 7 p.m.
At 39 W 14th St., Room 206,
Manhattan. For info phone
Millions for Mumia/IAC at
(212) 633-6646.

Workers World

55 West 17 Street
New York, N.Y. 10011
Phone: (212) 627-2994 • Fax: (212) 675-7869
E-mail: editor@workers.org
Web: http://www.workers.org/
Vol. 45, No. 13 • April 3, 2003
Closing date: March 26, 2003

Editor: Deirdre Griswold;
Technical Editor: Lal Roohk;
Managing Editors: Greg Butterfield, John Catalinotto, Leslie Feinberg,
Monica Moorehead, Gary Wilson;
West Coast Editors: Richard Becker, Gloria La Riva;
Contributing Editors: Joyce Chediak, Pat Chin, Naomi Cohen, Shelley
Ettinger, Teresa Gutierrez;
Technical Staff: Rebecca Finkel, Elena J. Peckham, Hank Sambach;
Mundo Obrero: Carl Glenn, Carlos Vargas;
Internet: Janet Mayes

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

Selected articles are available via e-mail subscription. Send an e-mail
message to wwnews-on@wwpublish.com.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send
address changes to Workers World-WW, 55 W. 17 St., 5th Floor, New
York, N.Y. 10011.

Cuban 5 held in abysmal conditions

By Gloria La Riva

Olga Salanueva is the wife of René González, one of five Cubans imprisoned by the U.S. for trying to stop terrorism against their country. She hasn't heard a word from her husband since he and his four comrades were locked down Feb. 28 in "Security Housing Units" of the U.S. prison system. SHU are brutal isolation cells that have become standard in almost every U.S. prison.

"This latest indignation has only served to strengthen us," she said in a telephone interview from Havana. "The families of our compañeros will continue being fine, but we miss them deeply. And although we cannot communicate with each other, our hearts are together."

Salanueva has been prohibited from entering the U.S. and has not seen her husband for five years. His sentence is 17 years.

René González, Fernando González, Antonio Guerrero, Gerardo Hernández and Ramón Labañino—the Cuban Five, as they are known to their supporters—are political prisoners of the U.S. government. They had penetrated right-wing Cuban groups in Miami that have carried out terrorism against their country. Now they are serving sentences of from 17 years to double-life in prisons scattered around the U.S.

Since late February they have been in tiny cells where the lights are kept on around the clock and there is no way to tell day from night. No natural light can enter the windowless rooms. Reading and writing materials are prohibited.

For the first two weeks of isolation, even Cuban consular officials in Washington were denied the right to talk with or write to their compatriots. Now a visit requires 16 days' notice.

Attorney Leonard Weinglass, legal counsel for Guerrero, flew out west to see him and Hernández, who is serving two trumped-up life sentences in Lompoc prison. Weinglass is preparing crucial appeals to be filed on behalf of all five on April 7.

Weinglass wrote in a memo that he was shocked at Hernández's "deplorable conditions." He has been stripped of clothing except for underpants and t-shirt. His shoes were taken away and he is denied all reading material. A letter from his lawyer, Joaquin Mendez, was confiscated before he could read it. He is denied all contact with the outside world and fellow prisoners.



WW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

Supporters of Cuban 5 publicize case at March 22 anti-war march in New York.

Weinglass said that Hernández's situation is even worse than that of many thousands of prisoners held in isolation around the U.S. He is in what is called "the box," for violent offenders.

In five years of incarceration, none of the five has been accused of misconduct. But they are being collectively punished as victims of 43 years of U.S. hostility toward revolutionary Cuba.

Weinglass traveled in a blinding snowstorm to see Guerrero on March 20 in Florence federal prison near Colorado Springs. He had been warned by the Bureau of Prisons that their ability to communicate and exchange legal documents would be greatly restricted. But that didn't prepare him for the prison's treatment of Guerrero.

"It is the worst visiting conditions I have ever encountered," Weinglass said. "It was a very small cubby with a thick glass between us and a telephone which we had to use to communicate. The space was so small that my associate counsel and I could not fit in it together. He had to stand behind me and share the one phone on our end. Antonio was locked in on his side and we, the attorneys, were also locked in on our side."

Weinglass added, "Antonio was informed in writing that he is to remain in this condition until Feb. 24, 2004—when it could be extended for another year."

The confinement order against all five was authorized by Attorney General John Ashcroft. It says they pose a risk of "disclosing classified information" that "could pose a threat to the national security of the United States."

The five never even attempted to engage in gathering classified information about the U.S. Their activities were strictly related to stopping terrorism from anti-Cuba groups in Miami and defending Cuba from possible paramilitary or military actions.

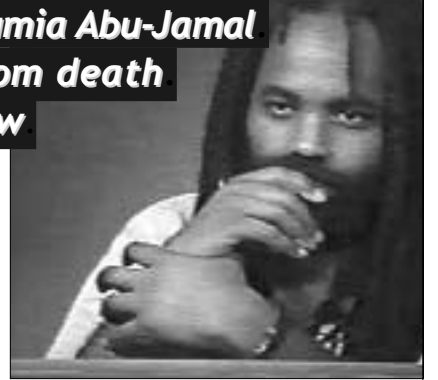
The U.S. is concerned, however, about the growing international and national support they are receiving. There are over 120 committees around the world on their behalf.

A fight for their freedom

An emergency worldwide campaign is underway to demand their release from SHU isolation and a new trial. Appeals will be filed on April 7 in Atlanta. The National Committee to Free the Cuban Five, the Atlanta Cuba Solidarity Committee and the National Lawyers Guild, among others, are sponsoring a public community forum at Atlanta's Spelman College on April 6. Two important websites have all the pertinent information on their case and the campaign for their freedom: www.freethefive.org and www.antiterroristas.cu.

Fernando González, in the spirit that the five Cubans have exhibited during their incarceration, told his attorney Joaquin Méndez by phone, "Please assure all our friends at the National Committee that regardless of the conditions of confinement I am in at this moment or could be placed in the future, and regardless of anything the government comes up with, I will always be certain of the triumph of justice and I will always be alongside the Cuban people, our revolution, and all our friends." □

Mumia Abu-Jamal
from death
row



Axis of arrogance

By the time these words reach you, the skies over Baghdad may be ablaze with red light. Not the searing shimmer of the Iraqi sun, but skies aflame with the bombardments of war.

If that is so, it has meant that the U.S. rulers have dropped the dingy loin-cloth of diplomacy, and are embarking virtually unilaterally, without the fig-leaf of the United Nations, to placate the war wing of the U.S. government, who, drunk on the wine of power, have opted to remake the world in their twisted image. They will use the term "democracy" until it means next to nothing. ...

This is not, as the Mad Texan would have you believe, a "Coalition of the Willing." It is, rather, a quasi-coalition of the available. ... It is, perhaps more than anything, a "bevy of the bought." It is the best "coalition" that money and privilege can buy. Spanish and British premiers do not a "coalition" make.

It is also thin cover for an Empire, which arrays itself in the tattered flag of "democracy" while ignoring the wishes of millions, if not billions, of the voices of the people of the world.

Should the bombs falling stunt the growth of the anti-war movement? Some among you, especially the left imperialists, will certainly argue for this. I would argue otherwise; that the forces for peace should not shudder at the specter of war. That the need for peace rises, not diminishes, at the outbreak of war. Indeed, consider the lessons from the historic Vietnam War. There, protests began slowly, painfully, after years of long, hard organizing.

The war was raging daily in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Yet the movement swelled, and grew, and deepened, until none of the politicians in the White House, neither Nixon nor Johnson, could withstand the public demand. Such a movement must be reborn now!

The pretexts for war are always promoted by the supine corporate media. See it for what it is, and continue your efforts to bring this imperial venture to an end.

Many months ago, this writer wrote about "To War for Empire!" and felt, despite the spirit of this earlier work, that the anti-war efforts of the people would make a difference in the final disposition emerging from the Capitol. Apparently, this writer underestimated the greed, bellicosity, and madness of the Bush Regime. Mr. Bush called for the evacuation of the Husseins from the Iraqi nation. Is there any real doubt that millions of Americans believe that the Bushes should vacate the premises of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue?

If people really believe in the power of democracy, then these days of another kind of March Madness should mark the deepening and the flowering of the anti-war movements, both here and abroad. This is not an end, but a beginning!

Movements are kind of like communal relationships; each has their ups and downs. Don't be discouraged. Don't give up. To paraphrase the martyred labor leader, Joe Hill, "Don't mourn.... Organize!"

For many, the very breadth and growth of this movement has been an inspiration. It may yet have much to surprise us. But what matters is what is in our hearts. If you believe in it, fight for it!

There is no better way! □

Cop gets off in Dorismond killing

By Heather Cottin
New York

Almost three years to the day after New York City Detective Anthony Vasquez shot unarmed security guard Patrick Dorismond to death, the office of the U.S. Attorney, the FBI and the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department have concluded that the killing was not even a violation of Dorismond's civil rights.

Dorismond, who had been sitting in a midtown bar, had angrily rejected an offer to sell him drugs by the undercover narcotics cop, who then shot and killed him.

Dorismond's shooting followed a spate

of police killings in Black communities here. In October 1999, undercover narcotics police in the Bronx had fired 41 bullets at an unarmed African immigrant, Amadou Diallo, while he was merely standing in the entry of his building. The cops who killed him went free. On March 1, 2000, cops in the Bronx shot to death an unarmed youth, Malcolm Ferguson, just days after he participated in a protest over Diallo's murder.

New York cops were on a murder spree.

When Vasquez shot Dorismond on March 16, 2000, Mayor Rudy Giuliani expressed no sympathy to the family. He instead maligned the victim by releasing his sealed juvenile arrest record. The

Haitian community expressed outrage at this murder and character assassination.

In a city where racist cops continue to terrorize the Black community, Muriel Goode-Trufant of New York's special federal litigation division called Dorismond's death an "accident." The city agreed to pay Dorismond's family \$2.25 million to settle a lawsuit. This was an indication, said the family's lawyer, Derek Sells, that "the city believes there was some wrongdoing." He added, "There's no amount of money that can replace Patrick."

Meanwhile, the detective who shot Dorismond is armed, dangerous and, like all the other killer cops, back on the streets of New York. □

Millions4Mumia.org

As 'shock and awe' intensifies

Can labor shut it down and save lives?

By Milt Neidenberg

"Shut it down! Walk off the job!" These chants are ringing out at massive anti-war demonstrations here and abroad. Since the U.S. imperialist invasion of Iraq began, raining waves of "shock and awe" bombs and missiles on Baghdad, students and youth have provided a splendid example. They walked out of high schools and colleges to protest the illegal war.

Even before the war began, tens of thousands of workers across Europe participated in short strikes. A European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) spokesperson told CNN that "unions in 12 countries—France, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Portugal, Austria, and some of the Northern European countries, confirmed their participation." The Associated Press reported that tens of thousand dropped their tools in Germany.

In Britain, the Rail, Maritime and Transport Union, comprised of train drivers and subway workers, and the Communication Workers Union, representing British Telecom and post office employees, called all their members to "take protest action on the day war is officially declared." Bob Crowe, RMT general secretary, has urged workers to "Pile on the pressure. ... If it means sitting on motorways, sitting on streets, or occupying factories, so be it." His members have already

caused an enormous disruption of the public transportation network. Political strikes are illegal, but both unions promised to defend their members.

Nothing so militant has occurred here. Nevertheless, an anti-war sector continues to grow within the AFL-CIO. A young, progressive development, it will ultimately change the relationship of forces within organized labor.

Over the past year, anti-war resolutions have swept through the labor movement—from local unions, central labor councils, state federations and even a few international unions. Rank-and-file unionists joined hundreds of thousands of anti-war demonstrators, who responded first to the war against Afghanistan and then to the buildup of this war.

The crushing economic assault on jobs, wages and benefits has spurred the emergence of anti-war resolutions that connect the war to economic cuts and threats to civil liberties and civil rights. They remind millions of unionists that the sons and daughters of working class families bear the brunt of war and recession.

As more of the ranks of labor join forces with the many millions of constituents comprising the anti-war, anti-racist movement, the potential for creative job actions at the workplace has become more favorable. They may come sooner than later, and possibly start as an economic strike.

In February, U.S. Labor Against the War held an international telephone news conference. More than 200 unions from 53 countries on five continents, representing over 130 million workers, agreed on a joint statement rejecting a U.S. war against Iraq.

On March 12, USLAW called for coordinated anti-war activities that were primarily educational. It was an effort to overcome the Bush/Pentagon lies and forged documents, so pervasively repeated by the corporate media—lies like "Iraq is an imminent threat to the U.S. population" and "Saddam Hussein was responsible for the 9/11 bombing of the World Trade Center," among others.

Many trade unionists are not buying into the phony propaganda. They added their voices to the massive demonstrations on March 15 and 22 here and around the world. As U.S. soldiers come home in body bags and more Iraqis die, the anger of the movement will rise.

Even before casualties take full effect, Wall Street is involved in billions of confidential contracts being handed out by the Bush administration to its oil buddies, enhancing their wealth, power and profit. The beneficiaries of these "cost plus fixed fees" include the Halliburton company, headed by Dick Cheney before he became Bush's vice president, and Bechtel, whose directors include former Secretary of State

George P. Shultz and former Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger.

Richard Perle was appointed by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld to chair the powerful Defense Policy Board. Perle recently got a \$750,000 retainer from WorldCom, a bankrupt telecommunications corporation now under criminal investigation that is lobbying the government for lucrative contracts.

The "No blood for oil" placards carried by demonstrators expose the real motives of the Wall Street/Washington/Pentagon war against the Iraqi people.

Since the U.S. invaded Iraq with only the British ruling class at their side, the AFL-CIO national leaders have stood on the sidelines. Ignoring the huge outpourings of anti-war demonstrators, including thousands of union members, AFL-CIO President John J. Sweeney issued a statement that could have been written by his Democratic Party friends. These labor leaders are isolating themselves from an important power base that can help in the struggle against the insidious, all-out attacks on labor that accompany the war.

History has confirmed over and over that all profound social change comes from below—from the workers and the oppressed nationalities. It is only from their sacrifices that new and creative forms of struggle will develop to end this barbaric system of wars and recessions. □



WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

New York City Labor Against the War, March 22. Banner reads, "Labor's enemy is in the White House and the boardrooms."

Unionists march in NYC protest

Special to Workers World New York

Mary Lewis, a member of UAW Local 2110 at Columbia University, explained why she came. "I was sitting home last night, watching the horrible devastation of Baghdad, crying. I saw them plant the American flag in Iraqi soil." Ms. Lewis, a 63-year old African American who hadn't protested for a long time, continued, "I knew then that I'd have to march against this colonial war."

A number of union locals and district councils organized official contingents in the massive March 22 anti-war demonstration in New York, among them UAW Region 9A; the Professional Staff Congress of the City University of New York, AFT Local 2334; Local 100 of the TWU, which represents workers in New York City's public transit; AFSCME District

Council 37, representing many city workers, District Council 1707, representing social service workers, Local 1930, the Library Guild, and Local 2626, Electronic Data Processors; and SEIU 1199, representing health and hospital workers;

People doing similar work marched together in Doctors and Nurses Against the War, the Progressive Librarians Guild, Teachers Against the War—a dissident caucus within the United Federation of Teachers, whose leaders support the war—and Educators against the War.

New York City Labor Against the War, which originated the call for labor to come out for March 22, also had a separate contingent.

Thousands of union members came out to protest this vicious, racist war. Many of the union members in the contingent felt it was a good start in drawing their unions into the anti-war movement. □

War costs rise as rich get tax cuts

By Heather Cottin

While people were watching the images of bombs and tanks in swirling sandstorms, the Bush administration on March 24 requested an additional \$75 billion from Congress for "emergency spending" for the war on Iraq. And that's only for the first month of war.

This is in addition to the \$400 billion already voted for military spending for 2003, covering the budgets of the Defense Department and the Energy Department's nuclear weapons program. All those pundits who vowed that this war would cost only \$50 billion are silent. And the \$75 billion is only "the first installment," according to Rep. David Obey.

So who will pay for this war? The total military budget so far this year—\$475 billion—breaks down to an average of over \$1,500 per person for everyone in this country, or more than \$6,000 for a family of four. Workers are being told they must pay with their taxes, and the young must pay with their lives. Because of growing unemployment, young people facing poverty and a miserable job market become cannon fodder. So poor youth will die liberating oil wells for Exxon-Mobil and Halliburton.

At the same time, the Senate and House are working on a tax bill to hand over at least \$350 billion in immediate tax cuts that would benefit mostly the wealthiest people in the U.S. In a move even Bill Gates of Microsoft found surprising, the Senate voted for an amendment to the budget bill that would repeal the estate tax, thereby putting more of the financial burden on the backs of the working class.

U.S. tax legislation is fleecing workers so rapidly that it is difficult to keep up.

The windfall 2001 tax cut will efficiently rob the workers of \$2 trillion over 10 years, while the stock dividend tax breaks in 2002 saved the ruling class another \$1.6 trillion, according to the AFL-CIO web site.

Appropriating money for war is not simply a matter of paying the troops. They get a very small portion of the war bucks. The military industries get the lion's share. While Washington claims that the U.S. will help the people of Iraq, there's only \$543 million in humanitarian aid in the appropriations bill. Out of \$75 billion, only \$1.7 billion is allocated to rebuild a modern country that is being shattered before our eyes. That's the cost of one B-2 bomber.

Who gets the rest of the money? The "defense" contractors. They get money for weapons such as Boeing's Mark-84 JDAM, a \$10,000 bomb that gouges a 20-foot crater and hurls up 10,000 pounds of rock and dirt debris at supersonic speed. The U.S. has stockpiled thousands of JDAMs at Persian Gulf air bases.

Billions go to Raytheon for Tomahawk and cruise missiles, to Lockheed Martin for the PAC-3 missile, to Boeing for Apache helicopters. The money goes for giant Daisy Cutter bombs, bunker busters, depleted uranium tank blasters. It goes to General Motors for tanks, to Kellogg Brown & Root and Halliburton for military installations in the Gulf region.

As the states face monster cutbacks in social services and unemployment grows, workers everywhere are becoming aware of the human and financial costs of this war. They can stop the war machine when they realize that a desert quagmire in Iraq is not in the interests of anyone except Big Oil and the military-industrial complex. □

Media monopoly gives us a scripted war

By Leslie Feinberg

It would take a very patient person with an empty schedule to punch holes in all the Pentagon propaganda accompanying this endless war drive.

It's all spin, all the time.

"The media is a weapon of war," U.S. Army Gen. Tommy Franks boasted on March 25. This barrage of high-tech propaganda sandbags the world's view.

"I see these images on television and people commenting that we're bombing Baghdad," Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld told Face the Nation March 23. "We're not bombing Baghdad. That is a precise attack on the regime of Saddam Hussein."

Less than 48 hours earlier, the world had watched the fireballs and mushroom clouds that rose from the relentless bombing. If the media industry here hadn't buried reports of Iraqi civilian casualties under its verbal rubble, he never could have gotten away with this Big Lie.

Media polls are being shaped to shape public opinion—from how the questions are skewed to how the results are hewed.

There's less coverage of massive anti-war protests around the world and the resistance to war in U.S. towns, cities and campuses. Anger at media manipulation

and censorship is being increasingly expressed in placards and chants at marches and rallies, and demonstrations have targeted CNN offices in Atlanta and Hollywood for glorifying the war.

Advances in technology bring the war into living rooms in real-time. But, "embedding means the journalists covering the U.S. war on Iraq are 'in bed' with the military," syndicated writer Norman Solomon observed, noting that they're not "embedded" with Iraqi families at ground zero. He added that if reporters want to get front-page stories, they know better than to "rock the boat" with their editorial boards.

NPR—National Public Radio—is now called National Pentagon Radio by many progressives.

The daily "briefing" from the Pentagon is a monolingual tower of babble. The view that the monopoly media are the unofficial government Information Ministry has driven many to turn to British and French coverage in hopes that they might offer a slightly different slant.

Searching off-shore and online

Little tidbits can be found outside the borders of the U.S. media empire. The Toronto Star pointed out on March 25 that the major U.S. news corporations patched

up a little slip of the lip by Commander in Chief Bush at a March 6 media conference. When a reporter tried to cut him off, Bush began to blurt: "This is a scripted ..." But online transcripts at the New York Times, Fox News, CNN, MSNBC and the Los Angeles Times either cut the reference or changed it to "unscripted."

Others searching for news about the war turn to

New York, March 22.

WW PHOTO: PAT CHIN



A people's resource

Save community libraries

By Pat Hilliard

How can you keep up with the activities of the people's struggle against war and racism if you don't have a computer? Try visiting your local library.

Libraries in the past were places for books only, but today's modern library has video and audio tapes and offers free computer use. Libraries are also offering other services such as places to meet and discuss today's issues.

Libraries do not limit themselves to English only, but offer newspapers and books in many different languages. For instance, the Jersey City Public Library offers Informe, a database of Spanish-language journals and newspapers.

However, libraries, like every other social service, are under attack and must be defended. Budget cuts are limiting the hours and staff available to assist library patrons.

In Virginia, for example, the public library system faces budget cuts as high as 15 percent. In New York State, which

has a budget of \$90 billion, libraries in upstate towns are taking a heavy hit. Because of Washington's aggressive war moves, the state is saddled with big outlays for "homeland security"—including extra troopers on the U.S.-Canada border and at bridges, reservoirs and other key points. All this is eating into schools, libraries and other services.

Bookmobiles, which often go to rural areas, are being discontinued completely. In North Carolina, Hawaii, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and many other states, branch offices of libraries are being closed and books and equipment are being put into storage.

The American Library Association reported on its Internet site the thoughts of one library patron: "I feel that we need the neighborhood libraries, for us, the older ones, and for the children," said Marie Benedict, who comes in once a week to send e-mail to her great-grandchildren. "I grew up with a library."

Activists are in the streets demanding funding for schools, education and

Quote of the week

Capt. John J. Zeigler, Army recruiting company commander for the Bronx, to high school students who ask why the U.S. is invading Iraq: "It's not important whether we support this; our job is to obey. If you're a normal person, you don't want to go to war. You don't want to go into another country and kill someone. But if that's what you are told to do, then you have to stand by your duty." (New York Times, March 24)

Wasn't slavery abolished in 1865?

Arab news sources like Al-Jazeera. The day after the Bush administration rebuked the Qatar-based satellite news channel for broadcasting footage of U.S. prisoners of war and casualties, New York Stock Exchange officials revoked credentials of two of its reporters.

Many people are scouring the information highway for independent news sources including Weblogs, or blogs. Since the war began, many of these daily individual diaries are serving as a network for independent news reports.

Manufacturing the 'news'

A.J. Liebling hit the nail right on the head: "Freedom of the press is guaranteed only to those who own one."

MTV rebuffed an anti-war commercial. Painting them as "advocacy advertising," networks, cable channels and affiliates have blocked commercials that oppose the U.S. military aggression.

As the first bombs dropped on Baghdad, "Rally for America" events sprouted up in Atlanta, Cleveland, San Antonio, Cincinnati and other cities. Clear Channel, Inc., paid for the rallies and used its bandwidth to sponsor the campaign.

The San Antonio-based broadcasting

Continued on page 10

Cheney is licking his chops

The March 20 edition of Corporate Watch reported that Halliburton, Vice President Dick Cheney's former company, is working side by side with the Pentagon in a business deal worth close to \$1 billion. This deal commenced from the very beginning of the war.

The deal breaks down to Halliburton providing tent cities and other "logistical support" to the U.S. war effort and the U.S. taxpayers footing the bill. Cheney held the position of chief executive officer at Halliburton before taking office. He still receives "compensation" from the company to the tune of \$1 million a year.

Halliburton's subsidiary, Kellogg, Brown and Root, has worked out a 10-year contract with the Pentagon entitled Logistics Civil Augmentation Program. According to a spokesperson for the U.S. Army Field Support Command in Rock Island Arsenal in Illinois, the federal government has given carte blanche to LOGCAP to participate in military operations for profit throughout the world, including Afghanistan, Djibouti, Georgia, Jordan, Kuwait, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

So the next time you hear about the U.S. government "liberating" the Iraqi people and crying crocodile tears for dead U.S. soldiers, think about the true motives of Bush and company—world domination and profits.

— Monica Moorehead

TELEVISED WORLDWIDE

Oscar winner denounces Bush's war



By Monica Moorehead

The Oscar ceremony is watched each year by a worldwide audience estimated at a billion people. The producers of this glitzy show said the 75th anniversary of the Academy Awards would be aired on March 23, war or no war. These same producers, on behalf of the Bush administration, pressured presenters and winners alike beforehand not to use the podium to make political statements on the war.

While a few artists took the occasion to call for peace, it was Michael Moore, the progressive director and producer, who courageously took it a step further, making the most powerful statement of all.

Moore's "Bowling for Columbine," a powerful, satirical look at the symptoms and roots of U.S. violence, was among the nominees for best documentary feature. As his name was announced as the winner of this category, Moore called on the other nominees to come with him to the stage. They all wore peace buttons in a show of unity.

In his acceptance speech, Moore stated that while documentary artists focus on non-fiction subjects, Bush was a fictitious president sending U.S. soldiers to Iraq for fictitious reasons. Then he shouted, "Shame on you, Mr. Bush!" This provoked both sporadic boos and a standing ovation from the divided audience of actors, directors and producers.

Days before the Oscar ceremony, Moore won the Independent Spirit Award. At that event, he demanded that CNN dismiss all the retired and active military officers it hires to interpret the news. □

Iraqis vs. the empire

Continued from page 1

for them to secure the bridge long enough to get across a two-mile column of tanks and armored vehicles. The fighting for the city is still in progress.

Peasants with rifles against Apache helicopters

Further north in Kabala, peasants brought down two low-flying Apache helicopters with small arms fire and drove back another 30 helicopters on a mission to secure the area for the 3rd Infantry Division. Iraqi irregular militia forces using only pickup trucks and firing machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades attacked armored columns.

The Wall Street Journal of March 25 summed up the situation this way: "Far from being hailed immediately as liberators, invading U.S. and British forces in southern Iraq are facing deep hostility and gunfire from some residents who are often desperate for food and water and sometimes furious about the continuing military assault against their country."

"In a dusty town of Az Zubayr, just south of Basra," continued the Journal, "some Iraqis in civilian clothes fired rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns at British and American troops. 'The Americans are destroying our country. There will be a fight,' said Ismail Hantush, an engineer at the state-run Iraqi oil company."

To give a sense of how completely the U.S. political and military authorities had discounted the anti-colonial hatred of the masses, the Journal reported that "just a few weeks ago, coalition officers in Kuwait were making plans to fly TV crews to film the cheering crowds in southern Iraq."

The U.S. forces are now in the position of having to turn to suppressing the people in the south in order to protect their rear. The U.S. Central Command has stretched its supply lines for 200 miles through a territory that was supposed to be friendly and safe. Now the British and U.S. forces are bombing the city of Basra in preparation for occupation. The entire military plan was based upon the illusion that the imperialists could terrorize the people into surrender and deceive them with false promises of liberation.

The Washington Post reported on March 25 that, "The continued Iraqi resistance specifically calls into question the efficacy of the biggest psychological operations campaign waged by the U.S. military. Over the last six months, U.S. aircraft dropped more than 25 million leaflets on the Iraqi military units and civilians, urging them not to fight the U.S. invasion. That was supplemented

by propaganda radio broadcasts and telephone calls to unit commanders inviting them to negotiate their capitulation. The lack of large-scale surrenders suggests that Iraqi commanders instead may have been manipulating the expectations of their U.S. contacts."

U.S. troops were lied to

The U.S. high command brought 250,000 troops in as an invasion force, feeding them the same lies. They were told that they were liberators. Now they are being killed and wounded and face a wall of popular hostility and hatred. As U.S. casualties mount, the prospect of demoralization among the troops and further loss of political support at home for the war is growing.

The Bush administration and the high command are now faced with the task of conquering Baghdad. The Pentagon is planning to escalate its bombing in and around the city in order to reduce U.S. casualties. But, in the final analysis, the U.S. forces have to take the city on the ground. Washington may be preparing to horrendously escalate its war crimes against the Iraqi people, as well as throw U.S. soldiers into a gigantic battle where they will be forced to act as an oppressive army and face the wrath of Iraqi people resisting occupation and oppression.

The movement in this country must escalate its fight to bring the troops home and extricate them from the stranglehold of the Pentagon, which is sending them to commit aggression and war crimes. The Iraqi people have every right to resist this.

Washington has the gall to denounce the Iraqis for war crimes and violating the Geneva Convention because their television showed U.S. prisoners being asked their names and where they come from. But the entire war is a crime—including the attempt to overthrow a sovereign government, bombing cities and killing civilians, and invading to plunder the oil and set up a puppet government.

As for the treatment of prisoners, those captured in the Afghan war and taken to Guantanamo naval base are denied prisoner of war status by the U.S. Two were beaten to death while in detention and 19 more have attempted suicide because of torture and inhuman conditions. The hypocrisy of the Bush administration knows no bounds.

Refuse to be imperial subjects

The underlying basis for the united resistance of the Iraqi people, regardless of their attitude toward the government of Saddam Hussein, is that they recognize the essential meaning of "regime change"

as intended by the Bush administration.

It is not merely a change in the regime, but a change in the status of a nation of 25 million people from political independence to political, economic and military domination by an imperialist super-power. It is a change in status from control over their oil and other resources for the purposes of national development—even though restricted by the economic sanctions—to total dependence upon Washington, the giant oil companies, the Pentagon and imperialism in general.

Iraq has long struggled for the status of political independence, through bloody rebellions against the Ottoman Empire and then the British Empire. It carried out a revolution of national liberation in 1958. The mass of the Iraqis do not want to return to colonial status and military occupation, to be followed by a neocolonial regime that is part of the U.S. empire.

The Iraqi people, and all the people of the Middle East, know that this war is the opening shot in a new expansionary phase intended by the Bush administration to be a step in the direction of establishing the absolute world domination of Washington and the Pentagon.

The acquiescence of the working class and the people at home is an essential condition for the Bush doctrine of preemption and this new era of "endless war" to succeed. In the course of this war the big business media has become a virtual state organ. The so-called "embedded" reporters are really imprisoned, bribed, corrupted mouthpieces for the military high command. The anchors who talk to them over the television networks are mere conduits for the latest Pentagon propaganda.

The Congress, after approving the war, has become a silent body during this historic turn implemented by the right-wing militarists in the White House and the Pentagon to lead U.S. imperialism onto the path of world empire, onto the path of unbridled militarism in the struggle to vanquish all its imperialist rivals and vastly expand its exploitation of the oppressed peoples of the world.

All the traditional instruments of bourgeois opposition have also stood by while the constitutional rights of the people have been under assault from the Patriot Act and the regime of Attorney General John



Iraqi woman in Baghdad, March 25.

Ashcroft and the Justice Department. They have stood silent as the military and police role in monitoring institutions and civilian life has drastically expanded under the pretext of homeland security. The corporate media and the Congress have become increasingly subservient to and integrated into the war machine at this critical moment, when the lives and futures of millions are at stake.

The movement must escalate and broaden its struggle against imperialist aggression and occupation abroad and military-police state reaction at home. Whatever the final outcome of this brutal war, the heroic Iraqi resistance to overwhelming force should be an example and an inspiration to stop the U.S. war machine right here at home. The next big opportunity will come on April 12 in Washington, D.C. □

Caught between Kurds are

By Greg Butterfield

On March 26, Gen. Hilmi Ozkok, chief of staff of Turkey's armed forces, conceded to U.S. demands not to send additional troops into northern Iraq.

Earlier, it appeared to many, including Turkish officials, that a quid-pro-quo agreement had been reached between Washington and Ankara to allow Turkish intervention in northern Iraq in exchange for letting U.S. and British warplanes fly over Turkey.

But as the Bush administration's hopes for a swift war were dashed in southern Iraq, Washington feared the possibility of open warfare between the Turkish Army and U.S.-allied Kurdish groups in northern Iraq.

The Pentagon says it's counting on the Kurdish groups and their militias—now officially under U.S. military command—to aid U.S. Special Forces troops in the north. So Turkish officials were leaned on, and paid off with \$1 billion in cash grants and loan guarantees of \$8.5 billion "to cushion the economic trauma of war." (New York Times, March 26)

Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan, in a televised address March 23, had said the U.S. and Turkey reached an agreement for Turkish troops to deploy "in a limited area, reportedly 19 kilometers, skirting the border in northern Iraq."

U.S. offensive in Afghanistan

By G. Dunkel

Gen. Tommy Franks, the former top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, has moved on to a higher-stakes war in Iraq. But he leaves behind an occupation that grows more bloody as spring makes travel in the Afghani mountains easier.

A few minutes after the bombs began falling on Baghdad, the U.S. with some Romanian mercenaries opened up the largest operation in a year against alleged Taliban supporters and their al-Qaeda allies. The U.S. brigade of the

82nd Airborne involved calls itself the "White Devils."

Why now? Perhaps for propaganda purposes, to create the impression that Iraq is somehow connected to al-Qaeda and the Taliban. The operation was billed as a response to a Taliban attack on a border post that left three guards dead, and the fact that three U.S. bases in eastern Afghanistan came under missile attack earlier in the week.

According to the U.S. command, it was a success. Some poor Afghani farmers were arrested as Taliban sympathiz-

ers. The soldiers seized some of the weapons every Afghani village needs to defend itself.

But U.S. helicopters flying over Kabul, Afghanistan's capital, still use flares to foil heat-seeking missiles. CNN reported on March 23 that a U.S. Black Hawk helicopter was shot down in eastern Afghanistan; six soldiers on it died.

The Afghan Islamic Press reported that a thousand people in the western province of Largham demonstrated on March 22 to protest the U.S. war on Iraq. □

Internationals in Baghdad describe resistance

By John Catalinotto

They went to Baghdad as doctors, as links to the anti-war movements in their own countries, as “human shields” defending structures vital to the 5 million humans living in Iraq’s capital.

Whatever they came to do, these solidarity internationalists are bearing witness to the crimes U.S. and British imperialism are inflicting on Baghdad. And, by phone and email, they are chronicling the resistance of the Iraqi people.

Before the all-out attacks started, on March 16, Rosemarie Gillespie, one of five Australians in a human-shield team at the 7th of April water treatment plant on the Tigris River in the suburbs of Baghdad, messaged to the world:

“Preparations for the dreaded bombing raids are now being made in earnest. Everywhere windows and glass doors are being taped up. Crates of bottled water are being delivered in haste.

“The price of bottled water is going up. So is the price of a taxi fare to the border. Most people here seem to be dealing with the threat of bombing with a degree of stoic calm, going about their business, making the necessary preparations.

“As Asmaa said: ‘We are not afraid any more. We’re used to it. We’re not afraid for ourselves, only for our children.’

“Asmaa has two small children, a 3-year-old girl, Meriam, and a 4-month-old baby boy, Omar. Will they survive the bombing?

“The thought of Australian Air Force pilots, as well as American ones, bombing Baghdad, possibly blowing up one of the five Australian ‘human shields’ or any of the other human shields for that matter, or little children like Meriam and Omar,

seems not only cruel, but stupid too.”

The Spain-based Committee to Support the Arab Cause has been organizing week-long brigades to Iraq from different regions of the Spanish state over the past months.

‘We have decided to stay’

On March 18, they vowed: “We have decided to remain here in Baghdad once the military campaign against Iraq by the USA and its allies has begun and after the Basque Country Brigade has been evacuated.” Their goal is to bear witness to events in Baghdad and to continue to link the now massive Spanish anti-war movement with events and people in Iraq itself. The six who signed this statement were soon joined by three from the Basque delegation.

“Our decision should not be taken as one of foolishness or presumption,” they wrote. “It is not for the nine of us that you should be concerned: concern yourselves instead with the fate of the Iraqi people, to whom we have freely linked our own.”

And on March 22, in both a report and a message to the demonstrators back home: “From 7:20 p.m. yesterday until 10:00 a.m. local time, the attacks were very intense, especially in the Al Mansur district, a densely populated area in the center of Baghdad where institutional buildings (governmental and ministerial) are mixed in with residential blocks of flats and houses.”

Following a solidarity visit to a hospital: “Five brothers—two adults, a teenager, two children—all burned while they watched the missiles falling over the city early Thursday night. And so on: up to 36 in one hospital alone, all civilians, none of them living near any kind of mil-

itary or government installation.

“You cannot imagine the impact of the cruise missiles falling on this sprawling, exposed city; the tremors they cause when they explode, unleashing a ball of fire and column of dark smoke.

“It is difficult to describe the ominous sound of aircraft flying over our heads and dropping their bombs. The aggressors are now determined to break the spirit of this people after trying to do so with hunger and disease over 12 years of embargo, as if this were a medieval siege.” For more information, see www.nodo50.org/csca/.

Two doctors from Belgium

Two doctors from Belgium are now in Baghdad—Dr. Colette Moulart, a pediatrician and surgeon and member of the Workers’ Party of Belgium, and Dr. Geert Van Moorter, an emergency medicine specialist and activist with the anti-war coalition StopUSA (Stop the United States of Aggression). They both work with Medical Aid for the Third World and have been in combat situations in the past.

“We are OK here. Last night (March 20) there were air raids for about three hours,” wrote Dr. Van Moorter. “Some of the attacks were only some hundreds of meters away, less than one kilometer. Hotel Palestine, our hotel, is on the banks of the Tigris and it was at the other side. We don’t know what they targeted.

“According to Iraqi TV many were injured in Basra. But apparently the Iraqis put up fierce resistance and the U.S. soldiers had a hard time.”

And later, “We tell everybody about the protests against U.S. aggression in Belgium and other countries. That is important for the morale of anybody here,” writes Van Moorter. The “human shields”

are receiving permits to work and began doing shifts at a Baghdad hospital. But they continue to send reports to the movement in Belgium, urging demonstrations and strikes.

For more reports from them, see www.irak.be/ned/missies/medicalMissionColetteGeert/two_belgian_doctors_in_baghdad.htm.

Morale of the Iraqis

Of the ability of Iraqis to resist, the different observers agree: “Their morale is still intact,” wrote Van Moorter on March 21. “People support one another. The foreign journalists are panicking more than them.”

Gillespie, in a later communication, compared the Iraqis to the many in England who—while considering Winston Churchill a reactionary—rallied to him under the bombs of the Nazis, and noted the growing number of volunteers swelling the ranks of armed Iraqis in Baghdad.

The group from Spain wrote: “Every morning, after every attack, these same people go out again into their streets and continue to smile at us, grateful that we are here, raising their fists or flashing the victory sign, warm and trusting in spite of everything, asking us to tell you of their will to resist even when that seems an unimaginable miracle in the face of the war machine closing in on them.”

These internationalists, together with those from Voices in the Wilderness and independent reporters like videographer Mae Ying Welsh, are the flesh-and-blood evidence of the world’s solidarity with Iraq’s people and a heroic link between the global anti-war movement and the Iraqis who continue to resist U.S.-British imperialism. □

Turkey and U.S.

squeezed by oil politics

(ChannelNewsAsia.com, March 24)

Their purpose, Erdogan said, was to prevent tens of thousands of refugees from flooding southern Turkey and to hunt down Kurdish “terrorists.”

Now, according to General Ozkok, “We have no desire to establish a permanent buffer zone.”

On March 21, the Turkish Parliament voted to allow U.S. overflights in the war against Iraq. The vote came three weeks after the parliament had rejected Washington’s plan to use Turkish bases to launch a “northern front” with 62,000 U.S. troops.

Erdogan, the ruling Justice and Development Party, and especially the Turkish military wanted to collaborate with the Pentagon. But popular opposition to the war, including massive street protests, made the rulers afraid to accept U.S. terms.

So a compromise—the overflights—was pushed through.

Turkish military leaders continued to deny that 1,000 commandos had crossed the border into Iraq on March 21-22. But a BBC World News correspondent stationed in the area and others asserted that the commandos did indeed enter Iraq. And some 50,000 heavily armed Turkish troops are poised along the border.

It’s unclear whether those commandos

will be withdrawn. General Ozkok insisted that Turkey’s military reserved the right to send in additional forces, but would do so only under U.S. supervision.

Kurdish militias under U.S. command

Turkey’s government is among the biggest recipients of U.S. military aid. Washington has long supported its suppression of Kurds in southern Turkey.

From 1984 to 1999, the army carried out a bloody campaign aimed at destroying the pro-independence Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), a group allied with Turkey’s communist movement. More than 30,000 people died—mostly civilians suspected of sympathizing with the PKK.

The Congress for Freedom and Democracy in Kurdistan (KADEK), successor to the outlawed PKK, still has strong support among Kurds in Turkey. KADEK has called for a spring uprising against both the Turkish regime and the U.S.-led war in Iraq.

Opposition to the war was a major theme March 21 during Kurdish new year celebrations in southern Turkey.

For months Kurdish people in northern Iraq have been voicing their opposition to Turkish military intervention. The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), two bourgeois parties allied with the U.S.

against the Iraqi government, warned of a shooting war between local Kurds and the Turkish military if Ankara was permitted to intervene.

Both groups are hostile to KADEK and have cooperated with U.S./Turkish repression of the left.

The Sunday Times of London reported March 23 that three days of arm-twisting meetings took place in Ankara just before the U.S./British assault began. These meetings, under the auspices of U.S. special envoy and former Unocal oil company adviser Zalmay Khalilzad, aimed at clamping down on leaders of rival Kurdish and Iraqi opposition groups—many on the CIA’s payroll for years.

The PUK and KDP agreed to place their armed forces under direct U.S. command. (Reuters, March 18)

Real targets: Oil profits and KADEK

The interests of the U.S. and Turkish ruling classes in northern Iraq overlap considerably, and have nothing to do with securing rights and sovereignty for Kurdish people.

Both Washington and Ankara want to hunt down KADEK members thought to be hiding in the mountainous region.

U.S. officials assert that their primary



Anti-war marchers mark the Kurdish new year March 21 in Frankfurt, Germany. Many carried pictures of Kurdish political prisoners in Turkey.

goal is to secure two major oil centers, Kirkuk and Mosul, under Pentagon control.

The Bush administration doesn’t want Kurdish militias—even those dominated by the compliant PUK and KDP—to seize these areas, which remain under the control of the Iraqi government. U.S. companies don’t want to have to share control of the oil or how the profits are divvied up.

Both cities have faced heavy bombardment since the war began. Kurdishmedia.com reported that hundreds of U.S. Special Forces troops began to arrive in the region March 22 at Bakrajo Airport near the town of Sulemani. More troops could be flown in from Jordan or the numerous U.S. bases in Central Asia.

Turkey doesn’t want these oil centers to come under Kurdish control, either. Ankara fears such an outcome would fuel demands for independence among Kurds in Iraq and Turkey, and could strengthen the forces of the revolutionary left. □

U.S. demos keep up the pressure

By Monica Moorehead

The U.S. military's "shock and awe" bombing of Baghdad is a strategy to terrorize the Iraqi people into surrendering to U.S. colonial occupation and to psychologically paralyze and demoralize the worldwide anti-war movement.

But not only is the Iraqi population heroically resisting this brutal invasion, the anti-war movement worldwide is doing everything it can to resist the war. And despite the growing number of U.S. military casualties and prisoners of war, people in cities large and small in this country are demonstrating against this war.

Coordinated demonstrations took place all over the U.S. on March 22 that brought out hundreds of thousands against the invasion of Iraq.

More than 250,000 people took to the streets of **New York City**. The march was called by United for Peace and Justice. Many contingents, including one from International ANSWER—the Act Now to Stop War and End Racism—coalition, made up the march which spanned more than 40 blocks and took more than four hours to wind its way down Broadway to Washington Square Park.

New York's "finest" attempted to close down the march at 4 p.m. A tense confrontation ensued. Thousands of cops in

full riot gear began arresting people, picking them off one by one. The crowd, including people who had just been enjoying a spring day in the park, chanted "Let them go" and "Arrest Bush!" More than 90 people were reportedly arrested and many were pepper-sprayed by the police.

In **Atlanta**, 1,500 anti-war activists marched to the international headquarters of Cable Network News. The march took to the streets without a permit and stopped traffic in front of the CNN building. Continuing to focus on the role of the media in this war, marchers passed by the Atlanta Constitution newspaper before ending up at a rally in Woodruff Park.

'No business as usual'

Since the actual military attack on Iraq began, anti-war groups have disrupted traffic, blocked government building entrances and other campaigns of resistance to emphasize that there is no business as usual when an imperialist war erupts.

In **San Francisco**, there was direct action on March 20 and 75,000 people took to the streets on March 22. (See related article.)

Also on March 22, well over 3,000 people shouting, "Peace! Now!" took part in the largest march in years in the major port city of **Long Beach, Calif.** The rally

and march were co-sponsored by the Long Beach Area Peace Network and the ANSWER coalition of L.A.

At about the same time in **Los Angeles**, some 20,000 to 25,000 anti-war demonstrators marched without a permit from Hollywood and Vine to nearby CNN headquarters for a militant rally to express the growing anger over pro-war bias in reporting by the big-business media. They chanted, "CNN, NBC—put our protests on TV!" Signs read: "PNN—Pentagon News Network."

After marching back to Hollywood and Vine, they resisted police efforts to push them out of the intersection for another hour. People were in no mood to be rushed off the street, and held their ground in spite of a number of unprovoked arrests, and threats of tear gas and rubber bullets.

The demonstration was called by the ANSWER coalition, Coalition for World Peace, Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace, and Global Women's Strike.

In **Chicago**, 15,000 anti-war protesters took the streets on March 20. Police illegally detained more than 750 in the streets for hours, before arresting them. Those arrested report they were denied food, water, sleep and bathroom facilities. They were finally released on the morning of March 22. Some of those arrested had been passersby who weren't even part of the demonstration.

Some 80 people in Chicago carried out civil disobedience at the federal building on March 21. Later that day, 4,000 marched through downtown. A day later, 1,500 people turned out for an emergency demonstration.

The Western Massachusetts Stop the War coalition organized the largest anti-war protest at the **Westover Air Reserve Base** to date: 2,000 marched; 55 protesters were arrested as they lay down or sat on the ground in front of the base gate. This base provides C-5 cargo planes that transport soldiers and supplies to the Middle East.

On March 20, more than 1,000 students from Seattle Central Community College, University of Washington and numerous area high schools walked out in **Seattle**, to protest the war. They joined some 3,000 other anti-war activists at the Federal Building for a rally and march.

Police attacked a peace encampment with pepper spray on the State Capitol campus in **Olympia, Wash.** Five hundred protesters blocked I-5 freeway in **Bellingham**.

In **Philadelphia**, more than 100 people were arrested as they blocked entrances to the Federal Building on March 20. Some 800 supporters cheered on the anti-war resisters. In the afternoon, hundreds braved driving, cold rain to protest at City Hall and the Federal Building. More than 2,000 gathered on the steps of the Art Museum for a march to City Hall on March 23. Bishop Thomas Gumbleton was the featured speaker at a rally organized by School of the Americas Watch.

In **San Diego**, a peacemakers' refugee camp was formed on March 22 in front of the Federal Building. The camp was described as "an organized nonviolent direct action designed to create a safe space for demonstrators to feel a sense of community." These young people have vowed to stay in front of the Federal Building until the war stops.

The Old Women's Project organized a march of 80 veiled women dressed in black, each holding pictures of Iraqi women and children, which was seen by many shoppers in downtown San Diego. Later, 1,000 people surrounded the Federal Building and held an anti-war rally.

In **Richmond, Va.**, 2,000 rallied on March 23.

Other areas organizing ongoing anti-war protests include Buffalo; New Paltz and 60 other towns and villages in Mid-Hudson Valley, N.Y.; Houston and Austin, Texas; Detroit and Lansing, Mich.; Hartford, Conn.; Boston; Baltimore; and many more cities. □



New York, March 22.

WW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

Anti-war anger in Baltimore as local Marine dies in Iraq

By Sharon Black
Baltimore

One of the first U.S. troops killed in the war against Iraq was Kendall Waters-Bey, a Marine from Northeast Baltimore. In this working class neighborhood of brick row houses, there is anger, pain and tears.

His four sisters have been openly critical of President Bush and the war. In an interview with Baltimore Sun staff reporters, Michelle Waters, the oldest sister, proclaimed, "It's all for nothing, that war could have been prevented. Now we're out of a brother. Bush is not out of a brother. We are."

Nakia Waters told the newspaper, "This war is all about oil and money. It's about greed. [Bush] ought to send his daughters over there to fight."

This sentiment is echoed everywhere in Baltimore's working class and poor communities, say volunteers of ANSWER—Act Now to Stop War and End Racism. They took a similar message to both East and West Baltimore on March 22.

Armed with sound systems, decorated cars and flyers entitled "Don't Let Our Loved Ones Die for Oil Profits," the group drove through the city to advertise a com-

munity and labor rally to stop Bush's war. Baltimore's neighborhoods are mostly Black and impoverished, reflecting decades of racism and cuts in services.

Andre Powell, an ANSWER volunteer and a union organizer, spoke to the people: "The rich will not fight and die in this war. Instead it will be the sons and daughters of the workers and poor who will die—the majority who joined the armed forces to learn a skill or receive an education."

He continued, "This war is one of genocide against the Iraqi people. It will include not only massive bombing but also long-term occupation and colonial rule. Our children and loved ones will be called on to fight door-to-door against people who are trying to defend their country from invasion."

Renee Washington is a mother of five children, one of whom is presently in the service. She is also related to Kendall Waters-Bey's mother. She fought to hold back her anger as she added, "We have had to endure cutbacks in our schools, racism in the street, and now our youth will be forced to die for the oil companies." Washington distributed flyers while Powell announced the 3 p.m. rally.

The car caravan was quickly sur-

rounded by a massive show of police, including 14 cars filled with SWAT teams and regular cops, several brigades of motorcycle police, four unmarked police cars and a helicopter. The intimidation did not stop the car caravan.

Both the car caravan and police converged at the Unity United Methodist Church, a historic African American church in Baltimore's Westside where the rally was to take place. The police cordoned off the street in front of the church, blocking access to the rally.

Despite this police intimidation, the church was filled. Larry Holmes, a national coordinator for ANSWER, brought the group to its feet as he called for action and resistance to the war. Dr. Kwame O. Abayomi, the pastor of Unity United Methodist Church, hosted the gathering. Abayomi represents the 6th District in the Baltimore City Council, where he has introduced a resolution against the war. □



With ANSWER in Los Angeles on March 22.

WW PHOTO: JULIA LA RIVA

Protesters storm San Francisco streets

By Brenda Sandburg
San Francisco

As the Bush administration launched its murderous war on Iraq, tens of thousands of protesters took over the streets of San Francisco, shutting down much of the city on March 20. Activists had first learned about the onset of bombing the night before, during a march of 10,000 in the rain.

On the morning of March 20, thousands of students and workers called in sick or walked out of their schools and jobs. The call for “no business as usual” the day the war started in order to show mass opposition had been issued in prior weeks by anti-war coalitions, including International ANSWER—the Act Now to Stop War and End Racism coalition.

At 7 a.m. on March 20, dozens of simultaneous direct actions began, organized by Direct Action to Stop the War. Demonstrators blocked intersections and key buildings in the financial district. The large number of actions kept police jumping from one location to another and allowed protesters to hold areas for long periods of time.

About 2,400 protesters were arrested over a three-day period beginning March 20.

An ANSWER affinity group joined the Marin Peace and Justice Coalition and S.F. Presente to shut down Bechtel Corp.—the military contractor that won a multi-million-dollar contract to rebuild Iraq after the United States destroys it. The ANSWER contingent marched in a column to the entrance of Bechtel and locked arms.

Lisa Roellig, an ANSWER activist and member of Marin Peace and Justice, said she and other members of her group were arrested while reading the names of the Iraqi men, women and children killed in 1991 in the Al Ameriyah shelter by a Pentagon bomb during the first Gulf War.

‘Whose streets? Our streets!’

Roellig and her 18-year-old daughter, Alexandra Phillips, were among a group of people arrested March 20 who refused to give their names to police as an additional form of protest.

While other activists were processed in



San Francisco, March 22.

WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

about eight hours, Roellig said those who withheld their names were held for 24 hours and treated harshly. “My daughter, who is almost totally blind, had bruises all over her arms,” Roellig said. “They twisted our wrists and arms behind us; the pain was so shocking.”

In addition to direct actions March 20, ANSWER held a mass rally and march through the city that drew about 15,000 people. Students from many high schools took part.

“If 10- and 11-year-olds can figure out that this war is wrong, adults and the government should be able to, too,” a 12-year-old student from James Lick Middle School said at the rally.

High school students led the march as it surged onto Market Street, its ranks swelled by people coming from the direct actions in the financial and commercial districts.

The cops tried twice to block the protest from proceeding down Market Street.

Riot police and California Highway Patrol officers lined up in front of the march, carrying shields and pointing teargas guns.

But both times the cops were forced to back down because of the militancy and determination of the protesters who loudly chanted, demanding their right to the streets.

The confrontation energized the crowd, which then marched six miles—down Market Street to Van Ness and up California Street, one of the steepest streets in the city.

Drivers honked their car horns and cable-car operators on California Street rang their bells in support.

Protests continued into the night. People could not bear to be quiet while Iraqis were being killed.

San Francisco: Symbol of U.S. resistance

A demonstration of 75,000 was held March 22, initiated by ANSWER and

Vanguard Public Foundation.

It was the third major action organized by ANSWER in four days. The first was on March 19 at 5 p.m.—the deadline the Bush administration had set for the start of war. About 90 minutes into the action, the United States started bombing Iraq.

ANSWER also participated in a civil disobedience action March 24, blocking the entrance to the Transamerica Pyramid, where the Carlyle Group has offices. The Carlyle Group, one of the nation’s biggest military contractors, has strong ties to the Bush administration. George Bush Sr. is one of its top advisors.

Protesters have been in the streets of this city almost every day since the U.S. attacks began. People call the ANSWER office continuously to find out when the next action will be.

“San Francisco has become a symbol of resistance, an inspiration to our brothers and sisters around the world,” said ANSWER organizer Tahnee Nye. □

Women slam war and budget cuts

By Nancy Younassi
Boston

On March 22, the Women’s Fightback Network and ANSWER Boston held a spirited anti-war rally that packed the Cambridge YWCA. The event was co-chaired by WFN leaders Steph Simard and Erlene Salley and included cultural performances by Puerto Rican activist Marta Rodriguez and DAGGER, the Theatre Offensive’s Queer Women’s Guerrilla theater troupe.

Mahtowin Munro, co-chair of United American Indians of New England, opened with an eloquent message of resistance to racism, colonialism, budget cuts and war. She saluted women in the frontlines of the struggle worldwide.

Speaking of the cutbacks and deepening war at home, Munro explained, “People of color in the U.S. know first-hand what it is to be on the receiving end of a relentless campaign of war and ter-

ror. Native people have dealt for centuries with the terrorism of the U.S., Canadian, Mexican and other colonizing governments. I urge all of you to consider the knowledge that we have gained during that time. If we had unified early on, worked together rather than as separate nations, we may have prevailed. Now is the time to come together in unity, to speak with one voice and say NO to war. We have the power within us to stop this war and to change the world, and we will do so.”

Yoomi Jeong of the Korea Truth Commission had just returned from visits to both North and South Korea. She told the crowd, “The Korean people are actively opposed to the U.S. war on Iraq. Huge demonstrations take place continuously. We know first-hand what war, economic sanctions and occupation are all about. We have endured and resisted Japanese imperialist occupation, the Korean War which resulted in the U.S.

colonization of the south, and more than 50 years of U.S. economic sanctions against the north.

“When the U.S. started bombing Iraq, we knew that we could be next. We support the right of North Korea to defend itself against U.S. imperialist aggression.”

Jeong stressed the need to strengthen the solidarity between the anti-war movement in the U.S. and the Korean people’s struggle against U.S. imperialism. Jeong said that the Korean people’s desire to kick out the 37,000 U.S. troops forcibly dividing the Korean peninsula is at an all-time high, especially since the death last summer of two young Korean girls who were crushed by a U.S. tank.

Minnie Bruce Pratt, a renowned lesbian poet and anti-racist activist, analyzed the relationship between capitalism, imperialist war and women’s oppression. Her talk helped to deepen the crowd’s understanding of the revolutionary role women have to play in the liber-

ation of the working class as a whole. She evoked Marx and Engels in reminding women how their dual role as laborers and “instruments of production” is exploited by the capitalist class. This gives women an even greater reason to fight back and gain control of both their labor power and their bodies, alongside their brothers in the struggle.

Pratt also encouraged the crowd to cast aside the ruling class notion that women are inherently more peaceful and nurturing than men. War hawks like Madeleine Albright and Condoleezza Rice quickly disprove this theory. “What matters is which side of the class struggle one stands on—the side of the oppressors or the side of the oppressed.”

Her carefully woven formulations and passionate agitation left the audience with an even greater resolve to carry forth the decisive class struggle as so many revolutionary women have done before us, “Not just to fight and die, but to win.” □



When bombs fell on Belgrade

As U.S. missiles pouring into Baghdad murder the very people Bush is claiming to “liberate,” the world should recall a similar aggression by U.S. imperialism just four years ago. On March 24, 1999, the Pentagon opened a bombing campaign on Yugoslavia that lasted 78 days. Washington sold that war with the big lie that it was a noble venture, a “humanitarian” intervention. It was supposed to rescue Kosovo and especially its ethnic Albanian population from alleged Serb repression.

Washington then had closer collaboration from its NATO allies. The big powers submerged their rivalry in order to smash independent Yugoslavia.

Western politicians and the ruling class media got public support for the war through an intensive campaign of demonization of the Yugoslav leader Slobodan Milosevic, just as they do Saddam Hussein today. But the assault on Yugoslavia had as little to do with Milosevic as the war on Iraq today has to do with Hussein—except that neither leader was ready to prostrate his country and submit to the interests of Western imperialism.

The goal of the 78 days of brutal bombing—preceded by 10 years of subversion, the fomenting of civil war and economic sanctions—was to remove the one remaining independent country in Eastern Europe that had kept some of the gains of its socialist revolution. Its people, resources, industry and strategic location were to be taken over to serve imperialist interests.

Taking stock today of the region that was once, and may again someday be Yugoslavia, one can see clearly just what imperialist “humanitarian” intervention has brought.

Four dependent mini-states, two imperialist protectorates and a Serbia in chains have replaced an independent state of southern Slavs that had 24 million people.

U.S. and NATO military bases dominate the territory. German and U.S. capital dominate the economy.

Kosovo has become an apartheid state run by organized crime, a center of drugs and prostitution based on the kidnapping of women. The right-wing KLA gangs have driven out Serbs, Jews and other minority people who lived there.

Whatever Yugoslav industry is potentially profitable, especially in Serbia, has been sold at dirt-cheap prices to Western imperialism. The rest has been closed, creating 30-50 percent unemployment and reducing two-thirds of people in Serbia to official poverty.

The imperialist takeover has failed even to bring order. The recent assassination of NATO-stooge Zoran Djindjic, Serbia’s prime minister, brought that failure home.

Anyone studying developments in the region following the U.S.-NATO takeover of Yugoslavia might get a hint as to why the Iraqis are fighting so hard to prevent the U.S.-British imperialist gang from seizing their country. □

Packed New York meeting says

‘We’re with Venezuela’

By Leslie Feinberg

Just days before U.S. bombs exploded in the streets of Baghdad, Rodrigo Chávez told a community meeting in upper Manhattan that Venezuela may be the next target.

Chávez, national coordinator of Venezuela’s Bolivarian Circles, spoke to a packed, grassroots meeting in Washington Heights on March 16 about how Washington and the elite of his country are waging class war against the workers and peasants of Venezuela.

The Bolivarian Circles are neighborhood groups that defend and implement the goals of social and economic transformation President Hugo Chávez has been trying to set in motion since he was elected by a popular mandate in 1998.

Latinos from the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Puerto Rico and Colombia crowded into the standing-room-only event. The Venezuela Solidarity Committee of New York called the meeting to help dispel propaganda against Venezuela, build support in New York for the struggle there, and demand that the U.S. not violate that country’s sovereignty.

As revolutionary efforts in Venezuela have deepened, Washington has backed the Venezuelan elite in efforts to destabilize the country and oust President Chávez through reactionary coups. A two-month-long attempt to sabotage the country’s economy collapsed in early February.

The March 16 meeting was electric. The audience sang along to revolutionary songs and cheered political poetry. They greeted militant statements with standing ovations and chanted, “[Hugo] Chávez isn’t leaving; Chávez isn’t going. We’re with Venezuela!”

Speaking in Spanish, Rodrigo Chávez said forcefully that his government does not support U.S. military aggression against Iraq, which he characterized as military and economic imperialist domination.

He described how his government has organized a committee that, in conjunction with the Iraqi, Palestinian and Libyan embassies, travels across his country educating the population about what is really going on in the Middle East.

With the Bolivarian Revolution Venezuela has stood up and demanded respect; has gotten off its knees.

Venezuela is a rich country, yet the reality is poverty, he explained. This results from the fact that 80 percent of everything is owned by .001 percent of the population. He said the ruling elite have destroyed the economy in their drive for cheap labor and their callous disregard for the rights of workers. “We don’t want them,” he said.

Today, Chávez noted, the peasants, or campesinos, are becoming owners of the land and getting aid from the government to sow their crops. The fishers’ harvest is being protected. The neighborhood Circles are organizing better schools, providing health care, and building roads and subways in their neighborhoods.

Yet Washington and the Venezuelan big business media characterize these moves towards genuine workers’ and peasants’ democracy as a violent denial of freedom.

Chávez responded that it was the wealthy bosses who tried to shut down the Venezuelan economy through a national “lockout” that resulted in sick people dying because ambulances had no gasoline. If that isn’t terrorism, he asked, what is? He added that the big-business media has openly called for the assassination of the elected president.

The United States has shown no respect for Venezuela’s right to self-determination. Referring to CIA-directed coups in Chile and Colombia that resulted in murders of their popularly elected leaders, Chávez emphasized to the U.S. movement, “This is your chance to support Venezuela now and not look back, like perhaps you may have when Allende or Gaitan were assassinated.”

He concluded that Venezuela is fighting the same conditions that the people of Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and all of Latin America have to endure.

Teresa Gutierrez, co-director of the International Action Center, wrapped up the meeting, stressing the vital importance of support for the struggling people in Latin America who have demonstrated their solidarity with so many struggles around the world. □

Media monopoly

Continued from page 5

network is the country’s largest owner of radio stations—more than 1,200 in 50 states and the District of Columbia. In an article entitled “Radio’s Big Bully,” Salon.com says Clear Channel is as big as NBC or Gannett. Claiming 100 million listeners, Clear Channel garnered about 20 percent of the radio industry’s \$16 billion in 2001 revenues.

A bill currently in the Senate threatens to freeze further deregulation in the radio industry and limit each corporation’s audience share and percent of advertising dollars. The administration is against it. According to Jane Kirtley, professor of media ethics and law at the University of Minnesota, the radio and music industry goliath’s support of the Bush war drive in Iraq makes it “hard to escape the concern that this may in part be motivated by issues that Clear Channel has before the FCC and Congress.” (Chicago Tribune, March 19)

From the people who brought you the war

Who are the monarchs behind the monopoly media realm?

Mass media giant NBC is owned by General Electric, a charter member of the military-industrial complex and a megawar profiteer.

Viacom, the fourth-largest entertainment kingdom, owns CBS. Another of its crown jewels is Blockbuster Entertainment.

ABC? That’s Disney, the company founded by Walt Disney, a reported Nazi sympathizer during World War II. It produced the mega-movie “Pearl Harbor,” which was filmed aboard Navy vessels with the Pentagon’s blessing. It has been charged with racist stereotypes of Arab and other nationally oppressed peoples, and squeezes sweatshop profits out of laborers in Haiti.

MSNBC is a joint venture of blue-chip corporate giants Microsoft and General Electric. CNN is an acquisition of AOL/Time Warner. The bellicose Fox News Channel is owned by media mogul and billionaire Rupert Murdoch.

All told, this is the same moneyed class of banking and corporate magnates that has a stake in expanding a U.S. imperial empire in the Middle East and around the world. □



WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

SUBSCRIBE TO WORKERS WORLD

SPECIAL TRIAL SUBSCRIPTION

\$2 FOR EIGHT WEEKS (NEW SUBSCRIPTION)

\$25 for one year

Name _____

Phone number _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Workers World Newspaper

55 West 17 St. NY, NY 10011 (212) 627-2994



Pakistan



Syria



Japan



Germany

The sun never sets

Wave of protests sweeps world

By John Catalinotto

A wave of anti-war protests has been circling the globe since Washington launched its missiles at Baghdad. The movement that showed its strength Feb. 15 has grown broader and deeper. Furious at U.S. crimes, it is resisting Washington's drive for empire.

The protests began as a new day dawned in Australia, Japan and Korea. They then moved with the sun across Indonesia and South Asia. In the Middle East they challenged the existence of unstable regimes.

They reached deeply into Africa and from East Europe and the Balkans across the NATO countries. They crossed the Atlantic to Brazil and Argentina, the Andes countries and Central and North America, from New York and Montreal to San Francisco and Vancouver, past Chicago and Mexico City, ending in Hawaii and starting up again at the International Date Line.

In the 19th century British imperialism boasted that the sun never set on its empire. Since March 20 the sun hasn't set on anti-war protests against U.S. imperialism.

Gathered here are excerpts from news reports and email messages from organizers. New developments include massive participation and initiative of high-school students, longer political strikes by organized labor and large, angry turnouts in the Muslim world.

"In Japan our demonstrations are not so large as in Europe," an organizer writes. But pictures show protesters outside one of the many U.S. military bases. The U.S. troops see the protests, too.

In the Philippines demonstrators burned a U.S. flag. They want the Pentagon out of Iraq—and to stay out of the Philippines, where the U.S. military was based for decades. Continued militant protests in South Korea caused the parliament on March 25 to shelve a vote on sending troops to Iraq.

Activist Max Watts calls from Sydney, Australia. "The demonstration was not as large Saturday [March 22] as Thursday," he says, jokingly. "We left the dog home." Tens of thousands have come out each day, and Premier John Howard ducks eggs and shouts wherever he goes.

In Calcutta, anti-war demonstrators of the Socialist Unity Center on March 20 converged on the

American Center, where they battled with police. Even in mountainous Nepal there are protests. But the largest action on the subcontinent was in Lahore, Pakistan, where 200,000 on March 23 vowed to defend Iraq against the U.S. attack. Pakistan's regime, a U.S. ally, quickly distanced itself from Washington's war policy.

In Sana'a, Yemen, a march by 200,000 on the U.S. Embassy was met with live ammunition. Four were killed, including a 12-year-old. In Cairo, 20,000, mostly university students, defied the Mubarak regime to protest and call for action to help Iraq. In Damascus, Syria, on March 25, a day after five Syrians returning from Iraq were killed in a bus rocketed by U.S. planes, hundreds of thousands protested.

Protests in Africa

An email from South Africa's Anti-War Coalition: "Across the Cape Metropole, about 8,000 school pupils took to the streets in Gugulethu, Langa, Athlone, Maitland, Salt River. Among them were increasing numbers of workers, COSATU members. This marks a historic phase in the anti-war movement as it is the first time that the youth have taken center stage in the post-apartheid struggles and on a directly political issue at that."

Protests took place also in Zimbabwe and Kenya, and on March 24, some 40,000 took the streets in Nouakchott, Mauritania.

In Turkey on March 23, police blocked 1,000 people who tried to march to the U.S. Embassy in Istanbul. In Izmir in the west of Turkey, protesters shouted, "We will not be soldiers for the USA!" and "Iraqi people are not alone."

From the Greek movement: "The strike action on March 20 was unprecedented. The center of Athens was paralyzed by a demo even bigger than on Feb. 15, more than 250,000. Thousands of young school kids, students took part and marched for more than five hours. Big demos in more than 30 cities," which papers later

reported totaled 500,000 in a country of 10 million. On March 24 "school kids" turned an annual National Day parade into an anti-war march.

Italy remains continuously mobilized. A million protest in dozens of cities. Workers walk out. Peace flags fly from 2 million balconies. Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi, despite his general subservience to Bush, promises that no Italian soldiers will fight.

In Germany on March 20 "there were 50,000 up to 70,000 pupils in Berlin in the streets. Joined by 50,000 adults later. Another 15,000 in Stuttgart." And, "this morning we blockaded the U.S. Army Headquarters in Heidelberg." On March 20, some 300,000 people demonstrated all over France, and again on March 22.

A move is on to surround U.S. embassies and consulates everywhere. In Greece the embassy closed for at least two days.

In Switzerland, 30,000 marched in Berne on March 20, and 100,000 in 30 cities on March 22. The same day in Amsterdam, Netherlands, about 100,000 people came out, more than on Feb. 15. In Finland on March 22, "We had biggest antiwar-demonstration in 30 years. In Helsinki over 40,000 demonstrated against war. In Turku there were about 17,000 people."

On March 22, "Britain witnessed the biggest wartime demo in its history as 700,000 people marched through London on an anti-war demo that had been called only five days before," wrote Chris Nineham of the Stop the War Coalition. An even larger march had preceded the

start of the war.

In Madrid, Spain, hundreds of thousands came out on three consecutive days, first high-school and university students, then trade unions took the lead, and on March 22 all the organizations together. Police fired rubber bullets. Barcelona and other cities joined the action. In Lisbon, Portugal, 90,000 came out.

In Belgium on March 24 the Caterpillar workers laid down their tools for 24 hours to protest the war.

Across the Atlantic, 10,000 march on the U.S. Embassy in Sao Paulo. People in Argentina, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Costa Rica and Puerto Rico protest war and Yankee rule. A quarter million in New York and Montreal take the streets, 40,000 in Toronto, 20,000 in Vancouver and 75,000 in San Francisco, where 1,500 are arrested during the five days.

Washington's potent military assault on Baghdad is already a smashing political defeat for U.S. imperialism. Teenagers worldwide, who a year ago craved U.S. jeans and t-shirts, who lined up for Hollywood movies and watched U.S. sitcoms, are shouting "Bush, murderer!" in 90 languages, trashing McDonald's and burning U.S. flags. □



Hockey fans boo war flag

By Josina Dunkel

Hockey, a sport of body checks and sanctioned punches, is now a venue for protest. During the last Canadians-Islanders game in Montreal, fans booed the "Star Spangled Banner" when it was played before the game. This was not an act of team rivalry but rather showed Canadian anger against the war in Iraq.

In opinion polls, popular protests and even government actions, Canadians have shown themselves to be overwhelmingly anti-war.

Quebec has distinguished itself as the most anti-war province. In its largest city, Montreal, over 200,000 people marched against the war and got barely a mention in the U.S. media. But the simple action of a large portion of the 20,000 hockey fans caught the eye of the American news media. This apparent act of disrespect, the hurt feelings of the Islanders' goalie, and

the fact that the Montreal team apologized were all highlighted. However, some Russian-born players on the Islanders team reportedly did not see anything wrong with the booing.

A year ago, U.S. pilots bombed a group of Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan, killing four. The pilots had taken amphetamines to stay awake—standard Air Force policy. Canadians were angered by President George W. Bush's slowness to apologize for the accident.

In Canada, hockey is political—it is the national sport and a powerful symbol of Canada. Canadians were particularly proud that both their men's and women's Olympic teams beat their U.S. rivals. But it is unusual for Canadians to show their objections to U.S. foreign policy during a hockey game. It is simply one measure of the level of disgust Canadians feel about this unjust war and the way the U.S. government treats them. □



South Korea

IPROLETARIOS Y OPRIMIDOS DE TODOS LOS PAÍSES, UNÍOS!
MUNDO OBRERO

El mundo dice no a la guerra de conquista

Workers World/Partido Mundo Obrero publicó la siguiente declaración sobre el ataque de los Estados Unidos contra Irak el 19 de marzo.

Debe ya estar muy claro para todos que el gobierno de los Estados Unidos ha estado pidiendo el desarme de Irak—algo que básicamente ya se logró con la primera Guerra del Golfo—para que su propia fuerza militar, la más destructiva del mundo, pueda agredir y conquistar a una nación virtualmente indefensa, la cual es solamente una décima parte del tamaño de los EEUU.

Nunca antes se había visto un caso tan claro de agresión como esta guerra. Aún la ONU la cual por más de 50 años se ha doblado a intervenciones militares estadounidenses—comenzando con Corea, siguiendo con Vietnam y una veintena de otras guerras y operaciones armadas, pequeñas y grandes—no pudo aceptar esta.

Si la ONU se ha vuelto “irrelevante”, citando a Bush, es porque esta organización mundial, la cual incluye a gobiernos tanto de naciones dominantes como sojuzgadas, es incapaz de acusar al gobierno de los Estados Unidos por sus crímenes contra la paz y por sus guerras criminales que están en violación de los propios mandatos de la ONU y de todas las leyes internacionales.

En su discurso del 17 de marzo cuando el Presidente George W. Bush le dio “la advertencia final,” a Irak, él dijo que estaba atacando a ese país “para imponer las justas exigencias del mundo.” Esto en sí muestra que el discurso entero se basaba sólo en mentiras. Mientras que los gobiernos pueden estar paralizados bajo la presión de la única súper potencia económica y militar, nunca antes los pueblos del mundo habían expresado su oposición a una guerra con tanto fervor, y tan masivamente.

Las corporaciones billonarias de medios de comunicación repiten las mentiras de Bush como si fueran verdad. Y continuarán haciendo lo mismo. Ya está claro que hay equipos especiales de los Estados Unidos que han sido organizados para producir una justificación para esta guerra de agresión “encontrando” armas iraquíes de destrucción masiva. Lo que la ONU un pudo encontrar en muchos años de inspecciones, es seguro que los Estados Unidos van a “encontrar” de una manera u otra. Un ejemplo son los documentos que fueron presentados por los Estados Unidos y Gran Bretaña, mostrando que Irak trató de obtener uranio, pero su falsedad fue expuesta ante la ONU. Pero exponer los nuevos pretextos es más difícil ahora opacado por esta “nube de guerra”, cuando se ha invadido territorios y aquellos que pueden contrarrestar los argumentos de los Estados Unidos podrían perecer en cualquier momento.

Sabiendo que Washington está ejerciendo presión intensa sobre los medios de comunicación para que repitan sus acusaciones sin someterlas a crítica,



22 de marzo en Nueva York.

WW FOTO: PAT CHIN

para así poder mostrar algún tipo de apoyo del pueblo por su guerra impopular, es necesario que el mundo dude totalmente de cualquier “revelación” que sea convenientemente producida.

Bush ya ha declarado que sus tropas son “libertadoras”, y no conquistadoras. Una enorme operación se está poniendo en camino para crear las imágenes necesarias para convencer al mundo de que los iraquíes quieren ser invadidos.

Esta guerra no es una aberración o un acto irracional de un líder. Tiene el apoyo de la clase gobernante más poderosa del mundo, aunque la oposición masiva haya causado que algunos teman las consecuencias. Esta clase representa una convergencia de la captura del poder político por los “neo-conservadores” alrededor de Bush, de la supremacía militar de los Estados Unidos que ahora no está contestada desde el colapso del bloque socialista, y la incapacidad del Gran Capital de remendar la creciente crisis económica mundial, la cual está debilitando mercados y enfrentando a las corporaciones globalizadoras contra las clases gobernantes imperialistas.

Muchos que han creído en “el sistema” están sorprendidos por los eventos que revelan la total desconexión entre el establecimiento político y la voluntad del pueblo. El Congreso no ha respondido de ninguna forma a sus peticiones fervientes, sino que ha dado al presidente la autoridad constitucional de declarar una guerra.

Mientras que los eventos siguen inexorablemente hacia delante, no hay ningún debate en el Congreso ni se ha exigido por los líderes de la “oposición”. El Líder de la Minoría del Senado, Tom Daschle, un Demócrata que se está preparando para las elecciones del 2004, está tratando de suavizar ante el público su apoyo a la guerra criticando tímidamente la administración de Bush, diciendo que no hizo un buen trabajo en obtener el apoyo internacional—para una guerra brutal, criminal, e ilegal contra una nación ya debilitada por 12 años de sanciones.

Nadie en el liderato de los dos partidos políticos del establecimiento se atreve a mencionar el inconveniente tema del petróleo y la relación incestuosa de la

actual administración con compañías como la Halliburton de Dick Cheney, a la cual ya le han sido prometido jugosos contratos en la reconstrucción por el Pentágono de la industria petrolera de Irak después de la guerra. ¿Y cómo lo iban a hacer? Eso desenmascararía su juego—el juego político que todos los senadores conocen bien, de hablar en nombre del pueblo mientras defienden los intereses del gran capital, cuyos agentes en los corredores del Congreso les sobornan generosamente.

La guerra en el extranjero está acompañada por una intensificación en la guerra doméstica —una guerra racista de la clase de los billonarios para aumentar la explotación de los trabajadores de este país.

No es una mera coincidencia que la aerolínea United Air escogió el día 17 de marzo, el día del discurso de guerra de Bush para someter una petición formal a la corte especial de quiebras para disolver sus contratos con sus empleados, incluyendo pilotos, auxiliares de vuelo y mecánicos.

Esta guerra, y las que siguen a medida que la Doctrina de dominio estadounidense de Bush se va poniendo en acción alrededor del mundo, va a costar trillones de dólares pagados por los trabajadores de este país, en adición a las vidas perdidas de un número incierto de soldados jóvenes. ¿Quién más va a pagar por los portaaviones, escuadras de aviones de guerra, y el despliegue de cientos de miles de efectivos con armas de alta tecnología de todas clases? ¿Acaso los ejecutivos de Enron y Exxon/Mobil? No, ellos estarán intentando extraer todo lo que puedan de los sueldos, las pensiones y los seguros de salud, mientras permiten que los servicios sociales desaparezcan y recortan los impuestos a los ricos.

Ocurriendo sobre de un declive económico espantoso, la guerra está acelerando la ofensiva patronal en contra de los sindicatos, muchos de los cuales están actualmente resistiendo y rechazando la guerra y la represión doméstica que la acompaña.

Dos perspectivas mundiales

Dos perspectivas muy diferentes del mundo están emergiendo mientras se

profundiza la crisis.

La perspectiva de Bush, la perspectiva promovida por los derechistas que dominan el gobierno y los medios de comunicación, es la de un futuro terrorífico donde EE.UU. está armado hasta los dientes, no importa el costo y estará listo para atacar en cualquier momento cuando algunos de los mil millones de personas alrededor del mundo que sufren condiciones insostenibles puedan tomar represalias contra el país que ha construido este horrible “nuevo orden mundial”.

El pueblo en los países ricos imperialistas debe saber que los bancos internacionales y las corporaciones son los que han destruido las economías locales, dejando a países enteros desposeídos, sin la capacidad de proporcionar ni siquiera agua potable para sus habitantes, sin mencionar el cuidado de la salud, la educación y empleos. La intervención imperialista no puede resolver estos problemas, sino que los empeora.

Todas las promesas de que la guerra está librada para beneficiar al pueblo iraquí, o a los afganis, o a los coreanos son solo mentiras contadas por aquellos que aspiran a ser los conquistadores. No hay que adivinar que forma va a tomar la “democracia” al estilo de los EE.UU. Basta ver la opresión que sufren los palestinos a las manos del Israel democrático, auspiciado por EE.UU., o la represión sangrienta de la Turquía “democrática” hacia los curdos. Un gobierno instalado en Irak a punta de bayonetas estadounidenses será un régimen títere bien entrenado en proporcionar fotos propagandísticas de escenas enternecedoras pero serviles a las demandas de las corporaciones petroleras de los EE.UU.

Pero hay otra perspectiva del mundo que está ganando momento en años recientes y en la cual creen apasionadamente muchos jóvenes. Es un mundo donde la ciencia y la tecnología están en manos del pueblo y están empleadas para lograr alfabetización, buena salud, nutrición apropiada, una infraestructura moderna basada en el desarrollo sostenible, y un ambiente sano para los mil millones de habitantes del planeta.

La seguridad y el bienestar de este mundo no requieren miles de armas nucleares, arsenales de armas químicas, biológicas ni “convencionales” pero mortíferas como las poseídas por el Pentágono, o de guerras constantes de agresión. Ese mundo se puede construir basado en la solidaridad y las luchas del pueblo trabajador y de todos los que han sido oprimidos por el sistema capitalista.

En este momento, la guerra contra Irak trasciende todas las demás cuestiones. Mientras que esta clase dominante trae la guerra con más furia, puede esperar que toda lucha doméstica se vuelva una lucha antibélica. La maquinaria de guerra puede y debe ser derrotada por un poderoso movimiento para hacer regresar las tropas. ¡Presupuesto para trabajos, educación y cuidado de salud, no para incesantes guerras imperialistas de conquista! □