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# U.S. playing with fire in Mideast

## Will Bush spread war to Iran, Syria, Lebanon?

By Sako Sefiani

In his recent trip to Europe, U.S. President George W. Bush tried to rally European heads of state against Iran and Syria. Russia was pressured not to sign a nuclear power plant development agreement with Iran. Europe was coaxed to contribute to the training of Iraqi troops. Washington's imperialist allies, Britain, France and Germany, were asked not to negotiate with Iran over its nuclear power program.

And the result? Russia went ahead and signed its agreement for developing a power plant in Iran. The mission for training Iraqi security forces will be made up of just over 100 instructors; more than half will be U.S. instructors training senior Iraqi officers in Baghdad's heavily protected "Green Zone." France will contribute just one officer "to help coordination" at NATO's military headquarters in southern Belgium. (AP, Feb. 23)

As for how to deal with the "nuclear crisis" of Iran, the U.S. had to back off its bellicose posturing, at least for now.

But the danger of U.S. military adventurism in the Middle East remains high and all anti-war activists must remain vigilant and alert.

### The 'nuclear crisis'

Iran's interest in developing nuclear power goes back to the days of the U.S.-installed shah. The Bush administration has only tried to turn it into a "crisis" since opening the war on Iraq.

In addition to signing the Safeguards Agreement more than a year ago—which allows the International Atomic Energy Agency to monitor the production, processing, transformation and disposition of certain nuclear materials—Iran voluntarily signed an Additional Protocol. It expands the authority of IAEA inspectors to go anywhere and see anything.

Director General Mohamed El Baradei reported to the IAEA Board of Governors at their last meeting that after a year-long exhaustive and intrusive inspection, he had found no evidence that Iran has ever attempted to acquire nukes or the makings thereof.

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Iran also voluntarily suspended its program for enriching uranium when it entered talks with Britain, France and Germany in November.

The U.S., on the other hand, has been pushing Europe to bring Iran in front of the United Nations Security Council, which could not only impose sanctions to weaken Iran politically, economically and militarily, but also, through a vaguely worded resolution, provide the justification for military action.

But Washington's resistance to proposals by the Europeans proved to be "counterproductive," according to U.S. and European officials, because they often made the United States, rather than Iran, appear to be "the odd man out diplomatically." (Washington Post, Feb. 28)

As an incentive, the European imperialists want to offer World Trade Organization (WTO) membership to Iran, which comes with certain economic and political conditions. "The kind of [economic and political] changes required for membership in the World Trade Organization are very much what we'd want to see anyway," said a State Department official on Feb. 28, explaining their attitude change toward the Europeans' offer.

But Washington does not expect the Iranians to be able to comply. Regarding the changes required of Iran, the official said: "We're profoundly skeptical that Iran is going to do anything. And if Iran did comply, there would still be a lot to talk about even at that stage before Iran got WTO membership."

In other words, the U.S. is counting on Iran not getting anything meaningful for the suspension of its nuclear program. Iran has said that if the talks do not produce any results by June, it will resume all the IAEA-safeguarded activities it has currently suspended.

It should therefore not be too surprising that in a Feb. 18 talk

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# U.S. TROOPS... OUT NOW

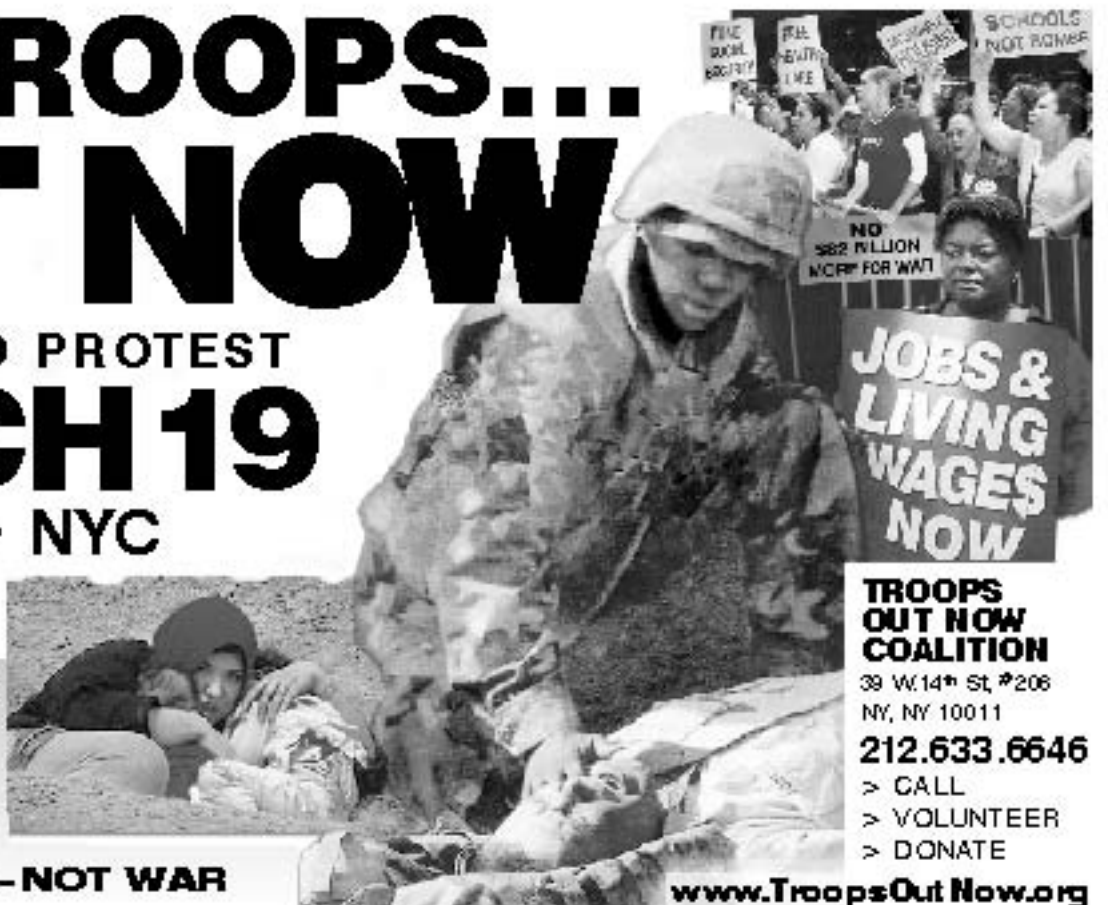
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# 1950s witch hunt: Even McCarthy was gay baited

By Leslie Feinberg

In the 1950s, more bombshells were to detonate in the overall offensive against the "Lavender Menace," which had become a foil for the right-wing in the domestic Cold War.

In 1951, Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean, two gay double-agents working in British intelligence, fled to the Soviet Union. This was grist for the mill, linking homosexuality with communist "treason."

In 1952, worldwide publicity accompanied the entrapment and arrest of British mathematician and computer innovator Alan Turing. He was one of 1,686 men rounded up and charged with "gross indecency with males." Turing had risen to fame during World War II after he deciphered a Nazi secret code.

Turing was sentenced to a year of hormonal treatments, which reportedly caused impotence and breast development, and became the target of British government scrutiny as a potential "subversive." He killed himself two years later, at the age of 41.

In the U.S., transphobia also took center stage in 1952. When Christine Jorgensen's plane touched down carrying her home from Denmark, where she'd sought hormonal and surgical help with sex reassignment, 300 reporters surged forward, shouting questions as flash bulbs popped.

She became the brunt of a dehumanizing and degrading campaign from the bully pulpits of radio, newspaper and television.

And that same year, even cold warrior Sen. Joseph McCarthy was publicly baited as a homosexual.

## Hoisted by their own petard

After the 1952 election, in which the Republicans won back Senate control, McCarthy took over as chair of the Investigations Subcommittee of the Committee on Government Operations. He hired 25-year-old attorney Roy Cohn as his chief counsel. Cohn in turn recruited David Schine, later rumored to be his lover, to become chief consultant.

Cohn had close contacts within the FBI. That was important for McCarthy, who reportedly worked hand-in-glove with J. Edgar Hoover's bureau between 1950 and 1953.

One of Hoover's agents, William Sullivan, later conceded, "We were the ones who made the McCarthy hearings possible. We fed McCarthy all the material he was using."

This information sharing was covert and quite illegal. Although bound by law to share information only with the executive branch, the bureau had also reportedly leaked background checks to Congress.

Hoover was said to have recommended Roy Cohn for the post with McCarthy because he was impressed by the young attorney's railroading of Communist Party members Ethel Rosenberg and Julius Rosenberg to the electric chair on charges of passing atomic secrets to the Soviet Union. Hoover himself has been rumored to have had a long-term affair with an assistant, Clyde Tolson.

"As McCarthy's henchman and chief counsel he [Cohn-LF] was responsible for grilling suspected communists on their own sexual tendencies and on whether other people had 'homosexual tendencies.' Cohn and McCarthy subpoenaed gay men in the arts and threatened

to out them if they did not produce a list of 'suspected Communists.' (wikipedia.com)

McCarthy had made a name for himself as point man for a far right-wing current that attacked the Truman administration for the "loss" of China from imperialist exploitation after the monumental Communist-led revolution there.

But when McCarthy leveled his guns at the Eisenhower administration for not being "tough enough" on communism, he got his comeuppance. That was when he found himself in the cross-hairs of the anti-homosexual witch hunt.

In 1952, journalist Hank Greenspun wrote a column about the ambitious senator which could not have found its way into print without powerful support. It said that

Lesbian • gay • bi  
and trans  
**PRIDE**  
SERIES  
PART  
28

"Joe McCarthy is a bachelor of 43 years. ... He seldom dates girls and if he does he laughingly describes it as window dressing. It is common talk among homosexuals in Milwaukee who rendezvous in the White Horse Inn that Senator Joe McCarthy has often engaged in homosexual activities." (Las Vegas Sun, Oct. 25, 1952)

While McCarthy was said to have briefly threatened to sue Greenspun for libel, he later declined to do so, reportedly after lawyers told him it meant he'd have to testify about his sexuality. Less than a year later, McCarthy married his secretary, Jeannie Kerr.

In March 1953, McCarthy tried to defeat Eisenhower's appointment of Charles Bohlen as ambassador to Russia. Bohlen was a shrewd imperialist diplomat who had participated in the February 1945 Yalta Conference at which Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin had negotiated over the shape of post-war Europe. McCarthy tried to enlist Hoover's help. But although Hoover allegedly said that Bohlen had "associated" with homosexuals and that an FBI investigation had found him weak from "the security and morals angle," Hoover said he couldn't provide evidence. Bohlen was confirmed.

McCarthy also tried to cast aspersions on Secretary of the Army Robert Stevens. But when the senator from Wisconsin attempted to probe the echelons of the Army brass for subversives, at the height of the Korean War, he had crossed the line. His self-promoting witch hunt was now being extended to anyone who stood in his way, including seasoned members of the imperialist military-political establishment itself.

Eisenhower, a former Army general and in many ways the architect of the modern military-industrial complex, allowed the hearings to be televised to publicly expose McCarthy's tyrannical bullying. This was a tactic to arouse public anger at his intimidation tactics, and it provided the basis for the Senate to censure McCarthy in December 1954 by a vote of 67 to 22.

Whether McCarthy, Hoover, Cohn and other Cold Warriors in their circles thought of themselves as homosexuals, and whether or not they had sex with other men, is not really the issue.

Seen from the standpoint of sexuality, it seems inexplicable, like when Ernst Roehm and other gay Nazis helped to violently smash the German Homosexual Emancipation Movement.

However, McCarthy, like Roehm, hated the grass-roots, working-class movement that challenged capitalist rule

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### BOSTON

#### Sat., March 5

Public meeting. "Call to action to fight cutbacks on AIDs funding and HIV prevention." 10-4. At Arlington Street Church, Boston. For info (617) 522-6626 or www.iacboston.org.

#### Sat., March 12

IWD speak-out featuring Oslyn Brumant, Local 8751, UAW; Diane Dujon, Mass. Welfare Rts.; Leilani Dowell, FIST; Kim Rosario, mother of GI in Iraq and others. At YWCA, 7 Temple St., Cambridge. Sponsored by Women's Fightback Network, (617) 522-6626.

### NEW YORK

#### Fri., March 4

Workers World Party Meeting. Celebrate International Women's Day 2005. Hear a panel of women leaders speak on: Resisting Bush's war on women. 7 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. At 55 W. 17 St., 5th fl., Manhattan. For info: (212) 627-2994.

#### Sat., March 19

U.S. troops out now. rally in

### Workers World

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# Supreme Court rules against executions of juveniles

By Gloria Rubac

"This is a major victory for all abolitionists! Another leg has been kicked out from under the table of the racist, anti-poor death penalty," exclaimed Njeri Shakur through tears of joy March 1, upon finding out that the U.S. Supreme Court had ruled five to four that executing juveniles is cruel and unusual punishment.

This ruling affects the 72 people on death rows in the United States who were 16 or 17 when charged with capital murder. Twenty-nine of these people are on death row in Texas.

The last person sent to Texas death row was Robert Acuña, who was convicted of capital murder last August. The defense tried to persuade the Houston district attorney to delay the trial until this anticipated ruling, but the district attorney

refused.

Barbara Acuña told Workers World: "I was so very happy and relieved with this ruling today. It has been so traumatic for our family. I can't wait to see my son in the morning. I am grateful to all those attorneys and activists who have fought for this."

Acuña and other death-row mothers will speak at a news conference March 2, called by the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement to speak about the ruling and the effects on a family that has had a 17-year-old sent to be killed by the state.

One of the most well-known juvenile cases in Texas was that of Shaka Sankofa, executed in 2000. Another was Napoleon Beazley, executed in 2002.

Beazley's parents reacted to the ruling with mixed emotions. "We know this is a victory and we are so very happy, but at the

same time, our hearts still ache for Napoleon. This ruling should have come sooner," they said.

Since 1976, when the death penalty was reinstated in the United States, 22 juveniles have been executed, 13 of them in Texas.

The first execution of a juvenile offender was in 1642: Thomas Graunger, 16 years old, in Plymouth Colony, Mass. In the 360 years since that time, approximately 365 persons have been executed for juvenile crimes.

The youngest known person to be executed in the United States was James Arcene, a Native American boy who was 10 years old at the time of his "crime."

Since World War II, the youngest person to be executed in the United States was George Stinney, a 14-year-old African American boy who was so small, weighing

only 95 pounds, that the oversized mask fell off his face while he was being electrocuted by the state of South Carolina.

Of the 73 juvenile offenders currently on death row and those executed in the current era, two out of three have been either African American or Latino.

Of the 10 female juvenile offenders executed in the United States, eight were African-American and one was Native American. In each of those cases, the victim was white.

Southern states account for 84 percent of all death sentences imposed on juvenile offenders since 1973. Only three states—Texas, Florida and Alabama—account for half of those sentences.

The independent mass struggle must continue until the racist, anti-poor death penalty is abolished once and for all. □

## SAN DIEGO

# Youths rally in support of Mexican political prisoners

By Ruth Vela

A group of revolutionary youths—small in number but big in spirit—rallied at the Mexican Consulate in San Diego Feb. 23 in support of several political prisoners currently held throughout Mexico.

The important event, initiated by Reynaldo Escoto of Zapatista Friends-Tijuana, was called to present the consulate with letters and petitions in support of three ongoing struggles: to free the political prisoners arrested on May 28, 2004, in Guadalajara; a halt to the continued torment of the community of Agiabampo 2 in Sonora; and stop the unjust incarceration of Nicolasa Ramos from Maclovio Rojas, a Tijuana community still struggling for its land titles.

The May 28 political prisoners are five men being detained at the Penal de Puente Grande in Guadalajara, Jalisco. Although the charges range from vandalism to inciting a riot, the real "crime" these youths are being penalized for is having attended a demonstration at the Third Summit of

Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union (III Cumbre America Latina, El Caribe y la Union Europea) last May.

That day hundreds of demonstrators were chased down and brutally beaten by police. Many protesters were not detained but are currently awaiting trial. Those individuals, regardless of where they live, are being forced to report to authorities in Guadalajara once a month. Currently there is no trial date set for the five detainees, but their combined bail is U.S. \$8,000.

Agiabampo 2 in Sonora is a community like many others in Mexico, in that it struggles for recognition of its land titles, livable wages and decent housing. After being threatened and harassed by police, the community built barricades made of junked cars. Also, the community declared itself to be in solidarity with the Zapatista movement as a further measure of security and in a brave revolutionary effort to struggle against the government.

In response, the Mexican government came down hard on Agiabampo 2 one

night last December, sending paramilitary troopers directly to the homes of movement leaders before dawn. Windows were shattered as women, men and children were forced from their beds and thrown out into the cold. They were forced to watch as community leaders were beaten, handcuffed and carried away by police.

Three men remain in detention. Police patrol the community day and night. Children have stopped going to school and several families sleep in one home out of fear.

Fear is no stranger to the people of Maclovio Rojas, Tijuana, either. They too have struggled for their land titles and their dignity in a battle against the government that has gone on for 16 years.

Two years ago the people of Maclovio received a huge blow when Tijuana police arrested Nicolasa Ramos, one of the leaders of their struggle, for alleged theft of water. Water, which runs to the city of Tijuana in aqueducts that cross Maclovio's land, is denied to the residents of the town. They must buy water from the government.

Residents managed to tap into the

water's source. Ramos was targeted because of her important role in the struggle. Since December 2003, Ramos, who is in her 50s, has remained incarcerated. Other leaders of the community were forced into hiding.

At the Feb. 23 rally, members of Zapatista Friends-Tijuana, Fight Imperialism-Stand Together, Resistencia Estudiantil, and other youth and student groups led chants letting the people of Guadalajara, Agiabampo and Maclovio Rojas know they are not alone: "NO ESTAN SOLOS!"

Consulate officials claimed to be "unavailable." But the letters and petitions were unenthusiastically received by a press agent, who promised that the "San Diego Mexican Consulate is on your side."

In response, the youths promised to continue rallying on their doorstep until there's proof that the consulate is doing something in response to these three unjust, intolerable crimes against the working class. □



# Labor, community unite as Montserratians fight deportations

By Hannah Kirschbaum  
Boston

On two consecutive Saturdays in late February, Montserratians and their supporters descended on Boston's Mattapan Square to protest the termination of their Temporary Protection Status by President George W. Bush's Department of Homeland Security. They have also picketed outside the Federal Building in downtown Boston.

After a broad speakout in the square Feb. 26, protesters formed a motorcade winding through Boston's Black, Latino and immigrant communities. Passersby demonstrated their support for the Montserratian struggle by blowing horns, waving and shouting out their support.

Approximately 292 Montserratians have resided in the United States since vol-

canic activity made their homeland uninhabitable.

Montserrat is a small island located in the Caribbean Sea, southeast of Puerto Rico. The total land area is only 39 square miles. There are seven active volcanoes on Montserrat. A volcano in the Soufriere Hills has been continuously active since 1995 and has caused massive destruction to the island. The continuing environmental disaster shows no sign of improving in the near future.

Montserrat's population was 12,000 before an estimated 8,000 refugees fled the island because of the volcanic activity in July 1995. The capital, Plymouth, was abandoned in 1997 and reduced to lava-covered rubble.

For the past 10 years, there has been little or no economic activity on the island. The airport was destroyed. Seaports have

been closed. Agricultural labor, the main occupation in Montserrat, is now impossible, as there is very little land that can still be cultivated.

Conditions on the island are extremely hazardous. Those buildings not leveled as a result of the volcanic disaster are now in danger of collapse. Even the island's hospital is unusable.

In March 2004, another eruption sent a massive cloud of ash into the air and pyroclastic flows down the eastern flank of the Soufriere Hills volcano. Such conditions present a clear and present danger of respiratory diseases.

Colin Riley, who came to the United States on a student visa in

*Continued on page 8*



Plymouth 1993, above, Plymouth 1999, below.



# Hold on to your wallet!

## Dollar slides, war costs rise

By Milt Neidenberg

It was a troubling 24 hours for the empire. Would there be a run on the dollar?

On Feb. 22, South Korea's central bank, the fourth biggest holder of U.S. debt, announced it intended to sell off dollars and diversify into other currencies. South Korea holds about \$69 billion in U.S. Treasury securities, and a total of \$200 billion in all foreign reserves.

The global currency markets feared that China, which holds \$600 billion and Japan, with \$800 billion in total foreign currency reserves, might join in the sell-off. The dollar plunged against almost every currency—at least 30 of them.

The fallout sent shock waves throughout the global financial markets.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged 174.02 points. The British stock exchange, FTSE, along with the European stock markets in Frankfurt and Paris, also dropped significantly.

Gold, the safeguard against plunging markets, rose \$7.40 an ounce. Oil, which is priced in dollars, spiked 5.8 percent to \$51.15, the highest level since October.

### Alarm bells ring worldwide

A Feb. 24 New York Times editorial warned: "The United States' trade deficit has mushroomed to record levels, as has the United States' need to borrow from abroad—some \$2 billion a day just to balance its books. ... As the Korean comment ping-ponged around the world, all hell broke loose, with currency traders selling dollars, fearing the central banks of Japan and China, which hold immense dollar reserves—a combined \$900 billion or 46 percent of foreign treasury holdings—might follow suit."

The editorial described a scenario that "would be the United States' worst nightmare ... if it appeared that the flow of investment was not enough to cover the nation's gargantuan deficits, interest rates would rise sharply, the dollar would plunge further, and the economy would stall. A fiscal crisis would result."

Within 24 hours, the South Korean central bank and other Asian banks said their comments had been misinterpreted. They calmed the markets by stating they had no intention of selling their dollars.

How much pressure—economic, military and political—did the U.S. ruling class put on the Koreans to reverse their earlier statement? The world may never know.

### Oil and inflation

Oil is king. The robber barons of the 19th century, like the ruthless Rockefeller dynasty, are back on top with mega-mergers and new names.

ExxonMobil has replaced General Electric as top dog among the blue-chip players. ChevronTexaco and ConocoPhillips are right behind them. All three stocks spearheaded the recent surge in the stock market. These three mega-monopolies control the market and the pricing of oil, which hovers above \$50 a barrel.

George Soros, the multi-billionaire investor and speculator and a major contributor to the John Kerry presidential campaign, described the link between oil and the dollar. At a conference in Saudi Arabia he said, "The higher the price of oil, the more the dollars there are to be switched to euros [so] the strength of oil will reinforce the weakness of the dollar." (USA Today, Feb. 21)

Middle East oil exporters and Russia have already switched from dollars to euros. A further rise in crude prices could prompt more withdrawals from their dollar reserves, sending the dollar to all-time lows.

January "core" prices, which exclude food and energy, rose a significant .08 percent. Add the skyrocketing costs of food and energy, and the inconvertible truth is that inflation is a fact of life here in this arrogant super-power. The global markets are flooded with cheap dollars, and will be inundated with uncontrolled inflation.

The Wall Street Journal editorialized on Feb. 23: "[This] taste of dollar inflation removed any doubt that the long era of low interest rates that we've been living through is over. ... Alan Greenspan broke this bad news last week when he told Congress that while the economy was sound [the Gross Domestic Product expanded during last quarter 2004, thanks to cheap dollar-denominated exports-MN], the Fed may have to step up the pace of its interest-rate increases."

This is a signal that interest rates will rise to levels far beyond the Federal Reserve's own "measured rate." This will raise the cost of borrowing money for the purpose of attracting dollars to cover the intractable U.S. debt.

Previously, Greenspan was asked at what point there would be a global sell-off of dollars that sustain the humongous debt, and what the Fed's target range for the next rate increase is. Greenspan said these questions were like a "conundrum"—his fancy way of saying, "How

the hell do I know?"

Is another run on the dollar on the horizon? Central banks have already shifted their reserves away from the dollar and toward the euro. About 65 central banks controlling assets worth \$1.7 trillion took part. The dollar has dropped over 30 percent against the euro.

### What lies ahead?

In the Feb. 24 New York Times Thomas L. Friedman quoted Robert Hormats, vice chair of Goldman Sachs International: "These countries don't have to dump dollars—they just have to reduce their purchases of them for the dollar to be severely affected. ... Remember the October 1987 stock market crash began with a currency crisis."

Is this what faces the labor movement, the unorganized, the oppressed nationalities and the poor? Wages and benefits have dropped significantly. Inflation has driven up prices of goods and services and wiped out whatever meager wage increases have been won. Social services and programs for low-paid workers have been drastically cut to pay for imperialist wars and Bush's tax giveaways to the 1-percenters.

The cheaper dollar has enriched U.S. corporations, which have flooded global markets with goods and services at the expense of the European Union, primarily France and Germany. A global trade war is in the making.

France, Europe's third largest economy, has 10 percent unemployment. That's a five-year high. Street protests have mounted.

There have also been many protests in Germany, suffering from similar double-digit unemployment and deficits.

A Feb. 25 Wall Street Journal article headlined, "CEO Bonuses Rose 46.4% at 100 Big Firms in 2004," cited a survey by the New York firm of Mercer Human Resource Consulting. Mercer has been retained by the Wall Street Journal to track the financial statements of 100 biggest corporations.

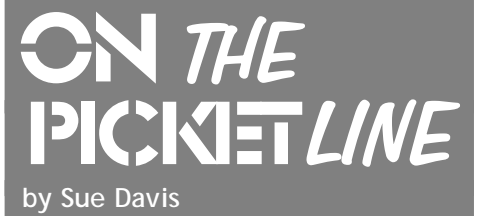
"CEOs in the Mercer study enjoyed median total direct compensation of \$4,419,300—about 160 times what the average U.S. production worker made last year. The Mercer study also revealed that the median 2004 bonus equaled 141 percent of annual salaries, another record. Clerical and technical support staff received an average bonus of 5 percent of salary."

Most of these companies are applying the principles of "lean manufacturing"—keeping inventories as low as possible and reacting to short-term demand—while using temporary or part-time workers from non-union, low-paying sub-contractors and outsourcing agencies.

"The number of Americans without a job for more than six months has more than doubled over the past three years to 1.6 million. The share of the unemployed without work for more than six months has stayed above 20 percent for the past year and a half. Never before has the rate been so high for so long." (Financial Times, Feb. 18, 2005)

Only a mass mobilization—independent and class-wide—can eliminate the gross inequities between the billionaires and the workers, whose labor power produces the wealth that maintains these parasites in obscene luxury.

History has confirmed over and over that political and social change, organized from below, is the only antidote to the ruthless imperialist/monopoly capitalist system of wars, plunder and profit. □



## Youngstown strikers hang tough

Battle lines in Youngstown, Ohio, hardened Feb. 7 when Newspaper Guild Local 34011 members again rejected a contract offer they had voted down in December—this time by an even wider margin. The 107-20 vote—compared with the earlier 99-36 vote—assured that the strike against The Vindicator, which began Nov. 16, 2004, will drag into a fourth month. Owners of the newspaper have refused to negotiate or even consider concessions offered by the union. They're sticking to their initial demand: a 1-percent raise and rollbacks in health-care coverage. An "adopt-a-striker" program started spontaneously in the heavily unionized city, with the first two pledges arriving Feb. 8. The union has begun appealing for more, with the goal of raising an extra \$100 a month per striker. Guild members are also intensifying their community support campaign. Their alternative paper, Valley Voice News ([www.valleyvoiceonline.com](http://www.valleyvoiceonline.com)), now features a full-page Advertisers' Hall of Shame. A subscription boycott, with coupons in the Voice that readers can clip and mail, is gathering steam. ([newsguild.org](http://newsguild.org))

## Verizon workers win strong contract

The Communication Workers negotiated a strong agreement for 2,000 workers in Verizon's North Central region on Jan. 30. But the workers didn't win without a struggle. They used a variety of tactics, including practice picketing, a health-care action day, Christmas cards to Verizon's top officer, work-place stand-ups and wearing stickers and T-shirts on the job. Wage increases amount to 10.5 percent over the course of the five-year contract. The medical plan currently offered to active employees in Ohio and Michigan will continue, and the plan was expanded to include workers in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. The contract protects retiree health benefits and increases pension minimums by 5 percent.

## A first in Houston: a union hotel

It took a long union-community-legislative struggle, but 500 workers at the Hilton Americas Hotel won a first in Houston history: they unionized on Dec. 16, 2004. The mostly immigrant labor force in UNITE HERE Local 251 signed a contract with decent wages and improved benefits, including increased employer contributions to health insurance, better retirement terms, sick days, vacation time, a seniority system and a grievance procedure. (February/March 2005 [America@Work](mailto:America@Work))

## Cingular workers vote to strike

In mid-February, 5,300 members of the Communications Workers at Cingular Wireless voted overwhelmingly—by an 88 percent yes vote—to call work actions including a possible strike if negotiators are unable to win a fair contract. Key issues for the workers are job security—essential given the recent merger with AT&T Wireless—a fair wage increase, and matters concerning technical, call center, network and retail sales work. The contract continues to be extended on a day-to-day basis. ([www.cwa-union.org/cingular](http://www.cwa-union.org/cingular)) □



WWW PHOTO: JULIA LA RIVA

On Feb. 26, about a thousand people marched and rallied in South Central Los Angeles to say, "No to racist police violence." The protest was organized by the Nation of Islam to protest the murder of 13-year-old Devin Brown. The Black youth, driving a car, was shot 10 times by a cop, despite the fact that the cop was not in any danger.

Many community organizations were involved in the protest. UNITE HERE Local 11 President Maria Elena Durazo told the crowd that Devin Brown's mother, Evelyn Davis, was a member of the hotel workers' union, reflecting the labor/community unity of the protest. Activists with the International Action Center carried a banner that read: "Stop racist violence from Baghdad to South Central. No U.S. troops in Iraq—No racist cops in South Central. Justice for Devin Brown!"

—Jim McMahan

# Budget fight flares in Motown

By Cheryl LaBash  
Detroit

With a conference of consultants and economists developing the strategy to suck more money out of the pockets of working and unemployed Detroiters, Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick thought he had all the arguments to make the budget cuts seem reasonable, even inevitable. Yet in the last week in February, his cutback strategy was pushed back—and the opposition focus expanded to a national fight-back program targeting the war budget.

On Feb. 26, over a thousand loud, angry bus riders and drivers stalled the city's announced plan to end nighttime bus service as of March 5.

The bus riders answered a call from the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 26. People flooded the City Council auditorium, with the crowd overflowing outside the locked-down building. This unity between drivers and riders in militant mass action demonstrated a winning strategy to block cuts that can be expanded.

In a four-four tie vote, the City Council refused to approve a hike in water and sewerage rates for the first time in history. The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department didn't even respond to a proposal presented by the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization. The WRO's plan aimed to ensure that clean, safe water, a necessity for life, is affordable by charging large-scale users more and low-income users no more than 2 percent of their income.

Also a courageous city councilwoman, Joann Watson, corrected an obvious but intentional omission by the mayor's budget cutters. Calling for equality of sacrifice, the mayor claimed to cut his appointees' six-figure salaries by 10 percent and demanded that all city workers likewise accept a 10-percent pay cut—a proposal unionized workers aren't showing any indication of accepting.

Contractors received letters from the city asking for a voluntary rebate of 10 percent. However, it took Watson to request a report to the council on the status of the city's biggest debts and "that bank bondholders and other corporate entities to whom the city is indebted voluntarily

reduce the amounts owed by the city by 10 percent across the board."

According to a report published in the Michigan Citizen (Dec. 16, 2004), "The City of Detroit and its units were due to pay nearly one billion dollars, \$831,996,321 on bonds, notes and other debts payable for the year ending 2004, according to its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ending June 30, 2003.

"Forty-four percent of that amount, a total of \$365,795,035, was expected to be spent on interest. Figured into these figures are the library, the People Mover, and various authorities like the Downtown Development Authority."

Just foregoing the interest would wipe out the city's deficit. But even 10 percent is \$83.2 million. This sum is more than four times the expected savings from the 10-percent pay cut for the biggest union of city workers, AFSCME.

Cutting the income of the mostly women AFSCME members will only yield \$19.2 million for the one-year period July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006, according to an internal City of Detroit memo dated February 2.

Experience shows that a local determined struggle against budget cuts is only part of the battle. Already, as resistance grows, the threat of state receivership to impose the cuts has been floated. How can the needs of poor and working people, of youths, students, seniors and the disabled be met when billions of dollars are spent to make war on the world and occupy Iraq?

What about the cities, towns and states that face the same crisis from the same source?

## Coalition organizes to feed the cities, not the war

An enthusiastic alliance of community, labor, anti-war activists and progressive City Council representatives met Feb. 24 to call together a National Conference to Feed the Cities Not the Pentagon.

Statistics presented by James Anderson from Employment Research Associates and Michigan State University showed that the Detroit and Michigan budget deficits could be turned into surpluses—just by diverting funding from the Iraq war.

As of March 2004, Detroit lost \$429 million and 9,000 jobs. The state of Michigan lost \$7 billion and 145,000 jobs. Clearly it is time to demand more instead of trying to make do with less.

While the call is being drafted, organizers will help build the March 18 March Against War, part of nationwide and international protests set to coincide with the second anniversary of the U.S. war on Iraq.

The leaflet issued by the Michigan Emergency Committee Against War and Injustice says: "War In Iraq Hits Hard at Home: In 2004, \$429 million of Detroit's taxes went for the Iraq war. That's twice

the city's 'budget deficit.' We need that money right here for expanded bus service, smaller class sizes in our schools, more recreation programs for our youth, more and better city services."

The demonstrators will gather March 18 at the Spirit of Detroit Statue on Woodward and Jefferson in downtown Detroit, and march to a rally in support of war resisters. That rally will feature Sgt. Camilo Mejia, who was just released from military prison after refusing to return to Iraq. A local demonstration of the Feed the Cities group is planned before the Detroit mayor's budget address in mid-April. □

## DETROIT

# Larry Holmes featured at Black History Month forum

By Cheryl LaBash  
Detroit



Larry Holmes

WW PHOTO: CHERYL LABASH

during the 2003 grocery workers' strike in Southern California.

"The exception in 2004 are the leaders of the Million Workers March—who should be celebrated as heroes!"

Larry Holmes, a national leader of Workers World Party, spoke at a Black History Month forum in Detroit Feb. 26 hosted by the party's Detroit chapter.

Holmes said that the thousands who honored the life of the late Ossie Davis after his death last month needed to emulate Davis' bravery and activism—from the times Davis defended Paul Robeson during the 1950s witch hunt up until the day he died on Feb. 4.

"The challenge today," Holmes continued, "is ideological: whether or not to struggle.

"Capitalism is saying there is no alternative and it can no longer afford decent wages, pensions, unions, social security, Medicare, Medicaid, libraries, food stamps. To many this may seem daunting and overwhelming. It has affected the progressive movement especially after the election. They will come out of it."

Holmes explained why the struggle needs to be more anti-capitalist. What's needed, he said, is to go beyond the demand of "no cuts" and demand that "we have a right to the best health care, to decent housing, to first-rate education. Our class has to assert itself. It is self-defense."

Holmes also talked about the mistake the anti-war movement made in 2004 by supporting a pro-war candidate, John Kerry. And he pointed out that the labor movement missed an opportunity to launch a national struggle for health care

Holmes, an organizer with the Troops Out Now coalition in New York, spoke about the march from Harlem to Central Park planned for March 19, the second anniversary of the U.S. war on Iraq. Holmes said:

"The coalition is not a token relationship with the Black and Latin@ communities, but a deep substantive alliance ... having a rally in Marcus Garvey Park focusing on housing and Black unemployment and its relationship to the war budget.

"The city was willing to give permits for a march from Harlem to Central Park. But they don't want to give a permit to march 15 blocks down Fifth Avenue to Mayor Bloomberg's private residence on 79th Street and Fifth Avenue. They don't want us to bother the rich people.

"It will be a struggle unfolding in the next few weeks."

Other forum speakers included Detroit WWP member Kevin Carey reporting on the lynchings exhibit on display at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History Museum. Andrea Hackett reported on the Michigan Emergency Committee Against War and Injustice's plan to demonstrate on the March 18 anniversary of the invasion of Iraq. □

# Packed room for Black History Month meeting



Speakers in Boston.

WW PHOTO: STEVE GILLIS

The Feb. 26 Boston Workers World Black History forum featured Imani Henry, writer for Workers World newspaper and a co-founder of Rainbow Flags for Mumia. Henry spoke about the history of resistance in the Caribbean, from slavery to the International Monetary Fund.

Asata Tigray of the Martin Luther King Coalition of Rhode Island spoke on the need for solidarity and unity. She said that if Malcolm X were here today he would be against the war in Iraq and fighting for socialism.

David Ebony Allen Barkley of the Association of Black Union Workers sang spirituals sung by Paul Robeson. Josue Renaud of the New England Human Rights Organization for Haiti spoke of the anniversary of the coup-napping of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and ongoing repression in Haiti.

Marcus Jean, a Haitian school-bus driver prosecuted under Homeland Security on bogus trumped-up "terrorism" charges, described his struggle to regain his job after being acquitted thanks to organized support from his union and the anti-war movement. Poetry was presented by Margaret Campbell, Rufini, and Araya Selassi. The meeting was chaired by Robert Traynham.

—Frank Neisser



Feb. 22, Hoboken, New Jersey  
WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

# NJ protests: 'No pension? No peace!'

The health-care crisis continues to deepen at an alarming rate. In New Jersey in late February, District 1199J, National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees, and AFSCME organized picket lines to demand a living wage and benefit package for health-care workers. These workers face increasing layoffs and cutbacks, with closings threatened at hospitals and other vital health-care centers. Pictured here is a Feb. 22 District 1199J protest outside St. Mary's Hospital in Hoboken, N.J.

—Story & photo by Anne Pruden



## VIOLA LIUZZO:

# 'We're going to change the world'

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Women on 1965 Selma to Montgomery march and Viola Liuzzo.

After years, decades, centuries of struggle, the Black civil rights movement celebrated one of its greatest triumphs on March 25, 1965. On that historic day, some 25,000 protesters of all nationalities marched into Montgomery, Ala.—a former capital of the slave-owning Confederacy in the 19th century.

The protesters were completing a four-day march from Selma, Ala. An attempt to march the same route earlier in the month to protest the Feb. 18 killing of African American voter-rights activist Jimmy Lee Jackson had been met with intense repression. On "Bloody Sunday"—March 7, 1965—Alabama state troopers on horseback had tear-gassed and mercilessly clubbed 600 women, men and children as they marched peacefully across the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

After this outrage, civil-rights leader the Rev. Martin Luther King sent out an appeal across the country for all who supported the African American freedom movement to come to Selma.

One of the thousands who answered that call was Viola Liuzzo, a 39-year-old white woman from Detroit. On the evening of March 25, as she was ferrying an African American marcher back to his home in her car, a carload of Ku Klux Klan members forced her car off the road, shot and killed her.

Liuzzo was the only white woman to give her life during the Black civil-rights movement of the 1960s. With that sacrifice, she joined a handful of white men, like the Rev. James Reeb, killed in Selma earlier the same month.

She also joined the hundreds of thousands, the millions, of known and unknown Africans and African Americans who had fought and died for their freedom—from the 40 who fell in battle against South Carolina slave owners at Stono River in 1739, to Jimmy Lee Jackson. Jackson, a 27-year-old farm laborer and pulpwood cutter, who was shot down on Feb. 18, 1965, at a voter-rights protest in Marion, Ala., as he attempted to protect his mother and grandfather from the clubs of the state troopers.

A recently released film, "Home of the Brave," directed by Paola di Florio,

attempts to document Liuzzo's life and legacy. It does give a glimpse into the background of this almost unknown anti-racist fighter, but without fully exploring all the forces that shaped her.

### Courage in the struggle

What experiences led Liuzzo to reject racism and segregation, and to journey South into struggle?

She was born in 1925 into a coal-mining family in Pennsylvania. Her father made 50 cents a day when he could find work. He received no compensation from the mine owners after he lost a hand in an accident. As the family quickly sank into poverty and moved from town to town through Tennessee and Georgia, Liuzzo saw firsthand the violence and degradation of racism toward African Americans.

During World War II the family moved North to find jobs. Her father worked at a bomber plant in Ypsilanti, and her mother at a Ford plant in Detroit. Liuzzo found wartime work in a cafeteria, married, and became close friends with Sarah Evans, an African American woman through whom she joined the NAACP.

Liuzzo organized locally for an end to discrimination in education and for economic justice. She was arrested twice and insisted on a public trial to bring attention to these causes. (Joanne Giannino, Dictionary of Unitarian and Universalist Biography)

According to Liuzzo's daughter, Mary Liuzzo Lilleboe, "My mother was raised in the South and she followed the whole labor story." She noted that the FBI files from the investigation of Liuzzo's death show Liuzzo wrote letters "to protest the government's witch-hunt of the labor unions."

Liuzzo resisted her oppression as a woman as well. When she went back to school as a high-school dropout, working-class housewife and mother of five, she wrote, "I protest the attitude of the great majority of men who hold to the conviction that any married woman who is



unable to find contentment and self-satisfaction when confined to homemaking displays a lack of emotional health."

After the death of one of her children at birth, she broke with the Catholic Church because it decreed that unbaptized babies spend eternity in "limbo." She joined a local Unitarian Universalist Church where many of the members had been Freedom Riders in an earlier struggle against segregation in public transportation.

In an interview, Evans later said of her friend: "Viola Liuzzo lived a life that combined the care of her family and her home with a concern for the world around her. This involvement with her at times was not always understood by her friends; nor was it appreciated by those around her."

### Smearing a radical

After Liuzzo's death, the FBI under J. Edgar Hoover began a smear campaign against her. She was red-baited and accused of sexual immorality, in particular with African American men.

An FBI informant, Gary Rowe, was implicated in her death. He was in the car on the night of her killing with Klan members subsequently charged with her murder. The three Klansmen were acquitted by the state, but later served 10-year federal sentences for violation of Liuzzo's civil rights. Rowe was never charged for any crime and escaped into the Federal Witness Protection Program.

Of the Liuzzo documentary, director di Florio observed: "I experienced my own loss of innocence. It hadn't occurred to me before making this film that reckless collection of data, inconsistent accounts of the incident, and flat-out lies about Viola

Liuzzo could all be part of 'official documents.' As I began to meet with leaders in the field of government, politics and history, I realized that this was quite common, in fact. What happened to Liuzzo could happen to any of us." (Emerging Pictures)

Di Florio's film shows Liuzzo's life and also focuses on her legacy. Unfortunately, the documentary dishonors Liuzzo's sacrifice by implying that her death and the smear campaign that followed somehow led her sons down a reactionary path. The youngest, Tony, became second in command of the Michigan Militia. The oldest, Tommy, joined white "survivalists" in Alabama. The film shows an effigy meant to represent an African American hanging from a noose in their campground.

This is truly heart-wrenching information, given that one of the most touching scenes in the documentary is the TV footage shot immediately after Liuzzo's death, when 14-year-old Tommy says to reporters, "She wanted equal rights for everyone, no matter what the cost!"

But the film doesn't explore the larger economic and social factors that inexorably shape the lives of every child in her or his own historical period, no matter what their parents' politics.

### Liuzzo's legacy

Liuzzo's oldest daughter, Mary Lilleboe, offers the beginning of an explanation more rooted in the material reality of workers' lives: "The issues we face are well beyond the immediate. Both the Democrats and Republicans are capitalist and are wrong. I know this lesser-of-two-evils argument and I think it is very narrow in

## 'BREAK THE CHAINS'

# Women workers and capitalism

By Dianne Mathiowetz

From a talk given at the Nov. 13-14, 2004, National Fightback Conference.



It's an honor for me to speak to this gathering of progressive and revolutionary activists and thinkers who want to fight back against war, racism and poverty; who want to build a socialist world, a workers' world.

The organizers asked that I make some comments on the role of women workers in the class struggle and suggested that I draw on the tremendous strikes that have rocked California over the last 12 months or so—the hard-fought battle by grocery workers in southern California and the hotel workers strike centered in San Francisco.

In both cases women workers, many of whom are the sole heads of their households and often are immigrants or

come from communities of color, represent a significant majority of the workforce. They voted to strike against their very powerful and wealthy bosses. They fill out the picket lines, carry out organizational tasks, speak at rallies, are media spokespeople and negotiate contracts.

So in defiance of the false characterization that women workers are passive, docile and willing to accept less, these women, along with their co-workers, have taken to the streets in defense of their health-care benefits, working conditions and wages, and for dignity on the job.

I am an autoworker. For more than 28 years I have worked on the assembly lines for General Motors building cars, trucks and vans.

When I was hired in 1976, there was literally only a handful of women who were production workers in auto assembly plants.

Under pressure from affirmative action

lawsuits, GM was forced to hire women and African American workers in large numbers.

Today, my plant in Atlanta reflects the changes that have occurred in the U.S. working class in the last 30 or so years.

As you walk the plant floor, there is a diverse workforce—multinational, women, men, multi-generational, gay and straight.

So if it is so obvious that women workers make up a significant part of the total workforce, why would the organizers of this panel want to focus a talk on this? What is the big deal?

### Break the chains

The study of Marxist theory teaches us that modern society is divided into classes. The owning and exploiting class—the capitalists, or bourgeoisie—and the laboring and exploited class—the work-

Continued to page 10

its vision....

"We saw what the government was capable of doing when it felt threatened by what my mother stood for. The organizations that were supposed to defend workers did nothing. The militias developed because workers, like our family, were abandoned.

"We need something new. Socialism is a dirty word in this country because it threatens people at the top. I don't think it's an accident that people today are attracted to my mother's story."

Liuzzo herself was full of hope, and conscious that the future would include more than just her story. According to Sarah Evans, Liuzzo would often say: "Sarah, you and I are going to change the world. One day they'll write about us. You'll see."

It is worth noting that "Home of the Brave" gives no details of Sarah Evans' political life or history.

Di Florio's documentary does not show Liuzzo's vision, or her understanding that the struggle was more than her individual story.

One scene from the documentary captures the necessity of the continuing fight to secure the most basic democratic rights for oppressed nationalities in the United States. At a voting site in Selma during the 2000 election, a Black poll worker sits at a table side by side with an older white poll worker.

The latter is asked what he remembers of Viola Liuzzo, and answers after a sour look that he doesn't think a woman like that should have come to Selma.

The Black man turns to the camera and says that he feels that Liuzzo was a fine woman.

And one image of Liuzzo lingers in the mind's eye: a photograph of her in the line of march, a few miles from Montgomery. She is walking barefooted, carrying her shoes, looking ahead, completely focused on the goal of freedom. □

# 'FREE FRANCES NEWTON' week builds support

By Gloria Rubac  
Houston

**A**fter a whirlwind of activities during the "Free Frances Newton" week Feb. 20-27—including radio shows, church presentations, demonstrations and a speak-out at City Hall—tens of thousands of Houstonians became familiar with Newton's case.

Newton was set to be the first African American woman executed in Texas last Dec. 1, when she received a 120-day stay of execution two hours before the lethal injection was scheduled in Huntsville, Texas.

Newton's stay of execution is over March 31. Her lawyers at the University of Houston Law School's Innocence Network are furiously working to prove her innocence.

The Committee to Free Frances Newton, the Nanon Williams Support Association and the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement sponsored the February events. Williams is another innocent person on Texas death row.

The week culminated with a Feb. 27 Black History event at Newton's church, Joy Tabernacle. The program featured radio host and activist Hitaji Aziz as well as Newton's mother Jewel Nelms. Nelms and members received a warm welcome and pledges of support from the congregation.

A supporter of Randy Arroyo explained that the 17-year-old Arroyo was sent to death row because of the law of parties, which says that if you were at the scene of a capital murder you are also guilty.



PHOTO FREEFRANCES.ORG

Frances Newton, left. Below, Newton's mother Jewel Nelms and sister Pam Nelms, Feb. 27.

Aziz, the keynote speaker, told how being an activist all her life never prepared her for her own son going to prison. She said everyone must join together to fight the racist criminal-justice system that robs Black youths from their families and communities.

She said: "My son Amill was sent home last May after nine years but I am still waiting for him to return. He has been spiritually and psychologically and mentally taken from me and I want my child back!"

The week began with radio discussions at Texas Southern University, an historically Black college in Houston, and on a popular talk show hosted by Houston City Councilwoman and activist Ada Edwards.

The Harris County Green Party invited Newton's mother and Williams' mother, Lee Bolton, Feb. 21 to speak on their children's cases as well as the racist history of the death penalty.

At a Feb. 22 public session of the Houston City Council, a dozen supporters presented a resolution calling for the mayor and council to support a moratorium on all Harris County executions in light of the disastrous scandal at the Houston Police Crime Lab. The lab has lost, improperly stored and cross-contaminated evidence. And its staffers have



PHOTO: MASSOUD

testified at trials with false information that has sent innocent people to prison and death row.

A Feb. 25 protest and news conference was held outside the Houston Police Crime Lab on a busy corner along major bus routes during rush hour. People waiting for the buses began chanting along: "Frances and Nanon should be free, jail the criminals at HPD!" and "Crime Lab? Shut it down!" and "No justice, no peace!"

Kofi Taharka, chair of the Houston Chapter of the National Black United Front, and Bolton coordinated chants, keeping the rhythm going loud and strong. Both Bolton and Nelms spoke to reporters about their children's wrongful convictions caused by the lies of the crime lab.

Art Browning spoke for the Harris County Green Party and filmed the protest for the Green Watch TV show. Delayed Parker, director of S.H.A.P.E. Community Center and a leader of the coalition that freed former death-row prisoner Clarence Brandley, rallied the crowd, saying that only the people's action can win justice for Frances.

Attorney Jolanda Jones, who exposed the HPD Crime Lab fiasco several years ago, chastised the criminal-justice system for the racism that permeates it, from the cops to the courts to the prisons.

Immigrant-rights activist Maria Jimenez is organizing to oppose the death penalty for Tyrone Williams. He is on trial for capital murder right now in federal court in Houston, in a case of immigrant smuggling that resulted in 17 people dying in a sweltering 18-wheeler truck in 2003.

Jimenez told the protesters that this case was very tragic and difficult for the Latino community but that they are opposed to a death sentence for Williams, a Black man, who did not knowingly or intentionally kill the immigrants.

Newton's mother told the many crowds she addressed during the week: "When my daughter was arrested, I never thought anything bad would happen to her. I now know that the system is not fair. After I bring my child home, I will never stop working for all the others on death row.

"I now know that attorneys do not always help you. And police change their story and don't investigate. After what I have learned, I cannot ever be still.

"These men on death row are treated so badly and live under such terrible conditions. No one should be on death row."

Letters of support can be sent to: Frances Newton #000922, Mountain View Unit, 2305 Ransom Road, Gatesville, TX 76528. For more information, go to [www.freefrances.org](http://www.freefrances.org)

Rubac, a well known anti-death penalty activist, spoke at the Feb. 27 event.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Workers denounce Harvard president's attacks on women

By Ed Childs

*Childs is chief steward of UNITE HERE Local 26. The 500-member Boston local will be entering contract negotiations with Harvard University in June. This year's contract struggle is tied to the union's national campaign to win contracts throughout the country that end around the same time, which would increase union bargaining power. The Harvard Independent, the student newspaper, published Childs' letter as an opinion piece on Feb. 24.*

I'm an organizer within Local 26 of the dining hall workers at Harvard. We've been having meetings about President Summers' statement on the "innate inferiority" of women. In our union here, and in the service industries, the majority of workers are women.

The dining hall workers look upon the president's statement as something that has been presented to them to terrorize them—as an idea from the past of colonialism. Most of our members are immigrants who come from countries and places that have been colonized.

The idea of the "innate superiority" of the colonizer was put forward to subjugate our members in their home countries. That is why a lot of our members are here in this country—to escape that oppression.

We look upon President Summers' statement as nothing but a continuation of

this old theme that most of us thought had been put to bed by science and by anti-colonial struggles around the world. As far as science goes on this theory, many of us have read Stephen Jay Gould's "The Mismeasure of Man," and understand that the president's position is put out not as a scientific position but as a political position.

For President Summers to raise this idea here and now is an intentional infliction of emotional distress on us as workers, bringing up nightmares from the past, and putting terror into our future. This can only create a hostile work environment—to go to work and have the boss tell you that you are inferior, to say, not in a cussing way, but in a high-browed superior way, that this is a fact.

And we see from the newspapers today that hate groups are on the rise, like the KKK. A statement like that of President Summers makes a direct connection to those who believe "innate inferiority." We all should remember when 20,000 members of the KKK marched in front of Woodrow Wilson as he stood as president in front of the White House. President Summers' statement gives such hate groups that kind of a green light, and gives them recruiting tools. This endangers our communities. Some of our workers have felt these hate groups personally, but all have feared them from a distance.

The president's statement also brings up a situation of unfair labor practice, as we are preparing to go for negotiation for

a new contract for next year. A tactic of the employer is always to divide and conquer. We look upon his statement as a tool of division between men and women. We've seen that division played out in reality, in high schools, on campus, in the work place. In the service industries, employers have always tried to divide the men and the women.

This division is also a tactic by employers to lower the self-esteem of the workers, so they are disoriented at negotiations as they try to get a fair contract at a living standard that would be good for their families. This tactic also diminishes the status of the people who are targeted, which makes it more difficult for them to appeal to the broader community for justice and support in our struggles for better living standards.

For the so-called intelligentsia to say that a people are innately inferior lowers their status in society, and as individuals their confidence starts to erode. We feel that for President Summers to make this statement in a time of tension when Social Security is being threatened, when health insurance is threatened, when job security is being threatened—we feel that this is a reckless statement, and an abuse of power.

The dining hall workers have discussed the president's statement, and we've put it aside, like many other obstacles. We will not allow these divisions to be thrust upon us. We'll march together. We are more united now than ever. □

# Rally on U.S.-led coup in Haiti

By G. Dunkel  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

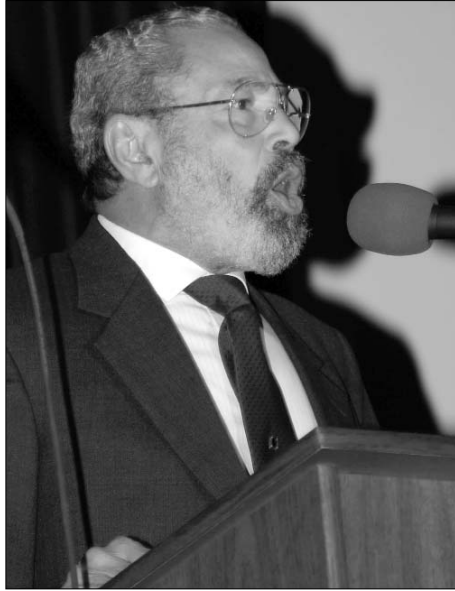
In Brooklyn, N.Y., on Feb. 27, the Lavalas Family party (FL) and the National Popular Party (PPN) marked the anniversary of the coup-napping carried out by U.S. Special Forces a year ago against President Jean-Bertrand Aristide of Haiti with a program called "Haiti: the Betrayal of Democracy."

Over 10,000 people have been killed by the Haitian police and paramilitary for the crime of demonstrating or being poor, according to Mario Dupuy, the communications director for Fanmi Lavalas. FL is one of the major political parties in Haiti.

Dupuy told the rally: "Soon after the coup, the Haitian people showed their will to demonstrate for justice and democracy. And they are willing to die for their political convictions."

Kim Ives, a rally co-chair representing the Haiti Solidarity Network, began the program by pointing out: "There is worldwide resistance to the attempts by the United States to establish a global empire" and "this evening and the resistance of the people of Haiti are part of this struggle."

He went on to say that while the FL and PPN are parties with different programs and different points of view, "they are united



Ben Dupuy

WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

in their complete rejection of the coup."

Hanz Laurenceau, the co-chair from FL New York, said: "The resistance to the coup continues. There were big marches on Feb. 7 and more are scheduled." He stressed that the struggle in Haiti is for "justice, democracy and sovereignty."

The FL will not take part in the bogus elections the de-facto government is planning at the urging of its masters. FL sees the solution for the current crisis in Haiti

lying in a return to constitutional order and respect for Aristide's mandate.

Ben Dupuy, the secretary general of the PPN, said: "People have the right to use any means necessary to achieve their just demands. They cannot be restricted to dialog only."

Dupuy reiterated that sovereignty and independence in 1804 were not gifts. They were won through struggle and sacrifice. They certainly won't be a gift in 2005, either.

Two anti-war North American groups, the ANSWER Coalition and the International Action Center, sent representatives to give greetings to the audience. Caneisha Mills spoke on behalf of ANSWER.

LeiLani Dowell of the IAC said: "One of the main focuses of the IAC is to expose the ugly face of U.S. imperialism, which brings terror and misery throughout the world, including Haiti. The United States and France marked the 200th anniversary of Haiti's independence by attacking and occupying the country."

She also talked about the March 19 demonstration set for New York City to mark the second anniversary of the U.S. war against Iraq. Ending the occupation of Haiti will be one of the key demands raised on March 19.

Thomas Griffin, a lawyer who investi-

gated the civil rights situation in Haiti in November, presented his gruesome and revealing pictures that show the reconstitution of the Haitian army under the direction of U.S. advisers.

Kevin Pina, a U.S. journalist working in Haiti for the Haitian Information Project, presented an unfinished version of his film "Haiti: The Betrayal of Democracy." The film shows how the bourgeois Haitian and international media ignored the massive demonstrations in support of Aristide before the coup, and how those sources presented the provocations of so-called student groups in a deceitful and misleading fashion.

Eddy Francois of Combo Guinen and the famous chorale Voix et Tambours sang a beautiful rendition of "La Dessalinienne" to open the program, along with some popular songs that brought the audience to their feet. Marguerite Laurent, a Haitian poet, combined words, drumming and dance in a beautiful expression of Haitian culture.

People kept on coming for hours after the program started, with the total reaching nearly 500. Most were from the Haitian community but a number of progressive North Americans came after hearing about the program from the progressive radio station WBAL. □

## Boycott of 'Killer Coke' catches on

By Lou Paulsen  
Chicago

"Hundreds of thousands—maybe millions—have heard our message," said Tom Burke of the Colombia Action Network. He was talking about the international boycott of "Killer Coke" for its crimes against workers in Colombia.

Burke spoke here Feb. 26 to a solidarity conference at De Paul University. De Paul students have forced the administration to investigate whether Coca-Cola should be barred from the campus.

Every Coke machine at De Paul is plastered with a sticker from the Killer Coke campaign, showing the bodies of union activists floating in a glass of blood.

Launched in 2003, the boycott is becoming widely known. Death-squad

survivor Luis Adolfo Cardona has now told his story at 100 campuses and dozens of union halls.

The three biggest universities in Ireland and the University of Edinburgh in Scotland have banned Coca-Cola. A march protested Coca-Cola's sponsorship of the Sundance Film Festival. "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" mentioned the boycott. And the Service Employees, the biggest U.S. union, endorsed the boycott at its 2004 convention.

Javier Correa, president of the Colombian food and beverage workers' union SINALTRAINAL, told the De Paul conference that Coke's crimes are "typical" of what the transnational corporations do in Colombia. Death squads have murdered 21 SINALTRAINAL organizers, nine who were organizing Coca-Cola

plants. They have threatened dozens more with death, and terrorize their families.

The government imprisons union activists Coke and other companies falsely charge with "terrorism." And death squads target them for murder.

Although Colombian President Alvaro Uribe claims he "demobilizes" the death squads, he really gives them amnesty for their crimes and retains them in business. "Demobilized" death-squad members set up in houses surrounding factories and military bases, or encircling union headquarters like SINALTRAINAL's.

A lawsuit against Coca-Cola and its bottlers is proceeding in Atlanta. Steel Workers union lawyer Dan Kovalik represents Colombian unionists and their fam-

ilies. Kovalik said the Colombian death squads account for more than half of the murders of trade unionists in the entire world—over 4,500 since 1986.

Burke linked the boycott with opposition to "Plan Colombia," legislation begun under President Bill Clinton.

Information about the boycott of Coca-Cola, Minute Maid, Fruitopia and Odwalla juice drinks, Dasani and Evian water, and other Coca-Cola brands is available at [www.killercoke.org](http://www.killercoke.org) and at [www.colombi-actionnetwork.org](http://www.colombi-actionnetwork.org). □



## Self-determination for the Pacific Islands

By Jesse Lokahi Heiwa

March 1 is commemorated annually as Nuclear Free & Independent Pacific Day, calling for the end to nuclear testing by the imperialist powers that control the region such as Britain, France, Australia and the United States.

The United States controls American Samoa, Aleutian Islands, Belau (Palau), Guam, Hawai'i, Kalama (Johnston Atoll), Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and the Northern Marianas and has bases in Okinawa and troops in the Philippines.

The Nuclear Free & Independent Pacific—NFIP—movement gathers every three years. Some of its demands include support for the Maori people of Aotearoa (New Zealand) for sovereignty, supporting Aboriginal peoples in Australia, organizing against hazardous waste disposal from the outside imperialist powers that control the region, demanding full disclo-

sure of the health effects of nuclear testing by France and the United States, opposing the United States' and France's call to terminate the United Nations Decolonization Committee and to reinscribe Te Ao Maohi (French Polynesia) and Hawai'i to the list of non-self-governing territories.

Another particular concern is rising sea levels caused by capitalist production methods, which threaten the very existence of some Pacific Island nations and peoples.

The people of the Pacific Islands, like all oppressed nations and peoples, call on those living within the imperialist countries to stand in soli-

darity with their struggles for justice and self-determination. For more information about the struggle in Hawai'i (with links to other Pacific Islands concerns), go to [www.Hawaii-Nation.org](http://www.Hawaii-Nation.org). You can also join the listserve/network, [HawaiiSolidarityCommitteesubscribe@yahoo-groups.com](mailto:HawaiiSolidarityCommitteesubscribe@yahoo-groups.com) based on the U.S. mainland.

Free the Land! □



## Montserratians fight deportation

*Continued from page 3*

1998 and attends the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said: "I have no geographic reference in my history. It's all under [40 feet of] ash. Not even the trees that we grew up with are there."

The volcano wiped out 18 villages and 3,500 homes, including Riley's.

### Bush regime compounds disaster

On July 6, 2004, the Department of Homeland Security announced it would terminate the Temporary Protected Status for Montserratians living in the United States, effective Feb. 27, 2005.

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge cynically and cruelly reasoned that since the volcanic activity would continue for the foreseeable future, Montserratian's status was no longer temporary and therefore must be terminated.

Rep. Major R. Owens of New York has reintroduced a bill into Congress that would grant Montserratians permanent residency.

Owens said the predominately Black islanders have become the latest target of an "overwhelming backlash" against immigrants after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. "You start with the Pakistanis, the Arabs, pretty soon Blacks look like Arabs

to you," said Owens. He said the Bush administration is using "terrorism" as an excuse to attack the people of Montserrat.

According to Oslin Brument, a leader of Montserrat Aspirers and Steel Workers Local 8751 in Boston: "Our struggle has received widespread community and labor support. A strong delegation of union bus drivers and monitors, as well as City Councilors Chuck Turner and Charles Yancey, the Irish Immigration Center, International Action Center, Women's Fight Back Network, local clergy and immigration lawyer Kirby Roberson, joined our three picket lines and rallies in the past week."

In a true act of internationalist solidarity, the Boston Irish Immigration Center was able to get the issue raised in the Irish Parliament in late February.

According to the Boston International Action Center, "This attack on Montserratians must be seen as part and parcel of the broader racist, anti-immigrant policy of Homeland Security, including the Patriot Act and the illegal detention and deportation of Arabs and Muslims."

While Homeland Security's deadline came on Feb. 27, the Montserratian community and their supporters have expressed determination to continue this battle until justice is won. □



# Bush in Germany: unloved and unwelcome

By John Catalinotto  
Mainz, Germany

To welcome U.S. President George W. Bush to Mainz on Feb. 23, the German government shut the city down.

Some 10,000 cops patrolled the streets. Sewer covers were locked in place. Stores and shops closed down.

The Opel car works declared a forced holiday. Roads in and out of the city were blocked and everyone was told to stay home.

It all cost 100 million Euros in lost business and lots of travel time, plus whatever it took to put an army of police on the streets.

Also, Bush and his team canceled a "town meeting" when they learned they would get some hostile questions.

Despite these measures, 15,000 to 20,000 people came from all over Germany and even from other parts of Europe to tell Bush he was "not welcome here."

Defying the repression, some Mainz residents put up anti-Bush posters in their apartment or shop windows. Even with police all over, the crowd managed to hiss Laura Bush's museum visit and their whistles once reached the president himself.

Many on the march called the U.S. president a war criminal, and said that he should end the occupation of Iraq, sign the Kyoto Treaty on the environment and stop violating human rights all over the world. Among them were some of the U.S. citizens living in Europe and others on hand by chance or invitation.

John Catalinotto of the IAC speaks to thousands of anti-war protestors in Mainz Feb. 23

WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO, RIGHT AND PHOTO: GABRIELE SENFT, BELOW



The peace movement in Germany had been relatively quiet on Iraq during the past year. No German troops are in Iraq. They are, however, in Afghanistan and in the former Yugoslavia in more quiet occupations. But there is no constant irritation from facing the Iraqi resistance. The regime of Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder had publicly separated itself from the Bush administration's policies.

The diplomatic reconciliation between German and U.S. imperialism mobilized the movement, along with parts of the population that had been active against the invasion of Iraq.

A great many high-school students took part in the protest. Many had cut their political teeth trying to stop the war before

it started, and refuse to forgive Bush for making the world a more dangerous place.

Corporate and government media coverage before the Feb. 23 protest painted an ambivalent picture of the U.S. president. While none showed him as a war criminal, they did cover his history as a poor student and business failure rescued by his powerful father, which must have left a sour taste in many peoples' mouths. Afterward, some of the press criticized Schroeder for being a little too conciliatory.

One of the speakers at the ending rally, European Parliament member and anti-militarist Tobias Pflueger, criticized the Schroeder government and the European Union for building up its own military force as an oppressive arm directed

against the Third World.

A speaker from the International Action Center in the United States thanked the German movement for the protest against Bush. He also explained how the Iraqi resistance has created a situation where U.S. youths and soldiers are no longer volunteering for the military in sufficient numbers for the Pentagon to carry out the aggressive policy planned at the time of the seizure of Baghdad in 2003.

He pointed out to U.S. soldiers in the area that if they participate in actions like the assault on Falluja, the world considers them war criminals. But if they "find a way to throw sand into the gears of the U.S. war machine," he said, "the world will consider them heroes." □

# U.S. military damages ancient city of Babylon

By Deirdre Sinnott

Like the Hittites, Alexander the Great, and the Greeks before them, the U.S. military has chosen to occupy the ancient city of Babylon. Established almost 4,000 years ago and at 3.4 square miles the biggest ancient settlement in Mesopotamia, Babylon has been the site of decades of archaeological study.

In a recent report by Dr. John Curtis of the British Museum on the impact of the military occupation of Babylon, archaeologists from Iraq, Poland and Britain documented widespread and in some cases irreparable damage caused by the U.S. military base.

The base was established in April 2003 just after the fall of Baghdad and the looting of the National Museum of Iraq. It cov-

ers 16 percent of ancient Babylon, including areas inside the city's inner walls.

Land mines have prevented an appraisal of the full impact of the U.S. military's actions, but evidence of widespread damage is visible throughout the culturally sensitive area.

Huge trenches totaling over 1,378 feet—some three to six feet deep and 13 feet wide—were dug through areas that contain artifacts. Tons of material has been scooped out of its historical context and used to fill sandbags.

Some of the artifacts including pottery, bones and bricks bearing inscriptions from Nebuchadnezzar (1125-1104 BCE) can be seen in sandbags and other mesh containers.

According to Curtis' report, huge areas of the site have been leveled and "covered

with gravel, sometimes compacted and chemically treated, to be used as a helicopter pad and to create spaces for vehicle parks."

Gravel now covers about 359,000 square yards. "All the gravel had been brought in from elsewhere and will, of course, work its way into the archaeological deposits."

"Previously undisturbed" deposits "will now be contaminated."

Brick paving stones along the Processional Way constructed in Sixth century BCE have been crushed by transports of heavy equipment.

Molded brick dragon figures in the Ishtar Gate were seriously damaged by a person trying to remove pieces of the relief.

Halliburton subsidiary Kellogg, Brown and Root was responsible for infrastructure at the base. It may, along with the U.S. military, be responsible for much of the damage.

Some of the information in the Curtis report is not new. Newsweek reported that Columbia University Professor Zainab Bahrani visited Babylon in the spring of 2004 and was stunned to see the U.S. military base there. Huge areas had been bulldozed. Blast walls were constructed of relic rich earth. Vibrations from helicopters were damaging ancient walls. (Aug. 30, 2004)

Other important archaeological sites around Iraq have suffered from the war and occupation as well. According to a Jan. 24 Reuters report, U.S. military forces have been using the ancient minaret in Samarra as a sniper's nest. Built over 1,100 years ago, the minaret was extremely well preserved. Now the site

"may lose its protected status" if deemed necessary to oppose the Iraqi insurgency, according to U.S. military spokesperson Maj. Richard Goldenberg.

Looting has continued to be a major problem in Iraq. Millions of dollars go to unscrupulous dealers who trade in the international antiquities market. Diggers at sites throughout Iraq sell items for a tiny fraction of their true value.

Roger Atwood, the author of "Stealing History: Tomb Raiders, Smugglers and the Looting of the Ancient World," reported that he was offered a cylinder seal for \$200 that could fetch \$30,000 outside Iraq.

Sales of looted items are hard to track. Items from Iraq appear for sale everywhere from eBay to well-known auction houses.

Surveys of antiquities sales at Sotheby's and Christie's from 1958 through 1998 show that 90 percent of the items never appeared in any journal or study, only becoming known when they appeared in the sales catalogue. Once a stolen item is bought from Sotheby's or Christie's, it gains legitimacy and can be sold at an even higher price down the line.

According to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, "preservation of the cultural heritage is of great importance for all peoples of the world and it is important that this heritage should receive international protection." This Convention, which the United States signed but never ratified, places the responsibility on the occupying power to stop any criminal activity with regard to such artifacts and buildings. □

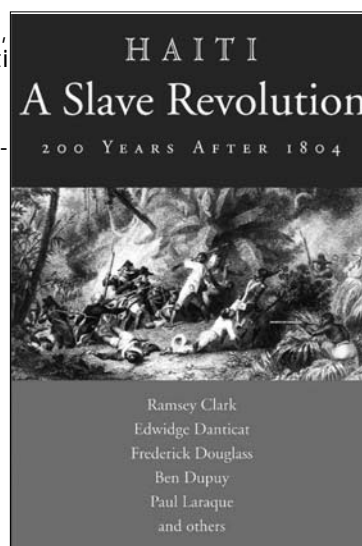
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## Where's the justice?

**H**as the U.S. Supreme Court suddenly decided to embrace justice? In a March 1 ruling, the court found that executing someone for a crime committed when that person was a minor is "cruel and unusual punishment."

There had been no "moral values" preachings from the White House pulpit before this ruling against the execution of children. Fox News hadn't put their screamers on the case.

So what happened?

Maybe the public disclosures of the brutal torture of prisoners by the Pentagon and CIA have brought too much worldwide attention to the U.S. prison system. The torture of prisoners of war—and they are prisoners of war even if the White House and Pentagon want to say that they aren't—is after all a mirror that reflects the abuse of prisoners inside the United States. And some—political prisoners like Mumia Abu-Jamal and Leonard Peltier—are given the "special treatment."

The U.S. has been the only industrialized country in the world to openly execute anyone for crimes committed while under the age of 18. It has been in clear violation of all international law. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights says plainly that the "sentence of death shall not be imposed for crimes committed by persons below 18 years old." The Convention on the Rights of the Child says the same thing.

So the Supreme Court ruling ends a blatant violation of international law. There are 72 juveniles whose lives were immediately saved by this ruling.

But the ruling admits a little to cover up something even bigger. There are almost 4,000 people on death row in the U.S., more than in any other country in the world and in all history. The death penalty itself is considered to be a crime against humanity under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948.

The death penalty must be stopped altogether. Not just because most on U.S. death row may actually be completely innocent. DNA testing on death row inmates in Illinois immediately turned up 13 innocent victims of the U.S. "justice" system. The Republican governor had to announce a moratorium on executions.

The majority of those on death rows in the United States are Black and Latino and a greater majority of them are poor. The racist and classist U.S. "justice system" is the real crime and there can be no real justice until it is abolished altogether.

□

## Venezuelan gov't. exposes U.S. threats on Chávez's life

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

Sorting through recent emails and news briefs from Latin America, a shocking theme stands out: threats to Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez's life.

On Feb. 13, Reuters even quoted Cuban President Fidel Castro saying, "I say to world public opinion: if they assassinate Chávez, the responsibility will fall squarely on the president of the United States, George W. Bush."

President Castro reminded everyone about the multiple attempts against his own life. He added that his assassination at this time would not significantly alter or reverse the Cuban Revolution, for it is firmly rooted in the masses, but that the Bolivarian Revolution is at a decisive stage.

On Feb. 20, in his 213th *Aló Presidente* radio and TV program, Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez said: "If something happens to me, I hold responsible the president of the United States. I want the Venezuelan people to know, I am not going to lock myself up in Miraflores. I will be with you on the streets. I am entrusted to God but I know I am convicted to death."

These statements follow several recent declarations from Bush, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and a vilifying media campaign against Chávez both in the United States and in Venezuela's oligarchy's media. There is great concern in the Venezuelan government, which sees these developments as a mounting campaign to sway public opinion against the Bolivarian Revolution in order to justify an open intervention against it.

Rice's statement during her confirmation hearing that "Chávez is a negative force in the region" is infamous.

Communications Minister Andrés Izarra called on the Venezuelan people to be on the alert because of the "political and media offensive" carried out by the Bush administration against the Bolivarian Revolution in their quest to delegitimize and isolate it.

Stating that the national government is following up the denunciation made by President Chávez, Izarra provided several documents that illustrate the systematic campaign of "twisted information and groundless accusations" aimed at manipulating public opinion.

## 'Break the Chains'

Continued from page 6

ers, or proletariat.

Marxism shows that the conflict between these two classes is inevitable because in order to continually increase profit, the wages and working conditions of labor are continually under attack.

The spread of capitalist relationships throughout the globe has swept millions, even billions of people into collective labor in plants and factories, shops and offices. In doing so, capitalism has created its own grave-diggers. This working class alone has the ability to re-organize society on the basis of equality and justice. It is the revolutionary class.

Women, in particular, have been brought out of the solitary and unpaid labor of the home and become part of the working class where we find opportunities to lead, to learn, to teach, to decide, to act.

A line in the working-class revolutionary anthem, the International, goes, "No more tradition's chains shall bind us."

This speaks to the powerful truth that real liberation for women is rooted in the destruction of class society, the overthrow of capitalism and imperialism with all its cruel inequities, racism and discrimination, born of the patriarchy but fostered by class exploitation and oppression.

As revolutionaries, we welcome these bold, confident, demanding women workers who today are challenging the status quo.

This is a conference that wants to prepare for and to help lead a fightback against not just the current right-wing policies of the Bush government and its big-business agenda, but to ready the working class for its revolutionary future.

We are here to think about and strategize, to propose what issues, what campaigns can ignite a mass resistance to the war in Iraq, to union-busting, wage cuts and the loss of social services, to racism and all forms of bigotry.

And I think that is why the organizers of this panel wanted to focus on this exciting expansion of the working class.

Because as the class becomes more inclusive of those oppressed by racism, sexism and homophobia, the issues that can motivate class struggle become more comprehensive.

In reality, the working-class struggle is not just about wages and pensions and benefits—important as those are. It is about imperialist war, immigration rights, reproductive health care, a clean environment, childcare, domestic violence and all the issues for which the profit system has no answers.

In just a few words, "What is the role of women workers in the class struggle?" Our sisters answer: It is to lose our chains, to unleash our demands, to create our future.

□

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He identified three basic arguments used against Venezuela: "that President Chávez is accomplice of international terrorism; that Chávez is an imminent threat to the Western Hemisphere's democracy; and that Chávez's government is rapidly moving toward autocracy, an authoritarian democracy or an elected dictatorship."

Izarra declared that these terms have been used by spokespeople from the U.S. State Department and intelligence agencies, and have been echoed in several U.S. media outlets; he mentioned the Washington Times and Post, Fox News, Wall Street Journal and Miami Herald.

On Feb. 23, in an effort to let these threats be known to the international community, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Ali Rodríguez addressed the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C., in an extraordinary session requested by the Venezuelan government. Speaking to representatives of the 34 member countries, Rodríguez said, "We are obliged to alert the world public opinion."

The imperialist threats will only grow stronger as the Bolivarian Revolution steers toward the path of anti-imperialism, away from capitalist exploitation of its people and natural resources.

PDVESA, the national oil company, is showing not only to the Venezuelan masses but to the peoples of the world at large what it means to use profits for the benefit of the masses, not for the treasures of a few.

Many changes are coming in rapid succession in Venezuela—not only social gains but economic as well, nationally and also internationally with new trade agreements.

One of the internal changes is the inauguration of INVEPAL, the new Endogenous Venezuelan Industry of Paper. It is a model of co-management between the government and the workers. Chávez described it by saying, "In the traditional capitalist model, the owner makes all the decisions; here it is in the hands of the workers, in this model of co-management."

The Venezuelans' concerns would be senseless were it not for the tragic historic evidence in Latin America and the Caribbean, where the United States has deposed democratically elected heads of state through bloody coups.

Venezuela itself has been the recipient of genocidal U.S.-inspired actions like the 2002 April coup, the PDVESA boss lockout and sabotage, the close to 100 Colombian paramilitaries caught in Caracas last year training to kill Chávez, and the recent assassination of prosecutor Danilo Anderson, who was investigating the CIA's role in the 2002 coup.

These acts of murder are reminiscent of the ever-present case of Salvador Allende in Chile. But there are also the murders of Jorge Eliecer Gaitán in Colombia, Torrijos in Panamá, and all the criminal invasions, interventions and massacres—in Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Grenada and beyond.

There is no place in the region where the United States has not intervened in one way or another to prevent the establishment and development of governments responsive to the needs of their peoples.

However, this time the conditions are quite different in the region. Venezuela is seen by the overwhelming majority of Latin America as their revolution, their leader, their inspiration. And the Venezuelan people themselves are committed to its defense and its development.

Chávez himself alluded to the possibility of a U.S. intervention. He said: "Do not be mistaken, Mr. Bush. If this happens, a blaze will not only set up in Venezuela. It will extend to the peoples of Latin America, of South America. Do not dare, because I think you will regret it."

He had mentioned earlier that Venezuela is continuing to increase its defense capability and will continue forming the Peoples' Defense Basic Units. He said, "Venezuela is not going to intervene anywhere, but I repeat, nobody should interfere with Venezuela, here we are prepared to defend this Homeland, at any cost."

Next: *INVEPAL, interview with Elio Colmenárez, assistant to the Venezuelan minister of labor.* □

# U.S. playing with fire in Mideast

*Continued from page 1*

given in Olympia, Wash., Scott Ritter—former UNSCOM weapons inspector in Iraq—said that, according to his sources (whom he did not identify), President Bush has received and signed off on orders for an aerial attack on Iran planned for June of this year.

Its purported goal is the destruction of Iran's alleged program to develop nuclear weapons. But Ritter said neoconservatives in the administration also expected that the attack would set in motion a chain of events leading to regime change in the oil-rich nation of 70 million. Of course, they thought that installing a neocolonial regime in Iraq would be easy, too.

Sirus Naseri—a senior member of Iran's delegation to the IAEA, whose Board of Governors meets in Vienna in early March—said, "To even imply that a nuclear-weapon state would attack [IAEA] safeguarded facilities of a non-nuclear-weapon state pokes a hole right in the heart of the Nonproliferation Treaty, and it deserves to be rejected severely."

But that is exactly what Israel did in 1981 when it attacked and destroyed Osiraq, a French-supplied, safeguarded research reactor in Iraq. Even the UN Security Council condemned that attack as "in clear violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international conduct" and "a serious threat to the entire safeguards regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is the foundation of the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons." Although the U.S. voted for that resolution in 1981, Dick Cheney boastfully reminded the Europeans in January that Israel might do it again, this time to Iran.

Meanwhile, Reuters reported on Feb. 28 that the Bush administration is planning to expand its Persian-language satellite-television broadcasts to Iran. "People could see it as a sign that an invasion is coming. It's the sort of thing that happens before nations build up their war effort," said Nancy Snow, a propaganda expert at California State University, Fullerton.

"It's déjà vu all over again," former U.S. chief weapons inspector David Kay said, as

he warned the U.S. not to repeat its Iraq mistakes in Iran. "You have the secretary of defense talking about the problems of a nuclear-armed Iran. You have the vice president warning about a nuclear-armed Iran and terrorism; you have Condoleezza Rice saying, 'Force is not on the agenda—yet.'"

## U.S. and the Middle East

Years of economic and political oppression, and military aggression and occupation by the U.S. and Israel in the Middle East, have brought about a deeply rooted hatred towards these two states in the region.

The U.S. ruling class decided a long time ago to tightly control this oil-rich region, which it considers vital for its global hegemony and empire building. Given the fact that the secular left has been virtually wiped out with the help of the CIA and Israel, Islamists took up the fight against imperialism.

The camp the U.S. seems most worried about, though, is not Bin Laden and the Taliban, but an anti-imperialist alliance among Iran, Syria, Lebanon—and possibly even Iraq under the leadership of a pro-Iran government—which is what seems to be emerging there.

Even though the U.S. organized the recent elections in Iraq, Ibrahim Jafari, the winning coalition's nominee for prime minister, favors withdrawal of U.S. troops "as soon as possible." He also opposes the U.S. building military bases there. Speaking to the press about what is important in a future Iraq, he mentioned, among other things, something Washington considers a dirty word: "political independence." (Los Angeles Times, Feb. 23)

The emergence of a Khomeini-like doctrine in Iraq "would be painful for Washington since the U.S.-led war has cost more than 1,400 American lives and hundreds of billions of dollars," commented the Los Angeles Times. "Officials have cause for concern" because he "wants religion to play a key role in the country's affairs."

What worries U.S. rulers is not that religion will play a role in the politics of Iraq—

it is hard to imagine a more religious government than that of George W. Bush's—but that the anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist Islamists aligned with Iran, Syria and Lebanon will play a role.

Meanwhile, Washington has not given up on its man in Iraq, Iyad Allawi. The same article in the Los Angeles Times also reported that members of the United Iraqi Alliance were surprised when Allawi announced his own candidacy for prime minister days after learning that he had won less than 15 percent of the vote—even after all the U.S. meddling in the elections, and a very effective boycott in areas where the resistance has been strongest.

The U.S. is hoping that "the Shiites' power will be checked by Iraq's ethnic Kurds," who received the second-largest number of votes. As one Western official put it, the Kurds will be the "kingmakers."

The U.S. is also pushing Allawi to be the minister of defense or economy, two other key positions of interest to Washington, should the prime minister deal not work out for him.

## U.S. raises rhetoric against Syria

Washington has also been escalating its rhetoric against Syria in recent weeks, especially since the Feb. 14 assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, which the U.S. blames on Syria—but not officially.

Not to be outdone, Israel also blamed the latest bombing in Tel Aviv on Syria, despite the fact that Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility and that all evidence pointed to the West Bank as the source.

"Encouraged by angry calls from the United States, France and the United Nations for Syrian troops to leave Lebanon," demonstrations were held in central Beirut against the Syrian-backed government of Prime Minister Omar Karami. (Los Angeles Times, March 1) Partly to mollify U.S. wrath, Karami resigned his post on Feb. 28.

White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan stressed that the selection of a new government "should be free of all foreign interference." Withdrawal of Syrian troops "will help ensure that elections are

free and fair."

Of course, the U.S. should know a thing or two about why "free and fair" elections cannot take place in the face of "foreign interference" or occupation.

When a murder takes place, the police suspect the one who stood to gain from it—someone with a motive. In the case of the assassination of Hariri, the one who stood to lose the most was Syria; those who stood to gain, and are clearly gaining, are the U.S. and Israel.

Iranian analyst Mohamed Al-Husseini has a point when he says: "While directing the attention of the world towards Iran, the U.S. is seeking a shortcut to extract itself from the Iraqi quagmire. The smoke screen also tends to distract attention away from the 'unjust' Palestinian-Israeli settlement which started in Sharm El-Sheikh earlier this month."

The U.S. is also seeking to keep the Iranians busy anticipating a Pentagon strike in an attempt to tie Iran's hands as regards Hezbollah and the Iranian-Syrian-Lebanese defensive alliance.

The U.S. imperialist political establishment is after Iran, Syria and Lebanon, and now also Hezbollah of Lebanon, because it views these political forces as challenging its policies in the region—its policies towards occupied Palestine, its policies of building and maintaining military bases, its policies of aggression and intervention for the sake of empire, and its objective of enslaving the people there to cheap labor and a Wall Street-directed dependent economy.

The anti-war and anti-imperialist people of this country must do all they can to oppose the increasingly more dangerous adventurism of the U.S. in the Middle East. Its only purpose is to make U.S. transnational corporations richer at the expense of oppressed people here and abroad.

An excellent opportunity to raise the demands of "U.S. troops out of Iraq—Hands off the Middle East" will be the internationally coordinated demonstrations on March 19, the second anniversary of the Iraq War. □

# Even McCarthy was gay baited

*Continued from page 2*

from below. And like so many other right-wingers, he was willing to use every prejudice and reactionary attitude in this struggle.

McCarthy had made crystal clear on his very first day in the Senate which side of the class barricade he was on. He called together the media to publicize his "solution" to a coal strike then underway. He demanded that miners' union leader John L. Lewis and the striking workers be conscripted into the Army. If miners in uniform still refused to dig coal, McCarthy proposed they be court-martialed for insubordination and shot to death.

## Full fury of state fist

The media fanfare over the federal anti-homosexual witch hunt died down after 1950. Historian David K. Johnson stresses, however, that the lessening of publicity was "not a testament to the lack of anti-gay efforts but to their routinization and institutionalization in the aftermath of the national security state." ("The Lavender Scare: The Cold War Persecution of Gays and Lesbians in the Federal Government")

The Democratic Truman administration had caved in to the right wing, ramping up firings of federal employees accused of being homosexuals, after the

Senate issued the results of its "investigation" into gays and lesbians in government employ in December 1950. Firings in the State Department, for example, climbed from 54 in 1950, to 119 in 1951, to 134 in 1952.

Within three months of being sworn in at his inauguration in 1953, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued Executive Order 10450. This act empowered all federal agencies to investigate and fire workers on the grounds of "sexual perversion." Johnson adds, "The government shared police and military records with private employers, resulting in the dismissal of hundreds."

He emphasizes that this overall repressive campaign must be understood as much broader than the work of Joseph McCarthy, alone. "To attribute the purges to McCarthy serves to marginalize them historically. It suggests that they were the product of a uniquely unscrupulous demagogue, did not enjoy widespread support, and were not part of mainstream conservatism or the Republican Party."

And he concludes, "It ignores how the purges predated McCarthy, became institutionalized within the federal loyalty/security system, and continued to be standard government policy until the 1970s."

In his book, "The Riots That Sparked

the Gay Revolution," David Carter offers a detailed and important overview of the iron-fisted state repression during the Cold War.

"The Civil Service Commission and the FBI complied by initiating an intense campaign to ferret out homosexuals by, for instance, correlating morals arrests across the United States with lists of government employees and checking fingerprints of job applicants against the FBI's fingerprint files."

He recalls how states wrote new, more repressive laws or beefed up sentencing. "For example, California governor Earl Warren thought the sex offender problem so serious that in 1949 he convened a special session of the state legislature to deal with the issue. That session passed laws that increased the penalties for sodomy and invented a new crime: loitering in a public toilet." The names of everyone convicted of lingering in a toilet were added to a state register.

"Twenty-nine states enacted new sexual psychopath laws and/or revised existing ones, and homosexuals were commonly the laws' primary targets. In almost all states, professional licenses could be revoked or denied on the basis of homosexuality, so that professionals could lose their livelihoods."

And conviction brought with it terrible suffering. Carter emphasizes that by 1961, "An adult convicted of a crime of having sex with another consenting adult in the privacy of his or her home could get anywhere from a light fine to five, 10, or 20 years—or even life—in prison. In 1971 20 states had 'sex psychopath' laws that permitted the detaining of homosexuals for that reason alone. In Pennsylvania and California sex offenders could be locked in a mental institution for life, and in seven states they could be castrated."

Carter adds, "At California's Atascadero State Hospital, known soon after its opening as 'Dachau for Queers,' men convicted of consensual sodomy were, as authorized by a 1941 law, given electrical and pharmacological shock therapy, castrated and lobotomized."

The state machinery—police, courts, prisons, military—had already been used as a weapon to besiege gay/lesbian/trans and bisexual people in the U.S. in the 1920s and 1930s. What changed in the ensuing two decades to unleash the state in such a ferocious, cruel and widespread effort to control sexuality?

And was there resistance? Oh, yes.

*Next: Resisting state terror predated McCarthyism.*



## Oportunidad para presenciar el comienzo de una revolución

Por Julie Fry  
Chicago

Caracas, Venezuela, ha sido escogida como la anfitriona de la 16ª edición del Festival Mundial de la Juventud y los Estudiantes de este año, que va a tener lugar en agosto. El festival, que ha sido una reunión tradicional para jóvenes progresistas desde 1948, suele atraer miles de jóvenes y estudiantes de más de 100 países.

El lema del festival este año es "Por la paz y la solidaridad—luchamos contra el imperialismo y la guerra". Así, es lógico que el festival tenga lugar en Venezuela—un país cuyo pueblo está firmemente luchando contra el imperialismo, enfrentándose a las continuas amenazas

del gobierno estadounidense.

La Juventud de la Quinta República (JVR)—organización de jóvenes del partido encabezado por el presidente venezolano Hugo Chávez— había propuesto que el festival tuviera lugar este año en Caracas. La JVR está organizando todas las actividades del festival en Venezuela.

La juventud venezolana ha participado en cada aspecto de la lucha para defender la Revolución Bolivariana y a Chávez de las fuerzas derechistas respaldadas por los Estados Unidos. Ahora jóvenes de todas partes del mundo tendrán la oportunidad de mostrar su solidaridad con la Revolución Bolivariana y con la juventud heroica de Venezuela.

Jóvenes y estudiantes en los Estados Unidos ya se están preparando para llevar

una amplia delegación a Venezuela este verano. Una reciente reunión en Chicago del Comité Preparatorio Nacional Estadounidense para el Festival atrajo a más de 100 personas, representantes de más de 40 organizaciones juveniles y estudiantiles de todas partes del país. Representaban una amplia gama de luchas—desde organizador@s de trabajador@s agrícolas hasta activistas anti-imperialistas. Ya hay Comités Organizadores Regionales en más de 20 ciudades y otros se siguen formando.

El 14to Festival Mundial de la Juventud, que tuvo lugar hace ocho años en La Habana, Cuba, atrajo a más de 800 delegad@s de los Estados Unidos—la delegación más grande hasta ahora. Muchos de es@s jóvenes querían ver el proceso

revolucionario en Cuba por sí mism@s y querían mostrar su solidaridad con el pueblo cubano.

De igual manera, la Revolución Bolivariana está inspirando a muchos jóvenes en los Estados Unidos a participar en el festival de este año. El Comité Preparatorio Nacional espera llevar a cientos de jóvenes de los Estados Unidos para apoyar al pueblo venezolano y las luchas de l@s jóvenes en todas partes del mundo.

El festival va a incluir un tribunal anti-imperialista, actuaciones artísticas y culturales, y actividades atléticas.

Las personas interesadas en participar pueden comunicarse con [usnpc2005@riseup.net](mailto:usnpc2005@riseup.net). □

## Asesinato del ex primer ministro libanés

# ¿Quién gana y quién pierde?

Por Joyce Chediak

¿Quién puede ganar y quién puede perder por el asesinato del ex Primer Ministro libanés, Rafik Hariri?

El gobierno de los Estados Unidos tomó ventaja del asesinato para incrementar la presión sobre Siria e Irak. Culpando indirectamente a Siria por el asesinato, Estados Unidos retiró a su embajador en Damasco, y luego trató de ejercer presión para la retirada de las fuerzas sirias del Líbano. Washington luego renovó sus ataques contra el respetado grupo revolucionario del Líbano, Hezboláh el cual crece en popularidad.

Estados Unidos exigió el desarme de Hezboláh y después pidió a los gobiernos europeos declarar como "terrorista" a esta organización.

¿Quién era Rafik Hariri? Era el hombre más rico del Líbano, estimado en \$4 mil millones de dólares y ejerció como primer ministro en varias ocasiones desde 1992. La corporación de Hariri, Solidere, reconstruyó al centro comercial de Beirut. Esta ciudad fue reducida a escombros después de años de guerra civil y de la invasión por Israel en 1982. Bajo la vigilancia de Hariri, los bancos internacionales regresaron a

Beirut y la industria turística revivió. Después de su asesinato, los inversionistas extranjeros están pensando retirarse y los turistas en el golfo no saben si están seguros en Beirut.

Aunque Hariri tuvo desacuerdos con Siria al momento de su muerte, según dijo el Servicio de Noticias británico, Dawn/The Guardian, "Hariri no estaba fundamentalmente opuesto a la presencia de Siria en el Líbano. De hecho él fue el principal arquitecto de los acuerdos formalizados y legitimó la hegemonía de Siria." (Feb. 19)

Las fuerzas del Líbano que ahora están exigiendo la salida de Siria parecen estar en la minoría en estos momentos. Sin embargo son poderosas y los medios noticieros de los Estados Unidos les están brindando mucha atención. Estas podrían derrocar al gobierno del Líbano. Son de extrema derecha y abiertamente fascistas, basadas en la comunidad Maronita Cristiana, aliadas a las fuerzas de Salid Jumblatt, con base en la comunidad Druze.

Israel ha armado y apoyado a los fascistas por décadas. En 1982, los fascistas asesinaron a miles de palestinos en el occidente de Beirut en los campos de refugio Sabra y Shatilla. Actualmente están

asaltando a los trabajadores en el Líbano y quemando sus casas de campaña.

En contraste, Hezboláh, la cual representa a grandes segmentos de la población libanesa, tiene una alianza antiimperialista y anti-Israel con Siria. Mohammad Raad, líder de la coalición de Hezboláh que tiene doce puestos en el parlamento de 128 miembros del Líbano, explicó que los sirios, "se benefician de la resistencia armada en el Líbano, y nosotros nos beneficiamos de su necesidad por una resistencia armada."

Raad agregó, "Pero nosotros no estamos luchando por los intereses de otros. Nosotros luchamos por nuestra propia causa." (Washington Post, Diciembre 19, 2004.)

### ¿Qué es Hezboláh?

Hezboláh, o el Partido de Dios, es una organización revolucionaria basada en la comunidad chiíta, la comunidad más grande y más pobre de Líbano. Hezboláh ganó un tremendo prestigio en el Líbano y a través del mundo árabe por encabezar milicias populares libanesas en una victoria sobre Israel en el año 2000, acabando con la ocupación por 22 años de Israel en el sur del Líbano. Siria e Irán son los partidarios internacionales principales de Hezboláh. Hezboláh recibe ayuda material de Irán por medio de Siria.

Hezboláh, temida por las fuerzas pro imperialistas libanesas, está siendo vigilada muy de cerca por Washington. En un artículo titulado "Libaneses cautelosos de una Hezboláh creciente en influencia", del Washington Post el 19 de diciembre decía que Hezboláh virtualmente maneja su propio gobierno en el sur de Líbano.

Hezboláh está armada y tiene aviones de control remoto. Tiene una estación de televisión, maneja escuelas y hospitales, y proporciona empleos y servicios sociales. Hezboláh ha comenzado a extenderse en otras áreas de Líbano.

Hariri gobernó el Líbano compensando a sus amigos con contratos lucrativos y reducciones de impuestos, bajo acusa-

ciones de corrupción. Mientras que la cuarta parte de los habitantes del Líbano viven por debajo del índice de pobreza, Hariri recortó servicios sociales y salarios en el sector público. (BBC Noticias, 19 de febrero)

En un notable contraste, Hezboláh está conocida por su justicia y la transparencia en su forma de gobernar, según el Post, que caracteriza a la agenda de Hezboláh como "populista". Explica que está llenando un vacío producto de la incapacidad del gobierno libanés de proporcionar cuidado de salud adecuado para la región, así Hezboláh está extendiendo su red de 50 hospitales a la parte norte del Líbano. Hezboláh no sirve exclusivamente a la comunidad chiíta. Por ejemplo, el año pasado, su hospital en el sur trató a 50.000 libaneses de todas las religiones.

Hezboláh ha establecido un tono no sectario en otras áreas de la vida libanesa. Por ejemplo, impidió represalias en contra de cristianos del sur del Líbano que trabajaban dentro de Israel durante la ocupación. Hezboláh está extendiendo la mano a los palestinos del Líbano, mayormente sunis, ofreciendo mejorarles el sistema de suministro de agua y la construcción de clínicas de salud en el campamento de refugiados, Ain Helweh.

Líbano es un país pequeñísimo con nada más que 4 millones de habitantes, pero su ubicación estratégica lo hace importante para el imperialismo. ¿Va la administración de Bush a permitir que Hezboláh siga creciendo en influencia, o intervendrá el Pentágono o la maquinaria de guerra israelí una vez más en el Líbano? Dos invasiones al Líbano, en 1958 y 1982, resultaron en un pesado saldo para el pueblo libanés. La invasión y ocupación israelita de 1982 al Líbano dejó decenas de miles de muertos.

A pesar de este castigo, el pueblo libanés sigue movilizando poderosas luchas populares. Las fuerzas progresistas y anti guerra en los Estados Unidos deben seguir muy de cerca lo que está pasando en el Líbano. □



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