Masses face more war, poverty, racism

Bush win sets stage for wide fightback

By Fred Goldstein

The electoral victory of George W. Bush, the Republican Party, and the right-wing and conservative forces fueling their campaign must serve as a wake-up call for the working class, the oppressed and all progressive and revolutionary forces to mobilize for struggle in the days ahead.

Tens of thousands of activists mobilized to defeat Bush at the polls, not because they were necessarily enamored of Sen. John Kerry, but because they wanted to put a stop to the Bush reaction. In the end their efforts were insufficient to overcome the vast campaign of reactionary politics and ideology promoted, not just by the Bush campaign, but by the capitalist media for months on end.

The media aided the Bush campaign in its effort to mobilize the fundamentalist right by dwelling on the opposition to same-sex marriage, and by giving equal time to so-called “right to life” advocates. Bush was thus greatly assisted in his effort to confuse and divide sections of the masses by anti-gay, anti-woman agitation. The networks and the print media conveniently legitimized and sanitized this as a debate over “social issues,” instead of calling it the bigotry and sexism that it really is.

The vote showed the power of a highly funded, reactionary incumbent administration to organize armies of electioneers, and to dredge up and set in motion all the backward forces in society to turn out on election day. There was a record turnout of voters in this election—some estimates say it will reach 120 million—and they were turned out not only by the Kerry forces but also by the Bush machine.

Kerry himself did little to inspire the masses. He offered them little or next to nothing. His great electoral strength, as all the polls affirm, was the fear and hatred of Bush. In a word, his program was of little weight. His two concrete strong points were a woman’s right to choose and the permission to bring in cheap prescription drugs from Canada. All the rest of his program was vague. It sounded like a list of tax breaks to the bosses to maybe create some jobs in the U.S. and achieve universal health care by giving people a tax credit. It did not really compute.

Beyond that he tried to outdo Bush on the phony “war against terrorism.” By dwelling upon it excessively, instead of exposing it as a pretext for aggression in Iraq and Afghanistan, he helped Bush. By vowing to “win the war in Iraq” and to “stay the course” after he said it was the wrong war, Kerry not only confused the masses and demoralized the anti-war forces but he also reinforced the militarist mood promoted by and exploited by Bush.

Bush won the election by triumphing in areas in the South where racism, political reaction and the legacy of slavery are strongest and the unions and the working class are weakest and most poorly represented. He won the states in the Southwest and Great Plains area dominated by mine owners, millionaire land owners, agribusiness, cattle barons and oil magnates.

But in the large and middle-sized cities, in urban areas where tens of millions of workers and the oppressed people are...
Let’s make it four more years of resistance

By Deirdre Griswold

Strike while the iron is hot. Blacksmiths learned that’s what you have to do to shape the softened metal into a formidable weapon or tool.

The political iron is hot right now as the progressive movement coalesces around debates that will determine the significance of the election and Bush’s victory. All kinds of cries lie right under the surface, ready to burst out. The war of words will continue anew as a war against workers’ pensions and health care, a war on youth, a war on Section 8 tenants, a war on gay and lesbian couples, a war to suppress civil rights and liberties, and a stunningly vicious war on ordinary people who happen to be born in Iraq, who are black.

Everyone who is progressive needs to push their heads together and figure out how to move the struggle forward. There’s a lot to it: the National Fightback Conference in New York on Nov. 13-14, sponsored by Workers World Party.

A lot of concerned people invested time and energy in trying to stop the Iraq War and the other horrors of the Bush era. But the victory is not the end of history. The struggles of people in the U.S. are faring the same issues. Younger people especially showed right away, on demonstrations and in their lives, that they’re not going to lie down and roll over because Bush won.

So let’s talk about strategies. There is stirring in the working class now, organized and unorganized. This is the class that has the social weight to seriously challenge the working class now, organized and unorganized. This is the starting the day after the election, that they’re not going to just sit back and watch. How can the struggles especially showed right away, on demonstrations and in their lives, that they’re not going to lie down and roll over because Bush won.

Youth organizing meeting of FIST

A special feature of the conference will be the first national youth organizing meeting of FIST—Fight Imperialism, Stand Together. It will take up: What youth can do to fight military recruiting and the draft. The role of youth in the struggle against racism, sexism, and LGBT oppression. Fighting back against police repression and the janitorial industry campaign. Building revolutionary consciousness among youth.

The conference will start out on Saturday morning with a panel on “How to Fight the Movement?” That afternoon two other plenaries will address “The class struggle, at home and abroad,” including the fight against imperialism.

Invited guest speakers will include Brenda Stokely, an organizer of the Million Worker March; Yoomi Jeong, Secretary General of the Korea Truth Commission; and Dorothea Mendoza, secretary-general of Gabriela—a women’s organization within the Sandinista National Liberation Front. Workers World Party candidates John Parker and Teresa Gutierrez will be participating in the plenaries, as will FIST organizers Julie Fry, Peter Gilbert and Leilani Dowdell—who was also a Peace and Freedom candidate in California.

In between the plenaries are many workshops and discussion groups.

A workshop on “Elections and the Capitalist State” will analyze the Anobody But Bush movement and the class character of the two major parties. Is there merit to the fear of fascism that impelled many into this movement? What form of state exists in the U.S. today? How democratic is imperialist democracy? How can the movement build state repression?

Another workshop will take up the two pillars of anti-imperialist struggle in the Middle East today: the Palestinian and Iraqi resistance movements. It will focus especially on building international solidarity and a Bring the Troops Home movement here at home. It will review the experiences of the Million Worker March, which merged anti-war and workers’ movements, and discuss how this can be strengthened in the upcoming Dec. 3-10 Stop the War Week.

A workshop on “Challenging the Labor Movement Today” will discuss the significance of the Million Worker March, which succeeded despite resistance from the AFL-CIO leadership, and the growing struggles of immigrant workers. It will examine the changes taking place in the work force and why this is fueling the rise of new, more militant leaders.

“Building Class Unity in the Struggle against Racism, Sexism and Lesbian/Gay/Bi/Trans Oppression” is another workshop topic, as is “Fighting Capitalism Globalization with Revolutionary Internationalism.” What will it take to change from polluting, exploiting capitalism to a world that will benefit the majority of people as well as the environment?

There will be discussions on anti-imperialist struggles around the world, and one on “The ABCs of Marxism and politics.”

Regular readers of Workers World newspaper will get a chance to hear from reporters and political analysts on war strategy and the many of whom are also activists in the many struggle movements we cover generally.

Make reservations now for the National Fightback Conference. Either register online at www.workers.org, or send an e-mail to conf@workers.org. Enclosed is a $5 donation.
By Hussam Eltayeb
Raleigh, N.C.

As Democratic vice-presidential candidate John Edwards, the “home-town hero,” approached his polling site in his motorcade on Oct. 27, in order to engage in a media photo opportunity, hordes of anti-war protesters greeted him.

A number of members of the youth group FIST—Fight Imperialism, Stand Together—along with activists from other regional organizations, held signs reading “Stop the war machine.” A number of bikers from Critical Mass chanted “Drop Bush not bombs.”

In order to vote, Edwards had to pass within 50 feet of the protesters. Half an hour earlier, the bicyclists—Critical Mass and FIST members—had taken over the downtown streets here. They clogged traffic at a time when thousands were attempting to drive to a joint Jon-Jovi-Edwards rally.

The activists got different responses from drivers, ranging from honks of approval to curses. In one disturbing incident, an apparently pro-war truck driver stopped and hurled racist and homophobic slurs at FIST members. Despite that, the protest kept going.

As activists rode up and down past the long, long line of people waiting to get into the event, they led chants against the occupations of Iraq and Palestine.

“Lots of people in the line cheered our message,” said Peter Gilbert, a member of FIST.

That same day, other FIST members went looking for the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps, which has conducted weekly outdoor drill formations on Wednesdays in a visibly popular courtyard on the campus of North Carolina State University.

FIST members had effectively locked and disrupted the ROTC drills on Sept. 29. (“Four days, four actions, one FIST,” Workers World, Oct. 14, 2004.)

This time, you find out that ROTC had moved their drill practice to a parking lot, hardly visible behind the gym building.

By Deirdre Griswold
New York

New York City police have again used mass arrests to break up a ride of bicyclists. On Oct. 29, they arrested 33 people taking part in the monthly Critical Mass bike ride, which promotes environmentally friendly forms of transportation.

More than 1,000 bicyclists were on the ride, many dressed in Halloween costumes. They had started out at Union Square and headed north on Park Avenue. Police turned out in force.

The city had gone to court trying to stop the ride, but just the day before the mass arrests, a federal judge ruled that the Critical Mass event did not need a permit and that the city could not seize bicycles unless riders were charged with a crime or violated the law. This didn’t stop the police.

Matthew Roth, an organizer and one of those arrested, said riders were targeted because of the New York City’s arrest law.

“There was an air of intimidation,” he told Newsday. “There was a van projecting a recorded voice saying that riders must follow a certain route and if they deviated, they would be arrested.”

The cyclists have been a target of police attack before. Some 264 Critical Mass bicyclists were arrested in August just days before huge demonstrations against the Republican National Convention.

A number were brutally beaten. The arrests were seen as an attempt by police and city authorities, including billionaire Mayor Michael Bloomberg, to create an atmosphere of intimidation and fear before the protests.

Critical Mass, which describes itself as an “event” rather than an organization, inspires bike tours on the last Friday of each month in 250 cities across the globe.

In San Francisco, Critical Mass cyclists showed up Oct. 29 to support locked-out hotel workers.

KCBS reported that the riders chose a route that took them to several hotels affected by the lockout. “It makes me feel great. I’m loving it. It’s encouraging,” said one locked-out union worker. Richard McLean used to work as a bartender at the Hilton. He watched as bikes did to cars what strikers sometime times did to guests. “They’re stopping traffic.”

In another example of outrageous police behavior, facilitated by befuddled repression allowed under the “Patriot Act,” Boston cops recently fatally wounded a young woman celebrating the Red Sox victory over the Yankees. She was struck in the eye with a pepper-gas pellet during “crowd control.”

In a time of unpopular war, drastic climate change and growing economic problems and uncertainty for millions of workers, it is not surprising that the police see gatherings of young people as threatening to “order.” It is their job to protect a capitalist order that is increasingly destructive, degrading, oppressive and hated. The more they do their odious job, the more they antagonize the youth and propel them into struggle to uproot the system.

Empire of oil—forever?

By Mumia Abu-Jamal from death row

The war and occupation can end now. And the people can end it!

That people’s war will not only bring an end to the war, but it will create the conditions for a real transformation of our politics and society. It is a war of self-defense and freedom. It is a war of justice and peace.

—Henri Berenger, Commissioner General for Oil Products, France, World War I

In oil’s name, the United States is immersed in a new kind of colonialism, for the resources that lie under foreign feet. They could care less about the people.
Human Rights Weekend

By Monica Moorhead
New York

The Jericho Movement has declared Dec. 10-11 in New York City as “Safiya Bukhari International Human Rights Weekend.”

Jericho was founded March 28, 1998, by a dedicated group predominately made up of seasoned Black freedom fighters nationwide—many of whom were once political prisoners and have since been released. One of those who first introduced us to Safiya Bukhari. She tragically passed away in 2003, at age 53, after a long illness.

Inside the U.S., political and community leaders have been supporting Black political prisoners for over 50 years. Since the 1960s, the Republic of New Afrika and the Black Liberation Army. She served as vice president of the Black Liberation Army. She was a Black political prisoner from the Republic of New Afrika.

Since the 1960s, the Republic of New Afrika has promoted the establishment of a separate Black nation in the Deep South to exercise the right to self-determination. Bukhari was one in a long list of victims of the FBI’s Counterintelligence projects that targeted and persecuted leaders and key activists of national liberation and Black rights movements in the U.S. She spent nine years in prison.

In 1992, she helped form the New York Freewheeling Movement, which works diligently to help free African American journalist and death row prisoner, Mumia Abu-Jamal. Bukhari was also co-chair of the Jericho Movement and the Free Mumia coalition until her death.

In an open letter to the Jericho Movement and the Free Mumia coalition, Bukhari wrote, “We have to build a movement to liberate our people. The issue of political prisoners is part of that movement, and we are building and building that movement. We must understand that this is not a separate issue. It is an integral part of that movement; it cannot be put in front of the movement and set aside. It must be woven into the very fibers... Organize—educate—defend—free—to FREE OUR POLITICAL PRISONERS AND PRISONERS OF WAR!!!”

The aim of Jericho is to raise broader awareness of political prisoners languishing in U.S. jails for many years and to organize campaigns for their freedom. Jericho supports Native political prisoner Leonard Peltier, the MOVE 9, Sundiata Acoli, Eddie Conway, Pell Motonjim, Marilyn Buck, Oscar Lopez Rivera, Kathy Boudin and others.

A calendar of events has been scheduled for Dec. 10-11 in New York City.

On Dec. 10, a cultural event will take place at Hunter College, 68th St. at Lexington Ave., from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. On Dec. 11, a “Networking for Activists” is scheduled at the U.N. Church Center, 777 UN Plaza, 41st St. at 9 a.m. Following, a demonstration and rally in support of political prisoners and human rights worldwide will take place on Dag Hammarskjold Plaza.

For more information, call NYC Jericho, (718) 220-6004.
Anti-war solidarity with hotel workers

By Adrián García

Los Angeles

“Corporations overlap and cross over into [different] industries,” explained María Elena Durazo, “Why shouldn’t workers come together and fight corporations?” Durazo, president of Local 14 of UNITE HERE, was explaining to an audience of anti-war activists why textile and hotel workers have merged to form a single union, national union. The Oct. 29 meeting was a solidarity event to support hotel workers in Los Angeles and other cities in the U.S. and Canada who are facing lockouts and a possible strike.

Called by the L.A. branch of the International Action Center, the forum also heard from Victor Narro, director of the UCLA Labor Center, and Marie Vasscescuemoro, organizer for the IAC.

Vasscescuemoro kicked off the spirited meeting with an eyewitness report from the Million Worker March, held in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 17. She described the numerous unions from throughout the country that took part in the historic march, along with anti-war organizations like the IAC and celebrities like Danny Glover and Martin Luther King III. “The Million Worker March has arrived and we should join to build an independent anti-war movement,” exhorted Vasscescuemoro.

Narro commended the IAC for sponsoring an event in support of hotel workers, and for its previous work on behalf of striking supermarket workers.

He presented a picture of unity and solidarity among workers against corporations that are intent on crushing their union. As an example, Narro spoke about an agreement by day laborers who have voted not to scal on locked-out hotel workers. He also noted the support from student organizations, including the Mexican/ Chicano group MEXA and Asian Pacific groups. “We must come together and fight corporate greed and exploitation,” exhorted Narro.

Durazo described the conditions behind the recent merger of textile and hotel workers that produced

Massey’s big mess

Coal miners fight union-busting bankruptcy

By David Hoskins

Charleston, W. Va.

Allegations have been flying that Horizon Natural Resources and Massey Energy Co., the new owner of the mine, has since fired over 250 coal miners in West Virginia for connections with the UMWA. Retirees have lost the healthcare and pension benefits they were depending on after exiting the workforce, adding to the 270,000 West Virginians who already lack healthcare.

In a move reminiscent of the West Virginia Coal Mine Wars of 1922-1923, Massey has placed armed guards on the premises to intimidate workers and the community into submission.

This declaration of war on the working class by Massey Energy is nothing new to Appalachians. For years Massey has been plagued by a bad reputation for union busting and environmental destruction.

The federal bankruptcy judge overseeing the sale allowed Massey’s assault on the union to go forward when he gave permission to cancel the union contracts for current workers and retirees. Massey, the new owner of the mine, has since fired over 250 coal miners in West Virginia for connections with the UMWA. Retirees have lost the healthcare and pension benefits they were depending on after exiting the workforce, adding to the 270,000 West Virginians who already lack healthcare.

This progressive coalition is demanding a return of healthcare benefits to all retirees, retention of the union and its current contract, the removal of all armed guards from the Cannelton mine, and an investigation into the purchase of Horizon Energy by Massey Energy. One thing that this ordeal makes abundantly clear to West Virginians is that the business tycoons, government and judges in this country are not on the side of the workers and their families.

By John Catalinotto

London

The British government’s announcement that it might sell off British Telecom, the country’s largest telecommunications company, is a further threat to workers in the telecommunications sector, who have already been under siege from the ITT/ITT merger that took place in 1984, from the privatization of BT and from ITT’s decision to homogenize all of its overseas operations.

What has been the response of telecommunications workers to these changes?

“IT&T was a good company,” said one worker, “but now we have the same management structure in France, Spain, Italy and South Africa, just as in this country.””This is a worldwide phenomenon,” commented another worker. “A Canadian shop steward was sent to workers there and said, ‘we don’t have the same standard of living here. We just get the same management structure. We have no say in the job’.”

“IT&T was a great company. It was a fantastic company,” said another worker, “but when the IT&T merger took place, all of the management changed. We have lost our voice.”

The IT&T merger was a major force in the struggle of workers around the world to maintain or improve their standards of living. The IT&T workers in the U.S. have been able to defend their jobs and their wages and benefits, but they have been unable to defend their-management structure.

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Struggle continues for
Socialists campaign in swing states

By Monica Moorehead

It’s finally over. In a campaign that cost them over $4 billion, George W. Bush has won reelection to the U.S. presidency, out-polling Sen. John Kerry by a margin of about 54 million votes as of Nov. 3.

How will this election be remembered? Some say this was the most important election ever. What that means exactly has never been explained.

The question is, how SHOULD this election be remembered? Many will surely remember how undemocratic it was, due to the attempted and outright suppression of voters, especially in the oppressed communities.

Ron Gould is the former assistant chief electoral officer for Elections Canada. He has been involved in 90 election missions in 70 countries. After observing the voting process in Miami-Dade County on Nov. 2, he said: “Unlike almost every other country in the world, there is not one national election today. The decentralized system means that rules vary widely county by county, so there are actually more than 13,000 elections today.” (International Herald Tribune, Nov. 3)

It was very unusual for the U.S. government to allow international monitors to critique the voting process here. Republican strategists, especially, were not happy with such scrutiny, but conceded in light of their tainted reputation from the 2000 presidential elections.

This, however, did not stop them in their efforts to intimidate, disqualify and demonize voters who traditionally voted for the Democratic Party. This time their tactics were generally more sophisticated, but, in some instances, more brazen.

If added up, those who vote Democratic are mostly women and/or people of color, the youth and low-wage workers as well as those who are pro-union, pro-choice and pro-civil rights. In recent times, African Americans have been more identified with the Democratic Party than any other group. So it comes as no surprise that the Republican Party did everything possible to suppress the Black vote, legally and illegally, to gain the upper hand.

It took over a month for Bush to be selected as president in Nov. 2000, based on the outright theft by the Republicans of the heavily pro-Democratic Black vote in Florida. Even though Bush won the Florida vote this time, the state was a main battleground over voter disenfranchisement.

Parker in-your-face with Kerry
Socialists campaign in swing states

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

The three candidates of Workers World Party—John Parker for president, Teresa Gutierrez for vice president and Leilani Dowell for Congress—completed a whirlwind week at the end of October that took them through the battleground “swing” states of New Mexico, Illinois and Michigan, with a final stop in the Baltimore-Washington area.

Parker said, “This campaign made it clear there’s a lot of frustration with capitalism. It’s obvious that the system is unable to meet the basic needs of working people. And the people we met with seemed ready, and determined, to fight for fundamental change.”

Parker, accompanied by Dowell, went nose-to-nose with Democrat John Kerry at a huge outdoor rally of 18,000 in Albuquerque on Oct. 26. Working his way to within 15 feet of the podium where Kerry was standing, Parker waved an WWP placard that said, “No Kerry, No Bush. No War.” Then Parker challenged, “Why do you want to vote for him to continue the U.S. terror against Iraq? This war is all about oil and profits, and you and Bush know it! Why are you and Bush attacking immigrants with Homeland Security and the Patriot Act?”

He called out these questions repeatedly as he was surrounded by the Secret Service.

The media censored Parker’s protest by screening out his voice on the videotape later run as rally news coverage. But the issues he raised were on the minds of local residents, as candidates found out when they later met with a spirited group for discussion. Organized by an Albuquerque activist who had traveled with this summer’s Venceremos Brigade to Cuba, the meeting drew people who wanted in-depth answers to why Democratic candidate Kerry was not the solution to the reactionary policies of President George W. Bush.

The candidates then traveled to the Midwest for a series of meetings, beginning with two in Chicago on Oct. 28. The staff and clients of Access Living, a disability rights agency, welcomed them at a luncheon discussion. They asked probing questions about the drastic loss of civil liberties under the Bush administration.

The candidates agreed that increasing numbers of heavy repression, felt especially in communities of color, can make people fearful of a rise of fascism, so that Kerry could look like an alternative. But they emphasized that the only way to truly secure our rights is to fight for them in a mass independent movement that shows its power in the streets.

An evening meeting, sponsored by the Workers World Party branch of Chicago, began with a report on an ongoing strike by city college teachers against overcrowded classrooms and higher workloads. The candidates then connected this local struggle to the demands raised by the Oct. 17 Million Worker March in Washington, D.C., which called, “Money for jobs and education, not for war and occupation.”

Local organizer Peter Kimball said the candidates’ open dialogue with participants was “great for the movement.”

Activists in Ann Arbor, Mich., at the University of Michigan, put together a meeting for the candidates at the request of other students wanting to learn about socialism. In an informal discussion in a residence hall on Oct. 29, the candidates spoke about why capitalism is not “the end of history” and how socialism is a system that can truly meet human needs.

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Win sets stage for wide

Continued from page 1

centrated—in the Northeast, Midwest and West Coast—Bush’s reactionary agenda was rejected across the board, mostly by significant margins.

A great deal is being made of Bush having won the popular vote by 50 million to 54.4 million for Kerry—as of Nov. 3. This is definitely a negative development in politics and gives the Bush forces a position of strength from which to advance their program of war and domestic reaction. But both Bush and the capitalist press are making far too much out of it.

It is said that Bush now has a “mandate.” But it is clear from this election that he has no mandate whatsoever from the workers, from the unions, from Black people—who voted against him 9 or 10 to 1, depending on which polls one uses. He has no mandate from Latinos, who voted against him by 60 percent. In fact, he has no mandate from 54 million people, plus the millions of immigrant workers who cannot even vote at all.

If you detach the 54 million number from the electoral process and think of those same numbers in the context of organized resistance and struggle opposing the Bush program, then the prospect for pushing back Bush can be seen in an entirely different light.

The forces that resisted Bush electrically have their greatest strength among the workers, and particularly among the organized workers in the urban centers—from Baltimore to New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and so on. If one-tenth of the people who voted for Kerry were now to be mobilized for struggle, if one hundredth of the close to a billion dollars spent to finance Kerry’s campaign were now used to open up a counterradical attack for the war in Iraq and the assault on labor, the entire politics of the country could be turned around, Bush’s electoral victory now standing.

Bush’s victory is nothing like the Reagan victory of 1980. At that time, Reagan won the industrial states away from the Democrats and took the working class all the way to the right. He won Michigan, Wisconsin, California, Illinois and Pennsylvania. These workers had traditionally been Democrats. From that election came the phrase “Reagan Democrats,” meaning workers who had been suckered by the Reagan program. That’s where Reagan’s political strength derived from.

Bush was unable to turn the workers around in this election, even though some sections may have fallen prey to his “social solidarity” here and there. This election has something in common with the Nixon victory in 1968 in that, after he won, Nixon had to continue the Vietnam War. Declaring he was going to bring “peace with honor,” he proceeded to bomb the cities of North Vietnam. What followed was a firestorm of anti-war struggle which eventually led to the end of the war and the so-called “Vietnamization” of the war, a prelude to U.S. withdrawal.

Bush has won his election, but he is now embarking on a bloody course to subdue the resistance in Iraq. But unlike during the Nixon era—when the labor movement and the working class was removed from the anti-war struggle and largely apathetic—Bush is moving toward an escal-
acknowledged his job is to suppress the largely minority Philadelphia vote. The Kerry campaign needs to come out with humorous ads for Black voters in Philadelphia,” Perzel told U.S. News & World Report. “It’s important for me to keep that number down.”

“Republican Bush supporters fired 35,000 voter eligibility challenges and were preparing to send challengers to 8,000 polling places on Election Day to suppress more votes than were pressed to The White House. A judge had to step in to block their efforts.”

That judge was overruled in federal court, but the Republicans, perhaps fearing real confrontations, pulled back on actually challenging voters at the polls in this crucial swing state.

They did push for a court review of about 14,000 registrations in the Cleveland area, but a judge turned down their request on Nov. 3. According to a battleground group that conducted voter registration in poor neighborhoods, asserts that 46 percent of the Republican challenges in Cuyahoga County, which includes Cleveland, were against Black people, who represent only 27 percent of the county’s population. The city of Cleveland is over 90 percent Black.

Republican lawyers armed with the photos of 7,000 “felons” and their “criminal histories” was posted in various Black polling places in Florida in case they tried to vote. Under Florida law, any “felon” not granted clemency cannot vote. The Bush crime criminal justice system in the U.S. guarantees that African Americans make up a disproportionate number of those considered “felons.” Earlier this year, former felon who granted clemency could not find their names reinstated on the voting rosters. A class action lawsuit was filed on their behalf.

Documents prepared for the National Convention and Bush campaign operatives listed voters in predominantly Black areas of South Florida, Ga., and Texas whose votes Bush supporters likely would challenge (Leadership Conference on Civil Rights).

This summer, Black senior citizens in Orlando were visited in their homes by police openly wearing guns who said they were “investigating voter fraud.”

There have been reports about 60,000 "missing" absentee ballots in Florida that the U.S. postal service could not seem to find.

**Struggle is the answer, not elections**

There is no class distinction between the leaderships of the Democratic and Republican parties—those predominantly white leaders are tied, to one degree or another, to the interests of the ruling class.

While Bush initiated the war on Iraq, Kerry made it clear during his campaign that he would not only keep U.S. troops in Iraq but would seek to expand that war.

That is the same economic hardships on the front the same crisis in Iraq and enforcing the same economic standards on the workers who Bush will try to do. It is capitalism.

In some small accomplishment to bring together some 10,000 workers, representing scores of labor unions in every part of the country, along with a slice of the anti-war movement, progressives in Washington, D.C., on any day, under any circumstances.

To the many who came to the MWM, it was like holding a national convention where you can really have a working class and understand the necessity of the working class having an independent voice—speaking in its own name—as MWM literature explained.

In all honesty, when one considers what the MWM was up against, the “Anybody But Bush” pressure to do nothing to really concentrate on the election, the lack of any serious funds, as well as constant hostility both from wrong-minded leaders in the labor movement who should have known better and from the government—it’s almost a miracle that it happened at all.

No, we are not ponders what will the MWM do with the outcome of the presidential election, it’s instructive to remember the essential message overriding the MWM: no matter what happens on Nov. 2, the working class is going to be organizing, it’s going to be fighting, it’s going to be in the face of the bosses, getting stronger, getting more unified, no matter who wins.

As I looked over the election exit polls from state to state, it occurred to me just what the election is all about. On Nov. 2, tens of millions of low-wage workers and unemployed people—the workers who make $7 an hour and less, who have no health insurance, who work in hotels, laundries, chicken processing plants, who clean houses and hotels—tried to vote Bush out.

If the vote was based on those who make under $30,000 a year, Bush would have lost not only Ohio and Florida, he would even have lost every state, including all the state in the South as well as “Bush country” Texas.

Poor and working people voted in some areas 3 to 1 to rid of Bush. Of all those voters, the ones who need a voice, the ones whose issues were not really talked about, that the MWM wanted to, and to a great extent did, push forth to the light of day.

The election buried the workers under

**Black voting rights**

The election validated the premise of Million Worker March.

By Larry Holmes

Sometimes it takes a little while for people to appreciate how significant something was. In this view, you couldn’t have both. It was impermissible to have to work on the elections and the Million Worker March at the same time. It was impossible to have the march at all.

Many progressives in the labor movement—fortunately, not all—agreed with Bush and acted accordingly.

It’s an old argument on the left. Whether we should be “dreamers” and organize independent of the two capitalist parties, or whether we should be “practical.”

All things considered, at this moment this Working Class hero who worked hard on the MWM consider ourselves dreamers who are acting very practically.

Anyone who went out and distributed a leaflet for the Million Worker March can tell you that the appeal and the popularity of it were obvious. What we lacked was the funds and the support necessary to fully realize its dreams.

The organized labor movement probably spent several hundred million dollars on unions’ campaign funds and the labor movement alone to do that to believe that they serve their interests. Whether it does or is not subject to argument.

If the AFL-CIO organizers had had a budget equal to 1 percent of what labor spent—let’s say $2 million to $3 million—we would have had to rent a big part of the state of Maryland just to have space to park the buses.

One lesson more about the Million Worker March, the right to participate in it. When you look at what the Bush forces did to generate virulent anti-Lesbian, gay, bi and trans bigotry, anti-woman, racist and anti-immigrant ideas in order to “move their base” to the polls, it should remind us that when there’s not enough of a strong, independent and confident working movement and workers’ struggle, it makes it all the more easier to fill the void with a lot of dangerous, reactionary and anti-labor forces.

The good news is that now the elections are finally over, we have a chance to open up the next phase of the struggle against the right and the system responsible for it.

Anyone for a Million Worker March? Holmes is a members of Workers World Party’s Secretariat and one of the organizers of the Million Worker March.
Repression grows more violent in Haiti

By G. Dunkel

The Haitian police, firmly backed by United Nations forces currently occupying Haiti, have decided on a new tactic to put down the massive, popular resistance against the U.S.-imposed government of Prime Minister Gérard Latortue. This “de facto” government was imposed by the U.S. and France on Feb. 25, after the kidnap- ping of deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide by U.S.-imposed troops. Out of 22 governorships, 19 were won by candidates backed by President Hugo Chávez of Venezuela in the country more democratic than its neighbors. Even some Social and Christian Demo- crats and Nationalists disqualified from their parties to join the FA, which organ- izes through neighborhood-based committees, have threatened the regime. Well-known Uruguayan writer Eduardo Galeano says that this political force “grew by day, house by house, without noise, in silence, without ostenta- tion … and the most important thing is that it grew from the bottom up.” Members pay monthly dues and elect their representatives. A National Plenary and Political Bureau are the permanent leadership bodies. The name has evolved to Progressive Encounter Broad Front (FA).”

Four young men executed by police in Carrefour Pean.

Joseph in La Saline, while he was selling candy with his mother. Marécus, who was heard by Manno, lived next door. His mother, three aunts, a grandmother and two smaller brothers in a one-room shed. He was 9 years old and in the fourth grade.

Around 2:00 in the afternoon, a pickup truck filled with cops dressed in black and wearing ski masks pulled up and opened fire on the market. Manno was hit in the leg and couldn’t run away. A cop shot him in the abdomen. As he lay dead or dying, the cops that day in a poor neighborhood of Port- au-Prince called Fort National, near Bel- air. The area is teeming with poor people and “open markets.” This struggle was reflected Oct. 31, just two days before the too-much-talked-about U.S. elections, in elections in both Uruguay and the south of Venezuela in the north of the continent.

In Uruguay, a coalition of left-center parties, groups and individuals won the presidency by a wide margin. Many Uruguayanas had gone into exile when a repressive military dictatorship took control in 1973, and half of the country’s population resides there.

About half a million people had attended the closing rally of the FA campa- ign on Oct. 27. After the elections, as soon as they were announced, known people from poor neighborhoods poured into the center of Montevideo where the FA’s headquarters are located. Shouts of “Utopia, Utopia” were chanted with revolutionary songs and slogans.

Besides electing a president, the people overwhelmingly decided against a pro- posal for a constitutional amendment that would have privatized water resources. This was a major setback for transnational corpo- rations, which are intensifying their vul- nerable pursuit of water resources all over the region.

This country of only 3.4 million people was once dubbed the Switzerland of Latin America. Education and social benefits were guaranteed, paid mostly from the revenues of meat and wood exports. Two center capitalist parties, the Colorado (Reds) and the Whiteos (Whites), have been swapping power ever since the middle of the 1800s. A military dictatorship ruled the country from 1973 to 1982.

The façade of a prosperous, egalitarian country more democratic than its neigh- bors was punctured by the rise of an urban guerrilla movement in the 1960s—the National Liberation Movement (Tupa- maros), which distributed food to the poor. In 1971 the FA was formed. Former guerrilla members now form the largest fraction of FA members.

Even in this Latin American “Switzer- land,” the FA’s 13 candidates increased the nation’s income through export and tourism.

The economy began contracting in 2001, several banks were closed, bank deposits in foreign currencies were frozen and unemployment rose to 19.8 percent. Jorge Batlle, the current president and a close U.S. ally, set in motion fiscal meas- ures to improve the economy, which by 2003 showed a modest upswing that con- tinued to the first months of 2004.

However, this did not translate into any improvement in the quality of life for the majority of the people. Poverty increased, and now 32 percent of the population, with 56 percent of U.S. children under the age of 6, live below the poverty level. External debt is now $12 billion.

This situation has increased inequality and dissatisfaction. Because of it, the FA over the years has steadily increased in numbers and power. Communists, social- ists, labor and former guerrillas united. Even some Social and Christian Demo- crats and Nationalists disqualified from their parties to join the FA, which organ- izes through neighborhood-based committees, have threatened the regime. Well-known Uruguayan writer Eduardo Galeano says that this political force “grew by day, house by house, without noise, in silence, without ostenta- tion … and the most important thing is that it grew from the bottom up.” Members pay monthly dues and elect their representatives. A National Plenary and Political Bureau are the permanent leadership bodies. The name has evolved to Progressive Encounter Broad Front (FA).”

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The cynical political/military strategy maintains the occupation and the Pentagon is moving towards its bloody climax. Just at the very moment that the U.S. presidential election is about to end, the Pentagon has put 4,000 more troops into Iraq, Marines and Army troops are moving into position around the cities of Falluja and Ramadi, which in proper CIA prime minister, Ayad Allawi, has announced he is “running out of patience” and is preparing to “order” his masters to open a full-scale assault on those cities.

Meanwhile, the New York Times revealed in its Oct. 31 edition that it conducted an off-the-record, behind-the-scenes interview with 15 top generals, admirals and embassy officials in Iraq in late October as the preparations for the attack on Falluja and other cities were being made.

Said the Times, “Senior American military commanders and civilians officials are increasingly speaking more candidly about the hurdles that could jeopardize their plans to defeat an adaptive and tenacious insurgency and hold elections in 2005. Among those hurdles are the up-beat public statements on the prospects of the occupation, privately there is skepticism about the so-called ‘national army’ that they are counting so much on is ‘soon to be led by uncontested generals’ and has been ‘perpetrated by spies and insurgents.’”

They all say that the forces of the resist- ance are growing and that the U.S. is los- ing the ability to protect its government, police and army from assaults by anti-occupation fighters, who are jeopard- izing the entire effort to conquer Iraq. “If we can’t stop the intimidation factor, we can’t win,” said Lt. Gen. John F. Sattler, we can’t stop the intimidation factor, we anti-occupation fighters, who are jeopardizing the entire country’s security. The fact that all the U.S. military commanders say is ‘we are now in the process of creating a puppet army. It will require manipulation of some electoral process, but it must conquer in order to hold elec- tions to a new stage of war against the Iraqi people can take place in the midst of the U.S. occupation’ is to a fascist, imperialist hegemony in the world. This is making the occupation a puppet army. It will require manipulation of some electoral process, but it must conquer in order to hold elections to a new stage of war against the Iraqi people can take place in the midst of the U.S. occupation.

Preparations for a terrible battle

Tanks and armored vehicles have been reinforcing a tightening ring around the city as air and artillery attacks have esca- lated. But the Allawi puppet “interim gov- ernment” has beenaying all aid for many of the deaths. “What we have evidence of is the use of air power in populated urban areas and the bad consequences of it,” Robert Reid, a former Army general, said on Oct. 28. “The research said aimed air strikes for many of the deaths. “What we have evidence of is the use of air power in populated urban areas and the bad consequences of it,” Robert Reid, a former Army general, said on Oct. 28. “The research said aimed air strikes for many of the deaths. “What we have evidence of is the use of air power in populated urban areas and the bad consequences of it,” Robert Reid, a former Army general, said on Oct. 28.

Preparations for this new round of war crimes against Falluja come as reports of 100,000 Iraqis killed during the U.S. war and occupation hit the news wires. This new report was conspiraciously played down by the media, and later by the entire U.S. capitalist media machine.

The announcement immediate came in an Oct. 28 release from Reuters. “Making sales of the fighting for an end to the suffering of 100,000 excess deaths or more have happened since the 2003 invasion of Iraq,” said Les Roberts of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in a report published online by The Lancet medical journal. “The researchers blamed air strikes for many of the deaths. “What we have evidence of is the use of air power in populated urban areas and the bad consequences of it,” Robert Reid, a former Army general, said on Oct. 28. “The research said aimed air strikes for many of the deaths. “What we have evidence of is the use of air power in populated urban areas and the bad consequences of it,” Robert Reid, a former Army general, said on Oct. 28.

What should be recognized is that this event was called by a coalition of political par- ties and labor rights,” its submission to the European Parliament and the European Integration of the people of Falluja. The Allawi regime has been buying time for the U.S. troop buildup, for the U.S. elections to be over to avoid any political damage to Bush, and to promote the pre- liminary elections. This guarantees an un- peaceful outcome so that, when the mass- ive destruction takes place, he will be off the hook.

Allawi is following a script written in Washington. The U.S. military has tar- geted 15 cities and seven smaller towns made up of an estimated 35% of the popula- tions in January. Central to the plan is Falluja. The plans have been drawn up and are being reviewed over and over again. This is a case of a plan that is not yet in place.

The Allawi (read Pentagon) regime has been going through the motions of nego- tiation. According to the Washington Post of Oct. 28, “Earlier this month, local insur- gent leaders agreed to accept broad con- ditions set by the Iraqi government,” but they demanded in turn “a halt to U.S. attacks and acknowledgment that women and children have been among the casu- alties in U.S. strikes.”

A Londoner who was caught by war crimes against Falluja came as reports of 100,000 Iraqis killed during the U.S. war and occupation hit the news wires. This new report was conspiraciously played down by the entire U.S. media machine. The fact that all the U.S. military commanders say is ‘we are now in the process of creating a puppet army. It will require manipulation of some electoral process, but it must conquer in order to hold elections to a new stage of war against the Iraqi people can take place in the midst of the U.S. occupation’ is to a fascist, imperialist hegemony in the world. This is making the occupation a puppet army. It will require manipulation of some electoral process, but it must conquer in order to hold elections to a new stage of war against the Iraqi people can take place in the midst of the U.S. occupation. But whatever was agreed to was always nullified by the non-negotiable demands, made by Allawi and the U.S., that the leaders turn over Abu al-Zarqawi, the so-called “terror leader” the U.S. uses as the excuse for all its air strikes on the city. Of course, the people of Falluja long ago declared that this was impossible, either because he did not exist or wasn’t in the city, and that, in any case, no one knew where he was. In fact, the Nov. 1 issue of the London Independent carries an article by U.S. military commanders that he probably is not there.

As the talks broke down, “members of the Shura Council of Mujaheddin, which governs Falluja, told residents who had not already fled the city to leave before what they described as the ‘last great bat- tle’ with U.S. forces.” (Washington Post, Oct. 28)

The fact that all the U.S. military preparations for the bombing attack to a new stage of war against the Iraqi people can take place in the midst of a capitalist election campaign exposes the bankruptcy of the fraudulent democ- racy under imperialism.

The majority of the workers and the opposition to this new stage of war are the people of the U.S. and Iraq. The majority of the youth are against the war. The soldiers in Iraq want only one thing—two of them.

As govt’s sign European Constitution

Masses demand withdrawal from Iraq

By John Catalinoto

Some 70,000 people marched Oct. 30 through the streets of Rome to demand the immediate withdrawal of Italian troops from Iraq and Afghanistan, the protesters also demanded an end to the bombing of Falluja, the city the U.S. occupation forces have designated as the capital of the Iraqi resistance.

In Mestre, on the outskirts of Venice, another protest took direct action as hun- dreds of people sat in the street to block a military parade attended by Commu- nists and economics of a country indirectly. The Underlying apprehension of the military parade on Oct. 29 in Madrid against the signing of the European Constitution. This document marks the bankruptcy of the fraudulent democ- racy under imperialism.

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Back to the streets

The votes were being counted in Ohio, U.S. jets launched bombs and rockets homes in Fallujah in Iraq. As Kerry was conceding to Bush, U.S. Marines moved closer to a vicious group of a anti-Soviet radicals.

For the past six months the election contest between these two capitalist politicians has been the focus of political activity in the United States. It has absorbed the attention of many progressives in this country. Now, in the name of preparing “democratic elections” in Iraq, Washington is preparing to unleash another bloodbath against the Iraqi people, adding to the 100,000 killed since March 2003 and the 1.5 million killed by 22 years of sanctions.

Kerry criticized Bush over Iraq, but never made it clear how that would be different. Now he is out of the picture. Everyone knows what Bush has done. Everyone knows he promised to “stay the course in Iraq.” In the third round, kill more Iraqis and put GIs in harm’s way.

The war may not be the only issue over which youth and workers here will have to confront the second Bush administration. It is but a matter of life and death, for both Iraqis and for U.S. youth.

Many people who oppose the occupa- tion of Iraq had put their energies into defeating Bush in this election. They did this even though they knew that Kerry guaranteed no exit from the war. Some may be tempted to pull back after their electoral effort fell short. Better to jump right back into action against the war and occupation.

At the Million Worker March on Oct. 17, a call was made to “those of us who are based in the union/workers movement; organizations that are fighting for jobs, personal and housing; youth and student organizations; veterans; military families; military resisters; solidarity movements; and all the others—move to make the week of Friday Dec. 3 to Friday Dec. 10 (International Human Rights Day) a time of truly national action across the country to Stop the War Now!"

This MWM-initiated Stop the War Week will be the first national anti-war mobilization in the history of the country. It can set the tone for the battle against the second Bush administration’s war in Iraq, and we encourage our readers and the rest of the anti-war movement to take up this challenge.

At the Oct. 27, 25 and Gillian finally petitioned the court to relieve them of that duty.

Defendant turned tables on NATO
Milosevic represented himself ably during the prosecution portion of the trial, which lasted over two years. First called the “center of the conflict” by the prosecution, Milosevic, ably using international media, the case got less and less coverage when it became clear that Milosevic had succeeded in turning the tables on NATO.

According even to reports in the corporate media, Milosevic argued convincingly that NATO provoked war, and the United States and Germany, provoked the wars in the Balkans.

He had only a few months to prepare the defense portion of the case. This con- trasted with the two years the court allowed to the highly funded prosecution.

Milosevic managed to put together a list of over 1,000 defense witnesses. It contrasted with the two years the court allowed to the highly funded prosecution.

Prisoner of NATO court
An “Appeals Court” at the International Criminal Tribunal on the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague on Nov. 1 was forced to override an earlier decision that barred former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic from acting as his own defense counsel. The new ruling increasingly reinforces the defendant as his own lead counsel.

According to legal experts close to the defense, however, the new conditions are completely unacceptable and even dangerous for the defendant.

This ICTY-appointed doctors are not of the defendant’s own choosing. They have denied Milosevic proper treatment. They have also interrupted the trial in the past even when Milosevic has not himself complained of feeling ill.

This latest decision goes against the opinion of 100 international legal experts, including former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who protested when the ICTY imposed on counsel in the president during the summer.

Over the past two months, the attorneys imposed on Milosevic—Richard Kay and Gillian Higgins—asked 200 witnesses to testify. Only five agreed. The rest refused to cooperate unless Milosevic were allowed to defend himself.

On Oct. 27, Kay and Gillian finally petitioned the court to relieve them of that duty.

Continued from page 6
A large multinational crowd packed an Oct. 30 Detroit meeting to hear Parker and Gutierrez on “Anyone but Bush? Or Two Peas in a Pod.” They spoke on how making life better for the workers and oppressed won’t happen under capital- ism. They retired from the stage when he woke up that morning all he had was $8—which he used to buy coffee and breakfast, and to get to the meeting to hear the can- didates.

Another candidate from the Floor denounced a local ballot initiative against candidates. Another speaker from the floor compared to lead the way.”

There was ardent support for Workers World Party candidates. One person stood up to ask Gutierrez what had inspired him to take his political path. They talked of how the vision of Workers World Party was always people first and winning the election, Gutierrez told them.

As they spoke, a list of over 1,000 defense witnesses. It contrasted with the two years the court allowed to the highly funded prosecution.

Gutierrez a chance to talk about their personal histories and what had inspired them to take their political path. They talked of how the vision of Workers World Party was always people first and winning the election, Gutierrez told them.

Asked how she felt now that the case was over, Gutierrez said: “I want to build a workers revolution that will create a world where people’s stories come first and where government will work for the people, not the profitless.”

When the court ordered Flounders to testify if President Milosevic was found guilty, finally when he was ready to start his defense case, the court changed the rule again.

“The ICTY has violated even its own rules and guidelines along with all exist- ing international law in its continuing attempt to try a dictator for war crimi- nality. Finally it was forced to override an earlier decision that barred former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic from acting as his own defense counsel. The new rul- ing increasingly reinforces the defendant as his own lead counsel.”

Continued from page 8
National Electoral Council after violent responses by the opposition. Written bal- lots are usually from the poorest citizens, who are overwhelmingly for the rul- ing regime. An important victory was that of Juan Gutierrez of the Workers World Party, in the Caracas Municipality, in a political union. Alfredo Peña, the previous mayor, had joined the opposition and used the Metro- politan Police against the masses in an effort to stop the revolutionary process.

After defeat in an August referendum over the presidency, the opposition has fragmented and suffered fighting in its ranks. It is focused on pursuing the charges from their leaders over voting or abstaining; many did not know what to do. Venezuelans say that without the assis- tance of Washington, they would not be a force to contend with. But the bourgeois political establishment in the U.S.—and both George Bush and John Kerry—want to keep the opposition alive.

In a speech after the Venezuelan refer- endum vote, Kerry said that the Bush administration “has lost the credibility necessary to become a true force for progress. As president, I will create a true Community of the Americas, built on mutual respect and support for democ- racy. There will be no threat to our neigh- bors as we work to realize our common goals.”

U.S. “support for democracy” has been equated to funding opposition or the violent defeat of the revolution—as illustrated by their attempt to force former President Hugo Chavez to resign. Instead of building a truly elected president, install an oil multibillionaire and oil companies. Millions of dollars have been funneled to the oppo- sition through the U.S. National
East Germany in the 1970s

Lesbian & gay movement blossoms

By Leslie Feinberg

"The legal situation of GDR [East German] gays, lesbians, and transsexuals in 1968 with the elimination of Paragraph 175," historian Jim Steckley concluded in his published research. He credited the abolition of Paragraph 175, the almost century-old Prussian anti-homosexual law to the pioneering work of Dr. Rudolph Klimmer, a gay and lesbian activist.

This move, part of an overhaul of the criminal code, elevated the GDR to the same progressive level as Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia, which also decriminalized homosexuality in the mid-1960s. (Body Politic, December 1976-January 1977)

Writing in 1976, the Canadian researcher described an East German gay population characterized by long-term relationships, apparently more so than in West Germany or the United States. "The durability of such relationships may also reflect the relative lack of anomic and compulsive conflict in this socialist society, yet the prevalence of gay couples is all the more striking in light of the fact that at 50 percent and still climbing, the GDR's divorce rate is the highest in the world.

"Although it deserves a more detailed analysis," he continued, "GDR citizens properly interpreted the new law as an index of women's emancipation rather than social collapse. In any case, the gay couples are seldom burdened by the ideology of pure monogamy, and affairs on the side as well as casual sexual encounters are standard.

"Parks, beaches (where nude bathing is widespread), and other public places have never been the locus of police entrapment, and arrests for public indecency are virtually unknown."

However, one last throm of legal discrimination remained in the body of East German law. While the age of sexual consent was the same for heterosexual and homosexual minors, under the provisions of Paragraphs 150 and 151, homosexual adults were punished for relationships with under-21-year-olds. Klimmer was arrested three years behind bars, while heterosexuals only faced two-year sentences.

"And arrests for public indecency are widespread), and other public places have never been the locus of police entrapment, and arrests for public indecency are virtually unknown."

Endowment for Democracy.

But the revolution is growing stronger. In the coming days all the governments will be summoned to Caracas to plan new paths for the country, including the distribution of land through the Land Reform Law in the populous new Venezuelan Constitution, voted on by the people. A month later President Chávez visited Petare, one of the poorest barrios of Caracas, for a ceremony to hand land titles to more than 3,000 families. During the ceremony, Chávez said, "We are here behind the horrendous capitalist system which has been installed here, by those behind us the horrendous capitalist system.

"But we are here, to put an end to this."
Mientras la represión aumenta en Haití

Crece la resistencia y la solidaridad

Por Pat Chin y G. Dunkel
Nueva York

Activistas de organizaciones africanos-americanas, Círculos Bolivarianos de Venezuela y sus partidarios protestaron frente al Consulado Haitiano aquí en Nueva York el 25 de octubre para exigir el fin de la sangrienta ocupación imperialista de Haití y el retorno del presidente exiliado Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Los enemigos del “Mito de Emergencia en Apoyo al Pueblo de Haití” incluyeron al Movimiento 12 de Diciembre; la Coalición Patrice Lumumba; Africanos Ayudando a Africanos; La Organización de Personas para el Progreso; Black Telephone Workers para Justicia; Roger Toussaint, presidente de la Coalición África es Justice; y el Partido Mundo Obrero.

Los endosantes del “Mitin de Port-au-Prince” incluyeron al 1707 de AFSCME; la Coalición Patrice Lumumba; Roger Toussaint, presidente de la Coalición África es Justice; y el Centro de Acción Internacional.

La represión en Haití respaldada por la Casa Blanca ha sido tan cruel que la gente se ha cansado de resistir. La policía y las tropas extranjeras han invadido a los habitantes de Port-au-Prince; los partidarios de Aristide y su partido Fanmi Lavalas son fuertes—fueron recibidos con disparos y barricadas en llamas.

El 17 de octubre fue el aniversario número 198 del asesinato de Jean-Jacques Dessalines y el décimo aniversario del regreso de Aristide luego del primero de los dos golpes que lo derrocó en 1990.

El segundo golpe se dio el 29 de febrero, cuando los mirmes y sus escuadrones se inmiscuyeron en Aristide sacándole del país.

La estación haitiana de radio, Metropole, reportó el 18 de octubre que los partidarios de Aristide habían intentado atacar la estación de policía en Martissant, pero fueron rechazados a golpes. Un vehículo fue incendiado.

Mientras tanto, el 20 de octubre el centro de Port-au-Prince y sus alrededores continuaron siendo “el escenario de barricadas, llamas y disparos espeluznantes…” “Alrededor del Boulevard La Saline frente a la playa de Bel-Air, bastión de los partidarios armados de Aristide, había barricadas en llamas” (Haiti Press Network).

La lucha continúa

Desde el 30 de septiembre, cuando la policía mató a dos personas que protestaban el golpe militar, ha habido un aumento en la resistencia contra el régimen.

Aristide sacó su bandera a la multitud que se congregó frente a la embajada francesa en Washington el 17 de octubre. “Vamos a hacer que nos lo devuelvan. Aquí Aristide es el primer presidente en la historia de Haití que ha demandado reparaciones para el pueblo haitiano, los más de $21 billones que Francia nos forzó pagar con las armas de fuego. Yvone Neptune y otros. Muchas personas se dieron cuenta de que no lo devueltan.”

El 18 de octubre hubo otra protesta frente al Consulado Haitiano en Washington. Los manifestantes demandaron a la Casa Blanca los aceptarían para la reconstrucción del ejército, a Latortue le gustaría sin duda desplegar un ejército reconstituido—los verdaderos terroristas—contra sus oponentes. Pero él y la administración Bush tienen que preocuparse por la reacción internacional—y la oposición del pueblo haitiano que respondería ante tal amenaza.

Mientras la represión en Haití, que comprendía la mayor parte de la "oposición" a Aristide, impidió que la fuerza laboral trabajara el 15 de octubre, la mayoría de los haitianos del suelo ese día fue calculada para aumentar la presión económica y detener la voluntad del pueblo para luchar. Hace fracasado.

El régimen de ocupación ha aumentado los precios de los productos básicos. Y sólo alrededor de un 30 por ciento de la población trabaja regularmente—y por una miseria.

Han matado gente en la calle disparando durante protestas y en la oscuridad de la noche. Pero ellos no tienen nada que temer frente a la ocupación, por la liberación de todos los presos políticos y para conseguir el regreso de su líder elegido democráticamente, Presidente Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Así como crece la resistencia popular en Haití, también crece el movimiento de solidaridad en los Estados Unidos. Ahora es tiempo de globalizar la lucha.

Se necesitan donaciones para ayudar a las víctimas de la tormenta. Para enviar cheques dirigidos a MUDHA o Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees, 335 Maple Street, Brooklyn, NY 11225. Para donaciones de equipos, los impulsos escriba el cheque para IFCI/MUDHA o FIC/HHWR. Para más información, llame al (718) 735-4660. ¡Proletarios y oprimidos de todos los países, uníos!