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## GUERRA CONTRA IRAK

Washington deniega abiertamente el derecho a soberanía y autodeterminación 12

# World's people struggle to HOLD BACK U.S. ATTACK



PHOTO: TKP

Communist demonstrators in Turkey on March 12 try to stop government from caving in to U.S. pressure.

By Fred Goldstein

Whether or not Washington is able to strong-arm nine votes on the UN Security Council for its war resolution, or overcome French and Russian threats to veto, the Security Council diplomatic-political process has revealed this: an isolated, arrogant imperialist super-power is hell-bent on raining death and destruction upon the people of Iraq.

In thuggish style, the Bush administration has used threats, intimidation, bribery and dirty tricks to try to put a veneer of international legitimacy on its criminal intention to wage an unprovoked war of aggression against Iraq. But no Security Council resolution, no declarations by any coalition of willing imperialists and their dependent regimes, and no congressional resolutions passed by the legislative servants of U.S. big business can bestow legitimacy on this imperialist war of conquest.

Its aims are to seize the oil fields of Iraq, establish a U.S. colonial puppet regime in Baghdad, and set up a base from which to subjugate the entire Middle East.

Planning to overthrow a sovereign government in a formerly colonial country trying to maintain its independence is a crime against international law and the United Nations Charter. It should be an indictable offense.

Planning to launch 3,000 bombs and missiles upon a population in the space of 48 hours to create "shock and awe," based on the military model of the U.S. atomic bombing of

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PALESTINE, ZIMBABWE and KOREA are all targets of Washington.

All need worldwide solidarity. 8, 9, 10

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Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, is an act of pure terrorism and a horrendously premeditated crime against humanity.

The Bush administration claims that its goal is to "liberate" the Iraqi people. Yet it is ringing their country with 250,000 soldiers armed with the most modern military equipment. It has threatened to use even nuclear weapons against Iraq.

## Pentagon flaunts WMD

On March 11, on the eve of its intended invasion, the Pentagon hyped a test in Florida of a 21,000-pound super bomb known as MOAB, "Mother of All Bombs." This newly

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## New York against war

After months of debate in the City Council, New York on March 12 became the latest U.S. city to pass an anti-war resolution. The huge Feb. 15 protest helped counteract fear that was exploited by pro-war forces after the World Trade Center attacks.

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International Women's Day march in New York City.

WW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

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# Printing press hastened revolutions

## Now it's the Internet's turn

By Deirdre Griswold

The speed at which a new international anti-war movement has developed has stunned the ruling classes everywhere and elated those pressing for social justice and equality. Many have observed that this was impossible before the Internet brought the world together as never before.

What an irony. Because the Internet was first developed by the Pentagon to meet its own needs for high-speed communication for military research and development.

It quickly became an indispensable business tool—as the mushrooming up of dot-com industries showed in the 1990s. But once computers and Internet access became affordable to workers and students, and the knowledge to use them efficiently spread throughout the working class, the genie was really out of the bottle.

Not since the invention of movable type and the first printing of books back in the 15th century has a new technology of communication had such a profound impact on social movements.

Printing was actually invented first in China. But the Chinese language had 80,000 different characters instead of a short phonetic alphabet, so printing books was not practical. In Europe, improvements in paper and printing, some learned from the East, coincided with great peasant rebellions against the landed estates as feudal authority was beginning to break up.

Hundreds of thousands of people were killed as the nobles tried to repress these peasant wars. In addition, the needs of a rising bourgeoisie for free trade were fast coming in conflict with feudal restrictions.

By the 1400s, much of the impetus for social change was being directed against the Catholic Church, which not only owned huge tracts of land where it oppressed the peasants but also had a monopoly on learning. Monks with quill pens were the guardians of the written word. Monasteries were the libraries of the Middle Ages. Only priests were allowed to interpret the word of god.

Then came the Gutenberg Bible, named for Johannes Gutenberg. It was the first Bible put out on a printing press, making it affordable to the rising merchants and artisans of the day.

Poring over its words, those seeking authority for their dangerous new thoughts about what society should be like could find in the Bible's parables and stories the justification they needed for taking on the old social order. They no longer had to bow down to the Biblical interpretations cautiously doled out by the priesthood. Clutching their newly printed books, they were soon rising up in mighty armies against the status quo.

Of course, the printing press also facilitated the spread of other information that stimulated commerce and the scientific-technological revolution. But its most famous early achievement was the Gutenberg Bible.

The Protestant Reformation was the beginning of a revolution in Europe to replace feudalism with capitalism, but this upheaval was at first expressed as a struggle over religious dogma.

It took further developments—both in the growth of science and technology and in the rise of both bourgeoisie and proletariat—for the Reformation to evolve into the Enlightenment. By the 18th century, the bourgeois radicals in the French Revolution, who called for “liberty, equality and fraternity,” no longer leaned on theology to justify their battle for social change.

Is today's Internet, like the printing press of Gutenberg's day, going to be the catalyst for another, deeper social change, so desperately needed and so long in the making? It certainly has a lot going for it.

Speed of dissemination makes it an ideal organizing tool for mass movements. Also, emails can be sent at no extra cost to tens of thousands of people. Web sites are accessible to anyone with a computer. And while that was once prohibitive for the majority of workers, computers are now affordable in much of the world. Even if they don't own a computer, students and workers can access them at schools, libraries and cyber cafes.

Use of the Internet has exploded even as the corporate media have become more controlled and monopolized than ever. People in smaller cities and towns, especially, are at the tender mercies of the television networks and a few so-called newspapers like USA Today. But millions now surf the web and find what they can never get from their local media: news and opinion contradicting the establishment view.

This partly explains the unexpectedly high level of anti-war activity outside the big cities—that and the increasing poverty and joblessness in many less populated areas.

In addition to speed and low cost, the Internet is having another very profound effect. It is not a one-way street. It allows people to exchange views with one another in a less inhibiting forum than most public encounters.

Much publicity is given to the dangers of the Internet, its use by sexual predators and so on. But most people know that this is a medium in which they can express their deepest thoughts with fewer inhibitions. If they want, they can do it anonymously. How they look, dress, whether they live in a shack or a palace, whether they're on opposite ends of the earth, they can talk to each other as long as they share a common language. And there's always :- ) symbols when words run out.

It can be a form of communication stripped of all that is superficial and that evades capitalist society's prejudices. It can reinforce a sense of common humanity.

Humor has blossomed on the Internet. People in chat rooms often treat each other with affection and warmth, even though in many ways they are total strangers. While the themes of television and movies so often terrify and belittle people, they feel empowered on the Internet.

It's too early to know all the social ramifications of the Internet. But, coming at a time when the contradictions of capitalism become more frustrating and criminal every day, it has fantastic potential for helping to punch through a path to the future. □

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**BOSTON**

**Sat., March 22**  
 International Women's Day forum in solidarity with the women of Iraq and all women under attack. Featuring: Korean anti-war activist Yoomi Jeong; poet and author Minnie Bruce Pratt; guerrilla performances by DAGGER (Dykes with a Cutting Edge from the Theater Offensive). Music by Puerto Rican activist Marta Rodriguez. Sponsored by Women's Fightback Network and ANSWER. Childcare. Light potluck. \$5 donation. 6:30 p.m. At Cambridge YWCA, 7 Temple St. For info (617) 522-6626 or wfn@iacoboston.org.

**CHICAGO**

**Sun., March 23**  
 The lesbian, gay, bisexual & transgendered community is coming out against war & racism. An afternoon of action and political education featuring Leslie Feinberg of the IAC and author of "Stone Butch Blues."

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## Cites Pennsylvania racism

# Panel urges death penalty moratorium

By Betsey Piette  
Philadelphia

A committee of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court released a 549-page report on March 5 calling on the governor, the legislature and the high court to impose a moratorium on executions in the state. The report from the Committee on Racial and Gender Bias found serious questions exist about the fairness and even-handedness of the present system of capital litigation and sentencing, and called for the undertaking of a thorough and comprehensive study on the impact of race.

The study also makes numerous sweeping recommendations for death penalty reform, including hiring more courtroom interpreters for those with limited English skills. Jeff Garis, executive director of the Pennsylvania Abolitionists, hailed the report as a "shot in the arm" for the moratorium movement.

"The committee stated what we've been saying for years: Pennsylvania's death penalty system is biased, broken and needs to be halted," said Garis. "Pennsylvania's death row looks disturbingly like South Africa's under apartheid."

Racial bias in the system is obvious, according to the Pennsylvania Abolitionists. Nearly 70 percent of the 242

inmates on death row in Pennsylvania are Black, Latino or Asian, groups that combined make up less than 11 percent of the state's general population. A stunning 84 percent of those from Philadelphia who have been sentenced to death are African American.

Pennsylvania is one of 38 states with a death penalty, and one of 11 in which reports have been commissioned to study racial bias within the system. Studies conducted on a federal level mirror the same conclusion. Illinois and Maryland are the only two states that have enacted moratoriums. However, Maryland's new governor, Robert Ehrlich Jr., lifted that state's moratorium upon assuming office in January.

Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell, a former prosecutor in Philadelphia, is opposed to halting executions. He has already signed two death warrants after little over a month in office. Rendell's wife, U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Marjorie O. Rendell, is the chair of one of two task forces set up to consider the Committee on Racial and Gender Bias report.

During his gubernatorial campaign, Rendell said he would try to reinstate the death penalty for political prisoner and journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal. A federal judge overturned his death penalty sentence in December 2001,

but Abu-Jamal remains on Pennsylvania's death row. He has been denied due process despite evidence of his innocence, including a taped confession by Arnold Beverly that he committed the murder for which Abu-Jamal was sentenced.

Garis urged death penalty opponents to seize the momentum and demand that officials at all levels of state government abide by the recommendations of the report. "Remind Governor Rendell of his campaign promise: He stated that while he supported the death penalty, he would support a moratorium if there was evidence to suggest that it was warranted. At the time, he said that he didn't see any evidence—well, here's the evidence!"

Garis also noted that a poll conducted by Madonna Yost Opinion Research in February 2001 showed that 72 percent of Pennsylvanians support a moratorium on executions in order to study issues of fairness.

The complete Racial and Gender Bias Committee report is available on the Pennsylvania Judiciary's Web site: www.courts.state.pa.us. Letters, calls and faxes supporting the death penalty moratorium can be sent to Gov. Edward Rendell, 225 Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120; telephone (717) 787-2500; fax (717) 772-8284. □

## Mumia from death row



# Bush to world: 'DROP DEAD'

"Why of course the people don't want war... But after all it is the leaders of the country who determine the policy, and it's always a simple matter to drag the people along, whether it is a democracy or a fascist dictatorship... Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is tell them they're being attacked, and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger."

— Hermann Goering  
(Gestapo/Nazi leader), testimony to Nuremberg war crimes trial, 1946

The world has witnessed the most massive anti-war demonstrations in global history, and the Bush administration proposes to treat them as non-events. Incredible!

This administration has, from its earliest days, acted with barely concealed contempt for the wishes of the world. The evisceration of the Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty was one measure. The rejection of the International Criminal Court. The insults against German leaders who don't bow sufficiently when Americans stride in the neighborhood. The rampant Francophobia. The negation of the will of the United Nations.

These are but variant strains of an underlying theme: The United States, the Great, Mighty bastion of democracy, could care less what the majority of the world wants, not to mention what the majority of Americans want. War is dictated by the military-industrial-complex, and—so be it.

When a million people turn out in the capital of the country of America's "closest ally" to oppose his policies, and the U.S. still loosens the reins of the mouth-foaming dogs of war, then "ally" is just a synonym for "servant," for surely, it cannot mean anything remotely like "friend." The beleaguered British prime minister, Tony Blair, is facing an intraparty battle that threatens to topple its hold on power. What a queer duck this "democracy" is! It allows those in power to virtually ignore what the majority of the people (that they supposedly "represent") wants! Yet, Herr Bush, in truest dictatorial fashion, gives the nod to the army, and virtually promises to ignore whatever the UN does—unless they genuflect before His Imperial Majesty, King George II (or is it III?).

The Turkish Parliament boldly votes against the U.S. Empire's wishes to use its land as a planning table for massacre and war, and the Americans insist that they vote again! (Again—isn't this kind of, well, anti-democratic?)

"The Empire Strikes—First!" and threatens to rip the world in half, unless all adore the Empire—New Babylon—and surrender before her all that she wishes.

We are all at the very brink of war, one which will not soon end. Truth be told, we are on the precipice of World War, if just a few small things go disastrously wrong.

Hundreds of cities, on all six continents, from Kuala Lumpur to Ramallah, from Seoul to Seattle, from London to Leningrad, and beyond, the message went forth in a din that was deafening in its simplicity: "NO WAR!" But the White House is soundproof (except for the sound of coins jangling in the pockets of arms merchants or defense lobbyists) and the president of the United States is deaf. The government that Lincoln once claimed, "of the people, by the people, and for the people," won't hear the people—because they aren't saying what they want to hear.

What will it take?

What is clear is that it will take more than what has happened thus far.

Demonstrations are powerful indicators of popular consciousness, but is it enough when the State is profoundly undemocratic, and driven by other forces?

The answer may lie in that little-used social resource of union power. The recent statement of the AFL-CIO (a federation of trade unions in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Panama and U.S. territories) against the war, while quite remarkable, was all but dismissed by the Bush Regime. What would happen, however, if a general strike were called among all member unions, against this imminent war?

It may take such measures to begin to put the dogs of war back in their cages, before, as Dr. Nelson Mandela suggested, a modern-day "holocaust" is unleashed upon the world. □

March took same route as historic Chicano Moratorium against Vietnam War in 1970.

WWW PHOTO: JULIA LA RIVA

## Latinos march against war

By Julia La Riva  
Los Angeles

In the heart of East Los Angeles, hundreds of Latinos and supporters from all over Southern California took to the streets on March 9 to voice their opposition to a war in Iraq. They demanded an end to the military's recruitment of children in their high schools, colleges, universities and community.

This predominately Latino/Chicano community has a proud history of opposing the Vietnam War. In the Chicano Moratorium, tens of

thousands had marched on Aug. 29, 1970, down the very same Whittier Boulevard where today veterans of that movement joined newly political, militant, anti-war youth.

Middle school children, veterans and senior citizens called for money for education, healthcare and jobs, not to kill innocent people and destroy other countries. "Recruit our children for college and universities, not your dirty war," they shouted, and "Chale, no, we won't go!"

The march ended at Salazar Park, named after Los Angeles Times reporter Ruben Salazar, one of three

people killed over 30 years ago when the Los Angeles Police Department and the L.A. County Sheriff's Department attacked the Moratorium march. Salazar was senselessly murdered when sheriffs launched tear gas projectiles into a restaurant where he was sitting, fatally wounding him. He had been a target of the police for writing critically about Chicanos being denied their rights and had been asked to tone down his articles.

Members of the National Chicano Moratorium Committee say 80 percent of the Latino/Chicano community opposes Bush's racist policies. □



## Doctors and nurses say:

# 'War is also a health care disaster'

By Nadia Marsh

Doctors and nurses throughout the world are organizing against Bush's war. This is clearly reflected abroad in medical journals and the print media.

Unfortunately, in the United States, one would never know that physicians and nurses are rallying in the thousands against war. The mainstream medical organizations and journals have been reticent to support the anti-war sentiment of health care professionals in this country. Increasingly, physicians and nurses are urging their medical organizations to take an official anti-war stance.

In the past few months, the British medical journal *The Lancet* and other European and Australian medical journals have published numerous editorials and articles by physicians opposing the war. Many letters have been addressed to Prime Minister Tony Blair and the British Parliament admonishing Britain for supporting a U.S.-led war that will inevitably lead to the deaths of thousands of innocent Iraqi people.

Public health organizations in the U.S. have also begun to speak out against the war. They have detailed the catastrophic effects a war with Iraq will have on its people, particularly women and children. They are citing a "strictly confidential" United Nations document that was leaked to an anti-war group at Cambridge Univ-

ersity in England several months ago. Entitled "Humanitarian Scenarios," it has led to sobering revelations in the health care community as to how devastating a war will be.

This document is based on research conducted by the World Health Organization for the UN. It predicts that casualties in the first phase of the war will be 100,000. That's 100,000 people dead or wounded in the first few days of the U.S. bombing campaign. Then another 400,000 civilians may die due to secondary effects of the bombing—infectious diseases resulting from destroyed and infected water systems, malnutrition and epidemics. Many of the dead, they admit, will inevitably be children.

Although physicians in the U.S. have traditionally been less involved in anti-war and political organizing than those in Europe and developing countries, Bush's war drive has driven many health care providers to become anti-war activists. Like millions of people all over the world, doctors and nurses are joining a new anti-war movement to oppose their government's pro-war, pro-corporate agenda.

The huge anti-war rallies in Washington and New York City in the past few months have demonstrated that health care workers are a large part of the anti-war movement. Local 1199 SEIU and nurses' unions representing health care providers brought thousands of health

care workers out onto the streets.

On Jan. 18, in Washington, D.C., a new activist organization was born—Doctors and Nurses Against the War.

When a physician from the newly formed organization read a statement on national television admonishing Bush, Cheney, and Rumsfeld for their violent proclivities against Iraq, hundreds of health professionals responded positively with emails and phone calls.

On Feb. 15, at the very large rally in New York, Doctors and Nurses Against the War led a contingent of health care workers. They chanted, "Health care, not warfare!"—the favorite slogan of the day. Many were protesting for the first time.

### What a war in Iraq will mean

All essential services in Iraq will collapse. UN and nongovernmental organizations admit they will be unable to address a humanitarian situation of this magnitude.

Some 30 percent of children in Iraq under the age of 5 will be at risk of dying from malnutrition. That comes to 1,250,000 children.

Some 39 percent of the Iraqi people will

have no access to water.

Some 10 million Iraqi people will be malnourished and displaced.

The astronomical cost of this war—estimated at \$200 billion—will also contribute to the collapse of an already under-funded public health system in this country.

Each second of war will cost \$10,000—what New York City spends on educating a child for a full year.

The cost of razing destruction on Iraq for eight hours equals one full year of the New York City Homeless Services budget—\$360 million.

Health care workers have a duty to stop this war before it starts. Join Doctors and Nurses Against the War at the national antiwar rally March 15 in Washington, D.C. We will gather at 11:30 a.m. at the northeast corner of the Washington Monument grounds. For more information, go to [www.InternationalAnswer.org/WarNotHealthy.html](http://www.InternationalAnswer.org/WarNotHealthy.html).

*Dr. Nadia Marsh is a general internist who has practiced in New York's Harlem community for many years and is an organizer for Doctors and Nurses Against the War.* □

## Hell in the tomato fields

# Farm workers call boycott of Taco Bell

By John Beacham  
Los Angeles

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers arrived at the Taco Bell corporate headquarters in Irvine, Calif., on Feb. 24 with cries of "End sweatshops in the fields!" They are staging a hunger strike to protest the exploitation of immigrant farm workers in the tomato fields of southwest Florida.

Braving cold and rain, 100 workers and students camped out and refused to eat until Taco Bell conducts negotiations with the CIW. The workers are demanding that Taco Bell act now to force its suppliers to pay their laborers a decent wage.

Taco Bell is the largest buyer of tomatoes picked in the fields of Florida. It profits more than anyone from the deplorable working conditions and the inadequate compensation of the workers. The CIW has called for a boycott of Taco Bell until the farm workers' wages are raised a penny per pound of tomatoes.

These workers, who put in a six-day week, can expect to earn at most \$7,500 a year. (National Agricultural Workers Survey of 1998) They are paid less today, in real terms, than 20 years ago. Their working conditions under the local field bosses are often characterized by racism, harassment and even overt intimidation.

They live in tiny apartments and trailers with up to a dozen others. Eviction is common. An injured worker is likely to have to struggle even harder to keep afloat.

Slavery and the plantation are on the rise in the South again. The CIW has helped to bust up five slavery rings, some with as many as 700 workers enslaved, in



PHOTO: CIW

### Rally at Taco Bell headquarters.

the last six years. Most of the workers come to the United States from the poorer regions of the Western Hemisphere. Over a third of Immokalee workers come from Guatemala, where peasants were impoverished by over 30 years of U.S.-backed right-wing terrorism that took the lives of 200,000 people. Some 40 percent come from Mexico and the rest from places like Haiti, El Salvador and Honduras.

The global economy and U.S. imperialism force these workers to come to the U.S. for work. When they get here they find they have few if any rights and must struggle mightily to get by.

Yet they have found the will to rise up in solidarity to demand justice from a U.S. corporation that profits off their misery.

The CIW broke its hunger strike on March 5, heeding the call of local clergy who were concerned about the health of some of the workers. During the entire period of the hunger strike, not one person from Taco Bell management spoke with them.

But the general sentiment is that the struggle must and will continue. Find out more at [www.ciw-online.org](http://www.ciw-online.org). □

## 'Solidarity Forever'

# B'way musicians strike a new tune

By Greg Butterfield  
New York

When you think of organized labor's power, you probably don't picture workers playing clarinets, trombones and French horns. But the 300-plus members of American Federation of Musicians Local 802 have just flexed their muscles in a big way.

On March 7 Local 802's members, a multinational group of women and men who provide live entertainment nightly to thousands of Broadway theatergoers, went on strike against the League of American Theaters and Producers.

After a powerful rally near the Times Square TKTS booth, Local 802 members set up picket lines in front of 18 Broadway musicals, including hits like "The Lion King," "The Producers," "Mamma Mia," "Hairspray" and "42nd Street."

Local 802 members said they were fighting for their jobs and the very survival of their union.

Broadway bosses made their union-busting intentions plain in contract talks. They wanted to abolish the union's hard-won guaranteed minimum of 24-26 live musicians for each Broadway musical. Producers wanted to cut the minimum to just six musicians.

The union said this is just the start of the theater bosses' plan to do away with live music on Broadway and replace live orchestras with pre-recorded soundtracks.

As the strike deadline neared, production companies like Walt Disney Co.—with three musicals on Broadway, "Lion King," "Beauty and the Beast" and "Aida"—forced actors, stage hands, dressers and others to rehearse the shows to canned music.

"New York is the pinnacle of live music," said Brad Gemeinhardt, a musician picketing outside "Thoroughly Modern Millie." "We can't really stand for them lowering the quality of the product

at all." (Newsday, March 8)

Actors and other Broadway workers agree. They joined Local 802 in a petition campaign to "Keep music alive on Broadway." The campaign won support from famous actors like Bebe Neuwirth, Bette Midler, Chita Rivera and Joel Grey.

### Solidarity shuttered 18 musicals

Local 802 had authorized a strike starting March 1, but held off almost a week in hopes of reaching an agreement. Then on March 7 the bosses handed Local 802 President Bill Moriarity a "final offer" demanding that the minimum number of musicians be cut to 15 per show.

The strike was on.

To the bosses' surprise, other Broadway unions, including Actors Equity and the International Association of Theatrical Stage Employees, refused to cross the Musicians picket lines. Instead they took up signs and picketed alongside their union sisters and brothers.

It was a new and exciting kind of production for Broadway workers, who've been forced to accept many take-backs since the 9/11 attacks, all to save profits for theaters and producers.

The League of American Theaters and Producers was forced to cancel all weekend shows for 18 musicals on the weekend of March 7 to 9, costing them an estimated \$4.5 million in lost revenue. Management's stonewalling also cost area restaurants, stores and hotels an estimated \$7 million in the strike's first three days.

On Monday negotiations resumed and by Tuesday morning a settlement was announced. The minimum number of musicians in 13 key shows was set at 18 to 19. Most important, however, was the timetable. While the contract is for four years, this minimum holds for 10 years.

The musicians are now playing "Solidarity Forever." □

## From New York to L.A.

# War is a woman's issue

By Monica Moorehead  
New York

"Women say fight back, no war on Iraq" was the theme of many women's actions around the country on March 8, International Women's Day.

In New York more than 1,000 protesters marched from Union Square to Washington Square Park in an action called by New York ANSWER—Act Now to Stop War and End Racism.

IWD annually pays tribute to the inspirational leadership role that women have played in the struggle for equality, national liberation and socialism. This holiday, birthed in struggle and celebrated around the world, is not widely taught about in the U.S. educational system.

Women of many nationalities, ages, sexualities and backgrounds led the New York march. The beautifully painted lead banner read "Women say no war on Iraq," scripted in three languages—Arabic, Spanish and English—and bore the faces of women in struggle, including an Iraqi woman.

The rally brought together women speakers from Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean and their sisters from the U.S. Together they raised many international and domestic issues.

They spoke about the importance of linking the fight against racism, sexual and gender oppression, poverty, budget cuts, police brutality, and freedom for political prisoners, but all kept coming back to the struggle to stop a criminal and unjust war against the people of Iraq.

Some used poems and song as political expression.

As the march wound down Broadway, many who saw it pass decided to join. The marchers stopped at Washington and Greene streets, once the site of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. There they paid homage to the nearly 150 immigrant, teenage women workers burned to death in a 1911 fire because the bosses kept the fire exits locked.

Thousands of leaflets announcing the March 15 emergency convergence on the White House were distributed during the protest.

### LOS ANGELES: 'No blood for oil!'

More than 3,000 anti-war demonstrators in Los Angeles gathered at the Westwood Federal Building to commemorate IWD. Protesters marched past Occidental Petroleum's corporate offices chanting, "No blood for oil." They passed the Veterans Cemetery to stress that no more youth should be sent to re-colonize Iraq in the interests of oil monopolies and other corporations.

The protest attracted diverse communities, including a strong outpouring of women—young and old, disabled and able-bodied—who called for an end to the sanctions against Iraq.

The protest was called by Women's Global Strike. Margaret Prescod, Los Angeles coordinator of the Women's Strike, chaired the rally, expressing solidarity with the women of Iraq.

Actors Danny Glover, David Clennon and Ed Asner denounced Bush's war plans.

Ana Duarte, representing Los Angeles ANSWER, called on all organizations to help mobilize for the massive March 15



WW PHOTO: SHARON BLACK

Patricia Berry, Gulf War veteran who endured racism and unemployment, speaks in Baltimore.

rally in Los Angeles in conjunction with national demonstrations in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco.

### BALTIMORE: Working and poor women speak out

Maryland ANSWER held a multinational women's speak-out in front of the Federal Building in downtown Baltimore. Speakers linked the genocide Iraqi women face with the misery the war will bring to impoverished women in Baltimore and around the state.

Many signed Maryland ANSWER cards pledging not to participate in President Bush's war plans or send their children to die for Big Oil, and demanding jobs, education and health care.

One woman described the racism, lack of health care and unemployment she faced as a Gulf War veteran. An elderly woman expressed her anger that the Baltimore school she volunteers in was closed for two weeks because of lack of heat, yet billions of dollars are spent on the Pentagon.

Other anti-war IWD events were held in Washington, D.C., Albany, N.Y., Richmond, Va., San Francisco and elsewhere.

Sharon Black and Preston Wood contributed to this article. □

## Arrests at the White House

Police arrested some 25 women in Washington, D.C., on March 8—International Women's Day—charging they crossed a police line in front of the White House.

They included noted authors Alice Walker and Maxine Hong Kingston, magazine publisher Nina Utne, founding Director of Global Exchange Medea Benjamin, and Pacifica radio journalist Amy Goodman.

Those arrested were among thousands of women and supporters who marched to protest the Bush administration's plans to invade Iraq.

Code Pink organized the demonstration. The name spoofs the color-coded "national security" alerts.

—Leslie Feinberg

## Around the world, women protest war

By Kathy Durkin

"No War in Iraq" was chanted around the world on the occasion of International Women's Day. From Manila to Istanbul, Seoul to Calcutta, Damascus to Santiago, women poured into the streets to protest a U.S.-led war in Iraq and express solidarity with their Iraqi sisters.

The true spirit of International Women's Day—a day first proclaimed at a 1910 International Socialist Women's Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark—is shown in the tremendous solidarity demonstrated worldwide for Iraqi women and their families as they face the horrors of war.

Filipino students and women activists clenched their fists, carried "No to U.S. war" signs, and yelled anti-war slogans at the U.S. Embassy in Manila. Korean women in Seoul demanded better working conditions for women and protested a war in Iraq.

Chanting "No war," Taiwanese women in Taipei called for their government to give humanitarian aid to Iraqi women and children in case of war.

Shouting anti-war slogans, women activists burned a Bush-Blair effigy near the U.S. Consulate in Calcutta in a protest organized by the All India Women Cultural Forum.

In Damascus, Syrian and Palestinian women held a sit-in in solidarity with their Iraqi sisters.

In Manama, Bahraini women protested a war outside UN offices. In Islamabad, Pakistan, and in Ankara and Istanbul, Turkey, women carried colorful banners, flags and mock coffins. And, of course, the women of Baghdad, Iraq, marched for peace.

In some cities, as in Tehran, Iran, women denounced a war in Iraq while promoting women's social and political rights and condemning all violence against women. Thousands in Dhaka, Bangladesh, also echoed those themes.

Egyptian women aimed their protest in Cairo at a U.S.-led war in Iraq and at Israel's military assaults on Palestinians. Activist Fatheya el-Assal explained, "The first victims of aggression and war are women and children. This is why our slogan this year is set to counter the planned aggression on Iraq and the barbaric attacks on the Palestinian people."

On the West Bank in Nablus, Palestinian women demonstrated against Israel's

military assaults on their people and destruction of their homes. Sixty-five Palestinian women spent this year's IWD in Israeli prisons, subject to inhumane conditions in violation of international laws.

Women in Latin America also voiced opposition to U.S. military aggression in Iraq. In Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, Brazil, many banners and signs read, "Contra a guerra de Bush." Women Against Violence held an anti-war sit-in at Honor Square in



Calcutta, India

Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

"No a la guerra" was painted on banners and chanted by 1,500 Chilean women who rallied outside Santiago's La Moneda government palace. They called on their government to say NO to Pentagon war plans.

Women led some European anti-war marches on IWD, as at the 60,000-strong protest in Pisa, Italy. Fifteen anti-war demonstrations took place across Ireland to coincide with IWD; 1,000 women marched in Cork, under a "Women against war" banner.

Australian women took to the Sydney streets to strongly tell their government not to send troops to aid the U.S. assault on Iraq.

Many IWD commemorative events demanded recognition of women's roles in society. In Katmandu, Nepal, women spoke out for equal rights and decent healthcare, including reproductive rights. Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide addressed a IWD commemoration in Port-au-Prince. Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez expressed solidarity at a Caracas IWD celebration.

Some IWD protests were held in for-

merly socialist countries where women have lost ground since capitalism re-emerged. Polish women marched to regain reproductive rights and end increasing sexist discrimination. In Budapest, Hungary, women deplored domestic violence.

Women also demonstrated in St. Petersburg, Russia. IWD has special significance in that city. It was the site of the women's demonstration for "peace, land, and bread" on March 8, 1917, which sparked the first Russian Revolution. After a second, workers' revolution, women won the most advanced rights in the world at that time.

The New York Times of March 9 admits that in the Soviet Union, "A quota system ensured that women occupied a certain number of government posts. Women studied at universities alongside men. Cafeterias, laundries and daycare centers opened in cities to ease women's burden at home." Yet today, "women have all but disappeared from top government posts." And social services, like free day care, are now in decline. But women are beginning to organize against these developments.

The socialist founders of International Women's Day in 1910 intended to promote worldwide solidarity among working and poor women. These expressions of solidarity were extended to South African women in their long, hard-fought struggle against apartheid, and to Vietnamese women during the heinous U.S. war against their people.

Today, women worldwide are confronted with a new imperialist war. They are resisting, organizing and fighting back with strength, dedication and solidarity. □



Mock coffins, Istanbul, Turkey. Signs read: End the massacre of women.

# World's people try to hold back U.S. attack

*Continued from page 1*

developed weapon of mass destruction is even more powerful than the dreaded 15,000-pound bomb euphemistically called a "daisy cutter."

U.S. warplanes, when not busy bombing sites in southern Iraq, are dropping leaflets over the country showing pictures of dead Iraqis, including children, in order to terrorize the population and the soldiers.

The Pentagon is planning to further destroy much of the infrastructure left over from the Gulf War of 1991, which the UN estimates will cause at least 500,000 additional deaths from disease and malnutrition. It is planning to make the Iraqis pay to rebuild after this destruction and is also planning to parcel out Iraqi oil to U.S. and British oil companies.

Finally, the U.S. intends to set up a military occupation of the country under the command of Gen. Tommy Franks and import pro-imperialist exiles to do Washington's bidding.

This is called "bringing democracy" to Iraq.

## Keep the pressure on

It is precisely because of these intended war crimes that the anti-war movement must stretch itself to the limit at this late hour to forestall the Bush administration's planned military offensive.

The movement has made unexpectedly great strides by its rapid and widespread mobilization, culminating in the global showing of over 10 million on Feb. 15.

But it must keep the pressure on.

The results have already weakened the crucial U.S.-British alliance. Prime Minister Tony Blair has his back against the wall. Fear of the masses has Labor Party government officials looking for the door and 200 of Labor's representatives in the House of Commons are in a state of rebellion.

Hopefully, the movement in Britain will strain every muscle to try to bring pressure to bear on, if not bring down, the Blair government from the streets, in order to break the weakening link that chains Whitehall to Washington's war drive.

The split between the French and

German imperialists on the one hand and Washington and London on the other has deepened in no small measure because of the worldwide struggle against the war. Both the French and German capitalists seek to protect their own strategic and corporate interests from being overwhelmed by a complete U.S. takeover of Iraq and the Middle East. Both ruling classes undoubtedly know that they will be frozen out by Wall Street and the Pentagon should Washington conquer Iraq.

In pursuit of their own interests, both regimes are trying to ride the anti-U.S. wave that is rising all over Europe. This has heightened the deadlock at the Security Council and further isolated the Bush administration.

The anti-war struggle, from Ankara to Madrid, from Rawalpindi to Cairo, and from Seoul to Mexico City, has helped force the mighty Bush administration into a diplomatic/political buzz-saw that it never bargained for. It has caused a delay in the Pentagon's schedule for war.

This makes the March 15 emergency mobilizations against the war in Washington, D.C., Los Angeles and San Francisco, initiated by the ANSWER coalition, all the more urgent. Taking place on the eve of Washington's war deadline, they are one more opportunity to push back against the pressure of the militarists who want to bring more death, suffering and oppression to the Iraqi people.

The movement should pay no heed to the New York Times/CBS News poll that purported to show growing support for the war. In fact, the Times should have read the words of its own columnist, Thomas Friedman, who wrote candidly in his op-ed column of March 2, "[I] don't believe the polls. I've been to nearly 20 states recently and I've found that 95 percent of the country wants to see Iraq dealt with without a war." Friedman is a long-time hawk on the Middle East.

This latest poll is a gift from the mainstream capitalist class to the Bush administration in a time of weakness. It is calculated to buck them up as they suffer setback after setback on the international arena. Perhaps the Times watched Secretary of State Powell as he

listlessly recited the Bush line on the talk shows on Sunday, March 9. Maybe they saw his flagging spirits and his dispirited recitation of the rehearsed lies about weapons of mass destruction and the imminent threat to the U.S.

These worn-out falsehoods have failed to eradicate the conviction of the world that Washington is simply out to conquer Iraq to build its own empire, to strengthen its own domination. This is the truth that everyone knows, everyone sees.

## Demanding Iraq do the impossible

Countless repetitions of demands that Iraq do the impossible, prove what it doesn't have—prove a negative—have turned into their opposite. They have shown the world that it is the U.S. government that is lying—lying about its motives. It wants war, pure and simple. Otherwise, why would it demand the impossible as a condition for peace?

Even the weakest, the poorest and most vulnerable countries on the UN Security Council have been loathe to succumb to the pressure of the mighty super-power. The suggestion by the so-called "middle six" for a 45-day waiting period is really a NO to the U.S. This is a political debacle for Washington, even if the smaller countries cannot sustain that position under intense threats and pressure.

So as Bush is backed into a diplomatic corner, his two political props are the media war propaganda machine and the loyal political establishment that is there to defend the war effort.

The Democrats in Congress voted for the war resolution, with the notable exception of Rep. Barbara Lee. Its leaders have not broken from Bush, even though they are looking aghast as the administration sinks deeper into isolation. What's the best the Democrats can muster? Tom Daschle's request that the U.S. have more international support if it goes to war. In other words, it is okay to have a war of conquest, drop thousands of bombs on the Iraqi people, invade their capital, seize their country, take their oil, rule over them with a military occupation, and destroy their sovereignty—if Bush can get Security Council approval.

This is the position of cautious imperialism as opposed to the adventurous imperialism of Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and his deputy, Paul Wolfowitz. It is the position of those loyal servants of the Pentagon and big business who fear that the wrath of the people will upend all their plans of conquest unless they can force more governments into line to give them some semblance of support.

## An unholy alliance

But both the cautious imperialists and the adventurers of the Bush administration have formed an unholy alliance to go to war and take over Iraq and the Middle East. They have united behind the drive to seize its fabulous wealth in oil, not just for the profit of it but also as a strategic resource to strengthen the leverage of Wall Street and the Pentagon against China, Japan, Europe and the entire world, which cannot function militarily, industrially or financially without oil.

What is becoming clearer and clearer as the war approaches is that this is not only Bush's war. This is a war that has the backing of the entire U.S. capitalist class. That is the secret behind the silence of the Democratic Party. That is what is behind the unified drumbeat of war on the television networks, which are owned and controlled lock, stock and barrel by giant corporations. That is what lies behind the total lack of genuine opposition from any

significant section of the capitalist establishment.

One of the lone opponents of the war in the Senate, Robert Byrd of Virginia, said that when it came time to oppose the war, "you could hear a pin drop" in the Senate chamber. Of course, Byrd is rightfully discredited in the progressive movement because of his racist background. But he has seen the evolution of U.S. imperialism in three wars and is appalled at the new phase of imperialist adventurism being endorsed by the entire ruling class establishment.

What is surfacing in this struggle is the inevitable tendency of imperialism to go to war. Monopoly capitalism is a system of giant corporations, fused with the banks, that grow ever larger through mergers and takeovers, becoming global predators that plunder the oppressed countries, steal cheap labor and resources, take over governments and ruin whole nations.

In the post-World War II era, the U.S. imperialist ruling class built up the Pentagon and the military-industrial complex to become the dominant world power. But this dominance was largely built up and exercised in the struggle against the Soviet Union and the socialist camp. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, this urge to dominance is now being expressed in the drive to establish Washington's absolute control of the globe and to subordinate the other imperialist powers to its will—to monopolize spheres of influence.

## Workers are the key

The U.S. rulers believe this can be done by pure military and economic power. What they have failed to take into account, and are beginning to get a taste of, is that once the masses of people get into motion and organize for resistance, they are unstoppable.

The strength of the U.S. ruling class rests not upon military power, but upon the ideological hold it has over the working people and their lack of class consciousness about who their real enemy is. Once they begin to understand their enemy, things can turn around drastically.

Hundreds of thousands of layoffs, the bankruptcy of the states and cities, cutbacks in every type of social service while Bush gives \$400 billion to the military—workers are beginning to see that their enemies are not in Baghdad but in the boardrooms. That's where the decisions are made to throw people out of work, raise their medical insurance premiums and cut their wages.

The workers' enemies are in the state houses and in Washington, where the decisions are made to cut housing, education, child care, aid to the disabled while giving billions in tax breaks to the rich. Their enemies are in the Pentagon, that brings them across the world to fight other workers and innocent people in oppressed countries like Iraq, when their real fight is right here at home against racism, sexism and anti-lesbian, gay, bi and trans oppression.

It is not the Iraqi people who are depriving workers and the Black, Latino, Asian and Arab/Muslim communities of a decent life. It is capitalist exploitation; it is putting profits before people.

The real fight is for the working people to take the economy out of the hands of its greedy owners, put an end to production for profit, and establish a system that puts the economic resources of society at the service of the people. That will eliminate the basis for war—forever. □

# TORTURE now official policy

By Heather Cottin

We saw the photographs. The images are burned into our memories. Men tied to the floor of a cargo plane, blindfolded and duct-taped. Shackled men kneeling, their heads covered in black hoods. Then, barely able to walk, being led from outdoor cages to interrogation in Guantanamo Naval Base.

And now comes word that the United States has murdered prisoners of war. Amnesty International and other human rights organizations have reported the death of two prisoners being interrogated at the Bagram Air Base north of Kabul. A U.S. military doctor confirmed that the official cause of death was homicide.

"Dilawar, 22, from Afghanistan's Khost region, died from 'blunt force injuries to lower extremities complicating coronary artery disease' while another captive, Mullah Habibullah, 30, suffered from a blood clot in the lung that was exacerbated by a 'blunt force injury,'" reported Andrew Gumbel in the Independent of London on March 7.

George W. Bush, in his State of the Union address in January, bragged that alleged al-Qaeda members captured by

the U.S. were meeting "a different fate." "Let's put it this way, they are no longer a problem to the United States and our friends and allies." Bush joins a host of officials who are flouting international treaties that forbid torture. His flippant remarks encourage these brutal techniques in the Pentagon's colonial outposts.

This comes after human rights groups have criticized the U.S. policy of handing suspects over to countries where torture techniques are an established part of the security apparatus. Human Rights Watch has said, "There is no distinction between using torture directly and subcontracting it out." For years, the U.S. military, through infamous institutions like the School of the Americas, taught these techniques to officers from countries under right-wing dictatorships in Latin America—regimes that used the most brutal methods to repress workers and peasants challenging the oligarchies and U.S. businesses behind them. But now Washington is using torture directly.

The policy is backfiring. Awareness of Washington's reliance on ruthless cruelty is growing. International solidarity is growing against imperialism in all its savage forms. □

## Facts refute war-makers' charges

# Answers to those much-repeated lies

By Greg Butterfield

In their headlong rush to war against Iraq, President George W. Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Co. have told big lies and repeated them frequently.

These lies get front-page headlines and prime time. Even when they are refuted by expert authorities, the same newspapers, television and radio networks either ignore them altogether or consign the information to an obscure place or time, seldom to be repeated.

So as a public service to the millions of people who oppose the war, who are on the front lines and spreading the anti-war message at work or home, in school or the barracks, Workers World has brought together some of Washington's most egregious lies—and facts to refute them.

The truth is that the Bush administration and Corporate America are liars and aggressors. The anti-war movement needs to understand that the Iraqi people have every right to defend themselves from those who would rob their sovereignty.

Otherwise the movement risks barreling down the losing road embodied in the slogan "win without war"—that is, conceding to Bush's argument that Iraq "should" be disarmed and re-colonized, just in a different way.

### THE CHARGE:

#### Iraq is about to produce nuclear weapons, or already has them.

"A key piece of evidence linking Iraq to a nuclear weapons program appears to have been fabricated, the UN's chief nuclear inspector said yesterday in a report that called into question U.S. and British claims about Iraq's secret nuclear ambitions," wrote the March 8 Washington Post.

"Documents that purportedly showed Iraqi officials shopping for uranium in Africa two years ago were deemed 'not authentic' after careful scrutiny by UN and independent experts, Mohammed ElBaradei, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, told the UN Security Council.

"ElBaradei also rejected a key Bush administration claim—made twice by the president in major speeches and repeated by Secretary of State Colin L. Powell yesterday—that Iraq had tried to purchase high-strength aluminum tubes to use in centrifuges for uranium enrichment.

"Also, ElBaradei reported finding no evidence of banned weapons or nuclear material in an extensive sweep of Iraq using advanced radiation detectors," the Post reported.

The IAEA chief said flatly, "There is no indication of resumed nuclear activities."

The Post added, "Doubts about [the] claims began to emerge shortly after UN inspectors returned to Iraq last November." By January, the IAEA had concluded that the 81-mm tubing sought by Iraq wasn't suitable for nuclear weapons production, and was intended for use in conventional artillery rockets.

Just what the Iraqis had said all along.

David Albright, president of the Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security, said, "Despite being presented with the falseness of this claim, the administration persists in making misleading arguments about the significance of the tubes."

Powell was forced to acknowledge that documents provided by British intelligence purporting to prove that Iraq had been trying to buy uranium were fakes.

But he then claimed the United States had "new" evidence of an Iraqi nuclear weapons program. Will anyone get the chance to examine it before the bombs start falling?

### THE CHARGE:

#### Iraq has other weapons of mass destruction.

To the Bush administration's dismay, on March 7 UN weapons inspection chief Hans Blix reported that Iraq was "proactively" cooperating with inspectors. He said the inspections could be fully completed and would "not take years, nor weeks, but months."

So far there was no evidence that Iraq held proscribed weapons, said Blix.

In February, the world learned how the famous "British dossier"—an intelligence report purporting to show that Iraq was building and hiding weapons of mass destruction—was a fraud, cobbled together from speculative articles posted on the Internet.

The 19-page report, earlier presented by Blair with great authority and gusto, included four pages lifted from an article in the September 2002 Middle East Review of International Affairs. Its author, Arab-American graduate student Ibrahim al-Marashi, had never even been to Iraq.

Six more pages came from articles in 1997 and 2002 issues of Jane's Intelligence Review.

"I found it quite startling when I realized that I'd read most of it before," Glen Rangwala, a lecturer at Cambridge University, told Britain's Channel 4.

"Apart from passing this off as the work of its intelligence services," Rangwala said, "it indicates that [Britain] really does not have any independent sources of information on Iraq's internal policies."

More damning evidence comes from an unlikely source—defector Hussein Kamel, Iraq's former weapons chief. The Bush administration frequently cites Kamel, who defected to the U.S. in 1995, when it claims Iraq has weapons of mass destruction.

But the March 3 issue of Newsweek revealed that Kamel "told CIA and British intelligence officers and UN inspectors in the summer of 1995 that after the Gulf War, Iraq destroyed all its chemical and biological weapons stocks and the missiles to deliver them."

The admission backs up testimony by former UN weapons inspectors—including Scott Ritter, a former U.S. Marine—that Iraq was free of WMDs by the mid-1990s.

Newsweek goes so far as to admit the report "raises questions about whether the WMD stockpiles attributed to Iraq still exist."

Recently, the White House charged that Iraq's al-Samoud 2 missiles violate their UN-authorized range of 95 miles, and therefore qualify as weapons of mass destruction. The missiles exceeded their range in 17 out of 40 test firings.

Baghdad agreed to destroy the missiles as a show of good faith to the UN. So far Iraq has destroyed over 25 percent in full view of inspectors. But U.S. officials scoff and send more troops to kill or be killed.

"The U.N. weapons inspectors' verification of Iraq's destruction of missiles, private meetings with Iraqi weapons scientists, visits to locations where biological and chemical weapons were destroyed in 1991 and a series of unfettered flights by U2 spy planes have been met with a shrug and sneer in Washington," said Robert Scheer in a March 4 Los Angeles Times commentary.

"The arrogance is breathtaking," Scheer continued. "We have demanded that a country disarm—and even as it is doing so, we say it doesn't matter; it's too late; we're coming in.

"Put down your guns and await the slaughter."

### THE CHARGE:

#### Saddam Hussein collaborated in the 9/11 attacks. He's Osama bin Laden's ally.

Remember those blaring headlines claiming Iraq was behind the anthrax scare in late 2001?

When word leaked out that the anthrax came from a U.S. military facility in Maryland, the story virtually disappeared from the corporate media.

There's no evidence tying the Iraqi government to the events of Sept. 11, 2001, either. But that hasn't stopped Bush & Co. from repeating this big lie over and over, hoping people will believe it.

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, outlining his opposition to Bush's current strategy in a March 8 New York Times column, admitted, "American efforts to tie Iraq to the 9/11 terrorist attacks have been unconvincing."

The March 9 New York Times, in a lead editorial titled "Saying No to War," declared: "Despite endless efforts by the Bush administration to connect Iraq to Sept. 11, the evidence simply isn't there. The administration has demonstrated that Iraq had members of Al Qaeda living within its borders, but that same accusation could be lodged against any number of American allies in the region."

The stereotyped presentation of Arab people by the U.S. media bolsters the false idea that all Arabs have the same outlook and are united in some grand "terrorist" conspiracy. But of course, this too is a lie. There are distinct class, ideological and political differences in the Arab world, as there are everywhere. Bin Laden, a religious fundamentalist, has little in common with Saddam Hussein, a bourgeois nationalist.

In February, attempting to whip up war hysteria, the U.S. corporate media aired portions of a tape recording purportedly made by Osama bin Laden. But some parts of the tape were censored out, like the following comment about Saddam Hussein's Ba'ath Socialist Party government:

"The socialists are infidels wherever they are, either in Baghdad or Aden. ... Such war which may take place these days is similar to the war between Muslims and Romans, when the interests of the Muslims came along with the interest of the Persians, who both fought against the Romans." (Reported by Alexander Cockburn in The Nation, March 3)

Black journalist and political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal remarks: "If this is a 'link,' then General [Ariel] Sharon and President [Yasir] Arafat are 'linked,' if only by mutual hatred and antagonism."

### THE CHARGE:

#### The war isn't about oil profits. It's a war of democracy vs. dictatorship.

"There are lots of business opportunities embedded in this war," gushed Michael Renner of WorldWatch Institute, a corporate think-tank. "It represents the larger oil and energy issues at stake."

Iraq has proven oil reserves of 112 billion barrels—second only to Saudi Arabia. And some experts believe there's more waiting to be discovered.

Renner continued, "Regime change in

Baghdad would reshuffle the cards and give U.S. and British companies a good shot at direct access to Iraqi oil fields for the first time in 30 years—a windfall worth hundreds of billions of dollars."

The March 8 San Francisco Chronicle broke the news that Kellogg Brown & Root Services "has won a Pentagon contract for advice on rebuilding Iraq's oil fields after a possible war." Kellogg Brown & Root is owned by Halliburton, the company headed by Dick Cheney before his 2000 appointment as vice president by the U.S. Supreme Court.

"The contract was disclosed in the last paragraph of a Defense Department statement..." the Chronicle reported. "The statement calls for proposals on how to handle oil well fires and for assessing other damage to oil facilities."

Halliburton, the parent business, is also one of five companies bidding for a \$900-million government contract to "rebuild Iraq," reported the March 10 Wall Street Journal.

The winning bidder would be responsible for repairing "economically important" roads and bridges, portions of the country's electrical grid, and other things U.S. and British monopolies need to get the oil profits flowing.

Creating democracy? Try old-fashioned, racist, out-and-out colonialism.

The Pentagon's war plan—dubbed "Operation Shock and Awe"—would drop 3,000 to 4,000 bombs and cruise missiles on Baghdad and its civilian population during the war's first 48 hours. Children under 15 make up half of Iraq's population. They will be the main victims of this "democratic" war.

And what's to follow? Bush plans to replace the Iraqi government with a colonial regime under the command of Gen. Tommy Franks and an as-yet-unnamed civilian "governor." This plan has even raised the hackles of the compliant "Iraqi opposition" allied with Washington.

We can look to Afghanistan, a nearby country already occupied by the Pentagon, for further clues: mass graves; bombing of civilian targets without reproach; prisoners of war spirited away to Guantanamo or another Pentagon base, denied their rights under international law and even tortured to the point of death.

What will become of the great strides made by women in Iraq? Even after 12 years of war and sanctions, Iraqi women still enjoy freedom and rights unknown in neighboring U.S. satellites like Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

### THE CLAIM:

#### War will boost the economy.

As war fever was heating up, the official U.S. unemployment rate jumped to 5.8 percent in February. Some 308,000 jobs were lost—the biggest monthly drop since immediately after 9/11.

John Challenger, chief executive officer of the outplacement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas, said, "It is probably no coincidence that job cuts jumped 151 percent last October, which is about the time that the war messages from Washington really began in earnest.

"Since then, job cuts have averaged more than 139,000 per month."

The world has come to a verdict on all these charges. It is indicting the U.S. government, not Iraq, for monumental war crimes—some already executed, others even more horrendous that are ready to be perpetrated, unless popular resistance succeeds in stopping the White House and Pentagon. □

# Bush attacks Zimbabwe with sanctions

By Monica Moorehead

The Bush administration has issued an executive order imposing economic sanctions upon President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and 76 officials representing his government. The sanctions, which began on March 7, prohibit any U.S. corporations from making business deals with Zimbabwe and also freeze any assets these Zimbabwean officials may have in U.S. banking institutions. The U.S. action follows a similar edict carried out by the European Union last year.

In a statement justifying the sanctions, President George W. Bush remarked, "Over the course of more than two years, the government of Zimbabwe has systematically undermined that nation's democratic institutions, employing violence, intimidation and repressive means including legislation to stifle opposition to its rule."

Like so many of Bush's utterances, this turns reality upside down. The Bush administration is doing everything in its power to undermine and destabilize Zimbabwe because Mugabe has taken a strong

stance against U.S. and British imperialist designs on that country and region.

The U.S. and British governments are working overtime attempting to replace Mugabe with a regime that will be more loyal to the aims and objectives of imperialism. The imperialists are filling the coffers of Zimbabwean oppositionist forces in hopes they can carry out a successful coup.

Why do these imperialists hate Mugabe so much now? After all, they accepted him for many years. But for the past couple of years, Mugabe has supported the mass seizures of white-owned farms in Zimbabwe and their transfer to landless Black veterans of the national liberation war. These farms, established on the most arable lands, were first confiscated from the African people in the 19th century by British colonialists, led by Cecil Rhodes, who violently conquered what came to be known as Rhodesia.

The Zimbabwean African Patriotic Union (ZAPU) and the Zimbabwean African National Union (ZANU), both mass anti-colonial movements, created a united front whose heroic resistance even-

tually forced the British settler government to the negotiating table. Mugabe is a former leader of ZANU.

This resulted in the signing of the 1979 Lancaster agreement, which was to secure the return of these lands over a period of time to their rightful owners—the former guerrillas who wanted nothing more than to work the lands that once belonged to their ancestors. This agreement, however, never came to fruition. In fact, 96 percent of the Zimbabwean economy is still controlled not by African people but by foreign-owned corporations, largely British, including agribusinesses and banks that finance the white farmers.

Therefore, these war veterans took matters into their own hands by organizing to physically remove the white farmers, with the support of the Mugabe government. As a result, both Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair have demonized Mugabe in the most racist, arrogant manner that only imperialists can do.

They even accused Mugabe of creating a devastating food shortage for almost 6 million Zimbabweans. This accusation is

beyond being ludicrous. The food shortage is not human made but is rooted in a terrible drought that is creating mass famine and starvation throughout southern Africa. The U.S. and Britain have used this tragic famine as an excuse to argue that the white farmers should stay on their lands, portraying them as true "saviors" of the Zimbabwean people.

These large landowners have modern, efficient farms, but they mainly grow tobacco and other cash crops for the world capitalist market.

Mugabe spoke recently at a meeting of the so-called non-aligned countries in Malaysia, most of which are developing, oppressed countries that are subjected day in and day out to imperialist plunder, interference and bribery of officials. Mugabe made a strong statement asking that the U.S. take the first step in getting rid of its weapons of mass destruction, not Iraq. As much as the imperialists are trying to isolate Mugabe with their accusations and sanctions, a number of African leaders, including those in South Africa, have come to his defense.

A fierce competition has erupted between U.S., British and French imperialism over the re-colonizing of Africa in the post-Soviet era. This helps explain why Mugabe was recently invited to participate in a meeting of French-speaking African countries despite pressure to exclude him exerted by the U.S. and Britain. He also spoke at a World Conference on Hunger in Rome last year sponsored by the United Nations. The whole world is aware that a tactical difference exists over the war crisis with Iraq between the U.S. and Britain on one side and France and Germany on the other.

As the Bush administration prepares to launch another genocidal war against Iraq, the anti-war movement must not forget that not far beyond on imperialism's radar screen, along with North Korea and Iran, is Zimbabwe—a country whose only "crime" is to defend its sovereignty. To quote Mugabe, Zimbabwe is taking back the land for the people to "right an historical wrong." □

## Africans resist U.S. pressure

By G. Dunkel

Three African countries—Cameroon, Guinea and Angola—currently have temporary seats on the UN Security Council. The U.S. government is strenuously courting their votes for its resolution authorizing an attack on Iraq.

Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Walter H. Kansteiner has been in Africa applying direct pressure. Secretary of State Colin Powell and President George W. Bush have been working the phones.

Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin of France, which has widespread commercial interests and troops in Africa and opposes the U.S. resolution, also hurriedly scheduled a visit to these three countries over the March 8 to 9 weekend.

Almost all the countries of sub-Saharan Africa are desperately poor, in need of development, investment and foreign trade after centuries of the slave trade followed by colonial plunder. The spike in oil prices anticipated with the U.S. war against Iraq will add desperation to their misery.

Senegal is a small country in Francophone West Africa that has more influence than its size would suggest. Back on Feb. 21, there was a strong demonstration outside the main mosque in Dakar to condemn a possible war on Iraq. Senegal, like much of West Africa, is overwhelmingly Muslim. This was one of the first demonstrations in the region, where many governments are worried about the consequences of upsetting the U.S. and a number of civil wars are simmering.

At another demonstration on March 6, students, trade unionists, political leaders from all the major parties and religious leaders chanted "Bush, butcher, Blair, terrorist." The marchers urged Cameroon, Guinea and Angola to cast their crucial votes against the U.S. resolution authorizing an invasion of Iraq.

Protesters held signs reading, "Halt aggression against Iraq." Speakers like Malick Ndiaye of the Committee of Intellectuals stated that if Bush attacked Iraq without the authorization of the Security Council, he should be brought before the International Criminal Court.

Boubacar Diop, spokesperson for the coalition that organized the march, proclaimed, "The day the Americans bombard Iraq, we will march on the U.S. Embassy." □

# Anti-war struggle ignites Third

By John Catalinotto

In the first week of March, demonstrations to stop the Pentagon assault on Iraq were, for the first time, larger in countries in the Third World than in Europe or the United States. The voice of oppressed masses of people is beginning to be heard.

In the imperialist countries, anti-war activists prepared for another round of protests on March 15, while workers prepared job actions for March 14 and 21.

In many of the Third World countries, representatives of governing parties joined the demonstrations. This was true even where the governments had repressed earlier protests. These officials fear that if the U.S. unleashes aggression against Iraq, Baghdad won't be the only capital where "regime change" takes place.

In **Indonesia's** second-largest city, **Surabaya** in East Java, as many as 800,000 people gathered on March 9 against the war on Iraq. Indonesia has the largest Muslim population in the world.

Present at the Surabaya event were the foreign minister, religious affairs minister, defense minister, head of the army,

and former president Abdurrahman Wahid, as well as several ambassadors.

An estimated 160,000 **Moroccans** marched in the streets of **Casablanca** the same day to protest "the imperialist aggression of the United States." It was one of the largest actions in the region. However, a day later, anti-war groups reported over the internet that an unauthorized demonstration had been attacked by police. Many were reportedly injured, 60 arrested and nine of the organizers held in detention.

In **Rawalpindi, Pakistan**, near Islamabad, some 200,000 people came out March 9—about four times as many as the week before in **Karachi**.

With protests against U.S. policy growing in Pakistan, the government announced March 10 that it would abstain from supporting the U.S.-backed resolution against Iraq in the Security Council.

In **New Delhi, India**, 50,000 people demonstrated.

In **Egypt**, the government has repressed protests against the U.S. war drive. Thirteen organizers of protests initiated by the Dec. 18-19 Cairo Conference were

arrested in mid February and reportedly tortured.

Yet on March 2, a rally organized by opposition parties drew more than 100,000 people to a rally in a stadium to oppose the war. So on March 5, President Hosni Mubarak's National Democratic Party called a protest. A half-million people came out and chanted anti-war slogans—but, according to reports, refrained from direct criticism of Bush or the U.S.

Ashraf Al Bayoumi, a founding member of the Popular Committee to Oppose U.S. Aggression in Iraq, predicted that the Egyptian government could channel public anger into carefully controlled forums



International Women's Day, near U.S. consulate in Calcutta, India.

"for a little while." But the strategy could spin out of control at any moment. "The conditions are definitely there," he concluded, "but the velocity of things is hard to predict—one scene on television could spark it all."

**Turkey** has become a key area of confrontation between a strongly anti-war population and the state—which is really a military dictatorship with an electoral façade. The Pentagon has continued to deploy troops there, in spite of a parliamentary vote March 1 that refused to authorize it. That vote was taken as 100,000 people demonstrated outside the parliament building in **Ankara**. New confrontations are possible as the movement prepares actions for March 15.

### Italy, Spain, Britain

Anti-war movements have been most dynamic in the imperialist NATO countries whose governments have lined up behind U.S. imperialism.

In **Italy**, 1.5 million rainbow peace flags fly from home windows and balconies.

John Gilbert from **Florence** reports, "On March 8, International Women's



# Why Palestine must be defended

By Leslie Feinberg

Mayor Jean-Claude Willem has a court date March 12. He will face the bench in the high court in Lille, France, to answer charges that he incited anti-Semitism.

What did he do? He called for a boycott of Israeli products to condemn the "crimes of the Israeli government and of its army." In response, pro-Zionists in the Jewish community accused him of inciting racial hatred. They do not speak for all Jewish people, however.

The tiny garrison state of Israel, implanted by force in the Middle East, could not have occupied historic Palestine for more than a half century by sheer firepower alone. It is the claim by Zionism and its imperial patrons that Israel is a Jewish homeland that has won sympathy from those who, after the horrors of the holocaust, felt the Jewish people deserved a safe haven.

In reality, the establishment of the state of Israel is a crime of monstrous proportions against the Palestinian people. Carrying out this state terrorism in the name of all Jewish people compounds that crime.

As the commander-in-chief in the Oval Office and his brass are poised to unleash military terror on the Iraqi people unless they surrender, it is imperative that the millions marshaling anti-war sentiment in the streets take up the defense of the Palestinian people.

Secretary of State Colin Powell in his Feb. 5 speech to the United Nations tried to link Iraq to terror as a justification for a U.S. attack. Unable to make a convincing case of collaboration between Iraq and Al-Qaeda, he focused on Iraq's support for the Palestinian struggle. It was a tip-off that the Palestinians may be next in Washington's phony "war on terror."

Since the end of WWII, when the U.S. emerged as the dominant force in the oil-rich Middle East, the goal of Washington has not been peace in the region, but pacification. Today the oil giants, banking institutions and military-industrial complex are releasing their war hawks to ensure all-out military aggression against any national liberation movement or inde-

pendent country that resists re-colonization.

Quelling opposition means trying to crush the Palestinian movement, the heartbeat of regional resistance to the empire.

And even now, as all eyes are on Washington's war drive, the Bush administration has given the go-ahead for Tel Aviv to arrest or kill resistance leaders, destroy Palestinian organizations, and carry out mass "expulsion in slow motion."

## Cat's-paw for imperialism

The Israeli settler state is, by the admission of its own early ideologues, a bulwark for imperialist economic, political and military ambitions in the region.

More than half a century ago, former Israeli Prime Minister David Ben Gurion explained, "Strengthening Israel helps the Western powers to maintain equilibrium and stability in the Middle East. Israel is to become the watchdog. There is no fear that Israel will undertake any aggressive policy towards the Arab states when this would explicitly contradict the wishes of the U.S. and Britain. But if for any reason the Western powers should sometimes prefer to close their eyes, Israel could be relied upon to punish one or several neighboring states whose discourtesy towards the West went beyond the bounds of the permissible." (Ha'Aretz, Sept. 30, 1951)

The Zionists made good on their promise. For example, when progressive movements in the U.S. and around the world made it difficult for Washington to directly prop up right-wing regimes, the Zionists stepped up to bat.

That's why the Israeli government could enjoy a cozy political and military relationship with the Argentinean junta that carried out a dirty war from 1976 to 1983, while obstructing the immigration of left-wing Jews trying to flee the anti-Semitic regime.

It's why the Israeli government could be one of the first to recognize the CIA-

backed counter-revolutionary government in Chile, even though right-wing generals there had publicly vowed to hang a Jew from every lamppost.

And it's why in the early 1990s, one-third of the armaments exported by Israel went into the hands of the apartheid rulers of South Africa—a government riddled with Nazi supporters. Israel also helped arm the juntas in El Salvador and Guatemala, where the right wing was also deeply anti-Semitic.

## U.S. arms Israel to the teeth, talks peace

After WWII, the ruling circles in the U.S. and Britain, infested themselves with anti-Semitism and racism, cynically manipulated desperation and immigration to divert the Jewish exodus from Europe to Palestine.

Zionist commandos drove Palestinians from their homes, villages and towns with mass lynchings and terror campaigns, while claiming Israel was "a land without a people for a people without a land."

It was a racist lie. And the promise of a "safe homeland" was a lie, too.

In the more than 50 years since what the Palestinians call Al-Nakba—the Catastrophe—there has been no peace. To this day the U.S. continues to fund a perpetual state of war, pitting Jews against Arab liberation.

Aboveboard financial aid totals some \$5 billion a year. This tiny state, with a population of only 5.5 million people, is the biggest recipient of U.S. military aid in the world: \$2.1 billion annually. Because of its relationship with Washington, it has a nuclear capability, F-16 fighter jets, helicopter gunships, sophisticated tanks, and limitless weapons for close combat against Palestinian communities.

Tel Aviv has used these weapons not only to try to quash Palestinian resistance, but to invade and steal territory from Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and Jordan, and to

pummel Lebanon.

When Washington and Tel Aviv talk about peace, they really mean that the Palestinians must accept the loss of their homeland and stop resisting. But half a century of occupation, forced Diaspora, mass murders, beatings, imprisonment, torture, squalid living conditions and economic deprivation have not forced the Palestinian people to surrender.

Israel is neither sovereign nor independent. It is an imperialist creation.

Without the political, economic and military blank check from Wall Street, Washington and the Pentagon, this "unsinkable aircraft carrier" in the Middle East, as U.S. officials have dubbed it, would sink.

As a military garrison for U.S. dominion, it is feared and despised by its neighbors.

By 1998, well over 90 percent of Israel's exports and imports were with countries outside the region. And this makes the settler regime more vulnerable to economic boycott.

The refusal of the Palestinian resistance to knuckle under in the face of overwhelming military power has inspired a rising tide of solidarity around the world.

"Divest from Israel" campaigns have taken root in more than 40 universities and colleges across the U.S. Individuals have traveled to the occupied territories to serve as human shields in defense of Palestinians. Many of these activists and organizers are Jewish.

Jewish speakers and contingents are being cheered by Arabs and Muslims at anti-war rallies around the world. Inside Israel, youth are going to jail rather than be inducted into the military. Soldiers are laying down their arms and balking at orders to shoot Palestinians.

Is fighting against the crimes of Israel and for Palestinian self-determination consistent with battling anti-Semitism? It is not only consistent, it is absolutely essential. □



IWD demonstrations. Far left, banner in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, reads 'The world wants peace.' Left, sign in Damascus, Syria, reads 'Besieging people and threatening them with war is terrorism.'

## World

Day, an estimated 60,000 marchers demonstrated at the U.S. military base of **Camp Darby**, in the Tuscan countryside between the Italian cities of Pisa and Livorno, protesting the planned Iraq war and calling for the closure of Camp Darby and its conversion to civilian use. Camp Darby is reported to be the largest U.S. military arsenal outside the U.S.

"The demonstrators included Catholic and other religious groups, with large numbers of unionists, some carrying the red flags of the CGIL union, representing over 5 million Italian workers, and of the Cobas and other smaller union confederations on the left.

"On three occasions demonstrators cut through and tore down sections of the fence and dozens of activists entered the base and planted peace flags on the military soil before being pushed back and sometimes clubbed by the Italian police.

"Over the past few weeks anti-war demonstrators in Italy have undertaken numerous acts of civil disobedience, blocking dozens of 'death trains' transporting U.S. military equipment to Camp Darby. The military equipment, reportedly

including depleted-uranium armaments, is probably headed for Turkey. Union train workers have provided inside information to the anti-war protesters as to the location and intended routes of the 'death trains,' forcing authorities to re-route."

Any search of web sites from anti-war groups in **Spain** shows a state of constant mobilization. March 15 is a target date for demonstrations, which—as on Feb. 15—will be taking place in every sizeable Spanish town, including Tenerife and Gran Canarias in the Canary Islands, Palma de Mallorca, Madrid, Bilbao and Barcelona.

Some 10,000 people braved heavy rains to demonstrate against the war and Tony Blair's policies in **Manchester, England**, on March 8.

British newspapers report that up to 200 Labor members of parliament might vote against their own prime minister. High-level cabinet staff, including Secretary of State for International Development Clare Short, threatened to resign their positions rather than go along with a war unauthorized by the United Nations.

In **Scotland**, as many as 2,500 people came out in **Aberdeen** to hear labor unionists and politicians speak against the war. Some 500 protesters turned up at RAF Leuchars in **Fife**, the military air base for Tornado fighter-bombers that would be used in attacks on Iraq.

Organizers report that 8,000 people participated in anti-war demonstrations across **Germany** on March 8, including in the eastern city of **Dresden**. In **Stuttgart**, some 300 people held an anti-war sit-in outside the U.S. Army's European Command. German and French anti-war demonstrators gathered along the bridge linking **Neuenburg** in southwestern Germany with the eastern French town of **Chalampe**.

## Demonstrations, job actions

From March 14-16, demonstrations are planned across **Canada, Greece, Spain, Austria, France, Italy, Belgium, Brazil, Cyprus, Denmark, Germany,**

**Japan, Jordan, Mexico** and undoubtedly more countries.

Many of these are called in solidarity with the March 15 convergence on the White House and sister rallies the same day in San Francisco and Los Angeles. The March 15 protest was endorsed at a March 1 London meeting of the European Coordination umbrella group.

In some countries, like **the Netherlands**, national demonstrations are set for March 22.

**Greece** has been a center of anti-war activity since NATO's assault on Yugoslavia four years ago. Meeting in Greece, the European Trade Union Confederation has already called for a 15-minute work stoppage across Europe at noon on March 14.

**Unions across Europe** are also preparing strikes of four hours or more for March 21. □



## It's a dictatorship

A relatively small and privileged class that rules over the vast majority can only do so through guile and deception backed up by force and violence. The way in which the Bush grouping has swaggered onward with its war plans despite the clear opposition of the vast majority of humanity—including in the United States—is opening up a lot of eyes about the nature of U.S. democracy. First of all, is this what democracy looks like?

It is certainly not working class democracy. That can only come with a system where the wealth of society—and the political power that flows from it—belongs to the people, not to a small group of billionaire owners.

So let's call what we have a democracy of the imperialist bourgeoisie, after the French word for the money class that has evolved over centuries from merchants to financiers to industrialists and, now, to global entrepreneurs whose tentacles reach into all three areas of the capitalist economy.

Obviously, this democracy is not "pro-active" in protecting the workers, especially the poorest. In oppressed Black, Latino and other Third World neighborhoods, it feels more like a police state. Bourgeois democratic political institutions can function quite vigorously, however, in mediating struggles between capitalist interests—like the insurance companies versus the tobacco companies. Congress members are courted by lobbyists for different groupings competing for favors in this "democratic" free-for-all.

In this environment, the working class theoretically has the right to fight openly to defend its democratic rights, although in practice enormous obstacles have prevented the vast majority of workers in this country from having their own organizations. But that is still different from a military dictatorship or a fascist state, which brutally suppresses all progressive opposition.

## Hands off Korea

About the only "dissenters" allowed on recent televised discussions of the Bush administration war drive have been those who say the U.S. should be attacking North Korea instead of Iraq.

No wonder so many people in this country have the impression that North Korea poses a danger to the United States. But in fact, it's the Pentagon that has waged bloody war and destruction in Korea, and not the other way around. It divided the country even before the 1950-53 Korean War and has maintained a huge military presence in the south ever since.

Korea doesn't want war. The Korean people—north and south—want peace. They both want the U.S. to sign a peace treaty and lift its 37,000-troop military occupation of their country.

Bush accuses the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the north of creating a nuclear bomb, abrogating treaties and starving its own children. What cruel hypocrisy.

Washington knows full well that the North Koreans desperately need energy for their economy. It was the U.S. that killed the 1994 North Korea-U.S. Framework Agreement, signed by Bill Clinton, that had stopped production on a North Korean reactor with the promise that the U.S. and South Korea would help North Korea build two reactors of a different design, and would provide oil shipments in the meantime. The reactors were never built and the oil shipments were constantly delayed. Meanwhile, South Korea has at least 14 functioning nuclear reactors.

Then, in January 2002, Bush delivered his infamous "axis of evil" State of the Union address which amounted to a declaration of

Democracy, however, is only the *form* of the state. Its essence is a network of institutions based on violence—the army, police, courts—that protect a class dictatorship of the bourgeoisie over the workers. No rich people go to jail for the mass layoffs of workers, for evicting families into homelessness, or for shifting corporate capital via bankruptcy so bosses can cut off retirees' pensions. Causing poverty is not a crime under capitalist democracy, but being poor is. Corporate pirates aren't executed, but poor people who can't afford a decent lawyer to prove their innocence are.

Lots of vague terms like freedom and democracy conceal this class dictatorship. Freedom for whom? Democracy for what purpose? So we can elect more representatives of the big corporations? Oh, that's fine. But so the majority can stop a war they hate? Where's the democracy then?

Marxist language is to the point and honest. It lays bare the basic relationships in society. Many people have heard the term "dictatorship of the proletariat" and think it means a brutal rule opposed to democracy. Not true. It merely means replacing the state that perpetuates the rule of the bourgeoisie—the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie—with one that serves the interests of the workers, the vast majority of the population.

How democratic that workers' state will be depends largely on how the struggle for it is organized. In the United States, a country where Third World people have historically been politically oppressed and super-exploited, the fullest participation of all oppressed nationalities, as well as of women, lesbian, gay, bi and trans people, is essential to any true workers' democracy.

If there were a dictatorship of the proletariat in the U.S. today, instead of a dictatorship of the bourgeoisie, this war would never happen. □

war against the DPRK. The 1994 treaty was in effect dead. So it came as no surprise to Washington when, months later, the North Koreans announced they would resume work on their original reactor.

In recent weeks Washington has sent a spy plane to provoke the North Korean government. It has refused to hold talks about ending a nearly six-decade campaign to destroy the socialist government. The Pentagon has sent warships within striking distance and positioned 24 long-range bombers on alert for deployment to Guam. It is moving an aircraft carrier flotilla into the region. And it is dropping hints that it might bomb the reactor site at Yongbyon.

This is why the new South Korean president, Roh Moo-hyun, who was elected on a platform of normalizing relations with the north and ending the state of war still in force on the Korean peninsula, told U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld not to go through with his recent "threat" to withdraw U.S. troops from South Korea. Super-hawk Rumsfeld wasn't suddenly a dove. He was implying that he would get U.S. forces "out of harm's way" in order to be able to attack the north.

The anti-war movement should be trying to figure out how to stop Washington's new plans for aggression. The DPRK, like any sovereign nation, has the right to determine its own social system and the right to defend itself against imperialist attack.

The danger of war on the Korean peninsula comes from Washington, not Pyongyang. The millions marching against war around the world must raise their voices to demand: "U.S.—hands off Korea!" □

## Capitalism and kwashiorkor

# Children starve as Argentine crisis deepens

By Leslie Feinberg

Undeniably, production under the profit lash of capitalism creates a glittering mountain of wealth. But under the cruel rule of capital, the class that created this social surplus finds itself hungry amidst abundance.

Shockingly painful proof of this can be found today in Argentina, where actual starvation has emerged in a country that has more cattle than people, and at a time when authorities in Buenos Aires boast of a record grain harvest.

In recent months, 19 Argentinean children have died of an ailment previously unknown in this part of the world: kwashiorkor—malnutrition caused by severe protein deficiency.

Why couldn't these children eat some of this great quantity of beef and grain? For the same reason that people with growling bellies stare at heaps of food in supermarkets but do not dare to eat it. The herds and harvests are privately owned and only sold when a profit can be reaped.

Argentina had the highest per capita income in Latin America just a few years ago, before a tidal wave of economic crisis swept the continent, engulfing the economies of Brazil and Colombia, as well—South America's three largest. They are reverberating from the world capitalist crisis.

The boom-and-bust cycles of capitalist overproduction, particularly in the auto and steel industries, hit Argentina hard.

But the crisis was deepened by the international banking empire and the heavy debt burden they place on non-platinum members of the imperialist club. Under the whip of the International Monetary Fund, Argentina was "restructured," in the way the Middle East faces restructuring—or more accurately, re-colonization.

These austerity demands resulted in selling off the public sector, throwing millions out of work and slashing social programs.

It still wasn't enough belt-tightening for the IMF, which punitively cut off the country's economic line. Fearing a run on currency, in December 2001 the Argentine government froze bank accounts and defaulted on most of its debt.

Since then, the economy has shriveled by 12 percent. The official unemployment rate is 25 percent—unions report it is closer to 50 percent.

The official poverty rate has doubled. According to January statistics, at least 60 percent of the population of 37 million live in poverty—defined as income of less than \$220 a month for a family of four.

More than one-quarter of the population is living on less than \$100 a month for a family of four.

Official statistics record a 41-percent spike in inflation last year, largely because the peso lost three quarters of its value against the imperialist dollar. But the price tag on a basic basket of food products soared by 75 percent.

That's why kwashiorkor is claiming lives in a developed country. People are trying to trade electronic goods for potatoes.

The U.S. and British rulers offer no salvation for the working and middle classes of Argentina. It's their imperious monetary demands that helped pull the economy under. And they've never forgiven Argentina for trying to wrest its own Malvinas Islands back from British claim.

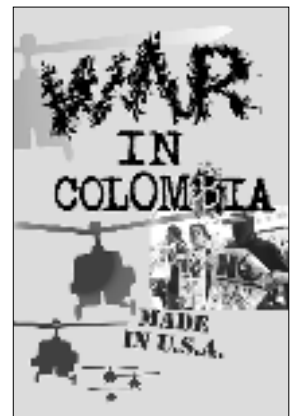
Only the people have the power to transform the economy by taking over the wealth they have created. They are rising up in rebellion and have forced two governments out of power since December 2001. □

## War in Colombia Made in U.S.A.

A new book from the International Action Center covers the struggle in Colombia from the perspective of trade unionists, human rights activists, and the FARC and ELN insurgencies. Authors include: ♦ Fidel Castro ♦ Ramsey Clark ♦ Rep. Cynthia McKinney ♦ Mumia Abu-Jamal ♦ Manuel Marulanda ♦ Stan Goff ♦ Teresa Gutierrez ♦ James Petras ♦ Roy Bourgeois ♦ Gloria Gaitán ♦ Senator Paul Wellstone ♦ Javier Correa Suarez ♦ Rebeca Toledo

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## Under orders from Ashcroft?

# Cuban Five are thrown in 'hole'

By Gloria La Riva

In a very serious development, the five Cuban men imprisoned in the United States for defending Cuba from U.S.-Miami terrorism were suddenly and without explanation thrown into solitary confinement on Feb. 28 in their respective prisons.

Prison authorities have not given the official reason for their illegal confinement in "the hole," but it appears to be in response to a directive from high up in Washington. It has all the indications of directed political repression against the Cuban Five.

Supporters of Cuba and the Cuban Five are urged to participate in a national call-in campaign to U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft and Bureau of Prisons Director Kathleen Hawk Sawyer.

Leonard Weinglass, appeals attorney for Antonio Guerrero, one of the Cuban Five serving life in federal prison in Florence, Colo., said, "None of them belongs in solitary confinement. It is completely unjustified and unnecessary, as all of them are model prisoners."

He added, "This comes just as we are in the final preparations for their appeals before the 11th Circuit Court of Atlanta. We haven't even been able to visit or talk with our clients for a proper legal defense."

Cuba's National Parliament issued an emergency declaration, protesting the solitary confinement. It read in part: "By blocking access between the Five and their defense attorneys, the government of the United States is violating the basic principles and norms of law."

"The authorities knew that the attorneys made consultations with their clients and had made the necessary arrangements to meet with them in the coming week to review the documents for their defense to be presented before the 11th Circuit Court in Atlanta no later than April 7th."

"This action was adopted by Washington with the deliberate intention of impeding a fair appeals process."

Weinglass is urging supporters of the Cuban Five to write immediately to the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Washington, not the individual prisons, as they are not responsible for the confinement order.

He noted in an interview with Radio Havana Cuba that the Black Panther prisoners in the U.S. were similarly rounded up into solitary right after 9/11.

It is clear that the Justice Department's repression of Arab, Muslim and immigrant communities is also being aimed against the Cuban Five, whose only "crime" was fighting U.S.-sponsored terrorism against Cuba. The "Homeland Security" department is a sweeping plan for subjugation of political resistance to U.S. imperialist plans at home and abroad.

At stake in the case of the Cuban Five is Cuba's very right to defend itself. They were rounded up by the FBI in late 1998 after the five Cubans thwarted terrorist plots of fascist anti-Cuba organizations



Members of Cuban Women's Federation visiting New York to discuss their five imprisoned compatriots.

WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

that operate in Miami. These groups have tried to terrorize the Cuban people and break their resolve to preserve their socialist revolution.

Many of these groups sprang up in Miami from the ranks of thousands of Cuban fascists who fled newly liberated Cuba in 1959, after the dictator Fulgencio Batista was overthrown by rebel leader Fidel Castro.

While these terrorists have never reconciled themselves to a revolutionary Cuba, they could never exist as a force without the support of the CIA and U.S. government. Through the years, openly terrorist groups like Omega 7, Alpha 66 and CORU of the 1960s and 1970s, followed by more devious organizations like Brothers to the Rescue and Cuban American National Foundation in the 1980s and 1990s, have depended on training, funding and direction from Washington.

Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, René González, and Fernando González have been unjustly imprisoned since September 1998 when they were arrested by the FBI on trumped-up charges of espionage on the United States.

Espionage conspiracy, murder conspiracy and other outrageous charges were leveled at them as they remained 17 months in pre-trial solitary confinement in the most virulently anti-Cuba city of the Western Hemisphere: Miami.

As the rightwing media whipped up sensationalist stories against the Cuban Five, the U.S. attorney's office and terrorist cabal in Miami prosecuted them in public before and during trial.

The five went to Miami in the early 1990s on a vital mission of monitoring anti-Cuba terrorist groups there to prevent violence against their country. Since the revolution, more than 3,400 Cubans have been killed by right-wing violence

assisted from the U.S.

On March 7 Rev. Geoff Bottoms, who had flown in from Blackpool, England, to see Ramón Labañino in Beaumont federal prison in Texas, was told without explanation that Labañino was not permitted visitors.

Alicia Jrapko and Tanya Cole were at Lompoc prison to visit Gerardo Hernández. Ominously, Jrapko was told by a prison official, "It is possible you will never get to see them again."

Free the Cuban Five committees across the United States and around the world

are calling and writing Washington to demand their release from the "hole." For more information, contact the National Committee to Free the Five at: [www.freethethefive.org](http://www.freethethefive.org) or (415) 821-6545.

Messages of protest can be sent to: Attorney General John Ashcroft, U.S. Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001, (202) 353-1555; and Kathleen Hawk Sawyer, Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons, 320 First St. NW, Washington, DC 20534, (202) 307-3198, fax (202) 514-6620. □



... How about U.S. troops dressed in Iraqi uniforms pretending to destroy the oil fields—and then we could come to their rescue? ... The oil fields I mean.

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# MUNDO★ OBRERO

## ‘Multilateralismo’ al estilo de Bush

# EE.UU. exige a la ONU a que apruebe la doctrina de guerra de Bush

Por Fred Goldstein

Una combinación de protestas contra la guerra en todo el mundo, una fisión más profunda en el Consejo de Seguridad y una serie de concesiones por el gobierno iraquí han forzado a la administración de Bush a un acorralamiento político a la vez que sus fuerzas militares para una guerra de conquista toman posición.

La reacción de Bush a ser acorralado fue la de abiertamente afirmar que la razón de que Washington irá a guerra es porque quiere derrocar a Saddam Hussein. Ari Fleisher, el vocero de la Casa Blanca, dijo en una conferencia de prensa el 28 de febrero que “para evitar una acción militar, Irak debe desarmarse y el Señor Hussein debe dejar su puesto”. Al preguntarle de nuevo en la misma conferencia, Fleisher repitió “Su desarme y el cambio de régimen”.

Frente a la caída y desaparición de los velos de inspecciones y desarme, Bush y la derecha que dominan a su administración han proclamado abiertamente su derecho de derrocar a un régimen independiente por fuerza militar en contra de los derechos fundamentales de soberanía nacional y autodeterminación.

Por implicación, las exigencias de Washington, de que el Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU apoye su guerra de agresión contra un pequeño país con un ejército recortado están pidiendo básicamente que ratifique la doctrina de guerra.

Esto fue expuesto en el documento Estrategia de Seguridad Nacional del Pentágono y se ha dado a conocer como la doctrina Bush. Bush quiere que el derecho del imperialismo estadounidense de “cambio de régimen” sea aceptado como norma internacional en el nuevo orden mundial de Washington, y él lo quiere santificado por una resolución de la ONU.

### Candado de brazo y trucos sucios

Mientras que Bush ha amenazado con hacer la guerra sin la bendición de la ONU y ha declarado que no hay necesidad de una nueva resolución, la administración está desesperadamente torciendo brazos y usando trucos sucios para protegerse de un repudio. Un documento interno de gran importancia fue filtrado al periódico London Observer del 2 de marzo, reveló que “los Estados Unidos están conduciendo una campaña secreta de ‘trucos sucios’ contra las delegaciones del Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU en Nueva York como parte de su batalla para ganar votos a favor de una guerra contra Irak”.

Un alto oficial de la Agencia de Seguridad Nacional—una agencia de Estados Unidos que intercepta comunicaciones en todo el mundo—envió un directivo a la sección de los Objetivos Regionales de la NASA para llevar a cabo “una operación de vigilancia agresiva, el cual requiere la interceptación de los hogares, teléfonos de oficinas y mensajes de correo electrónico de los delegados de la ONU,” según reportó el Observer.

Los blancos principales de la vigilancia

son las delegaciones de Angola, Camerún, Chile, México, Guinea y Pakistán. También en la mira están las “delegaciones fuera del Consejo de Seguridad” que no podrían ser “nada de ayuda en relación con las deliberaciones del Consejo de Seguridad.”

Además de ser objetos de expiación, todos los países están bajo intensa presión. Un ejemplo es México. El periódico el Economista de Londres del 27 de febrero, reportó que “una corriente de oficiales americanos ha estado viajando hacia el sur para exponer su caso.”

Ninguno de los países oprimidos en el Consejo de Seguridad votaría por la guerra de Washington si estuviera libre de intimidación y dejarles en paz. Las poblaciones de los seis países están opuestas a la guerra. Los gobiernos saben que los favores de Washington incrementarían la penetración estadounidenses en sus países y hacerles más dependientes que nunca en el futuro. Y ningún país quiere dar la bendición a la guerra, por la simple razón de que ellos podrían ser los próximos.

El resultado en el Consejo de Seguridad es altamente incierto para el imperialismo estadounidense, por eso ellos se están preparando para cualquier eventualidad. “Si nueve votos pueden ser alineados”, dijo el Washington Post el 3 de marzo, dentro de unos días después de la reunión el viernes con Blix, y si las abstenciones rusas y chinas son aseguradas, los oficiales estadounidenses y diplomáticos dijeron que ellas podrían votar a fines de la próxima semana aun bajo la amenaza de un veto de Francia. “Nosotros los dejaríamos vetar y después nos volvemos contra ellos,” dijo un oficial. Si no hay nueve votos, entonces no habrá ningún voto.

### Rebeliones virtuales en Turquía y Filipinas

Pero el voto en el Consejo de Seguridad, aunque es importante políticamente, no es el problema fundamental de Washington. Esto fue ilustrado por la rebelión del parlamento turco la semana pasada, el cual se opuso a una resolución presentada por el consejo del gobierno que se permitiera el uso de su territorio por 62.000 soldados y 225 aviones estadounidenses para invadir a Irak. Este voto, si se mantiene, crearía un gran problema logístico para Washington. La resolución fue rechazada porque una mayoría de los miembros que atendieron no votaron por eso. Una mayoría se requería por la constitución turca. Más de 100 miembros del Partido de Justicia y Desarrollo en el gobierno rechazaron su liderazgo y votaron contra la resolución. De cierta forma el voto fue una rebelión contra la insensatez de los oficiales de Estados Unidos.

Fue una victoria fundamental por los más de 100.000 personas turcas y curdas

que derramaron a las calles el primero de marzo, el día del voto. No hay nada mejor que 100.000 protestantes airados en las calles fuera de la ventana para prestar principios antiguerra a legisladores. Esto fue una derrota política enorme para Washington. Uno de los proponentes de la guerra principal de la administración de Bush, el Subsecretario de Defensa Paul Wolfowitz, había viajado a Turquía en diciembre para asegurarse de un trato sobre el despliegue de tropas. Después declaró, “El apoyo de Turquía está asegurado”.

No es al azar que en el momento preciso que Turquía fue en proceso de rechazar a las tropas de los EE.UU., el Pentágono tuvo que retroceder en las Filipinas. Había anunciado anteriormente en el 20 de febrero que iba a enviar 1700 efectivos a participar directamente en combate allá. El Pentágono hizo su anuncio sobre una “misión de combate” en la provincia de Jolo en la isla de Mindanao para rechazar la caracterización de la naturaleza de la misión como un “ejercicio” hecho por Ignacio Bunye, vocero de la Presidenta Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. La Constitución filipina prohíbe que un ejército extranjero llevara a cabo misiones de combate. Esta estipulación es calculada específicamente para rechazar la herencia colonial de la ocupación militar por los EE.UU., que habían tomado las Filipinas de España hace un siglo. Como fue señalado en el New York Times del primero de marzo, “se cree que decenas de miles de filipinos murieron a las manos de los EE.UU. en combates después del traspaso de las Filipinas al control colonial americano del dominio colonial español en 1898.”

Esto es bien conocido en el Pentágono, pero en su arrogancia decidieron poner a la presidenta de las Filipinas, y por implicación al pueblo filipino “en su sitio”. Temiendo a las masas y en un esfuerzo de conservar lo que queda de su soberanía, el gobierno de Macapagal está forzado a rechazar el despliegue estadounidense. Ahora los 1700 tropas se encuentran en barcos en aguas filipinas, igual que los 62.000 tropas de los EE.UU. en barcos en aguas turquíes.

### Buques de guerra y bombarderos rodean a Corea

Washington también ha enviado un avión de espionaje para provocar al gobierno de Corea del Norte igualmente que lo hizo a China poco después de asumir la presidencia Bush, hijo. Con prepotencia ha rehusado reunirse con el gobierno de Corea del Norte sobre el acabar de la campaña que ya lleva casi 60 años de destruir el gobierno socialista de Pyongyang. El Pentágono ha enviado buques de guerra suficientemente cerca de las costas de Corea del Norte para poder lanzar un

asalto. Ha ubicado 24 bombarderos de larga alcanza en alerta para desplegar a Guam y está enviando un portaaviones con su flota a la región para amenazar e intimidar.

Según el New York Times del primero de marzo, la administración de Bush está hablando de ataques aéreos quirúrgicos, confiscaciones marítimas y otras medidas en contra de este país rodeado por fuerzas hostiles a su sistema social, que ha defendido su derecho de defensa propia, lo cual es la esencia de la independencia nacional. Porque ha rehusado doblegarse a Washington, Corea conforma parte del “eje de mal” y está sujeto a ataques “preventivos” según la doctrina de Bush.

Pero a pesar de toda esta intimidación, las masas de Corea del Norte y del Sur están completamente opuestas a las intenciones de Washington. Protestas masivas en el sur han demandado que los EE.UU. saquen sus 37.000 tropas del país. Sur Coreanos han protestado en contra de una guerra en contra de Irak y demandado que Washington negocie con el gobierno de Corea del Norte. Sentimiento antiamericano está hirviendo en el sur después de 60 años de la represión dura, particularmente desde que dos soldados de los EE.UU. fueron exonerados de todos los cargos incluso lo de negligencia por las autoridades después de que los dos aplastaron a dos muchachas con su tanque.

De la misma manera, las fuerzas revolucionarias en Colombia no han perdido momento en su lucha a pesar de los \$2 billones en ayuda militar y la presencia de armas estadounidenses y fuerzas especiales. El gobierno de Hugo Chávez en Venezuela y las masas que lo apoyan no han sido intimidados por un golpe apoyado por los EE.UU. y una campaña inspirada por Washington de sabotaje político y económico.

Los militaristas del Pentágono están basando sus esperanzas por la conquista del mundo en su capacidad de intimidar y aterrorizar a los gobiernos. Pero los sucesos en Turquía, las manifestaciones masivas recientes en el Cairo, y las manifestaciones del 15 de febrero alrededor del mundo ilustran que mientras los gobiernos puedan ser intimidados, las masas, una vez que el odio del imperialismo se apodera de su conciencia, no son susceptibles a las amenazas y sobornos.

Este es el defecto fundamental en los planes de conquista planetaria de la administración de Bush. Encima de todo, las masas del pueblo de los EE.UU. se están despertando para oponerse a los planes agresivos del gobierno de conquista del petróleo y territorio de Irak. Se están despertando al hecho que esta no es simplemente una guerra contra Saddam Hussein. Esta es una guerra para colonizar y esclavizar al pueblo de Irak. El movimiento está creciendo rápidamente mientras que el peligro de guerra sube. Es el deber del movimiento antiguerra echar leña al fuego de una rebelión antiguerra. Esté en Washington el 15 de marzo. □

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