

U.S. troops invade Haiti

Pentagon sabotages relief effort, escalates suffering

By John Catalinotto

Jan. 26. — The U.S. secured its occupation of Haiti when the Pentagon placed 13,000 troops in the country around the capital and on nearby ships, with at least 4,000 more scheduled to arrive. It's now two weeks after a magnitude 7.0 earthquake leveled the capital city and nearby towns, wreaking havoc on the population, and in doing so eliminated the Haitian government bureaucracy, police and the United Nations military mission.

Washington has rushed in its own military to re-establish a repressive force under cover of a "humanitarian" mission needed to bring aid to people who are injured, hungry and thirsty, and without shelter.

Spokespeople from what is left of Haiti's government estimate that some 200,000 people have died in the disaster, that hundreds of thousands have left the capital area to seek shelter in the North of the country, and there are still some 609,000 without shelter in the capital area itself. (Reuters, Jan. 25)

The U.S. Marines and Airborne forces have seized the destroyed presidential palace, the banks, the Port-au-Prince airport and the severely damaged seaport. The U.S. forces took control of air traffic at the airport on Jan. 14. Currently 120 planes can land daily on the one runway, but 1,400 planes are backed up waiting for U.S. permission to land.

Accompanying the U.S. troop surge, the U.N. forces that have occupied Haiti since 2004 have rebuilt their command, which was severely damaged by the earthquake, and are increasing the number of troops from 9,000 to 12,500. Canada, which invaded Haiti in 2004 along with the U.S. and France after the U.S. deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, has doubled its contingent to 2,000 troops.

All reports on the ground from Haiti show that Washington gave first priority to the military buildup, while delaying emergency aid. Comments from officials engaged in aid and rescue missions — even from U.S. allies — show that by giving the military priority, Washington hampered the international humanitarian effort.

Aid officials angered by U.S. military priorities

Guido Bertolaso, who directed Italy's disaster relief effort after an earthquake in the Abruzzo region in 2009, called the U.S.-led effort "pathetic" and disorganized. He likened it to the early days after

Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. He suggested that there should be a single international civilian coordinator and that the rescue effort be demilitarized. (Times of London, Jan. 25)

Of the U.S. military buildup, Bertolaso said, "Unfortunately, it's a massive presence, but it's not been used in the best way." Italy's rightist government of Silvio Berlusconi distanced itself from Bertolaso's criticism.

The Geneva-based Doctors Without Borders repeatedly had their planes carrying medical supplies bumped to make way for U.S. military aircraft. French Cooperation Minister Alain Joyandet complained of the U.S. priorities. "This is about helping Haiti, not about occupying Haiti," said Joyandet. Like the Italian government did with Bertolaso, the rightist French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner disowned Joyandet's response to the U.S. priority. (BBC News, Jan. 19)

Washington's policy had immediate negative consequences. Loris de Filippi, emergency coordinator for Doctors Without Borders Choscal Hospital in the Cité Soleil section of Port-au-Prince, said on Jan. 20, "We were forced to buy a saw in the market to continue amputations. We are running against time here." (CBC News, Jan. 25)

With hundreds of thousands of Haitians severely injured, delays in receiving antibiotics and cleaning wounds meant Haitians developed gangrene. This forces amputations, which had to be done without anesthesia, and could lead to death.

The Canadian government followed the U.S. lead. It had planned to send several Heavy Urban Search Rescue Teams, which were immediately readied but never sent. Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon said this was because "the government had opted to send Canadian Armed Forces instead." (Toronto Sun, Jan. 17)

Washington faced growing criticism that aid was being held up. Finally, on Jan. 24, U.S. soldiers and Brazilian U.N. troops handed out food and water in Cité Soleil, a neighborhood of poor people in Port-au-Prince. They still couldn't disguise

Mumia Abu-Jamal supporters held emergency rallies in Harlem, N.Y. (right) and in Philadelphia on Jan. 20 to protest a Supreme Court ruling that could reinstate the death penalty for the political prisoner. Read more on page 3.
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'Stop blocking aid to Haiti'



SPECIAL SECTION ON HAITI

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In spite of pouring rain, activists held a protest at the downtown Federal Building in Los Angeles Jan. 23 demanding the U.S. government stop blocking international aid to Haiti and provide the assistance necessary to save the lives of earthquake victims there. The protest, initiated by Global Women's Strike, was co-sponsored by BAYAN-USA, the International Action Center and Bail Out the People Movement. It was endorsed by Latino Caucus members of Service Employees union Local 721. Many speakers referred to the years of exploitation and economic sabotage toward the Haitian people by the U.S. and France and demanded not only aid but reparations for Haiti.

— John Parker

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Buffalo mobilizes to stop anti-gay attacks

By Marge Maloney
Buffalo, N.Y.

The lesbian, gay, bi and trans community and straight supporters in Buffalo have organized an immediate and strong response to two separate attacks on individuals targeted for being gay. Both incidents occurred on New Year's Eve.

The first involved a man who was perceived to be gay. He was the target of anti-gay slurs and then was followed to a suburban mall parking lot where he was beaten. The victim's name has not been released and the judge has restricted further information. Two people have been arrested and charged with a hate crime.

The second incident involved Lindsay Harmon, a lesbian. She was attacked with anti-gay slurs and a knife after leaving a club in Allentown, a section of the city that is home to many LGBT people and businesses. Police have arrested a suspect who has been charged with a hate crime.

Harmon is determined that the attacks on LGBT people not be hidden. "My New Year's resolution is to keep the issues of acceptance and not just tolerance for gays and lesbians in the public eye as long as possible." (Buffalo News, Jan. 16) As a result, thousands of messages of support came in immediately on a Facebook page set up by her supporters.

OUTspoken for Equality, a local grassroots social justice organization advocating for LGBT causes, organized a Jan. 15 "Take Back the Night" candlelight vigil and rally. Kitty Lambert, president of the group, led the march with the chant, "Not in our town, not in my community." She added, "It doesn't matter whether it's race, religion, sexual preference or age, hate crimes are hate."

Hundreds of gay and straight people including many youths marched down Allen Street on Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday demanding an end to anti-gay violence. Activists with the International Action Center held a banner reading, "In the name of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., unite to fight racist, sexist, anti-gay violence." Many people took pictures of the banner; others wanted to carry it; still others cheered, with many "Right ons" heard.

Several city council members showed up to speak. Demone Smith, an African-American city council member, said that no person should be the victim of violence no matter who s/he is and that everyone needs to unite to fight all bigotry and violence.

Community organizers want to keep up the momentum. On Jan. 20 a large cultural event — "A Celebration of Diversity" — was organized by a new group called



"United We Stand." The event was built with many donations, including use of the venue Asbury Hall @ Babeville by recording artists Ani DiFranco and Scott Fisher.

The program included a performance by the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus and a compelling expression of support by Robert Harmon, Lindsay's father. He expressed support for his daughter and for the whole LGBT community. Madeline Davis, noted gay rights activist, author and a founding member of the Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier, the first gay rights organization in western New York, gave an inspiring talk. She noted the long history of bigotry and violence against LGBT people and the tremendous gains that have been made through struggle. She vowed that violence will never push back those gains.

Another event, "Community Action Against Hate Crimes" on Jan. 22, was sponsored by OUTspoken for Equality. Community members demanded answers from Buffalo officials and police as to what was being done to keep the LGBT community safe. It was noted that while over the years there have been improvements, many unreported attacks are still taking place. While some members demanded that the police get in-depth sensitivity training and learn to respect the community, one participant noted that police cannot solve the problem and that the community must focus on education.

These events are important and mark significant progress in this community. LGBT activists in Buffalo have long experience fighting against bigotry and oppression. In 1999 Rainbow Peacekeepers were key in building solidarity and support for the struggle against right-wing violence aimed at women's health clinics and gay clubs.

It is a tribute to the struggle that went on before and continues to go on that we demand equality and respect.

Maloney is a long-time lesbian activist who was a key organizer of Rainbow Peacekeepers.

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The Roots of Lesbian & Gay Oppression

By Bob McCubbin with preface and afterword by Shelley Ettinger

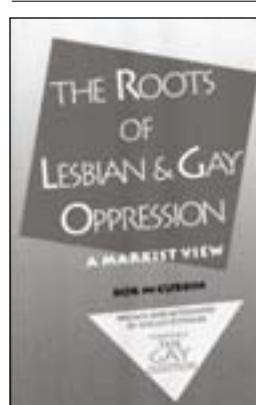
This groundbreaking pamphlet was originally published as the *Gay Question* in 1976, during the first flush of the modern lesbian and gay movement. Its unparalleled achievement was to offer an historical analysis of when, where, why and how lesbian and gay oppression developed.

In this slim volume, McCubbin shows that all oppression is rooted in the constraints of private property and the bonds of class society. He looks back to the matriarchy, the era before classes

existed — and before homosexuality was stigmatized. He looks around to explain how capitalism today upholds and preserves lesbian and gay oppression along with racism and sexism. And he looks forward to socialist revolution in which liberation of all oppressed people, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people, is an indispensable condition for victory.

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Now is the time to act on

Dangerous legal exception for Mumia

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

On Jan. 19 the U.S. Supreme Court issued a ruling that has opened the way for the reinstatement of the death sentence for Mumia Abu-Jamal. The federal court's ruling, which moved away from earlier rulings regarding sentencing phase regulations, was the latest in a long history of state, local and federal courts changing or even reversing their own legal precedents in the case of this world-renowned journalist and political prisoner.

In fact, throughout over 28 years of legal proceedings in Abu-Jamal's case, there have been so many instances in which courts reversed earlier decisions made in similar cases in order to rule against the U.S.'s most famous death row prisoner that Linn Washington Jr., a professor of journalism at Temple University, coined the phrase "the Mumia exception" to describe these rulings.

The Supreme Court's decision granted the Philadelphia district attorney's petition for a review of a 2001 ruling by Federal Judge William Yohn which overturned Abu-Jamal's death penalty but not conviction. The Supreme Court went against this lower federal circuit court's findings as well as the 2008 Third Circuit ruling which granted a new sentencing phase jury trial if the death penalty was to be reinstated in Abu-Jamal's case. Now the case goes back to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals to decide whether to reimpose the death penalty without the jury trial.

In the week before the Jan. 19 decision the Supreme Court ruled on Smith v. Spisak, a case that also involved questionable instructions to the jury during the sentencing phase, although the case differs from Abu-Jamal's in legal and political aspects.

Neo-Nazi and white supremacist Frank Spisak killed three people and then bragged about it in court. Abu-Jamal, a former Black Panther organizer, was convicted of killing Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner on Dec. 9, 1981, but has always maintained his innocence, and several prosecution witnesses from his 1982 trial have since recanted their testimony.

Spisak's lawyers had appealed based on the 1988 Supreme Court ruling in Mills v. Maryland, which addresses confusing jury instructions. The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals had overturned Spisak's sentence based on Mills but the U.S. Supreme Court decided the standard did not apply in his case.

It would appear that the court, which had had the district attorney's appeal of Yohn's decision before them since 2001, was waiting for a case like Spisak's so they could justify their reversal in Abu-Jamal's case, even though the two cases and the two defendants differ as night from day. Even though Abu-Jamal's case met the Mills standard, the Supreme Court refused to apply it, in what was clearly a decision motivated by politics and not law.

Abu-Jamal's attorney, Robert R. Bryan, stated, "What occurred in Mumia's case is different both procedurally and factually from the jury instructions in Spisak."

A racist frame-up

Abu-Jamal's supporters, including Amnesty International, members of the U.S. Congressional Black Caucus, the NAACP, and government leaders from France, Japan, Germany, South Africa and many others, say he was framed by police, that prosecution witnesses were coerced into false testimony by the police, and that ballistics evidence shows Abu-Jamal did

not shoot Faulkner.

Abu-Jamal has also been the victim of a racist and notoriously pro-prosecution trial judge, now-deceased Albert Sabo, who ruled at the initial trial in 1982 and then was called back from retirement to preside at Abu-Jamal's 1995 Post Conviction Relief Act hearing. According to a sworn affidavit by court stenographer Terri Maurer-Carter, Sabo was overheard to say, "Yeah, and I'm going to help them fry the n — r."

At a Jan. 20 press conference and rally outside the offices of Seth Williams, Philadelphia's first Black district attorney, Kevin Price with Friends of MOVE stated, "The U.S. Supreme Court's decision shows that something is clearly broken in the U.S. justice system."

"Mumia's case contains every type of evidence that existed in other cases where death row prisoners were exonerated — tampered evidence, witnesses changing their testimony, and a clearly racially biased judge. If a case as glaringly unjust as Mumia's is not thrown out, what does

this say for thousands of other innocent people on death row and the millions incarcerated across the U.S.?"

Pam Africa, chairperson of International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, said: "Mumia cannot get any fairness in this court system. Seth Williams ran on a platform that when he became district attorney, he would execute Mumia."

Africa urged people to stay focused and to show their support right now by signing and circulating two petitions calling for civil rights investigations into this case. One petition is directed to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and the second to President Barack Obama. Both are available at www.freemumia.com and www.millions4mumia.org.

"Time is running out," Africa stressed. "The time for organizing is now, organiz-



FREE MUMIA ABU-JAMAL

ing with all the strength that you have. Tell the people they must get into the streets in order to save this brother who has been on the front lines, from death row, on every issue of social justice that there is." (San Francisco Bay View, Jan. 20)

These sentiments were echoed by Berta Joubert-Ceci, of the International Action Center, who told Workers World: "The governor of Pennsylvania signed a death warrant to execute Mumia in 1995, but the people mobilized and forced them to back down. We have the power to stop this."

Chants of, "Brick by brick wall by wall, we're gonna free Mumia Abu-Jamal!" from protesters outside the district attorney's office Jan. 20 and the sounds of car horns honking in response to "Honk for Mumia" signs demonstrated that people are ready to fight back. □

On top of Latin America mountain

'Free the Cuban 5' banner is planted

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

While five Cuban heroes remain imprisoned because of a cruel vendetta by the U.S. government against the courageous socialist republic of Cuba, more and more voices of opposition to their unjust incarceration are being raised worldwide. The latest action on behalf of the Cuban Five — Ramón Labañino, Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González — happened in Argentina at the end of 2009 and beginning of 2010.

There, three young Argentinean men set out to climb the tallest mountain in Latin America, the Aconcagua in the Andes mountain range — known as the "roof of America." At 6,962 meters above sea level, the Aconcagua is the second tallest mountain in the world, after Mount Everest in the Himalayas.

The young men's purpose was to send a message to President Barack Obama and challenge the complicit commercial media that maintain silence while unjust sentences keep the five anti-terrorists lingering in U.S. jails.

On Dec. 25, Santiago Vega, a radio and television commentator; Aldo Bonavitta, a bank employee; and Alcides Bonavitta, a social activist, began the journey toward the Aconcagua. Cuban Five committees throughout the world followed their expedition daily and posted messages on the committees' Web sites and email lists. Updates from the three, sometimes including audio, as well as messages of encouragement and solidarity, appeared on Spanish-language email lists.

Teams of support would retransmit the text messages, photos and audio received from the mountain. Not only were there daily reports, but in many cases, hourly accounts.

A climate of excitement was felt throughout the region. Alejandro Miranda, the point person between the three and the rest, summed it up: "The expedition goes forward with the Five and the



PHOTO: PRINCIPIO ESPERANZA

entire continent in their backpacks."

The updates made many feel as if they were taking part of the journey, particularly when reading or listening to descriptions of the group's climbing difficulties, which included intense cold and high winds.

On Jan. 9 they reached the top. They planted a flag featuring a logo created by Gerardo Hernández. They also displayed a banner that reads, "Obama, free the 5 Cuban heroes now!" in English and in Spanish.

The expedition can be seen on their Web site: www.principioesperanza.com. □



PHOTO: PEACECOMRADE.ORG

A TRIBUTE TO IMARI OBADELE

IMARI OBADELE, a founder of the Republic of New Africa and known by many as "the father of reparations," passed away on Jan. 18 at the age of 79 from a stroke in Atlanta. Following are excerpts from a tribute made to Obadele written by Saladin Muhammad from the Black Workers League in North Carolina.

Brother Imari, as one of the founders and leaders of the Republic of New Africa (RNA), raised the issue of self-determination to the level of self-government. He saw the RNA as the Provisional Government (PG) of the African-American (New Afrikan) oppressed nation, and worked to establish international recognition for the Black Nation as part of the struggle for self-determination.

Brother Imari saw the South as the territorial anchor and homeland of the African-American oppressed nation, and

saw self-determination in the U.S. South as a liberation zone for the wider struggle against African-American national oppression and against U.S. imperialism in the interest of the liberation of all working-class and oppressed peoples.

The RNA recognized ALL African Americans as citizens, unless they declared noncitizenship. This included Black organizations. Part of the political framework for the demand for political prisoner and prisoner-of-war status for combatants in various units of the Black Liberation Army, was developed out of the RNA under the leadership of Brother Imari.

Brother Imari took his role as president of the PG very seriously. His constant push for reparations, including helping to found the National Coalition on Black Reparations in America, grew out of his understanding of reparations being an important part of the fight for African-

American self-determination. He did not see reparations as a check to individuals to use to feed the capitalist market, but as resources to build the institutions, campaigns and the mass and advance political organizations of the African-American oppressed nation's national liberation movement.

Brother Imari was a tireless soldier. He had a good balance of fire and humility within his personality. He was a strategist and an on-the-ground leader. He led the RNA into the South, and many of its most faithful citizens and leaders followed and remained there. □

Young people demand public jobs program

Raleigh, N.C.

By Vidya Sankar
Raleigh, N.C.

A spirited group of several dozen demonstrators, overwhelmingly youths and students, marched through downtown Raleigh, N.C., on Jan. 15, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. The march began at the Walnut Terrace Community Center, progressed to City Hall and then to the Office of Economic Recovery and Investment, the state office which oversees allocation of stimulus money.

Demonstrators chanted, "A job is a right, we gotta fight, fight, fight" and, "Give us a job, stop locking us up," reiterating the key point that all people have a right to a job.

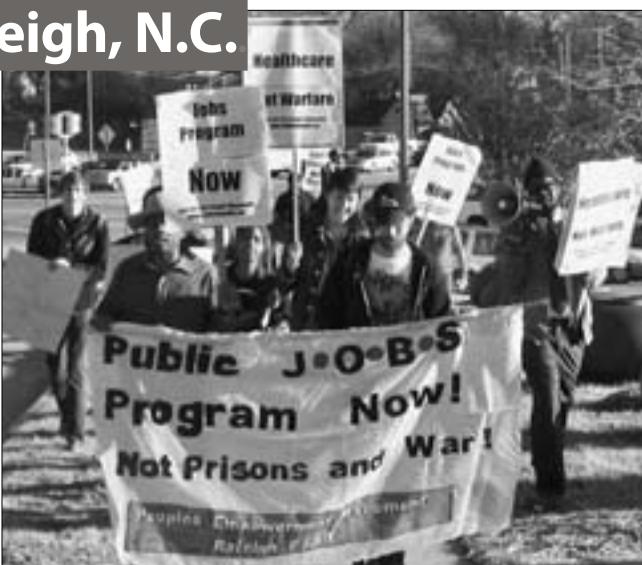
The march, organized by the Peoples' Empowerment Movement and Raleigh Fight Imperialism, Stand Together, demanded a city-run, federally funded jobs program that puts Raleigh's unemployed back to work and provides for a living wage, full benefits and pensions, in line with Dr. King's lifelong demand for full employment.

Alicia Sidney, Peoples' Empowerment Movement organizer, told WW: "Every human being has the right to work, to provide for their family. When that right is taken away, actions must be taken. If

we don't demand fair treatment, we will be overlooked and end up worse off."

Due to its pressure, the group was met at City Hall by Charles Meeker, Raleigh's mayor since 2001. A formal letter had been sent in advance to both Meeker and members of the Raleigh City Council listing the specific jobs that the contingent wanted to see included in a public program. These include but are not limited to: accessible child care and after-school programs; food co-operatives in South and East Raleigh, predominantly Black areas where there are no grocery stores; public health care and mental health facilities; increased staffing at community facilities; and "green" jobs such as improved public transportation and community gardens.

The official unemployment statewide rate recently jumped to 11.2 percent, the highest during the current economic crisis. With real national unemployment above 25.1 percent for African-American workers, 24.3 percent for Latino/a workers, and 25.7 percent for youth and over



WW PHOTO: BEN CARROLL

Marching for jobs, Jan. 15.

50 percent for urban youth of color, a city-run, federally funded jobs program is the only relief for this crisis. Over 27 million workers, one in five, are either unemployed or underemployed. The only way a public jobs program will be implemented is through the struggle of workers, including youth.

Organizers found the demonstration to be a net positive. The march was also endorsed by Black Workers for Justice-N.C. Chapter, Workforce Empowerment Alliance Community Team, Raleigh City Workers Union-UE Local 150, Black Workers for Justice Youth and the Fruit of Labor Singing Ensemble.

The writer is a Raleigh FIST organizer.

On the picket line

by Sue Davis

D.C. hotel workers demand union

Chanting, "No contract, no peace!" hundreds of workers at the Sheraton Crystal City hotel and community activists banged drums and blew whistles outside the Washington, D.C., hotel on Jan. 16, demanding the workers' right to form a union. For over a year, workers at the hotel have been fighting HEI Hotels and Resorts, the management company that owns the hotel, for blocking their attempts to join a union and for harassing and threatening to fire them for pro-union activity. "I was a cook for over six years, but recently I was demoted to housekeeping because my managers see me marching for union recognition," Herman Romero told Union City, the online newsletter of the Metro Washington AFL-CIO Council. (Jan. 18) "They constantly increase our workload and give us less supplies to accomplish our work. We deserve to be treated better than this." Unfair labor practice charges have been filed with the National Labor Relations Board by UNITE HERE, and a hearing is scheduled for April 6.

Workers take on Verizon

Verizon, one of the country's most profitable companies, is always looking for easy ways to boost its bottom line. But union members are exposing its plans as bad for customers, workers and communities. On Jan. 11 over 800 members of the Communication Workers of America and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers rallied at the West Virginia state Capitol in Charleston to oppose a projected Verizon plan to sell 4.8 million landlines in 14 states to Frontier. While the deal would decrease Verizon's tax burden by an estimated \$600 million, unionists say it would only lead to job and service cuts as Verizon's 2008 sale of landlines has already done in Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. The same week members of CWA Local 222 held picket lines in Herndon and Centerville, Va., to protest Verizon's plan to cut 1,000 jobs in Maryland, Virginia and D.C.

U.S. labor union research delegation visits Cuba

A diverse group of labor activists in the Washington, D.C., area affiliated with the AFL-CIO and Change to Win visited Cuba from Jan. 10 to 17. Before leaving, members of the delegation agreed on demands: to end the U.S. ban on travel to Cuba, to stop the U.S. economic blockade of Cuba and to establish normal diplomatic and trade relations with Cuba. The delegation's research on Cuban labor unions was facilitated by the Central de Trabajadores de Cuba, the country's national labor federation.

Labor for Haiti

The U.S. labor movement swung into action to show solidarity with the Haitian people after the devastating earthquake there on Jan. 12. The AFL-CIO Solidarity Center set up Earthquake Relief for Haitian Workers on www.aflcio.org and has been collecting donations in the thousands of dollars. The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists has already raised more than \$25,000. The Transport Workers Union, many of whose members are Haitian, has set up a disaster relief task force. Hundreds of nurses and paramedics in the National Nurses Union have volunteered to provide medical services, while members of the Air Traffic Controllers

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Pittsburgh

Community opposes hospital closing

By Sean Schafron
Pittsburgh

The multi-billion-dollar University of Pittsburgh Medical Center is quickly moving to close the Braddock hospital on Jan. 31. The labor-community struggle to keep the hospital open is continuing.

As of Jan. 15, the hospital has stopped admitting new patients. UPMC officials say they will move whatever patients remain to other facilities — including to the new \$250 million facility being built in Monroeville, Penn., roughly 10 miles away from Braddock — by the end of the month. The only competitor to UPMC in the area is in Monroeville.

The closing of UPMC Braddock, announced in October, has been met with objections from members of the mostly impoverished Braddock community and has received attention from local media as well as many activists. Residents are worried and concerned, as many do not have

transportation and would have to rely on public transportation to help them get to appointments at the new facilities.

UPMC officials have claimed lower occupancy rates as a reason for closing the Braddock hospital. But the 2007-2008 rate of 72.4 percent was higher than six other area hospitals, and UPMC did not figure in behavioral health beds used for alcohol and drug detoxification programs. UPMC claims of dwindling occupancy and financial hardships with the Braddock location simply do not gibe with the facts.

UPMC President and CEO Jeffrey Roffman received over \$4 million in 2008 compensation alone, a figure that hasn't escaped the attention of activists.

Past rallies have been well-attended and enthusiastic. A Nov. 19 rally in pouring rain brought hundreds of residents, Steelworker union retirees and students to protest the injustice of UPMC's decision. About 130 protested on Jan. 15, the

last day of new patient admittance, many holding signs reading, "Shame on UPMC."

On Martin Luther King Day a march highlighted reports that federal authorities may investigate whether the UPMC is violating civil rights laws by closing its hospital. This is brought on by a lawsuit by Charles McCullough of the Allegheny County Council and an assertion by Braddock City Councilmember Jesse Brown, who protests the move of the facility from the predominantly African-American neighborhood to a mostly white area. Brown is seeking an injunction that would keep the hospital open while an investigation is conducted. Concerns about what would be done with the vacant structure are also on the minds of many in the community.

Upcoming events include weekly planning meetings and a scheduled rally outside UPMC Braddock hospital at noon on Jan. 30. For up-to-date information visit www.savebraddock.com. □

For dialysis patients

Another deadline with death looms

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

For over 100 years, Grady Hospital, located on the edge of downtown Atlanta, served the medical needs of poor, uninsured and underinsured people while at the same time establishing world-class trauma, burn and neonatal clinics.

Funded by the taxpayers of Fulton and DeKalb counties, it has struggled for years with less money and more patients. As wages and health benefits have been reduced for workers, the population has sharply risen and public policy increas-

ingly is shaped by business interests.

Despite the efforts of a grassroots coalition made up of clergy, elected officials, union members and other community forces, the hospital was privatized in 2008 and is now controlled by a powerful clique of corporate businessmen.

Immediately, the attention of the hospital management became focused on changing the "mix" of patients, meaning attracting people with insurance while raising the co-pays for the uninsured, making access more difficult for the poorest of the elderly and ill.

Declaring that providing outpatient di-

alysis was too costly, the corporate Board of Directors cut this critical form of health services for over 90 people in the fall of 2009. About half of the patients were eligible for Medicaid, but several do not meet Georgia's residency requirement of five years and others are undocumented, longtime residents originally from countries ranging from Ethiopia and India to Nigeria and Mexico.

Most people who have a diagnosis of renal failure require dialysis three times a week to keep the toxic waste from poisoning their system. Missing even a few

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The Massachusetts election and the challenges ahead

By Fred Goldstein

The victory of right-wing candidate Scott Brown in the Massachusetts senatorial election throws into bold relief the crisis for the workers and the oppressed in this country. It is one of leadership, politics and organization.

Many lessons are being drawn by the Democratic Party leadership, various liberal pundits, labor union leaders and others about what happened in Massachusetts. But, simply stated, there is one overriding lesson. The dismal record of the Democratic Party leadership and the Obama administration's utter subservience to the banks and corporate interests have left the base of the Democratic Party out in the cold — leading to disillusionment and confusion.

Having to choose between the needs of their base — the masses of workers, the poor and oppressed communities, and the progressive middle class — and their corporate masters, the top Democratic Party leadership showed once again that it is a captive of corporations and their lobbyists. The administration is surrounded by bankers, finance officials, corporate representatives, generals and admirals — just as every previous administration has been.

The understandable enthusiasm and high hopes that accompanied the historic election of the first African-American president, and the pushing back of racism that this represented, are waning as Barack Obama follows the well-trodden path of all those who step into the role of chief executive for U.S. imperialism.

The disillusionment and anger that were bound to set in were first expressed in the defeat of liberal multimillionaire and former banker Gov. John Corzine of New Jersey. The defeat of Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley, the Democratic candidate for senator in that state, is another expression of that same disillusionment.

The problem at the moment is that the right wing is feeding on that disillusionment, and will try to gain ground within the working class and the middle class to sow racism, militaristic ideology and division, in the midst of a deepening economic crisis.

The forces behind Brown

This is what let Brown, a little-known, right-wing Republican and Massachusetts state senator, defeat the state's attorney general in the Jan. 20 Senate race for a seat held by Ted Kennedy for close to half a century.

The Brown victory has thrown the Democratic Party and the Obama administration into a crisis. It tipped the voting balance in the Senate, depriving the Democrats of a filibuster-proof majority and thus threatening the health care bill and possibly the rest of the Obama administration's legislative agenda. The Brown victory further signified that Democratic

candidates may be in jeopardy in the 2010 congressional elections.

Brown is a Republican who campaigned with a blend of right-wing, reactionary positions plus demagogic appeals to the working class. His campaign was supported by the so-called Tea Party movement — a network of ultra-rightists and fascist elements that surfaced during the town hall meetings and poured vile racism and fraudulent anti-communist attacks on President Obama.

The Tea Party groups are coordinated under the umbrella of Freedom Works, a right-wing foundation headed by Dick Armey. This former U.S. representative from Texas funneled funds from the health care industry and the oil, coal and utility companies into the creation of phony "grassroots" movements against the health care bill and environmental programs. Right-wing networks around the country directed millions of dollars into the Brown campaign.

Brown denounced the bloated health care bill, backroom deals by the Obama administration and government spending. He played on the fear of increased taxes and called for creating jobs. He drove around in a pickup truck to create the image of a "man of the people."

At the same time he came out for waterboarding and denounced legal representation for prisoners, such as those in Guantánamo. He was a champion of the so-called "war against terror." He opposed legislation legalizing undocumented workers. He condemned cap-and-trade legislation to reduce carbon emissions — not because it is totally ineffective, but because it is "big government intervention."

To add to the confusion and deception, Brown praised Kennedy and did not play the race card against Obama. On the other hand, he was supported by the most virulent racist and fascist elements in capitalist society and undoubtedly strengthened them politically.

Martha Coakley, on the other hand, ran a lackluster and belated campaign, basically defending the program of the Obama administration on health care, job creation, etc.

There have been endless post-election analyses of the upset. Some attribute it to the poor campaign run by Coakley. They bemoan that the outcome would have been different if only she had run a more effective campaign and had not made blunders, like not recognizing the name of a famous Boston Red Sox pitcher; if only she had not been so aloof, had not gone on vacation, etc., etc.

But this is taking a completely narrow view of the defeat. What are the circum-

stances that allowed a gaffe or a lackluster campaign to become decisive in an electoral race for a "liberal" seat held by the multimillionaire Kennedy dynasty for decades? Obama won Massachusetts by 67 percent. Brown beat Coakley by 52 percent to 47 percent.

Economic emergency and backroom deals

Bob Herbert, the only African-American op-ed columnist for the New York Times, wrote an angry piece on Jan. 23 after the Brown victory, entitled "They Still Don't Get It." Wrote Herbert: "There is an economic emergency in the country with millions upon millions of Americans riddled with fear and anxiety as they struggle with long-term joblessness, home foreclosures, personal bankruptcies and dwindling opportunities for themselves and their children."

Regarding the health care bill, which Coakley had to defend and Brown ran against, Herbert wrote: "No one in his or her right mind could have believed that a workable, efficient, cost-effective system could come out of the monstrously ugly plan that finally emerged from the Senate after long months of shady alliances, disgraceful backroom deals, outlandish payoffs and abject capitulation to the insurance companies and giant pharmaceutical outfits."

Add to this that the banks have humiliated the Obama administration by first taking bailouts from the government and then giving out billions of dollars in bonuses to their executives. They are now pulling in record profits, refusing to lend money or readjust mortgages, and working to sabotage all restraint on their financial manipulations.

Meanwhile, unemployment together with underemployment is at 27 million to 30 million. Three million homes went into foreclosure last year, and millions more are expected. Hunger, poverty, wage cuts, pressures on the job, loss of health care and every other hardship are growing.

The big question on the minds of the workers is when this will stop and who will put a stop to it.

The greatest potential resource that the workers in this capitalist society have is the unions. But at the moment, the rank and file is paralyzed by the complete absence of any independence or struggle at the leadership level.

In the Massachusetts election 29 percent of Brown voters had voted for Obama in 2008. An AFL-CIO poll showed that union members voted 49 percent to 46 percent for Brown. These are the numbers that should be zeroed in on.

Workers and others who voted for an African-American president in 2008 have

now swung to a right-wing candidate because of demagogic and because there was no place else to go.

A challenge to fight back

That is the challenge to all the advanced elements in the U.S. All those who are against capitalism, racism, imperialism, who are partisans of the workers and the oppressed in the unions, the communities, the political movements on the campuses, youth and students, must find an organizational form to come together on a national and regional level to launch a massive movement to fight back — to fight for jobs and to formulate a minimum program that can express the interests of the workers and the oppressed independently of the capitalist parties.

The liberals, social democrats and labor leadership are all fixated on the electoral arena as the primary form of political struggle. They are directly or indirectly supporters of or dependent upon the Democratic Party.

Electoral struggle is a legitimate form of struggle but cannot be substituted for mass mobilization and class combat. The way to influence legislation in this country historically has been through strikes, sit-ins, takeovers, rebellions and mass resistance of all types.

The crisis in the Democratic Party has become a crisis for the labor unions and social democrats in general. They have led the masses along behind the Democratic leadership. This is the party that just sent 30,000 more troops to Afghanistan, rains down missiles from Predator drones in Pakistan, still occupies Iraq, sent 12,000 troops to occupy Haiti, supports Israel in its suppression of the Palestinians, builds bases in Colombia, sponsored a coup in Honduras, and so on.

The crisis of the Democratic Party should not be our crisis. It should be turned into an opportunity for the broad movement of the workers, especially the labor unions, to declare their independence, to expose the capitalist interests behind the economic crisis, to fight for class unity of the workers — organized and unorganized, documented and undocumented, employed and unemployed — to open up a struggle in the streets and workplaces, and to put forward its own political program.

We should not allow the right wing to co-opt disillusionment in the midst of an economic crisis. The working class in this country is a sleeping giant. It is time for every revolutionary to think long and hard about how to go about helping this giant awake and shake the ground under the decadent ruling class, whose profit system is bringing hardship without end. □

Hand-in-hand: Big business and government

Executive Office of the President

MICHAEL FROMAN, Deputy Asst. to the President *Citigroup*

VALERIE JARRET, Asst. to the President *Chicago Stock Exchange*

JAMES L. JONES, National Security Advisor *Chevron*

White House Office

SEAN KENNEDY, Special Asst. on Legislative Affairs *AT&T*

Commerce Dept.

MARC BEREJKA, Senior Policy Advisor, *Microsoft*
DENNIS F. HIGHTOWER, Deputy Secretary Designate *Accenture*

Defense Dept.

WILLIAM J. LYNN, Deputy Defense Secretary *Raytheon*

Energy Dept.

WILLIAM BRINKMAN, Director, Office of Science & Technology *Lucent Technologies*

STEVEN E. KOONIN, Under Secretary for Science *BP (formerly British Petroleum)*

State Dept.

JACOB J. LEW, Deputy Secretary Management & Resources *Citigroup*

JUDITH A. McHALE, Under Secretary of Public Diplomacy *Discovery Communications*

GEORGE J. MITCHELL, Special Envoy to Middle East *Defense Logistics Agency*

Treasury Dept.

MATTHEW KABAKER, Deputy Asst. Secretary *Blackstone Group*

MARK A. PATTERSON, Chief of Staff to the Secretary *Goldman Sachs*

JAKE STEWART, Counselor to the Secretary *Alcoa*

KIM N. WALLACE, Asst. Secretary Legislative Affairs *Lehman Brothers/Barclays Bank*

NEAL S. WOLIN, Deputy Secretary *Hartford Financial Services*

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have partnered with their Dominican counterparts to help facilitate air traffic in Port-au-Prince. Individual unions have also made contributions, ranging from \$1,000 to \$500,000, to various charities. Meanwhile, the global online labor news service, www.labourstart.org, lists the various international unions that are sending aid, volunteers and support to Haiti. □

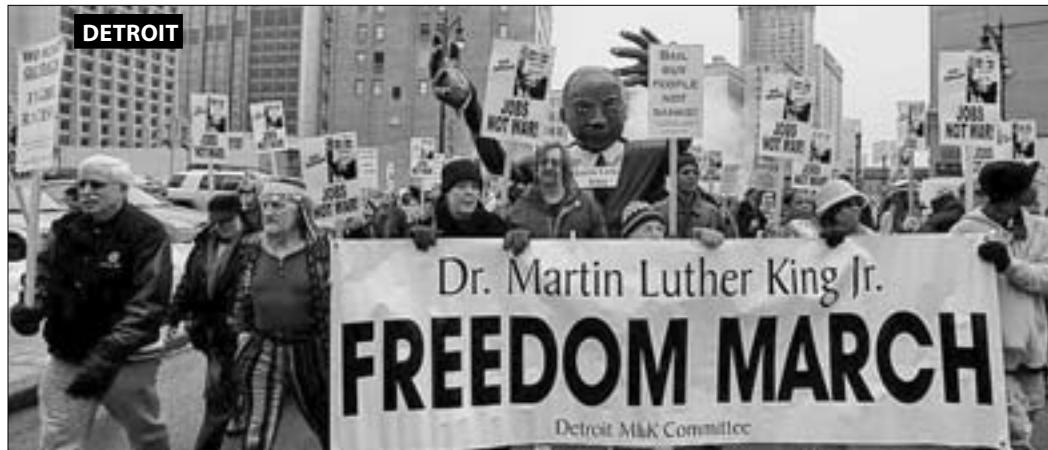
DETROIT

PHOTO: DAVID P. ANDERSON/MATRIX THEATRE

ATLANTA

PHOTO: AL VIOLA

MLK day message: Fight for jobs, justice

Activists around the country marched and rallied to demand jobs on Jan. 18 in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Over 200 people marched in **Chicago** to commemorate King's legacy in the struggle against racism and for all workers' rights. The "March for Jobs and Public Services" was called by a coalition of community, labor and political groups. Marchers included students, teachers, Chicago Transit Authority workers, social workers, activists for single-payer health care and local progressive groups. They demanded public tax dollars be used to create jobs and preserve public services.

The march began at the CTA, which is planning to lay off over 1,000 bus drivers and maintenance workers Feb. 7. It stopped at the Board of Education, which had announced the closing of more schools and layoffs as it continues to attack public education and the teachers union. The march ended with a rally at the State of Illinois Building, where speakers demanded public officials make the rich pay for the economic crisis they created, not poor and working people.

Thousands marched in **Atlanta**'s annual tribute to the life and legacy of Dr.

CHICAGO

WW PHOTO: JILL HILL

Martin Luther King Jr. Led by members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and other unions, the line of college and high school students, children, church groups, contingents from the Caribbean and Africa, death penalty opponents, community organizations and peace and justice forces

stretched down Peachtree Street on its way to King's gravesite on Auburn Avenue.

The loudest and most spirited section of the march was organized by the International Action Center, the Georgia Peace and Justice Coalition, the Hunger Coalition, Veterans for Peace, the Georgia State Progressive Student Alliance and others. They chanted nonstop, "Jobs, not war! That's what we're marching for." Hundreds of people along the sidewalk, block after block, joined in, making it clear that King's demand for "Jobs or income now!" is still necessary today.

"Jobs not war!" chanted marchers at the seventh annual **Detroit** M.L.K. Day celebration. Young restaurant workers fighting for justice led the march, along with giant puppets of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., César Chávez and Ella Baker. Events included a fiery rally and youth cultural presentations. Detroit City Councilperson JoAnn Watson reviewed the deep connections Dr. King had with African Americans and the labor movement in Detroit. Rev. Edward

Pinkney from Benton Harbor, Mich., who was unjustly imprisoned for fighting to stop Whirlpool Corporation from stealing land from the African-American people in his community, said it was time to stand up against injustice.

The Rev. Thomas Smith from Pittsburgh's Monumental Baptist Church gave a sweeping address intertwining Dr. King's writings with the colonial devastation of earthquake-wrecked Haiti, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and economic injustice at home. To a cheering crowd, Smith called for marching for jobs in Washington, D.C., on April 10, the 75th anniversary of the Works Progress Administration.

Restaurant Opportunity Center workers from the upscale anti-worker restaurant, Andiamo, described their struggle. High school student Evelyn Galvin from Latinos Unidos called on everyone to join with immigrant workers on May Day to march for justice. Welfare Rights leaders spearheading the local organizing for the U.S. Social Forum in Detroit June 22-26 appealed for more community involvement in that process.

Jill Hill, Cheryl LaBash and Dianne Mathiowetz contributed to this report.

Detroit

King holiday: springboard for ongoing struggles

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire
Detroit

On Jan. 18 over 1,000 people gathered at the historic Central United Methodist Church for a rally and march in downtown Detroit to honor the 81st birthday of the martyred civil rights and anti-war activist Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This year's was the seventh annual demonstration in the city which recognizes the peace and social justice legacy of Dr. King.

One of the keynote speakers for this year's commemoration was the Rev. Edward Pinkney, president of the Benton Harbor Chapter of the National Associa-

tion for the Advancement of Colored People. Rev. Pinkney is a recently released political prisoner who served one year in detention for quoting biblical scriptures that were falsely interpreted by a Berrien County judge as a threat to another jurist's life.

Pinkney emphasized that the legacy of Dr. King is very much alive and well. He outlined the details of his case and its relationship to the struggle against racism and police brutality in Benton Harbor.

Another keynote speaker at the MLK rally and march was the Rev. Thomas Smith, pastor of the Monumental Baptist Church in the historic Hill District of Pittsburgh. Smith focused most of his

speech on the humanitarian crisis facing Haiti, which was hit by an earthquake on January 12.

Smith is also a leading member of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organizations/Pastors for Peace. That organization challenges the U.S. blockade against Cuba every year by transporting material aid to the Caribbean nation located just 90 miles off the coast of Florida.

Smith, in conjunction with the Bail Out the People Movement, organized the National March for Jobs in Pittsburgh in September 2009 that kicked off the protests surrounding the G-20 Summit that was held in that same city.

Sponsors of this year's MLK events included City Councilperson JoAnn Watson, who co-sponsored the MLK Day event along with the Detroit MLK Day Committee; Michigan Emergency Committee Against War & Injustice; Moratorium NOW! Coalition; UAW Local 2334; Matrix Theatre Company; Swords Into Plowshares; Catholic Pastoral Alliance; and Detroit Wobbly Kitchen, among others.

The event was co-chaired by Sandra Hines of MECAWI and the Moratorium NOW! Coalition. Other speakers and participants included the Detroit Ludington Middle School Choir; Restaurant Opportunities Center organizers; Maureen Taylor of the United States Social Forum and the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization; the Blaq Inc. Poets; Big A; Latinos Unidos; and the Matrix Theatre puppets.

The Detroit Wobbly Kitchen served over 300 meals to the march participants after the demonstration through downtown.

Ongoing support for struggles

The MLK Day events promoted various labor campaigns taking place in the Detroit metropolitan area. The ROC organizers have a major struggle where they are picketing a well-known restaurant for its unfair wage and labor practices. The Moratorium NOW! Coalition is still pressing for the declaration of an economic state of emergency in Detroit and the state of Michigan, which has the highest unemployment rate in the country.

On Jan. 19, the Moratorium NOW! Coalition intervened in a tenants' struggle where the residents were illegally locked out of their apartments because of the landlord's failure to make electrical repairs on the building. The coalition is seeking to have the landlord pay damages to the residents and assist in their relocation.

During the course of this campaign, Moratorium NOW! took the residents to the Detroit City Council to demand action. On Jan. 26, the coalition went back to the City Council to request a resolution declaring an economic state of emergency in the city.

On Feb. 3, the Moratorium NOW! Coalition will be taking people to Lansing to keep the issues of unemployment, foreclosures and evictions in the forefront of the minds of the state legislature and the governor. The coalition will also be a co-sponsor for a statewide tour featuring Fight Imperialism, Stand Together organizer Larry Hales during the week of February 1-5. The tour is designed to build the National Day of Action to Defend Public Education on March 4. □

Ga. Tech bus drivers demand justice

On Dec. 18, just before Christmas, 40 unionized shuttle bus drivers who transport Georgia Tech students, faculty and staff around the sprawling campus were notified they had lost their jobs. The prestigious university had awarded the contract to a new company, Groome Transportation, which was breaking precedent and not retaining the existing work force. Although the drivers had years of experience, the new company refused to even interview them for the openings. More than a year earlier, these men and women had voted unanimously to join Teamsters Local 728, making them the only unionized work force on the Tech campus. The recently hired new drivers are working for lower wages and without the benefits guaranteed in the union contract.

Determined to fight this union-busting move sanctioned by school officials, the driv-



CREDIT: PHOTO: AL VIOLA

ers, dozens of other union members, Georgia Tech students and community groups have joined together for several protests and leafleting events at university offices and bus yards. The drivers and their families carried bright yellow signs, demanding "Justice for Georgia Tech Bus Drivers" in this year's annual Martin Luther King Day march, bringing a message of workers' rights to the day.

— Dianne Mathiowetz

U.S. occupation of Haiti disrupts rescue mission

Following are excerpts from a talk by Richard Kossally at a Jan. 22 Workers World meeting in New York. View the podcast at workers.tv.

The relief effort in Haiti is happening despite a lack of any real mobilization on the part of the U.S. on the ground there. [The U.S.'s] main priority was not to rescue those trapped under rubble nor to provide relief to survivors of the quake.

Even in the best of circumstances, a quake like this requires an immediate response to minimize loss of life and to get medical treatment, food and water to those who need it. With complete control of the airport, and having been granted total control for security, the Pentagon is setting up what resembles a military occupation rather than coordinating a rescue and recovery effort.

Ten days after the earthquake, there is still no apparatus set up to distribute much of the supplies that have reached the country and are sitting in the airport. There are pain medications and antibiotics on the tarmac while amputations are taking place without them. No doubt, a lot of these vital supplies will become unusable due to lack of refrigeration.

This willful negligence can be measured in lives and limbs lost. Minor injuries are resulting in amputations because people are not getting timely treatment. Amputations account for the vast majority of surgeries that have taken place since Jan 12.

As of Jan. 21, confirmed deaths were about 75,000, with estimates that they could reach 200,000, with 1 million to 2

million people displaced and 200,000 people injured.

Sanjay Gupta is a medical doctor and a media personality who was in the running to be surgeon general after Barack Obama won the presidency. He is in Haiti and this morning [Jan. 22] he was on CNN. He got access to the airport and was able to get a bagful of medications that he drove over to a local hospital.

The hospital had been in need of these supplies for over a week and they were sitting at the airport just because of a lack of will or plan to help suffering people. The U.S. role is downright criminal. Many people outside the airport wondered when the aid inside would be distributed. A major complaint is that the United Nations, which is responsible for delivering aid, is not coordinating their efforts with people who can distribute aid effectively in neighborhoods around Port-au-Prince.

There are real relief workers in Haiti doing invaluable work. Fifty search and rescue teams over the past week rescued 123 people alive from the rubble. Eighteen permanent health facilities and temporary field hospitals are now operating.

This effort could have been much greater if the U.S. government had responded with rescue and earthmoving equipment, etc., instead of 10,000 troops and an aircraft carrier carrying no aid. I once deployed on an aircraft carrier. They are huge floating cities. You can put just about anything on an aircraft carrier.

The U.S.S. Carl Vinson had helicopters aboard and helicopters can be invaluable in rescue efforts, but the sidewinder missiles on them can play no part in rescuing



U.S. Army soldiers patrol downtown Port-au-Prince, Jan. 26.

anyone. Earlier in the week a plane had been flying overhead playing a message from the U.S. ambassador to Haiti, discouraging people from trying to flee to the U.S. because they would be turned back.

U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki Moon said that in responding to Haiti's immense needs, the U.N. has three priorities: First, the humanitarian relief operation; second, security.

This second priority is bothersome, as it goes hand in hand with the Pentagon strategy. Moon contradicts himself later when he says:

"As of today, the security situation in Haiti remains stable. ... Incidents of looting and unrest remain the exception, despite some news reports to the contrary."

I wonder how much the Pentagon's slow reaction is intended to make sure that more people get desperate and act out their desperation in ways that provide excuses to demonize and repress them even more.

Remember, in planning the Gulf war the [U.S.] war hawks resolved to target water treatment plants, power plants and other infrastructure, because this would ensure that cholera and other diseases would spread and discourage resistance.

"Third, the future," Moon continued. "In the coming weeks and months, we will need to shift from emergency response towards longer-term relief and recovery."

There are always great promises of relief, which are not usually fulfilled as time passes and the tragedy recedes from the front pages.

There is now a growing danger of the spreading of infectious disease. On average Haiti is burying about 10,000 dead per day, mostly in mass graves. There will be many dead bodies under the rubble still. Considering that before the quake there were outbreaks of tuberculosis and malaria there, this disaster could take another bad turn. □

TPS for Haitians: Much more is needed

By G. Dunkel

For years, and especially since the four devastating hurricanes that struck Haiti in August and September of 2008, progressive organizations and individuals in the United States have been urging the Homeland Security Department to grant Temporary Protective Status to Haitians.

TPS for undocumented residents in the U.S. allows them to live and work here legally.

After the earthquake, the calls for TPS grew stronger. For example, the first thing the TransAfrica Forum recommended the U.S. government do to help Haiti on Jan. 13 was "suspend Haitian deportations and grant TPS."

TransAfrica's statement went on to say, "Since January 2009 U.S. immigration judges have issued deportation orders to over 30,000 undocumented Haitians. The Department of Homeland Security should immediately halt the arrests of these deportees and grant Temporary Protected Status." (transafricaforum.org)

A few days later Homeland Security announced that it would grant Haitians TPS. Many hailed this as a victory. WNYC public radio, the City University of New York Citizenship and Immigration Project and Rep. Gregory Meeks — who represents a congressional district in Queens with a large number of Haitian Americans — sent out press releases and set up Web pages, town hall meetings, lists of volunteer lawyers and fundraising events to encourage applications for TPS.

While much of the work done by community-based organizations is in Creole

and directed to the Haitian community, most of these press releases and Web pages are in English and directed to the broader community of progressives engaged by the human catastrophe in Port-au-Prince. Broadly speaking, this campaign is designed to give the impression that the U.S. government is doing something substantial for Haitians.

While Haitians, and undocumented members of other communities, need and deserve TPS, there are aspects of the TPS program for Haitians that make it far less than a full "victory."

According to a briefing that Alejandro Mayorkas, director of the U.S. Citizen and Immigration Service, gave on Jan. 15, it will cost \$470 for an individual to apply for TPS. An advanced parole application, which can be submitted at the same time, costs an additional \$305. "Advanced parole" allows an individual with TPS to leave the U.S. and return.

Applicants would have to prove Haitian citizenship, which is difficult to do in practice, as the USCIS often rejects Haitian passports and birth certificates as invalid. Applicants would have to prove that they lived in the U.S. before Jan. 12, which means they would not be allowed to bring family members from Haiti to the U.S.

While the USCIS would not necessarily share the information they demand for TPS with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, still it is possible that in the future ICE could access this information, pictures and fingerprints in particular.

The generally accepted figure for the number of undocumented Haitians living in the U.S. is somewhere between

100,000 and 200,000, which means that this program would cost the Haitian community tens of millions of dollars, money that will go to the U.S. government, not to the reconstruction of Haiti.

The reaction in the Haitian community to TPS was quick to come. Mariso Laza in the Jan. 20-26 issue of *Haiti-Liberté* points to the demonstrations after demonstrations that the Haitian community has had over years demanding the right to TPS, but claims that the version of TPS offered is "simultaneously a bad joke and a diversion."

It is "a diversion," writes Laza, because

"the way it has been offered blocks any criticism of the crimes that [U.S.] American imperialism has committed in Haiti" while members of the community are waiting for it to be granted.

It is "a bad joke" since it costs so much, is guaranteed for only 18 months and will take a long time to be processed. In contrast, a similar program in Canada, which has a large Haitian community centered around Montreal, is free and permanent.

Haitians certainly need and deserve TPS, but what they've been offered is insufficient. □

Emergency aid to Haiti

The Haiti Emergency Relief Fund is raising money to aid the Haitian people. All contributions collected are going directly to grass-roots organizations in Haiti for earthquake relief. This all-volunteer organization has a history of giving concrete aid to the Haitian grass-roots democratic movement.

Tax-deductible donations can be sent to East Bay Sanctuary Covenant/Haiti Emergency Relief Fund, 2362 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94704. Donate online at www.haitiaction.net

Text donations can be sent to the Yele Haiti Foundation, which was established by the award-winning Haitian musician Wyclef Jean. Contribute to its Earthquake Fund online at www.yele.org

A delegation from Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees is taking first-aid supplies and personal hygiene goods to Haiti

the week of Jan. 25. Call 718-735-4660 about dropping off goods in New York City. Tax-deductible donations can be sent to IFCO/Haiti Relief, 418 W. 145th St., New York, NY 10031. Donate online at www.ifconews.org or call 212-925-5757.

To support travel of Cuban-trained U.S. doctors to Haiti with medicine and supplies, donations can be made to IFCO Haiti Medical Service Project using contact information above.

Tax-deductible donations for medical teams and equipment can be sent to Partners in Health, which has field hospitals in Haiti, at P.O. Box 845578, Boston, MA 02284-5578. Call 617-432-5256 or visit www.pihi.org to make credit card donations.

Information will be forthcoming on how to donate to Haitian political party Fanmi Lavalas as soon as it's available.

— Kathy Durkin

Black workers on Haiti, Katrina

The following edited statement, titled "The people of Haiti are suffering: They cry out for humanitarian aid, democracy, sovereignty and human rights," was written and distributed by the Black Workers League, based in Rocky Mount, N.C., on Jan. 18.

The earthquake in Haiti has caused massive devastation and suffering. More than 100,000 people are dead, and many more are homeless and without food. This human tragedy is weighing heavy on the hearts and minds of people throughout the world.

Nations and people on every continent are sending humanitarian aid of doctors, food, clothing and rescue workers to help the Haitian people recover from this disaster. Haiti needs aid from every country willing to give it.

We must call on our unions, faith institutions, organizations and all levels of U.S. government to provide humanitarian aid. But we must also demand that the politics of U.S. capitalist greed and domination not decide who can provide aid and who controls Haiti's plan for reconstruction.

The important aid from Cuba and Venezuela — two countries in the Americas whose good works the U.S. government wants to hide — must be applauded not only for their immediate response to the earthquake but for their long term commitment to aid countries that are oppressed by U.S. and global economic policies that place profits over human needs. We must demand that the Haitian people and their democratically elected government have the right to decide their future. This is an issue of international human rights.

The world remembers how the U.S. government under Bush failed the people in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; taking almost a week to begin a rescue effort; sending troops to protect the property of the corporations and the most affluent. Billions of dollars in no-bid contracts went to corporations and worker rights were suspended so that companies could exploit the workers. Now five years later, thousands of Black and poor people are still unable return to their communities

because the government fails to build affordable housing and to create living wage jobs. President Obama's appointment of former presidents Clinton and Bush to supervise the rescue in Haiti is a BAD SIGN. It sends a message that the politics of capitalist greed and domination will guide the U.S. decisions on the recovery and reconstruction in Haiti.

U.S. policies in Haiti since its independence in 1804 have kept the country poor and prevented the society from developing the capacity to respond to natural disasters. The U.S. has also undermined efforts by the Haitian people to elect and maintain democratic government.

In 2004 during the Bush administration, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the democratically elected President of Haiti, was kidnapped by U.S. Marines and forced into exile in another country. He has not been allowed to return and even now to help his people to recover from the disaster.

Bush and Clinton don't speak for the masses of African Americans, the working class and the poor and people of good will in the U.S. who are giving aid to the Hai-

tian people. They speak for the big banks, corporations, racism and capitalist greed who want to continue to exploit and oppress Haiti.

Haiti was the first Black republic in the Americas and became a leading force in the struggles to end slavery. The Haitian Revolution that brought about Haiti's independence from France was also a blow to the BIG LIE of racism and white supremacy that said that Black people were inferior and could not form and run a nation.

The world must not allow the continuing oppression of Haiti and the suffering of the Haitian people. The recovery from this disaster must include a reconstruction that not only leads to the development of the country in ways that benefit the masses of people. It must provide Temporary Protective Status to the Haitian people in the U.S. who are not U.S. citizens, and must stop undermining the Haitian people's efforts to establish a real democracy and to be a sovereign nation.

President Obama should dump Bush and Clinton! □

Boston meeting shows solidarity with Haiti

A multinational standing-room-only crowd packed the Action Center office in Boston for a Workers World forum entitled "Solidarity With the People of Haiti — U.S. Imperialism: Humanitarian Aid or Military Occupation?"

The meeting was chaired by Miya Campbell and Lila Goldstein, members of Fight Imperialism, Stand Together and the Women's Fightback Network. Featured speaker Larry Hales of FIST and Workers World Party exposed the lie of U.S. imperialism's "compassionate invasion."

Hales traced the history of U.S. involvement in repression and impoverishment of the Haitian people, including the two coups and kidnapping of Haiti's democratically elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Hales pointed out that the military units the U.S. sent are all combat units, and the \$100 million pledged by the U.S. is what is spent in five hours on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He saluted Haiti as the only successful slave revolution and exposed the racist vitriol of right-wing hate mongers like Pat Robertson.

The other featured speaker, Claude St. Germain of the Interim Coordination Committee of Fanmi Lavalas of Boston, thanked Workers World, United Steelworkers Local 8751 and the International Action Center for their solidarity with the Haitian people. He described the Fanmi Lavalas movement and its leader, former President Aristide, as the true representatives of the poor and working people of Haiti. He spoke of how the U.S. and French

imperialists united against Aristide in response to his demand that the French pay reparations owed the Haitian people.

Germain described the hostility of U.S. corporations to a peoples' government led by Aristide that prioritized the needs of the poor. He read Aristide's statement from South Africa declaring his readiness to return to work side-by-side with the people and condemned the U.S. and the Rene Preval government in Haiti for keeping him out of the country. He condemned the U.S. for forcing Preval to sign over control of the airport in Port-Au-Prince and the security of the country as a whole to the U.S. military. He saluted the Cubans, Venezuelans and Chinese, who were there on the ground the first day with hundreds of doctors and rescue workers, not a military occupation.

After a spoken-word presentation by Miya Campbell, long-time Puerto Rican political activist Alberto Baretto expressed the solidarity of the Puerto Rican people. Moving testimony was given by young Haitian activist Cindy Printemps,

who spoke of the beauty of her homeland and appealed for volunteers and architects to go to Haiti to rebuild.

— Frank Neisser



WW PHOTO: LIZ GREEN

U.S. troops invade Haiti

Continued from page 1

dia here painted the Haitian survivors as a mob tearing each other apart for whatever they could get their hands on. Even

the U.S. ambassador to Haiti, Kenneth Merten, had to contradict this slander. Merten told PBS:

"People should be aware that the vast majority of Haitians here are behaving in a calm and peaceful manner." (BBC News, Jan. 21)

Other observers more friendly to the Haitian population described how Haitians, though without food and water for days, organized themselves to rescue those trapped and to receive and share aid.

Matthew Price reported: "During the last week in Haiti, I was left with one overwhelming impression — it is the survivors who are helping themselves. They are pulling together, not tearing themselves apart." (BBC News, Jan. 21)

Kim Ives of the weekly newspaper *Haiti Liberté* and Amy Goodman of *Democracy Now!* had similar comments. Ives described a scene outside General Hospital: "Here were people who were going in and out of the hospital bringing food to their loved ones in there or needing to go to the hospital, and there were a bunch of U.S. 82nd Airborne soldiers in front yelling in



Detroit forum on Haiti

Members and friends of Workers World Party gathered in Detroit on Jan. 23 for an emergency meeting on the crisis in Haiti. Speakers included Kevin Carey, Andrea Egypt, Ignacio Meneses, Kris Hamel and Abayomi Azikiwe.

WW PHOTO: CHERYL LABASH

Africa mobilizes assistance for Haiti

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

Various organizations and governments throughout Africa are working to provide relief to the people of Haiti in the aftermath of the Jan. 12 earthquake and subsequent aftershocks. In South Africa, churches, mass organizations and the government are encouraging the people to immediately come to the aid of Haiti.

The general thrust in aid efforts stems from the common history of an African heritage and shared legacy of slavery, colonialism and neocolonialism. Some well-known figures in the Haitian relief efforts include Bishop Desmond Tutu and Graca Machel. The African National Congress-led government in South Africa has a considerable history of supporting Haiti and its ousted head of state Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

South Africa was one of the major states to recognize the 200th anniversary of Haitian independence in 2004. President Aristide was granted asylum there and has spoken out about returning to assist in the relief efforts.

The South-African-based Gift of the Givers rescue team helped to clear out a damaged hospital in Port-au-Prince which had 600 bodies buried underneath the rubble. The hospital is being repaired in order to resume efforts to provide medical treatment to thousands of people in need of immediate care.

Dr. Imtiaz Sooliman, the chair of Gift of the Givers, said: "Six of our team members will be deployed here [at the hospital] and will be joined by a seven-member Mexican team. The other four members are going to a Cathedral to start suturing and treating the huge influx of patients arriving there." (Independent Online, South Africa, Jan. 25)

A partial list of pledges from African governments includes South Africa, which has offered \$135,000 along with other material assistance; Chad, which is donating \$500,000; the Democratic Republic of Congo, which has pledged \$2.5 million; and Sierra Leone, which has offered \$100,000.

These aid efforts are called the "Africa for Haiti Campaign," which over the next six months will collect funds and materials to assist the Caribbean nation where some 3 million people have been impacted by the 7.0 earthquake. This project

will draw upon the existing resources of governments and non-governmental organizations.

According to the Daily Maverick newspaper, "The campaign will spend the next six months raising cash primarily from ordinary Africans all over the continent. Then it will send representatives to Haiti, which should be knee-deep in the business of rebuilding by that point." (Jan. 25)

The aid deliveries to Haiti have two main purposes: "one, to show the face and voice of African solidarity and second, to fact-find and identify which are the community organizations and NGOs we can work with so we can channel our support to them, and leave them to be the major implementers of the programs that we will agree upon together," says Graca Machel. (Daily Maverick, Jan. 25)

The Nelson Mandela Foundation hosted a Jan. 22 press conference and pledged its support to the relief efforts. The Foundation says that the Africa for Haiti Campaign "will identify, in partnership with Haitian civil society organizations, initiatives in which it can assist. It also hopes to provide Africans from all walks of life an opportunity to demonstrate their collective solidarity and support for the people of Haiti thereby uniting Africans in compassion and giving." (Episcopal Life Online, Jan. 22)

In a statement made by former South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, he says: "We were supported wonderfully by the international community when we struggled against the vicious policy of apartheid. Today the people of Haiti, struck twice by the earthquake, are in a worse predicament than we were. As South Africans, we especially want to do our bit to alleviate the immense suffering of our sisters and brothers in Haiti. I welcome the initiative by Graca Machel and others. It deserves our wholehearted and very generous support." (Episcopal Life Online, Jan. 22)

This approach to aid delivery will be based upon the experiences of Africa, which as an underdeveloped region has had many negative interactions with Western-based charitable agencies that do not understand nor respect the culture and social situation of the people.

In utilizing a people-based, grassroots approach to Haitian relief, "the African initiative may be more welcome than, say, the far richer offers of help that will come in from the U.S. The assembled group use words like 'solidarity' and 'dignity' a lot. They want to focus on building long-term relationships." (Daily Maverick, Jan. 25)

Senegal offers land for repatriation

President Abdoulaye Wade of the West African nation of Senegal recently offered to re-settle displaced Haitians on the continent. Wade says that his proposal will be submitted to the African Union very soon for its approval and assistance.

Wade says that the history of enslavement of Africans in Haiti entitled the descendants the right to return to the continent of their ancestors. "All we are saying is that the Haitians didn't take themselves over there. They are there because of slavery, five centuries of slavery." (Reuters TV, Jan. 25)

The 83-year-old leader said: "We have to offer them the chance to come to Africa, that is my idea. They have as much a right to Africa as I have. You can't tell me it's not possible. It's all possible if the Haitians seek it." (Reuters, Jan. 25)

He went on to urge that other African states naturalize any person from Haiti who sought a new nationality. In addition, he is encouraging mass adoption

programs for orphans who can be transported to various regions of the continent.

Following this same trend of solidarity with Haiti, the African Union Commission Chair, Jean Ping, revealed on Jan. 25 that the continental organization was setting up an account with the African Development Bank to solicit contributions for ongoing efforts to assist the people of Haiti.

In an African Press Agency report issued on Jan. 25, it states, "The AU Commission intends, through this initiative, to collect in absolute transparency all financial contributions of member states wishing to express their active solidarity towards Haiti which is considered by the AU as the sixth region of Africa." Ping described the earthquake as a major disaster and urged African groups and Africans in the Diaspora to move forward with a massive support campaign for Haiti.

Lessons for East Africa

Scientists and policymakers are also studying the situation in Haiti in order to prepare for future disasters on the African continent. Chris Hartnady, a former associate professor in the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Cape Town in South Africa, said recently, "Large areas of the African Continent are in an unstable, tectonically active state and, especially in the mountain regions, substantial danger is posed to growing populations." (The East African, Jan. 25)

Between 1980 and 2002, Africa was hit by over 50 earthquakes that resulted in more than 23,000 deaths and injuries. The East African Rift System has some of the most densely populated areas on the continent such as the Virunga Mountains located between Uganda, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

A 2004 workshop held in Nairobi, Kenya, predicted that if an earthquake occurred with a similar magnitude as the one which took place in 1910 in Rukwa (7.4, Africa's most severe in the 20th century) the impact would be devastating. The quake could potentially damage large areas on the East African coastline including Mombasa in Kenya, Dar es Salaam in Tanzania and Beira in Mozambique.

In an article published in the East African on Jan. 25, it emphasized the need for disaster preparedness. The article says: "In the case of earthquakes, disaster-preparedness need not cost the earth. One important prerequisite is to tap into and expand the local knowledge base. According to the report from the 2004 meeting in Nairobi, while particular seismic events cannot be predicted, the general level of seismicity across broad areas can be forecast for up to hundreds of years in the future."

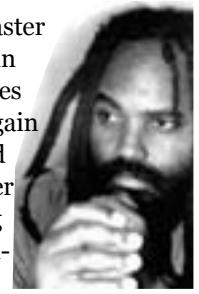
The efforts of people in Africa and other oppressed regions of the world are important in the struggle to rebuild Haiti in a fashion that will benefit the working and poor people of the country. An upcoming "donors conference" in Canada will bring together representatives of imperialist states whose aim is to lead the reconstruction efforts in the interests of global capitalism.

Gerald Caplan, the author of "The Betrayal of Africa," says that this same imperialist approach toward Haiti will only benefit the Western industrialized states and not the Haitian people. Caplan says: "What is important to note about most donor countries, including Canada, is that they have always extracted far more from the poor recipient countries than they've contributed. Poor countries, in reality, have been net donors to us rich folks." (Globe and Mail, Jan. 22) □

From Mumia Abu-Jamal on death row

'HAITI on our minds'

Taken from a Jan. 17 audio column at www.prisonradio.org.



The recent natural disaster in Haiti has once again thrown Haiti into the eyes of the world and once again brought out the best and the worst of us. The sheer scale of human suffering has evoked massive compassion as governments far and wide mobilize to assist those unable to assist themselves.

Haiti, once the colonial era "pearl of the Antilles," then the mother of revolutions, has suffered for nearly two centuries for daring to fight for and win its freedom from European colonialism and plunder.

Haiti, we are informed by the corporate media, is the poorest nation in the West. We are never told, however, how it got that way. How many of us know that the U.S. brutally occupied Haiti and stayed there for more than 20 years! Or that Haiti, which had the temerity to defeat not one, not two, but three colonial armies — the French, the British and the Spanish — was forced to pay French reparations for nearly 200 years. The first and only time that a victor in war had to pay back the nation it defeated.

Haiti isn't just poor. It has been impoverished by a global system of exploitation and a plantation capitalist economy that was designed as a sanction for Black liberation.

C.L.R. James, the great revolutionary scholar-activist, has argued that the Haitian revolution was a singular event in human history of more significance than either the French or the American revolutions. In part that is because the Haitian revolution spelled the end to French imperialism in America. Napoleon, having lost his Haitian cash cow, sold vast lands to the U.S. for a song, doubling the size of the U.S. in one day.

That an American preacher could today liken the event to the devil gives us some idea of its continuing power. Interestingly, neither of these other revolutions could spell the end of that truly demonic institution, slavery. Indeed, the reverse is true. For George Washington and Thomas Jefferson were slave owners. And Napoleon Bonaparte sent his army to Haiti to defend slavery.

Decades and decades of U.S.-supported dictators, the legacy of plantation capitalism and exploitation, U.S.-supported coups like the Bush-era removal of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, and corporate strangulation of the poor workers in Haiti have left it severely underdeveloped and thus less able to cope with natural disasters when they strike.

Several years ago when a hurricane hit a city in the world's wealthiest nation, the wealthy and middle classes had the resources to flee just before the worst struck the town. In Haiti those resources were even more rare. But an earthquake isn't a hurricane. It strikes suddenly, without warning. But many nations like Japan have constructed buildings which resist the bumps and whirls of earthquakes. Such techniques if applied to Haitian schools, homes and offices could have greatly reduced loss of life and suffering.

If it hadn't been bled and exploited for centuries, Haiti would have had the resources available to protect its people as much as possible.

Let us hope that Haiti's future will be brighter than its postcolonial past. □

English at this crowd. They didn't know what they were doing. They were creating more chaos rather than diminishing it." (Haiti Liberté, Jan. 20-26)

And when a truckload of food came unannounced in the middle of the night to the Delmas 33 neighborhood, "the local popular organization ... immediately mobilized their members. They came out. They set up a perimeter. They set up a cordon. They lined up about 600 people who were staying on the soccer field behind the house, which is also a hospital, and they distributed the food in an orderly, equitable fashion. They were totally sufficient. They didn't need Marines. They didn't need the U.N." (Democracy Now! transcript, Jan. 20)

Ives told Workers World on Jan. 26: "The earthquake was half a revolution, removing all the government buildings and virtually eliminating the repressive power of the state. That's why the U.S. is rushing in to replace that state power, to control Haiti's future and to prevent the people of Haiti from carrying out the other half."

E-mail: jcat@workers.org

The real looters

We've all seen the images so many times: a Black youth, or maybe it's a Black mother, or a Black elder taking food, clothing, items to be sold "illegally" from a store.

This person is possibly hungry, undoubtedly poor and in some level of distress — whether it be from the ravages of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti; the combined devastation and racist neglect in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and Rita in 2005; or even the righteous anger, in response to police brutality, that leads to rebellions. The person has few, if any, options and, in all probability, hasn't had any for a long time.

And yet when times get desperate, and this person is captured on camera securing necessities for his or her family, this person is demonized as a "looter." When natural disasters occur in areas with a high concentration of people of color, the highest concern echoed on the TV networks and in the printed press is that of "security."

It is the height of racism that allows government figures and their talking heads in the corporate media to even mention looting during such tumultuous events. It's based on the old colonialist mentality that people of color are "savages" who need to be kept in line by the white man. And it's reinforced by the one-dimensional images of people of color that are shown all the time —

images that, fundamentally, refuse to take into account the legacy of pain and suffering, the will to survive or the right to resist.

What's the theft of basic items of survival compared to the theft of whole lands and peoples? The very imperialists who raise charges of looting, if they had their way, would loot and exploit all the peoples of the world and the very environment we live in, until there's nothing left. These imperialists employ every manner of violence — from starvation to guns and bombs — to get what they want.

While the threat of "looting" by the oppressed is in reality very minimal to the imperialists, they do face a real security issue. It's the threat that those who have been oppressed for centuries will rise up, perhaps employing the same violence that they have always been subjected to. That is why the U.S. sends troops rather than aid to Haiti in its time of need.

The imperialists face a second threat, one that significantly augments the first. It's that the oppressed have allies who will rise up with them, who realize they face the same oppressor, who are aware that their strength lies in unity. In an attempt to avoid this, they ply us with images of the dreaded "looters," who are really our sisters and brothers in struggle. □

For dialysis patients

Another deadline with death looms

Continued from page 4
treatments can cause death.

The Grady Coalition, doctors and other health advocates were joined by the patients and their families in rallies outside the hospital demanding the clinic remain open. Patients provided passionate testimony at board meetings, and a lawsuit was filed which resulted in a temporary injunction. The hospital administration initially told people their only options were to return to their home country or go to another state with shorter residency requirements for Medicaid if they couldn't make arrangements for dialysis at for-profit clinics. Under public pressure, Grady then agreed to pay for private treatment for three months until December; then until January. Now the cutoff of care is Feb. 3.

At least three of the uninsured patients have died while this cruel cat-and-mouse gamesmanship has been going on. Until now, the for-profit centers have refused to provide free care for some 40 men and

women who remain in Atlanta. Their level of stress and anxiety undoubtedly impacts their overall health. Their spouses, children and grandchildren are worried and scared that their loved ones will die. Each deadline brings more terror about the future.

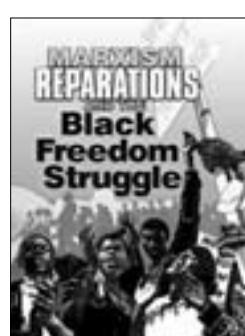
In a suspicious move, Emory Health Services is opening three dialysis clinics in early 2010. The extraordinarily wealthy, private Emory University exercises tremendous influence over the operations of Grady Hospital and has ties to the businessmen on the Board who made the decision to end free and accessible dialysis care to the poor.

A spirited protest by Grady Coalition members disrupted the grand opening ceremonies of the South DeKalb Emory Dialysis Clinic on Jan. 21. Chanting, "People before profit! Serve the Grady patients!" and "Health care is a right! Shame on Emory!" the group demanded that life-sustaining dialysis care be provided immediately and at no cost. □

MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper.
Edited by Monica Moorehead. Includes:

Racism, National Oppression & Self-Determination Larry Holmes
Black Labor from Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery Sam Marcy
Harriet Tubman, Woman Warrior Mumia Abu-Jamal
Black Youth: Repression & Resistance Leilani Dowdell
The Struggle for Socialism Is Key Monica Moorehead
Black & Brown Unity: A Pillar of Struggle for Human Rights and Global Justice! Saladin Muhammad
Are Conditions Ripe Again Today? 40th Anniversary of the 1965 Watts Rebellion John Parker
Racism and Poverty in the Delta Larry Hales



Alabama's Black Belt: Legacy of slavery, sharecropping and segregation Consuela Lee
Haiti Needs reparations, not sanctions Pat Chin

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Clinton, Google and the cyber cold war on China

By Gary Wilson

Has Secretary of State Hillary Clinton declared a U.S. cyber cold war on China?

On Jan. 21, Clinton gave a speech titled "Internet Freedom." News accounts generally tie the speech to a recent report by Google that it had been subjected to cyber attacks that originated in China.

What's left out of most reports, but was not missed by China and its media, was the rest of the speech. After China's response to the speech, the New York Times characterized the talk very differently than it did in its initial report:

"Clinton's sweeping speech with its cold war undertones — likening the information curtain to the Iron Curtain — criticized several countries by name, including China, for Internet censorship. It was the first speech in which a top administration official offered a vision for making Internet freedom an integral part of foreign policy." (N.Y. Times, Jan. 22)

The speech is available in its entirety on the State Department's Web site. It is filled with aggressive cold war references to the Berlin Wall and an "Information Iron Curtain" as well as other cold war rhetoric, like a speech from the U.S. State Department during the Reagan years.

Clinton's Internet declaration follows the announcement only seven months earlier on June 23 by the Pentagon's secretary of war, Robert Gates, that a new military cybercommand has been created for the purpose of conducting cyberwarfare.

Clinton's speech is not explicitly a war statement, but rather a proclamation of U.S. hegemony over the Internet.

The Google confrontation may or may not have been the catalyst to giving the speech at this time. In early January, Google announced that it is reviewing its business operations in China because of cyber attacks it says originated in China. Although Google does not say it directly, the implication is that the Chinese government is behind the alleged attacks. The fact is that Google doesn't know the source and is only able to trace the attack to servers in Taiwan, but anything beyond that is only a guess.

Google chief legal officer, David Drummond, said in a Jan. 12 blog posting, "We have evidence to suggest that a primary goal of the attackers was accessing the Gmail accounts of Chinese human rights activists." This is a revealing statement, because it also uses imperialist cold war terminology. In the twisted terminology of imperialism, the phrase "human rights activists" is used to describe anti-communist individuals, particularly those actively seeking to overthrow a government not dominated or controlled by the U.S. The phrase human rights activist is never used to describe those fighting for justice and against oppression in a U.S. ally or client state.

An interesting side note to the Google cyber attack is provided by Macworld reporter Robert McMillan, who says that the attackers used the backdoor into Google that is mandated by the U.S. security services to give them access to monitor Internet activity.

Google is unlikely to close its business in China. China has 298 million Internet users according to the China Internet Network Information Center, almost double the number in the U.S. And Google is in the business of collecting Internet clickers. Google does appear to be trying to use this event in order to negotiate a change in its terms for doing business in China. Just as Google's operations in the U.S. require it to carry out some costly practices in order to be compliant with laws that are said to be meant to prevent illegal practices, so

too Google's operations in China must operate under similar laws.

The Clinton speech, however, raised the stakes and turned what might have been initially a "business dispute" into something more.

The Chinese newspaper Global Times' editorial on Jan. 22 calls it "information imperialism" and says that the Internet campaign launched by the Clinton speech "is a disguised attempt to impose [U.S.] values on other cultures in the name of democracy.

"The hard fact that Clinton has failed to highlight in her speech is that the bulk of the information flowing from the U.S. and other Western countries is loaded with aggressive rhetoric against those countries that do not follow their lead," Global Times says.

"In contrast, in the global information order, countries that are disadvantaged could not produce the massive flow of information required, and could never rival the Western countries in terms of information control and dissemination.

"Keeping that in mind, it must be realized that when it comes to information content, quantity, direction and flow, there is absolutely no equality and fairness.

"The online freedom of unrestricted access is, thus, only one-way traffic, contrary to the spirit of democracy and calculated to strengthen a monopoly," Global Times concludes. (opinion.globaltimes.cn)

The accuracy of that statement is confirmed by the cyber attacks that originated in the U.S. targeting the government of Iran. Clinton did not mention this censorship of Iran, an attack that shut down for a short time all information coming from the Iranian government. This attack last year is well known and was widely publicized. Clinton, by leaving out any mention of this cyber attack, this censorship of Iran, was by implication giving it official sanction, maybe even implying that this is what's in store for any countries that oppose U.S. dictates.

As for Internet freedom and censorship, no mention was made of the FBI's arrest of G-20 protesters last September in Pittsburgh for using Twitter to communicate during their demonstration. The absence of any mention by Clinton of this widely reported attempt to intimidate protesters was confirmation that the speech was about U.S. monopoly control of the Internet, not about any alleged freedoms.

China didn't miss the message. The official English-language China Daily had a front page report headlined: "New shot in the arm for U.S. hegemony."

The report details how the U.S. completely dominates and controls the Internet and how it is U.S. military policy to maintain that domination.

"The U.S. Defense Strategy Review in March 2005 stated that Internet space should have the same priority as continental, marine, aerial and outer space jurisdictions for the U.S. to maintain a decisive superiority. A statement from Washington on June 30, 2005, made it clear that the U.S. government would maintain its control ... indefinitely," China Daily reports.

The article has a great deal of information. For example, it quotes a former U.S. intelligence agent who says that the CIA's primary means for gathering information on China is through the Internet. And the move by China last June to require a filter named Green Dam, which blocks spying activity, is what is in dispute with Google. Google is seeking to take off the Green Dam filter. Read the full report at www.chinadaily.com.cn, including the details on cyber war attacks by Pentagon contractors Northrop Grumman Corp and General Dynamics. □

U.S. targets Yemen, expands 'war on terror'

By Joyce Chediac

On Jan. 4, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton claimed "instability" in Yemen posed "a global threat." Why is Yemen unstable? Where does the "threat" really come from? Why are U.S. cruise missiles killing civilians in Yemen?

PART

2

Brief history of Yemen

The Republic of Yemen is strategically located in the southwestern tip of the Arabian Peninsula and across from the Horn of Africa. It is bordered in the north by Saudi Arabia and in the east by Oman.

In modern times, this country's struggle for sovereignty has drawn fire from the most powerful imperialist countries and their Middle Eastern clients.

Yemen was taken over by the British and made a colony in 1939. When the Suez Canal opened in 1869, the port of Aden — one of Yemen's natural resources — became British colonialism's refueling port.

When a wave of anti-imperialist struggle gripped the Arab world in the 1950s and 1960s, the Yemeni people threw out the British colonizers and formed the Yemen Arab Republic in 1962. The new state was supported by Egypt, then a leader in the Arab national struggle, which sent in troops to protect it.

Yemeni independence and self-determination was opposed by Saudi Arabia, a surrogate for Washington and to this day the oppressor regime in the Arabian Peninsula. The heavily armed Saudi regime has regularly interfered in Yemeni affairs and opposed any progressive measures there.

Yemenis in the southern part of the country took the struggle a step further. After a successful armed struggle, they set up a state which aspired to build socialism. In 1967, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen was born in the south. The new state aligned with the Soviet Union, China and Cuba.

The PDRY contained most of Yemen's natural resources. The port of Aden and Yemen's oil deposits are in the south. The PDRY controlled the Bab al Mandeb straits — a strategic oil tanker passage-way — which the U.S. government now seeks to control. Despite these resources, relentless pressure from world imperialism and repeated attempts by the Saudis to destabilize the progressive government prevented the PDRY from developing its economy.

In 1990, after the collapse of the socialist camp, the socialist south and capitalist north reunited in a strained union to form the Republic of Yemen. The new government, headed by Yemen's current president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, for a short time included a relative balance of representatives between Yemen's north and south.

A year later, when the U.S. and its allies invaded Iraq for the first time, the Republic of Yemen opposed this attack

on Iraq. The Saudi regime retaliated against Yemen for its progressive and independent stand by expelling a million Yemenis working and living in Saudi Arabia; thereby destabilizing Yemen, which could not absorb them all. A half million desperate people camped outside Sana'a,

the capital city. Yemen's poverty level shot up to 47 percent, and remains in the same range today.

The message was clear. Imperialism and its surrogates in the region would not tolerate independent positions from Yemen. The Yemeni government became an agent of the Saudis and the U.S. The resource-rich south was virtually annexed, its political leaders forced to flee, and its inhabitants treated like second-class citizens.

Since then, the Sana'a regime's pro-imperialist and corrupt policies have isolated ever growing sectors of the population. Yemen oil money was used not to develop the country but to line the Swiss bank accounts of Yemen's rulers and those they buy off. The drop in oil prices associated with the 2008 capitalist economic crisis struck a body blow to the Yemeni economy. As Yemen's economy has become more unstable, its rulers have become more corrupt and more repressive.

U.S., Yemeni and Saudi regimes bombing Yemeni people

When Clinton raised concern over Yemen's "instability" she never mentioned the root causes and imperialism's role. Nor does she mention that right now, under the guise of fighting terror, the U.S., Yemeni and Saudi regimes are bombing and terrorizing the people of Yemen.

Today there are three distinct insurgencies in Yemen. Most significant are the Houthi insurrection in the north and especially the secular Southern Movement. Most recently, at the behest of the U.S., Sana'a has begun attacking the small group called al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, not before seen as a threat.

The U.S. media claim that the Houthi fight with Sana'a is a Sunni-Shiite conflict based on religion. However, Edmund J. Jull, U.S. ambassador to Yemen from 2002 to 2004, calls this a "myth" and explains that "the Houthi and President Saleh are followers of the Zaidi sect of Shi'ite Islam." The Houthis are fighting for cultural rights against a repressive regime. The Yemeni government has been destroying their villages since 2004, making tens of thousands refugees. Saudi jets regularly bomb Houthi positions.

The Southern Movement is a broad-based secular movement whose goal is the secession of the south. Its core is made up of former officials and military officers of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. It also includes Baathists, Nasarites and traditional local leaders.

Gary Leupp, writing in the Jan. 15-17 issue of Counterpunch, says the Southern Movement has "little in common with al-Qaida" and views Yemeni President Saleh as "a corrupt, nepotistic dictator using U.S. aid and the exaggerated al-Qaida threat to his own advantage."

Tiny al-Qaida not seen as a Yemeni "problem"

As for al-Qaida in the Arabian Gulf, even U.S. intelligence estimates that the group is only loosely affiliated with the Bin Laden group and has no more than 200 people, most of whom do not have weapons. The group, however, is located in the oil-rich and strategic south.

Gregory Johnson, a Princeton graduate student specializing in Yemen, said, "The Yemeni government is much more concerned with fighting the Houthis in Saada and with the secessionists in the south.



Al-Qaida ranks a distant third. The government doesn't see it as a Yemeni problem. [It sees it as] a foreign problem."

That was before government instability in this strategic country sounded alarm bells in Washington. Now, said Leupp, Yemeni President Saleh has "smeared" the Southern Movement "as an al-Qaida offshoot" to "strengthen his grip over the country with U.S. support" because "his government is weak and risks losing control over the oil-rich south without outside help."

Washington claims "threats" from Yemen stem from an alleged al-Qaida connection and the aborted attempt to bring down a U.S. airliner on Dec. 25. Yet the Pentagon began air strikes on southern

Yemen on Dec. 18, seven days earlier. CBS reports that the 60 victims were mostly civilians, including women and children. Additionally, the Houthis in north Yemen, far from al-Qaida, say that they have been bombed by U.S. drones.

The U.S. concern in Yemen is not al-Qaida "threats." It is concern that imperialism remain in control of strategic and oil-rich Yemen and the nearby oil routes. Washington, however, underestimates the determination of the Yemeni people, who are very political, and have a long history of struggle.

Next: The Pentagon's war on terror — does it make people in the U.S. safer?

Based on a talk given at a Workers World forum in New York City on Jan. 16.

Is U.S. planning a military attack on Iran?

Following are excerpts from an open letter by Iranian progressives. Go to www.workers.org to read the entire statement.

Is Washington planning a military attack against Iran? Shocking as such a thought might be, this is exactly what is being debated and contemplated at the highest levels of American politics.

The Obama administration came into office promising change and dialogue with Iran instead of confrontation. [But] the State Department has been carrying out what amounts to a "soft war" by aiding and abetting the opposition to Tehran's government.

Today, it seems that Washington has concluded that its "soft war" has failed. The voices for attacking Iran militarily are getting stronger. And as in 2003, when Bush and Cheney's lies about WMD in Iraq found their echo in the so-called "objective and skeptical" media, today the lies about the Iranian "nuclear threat" are being reinforced by a compliant media.

Iran has repeatedly stated that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes for use in medical and electricity generation. It is a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and has opened its facilities to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency. The nuclear story as presented in the U.S. media is only a cover — as it was with WMD in Iraq.

Since its independence, Iran has advanced enormously in all economic, social and cultural spheres, with a very strong sense of national identity. Today women make up the majority in Iranian universities and colleges. The illiteracy rate has dropped greatly. Despite an imposed san-

ctions system ever since its revolution and many obstacles, it has achieved great growth in both industrial and agricultural sectors.

Any military attack against Iran would be a monumental tragedy resulting in many thousands of deaths and enormous material damage. It would set Iran back many years in its attempt for progress and development.

This is precisely what such an attack is meant to achieve, not the hypocritical scenario of preventing a "nuclear threat" from Iran.

This Jan. 6, The New York Times carried a front-page story titled: "Iran Is Shielding Nuclear Efforts in Tunnel Mazes." The story has all the hallmarks of the now totally discredited aluminum tube article written by Judith Miller and Michael Gordon and published in the Times on Sept. 8, 2002. That article was meant to persuade the skeptics that Cheney's concocted stories about WMD hidden in Iraq were credible and to sway them into going along with the White House's plans for invading Iraq.

In the Iraq aluminum tube story, the Times used Ahmed Chalabi to make its story believable. Chalabi, who was on the CIA's payroll at the time, was portrayed as a genuine opposition figure. In the Iran story, the paper uses the National Council of Resistance in the same way.

The Pentagon is planning for mass murder in Iran with its Massive Ordnance Penetrator and the Times justifies it with statements from a shady organization having a history of lies and collaboration with different U.S. agencies about alleged Iranian nuclear activities.

Court tries to intimidate supporters of Pakistani hero



Dr. Aafia Siddiqui

Dr. Aafia Siddiqui's trial for alleged attempted murder of FBI agents in Afghanistan entered its second week Jan. 25 in New York City. Court officials forced all who wanted to attend the trial to twice go through metal detectors and submit to thorough searches, provide photo-ID, and sign their names. This intimidating process for non-citizens from the Pakistani community is being challenged.

— John Catalinotto

Ayuda de EEUU sujeta a condiciones

Por Sara Flounders

¿Cuánto vale realmente la ayuda de \$100 millones de EEUU para Haití? Cien millones de dólares es menos de lo que EEUU gasta en cinco horas en las guerras y la ocupación en Afganistán e Irak.

Los \$100 millones que el presidente Barack Obama prometió en ayuda de emergencia a Haití por el terremoto parece un montón de dinero. Pero es una cantidad minúscula si se compara con lo que los gobernantes de Francia y Estados Unidos le robaron a Haití y a su pueblo durante siglos.

Estados Unidos impuso 60 años de sanciones y bloqueo a Haití después de la primera revolución victoriosa de esclavos en la historia. Este bloqueo empobreció a Haití. Francia exigió en 1825, con buques de guerra amenazando en el puerto, que Haití le pagara a los franceses propi-

etarios de esclavos, 21 mil millones de dólares por el valor de los/as africanos/as esclavizados/as que fueron liberados/as. Haití fue forzada a pagar intereses sobre esa deuda por más de 100 años.

El dictador Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, apoyado por los EEUU, desvió \$500 millones en préstamos de EEUU a sus cuentas bancarias personales sólo en los últimos seis años antes de huir del país. Pero el pueblo haitiano todavía tenía que pagar todos los préstamos de Duvalier.

Ya endeudado por miles de millones de dólares, Haití se vio obligada a aceptar un programa de ajuste estructural del Fondo Monetario Internacional, que prometía "perdonar la deuda". Este programa del FMI destrozó la agricultura sostenible de Haití, llevó a la quiebra sus cultivos de arroz y azúcar, elevó el precio de la electricidad, y congeló los salarios de los/as

trabajadores/as y proveedores del transporte público, la infraestructura vital y de los servicios sociales, tales como médicos, enfermeras y maestros/as.

La deuda de Haití al Banco de Desarrollo Interamericano no fue "perdonada". Es más de \$500 millones, cinco veces la cantidad de la ayuda que EEUU prometió para ayudar por el terremoto.

Siempre es importante recordar que lo que el imperialismo estadounidense da con una mano, la quita con la otra. El FMI anunció el 14 de enero, el mismo día en que el Presidente Obama prometió los \$100 millones en ayuda, que iba a agregar un préstamo de \$100 millones más a su programa actual en Haití. Esto sólo aumenta la deuda de Haití.

Cien millones de dólares es sólo el 7 por ciento de los 1,4 mil millones de dólares que los/as trabajadores/as haitianos/as

en la diáspora envían a sus familias cada año. La mitad de la población de Haití vive con menos de un 1 dólar al día. Sin embargo, esta ayuda de EEUU y los préstamos de EEUU obligará a los/as haitianos/as a emigrar aún más en búsqueda de trabajo para la supervivencia de sus familias.

Al pueblo de Haití se le debe una reparación por los bancos estadounidenses y franceses que han extraído miles de millones de dólares en ganancias procedentes de Haití durante cientos de años. \$100 millones es mucho menos del 1 por ciento de los \$18 mil millones que los ejecutivos de Goldman Sachs recibirán en bonos este año, después de un rescate de los bancos de 700 mil millones de dólares por el gobierno de los EEUU.

Y los \$100 millones en ayuda de EEUU para Haití viene con un precio muy alto: la ocupación militar de EEUU. □

Cuba, China y Venezuela envian asistencia inmediata a Haití

Por Deirdre Griswold

Los médicos cubanos empezaron a salvar vidas tan pronto como el terremoto devastador golpeó Haití el 12 de enero

Años antes de este desastre monumental, Cuba había instalado una misión médica en Haití para dar cobertura a áreas donde hasta entonces o era escasa o no había llegado nunca asistencia médica. Los cubanos, además, enseñaban a trabajadores haitianos del ámbito médico técnicas de primeros auxilios. Cuando se produjo el terremoto estos equipos se pusieron en marcha rápidamente para proporcionar ayuda de emergencia.

Un avión de ayuda proveniente de Venezuela fue el primero en aterrizar en Haití, en un momento en el que el había desaparecido cualquier atisbo de funcionamiento normal de todos los servicios públicos. Médicos venezolanos y brasileños se unieron a los equipos cubanos, quienes, acostumbrados a funcionar en condiciones precarias, ya tenían sus propios generadores para impulsar el equipo quirúrgico.

Otros doctores cubanos que habían estado trabajando en Haití, pero estaban en Cuba por vacaciones cuando tuvo lugar el terremoto, regresaron rápidamente. A ellos se unieron varios cirujanos cubanos con experiencia en trabajar en situaciones difíciles así como doctores haitianos formados en facultades de medicina cubanas en varias especialidades.

En menos de 24 horas, el personal médico cubano en Haití ya había ayudado a cientos de pacientes - un número que aumentó a miles antes del fin de semana.

Fidel Castro utilizó su columna "Reflexiones" del 16 de enero para transmitir al pueblo cubano la esencia de un informe del jefe de la Brigada médica cubana: "El hospital Delmas 33 ya está funcionando; el mismo tiene tres salones quirúrgicos, con plantas eléctricas, áreas de consulta, etcétera, pero está absolutamente repleto."

"Doce médicos chilenos se han incorporado, uno de ellos anestesiólogo; tam-

bien ocho médicos venezolanos; nueve monjitas españolas; se espera la incorporación, de un momento a otro, de 18 españoles a los cuales la ONU y Salud Pública haitiana les había entregado el hospital, pero les faltaban recursos de urgencia que no habían podido arribar, por lo que decidieron sumarse a nosotros y comenzar de inmediato a trabajar.

"Fueron enviados 32 médicos residentes haitianos, seis de ellos iban a ir directo a Carrefour, un sitio totalmente devastado. También viajaron los tres equipos quirúrgicos cubanos que llegaron ayer".

"Estamos operando las siguientes instalaciones médicas en Puerto Príncipe: Hospital La Renaissance, Hospital del Seguro Social y el Hospital de la Paz. Funcionan ya cuatro CDI (Centros de Diagnóstico Integral)".

El gobierno cubano, mientras coordinaba la ayuda para Haití, lograba evacuar, paralelamente y en menos de una hora, a 30.000 cubanos de la costa frente a Haití, ante la posibilidad de que se produjera un tsunami.

Un equipo chino de búsqueda y rescate.

A las 2 de la madrugada del 14 de enero, a escasas 32 horas de producirse el terremoto, un equipo de búsqueda y rescate aterrizó en Puerto Príncipe proveniente de China, que tuvo su propio gran terremoto hace dos años. El avión despegó de China a las pocas horas de saberse que Haití tenía necesidad urgente de ayuda.

La Administración de Terremotos de China informó que el equipo trabajó durante más de 60 horas, sacando personas de edificios colapsados en la capital. De acuerdo con China Daily, el equipo "comenzó a trabajar con las fuerzas de mantenimiento de paz de Brasil, Nepal y con los equipos de rescate de los Estados Unidos y Francia".

"Habían sacado los cuerpos de algunos funcionarios de las Naciones Unidas, incluyendo el jefe de Naciones Unidas en Haití Hedi Annabi y Luiz Da Costa, Representante Especial Adjunto del Secretario General de Naciones Unidas en Haití,

además de ocho agentes de la policía china.

"El equipo también estableció una estación médica para ofrecer tratamiento para pacientes sacados de los escombros y apoyo médico para los médicos y el personal de seguridad. El equipo continuará el trabajo de búsqueda y rescate en otras partes de Haití en coordinación con las Naciones Unidas, dijo el CEA".

Hou Shike, doctor en jefe del equipo médico chino informó que ya habían atendido 200 pacientes con traumas severos.

Tres días después, el 17 de enero, aterrizó un avión chino transportando 90 toneladas de suministros, como medicinas, tiendas, luces de emergencia, instrumentos para potabilización del agua, comida, agua potable y ropa.

Ese mismo día, Hugo Chávez anunció que Venezuela proporcionaría a Haití tanto petróleo como fuese necesario para garantizar el transporte y la electricidad.

El aeropuerto controlado por EEUU es un "cuello de botella"

Mientras tanto, el gobierno de Haití que apenas era capaz de funcionar entregó el control del aeropuerto internacional a EEUU. La prioridad número uno de Washington ha sido desde el primer momento el envío de miles de tropas, decisión que está siendo fuertemente criticada por las organizaciones de ayuda.

Médicos sin Fronteras, con sede en Ginebra, afirma que el aeropuerto controlado por EEUU es en estos momentos un cuello de botella y que hay "pocos indicios de una distribución importante de la ayuda" (Periódico Telegraph, Gran Bretaña, 18 de enero). Esta organización afirma que se ha denegado el aterrizaje a un vuelo que traía su propio hospital de campaña, por lo que se vieron obligados a traer el material desde la República Dominicana, lo que ha supuesto un retraso de 24 horas.

Oficiales franceses y brasileños, entre otros, ya habían denunciado con anterioridad que las tropas estadounidenses habían impedido que aterrizaran sus vuelos cargados de suministros.

Por su parte, uno de los encargados

del Programa Mundial de Alimentos declaraba en el New York Times que EEUU permite el aterrizaje de demasiados vuelos militares norteamericanos y muy pocos vuelos con ayuda humanitaria.

"Alain Joyandet, Ministro de Cooperación de Francia, afirmó que su país ha presentado una protesta ante Washington en relación con la gestión militar del aeropuerto por parte de EEUU, ya que, en concreto no se ha permitido el aterrizaje de un avión francés con ayuda". (Telegraph)

El 18 de enero, China Daily, en su informe desde Puerto Príncipe afirma que la distribución de la ayuda es "aleatoria, caótica, y mínima". En este informe se describe cómo masas de gente se empujan y se atropellan buscando las raciones de comida y botellas de agua que lanzan desde el cielo helicópteros militares estadounidenses. Un periodista afirmó ver como trabajadores de las organizaciones humanitarias lanzaban paquetes de comida a haitianos desesperados.

"La distribución está totalmente desorganizada. No se está identificando a la gente que necesita el agua. Las personas mayores y las enfermas no tienen ninguna oportunidad", afirma Pierre Deny, mientras espera con su contenedor de plástico vacío junto a una multitud que busca agua.

El mismo informe chino afirma que "Docenas de países han enviado aviones con equipos de rescate, doctores, tiendas, alimentos, medicinas y otros suministros necesarios, pero se han encontrado con el cuello de botella del pequeño aeropuerto de Puerto Príncipe".

Es muy difícil encontrar en los medios estadounidenses alguna mención a la ayuda que están enviando a Haití los países progresistas y socialistas. ¿Será porque estos países no ponen un precio a su sacrificio? Oímos hablar constantemente de los 100 millones de dólares prometidos por la administración Obama. Sin embargo, cuando bajamos al terreno donde mueren miles de personas cada día por falta de agua, comida y medicinas, esa promesa resulta absolutamente insuficiente. □