

MUNDO OBRERO

Venezuela elimina el analfabetismo 12
Ojeda Ríos, por Mumia Abu-Jamal 12

VENEZUELA



- Territory free of illiteracy 9
- Bolivarian Revolution threatened 9
- Nov. 8 solidarity meeting 8

IRAN, SYRIA & ISRAEL

U.S. & British schemes 11

Old lies in new bottles
EDITORIAL 10

SUBSCRIBE TO WORKERS WORLD

Trial subscription: \$2 for 8 weeks
One year subscription: \$25

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY/STATE/ZIP _____
EMAIL _____ PHONE _____
WORKERS WORLD NEWSPAPER
55 W. 17 St. NY, NY 10011 212-627-2994
www.workers.org

IRAQ WAR PUTS

Bush gang in crisis

By Fred Goldstein

The indictment of I. Lewis Libby, Vice President Dick Cheney's chief aide, in the CIA leak case on the narrow grounds of perjury, misstatement and obstruction leaves open the question of whether the Bush administration will be explicitly put on trial for its conspiracy to go to war in Iraq.

This conspiracy was known about before, during and after the war. Only after more than 2,000 U.S. troops have been killed, almost 18,000 wounded and \$500 billion spent on the war, and after the determined anti-colonial resistance of the Iraqi people has humiliated the White House and the Pentagon, have sections of the "multilateral" wing of the ruling class and sections of the military decided to challenge the narrow, right-wing grouping that brought about this debacle.

Even the strength and direction of that challenge is in question.

The Democratic Party leaders have tried to keep themselves from being rendered politically irrelevant in the scandal over leaking the identity of a CIA agent. Democratic senators forced a closed session of the Senate on Nov. 1 in order to extract an agreement from the Republicans to deal with the investigation of the executive's systematic lies in the run-up to the war.

In 2002 and 2003, the ruling class as a whole, its media and both political parties were swept into the Iraq war—some enthusiastically, some reluctantly, but all willingly. They were taken in by the prospect of a quick victory through "shock and awe." They were all ready to seize Iraqi oil. They were looking forward to recolonizing the Middle East—if U.S. military aggression could succeed.

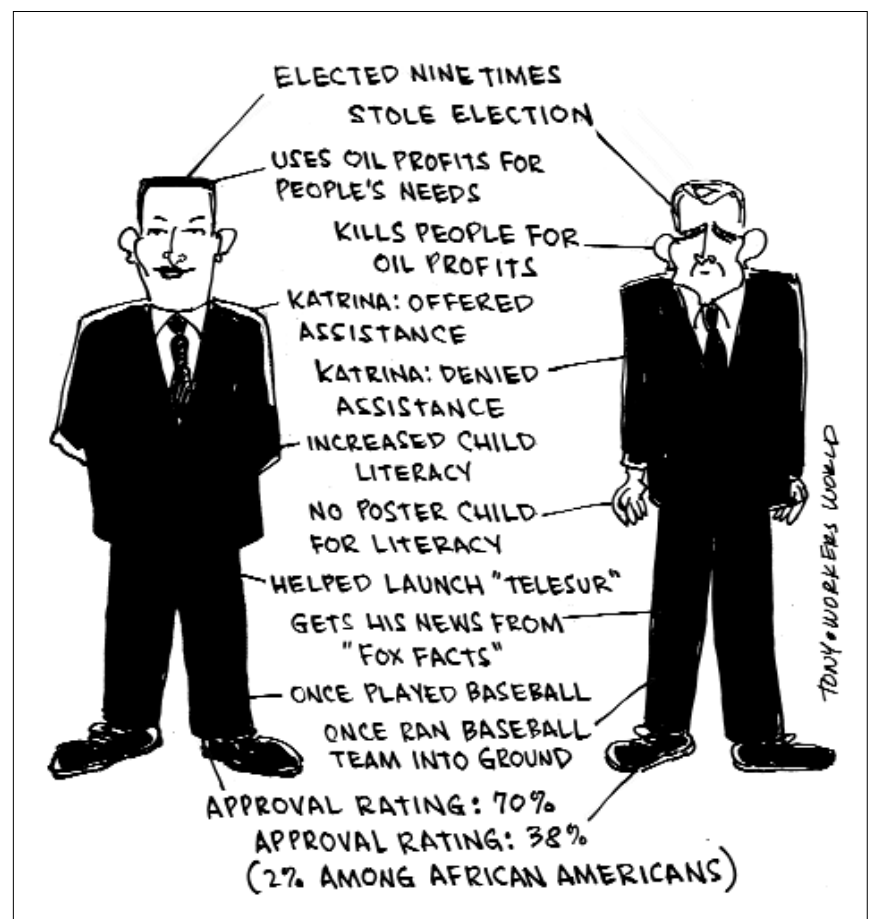
But since the war was declared officially over in April 2003, the rulers have watched the U.S. quagmire in Iraq deepen. They have been promised "turning points" in the occupation by Bush, Cheney and Defense Secretary Rumsfeld over and over again. The formation of a puppet government, the elections, the drawing up of a constitution—each was supposed to be a step forward. And after each of these "turning points," Iraqi resistance to the occupation continued and grew. The promised battle-ready Iraqi puppet army now seems a distant mirage.

Now ruling class elements are remembering that the Iraq war was a so-called "war of choice." They remember how they did not want to go to war without building up a multilateral alliance with fellow imperialists in Europe. They remember how the Bush group turned this alliance down because it did not want to share the spoils, how Washington poured contempt on all its European rivals except for its junior partners in London.

Disillusionment and defeat

It is this disillusionment and defeat that is the background to the indictment of Libby and the

Continued on page 3



ROSA PARKS DAY—DEC. 1

- MONTGOMERY** Remembering the boycott 7
- BOSTON** Resolution salutes hero 7
- NEW YORK** Wide support for protest 6



A National Day of Absence

December 1

The 50th Anniversary of ROSA PARKS' Arrest

Against Poverty, Racism & WAR

No School – No Work – No Shopping
Marches & rallies in cities across the country

- Bring the troops home now
- Justice for Katrina evacuees
- Jobs at a living wage
- Military recruiters out of our schools
- Cut the war budget – not healthcare, education & housing

To find out what's being planned in your area or to help plan a December 1 activity contact: Troopsoutnow.org or call 212 633-6646. You can endorse online, or email your endorsement to actioncenter@action-mail.org

WNBA star comes out, gains wide support

By Rebeca Toledo

WNBA basketball superstar Sheryl Swoopes has announced that she is a lesbian. Swoopes is the most prominent professional team sport athlete to come out while still an active player in the history of U.S. sports. Add to that that she is also the highest profile African American athlete to come out, and one can begin to see how courageous she really is.

Swoopes said she has gotten nothing but support since she came out. "Getting through the first day and having all the positive reaction and feedback that I had made me wake up this morning and say, 'OK, today is going to be a breeze.'"

Swoopes is a forward for the Houston Comets and a five-time All-Star in the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA). She has been named the league's Most Valuable Player three times, more than any other player. In fact, she was just honored with the 2005 MVP award this past September. With her, the Comets won four consecutive league championships from 1997-2000.

While piling up all these accolades, Swoopes said late in October that she had dreamed about the day when she could attend an awards banquet with Alisa Scott, her partner of seven years, on her arm. Scott is a former assistant coach with the Comets.

"We have had to celebrate behind closed doors," she said.

Swoopes stated, "I'm just at a point in my life where I'm tired of having to pretend to be somebody I'm not. I'm tired of having to hide my feelings about the person I care about. About the person I love."

Now Swoopes says she finally feels free and would like to one day marry Scott. Swoopes is divorced and has an 8-year old son, Jordan. When contemplating whether to come out, Swoopes said thoughts of him were foremost on her mind. "He goes to bed every night and he's peaceful



and when I see that I never question that what I'm doing is right," she said.

Swoopes was one of the original marquee players for the WNBA's opening season in 1996. She was the first woman to have a Nike shoe named after her, the "Air Swoopes," and continues to hold a contract with Nike. Along with coming out, Swoopes announced that she will be the spokeswoman for Olivia Resorts and Cruises, a lesbian-owned company that caters to lesbians.

One of her biggest concerns she admits is that "people are going to look at my homosexuality and say to little girls—whether they're white, Black, Hispanic—that I can't be their role model anymore. I

don't want that to happen. I'm still the same person."

But she said, "If a kid out there who is struggling with their identity can read this article and say, 'If she did it I can deal with this,' then this is worth it."

"I don't think there's any secret that the huge support we get comes from the gay and lesbian community," Swoopes, added, "It's unfortunate that people are not able to feel like they can be who they are. They lose endorsements, they lose friends and family. It is a 'don't ask, don't tell' type of thing [within the WNBA]."

The WNBA and all women's sports are riddled with homophobia. For example, at Penn State, Jen Harris was abruptly dismissed from the basketball team after last season. She is claiming that she was kicked off the team by coach Rene Portland because of suspected homosexuality. Before the school adopted a non-discrimination policy in the early 1990s, Portland had gone on record about having a no-lesbian policy.

On the Internet where fans have been discussing the issue, one fan summed it up: "Just keep putting the ball in the hoop." □

This week ...



★ **In the U.S.**

- Bush gang in crisis 1
- WNBA star comes out 2
- Students walk out, demand Bush get out 3
- Teachers 'occupy' board meeting 4
- Janitors fast for union power 4
- On the picket line. 4
- Struggle continues to free Leonard Peltier 5
- From Angola Prison to the New Orleans flood 5
- Dec. 1 day of absence gets broad support. 6
- 2,000 march against war 6
- AIDS activists demand resources 6
- Thousands in Alabama pay respects to Rosa Parks. 7
- Boston City Council: Honor Parks Dec. 1 7
- Minister Farrakhan lauds Rosa Parks 7
- Howard University students protest war 8

★ **Around the world**

- Rally to tell Bush: 'Hands off Venezuela!' 8
- Workers oppose U.S. military base in Paraguay 8
- Venezuela declared 'free of illiteracy'. 9
- U.S. threats grow against Bolivarian Revolution 9
- Haitians protest in Brooklyn 9
- Cuba provides 300 doctors to Pakistan 10
- U.S., Britain plot 'regime change' for Iran 11
- 100,000 march in Belgium general strike. 11

★ **Editorials**

- Old lies in new bottles. 10

★ **Noticias En Español**

- Venezuela elimina el analfabetismo 12
- El ataque del Imperio contra Ojeda Rios. 12

WW CALENDAR

LOS ANGELES

Thurs., Nov. 10
Bolivarian Venezuela, 7 p.m. At Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 3300 Wilshire Blvd. Phone (323) 936-7266 to volunteer.

NEW YORK

Fri., Nov. 4
Workers World Party Meeting: Is Bush planning to expand the war

to Syria and Iran? What's behind Israel's campaign to destroy the Palestinian Movement? Hear a Middle East update by WW reporter Joyce Chediak and Ardeshir Ommani, long-time Iranian activist and founder of the American-Iranian Friendship Committee. 7 p.m. (Dinner at 6:30) At 55 W. 17 St., 5th Fl., Manhattan. For info (212) 627-2994.

Workers World

55 West 17 Street
New York, N.Y. 10011
Phone: (212) 627-2994
Fax: (212) 675-7869
E-mail: editor@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org
Vol. 47, No. 44 • Nov. 10, 2005
Closing date: Nov. 2, 2005

Editor: Deirdre Griswold
Technical Editor: Lal Roohk
Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, LeiLani Dowell, Leslie Feinberg, Monica Moorehead, Gary Wilson
West Coast Editor: John Parker
Contributing Editors: Greg Butterfield, Fred Goldstein, Teresa Gutierrez, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Milt Neidenberg
Technical Staff: Shelley Ettinger, Maggie Vascassenno
Mundo Obrero: Carl Glenn, Teresa Gutierrez, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Donna Lazarus, Carlos Vargas,
Internet: Janet Mayes

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

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Send an e-mail message to WWnews-subscribe@workersworld.net.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 55 W. 17 St., 5th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10011.



How do we do it?

How do we put out this newspaper? With a lot of dedication and unpaid labor.

With creativity that has added podcasting to our popular web site.

With knowledge that comes from being organizers and militants in the many struggles we cover.

BUT THERE ARE ALWAYS BILLS TO PAY.

If you like Workers World, and you want us to keep growing, please contribute to our Fall Fund Drive.

Our goal is to raise \$60,000. Send your contribution today and help us get there.

Give to the Workers World Fall 2005 Fund Drive

I pledge \$ _____ to the Workers World 2005 Fall Fund Drive. Enclosed is my total payment of \$ _____.

Enclosed is a first payment of \$ _____. I plan to finish payment by ____/____/____.

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Clip & return to Workers World Newspaper

55 W. 17th St., 5th Fl., NY, NY 10011 • email: ww@workers.org • 212.627.2994 • fax: 212.675.7869 • www.workers.org

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

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

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

Atlanta
P.O. Box 424,
Atlanta, GA 30301
(404) 627-0815
atlanta@workers.org

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

Boston
284 Armory St., Boston,
MA 02130
(617) 983-3835
Fax (617) 983-3836
boston@workers.org

Buffalo, N.Y.
P.O. Box 1204
Buffalo, NY 14213
(716) 566-1115
buffalo@workers.org

Chicago
27 N. Wacker Dr. #138
Chicago, IL 60606
(773) 381-5839
Fax (773) 761-9330
chicago@workers.org

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

Denver
denver@workers.org

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

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

Los Angeles
5274 West Pico Blvd.,
Suite 203
Los Angeles, CA 90019
(323) 936-1416
la@workers.org

Philadelphia
P.O. Box 9202,
Philadelphia, PA 19139
(610) 453-0490
phila@workers.org

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

Rochester, N.Y.
(585) 436-6458
rochester@workers.org

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

San Francisco
2940 16th St., #207
San Francisco,
CA 94103
(415) 561-9752
sf@workers.org

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

Washington, D.C.
P.O. Box 57300,
Washington, DC 20037,
dc@workers.org



Iraq war puts Bush gang in crisis

Continued from page 1

grand jury investigation. But the Bush administration reacted to the charges against Cheney's chief aide, who is a key conspirator, by paying them lip service.

Bush then tried to move quickly past the indictment by changing the subject with the nomination of the right-wing, anti-choice, anti-worker, racist judge Sam Alito to replace Sandra Day O'Connor on the Supreme Court.

Cheney quietly appointed two war conspirators from his staff to replace Libby. David Addington, Cheney's counsel, became his new chief of staff. Addington had played a key role in writing the Justice Department document upholding the right to use torture under presidential war powers. He argued to abolish the rights of detainees held by the military and defended Cheney's case against exposing to public view the secret agreements with the oil and gas industry, among other things.

John Hannah, who served as a conduit for manufactured intelligence from Ahmad Chalabi's Iraqi National Congress—intelligence which wound up in Cheney's office and the White House—was named as Cheney's new national security adviser.

Libby was Cheney's powerful chief of staff and his national security adviser. He also was an adviser to the president who sat on the National Security Council and attended CIA briefings every day.

The grand jury indictment brought by Patrick Fitzgerald was a blow directed at Cheney. Cheney has concentrated unprecedented power for a vice president, with a staff of 15 military and political advisers on foreign affairs, rivaling that of Bush. By contrast, the last Democratic vice president, Al Gore, had only one national security adviser. ("All the Vice President's Men" by Juan Cole, Spiegel on-line, Oct. 28)

Together with former undersecretary of defense Paul Wolfowitz, Libby co-authored a 1992 document entitled "Defense Planning Guidance" for the Pentagon. Cheney ran the Pentagon during the first Bush administration. Wolfowitz and Libby were opposed to ending the first Gulf war of 1991 without first destroying Saddam Hussein.

Plan for U.S. world domination

The 1992 document, written in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union, declared that the U.S. would now dominate the world and that no power or combination of powers on earth should even attempt to challenge Washington's hegemony in any region.

Excerpts from the document were leaked to the New York Times and published April 8, 1992. The Bush Sr. administration was forced to disavow it. It was rewritten thereafter and finally turned up in an even more aggressive form in George W. Bush's "National Security Strategy" put forward in the fall of 2002.

Libby, Cheney, Rumsfeld and Wolfowitz were founding members of the Project for a New American Century (PNAC), created during the Clinton administration. In 2000 PNAC published a 96-page document that projected the revamping of U.S. military power to strengthen and expand Washington's world domination.

After Sept. 11, 2001, Libby became Cheney's point man in dealing with the Office of Special Plans (OSP), set up by Rumsfeld to manipulate and manufacture intelligence to support the Bush war plans for Iraq. "The ideologically driven network functioned like a shadow government," wrote the Guardian of London on July 17, 2003, "much of it off the official payroll

and beyond Congressional oversight. But it proved powerful enough to prevail in a struggle with the State Department and the CIA by establishing the justification for war.

"The president's most trusted adviser, Mr. Cheney, was at the shadow network's sharp end," continued the Guardian. "He made several trips to the CIA ... to demand a more 'forward leaning' interpretation of the threat posed by Saddam. When he was not there to make his influence felt, his chief of staff, Lewis 'Scooter' Libby, was. Such hands-on involvement in the processing of intelligence data was unprecedented for a vice-president in recent times and it put pressure on the CIA to come up with the appropriate results."

On Oct. 19 of this year, Col. Larry Wilkerson (ret.), former chief of staff at the State Department and a close aide to Secretary of State Colin Powell, delivered a speech widely noted in military and political circles. Wilkerson was formerly the head of the Marine War College. He has taught a generation of naval and marine officers and is a military and political insider.

A cabal running the U.S.

Speaking to the New America Foundation on Oct. 19, Wilkerson caused a stir when he said: "[T]he case I saw for four-plus years was a case that I have never seen in my studies of aberrations, bastardizations, perturbations, changes to national security decision-making process. What I saw was a cabal between the vice president of the United States, Richard Cheney, and the secretary of defense, Donald Rumsfeld, on critical issues that made decisions that the bureaucracy did not know were being made. And then when the bureaucracy was presented with the decision to carry them out, it was presented in such a disjointed, incredible way that the bureaucracy often didn't know what it was doing as it moved to carry them out.

"So you've got this collegiality there," continued Wilkerson, "between the secretary of defense and the vice president and you've got a president who is not versed in international relations and not too much interested in them either."

Wilkerson went on to talk about the seeming "dysfunctionality" of the group but then said that "the dysfunctionality camouflaged the efficiency of the secret decision-making process."

Wilkerson was really reflecting the opinion of a large section of the officer corps when he said that "my army is in bad shape." He spoke of the need to rebuild a military that is unraveling. The former officer denounced the Bush officials for authorizing torture, which he said discredits the military and makes it harder to win wars.

Wilkerson's talk was followed on Oct. 31 by a major piece in the New Yorker magazine about the former national security adviser for George Bush Sr., Brent Scowcroft, himself a retired Air Force general. Entitled "Breaking Ranks," the article recounted how Scowcroft pushed a reluctant Bush administration—including Bush Sr., Cheney and Powell—into going to war with Iraq in 1991. Scowcroft is a multilateralist war hawk, a protégé of Henry Kissinger and a long-time friend and confidant of Bush Sr. Scowcroft coined the term New World Order after the collapse of the USSR.

While he was for the war in 1991, the general was opposed to invading Baghdad. "At a minimum we'd be an occupier in a hostile land," Scowcroft told author Jeffrey Goldberg. "Our forces would be sniped at by guerrillas

and how would we get out?"

Scowcroft published an article in the Wall Street Journal in August 2002 entitled "Don't attack Saddam." He had to publish it in the newspaper because he could not get to see anyone in the Bush administration. "Scowcroft's best friend's son is the president," wrote Goldberg. "His friend Dick Cheney is the vice president; Condoleezza Rice ... was once a Scowcroft protégé; the current national security adviser, Stephen Hadley, is another protégé and a former partner at the Scowcroft Group."

The Scowcroft Group is his personal consulting firm, comprised of former government officials. Trading on his wide military and political connections, Scowcroft's company represents 30 of the largest corporations and opens doors for them world-wide.

Yet it is said that Scowcroft was consulted by the Clinton administration more frequently than by Bush.

When a figure as formidable as Scowcroft cannot get the time of day at the White House, it means that important sections of the military, political and corporate establishment can neither get their opinions heard nor find out what is really going on. The references by Wilkerson to the "bureaucracy" being kept in the dark means that all the traditional channels of the various factions of the ruling class are shut out except those factions favored by the tightly closed Bush administration.

Discontent in the Pentagon

Sen. John McCain, a hawk and a rival of Bush, just successfully sponsored a bill outlawing torture by the U.S. military. McCain comes from a military dynasty. His father, an admiral, was in charge of the Pacific Fleet during the Vietnam War. Sen. McCain's group also worries that the U.S. military will be subject to reprisal if it openly practices torture. A statement supporting his bill was signed by 21 military officers, including two former heads of the Joint Chiefs of Staff: Powell and Gen. John Shalikashvili. Cheney is now scheming to eviscerate the anti-torture bill.

Generals John Abizaid and George Casey Jr., the two highest commanders in

the Persian/Arab Gulf and Iraq, have both openly differed with Rumsfeld on the readiness of Iraqi puppet forces and on the need to begin to lower the number of troops. They recently told a Senate committee that the occupation is fueling the resistance.

The grand jury investigation and the fury around the Senate Intelligence Committee's investigation of the White House cover-up reflects a deep discontent among other factions of the ruling class, the military and imperialist strategists. Some want to escalate the war, some want to pull back from Iraq. And some have no program at all but are just angry with the Bush administration for injuring the reputation and interests of Washington and the Pentagon.

They want to break the stranglehold of this narrow "cabal" in the Oval Office, as Wilkerson calls it. But the movement of the workers and the oppressed should see this for what it is. It is not some progressive struggle between the left and the right. It is a fight between imperialist factions over how to stop the damage to U.S. imperialism and turn things around—"multilaterally" or by any other means.

Sections of the military in particular are enraged at being given what they regard as "mission impossible" by a narrow group of right-wing ideologues who fancy themselves as world military strategists. But none of the factions has a solution to the problem, because no outcome of the struggle can stop the Iraqi people from resisting colonial occupation.

The Democratic Party leaders are salivating at the thought of opening a campaign against corruption and lying. However, they are corrupt liars themselves and they all backed the war. They want to lend themselves to the anti-Bush factions of the military and the ruling class.

The progressive movement here should take advantage of these differences to expose the lies, the illegality and the corruption, but should use these exposures to widen an independent struggle against the occupation, the war makers and all capitalist ruling class factions. □

Students walk out, demand Bush get out



Some 1,500 mainly college and high school students left their classes and gathered at New York's Union Square on Nov. 2 as part of a national action called by the "World Can't Wait" organization to protest the war in Iraq and "drive out the

Bush regime." The students came from four local campuses and up to two dozen high schools in the city. Similar actions were planned for San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago and Atlanta.

—Story and photo by John Catalinotto

Teachers 'occupy' board meeting

Several hundred San Francisco union teachers, paraprofessionals, custodians, nutritional aides, secretaries and other school workers demonstrated outside, rallied, and "occupied" the regular meeting of the School Board here on the evening of Oct. 25. Working without a contract for months now, they were protesting plans by the superintendent to immediately hire "replacement" workers under "emergency powers" in the event of a strike.

Contract negotiations are stalled and the two unions, United Educators of San Francisco (UESF) and Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 790, say they will take a strike vote if no progress is made.

Like so many other contract negotiations across the country, one of the disputed issues is healthcare. The school district wants to limit employee family coverage to at most one single dependent per employee. After three years with no wage increase, the workers at this well-organized demonstration of solidarity made it clear they are ready to fight.

The San Francisco Central Labor Council has voted to support a strike, which means affiliated unions should refuse to cross picket lines. School bus drivers and other teachers' unions were there tonight in support, and parents as well came out to demand that the School Board give the workers a decent contract.

Speaker after speaker in the packed auditorium took the microphone or used a bullhorn to express sympathy with the workers. The School Board never got to their seats on the stage in front because union representatives already occupied them.

Despite the presence of a couple of dozen San Francisco Police Department officers, there were no arrests. After two and one half hours the School Board sent a representative into the occupied meeting to announce that they had postponed the discussion. It was clearly a workers' victory. The enthusiastic crowd immediately chanted, "We'll be back" for the next meeting.

—Story and photo by J. Marquardt



ON THE PICKET LINE

by Sue Davis

Philly transit workers strike

Who pays for healthcare? That's the top issue in the Philadelphia transit workers strike, which went into effect after midnight on Oct. 31.

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority is demanding that all workers pay 5 percent of the cost of their medical plan. The unions representing 5,300 workers—Transport Workers Local 234 and United Transportation Local 1594—refuse that uniform benefit cut.

Instead, union negotiators have proposed that all SEPTA employees, including management, contribute a set percentage of their pay toward healthcare benefits. That way a starting bus driver making less than \$25,000 a year wouldn't have to pay the same amount as a manager with a six-figure salary. Union officials have said that in past contracts wages were kept relatively low in exchange for the workers not paying healthcare premiums.

SEPTA is offering 3-percent raises over the next three years, which means the workers will barely keep up with inflation. So having to pay 5 percent of healthcare costs would amount to a significant pay cut for lower paid workers.

While the strike will disrupt the commute for the 460,000 working and oppressed people who use the buses, subways and trolleys every day, the striking transit workers are standing up for the right of all working people to have affordable healthcare. They deserve our support.

Janitors fast for union power

By Alex Gould
Providence, R.I.

Over 40 union supporters protested Oct. 31 in front of the "Turk's Head" downtown office building as five strong-willed people went into their fifth day of fasting. The fasters, camped out in front of the fancy bank offices since Oct. 27, are members of SEIU local 615 and their supporters. They want the owner of the building, millionaire landlord Evan Granoff, to hire a cleaning contractor who uses union labor.

The union janitors, a majority of whom are Black and Latin@, make under eight dollars an hour. Their contract allows the wages to be re-negotiated if the union can enlist 65 percent or more of Providence's janitors. Currently 64 percent are members.

Maritza Caro, one of the five-day fasters and a member of the Comité de Trabajadores Unidos (United Workers Committee), told Workers World she was fasting to support the janitors, who faced "discrimination, threats and humiliation" for even meeting with union organizers.

Jorge Cabrera, a local 615 member and five-day faster, told Workers World "my body is tired, but my spirit is strong." He was fasting to "build a new Providence, with respect for workers' rights". Cabrera said that respect would include better wages and health benefits for all workers.

Granoff pays janitors so little they need to work two jobs to make ends meet. But he makes millions building luxury apartments in a city where homelessness and foreclosures are on the rise. While many doubt this landlord has any conscience to be touched by the fasters' appeals, their action has won popular support and forced uncharacteristic sympathetic reactions from politicians.

Union-busting Providence Mayor David Cicilline and a gaggle of elected officials visited the vigil to pay their respects. Even Providence Police Chief Dean Esserman, who on Oct. 28 threatened to arrest the fasters for sitting in



WW PHOTO: ALEX GOULD

Janitors and supporters on five-day fast, demand union rights.

chairs on the sidewalk, had to come by to shake hands with them.

The union is asking supporters to call Martins Maintenance, the cleaning contractor at Turks Head, at 401-435-0202, to tell them that the janitors deserve a just wage and a voice on the job, and should not have to put up with threats and intimidation.

Union supporters in Providence are asking everyone to back the janitors' struggle and fight to make Providence a 100-percent union town.

Alex Gould is a member of UFCW local 328.



NYC's New School and teachers agree on pact

Negotiators for UAW Local 7902, the unit representing more than 2,000 part-time faculty at the New School in New York City, spent many long hours at the table fighting for a decent first contract. Members of the local, popularly called Academics Come Together, voted on Oct. 21 to authorize a strike if negotiations didn't produce results.

The strike vote spurred negotiations, which, after dragging on for months, were finally successful in the early hours of the morning on Oct. 31. The agreement, which still has to be ratified by the membership, includes a boost in wages, affordable health benefits, job security and seniority rights. What motivated the teachers to unionize in the fall of 2003 was that they were paid paltry wages, \$1,000 to \$3,000 per course, had no job security or seniority, and made so little in pay that only a third of those eligible could afford the healthcare plan.

NWA Mechanics hold the line

Northwest Airlines presented union negotiators representing 4,300 AFMA mechanics new contract terms on Oct. 13. The union agreed to send the terms to the membership for a vote. That was to be the first membership vote since the workers voted to go on strike on Aug. 19.

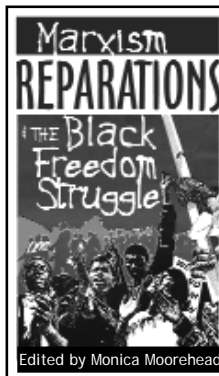
Even though the union leadership didn't like the terms NWA was proposing—only 500 members would be rehired after the strike was over—they wanted NWA to know that AFMA members were strongly united behind the strike. But when the union leaders saw NWA's final wording of the proposed contract, they labeled it a double-cross and called off the vote.

"Northwest added a paragraph that was never addressed at our last meeting," wrote Jim Young, Region II director of AFMA, in an open letter to the strikers on Oct. 20. The new paragraph "would have abrogated AFMA's basic authority as a union to govern itself and its members on internal union matters." In addition, NWA said that if the union didn't accept the proposed contract terms, they would resume hiring permanent replacements as of Oct. 21.

Clearly NWA, which filed for bankruptcy last summer, is out to bust the union. So helping the mechanics fight for union jobs at union wages should be the highest priority of both national groups representing union labor. Getting behind this strike at this critical time would elevate the entire labor movement. And it would show NWA—and the whole ruling class—they better not mess with union labor. □

Marxism, Reparations & the Black Freedom Struggle

- ◆ Racism, national oppression & the right to self-determination *Larry Holmes*
- ◆ Black labor from chattel slavery to wage slavery *Sam Marcy*
- ◆ Reparations & Black Liberation *Monica Moorehead*
- ◆ Harriet Tubman: woman warrior *Mumia Abu-Jamal* (Guest Commentary)
- ◆ Black labor & the fight for reparations *Bill Cecil*
- ◆ Alabama's Black Belt: Legacy of slavery, sharecropping & segregation *By Consuela Lee* (Guest commentary)
- ◆ Black farmers demand justice *Monica Moorehead*
- ◆ Greetings from Mumia Abu-Jamal to the 3rd UN World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia & Related Intolerance
- ◆ Nigerian women take over Chevron Texaco *Monica Moorehead*
- ◆ Nigerian women's takeover ends in victory *Monica Moorehead*
- ◆ Causes of turmoil in Jamaica PART I PART II PART III *Pat Chin*
- ◆ The driving force behind the land seizures *Monica Moorehead*



Order online at leftbooks.com

Struggle continues to free Leonard Peltier

By Stephanie Hedgecock
New York

Supporters of the Indigenous political prisoner Leonard Peltier gathered here Oct. 23 to hear updates on his case. The meeting featured Bob Robideau, an international spokesperson for Peltier and a fellow American Indian Movement (AIM) warrior. The Jericho Movement sponsored the meeting, which was held in the offices of the International Action Center.

Peltier has been in prison for almost 30 years for a crime he did not commit. In violation of its own statutes, the U.S. government has repeatedly refused him parole. The prison authorities refuse to consider him for parole until he has served over twice the normal term for his alleged offense. Peltier is recognized around the world as a political prisoner.

Two FBI agents and a Native man died during a shootout at Pine Ridge Reservation in 1975, which the agents started in a tiny village where children, adults and elders slept in their homes.

Those at the Oct. 23 meeting saw the 1991 documentary "West 57th Street" on the history of Peltier's case. The movie covers the history of the incident of the FBI attack and firefight on the Pine Ridge

Reservation.

There was never any evidence that Peltier fired the fatal shots. To obtain his extradition from Canada, the U.S. suppressed hundreds of thousands of documents that would indicate his innocence, including ballistics information. U.S. prosecutors publicly admitted they did not know who actually fired the shots that killed the FBI agents.

Robideau, one of Peltier's original co-defendants, spoke at length on COINTELPRO, the role of the FBI, and the bureau's current activities. "In 1993," he said, "after all venues of court were exhausted, an international effort began to appeal for legal clemency. In 1994 the FBI issued a memorandum outline that meant to counter this campaign. It is ongoing COINTELPRO.

"The FBI did picket lines, they bought ads, to attack the bid for clemency from Clinton. It was because Peltier organizers had attained some influence.... We as activists, in the community, had done the work to achieve his freedom."

Robideau continued: "We as activists do have the tools, the power to make the difference to free our political prisoners.

"The FBI today has become an international police force. And they continue to

actively involve themselves to ensure Leonard Peltier spends his life in prison."

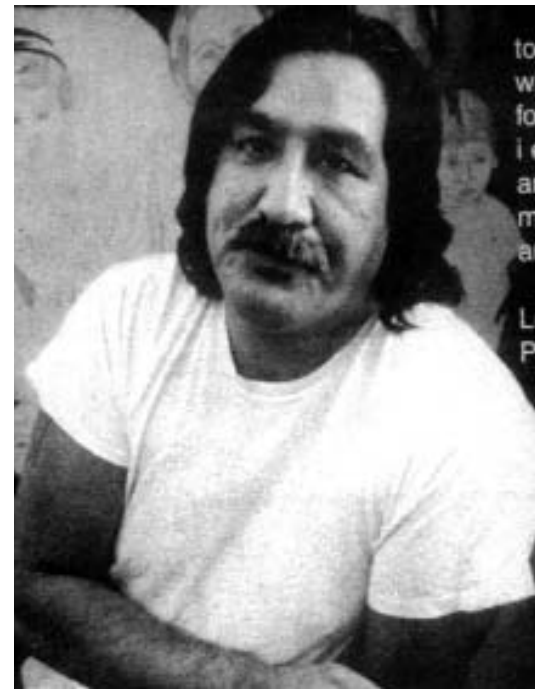
Referring to the recent trial of Arlo Looking Cloud and the charges against John Graham in the death of AIM activist Anna Mae Aquash, Robideau stated, "The FBI is behind it all. And now the FBI is using the Anna Mae case to make an ongoing record against Leonard Peltier that will be used against his getting paroled or receiving clemency."

Progressive attorney Lynne Stewart, who faces sentencing in December on another trumped-up charge, was also present and made brief remarks on the current political climate. "The FBI doesn't quit. They are going back 30 years in investigations now," in cases with no statute of limitations.

Peltier now at Lewisburg

Leonard Peltier had been transferred from Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary to the maximum-security prison at Terre Haute, Ind., where he was being kept in "the hole" indefinitely.

Activists around the country mobilized to protest his conditions and as a result he



FREE LEONARD PELTIER

was finally released from "the hole."

Jericho Movement spokesperson Paulette D'Auteuil stated that Peltier is now at USP Lewisburg in Pennsylvania, and is again able to participate in sweat lodge—a Native American spiritual practice. He is also painting again.

The Leonard Peltier Defense Committee asks that for now, until the group has a new office closer to Lewisburg, donations be sent to the Peltier Legal Fund in care of his attorney, Barry Bachrach, Esq., Bowditch & Dewey LLC, 311 Main St., Worcester, MA 01615. □

From Angola Prison to the New Orleans flood

By Joan Marquardt
San Francisco

Robert King Wilkerson, a former prisoner in Louisiana and one of the "Angola 3," recently visited San Francisco and spoke with Workers World about his prison experience, his becoming a political activist and his experience at home in New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola was originally a large plantation of white owners of slaves of African origin. Gradually a town grew up around the plantation and was called Angola.

Some of the descendants of the Old South's slave owners remain in the area, including the Butler and Mayeaux families. It was not a great leap from plantation to prison, with many of the originally all-white prison guards coming from the town of Angola.

The Angola 3, all African-American men, were imprisoned in Angola Prison in the early 1970s and remained in solitary confinement for three decades. They were each originally imprisoned on unrelated robbery charges.

At that time many prisoners had become activists in their communities, like Baton Rouge and New Orleans, before incidents with racist police and authorities put them together in Angola Prison.

Among these prisoners were Herman Wallace and Albert Woodfox, who formed a chapter of the Black Panther Party (BPP) right inside Angola Prison. Around this time Robert King Wilkerson was also imprisoned.

Wilkerson said, "That's when I began to get political consciousness. I was drawn to the revolutionary program of the BPP. I liked the philosophy of the 10-Point Program, especially Point #1: We want freedom.

"I also liked the rest of the program, especially the breakfasts for children and the community healthcare clinics. And the BPP program included other things important to Black people, like military service exemption, housing and busing families of prisoners to and from visits."

Wilkerson said it was then that he, Herman Wallace and Albert Woodfox organized political education classes in the prison, where they learned real history. The prison was segregated then, but their classes were open to Blacks and whites. This informal integration really bothered the prison administration, he explained.

That was when the three of them were charged with the death of a fellow prisoner, which Wilkerson says was a frameup. Although another inmate confessed to the killing and was convicted of murder, the three men, known as the "Angola 3," were additionally accused, tried and convicted.

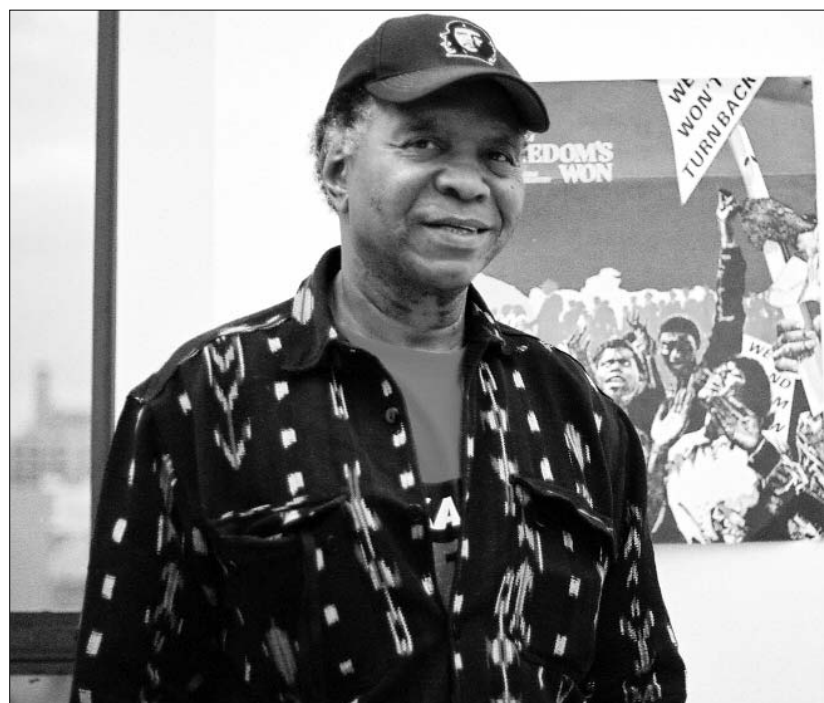
Later their inmate accusers retracted their trial testimony, saying they had been coerced by prison administration officials. But the Angola 3 remained imprisoned and in solitary confinement for 29 years.

Over those years the three continued to advocate for prisoner rights, despite each being kept in solitary confinement. Wilkerson said, "We found a way to communicate." They waged a hunger strike to protest the strip and anal body searches all prisoners, already in handcuffs and shackles, were regularly subjected to.

Although that dehumanizing practice was eventually curtailed, it has gradually been reintroduced, Wilkerson said, "under the guise of 'state security.'"

In October the New York Times reported a survey that showed Angola Prison has the largest population of prisoners serving life sentences without the possibility of parole.

Wilkerson said that traditionally in Louisiana, when a person was "sentenced



Robert King Wilkerson

WWW PHOTO: JOAN MARQUARDT

to life" it was understood that it was "without possibility of parole." Thus, he said, "At least 2,000 or more remain 'lifers' and the only rare exception is through the clemency process, but it is a difficult, contradictory procedure and rigged against the prisoner."

Regarding the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Wilkerson said, "It shouldn't have gotten to that point. Ever since the 1965 Category 3 Hurricane Bessie, everyone in New Orleans knew the levees needed repair after years and years of neglect. If the levees had been repaired, Hurricane Katrina would have meant some electric power losses and little else.

"After the storm had passed and I felt out of danger, I took down the coverings he had put at his windows and stepped outside where there were only some occasional mild wind gusts. Then the levees failed.

"Anyone who tells you it took days for the water to rise is wrong. It took minutes for the water to rise. In a half hour my house had seven-and-one-half feet of water in it."

Both he and his dog were able to remain

dry on the second floor, and eventually friends rescued them with a boat and he temporarily evacuated to Austin, Texas.

Wilkerson also said that he has heard people saying that the situation in New Orleans was so bad it was close to a "race war." But "it would have been a Civil War type situation because some whites wanted to help, to struggle alongside the African Americans, for dignity and safety."

Wilkerson is now involved in the survival of New Orleans. And he remains more committed than ever to win the release of the remaining two members of the Angola 3, who are still imprisoned, Albert Woodfox and Herman Wallace.

Despite evidence that led to his own release on Feb. 8, 2001, new evidence of the innocence of the other two men has not yet led to their exoneration and release. Their story is not unlike that of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Wilkerson urges people who want to help out the people in New Orleans and the Angola 3 to go to the following websites and get involved. They are: www.commongroundrelief.org and www.angola3.org.

Dec. 1 day of absence gets broad support

By Monica Moorehead
New York

On Oct. 27, New York City Council member Charles Barron and the Troops Out Now Coalition sponsored a news conference on the steps of City Hall in Manhattan. Scores of community activists joined a dozen members of the City Council to announce the introduction of a resolution to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Rosa Parks' 1955 arrest with a day of absence against war, poverty and racism on Dec. 1.

The news conference took place three days after Rosa Parks' death at the age of 92. This Black woman, then a seamstress, refused to give up her seat on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Ala., on Dec. 1, 1955. This act of defiance gave birth to the Montgomery bus boycott and also the modern-day civil rights movement.

Barron began the press conference by saying, "When Rosa Parks sat down, that is when Black people stood up." Barron spoke of the significance of the resolution, which urges all businesses and schools to close down on Dec. 1 to allow workers and students to attend events in honor of Rosa Parks.

Barron also spoke about the "immoral and illegal" Iraq war, which has caused the deaths of more than 100,000 Iraqis and 2,000 U.S. soldiers, along with \$300 billion wasted on this criminal war. "If you can impeach Clinton for Monica [Lewinsky], then you can impeach Bush," Barron said.

Larry Holmes from the Troops Out Now Coalition (TONC) spoke about a day-long teach-in scheduled during a march and rally on Wall Street on Dec. 1. "We need to renew the civil rights movement.... We have to say no to the racism, injustice and poverty that creates a situation like New Orleans.... We won't allow social justice, economic justice and the struggle against war to go to the back of the bus," he said.

Brenda Stokely, a co-convenor of New York City Labor Against the War, said that



Twelve City Council members and other activists back commemoration for Rosa Parks.

WW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

"honoring Rosa Parks is honoring a legacy of struggle." Stokely described the struggle of Katrina survivors to return home to New Orleans and other Gulf Coast areas after the hurricane and explained how activists in a number of cities, including New York, are organizing solidarity committees to support this right.

LeiLani Dowell and Mia Cruz, organizers for Fight Imperialism-Stand Together (FIST), encouraged student walkouts on Dec. 1 and supported the on-going campaign against military recruiters in the high schools and colleges. Cruz is helping to organize a walkout at Humanities Prep School, with a follow-up rally at Union Square.

Other speakers at the press conference

included three Black women on the City Council: Letitia James, Helen Foster and Yvette Clarke; State Sen. Jose Rivera; Nellie Bailey of the Harlem Tenants Council; Jasmine of Campus Anti-War Network; Ron Daniels of Center for Constitutional Rights; Jericho Movement leaders Herman and Iyaluua Ferguson; Black Waxx recording artist Nana Soul; Gloria Jackson, a daycare worker and

mother of a GI who was in Iraq; Zul of the Green Party's National Peace Action Committee, and others.

During the news conference, Brooklyn schoolchildren held signs calling for the Dec. 1 commemoration actions.

A public hearing on the City Council resolution is set for Nov. 18 from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. inside City Hall chambers to allow debate before a final vote is taken. □

2,000 march against Iraq war

By Bryan G. Pfeifer
Boston

With gold-star mother and now anti-war spokesperson Cindy Sheehan leading the way, over 2,000 protesters marched through the downtown streets of Boston Oct. 29 demanding: "From New Orleans to Iraq: Bring the troops home now!"

A highlight of the blocks-long march came at the Tremont Street Baptist Church where bigot James Dobson and his organization Focus on the Family was holding a "conference" encouraging LGBT people to renounce themselves and become heterosexuals.

Mark D. Snyder of QueerToday.com, standing on the flatbed of a truck donated for the day by the Boston school bus drivers union USW Local 8751 president Steve Gillis, began call and response chants over a booming sound system. "Homophobia: Shut it down!" and "Racism: Shut it down!" rang out. The protesters, proceeding with the march, left a parting message: "Get the F... out of Boston!"

Organized by the Oct. 29 Coalition, a broad cross-section of progressive organizations and individuals, the day's events included before and after-march rallies at the Boston Common bandstand.

All speakers denounced the war as well

as raised issues including anti-racism, counter-recruitment, reproductive rights, same-sex marriage, the Cuban 5, the Somerville 5 and Filiberto Ojeda Rios.

Speaking from the bandstand stage, Stevan Kirschbaum, chief steward of Local 8751, informed participants of the unanimous Boston City Council resolution passed Oct. 26 which reads in part, "The Boston City Council encourages all businesses in the City of Boston, both public and private to either close on Dec. 1, or allow the many workers and students in the City who will want to attend the Rosa Parks Commemoration event taking place during normal business hours, to take the day off, or leave work and school early with impunity."

Hundreds of leaflets calling for actions against war, racism and poverty on Dec. 1 were distributed throughout the day.

"Let's go back to our schools. Let's go back to our communities. Let's go back to our unions. Every person be an organizer. And on Dec. 1, on the anniversary of Rosa Parks ushering in the modern civil rights movement, let us shut this country down. Stop the war in Iraq and at home. Say no to racism," said Kirschbaum, also a member of the Boston Troops Out Now coalition, a principal organizer of the Oct. 29 action. □

AIDS activists demand resources

By Gerry Scoppettuolo
Boston

"We must come together to demand the resources that we need to fight this epidemic in communities of color and everywhere!" With that declaration, Rev. Franklin Hobbs of Healing Our Land opened the Northeast Campaign to End AIDS HIV/AIDS Caravan freedom ride to Washington, D.C., at the Greater Love Tabernacle in Dorchester, Mass.

Leaders from AIDS service organizations, Black churches and especially two dozen people living with the virus spoke, sang, clapped and stood unified with a single demand. Everyone agreed to push for full implementation of the City of Boston's declaration of an HIV/AIDS state of emergency in communities of color in Boston. Healing Our Land worked three years for passage of the proclamation, which was declared last March 30.

Four Boston City Council members were present and/or represented at the event, including Chuck Turner, Charles Yancey, Felix Arroyo and Maura Hennigan, all co-sponsors of the state of emergency.

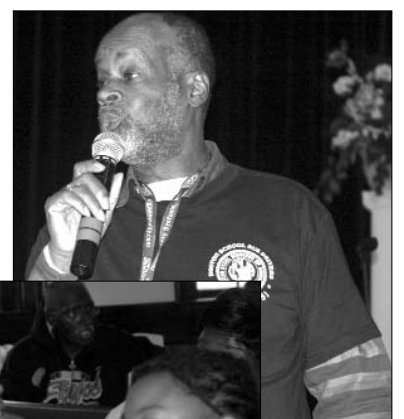
Only a few other cities in the U.S. and one state, Alabama, have passed such proclamations. Pastor Martin M. McClee, chair of the HIV Committee of the Black Ministerial Alliance, said: "Emergencies call for action. Now is the time for action. Funded programs result in action. Now is

the time for funding."

Other faith leaders taking part included Pastor William Dickerson, Greater Love Tabernacle, and Evangelist Vernessa Fountain of Healing Our Land.

Robert Traynham, a leader in the Boston School Bus Drivers Union, Local 8751 USWA, and the Troops Out Now Coalition called upon all attending to participate in the Dec. 1 Day of Absence Against Poverty, Racism and War. Rev. Hobbs, who has been HIV positive for 18 years, is an endorser of the Dec. 1 actions that are being organized across the country in honor of the late civil rights fighter Rosa Parks.

The event was organized and endorsed by Healing Our Land, the Campaign to End AIDS, Troops Out Now Coalition, the Cambridge Health Alliance, the Multicultural AIDS Coalition and the Fenway Community Health Center. □



WW PHOTOS:
LIZ GREEN

Thousands in Alabama pay respects to Rosa Parks

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Montgomery, Ala.

In a steady stream, thousands of people, Black and white, filed into St. Paul AME Church on Oct. 29 to pay respects to civil rights activist Rosa Parks, who died in Detroit on Oct. 24 at the age of 92. Parks' arrest on Dec. 1, 1955, for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger, sparked the historic Montgomery Bus Boycott.

The 1955 mass resistance to Jim Crow segregation moved the modern civil rights struggle out of the courts and into the streets and engaged millions in a political movement that changed U.S. society.

Rosa Parks' body was brought home to Montgomery, the city where she had gone to school, married, worked, and became a member of the local NAACP chapter, serving as its secretary and later as a youth leader.

As people exited the church, many commented on how they had felt compelled to come to honor Parks "for what she did for me" even though most had never met her or were too young to have experienced the indignities of legal segregation.

Writing their names in the condolence books placed outside the church, people emotionally reflected on how such a small woman had made an historic change through her courage and resolve and that her legacy needed to be continued.

Although most were from Montgomery and the surrounding area, others had traveled from dozens of cities and towns in Florida, Georgia and elsewhere. Grey-haired seniors, many of whom had participated in the bus boycott, came with their adult children and grandchildren.

Noticeable among the predominantly African-American mourners were white residents of Montgomery such as Evelyn Pope, 37, who brought her two young daughters "because they see the world differently now" thanks to Rosa Parks, and Tom Sise who drove from Pensacola, Fla., because "it was the right thing to do."

Bessie Roberts, a retired teacher from Warner-Robins, Ga., met her brother, Larry Turner from Pell City, Ala., outside the church. They remarked that "Parks is continuing to lead us. Her death just before the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott has made us all aware again. It has shaken our consciousness that we all have a part to play."

A seat on the bus

Parked outside the church was a Montgomery City bus like the one that Rosa Parks had ridden on to get to her job as a seamstress in downtown Montgomery. The bus on which she was arrested is in a civil rights museum in Detroit.

Nevertheless, people boarding the bus wanted to sit symbolically where Rosa Parks had defied the Jim Crow laws that kept Black people in the back of the bus.

Settling into the second row seat on the right side of the bus, people's faces showed visible pride and self-confidence, they straightened their shoulders, and repeated Parks' famous refusal to cooperate with segregation.

People told children that by sitting in Rosa Parks' seat, they now were committed to carry on her legacy for justice.

Brenda Curry-Johnson and her 4th-grade son, Damian, sat on the bus for hours, talking to people as they boarded. She had helped with the memorial service that morning. She greeted everyone who got on the bus, showing them which seat

"The only thing that bothered me is that we waited so long to make this protest"

— Rosa Parks

Rosa Parks fingerprinted in Montgomery, Alabama

Rosa Parks had been in on that history-making day.

Curry-Johnson said she was excited that she had a chance to meet Rev. Jesse Jackson, Rev. Al Sharpton and actress Cicely Tyson, but what moved her to stay until late that night was all the thousands of mothers and fathers with their children.

She proudly told them that her older son, Jeremy, had won a contest to create a birthday card for Rosa Parks and that his drawing was in the Rosa Parks museum in Montgomery.

Cane in hand, Annye Burch climbed on board the bus and sat in the front seat, declaring, "This is the first time I have put my foot on a Montgomery city bus since 1955."

Burch was a student at Alabama State the day that Rosa Parks was arrested. "That night flyers were passed out at school, telling us not to ride the buses the next day. We didn't, not that day or the next. For more than a year, we walked. We were real foot soldiers."

Burch explained to those getting on how Black people before the boycott had to pay their fare to the driver, then get off and get back on through the rear door of the bus. "The white drivers yelled at us, and if we didn't move fast enough, they would shut the doors and leave us standing there. We were mistreated for so long."

L. E. Kennedy, the third Black driver to be hired after segregation on city buses was overturned, spoke about the need to fight racism today. In 1966 he was still not allowed to use the company bathrooms. He said that finally five or six Black drivers organized and went into the restroom as a group "and that ended that."

On Oct. 30, Rosa Parks' casket was taken to Washington, D.C., where it will be placed in the Rotunda of the Capitol, which was built by slave labor, to be viewed by tens of thousands more admirers. Then, her body will be returned to Detroit to lie in state at the Museum of African-American History. Her funeral will take place on Nov. 2. □



Boston City Council: Honor Parks Dec. 1

On Oct. 26, the Boston City Council passed a 13-0 resolution in tribute to Rosa Parks and also in support of the Dec. 1 National Day of Absence against Racism, Poverty and War. Activists in New York, Baltimore and Detroit are organizing support in those areas to get a similar resolution passed. In Oakland, Calif., Million Worker March Movement leaders such as Clarence Thomas are discussing a possible Dec. 1 resolution with the city council there. The following excerpts are from the Boston resolution:

WHEREAS: Mrs. Parks, on December 1, 1955, refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger in Montgomery, Alabama, resulting in her arrest; and

WHEREAS: Mrs. Parks' defiance triggered the famous Montgomery Bus Boycott and earned her the title Mother of the Civil Rights Movement; and

WHEREAS: The 382-day Boycott introduced the world to Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who was President of the Montgomery Improvement Association and the Boycott's spokesperson; and

WHEREAS: The federal district court on June 4, 1956, ruled bus segregation unconstitutional; and

WHEREAS: Mrs. Parks and her husband, Raymond Parks, in 1957 moved to Detroit, Michigan where Mrs. Parks served on the staff of U.S. Representative John Conyers; and

WHEREAS: Mrs. Parks spent her last years in Detroit, where she died on October 24, 2005 at the age of 92;

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council, in meeting assembled, proclaims the year 2005 as Rosa Parks year in the City of Boston and honors Rosa Parks;

And Be It Further RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council encourages all businesses in the City of Boston, both public and private to either close on December 1, 2005, or allow the many workers and students in the City who will want to attend the Rosa Parks Commemoration event taking place during normal business hours to take the day off, or leave work and school early with impunity. □

Minister Farrakhan lauds Rosa Parks

The following excerpts are from an Oct. 28 statement issued by Minister Louis Farrakhan, National Convener of the Millions More Movement:

A pioneer of civil passive resistance, Rosa Parks was a woman of great courage, conviction and fortitude. Her steadfast determination to be valued as a human being ignited one of the greatest social movements of all times and served as a catalyst for so many significant social changes in America. No doubt her quiet power and dignity marked her character and gave that kind of thrust to the civil rights movement.

The gall to remain seated on a bus instead of giving her seat to a white man sparked the civil rights struggle for Blacks all over the world. What she did in Montgomery, Alabama, in a moment of passive defiance erupted into a diverse outpouring of unity and purpose that has been carried forth through to this day.

We pause to remember and salute a fallen leader who always thought more of others than herself. Her life symbolizes the foundation for the Millions More Movement, which calls us to unity by bringing forth the best usages of our time, talents and resources for the greater good of the poor. We are challenged to embel-

lish and embody the spirit and purpose of Rosa Parks to alleviate the new Jim Crowism and stronger bastion of prejudice, segregation and terror that exist in our society as well as to eradicate hopelessness, joblessness, homelessness and lack of educational opportunities in our neighborhoods, which are the tasks of the Millions More Movement.

In honor and memory of the one who ushered in the Movement, we stand paused to continue the struggle for justice, fairness, and equality. As she takes her exit, we enter into the next level to mobilize our people and maximize our economic, political and social power. □

Nov. 8 at Town Hall

Rally to tell Bush: 'HANDS OFF VENEZUELA!'

By David Hoskins

On Nov. 8 activists will gather at historic Town Hall in midtown Manhattan to demand an end to the U.S. government's aggressive posture toward Bolivarian Venezuela.

The Evening of Solidarity with the Bolivarian Revolution is taking its place as the latest of many important events held at Town Hall over the past eight decades. Built by the women's suffrage movement, the venue has been the launching pad for many historic struggles, from a protest over the execution of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti in 1927 to the movement to free Mumia Abu-Jamal.

The Nov. 8 rally is expected to be the largest action in the United States to date in support of President Hugo Chávez and the Bolivarian Revolution.

Teresa Gutierrez, coordinator of the New York Committee to Free the Cuban Five and Nov. 8 event organizer, described the event's purpose: "The most important

thing Venezuelans thing need from us is for us to galvanize support for Venezuela and to stop Bush's aggression. This Town Hall event will plant a seed for a national movement in solidarity with Venezuela."

A host of distinguished scholars and activists have endorsed the event. Supporters include former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, actor Danny Glover, and radical authors Howard Zinn and Noam Chomsky. Letters of support have poured in from all around the country and the world.

Actor Peter Coyote, for example, wrote: "It is ironic that the American government tried to overthrow a democratically elected president of another country whose 'voter approval numbers' are nearly double that of our own president."

Political analyst James Petras wrote: "The Night in Solidarity with Bolivarian Venezuela sends a message to all Americans that social welfare, self-determination, racial justice and popular power embedded in the policies of President

Chávez are a viable alternative to imperialism and neoliberalism."

Worldwide support

Portuguese author, journalist and former member of the European Parliament, Miguel Urbano Rodrigues, wrote: "Bolivarian Venezuela is now an extraordinary laboratory of the class struggle in Latin America and a fortress of resistance to imperialism and the annexationist drive of the 'Free Trade Agreement of the Americas.' To stand with Chávez and his humanistic revolution is to struggle for the progress of humanity."

In Austria and Italy the Anti-Imperialist Camp has called a series of meetings and demonstrations on Nov. 7 and 8 in solidarity with Bolivarian Venezuela and with the Town Hall meeting.

The Nov. 8 rally is a timely and necessary response to the complicity of the Bush administration, the extreme Christian right, and the corporate media in their attempts to undermine, overthrow and

even kill President Chávez.

Since Chávez's election in 1998, the Bolivarian government of Venezuela has expanded educational opportunities, turned over idle factories to the workers, and with the assistance of Cuban doctors provided health care to the poor. The revolutionary process is deeply rooted in the Venezuelan masses' aspirations of dignity and independence.

Poor and working class Venezuelans are counting on the progressive movement in the United States to vocally express their dissent with the U.S. government's policy of isolating and fomenting unrest.

Venezuela needs the support of progressives in the United States. What it doesn't need is U.S. imperialist interference aimed at turning back the clock in Venezuela. The Nov. 8 rally is an opportunity to stand up and speak out against the ruling class's attempts to destroy the Bolivarian Revolution. A similar solidarity event is set in Los Angeles on Nov. 10. Call 323-936-7266 for information. □

Workers oppose U.S. military base in Paraguay

By John Catalinotto

On Oct. 22 in Brasilia, Brazil, Workers World conducted the following interview with Luis Casabianca, at 78 one of the historic leaders of the much-persecuted Communist Party of Paraguay (PCP). The PCP was outlawed for most of its history, including all of the brutal U.S.-backed dictatorship of Gen. Alfredo Stroessner from 1954-1990.

WW: We have heard rumors that the United States has begun to set up a military base in Paraguay. What do you have to report about this threat?

LC: That is exactly the biggest news in Paraguay at this moment: the presence of U.S. troops in order to support the U.S. policy of domination of Paraguay and of

our continent.

Recently there were declarations by representatives of the State Department and the Pentagon, spread by the media, with the goal of intervening in the internal social struggle and blocking the movement for democracy and liberation in Latin America. The declarations make it explicit that what is worrying the Bush government is the turn to the left in various Latin American countries.

It's not only the growth of the popular movement in Paraguay that worries U.S. imperialism. More worrying is the victory of the Bolivarian movement with its center in Caracas, the development of a popular liberating movement on our continent, and which also has participation from democratic and progressive governments, like those in Brazil and Uruguay.

In Paraguay they have already begun the project of carrying out joint military operations by the end of 2006,

with the participation of hundreds of Yankee soldiers and officers. There are rumors that they will establish or that there already is a U.S. military air base. The Paraguayan government and the U.S. Embassy has denied this, but all the operations that precede such a development in the rest of the world have begun.

It is well known that recently U.S. Minister of Defense Donald Rumsfeld visited our country at the culmination of many visits from officials from the "great country to the North," as well as frequent visits to the U.S. of Paraguayan leaders, including the president and vice president.

On top of the military base it has also

WW INTERVIEW

been announced that a permanent office of the FBI is opening in Asuncion, our capital city, which goes along with the

CIA's activities under the cover of USAID.

What is the situation with the progressive movement for socialism and for liberation in Paraguay?

Paraguay has the sad honor of being one of the poorest countries in the world, ranking somewhere near Haiti and Cameroon. It is also one of the most corrupt. But the narrow ruling class in Paraguay and imperialism is worried about the growth of popular movement demanding basic and often urgent necessities. The peasants are occupying land and sometimes making socialist declarations, the teachers often hold large demonstrations for better salaries and better schools, homeless people are occupying urban lands and setting up housing, and students demand increased subsidies for education and democratization of the educational process.

The working class and its principal union confederations, CUT and the CNT, are leading the struggle for better salaries and better conditions of life and of work, as well as for the national sovereignty of Paraguay.

Joined in united fronts, which include the PCP and other left parties, the people are engaged in struggle. One of the main slogans at this time is: No to U.S. intervention in Paraguay. Yankee troops out! □

Howard University students protest war

Hundreds of students at Howard University, a historically Black school in Washington, D.C., greeted Laura Bush on Oct. 27 with a militant protest against the war in Iraq, the criminally negligent and racist conduct of the federal government in response to Hurricane Katrina, and cuts in education, according to a report by the ANSWER organization.

Holding signs that read, "2,000 dead, end occupation: Palestine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Haiti..., money for education not war," the students began their demonstration in advance of Laura Bush's arrival at the Howard campus.

The demonstration was called by Youth and Student ANSWER and Cimarrones, a progressive Black student union of Caribbeans and Central and South Americans. It was supported by various other campus organizations, including the Student Association, Howard Amnesty



International and Ubiquity.

The demonstration turned into a confrontation as university officials working with Secret Service and D.C. police threatened to arrest the students unless they moved. "They are trying to force us to disperse or at least move back 30 feet, but we in the Black community have been told to move for 300 years," said Eugene Puryear, a coordinator of Youth

and Student ANSWER and a Howard sophomore.

The HU protest was one of hundreds that local anti-war organizations held in cities, towns, college campuses and high schools across the country as the 2,000th U.S. soldier was killed in Iraq, in addition to an estimated 100,000 Iraqis.

—Report and photo from ANSWER



Read Leslie Feinberg's entire *Lavender & Red* series to date at www.workers.org.

Venezuela declared 'free of illiteracy'

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

On Oct. 28 Venezuela declared it is now a "Territory Free of Illiteracy." The Bolivarian government is pushing ahead with policies and measures to raise its population from the misery and ignorance that prevailed for decades, despite Washington's mounting hostilities against Venezuela and particularly against its president, Hugo Chávez, including a thoroughly negative media campaign.

The guidelines of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) say that a territory must have less than 4 percent illiteracy in order to declare it is free of illiteracy. In the last two years, Venezuela has lowered illiteracy to less than 1 percent by teaching close to 1.5 million people how to read.

Venezuela accomplished this tremendous educational leap forward with the generous and expert help of Revolutionary Cuba and its program, "Yo sí puedo" ("Yes, I can"). Not surprisingly, these are the only

two countries in Latin America to have won the status of "illiteracy free."

On the day of the announcement, celebrated joyously all over Venezuela, President Chávez gave special recognition to the people who had overcome illiteracy through participation in the Robinson Mission, stating that, "Democracy must be practiced with a cultured people."

Chávez specially highlighted and expressed gratitude to Cuba and its President Fidel Castro, stating that even though Venezuela had been trying since 2000 to erase illiteracy, it was not until they used the Cuban method that they were able to succeed. "Without Cuba, the Robinson Mission would have been impossible," said the Venezuelan president.

Reaching Indigenous communities

Sports and Education Minister Aristóbulo Istúriz said that the program had placed great emphasis on reaching nomadic Indigenous communities.

He added, "The Robinson Mission per-

mitted people with visual problems to learn the Braille method, and for those who could not hear, we taught them through sign language, that is, this process involved everybody equally."

Education and especially teaching reading is an area where the United States lags way behind Cuba and Venezuela. The U.S. government could learn a great deal from countries it deems to be "the enemy."

The website of the U.S. Department of Education reports on the grim findings of a 1993 study on literacy in the U.S. Results are as yet unavailable from another study conducted in 2003.

"The statistics make it clear: illiteracy is on the increase in the United States. The Office of Technology Assessment (OTA), an analytical arm of the U.S. Congress, stated in a 1993 report:

"Standards and requirements for literacy have increased over time and a large number of adults need to improve their literacy skills. OTA finds that at least 35 million adults have difficulty with common

Chávez expressed gratitude to Cuba, stating that even though Venezuela had been trying to erase illiteracy, it was not until they used the Cuban method that they were able to succeed.

literacy tasks. Although many of these adults can read at rudimentary levels, they need higher levels of literacy to function effectively in society, to find employment, or to be trained for new jobs as the workplace changes.... Fewer than 10 percent of the population in need is being reached." Bolivia, the poorest country in the region, and the Dominican Republic may soon join Cuba and Venezuela in eradicating illiteracy, probably before the U.S. does. On Oct. 28, the Venezuelans announced that the Robinson Mission and the "Yes, I can" method will be used in these two poor countries. □

U.S. threats grow against Bolivarian Revolution

By Teresa Gutierrez

As the revolutionary process in Venezuela continues to inspire millions around the world, the threat of U.S. intervention looms like a dark cloud over this sizable and oil-rich South American nation.

U.S. imperialism is over-extended with wars in Iraq and Afghanistan that it cannot manage and a mounting political crisis in the White House. It is exactly at times like this when U.S. imperialism can be even more dangerous because those in the seats of power might be tempted to hope that intervention abroad can divert people's attention from these crises.

At the top of Washington's list of targets is the nascent Bolivarian Revolution of Venezuela.

While the administration of President Hugo Chávez makes great social, economic and political advances, the danger of U.S. intervention threatens to halt all this progress.

In the last several weeks alone, the beat of intervention from Washington has increased.

William Arkin reported in the Nov. 2 online edition of the Washington Post that "The Pentagon has begun contingency planning for potential military conflict with Venezuela as part of a broad

post-Iraq evaluation of strategic threats to the United States. The planning has been precipitated by general and specific directives issued by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and his civilian policy assistants."

Venezuela has been redirecting its resources to ending illiteracy, building houses and schools and providing subsidized food for the poor, and implementing land reform. To the Bush gang, that's a "strategic threat"!

In July hundreds of U.S. soldiers were deployed to Paraguay for military exercises due to last through 2006. There is evidence they will install yet another permanent U.S. military base, one capable of handling heavy bombers. Washington apparently hopes the troop presence can reverse the winds of change sweeping the continent.

Also in July, Congress authorized the government to initiate radio and television broadcasts to Venezuela to counteract Telesur, a television broadcaster independent of imperialism, founded by Venezuela, Argentina, Uruguay and Cuba and supported by Brazil. Telesur is set to broadcast in Venezuela and all of Latin America and the Caribbean.

On Aug. 19, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld accused Chávez of "anti-social, destabilizing behavior" that

threatened regional security. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has echoed this view on more than one occasion.

On Oct. 30, the Washington Post published an ominous editorial declaring that the "human rights community is under siege" in Venezuela. The editorial also stated that journalists and press freedoms were being threatened as well. This type of editorial aims to diminish the popular appeal of Venezuela's revolution within the U.S. and set the stage for intervention.

Evidence grows that Washington is again using certain religious forces to sabotage revolutionary Venezuela, as it did in Nicaragua in the 1980s. In late October, the Venezuelan government announced that it had to ask an evangelical mission, the New Tribes, to leave the country. The U.S.-based Mormon church also brought back all its missionaries from Venezuela, stating security reasons.

President Chávez stated that the missionaries had ties with the CIA and were gathering strategic information that threatened Venezuela's national security.

Right wing anti-Chávez Venezuelans, many outside the country, are organizing

a vicious and hostile campaign against Bolivarian Venezuela and its leadership. Website after website and press release after press release call openly for "violence" in Venezuela.

These threats cannot be taken lightly. U.S. imperialism's use for four decades of right-wing Cubans to sabotage Cuba is a perfect example of how dangerous these elements can be.

The Bolivarian process gaining strength in Venezuela every day has won the hearts and minds of the masses around the world. From Africa to Asia, from Europe to the U.S. and all across the Americas, the people are cheering on Hugo Chávez and the revolution in Venezuela.

This solidarity will be decisive in the coming period as imperialism stretches its tentacles to do everything to stop the Bolivarian Revolution. Cuba, however, has shown that when united and strong, revolutionary movements can deter imperialism. Venezuela can do the same, but solidarity worldwide, including from right here in the imperialist center, will provide important assistance. Venezuela will be victorious. □

Alberto Lovera Bolivarian Circle, Padre Luis Barrios, Ramsey Clark, Noam Chomsky, Peter Coyote, Marcia Campos, Danny Glover, Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, August Nimtz, James Petras, U.S. Rep. José Serrano, Rev. Lucius Walker and Howard Zinn invite you to:

Haitians protest in Brooklyn

Haitians who support Jean-Bertrand Aristide demonstrated Oct. 29 against Marc Bazin, whose handlers in the State Department call "Mr. Clean." Bazin is now running for president in Haiti. He made a few campaign appearances in New York the last weekend in October, looking for support and money in the U.S. portion of the Haitian Diaspora.

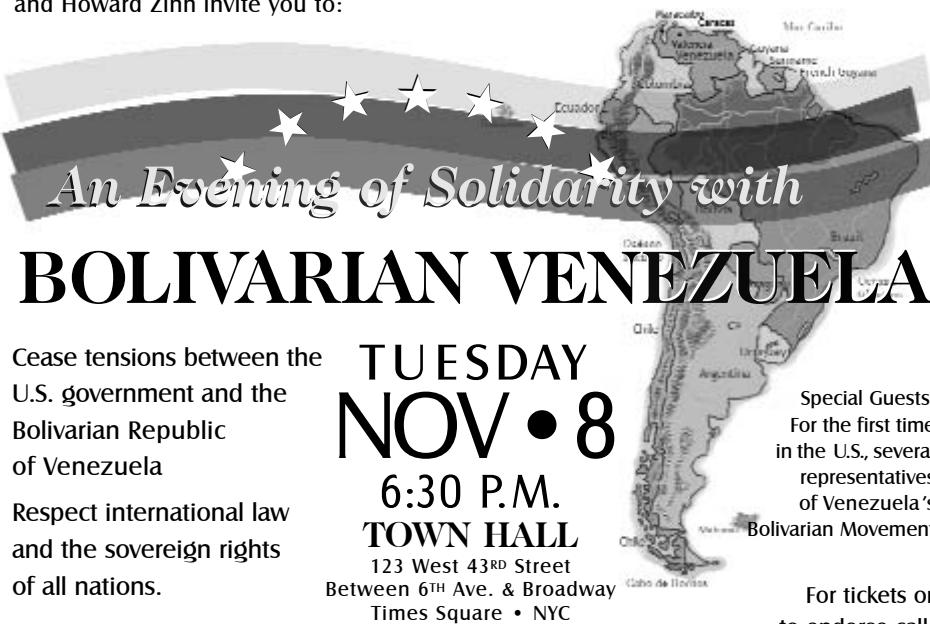
Bazin ran against Aristide in 1990, with millions of dollars in aid from the United States. He got less than 15 percent of the vote while Aristide got over 65 percent. After the first military coup against Aristide, he accepted the military's offer of

the post of prime minister.

He currently is claiming that his party, the Movement for the Inauguration of Democracy in Haiti, is in alliance with the Lavalas Party that Aristide founded. This claim is vehemently rejected by Lavalas supporters in New York.

Bazin's claim is a ploy to make it appear that part of the popular movement accepts the overthrow of Aristide. This ploy can obstruct the efforts of Haitian activists to rally their community against the U.S./Canadian/UN occupation of their country.

— G. Dunkel



An Evening of Solidarity with
BOLIVARIAN VENEZUELA

Cease tensions between the U.S. government and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
Respect international law and the sovereign rights of all nations.

**TUESDAY
NOV • 8
6:30 P.M.
TOWN HALL**
123 West 43RD Street
Between 6TH Ave. & Broadway
Times Square • NYC

Special Guests!
For the first time in the U.S., several representatives of Venezuela's Bolivarian Movement

For tickets or to endorse call:
212.633.6646

www.venezuelanov8.org • www.aporrea.org • Venezuela@globalsolidarity.info



Old lies in new bottles

How arrogant can they get? Even while submerged in a major crisis over lies they told to justify the dirty colonial war against Iraq, the U.S. and British imperialists are demanding that the world take their word for good coin when it comes to Iraq's neighbors, Syria and Iran.

A United Nations Security Council resolution sponsored by the U.S., Britain and France—the three capitalist powers that dominate the world's oil and gas lifelines, especially in the Middle East—is the latest pressure brought to bear on Syria. The resolution demands that Syria cooperate with a UN investigation into the assassination of Lebanese politician Rafik al-Hariri being conducted by German prosecutor Detlev Mehlis, who has named Syrian officials as suspects. The Security Council is threatening Syria with sanctions and even military action unless it cooperates with an "investigation" that already has put it in the dock.

Syria rejects the charges and points out that it had nothing to gain and a lot to lose from the assassination. It suggests the UN look elsewhere, particularly at the intelligence agencies of the U.S., Britain and Israel, all of whom are clearly trying to destabilize those countries in the area that resist the imperialists' openly stated plans for total domination of the world's most strategic region regarding energy resources.

The tight grouping of neocons who led the U.S. into the Iraq War made no bones about their plans for "regime change" next in Damascus. In April 2003, when they still thought they were winning in Iraq, they pushed the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act through Congress.

The act is full of unsubstantiated charges, saying that Syria must halt its "support for terrorism, end its occupation of Lebanon, stop its development of weapons of mass destruction, cease its illegal importation of Iraqi oil and illegal shipments of weapons and other military items to Iraq..."

Interviewed about these charges on CBS-TV on April 17, 2003, Syria's deputy ambassador to the U.S., Imad Moustapha, replied, "Yesterday, instead of having to repeatedly refute all those accusations, we felt fed up, and we went to the Security Council, and we proposed a resolution, a UN Security Council resolution, in which we are to free the whole Middle East of all weapons of mass destruction. All weapons." This, of course, would have included Israel, which possesses many nuclear weapons. Syria had called Washington's bluff and the U.S. government suddenly stopped talking about Damascus's "weapons of mass destruction."

The 15-0 vote for the current anti-Syria resolution by the Security Council just confirms the reactionary character of this body, notwithstanding that it now "allows" 10 countries at a time to rotate onto the council in addition to the five permanent members. People's China, which owes its tremendous development to its own revolutionary victories, has no excuse for supporting this resolution. The Chinese government has clearly put its desire not to antagonize the imperial-

ist powers ahead of solidarity with other nations that, like China, are striving to develop and be free of colonial and imperialist oppression.

Whose land is presently occupied in the Middle East? Israel, which exists on huge handouts from the U.S., sits on land stolen from the Palestinians. It also continues to occupy the Golan Heights, which it seized from Syria in the 1967 war. The U.S. and Britain are occupying Iraq. U.S. special forces are making incursions from Iraq into Syria, supposedly to stop "foreign fighters" from aiding the Iraqi liberation struggle.

Israel—outpost of Western imperialism

Israel is an outpost of Western imperialism in an area that has been struggling for its liberation from the oil lords for generations. It has hundreds of nuclear weapons, according to the authoritative Jane's Intelligence Review of Britain. Why has there been no hue and cry from the International Atomic Energy Agency about the arms Israel uses to threaten its neighbors? Why is Israel not cited for defying the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty?

Instead, the hue and cry in the global corporate media is against Iran, which no one claims has nuclear weapons, only a program to develop nuclear power.

Recently, the new leader of Iran, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, was condemned by all the imperialist states for saying, according to the Western media, that Israel should be "wiped off the map." What did he mean? Was this a bloodthirsty exhortation to kill Jewish people, as they imply, or a political attack on Zionism, the ideology of an exclusively Jewish state implanted on the territory of Palestine?

Ahmadinejad expanded his remarks a few days later, according to the official Iranian news agency, IRNA. "The only logical solution to solve the Palestinian issue is to hold free elections with the participation of Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories and a recognition of the nation's legitimacy," he said. Israel claims to be "democratic," but it does not let millions of Palestinian refugees and their descendants return to the homeland from which they were expelled by force, violence and even massacres, like the one at Deir Yassin in 1948.

In 1975, when the imperialists were unable to suppress the voices for national liberation so thoroughly as today, the UN General Assembly actually passed a resolution equating Zionism with racism.

During the U.S. Civil War, opponents of slavery wanted to see the Confederacy "wiped off the map." They wanted the defeat of a political entity that oppressed millions of Black people. In the eyes of the slave owners, these Abolitionists were immoral and reprehensible, in the same way that the imperialist oppressors portray the nationally oppressed and their leaders today.

What the oppressed want is justice. It is those who grow rich at their expense, while arrogantly pretending to stand for "civilization" and "order," who must be exposed and defeated. □

As U.S. aid falters

Cuba provides 300 doctors to Pakistan

By G. Dunkel

A massive disaster is building in the foothills of the Himalayas, mainly in northern Pakistan, Kashmir and, to a lesser degree, in neighboring India. On Oct. 8, a severe earthquake, measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale, hit the area. Tens of thousands of people died in the building collapses caused by the quake.

The area is so remote and the destruction of roads and bridges due to rock slides so complete that the full number of deaths from the quake is not known, but on Nov. 1 the Pakistani government revised its official figure sharply upward to over 73,000. Those severely injured numbered perhaps twice or three times the number of people killed.

Pakistani officials had not reached at least 30 percent of the area affected by the earthquake as late as Oct. 30. Even roads arduously opened by the army have frequently been closed by aftershocks.

Many of the injuries have become gangrenous because the wounds couldn't be properly cleaned. Even many survivors whose wounds were properly treated have broken bones not yet properly set. As survivors reach field hospitals, the medical staffs have performed thousands of amputations to keep gangrene from killing the patients.

Two to four million people are homeless, with no shelter. The earthquake has destroyed farmers' granaries. In an area already grindingly poor, at least 1 million additional people lost their jobs, according to the International Labor Organization. The ILO also said that each person with a job in this part of Pakistan supported two people without one.

Winter begins in mid-November, with heavier snows than usual predicted. The snow line is already creeping down the mountains surrounding the valleys where people live. Roads that are now hard to travel are going to become impassible so people without shelter, food or fuel for warmth face death by freezing.

Who is responding to the crisis?

The response to this developing crisis has varied.

The day after the earthquake struck, the National Trade Union Federation of Pakistan, representing 106 unions, and the Pakistan Trade Union Defense Campaign, two leading labor confederations in Pakistan, met and resolved to get all their members to contribute one day's salary to ongoing relief efforts. Relief convoys were organized that took vitally needed supplies into devastated areas and set up relief camps.

Islamic groups, opposed to the government, also sprang into action and provided their own relief in separate convoys and camps.

The Pakistani government, unprepared and overwhelmed by the magnitude of the crisis, put out a cry for help. Its closest neighbor, India—which has fought four

wars with Pakistan over some of the area struck by the quake—provided medical supplies, bedding, food and transportation. India has also agreed to open five border crossings.

From outside the stricken countries, some of the best help came from socialist Cuba, which has already sent 300 doctors, including 15 surgical teams, to Pakistan. Cuba also has medical teams in Guatemala aiding recovery after a recent hurricane there. On the Oct. 27 "Round Table," a regularly televised discussion program in Cuba, President Fidel Castro challenged the United States and the European Union to adopt a similar position based on solidarity with the survivors.

China also immediately sent aid to Pakistan. By Oct. 29, when China handed over 150,000 blankets and 3,380 tents, its aid amounted to \$20.5 million.

According to the Daily Times, an English-language Pakistani newspaper, over 900 U.S. personnel—from FEMA, medical teams and engineers—are helping with the relief effort. Twenty-nine U.S. helicopters are currently operating to support relief efforts. Washington has pledged \$156 million, but only \$50 million of that is for humanitarian relief.

The international Oxfam organization, in an Oct. 28 press release, said that the U.S. had delivered only \$14.5 million, or 6.9 percent of its "fair share of the UN-requested donations." Oxfam calculates "fair share" based on the size of the donating countries' economy. The U.S. contribution at that point was less than China's, which has a much smaller economy.

UN agencies—the World Health Organization, UNESCO, the Food and Agriculture Organization—are supplying most of the aid and assistance to Pakistan. The donations promised them by the wealthy imperialist countries have not yet started to flow.

The Communist Workers and Peasants Party of Pakistan, in an Oct. 28 appeal for international solidarity, wrote: "Progressive people in Pakistan are doing the best that they can but the enormity of the problem is overwhelming. Real meaningful assistance can only be provided through internationally coordinated relief efforts."

The party called on people in the wealthy countries to "put pressure on their governments not only to increase their pledges but more importantly to deliver these relief funds to the UN before Nov. 15, which is the date that closes the window of opportunity for millions of people."

The UN helicopters will be grounded soon because the airlift is running out of money. "It is now or never," Jan Vandemoortele, the UN's earthquake relief coordinator, said.

"We will not have a second chance. Tomorrow will be too late for thousands and thousands of victims," he added, "especially babies and small children vulnerable to pneumonia, diarrhea and malnutrition." □

WAR IN COLOMBIA MADE IN U.S.A.

A book from the International Action Center covers the struggle in Colombia from the perspective of trade unionists, human rights activists, and the FARC and ELN insurgencies. Authors include: Mumia Abu-Jamal, Ramón Acevedo, Nathalie Alsop, Fr. Roy Bourgeois, Fidel Castro, Ramsey Clark, Javier Correa Suárez, Heather Cottin, Sara Flounders, Gloria Gaitán, Carl Glenn, Stan Goff, Ismael Guadalupe, Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, Teresa Gutierrez, Imani Henry, Dr. Aristóbulo Istúriz, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Garry M. Leech, Manuel Marulanda Vélez, Dianne Mathiowetz, Rep. Cynthia McKinney, James Petras, Raúl Reyes, Rebeca Toledo, Miguel Urbano, Senator Paul Wellstone and others.

200 pages, indexed and referenced. Order from leftbooks.com 15.95

U.S., Britain plot 'regime change' for Iran

By Ardeshir Ommani

Iran's Foreign Ministry announced on Oct. 12 that the government was "ready to resume unconditional negotiations with all member states of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), including the three European countries, to strengthen cooperation and assure Iran's right to nuclear development."

The IAEA's chief, Mohammed ElBaradei, has been urging the U.S. and Europe not to seek confrontation with Iran. His appeal is most likely based on the recognition that Iran has not in fact violated the words or the spirit of the articles stipulated in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and therefore does not deserve to be referred to the UN Security Council for economic sanctions.

Also, should Iran's national interest or stability be jeopardized, no doubt the government of the Islamic Republic would follow the path taken by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and withdraw from the IAEA altogether. Such an out-

come would certainly prevent the IAEA from carrying out any inspections or even monitoring of future research, development and operations of Iran's nuclear facilities.

Negotiations that began almost a year ago between Iran and the three major European imperialist powers—Britain, Germany and France—were based on the understanding that Iran voluntarily, and solely for the sake of confidence-building, would temporarily suspend its process of nuclear enrichment and that, in return, the trio would come up with a workable plan to enable Iran to self-reliantly operate its own nuclear power reactors.

Iran has stated clearly throughout the negotiations that, according to Article 4 of the NPT, it has the right to produce its own nuclear fuel and no country or international agency should force it to be dependent on foreign sources. Should Iran give up its right to the full cycle of nuclear fuel production, it could be blackmailed and forced into a condition of dependency and submission by those

powers that have a monopoly on the nuclear enrichment process.

Iran charges Britain is behind bombings

On Oct. 15, two bombs concealed in garbage bins in a shopping center in the southern city of Ahwaz exploded, killing four and wounding 75, according to Iranian television. The bombing took place at 5 p.m., when people were busy shopping for food to end their fasting during the holy month of Ramadan. This was the second set of bombings this year. The apparent objective of these insidious acts was to terrorize the people by inflicting a high rate of casualties and set in motion dissatisfaction with the government in Tehran.

On Sept. 27, the Fars News Agency quoted an Iraqi security official from southern Iraq, Abu Mostafa, as saying that British forces have been directly training terrorists against Iran in order to create havoc, using advanced spying equipment. The news report added that intelligence agents from Israel and the U.S., plus operatives of the Mojahedin Khalq Organization (MKO), had joined the British intelligence teams.

Many believe that these shadowy groups have played an active and direct role in bombings in Basra, Iraq, that resulted in a military confrontation with the Shia militia known as the Mahdi Army led by Moqtada al-Sadr.

For more than two and a half years, occupying U.S. and British troops have been savagely devastating Iraq and ruthlessly slaughtering its people, but it is still not a safe place for them. The British troops are concentrated in Basra, Iraq, just across the border from the Iranian province of Khuzestan, whose capital city is Ahwaz.

Recently the Iraqi freedom fighters have intensified their determined struggle against the British colonial forces. Incapable of asserting their domination over the region, the invading/occupying armies exaggerate the roles of "foreign" fighters—of course, they don't include themselves in this category—and blame the governments of neighboring countries, mainly Iran and Syria, for allegedly arming and giving technical assistance to the Iraqi resistance.

Such accusations serve a dual purpose. First, they are a fig leaf on the grim reality that the occupation is encountering an ever-increasing and powerful resistance by Iraqi nationalist forces. Second, they pave the way for the U.S. and Britain to train and arm groups of mercenaries on the Iraq-Iran border, with the purpose of sending them into Iran to carry out acts of terrorism against the civilian—and partly Arab—population in the city of Ahwaz.

Part I

This is not the first time that a U.S.-British coalition of forces has tried to use and exploit certain separatist elements within the Arab minority population in Ahwaz as a spearhead for generating disturbances, instability and chaos in Iran's Khuzestan province. In June, right before Iran's presidential election, a series of explosions went off in Ahwaz and Tehran, destroying buildings and killing people. In Ahwaz, eight were killed and more than 70 wounded, mostly women and children.

In reaction to the string of explosions in Ahwaz and Tehran, the Iranian authorities have charged the British forces in Basra, Iraq, with instigating, arming and deploying mercenaries of all stripes to carry out terrorist acts inside Iran.

Next: Britain's history of divide and conquer.

100,000 march in Belgium general strike

Workers in Belgium held their second general strike in a month on Oct. 28. In a land of 10.4 million people, 100,000 striking workers marched in Brussels to say no to a government plan to raise the earliest retirement age, when pensions are paid, from 58 to 60.

According to reports of worker organizers from Brussels, this was the largest outpouring of laboring people in the streets of the Belgian capital since 1986. "More than a demonstration, it is the beginning of a major social movement." (Solidaire, weekly newspaper of the Belgian Workers Party, Oct. 28)

The government, which is a broad coalition of rightist and social democratic parties, calls its plans to cut pensions "a pact of generations." The workers answer that 19 percent of young people are unemployed, and half the workers over 55 have

chronic ailments, many arising from high-stress jobs. It would be more reasonable, they argue, to let the older workers retire and give younger workers the jobs.

As Solidaire put it, "the true pact of solidarity between generations is being built in the streets."

So far the government has refused to back down on its plan to raise retirement age. Like U.S. President George W. Bush with Social Security, the Belgian government is trying to cut pensions costs as part of an overall assault on concessions West European workers won during the Cold War period.

Unions in Belgium, which include many immigrant workers from North Africa, plan another general strike for Nov. 21. By all indications, they are in no mood to give in.

—John Catalinotto



Millions More Movement D.C. rally Oct. 15.

WW PHOTO: MONICA MOOREHEAD

Subscribe to Workers World Newspaper

Special trial subscription \$2 for eight weeks \$25 for one year

Name _____

Phone number _____ Email _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

WORKERS WORLD NEWSPAPER
55 West 17 St. NY, NY 10011

212 627-2994

MUNDO OBRERO

El ataque del Imperio contra Ojeda Ríos y la independencia

Continúa de página 12

fuego de libertad e independencia en el corazón de la nación. Si la reacción al asesinato de Ojeda es alguna señal, ellos han fallado miserablemente.

Hay acontecimientos en la vida de un pueblo que les marcan. Y que los animan. Que mueven sus mentes y corazones de la sumisión a la resistencia.

Éste puede resultar en uno de estos momentos.

Dylcia Pagán, ex-presa política puertorriqueña, escribió a las pocas horas del asesinato:

"Lo que ocurrió fue un asesinato político de un guerrillero puertorriqueño orquestado por el Escuadrón Federal del FBI estadounidense. Aún el alcalde del municipio Pedro García en una entrevista por radio dijo que este hecho no era casualidad. Los primeros balazos estratégicos disparados por el FBI tuvieron lugar a las 3 de la tarde; de 6 a 6 y media de la tarde prosiguió otra ronda de disparos. Roberto Santos, presidente de la UTIER, unión que representa a l@s trabajador@s de la electricidad en Puerto Rico, llamó a una estación principal de radio para informar al pueblo puertorriqueño que él había sido informado por el FBI que toda la luz en el municipio de Hormigueros sería cortada. Tomó dos días para que tod@os nosotr@s

supiéramos su justificación la cuál fue que ellos necesitaban utilizar sus aparatos infrarrojos para medidas de seguridad. Hormigueros ha estado bajo custodia federal por los últimos cuatro días. A ninguna de la prensa puertorriqueña se le ha permitido traer sus cámaras a la residencia de Filiberto. . ."

Pagan añade: "En 1898 El Grito de Lares fue una lucha contra el colonialismo español. Hoy en 2005 un nuevo Grito de Lares emerge contra la dominación colonial estadounidense sobre nuestra nación, Puerto Rico."

El impulso que condujo al asesinato de Filiberto Ojeda Ríos es precisamente el mismo que resultó en la ilegal y brutal invasión y ocupación de Irak. Es el capitalismo salvaje. Es el imperialismo al desnudo.

Es el esfuerzo que desea aplastar toda expresión de libertad humana, mientras lo hace en nombre de "¡Libertad!".

Es terrorismo estatal, pura y sencillamente, contra la idea de libertad y verdadera independencia.

Hay solo una respuesta verdadera que puede resultar en cambio.

Es la movilización amplia y profunda del pueblo contra esta pesadilla neoliberal.

Resistencia. Resistencia. ¡Y más resistencia!

La UNESCO dice: Venezuela elimina el analfabetismo

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

A pesar de la escalada en hostilidades del gobierno de los EEUU contra Venezuela y en particular contra el presidente Hugo Chávez, incluyendo una campaña mediática completamente negativa, el gobierno venezolano avanza medidas y políticas que elevan a su población de la miseria e ignorancia que había prevalecido por décadas. El 28 de octubre el gobierno Bolivariano declaró a Venezuela "Territorio libre de analfabetismo".

De acuerdo a las directrices para declarar un territorio sin analfabetismo de la Organización sobre la Educación, Ciencia y Cultura de las Naciones Unidas, UNESCO, el índice debe estar por debajo del 4%. En los últimos 2 años, los programas venezolanos han ayudado a reducir la población analfabeta a menos del 1%, enseñando a cerca de 1,5 millones a leer y escribir.

Venezuela realizó esta fenomenal tarea educacional con la generosa y experta

ayuda de Cuba Revolucionaria y su programa "Yo Si Puedo". No es de extrañar que estos dos países sean los únicos en Latinoamérica con el título de "libres de analfabetismo".

Ese 28 de octubre, celebrado con gran alegría en toda Venezuela, el Presidente Chávez reconoció especialmente a las personas que habían superado el analfabetismo a través de la Misión Robinson, diciendo que "la democracia debe ser practicada a través de un pueblo culto".

Chávez especialmente reconoció y expresó su gratitud hacia Cuba y su presidente Fidel Castro diciendo que aunque Venezuela había tratado de terminar con el analfabetismo desde el año 2000, no fue hasta que comenzaron a utilizar el método cubano que tuvieron éxito. "Sin Cuba, la Misión Robinson hubiera sido imposible" dijo el presidente venezolano.

Llegando a las comunidades indígenas

El Ministro de Deportes y Educación

Aristóbulo Istúriz, dijo que el programa había puesto mucho énfasis en llegar a las comunidades nómadas indígenas. Y añadió que "la Misión Robinson permitió que personas con problemas visuales aprendieran con el método Braille, y los que no podían oír, les enseñamos con lenguaje por gestos, es decir, que este proceso involucró a todos por igual."

La educación, y especialmente la enseñanza de lectura, es un área donde EEUU está muy atrasado en comparación a Cuba y Venezuela, países que el gobierno estadounidense tilda de "enemigos". Las estadísticas son desoladoras en el portal del Departamento de Educación de los EEUU que reporta el resultado del estudio sobre la alfabetización en el país realizado en el 2003 aún no se han completado.

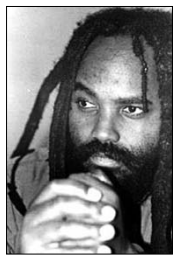
El estudio de 1993 dice: "las estadísticas están claras: el analfabetismo está en aumento en los EEUU. La Oficina de Evaluación Tecnológica, OAT, un departamento analítico del Congreso de los

EEUU afirmó en un reporte en 1993: que "los estándares y requisitos para alfabetización han aumentado a través del tiempo y un gran número de adultos necesita mejorar sus destrezas alfabéticas. La OAT ha encontrado que por lo menos 35 millones de adultos tienen dificultad con las tareas comunes literarias. Aunque muchos de estos adultos pueden leer a niveles rudimentarios, necesitan niveles de alfabetización más altos para funcionar de forma efectiva en la sociedad, para encontrar empleo, o para el entrenamiento para nuevos trabajos cuando cambian los lugares de empleo... Menos del 10% de la población necesitada se ha alcanzado."

Quizás Bolivia, el país más pobre de la región, y la República Dominicana se unan a Cuba y Venezuela erradicando el analfabetismo antes de que lo haga EEUU. El 28 de octubre, Venezuela también anunció que la Misión Robinson y el método "Yo Si Puedo" se usarán en estos dos países pobres. □

El ataque del Imperio contra Ojeda Ríos y la independencia

Por Mumia Abu-Jamal desde la galería de muerte en la prisión



El ataque y asalto armado del 23 de septiembre contra el nacionalista puertorriqueño Filiberto Ojeda Ríos dejó a su familia y a su isla sin su noble y orgullosa presencia, pero no logró su verdadero y deseado objetivo.

Los agentes armados del Imperio atacaron la casa y la familia del revolucionario de 72 años, le dispararon y lo dejaron desangrar por horas hasta que murió en su casa en Hormigueros en la región montañosa de la isla.

El Dr. Héctor Pesquera, presidente del Movimiento Independentista Hostosiano, dio en el clavo cuando comentó sobre el fuerte asalto armado del FBI, "Ellos no vinieron para detener a Filiberto Ojeda, sino para matarlo".

Tampoco fue pura coincidencia que la fecha que el FBI escogió para asaltar la casa de los Ojeda fue el día con gran significado histórico nacional en la isla. El 23 de septiembre era el 107º aniversario del "Grito de Lares", cuando miles de puertorriqueños anualmente honran la gesta de resistencia contra los colonizadores españoles.

Hoy en día, PR permanece colonia de los Estados Unidos.

Al matar a Filiberto Ojeda Ríos, la cuestión de la independencia ha brotado como una llama dentro de los corazones de l@s puertorriqueñ@s.

Cuando llegó la noticia de su asesinato,

me acordé casi inmediatamente del 4 de diciembre en 1969 cuando Fred Hampton, Ministro Diputado de Defensa del Partido de las Panteras Negras sucursal de Illinois, y el Capitán Mark Clark de las Panteras Negras de Peoria, fueron asesinados en sus casas en Chicago.

El FBI estaba detrás de esos asesinatos también. Y así como con ese asesinato, el gobierno reaccionó a sus asesinatos políticos con mentiras.

El objetivo del Imperio fue extinguir el



Filiberto Ojeda Ríos en **¡PRESENTE!**

Circulo Bolivariano Alberto Lovera, el Padre Luis Barrios, Ramsey Clark, Noam Chomsky, Peter Coyote, Marcia Campos, Danny Glover, el Obispo Thomas Gumbleton, August Nimtz, James Petras, el Congresista José Serrano, el Reverendo Lucius Walker y Howard Zinn les invitan a:

Una NOCHE de SOLIDARIDAD con LA VENEZUELA BOLIVARIANA

Cesen las tensiones entre el gobierno de los EE.UU. y la República Bolivariana de Venezuela

Respeto a las leyes internacionales y los derechos soberanos de todas las naciones

Respeto al Tratado de Extradición EEUU-Venezuela del 1922

MARTES
8 de noviembre
6:30 P.M.

TOWN HALL

123 Oeste de la Calle 43
(entre la 6ta Ave & Broadway)
Times Square • NYC

¡Invitad@s especiales!

Por primera vez en los EEUU, vari@s representantes del Movimiento Bolivariano de Venezuela

Todos los Boletos \$20
Entrada General
Para boletos llame al
212.633.6646

Libertad para los cincos CUBA



Fernando González

Antonio Guerrero

Ramón Labañino

Gerardo Hernández

René González

Continúa a página 11