

## MUNDO OBRERO

Desastre en Irak  
Pobreza y lucha en  
la Costa de Marfil 12

### WORKERS WORLD EDITORIAL

#### It takes more than voting to end the war

A mid-term election usually doesn't arouse much passion. This one is different, however.

The reason for the great interest in it is not because there are firm differences in the stated programs of the Republican and Democratic parties regarding the elephant in the room: the quagmire that U.S.

*Continued on page 10*

#### ON EVE OF ELECTIONS

Activist candidates pick up steam 7

#### DEAF VICTORY

Big win at Gallaudet 3

#### SAN FRANCISCO

Native nations vs. real estate barons 2

#### FRANCE: IMMIGRANT YOUTH

Still angry, still protesting 9

#### OCCUPIED AFGHANISTAN

Civilian toll mounts 11

#### MADONNA & CHILD

Malawi 'adoption' raises serious issues 9

# OAXACA, MEXICO Struggle grows to oust governor

## People's power resists massive police assault

By Bob McCubbin

Oct. 31—What is most striking in the unfolding confrontation in the Mexican state of Oaxaca is the tremendous courage being shown by the Oaxacan people in the face of brutal repression ordered by the Mexican government.

For over five months now, 70,000 Oaxacan teachers have been on strike and the people of the state, in solidarity with the teachers, have been demanding the resignation of corrupt Oaxacan Gov. Ulises Ruiz.

Last May, in the face of government rejection of their demands and threats by the governor to use violence against them, the teachers found it necessary to escalate their tactics with road blockades, the occupation of the central plaza in the city of Oaxaca, and demonstrations, including huge marches of 80,000 and later 120,000, mobilizations which included workers, students and Indigenous people.

The government's response to the strong support for the teachers by the people of Oaxaca was to use tear gas, arrests and killings to try to force them back to work. In the middle of June, with growing recognition that the government was not really interested in negotiations, the teachers and supporting mass organizations formed the Popular Assembly of the People of Oaxaca (APPO). This representative body has since functioned more and more as an alternative to the corrupt, repressive state and local governments. It has constantly grown in

authority as the people's answer to Ruiz's refusal to resign and to the federal government's refusal to disempower his discredited government.

In August the people's movement took control of several radio and television stations and 20 official government vehicles. They also occupied the state government palace. At the same time, paramilitary goons, now proven by video footage to be affiliated with Ruiz and his rich cronies, increased their attacks against the people's movement. Repressive forces sent in by the federal government began their ominous infiltrating and reconnoitering, including periodic overflights of the city of Oaxaca by military planes and helicopters.

Before the government assault began on Oct. 28, paramilitary forces directed by local leaders of Ruiz's party, the Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI), had killed at least 15 people. New reports say at least three more people were killed.

Mexican federal police and soldiers, along with their armored vehicles and other equipment, began massing outside the city of Oaxaca several weeks ago. Then, on Oct. 27, Ruiz's paramilitaries killed three people: a Oaxacan teacher named Emilio Alonso Fabián, a protester named Esteban Zurita López, and an Independent Media Center reporter from the U.S. named

*Continued on page 10*

## Protests hit Oaxaca repression

In response to the Mexican federal police intervention in Oaxaca City and the killing of at least three people on Oct. 27—supporters of the popular movement known as the Popular People's Assembly of Oaxaca (APPO), which has virtually governed life in the city for months—a call went out for protest demonstrations at every Mexican embassy and consulate in the world. The demands included ending the repression and the removal of Oaxaca Gov. Ulises Ruiz.

Starting Oct. 30, people demonstrated at scores of official Mexican buildings throughout the world, including dozens in North America. One of the people killed in Oaxaca City was Indymedia video journalist Brad Will, known in the U.S. progressive movement and especially to those involved in independent media and community organizing in the

East Village of Manhattan.

Will was hit in the abdomen by gunfire from Mexican police as he was videotaping the attack on the people of Oaxaca City. According to reports, he died on the way to the hospital. Mexican activists have called him an "internationalist" who died heroically while showing his solidarity with the people's movement.

One of the most militant actions in the U.S. was a protest on 39th Street between Madison and Park avenues in Manhattan. Many of Will's personal and political friends were among the hundreds protesting, and their grief and anger added to the determination of the demonstrators, who resisted the cops' attempts to push them onto the sidewalk. About a dozen people were arrested for civil disobedience actions.

*Continued on page 9*



WW PHOTO: CHERYL LABASH



WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

### Subscribe to Workers World

- 4 weeks trial subscription \$1
- One year subscription: \$25

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Workers World Newspaper  
55 W. 17 St. NY, NY 10011

212-627-2994 www.workers.org

# 3rd annual Shellmound Walk in San Francisco Bay Area

This week ...



By Stephanie Hedgecoke

Indian People Organizing for Change and the Vallejo Inter-Tribal Council's Indigenous Sacred Sites Preservation Committee held the second annual Shellmound Walk from Oct. 12 to 20 in the San Francisco Bay Area. Indigenous people and their supporters walked every day for two weeks to struggle to preserve their ancient burial mounds from real estate development and other devastation.

IPOC has stated that the walk is held to say that the original people of the Bay Area are not extinct, to honor the ancestors and call attention to their ongoing struggle, and to dismiss the disinformation that has been used historically to justify the destruction of their ancient temples.

Organizers kicked off the walk with announcements at the International Indian Treaty Council's annual Oct. 12 Sunrise Ceremony at Alcatraz on Indigenous Peoples' Day and an evening potluck dinner at the Intertribal Friendship House in Oakland.

This year the Shellmound Walk traveled through the East Bay and Marin County, going through Solano Community College, Glen Cove, Pt. Richmond, El Cerrito, and UC Berkeley; then across the Bay to Sausalito, Tiburon, San Anselmo, Lagunitas, Pt. Reyes and Kule Loklo. Kule Loklo is a former Miwok village now controlled by the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, which allows the Miwoks to interpret their former home, but not reside there.

The struggle to preserve the ancient shellmounds is a struggle focused on the survival of the many Pacific Coastal peoples who were twice colonized. Spain's conquistador army and priests built the mission system by forcibly rounding up and enslaving tens of thousands. During the Gold Rush, the U.S. moved in to enforce its proclamation of Manifest Destiny—that it had a right to take the continent from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific.

The Bay Area shellmounds are traditional cemeteries and ancient monuments of First Nations including the Ohlones, Coast Miwok, Bay Miwok, Mutsun, Plains Miwok, Yokuts, Wappo, Patwin and several other nations. They were temples made of shells, older than the pyramids in Egypt, and originally so huge that they appear as landmarks on the original Coast Guard maps of the area. Some of them have been carbon-dated at over 5,000 years.

Native traditions of caring for what shellmound activists call "living cemeteries" were disrupted by the genocidal attacks and land thefts of the Gold Rush days, followed by the institution of capitalist private property laws.

The Spanish looted the shellmounds, but the destruction of them began with the Gold Rush. A shellmound located in what is now Aquatic Park, north of San Francisco's Ghirardelli Square, was destroyed in 1861, reported Alexander Taylor in an "Indianology Series" in the May 1861 California Farmer and Journal of Useful Science. As late as 1909 Nels Nelson counted 425 still-existing shellmounds in an archeological report of the Stevenson Street



West Berkley shell mound.

Shellmound, which was located near the corner of Market and First streets in downtown San Francisco.

The destruction of the shellmounds was officially excused via misrepresentation of what they actually were. Until recently archeologists downplayed the evidence of thousands of human burials, which prove these were funerary places like the pyramids. They purposely mischaracterized them as "middens" or garbage heaps. In his 1965 "The Archeology of San Francisco," Robert Suggs wrote: "The Emeryville shellmound was, in fact, little more than a huge garbage heap. ... Burials were also made in the discarded shells and debris."

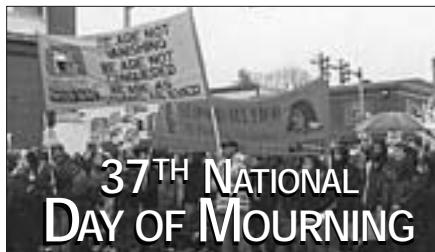
The Emeryville Shellmound was 60 feet high and more than 600 feet in diameter, covering 19 acres. It formerly held at least four historical levels of burial sites going back at least 2,500 years. Recently a shopping mall was built over what was left of the lower level, despite complaints by construction workers that they were finding hundreds of human remains. Those reports were verified by archeologists but were glossed over by the local authorities to let greedy developers make profits.

Long-time shellmound activist Perry Matlock told WW: "The heartbreaking ongoing devastation of these ancient monuments should be stopped. They should receive UNESCO World Heritage status and be returned to the Native Nations."

For updates on future events write to IPOC, POB 796, Alameda, CA 94501; call the VITC at (707) 558-8776 (www.vallejointertribalcouncil.org); or e-mail the Shellmounder News at [sfbayshellmounds@yahoo.com](mailto:sfbayshellmounds@yahoo.com).

Information was gathered for this report by activists with the Shellmounder News and supporters of the Muwekma Ohlone Nation. The report of the Stevenson St. Shellmound is from the Coyote Press Archives of California Pre-History, "Archeological Excavations at CA-SFR-112," Allen G. Pastron, 1909.

Since 1970, Native Americans have gathered on Cole's Hill to commemorate a National Day of Mourning on the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday. Thanksgiving is a reminder of the genocide of millions of Native people, the theft of Native lands, and the relentless assault on Native culture. It is a day of remembrance and spiritual connection as well as a protest of the racism and oppression which Native Americans continue to experience.



37<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING

Thurs., Nov. 23

12 Noon - Cole's Hill  
(the hill above Plymouth Rock)  
Plymouth, MA

Join us as we dedicate the DOM to Native political prisoner LEONARD PELTIER.

Help shatter the untrue glass image of the Pilgrims and the unjust system based on racism, sexism, homophobia and war.

Contact: UNITED AMERICAN INDIANS OF NEW ENGLAND/LPSP

617-282-5135 or 212-633-6646 for New York transportation information  
[info@uaine.org](mailto:info@uaine.org) [www.uaine.org](http://www.uaine.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](mailto:wwp@workers.org)

**Atlanta**  
P.O. Box 424,  
Atlanta, GA 30301  
(404) 627-0185  
[atlanta@workers.org](mailto:atlanta@workers.org)

**Baltimore**  
426 E. 31 St.,  
Baltimore, MD 21218  
(410) 235-7040  
[baltimore@workers.org](mailto:baltimore@workers.org)

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

**Buffalo, N.Y.**  
367 Delaware Ave.,  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
(716) 566-1115  
[buffalo@workers.org](mailto:buffalo@workers.org)

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

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

**Denver**  
[denver@workers.org](mailto:denver@workers.org)

**Detroit**  
5920 Second Ave.,  
Detroit, MI 48202  
(313) 831-0750  
[detroit@workers.org](mailto:detroit@workers.org)

**Houston**  
P.O. Box 130322,  
Houston, TX 77219  
(713) 861-5965  
[houston@workers.org](mailto:houston@workers.org)

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

**Philadelphia**  
P.O. Box 9202,  
Philadelphia, PA 19139  
(610) 453-0490  
[phila@workers.org](mailto:phila@workers.org)

**Richmond, Va.**  
P.O. Box 14602,  
Richmond, VA 23221  
[richmond@workers.org](mailto:richmond@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](mailto: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](mailto:dc@workers.org)

## ★ In the U.S.

Third annual Shellmound Walk . . . . .	2
Deaf victory at Gallaudet . . . . .	3
Freeport, N.Y., targets Latino workers . . . . .	4
Cleveland workers demand living wage . . . . .	4
More than 1,000 GIs sign anti-war petition . . . . .	4
Austin march: "Stop executions" . . . . .	5
Milwaukee police brutality . . . . .	5
Republicans expose racist/sexist hand—again . . . . .	6
N.J. ruling falls short of equality for same-sex couples . . . . .	6
Mich. 'Stop the War' slate picks up steam . . . . .	7
Charles Barron electoral campaign . . . . .	7
Book review: 'Our America and Theirs' . . . . .	10

## ★ Around the world

Oaxaca, Mexico, struggle grows . . . . .	1
Protests hit Oaxaca repression . . . . .	1
Lula wins presidential runoff . . . . .	8
Reagan's criminal invasion of Grenada . . . . .	8
\$19 million civil judgment against Toto Constant . . . . .	9
Youth of France: still angry, still protesting . . . . .	9
Madonna's adoption of Malawian child . . . . .	9
U.S.-NATO warplanes raze Afghan village . . . . .	11
Anti-war protests in Canada . . . . .	11
U.S. continues blockade against Cuba . . . . .	11

## ★ Editorials

Takes more than voting to end the war . . . . .	1
---	---

## ★ Noticias En Español

Gobernantes de EE.UU. admiten desastre en Irak . . . . .	12
Pobreza y lucha en la Costa de Marfil . . . . .	12

Workers World  
55 West 17 Street  
New York, N.Y. 10011  
Phone: (212) 627-2994  
Fax: (212) 675-7869  
E-mail: [editor@workers.org](mailto:editor@workers.org)  
Web: [www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org)

Vol. 48, No. 44 • Nov. 9, 2006  
Closing date: Nov. 1, 2006

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, G. Dunkel,

Fred Goldstein, Teresa Gutierrez, Larry Hales, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Cheryl LaBash, Milt Neidenberg, Bryan G. Pfeifer, Minnie Bruce Pratt

Technical Staff: Shelley Ettinger, Maggie Vascassenno

Mundo Obrero: Carl Glenn, Teresa Gutierrez,

Berta Joubert-Ceci, Donna Lazarus, Carlos Vargas

Internet: Janet Mayes

Supporter Program: Sue Davis, coordinator

© Copyright under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 2.5 License. You are free to copy, distribute, display the articles with full attribution for noncommercial purposes. Any other use requires permission ([www.creativecommons.org](http://www.creativecommons.org)).

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](http://www.workers.org).

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription.

Send an e-mail message to [WWnews-subscribe@workersworld.net](mailto: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.

# Deaf victory at Gallaudet

By Leslie Feinberg

Oct. 30—Hold your hands up high, palms out and wiggle your fingers in a silent cheer to celebrate the victory won by Deaf people at Gallaudet University in northeast Washington, D.C.

The university board of trustees finally acquiesced on Oct. 29 to the demand to rescind its May 1 appointment of former Provost Jane Fernandes as incoming president, set to take office in January.

Media accounts portrayed the months of protest as “identity politics,” claiming that Gallaudet students and faculties did not view Fernandes as “Deaf enough” because she’d only learned ASL—American Sign Language—when she was 23 years old.

But protest leaders like LaToya Plummer, a 25-year-old Black Deaf woman who is a junior at Gallaudet, stressed that the real issue was the experiences students had with Fernandes in her 6-year history as provost, including her reported unresponsiveness to their experiences on campus of racism and audism—discrimination faced by Deaf people. Students, faculty and alumni argued that the governing board’s choice was therefore divisive and that the selection process itself was unfair.

Angry demonstrations, which erupted as soon as the governing board announced their choice in the spring, had continued to widen and deepen—at times shutting down the campus. Deaf protesters “chanted” in unison with their whole bodies, articulating their forceful demands. They occupied key buildings on campus and blocked entrances to the university, allowing only cafeteria workers, health care and other essential employees to enter.

In order to break up the Oct. 11-13 campus takeover—which had been initiated by the school football team—the administration sent in police who knew no sign language. Cops arrested 133 Deaf protesters, reportedly pepper-spraying and roughing them up, and choking one student.

“The arrests last Friday,” charged Bonnie Scoggins, president of the National Association of the Deaf, “were totally uncalled for. The NAD and Deaf people around the world look at last Friday with shock and horror.”

Those arrested reportedly came right back to protest after their release. The refusal to accept the board’s appointment just could not be quelled.

Students lined the walkways to an Oct. 16 faculty meeting on campus, asking for their professors’ support. Inside their meeting, faculty backed students with an 82 percent vote to demand that Fernandes resign or be removed. Faculty also discussed a walkout, according to the Oct. 18 Washington Post.

Some 30 faculty marched from the student union building to the home of outgoing President I. King Jordan’s home on Oct. 17.

The same day, faculty, staff, alumni, parents and students closed ranks at a media conference to issue a call for Gallaudet’s 15,000 former graduates to come to campus for homecoming the following week to support their demand. Although the administration postponed the Oct. 21 homecoming, alumni reportedly poured in, traveling from as far as Australia to demonstrate unity.

When students erected a tent city and began hunger strikes on campus, Deaf people set up more than 700 tent cities in towns and cities across the United States and others around the world, in solidarity.

Demonstrators demanded that the board of trustees come to campus, vowing to shut Gallaudet down on Oct. 30. Under this pressure, the governing board met all day on campus on Oct. 29, behind closed

doors, and finally repealed its selection for president.

However, the board issued a statement saying that “individuals who violated the law and Gallaudet University’s code of conduct will be held accountable.” In response, students vowed to blockade the main gate until the university promises amnesty for protesters.

## What is shared, what is not

This momentous protest marks the second major battle won by Deaf people in the United States over the direction of Gallaudet University. Eighteen years ago, Deaf students and faculty—with support from Deaf people all across the country and around the world—won their demand that the board appoint the first Deaf president in the university’s history: “Deaf President Now!”

At the heart of both struggles, which have united diverse populations of Deaf people, is also the role of shared language and culture.

Deaf people in the United States are part of many different nationalities, cultures and communities. Those from oppressed

nations within the U.S. battle racism and police brutality. That is part of what fueled the anger of Deaf students and faculty of color who charged that Fernandes was uncooperative with their struggles against racism on campus.

Deaf people in the United States who



## Vote for Workers World!

**W**ell, you can’t actually pull the lever for Workers World, unless you vote for some of the Michigan Green Party candidates. But you can vote for Workers World with dollars.

While the Dems and the Reps are duking it out over who can be the best-paid standard bearers for U.S. imperialism, Workers World jumps into the class struggle. We expose U.S. imperialism’s war-mongering ambitions—from North Korea to Iran to Palestine to Venezuela. We insist on telling the truth. Since “shock and awe” we’ve shown how the Iraqi resistance is standing up to the U.S. occupation regime. Now even U.S. generals in Baghdad admit the occupation’s collapse. We’ve consistently said that the war is gobbling up billions of tax dollars that would be better spent on housing, education and health care for poor and working people in this country. Now even the corporate media have discovered that working people are being short-changed by Halliburton and Co.

If you value Workers World’s coverage of:

- the liberation movements sweeping Latin America from Bolivia to Oaxaca, Mexico
- the struggle of the Palestinians and the Lebanese against U.S.-backed Israeli aggression
- the right of North Korea to defend itself against U.S. nuclear threats
- the struggle of all workers, including immigrants, to have jobs with wages and benefits that allow them to work and retire in good health and with dignity
- the drive to end all forms of racism—from police brutality to the death penalty
- the right of all women to control their reproductive capacity and achieve equal social and economic status with men
- the right of all lesbian, gay, bi and trans people to express their sexuality as they choose and to have the right to marriage and its benefits
- the need for world socialism to stop the ecological destruction of the planet and promote peace and cooperation among the world’s peoples

... then Workers World needs your vote.

Every fall and every spring our fund drives aim to raise \$60,000. Our \$25 subscription fee covers but a small part of producing the paper, even though all our editors, staff and reporters volunteer their time and talent. Every dollar collected from the fund drive goes to the production and distribution of Workers World newspaper. Make a generous one-time donation, or become a member of our Supporter Program and help build the newspaper every month.

Thanks for your vote!

### Join the Workers World Supporter Program

Supporters who contribute \$75 a year receive a year’s subscription, a monthly letter and five free trial subscriptions.

- \$75 WW Supporter.  \$100 WW Sponsor.  \$300 WW Sustainer.
- One time donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.  Enclosed 1st monthly payment: \$ \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Please send me more information about the Supporter Program.  
 Please send a card for me to the recipient of the gift subscription.

### Give to the Workers World Fall 2006 Fund Drive

I pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Workers World 2006 Fall Fund Drive.

Please fill in your name and address below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and return to Workers World Newspaper, 55 W. 17th St., 5th Fl., N.Y., NY 10011  
 212.627.2994 • fax: 212.675.7869 • www.workers.org • email: ww@workers.org

communicate in ASL also share a common language. In the last decade in particular there has been a strong move by the “hearing” educational system to move away from teaching ASL.

Today in the U.S., 81 percent of Deaf youth go to “mainstream” schools, meaning they are a small minority among hearing students. Some 25 percent of Deaf youth are medically operated on to implant “cochlear” devices, designed to aid hearing. Some students are instructed how to get the gist of dialogue around them through lip reading spoken languages. Others are taught a system of signing that is a kind of manual stenography—a transliteration of spoken language.

Deaf youth who are able to find each other often create community by forming their own signed languages, which differ based on city, region, nationality and even neighborhood. In the Bronx in the early 1980s, for example, groups of Latin@ Deaf youths reportedly developed signed languages distinct from other groups in neighborhoods only blocks away.

ASL is the centralizing language of Deaf people in the United States. While deaf with a lower-case “d” refers to lack of hearing, Deaf with an upper-case “D” refers to those who communicate with this common language, through which the culture, history, values, perspectives, insights, poetry, theater—and pride—is expressed.

Student protest leader LaToya Plummer sent out a videotaped public message about the Gallaudet struggle, in ASL, in which she explained, “You would think that the obstacles of being a Black, Deaf person would make my life full of frustration and misery. It’s really like this: My life is richer. I know it might be hard for people who can hear to understand that.”

From Kenya to Japan, each country has a national shared language that unites Deaf people from many nationalities, regions, cities, towns, neighborhoods and rural areas.

Therefore Gallaudet is more than merely the only liberal arts university in this country for some 1,800 undergraduate and graduate Deaf and hearing-impaired students. It is a kind of capital where the common language that conveys what is shared in Deaf culture is centralized, standardized and developed.

According to the Oct. 13 New York Times, protesters maintain that Fernandes “did not appreciate the primacy of American Sign Language at Gallaudet and in [D]eaf culture.” The Oct. 20 Washington Post added that Fernandes stressed, “Gallaudet must adapt to the evolution in the Deaf community.”

Therefore, her appointment for president by the board of trustees sent a clear sign to Deaf people everywhere—but it wasn’t in ASL.

E-mail: lfeinberg@workers.org

# Freeport targets Latin@ workers and community fights back

By Heather Cottin  
Freeport, N.Y.

Romeo Pacheco parked his car in the Staples parking lot next to the Home Depot in Freeport, Long Island, on Oct. 16. Before shopping, he went over to talk to some friends standing on the sidewalk waiting for work. The police arrested him, put him in handcuffs, and confiscated his car.

A few days later, the police grabbed a young Latino man of 18 years by his neck and dragged him into a police car, manacled, while his father looked on in horror. Terrified, he pleaded with the cops to stop hurting him. A third man, Erasmo Sandoval, was arrested a few days later. He told Workers World that he knows of one or two others who were also arrested in the parking lot, all Latinos.

Carlos Canales, lead organizer of the Workplace Project, went to the parking lot on Oct. 24 to investigate these events, and was talking to two day laborers when the police told him to leave. He said he was not seeking work, and was just talking to his friends. The police went to a Staples security guard, asked him to request an arrest, and arrested Canales.

All those arrested must appear before a judge on Nov. 6.

On the same day Canales was arrested, Gustavo Flores, leader of United Day Laborers of Freeport, was roused from his bed at 6:00 a.m. when Freeport housing inspectors entered his home, demanding to know who lived there, and took pictures of the house and its residents. Flores later found out that other Latin@ homes had also been targeted in his neighborhood. This same type of pre-dawn raid caused New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer to sue Freeport back in 2002.

## History of anti-Latin@ racism

Officials in Freeport, located about 30 miles east of New York City, say the village is one-third Latin@, one-third Black and one-third white. But the percentage of Latin@s is actually larger. Ten years ago, Freeport was dying—stores closing, residents leaving—when Latin@s moved in and revitalized the local economy, buying houses and opening businesses. The local police responded to the influx of Latin@s rudely, harassing and arresting day laborers who congregated at the Home Depot and Dunkin Donuts.

Carlos Canales came to Freeport to protest this police brutality. He helped organize the workers and Freeport residents to demand a legal and protected “shape-up” site.



Gustavo Flores  
WW PHOTO: MONICA MOOREHEAD

Freeport police arrested Canales and other workers in 2002. At the time, the village was facing the suit by Spitzer for discriminatory raids on Latin@ homeowners.

Forced into a corner, Freeport Mayor William Glacken agreed to a legal shape-up site: a dilapidated trailer, hidden from public view and administered by Catholic Charities.

Workplace Project and the United Day Laborers of Freeport worked with a support committee, Freeport Community Worklink Center, to make the trailer more visible and democratic. FCWC, a worker-run committee, briefly won the right to administer the shape-up site.

But when Mayor Glacken and several foundations announced that all day labor-

ers in Freeport had to go to the trailer or face arrest, the workers and support committee said no. They were “fired” and Catholic Charities retook the site, ending the worker-run project.

Glacken bullied the Vornado Realty Trust, owner of the property where Home Depot and Staples are located, along with nearly \$14 billion in other real estate assets, to put up “no trespassing” signs. The signs went up in September, giving Freeport police the right to arrest workers in the parking lot.

The village of Freeport has clearly mounted a calculated, racist attack on its Latin@ community. The FCWC and the UDLF have secured a lawyer, Fred Brewington, to take this case. They are organizing in the streets and in the churches, and will be protesting on Nov. 6, marching from Dunkin Donuts on Sunrise Highway to the Village Hall, where they will rally outside and then pack the court while the workers face the judge.

The community has been organizing for sanctuary for immigrants and to defend the day laborers. They are preparing to mount a case of discrimination against the village government. As UDLF leader Flores said, “We have had enough!” □

## More than 1,000 GIs sign anti-war petition

By John Catalinotto

A simple petition initiated by rank-and-file U.S. service members has caught on and begun to attract a mass sentiment of GI opposition to the continued U.S. occupation of Iraq.

Starting around Oct. 24, an announcement that 65 GIs had signed the petition—promoted by the group Appeal for Redress—was picked up by the corporate media. By Oct. 30, the number of signers, “including active-duty and inactive-duty troops,” had grown to “over 1,000,” according to an Appeal for Redress volunteer who preferred anonymity.

The organization was working on a way to validate all the signatures. David Cortright, a veteran organizer and author of the book “Soldiers in Revolt,” told the Biloxi Sun Herald when the count had gone over 700 that they were being validated by hand, and that less than 10 percent “looked fishy” (Oct. 28). Cortright’s book had inspired one of the GIs who started the petition.

The appeal itself is moderate, even patriotic in tone, but the top Pentagon officers who depend on unthinking obedience from their privates and sailors are sure to see it as a challenge to their chain of command. It reads:

“As a patriotic American proud to serve the nation in uniform, I respectfully urge my political leaders in Congress to support the prompt withdrawal of all American military forces and bases from Iraq. Staying in Iraq will not work and is not worth the price. It is time for U.S. troops to come home.”

The statement stops short of exposing U.S. aggressive aims or the war crimes committed in Iraq, as did the statements made by active-duty military resisters like Stephen Funk, Abdullah Webster, Camilo Mejia, Pablo Paredes, Jeremy Hinzman and Kevin Benderman. But for the many GIs who are not ready to take such a heroic position, the statement offers an opportu-

nity to take the first active step in opposing the occupation and protecting their own lives.

In addition, it is legal for active duty troops to take such a stand. The Military Whistleblower Protection Act (Department of Defense directive 7050.6) guarantees the right of active-duty military, National Guard and reservists to send a protected communication to a member of Congress regarding any subject without reprisal. Of course, people in the U.S. armed services can be subject to extralegal punishment. But knowledge that an act is legal on paper provides support and encouragement for those who wish to take their first stand.

That the appeal made shivers run up the spine of Pentagon officers and die-hard right-wingers could be seen when Fox News attacked it as being maneuvered by activist groups. Their real fear is that such an appeal will spread quickly through the armed forces and create a climate in which more decisive action can receive support.

According to a report in online alternative news The Raw Story, three active-duty servicemen (one speaking anonymously) held a press conference Oct. 25 to discuss this appeal. A retired military lawyer accompanied them.

“Many of us—who have to follow orders and took an oath to defend the Constitution against all enemies both foreign and domestic—[also] have reservations about the orders. And,” concluded Jonathan Hutto, a Navy seaman based in Norfolk, Virginia, “at this point some of us feel compelled to let our reservations be known and that the occupation should come to an end right now.” (www.rawstory.com, Oct. 25)

The current plan is to present the signatures collected to Congress on Martin Luther King Day in mid-January.

*Catalinotto was a civilian organizer with the American Servicemen’s Union, an anti-war GI group, from 1967 to 1971. E-mail: jcat@workers.org*

## CLEVELAND

# Public housing workers demand living wage

By Martha Grevatt  
Cleveland

They install cabinets, repair walls and lay flooring. They do plumbing, electrical work and numerous other tasks. They often have to redo the botched work of higher paid contractors. Their skills place them just a small step below a journey level tradesman or woman.

Yet many of the several hundred maintenance workers at Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority make so little they qualify for Section 8 rental subsidies. They are paid \$4 to \$6 less per hour than the public housing staff of surrounding counties, even in identical job classifications. Their hourly wage is at least \$2 below the prevailing wage established by Housing and Urban Development. This is despite the age of the buildings they maintain being older than average, as CMHA is the oldest public housing authority in the country.

Charging racism, these primarily African-American workers are rallying and marching to demand a 30 percent raise. Represented by AFSCME Local 1355, they have marched on the housing authority and more recently on the home of Mayor Frank Jackson.

“We’re extremely underpaid,” Local 1355 President Dave Patterson, a maintenance worker himself, told Workers World. “We want to be sure that those who serve public housing residents are making a living wage.” Patterson explained that in 2002 a fact-finder recommended a minimum wage of \$14.82 per hour for a worker classified as labor grade four. However, the HUD office in Chicago dictated that these workers be kept to \$12.51 per hour.

Workers in every other Ohio county housing authority are paid based on recommendations from HUD’s Cleveland or Columbus offices. No one could explain

why in Cleveland the wages would not be reviewed by the Cleveland office.

It turns out that CMHA head George Phillips, apparently wanting to keep wages as low as possible, came from and retained strong political connections with the Chicago office. Phillips is currently embroiled in a land deal scandal, having paid three times the value of a land parcel to a developer for the purpose of building a new CMHA headquarters. The developer had bought the land cheap, promising to build an industrial park and provide jobs, but later sold the land to CMHA at a huge profit.

“They’re always talking about what we’re not qualified to do; [Phillips] makes us out to be just janitors,” Patterson stated. “What about his qualifications?” In the eyes of the workers Phillips—paid \$200,000 a year though lacking even a bachelor’s degree and willing to waste millions in public dollars—has no right to question the value of the labor they provide.

Even before a potential strike takes place, the groundwork has been laid for a labor/community coalition. Marching alongside Local 1355 has been the organization Black on Black and its founder Art McKoy, a fiery leader in the movement against police brutality. Immediately following the march on Mayor Jackson’s home, McKoy was arrested and held overnight. He was charged with “failure to disperse” after attempting to finish a prayer before closing the protest.

The members of Local 1355 are preparing to vote on the latest fact-finding recommendation, which falls short of the 30 percent raise they feel they deserve but goes beyond the 3 percent initially offered by CMHA. If ratification fails there will be a strike vote. Workers will vote with the knowledge that militant, anti-racist activists are standing by their side. □

## Austin marchers say:

# 'The system is broken—stop executions!'

By Gloria Rubac  
Austin, Texas

Hundreds of energized people marched down Congress Avenue in downtown Austin Oct. 28, led by the family members of two executed men who have now been proven innocent after investigations by the Chicago Tribune over the last few years.

Chanting "Texas says 'Death Row,' We say 'Hell no!,'" the protesters participated in the seventh annual March to Stop Executions in Texas, the state that accounts for 377 out of the 1,053 U.S. executions that have taken place since the U.S. death penalty was reinstated in 1976.

Before the march began, activists surrounded Texas Gov. Rick Perry's mansion and then gathered for a short rally in front of the house. The mother of Todd Willingham and the sister of Carlos de Luna were warmly welcomed by the crowd as they recounted how their loved ones died despite their innocence. Trying to hold back tears, Mary Arredondo said that her family always knew her brother was innocent but, because they were poor, there was nothing they could do to help him.

Todd Willingham's family drove from Oklahoma. His mother, Eugenia Willingham, said, "I am so glad we came all this way. For the first time I feel like people are with our family and they sup-

port and understand what we have been through.

"For so many years, not only was my son vilified after being accused of burning down his house with his children inside, but I was, too. I was called an unfit mother for raising a monster who could kill his children. Now technology has proven that the fire was an accident, that Todd had nothing to do with it."

The families of the two men left the governor a letter asking that their loved ones' cases be reopened and investigated. Armed guards told the families the governor was not home but refused to take the envelopes for him. The families then dropped them inside the wrought iron fence, in front of the guards.

A rally at City Hall featured the mothers of two innocent men now on death row: Sandra Reed, mother of Rodney Reed; and Lee Greenwood, mother of Joseph Nichols-Bey. Both appealed for continued support for their innocent sons and thanked activists for their efforts.

Prisoner Howard Guidry spoke to the crowd via a recording. His capital murder conviction was thrown out and he is currently in the Houston county jail awaiting a new trial. Guidry thanked the crowd for being there, saying, "I can hear the pounding of your feet on the pavement. Your voices pierce the walls of my confinement. Your determination to end the death pen-



7th Annual March to Stop Executions, Oct. 28.

PHOTO: GISLAINE WILLIAMS

alty strengthens my resolve and gives me hope that one day I will be free.

"Please support the hunger strike by death row prisoners Steve Moody and the others to protest the inhumane conditions on death row. Stand up for Rob Will, Kenneth Foster and the others in the D.R.I.V.E. Movement whose activism is a constant on death row. Continue to fight. Keep your fist in the air. We will win!"

Other speakers included European activist Sandrine Ageorges, who visits men on Texas death row several times a year.

At the rally, Texas Moratorium Network member Allison Deiter organized the signing of holiday cards for the men and women on death row that the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement sends every year. The cards were taken back to Houston for

more signatures to be added later.

Njeri Shakur, a Houston activist with the Abolition Movement, summed up the event: "The day was exhilarating for the young and the experienced activists alike. There were sad stories of innocents being executed and of pending executions, yet there was such an air of optimism and energy, that most left feeling ready for another year of battle against state killing. With the families of those on death row and the dedicated activists in the community working together, I know we will win."

For information on the death row hunger strike, go to [www.anarchyinchains.com](http://www.anarchyinchains.com). For other information, see [www.drivemovement.org](http://www.drivemovement.org), or [www.howard-guidry.com](http://www.howard-guidry.com). □

## MILWAUKEE

# Cop brutality is 'business as usual'

By Bryan G. Pfeifer  
Milwaukee

Local, state, and federal officials, working in concert with influential big business interests, like to portray the Milwaukee police department as "friends of the community." When a cop makes a "mistake" like shooting someone dead, they all march in lockstep in a well-orchestrated plan to either outright lie about the circumstances, often using racist language or symbolism, or paint the cop as a "bad apple."

But this is becoming a bigger challenge for them as cops rampage through Arab, Black, Latin@ and poor white communities beating, harassing and shooting mostly people of color.

Since big business and its political servants have no concrete solutions to the economic and social semi-apartheid conditions in mostly communities of color, cops—often working with other repressive state forces such as the DEA and the FBI—are increasingly being used as savage occupation forces in an attempt to terrorize working class and oppressed people into submission so they don't resist their conditions.

The Milwaukee police department since its inception has had a long history of oppression in communities of color, and no matter what departmental changes are made, this continues today. Many of the most glaring examples of police terror in Milwaukee, like the Frank Jude Jr. and Ernest Lacy cases, continue to receive national and international attention.

Most recently, 25-year-old Larry Ellis was shot dead by a cop Oct. 23 in Milwaukee's North Side. The cop said Ellis "charged" at him with a knife and refused to drop it, so he shot him. Just a few weeks prior, a Milwaukee cop killed a still-unidentified 50-year-old man whom

the Police Department claims "charged" at cops with knives and refused to drop them. That same morning cops shot a 17-year-old man in the arm after cops from the "Violent Crime Reduction" unit said he tried to ram a squad car with a stolen vehicle.

All of this and more follows a summer of extreme repression for people of color in Milwaukee, where tens of thousands of mostly poor Black youth were issued citations or arrested for so-called "crimes" like staying after posted hours at the lakefront. Reminiscent of "Black codes" and chain gangs, many of these youth—unable to pay often exorbitant fines—are either locked in the viscous cycle of jail and poverty or are working for free or significantly below minimum wage in jails and communities to have their fines "absolved."

Many of these youth might have had union jobs in local manufacturing plants before imperialist policies such as NAFTA forced them out; or had access to vocational or postsecondary education, but these options are now limited as well. The bosses are working fast on downtown rebuilding projects and neighborhood gentrification, but no matter how hard they try, they can't hide the grinding oppressive conditions of the working class and oppressed in this city—once an epicenter of union manufacturing, now a non-union oasis for transnational corporations and temporary scab services like the Milwaukee-based Manpower Inc., the largest "temporary service" in the world.

The statistics don't lie. Just a few from the U.S. Census Bureau and various state sources: The Black infant-mortality rate is 19.4 per 1,000 live births, four times the rate of whites; the statewide prison population is well over 50 percent Black while the state's Black population is 5 percent. W-2, the so-called "welfare reform pro-

gram," has devastated whole communities; public-sector unions such as AFSCME are continually under attack by the bosses' attempts to privatize and/or cut jobs and services; while at the same time corporations continue to receive tens of millions of dollars in tax "incentives" and giveaways paid for by the taxpayer. And of course the U.S. war on Iraq has sucked millions from the city and the baleful effects of Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation and similar foundations and think tanks are acute city and statewide.

There have been many forms of resistance to these conditions, but the savage beating of Frank Jude Jr. and subsequent acquittal of three white cops by an all-white jury last April have ignited a tinderbox of protest and resistance rooted in the above oppressive conditions.

### Justice for Jude and other victims!

In the Milwaukee City Hall Rotunda Oct. 24 the Justice for Jude Justice for All! coalition sponsored a community gathering on the two-year anniversary of Jude's beating to demand accountability from the police department and city, get updates on Jude's case and others, get updates on efforts to end pay for terminated officers, and disseminate information on efforts to end exclusion of people of color on juries. Featured speakers included community and national activists including Mary Peeler, the NAACP's national membership field director.

On Oct. 24, 2004, Jude and his friends, while attending a party in a Bayview neighborhood, were accused of stealing a police badge from the bedroom of a cop in the house where the party was taking place. Jude was attacked by at least a dozen cops and beaten unconscious. He was hospitalized for days and required reconstructive

surgery. No badge was found and Jude was never charged with anything.

As a result of efforts such as a 4,000-person demonstration in April, in early October U.S. Attorney Stephen M. Biskupic brought federal civil rights conspiracy charges against five cops—Jon Bartlett, Daniel Masarik, Andrew Spengler, Ryan Packard and Ryan Lemke—in the beating of Jude and his friend Lovell Harris.

A sixth cop, former officer Joseph Stromei—who lied on the stand at the original trial, saying he didn't see or do anything when he did—was charged and agreed to plead guilty to obstruction of justice. Two other officers have signed plea agreements.

Joseph Schabel—the first on-duty officer to respond to a 911 call about Jude's beating—eventually admitted to the feds that upon his arrival at the scene he kicked Jude in the head as he lay prone on the sidewalk. He lied on the stand in the original trial.

Jon Clausing said that he and at least five other officers from the party beat Jude and that Clausing cut Harris with a knife. Schabel could get 20 years and Clausing 10 on the federal charges, but they will probably receive much less for their "cooperation."

Although Biskupic claims the feds are attempting to get at the truth of the matter in Jude's beating, they are taking the heat off Milwaukee District Attorney E. Michael McCann and attempting to deflect the simmering rage in the community, specifically in light of the current economic and social conditions.

The cops in Jude's beating have become a liability, as those ruling the city know too well. They had hoped soon-to-be-retired McCann—who has for 38 years covered up dozens if not hundreds of police brutality

Continued on page 6

## In Tennessee election

# Republicans expose racist/sexist hand—again

By Dianne Mathiowetz

If Harold E. Ford Jr. wins his senatorial race next week, he will become the first African American to serve in the U.S. Senate from a southern state since Reconstruction.

Ford, currently a U.S. representative for the 9th Congressional District in Tennessee, and his opponent, former Chattanooga mayor Bob Corker, are vying for Sen. Bill Frist's seat.

This upcoming election occurs more than four decades after the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, which outlawed poll taxes, onerous written exams and other methods employed by white supremacists to deny voting rights to the Black masses, largely in the South.

Ford, like most Democrats in Congress, has offered little opposition to Bush's policies of preemptive war and regime change abroad or cuts in social services and loss of civil liberties at home. He is on record opposing abortion rights for women and same-sex marriage. He voted for the anti-flag-burning amendment. His reputation is as a "conservative Democrat."

In the midst of this highly contested race, with the polls showing the two candidates neck and neck, operatives with the Republican National Committee released a television ad so racist, sexist and tawdry that public outrage forced its withdrawal from the airwaves. But not before it had

been seen numerous times throughout Tennessee and then became a nationally viewed item on various forms of the mainstream media.

Sleazy, underhanded campaign ads are not uncommon in U.S. elections, which pit candidates from the two major capitalist parties against each other.

The highly provocative anti-Ford ad demands immediate attention because of its hyper-sexual imagery calculated to recall racist fears of relations between white women and Black men.

A scantily clad blonde actress in the ad says she met Ford at a "Playboy party" and then closes out the video with a coy wink, while sexily urging, "Harold, call me."

### Roots of racist imagery

Miscegenation laws outlawing interracial marriages and relationships are no longer on the books in Southern states formerly part of the Confederacy.

However, past and present false rape charges against Black men, which for decades resulted in lynchings, beatings and years in prison, remain an enduring legacy of slavery and white supremacist ideology.

The Ford television spot was financed by the Republican National Committee despite assurances by its chairperson, Ken Mehlman, to the 2005 NAACP Convention that the GOP would no longer use divisive tactics designed to reinforce racist

stereotypes.

The GOP's so-called "Southern strategy," initiated more than 25 years ago during the Reagan campaign, honed in on the time-worn fears of white voters, largely in rural and small towns, of the social change that brought African Americans into higher paying jobs, decent neighborhoods and better-funded schools, and elected positions from which they had been previously systematically barred.

The "Willie Horton" 1988 Republican ad—featuring a Black parolee accused of raping and killing a white woman—became the prototype of this strategy. The campaign manager for George H.W. Bush, Lee Atwater, bragged that "by the time this election is over, Willie Horton will be a household name." (wikipedia.org)

This concept of both subtle and outright race-baiting led to the defeat of several Black politicians who had been expected to win their races, such as Henry Gantt in North Carolina. However, the issues most likely to be presented through this racist prism were jobs, affirmative action and crime.

### Wal-Mart's sordid role

The creator of the anti-Ford ad, Terry Nelson of Crosslink Strategy Group, was also on the payroll of the world's largest retail store, Wal-Mart.

Nelson was hired in 2005 to help restore the company's image after the truth about Wal-Mart's anti-worker employment prac-

tices, cut-throat policies toward suppliers, and horrific conditions in their overseas plants came to light.

Labor and community organizations had successfully focused attention on the low wages, lack of affordable healthcare benefits, discriminatory hiring, promotion policies and unpaid overtime suffered by tens of thousands of workers while Wal-Mart reaped billions in profits.

Nelson was put in charge of a program designed to register Wal-Mart employees, many of whom are African Americans, so they could vote in the Nov. 7 election for candidates friendly to the company's continued profitability.

Nelson's key role in the blatantly racist Ford ad placed Wal-Mart in still another public relations nightmare. Under pressure, Nelson wrote a letter severing his relationship to the company. Nelson and his firms have also worked for President George W. Bush and Sen. John McCain.

Faced with the prospect of losing control of one or both houses of Congress on Nov. 7, the Republican National Committee unleashed a putrid and racist ad in Tennessee in hopes that it could stir racial fears among a sufficient number of white voters to achieve Corker's victory over Ford.

While the election result is not in as of this writing, what is undeniable is the continued reliance of the ruling class on racism to maintain its control of the political system. □

## NEW JERSEY

# Court ruling falls short of equality for same-sex couples

By David Hoskins

The New Jersey Supreme Court issued a controversial ruling on same-sex marriage in late October that failed to guarantee equal marriage rights to gay and lesbian couples. In a 4-3 opinion the court acknowledged that the "unequal dispensation of rights and benefits to same-sex couples" violates the state constitution, but refused to acknowledge the fundamental right of same-sex couples to marry.

In a sharply worded dissent Chief Justice Deborah Poritz wrote that she found no principled basis for denying gays and lesbians the right to the title of marriage. Her opinion pointed out that only official marriage "bestows enormous private and social advantages" which are currently denied to same-sex partners.

Although the official ruling fails to guarantee all the rights of marriage, the New Jersey case is interesting in the fact that both the majority and dissenting opinions argued for greater legal recognition of gay and lesbian relationships.

Both advocates and opponents of full marriage rights are gearing up for a tough battle in the legislature that will determine whether same-sex couples will be afforded the right to marry or if they will be relegated to a separate and unequal arrangement similar to the civil unions recognized in Vermont.

Matt Daniels, president of the anti-gay Alliance for Marriage, promised to fight

hard in the legislature and accused the court of "holding a legal gun to the head of the State Legislature" by demanding even limited recognition of same-sex couples' right to the benefits of marriage.

In New Jersey and across the country both the Democratic and Republican parties are using the ruling to attack full equality for gays and lesbians, as they play to the bigotry expressed by some voters in an attempt to win contested mid-term elections.

New Jersey Democratic Gov. John Corzine and Sen. Robert Menendez have both stated that they oppose the right of gays and lesbians to marry. Menendez's

Republican opponent, State Sen. Thomas Kean Jr., went a step further and called for a constitutional amendment to ban all same-sex marriage.

Republican strategists in particular are attempting to use the New Jersey ruling to whip up anti-lesbian/bi/gay/trans sentiment in crucial senate races such as Virginia and Tennessee. At the same time, the Democratic candidates in those two states have been vocal in their opposition to full marriage rights for lesbian and gay couples.

For the past two election cycles the only dividing line between the Democratic and Republican candidates has been over the

issue of whether or not to have a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage. Republicans have been rather blunt in their support for a clear amendment denying homosexual couples the right to legal recognition of their marriages.

The Democratic strategy following the New Jersey Supreme Court ruling appears to mimic their 2004 strategy during the presidential elections. Democrats have collected a lot of unearned political capital by posing as the more tolerant party on LGBT issues, while at the same time proposing a state's rights strategy for defeating LGBT equality in order to neutralize extreme right-wing voters. □

## Cop brutality is 'business as usual'

Continued from page 5

and murder cases for his bosses—could get the job done once again. Despite mounds of evidence in case after case, not one cop was ever indicted during McCann's reign.

But the Jude case was so nakedly barbaric, even to large segments of the white working class communities, that in this case three cops—Spengler, Masarik and Bartlett—were originally brought to trial for various charges. When they were acquitted by the jury, the feds stepped in, but only after being forced by community outrage and national and international pressure.

Jude himself continues to fight back with his allies. On Oct. 23 he filed a fed-

eral civil rights lawsuit against the city and eight former and current cops, claiming that they intentionally tortured and beat him because he's Black, in violation of his civil rights; and that the city didn't train, supervise and discipline officers. Jude and his wife are seeking unspecified compensation for past and future medical expenses, lost wages and disability, and punitive dam-



PHOTO: JUSTICEFORJUDEJUSTICEFORALL.COM  
Rally protesting Jude beating.

ages, as well as reforms in the police department. In a notice of claims filed earlier with the city, their attorneys listed damages of \$30 million.

In an Oct. 24 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel interview Jude said: "Police brutality has to stop. ... The City of Milwaukee, (Mayor) Tom Barrett, he's responsible.

It's his city. I lost a lot. I am not the same Frank Jude Jr. Whatever they took from me, I want back." (www.jsonline.com) □

## MICHIGAN

# 'Stop the War' Slate picks up steam

By Kris Hamel  
Detroit

The David Sole for U.S. Senate campaign in Michigan continues to gain momentum as it enters the final days leading to the Nov. 7 election. Sole, a member of Workers World Party, is running on the Green Party ticket as the lead candidate on the Stop the War Slate. He has brought his anti-war message to cities and towns throughout the state.

Due to the persistent media work by his campaign, Sole has done several interviews around Michigan. A 12-minute interview was recently aired on WDET public radio in Detroit. The Metro Times, a free weekly, featured Sole in a full-page article on the Green Party campaign. The candidate also taped a 15-minute interview on public television and radio in the mid-Michigan city of Mt. Pleasant. The broadcast area covers half of the northern Lower Peninsula. Sole did a live interview at a Kalamazoo radio station as well as a taped interview on Kalamazoo public radio, and with the student newspaper at Western Michigan University in that city.

While in Mt. Pleasant, Sole campaigned with Lauren Spencer on the campus of Central Michigan University. Spencer is the Green Party candidate for Michigan State University Board of Trustees. Sole learned from an African American student there that the Nazis held a rally on campus earlier this year. Sole is writing a letter to the university's president demanding immediate measures to combat racism on campus.

Both Spencer and Sole received the endorsement of the Lansing Association for Human Rights, a lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) advocacy group. Spencer has been actively campaigning in the Lansing area and recently spoke to a political science class about her campaign.

Michael Merriweather, Stop the War Slate candidate for Wayne State University Board of Governors, traveled with Sole to Kalamazoo and did campaigning en route at the community college in Jackson, Mich. The candidates were introduced by Leslie Feinberg, author and LGBT leader, at a standing-room-only meeting at Kalamazoo College. Merriweather took part in a "meet the candidates" event at WSU on Oct. 23.

Sole distributed 500 leaflets to faculty and staff of Wayne County Community College at a daylong program at Cobo Hall. That same evening, he took part in a successful house meeting and fundraiser at the home of immigrant rights leader Elena Herrada.

On Oct. 28 Sole took his campaign to the Latin@ community in southwest Detroit. A sound car and leafleting got his pro-immigrant, anti-racist message to hundreds in the community. Ignacio Meneses, leader of the Justice for Cuba Coalition and U.S./Cuba Labor Exchange, assisted with Spanish translation of Sole's program.

Donations from supporters have enabled the campaign to place advertisements in several newspapers. El Central, a free Spanish-language weekly, published a multi-color full-page ad, prominently featured on its second page. Quarter-page ads have also been placed in the Arab American News and the Michigan Citizen. Small ads are being run in dozens of newspapers throughout the state.

## On the campaign trail

Leslie Feinberg did a five-event speaking tour in Michigan in late October. As in Kalamazoo and at Michigan State University, Feinberg urged her audiences at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and WSU in Detroit to support the Stop the War Slate on the Green Party ticket. Lauren Spencer took the stage with

Feinberg at MSU and WSU and spoke briefly on her campaign for MSU trustee. Spencer's platform pays particular attention to issues facing LGBT students and campus workers.

Kevin Carey, Stop the War Slate candidate for State Board of Education, participated in a candidates' forum at Grace Fellowship Chapel, one of the largest African-American churches in Detroit, where he blasted the distribution of state educational funding as "an apartheid system that perpetuates racism and poverty."

Fred Vitale, candidate for District 3 State Representative, recently placed more than two dozen billboards in high visibility areas in Detroit's east side. His "Money for Detroit, not for war!" message is read by hundreds of motorists daily. Every day during the last full week of October, cable television in the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods aired the recent candidates' forum.

The Sole for U.S. Senate campaign issued an Oct. 29 media release that charged: "The last couple of weeks have made clear that the war in Iraq is the critical issue in the elections nationwide. With 65 percent of the population opposed to the war, the Democrats are demagogically trying to divert this opposition to the war into support for their candidates. ...

"The Democrats have consistently supported Bush's war in Iraq. The last Senate vote on the military budget and appropriations for the war was 100-0. To this date, the Democrats stand opposed to the only real solution to the war—to end it now by withdrawing all U.S. troops from Iraq immediately.

"Debbie Stabenow, incumbent Democrat for Senate, has voted for every appropriation for the war.

"The bulk of the media has shown its subservience to big business and the Pentagon by refusing to cover the David Sole for U.S. Senate campaign, the only

anti-war voice in the Michigan Senate race. In contrast, last week the Michigan Citizen, Detroit's largest and most progressive African American weekly newspaper, endorsed David Sole for U.S. Senate."

Sole concludes, "I call for the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Iraq and Afghanistan. I call for using the billions wasted on the Pentagon's wars to fund health care, housing, jobs at living wages and to rebuild our cities. I am for amnesty and legalization for undocumented workers, not the racist fence to keep out immigrants supported by Stabenow and [Republican Senate candidate Mike] Bouchard. I am for protecting civil liberties and for repeal of the Patriot Act and Military Commission Bill, in contrast to Stabenow and Bouchard's support for torture and detention without due process. And I am for genuinely protecting workers' pensions by not allowing corporations to use the bankruptcy process to eliminate the pensions and benefits of the workers, unlike Stabenow and Bouchard who both supported last year's anti-worker bankruptcy act."

David Sole is available for media interviews in Michigan and challenges media to cover the only anti-war platform in the campaign. Supporters are invited to a Green Party election rally on Nov. 4, at 6:00 p.m., Central Methodist Church, Woodward at Adams at Grand Circus Park in downtown Detroit.

For more information on the Sole for U.S. Senate campaign and all Stop the War Slate and Green Party candidates, visit [www.stophthewarslate.org](http://www.stophthewarslate.org) and [www.migreens.org](http://www.migreens.org), or e-mail [campaign@stophthewarslate.org](mailto:campaign@stophthewarslate.org). Much-needed donations can be made payable to: Sole for Senate Campaign, 5922 Second Ave., Detroit, Mich. 48202.

*Kristen Hamel is the Stop the War Slate candidate for District 1 State Representative on Detroit's east side.*

## New York meeting on Charles Barron electoral campaign

Revolutionary politics and the capitalist elections were discussed at the New York branch meeting of Workers World Party on Oct. 28, when guest speakers Joan Gibbs and Brenda Stokely spoke on the "Significance of the Charles Barron for Congress Campaign."

Both of these well-respected, long-time activists became key organizers for the grass roots efforts to send Barron, a revolutionary African-American New York City councilperson from Brooklyn, to Washington, D.C., to represent the 10th Congressional District in the House of Representatives.

Barron fell short of winning the Sept. 7 primary by less than 3,000 votes, coming in second place behind Ed Towns, the incumbent candidate who is backed by the tobacco and pharmaceutical industries. Towns spent over \$1 million for his reelection campaign while Barron spent less than \$140,000.

Gibbs, a people's lawyer who defends political prisoners like Sundiata Acoli, spoke about why she worked on the Barron campaign. She opened her remarks by stating that there is no fundamental difference between the Democrats and Republicans and that elections in general serve to "legitimize the existing U.S. capitalist system."

Gibbs went on to say that while Barron

ran on the Democratic ticket as a tactic, his political program is very similar to her own. This program includes supporting the Palestinian struggle, the right to national health care, freedom for all political prisoners, reparations for African Americans, affordable housing, immigrant rights, an end to police brutality, the right of return for Katrina/Rita survivors and much more.

Stokely, an East Coast leader of the Million Worker March Movement, talked about the formation of the People United Committee, which is now organizing a massive write-in campaign to get Barron elected on Nov. 7. She spoke on the importance of having a voice like Barron's in Congress because he has always been committed to revolutionary change. Stokely described the write-in campaign as a "challenge to the corporate interests who control the electoral arena."

Larry Holmes, a Workers World Party leader, made remarks on WWP's support for the Barron campaign. Khalil Mustafa, a former political prisoner who was incarcerated for more than 30 years, attended the forum and is a member of the People United Committee. For more information about the Barron write-in campaign, call 718-773-5741 or write [Info@BarronforCongress.com](mailto:Info@BarronforCongress.com)



Joan Gibbs and Brenda Stokely at Oct. 28 meeting.

Another guest speaker at the meeting was Gustavo Flores, a Mexican day laborer and organizer with the Workplace Project, an immigrant rights group based in Freeport, N.Y. He and organizer Carlos Canales were given citations by the city as punishment for organizing mainly Latin@ undocumented workers.

A demonstration has been called for Nov. 6 to support these two organizers when they appear in court. Flores invited the audience to come to Freeport to show the authorities there that "we are not alone as workers." A lively discussion occurred after all of the reports.

—Report & photos by Monica Moorehead

## Brazilian poor and leftists sigh with relief

# Lula wins presidential runoff

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

On Oct. 29 Brazil's poor, as well as most of the left movement there and in the rest of Latin America, gave a sigh of relief when Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva won the presidential runoff election. That night, with 95.23 percent of the votes counted, 60.75 percent or 55 million went to Lula, the incumbent. That is more than the 52.8 million votes that brought him to the presidency for the first time in 2002.

Geraldo Alckmin, former governor of São Paulo and the contender favored by the right wing and the wealthy U.S.-aligned Brazilian oligarchy, received 39.5 percent.

In the first round of the elections, held Oct. 1, Lula from the Workers Party (PT) had scored a plurality of the votes, but not enough to grant him re-election. He had 48.65 percent against 41.58 percent for Alckmin, the Brazilian Social Democratic Party (PSDB) candidate. According to the Brazilian constitution, a candidate needs 50 plus 1 percent of the votes to win in the first round.

Although Lula was expected to win in the first round, several obstacles caused his lower-than-expected numbers. First, a corruption scandal opportunely (for his opponents) publicized in September led to the resignation of the PT's president, Ricardo Berzoini. According to Brazilian police, Berzoini's former aide, Oswaldo Bargas, was going to pay close to \$800,000 for documents with information against José Serra, who is in Alckmin's PSDB and who himself ran against Lula in the 2002 elections.

The second obstacle was the participation in the elections of two former PT members who broke with the governing party: Heloísa Helena, who formed the Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSOL), and Cristovam Buarque from the Democratic Labor Party (PDT). Even though they both got many fewer votes—Helena 6.85 percent and Buarque 2 percent—that was

enough to cause the runoff.

A third obstacle was that Lula did not join a pre-election debate with the other contenders, a stand that many people saw as unfavorable to him. All three candidates in the debate then turned their discourse into attacks against Lula, rather than on their plans and vision for Brazil.

### Left criticism and support

Immediately after the results of the Oct. 1 elections were known, the majority of the left movement reacted, supporting Lula for the runoff. Even though some of these same organizations and individuals had disagreements with Lula, and some had not endorsed him in the first round, there was a tacit agreement among them that Lula represented the poor and an opportunity for the grassroots to gain more power.

It was in general not a blank check but a strong message to Lula to turn to the masses and away from the banks and finance centers. They all stressed the importance of mobilization by the people as the real force of change, adding that a victory by Lula would give the necessary space to carry out the work of the masses without bringing down brutal repression, as in former administrations.

A vote for Lula was also a vote against the policies of privatization and reduction of spending in social services that neo-liberal Alckmin was going to carry out, in the interest of the oligarchy and the transnational corporations.

Lula, the first working-class president of wealthy Brazil, does not hold a university degree, only a metallurgic mechanic certificate. He was a strike leader in the difficult years of the late 1970s, during the military dictatorship that lasted from 1964 to 1985. Lula was instrumental in the founding of the PT in 1980 and the United Workers Federation (CUT) in 1983.

He won the presidency in 2002 with a promise of agrarian reform and redistribution of wealth, strongly criticizing then-

President Fernando Henrique Cardoso's economic practice that was subservient to the International Monetary Fund and U.S. agribusiness. However, once in office, Lula continued the same economic policies that favored the transnational corporations and banks.

These are the main criticisms that the left movement levels against Lula: his near abandonment of the election promises of agrarian, labor, tax and political reforms.

To Lula's credit, he initiated a series of programs that benefited the poor and have won the masses' backing. His "Zero Hunger" program was able to benefit around 11 million families. Even his critics—like the universally known leftist priest Frei Betto, who was in Lula's cabinet but resigned over disagreements on Lula's commitment to his campaign promises—lauds "Zero Hunger" as the "largest program of income redistribution in the history of Brazil for families that lived in misery." It is a comprehensive program that includes health care, education and job creation, among other services.

One of the organizations that worked to get votes for Lula's reelection, the Confederation of Brazilian Women headed by Marcia Campos, issued a colorful fact sheet brochure with information about Lula's programs for women that have led to a reduction in infant and maternal mortality, access to family planning, health care, and many other services and programs.

The powerful Landless Workers Movement (MST) also supported Lula in the runoff. MST national leader João Pedro Stédile stated, "A victory of Alckmin would be a serious defeat for the Brazilian people, because he represents the interests of finance capital, transnational corporations, Bush's government, Brazil's bourgeoisie and the big landowners (latifundistas)." Even though Stédile criticizes Lula's economic policies, he said that since Lula has been in government, "the left has been able to advance in exterior policy, in the

defense of state enterprises, and in some social areas, like basic education and the minimum wage." (MST Web site)

### Latin American integration

As the largest country in South America, with a wealth of resources and billions of dollars of investment by U.S. corporations, Brazil holds a lock on regional plans for integration. According to a study by the Brazil-U.S. Business Council, "197 of the Fortune 500 have investments in Brazil. ... Revenue from Fortune 500 investors total[s] approximately US\$91 billion. ... Four U.S. companies rank among Brazil's 15 largest employers." (www.brazilcouncil.org, Jan. 14, 2005)

This is only the tip of the iceberg, but it shows the interests of the U.S. ruling class and its politicians to keep Brazil under their wing—away from the new trade relations that Lula's government has initiated, particularly with China, and away from the reinvigoration of Mercosur, the economic and trade bloc that under Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez is trying to break away from the neo-liberal economy dominated by imperialist banks and corporations.

That is why the Latin American and Caribbean left were watching and actively participating in support for Lula during the runoff. In an interview in the Argentinean newspaper *Página/12*, Frei Betto emphasized the "international importance of Lula for the current geopolitical situation of Latin America. While he is in government, things will be easier for Fidel's Cuba, Evo's Bolivia and for the Venezuela of Hugo."

Cuban National Assembly President Ricardo Alarcón agrees. In an interview with Tom Hayden in August, Alarcón said Lula's reelection was "the most important task for the Latin American left. ... Notwithstanding his faults, if Lula is defeated, all of Latin America will be worse off." (www.truthdig.com) □

# Reagan's criminal invasion of Grenada

By Stephen Millies

What was more cowardly than Ronald Reagan's invasion of Grenada in 1983? Seven thousand troops and two aircraft carriers were hurled against a Caribbean country with only 110,000 people. That's how much a threat Grenada's revolution was to the U.S. empire.

U.S. planes bombed a psychiatric hospital, killing 47 patients. Pentagon flacks claimed the "armed patients and staff" were ready "to resist our forces."

Maurice Bishop had led members of Grenada's New Jewel Movement in overthrowing Eric Gairy's dictatorship on March 13, 1979. People rejoiced.

The revolution went to work. Schools were repaired. Free books, school uniforms and hot lunches were provided for the first time to the poor. Health care was made free. Within four years the island's unemployment rate fell from 50 percent to 12 percent. Cuban aid was indispensable.

Grenada's revolution meant the most to women. "The very first decree of the revolution was to outlaw sexual victimization and exploitation of our women in return for jobs," said Bishop. Jacqueline Creft became minister of education.

For 25 years Grenada's dream had been to build an airport with a long runway so

that jet planes could land. Reaganites claimed that the airport was going to be a Soviet base.

Grenada was becoming a socialist pole of attraction for African Americans. Maurice Bishop told 2,500 students at New York's Hunter College about a secret U.S. State Department report describing Grenada's appeal to Black people in the United States.

Four months later Bishop was shot in a prelude to the U.S. invasion. The escalating hostility of immensely powerful U.S. imperialism had turned Grenada into a political pressure cooker. The New Jewel Movement split as a consequence.

Killed along with Maurice Bishop on Oct. 19, 1983, were Fitzroy Bain, Norris Bain, Jacqueline Creft, Vincent Noel and Unison Whiteman.

This terrible tragedy was immediately exploited by the White House. Reagan needed a pick-me-up after the bombing of the Marine headquarters in Beirut on Oct. 23, where 241 GIs died.

Two days later he invaded Grenada. Reagan lied, saying that U.S. medical students were being threatened.

The Congressional Black Caucus unanimously condemned Reagan's crime. Walter Mondale, the Democratic Party's 1984 presidential candidate, ended up

supporting the invasion.

The world was outraged. Ten thousand students marched to the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City while hundreds stormed the U.S. Embassy in La Paz, Bolivia. Protests in the Dominican Republic were put down with gunfire. The Oil Refinery Workers Union of Trinidad denounced the invasion. Mass protests were held in Havana, Cuba, and Managua, Nicaragua.

On a single day's notice 5,000 people marched down the middle of 42nd Street in Manhattan. Five thousand protested in Berkeley, Calif. The Detroit City Council denounced Reagan's invasion.

### Poison DUst: Radioactive DU Weapons in Iraq

Veterans, anti-war organizers, environmentalists and health care providers will find this wake-up call to today's GIs invaluable.



Order at [www.Leftbooks.com](http://www.Leftbooks.com)

Demonstrations took place coast to coast.

Nearly 300 AFSCME District 37 delegates representing 115,000 New York City municipal workers condemned the invasion in a resolution introduced by Mike Gimbel. But AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland refused to attack Reagan.

Grenada refused to surrender. As U.S. bombs fell on them, soldiers wrote on the walls of Fort Rupert, "We will rather die than become puppets of U.S. imperialism."

Dying beside these Grenadian fighters were 24 Cubans, including construction workers who put down their shovels to fight the Yankee invaders.

At the time, the U.S. was preparing an invasion of Nicaragua. Cuba was also targeted. Grenada's resistance, which lasted for months, helped stop these plots.

The stomping of Grenada by the colossus was a great tragedy. Yet when Grenada's international airport finally opened, the U.S. couldn't get it named for Ronald Reagan, hard as they tried. The masses wanted it named after Maurice Bishop.

Grenada is avenged by every forward move of the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela and every day Cuba is able to hold out against the empire.

Long live the memory of Maurice Bishop and all the martyrs of Grenada! □



# Youth of France: still angry, still protesting

By G. Dunkel

The youth in the working-class suburbs of France made their anger felt last year after Zyed Benna and Bouna Traoré were electrocuted trying to escape the cops in Clichy-sous-Bois. Thousands protested night after night for nearly two months.

As the anniversary of the electrocution drew near, Nicolas Sarkozy, minister of the interior who is in charge of the national cops in France, moved 4,000 reinforcements to the area around Clichy-sous-Bois and other hot spots.

Last year a main tactic of the protests was burning cars, trucks, buses, trash compactors, cop substations, banks and other government institutions and then fighting with the cops who came to protect the firefighters.

Most of the protesters were the sons and daughters, or grandsons and grand-

daughters, of immigrants from former French colonies in Africa, although they themselves were born in France. Just over half arrested last year had never been arrested before.

The protests shook the foundations of the French state and exposed its pretensions to equality and social justice. The prime minister at the time was fired, and a new government, promising major changes, took office.

To prepare for the anniversary of the protests, the Association for Liberty, Equality, Fraternity Together United (ACLEFEU, which is French slang for "Enough Burning"), based in Clichy-sous-Bois, spent the summer visiting 120 French cities and towns and collected 20,000 grievances. Last year, the complaint that the bourgeois media and parties lodged against the protests was that they had no concrete demands.

This procedure is what the republican opponents of King Louis XVI in the third estate did in 1789, when he asked them for their grievances. ACLEFEU made it clear in its summary of the grievances that it was following the model of the 1789 French republicans, in taking the suffering of the people to the elites.

On Oct. 26 ACLEFEU marched on the French parliament with its grievances in hand. They had 114 propositions, broken down into 12 chapters on jobs, discrimination, housing, the conduct of the cops and the courts. The police only let a handful of the protesters through to deliver their "books of grievances."

Rafika, a young Arab who lives in Clichy-sous-Bois and is a member of the ACLEFEU collective, told the local and national media who were covering the event: "The two youth who died were the drop of water that overflowed the cup. I do not excuse the reaction of the youth during

the riots, but I am 8,000 percent in agreement with them."

ACLEFEU intends to keep the pressure on and conduct another survey next year.

On the anniversary itself, Oct. 27, another youth organization from Clichy-sous-Bois—Beyond Words (Au-delà des mots)—organized a silent march through Clichy-sous-Bois behind a banner that read "Zyed-Bouna dead for nothing." Their families followed the banner. The march started a little after 10 a.m. and ended at City Hall, where a memorial was dedicated.

Later there were speeches, music, videos and African dancing to commemorate these two youths. The families' lawyers spoke on the progress of the investigation of police complicity in their deaths.

Both before and after the anniversary, small groups of youths in the Paris suburbs burned cars and at least five buses.

*E-mail: gdunkel@workers.org*

## Issues involving

# Madonna's adoption of Malawian child

By Monica Moorehead

The adoption of a Malawian child by the pop music star Madonna has raised the role that poverty and class play in the adoption process.

Madonna and her spouse, film director Guy Ritchie, decided to adopt 18-month-old David Banda following a tour she made of Malawi, located in southern Africa, in early October.

Madonna commented on a recent Oprah Winfrey show that she was told by the orphanage where David had been staying since he was two weeks old that the child was abandoned by his father and that his mother and his siblings had died from AIDS.

David's father, Yohane Banga, an indigent farmer, is very much alive and has remarked that his spouse and another child had not died from AIDS. In fact, David's mother died from complications while giving birth to David, and his sibling had perished from malaria.

Madonna also commented to Winfrey that neither Yohane Banga nor any other family members had come to the orphanage to visit David. This claim was strongly refuted by David's father and other extended family members. The orphanage blamed the Malawi Ministry of Gender and Child Welfare for putting out this false information.

Yohane Banga reportedly was not ini-

tially for the idea of giving up his child if it meant that "David would no longer be my son—if I was told this. I would not have allowed the adoption." He later on changed his mind about the adoption because "I would be killing his future." (AP, Oct. 16)

While the issue of permanent adoption won't be decided until the Malawian courts rule on Nov. 13, Madonna was given temporary custody of David and was allowed to take him to her home in London on Oct. 13.

Notwithstanding the father's decision, an alliance of 67 Malawian human rights groups is legally challenging Madonna's attempt to adopt David.

Some of these groups indicated the fact that Madonna has pledged to donate \$3 million to Malawian orphanages could have impacted on the Malawi government's decision to waive certain laws allowing Madonna to adopt the infant. Others asked why Madonna didn't offer money to Yohane Banga to help take care of his son in his home country.

One of these groups, Eye of the Child, stated in an open letter: "Inter-country adoption is prohibited under the Malawi current Children Adoption Act as section 3(5) reads, 'an adoption order shall not be made in favor of any applicant who is not a resident in Malawi or in respect of any infant who is so resident.'"

A spokesperson for this group, Boniface Mandere, told AP that while his group

does not oppose international adoption or anyone trying to come to the aid of poor children, "You cannot buy a child as you are buying a house. ... It's not like selling property."

He said that Malawian law requires that any foreign adults wishing to adopt a child must live in Malawi for a year to allow social agencies to monitor their child rearing skills.

The reality is that the adoption of children born into poverty by single adults or couples living in rich capitalist countries is increasing. Another inescapable reality is that a disproportionate number of these children are people of color while those doing the adopting are white. Whether the majority of these children have been lucky to find loving homes or not—despite any racial, cultural or class differences—it is symptomatic of a much larger global issue.

Malawi has one of the highest incidences of HIV/AIDS in the world. It is estimated that about 14 percent of Malawi's population of 12 million people are HIV positive, resulting in about 1 million Malawian children being orphaned. (National AIDS Commission)

ActionAid commented that the Western countries have an obligation to provide AIDS drugs to poorer countries. "We want long-term solutions for whole communities, not short-term fixes," stated their spokesperson, Jane Mayo.

The permanent solution would be for the eradication of capitalist exploitation and plunder—to allow countries like Malawi to fully develop their economies and social structures to meet the needs of the entire people, which would give family members like Yohane and David Banga a real choice of staying together.

*E-mail: mmoorehead@workers.org*

## Civil judgment against Toto Constant

By G. Dunkel

U.S. District Court Judge Sidney H. Stein recently ordered Emanuel "Toto" Constant to pay \$19 million to three women who were tortured and raped by FRAPH in Haiti. Constant was the leader of FRAPH, a group that the Haitian army used for its brutal, dirty work during the first coup against Jean-Bertrand Aristide in the early 1990s.

Some time after the U.S. army restored Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power in 1994, Constant moved into his comfortable, single-family home in Laurelton, Queens.

Although he was wanted in Haiti for mass murder and for participating in the violent overthrow of a legally-elected Haitian government, he had no difficulty in obtaining residency and even permission to work—because, as he admitted on the TV show "60 Minutes," he was a paid CIA operative while he was running FRAPH.

What is striking about the judge's ruling is that he at least recognized the atrocities that FRAPH committed and Constant oversaw.

"Constant's conduct was clearly malicious," Judge Sidney Stein wrote. He "founded and oversaw an organization that was dedicated principally toward terrorizing and torturing political opponents of the military."

Two of the women testified behind screens at a hearing in August. One told of how she was raped in front of her five children after speaking out about the 1992 disappearance of her husband, an Aristide loyalist.

The lawsuit was filed in December 2004 by the Center for Justice and Accountability and the Center for Constitutional Rights on behalf of the three women.

One of them, after she heard about the decision, told CCR, "Although this case is about justice, not money, I am very pleased that the court has held Toto Constant responsible for what happened to us. This is a victory for all the Haitian people."

CJA's lead attorney on the case, Moira Feeney, commented, "I hope that this case against Toto Constant will lead to other prosecutions and will assist the Haitian government in bringing other human rights abusers to justice." □



Oaxaca, Mexico, October 29.

## Protests hit Oaxaca repression

*Continued from page 1*

In downtown Detroit, community and labor representatives demanded entrance to the Mexican Consulate. The delegation demanded an end to the killing, withdrawal of Mexican troops and the resignation of Oaxaca's governor. Ignacio Meneses, from

Latinos Unidos de Michigan, pointed out that the faces of the gunmen who murdered Brad Will can be seen on a television video. The group demanded an independent investigation of the Will killing and the deaths of 14 other people.

— John Catalinotto and Cheryl LaBash

## It takes more than voting to end the war

Continued from page 1

imperialism has gotten itself into in Iraq, and what to do about it.

The reason this election seems a cliffhanger is that there has been a big shift in public opinion from the years right after 9/11 when a majority of voters accepted the war in Iraq—after they had been lied to by the Bush administration—to a majority now wanting to bring the troops home. The political establishment is predicting this will mean a gain for the Democrats.

If the party that does not control the current U.S. government—i.e., the Democrats—had a clear position for getting out of Iraq and Afghanistan, this election might reasonably be seen as a referendum on the war. But that's not the position of the Democratic Party. On the contrary. The leading Democrats, the ones closest to the powerful economic interests who run this country and fund both parties, don't call for withdrawing the troops. In fact, they have actually baited the Republicans for not sending more troops to Iraq.

So where does that leave the voters? Up the creek without a paddle. But only if you regard the elections as the determining factor in shaping the course of politics in the United States.

This election will come and go. It is likely to weaken the Republican grip on the administration of the capitalist state and free up many juicy plums for the Democratic Party to pluck. But it will not decide the fate of the U.S. military occupation in the Middle East. Nor the fate of the Iraqi people, who have so clearly shown they would rather die than surrender to a neocolonial regime imposed by Washington and London. Nor that of the U.S. troops, the majority young men and women but also many middle-aged people in the reserves who have been torn from their families, all of whom are beginning to break with military discipline and express their opposition to the occupation and their desire to come home.

What will decide the fate of the hundreds of millions whose lives are intertwined with the ambitions and greed of U.S. imperialist interests who are hell-bent on subduing the Middle East, with its tremendous petroleum resources that can define who controls the world's economy?

The many millions who hope their wishes to end the war can be fulfilled by pulling down a lever on election day will undoubtedly be disappointed, no matter which capitalist party wins, but they do

have the power to change history. They are the masses, the workers and the nationally oppressed. It was these social forces that, in synch with the struggles of the Vietnamese people, finally forced Richard Nixon—a Republican!—to bring the troops home.

In many ways, this is a much more difficult struggle. Control over the Middle East is more vital to U.S. imperialism's domination over the world—which explains why there is no serious opposition to the war from either capitalist party. Nevertheless, the U.S. is losing the war in Iraq, and the strategists for imperialism on all sides must put on their thinking caps and try to devise some way to rescue their position.

This is no time for the anti-war movement to let its guard down. With the strength of U.S. monopoly capitalism eroding on a world scale—from Iraq to Venezuela to Korea—progressives must be alert to the danger that a deal can be struck in Washington that would entail new military adventures and new assaults on our hard-won social gains.

With the robber barons on the defensive, the movement should go into high gear. This is the time to strengthen the alliances among all sectors of society who struggle day in and day out to survive as the wealth we create is burned up in the furnace of war. (Remember, the recent Senate vote to approve the huge Pentagon budget was 100 to 0.)

The workers and the nationally oppressed are the ones forced to sacrifice the most—in lives, health and income—in every imperialist war. When they become the bedrock of the anti-war movement, the days of the militarists will be numbered.

An approach to uniting and strengthening all the anti-war forces is being put forward by the Troops Out Now Coalition, which stands out in the U.S. movement for its organic connection to the struggles of the most oppressed workers and peoples in this society. It is calling for a summit meeting of activists in Harlem on Nov. 18 and a united anti-war demonstration on the fourth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq on March 17, 2007. ([www.troopsoutnow.org](http://www.troopsoutnow.org))

Workers World supports the TONC call and urges everyone who wants to end imperialist war to work on these events as an important step in fortifying the movement by building bridges to those already in the struggle against racism, against sex and gender oppression, for immigrant rights, for a living wage, and for the rights of all the oppressed. □

## 'Our America & Theirs'

By Deirdre Sinnott

*"Our America and Theirs: Kennedy and the Alliance for Progress—The Debate at Punta del Este," Speeches and interviews by Ernesto Che Guevara, 120 pp., Ocean Press.*



### Cloaks and daggers on the international stage

After the failed April 1961 "Bay of Pigs" invasion of Cuba, U.S. President John F. Kennedy attempted a "regime change" by other means. He proposed a large aid package to Latin America and called it the Alliance for Progress. According to Kennedy, the Alliance's goal was "to complete the revolution of the Americas, to build a hemisphere where all men can hope for a suitable standard of living and all can live out their lives in dignity and in freedom." [Address at White House Reception for Latin American Diplomats and Members of Congress, March 13, 1961]

Nothing could have been further from the truth. The vague language of the accord hid its true purpose. The United States was looking for a way to isolate the revolutionary government of Cuba and provide a counterbalance to the example of socialism that Cuba provided. At the time the world looked at the emerging socialist government and the sweeping changes in the property relations there with hope and inspiration, if one was a poor person; or with fear and horror, if one was rich.

Three speeches delivered by Ernesto Che Guevara at the founding meeting of the Alliance for Progress, held August 1961 in Punta del Este, Uruguay, have been reprinted by Ocean Press in a new book, "Our America and Theirs: Kennedy and the Alliance for Progress—The Debate at Punta del Este." Also included is a never-before published transcript of a press conference held in Cuba upon Che's return. Guevara's speeches exposed a process that continues to this day: the United States' offering of financial aid to Latin America and extracting mega-profits and economic control in return.

According to a secret State Department document addressed to the U.S. ambassador in Venezuela and quoted extensively by Che: "If, by means of propaganda, etc., Castro can convince the disaffected elements of Latin America that basic social

reforms are really being made that benefit the poorest, the attraction of the Cuban example will increase and continue to inspire imitators on the left in the whole region. The danger is not so much that a subversive apparatus, with its center in Havana, could export revolution, as that growing extreme poverty and discontent among

the masses of the Latin American people may provide the pro-Castro elements opportunities to act."

Che exposed the true goals of the Alliance: "I must say that Cuba's interpretation is that this is a political conference. Cuba does not agree that economics can be separated from politics, and understands that they always go together. That is why you cannot have experts who speak of models when the destinies of a people are at stake."

### Neoliberalism by another name

Che's prescient comments anticipate admissions by John Perkins in his 2004 book "Confessions of an Economic Hit Man." Perkins describes the strategy used by him, and other so-called "economic advisors," across the developing world. The International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, or a president with an "aid

and loan package" presents a poor country with a "plan for development." Grand projections of economic growth are detailed if only the country will build a massive project, such as a hydro-electrical plant, with the entire necessary infrastructure. It could be highways or an

electrical grid system that can distribute electricity to an inflated number of new factories that will spring up. The country need only accept huge loans and agree to use U.S. companies to complete the work. Promises are made of healthy profits—once the project is completed. All of the money flows from the banks to the country in question, then right back into U.S. via contractors like Halliburton and Bechtel. Countries in need of development are left with behemoth ventures, hopelessly large and in some cases poorly built, and crushing debt. In order to pay the debt they are put into an austerity plan that guts any social programs and further impoverishes the people. It's a lose-lose situation for the country involved and a win-win for U.S. banks and corporations.

In his book, "Inside the Company: CIA Diary," Phillip Agee, a former CIA agent who was stationed in Ecuador and other Latin American countries during the greater part of the life of the Alliance for Progress, called it a "fraud," a "failure," and a "safety-valve for capitalist injustice and exploitation."

Whether it's the Alliance for Progress, which died in 1973, NAFTA, CAFTA, or the FTAA, "Our America and Theirs" exposes the shackles that come with imperialist financial aid.

Che Guevara comes alive in the words of his speeches. His intelligence and commitment to the poor people of Latin America shines like a beacon for those who want to fight for justice and to really bring "a suitable standard of living" and "dignity" to the world.

*Books referenced in review: "The Alliance that Lost its Way: A Critical Report on the Alliance for Progress," by Jerome Levinson and Juan de Onis; "Confessions of an Economic Hit Man," by John Perkins; "Inside the Company: CIA Diary," by Phillip Agee.*

*"Our America and Theirs"*

WW  
book  
review

## Oaxaca, Mexico struggle

Continued from page 1

William Bradley Roland (Brad Will). The government used this murderous assault as an excuse to begin its attack on Oaxaca.

On Oct. 28, Mexican president Vicente Fox ordered thousands of federal police, military police and soldiers, including some disguised as police, into the capital city. Using water cannons, tear gas and clubs against the city's occupants and bulldozers to push aside the many barricades that barred passage to the city's center, the repressive forces eventually managed to seize the central plaza. They have not, however, been able to stop the protests demanding they leave Oaxaca and take Ruiz with them.

On Monday morning, Oct. 30, Flavio Sosa, a leader of APPO, accused the gov-

ernment's forces of breaking into many buildings during their attack, torturing captured members of APPO, killing at least three people and arresting at least 60 others. He added: "This city is standing up. The Oaxacan people are resisting. Thousands of supporters are approaching the city, and today there are strong mobilizations to demand that the federal police leave Oaxaca." (La Jornada online)

The same day, La Jornada columnist Gustavo Esteva told Pacifica radio's Amy Goodman: "Yes, the police is occupying these critical strategic points, but the people are surrounding them. They are not in control of the city; the people are still in control of the city."

Goodman also reported the words of an unidentified protester: "We're just people,

the people fighting for our rights. We don't want to live like this anymore. We don't want to live in a constant state of repression, of blackmail, of murder and shabby deals." (Democracy Now, Oct. 30)

Indeed, as this is written, protests in many cities of the Mexican Republic and in many other countries are being reported. In the U.S., supporters of the Oaxacan teachers have already gathered at Mexican consulates in several cities to voice their condemnation of the attack on Oaxaca and their outrage at the murder of Brad Will. Leaders of teachers' unions in at least six Mexican states and the Federal District that encompasses Mexico City, in total representing 400,000 teachers, have announced a strike to protest the government attack. (La Jornada, Oct. 30) □

## Worst civilian death toll since 2002

# U.S.-NATO warplanes raze Afghan village

By Robert Dobrow

The Islamic holiday of Eid al-Fitr is supposed to be a joyous event, marking the end of the month-long fasting of Ramadan. Literally the "Festival of Breaking the Fast," it is a time where people dress in their finest clothes, adorn their homes with lights and decorations, give treats to children, and enjoy visits with family and friends.

But for the people of the Panjwayi district in southern Afghanistan, the celebrations turned into a nightmare last week as U.S.-NATO warplanes bombed their village, leaving as many as 85 civilians dead.

Witnesses told reporters that 25 homes were razed in four to five hours of bombing. Abdul Aye, a villager, said 22 members of his extended family were killed.

The civilian death toll, even by conservative estimates, is the largest in Afghanistan since July 2002 when U.S. planes attacked a wedding party, killing 46 and wounding 117.

Five years ago on the day of the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan, President George W. Bush, in his radio address to the nation, said: "The oppressed people of Afghanistan will know the generosity of America and our allies. As we strike military targets, we'll also drop food, medicine and supplies to the starving and suffering men and women and children of Afghanistan."

There were no reports amidst the bombed out wreckage of Panjwayi of any food, medicine or supplies having been dropped.

The day after the attack, the occupation forces issued their pro forma "apologies." NATO Commander Gen. David Richards offered, "In the night, in the fog of war, mistakes were made."

But to underscore the real message, NATO representative Mark Laity later said: "We have demonstrated that we are strong enough on the combat side to be the winners. After 30 years of fighting, *people in the south are nervous of being on the wrong side.*" (Our emphasis)

In the past weeks groups like the New York-based Human Rights Watch, International Red Cross, the United

Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, and the U.K.-based Campaign for Innocent Victims in Conflict have condemned U.S.-NATO violence, which is increasingly targeting civilians.

Two days before the Panjwayi attack, more than 30 civilians were killed in a NATO bombing of the village of Zangi Abad. In the first weeks of October, at least 20 civilians were killed in Kandahar and Helmand Province. And on Oct. 23, a young Afghan girl was killed and two children injured when a NATO mortar test fell short of its target, hitting a residential home in the eastern province of Kunar. U.S.-NATO forces routinely test mortars in areas close to civilian populations.

This month marks five years of the Pentagon's "Operation Enduring Freedom" in Afghanistan. For media which love to mark anniversaries, this fifth anniversary was notably absent from the U.S. press.

In Canada and much of Europe, however, where there is more opposition to the war, media attention has focused on a new report by the Senlis Council, a prominent British-based think tank, on the U.S.-NATO occupation.

"Afghanistan's people are starving to death," the report states. "Afghanistan continues to rank at the bottom of most poverty indicators and the situation of women and children is particularly grave. One in four children born in Afghanistan cannot expect to live beyond the age of five, and certain provinces of the country lay claim to the worst maternal mortality rates ever recorded in the world."

More than 70 percent of the population is malnourished, according to the Senlis Council. Less than a quarter of the people have access to safe drinking water.

Under the guise of fighting the Taliban and bringing democracy and freedom to the people, the U.S. has installed into power a corrupt group of warlords, drug smugglers and gangsters. Human Rights Watch estimates that 60 percent of Afghani legislators have links to warlords. The country has reemerged as the world's leading source for opium and heroin. "The government

has become so full of drug smugglers," said Abdul Karim Brahowie, Afghanistan's minister of tribal and frontier affairs, "the cabinet meetings have become a farce." (Christian Science Monitor, May 13, 2005). Violence against women and girls is pervasive, and is worse than conditions under the old Taliban regime.

Like Iraq, the Afghan intervention was based on a lie. It had nothing to do with democracy and freedom and everything to do with economics—that is, neocolonial, imperialist economics. Afghanistan sits in the center of Central Asia, a region rich with vast gas and oil reserves. Even more importantly for the U.S., it is strategically poised between Russia, China and the Middle East.

At the beginning of the last century, the "Great Game" was the name given to the struggle between British imperialism and tsarist Russia for domination of Afghanistan and Central Asia.

But the "Great Game" ended in 1917 when the Russian Revolution threw out

the tsar and put the workers and peasants in power. The Bolsheviks published and nullified the secret imperialist treaties and practiced self-determination for the republics of Central Asia.

Today, 15 years since the collapse of the Soviet Union, U.S. military bases dot the region—in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and throughout Afghanistan. Many of these countries are now neocolonies, their natural resources at the mercy of U.S. energy monopolies, their governments some of the worst human rights abusers in the world.

This invasion of Central Asia has been in the works for years. The 9/11 attack gave Washington an easy justification for sending in its troops.

Today the world is witnessing the spectacle of the richest and most powerful nations on the planet trying to occupy and subdue the poorest and weakest. What is remarkable, and should give hope to people everywhere, is that they are failing miserably. □

## World outcry against U.S. blockade of Cuba

By Cheryl LaBash

On Nov. 8 the U.N. General Assembly will cast the 15th consecutive annual vote calling on the United States to end its blockade of Cuba. In 2005, out of 191 countries represented in the General Assembly, only four voted against the resolution: the United States, Israel, Palau and the Marshall Islands. One country, Micronesia, abstained from the vote, which was 186 to 4. As world support grew for Cuba, the United States not only ignored this growing call, but intensified its threats.

What is the blockade of Cuba? A secret but recently declassified U.S. document dated April 6, 1960, bluntly stated its objective: "to withhold funds and supplies to Cuba... thereby causing starvation, desperation and the overthrow of the government." The blockade, along with paramilitary invasions and terror bombings, did not achieve that goal.

In 2004, 44 years later, the U.S. flaunted its violation of the right of nations to self-determination, as well as world opinion, by openly publishing a detailed plan to annex Cuba. It was updated this year with a secret chapter that can only contain plans for military aggression.

Despite the blockade, Cuba's accomplishments are well known and indisputable. In just over four decades since its socialist revolution, this former island colony—whose people had been enslaved, super exploited and underdeveloped—has blossomed and flourished. It is the only country in the hemisphere with universal health care and free education through the university level. It provides free schooling for people from every corner of the globe and sends abroad doctors and teachers, not bombs and destruction.

Even when Cuba's production dropped by 70 percent after the collapse of the Soviet Union, not a school or hospital was closed. Socialist planning moved scarce resources to where they were needed the most. Unemployed workers became students earning subsistence wages and all social benefits were guaranteed. When

belts were literally tightened to ensure basic nutrition for each Cuban, particularly children, government leaders were dramatically thinner, too.

Cuba has survived that "special period" and become a bright beacon of real equality and opportunity for the world's oppressed. Nevertheless, the blockade is brutal and genocidal, harming not only Cubans but people in the United States, as well.

The travel ban prevents Cubans from visiting the U.S. and U.S. residents, including Cuban-Americans, from traveling to Cuba, thus violating a basic constitutional right of freedom of association. More than tourism is curtailed. Cuban Public Health Minister Dr. José Ramón Balaguer had planned to attend the 47th meeting of the Pan American Health Organization Directing Council in Washington on Sept. 25 to 29, but the U.S. denied his visa for a second time.

Cutting-edge Cuban medicines are denied to people in the U.S. by the blockade. Examples are TheraCIM hR3, an experimental medicine that has proven effective in treating head and neck cancer in children, and Citoprot-P, which speeds the healing of diabetic foot ulcers, reducing amputations. Cuba's literacy programs are used successfully around the world but are not available to educators in the U.S.

The blockade hurts in many ways. Raysel Sosa González, a Cuban youth, won a U.N.-sponsored 15th International Children's Painting Competition on the Environment but could not receive his Nikon camera as part of his prize because the U.S. blockade prohibits sending equipment with U.S. parts to Cuba.

You can help break the U.S. blockade of Cuba. Go to Cuba on the summer travel challenges with the Venceremos Brigade, Pastors for Peace or the U.S./Cuba Labor Exchange. Help build the movement to Free the Cuban Five—the five Cuban men imprisoned in the U.S. for monitoring anti-Cuban paramilitaries in Miami. Extensive and detailed information on the blockade can be read at [www.cubavsbloqueo.cu](http://www.cubavsbloqueo.cu). □

## 37 Canadian cities protest war

By G. Dunkel

From St. John's in Newfoundland to Victoria on Vancouver Island in British Columbia, and in major cities like Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary and Vancouver, thousands of Canadians and some U.S. service members seeking asylum in Canada marched Oct. 28 to protest Canada's 2,500 troops now fighting around Kandahar in southern Afghanistan.

In Calgary, the major city in Alberta and home province of Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, protesters carried signs condemning Harper and U.S. President George W. Bush as warmongers.

In Montreal, under a hard rain, about 500 people marched to the U.S. consulate. Athena Skalko, 66, told a reporter for the Montreal Gazette: "I don't like it when Canadian people kill for no reason, for big business. I don't like it."

In Halifax, Andria Hill-Lehr said, "Right now I am ashamed of wearing a Canadian flag on my back." Her 22-year-old son has enlisted and is scheduled to go to

Afghanistan in November. She continued, "I want to send an absolutely clear message: There is a clear divide between love and support for our family members serving, but it is not synonymous with support for a political agenda."

The leader of the New Democratic Party, which is a center-left party in the Canadian parliament, marched in Toronto. He gave a TV interview in which he said that Canada's goals in Afghanistan are not being achieved, and Ottawa is spending much more on the war effort than on reconstruction.

In Ottawa, Canada's capital, marchers chanted, "Health care, daycare, anything but warfare."

Organizers felt that the cold and rainy weather, with the first snow in some areas, kept the numbers down.

The Collectif Échec à la guerre; the Canadian Peace Alliance; the Canadian Labor Congress, the Canadian equivalent of the AFL-CIO; and the Canadian Islamic Congress all endorsed and organized for the demonstrations.

Email: [gdunkel@workers.org](mailto:gdunkel@workers.org)

## Gobernantes de EE.UU. admiten desastre en Irak

Por John Catalinotto

Cuando sucede que los dos principales generales estadounidenses en Irak viajan hacia Washington para una reunión de emergencia y sus colegas en Bagdad pintan como muy deprimente la más reciente ofensiva de EEUU; cuando el New York Times llena su sección editorial exigiendo la cabeza del Secretario de Defensa Donald Rumsfeld y traza su propio programa para Irak; cuando los militares estrategas dicen que Washington perdió la guerra hace más de tres años; cuando todos en el establecimiento comienzan a hablar de Irak como una versión de la Ofensiva Tet en VietNam, es aparente que el arrogante asalto militar de Estados Unidos contra Irak está terminando en un desastre para el imperialismo.

Incluso George W. Bush quien siempre está lleno de confianza, ha ordenado a su secretario de prensa Tony Snow a que tire el lema "Mantengan el rumbo" al basurero de las relaciones públicas. Ahora el nuevo lema es "Mantenerse hasta que el trabajo esté completo."

El Pentágono ha sido claro con su disgusto. Cuando los generales anunciaron sus planes hace meses de tomar Bagdad, ellos dijeron esta sería la batalla decisiva de la guerra.

Ahora su conclusión es que los últimos cuatro meses de lucha en Bagdad han sido un desastre total. En un reporte del 19 de octubre el periódico The New York Times reveló que: "En una de las más sombrías evaluaciones de la guerra por los comandantes americanos, en una declaración de prensa leídas por el portavoz, General Mayor William B Caldwell IV, dijo que la campaña había estado marcada por los crecientes ataques contra las tropas americanas y un aumento de las muertes en combate." Para el 24 de octubre, faltando aún una semana para terminar el mes, las muertes entre los combatientes estadounidenses

habían alcanzado ya 90 en el mes.

"El General Caldwell dijo que las tropas americanas se vieron forzadas a regresar a barrios como el de Dora en el suroeste de Bagdad, lugares que ellos habían cerrado y asegurado como parte de la campaña de seguridad," según el artículo del Times. Este agregó, "Las afirmaciones del general, extrañas por su sinceridad y claridad en reportar malas noticias, parecen marcar un nuevo revés para los esfuerzos militares americanos."

Para no quedarse atrás de las declaraciones del Pentágono, Alberto Fernández, el director de diplomacia pública del Buró de Asuntos Orientales del Departamento de Estado, dijo a Al-Jazeera, "Tratamos de hacer lo mejor que pudimos pero creo que hay mucha razón para críticas porque, sin duda alguna, ha habido arrogancia y hubo estupidez por parte de los Estados Unidos en Irak." Fernández dijo, aunque después se retractó, que Estados Unidos estaba listo para hablar con cualquier grupo en Irak excepto Al-Qaeda si esto ayudase a resolver la situación allá.

Harlan Ullman, un crucial estratega militar estadounidense, que instruyó al General Colin Powell y está ahora en el Centro Internacional para Estudios Estratégicos, dijo en una entrevista con la revista Times en su edición del 19 de octubre: "Nosotros [Washington] perdimos el control de los eventos en tierra probablemente en abril o mayo del 2003. Y ha tomado mucho tiempo para que la Casa Blanca reconozca eso. El presidente y la administración han rehusado reconocer la realidad. Irak es un desastre."

Los generales, los oficiales y los analistas han llegado más allá que los políticos Republicanos o Demócratas en proporcionar una visión real de la ocupación de Irak, sin un final cercano. Ellos han mostrado con mas certeza los hechos en el terreno.

Las unidades de la policía iraquí cuando las mandan a Bagdad desde otras partes de

Irak, simplemente se niegan a ir y desaparecen. Su comportamiento es una expresión del abrumador sentimiento del pueblo iraquí que aún en encuestas públicas dice que quiere que se vayan las tropas estadounidenses y británicas.

Las tropas estadounidenses sufren tanto por su escasez que los generales tienen que maniobrar para levantar los niveles del número de tropas. Extienden la estadia de una unidad por uno o dos meses mientras traen más tropas de los Estados Unidos. De esta manera se han mantenido los niveles de tropas estadounidenses en más de 140.000.

El 24 de octubre, el general de cuatro estrellas George Casey, que está encargado de todas las tropas terrestres de la "coalición" en Irak, mencionó la posibilidad de mandar más fuerzas aún para retomar la ofensiva, pero no ha explicado de dónde vendrán estas.

Las fuerzas de la resistencia iraquí reportaron que el 10 de octubre lanzaron morteros y cohetes que incendiaron Camp Falcon, una base estadounidense en las afueras sureñas de Bagdad donde había un depósito principal de municiones estadounidense. Según la BBC y un video hecho por Al-Jazeera, el incendio causó de 30 a 40 explosiones a lo largo de la noche, algunas iluminando tanto el cielo que los iraquíes expresaron temor a que hubiese sido la explosión de una pequeña arma nuclear.

El Pentágono dice que todas las tropas estadounidenses fueron evacuadas de la base, la cuál fue construida para alojar a 5.000, y que no hubo bajas. Sin embargo, un reporte desde Bagdad en el Sunday Herald de Londres del 15 de octubre lo contradijo diciendo que la "Información inmediata militar indicaba bajas".

En Ramadi y en otras ciudades en el centro y el oeste de Irak, los guerrilleros de la resistencia patrullan las calles sin la interferencia de tropas títeres o estadounidenses. Aún en la ciudad sureña de Amara, el Ejército Mahdi se apoderó de la ciudad por

seis horas y combatió contra las tropas del gobierno. A causa de que el líder del Ejército Mahdi, Moqtada Al-Sadr, se unió al gobierno títere, los principales grupos de resistencia iraquí lo consideran un colaborador, pero aún así los Estados Unidos lo combate.

Los éxitos militares de la resistencia han aumentado la confianza de sus líderes políticos, según recientes entrevistas con personas cercanas a la resistencia o al Partido Baath. Éste es el otro lado del cuadro tenebroso pintado por los oficiales estadounidenses.

El reportero Robert Dreyfuss (robertdreyfuss.com), basado en Washington, recientemente entrevistó a Salah Mukhtar, un ex oficial y diplomático iraquí que trabajó en el Ministerio de Información, sirvió en la ONU y fue embajador de Irak en la India y en Vietnam antes de la invasión estadounidense. Mukhtar reflexiona sobre este cambio:

"La resistencia armada ha terminado con todos los preparativos para tomar el poder en Irak. . . La resistencia está controlando Bagdad ahora. Ayer hablé con muchas personas, y ellos dijeron que el ataque en la base estadounidense [Camp Falcon] fue parte de una estrategia nueva para infligir grandes bajas a las tropas estadounidenses en Irak."

Al contestar una pregunta comparando la Ofensiva Tet de 1968 en Vietnam con la resistencia iraquí, Mukhtar dijo, "La estrategia de la resistencia está basada en ganar puntos, como en el boxeo. . . Entonces hay que agotar al enemigo, atacarlo de vez en cuando, hasta que se derrumbe. La victoria de la resistencia en Irak no será lograda con una sola batalla.

"Esperamos que el primer mes del próximo año sea decisivo. Los estadounidenses están agotados, y la resistencia está preparando ataques simultáneos contra fuerzas estadounidenses por todos lados."

E-mail: [jcat@workers.org](mailto:jcat@workers.org)

## Pobreza y lucha en la Costa de Marfil

Por G. Dunkel

El 20 de octubre l@s cultivador@s de cacao de la Costa de Marfil suspendieron la huelga que habían comenzado el 16 de octubre. El ministro de agricultura ha acordado dialogar con ell@s y esperan que el presidente de la Costa de Marfil, Laurent Gbagbo, quien es productor de cacao, participe en las negociaciones.

L@s cultivador@s están demandando un aumento de un 50 por ciento en el pago que reciben por sus cultivos y un pago grande a las cooperativas. La Costa de Marfil es el mayor productor de cacao del mundo, un ingrediente esencial en la producción del chocolate. El mercado capitalista mundial tiene el control sobre la producción de cacao que resulta en el incremento de la pobreza de est@s agricultor@s.

Su huelga fue masiva -l@s organizador@s declararon que más de 15.000 agricultor@s participaron-y lograron bloquear físicamente todos los envíos de cacao a los puertos.

Mientras que l@s agricultor@s han suspendido la huelga hasta el 24 de octubre, la Unión Autónoma de los Hijos e Hijas de Productores de Cacao y Café decidieron impedir que se abran las escuelas el

23 de octubre en las zonas de producción del cacao, día que comienza el nuevo año escolar en la Costa de Marfil. Est@s jóvenes no pueden asistir a las escuelas porque sus familias no ganan lo suficiente para poder pagar las cuotas.

A principios de octubre, l@s trabajador@s del sector bancario y financiero llevaron a cabo un paro de tres días demandando aumentos salariales.

En el 1999 un 28 por ciento de marfileñ@s subsistía debajo del nivel de pobreza y ahora esta cifra ha subido a un 44 por ciento según estadísticas de la ONU, y aún sigue subiendo. La Costa de Marfil es el país número 163 de 177 del índice de la ONU en desarrollo humano. Más y más marfileñ@s tienen dificultad en encontrar comida suficiente.

Esta pobreza extrema, en un país que anteriormente fue uno de los países con las mejores condiciones en la región del África del Oeste en las décadas de los 1970 y 1980, ha forzado a que mucha gente habite cerca o encima de vertederos en Abidjan, la capital, para subsistir de los desechos que encuentren.

A fines de agosto de este año, cuando una empresa marfileña se deshizo de 5.000

toneladas de desechos y químicos tóxicos de Europa del Oeste en vertederos y alcantarillados de Abidjan, los efectos fueron masivos y mortales. Según un reporte reciente del Ministro de Salud e Higiene Pública, 10 personas murieron, 69 fueron hospitalizadas y más de 102.000 recibieron exámenes médicos como resultado de haber inhalado los vapores químicos.

La reacción de l@s trabajador@s más pobres de Abidjan fue amplia, militante y fuerte en forma de manifestaciones y protestas diversas. Un ministro del gobierno fue atacado físicamente durante una gira de inspección de las áreas contaminadas. Los ministros en el gabinete tuvieron que cambiar puestos y una empresa francesa que se especializa en remover desechos tóxicos fue contratada a mediados de septiembre.

Según Safiatou Ba N'Daw, jefe del despacho gubernamental responsable de remover los desechos tóxicos, la empresa francesa ha removido más de 4.000 toneladas de desechos y el gobierno ha gastado casi \$1 millón en medicamentos para aliviar los efectos de los vapores tóxicos.

La causa mayor del aumento de la miseria en la Costa de Marfil es el control francés de la economía y de la política del país.

Francia comenzó a colonizar la Costa de Marfil en los años 1840. Después de que ganara la independencia formal en 1960, más ciudadanos franceses han habitando en el país ganando un sueldo que antes de la independencia: 50.000 en comparación con los 10.000 de antes.

En el 2002, después de un golpe de estado fallido, una rebelión comenzó en la norte del país y Francia, con el apoyo de los Estados Unidos, logró adoptar una resolución en la ONU permitiendo que Francia enviara "tropas para mantener la paz" a la Costa de Marfil, bajo la supervisión de la Unión Africana. La mayoría de los ciudadanos franceses salió del país en 2002. Este suceso, junto a la división del país en dos y la severa interrupción de su comercio interno, fueron golpes fuertes a una economía ya frágil.

Los franceses habían esperado sacar a Laurent Gbagbo, quien permanece como presidente. El mandato de las tropas francesas termina a finales de octubre, razón por la cual ocurre toda esta maniobra diplomática actualmente. Pero el pueblo marfileño no está pidiendo la intervención extranjera. Está luchando hoy para lograr sus demandas. □