

## MARCH 20 MOMENTUM 'END THE OCCUPATIONS!'

Day of protest around  
the globe

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## While U.S. tries to mask its role

# Haitians resist coup attempt

By Deirdre Griswold

As heavily armed gangs led by paramilitary death-squad leaders from former dictatorships take over a broad swath of Haiti, vowing to topple the government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and lynching scores of his supporters, the question being asked in the popular movements of the region is: What role is the U.S. imperialist government playing in all this?

Washington is being careful not to take credit for the coup attempt, which was launched on Feb. 5 in the northern port city of Gonaives. Secretary of State Colin Powell said on Feb. 17 that there was no "enthusiasm" in the Bush administration for intervention.

Not everyone in the State Department had gotten the word, however. An Australian newspaper, *The Age*, reported on Feb. 17 that "U.S. Ambassador James Foley today said Washington wants 'radical change,' even while Powell has said the United States does not support Aristide's ouster."

At this point, any open U.S. intervention would have to at least nominally be in support of the elected government against those whom even Powell acknowledges are thugs and killers.

Washington would probably prefer to let the death squads do their work of weakening the government and the popular resistance, and then come in posing as saviors—while in fact forcing Aristide to defer to figures like Marc Bazin, a former World Bank official whom Washington had picked to win the 1990 election. Bazin was defeated by Aristide in a landslide vote, to the imperialists' dismay.

The policy makers in Washington apparently believe they can force a "regime change" to their liking without sending in their own troops at this time. This could change, of course, especially if a rival imperialist power like France, which has troops on nearby Caribbean islands, makes a move.

### No end to U.S. intervention

The truth is there has already been plenty of U.S. intervention, both covert and overt, aimed at replacing the Aristide government with one deemed more compliant by the big business interests that run U.S. foreign policy.

The U.S. has led an international conspiracy to deprive Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, of any

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## When civil marriage becomes civil disobedience

*See centerfold*



WW PHOTOS: BILL HACKWELL

Thousands of same-sex couples lined up  
outside San Francisco City Hall waiting  
for marriage certificates, even in the  
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## THE GRAND INQUISITOR

Ashcroft vs. right  
to choose

EDITORIAL 10

## Report on infant mortality shows

# Racism and poverty killing more babies

By Heather Cottin

For the first time in over 40 years, the overall infant mortality rate in the U.S. has increased, according to a report just released by the federal government's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Infant mortality is seen as a basic measure of a society's well-being. The latest information—which compares 2002 to the previous year—shows that the risk of death before an infant's first birthday increased from 6.8 to 7 per 1,000 live births. This seemingly small rise is statistically very significant and surprised health officials. It means babies born in this wealthy country are more at risk than in many underdeveloped nations.

But the overall figures don't tell the whole story. While the rate increased for both African American and white infants, the gap between the two is wide and growing. Among whites, the mortality rate climbed from 5.7 to 5.9 deaths per 1,000 births. The rate among Black babies, however, went from a shocking 14 to 14.3 deaths during the same period.

The Black infant mortality rate is at a crisis level that reflects crushing conditions of racism and poverty in the United States. Some call it "genocide."

Health officials said the overall increase may have reflected improvements in technology that allow more premature babies to be born, as well as women waiting until they are older before having their first child. But this does not explain the large gap between Black and white rates.

The CDC report does not address the problems of food insecurity, homelessness and the decline of social services that affect the poor.

However, Dr. Dennis Andrulis of Downstate Medical Center on Long Island said the crisis could be tied to an economic downturn that "took root in 2000 or 2001 but only manifested itself in 2002.... People in the cities with limited access to health care start facing higher rates of unemployment and poverty, they worry more about putting food on the table and less about going to see the doctor." (New York Times, Feb. 12)

In July 2002, the CDC reported increases of low and very low birthweight among Black infants.

The 2000 Census showed that the states with the highest rates of Black infant mortality were Iowa with 20.6, Arizona with 19.1 and Washington, D.C., with 19.0 per 1,000 live births.

The gap extends to mothers, too. The Alan Guttmacher Institute has noted that Black women are almost four times as likely as white women to die from pregnancy-related causes. (August 2003)

Ellen Catalinotto, a nurse-midwife at New York's Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, told WW that "The maternal mortality rate among Black women is three times that of whites. And, even in the absence of identifiable diseases, Black women have higher incidences of low birthweights among their babies. There are so many uninsured and underinsured people in the United States," she continued, "women don't go for prenatal care. The U.S. lags behind 26 other countries in infant mortality. It has the worst record of all the industrialized countries."

Catalinotto noted that doctors are performing more Caesarian sections, which now account for 25 percent of births in the U.S. The risk of death for mothers during a C-section is three times higher than for normal births.

Cuba, where the infant mortality rate has been reduced to 6.2, lower than the U.S., has been sending doctors and medical assistance to Haiti, which has the highest infant mortality rate in the Western hemisphere. Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque recently reported that in Haiti, "In the areas covered by the Cuban doctors, the infant mortality rate in children under 1 year of age has dropped from 80 to 28 per 1,000 live births—and in children under 5 years of age, the rate has fallen from 159 to 39 per 1,000 live births. The maternal mortality rate dropped from 523 deaths to 259 per 100,000 live births."

Socialist Cuba's extraordinary advances in cutting infant mortality rates, and its commitment to improving medical services in the Third World, stand in contrast to the indifference of the U.S. capitalist government and medical establishment to the deaths of over 28,000 babies in the United States each year, many of whom are Black and poor.

"Infant and maternal mortality is related to the standard of living and a system of support. There are no rights for pregnant women in the United States. No maternal leave, nutrition, health care. There is not a single law that protects them," Catalinotto said.

"Infant mortality is a measure of society's commitment to women and children, in terms of access to health care and protection of the mother and child."

The savagery of U.S. capitalism and racism offer no such protection for women and children. □

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**Baltimore** 426 E. 31 St.,  
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 (410) 235-7040  
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**Boston** 284 Armory St.,  
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 Fax (617) 983-3836  
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**Buffalo, N.Y.**  
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**Chicago** P.O. Box 06178,  
 Wacker Drive Station,  
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 (773) 381-5839;  
 Fax (773) 761-9330;  
 chicago@workers.org

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

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

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

**Los Angeles**  
 269 S. Western Ave.,  
 Room 110,  
 Los Angeles, Calif. 90004  
 (213) 500-0529  
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**Philadelphia**  
 P.O. Box 9202,  
 Philadelphia, Pa. 19139  
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#### CHICAGO

##### Thu., Feb. 19

Silencing Dissent: Political Repression and the Patriot Act. A Forum on the Future of Civil Liberties. Keynote Speaker: Michel Shehadeh, L.A. 8 defendant, National Council of Arab Americans, Free Palestine Alliance. Additional panelists: Stan Willis, National Council of Black Lawyers; Michelle Morales, Borique Human Rights Network; Emma Lozano, Pueblo Sin Fronteras; Suzanne Adely, Arab American Action Network; Emile Schepers, Chicago Committee to Defend the Bill of Rights. Sponsored by the Chicago Coalition Against War and Racism. 7:30 p.m. At Depaul Univ.-Loop Campus, Lewis Law Center#241, 25 E. Jackson(at Wabash). For info (888) 471-0874 or e-mail CCAWR@aol.com.

6:30) At 55 W. 17th St., 5th fl., Manhattan. For info (212) 627-2994.

##### Sat., March 6

Fightback Conference on the Economic Oppression of Women. Sponsored by IWD Committee of IAC. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At P.S. 41, 11th St. & 6th Ave. For info (212) 633-6646.

#### SAN FRANCISCO

##### Sun. Feb. 22

ANSWER benefit dinner. Recognizing Those on the Front Lines of the Struggle Against War and Racism with Cynthia McKinney, Stephen Funk, Michel Shehadeh and many more special guests.Reception 5 p.m., dinner 6 p.m. To purchase tickets (415) 821-6545.

##### Fri., Feb. 27

Celebrate Black History Month and commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Haitian Revolution. With Pierre Labossiere, Haiti Action Committee; Glenn Nance, S.F. African-American Historical Society; LeiLani Dowell, Peace & Freedom Party congressional candidate. Sponsored by International Action Center. 7 p.m. At African & African-American Arts & Culture Center, 762 Fulton St. For info (415) 821-6545.

#### LOS ANGELES

##### Every Friday

Workers World Party weekly meetings at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 7. At 422 S. Western. Phone (213) 500-0529 for info.

#### NEW YORK

##### Fri., Feb. 20

Black History Month forum: Socialism and the struggle for Black liberation. 7 p.m. (Dinner at

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55 West 17 Street  
 New York, N.Y. 10011  
 Phone: (212) 627-2994  
 Fax: (212) 675-7869  
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Editor: Deirdre Griswold;  
 Technical Editor: Lal Roohk;  
 Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, Leslie Feinberg, Monica Moorehead, Gary Wilson;  
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# Hundreds rally to fight school resegregation

By Frank Neisser  
Boston

Hundreds of parents and students rallied Feb. 10 at the 12th Baptist Church in Roxbury to send a strong message to those who rule Boston: A return to segregation under the slogan of "neighborhood schools" will not be tolerated.

The Boston School Committee, which is appointed by the mayor, has launched a process to "re-evaluate" its current plan that assigns students to schools. A task force has been appointed to conduct community meetings like one at the church to prepare for a new plan.

People in the community say they recognize this as a slick cover for the mayor's racist move to resegregate the schools. In the community news conference before the Feb. 10 task force meeting in Roxbury, African American City Councilor Chuck Turner made this clear.

He and others pointed out that the city has sold many school buildings in the communities of color that have been turned into condominiums, leaving children of color bearing a disproportionate weight of the busing burden. But even if there were schools available, the record since the Supreme Court's 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education ruling shows that segregated schools do not get equal resources.

Residential segregation remains as strong as ever in Boston. The attacks on desegregation in the schools have been coming hot and heavy since the beginning of the year, when Mayor Tom Menino called for a "return to neighborhood schools" in his State of the City address.

After the mayor's speech, the president of the Boston City Council removed Turner from his post as chair of the Education Committee, replacing him with a white racist who espouses a return to "neighborhood schools."

Before Turner's removal community supporters and progressives had mounted a campaign of calls and letters to support him. Turner responded to his removal by

saying "the spirit of Louise Day Hicks is alive and well in the city council."

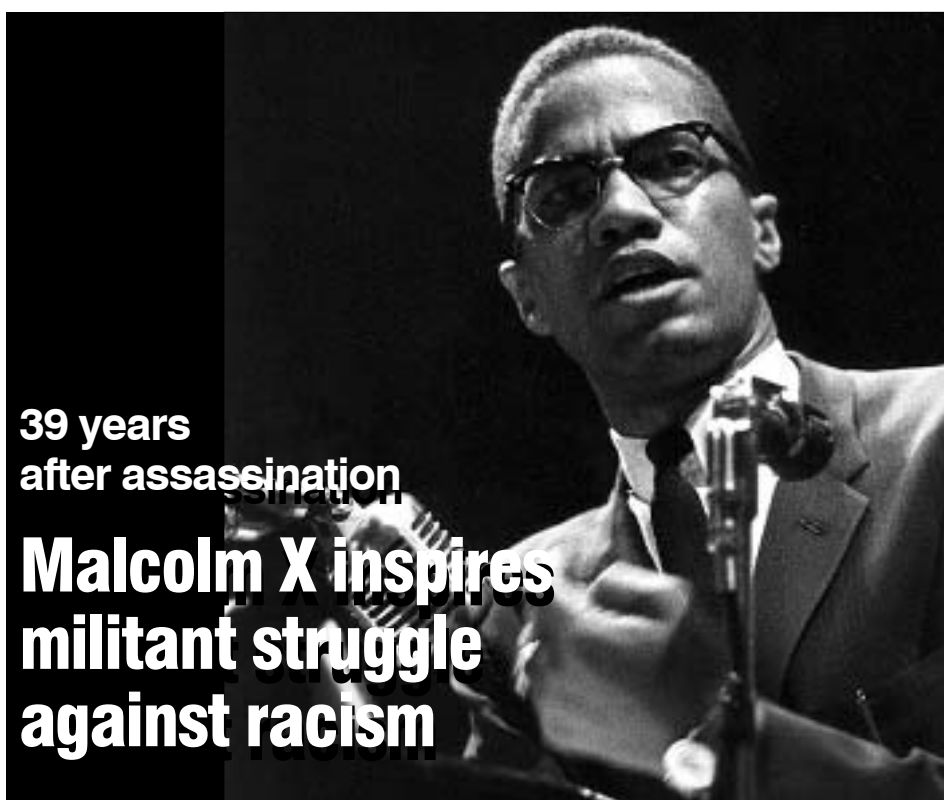
Louise Day Hicks was the symbol of the racist anti-busing movement in 1974 that resisted desegregation by hurling stones and bricks at buses carrying African American schoolchildren.

## Community speaks out against racism

At the Feb. 10 meeting, parents from the Black and Latino communities made it clear they would not tolerate resegregation.

They demanded an increase in the quality of all schools in Boston, reinstatement of Turner as chair of the City Council.

*Continued on page 5*



By Monica Moorehead

On Feb. 21, 1965, revolutionary Black nationalist leader Malcolm X was assassinated while making a speech at the Audubon Ballroom in Harlem, N.Y. He was only 39 years old. To this day, it is still widely believed throughout progressive sectors that the U.S. government was very much behind his death.

Consider the fact that the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a repressive arm of the U.S. Justice Department, began keeping a file on Malcolm X—then Malcolm Little—in March 1953, upon his release from prison. It was during his prison term that he became politically radicalized and joined the Nation of Islam, a Black Muslim organization.

The file on Malcolm X, more than 3,600 pages and 19 sections, was part of the FBI's Counter Intelligence Program—COINTELPRO—which targeted political formations and individuals advocating various forms of liberation struggles of oppressed nationalities.

Malcolm X evolved into one of the most dynamic representatives of the NOI and the Black struggle. He traveled throughout the United States, speaking to predominantly Black audiences and to many white college students about the political and economic oppression of Black people inside the United States and worldwide.

Malcolm used historical facts and disarming political formulations to explain in a popular manner why Black nationalism was a more than justified response to an institutionalized racist ideology, as opposed to being "anti-white"—a distorted view projected by

the big-business media.

He popularized the concept of Black people's right to armed self-defense against the state-sponsored racist terror of the police and the U.S. government. This concept helped to give birth to the Black Panther Party in Oakland, Calif., in 1966, and to other revolutionary formations like the Young Lords, a Latino youth organization.

He along with Martin Luther King spoke about the right of Black people to reparations for the generations of racism brought about by the legacy of slavery. He created the immortal phrase "By any means necessary" in relation to the various tactics Black people should use to win liberation.

In the aftermath of his travels to Africa, the Middle East and elsewhere, Malcolm X was in the process of developing an anti-imperialist perspective when he was tragically struck down. He had just formed the Organization of African-American Unity as a vehicle for uniting other political currents within the Black liberation movement. He was planning to bring worldwide attention about the plight of African Americans to the United Nations.

Thirty-nine years after his death, Malcolm X remains a revered figure of defiance against all forms of racist oppression, especially among the youth as well as progressive and oppressed sectors of workers. The left wing of the U.S. anti-war movement, most notably, the International ANSWER Coalition—Act Now to Stop War & End Racism—has been inspired by the legacy of Malcolm X, using his image in demonstrations to urge, "Stand against war and racism." □

## Deacons for Defense

By Dustin Langley

"My name is Charles Sims. I'm 43 years old and I fear no man. Some of you may leave disappointed. I'm a fighter, not a speechmaker."

These are the real words that the founder of Deacons for Defense used to introduce himself in 1964 as he spoke about the struggle in Bogalusa, La. These words, backed by weapons and the determination of the African American community to defend themselves against racist attacks, won a powerful victory over the status quo of the Jim Crow South in the mid-1960s.

As part of a series of film showings honoring Black History Month, the People's Video Network sponsored a Feb. 14 screening of the made-for-TV movie "Deacons for Defense" in New York City. This film, starring Forest Whitaker and Ossie Davis, chronicles the rise of the Deacons for Defense and Justice, who stood up against the violence of the Klan.

The movie is set in Bogalusa in 1964. Relative to the population, the KKK chapter in segregated Bogalusa was the biggest in the country.

Forest Whitaker stars as Marcus—a mill worker, World War II veteran and church leader who is compelled by escalating Klan and police attacks to organize his community to defend itself. Marcus is a composite character, based on Charles Sims and other leaders of the Deacons.

The film clearly contrasts the futility of dogmatic non-violence, as opposed to the effectiveness of armed self-defense, as a response to Klan terror.

The two northern white organizers in the film are pacifists. "This movement is nonviolent—that is the essence of the movement," says one of them, played by Jonathan Silverman.

"Don't tell me about the essence of your summer vacation," responds Marcus. "Alive is better."

### 'You have to meet force with force'

In describing the actual struggle of his organization, Ernest Thomas, the vice



GRAPHIC: SAHU BARRON

president and national organizer for the Deacons for Defense, has stressed: "We teach that you have to meet force with force. The only thing the Klan respects is force. It is also the only thing understood by the others who battle Negroes, such as the John Birch Society, the Minutemen, and the American Nazi Party."

Many of the Black men who took up arms with the Deacons were military veterans who had fought overseas in the name of "democracy," but then returned home to continued denial of basic civil rights and economic opportunity.

Their determination to defend themselves put an end to night riding in Bogalusa and inspired others to take up arms to defend themselves. By 1965, there were 62 chapters of the Deacons throughout the South, and they helped to inspire the Black Panther Party for Self Defense.

In the discussion after the Feb. 14 film showing, one of the viewers, Kedar Phillips, said, "What struck me was the fact that the Deacons of Defense have been widely forgotten and don't get the recognition they deserve."

Other viewers agreed, noting the need to learn the lessons from the Deacons' struggle in these days of increasing violence against immigrants and people of color, such as the recent killing of a young Black man, Timothy Stansbury, by Brooklyn police.

Other upcoming PVN presentations for Black History month will include "Lumumba" on Feb. 21, and "Another Brother" on Feb 28. □

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## 'Pennies for health care'

# Labor council head arrested in solidarity action

By Steven Ceci  
Baltimore

Friday, Feb. 13, turned out to be a bad luck day for the management of Safeway in Baltimore. Hundreds of trade union and community activists set up an informational picket line on Harford Road in front of a local branch of the huge grocery chain. They were there in support of striking West Coast grocery workers, and the focus of their solidarity was health care.

Workers from practically every union in the area attended, including the Auto Workers, Communications Workers, Operating Engineers—who opened their offices and parking lot to participants—Sheet Metal Workers, Machinists, AFSCME, Service Employees, Postal Workers, Hotel & Restaurant Employees, Masters, Mates & Pilots, GUILD and the Steel Workers. The All Peoples Congress, a local community group, helped organize and mobilize its members, along with the NAACP and the AFL-CIO Religious Committee.

Scores of these unionists and their supporters went into the store with "pennies for health care" in their pockets. One participant stated, "We want Safeway to know that if workers are forced to pay outrageous prices for health care, workers may not even have pennies to buy groceries."

"Pennies for health care" shoppers grabbed carts and dashed through the store eager to buy. The strike supporters lined up at the two open cash registers to pay for their items with the pennies they had brought. The store manager and secu-

rity guards were angered and panicked. They chased photographers from the store, threatening to call the police, and tried to take the film out of one camera.

Ernie Grecco, president of the Central Labor Council of Baltimore, went to the second cash register and pulled out pennies to pay for the Valentine's Day gift he had picked out for his wife.

At the same time, Sharon Ceci, a community organizer and health care advocate with the All Peoples Congress, poured out hundreds of pennies on the cashier conveyor belt at the first register. She had picked out two boxes of cookies for picketers outside.

Both began to count out their pennies to make sure they paid Safeway properly. This was a very slow process for both shoppers. Guards then began to take pictures of both activists while taunting them. Union shoppers who had lined up behind them began to explain to customers what was taking place and why.

Suddenly police arrived and arrested Ernie Grecco. Management yelled to police to "get him." Ceci was then evicted from the store. Her pennies were packed up and returned as management put signs over the registers stating "No pennies."

Grecco was taken to Central Booking and charged with criminal trespassing. He was held until 6 a.m. Union and community activists concerned about his health



WW PHOTOS: SHARON BLACK

Top right, Ernie Grecco, president of Baltimore Central Labor Council, arrested. Above, solidarity shuts Safeway bosses down.

kept watch all night, calling union attorneys and visiting the jail.

Later, protesters learned that Grecco had been transported to Mercy Hospital for health problems before being held in lock-up. He pointed out to picketers the next day that he had asked to go to a unionized hospital, but the police had refused.

### Safeway closed for three hours

Frightened by the growing picket line outside and disturbed by what had happened inside, Safeway management decided to close the store for three hours. Police blocked streets and no one came in or out of the Safeway parking lot.

Protesters cheered and declared victory when they heard that Safeway had closed on a busy Friday night.

When Grecco was being handcuffed and led to a police wagon, a worker ran from the store with a special card for him. It said, "Thank you for standing up for me—I truly appreciate what you're doing." Workers are barred by their collective bargaining agreement from being on the picket line.

"Workers don't have a voice right now. We are the workers' voice, that is why we are here," said G.I. Johnson, president of the Baltimore NAACP.

A resident of the surrounding community who usually shops at Safeway came up to the picket line and told participants

she was going to start a neighborhood petition. Workers commuting from work honked and waved support, clearly energized by the spirited picket line.

This action was significant because it comes at a time when Safeway is now bargaining with UFCW locals in Southern California. The AFL-CIO nationally has declared this strike to be of top importance and is focusing resources in different cities on deepening the boycott of Safeway. There is growing understanding in the community that the issue of health-care affects everyone.

In Maryland and in Washington, D.C., Safeway's contracts with grocery workers in UFCW locals 27 and 400 expire at the end of March. A tentative agreement has just been reached with 45,000 Stop & Shop grocery workers in New England. These workers were also poised to strike. The main issue has been health care and cuts in wages.

A growing movement for workers' solidarity has emerged in Baltimore, evidenced by weekly picketing at Safeway stores by volunteer union members; the recent defiance by Baltimore city teachers to a school board plan to cut wages; a 10,000-person march in Annapolis for funding for education; AFSCME's plans to resist state budget cuts; and the state AFL-CIO's stand protesting the corporate plunder of Iraq and the Pentagon's continued occupation there. □

## LOS ANGELES

# Feb. 28 mass protest to defend immigrant rights

By Adrian Garcia  
Los Angeles

In response to continued attacks against the rights of California's undocumented workers, immigrant-rights groups are preparing a mass demonstration and rally for Feb. 28. Latino Movement USA and Hermandad Mexicana, organizers of the event, stress the importance of involving the people in this struggle that affects workers everywhere.

Immigrants in California saw their right to obtain driver's licenses stripped from them last December with the collusion of State Assembly members who purport to represent the interests of the immigrant communities that helped put them in office. After a successful one-day boycott in response to the repeal of SB 60 on Dec. 12, many Los Angeles garment workers lost their employment for participating in the boycott.

Reactionary forces in California, bolstered by the election of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and the repeal of the driver's license law, are preparing to reintroduce next November an anti-immigrant bill that is reminiscent of the egregious 1994 Proposition 187. That proposition was designed to deny children of undocumented workers the right to welfare, health care and education. Proposition 187 was ultimately overturned by the California

Superior Courts as unconstitutional.

Workers in immigrant communities feel demoralized and indignant at the betrayal by those politicians they believed they could count on to defend their rights. The conditions are ripe for imploring immigrants and all workers to take their message to the streets.

Juan Jose Gutierrez, director of Latino Movement USA, says, "It is most important that progressives stand in solidarity with immigrants and come out to the march and rally."

Gutierrez makes mention of the dastardly attempts by Schwarzenegger and President George W. Bush to present themselves as supporters of immigrants' rights, saying "they have been successful in confusing and misleading the people, but immigrants continue to be under siege, including Arab-Americans. Immigrants suffer summary deportations and arrests in work places."

This mass demonstration will call for general legalization, driver's licenses and access to higher education for undocumented workers, among other things. The demonstration will begin at 11 a.m. at the corner of Washington Boulevard and Broadway in downtown Los Angeles.

The struggle for immigrants' rights will only be successful when the workers unite and beat back the reactionary forces that oppress them. □

## NEW ENGLAND

# Grocery workers hold onto health benefits

The five New England locals of the United Food and Commercial Workers union, representing 42,000 Stop and Shop employees in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island, won a victory on Feb. 15.

Their strong solidarity and determination forced Stop and Shop, New England's biggest grocery chain, to back down from its demand that employees pay 20 percent of the cost of their health coverage.

The workers showed their strength, attending union meetings on Feb. 15—a Sunday morning—in record numbers, prepared to vote to strike.

Over the course of the new three-year contract, workers will receive a total \$75-a-week wage increase for full-time workers and 80-cents-per-hour increase for part-time workers, and the company will continue to pay for the full cost of health coverage. There were some reductions in health benefits. In Boston prescription drug co-payments went up, and in Connecticut the waiting period for health coverage for new part-time employees went from one year to two.

Members voted overwhelmingly to approve the new contract.

—Frank Neisser

## Workers beware of good tidings

# Capitalism can't solve the unemployment crisis

By Milt Neidenberg

Once again the grandmaster of spin, Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan, has woven a tale of robust recovery and good times for all. Testifying before two Congressional committees in mid-February, he assured them—and the broader spectrum of financiers and corporate CEOs—that the Fed was bullish on the economy, but warned in economic double talk of growing budget deficits. It was a blissful presentation, a combination of strong growth, falling unemployment and low inflation.

His remarks soothed the nerves of volatile stock markets. The Dow Jones Industrial Average jumped more than 123 points on the first day of Greenspan's report to Congress, to close at its highest level in more than two and a half years.

For the Bush administration, whose ratings have sharply dropped, it was a joyous moment. The loss of nearly 3 million jobs on George Bush's watch, along with a whopping budget deficit, wars in Iraq and Afghanistan that are going badly, and a giveaway tax policy for the rich have all contributed to his shrinking support.

Greenspan's comments gave the Bush administration an additional boost when it was reported that the Fed "would continue to fuel the economy with cheap money up through the elections in November." (New York Times, Feb. 12)

It confirmed the fact that the Fed—the bankers' bank, a mouthpiece for the giant banks and big business—is more than a manipulator of monetary policies. It is political to the core and about as independent as any of the politicians who serve the interests of monopoly capitalism.

In this case, the Fed is in lockstep with the Bush administration. Greenspan refused to attack the Bush plan to make permanent the tax cut for the rich and agreed with him that the export of jobs—service oriented and multi-skilled—helps the economy's overall performance. Most significant, the Fed chairperson went along with the outlandish pre-election claim by the Bush economic team that

they will create around 2.7 million jobs in the coming fiscal year.

"Greenspan Predicts Job Growth Will Soon Begin to Accelerate," heralded the Wall Street Journal of Feb. 12. The article stated that "it is possible that the unemployment rate could drop close to 4 percent from 5.7 percent."

### It's all smoke and mirrors

However, after a report that there was a net gain of only 112,000 new jobs in January, after a minuscule 1,000 in December (later revised to 16,000), Morgan Stanley market economist William Sullivan commented, "The level of job creation is well under expectations and certainly disappointing for the 26th month of an alleged economic recovery."

Dominic Konstam, head of interest-rate strategy of Credit Suisse First Boston, which recently merged with the Bank of America, expressed a similar sentiment. "The number was very disappointing ... We're not getting the jobs to replace the stimulus [in the economy], which will fade once the first quarter passes."

Ken Mayland, president of Clear View Economics, pointed to "Employers who are working their workers longer hours instead of hiring more bodies ... This economy under normal circumstances should be generating 200,000 to 300,000 a month in new jobs." (Wall Street Journal, Feb. 6)

According to a column by Bob Herbert in New York Times of Feb. 16, while the administration predicted that 5.5 million jobs would be created in the 18 months from July 2003 to the end of this year, only 296,000 have been created in the seven months that have passed so far.

So why is there no job growth of any significance? What happened to the idea that an expansion of the economy, a falling dollar, and other economic fundamentals automatically motivate employers to hire workers? They're making more profits, but does this translate into job creation?

The manufacturing sector has cut jobs for 42 months in a row, despite the fact that the Fed has kept interest rates at 1

percent, the lowest in 45 years.

The crisis lies embedded in the capitalist system. Boom cycles are getting shorter in duration. The one lasting from 2002 to 2004 has been jobless.

Capitalism can't exist without an army of the unemployed. It has always been a powerful weapon against the working class, exerting pressure on the employed sectors to keep wages down in order to raise profits. Corporate America has reaped the spoils of a technological revolution, enabling it to raise the productivity level and cut labor costs without significant hiring.

Around 25 percent of U.S. productive capacity is idle. A similar phenomenon has displaced millions of production workers around the globe. Greenspan is well aware of this but covers it up with ill-founded optimism on job creation, based on a recent slowdown in the rate of increase in productivity. He believes employers will begin to hire big-time based on growing demand for goods and services here and abroad, thanks to the falling dollar and 1 percent interest rate on borrowing.

### Forewarned is forearmed

The U.S. trade deficit has reached nearly \$500 billion, the largest in history. Consumer confidence plunged in early February.

The prognosis of leading capitalist analysts and economists is not whether, but when, a crash is coming. Many are already drawing parallels to the stock market crashes of 1929 and 1987, which came after the stock markets reached record levels. Just as Greenspan is now painting his pastel picture of an upsurge, so optimism reigned supreme then.

For example, the prevailing mood on Wall Street just one month before the greatest and longest crash in modern history was expressed in a Wall Street Journal article on Sept. 4, 1929: "Many are looking for technical corrective reactions from time to time, but do not expect these to disturb the upward trend for any prolonged period." The market was already

'Hyper-speculation, a revolution in technology, a currency crisis and a surge in productivity have reduced the incentive to invest and rehire workers from the vast army of unemployed.'

starting to turn down then. The Dow Jones did not return to the level of Sept. 3, 1929, until November 1954.

Similarly, in 1987, the stock markets had been in a bull market for years. New highs were taken for granted. When the stock market began to drop, most analysts called it a correction. It took David Rockefeller—Mr. Capitalist—on Oct. 29 and 30, 12 days after the crash, to go on CNN and call it "a stock market crash of the dimensions of 1929."

In the March 2000 stock market crash, declines of 49 percent in the Standard and Poor's 500 stock index, and 78 percent in the Nasdaq high-tech market, wiped out small investors to the tune of \$8 trillion. Millions of jobs were lost, plants closed and household income shrank dramatically. Before the crash, Greenspan had identified the developing crisis as merely "irrational exuberance." Stock prices did not stop falling until October 2002.

There are now striking similarities to the boom of the roaring 1920s. The deep decline that followed in the early 1930s was only overcome by massive military spending begun in preparation for World War II. Today, hyper-speculation, a revolution in technology, a currency crisis and a surge in productivity have reduced the incentive to invest and rehire workers from the vast army of unemployed.

The 1930s led to the greatest working-class upsurge in modern times in the U.S. Militant sit-down strikes spread across the country. Unemployed councils organized mass mobilizations of the jobless throughout most cities. They raised the popular slogan, "A job is a property right." They won progressive legislation.

It's time for the workers and the oppressed to review this page in history. □

## Rally to fight school resegregation

Continued from page 3

cil's education committee, discontinuation of racist standardized MCAS tests—and that parental choice in student assignment be continued and extended citywide so that students of color can get an equal, quality education at the school of their choice.

They condemned the task force process as a sham. And they told the task force and the School Superintendent Thomas Payzant that there is no basis for the community to trust in the School Committee given its continued failure to provide quality education to students of color.

They said quality education for their children is a matter of survival—and that they would "wage war" to get it and defend it.

Chuck Turner gave a concluding statement in which he acknowledged the efforts of the Boston school bus drivers' union for having helped to mobilize the hundreds of parents and students who attended. Union drivers distributed thousands of fliers to students on the school buses.

Turner pointed out that while other, predominantly white, neighborhoods were calling for excluding children from quality education under the slogan "neighborhood schools," as Louise Day Hicks did, the Black community was calling for quality education in all schools and opposing limitation of choice. He spoke of the 1974 march against racism by 25,000 people in Boston to support the right of the African American community to equal quality education by whatever means it chose.

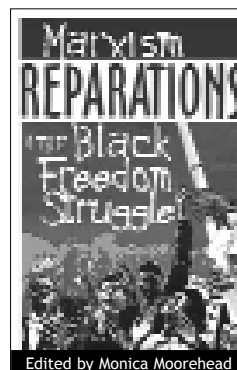
He urged everyone at the meeting to be an organizer, calling for a new march against racism, and to take the issue to the mayor. Turner called on progressive allies from Boston and beyond to contribute to help build such a mobilization.

Members of the Boston chapter of the ANSWER Coalition were present at the Feb. 10 meeting to express solidarity in the struggle against racism. They distributed a flier calling for an end to the war on desegregation and affirmative action. The leaflet invoked the history of

the racist 1974 mobilization in Boston and the victories of the communities of color and anti-racist forces—including the 25,000-strong anti-racist march and community defense of homes against racist attacks.

The flier also supported the workers in the teachers' and school bus drivers' unions in their fights for contracts, and demanded that the money going to Bush's

wars and occupation of Iraq be used instead for the schools. The Boston school bus drivers' union also distributed a leaflet calling for solidarity with communities of color in their fight against racism. And the union urged the defense of the oppressed communities' right to choose where their children go to school, and the right to access to equal quality education and equal resources. □



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## BOSTON

# Laws aimed at barring marital equality fail

By Frank Neisser  
Boston

In a drama played out on the national stage, after more than two days of debate the Massachusetts legislature failed to pass any of three different versions of a proposed state constitutional amendment that would define marriage as restricted to a man and a woman.

The legislative leadership then adjourned the session, planning to reconvene on March 11. They say they hope by then to come up with the votes they were unable to find in three tries on Feb. 11 and 12.

In the weeks leading up to the legislative debate, supporters of same-sex marriage staged rallies and intensive lobbying campaigns to convince the legislators to abide by the decision of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

That ruling, issued in the fall of 2003 and reiterated in February, was unequivocal: Failure to grant marriage licenses to same-sex couples constitutes discrimination and therefore violates the state constitution's equal-protection clause. The court also held that same-sex couples must be extended the full right to marry, and that any sort of separate civil-union status would be unequal and unacceptable. Under the court ruling, marriage

licenses must be issued to same-sex couples in Massachusetts beginning in May.

Labor unions, the Massachusetts AFL-CIO representing over 400,000 workers, lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans rights groups, and civil-rights and religious organizations—all have weighed in to oppose the legislators' move to amend the state constitution to take away the rights the court just recognized and enshrine second-class status for same-sex relationships.

On the other side, the Bush administration, Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney and the religious right pulled out all stops to push for the constitutional amendment. Lots of money was poured into full-page ads in the Boston Globe. Well-paid lobbyists flooded legislators' email with messages. Although rallies demanding same-sex marriage rights were bigger, the mainstream media gave greater play and favorable coverage to the right wing—from Catholic Bishop Sean O'Malley on down.

During the extraordinary debate in the legislature, it was African American and other legislators from oppressed communities who took the lead in supporting same-sex marriage right.

State Sen. Dianne Wilkerson, an African American, spoke about growing up in Arkansas where her mother was turned away from hospital access to give

birth to her children. Wilkerson said she knows first-hand about separate and unequal treatment, and that she supports equal rights for same-sex couples.

State Rep. Byron Rushing and several other African American legislators also testified about their experiences of discrimination. They said they are opposed to changing the state constitution to limit rights. They also pointed out that it was not so long ago that interracial marriage was illegal.

Openly gay State Sen. Jarrett Barrios told his colleagues, "Don't believe that if you vote for these amendments you won't be hurting your lesbian, gay, bi and trans neighbors, citizens and colleagues, because you will." He explained the effect the amendments would have on his own family and children, in denying health benefits, bereavement benefits and visitation rights.

Openly lesbian State Rep. Elizabeth Malia said that if she died, her lover of more than 20 years would stand to lose their common home because of heavy estate taxes, which married couples do not face.

State Sen. Cynthia Stone Creem, who is Jewish, spoke movingly about Nazi Germany. She said the experience of being denied access there was not so different from what was being proposed in the

denial of marriage rights, and she invoked the shared experiences of Jewish people and gays in the Nazi camps.

Heterosexual male Catholic legislators also spoke about the importance of the separation of church and state and upholding civil rights for all.

## Even repackaging couldn't sell it

Despite their best efforts through two days of backroom maneuvering, writing and rewriting language—with Gov. Mitt Romney reportedly in close consultation with President George W. Bush all the while and with Massachusetts senator and Democratic presidential front-runner John Kerry refusing to take a stand for equal rights—the right-wing legislators were unable to push through a discriminatory amendment barring same-sex couples from the right to marry. The session was adjourned until March 11.

The legislature's failure to amend the constitution according to right-wing demands has to be seen as a great victory for lesbian, gay, bi and trans rights. It is a rebuff to the establishment and to the religious right, but a temporary one. Those reactionary forces will be working overtime until March 11.

All progressive forces must redouble efforts to ensure that the voice of the people, of justice and fair play prevails. □

# Mobilizing for freedom to marry

By Beth Semmer  
Chicago

On Valentine's Day, 250 people—lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and supporters—demonstrated in bitter cold in front of Cardinal Francis George's residence here. The rally was part of the "Freedom to Marry Week" events going on around the country.

Cardinal George played a leading role in preventing passage of Illinois' Senate Bill 101, a statewide lesbian gay bi trans equal rights bill. He has positioned himself as a leading proponent of an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to prohibit marriage rights for same-sex couples.

Chicago was one of dozens of cities responding to a call by DontAmend.com, the Equality Campaign and Metropolitan Community Churches to hold civil-rights rallies and other events to stop the proposed amendment to the Constitution that would define marriage as between a man and a woman. If passed, this would be the first time—with the temporary exception of Prohibition—that the Constitution was amended to take away rights.

"If we are going to win this battle, we need to mobilize," stressed Andy Thayer, the national rally coordinator for DontAmend.com and a leader of the Chicago Anti-Bashing Network. "Civil rights struggles have always been won by fighting on the ground."

Thayer concluded that "the Freedom to Marry Week events are aimed at being just a first public step in mobilizing our community and allies around equal marriage rights." □



Chicago, Feb. 14.

WW PHOTO: BETH SEMMER

## The Roots of Lesbian & Gay Oppression

By Bob McCubbin

This book was originally published in 1976, during the first flush of the modern lesbian and gay liberation movement. This updated edition gives a clear, dispassionate, yet utterly partisan review of a history of pain, persecution, courage and pride.

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## SAN FRANCISCO

# Thousands of same-sex couples tie the knot at City Hall

By LeiLani Dowell and Bill Hackwell  
San Francisco

*Feb. 17 update: Despite strong winds and rain, hundreds continued to line up to be married. The city has married 2,636 couples as of today. Two different courts today that heard right-wing challenges to the city issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples refused to issue injunctions to stop it.*

On Feb. 12, when the City Hall of San Francisco opened its doors and started issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples, it opened something else as well: a window in history that let in the wind that will eventually bring full equality for all relationships, regardless of sexual orientation.

The first couple to be married were longtime lesbian activists Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin, who have been together for 51 years. The two women founded the first national lesbian organization, Daughters of Bilitis, in 1955.

Over the next five days, through the holiday weekend, nearly 2,500 couples from the lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans communities were married in civil ceremonies—in the City Hall rotunda for the entire world to see.

Long lines of couples accompanied by witnesses, friends and relatives wrapped around City Hall. Many waited in line overnight in rainy weather for the chance to be married in what can only be described as a historic act of mass civil disobedience.

Newly elected Mayor Gavin Newsom, not a liberal Democrat, has been under pressure from the LGBT communities and progressive supporters across the country. As a result, on Feb. 12 he directed city officials to begin issuing licenses to same-sex couples. Newsom ordered City Hall to stay open over the three-day holiday weekend.

More than 200 city workers volunteered their time so that as many people as possible could get married.

On Feb. 14, the mood in the long lines was jubilation. It was also lost on no one

that this indeed was a moment in history, a step toward overcoming institutionalized discrimination against same-sex couples.

The process moved slowly but no one seemed to care as they packed inside the city assessor's office to take out the marriage licenses and pay the fees. After that each couple was led to the fourth-floor rotunda, where deputy commissioners and judges performed the ceremonies for free.

While the number of marriages being performed could have made the occasion seem like an assembly line, each ceremony was conducted with dignity and as much time was given to each couple as was needed.

As many as 85 percent of those being married were from San Francisco. Others came from as far away as South Africa. Many of those from out of town who did not have family and friends present left their cell phones on so that loved ones could listen in.

As each married couple left City Hall waving their marriage license, those waiting in line for their turn cheered wildly.

Meanwhile in Sacramento, the California capital, more than 1,000 converged from throughout the state for a rally in conjunction with events across the country to demand full marriage equality rights for all. Many of those present had been married in San Francisco the day before, and the event was a celebration as much as a protest.

Even as they gathered, the same-sex marriage ceremonies were still taking place simultaneously two hours away in San Francisco. And that lesbian-gay-bi-trans forces were springing into action across the country around the issue, buoyed by this recent development.

Many protesters also expressed their enthusiastic commitment to stand in solidarity with the people of Iraq at the



WW PHOTOS: BILL HACKWELL  
Newly-married in San Francisco City Hall.

March 20 demonstration in San Francisco, and signed petitions to "bring the troops home now."

San Francisco's defiance of the California law that defines marriage as between a man and a woman was immediately challenged in the state court by reactionary groups like the Proposition 22 Legal Defense and Education Fund and the euphemistically named "Campaign for California Families." These forces say the marriage certificates of these 2,000 couples are not worth the paper they are written on.

They are wrong. Regardless of what happens in court Feb. 17, a new phase in the struggle for LGBT rights has opened up. There is no going back.

Keith Pavlik contributed to this article.



## WORKERS WORLD PARTY

# 'Why we support same-sex marriage rights'

By Leslie Feinberg

*Excerpted from a talk at a Feb. 13 Workers World Party meeting in New York City.*

There are moments in a prolonged, historic battle that are qualitative turning points in which victory is inevitable. And this, I believe, is just such a moment.

By inevitable, I don't mean automatic. It's not that the lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans movement and all who stand in support can just quit struggling and go home and make it a Blockbuster evening.

It's that when a movement makes an egregious inequality so apparent, it is the injustice itself that makes the struggle to defeat it inevitable.

We in Workers World Party are not just onlookers cheering this struggle on. We are in and of the movement for lesbian, gay, bi and trans liberation. Our Party has

made important contributions to the political, theoretical and historical understanding of the roots of oppression based on sexuality, gender and sex. We helped play a decisive role in winning the left to this political position.

Same-sex marriage rights were an important part of Workers World Party's presidential campaign platforms in 1996 and 2000.

Why do we as revolutionaries support same-sex marriage rights? Is it because we want everyone to get married? No.

We do understand the burden of loneliness, isolation and alienation under capitalism. But we are not romanticists who believe love and marriage go together like a horse and carriage. Nor are we bourgeois moralists who think that sex should only take place in monogamous wedlock or that couples who marry are more committed. We are as irreconcilably opposed to bourgeois morality as we are to all

forms of prejudice.

It's really a simple matter of equality. Relationships between couples of the same sex are denied more than 1,000 of the benefits that civil marriage bestows. And these bread-and-butter issues aren't small. They include Social Security benefits for widowers and widows, inheritance rights, legal shared custody of children, and the life-and-death question of employment-based medical benefits.

### A matter of justice

We don't say people should get married; we say they should have the right. And we say that the state does not have the right to discriminate.

The demand for an equal right to civil marriage is not a revolutionary demand. It's a bourgeois democratic demand.

Yes, as Marxists we are trying to lead the class struggle to overturn capitalism. But oppression is a pillar of capitalism, too.

And sometimes a demand as simple and just as the right to sit down and be served at a lunch counter, or to register to vote, or to win a modest Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution can propel a struggle that will either end in an important victory for the working class and oppressed or in a defeat that is a terrible setback.

There's a debate in the LGBT left wing about the demand for same-sex marriage. Some fear that the demand for same-sex marriage will "bourgeoisify" the movement. Others don't want this one single issue to overshadow the important struggles against racism and economic oppression, bashings and lynchings that affect the lives of the most oppressed sectors of the LGBT movement. And some argue that state-sanctioned marriage is a reactionary institution in class society, oppressive to women, and that LGBT

*Continued on page 10*

# ALL OUT MARCH 20: END THE OCCUPATION!

## Int'l anti-war protests planned

By John Catalinotto

A year after the biggest worldwide anti-war demonstrations ever, activists are again gearing up for an international day of struggle. It is set for March 20, the first anniversary of the U.S.-British invasion of Iraq.

Protests against the occupation of Iraq are expected in hundreds of cities on every continent.

The weekend of Feb. 13-15, anti-war organizations in Japan, Mexico, Australia and Spain also held actions. Some wanted to mark the anniversary of the demonstrations held last year on Feb. 15. That was when 10 million to 15 million people protested worldwide in an attempt to stop the impending imperialist attack on Iraq.

On Feb. 13 this year, 20 labor unions representing land, sea and air transport workers and longshore workers sponsored a Tokyo rally to protest the deployment of almost 1,000 Japanese troops to

Iraq. Some 12,000 workers took part in the demonstration. The deployment is an especially sensitive issue in Japan, as this is the first open military intervention by Japanese troops since World War II.

According to a report from the Committee in Solidarity with the Arab Cause in Spain, on Feb. 15 more than 100,000 people protested in Madrid. There were 20,000 in Valencia and 10,000 in Barcelona. They demonstrated against the occupation, for the withdrawal of Spanish troops and in support of the Iraqi people's rights of sovereignty and self-determination. Spain has national elections coming up in mid-March, and the Socialist Party opponents of the current Aznar government have promised to end the intervention.

In Mexico City, a demonstration was held Feb. 15 in front of the U.S. Embassy. Protests took place in other cities in Mexico, as well. The demands were: "No to the U.S. imperialist war. No to the re-

election of Bush. Get the invading troops out of Iraq. Support for the independence of Iraq, of all the oppressed people of the world and of Mexico."

More than 1,000 people attended an anti-war meeting in Sydney, Australia, Feb. 15, with hundreds more turned away by police. Documentary filmmaker John Pilger and former Australian senior intelligence officer Andrew Wilkie—who quit the Office of National Assessments in protest against the government sending Australian troops to Iraq—addressed the crowd.

These demonstrations only begin to show the breadth and depth of feeling against the occupation of Iraq. Many more protests are planned for March 20. Some important international gatherings have endorsed the call for an international day of action. These include the European and World Social Forums, a conference in Havana against the so-called Free Trade Area of the Americas, the International

League of Peoples' Struggle and the Mumbai Resistance.

### Scheduled March 20 protests

In Britain and other imperialist countries that have sent troops to Iraq at U.S. bidding, the local ruling classes hope that by aligning with U.S. imperialism they can get a share of the plunder of Iraq and play a role in Washington's empire.

But this military intervention has aroused opposition at home to these policies that endanger the young and threaten to divert resources to the military. Protests on March 20 will demand an end to the occupation and withdrawal of troops. In some cases, these protests will express solidarity with the resistance in Iraq. And many also call for an end to Israel's occupation of Palestine.

In countries where there is more widespread Internet access and more use of the web to organize demonstrations, it is easier to find the earliest publicized calls for March 20 demonstrations. However, more protests are expected to be reported from those who organize through word-of-mouth, leaflets and mosques.

Demonstrations are already scheduled for March 20 in Tokyo; for six provincial capitals in Australia—Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Adelaide, Hobart and Canberra; and in Wellington, New Zealand.

In Turkey, according to an organizer in the Global Peace and Justice Coalition there, simultaneous demonstrations will take place March 20 in Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, Adana and Trabzon.

Demonstrations are reportedly also being planned in Damascus and Aleppo, Syria; Ramallah and Gaza, Palestine; Baghdad, Iraq; Amman, Jordan; Cairo, Egypt; Casablanca, Morocco; Algiers, Algeria; Sana, Yemen; Teheran, Iran; Karachi, Pakistan; Khartoum, Sudan; Dakar, Senegal; and Johannesburg, South Africa.

In Europe, there will be national demonstrations in London, England; Rome, Italy; Amsterdam, Netherlands; Copenhagen, Denmark and Budapest, Hungary. Regional actions are scheduled in Oslo, Trondheim, Bergen, Tromsø and Stavanger in Norway; and in many Spanish cities. All the above European countries have troops in Iraq.

Protests are planned in all major Canadian cities.

There will also be national demonstrations in Brussels, Belgium, and Helsinki, Finland, and regional actions throughout Germany and France. □

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# BRING THE TROOPS HOME NOW!

## Major anti-war coalitions call for unified demonstration

By Brian Becker

On March 20, the first anniversary of the launch of the blitzkrieg war against Iraq, hundreds of thousands of people will be in the streets in New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco for massive regional demonstrations. People will also protest in hundreds of other cities in the United States and around the world.

One year ago, at the start of the war, people were in the streets worldwide demanding, "No war against Iraq." It was a simple and a straightforward slogan reflecting the immediate and compelling need of the moment. Organizations and coalitions that had sharply different political programs united or marched together under that banner.

The slogans for the upcoming March 20 demonstration must and will reflect a far different situation. Obviously, the goal of the demonstration is not to prevent an imminent war. The war happened.

Tens of thousands of Iraqis died as the U.S. military machine swept through Iraq, reaching Baghdad in three weeks. The Iraqi government was dispersed under assault by overwhelming force, and has been replaced by a U.S. military dictatorship. The Iraqi people are now living under foreign occupation—and are resisting.

After weeks of intense political debate, the major U.S. anti-war coalitions have decided to work together for a single, massive, united demonstration in New York City on March 20. The focus of the debate was the specific slogans and political program.

On Feb. 6, the coalitions that are uniting to build a single demonstration issued a joint statement. The statement reads in part: "We will march for an end to the occupation and corporate control of Iraq and to bring the troops home now. We will march for an end to the occupation of Palestine. We will march to fund human needs, restore cuts in social programs and against the ever-expanding attacks on all immigrants, labor rights and everyone's civil liberties—and we will stand united against racism here and abroad."

The anti-war movement's decision to link its call for an immediate end to the occupation of Iraq with support for the Palestinian people is a sign of a new level of political growth and development. Throughout the world, the struggle of the Palestinian people is considered a national liberation movement fighting against colonial occupation, racism and apartheid. In the U.S. anti-war movement, however, the Palestinian struggle has been ignored or even vilified for decades. The adoption of the agreed-upon political pro-

gram for a unified March 20 demonstration—including the centrality of Palestine—constitutes a vital step forward for the U.S. anti-war movement.

This political battle is far from over. Some leadership sectors of the anti-war movement are following a particular strategic conception that makes true and consistent solidarity with the Palestinian struggle almost impossible. They portray the current U.S. war drive as a particular policy of a right-wing political grouping represented by the Bush White House. They assert that the only way to really stop the war drive is to unseat Bush. They are rallying the anti-war movement to support what they consider to be less warlike politicians—be it Howard Dean, John Kerry or even Gen. Wesley Clark.

But no capitalist politician can aspire to the presidency and also take a strong stand against Israel as it continues the colonial project in historic Palestine. All sectors in the U.S. corporate and political establishment, and its media, maintain unswerving commitment to the U.S.-Israeli alliance. Not because they are opponents of anti-Semitism, but because Israel serves as a proxy, a garrison state defending U.S. interests in this strategic and oil-rich region. Those in the anti-war movement who are oriented toward a strategic alliance with a purported liberal sector of the capitalist establishment have compelled that part of the movement to ignore the just struggle of the Palestinian people.

### Not just Bush's war

The significant advance in the adoption of the March 20 political program was the consequence of several factors. The most important was a historic political initiative undertaken by progressive organizations from the Arab-American and Muslim community. This took the form of an "Open Letter to the U.S. Anti-War Movement" signed by 41 organizations that stated, "We do not accept delinking the struggle of the Palestinian people from the anti-war movement, and regard the struggle in Palestine, as it is viewed worldwide, to be central to any peace and justice mobilization." The initiators of the letter asked for other organizations outside the Arab and Muslim community to sign on in solidarity.

This open letter sparked a sharp debate within some national anti-war organizations, inside progressive labor and legal organizations, and in cities and towns around the country. Within three weeks more than 275 organizations—frequently after considerable discussion—had signed the open letter.

Support generated by the open letter

also contributed to the power of the call from the March 20 National Coalition to have a unified demonstration based on a political program that included in its central demands "End colonial occupation from Iraq to Palestine, and everywhere—bring the troops home now!"

The March 20 National Coalition includes the ANSWER Coalition—Act Now to Stop War & End Racism; Al-Awda, the Palestine Right to Return Coalition; National Lawyers Guild; Arab Muslim American Federation; Free Palestine Alliance-U.S.A.; Muslim American Society Freedom Foundation; and the Muslim Student Association of the U.S. and Canada. The National Council of Arab Americans also supports the call of the March 20 National Coalition.

The political orientation of this coalition was outlined in its Jan. 2 statement: "We will demonstrate on March 20 to support the right of the Iraqi people to self-determination without condition. Since the invasion began, tens of thousands of Iraqi people have been killed. Thousands of U.S. and British soldiers have been killed or wounded. The Iraqi people are resisting the occupation—they want the foreign soldiers occupying their country to leave, not tomorrow but today. Growing numbers of U.S. soldiers and their families are calling for the troops to be brought home NOW. These soldiers are being sent to kill and be killed for a war that was based on lies and fraud perpetrated by the Bush government. There is only one solution: to end the occupation now! We believe, in the words of the National Council of Arab Americans, that 'internationalizing the occupation gives colonialism a new marketable cover and should not be accepted as a viable option for the global popular movement.'"

In addition to Palestine, the other ongoing controversy in the anti-war movement has to do with slogans regarding the occupation of Iraq. Some anti-war groups favor a transitional occupation strategy leading to a United Nations takeover of the U.S. occupation authority. The ANSWER Coalition and others in the March 20 National Coalition rejected this position as an inherent violation of the Iraqi people's right to self-determination. Supporting any form of foreign occupation authority legitimizes the argument that the U.S. had the right to carry out the overthrow of the government in Iraq.

The March 20 demonstrations, in order to be relevant, must focus on opposing colonial-style occupation. The Iraqi people must be totally free to determine their own destiny. U.S. and all foreign military forces must immediately exit Iraq. The

authorities who ordered the blitzkrieg invasion should be tried for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The Iraq invasion was a war for empire, a war aimed at enslaving the Arab and other peoples of the Middle East and South Asia. The goal was to secure control over all the vast oil and gas natural gas of the entire region for decades to come. From Iraq to Palestine to Libya to Iran to Afghanistan and the Caspian region of the former Soviet Union—the goal of the Wall Street capitalists and the Pentagon is to possess or control the energy supplies that are the central artery of the world economy.

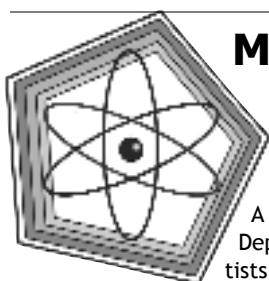
The warmakers' assorted public-relations slogans to justify their aggression—"to keep the world safe from weapons of mass destruction," or to "fight terrorism," or to "liberate the Iraqi people from Saddam Hussein's dictatorship"—were rubbish from beginning.

The ANSWER Coalition, which has organized most of the large anti-war demonstrations since Sept. 11, believes that the wars and occupation in Afghanistan and Iraq are not simply the consequence of the "mistaken policies" of a "bad president." The war and occupation of Afghanistan are supported by almost every politician from both the Democratic and Republican parties. While differing with Bush on the tactic of unilateral U.S. invasion of Iraq, the same politicians embraced the idea of crushing the Iraqi regime and replacing it with a U.S.-puppet government. None favors ending the occupation.

The goal of destroying Iraqi sovereignty, euphemistically labeled "regime change," became the official U.S. government policy in October 1998 under President Bill Clinton. It was then that the weapons inspectors were pulled out of Iraq so that the U.S. Air Force could begin the massive bombing of Iraq. The December 1998 vote in Congress to authorize almost \$100 million to begin the ouster of the Iraqi government was nearly unanimous. It had the support of Dennis Kucinich, John Kerry and the other Democratic opponents of Bush today.

The anti-war movement, to be a voice for progressive change, must expose all mechanisms used by imperialism to impose its political will on the people of the Middle East, or in Latin America, Africa or Asia. That requires maintaining a political orientation to these goals independent from and not in obedience to any section of the capitalist political establishment.

The March 20 demonstration will be an important step forward in this direction. □



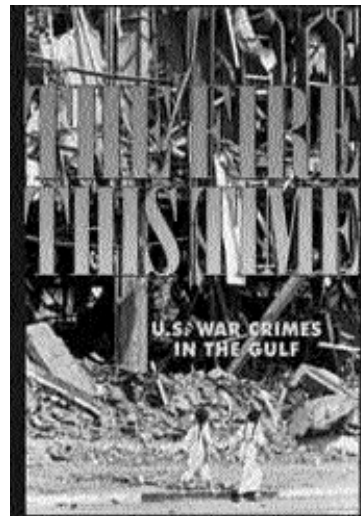
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# The Grand Inquisitor

The 21st Century's reincarnation of the Grand Inquisitor—Attorney General John Ashcroft—has made an assault on the privacy between doctors and their patients as part of his fundamentalist attack on women's right to choose abortion.

An anti-woman law Congress passed last October forbids the use of the "intact dilation and extraction" procedure in late-term abortions. This procedure is rarely used, most often as a desperate last-ditch effort necessary to save the woman's life or end a pregnancy when severe health complications arise.

Though this procedure makes up only about 0.1 percent of all abortions in the U.S.—or less—anti-choice zealots, with Bush and Ashcroft leading the pack, see the recently passed law as a giant stepping-stone toward overturning *Roe vs. Wade*—the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion.

With their patients' lives and health at stake, doctors and pro-choice organizations have filed suit to stop the law from being applied. Ashcroft, in an attempt to defend an unconstitutional law, is now trying to intimidate the doctors who are challenging that law, as well as women patients.

The inquisitor has tried to subpoena the personal medical records of individual patients held by doctors and hospitals. This, as many have pointed out, violates the privacy of patients and threatens to put doctor-patient consultations under the scrutiny of a very nasty Big Brother.

But Ashcroft, who has manipulated the fear aroused by the 9/11 events to abridge individual and legal rights at home, is meeting with some opposition.

Ashcroft's latest affront to privacy has drawn a response from the courts that reflects the popular anger it has provoked. In early February, a Chicago federal judge blocked the release of records from Northwestern Memorial Hospital to the Justice Department. This forced a concession from Ashcroft—not nearly adequate—that the hospitals could censor the names of the patients. Six major hospitals have sought legal steps to challenge the Justice Department's assault.

However useful these legal challenges and the resistance of health professionals are, battles like these are ultimately settled in the streets, where tens and hundreds of millions of women and their supporters can make history.

The attack on abortion rights is a direct assault on more than half the population. On April 25, to defend the rights of women—and especially the right to choose—more than 570 groups are mobilizing for a national march and rally in Washington, D.C. This is the place for all progressive forces to be.

Has Ashcroft overreached? The legal challenges are a good sign. But a massive turnout on April 25 can give the real measure of the depth of support for a basic right that was won through struggle and codified by the Supreme Court in 1973. □

## WORKERS WORLD PARTY

# Why we support same-sex

*Continued from page 7*

people should stay outside of it.

These important concerns need to be addressed.

First of all, it's one thing for forces within our LGBT movement to have this internal debate. But when it comes to those outside the movement there is no debate: The only progressive position is support for same-sex marriage rights.

In the 1980s, the terrible human toll of the AIDS epidemic intensified rage about the discrimination that same-sex couples face. Lovers were told they could not see their dying partners in hospital emergency rooms, were cruelly denied bereavement leave by their bosses, or were kicked out of their apartments by their landlords after their lover's death if their name was not on the lease. This institutionalized inequality fueled the movement for domestic-partner benefits. Today, many of the Fortune 500 have been compelled by the struggle to provide domestic partner benefits.

This is an economic demand that affects the entire working class. An injury to one is an injury to all. Unequal benefits allow bosses to pit workers who don't receive family benefits against those that do.

And a victory for one is a victory for all, too. The gains that the domestic-partner benefits movement won helped provide more benefits to unmarried heterosexual workers, too.

But domestic partner benefits are not enough. They don't address the extent of economic and social inequality that same-sex partners face. Nor is the compromise of a separate, unequal category of "civil unions" a solution. Denial of state recognition of same-sex partners forms a bedrock foundation, along with anti-gay and anti-trans laws, for oppression and repression, gay-bashing, bigotry and discrimination.

The struggle for same-sex marriage rights also impact trans people—particularly transsexual and intersexual people—who can play a strategic role in this battle.

In the past, when a couple who had been legally married for many years approached a doctor about one of the two having sex-reassignment, the doctor told them they'd have to first get a divorce, because otherwise they would be a same-sex couple. But having a sex change neither transforms one's sexual preference nor makes one fall out of love. So many couples have stayed married while one partner transitions. As a result, there are legally married same-sex couples in the United States.

And this right-wing ballyhoo about nature's design: One man plus one woman equals marriage. Nature seems not to have been consulted. It's no secret that there's an anatomical spectrum between female and male. But surgical and hormonal interventions are used to partition the

sexes. What about these intersexual people? Do they have a right to marry?

Dr. Anne Fausto-Sterling, a leading feminist bio-geneticist, has stressed that the reason infants are shoehorned into one of two hard-and-fast categories is economic: "For questions of inheritance, legitimacy, paternity, succession to title, and eligibility for certain professions to be determined, modern Anglo-Saxon legal systems require that newborns be registered as either male or female."

### Who will lead this struggle?

We as revolutionaries want to be part of a united front to win basic democratic demands, like same-sex marriage. These are important reforms. We don't want to leave the leadership of these struggles to more bourgeois and petty-bourgeois forces. Especially in an election year, these forces may well decide to urge the movement to chill out and give the Democrats a chance to oust Bush—who has already publicly announced that he will make barring same-sex marriage a plank in his campaign platform.

But look what happened when President Bill Clinton was running for office against Papa Bush. Clinton wooed the LGBT movement with his "I feel your pain" electioneering, promising to abolish the ban on gays in the military. Once elected, he surrendered to the brass—and so did a Democratically controlled Congress—allowing the generals and admirals to step up their witch hunts.

Clinton made common cause with arch-reactionary Sen. Jesse Helms to pass the "Defense Of Marriage Act"—a vicious piece of legislation reminiscent of the racist miscegenation laws that barred Black and white couples from marrying.

The politicians who signed on to this gay-bashing legislation said they were merely defending the sanctity of heterosexual marriage. From what? The current divorce rate in this country is estimated at 50 percent. If these politicians really cared about helping couples who want to stay together they would be fighting for more jobs at union wages, accessible and affordable child care, and more drug and alcohol treatment centers and couples counseling.

Now presidential wannabe Sen. John Kerry and all the other Democrats running for Oval Office, with the exception of the Rev. Al Sharpton and Rep. Dennis Kucinich, are already publicly clear about their opposition to same-sex marriage rights.

We need to help explain that the power of the LGBT movement is in its political independence.

And we as revolutionaries want to define ourselves within the left wing of these struggles. We



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## marriage

can win an understanding that the movement needs to be broad and diverse, bringing in the leadership, experience and strength of the most oppressed sectors of the LGBT communities.

A movement that raises all the issues and fights for the demands of the most oppressed will be a more powerful movement that can also bring its weight to bear more strongly and decisively on the question of same-sex marriage rights.

And when the demand for same-sex marriage rights is victorious, and it will be victorious, it will invigorate the movement, and lend confidence and dynamism to the ongoing struggles to address the grievances that remain to be redressed.

The victories already won in this last year demonstrate that a triumph like the decriminalization of same-sexuality can be wrested even from a Supreme Court dominated by seven Republicans, six of them appointed by Ronald Reagan and Bush Sr.

It proves that great gains can be won, like those in Massachusetts and San Francisco, even in a period of deep political reaction. The political establishment is moving to the right, but the great mass of working and oppressed peoples here and around the world is moving to the left.

### Until every battle is won!

Winning the equal right to marry challenges and undermines the ideological justification for the patriarchal-dominated nuclear family. And it further widens the separation of church and state by secularizing the definition of a family.

Marxists define family not as “mom-pop-and-a-couple-of-kids,” but as an economic unit under capitalism. We understand that the battle for greater equality for these economic units is an important bourgeois democratic demand.

But we're communists. Our goal is a society in which the great economic burden is lifted from individual family units. Perhaps the most purposeful distortion of Marx by ruling ideologues regards his statement that communists seek to abolish the family.

Marx wasn't talking about tearing sobbing children away from parents. He was talking about the historic need to shift the economic weight from the individual family to the collectively owned state.

From each according to ability, to each according to need—that is what will free heterosexual women from the economic bondage of the patriarchal nuclear family. That is what will liberate the complex matrix of all human sexuality from economic compulsion.

Sexuality, gender expression and the sexes have been partitioned and state-regulated since early class society to conform to the objective class needs of a patriarchal-dominated ruling elite.

With universal abundance, under technologically advanced communism, sexuality, gender expression and the sexes will be more free to develop into even greater complexity, with even greater choices than were imaginable under early, pre-technological communalism.

But how do we get there? How do we make that revolution? By waging the battles today that will create stepping-stone victories that we can build on, and that cement greater solidarity amongst all those who have the least to lose and the most to gain from a profound societal transformation.

As revolutionaries, we stand with all who are oppressed, with all who are fighting back—from San Francisco to Baghdad—and we will not stop fighting until every battle is won! □

# Haitians resist coup attempt

*Continued from page 1*

aid money. Haiti has been on the hit list of the major capitalist powers ever since its successful revolutionary war of 1804, which simultaneously liberated the country from French colonial rule and freed its population from chattel slavery. Its deep poverty comes from a two-centuries-old economic blockade.

This was reinforced after the election of 2000 when lending institutions controlled by the U.S. held up a \$500-million loan Haiti desperately needed. The intent was clear: to put pressure on the Aristide government to either capitulate to the capitalist globalizers' demands or be ousted.

The stated U.S. diplomatic position has been to recognize the Aristide government while giving aid and comfort—and a significant amount of money—to groups Washington dubs the “democratic” opposition. There is another, more sinister history of U.S. intervention in Haiti, however.

The Haitian people, who are highly conscious of what goes on behind the scenes regarding their country, know that Washington has long had secret deals with their tormentors, beginning with the bloody Duvalier dynasty that ruled Haiti for 29 years.

They also know about the secret files that were spirited out of Haiti in 1994 by U.S. troops when they returned Aristide to office after he had been overthrown in a military coup. Those files are believed to contain information about the covert relations between the CIA and the Front for the Advancement and Progress of Haiti (FRAPH), a nice-sounding name for the death squads that operated during the 1991-94 military regime.

### Towns 'liberated' by death squads

Members of FRAPH are now back in Haiti running the show in areas they claim to have “liberated.” The U.S. forces who landed in 1994 and deposed the military dictatorship allowed them to safely leave Haiti, despite their many crimes against the people. Many wound up in comfortable exile in the United States and the Dominican Republic. Their leader, Emmanuel “Toto” Constant, spent the next 10 years living in an upscale community in Laurelton, Queens, in New York City. His house was frequently the site of picketing by the Brooklyn-based Haitian community.

To get back into the country, armed Haitian commandos recently shot their

way through the Dominican border, killing two Dominican soldiers. (Associated Press, Feb. 14) With them were Guy Philippe, the former police chief of the northern city of Cap-Haitien and also a former army officer, and Louis Jodel Chamblain, the head of the Duvalier death squad in the 1980s.

According to an authoritative article by Tom Reeves posted on ZNet on Feb. 17, Chamblain also was a leader of the FRAPH:

“A close associate of Chamblain, Emmanuel ‘Toto’ Constant, has admitted its CIA funding and direction. Chamblain was revealed in documents reviewed by the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York as one of those present during the planning, with a USA agent, of the assassination of the pro-Aristide minister of justice, Guy Malary, in 1993.

“The USA refuses to release documents it seized from FRAPH during the 1994 USA invasion—presumably to cover up the CIA ties to FRAPH. Philippe and Chamblain were among those from the Haitian opposition, recognized by the USA—the Convergence—who organized conferences in the Dominican Republic, funded and attended by USA operatives from the International Republican Institute.”

### Collusion of FRAPH, Convergence and U.S.

Although Secretary of State Powell pretends the death squads and the Convergence have nothing in common, the collusion between them has become clear with this invasion. One leader of the political opposition, sweatshop owner Andre Apaid, says he wants nothing to do with the armed gangs, but what “respected” gangland boss ever acknowledges his bloody-handed lieutenants?

A British observer, writing in *The Independent* of Feb. 17, reported that “The rebels are being manipulated and apparently taken over by disgruntled former army officers who, if left to their own devices, would probably return Haiti to the dictatorship and military terror of the Duvalier era. Although such a prospect is being publicly deplored, diplomatic sources in Port-au-Prince say Western governments are increasingly wondering if Haiti would be more stable—at least, from their point of view—under a dictatorship rather than Mr. Aristide's flawed version of democracy.”

The Convergence, which includes many

Haitian business leaders, has been agitating for Aristide to step down and organized several street protests, which received sympathetic coverage in the U.S. corporate media. Much larger demonstrations in support of the government, like one on Feb. 7 that drew hundreds of thousands in Port-au-Prince, are ignored by these same media.

After Aristide was returned to office in 1994 by the U.S., he disbanded the Haitian army. This move, which fit into his pacifist views, was supposed to allay the continuing threat of a military coup. But he did not set up any alternative system of defense, like a popular militia, so the government lacks a strong force to defend itself against the former militaries, who have now shown up with a surprising amount of coordination and weapons.

These trained killers have taken over a number of cities north of the capital, where they immediately attacked police stations and city halls, killing police who were loyal to Aristide and seizing arms and ammunition. There are reports that they dragged corpses through the streets in order to terrorize the population.

According to the *Miami Herald* of Feb. 16, “Gonaives and St. Marc were wrested from the government as the rebels shot, burned and looted their way through cities and villages.”

Haiti's entire police force—which now must do the work of an army—is only 5,000. By contrast, New York City, which has about 1 million fewer people than Haiti, has 32,000 cops, including heavily armed SWAT teams, who at any time could be reinforced by the National Guard.

In this crisis situation, however, the masses are finally being asked to intervene. According to the newspaper *Haiti Progress* of Feb. 11, “the population seems to have responded enthusiastically to Prime Minister Yvon Neptune's call on Feb. 8 for the Haitian people to assist the police in beating back ‘the armed branch of the opposition.’ On Feb. 8, popular organizations' militants, some armed, threw up barricades in the capital's Canapé Vert and Carrefour neighborhoods ...”

This response, mostly by the workers and poor, has so far helped keep the fighting out of the capital, Port-au-Prince. It is the organized and, wherever possible, armed response of the people to the terrorism of the bosses and their imperialist backers that is Haiti's best hope. □

## HAITI A SLAVE REVOLUTION

The Haitian Revolution is a singular event in history. Never before or since has an enslaved people risen up, broken their chains, and established a new state. Haiti was a beacon of hope and inspiration to the enslaved Africans of the United States.

Haiti's history has been turbulent, but not for the reasons given by mainstream historians. Racism underlies their charges that the first Black Republic lacks “democratic traditions and is prone to violence.”

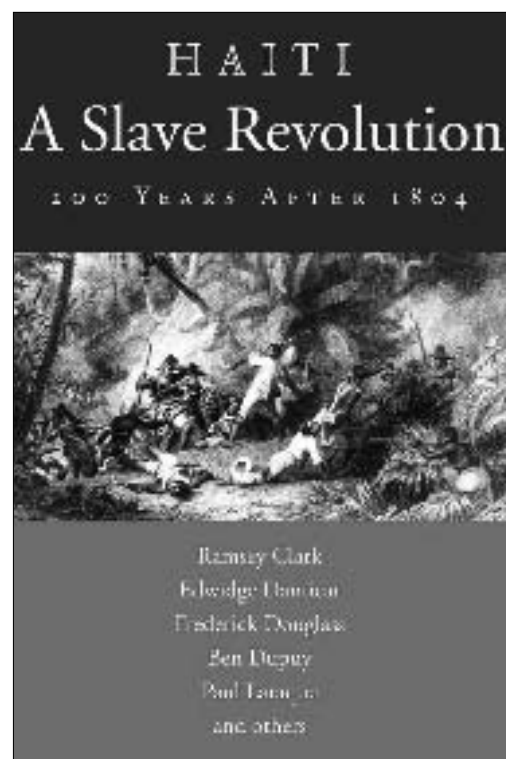
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MUNDO OBRERO

# El pueblo haitiano resiste golpe derechista

Por Pat Chin

Con las masas haitianas en la calle, oponiéndose a las ‘fuerzas de oposición’ reaccionarias y apoyando al gobierno de Jean Bertránd-Aristide, la prensa capitalista está mostrando nerviosismo por haber provocado quizás una lucha con consecuencias inesperadas. Palabras como ‘maleantes’ han comenzado a aparecer en los diarios del establecimiento para describir a aquellos que están tratando de tomar el poder en Haití. Hasta ahora los medios noticiosos se han referido a estos sólo como una ‘oposición democrática’.

Fue tan solo semanas después de la celebración del bicentenario de la victoria de Haití contra la esclavitud y la dominación colonial, que la oposición, la cual ha tenido el respaldo de Washington, ha escalado sus acciones para derrocar al gobierno de Aristide.

El 5 de febrero una pandilla armada conocida como “El Frente de Resistencia de Los Gonaives,” tomó violentamente el control de la cuarta ciudad más grande del país. Presuntamente resultaron muertas siete personas y centenas de heridos. Según algunos reportes sin confirmar, el brazo armado de la oposición contra Aristide, compuesta de duvalieristas y ex soldados como el coronel Himmler Rebu, tomaron el control de St. Marc, Ennery, Gros Morne y Grand—Goave además de Gonaives.

Los Duvalier—“Papa Doc” y “Baby Doc”—eran una dinastía apoyada por los Estados Unidos que dominó a Haití mediante terrorismo extremo por 29 años.

Sin embargo, se ha reportado que desde el 11 de febrero el gobierno ha recobrado algunas de estas ciudades. Y en el norteño puerto de Cap—Haitien, “los partidarios de Aristide han incendiado barricadas bloqueando la ciudad por dos días para detener una posible incursión rebelde.”

La complicidad de la fuerza policial de Haití con 4.500 miembros, y con diferentes alianzas, fue evidente en algunas de las tomas. Por ejemplo, la policía en St. Marc, bajo el comando de un oficial ligado al ex soldado y líder de la oposición Dany Toussaint, abandonó su puesto, dejando atrás todas sus armas y municiones.

Según el Miami Herald del 9 de febrero, Jean Tatoune lidera la Fuerza 86, la cual tomó parte en el asalto de Gonaives. “Tatoune había sido condenado por haber participado en el asesinato de partidarios de Aristide en 1994 en lo que se conoció como la Masacre de Raboteau, y era uno de los más de 150 presos que escaparon de la cárcel de Gonaives en el 2002.”

El 7 de febrero, Aristide le dijo a una multitud de cientos de miles de partidarios en la capital Puerto Príncipe, que el gobierno “desarmaría a los terroristas.” En el pueblo sureño de Jacmel y en las áreas de Canape Verte y Carrefour cerca de la capital, sus partidarios levantaron barricadas y se prepararon para defender sus vecindarios. Algunos estaban armados. También respondieron en Grand-Goave el 8 de febrero, quemando una escuela dirigida por uno de los golpistas. En Cap-Haitien, el 7 de febrero, fue incendiada la estación Radio Vision2000 que



Manifestación pro Aristide a Puerto Príncipe, 7 de febrero.

lanzaba propaganda contra Aristide, El 9 de febrero, el Primer Ministro Yvon Neptune acusó a la oposición, encabezada por la élite empresarial de Haití y los grandes terratenientes, de tratar de forzar el golpe. Él les pidió que detuvieran la violencia. Según la cadena noticiosa inglesa BBC, “Un vocero de la oposición negó haber apoyado las acciones y pidió la intervención extranjera para evitar una guerra civil”.

El Partido Popular Nacional de Haití por mucho tiempo ha advertido que el único propósito de la campaña desestabilizadora de la oposición ha sido el de proveer un pretexto para una intervención extranjera.

## Amalgama de duvalieristas y socialdemócratas

Aristide fue el primer jefe de estado elegido por voto popular en Haití. Él ganó la presidencia por primera vez en 1990 con un diluvio de apoyo que fue también un rechazo al candidato respaldado por los Estados Unidos, Marc Bazin, un ex oficial del Banco Mundial. Nueve meses después, Aristide fue derrocado en un golpe de estado sangriento instigado por la CIA. Retornó a Haití de su exilio en 1994 y fue reelegido como presidente en el 2000 con un 92 por ciento del voto. La oposición boicoteó entonces esa elección para ahora decir que hubo “irregularidades”.

Desde entonces se ha desatado una campaña muy bien pagada para calumniar y desestabilizar al gobierno. Esta campaña está apoyada por los EE.UU. y varios países europeos, incluyendo a Francia, el país colonizador de Haití en el pasado. Estas potencias imperialistas han financiado a la oposición, incluso a la Convergencia Democrática, un frente cuyos grupos varían desde los socialdemócratas hasta los neo—duvalieristas y el burgués Grupo de 184, encabezado por el empresario súper explotador, Andy Apaid.

Un embargo de la ayuda al país también ha sido puesto en vigor, creando tremendas dificultades para las mayorías pobres.

Otras trampas sucias incluyen el entrometimiento diplomático, el fomentar la violencia en los barrios más pobres y ataques terroristas al estilo “contra”. Estos han incrementados con la toma armada de Gonaives, la ciudad donde el 1 de enero de 1804, el Gen. Jean—Jaques Dessalines declaró la independencia de Haití de Francia.

Aristide ha hecho muchas concesiones a las demandas de reestructuración del FMI y el Banco Mundial, lo que le ha costado apoyo popular. Pero los EE.UU., no satisfecho con esto, ha ido prestando apoyo a la oposición. Aristide ha acordado desarmar a las pandillas políticas y nombrar conjuntamente con las fuerzas de la oposición a un nuevo primer ministro. Ha prometido llamar a elecciones para la legislatura. Pero la oposición ha amenazado con un boicot y demanda la renuncia de Aristide.

Las personalidades antigubernamentales de la élite burguesa no son meramente patrones de pequeños talleres súper explotadores Ellos controlan y son dueños de la mayoría de los medios de comunicación de Haití. “Son participantes activos en la campaña para desestabilizar al gobierno constitucional de Haití”, dice el periodista independiente Kevin Pina.

“Circulan reportes exagerados de violencia de parte de Lavalas [el partido político de Aristide], ignoran la violencia de parte de la oposición, y no reportan la verdad sobre el tamaño y la frecuencia de las manifestaciones de Lavalas demandando que Aristide cumpla su período electoral de cinco años.

Regularmente producen y difunden

anuncios comerciales que exhortan a la población a ‘reclamar sus derechos democráticos’ uniéndose a las acciones callejeras en contra de Aristide. Igual que en Venezuela, donde las élites locales utilizan sus medios de comunicación para dirigir la oposición al Presidente Hugo Chávez, la meta clara en Haití es echar la constitución en la basura y forzar al Presidente Aristide a renunciar.

“Funciona así”, explica Pina, refiriéndose a las varias fuentes noticiosas de Haití y del extranjero: “Metropole reporta una noticia fabricada; Prensa Asociada y RFI la repiten en sus servicios de cable, y entonces Kiskeya y otras la reportan de nuevo en Haití, ahora avalada por la credibilidad de la prensa internacional. Entonces se completa la confabulación de desinformación de las fuerzas opositoras”. ([www.blackcommentator.org](http://www.blackcommentator.org), del 15 de enero)

“El imperialismo y sus lacayos están tratando de elaborar otro golpe de estado y ocupación militar extranjera de Haití”, dice Ben Dupuy, secretario general del Partido Popular Nacional de Haití (PPN). “Esta es la única forma en que ellos pueden esperar retomar el control del país”.

El PPN y el movimiento popular siguen movilizándose contra las conspiraciones de la administración de Bush y la oposición en contra de Aristide de lograr la recolonización de Haití con fines de obtener mano de obra barata. Esta es verdaderamente una lucha por la segunda independencia de Haití—esta vez, independencia de los EE.UU. y de la dominación capitalista. □

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