After massive protests, what next?

Turn up the heat

By Deirdre Griswold

With the thunder of a million marching feet still echoing around the world, the anti-war movement is already gearing up for the next round in the struggle with the Bush administration.

Since the huge marches in Washington and San Francisco on Jan. 18 organized by the ANSWER coalition, and solidarity actions in 38 other countries, White House officials for the first time had to acknowledge widespread opposition to their planned onslaught against Iraq. But, in the same breath, those trying to sell the war to the public speak of their determination to go through with it.

However, the anti-war forces are equally determined to stop this unprovoked, premeditated criminal attack on a people who have already suffered so much from U.S. sanctions and war.

President George W. Bush's State of the Union address to Congress on Jan. 28 is expected to be a bellicose tirade against Iraq to prepare the public for war. The ANSWER coalition has called

Continued on page 6

By Brenda Sandburg
San Francisco

In one of the largest protests in San Francisco history, 200,000 people filled Market Street from Embarcadero St. to Civic Center on Jan. 18 to say "No war against Iraq." It took four hours for the entire march to traverse the 1.7 miles.

The outpouring of people represented all segments of society, including students and youth, union members, church groups and thousands who had never been to a demonstration before. At least 50 Bay Area labor unions sent members to the protest. The Bay Area Rapid Transit system—with an average weekday ridership of more than 300,000 people—added additional trains and extended the number of cars on its weekend trains from four to 10. But the crowds were so dense that passengers throughout the Bay Area had to wait for up to an hour to board trains. The ferry system also added extra ferries on routes from the East Bay and North Bay.

At least 125 buses traveled from Los Angeles, San Diego, Santa Cruz, San Jose, Davis, Sacramento, Sonoma, Fresno, Napa, Placerville, Chico, Arcata and other cities, including eight buses from Nevada City, Nev. Others came by plane and car pool from as far away as Montana, Hawaii and Alberta, Canada.

The San Francisco protest, like the national demonstration in Washington, D.C., which drew half a million people, was sponsored by the International ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War and

Continued on page 6

By Leslie Feinberg
Washington, D.C.

The power of the people. You could see it, filling the broad avenues in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 18, stretching for miles. You could hear its thunder: "No war on Iraq!" And as marchers reached the crest of Capitol Hill, looked back and roared in reaction to their own sheer strength, a mass of half a million, you could even taste it.

What a spectrum: all ages and nationalities, ethnicities, religious beliefs or lack of them, sexes, abilities, genders, sexualities, political viewpoints, occupations and walks of life. They came from diverse regions—from inner city neighborhoods to dairy farms, towns, campuses and reservations.

Homeowners and apartment dwellers marched with the homeless; working people walked shoulder to shoulder with the jobless and under-employed. Some weathered the day fortified by a good meal, others marched with growling stomachs. Retirees chanted alongside those too young to work.

The mercury hovered around 20 degrees. But even though an arctic front had swept down across the continental United States the day before the massive mobilization, it didn’t stop people of all ages from braving the trip to make their voices heard.

They came from as far away as Texas, Florida, Alabama, Colorado, Vermont, Wisconsin and Minnesota—many traveling an 18-30 hour bus trip in each direction. At least one bus drove

Continued on page 6
Indian trust fund lawsuit: Tip of the iceberg

By Stephanie Hedgecock

On Jan. 6, lawyers acting on behalf of over 300,000 Native Americans filed a federal court filing of voluminous documentation showing that the U.S. government has stolen some $13.7 billion of Indian Trust Fund money over the past 128 years. Backed by exhaustive proof, this is the single biggest lawsuit ever filed against the U.S. government for fiscal wrongdoing.

Ethnic cleansing, a blacklisting of Montana from Washington, D.C., filed the initial class action lawsuit in 1996. The United States thought the case would fail due to insufficient documentation. Since 1996, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Department of the Interior, which oversees the BIA, have systematically destroyed countless records of evidence. Hundreds more boxes of files were destroyed even after presenting Judge Royce Lamberth ordered them preserved. Lamberth has sharply criticized the government’s actions, but his criticisms have not had teeth. Washington is actively obstructing justice in this lawsuit.

Lamberth has held these Cabinet officers, under both Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton, in contempt—but no one has actually been fined or jailed.

The Jan. 7 New York Times reported, “For generations Indians have complained of the theft of millions of dollars from the government for fiscal wrongdoing. Today the U.S. government has stolen some 13 billion dollars from Native Americans says: “This isn’t taxpayer money. This is our money that the government took, and they have to give it back.” As large a sum as is documented in this lawsuit, it is only the tip of the iceberg of what Native Americans are owed by the U.S. government—for past and ongoing theft of land and resources, the continued poverty of Native people, and the devastation of Native cultures.

Ultimately, Native nations need to be able to control their own lands and resources. Until then, government corruption will be inevitable.

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Environmental nuclear disaster MADE IN USA

By Heather Cottin

U.S. charges that others illegally produce “Weapons of Mass Destruction” rings false when the Pentagon has the preponderance of the nuclear weapons that menace the rest of the nations on Earth. The weapons themselves, as well as the storage facilities and laboratories for them, threaten residents of nearly every state in the Union.

According to a 2002 report by the Educational Foundation for Nuclear Science, the United States has produced 675,000 nuclear missiles since 1951. The cost: $5.5 trillion.

A Brookings Institution study, the U.S. Nuclear Weapons Cost Study Project, reveals that as of August 2002 some 10 million acres of land around the globe housed U.S. nuclear weapons. Almost all that land, 15,694 square miles of it, is in the United States.

In Montana alone there are 50 of the W62/Minuteman III warheads, 400 of the W78/Minuteman III warheads, and a missile field that covers an additional 24,000 square miles in that state.

Missile. It has a missile field that covers 10,000 square miles.

At the Georgia Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base/Strategic Weapons Facility Atlantic there are 1,600 of the W76/Trident I warheads, 400 of the W88/Trident II warheads and 160 of the W80/Sea-Launched Cruise Missiles.

New Mexico is filled with every imaginable nuclear device and installation. Kirtland Air Force Base and the Kirtland Underground Munitions Storage Complex hold 85 of the B61-7 gravity bombs, reportedly released 1,200 tons of mercury, 315 of the W-80/Sea-Launched Cruise Missiles, 430 of the W87/Minuteman II warheads, 60 of the W88/Minuteman III warheads, 550 of the W62/Short-Range Attack Missiles, and 400 of the W84/Grasshopper-Launched Cruise Missile warheads.

The Natural Resources Defense Council’s Nuclear Weapons Databook Project reports that 43 metric tons of plutonium are in weapons stored in the United States. Some 707 “dismantled” plutonium “pits” are stored at the Pantex Plant in Amarillo, Texas, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

The states with the most nuclear weapons are: New Mexico, with 2,450; Georgia, with 2,000; Washington, with 1,685; Nevada, with 1,250; North Dakota, with 1,140. (Washington, D.C.: Natural Resources Defense Council, March 1998)

Costs money and lives

The cost of maintaining this nuclear arsenal in the United States is $55 billion per year, the Brookings study shows. (U.S. Nuclear Weapons Cost Study Project.) These funds could be used for food stamp programs or urban schools, Medicaid or libraries.

The cost is also in human lives. From 1946 to 1970 approximately 90,000 canisters of radioactive waste were jettisoned in ocean dumps up and down the East and West Coasts of the United States.

The Critical Mass Energy Project of Ralph Nader’s Public Citizen, Inc., tabulated 122 accidents involving the transport of nuclear material in 1979, including 17 involving radioactive contamination.

In 1979 a dam holding radioactive uranium mill tailings broke, sending an estimated 100 million gallons of radioactive liquids and 1,100 tons of solid wastes downstream at Church Rock, N.M. The Y-12 Nuclear Weapons Components Plant at Oak Ridge, Tenn., has reportedly released 1,200 tons of mercury, as well as PCBs and heavy metals into the region’s air, soil and streams. Between 1944 and 1996, the Hanford reactors in Washington state discharged billions of gallons of liquids and billions of cubic meters of gases containing plutonium and other radioactive contaminants into the Columbia River. The cost of cleaning up was estimated to be $4.85 billion.

In 1997 a 40-gallon tank of toxic chemicals exploded illegally at the U.S. government’s Hanford Engineer works exploded, causing the release of 20,000-30,000 gallons of plutonium-contaminated water. (www.ratical.org)

Late in the 20th century, it was discovered that the Southwest contained uranium and the continent’s richest supplies of mineral wealth. With the complicity of the U.S. government the energy companies formed tribal councils, controlled by their corporation lawyers, whose main purpose was to sign leases for the mineral-rich land of the Hopi and Diné people.

The Native people who then worked in the uranium mining and processing plants are now dying of uranium poisoning and cancer at rates much higher than the general population.

Urination mining and milling industries have left a legacy of nuclear contamination extending into the Great Basin, where years of U.S. nuclear weapons testing issues in the state and region’s air, soil and streams.

This long history, with its pollution and torture of the human body, continues to this day.

As a member of the Indigenous Women’s Network, Nilak provided a voice for the rights of Indigenous peoples and the Black people of South Africa then living in the racist white apartheid regime.

Nilak, one of the founders of the Indigenous Environmental Network in 1996 and the activist Leonard Peltier, who died Dec. 26 at the age of 49 from ovarian cancer. Ms. Butler was a member of the Big Mountain speaking tour in the late 1980s, which linked the struggles for national liberation for the Indigenous peoples and the Black people of South Africa then living under the racist white apartheid regime.

The following are excerpts from a tribute by Deirdre Griswold.

Tribute

Leonard Peltier

I am deeply saddened by the news I received regarding the passing of my good friend and sister in the struggle, Nilak Butler. … Nilak was a strong and courageous woman who was admired and respected by all those who knew her.

I remember those early days when she took the responsibility of placing herself out in front on many issues seeking to correct the wrongs and gain justice for our people. She fought so hard all her life against these injustices perpetuated against us. Nilak knew the meaning of sacrifice as she always put the needs of the people ahead of her personal needs. Her humor and her dedication will always stand as one of the finest examples of the strength and courage of Native women that I know.

We will miss her presence in the struggle and miss her as a friend. We must honor her life by picking up where she left off. We must continue this struggle to ensure the future of the coming generations.

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse, Leonard Peltier
By Mumia Abu Jamal from death row

Gov. Ryan's Song

Illinois Gov. George Ryan, in the last passing days of his first and only term, saved the best for last.

He sent shock waves across the nation when he issued four pardons to sitting death-row inmates of the Condemned Units of the state's prison system, opening the doors of the rat hole of war spending. Every social program—be it education, healthcare, housing, programs for the youth or the elderly—is being put on the butcher's table for the killing.

It's the members of the City Council who will be seen on the local level as the knife wielders. In better times, they could live with that, but that was then and this is now.

The resolution pointed out that the war will cost at least $90 to $13 billion a month, thereby cutting federal programs that benefit Chicago residents. For the majority of the City Council members to vote for the resolution needed the tacit approval of Mayor Richard Daley. When asked his opinion, Daley said, "Nobody wants war."

The growing economic crisis is eating away at public confidence in government at all levels. At the same time, there is a growing antiwar movement reaching into all levels of society. Without these factors, even this flawed resolution would not have been brought forward.

The resolution has great weaknesses. It says that if U.S. troops are sent to war, the City Council will give them "unconditional support" in carrying out their tasks, even if there is disagreement over these tasks. It also supports inspections of Iraq backed up by "sufficient police force."

The resolution does not prepare people to oppose the war once it starts. Nonetheless, it is another step toward the emerging grassroots mass movement that wants jobs, healthcare and human needs, not war, is having an impact throughout this society.

CHICAGO

City council passes anti-war resolution

By Bill Massey
Chicago

The Chicago City Council, by a vote of 46 to 1, passed a resolution on Jan. 16 opposing the Bush administration's "go-it-alone" policy of war on Iraq. It is the largest city in the United States to have passed a resolution against the impending war.

The resolution called for diplomacy, questioned U.S. unilateral military action and charged that this action would endanger the lives of U.S. citizens. It went on to charge that a preemptive and unilateral U.S. military attack would violate international law and commitments to the UN Charter, and would isolate the U.S. in the world community.

Many Chicago residents were already astounded when the Republican governor of Illinois removed all prisoners from the state's death row. Now, for the City Council to vote on a resolution denouncing the U.S. government's war drive is almost a surrealistic experience. The resolution is sure to be seen as a very important circumstance.

The passage of this resolution reflects the growing lack of confidence in the Bush administration, even from within the chambers of the government.

This is particularly true at the level of city and state governments, where budget deficits are piling up even as the Bush administration throws billions and even trillions of dollars down the rat hole of war spending. Every social

OLYMPIA, WASH.

Teachers, students protest budget cuts

By Consuela Lee (Guest commentary)

Demanding funding for education, 25,000 teachers, students and parents from all over the state of Washington went to the capital of Olympia for a day of action on Jan. 14. School districts all over the state cancelled classes in support of the teachers' action. In light of a state budget deficit, Gov. Gary Locke proposes to cut funding for education, ignoring the will of the people who recently passed two initiatives—higher salaries for teachers and to reduce class sizes.

—Jane Cutter

Racism, national oppression & the right
Reparations & Black Liberation
Black farmers demand justice
Harriet Tubman: woman warrior
Alabama's Black Belt: Legacy of slavery
Causes of turmoil in Jamaica
largest Death Row.
strike down the nation's seventh
of every man on Death Row in the
ning event: the full commutation
announce another earth-shatter-
ing been subjected to police tor-
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cultural misconduct, and judicial
non-lawyer (“I'm a pharmacist,"

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courts, falsified confessions, prose-

http://workers.org
'Army of God' menaces women's rights, LGBT communities

Boot them out of Buffalo!

Bulletin: As WW goes to press

When the Army of God held their much-ballyhooed press conference out- side the Erie County holding center where rightwing assassin James Kopp is being held, they were outnumbered four to one by pro-choice forces, in the middle of a workday in bitter Buffalo winter weather.

For much of the day, pro-choice forces were at the clinic that the Army of God had vowed they would shut down by force. They failed to show and it turned into a pro-choice victory.

The LGBT activists vowed to defend their communities later in this evening sending the bigots away in total defeat. By Leslie Feinberg

The battle in Buffalo, N.Y., is joined. Commanders of the Klan-like “Army of God” are vowing to marshal whatever force is required to stop women from hav- ing abortion procedures in Buffalo, N.Y., on Jan. 22. That day is the 30th anniver- sary of Roe vs. Wade—the hard-won Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion. The anti-woman forces are con- verging on Buffalo to support James Kopp—the man who boasts of having killed Dr. Barnett Slepian, a respected local obstetrician and gynecologist who performed abortions.

Buffalo police are also reporting threats against the lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans community.

The “Army of God” claimed responsi- bility for a 1998 bombing attack at a Birmingham, Ala., women’s clinic that killed one person and left another critically wounded. The same gang bragged it had bombed a lesbian, gay, bi, trans night- club and an abortion clinic in Atlanta the year before. (CNY, Feb. 2, 1998)

Now the armed, reactionary crusaders are coming to intimidate progressives in a city that has twice defeated national anti-abortion mobilizations—in 1992 and 1999. In addition, more “respectable” city that has twice defeated national anti-abortion forces, Buffalo United for Choice—the grassroots coalition known as BUC that led the two earlier efforts to boot the right wing out of the “City of Good Neighbors”—is reconstituting itself to meet this third onslaught.

And the LGBT community in Buffalo, which was a vital component of the 1992 and 1999 mobilizations, is a dynamic force in organizing once again.

During the last mobilization, when anti- choice leaders of “Operation Save America” rode into town on Jan. 22, the Army of God rode the streets here on Jan. 19 to protest threats of a war on the people of Iraq in the interests of Big Oil, they shouted: “Hell, no! We won’t fight for Texaco!”

Those gathered included many people of color—African American and Latino—and many youth in addition to gray-head- ed activists. All the local television stations and the only daily newspaper sent reporters and camera people.

Carol Spener, a local LGBT organizer who had been on the BUC ’99 steering committee and had helped organize Rainbow Peacekeepers, explained the importance of reorganizing the squads “for our communities to stand up and be proud and provide a watchfulness to pre- vent any harm to the community.”

This kid-gloves treatment of right-wing terrorists stands in stark contrast to the arrests of Yemeni men recently in Buffalo for sending money home to their families. The “war on terror” led by Commander-in-Chief George W. Bush and Attorney General John Ashcroft conveniently dov- tailed with the U.S. drive to militarily re-col- onize the oil-rich Middle East.

“It was standing-room only.” Hiestand took the floor during the dis- cussion to announce that, “Women who were active in Buffalo United for Choice are going to reconstitute the coalition.” BUC’s perspective, she said, is that “it’s very important for pro-choice and pro- LGBT people and our supporters to be very visible and to show that we are not going to be intimidated. We are not going to be pushed back into the closet. To be silen will only embolden the right wing. We feel we have shown that when we came out in strong numbers, they left.”

Therefore, she concluded, “we are going to work to create a presence at the Jan. 22 right-wing press conference, at the women’s services clinic, and throughout the Kopp trial.”

This vision of organizing was greeted with thunderous applause. Dozens crowd- ed around the BUC speaker after the meet- ing to find out how they could be a part of the progressive mobilization against the right.

“Those who have to be prepared to organize for the duration of the Kopp trial—for as long as it takes to boot them out of Buffalo once and for all,” Hiestand stressed. And, she continued, the outcome of the struggle in Buffalo will reverberate around the coun-

try. “An injury to one is an injury to all— that’s the bedrock that the labor move- ment in industrial Buffalo was built on. A victory against the right-wing political agenda of anti-abortion, racism and anti- Semitism, LGBT harrassing and book burn- ing is a victory for all, too.”

For more information on how to help in this crucial struggle, contact Buffalo United for Choice by downloading www.buffalounitedforchoice.org, email- ing bufc@buffalounitedforchoice.org or calling (716) 857-1965.

Feinberg took part in the 1992 and 1999 clinic defense squads, and was a Rainbow Peacekeeper.

JAN. 19, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Youth send anti-war message to war makers

Arrested protestor with photos of Iraqis by Clay K. Bucaro

Over a thousand students and youth marched through the streets here on Jan. 19 to protest threats of a war on Iraq. Outraged that the youth of this country—primarily from oppressed communities—would be sent to fight a war on the people of Iraq in the interests of Big Oil, they shouted: “Hell, no! We won’t fight for Imperialism!”

At an opening rally between the Justice and FBI build- ings, Peta Lindsay, an 18-year-old first-year student at Howard University and one of the organizers of Student and Youth ANSWER, which called the demonstration, told the crowd: “This is the center of all the racist attacks on people of color.” The FBI and Immigration and Naturalization Service have been targeting Arab students and demanding access to college records. “We will never let our brothers from these racist witch hunts,” said Lindsay.

Speaking at mike is Peta Lindsay, ANSWER youth and student organizer. The students and youth marched to the White House, President George W. Bush’s “Presidential Palace,” where they held a speak-out against his endless war plans and demanded, “Fund education, not occupation!” High school and college students came from all around the country and from as far away as Japan and the Nether- lands, to let Bush know that youth all around the world are saying no to war and racism. —Michelle Quintus

PHOTOS: CLAIRE MIRE NIZAR

The march started 40 minutes earlier than scheduled to accommodate the crowd, which was surging forward and filling the side-streets. First came a large, militant contingent of ANSWER youth and a Native American contingent led by Floyd Redcrow Westerman, accompanied by ceremonial drums. Next came hundreds of African American youth from Rich- mond High School, followed by trade unionists.

ANSWER organizers hired a helicopter to take aerial photographs of the protest. They clearly showed the massive numbers of people filling the Civic Center Plaza, surrounding the Marriott Marquis and the Moscone Convention Center, where the Rumsfeld Press Conference was held. The San Francisco Chronicle was reporting that police had upped their estimate to 150,000. See the San Francisco Bay Guard on page 5 for more coverage.

The Jan. 18 protest was the third anti-war demonstration organized by ANSWER in the last eight months. Richard Becker, West Coast Coordinator of the National Steering Committee, said that each protest at least doubled over the previous one.

“Nothing could be more important because no force on earth can stop this war and turn around the deadly Bush program except the intervention of the people in the political process,” Becker said. “Only the people really make history. It was the workers of the 1930s who couldn’t take it anymore and by the millions went out and organized—not Franklin Roosevelt. That’s why we have unions, because ordinary people said, ‘No more.’”

Singers Joan Baez and Bonnie Raitt performed, along with the local band Los Moscosos. Politicians, anti-war activists and other entertainers spoke at the opening and closing rallies. “We come together today to say no to the loss of innocents, yes for a war that is totally unnecessary,” said Congresswoman Barbara Lee, one of the few members of Congress to oppose Bush’s war resolution. “To say no to wasting hundreds of billions of dollars on a war that could go to educating our young people, that could go towards housing the home-less.”

John Parker of Workers World Party pointed to the role of the U.S. govern- ment’s drive for war against Iraq. “Imperialism requires the concentration of wealth in the fewest hands,” he said. “During the 1930s and ‘40s a lot of labor in the country began to organize. We could ‘send a message of 14 million people’ in opposition to war.”

Trent Willis, Longshore Workers Local 10 business agent, said that labor was unit-ed against Bush and a war on Iraq. “During the 1940s and ‘50s a lot of labor and social activists lost their lives to build what we have today,” Willis said. “Now we have a president in office and an adminis-tration that wants to catastrophe us back to the ‘30s and ‘40s, catastrophe us back to the McCarthy era.”

“I got a message for you, Mr. Bush,” Willis said to loud cheers. “We think you’re part of the axis of evil. We think you’re a dictator. What do you call inter-vening in the contract negotiations between the ILWU and the Pacific Maritime Association? Do you call waging war against our civil rights? What do you call throwing five Cuban national-ists in jail because they wanted to warn their motherland about a terrorist act about to happen in their country?”

Several speakers also connected the struggle of the Palestinian people against the Israeli occupation of their homeland to the current repression of Iraqi people. “If the slaughter against Iraq is allowed, so will the slaughter against Palestine escalate further and further,” said Husam Abu Sneih, of the Free Palestine Alliance. “This is the political position of the U.S.-Israel alliance—to dominate all, to control the access of resources and set up regimes and bases everywhere.”

Barbara Lubin of the Middle East Children’s Alliance said the movement must not shy away from the issue of Israel and Palestine. “You cannot walk away from the suffering of the children of Palestine,” she said. “It is intertwined with the children of Iraq. You can’t say no war in the Middle East and ignore what is hap-pening in the West Bank and Gaza.”

Tony Gonzales of the International Indian Treaty Council spoke movingly about his experiences as a Vietnam veteran. “While lying wounded in a military hos-pital, Gonzales spoke of contaminating why he was destroying families, their homes and way of life.”

“I was lost for several years like many veterans who suffer the experience of war and try to come back home and live a nor-mal life,” he said. “You can never really do that. You can never really come home the person that you were.”

Most of the crowd stayed the four and a half hours of the rally. Other speakers included Rep. Lynn Woolsey, John Burton, president of the California State Senate; Matt Gonzalez, president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors; Rev. Cecil Williams of Glide Church; Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the United Farm Workers; Hatem Bazian of Al Qalam Institute; and Daniel Ellsberg, renowned for releasing the Pentagon Papers. Political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal delivered a taped message to the rally.

Next came marble statues of Rosa Perate, of the National Commit-tee to Free the Cuban 5, also spoke about the Cuban men being held in U.S. pris-ons.

The Chicago Teachers Union brought six buses. The 15 buses—with no empty seats—that pulled out of Boston’s Roxbury Community College, were expected to arrive in D.C. were joined on the road by dozens of buses, vans and car caravans from throughout New England. At least 80 percent of those coming from Boston reported that they were going to their first national protest. The labor bus was filled with 300 trade union leaders from hotels, school bus yards, gov-ernment and university offices, the Roxbury Workers Association and electric-al workers hot off the picket line at General Electric’s Lynn, Mass., plant.

Latino youth, fresh from marching against a racist attack on bilingual educa-tion, helped organize another bus. Three buses from Manchester, N.H., were packed with AIDS educators and civil right activists, Palestinian leaders, union organizers, lesbian, gay, bi and trans com-munity activists, environmentalists and others. Trans youth led a bus; leaders of the Chicago Teachers Union’s Fightback Network captained another.

One woman carried a sign on a pole that read simply: Mississippi. Cars and caravans closed the highways and byways of D.C.; the bus sta-tion, Metro stops and cavernous Union Station were teeming with thousands. People wearing anti-war buttons and carrying hand-made signs. Any large stream of people in D.C. that day led to the National Mall.

Many people brought with them the sentiments of those who could not make the long journey. A woman from Fargo, N.D., carried a placed with the signatures of all her family and friends, neighbors and townpeople, who were against the war. Next to their names they’d written what they do for a living: nurse, librarian, teacher, auto mechanic.

One man carried a sign with 150 signa-tures. He said, “This is the first time people against the war that I know who couldn’t come. And I got them all in 24 hours.”

Representatives of the Brooklyn-based Bradford-Sayousant Coalition for Peace were there.

Equally impressive rallies

This sea of progressive humanity—from anti-imperialists to those cautious about the wisdom of this war—had answered a call issued last fall by the International ANSWER coalition, Act Now to Stop War & End Racism.
A sister protest of 200,000 was taking place simultaneously in San Francisco. There were also local protests. In all, including 58 countries around the world, millions marched to protest Bush and his generals’ drive towards war against Iraq.

Speakers from organizations that make up the ANSWER leadership addressed the rally. They are Partnership for Civil Justice, IFPO/Pastors for Peace, the Free Palestine-era veteran, opened the rally by connecting the U.S. government’s ongoing racist war against Native peoples with its preparations for a racist war against Iraq.


Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark got a rousing cheer when he called on those listening to “impeach Bush.” Blase Bonpane, from the Office of the Americas, traveled from Los Angeles to bring greetings.

International representation included Ashraf El-Bayoumi from the Cairo Conference against U.S. Aggression on Iraq and Jeremy Corbyn from the Stop the War Coalition and a member of the British Parliament. They linked the Jan. 19 mass turnout with the call for worldwide demonstrations on Feb. 15. Abe Tomoko spoke as a representative of the Lower House of the Japanese Parliament.

Struggles around the world against U.S. domination were articulated by Teresa Gutierrez and Sara Flounders from the IAC, Hector Castro, director of education, Central Unitaria de Trabajadores, Colombia; Francisco Rivera, Committee for the Rescue and Development of Viqueques; Marie Hilao Enriquez from BAYAN, a mass organization in the Philippines; and Yoomi Jeong from the Korea Truth Commission.

Protesters included Youth and Student Coordinator Peta Lindsay, Elias Rashmawi from the Free Palestine Alliance, Jennifer Wager from IFPO/Pastors for Peace, Mara Verheyden-Hilliard from PCJ and Larry Holmes and Brian Becker, both from the International Action Center.

Speakers representing other anti-war coalitions included Bill Fletcher, co-chair of United for Peace and Justice; Damu Smith from Black Voices for Peace; Medea Benjamin from Global Exchange, and speaking out for labor against the war: Brenda Stokely, president of AFSCME 17907 and Local 215 as well as a co-convenor of New York City Labor Against the War; Fred Mason, president of statewide Maryland and D.C. AFL-CIO.

Michael McAlister, partner and widow of the late peace activist Phil Berrigan, “No blood for oil” demanded disabled Vietnam War veteran Ron Kovic, author of “Born on the Fourth of July.”

Speakers included Youth and Student Coordinator Peta Lindsay, Elias Rashmawi from the Free Palestine Alliance, Jennifer Wager from IFPO/Pastors for Peace, Mara Verheyden-Hilliard from PCJ and Larry Holmes and Brian Becker, both from the International Action Center.

Speakers representing other anti-war coalitions included Bill Fletcher, co-chair of United for Peace and Justice; Damu Smith from Black Voices for Peace; Medea Benjamin from Global Exchange, and

The first marchers stepped off close to 1 p.m. Accompanied by drumming, chanting and singing, they brought their message “No blood for oil!” to workers and passersby along a two-mile route to the military shipyard.

An hour later, when the head of the march reached the Navy Yard, tens of thousands had not yet left the rally site. The second rally took place from atop a truck because the D.C. police reigned on sound and stage permits. Brian Becker concluded that the powerful protest with its huge turnout was due to “a growing disenchantment with the Bush administration and an urgent situation, because Jan. 27 could be a deadline for war.”

It was seen by millions in the United States and around the world on C-Span broadcasts and is carrying out mass roundups and demonizations of Arab, Muslim and South Asian people in the United States, the ANSWER rally demonstrated solidarity in deed and in word. Speakers included Mahdi Bray, Muslim American Society; Ismael Kamal, Muslim Student Association; Ibah Darwish, Free Palestine Alliance; Ghazi Khan Kan, Council on American Islamic Relations; Imam Mousa, Majid Al-Islam; and Dr. Mansoon Khan from Peace TV.

The Revs. Herbert Daughtry, national pastor of House of the Lord Church; Graylan Haglar, pastor of Plymouth Congregational Church, and Jesuit priest John Dear addressed the audience.

Anti-war speakers included Charley Richardson and Nancy Lensen from Military Families Speak Out and Liz McAlister, partner and widow of the late peace activist Phil Berrigan. “No blood for oil” demanded disabled Vietnam War veteran Ron Kovic, author of “Born on the Fourth of July.”

Speakers reminded the crowd about the war on the domestic front to free political prisoners Mumia Abu-Jamal, Leonard Peltier, Jamil Al-Amin, and the Cuban Five. Jesse Heiwa, from Queers for Peace and Justice, New York, pointed to the growing coalition of lesbian, gay, bi and trans organizations against the war. Brooklyn-based activists Viola Plummer from the December 12th Movement and City Councilman Charles Barron raised the need for anti-racist solidarity, including fighting for reparations.

British pop group Chumbawamba, singer Patti Smith and D.C. cultural artists Pam Parker and Lucy Murphy performed. The first marchers stepped off close to 1 p.m. Accompanied by drumming, chanting and singing, they brought their message “No blood for oil!” to workers and passersby along a two-mile route to the military shipyard.

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U.S. protest yet against Iraq war
By John Catalinotto

Demonstrators in at least 38 countries demanded “No war on Iraq” on Jan. 18 in response to a call for international solidarity actions to coincide with mass rallies and marches in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco organized by the International ANSWER coalition.

The Dec. 18-19 Cairo Conference supported this initiative and the Asian Peace Forum, the Stop the War Committee in England and other anti-war organizations spread the call.

The tremendous response of solidarity actions worldwide, with the massive turnouts in Washington and San Francisco, dealt a major blow to the Pentagon war machine.

Canada had demonstrations in 39 cities from coast to coast: 15,000 were reported in Vancouver, 25,000 in Montreal, 5,000 in Toronto, 7,000 in Saskatchewan and 3,000 in Moncton, 2,500 in Regina, 1,000 in Hamilton, 1,000 in London, 1,200 in Victoria and 1,000 in Vancouver.

In Mexico, mobilizations against the war and the embargo on Iraq took place in Mexico City and at the international bridge near Ciudad Juarez and Chihuahua, where U.S. groups met Mexican protesters.

In Argentina, a thousand people led by the Mothers of the Plaza del Mayo marched to the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires on Jan. 16.

Mobilizations in other Latin American countries included Peru, Ecuador, Guatemala and Brazil.

Middle East, South Asia

The main demonstration in Turkey took place in Ankara, where demonstrators gathered in front of a theater showing the latest James Bond film. There was also a demonstration in Istanbul.

In most of the Middle East, as in Turkey, protesters faced an army of heavily armed riot police. Thousands of demonstrators in Beirut, Lebanon, carried Palestinian and Iraqi flags.

Tens of thousands of Syrians marched through the streets of Damascus, blocking traffic for hours, shouting, “Down with the United States!” The Damascus marchers carried banners reading: “Iraq: a history and a civilization, not an oil well.”

About 1,000 demonstrators protested in central Cairo, Egypt, against any U.S.-led strike on Iraq. The demonstrators called on the Egyptian government to prevent U.S. and British war-ships from using the Suez Canal en route for a possible assault on Iraq.

Others in the Arab world joined the international effort by demonstrating in Gaza and Nablus in Palestine, in Amman, Jordan and in Bahrain. In Amman, hundreds of local activists turned out in solidarity with the United States! The Amman demonstrators called on the American government to prevent any war against Iraq.

By Leslie Feinberg

Anti-war sentiment spreads throughout U.S.

Anti-war activists marched, rallied and raised their voices in at least 87 U.S. cities over the Jan. 18-19 weekend.

Here’s an overview compiled from numerous alternative news sources:

At least 20,000 people rallied against the war near Portland State University in Oregon on Jan. 18.

There were 5,000 in Tucson, Ariz.; 7,000 in Montpelier, Vt.; 1,000 in Albuquerque, N.M.; 1,200 in Ann Arbor, Mich.; 1,000 in Salt Lake City, Utah; close to 2,000 in Spokane and 500 in Bellingham, Wash.; 800 in Madison, Wis.; 600 in Reno, Nev.; 900 in Charlotteville, Va.; and 300 in Rockford, Ill.

About 200 took part in Tulsa, and some 800 gathered at the Murrah Federal Building Memorial in Oklahoma City, Okla.—the site of the right-wing terrorist bombing attack that left 168 people dead.

Five hundred people turned out in Fayetteville, Ark., and also in Columbia, Mo.; 100 came out in St. Louis.

There were 1,200 in San Luis Obispo and 800 at the Richard Nixon Library in Yorba Linda, Calif. While at least 200 activists from Fresno got on the bus to go to the San Francisco march, 100 stayed and took their protest downtown.

More than 1,200 anti-war protesters marched in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade in San Diego. The anti-war contingent stretched at least a quarter of a mile. This was the largest contingent ever in this military town.

Hundreds more turned out in Houston; Tallahassee and Miami, Fla.; and Portsmouth, N.H.

Some 200 people rallied and marched on Main Street in Menomonee, Wis., as passing motorists and truck drivers honked their vehicle horns in support. Organizers “estimated” the crowd at 6,000—tongues firmly in cheek—so that when the big-business media characterized votes under-reported the event, the number would be closer to the truth. (IndyMedia)

“No war against Iraq” signs are appearing on lawns and porches in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

More protests you probably didn’t hear about

When several youths in Gainesville, Fla., spontaneously marched in the street in solidarity with the D.C. mobilization on Jan. 18, within an hour 50 to 60 people had joined them.

Twenty local groups in Lincoln, Neb., organized a rally that drew as many as 2,000.

President George W. Bush was met by 200 anti-war activists in Scranton, Penn., on Jan. 15. Police roughly moved demonstrators from pillar to post to try to keep them away from Bush’s entourage.

There were 50 in Minoa and, and several stalwart activists on a street corner in Wauwatosa, Wis.

On Jan. 16, Sen. Sam Brownbeck’s office in Wichita, Kan., was the target of a demonstration by about 70 activists.

On the eve of the Washington and San Francisco mobilizations, 2,500 marched in Seattle, and 300 rallied in Albany, N.Y.

And on Jan. 20, more than 10,000 people came out to say, “Support the poor, no more war!” at Seattle’s annual Martin Luther King Day march. With a strong showing from labor, thousands gathered at Garfield High School for workshops and a rally, and then took to the streets and marched to the Federal Building for a concluding rally.

Reports include information from Jane Cutter, Independent Media Center and Gloria Verdieu.
As Bush moves towards war
Mass opposition at home grows

By Fred Goldstein

Whatever Hans Blix and the weapons inspectors tell the United Nations Security Council on Jan. 27, it is clear that the policies and diplomacy of the Bush administration’s Tony Blair are relentless, to rule the world, strictly calibrated to bolster their military plans for an uncompromised war of aggression against Iraq.

It is equally clear that the anti-war movement must urgently broaden and escalate its efforts to stop this catastrophe: that the U.S. and British forces in the Gulf area, in the face of worldwide opposition, must be met with mass mobilization everywhere. Bush has brushed aside every positive assertion of the UN weapons inspectors. He has dismissed the opposition of France and Germany—imperialist allies of the U.S.—as weak and has no gain in a campaign that will leave Wall Street and Washington in charge in Iraq. He has dispatched officials to relentlessly promote the war in an effort to overcome the growing anti-war sentiment in the U.S. and in defiance of the opinion of the vast majority of humanity.

A naked quest for empire

The Bush administration is making it as clear as it possibly can to the entire world that the White House and the Pentagon are on a course of conquest. No amount of diplomatic jargon, no pretense of ethical or moral legitimacy, nor any truth or facts will be allowed to stand in their way. The drive to conquer Iraq—to seize its oil fields for the use of the world capitalists and the military-industrial complex and to set up a base in the Middle East—overrides all other considerations.

The Bush administration’s plans for the long-term military occupation of Iraq are nothing more than undigested, pre-WWII-style colonialism. This is part of a naked quest for empire. The National Security Strategy document issued last September makes clear the intentions of the imperialist rulers in foreign policy. It declares the right of preemptive war. It warns that no power or combination of powers will be allowed to challenge U.S. military supremacy.

In the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union and retreat of the world’s national liberation struggles, Washington feels that its military might makes it omnipotent. The militarists and the ruling class are drunk with power and prone to adventure. They talk confidently about an unchallenged international situation and their.Locale: www.workers.org   Jan. 30, 2003   Page 9

The international ANSWER coalition, were 26 protests. These events have shown that the White House and the Pentagon cannot convert passive sentiment into effective opposition and militant, widespread genuine mass resistance to the war. The demonstrations were an exercise inぶりを配ったものは、日本の場合と比較して、あらゆる規模においては、それなりの効果を上げている。しかし、これらの活動は、それでもまだ、十分な効果を上げていない。C-Span coverage generates thousands of calls

By Mary Owen

While the huge protest was taking place in Washington on Jan. 18, a dozen staffers at the New York office of the ANSWER coalition answered hundreds of calls from all over the U.S. and Canada from people who saw the rally and march on CSFPAN, dish TV and other networks. They had picked up the phone to vote “no” on the war.

“I’m voting in tears as I watched the rally on television,” said one caller from Wisconsin. “I’m so happy to know I’m not alone and there are so many people who feel the same as I do.”

Calls of every ethnicity and national-

ity from South Carolina, Alabama, Louisi-
ana, Tennessee, Hawaii, Alaska, Montana,
Wyoming, Arizona and other areas echoed her sentiments. Callers from Texas were particularly eager to disassociate themselves from the Bush administration’s war drive.

Some callers with family members in the military who were already in Afghanistan or being shipped out to the region said they wanted their loved ones brought home. Others said that the Vietnamese experience contributed to their anti-war sentiments.

“I’ve been a psychiatric nurse in a VA hospital since the Vietnam War,” said a woman who called from California. “I’ve seen firsthand what war does. That’s why I’m against it.”

Even a U.S. Air Force pilot, who called in to say he disagreed with ANSWER’s vote no campaign, admitted his vote was against his being sent to bomb Iraq.

During C-Span’s live coverage of the rally, the 26 calls came from across the country. Carried news stories, all the ANSWER office’s many phone lines were lit up for four solid hours as staffers logged the 26 protests. These events have shown that the White House and the Pentagon cannot convert passive sentiment into effective opposition and militant, widespread genuine mass resistance. This is the only way to stop the war.
It is possible to diminish the significance of a day of protests that drew out more than half a million people across the U.S. in opposition to a war on Iraq.

The police authorities and the big-business media editors have certainly tried.

Take the Associated Press dispatch on the Washington demonstration, by Calvin Woodward. This story went out on Jan. 18 to newspapers all over the country and the world. It was worded very carefully: "In Washington, police said 30,000 marched through the streets, part of a much larger crowd that packed the east end of the National Mall and spilled onto the Capitol grounds." The number that jumps out, of course, is 30,000.

The protest was actually at least 10 times that large. Organizers said between 400,000 and half a million. The vast crowd stretched far beyond the huge area of the Mall, in every direction.

Of course, the article does say that those who marched were part of a "much larger crowd." But most people looking at the article will remember the figure of 30,000.

Furthermore, the vast majority of those at the rally did try to participate in the march to the Navy Yard. It was the huge size of the crowd that made it impossible for everyone to march, since the two-mile route became completely backed up. The front of the march was packed in tight against the crowd at the Civic Center plaza.

No mention of his rattled aides circling in their helicopter. And these pictures, says ANSWER volunteer Bill Hackwell, showed the crowd at 200,000, had been able to hire a helicopter to take aerial views. And these pictures, shows what is happening in the consciousness of the people.

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Aerial photo belies police figures

In San Francisco, the police also tried to minimize the size of the protest, even though they had to know better. The first figure they gave, which appeared in many newspapers, was 55,000. However, the ANSWER coalition, which estimated the crowd at 200,000, had been able to hire a helicopter to take aerial views. And these pictures, says ANSWER volunteer Bill Hackwell, showed that "while the march route of 1.7 miles was completely full, and people were still coming out of Justin Herman Plaza, the Civic Center was already three-quarters full." The Civic Center alone holds 50,000 people.

The police figure was so inaccurate that it became the subject of debate in the media. On Jan. 21 the San Francisco Chronicle ran a second article on the demonstration, entitled: "Protest numbers don't add up—Police now say 150,000 safe guess."

But in the body of the article, the police acknowledged it could have been as large as the organizers' estimates.

Said the article, "Police estimates of 45,000 demonstrators came from a counting of people in Civic Center Plaza and did not include marchers who were backed up along Market Street, said Jim Deigan, San Francisco police spokesman. "Aerial photographs show a packed plaza and masses stacked back along streets leading in. If Civic Center Plaza were filled and Market Street were lined all the way to Justin Herman Plaza, a 200,000 estimate could be accurate, said Deigan."

Is it just a numbers game? Isn't it good enough that the media acknowledge that tens of thousands participated?

It matters a great deal. The size of the protests shows what is happening in the consciousness of the people. Is the movement against the war growing? Is it stagnant? Is it shrinking?

Anyone who has been at the protests since ANSWER called its first demonstration on Sept. 29, 2001, warning that the Bush administration would use the Sept. 11 attacks to further its agenda of war and racism, knows that they have been growing geometrically.

Those first protests—in San Francisco and Washington—brought out about 35,000 and 45,000 people, respectively.

The number in Washington quadrupled on April 20, 2002, when many Arab and Muslim people joined anti-war groups in a protest that focused on support for Palestine and for peoples here being repressed under the new racial profiling of John Ashcroft's Justice Department.

The number doubled again on Oct. 26 as the Bush administration began its huge buildup of troops and matériel for a war on Iraq. The protests, again called by ANSWER, brought out 100,000 in San Francisco and 200,000 in D.C.

The Jan. 18 protests show that the momentum of this movement has not slowed down. Even to the surprise of organizers, who knew that harsh weather in the East could cause many to stay home, more people than ever came out to try to turn back an administration hell-bent on conquest in the oil-rich Middle East.

During the Vietnam War, the government also exerted influence on the police and media to minimize the size of the opposition. The official estimate of the largest demonstration in Washington, the Moratorium of Nov. 15, 1969, was a quarter of a million.

But here's what White House Chief of Staff H.R. Haldeman had to say about it in his diary for that day: "Mobie Day. The march turned out to be huge. Official estimate 250,000. By our photo count, it was 255,000. Anyway, it really was huge. E. Krog and I went out in helicopter to look it over in the morning, very impressive."

Did the White House correct the "official estimate," knowing it was too low? Fat chance. In fact, the White House told the press that the protest was so insignificant the president didn't even interrupt watching a football game to go to the window. No mention of his rattled aides circling in their helicopter.

The rest is history. Many, many deaths later, Nixon had to resign in disgrace. Haldeman went to jail for Watergate. And it finally was admitted that the people of this country, including the troops themselves, were overwhelmingly against the war.

There's the official world, the world of government releases and of television pundits. And then there's the real world. In the real world, the anti-war forces are growing with every belligerent speech by Bush and every deployment of more troops to the Gulf. □
People worldwide rise up against Bush

In Hong Kong, China, about 60 people chanted, "Inspections, yes! War, no!" and "Yankole, go home!" as they marched through the financial district to the U.S. and British consulates. Demonstrations were also scheduled in Indonesia, Switzerland, Hungary and South Korea.

Europe
In Spain on Jan. 19, 30,000 people marched from Madrid to the nearby Torrejón military base. They demanded, "Stop the war against Iraq," and "NATO no, bases out," and protested Spanish government participation in the war.

In Paris, France, 200,000 people joined in a united march of diverse social, political and union organizations on Jan. 18. They marched under the slogans: "No to war against Iraq! Justice, peace and democracy in the Middle East and in the world." In Marseille, 10,000 chanted, "Bush, Blair, Chirac, we don’t want your dirty war!"

In Italy, Jan. 18 protests took place in Perugia, Bologna, Genoa, Naples—and in Florence, where U.S. and Italian residents led a human chain of 5,000 people marching along the Arno river and surrounding the U.S. consulate. A march of 1,000 people to the U.S. airbase Camp Ederle, near Vicenza, was followed by a march of 3,000 to 5,000 through the city.

In Britain the biggest demonstrations took place in London. On the outskirts of London, demonstrators surrounded the British Army headquarters to protest British participation in aggression against Iraq.

In Scotland on Jan. 19, the Scottish Anglican Episcopal Church joined the international initiatives by holding religious meetings against the war in its 50,000 parishes in more than 320 cities and towns.

In Ireland, Jan. 18 actions targeted Shannon airport, which the British Army has used in recent months to transport U.S. troops to military bases in the Gulf region.

In the Netherlands there were anti-war actions Jan. 18 in Rotterdam, Nijmegen and Leiden. In Uden, the Dutch police arrested 90 people who tried to approach the Volkel military airbase, housing U.S. and German troops, to "carry out an inspection of U.S. arms of mass destruction." The group demanded that the Dutch and U.S. governments follow their own advice for Iraq and publicize details of their nuclear programs.

Anti-war protesters marched 10,000 strong in Brussels, Belgium, demanding, "Stop the war against Iraq before it starts." The Stop USI (United States of Aggression) Coalition organized the united demonstration whose march route passed the headquarters of NATO and the European Union. They raised their voices to say "20,000 times NO!" to the 10,000 U.S. soldiers scheduled to be transported through the port of Antwerp.

In Vienna, Austria, some 1,000 people, mostly university and high-school students, marched Jan. 17 from the university in the center of town to the U.S. Embassy, where they burned a U.S. flag and chanted, "Stop the war."

On Jan. 18 in Russia, several thousand people protested at the diplomatic offices of the United States in Moscow and Leningrad, in response to a call by the Communist Party. A banner outside the U.S. Embassy in Moscow declared: "Iraq isn’t your ranch, Mr. Bush." Slogans included: "[President Vladimir] Putin, stop kowtowing to Bush."

In Sweden, more than 6,000 people marched through the streets of Gothenburg, called out by working-class organizations.

In Oslo, Norway, 1,000 activists focused on the Parliament, where a cabinet member and a member of Parliament spoke at the rally.

In Germany, 2,000 people gathered Jan. 18 near the U.S. military headquarters in Heidelberg. Protests also took place in Cologne and Rostock. More than 5,000 turned out in the small southwestern city of Tuebingen. There were vigils and public meetings all over the country.

At the poles of the Earth there were protests. In Nunavut, in Arctic Canada, 500 of the 20,000 people in the town of Iqaluit held the new Inuit-governed territory’s first-ever anti-war demonstration. And even in uninhabited Antarctica, people from the scientific team at the McMurdo Station joined with the millions of others around the world by forming a peace symbol with their bodies in the snow.
Medio millón de personas marcharon en las calles de Washington, D.C. el día Sábado 19 de enero y 200 mil más protestaron en San Francisco, California, haciendo de estas las más grandes manifestaciones hasta ahora en los Estados Unidos oponiéndose a la guerra contra Irak.

Patrocinada por la coalición Actuar Ahora para Parar la Guerra y Dar Fin al Racismo, (International ANSWER por sus siglas en inglés), la protesta recibió el respaldo de miles de organizaciones. Manifestaciones similares se llevaron a cabo en por lo menos 30 otros países.

Manifestaciones como estas hacen pedazos el mito de unanimidad por la guerra," dijo Mara Verheyden-Hilliard de la organización Partnership por Civil Justice, una de las organizaciones en la coalición ANSWER "En todo el mundo, las manifestaciones de hoy han mostrado el tipo de poder popular que se necesita para detener la guerra."

La mañana de la protesta, los trenes y estaciones subterráneas en Washington, D.C. se encontraban atascadas ya que cientos de autobuses llegaban a la ciudad para la masiva protesta. Entre los autobuses que llegaron estaban, —incluyendo a 20 repleto de miembros del sindicato de los trabajadores de la salud y hospitales, la local 1199/SEIU; 20 de Winston-Salem, Carolina del Norte; 8 de Rochester del norte de Nueva York; y 6 del sindicatos de maestros de Chicago.

La concentración escuchó a oradores como el ex Fiscal General de los Estados Unidos, Ramsey Clark, activista pro derechos civiles Mahdi Bray, las actrices Jessica Lange y Tyne Daly, el Representante John Conyers, el Reverendo Jesse Jackson, la ex Congresista Cynthia McKinney, el Reverendo Al Sharpton, el autor y veterano de la guerra en Vietnam Ron Kovic, la cantante Patti Smith, el Reverendo Herbert Daughtry y Elizabeth McAllister.

El programa—con presentaciones musicales por el grupo británico, Chumbawumba, la cantante Patti Smith, el dueto Pam Parker y Lacy Murphy— fue iniciado por Moonamun James de los Indios Americanos Unidos de Nueva Inglaterra, Estados Unidos. Entre otros oradores estuvieron líderes de ANSWER, Elias Rashmawi, la Alianza Libertad para Palestina; Peta Lindsay, Coordinadora de Estudiantes y Jóvenes de ANSWER; Larry Holmes y Brian Becker del Centro de Acción Internacional; Mara Verheyden-Hilliard de Partnerships for Civil Justice; Jennifer Wager, de IFCO/Pastores por la Paz; Maria Hilao Enríquez, de BAYAN; Macrina Cárdenas, de la Red de Solidaridad con México; Chuck Kaufman, de la Red de Solidaridad con Nicaragua; Yoomi Jeong, de Comisión de la Verdad de Corea; Cheri Honkala, del Sindicato de Derecho a la Beneficencia Pública en Kensington; y Ismail Kamal de la Asociación Nacional Estudiantil Musulmana. El Reverendo Lucas Walker leyó una declaración anti guerra enviada por el Representante Congresista Charles Rangel.

También estuvieron representados grupos como Trabajadores de la Ciudad de Nueva York Contra la Guerra, la filial de la organización laboral AFL-CIO de Maryland y Washington, D.C., Sindicalistas de Colombianos en el Exilio, Homosexuales por la Paz y la Justicia, la organización, Unidos por la Paz y la Justicia, la organización, No En Nuestro Nombre y representantes del Comité por el Rescate y Desarrollo de Vieques. Los oradores recordaron a la multitud de que la lucha contra la guerra y el racismo incluye a las luchas para liberar a los prisioneros políticos Mumia Abu-Jamal, Leonard Peltier, Jamil Al Amin y los Cinco Cubanos.